

**A PRACTICAL GREEK
ACCIDENCE, WITH
PROGRESSIVE EXERCISES**

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A practical Greek accidence, with progressive exercises by C. Matheson

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C. MATHESON

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GREEK ACCIDENCE,
WITH PROGRESSIVE EXERCISES.

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P R E F A C E.

THE Author of the following pages was called upon, a few years ago, to teach the elements of Greek Grammar in the school with which he is connected. Immediately on entering on his work, he must be allowed to confess that he was dissatisfied with Wordsworth's Greek Grammar, and yet could not find any Grammar which seemed to him at once philosophical and simple enough. The Grammar prefixed to Arnold's Greek Accidence was the nearest approach to what he wanted, but that work contains no examples on the Declensions merely; and in its language and arrangement is too difficult for beginners. The aim of the following work is to give boys *principles* as far as is consistent with simplicity, and thus to keep the use of memory within its proper limits, and to save intelligent boys from the mistakes and uncertainty which arise solely from their having learnt their Grammar by rote and

not by principle. A glance at the Contract Nouns and Verbs will show the idea of the work. Only one Verb in $\mu\iota$ is given, because the other conjugations differ only in the Root Vowel. Had the author dared to violate so far the common practice, he would without hesitation have placed the Verbs in $\mu\iota$ before those in ω , because the former illustrate so beautifully, especially in the Passive Voice, the theory of the Person-endings.

The work is written in English to suit the wants of those schools where sufficient time cannot be given to Classics to allow of Latin Rules being understood and learnt thoroughly by heart; in which case alone they can be of any use.

The Author has aimed at giving, as the title of the little book states, all Greek Accidence which is *essential* to a boy reading Attic authors. It will be noticed that great care has been used in distinguishing by hyphens the various component elements of a word.

The Vocabularies can be used as reading lessons: to make them more useful for this end, a number of difficult words are inserted in the last.

BLACKBURN,
January, 1883.

GREEK ACCIDENCE.

I. THE Greek Alphabet.

i. There are twenty-four letters in Greek: of which seventeen are consonants, and the rest vowels.

Α	α	Alpha
Β	β	Beta
Γ	γ	Gamma
Δ	δ	Delta
Ε	ε	Epsilon (<i>i.e.</i> naked, short)
Ζ	ζ	Zeta
Η	η	Eta
Θ	θ	Theta
Ι	ι	Iota
Κ	κ	Kappa
Λ	λ	Lambda
Μ	μ	Mu
Ν	ν	Nu
Ξ	ξ	Xi
Ο	ο	O-mikron (<i>i.e.</i> little or short)
Π	π	Pi
Ρ	ρ	Rho
Σ	σ	Sigma (at the end of a word written ς)
Τ	τ	Tau
Υ	υ	Upsilon
Φ	φ	Phi
Χ	χ	Chi
Ψ	ψ	Psi
Ω	ω	O-mega (<i>i.e.</i> great, long)

ii. The Consonants are divided into two great classes:—

A. Semi-vowels.

B. Mutes and Double letters.

A. The Semi-vowels are the Liquids λ , μ , ν , ρ : and the Sibilant (i.e. hissing) ς .

B. The Mutes are divided on two principles: first, according to the part of the mouth they are pronounced with: secondly, according to the degree of aspiration.

The following table shows how the Mutes range themselves under both classes:—

	Buccoth.	Slightly Aspirate.	Aspirate.	Double letter.
Those pronounced with the lips, Labials,	α	β	ϕ	ψ
throat, Gutturals,	κ	γ	χ	ξ
{teeth Dentals and or tongue, Linguals,}	τ	δ	θ	ζ

The only consonants that can end a word are ν , ρ , ς .

The Double letters ξ , ξ , ψ , are consonants compounded of a Mute with ς : viz. ζ of δ (sometimes γ) with ς , ξ of any Guttural with ς , ψ of any Labial with ς .

iii. The Vowels are seven, α , ϵ , η , ι , o , ω , υ . Of these ϵ , o , are by nature short, η ω long; α , ι , υ , are long or short.

Diphthongs are formed by adding ϵ or υ to the other vowels. We ought therefore to have twelve

Diphthongs, viz. $a + i = ai$: $e + i = ei$: $\eta + i = \eta i$:
 $o + i = oi$: $\omega + i = \omega i$: $a + v = av$: $e + v = ev$:
 $\eta + v = \eta v$: $v + i = vi$: $o + v = ov$: $\omega + v = \omega v$:
 but ω is never found as a diphthong.

After η , ω , and sometimes a , i is written underneath those vowels in small writing, and these three are called *Improper Diphthongs*. This *iota* is called *iota subscript* (written under). The rest are called *Proper Diphthongs*.

A Vowel or Syllable is called *Pure*, if it has a Vowel immediately before it: *Impure*, if it has a consonant: thus a in $\sigma\phi\acute{\iota}\alpha$, o in $\delta\acute{\iota}\kappa\alpha\iota\text{-}o$ s, are pure.

Every word that begins with a vowel or the consonant ρ has either

A *soft* breathing, which is marked by a comma, thus [']: or

A *hard* breathing, which is marked by an inverted comma, thus ['], and is sounded like the English *h*.

All words beginning with v or ρ have the hard breathing.

The breathing is placed over the *second* vowel of a diphthong.

II. The Declensions.

i. A. All declinable words, whether Substantives, Adjectives, Participles, or Pronouns, are declined in one of five different ways, according to the Termination of the Nominative case or the Root.

B. The Root is the original word to which various endings which form the cases, called Case-endings, are added.

ii. There are Three Numbers:—Singular, Dual (used when we speak of *two* objects), and Plural.

iii. The Genders are Three, Masculine, Feminine, Neuter.

iv. A. The Cases are Five:—Nominative, Genitive, Dative, Accusative, Vocative.

B. In the Dual, the Nominative, Accusative, and Vocative are the same, in all nouns, as also the Genitive and Dative. In the Plural, the Nominative and Vocative are the same.

C. The Nominative, Accusative, and Vocative of Neuter Nouns are the same in all numbers.

D. The Nominative is called *Direct*:

The other cases are called *Oblique*.

v. The following are the endings of the Nominative case in the Five Declensions.

A. 1st Declension ends in $\alpha\varsigma$ or $\eta\varsigma$ mas. only.

B. 2d Declension ends in α or η fem. only.

C. 3d Declension ends in $\omicron\varsigma$ mas. and fem., $\omicron\nu$ neuter.

D. 4th Declension ends in $\omega\varsigma$ mas. and fem., $\omega\nu$ neuter.

E. 5th Declension ends in α , ι , ν , neuter, ν , ρ , ς of all Genders.