

**ALPHA: A GREEK
PRIMER INTRODUCTORY
TO XENOPHON**

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Alpha: A Greek Primer Introductory to Xenophon by William G. Frost

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WILLIAM G. FROST

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ΑΛΕΞΑΝΔΡΟΣ Ο ΜΕΓΑΣ

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ALPHA
A GREEK PRIMER

INTRODUCTORY TO XENOPHON

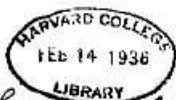
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PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION.

THE publication of a second edition has given an opportunity to correct obvious errors, and to make some important improvements. The general plan of the work, however, has met with such full and uniform commendation from teachers of experience, that the author has ventured upon no radical changes.

Younger teachers will pardon a few suggestions :

1. In giving out a new lesson *take sufficient time* to go over it with the student, showing him what he is to study, and explaining any special difficulties.

2. When three or four of the lessons have seemed difficult, devote an entire recitation to reviewing them, and require much greater promptness and fluency than when going over the ground the first time.

3. When a lesson must be divided, do not separate the introductory matter from the exercises. Give out the introductory matter and one third of the exercises, both Greek and English, the first day, and the entire lesson the second day.

4. Secure some oral work like that suggested by lessons VIII, IX, and X, each day. Let the student translate the sentences of the review lesson on *hearing them read*, with his book closed.

The author has profited by suggestions from many quarters, and hopes to receive others which may be duly considered before another revision of the Primer is called for.

BERLIN, September, 1890.

PREFACE.

THIS little book must speak for itself. No one is more conscious of its shortcomings than the author, or more impatient of the incomplete statements, and the detached and diluted Greek sentences, so useful in a handbook for beginners. The book has been prepared, however, in the belief that a worthy contribution to classical studies, and to the cause of learning in general, is possible; that the facts of the language may be grouped in a more effective manner than formerly; and that greater practical results, though it may be at the sacrifice of some traditional formulas, are attainable.

In our day every educated person desires to know something of Greek, and it is essential that the work of the first term should be something more than a preparation for that which is to follow. The student must be enabled to see the connections between Greek and English, and made to feel, even in the first lessons, that he is approaching the literature of a great age and people.

The revolt against the idea that Greek is a "dead" language has scarcely reached, as yet, the elementary text-books, and preparatory teachers have few helps in training their students in "reading at sight," or in other exercises, which involve the use of the language in a *real* way. While nothing revolutionary is proposed, it is hoped that this Primer will be adapted to the wants of teachers who seek progress in this direction.

To have any sense of literary values, one must acquire an almost vernacular command of a good vocabulary. To en-

courage the beginner in this difficult task, we have been at some pains to select for this manual the six hundred and sixty-five most important words,¹ and to make provision for oral exercises, as a necessary supplement to black-board work. It is certainly time that the deaf and dumb method of language-teaching were superseded.

Another legacy from a more formal age is the plan of teaching elementary grammar by minute references. How many hours have been wasted in the turning of leaves! The inexperienced student needs the facts and principles of the lesson as a connected whole on the page before him. Before leaving the Primer he is taught to use the grammar, and to use it in a rational way.

The inductive method is employed largely throughout the book, but is not allowed to dominate in the order of development.

¹ The Vocabulary is made up as follows:—

Words which occur four times or more in Anabasis I-III, and which are also among the five hundred most common words in the De Corona, Oedipus Rex, Phaedo, Memorabilia, and Thucydides I	423
All other words occurring seven times or more in Anab. I-III,	92
Common words (though less common than the above) which are related to words already on the list; that <i>πλεον</i> for example may stand beside <i>μυδάω</i> , and <i>ἀρχαῖος</i> beside <i>ἀρχή</i>	68
Words which are in regular use in English, as <i>νέκρας</i> and <i>δημοκρατία</i>	30
Words like <i>ἄνεως</i> which are necessary as paradigms	18
Words necessary for conversation, as <i>ποῖ</i> and <i>σήμερον</i>	10
Words involved in literary extracts, as <i>φείδομαι</i>	24
Total	665
Words like <i>ἀπείω</i> are entered more than once in the vocabulary.	

This enumeration does not include proper names, nor the list of grammatical terms and phrases for class-room conversation, on page 215.