

Our coin that was created by one of Alexander's successors c. 306-281 BC.

Obverse (Front)

Reverse (Back):



### The Ancient Greek Alphabet

The Greek alphabet has 24 letters that can be converted into the Latin alphabet that we use to write English. You will recognise some of these letters from mathematics and science.

Letter	Name	English
A α	Alpha	A
B β	Beta	B
Γ γ	Gamma	G
Δ δ	Delta	D
E ε	Epsilon	E
Z ζ	Zeta	Z
H η	Eta	Ē
Θ θ	Theta	Th
I ι	Iota	I
K κ	Kappa	k or c
Λ λ	Lambda	L
M μ	Mu	M
N ν	Nu	N
Ξ ξ	Xi	X
O ο	Omicron	o
Π π	Pi	P
P ρ	Rho	R
Σ σ or ς	Sigma	S
T τ	Tau	T
Y υ	Upsilon	u or y
Φ φ	Phi	Ph
Χ χ	Chi	ch
Ψ ψ	Psi	Ps
Ω ω	Omega	Ō

On the back of the coin we can see two ancient Greek words. The spelling of these words tells us that they are written in the Genitive case; in this context that has the same impact as using an apostrophe after our name, e.g. This is Christopher's coin. The Greek words tell us on whose behalf it was minted.

Using the alphabet chart, you can convert the Latin alphabet that we use to write English into Greek:

ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ \_\_\_\_\_ The ancient Greek word Βασιλεύς means 'king' in English.  
ΛΥΣΙΜΑΧΟΥ \_\_\_\_\_ This is the name of the king who made this coin.



(ii) Activities you can do at home if you want to explore the Greek alphabet more:

Write your own name phonetically using the Greek alphabet.

My name is Christopher. In the Greek alphabet I would write it like this: Χριστοφερ  
X (Ch) + ρ (r) + ι (i) + σ (s) + τ (t) + ο (o) + φ (ph) + ε (e) + ρ (r)

What does your name look like when you write it in Greek?

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### Practice Transliterating

Now let's 'decode' some Greek words that you probably know already!

1. δημοκρατία \_\_\_\_\_
2. μοναρχία \_\_\_\_\_
3. δραματικός \_\_\_\_\_
4. θέατρον \_\_\_\_\_
5. φιλοσοφία \_\_\_\_\_