

**THE ACCIDENCE OF  
THE GREEK  
LANGUAGE**

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The Accidence of the Greek Language by George Curtius

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**GEORGE CURTIUS**

**THE ACCIDENCE OF  
THE GREEK  
LANGUAGE**



THE ACCIDENCE

OR

THE GREEK LANGUAGE.

*FROM THE SMALLER GREEK GRAMMAR OF*

DR. GEORGE CURTIUS,

PROFESSOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF LEIPZIG.

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## NOTICE.

The following Work, containing the Accidence of Dr. Curtius's Greek Grammar, has been published separately at the request of some of the Masters of the Public Schools. One of the main objects of the book is to introduce into Schools the results of the linguistic discoveries of modern philologists in Greek Grammar. W. S.

*Uniform with the present Work.*

**A Smaller Greek Grammar; containing the Accidence of the following Work, together with the Syntax.** By Dr. GEORGE CURTIUS.

**A Smaller Latin Grammar.** By Dr. WILLIAM SMITH. 3s. 6d.

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THE  
ACCIDENCE OF THE GREEK LANGUAGE.

PART I.—ETYMOLOGY.

CHAP. I.—THE GREEK CHARACTERS.

A.—*Letters.*

§ 1. The Greek letters are the following:—

Large Character.	Small Character.	Name.	Pronunciation.
Α	α	Alpha	ă (short or long)
Β	β	Beta	b
Γ	γ	Gamma	g
Δ	δ	Delta	d
Ε	ε	Epsilon	ě (only short)
Ζ	ζ	Zeta	z
Η	η	Eta	ē (only long)
Θ	θ	Theta	th
Ι	ι	Iota	ī (short or long)
Κ	κ	Kappa	k
Λ	λ	Lambda	l
Μ	μ	Mu	m
Ν	ν	Nu	n
Ξ	ξ	Xi	x
Ο	ο	Omikron	ō (only short)
Π	π	Pi	p
Ρ	ρ	Rho	r
Σ	σ ς	Sigma	s
Τ	τ	Tau	t
Υ	υ	Upsilon	ŭ (short or long)
Φ	φ	Phi	ph
Χ	χ	Chi	ch
Ψ	ψ	Psi	ps
Ω	ω	Omëga	ō (only long)

§ 2. For *s* there is a double sign in the small character: *σ* at the beginning and in the middle, and *ς* at the end, of a word. Hence, *σύν, σείω, ἦσαν*, but *πόνος, κέρας*. In compound words *ς* may also stand at the end of the first word in the compound: *προς-έρχομαι, δύς-βατος*.

§ 3. All Greek letters are always pronounced alike. But *γ* before *γ, κ, χ, or ξ*, is pronounced *ng*. Hence in Latin it is represented by *n*: *τέγγω* is pronounced *tengo*; *συγκάλω, σηγκάλω*; *λόγγη, longchē*; *φόρμιγγξ, phorminx*.

§ 4. The diphthongs *αι* and *ει* are both pronounced as *ei* in *height*; *οι* as *oy* in *boy*; *αυ*, as *aw* in *law*; *ου*, as *ow* in *bow*; *υι*, as *wy* in *why* (*hwɪ*); *ευ* and *ηυ*, as *ew* in *new*. The *iota subscriptum* (*underwritten*) is not pronounced in *α, γ, ρ*. It is not written under, but after, capitals, as *Αι, Ηι, Ωι*, but still remains unpronounced.

§ 5. When two vowels, usually pronounced together, are to be pronounced separately, the latter has over it a diacresis (= *separation*): thus *παίς* is pronounced *pa-is*; *ἄϊπνος, a-urnos*.

### B.—Other Characters.

§ 6. Besides the letters, the Greek language has also the sign *´*, which is placed over the initial vowel to which it belongs, and represents the *h*: *ἔξ* is pronounced *hex*; *ἄπαξ, hapax*. This sign is called *spiritus asper*, "rough breathing."

§ 7. The Greeks also mark those initial vowels which have not this breathing with the sign *˘*, *i. e.*, the *spiritus lenis*, "gentle breathing." This sound indicates only the raising of the voice which is necessary for the pronunciation of a vowel when no consonant precedes: *ἐκ* is pronounced *ek*; *ἄγω, ago*.

§ 8. In diphthongs the breathing stands over the second vowel: *αῖτος = haitos*; *εἶδον = eidon*. But when

the first vowel is in large character, the breathing stands before it: Ἅιδης = *Hades*; Ὀιδή = *Odē*.

§ 9. Every initial ρ has the spiritus asper over it: ῥαψῳδός, ῥεῦμα: hence in Latin, *rhapsodius*, *rheuma*. When two ρ's come together in a word, ' is usually placed over the first, and ' over the second: Πύρρος = *Pyrrhus*; Καλλιρρόη = *Callirrhoe*.

§ 10. The sign ¯ over a vowel denotes that the vowel is long, ˘ that it is short, and ˜ that it is sometimes one, sometimes the other. In Greek they are used only with the vowels α, ε, υ, since ε, η, ο, ω are distinguished by their form.

§ 11. The sign ' at the junction of two words indicates the omission of a vowel or diphthong, and is then called an *apostrophe*: παρ' ἐκείνω for παρά ἐκείνω, *with that one*; μὴ ἴγώ for μὴ ἐγώ (*ne ego*).

§ 12. The same sign has the name *coronis* when it stands over the junction of two words contracted into one: κάγαθός for καὶ ἀγαθός, *and good*. It indicates that a contraction of two words has taken place, and, like the breathing, stands over the second vowel of a diphthong; ταυτό for τὸ αὐτό, *the same*.

#### C.—Accents.

§ 13. The Greeks also indicate the tone or ACCENT of words. The sign ' over a vowel is called the *acute accent*, that is, the sharp or *raised* tone: λόγος, ταύτων, παρά, ἕτερος. The syllable thus marked must be raised above the rest.

A word having the acute accent upon the last syllable is called *oxytone*: παρά, εἶπέ, βασιλεύς.

A word having the acute accent upon the last but one is called *paroxytone*: λέγω, φαίνω.

A word having the acute accent upon the last but two is called *proparoxytone*: λέγεται, εἴπετε.