

Here are pages 103-108 from Manual of Foreign Languages by Georg F. von Ostermann, Ph.D., NY, 1959. I have made a few additions to pages 104 and 106. (Please note that the quality of the original printing is fairly poor; there is, however, very little loss of quality in this reproduction.)

## CLASSICAL GREEK

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A	α	alpha	ā as in father; ǎ as in papa	Ξ	ξ	xi	x as in mix
B	β	beta	b as in bad	O	ο	omicron	o as in obey
Γ	γ	gamma	g as in go	Π	π	pi	p as in pin
Δ	δ	delta	d as in do	Ρ	ρ	rho	r as in red
E	ε	epsilon	e as in pet	Σ	σ s	sigma	s as in see
Z	ζ	zeta	Originally as zd; later as z	Τ	τ	tau	t as in top
H	η	eta	e as in French fête	Υ	υ	upsilon	ū as in French sûr, German û; ü as in the German Brücke
Θ	θ	theta	th as in thin	Φ	φ	phi	ph as in graphic
I	ι	iota	ī as in ma- chine; ĩ as in pit	Χ	χ	chi	ch as in German machen
K	κ	kappa	k as in keg	Ψ	ψ	psi	ps as in gyp- sum
Λ	λ	lambda	l as in lip	Ω	ω	omega	o as in prone
M	μ	mu	m as in mix				
N	ν	nu	n as in now				

The Greek language uses 24 letters. Each letter has at least two forms, the majuscule, or upper-case, and the minuscule, or lower-case. The larger, or capital, letters are very like those used by the Greeks of the classical period; the smaller letters are derived from the cursive script used at a very much later period. The use given herewith is that taught generally in American schools and colleges.

### Forms

Five of the lower-case letters have two forms each: α is used in text; α, as a symbol in mathematics; β (beta) and θ (theta) are rare, never used as symbols; φ or ϕ, in text and as symbols; σ, initial or medial; s, final. For general purposes, however, these variant forms, with the exception of σ and s, may be used interchangeably.

The later manuscripts had many hundreds of ligatures, a remnant of the shorthand of the period. The earlier printers had a great many of these cast in type, but they are not generally used today. See pp. 105 - 108.

There is the relic of the primitive Greek alphabet remaining in the use of three ancient characters as numerals, ϛ, digamma, or Ϛ, stigma, used for 6; Ϟ, koppa, used for 90, and Ϡ, sampi, used for 900. The only other occasion for the use of these characters is in paleography.

### Breathings

Attention is called to the breathings, the rough (´) which gives the sound of h to the letter on which it is written, and the smooth (˘). Every initial vowel takes one or the other of these breathings. It is written over the second letter of a diphthong, and in front of capital letters. Initials υ and ρ take the rough breathing above them, and doubled ρ was formerly written ββ, but modern usage eliminates the breathings. The smooth breathing should not be confused with the apostrophe, which is used at the beginning or end of a word to indicate elision.

### Accents

Three stress accents are used in Greek, the acute (´), the circumflex (ˆ), and the grave (`). These may be combined with the breathings to give a number of "sorts", the use of which involves a knowledge of the language. There is also the dieresis, placed over the second of a group of two vowels to indicate separate pronunciation of each.

## GREEK DIACRITICAL MARKS

' lenis	˘ lenis grave	˘˘ circumflex asper
˘ asper	˘˘ asper acute	˘˘˘ dieresis
' acute	˘˘ asper grave	˘˘˘˘ dieresis acute
˘ grave	˘˘˘ circumflex	˘˘˘˘˘ dieresis grave
˘˘ lenis acute	˘˘˘˘ circumflex lenis	

## Punctuation

The Greek marks of punctuation are the comma (,), the colon-semicolon (:), the period (.), and the mark of interrogation (;). As the ancient Greeks wrote without any breaks, even between words, these marks are of quite recent origin, and are inserted where editors think they should go, generally as in English.

## Phonetics

Scholars think that the double consonants φ, χ, θ, ζ, ξ, and ψ, originally sounded both of their component parts, but that later they took on a single sound.

The letter γ before κ, γ, χ, and ζ took the sound of η in ink. The letter ρ, when with a rough breathing, had a sound something like hr.

The pronunciation of the principal diphthongs is:

αι as ai in aisle	ου as ou in our
ει as ei in rein	ευ as eu in feud
οι as oi in toil	ου as ou in you
υι as ui in quit	

The diphthong ηυ can only be approximated by the sounds eh-oo pronounced quickly together.

The improper diphthongs ε, υ, φ, are pronounced like α, η, ω, respectively.

There is a division of opinion among modern scholars as to the pronunciation of ancient Greek. Some think that the pronunciation of the modern Greek is more nearly like the ancient than the ordinarily accepted scholastic pronunciation.

## Capitalization

As the ancient Greeks did not know the lower-case letters, they had no scheme of capitalization. The modern use is to capitalize proper names and the first word of a sentence. Poetry does not capitalize the first word of a line, unless under the above rule.

## Syllabication

Each Greek word has as many syllables as it has vowels or diphthongs. The following rules, based on ancient tradition, are used in divisions:

(a) Single consonants, combinations of consonants which can begin a word, as indicated below, are placed at the beginning of a syllable.

In Greek there are found to be 45 combinations of consonants that are used to begin words. They are:

βδ, βλ, βρ, γλ, γν, γρ, δμ, δν, δρ, θλ, θν, θρ, κλ, κμ, κν, κρ, κτ, μν, πλ, πν, πρ, πτ, σβ. σθ, σκ, σκλ, σμ, σπ, σπλ, σπρ, στ, στρ, σφ, σχ, τλ, τμ, τρ, φθ, φλ, φν, φρ, χθ, χλ, χν, χρ.

(b) Other combinations of consonants are divided.

(c) Compound words are divided into their original parts.

(d) In dividing words ending in κτος, the κ is brought over.

## Cardinal numbers

α'	εἰς, μία, ἕν	one	ν'	πεντήκοντα	fifty
β'	δύο	two	ξ'	ἑξήκοντα	sixty
γ'	τρῆς, τρία	three	ο'	ἑβδομήκοντα	seventy
δ'	τέτταρες, -ρα	four	π'	ὀγδοήκοντα	eighty
ε'	πέντε	five	ς'	ἐνενηήκοντα	ninety
Ϝ'	ἕξ	six	ρ'	ἑκατόν	hundred
ζ'	ἑπτὰ	seven	σ'	διακόσιοι	two hundred
η'	ὀκτώ	eight	τ'	τριακόσιοι	three hundred
θ'	ἐννέα	nine	υ'	τετρακόσιοι	four hundred
ι'	δέκα.	ten	φ'	πεντακόσιοι	five hundred
ια'	ἑνδεκά	eleven	χ'	ἑξακόσιοι	six hundred
ιβ'	δώδεκα	twelve	ψ'	ἑπτακόσιοι	seven hundred
ιγ'	τρισκαίδεκα	thirteen	ω'	ὀκτακόσιοι	eight hundred
κ'	εἴκοσι	twenty	Ϡ'	ἑνακόσιοι	nine hundred
λ'	τριακόντα	thirty	.α	χίλιοι	thousand
μ'	τετταράκοντα	forty	.ι	μύριοι	ten thousand

**Ordinal numbers**

<i>πρῶτος</i>	first	<i>ἕνατος</i>	ninth
<i>δεύτερος</i>	second	<i>δέκατος</i>	tenth
<i>τρίτος</i>	third	<i>ἐνδέκατος</i>	eleventh
<i>τέταρτος</i>	fourth	<i>δωδέκατος</i>	twelfth
<i>πέμπτος</i>	fifth	<i>τρίτος καὶ δέκατος</i>	thirteenth
<i>ἕκτος</i>	sixth	<i>εἰκοστός</i>	twentieth
<i>ἑβδόμος</i>	seventh	<i>τριακοστός</i>	thirtieth
<i>ὀγδοός</i>	eighth	<i>χιλιοστός</i>	thousandth

These numerals, except the cardinals from 5 to 100, are regularly declinable according to the rules of the language. The exceptions are not declinable.

The numeral characters take an acute accent after them, from 1 to 999. To place an accent below and to the left of a character multiplies it by 1000: e.g., α' = 1, ,α = 1000, ,αλγ' = 1933.

**Chronology**

The ancient Greeks divided time into periods of four years, called Olympiads, the first year of the first Olympiad beginning in the middle of the summer of 776 B.C. Each year was divided into twelve months, but there was no division into weeks.

The seasons were called *ἔρ*, spring; *θέρους*, summer; *ὀπώρα*, autumn, and *χειμών*, winter.

After the rise of the Roman supremacy the Julian calendar was adopted, with the Latin month names transliterated. After the advent of Christianity the weekly system was adopted, with names of the days as in modern Greek.

**Months**

<i>Ἑκατομβαιῶν</i>	Hecatombion	About July
<i>Μεταγειτνίων</i>	Metageitnion	August
<i>Βοηδρομιῶν</i>	Boëdromion	September
<i>Πυαναοψιών</i>	Pyanopsion	October
<i>Μαιμακτηριῶν</i>	Maimacterion	November
<i>Ποσειδεῶν</i>	Poseideon	December
<i>Ποσειδεῶν δεύτερος</i>	Second Poseideon	In leap years only (every eight years)
<i>Γαμηλιῶν</i>	Gamelion	January
<i>Ἀνθεστηριῶν</i>	Anthesterion	February
<i>Ἐλαφηβολιών</i>	Elaphebolion	March
<i>Μουνιχιῶν</i>	Mounichion	April
<i>Θαργηλιῶν</i>	Thargelion	May
<i>Σκιροφοριῶν</i>	Scirophorion	June

The modern equivalents are, of course, only approximate, as the Greeks had not calculated the year as accurately as more modern mathematicians have. The first day of Hecatombion was intended to fall upon the summer solstice; but it actually varied from the middle of June to the first week in August.

**Time**

<i>ώρα</i>	hour	<i>μήν</i>	month
<i>ἡμέρα</i>	day	<i>ἔτος</i>	year
<i>ἑβδομάς</i>	week		

**Articles to be disregarded in filing**

ὁ	οἱ
ἡ	αἱ
τό	τά

**Ligatures, etc.**

ς = stigma (st)	ς = koppa (q)
ϑ = sampi (sch)	ϑ = (ou)

**GREEK INCUNABULA**

The following old forms of letters, letter combinations, and abbreviations will be helpful to those interested in reading early Greek records or manuscripts. Those under I are individual letters or elements found only in compound characters; under II are such characters as are not immediately obvious and hence





INCUNABULA LIGATURES—Continued

Characters	Value	Characters	Value	Characters	Value	Characters	Value
πι	πτ	σπλ	σπλ	Ϡ	σχο	υς	υς
πυ	πυ	σπο	σπο	Ϡρ	σχρ	υσι	υσι
πυμ	πυμ	σπυ	σπυ	Ϡυ	σχυ	χα	χα
πω	πω	σπω	σπω	Ϡυμ	σχυμ	χαι	χαι
ρα	ρα	σσ	σσ	Ϡω	σχω	χαι	χαι
ρι	ρι	σσα	σσα	στω	στω	χαι	χαι
ρο	ρο	σσαι	σσαι	τα	τα	χαι	χαι
σα	σα	σσαις	σσαις	ται	ται	χαι	χαι
σαι	σαι	σσει	σσει	ταί	ταί	χε	χε
σαι	σαι	σσει	σσει	ταίς	ταίς	χει	χει
σαιρ	σαιρ	σση	σση	ται	ται	χρ	χρ
σαις	σαις	σσι	σσι	ταις	ταις	χρω	χρω
σαιυ	σαιυ	σσο	σσο	ταυ	ταυ	χθ	χθ
σβ	σβ	σσυ	σσυ	ταυ	ταυ	χθ	χθ
σε	σε	σσω	σσω	ταυ	ταυ	χθ	χθ
σει	σει	στ	στ	ταυ	ταυ	χθ	χθ
ση	ση	στα	στα	ταυ	ταυ	χθ	χθ
ση	ση	σταυ	σταυ	ταυ	ταυ	χθ	χθ
ση	ση	στας	στας	ταυ	ταυ	χθ	χθ
ση	ση	σταυ	σταυ	ταυ	ταυ	χθ	χθ
ση	ση	στε	στε	ταυ	ταυ	χθ	χθ
ση	ση	στη	στη	ταυ	ταυ	χθ	χθ
ση	ση	στι	στι	ταυ	ταυ	χθ	χθ
ση	ση	στο	στο	ταυ	ταυ	χθ	χθ
ση	ση	στρο	στρο	ταυ	ταυ	χθ	χθ
ση	ση	στυ	στυ	ταυ	ταυ	χθ	χθ
ση	ση	στω	στω	ταυ	ταυ	χθ	χθ
ση	ση	συ	συ	ταυ	ταυ	χθ	χθ
ση	ση	συμ	συμ	ταυ	ταυ	χθ	χθ
ση	ση	σφ	σφ	ταυ	ταυ	χθ	χθ
ση	ση	σχ	σχ	ταυ	ταυ	χθ	χθ
ση	ση	σχα	σχα	ταυ	ταυ	χθ	χθ
ση	ση	σχει	σχει	ταυ	ταυ	χθ	χθ
ση	ση	σχεις	σχεις	ταυ	ταυ	χθ	χθ
ση	ση	σχη	σχη	ταυ	ταυ	χθ	χθ
ση	ση	σχημ	σχημ	ταυ	ταυ	χθ	χθ
ση	ση	σχι	σχι	ταυ	ταυ	χθ	χθ
ση	ση	σχι	σχι	ταυ	ταυ	χθ	χθ

ABRÉVIATIONS ET LIGATURES

IV. – PRINCIPALES ABRÉVIATIONS ET LIGATURES  
EMPLOYÉES DANS LES  
ANCIENNES ÉDITIONS DES AUTEURS GRECS.

Figure.	Signification.	Figure.	Signification.	Figure.	Signification.	Figure.	Signification.
αι	αι	δα	δα	δλω	δην	μλω	μην
αη	αλ	δαη	δαη	δι ηι	θι	μι	μι
αηη	αλλ	δαν	δαν	θν	θν	μμ	μμ
αν αυ	αν	δας	δας	θο θο	θο	μο μο	μο
αξ	αξ	δαν	δαν	θρ θρ	θρ	μω	μω
απο	απο	δε	δε	θς	θς	μωω	μωω
αρ αρ	αρ	δ̄	δ̄	θυ	θυ	μω μο	μω
ας	ας	δει δη	δει	θω θω	θω	μω̄	μω̄
αυ	αυ	δη	δη	κα κα	κα	ο̄	ο̄
αυτ̄	αυτου	δλω	δην	καμ καμ κ̄	καί	ον	ον
αυτ̄	αυτω	δι	δι	κᾱ	κᾱ	ου	ου
αυτ̄	αυτω	δια	δια	καν	καν	ουκ	ουκ
γα	γα	δο	δο	κας	κας	ουχ	ουχ
γαη	γαη	δρ	δρ	κατ̄	κατα	ουτος	ουτος
γαν	γαν	δυ	δυ	καυ	καυ	πα	πα
γαρ αρ γδ	γαρ	δυ	δυι	κε	κε	παι	παι
γας	γας	δω	δυν	κη	κη	παν	παν
γαν	γαν	δς	δς	κι	κι	παρα	παρα
γγ	γγ	δω	δω	κλ	κλ	πας	πας
γε	γε	ει ε	ει	κν	κν	παι	παι
γ̄	γ̄	εῑ	εῑ	κο	κο	πε	πε
γ̄η	γ̄η	εῑναι	εῑναι	κρ	κρ	περ	περ
γ̄η	γ̄η	εκ	εκ	κς	κς	περι	περι
γ̄η	γ̄η	ελ	ελ	κυ	κυ	πη	πη
γ̄η	γ̄η	εν	εν	κω κω	κω	πι	πι
γ̄η	γ̄η	εξ	εξ	λλ	λλ	πλ	πλ
γ̄η	γ̄η	επι	επι	μα	μα	πν	πν
γ̄η	γ̄η	ερ	ερ	μαι	μαι	πο	πο
γ̄η	γ̄η	εστι	εστι	μαν	μαν	πρ	πρ
γ̄η	γ̄η	ευ	ευ	μω μο	μω μο	πρα	πρα
γ̄η	γ̄η	ευ	ευ	ματ̄	ματων	προ	προ
γ̄η	γ̄η	ευσ	ευσ	μαυ	μαυ	πρω	πρω
γ̄η	γ̄η	ιν	ιν	με	με	πτ	πτ
γ̄η	γ̄η	θα	θα	μεθ	μεθ	πυ	πυ
γ̄η	γ̄η	θαι	θαι	μελ	μελ	πυν	πυν
γ̄η	γ̄η	θαν	θαν	μεν	μεν	πω	πω
γ̄η	γ̄η	θε	θε	μετα	μετα	ρα	ρα
γ̄η	γ̄η	θει	θει	μη	μη	ρι	ρι
γ̄η	γ̄η	θη	θη				

Figure.	Signification.	Figure.	Signification.	Figure.	Signification.	Figure.	Signification.
ρθ	ρθ	ασ	σσ	ρθ	σχο	ισι	υσι
σα α	σα	ασα	σαα	ρξ	σخر	χα	χα
σαι	σαι	ασαι	σσαι	ρυ	σχυ	χαι	χαι
σαν ρ̄	σαν	ασαν	σσαν	ρυν	σχυν	χαν	χαν
σαρ	σαρ	σας	σας	ρω	σχω	χαρ	χαρ
σας	σας	ασε	σσε	σω ρ̄	σω	χας	χας
σ αυ	σ αυ	ασει	σσει	τα α	τα	χ αυ	χ αυ
σβ	σβ	αση	σση	ται ρ̄	ται	χε	χε
σε	σε	ωσι	σσι	τ̄	τᾱις	χει	χει
σει	σει	ωσ	σσο	ταν	ταν	χη	χη
ση	ση	ασυ	σσυ	τας	τας	χη	χη
σθ	σθ	ασω	σσω	ταυ ρ̄	ταυ	χην	χην
σθα	σθα	ς	στ	τε ρ̄	τε	χθ	χθ
σθαι ρ̄	σθαι	σα	στα	τη	τη	χθην	χθην
σθε	σθε	σαν	σταν	την ρ̄	την	χθω	χθω
σθην ρ̄	σθην	σας	στας	τ̄	τ̄ης	χι	χι
σθιν	σθιν	σαν	σταν	π ρ̄	τι	χιν	χιν
σθι	σθι	σε	στε	τη	τη	χο	χο
σθο	σθο	σ̄	σσει	το ρ̄	το	χορ	χορ
σθω	σθω	ση	σση	τ̄	τον	χς	χς
σει	σει	σι	σσι	τ̄ ρ̄ ρ̄	του	χυ	χυ
σι	σι	σο	σσο	τρ ρ̄	τρ	χυν	χυν
σμ	σμ	σρ	σρ	τρι	τρι	χω	χω
σο ρ̄	σο	συ	σσυ	τρο	τρο	χα	χα
σπα	σπα	σω	σσω	τη	τη	χαι	χαι
σπαι	σπαι	συ	συ	τυ	τυ	χαν	χαν
σπαν	σπαν	συν	συν	τυν	τυν	χας	χας
σπας	σπας	σφ	σφ	τω	τω	χ αυ	χ αυ
σπε	σπε	χ	σх	τω	τω	χε	χε
σπει	σπει	χα	σχα	τ̄	τ̄	χει	χει
σπη	σπη	χε	σχε	τ̄ ρ̄	των	χην	χην
σπι	σπι	χαι	σχαι	υ	υι	χιν	χιν
σπλ	σπλ	χην	σχην	υν ω	υν	χο	χο
σπο	σπο	χιν	σχιν	υπ	υπ	χυ	χυ
σπου	σπου	χι	σχι	υπ ρ̄	υπερ	χω	χω
σπω	σπω	χρ	σхρ	κ	υε		