

**PRINCIPLES OF  
GREEK. A PRACTICAL  
GREEK GRAMMAR**

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Principles of Greek. A Practical Greek Grammar by C. Matheson

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**C. MATHESON**

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# PRINCIPLES OF GREEK

A

## PRACTICAL GREEK GRAMMAR

WITH PROGRESSIVE EXERCISES.

BY

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A NEW EDITION

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EXTRACT  
FROM THE  
PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION.

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..... 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.

..... The author has aimed at giving . . . . all Greek Accidence which is *essential* to a boy reading Attic authors. It will be noticed that great care has been used in distinguishing the various component elements of a word.

The Vocabularies can be used as reading lessons.

..... A very compendious Syntax has been added, sufficient for a student till he is advanced enough to use and enjoy Donaldson's Greek Grammar. . . .

## PREFACE TO THE THIRD EDITION

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THIS (the Third) Edition owes its existence entirely to the appreciation of the book by two Masters of long experience in tuition, G. VALENTINE, Esq., and the Rev. Dr. WOOD, and the revised sheets have passed under the eye of both.

Dr. WOOD has carefully and thoroughly revised the *Accidence*, introducing brief philological hints, and bringing the book into conformity with the most approved methods. The *Syntax* and the *Exercises* have been almost entirely re-written in more systematic order, the *Vocabulary* corrected, and a short *First Reader* added. The Author desires to express his thanks to these gentlemen for thus improving and enriching the work.

CANTERBURY,  
*July, 1882.*

# ACCIDENCE.

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## I. THE Greek Alphabet.

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

				Pronunciation.
	Α	α	Alpha	a
	Β	β	Beta	b
	Γ	γ	Gamma	g (hard, as in get)
	Δ	δ	Delta	d
	Ε	ε	E-psilon ( <i>i.e.</i> naked, short)	é (as in pen)
	Ζ	ζ	Zeta	z
	Η	η	Eta	ē (as as in teeth)
	Θ	θ	Theta	th
	Ι	ι	Iota	i
	Κ	κ	Kappa	k
	Λ	λ	Lambda	l
	Μ	μ	Mu	m
	Ν	ν	Nu	n
	Ξ	ξ	Xi	x
	Ο	ο	O-mikron ( <i>i.e.</i> little or short)	ō (as in of)
	Π	π	Pi	p
	Ρ	ρ	Rho	r
	Σ	σ	Sigma (at the end of a word written <i>ς</i> )	s
	Τ	τ	Tau	t
	Υ	υ	U-psilon	u
	Φ	φ	Phi	ph
	Χ	χ	Khi	kh (or ch as in ache)
	Ψ	ψ	Psi	ps (cf. psalm)
	Ω	ω	O-mega ( <i>i.e.</i> great, long)	ō (as in old)



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

A. Semi-vowels.

B. Mutes and Double letters.

A. The Semi-vowels are the Liquids  $\lambda$ ,  $\mu$ ,  $\nu$ ,  $\rho$ : and the Sibilant (*i.e.* hissing)  $\varsigma$ .

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:—

		Mutes.			
		Hard.	Soft.	Aspirate.	Double Letter.
Those pronounced with the lips,	Labials,	$\pi$	$\beta$	$\phi$	$\psi$
" "	throat, Gutturals,	$\kappa$	$\gamma$	$\chi$	$\kappa\psi$
" "	teeth Dentals and or tongue, Linguals,	$\tau$	$\delta$	$\theta$	$\tau$

The Double letters  $\zeta$ ,  $\xi$ ,  $\psi$ , are consonants compounded of a Mute with  $\varsigma$ : viz.  $\zeta$  of  $\delta$  (sometimes  $\gamma$ ) with  $\varsigma$ ,  $\xi$  of any Guttural with  $\varsigma$ ,  $\psi$  of any Labial with  $\varsigma$ .

Therefore never write  $\pi\varsigma$ ,  $\beta\varsigma$ ,  $\phi\varsigma$ , but instead  $\psi$ .

" " "  $\kappa\varsigma$ ,  $\gamma\varsigma$ ,  $\chi\varsigma$ , " "  $\xi$ .

$\sigma\sigma$ ,  $\tau\tau$ , are often soft forms of a guttural, generally of  $\gamma$ .

$\gamma$  before a guttural (representing  $\nu$ ) is sounded like *ng*, as  $\acute{\epsilon}\gamma\gamma\acute{\iota}\varsigma$ , *eng-gus*.

The only consonants that can end a word are  $\nu$ ,  $\rho$ ,  $\varsigma$ .

If a Dental or  $\nu$  comes immediately before  $\varsigma$ , it is dropped, ( $\rho\nu\text{-}\sigma\iota$ )  $\rho\acute{\iota}\sigma\iota$ , ( $\pi\epsilon\iota\theta\text{-}\sigma\omega$ )  $\pi\epsilon\acute{\iota}\sigma\omega$ .

If both a Dental and  $\nu$  immediately precede  $\varsigma$ , both these letters are dropped, and the vowel going before them is lengthened,  $\epsilon$  into  $\epsilon\iota$ ,  $o$  into  $o\upsilon$ .

After  $\iota$  at the end of dat. plur., and after  $\iota$  or  $\epsilon$  at the end of 3rd pers. of Verbs,  $\nu$  is inserted, if the next word begins with a vowel.

iii. The Vowels are seven,  $\alpha$ ,  $\epsilon$ ,  $\eta$ ,  $\iota$ ,  $o$ ,  $\omega$ ,  $\upsilon$ . Of these  $\epsilon$ ,  $o$ , are by nature short;  $\eta$ ,  $\omega$ , long;  $\alpha$ ,  $\iota$ ,  $\upsilon$ , are long or short.

Diphthongs are formed by placing  $\iota$  or  $\upsilon$  after the other vowels. We ought therefore to have twelve Diphthongs, viz.:

$\alpha\iota$ ,  $\epsilon\iota$ ,  $\eta\iota$ ,  $o\iota$ ,  $\omega\iota$ ,  $\upsilon\iota$ ,

$\alpha\upsilon$ ,  $\epsilon\upsilon$ ,  $\eta\upsilon$ ,  $o\upsilon$ ,  $\omega\upsilon$ ,

but  $\iota\upsilon$  is never found as a diphthong.

The  $\iota$  after  $\eta$ ,  $\omega$ , and  $\bar{\alpha}$  is written underneath those vowels in small writing, thus  $\alpha$ ,  $\eta$ ,  $\omega$ , 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  $\alpha$  in  $\sigma\phi\acute{\iota}\alpha$ ,  $\omicron$  in  $\delta\acute{\iota}\kappa\alpha\iota\text{-}\omicron\varsigma$ , are pure.

Every word that begins with a vowel or the consonant  $\rho$  has either

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

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

All words beginning with  $\upsilon$  or  $\rho$  have the hard breathing.

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

## II. The Declensions.

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

NOTE. By Stem is meant the original word, to which the Case-endings of Nouns, and Person-endings of Verbs, 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, Vocative, Accusative, Genitive, Dative.

B. In the Dual, the Nominative, Vocative, and