

Lesson I, page 9

#1,2 Learn only the lower case letters of the Greek alphabet. The capital letters will be required later. Greek sentences do not start with capital letters as English sentences, but begin with lower case letters.

In the text on page 9, the letters are in a vertical line. To place the letter horizontally, they appear:

α β γ δ ε ζ η θ ι κ λ μ ν ξ ο π ρ σ τ υ φ χ ψ ω

The Greek alphabet not only has symbols, but each symbol has a name to be memorized. You will find the names and symbols on page 9 of the text.

There is a similarity between the Greek alphabet and the English alphabet.

α	β	γ	δ	ε	ζ	η	θ	ι	κ	λ	μ	ν	ξ	ο	π	ρ	σ	τ	υ	φ	χ	ψ	ω
a	b	g	d	e	z			i	k	l	m	n		o	p	r	s	t	u				o

As you can see, the first five letters are like a, b, g, d, and e in English. The next three letters ζ, η, θ must be remembered separately. The next five letters are again much like English, i, k, l, m, n. The ξ is added, which must be remembered. The next six letters are like the English o, p, r, s, t, and y. The next three Greek letters, φ, χ, ψ, must be memorized. The last Greek letter ω looks much like the English w, but it must be separated in thought from the English w sound.

Notice the two forms for the sigma, σ and ζ. ζ is the form used when the sigma is to come at the end of a word. When sigma is to be used any other place in a word, the σ will be used. An example is κρίσις. Note the two different forms of sigma in this word. σ is the form used for the middle of the word, while ζ is used for the form of sigma at the end of the word.

Pronunciation is important to spelling. If you can pronounce a word correctly, you will have little trouble spelling the word.

Some examples of pronunciation are:

α	a as in father
β	b as in ball
γ	g as in got
δ	d as in debt
ε	e as in get
ζ	dz as in adz
η	a as in late
θ	th as in think
ι	i as in pit (short); i as in machine (long)
κ	c as in acoustics
λ	l as in lump
μ	m as in man
ν	n as in no
ξ	x as in relax
ο	o as in log
π	p as in pet
ρ	r as in ring
σ	s as in success
τ	t as in talk
υ	u as in unity
φ	ph as in phonetic
χ	ch as in chemical, chorus (not church)
ψ	ps as in Psalms
ω	o as in note

Distinguish between:

α	ah!
ο	aw!
ω	oh!

There will be some discussion concerning pronunciation later in the lesson.

Observe carefully the footnote on page 9. Be careful to observe all the footnotes in the text as they are most important.

#3 As in English, there are five vowels, a, e, i, o, u, so in Greek there are five vowels. These may vary in form making seven forms to be remembered. In English the long and the short form of the vowel is alike. In Greek the long and the short form may vary.

A supplementary sheet is attached to this lesson. At the top of the supplementary sheet you will find the vowels.

α ε η ι ο υ ω
η and ω are always long
ε and ο are always short
α, ι and υ are long or short

You may prefer to associate the Greek vowels with the English vowels.

English	Greek
a	α (long is α)
e	ε (long is η)
i	ι (long is ι)
o	ο (long is ω)
u	υ (long is υ)

Letters that are not vowels are consonants, β, γ, δ, ζ, θ, κ, λ, μ, ν, ξ, π, ρ, σ, τ, φ, χ, and ψ are consonants.

#4 A diphthong forms a single syllable and a single sound. A diphthong is a combination of two vowels in a single syllable. An easy way to recognize a diphthong is to observe the second of two vowels that stand together. The second letter of a diphthong must be ι or υ. If two vowels stand together, and the second letter is not ι or υ, it cannot be a diphthong by definition.

The common or regular diphthongs are given in the text and on the tape. The rare diphthongs are ηυ and ωυ.

The iota subscript (the ι united with long α, η, or ω, which is then written under the vowel, α, η, ω) is important to spelling. A word will be considered misspelled if the iota subscript is left out. The iota subscript does not affect pronunciation.

A Greek word has as many syllables as it has vowels and diphthongs. An example is ἄνθρωπος. There are 3 vowels, hence there are 3 syllables. In the word εὐαγγέλιον there are 5 syllables - 1 diphthong and 4 vowels. It is not important to know where the exact separation of the syllable is. It is important only to know how many vowels and diphthongs there are in a word.

#5 A breathing mark resembles a single quotation mark. The breathing mark should be learned as part of the spelling.

Word beginning with a vowel that have a smooth breathing will not have a change in pronunciation. Words beginning with a vowel that have a rough breathing will have the h-sound.

Examples:

οὐ - oo

οὐ - hoo

#6 Read this section and follow the tape. The accent must be learned as part of the spelling.

#7 Read this section and follow the tape.

More On Pronunciation

To pronounce a word, first divide the word into syllables. How many vowels are there in a word and do any of these vowels form a diphthong?

Examples:

διδάσκαλος

This word has 4 syllables.

ἐπαγγελία

This word has 5 syllable.

ἐκπορεύομαι

This word has 5 syllables. (There are 3 vowels and 2 diphthongs.)

When an accent stands over a syllable, the syllable is to be stressed in pronunciation.

To transliterate means to have an English letter or letters to represent a Greek letter.

α	a	ν	n
β	b	ξ	x
γ	g	ο	o
δ	d	π	p
ε	e	ρ	r
ζ	z	σ	s
η	e	τ	t
θ	th	υ	u, y
ι	i	φ	ph
κ	k	χ	ch
λ	l	ψ	ps
μ	m	ω	o

The Greek word ἄνθρωπος is transliterated in English "anthropos." ἡμέρα is transliterated "hemera." φῶς is transliterated "phos."

Study questions, pages 9-12.

1. Give the names and symbols for the Greek alphabet. Memorize.

2. Before another γ or κ or χ , γ is pronounced like _____.
3. At the beginning of a word ρ is written, _____, _____.
4. _____ is written at the end of a word, elsewhere σ .
5. Give the long and short forms of the vowels.
6. _____ and _____ are called closed vowels. Other vowels are called _____ vowels.
7. What is a diphthong? _____

8. What are some common diphthongs? _____
9. What is an iota subscript? _____
10. Does the iota subscript have an affect upon pronunciation? _____
11. A vowel or diphthong at the beginning of a word always has a _____.
12. If a breathing mark stands over a diphthong, on which letter of the diphthong does it stand? _____
13. Give the symbol and sound for:
 - a. the rough breathing mark _____
 - b. the smooth breathing mark _____
14. Give the names and symbols of the accents.

15. Where are the accents placed? _____

16. When a diphthong is to be accented, over which vowel will the accent be placed?

17. When a breathing and an acute or grave accent stand over a vowel, which comes first? _____

18. How is a breathing and a circumflex accent placed together on a vowel? _____

19. What does an accent mark do for the pronunciation of a word? _____

20. What are the four marks of punctuation?
- a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
 - d. _____

(From J. Harold Greenlee)

VOWELS: α ε η ι ο υ ω

Always long: η ω

Always short: ε ο

Long or short: α ι υ

DIPHTHONGS:

αι αυ

ει ηυ ηυ

οι φου ωυ

υι

The second vowel of a diphthong must be either ι or υ.

If the first vowel of a diphthong is long, and the second vowel is iota, the iota is written as a subscript (see second column above).

TRANSLITERATION:

ε - e ο - o αι - ae or e

η - ē ω - ÷ ου - oe or e

ζ - z υ - y ει - e or i

κ - c ξ - ch (ch as in chorus) ου - u

ξ - x ι - h