

ELEMENTARY GREEK GRAMMAR

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Elementary Greek Grammar by G. A. Jacob

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GREEK GRAMMAR**

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BY THE

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ETYMOLOGY.

§ 1. LETTERS.

The Greek Letters are twenty-four in number.

FORM.	NAME.	SOUND.
A α	*Αλφα Alpha	a
B β β̄	Βῆτα Beta	b
Γ γ	Γάμμα Gamma	g (hard)
Δ δ	Δέλτα Delta	d
E ε	*Ε ψιλόν Epsilon	e (short)
Z ζ ζ̄	Ζῆτα Zeta	z (or ds)
H η	*Ητα Eta	e (long)
Θ θ θ̄	Θῆτα Thêta	th
I ι	*Ιῶτα Iōta	i
K κ	Κάππα Cappa	k, c
Λ λ	Λάμβδα Lambda	l
M μ	Μῦ Mu	m
N ν	Νῦ Nu	n
Ξ ξ	Ξι Xi	x
O ο	*Ο μικρόν Omicron	o (short)
Π π π̄	Πι Pi	p
P ρ ρ̄	*Ρῶ Rho	r, rh
Σ σ σ̄	Σίγμα Sigma	s
T τ τ̄	Ταῦ Tau	t
Υ υ	*Υ ψιλόν Upsilon	u, (y)
Φ φ	Φι Phi	ph
X χ	Χι Chi	kh, ch
Ψ ψ	Ψι Psi	ps
Ω ω	*Ω μέγα Omēga	o (long)

N.B. Sigma has two small characters, σ and ς:—the former is used in the *beginning* and *middle* of words, the latter at the *end*; as, σσώμενος. The other characters in the third line of letters are now seldom used.

§ 2. *Pronunciation.*

The Greek letters are pronounced by us, as nearly as they can be, like the English: but—

(a) γ is always *hard*, like *g* in *go*; and before κ , γ , χ , it has the nasal sound of *ng*; as, ἐγγύς (engus), Ἀγχίσης (Anchises).

(b) ζ should be pronounced like *ds*, rather than *z*; as, τράπεζα (trapedsa).

(c) the syllable $\tau\iota$, before a vowel, has the sound of *tí*, not *shé*; as στρατία (strat-í-a).

§ 3. *Division of Letters.*

Of the letters seven are vowels, α , ϵ , η , ι , \omicron , υ , ω .

The remaining seventeen are consonants.

(a) *Vowels.*

1. ϵ , \omicron , are always *short*.— η , ω , are always *long*.
 α , ι , υ , are *doubtful*; *i. e.* sometimes *long*, sometimes *short*.

2. The diphthongs are twelve;—

Six are perfect, $\alpha\iota$, $\alpha\upsilon$, $\epsilon\iota$, $\epsilon\upsilon$, $\omicron\iota$, $\omicron\upsilon$.

Six are imperfect, $\eta\upsilon$, $\upsilon\iota$, $\omega\upsilon$, $\alpha\eta$, $\eta\omega$.

Obs. The perfect diphthongs begin with a short vowel α , ϵ , \omicron , and end in ι or υ ; the imperfect diphthongs η , η , ω have the *Iota subscript*: *i. e.* the letter ι written underneath.

(b) *Consonants.*

1. The consonants may be divided into *semi-vowels*, *mutes*, and *double-letters*.

The semi-vowels are the *liquids*, λ , μ , ν , ρ ; and σ .

The mutes are—1. (*tenues*), soft or sharp, π , κ , τ .

2. (*mediæ*), middle or flat, β , γ , δ .

3. (*aspiratæ*), aspirate, ϕ , χ , θ .

The double letters are ζ , ξ , ψ , formed from one of the mutes with ς : thus— ζ , from $\delta\varsigma$, or $\sigma\delta$;— ξ , from $\kappa\varsigma$ ($\gamma\varsigma$, $\chi\varsigma$);— ψ , from $\pi\varsigma$ ($\beta\varsigma$, $\phi\varsigma$).

2. The mutes may also be divided according to the *organs* with which they are pronounced (*lips*, *throat*,

tongue); and then each *soft* mute has a kindred *middle* and *aspirate*; thus—

π, β, φ,	called	<i>labials</i> ,	or	<i>p</i> sounds.
κ, γ, χ,	„	<i>gutturals</i> ,	„	<i>k</i> sounds.
τ, δ, θ,	„	<i>linguals</i> ,	„	<i>t</i> sounds.

§ 4. *Spirits or Breathings.*

1. The spirits or breathings are two: the *soft*, marked thus [´]; and the *hard*, or aspirate, thus [´].
2. The *soft* breathing is the simple pronunciation of a letter, without any exertion of breath.
3. The *hard* breathing is the pronunciation of a letter with an aspiration, or *h* aspirate.
4. Every word beginning with a vowel has either the soft or hard breathing marked over its first letter; as, ὄρος, ἦρος.
5. Diphthongs have the mark on the latter vowel, not on the first; as, οἶρος, εἶμι.
6. The letters *v* and *p* are always aspirated at the beginning of a word; as, ἴδωρ, ῥήμα.

§ 5. *Punctuation.*

1. The stops used in Greek are the comma [,], the colon [·], the full-stop [·], and the note of interrogation [?].
2. The apostrophe [´] is placed at the end of a word when a vowel has been cut off; as, κατ' αὐτόν, for κατὰ αὐτόν.

§ 6. *Accents.*

1. The accents are three, acute [´], grave [˘], circumflex [ˆ].
2. The accent is always marked upon a *vowel*, and in diphthongs on the *latter* vowel; as, αὐτός, οὗτος.
3. The acute and grave are placed *after* the breathing, and the circumflex *over* it; as, οὗτος, δε, αὐτος.

§ 7. Rules of Euphony.

1. *Rule I.*—The meeting of many vowels in the same word is often avoided by contraction [Synæretais]; as, νόσος, νοῦς; νόον, νοῦ.

2. *Rule II.*—When two vowels meet in different words they form a *hiatus*.—The hiatus is sometimes avoided

(a) By *Apostrophe*,—by which the vowels *α*, *ε*, *ι*, *ο* are cut off; as, κατ' αὐτόν, for κατὰ αὐτόν.

(b) By *Crasis*,—by which two vowels or diphthongs in different words are contracted into one; as, δ ἀνὴρ, ἀνὴρ; τὸ αὐτὸ, ταῦτά.

(c) By *Ν ἀφελκυστικόν*,—by which *ν* is added to the *Dat. Plur.*, and to verbs ending in *ε* or *ι*; as, λέουσιν ἀελίοις; ἔνυκτεν αὐτόν.

3. *Rule III.*—When two mutes come together they must be of the same kind, both soft, both middle, or both aspirate; as, from γράφω come γρακ-τός, γράβ-δην, γραφ-θείς.—Hence, when a soft or middle mute meets an aspirate, it is changed into an aspirate; as, κατὰ ἄπτω, καθάπτω; τίπτει οὐτῶ, τίφθ' οὐτῶ.

4. *Rule IV.*—The *labials*, π, β, φ before σ make ψ; as, λείψω, τρίψω, τρίβω, τρίψω; γράψω, γράβω.

5. *Rule V.*—The *gutturals* κ, γ, χ before σ make ξ; as, κλέκω, κλέξω; λέγω, λέξω; βρέχω, βρέξω.

6. *Rule VI.*—No consonant can end a Greek word but ν, ρ, σ, ξ, ψ.

§ 8. Dialects.

Five Dialects are to be noticed in Greek: the Epic, Æolic, Doric, Ionic, and Attic.

§ 9. PARTS OF SPEECH.

The principal parts of speech are three, *Nouns*, *Verbs*, *Particles*.

1. Nouns are declined, verbs are conjugated, particles are undeclined.

2. Nouns include *Substantive*, *Adjective*, *Pronoun*, and *Article*.

3. Particles include *Adverb*, *Conjunction*, *Preposition*, and *Interjection*.

4. The parts of speech may therefore be reckoned as *nine*; but interjections are sometimes called *adverbs* in Greek.

§ 10. NOUNS.

(a) Numbers.

1. Nouns have three numbers, *singular, dual, plural*.
2. The singular speaks of *one*; as, κριτῆς a judge.
3. The dual — of *two*; as, κριτᾶ two judges.
4. The plural — of *more than one*; as, κριταὶ judges.

(b) Genders.

1. Nouns have three genders, *masculine, feminine, neuter*.
2. Some nouns are also *doubtful, common, or epicæne*, in their gender, as in Latin.

(c) Cases.

1. Nouns have five cases in each number :
 1. *Nominative,*
 2. *Genitive,*
 3. *Dative,*
 4. *Accusative,*
 5. *Vocative.*
2. The nominative is sometimes called *direct*, and the others *oblique* cases.
3. The cases are distinguished from each other by their endings.
4. In *neuter* nouns the Nom. Acc. Voc. are alike in all numbers, and in the Plur. generally end in *a*.
5. In all nouns the Nom. Acc. Voc. dual, and the Nom. and Voc. plural are alike.

SUBSTANTIVES.

A SUBSTANTIVE is the name of any thing or object; and is either *common* or *proper*.

§ 11. DECLENSIONS.

1. The declensions are ten;—five of *simple*, and five of *contracted* nouns.
2. All nouns are—*Parisyllabic* or *Imparisyllabic*.
 Parisyllabic nouns *do not add a syllable* in declining,
i. e. they do not increase in the Gen. case.
 Imparisyllabic nouns *add a syllable* in declining,
i. e. they increase in the Gen. case.