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Study Guide ANSWER KEY The Greek Alphabet Sight and Sounds of the Greek Letters (Module B)

Exercise Two: Similarities and dissimilarities of the Greek-English letters.

1. There are ten Greek letters that appear close to their English counterparts.

Hear

A α	B β	δ	E ε	I ι
K κ	O ο	ς	T τ	υ

a. How many of these letters are vowels? **Five.**

Which vowels may be pronounced both long and short? **Aα, Iι, and υ**

Which two vowels are always short? **Eε, Oο**

b. Which letter is written as a figure “8” laid on its side and opened on the right? **α**

c. Which letter is never dotted? **ι**

d. Which letter crosses, then its curve drops down below the line? **ς**

e. Which letter has a “tail” that extends below the line? **β**

f. Which letters have capitals that are very different from their small letters?
δ (Δ), ς (Σ), and υ (Υ).

g. Which letter has as its capital letter Σ? **ς**

h. Which letter has as its capital letter Υ? **υ.**

i. Which letter has as its capital letter Δ? **δ**

2. Six deceptively looking Greek letters appear to be English letters, but are not. These letters will prove difficult unless learned well.

Hear

γ	η	ν	Ρ ρ	Χ χ	ω
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- a. Which letter are vowels? η and ω
- b. Which letter sounds like the English “r”? Ρ ρ
- c. Which letter sounds like the English “g”? γ
- d. Which letter sounds like the English “n”? ν
- e. Which letter sounds like “ō” (long “o”)? ω
- f. Which small letter has a capital that looks like a horseshoe? ω
- g. Which letter sounds like “ē” (long “a”)? η
- h. Which small letter has as its capital N? ν
- i. Which small letter has as its capital Γ? γ
- j. Which small letter has as its capital H? η
- k. *Gamma* is pronounced as the hard “g” as in “go”, and never as the soft “g” as in **gin**.
- l. Which letter sounds like something you use to unlock your door? Χ χ
- m. Which letter sounds like something you do to a boat? Ρ ρ
- n. Which letter sounds like the English word “new”? ν

- o. Finish spelling the following names of the Greek letters:

gamma ēta rhō ōmega nū chī

3. There are nine Greek letters very different from any English letters.

Hear

Ζ ζ	Θ θ	Λ λ	Μ μ	Ξ ξ
Π π	Σ σ	Φ φ	Ψ ψ	

- a. Which letter has a final form? Σ σ
- b. Which letter looks like a cactus? Ψ ψ
- c. Which four Greek letters are represented phonetically in English by two letters? Θ θ, Ξ ξ, Φ φ, and Ψ ψ.

Exercise Three: Transposition. Transpose all the following Greek capital letters into their corresponding small letters, using the space provided.

TAXIN ταχιν

ΚΟΣΜΟΝ κοσμον

ΣΩΤΗΡΟΣ σωτηρος

ΛΙΤΡΑ λιτρα

ΝΥΞ νυξ

ΚΑΛΩΝ καλων

ΑΓΑΠΩΣΙΝ αγαπωσιν

ΨΥΧΗ ψυχη

ΘΕΟΣ θεος

ΑΜΠΕΛΟΣ αμπελος

ΦΥΛΑΚΗ φυλακη

ΧΑΡΙΣΜΑ χαρισμα

Exercise Four: True and False Questions. Choose whether the statement is true or false.

1. The fact that the Greek alphabet derives from an earlier Semitic script is uncontested. True
2. The capital letter for δ is Δ . True
3. The capital letter for υ is Υ . False
4. The capital letter for γ is Γ . True
5. The Greek dialect spoken in ancient Athens was Attic. True
6. The Greek alphabetical characters never changed in shape from the time of Archaic Greek to Modern Greek. False
7. The Greek alphabetical characters never changed in pronunciation from the time of the Classical Period to Modern Greek. False
8. No examples of boustrophedon style of Greek writing exists. False
9. Aristophanes of Byzantium is attributed of introducing diacritical markings in connection with the Greek alphabet. True
10. The Greek letters were used as numbers, written with a tick or a horizontal line above the letter. True
11. During the Classical Period, the Greek alphabet may be divided into two alphabet-types: Eastern and Western Greek. True
12. In 403 BC, Athens adopted the Ionic alphabet of Miletus as its official alphabet. True

Exercise Five: Multiple Choice. Choose the best answer.

- Examples of Greek epichorical alphabets are:
 - Thucydides and Xenophon
 - Ionia and Euboea
 - Cyrillic and Gothic
 - Classical and Koiné
- At the time of the Classical Period, the Greek alphabet contained how many Greek letters?
 - twenty-four
 - twenty
 - twenty-eight
 - twenty-seven
- Which letters became extinct from the Greek alphabet?
 - alpha* and *koppa*
 - gamma* and *delta*
 - stigma* and *sampi*
 - omikron* and *diagamma*
- How many consonants are there in the Modern Greek alphabet?
 - fourteen
 - fifteen
 - sixteen
 - seventeen
- How many Greek vowels are always pronounced short?
 - two
 - three
 - four
 - five
- Which alphabet became the first alphabet which contained both vowels and consonants?
 - Greek
 - German
 - English
 - Phoenician

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7. The capital letters of the Modern Greek alphabet are almost identical to which ancient Greek epichorical alphabet?
- a. Corinth
 - b. Argos
 - c. Ionic
 - d. Corinth

Where to go from here?

You have begun to learn New Testament Greek. However, perhaps you are not sure of your progress and feel a little uneasy about going on—especially if you are studying NTGreek by yourself. Would you be surprised to learn that most of those new to language study feel like this? What is the solution? Keep on going! After studying Lesson Three, look back to the material in Lesson One and see how much easier it is now than when you first studied it. Why is this? Unless you are gifted in language (and few are), the acquisition of a new language takes time. The feeling of being “lost” is normal. However, the vagueness and uncertainty that you may feel now will soon give way to confidence.

I began studying NTGreek when I was sixteen years old on my own. I did not have the privilege to have a Greek teacher for several years. Many times, I wondered if I really understood the lessons accurately from Machen’s New Testament grammar. There were not too many exercises at the end of each lesson (and no “answer key”). However, I persisted only because of God’s grace.

I felt like that I did not have much going for me. I had speech therapy for the first six years of my elementary school years, and later discovered that I was a little dyslexic, especially with numbers. However, because of God’s grace, I am now able to pass on what I have learned about NTGreek to others. I have taught the language in different capacities over the years. My underlying passion is not to know the Greek language, but to understand what the New Testament authors wrote in the Greek language without the running interference of a translation.