4. Affirmative, interrogative and negative sentences
4.1 Affirmative sentences

In Greek, the sequence of the main components of a simple affirmative sentence is similar to the one in English and it follows the pattern: Subject, Verb, Object -SVO-.

However, in Greek, due to the fact that the role of words is determined by the use of cases and not their position, the sequence of the main components does not have to be that rigid depending on the communicative situation. Indeed, the subject is indicated by the nominative case and the object primarily by the accusative case and secondly by the genitive case with certain scholarly verbs and other, not easy to classify, verbs that denote expression, possession, action of the senses.

That being said, more combinations are possible without being grammatically wrong -OVS, OSV, VOS, VSO, SOV-.

e.g.:   Ο Γιώργος έφαγε την πίτσα. George ate the pizza.
          Την πίτσα έφαγε ο Γιώργος.
          Την πίτσα ο Γιώργος έφαγε.
          Έφαγε την πίτσα ο Γιώργος.
          Έφαγε ο Γιώργος την πίτσα.
          Ο Γιώργος την πίτσα έφαγε.

All above sentences are grammatically correct and the meaning of the sentence does not alter although the order of the main components changes, yet something changes and that is the emphasis given to a certain component.

The given communicative situation determines the sequence of the components. If emphasis has to be given to the object, the sentence can start with the object stressing it, especially in spoken language.

In any case, the neutral construction of a sentence, as said in the beginning, follows the pattern: Subject Verb Object -SVO-.

Note that:
- **The articles**, in Greek, precede the noun and they correspond with the noun they refer to in gender, case and number.
e.g.:   ο σκύλος - the dog -masculine, nominative, singular-
          της Μαρίας - Maria's -feminine, genitive, singular-
          την κυρία - the lady -feminine, accusative, singular-
          οι άνθρωποι - the people -masculine, nominative, plural-
          τους ανθρώπους - the people -masculine, accusative, plural-

- **The adjectives** have no fixed position in a sentence. They are usually placed just before the noun they modify, but they can also be placed after it. The same is true when they are used with linking verbs. The adjectives are usually placed after the linking verb but can just as easily be placed before the verb for emphatic reasons. In any case they agree in gender, number and case with the noun they refer to.
e.g.:   Η Αθήνα είναι μια ενδιαφέρουσα πόλη. - Athens is an interesting city.
          Η Αθήνα είναι μια πόλη ενδιαφέρουσα. - Athens is an interesting city.
          Το βιβλίο φαίνεται ενδιαφέρον. - The book seems interesting.
          Ενδιαφέρον φαίνεται το βιβλίο. - The book seems interesting.

- **The possessive pronouns**, in Greek, follow the noun while in English, they precede the noun.
          e.g.: το αυτοκίνητό μου - my car   το βιβλίο της - her book

- **In the imperative mood,** a neutral syntaxis follows the pattern: Verb-Personal pronoun (if any)-Object. The personal pronoun, if any, follows the verb, as in English.

> e.g.: Πάρε το λεωφορείο! - Take the bus!   Δώσε μου το κλειδί! - Give me the key!

4.2 Interrogative sentences

In Greek, there are no special rules for interrogative sentences. Basically, the tone of voice indicates whether a sentence is interrogative. Thus, an affirmative sentence can also be used as an interrogative sentence if the sentence is expressed with a questioning tone.

As in English, there can be closed or open questions. In closed questions, the answer can be limited to yes or no. In these questions, the verb can be followed by the personal pronoun but this is neither necessary nor obligatory.

> Είσαι η Ελένη; Ναι. - Are you Helen? Yes.
> Είσαι εσύ η Ελένη; Ναι.

With open questions several answers are possible. These questions cannot be answered with simply yes or no. Open questions, as in English, can be introduced with an interrogative pronoun (ποιος, τι), an interrogative adverb (πού, πώς, πότε), etc.

> Ποιος είσαι; Είμαι ο Κώστας. - Who are you? I am Kostas.

4.3 Negative sentences

The negation in Greek is indicated by the negative particle " δε(ν) " (not). It always appears before the verb. The particle "δε(ν)" should also be used with negative words such as κανένας (no one), τίποτα (nothing), when a verb is used in the sentence.

> Η Μαρία δεν είναι στο σπίτι. - Maria is not at home.
> Είναι κανένας στο σπίτι; Όχι, δεν είναι κανένας. - Is anybody at home? No, no one is there.

In the imperative, the negative particle "μη(ν)" is used. It should also precede the verb.

> Μην τρέχεις. - Do not run.
> Μη γράφετε. - Do not write.

The negative particles " δε(ν) " and " μη(ν) " will get a " ν " at the end if the following word begins with a vowel or one of the following consonants/consonant digraphs κ, π, τ, ξ, ψ, γκ, μπ, ντ .