

5

Sight and Sounds of Greek Words (Module C)

Consonants, Vowels, and Diphthongs
Phonology (Part 5)

Lesson Five Overview	
§5.0	Introduction, 5-1
§5.1	Breathing Marks, 5-2
§5.2	Syllabification, 5-5
§5.3	Introduction to Greek Accents, 5-12
§5.4	Punctuation, 5-20
§5.5	Transliteration, 5-20
Study Guide, 5-22	

§5.0 Introduction

Lesson Five concludes an introductory five-part study of Greek phonology (additional phonological studies will be presented in later lessons). Lesson Three presented a bird's-eye view of Greek vowels and consonants. Lesson Four concentrated on the organization of the Greek consonants and their phonetic relationship to one another. Finally, this lesson focuses on the vowel sounds, including the diphthongs and their phonetic relationship with words beginning with other vowel sounds, and several editorial diacritical phonetic markings associated with vowels and diphthongs.

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Whereas Greek consonants are the most stable phonetic sounds among the letters, the pronunciation of the Greek

vowels poses a formidable challenge for any NTGreek student. For the beginning Greek student, however, learning a few diacritical phonetic markings will further aid in pronouncing consistently the vowel sounds and syllables in words. These diacritical markings primarily include breathing marks (smooth and rough), accent marks (acute, grave, and circumflex) and the punctuation marks (comma, colon, period and interrogative).

It must be pointed out from the outset that these diacritical markings are editorial. By editorial, it is meant that the earliest manuscripts of NTGreek did not contain any of the breathing, accentual or punctuation markings. They were added later than NTGreek times by copyists of the Greek manuscripts to assist in the phonetic pronunciation of Greek by those to whom the language was foreign. Therefore, these markings are not part of the inspired text. This should not insinuate, however, they are arbitrary or of little benefit, and therefore should be ignored. For the beginning Greek student these editorial diacritical markings distinguish between words that would otherwise appear the same (φόβου - “of fear”, φοβοῦ - “Fear!”, ὁ - “the”, ὅ - “which”, ἣν - “which”, ἦν - “was”).

Many Greek instructors choose to teach NTGreek without utilizing any of the before mentioned editorial diacritical markings. Nevertheless, they are excellent phonological tools for the nonnative speaker when it is remembered why ancient copyists employed them in the first place. Therefore, this grammar will follow the copyists’ pedagogical approach and make the most of diacritical markings to aid in the pronunciation of NTGreek vowels and diphthongs where applicable.

§5.1 The Greek Breathing Marks

A very important diacritical phonological marking is the breathing. There are two breathing marks, the **smooth breathing** ([̣]) and the **rough breathing** (^{̣̣}). These complementary breathing marks modulate or regulate the aspiration of every initial vowel and diphthong. A smooth breathing specifies that there is no aspiration; a rough breathing indicates aspiration. When aspiration occurs (as in only the rough breathing mark), it is pronounced with an aspirated “h”.



There is not a Greek letter to represent the phonological aspirated “h” sound (as in English; “heat”, “helix”, “hinge”, etc.). It is believed that the bisection of the Greek capital letter, H (⏏), came to represent the two breathing marks (⏏ = rough and ⏏ = smooth; ca. VII A.D.) after the letter had lost its original aspiration long before the NTGreek Era. These diacritical marks later evolved to ⏏ and ⏏ (ca. XI A.D.) to the modern breathing marks, ^{̣̣} (rough breathing) and [̣] (smooth breathing).

Because the breathing marks are phonologically important to every initial vowel and diphthong, it would be wise to learn and use these markings until Greek vocabulary is well known. Under no circumstances should breathing marks be omitted when practicing writing Greek words in the exercises.

§5.1.1 The Smooth Breathing Mark. If the breathing mark over the vowel or diphthong is curled to the left like a closing single quotation, ’, then it is the *smooth breathing* mark, indicating that the initial vowel or diphthong is not aspirated. The smooth breathing never effects the aspiration of an initial vowel or diphthong. The following examples are the names of the Greek vowels.

listen ἄλφα, ἔψιλον, ἦτα, ἰωτα, ὀμικρον, ὑψιλον, ὦμεγα
(ἄλ-φα) (ἔ-ψι-λον) (ἦ-τα) (ἰ-ω-τα) (ὀ-μι-κρον) (ὑ-ψι-λον) (ὦ-με-γα)

When a word begins with a vowel which is also a capital letter, the smooth breathing cannot go above it because of the letter’s size; therefore, it is placed before the letter.

listen Ἄλφα, Ἐψιλον, Ἡτα, Ἰωτα, Ὀμικρον, Ὑψιλον, Ὠμεγα
(Ἄλ-φα) (Ἐ-ψι-λον) (Ἡ-τα) (Ἰ-ω-τα) (Ὀ-μι-κρον) (Ὑ-ψι-λον) (Ὠ-με-γα)

When a word begins with an initial diphthong, the smooth breathing mark always appears over the second vowel whether or not the initial vowel is capitalized.

listen αὐτος, Αὐτου, οἶκει, Οἶκος, αἶων, Αἰωνια
(αὐ-τος) (Αὐ-του) (οἶ-κει) (Οἶ-κος) (αἶ-ων) (Αἶ-ων-ι-α)

§5.1.2 The Rough Breathing Mark. If the breathing mark over the vowel or diphthong is curled to the right like an opening single quotation, ‘, then it is the *rough breathing* mark, indicating that the initial vowel or diphthong is aspirated. The rough breathing always effects the aspiration of an initial vowel or diphthong.

listen ὁ, οἶ, αἶ, ἕξ, ὁδος, ῥω, ἄγιος
(ὁ-δος) (ἄ-γι-ος)
(ho) (hoi) (hai) (hexs) (hodos) (rhō) (hagios)

When a vowel begins a word which is also a capital letter, the rough breathing cannot go above it because of the letter’s size; it is placed before the letter. Also, notice that the initial rough breathing mark is capitalized in English, and not the first vowel. Of course, the initial vowel remains capitalized in Greek.

listen Ὅ, Ἠ, Ἐξ, Ὅδος, Ὅς, Ὠρα, Ἐτερος
(Ὅ-δος) (Ὠ-ρα) (Ἐ-τε-ρος)
(Ho) (Hē) (Hex) (Hodos) (Hos) (Hōrai) (Heteros)

When a word begins with an initial diphthong, the rough breathing mark always appears over the second vowel whether or not the initial vowel is capitalized. Again, notice that the initial rough breathing mark is capitalized in English, and not the first vowel. Of course, the initial vowel remains capitalized in Greek.

listen αὐτή, Αὐτή, οὗτος, Οὗτος, εὕρισκω, Εὕρισκω
 (αὐ-τή) (Αὐ-τή) (οὐ-τος) (Οὐ-τος) (εὕ-ρι-σκω) (Εὕ-ρι-σκω)
 (hau-tē) (Hau-tē) (hou-tos) (Hou-tos) (heu-ri-sk-ō) (Heu-ri-skō)

§5.1.3 Special Considerations. There is also a consonant associated with a breathing mark. When *rhō* (Ρ ρ) begins a word (initial position), it always carries the rough breathing mark. However, it is pronounced as "rh" instead of "hr". At the beginning of a word, *rhō* acquires characteristics of a vowel. This is the reason its alphabetical name is spelled with an aspirated "r" (*rhō*). A number of English words that have been brought over from Greek begin with "rh", instead of "r" (*i.e.*, "rhapsody", "rhino", "rheostat", "rhetoric", "rhubarb", "rhythm", etc.). As in the case of initial vowels, the rough breathing occurs before a capitalized letter.

listen ῥάπιζω, ῥεβεκκα, ῥήγμα, ῥιζα, ῥιπτω
 (ῥά-πι-ζω) (ῥε-βεκ-κα) (ῥήγ-μα) (ῥι-ζα) (ῥι-πτω)
 (rha-pi-zō) (Rhe-bek-ka) (rhēg-ma) (Rhi-za) (rhi-ptō)

When *upsilon* (Υ υ) or the diphthong *upsilon* + *iōta* (Υι/υι) begins a word, it always has a rough breathing mark. There is never an exception! Notice that *upsilon* is transliterated into English as "U, u" when part of a diphthong (*i.e.*, Au/au is transliterated as "Au/au"), otherwise, it is transliterated as "Y, y" (cf. §5.5.6).

listen ὑπερ, Ὑαλος, ὑβριζω, ὑπο, υἱος, Υἱοθεσια
 (ὑ-περ) (Ὑ-α-λος) (ὑ-βρι-ζω) (ὑ-πο) (υἱ-ος) (Υἱ-ο-θε-σι-α)
 hy-per Hy-a-los (hy-bri-zō) (hy-po) (hui-os) (Hui-o-the-si-a)



The alphabetical name of Υ υ (*upsilon*) is technically not a contradiction to the above principle. Whereas Υ υ is spelled as *upsilon* in English (not as "*hupsilon*"), the actual Greek spelling of the letter's name is ὑ ψιλων with a space between "ὑ" and "ψιλων".

§5.2 Syllabification

Syllabification is the division of words into their individual syllables. In order to pronounce Greek words phonetically and consistently correct, one must first be able to divide words into their individual syllables. Many Greek words have only one syllable. However, most words have more than one syllable, and therefore, guidelines of syllable division are needed to manage their division. As in the previous illustrations, hyphens are used in the examples below to indicate a word's correct syllable division.

§5.2.1 Principles of syllabification. The following general principles of syllabification are an attempt to describe the phonetic and linguistic process. An apparent exception to these principles may appear time to time, indicating only that there is another principle involved to be perceived and understood. The following eight principles of syllabification are in their order of importance.

1. Every word has as many syllables as it has separate vowels and/or diphthongs. Thus, every syllable must have one (and only one) vowel or diphthong.

The following words have only one syllable.

[listen](#) ἐν, οἶ, δε, ἦν, εἶς, ἐκ, και, συ, γαρ

The above examples exemplify that a syllable may begin with a consonant, a vowel, or diphthong. A syllable may end with a consonant, a vowel, or diphthong. In fact, a syllable may not have any consonant at all. The combined quantity of vowels or diphthongs determines the number of syllables in a word. Therefore, the vowel or diphthong stands at the focal point of every Greek syllable. Study the following examples.

The following words have two syllables.

[listen](#) σωζω, ἐτι, θητα, οὔτε, ἐκει, σιγμα
(σω-ζω) (ἐ-τι) (θη-τα) (οὔ-τε) (ἐ-κει) (σι-γμα)

The following words have three syllables.

[listen](#) μεριζω, Μαρια, λαλεω, ἰωτα
(με-ρι-ζω) (Μα-ρι-α) (λα-λε-ω) (ἰ-ω-τα)

The following words have four or more syllables.

listen φοβεομαι, ἀκηκοαμεν, ἔωρακαμεν
(φο-βε-ο-μαι) (ἀ-κη-κο-α-μεν) (ἔ-ω-ρα-κα-μεν)

2. Two consecutive vowels which do not form a diphthong are divided.

ἔθεασαμεθα	ἔ-θε-α-σα-με-θα
ἀκηκοαμεν	ἀ-κη-κο-α-μεν
ἔωρακαμεν	ἔ-ω-ρα-κα-μεν
κενοω	κε-νο-ω
θεε	θε-ε
δια	δι-α
εὐωδια	εὐ-ω-δι-α
Σπανια	Σπα-νι-α
ἱερον	ἱ-ε-ρον
λυομεν	λυ-ο-μεν

3. A single consonant surrounded by vowels normally begins a new syllable. Another way of stating this principle, a single consonant is pronounced with the following vowel or diphthong.

μαθητης	μα-θη-της	ἔπεχω	ἔ-πε-χω
λυμαινω	λυ-μαι-νω	λειπομεθα	λει-πο-με-θα
θελετε	θε-λε-τε	ἀγοραζω	ἀ-γο-ρα-ζω
λογος	λο-γος	λαλεω	λα-λε-ω
παλαι	πα-λαι	Υἱοθεσια	Υἱ-ο-θε-σι-α
ἦγετο	ἦ-γε-το	ἔψιλον	ἔ-ψι-λον
ἔγενετο	ἔ-γε-νε-το	᾽Ωμεγα	᾽Ω-με-γα

4. Syllables are divided between double consonants with their respective consonant being pronounced with their vowel or diphthong.

Θαδδαιος	θαδ-δαι-ος
ἄγγελος	ἄγ-γε-λος
γλωσσα	γλωσ-σα
σαββασιν	σαβ-βα-σιν
πορρω	πορ-ρω
ἐκκλειω	ἐκ-κλει-ω
Μαθθαιος	Μαθ-θαι-ος
γαμμα	γαμ-μα
καππα	καπ-πα

5. Two or more consonants together within a word begin a syllable if they can begin a word. This inseparable grouping of consonants is called a **consonant cluster**. NTGreek neophytes do not know what constitutes inseparable consonant clusters, because Greek words can begin with many consonant combinations that English does not. A catalog of all the common consonant clusters is provided on the following page.

ῥαβδον	ῥα-βδον
ἔστιν	ἐ-στιν
τεκνον	τε-κνον
Χριστος	Χρι-στος
ἄνθρωπος	ἄν-θρω-πος
ζωγρεω	ζω-γρε-ω
λελυσθε	λε-λυ-σθε
φοβητρα	φο-βη-τρα

GREEK CONSONANT CLUSTERS

Any potential consonant cluster may be verified by a [Greek-English lexicon](#). A consonant cluster is established by whether or not it begins a Greek word. For example, the consonants θλ in the table below constitute a cluster because they can begin a Greek word (θλιψις). Therefore, consonant clusters are never to be divided between syllables, and are always pronounced with their following vowel or diphthong (they never end a syllable). A consonant cluster is pronounced like their individual consonants, except that they are blended together.

Nine consonant clusters below are not attested in NTGreek as beginning a word. Their attestation is derived, however, from Classical Greek words. These clusters have been included because of their frequency within NTGreek words. They are indicated by an asterisk to the right of the consonant cluster.

βδ	βδελυγμα	πλ	πληγη	τλ*	τλημων
βλ	βλεπω	πν	πνευμα	τμ*	τμηγω
βρ	βρεφος	πρ	πρεσβευτης	τρ	τρεφω
γλ	γλωσσα	πτ	πτωχεια	φθ	φθαρτος
γν	γνους	σβ	σβεννυμι	φλ	φλεγω
γρ	γραφω	σγ*	σγαλη	φν	φνει
δμ*	δημος	σθ	σθενω	φρ	φρονεω
δν*	δνοφεος	σκ	σκανδαλον	χθ	χθες
δρ	δραγμα	σκλ	σκληρος	χλ	χλευη
ζβ	ζβεννυμι	σκν*	σκνιπος	χν	χνους
ζμ	Ζμυρνα	σμ	σμυρνα	χρ	Χριστος
θλ	θλιψις	σπ	σπουδη	ψχ*	ψχεντ
θν	θνησκω	σπλ	σπλαγχνον		
θρ	θριξ	στ	στομα		
κλ	κλεπτω	στλ*	στλιξ		
κμ*	κμητος	στρ	στρεφω		
κν	κνισα	σφ	σφοδρα		
κρ	κρινον	σφρ	σφραγισ		
κτ	κτισις	σχ	σχισμα		
μν	μνα				

6. A grouping of consonants that does not constitute a consonant cluster is divided, with the first consonant pronounced with the preceding vowel or diphthong. Thus, the first consonant closes the syllable before, and the second consonant begins the following syllable.

ἐμπροσθεν	ἐμ-προ-σθεν
φοβηθεντες	φο-βη-θεν-τες
συγχειρω	συγ-χει-ρω
ὀρκωμοσια	ὀρ-κω-μο-σι-α
ἀρχης	ἀρ-χης
πορφυρα	πορ-φυ-ρα
ὄρκος	ὄρ-κος
κεντρον	κεν-τρον

7. The two nasal consonants, M μ and N ν form a consonant cluster with the preceding consonant, unless the preceding consonant is either Λ λ or Ρ ρ. There are exceptions to rules, in this instance because of phonology. The two voiced liquid consonants, Λ λ and Ρ ρ do not phonologically mix well with the two voiced nasals, M μ and N ν, and therefore divided when juxtaposed together.

τεκνον	τε-κνον not τεκ-νον
μιμνησκομαι	μι-μνη-σκο-μαι
τολμαω	τολ-μα-ω (λ-exception)
κοσμος	κο-σμος not κοσ-μος
ἔθνος	ἔ-θνος not ἔθ-νος
πραγμα	πρα-γμα
ὀφθαλμος	ὀ-φθαλ-μος (λ-exception)
θερμος	θερ-μος (ρ-exception)
ἀρνεομαι	ἀρ-νε-ο-μαι (ρ-exception)

8. Compound words in most grammars are divided where joined. A **compound word** is two distinct words combined together to form a new word. Normally the first word will be a Greek preposition such as ἀνα, ἀπο, δια, εἰς, ἐκ, ἐπι, κατα and προ. This grammar, however, divides words into syllables according to the above seven rules. In the examples below, both possibilities are illustrated, with the smaller font indicating division between the compound components.

εἴσηλθον	εἴ-σηλ-θον or εἴσ-ηλ-θον
εἴσφερω	εἴ-σφε-ρω or εἴσ-φε-ρω
ἀναγω	ἀ-να-γω or ἀνα-γω
κατελαβεν	κα-τε-λα-βεν or κατ-ε-λα-βεν
ἀποστελλω	ἀ-πο-στελ-λω or ἀπο-στελ-λω
συνεχω	συ-νε-χω or συν-ε-χω

Those who divide between compound words face obvious instances where syllables cannot divide. An important case in point is where double consonants follow an initial vowel after the first word of a compound word (διαγγελλω < δια + ἀγγελλω). Since Greek syllables cannot begin with double consonants, they must resort to the “natural way” to divide the word phonetically correct. Consider the following examples.

διαγγελλω	δι-αγ-γελ-λω	NOT δια-γγελ-λω
διαλλαγηθι	δι-αλ-λα-γη-θι	NOT δια-λλα-γη-θι
ἐπιρραπτει	ἐ-πιρ-ρα-πτει	NOT ἐπι-ρρα-πτει
ἀπολλυμεθα	ἀ-πολ-λυ-με-θα	NOT ἀπο-λλυ-με-θα
καταγγελλειν	κα-ταγ-γελ-λειν	NOT κατα-γγελ-λειν

In most cases, intuition and a little bit of common sense will serve as a good guide where to divide Greek syllables. The easier way of pronouncing a Greek word with the above eight guidelines in mind is 99.9% the phonetically correct and proper way. Therefore, be wise and learn these guidelines.

In order to move to the next important diacritical phonological marking, which is Greek accents (§5.3), further knowledge concerning Greek syllables is necessary. Accentuation is inextricably bound to a syllable's **designation** and **position** (*ultima*, *penult* and *antepenult*), and to its **quantity** (long or short).

§5.2.2 Designation and position of syllables. A Greek word with three or more syllables is **polysyllabic**. A **disyllabic** word has two syllables, and a word with only one syllable is **monosyllabic**. Only the last three syllables of a Greek word are labeled and the only three that may be accented. The last syllable of a word is called the **ultima**, the next to the last syllable, the **penult**, and the syllable before the penult is the **antepenult** ("before the *penult*").

Polysyllabic λελυκετω	Disyllabic λογοι	Monosyllabic συ
antepenult ↓ penult ultima ↓ ↓ ↓ λε λυ κε τω	penult ultima ↓ ↓ λο γοι	ultima ↓ συ

Only words with three syllables or more require all three of the above definitions. Whether a word is polysyllabic, disyllabic, or monosyllabic, the last syllable is the *ultima*. Thus, a monosyllabic word such as *συ* has an *ultima*, but it has neither *penult* nor *antepenult*. The disyllabic word *λογοι* has an *ultima* and a *penult*, but no *antepenult*. A polysyllabic word such as *λελυκετω* has all three, as do longer words (*ἀκηκοαμεν*, *ἔωρακαμεν*, *ἔθεασαμεθα*).

A syllable is considered **closed** if it terminates with a consonant, and **open** if it ends with a vowel or diphthong (do not confuse this terminology with "open" and "close" vowels). Thus in the word, *λογος* (*λο-γος*), the *ultima* is closed and the *penult* is open. In the polysyllabic word, *ἄνθρωπος* (*ἄν-θρω-πος*), both the *ultima* and *antepenult* are closed and the *penult* is open.

§5.2.3 Syllable quantity. Syllable quantity depends on the vowel or diphthong in a syllable. If a syllable contains a long vowel (Η η, Ω ω) or diphthong, its quantity is long; if it contains a short vowel (Ε ε, Ο ο), its quantity is short. The only exception is when αι and οι end a word (*i.e.*, *και*, *μαγοι*). These two diphthongs are considered short for accenting purposes. Syllables with Α α, Ι ι or Υ υ may be long or short, determined by further considerations (cf. §5.3.6).

§5.3 Introduction to Greek Accents

Similar to breathing marks, Greek accents are associated with vowels and diphthongs, but never with Ρ ρ (*rhō*). Also like breathing marks, accents were employed later than NTGreek times by copyists of Greek manuscripts to assist in the pronunciation of Greek words by those to whom the language was foreign.

Although accents were not part of the original NTGreek text, their importance lies in their phonological benefit for the beginning Greek student. This will become evidently clear before the close of this lesson. For example, the variable vowel, *iota*, may be pronounced either long or short. After learning a few principles of Greek accentuation, you will learn that *iōta* in ὑμῖν is long, whereas in ἄσεβέσι the *iōta* is short. Moreover, learning Greek accents will increase appreciation for the intonated beauty and history of the Greek language.

In the end, the best students will be those who learn proper accentuation in the early stages, for they will go the farthest distance the fastest. Do not be dissuaded by former students who use their Greek text as a doorstop and espouse that accents are not important. To learn NTGreek effectively, the ear and voice need to carry as much of the burden as possible, and not only the eye.

§5.3.1 Names of the accents. Except for specific exceptions (introduced in later lessons), Greek words are written with one of three possible accents. The three Greek accents are the **acute** (´), **grave** (`), and **circumflex** (ˆ).

§5.3.2 Position of accents. Just like breathing marks, all accents are written over the vowel which forms the nucleus of the stressed syllable. In instances of a diphthong, however, the accent is written over the second vowel, unless the second vowel is an iota subscript.

listen (acute): ἐπί, κατά, ἀνεώχθη, λόγος, αὐτούς
 (ἐ-πί) (κα-τά) (ἀ-νε-ώ-χθη) (λό-γος) (αὐ-τούς)

listen (grave): παρὰ, ψυχὴ, ἀδελφὸς, θεὸς, τοὺς, αὐτὸς
 (πα-ρὰ) (ψυ-χὴ) (ἀ-δε-λ-φὸς) (θε-ὸς) (αὐ-τὸς)

listen (circumflex): νῦν, πῦρ, Ἰησοῦς, βῆτα, δεῖ, αὐτῶ
 (νῦ-ν) (πῦ-ρ) (Ἰ-η-σοῦς) (βῆ-τα) (δεῖ) (αὐ-τῶ)

§5.3.21 Combination of breathing marks and accents. When a breathing mark and either the acute or the grave accent occur over the same vowel or diphthong, the accent is written beside and just after it. In the case of a circumflex, the accent is written over the breathing mark.

listen ἄνθρωπος, ἔν, ὕδωρ, ἔτι, εἶς, ἦν, οἶδα, αἶμα

§5.3.22 Capital letters and accents. When a word begins with a vowel and it is capitalized, both the breathing mark and accent are placed before the word because of the letter's size. In cases of a diphthong, the breathing and accent marks are placed over the second vowel.

listen Ἐλλην, Ἐραστος, Ἡμεν, Εὐβουλος, Αἴγυπτος

Accents and breathing marks are not normally used with words written entirely in capital letters. Very rarely, however, they may be written over a capital in order to emphasize the position of the accent in the word.

§5.3.22.1 Exception. When a word begins with a capital letter and is part of an improper diphthong, both the breathing and accent (if present) are placed before the initial capital letter. In this manner, improper and proper diphthongs are differentiated.

ἄδης > Ἄιδης (Hāides; "Hades"; cf. §3.3.2 and §9.5.3)

Which accent can stand over what vowel or diphthong? The two principal determiners are the syllable's quantity (§5.3.3) and the accent's sustention (§5.3.4).

§5.3.3 Syllable quantity. Syllable quantity (as long or short; cf. §5.2.3) affects accents. Both the acute and grave accents can stand over either a long or a short syllable. These two accents are not restricted by syllable quantity. The circumflex accent, on the other hand, can stand over long syllables only.

Acute over a short syllable: δέλτα, σίγμα, πατρίς, ἄνθρωπος

Acute over a long syllable: Κῶς, ἐγκλείω, οἶ, πείσας, φήμη

Grave over a short syllable: αὐτοῖ, Χριστὸν, χωρὶς, ἦλι

Grave over a long syllable: καὶ, χρῶς, καταβολήν, λεγιῶν

Circumflex over only a long syllable: βῆτα, ζῆτα, ἦτα, ἰῶτα, μῦ, ξῖ

§5.3.4 Maximum Accent Sustention. Sustention is the accent’s ability to carry the syllable or syllables that follow. The acute can sustain three syllables; therefore, it may stand over an ultima, a penult, or an antepenult. The circumflex can sustain two syllables; therefore, its accent may stand over only an ultima or a penult. In either instance, the syllable is always long. The grave accent can sustain only one syllable; therefore, its accent is always over the ultima. Study the chart below of the possible accentual positions.

		Possible Accent Positions		
		Antepenult	Penult	Ultima
A C C E N T	Acute	/	/	/
	Circumflex		˘	˘
	Grave			ˋ

A very important rule of accentuation can be summarized: **the antepenult rule**. As stated before, a Greek accent cannot fall further from the end of the word than the antepenult (cf. §5.2.2). An accent may fall on the last syllable (the ultimate), or the one before the last (penult) or the third syllable from the end (antepenult).

§5.3.5 The de-evolution of accents. Greek was not always written with accents. First introduced by ancient grammarians, they attempted to preserve a phonetic record of their language when it was in danger of obscurity. Ancient Greek words and word-groups were intonated; meaning voice pitch within them rose and fell during speaking. Intonation was in danger of extinction (*i.e.*, changing from a phonetic pitch to a simple stress) therefore, they created a set of diacritical accent marks to preserve representatively the language’s sound.

Greek grammarians accented syllables that were pitched higher than unaccented syllables, and not because of stress (as in English). It was this rising and falling of pitch that made the language sound musical. The Greek word for “accent” is προσῳδία, a term used for “a song (words) sung to music”. These “musical” accents represented a higher pitch in voice. Thus, one syllable was not emphasized by stress over another as it was by pitch or a lack of it.

English also has this musical accent, but dependant on the shade of meaning intended by the speaker. The rising inflection in the second syllable of the English word, *Really?* (surprise), captures the **acute** accent (́) intonation rise.

The falling tone in the same syllable of *Really!* (displeasure), embodies the falling intonation of the **grave** accent (`). Finally, the **circumflex** accent (^) blended the acute and grave accents. It was confined only to long syllables in which the voice rose in pitch during the first half and fell in the second. Since the circumflex was roughly equivalent to a combined acute and grave accent (therefore, in effect two syllables) it never could stand over the antepenult.

These three Greek accents may be represented in musical notation to the right. Pitch would vary with individuals, and the intervals would not be the same. Interestingly, these accents were rigidly observed by those who produced the Greek classics.



Sometime before NTGreek times, however, the grammarians had lost their battle partly because of the assimilation of conquered nations' influence. All three accents eventually came to represent stress and not pitch. Thus, when we pronounce NTGreek words today—no matter what accent is represented—stress is manifested by extra loudness on the accented syllable, clearer quality of the vowel and some slight lengthening (just as in English). An abridged monotonic accentual system was officially adopted in 1982 by Modern Greek classrooms. Since ancient Greek accentual intonation has been irretrievably lost, the three Greek accents, the acute, grave, and circumflex, will be stressed identically in this grammar.

[listen](#) λύω, τίνα, καὶ, ἐγὼ, Χριστοῦ, θεοῦ

What is to be understood and emphasized is that, even though the ancient accentual pitch has been lost, NTGreek may be read successfully without knowing any more about accents and the rules by which they are governed other than what is presented in this lesson. So why learn the Greek accents?

As stated in the introduction to this lesson, accents in Greek are distinctive. Greek words may be differentiated simply by the position and type of the accent as in the following word pairs: ἣν (“which”), ἦν (“was”), ὁ (“the”), ὅ (“which”), ἀλλά (“but”), ἄλλα (“others”), and φοβοῦ (“Fear!”), φόβου (“of fear”). In English, compare the word pair “min’ute” (a unit of time) with “minute’” (something very small). The shift of accent not only changes the manner in which these words are divided (“min-ute” and “mi-nute”, respectively), but also lengthens the vowel quality in “i” and “u” in the latter case! Greek vowel quantity shift also occurs when an accent shifts within the same word.

§5.3.6 Accents and the variable vowels. Learning the different Greek accents will introduce uniformity in the phonetic pronunciation of the Greek variable vowels (Α α, Ι ι, Υ υ) when read aloud.

It has been stated before that three of the seven Greek vowels cannot be distinguished by their form whether to be pronounced short or long. These three variable vowels are ἄλφα (Α α), ἰῶτα (Ι ι) and ὑ ψιλόν (Υ υ). The following guidelines in combination with Greek accents will guide in the pronunciation of these variable vowels.

§5.3.61 Α, α ἄλφα

1. Regardless what syllable is accented, when ἄλφα has the iota subscript written under it (α̣), the vowel is always long. In this instance, ἄλφα is an improper diphthong (cf. §3.3.2).

listen ἄδης, σατανᾶ, γεννᾶ, συνηθεία, Ἰούδα

2. Since the circumflex accent can only stand over a long vowel, it follows that whenever ἄλφα carries the circumflex, it is long.

listen ὑμᾶς, ἡμᾶς, πᾶς, πᾶσα, πᾶν, τιμᾶτε

3. Because of **crasis**, ἄλφα is always long. Crasis is the merging of a word into the next by the omission and contraction of a final vowel or diphthong with the next word's initial vowel or diphthong. Crasis is marked by the retention of the breathing of the second word, which is called the **coronis**.

listen κᾶν (for καί + ἄν), κᾶγώ (for καί + ἐγώ)



Be sure to differentiate between the smooth breathing mark (᾿) and the coronis when crasis occurs (crasis is not common in NTGreek). The coronis (᾿) is not the same as the smooth breathing mark that stands over initial vowels and diphthongs. The coronis marks the omission and contraction of final vowels and diphthongs with the next word's initial vowel or diphthong.

4. Both the first and last *alpha* are long in its own alphabetical name (ἄλφα). The ἄλφα in all alphabetical names is also long.

[listen](#) ἄλφα, ᾿Αλφα, γάμμα, δέλτα, ζήτα, ἦτα, θήτα

5. The ἄλφα is long in a word when its transliterated corresponding long vowel in proper names and places has been carried over into Greek from another language. These will be learned on a case-by-case examination.

[listen](#) ᾿Αδάμ, ᾿Αβραάμ, ᾿Αβιαθάρ, ᾿Αγαρ

Further information for distinguishing the long ἄλφα from the short will be introduced in later lessons when applicable. For now, if you are not sure when the vowel should be pronounced long or short in the exercises accompanying this lesson, choose short and you will probably be correct.

§5.3.62 ἰ, ἰ ᾿Ιῶτα

1. ᾿Ιῶτα is always long in the following Greek letter names.

[listen](#) ἔψιλόν, ὀμικρόν, ὕψιλόν

2. Since the circumflex accent can only stand over a long vowel, it follows that whenever ἰῶτα carries the circumflex, it is long.

[listen](#) ξῖ, πῖ, φῖ, χῖ, ψῖ, ὑμῖν, θλίψις, χρίσμα

This guideline governs why the ἰῶτα is pronounced long and not short in the five Greek alphabetical names (Ξ ξ, Π π, Φ φ, Χ χ, and Ψ ψ).

3. The ἰῶτα is long when the transliterated corresponding long vowel in proper names and places has been borrowed from another language. These will be learned on a case-by-case examination.

[listen](#) Μιχαήλ (“Michael” in English) ᾿Ηλί (“Eli” in English)

Advanced information for distinguishing the long ἰῶτα from the short will be introduced in later lessons when applicable. For now, if you are not sure when the vowel should be pronounced long or short in the exercises accompanying this lesson, choose short and you will probably be correct.

§5.3.63 Ὑ υ ᾿Υ ψιλόν

Many Greek grammarians do not attempt to make a distinction between the short and long pronunciation of Ὑ ψιλόν. When accents are discussed in depth, however, it will make a decisive difference whether or not this vowel is long or short within a syllable in order to determine the word's proper accentuation.

1. Since the circumflex accent can only stand over a long vowel, it follows that whenever Ὑ ψιλόν carries the circumflex, it is long.

[listen](#) μῦ, νῦ, νῦν, τανῦν, πῦρ, τῦφος, ὕς

This principle governs why Ὑ ψιλόν in the two Greek alphabetical names, μῦ and νῦ, is pronounced long and not short.

2. The Ὑ ψιλόν in its own alphabetical name is long. Of course, this follows because of the circumflex over the “υ”.

[listen](#) Ὑ ψιλόν, ᾿Υ ψιλόν

Other determining factors for distinguishing the long Ὑ ψιλόν from the short will be introduced in later lessons where applicable. For now, if not sure when the vowel should be pronounced long or short in the exercises accompanying this lesson, choose short and you will probably be correct.

§5.3.7 Long by position. The two natural short vowels (Ε ε, Ο ο) and the three variable vowels (Α α, Ι ι, Υ υ) may become long when followed by two or more consonants, a double consonant, or a compound consonant. If however, the first of two consonants following these vowels is a stop consonant and the second a liquid or a nasal consonant, the vowel may be either long or short.

[listen](#) εὐαγγελίον, ὀργή, πιστός, ἵππος, ὄψιν

[listen](#) ὀρθάς, ὀρφανός, ἔσκηκεν, ὑστερεῖ, ὑψόω

§5.3.8 Elision. Usually when Greek words end with a short vowel (Α α, Ε ε, Ι ι, Ο ο, or Υ υ) which immediately precedes another word beginning with a vowel or diphthong, the final accented vowel of the preceding word is dropped, or elided. This omission is indicated by an apostrophe (’).

Greek was highly conscious of **hiatus**, which is the open clash of vowels between words. Because Greeks disliked the immediate succession of two vowel sounds between words, elision normally occurred. Elision greatly affects the manner of pronunciation in which words are sounded together. Words are pronounced in quick succession together without a pause. The examples of elision that follow show the manner in which the last consonant of the first word pair glides easily into the syllable of the first syllable.



Classical Greek used elision to a greater degree than NTGreek. Elision is comparatively infrequently employed in Modern Greek.

1. ἀπὸ αὐτοῦ is written ἀπ' αὐτοῦ, pronounced ἀ-παυ-τοῦ
2. ἀπὸ ἀρχῆς is written ἀπ' ἀρχῆς, pronounced ἀ-παρ-χῆς
3. μεθὰ ἡμῶν is written μεθ' ἡμῶν, pronounced με-θη-μῶν
4. μετὰ αὐτοῦ is written μετ' αὐτοῦ, pronounced με-ταυ-τοῦ
5. μετὰ ἀλλήλων written μετ' ἀλλήλων, pronounced με-ταλ-λή-λων
6. δὲ ἄν is written δ' ἄν, pronounced δάν
7. ἀλλὰ ἐντολὴν is written ἀλλ' ἐντολὴν, pronounced ἀλ-λεν-το-λήν
8. ἀλλὰ ἐκ is written ἀλλ' ἐκ, pronounced ἀλ-λεκ

Whenever elision occurs with the contraction resulting with an initial variable vowel in the second word (as in #s 2, 5, 6 above), the variable vowel is long.

Below are excerpts from the NTGreek illustrating elision.

- [listen](#) 1 Jn 1:1: Ὁ ἦν ἀπ' ἀρχῆς
- [listen](#) 1 Jn 1:3: ὑμεῖς κοινωνίαν ἔχητε μεθ' ἡμῶν
- [listen](#) 1 Jn 1:5: ἦν ἀκηκόαμεν ἀπ' αὐτοῦ καὶ ἀναγγέλλομεν ὑμῖν
- [listen](#) 1 Jn 1:6: ὅτι κοινωνίαν ἔχομεν μετ' αὐτοῦ καὶ τῷ σκότει
- [listen](#) 1 Jn 1:7: κοινωνίαν ἔχομεν μετ' ἀλλήλων καὶ τὸ αἶμα Ἰησοῦ
- [listen](#) 1 Jn 2:5: ὅς δ' ἄν τηρῇ αὐτοῦ τὸν λόγον
- [listen](#) 1 Jn 2:16: οὐκ ἔστιν ἐκ τοῦ πατρὸς ἀλλ' ἐκ τοῦ κόσμου ἐστίν
- [listen](#) 1 Jn 2:27: ἀλλ' ὡς τὸ αὐτοῦ χρίσμα διδάσκει ὑμᾶς
- [listen](#) 3 Jn 13: Πολλὰ εἶχον γράψαι σοι, ἀλλ' οὐ θέλω διὰ μέλανος
- [listen](#) 3 Jn 15: ἀσπάζου τοὺς φίλους κατ' ὄνομα
- [listen](#) Jn 12:30: Οὐ δι' ἐμὲ ἡ φωνὴ αὕτη γέγονεν ἀλλὰ δι' ὑμᾶς

§5.4 Punctuation

The last and least important of the diacritical marks is punctuation. The oldest NTGreek manuscripts had few indications of punctuation. The earliest authorities are patristic comments and early versions. Writing during NTGreek times was done with all capital letters, without the modern convention of spaces between words, and without any indication between sentences, paragraphs, and chapters (an example may be found on page 21). Most modern editions of NTGreek texts have included four punctuation marks (for better or worse). Φέρει is used below as an example before these punctuation marks.

- (φέρει.) period, used like the English period (full stop)
- (φέρει,) comma, used like the English comma (minor pause)
- (φέρει;) colon or semicolon, indicates a major pause
- (φέρει;) question mark – identical in form to the English semicolon (;).

In addition, contemporary editors of the NTGreek text capitalize proper names, the first letter of direct quotations, the first letter of an Old Testament quote and the first letter of words that begin a new paragraph. Most editors do not capitalize words that begin a new sentence as in English usage.

§5.5 Transliteration

Transliteration is the transcription of alphabetical characters of one language into the equivalent characters of another language. Transliteration may sometimes aid in learning the pronunciation of a difficult Greek word, as well as assisting in learning to recognize English words that are derived from Greek words. The common equivalences used in Greek – English transliteration are below.

Α, α = A, a	Θ, θ = Th, th	Ο, ο = O, o	Χ, χ = Ch, ch
Β, β = B, b	Ι, ι = I, i	Π, π = P, p	Ψ, ψ = Ps, ps
Γ, γ = G, g	Κ, κ = K, k	Ρ, ρ = R, r	Ω, ω = Ō, ō
Δ, δ = D, d	Λ, λ = L, l	Σ, σ, ς = S, s, s	ΑΙ, αἰ = Āi, āi
Ε, ε = E, e	Μ, μ = M, m	Τ, τ = T, t	ΗΙ, ηἰ = Ēi, ēi
Ζ, ζ = Z, z	Ν, ν = N, n	Υ, υ = U, u or Y, y	ΩΙ, ωῖ = Ōi, ōi
Η, η = Ē, ē	Ξ, ξ = X, x	Φ, φ = Ph, ph	´ = H, h

To reflect proper Greek phonetic pronunciation when it is transliterated into English, the following special matters need to be addressed.

§5.5.1 Accents. It is always good practice to place the proper accent over the transliterated vowel or diphthong. However, in many texts where authors have transcribed Greek, they are not included, as well as the macron to differentiate between the improper and proper diphthongs (cf. §5.5.7).

§5.5.2 Breathing marks. The rough breathing mark (´) is transliterated as an “h”, and except for *rhō* (“rh”), always occurs before the letter or diphthong that it is over. The smooth breathing mark never affects the pronunciation of a vowel or diphthong; therefore, it is not represented in transliteration.

§5.5.3 Nasal gamma. In combination with Κ κ, Γ γ, Ξ ξ and Χ χ, the *nasal gamma* is transliterated as “n”: γγ = ng, γκ = nk, γχ = nch, and γξ = nx.

ἄγγελος = ángelos ὄγκος = ónkos ἐλέγχει = elénchei σάλπιγξ = sálpinx

§5.5.4 Double letters. Four individual Greek letters, Θ θ, Φ φ, Χ χ, and Ψ ψ, are represented by two English letters: θ = th, φ = ph, χ = ch and ψ = ps.

θρίξ = thríx φάσις = phásis χθές = chthés ψυχίον = psichíon

§5.5.5 Long vowels. When Η η and Ω ω are transliterated into English (both small and capital letters), they must be marked long with the macron to differentiate between their corresponding short vowels, Ε ε and Ο ο.

θέλητε = thélēte βέλη = bélē λόγων = lógōn ὀπίσω = opísō

§5.5.6 The vowel *upsilon*. The Greek Υ υ is transliterated by “u” when part of a diphthong (αυ, ευ, ου, υι, and ηυ); otherwise by “y”.

υἱός = huiós ὑπέρ = hypér ὕδατι = hýdati εὐρομεν = heúromen

§5.5.7 Improper diphthongs. The improper diphthongs, α, η, and ω are transliterated as *āi*, *ēi*, and *ōi* respectively. The macron over the initial vowel distinguishes them from the proper diphthongs *ai* (αι), *ei* (ει) and *oi* (οι). Special care must be exercised when pronouncing the transliterated improper diphthongs. The adscript does not affect its pronunciation (cf. 3.3.2).

τιμᾶ = timāi τη = tēi τῶ λόγῳ = tōi lógōi ἦδει = éidei

5

Study Guide Sight and Sounds of Words (Module C) Phonology (Part 5)

Now that you have been exposed to all the necessary introductory phonological information for NTGreek, beginning with Lesson Six, you are ready to be launched into a formal study of the language. This means that from this point on, all Greek illustrations will have their appropriate breathing and accentual marks.

The following exercises integrate the material covered in this lesson. In addition, there are further study aids available which are associated with this lesson for those who wish to pursue additional study.

Exercise One: The Greek alphabetical letter names.

Let us begin with the twenty-four Greek alphabetical letters. Concentrate on good penmanship and the proper pronunciation of each letter. As you write each alphabetical letter's name, memorize the placement of its accent and place the appropriate stress on its syllable as you say the letter's name.

A α, ἄλφα _____

B β, βῆτα _____

Γ γ, γάμμα _____

Δ δ, δέλτα _____

E ε, ἒ ψιλόν _____

Z ζ, ζῆτα _____

H η, ἦτα _____

Θ θ, θῆτα _____

Ι ι, ἰῶτα _____

Κ κ, κάππα _____

Λ λ, λάμβδα _____

Μ μ, μῦ _____

Ν ν, νῦ _____

Ξ ξ, ξῖ _____

Ο ο, ὀ μίκρον _____

Π π, Πῖ _____

Ρ ρ, ῥῶ _____

Σ σ, σίγμα _____

Τ τ, ταῦ _____

Υ υ, ὕ ψιλόν _____

Φ φ, φῖ _____

Χ χ, χῖ _____

Ψ ψ, ψῖ _____

Ω ω, ὦ μέγα _____

Exercise Two: Syllabification. Divide the following Greek words into their appropriate syllables. In addition, indicate what guideline(s) apply (cf. §5.2.1).

α. πνεῦμα

β. ἄγγελος

γ. διά

δ. καρδία

ε. ἄνθρωπος

ζ. ἀμήν

η. λυομένων

θ. ἔκπαι

ι. βότρυς

κ. γυναικάρια

λ. καθελόντες

μ. ὀψώνιον

ν. παγίδα

ξ. ἔτι

ο. εὐ

π. λοιδορέω

ρ. ὑποτάσσω

σ. ὠφελήσεται

Exercise Three: Variable Vowels and Accent. Circle the variable letters known to be long because of their accent or form.

α. ὑμῖν

δ. ὑψιλόν

η. νικᾶ

β. γεννᾶ

ε. τῦφος

θ. λόγοι

γ. ἡμᾶς

ζ. θλίψις

ι. ἦδει

Exercise Four: Transliteration. Transliterate the following English capital letters into Greek capital letters. All of these examples are actual Greek words. If applicable, include the rough breathing mark with the transliteration.

α. KAINĒ _____

ι. HETEROS _____

β. PSEUDOS _____

κ. ĀIDĒS _____

γ. KURIOS _____

λ. HŌRĀI _____

δ. TAPHEI _____

μ. HYPO _____

ε. TAXIN _____

ν. HAUTĒ _____

ζ. KOINON _____

ξ. HODOS _____

η. ŌMEGA _____

ο. EPSILON _____

θ. IĒSOUS _____

π. THĒTA _____

Exercise Five: Transliteration. Transliterate the following Greek minuscule letters into Greek capital letters. All of these examples are actual Greek words. If applicable, include the rough breathing mark with the transliteration.

α. κόσμου _____	η. ἅγιος _____
β. ἔξω _____	θ. δόξα _____
γ. ἀρχῶν _____	ι. ἑπτα _____
δ. ἀληθής _____	κ. λάρυγξ _____
ε. δῆ _____	λ. χάρις _____
ζ. λύτρα _____	μ. ζωή _____

Exercise Six: Dictation. First listen to the instructor pronounce the word, then complete the spelling of the word. There are not any *iōta* subscripts in the exercise and each blank represents a missing letter.

listen α. λέγ _	listen ε. ἔλεγ _ _
listen β. θε _ _	listen ζ. κύρι _ _
listen γ. Χριστ _ _	listen η. κω _ _ _
listen δ. ζ _ _	listen θ. πρέ _ _

Exercise Seven: Multiple choice. Choose the best answer.

1. The two Greek breathing marks are:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| α. monosyllabic and disyllabic | γ. acute and circumflex |
| β. crasis and coronis | δ. smooth and rough |

2. The breathing mark which indicates the lack of aspiration is the

- | | |
|-----------|---------------|
| α. smooth | γ. circumflex |
| β. rough | δ. acute |

3. When ὕψιλόν (Υ υ) begins a word, it always has

- | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| α. a smooth breathing mark | γ. a rough accent |
| β. a rough breathing mark | δ. a rough breathing and an accent |

4. Every Greek word that begins with a vowel or diphthong must have

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|
| α. an accent | γ. a breathing mark and accent |
| β. a breathing mark | δ. a breathing mark if accented |

5. What are the three primary Greek accents?

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| α. ´ ˘ ˆ | γ. ´ ˘ ˆ |
| β. ˙ ˑ ˆ | δ. ´ ˘ ˆ |

6.. Which word has the smooth breathing mark and the grave accent?

- | | |
|-----------|------------|
| α. ἔψιλόν | γ. ἔτι |
| β. εὐθέως | δ. εὐρίσκω |

7. Which word has the rough breathing mark and the circumflex accent?

- | | |
|-------------|-----------|
| α. ἦτα | γ. ῥίζα |
| β. ἄνθρωπος | δ. ἱερεῖς |

14. Which example is a polysyllabic word?

- | | |
|----------|-----------|
| α. ἦτα | γ. λέοντι |
| β. λόγοι | δ. πρὸς |

15. Which example is a monosyllabic word?

- | | |
|----------|--------------|
| α. σύ | γ. λέοντι |
| β. λόγοι | δ. διαγγέλλω |

16. When a vowel begins a word which is also a capital letter, the rough breathing mark is placed where?

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| α. over the vowel | γ. under the vowel |
| β. before the vowel | δ. after the vowel |

17. A smooth breathing mark specifies that there is

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------------------------|
| α. aspiration | γ. an accent mark over the ultima |
| β. no aspiration | δ. a vowel in the word |

18. Accents are associated with what kind of letters?

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| α. consonants | γ. semi-vowels |
| β. vowels, diphthongs, and <i>rhō</i> | δ. vowels and diphthongs |

19. Breathing marks are associated with what kind of letters?

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| α. consonants | γ. semi-vowels |
| β. vowels and diphthongs | δ. vowels, diphthongs, and <i>rhō</i> |

20. Which letter always has a rough breathing mark when it begins a word?

α. *upsilon*

γ. *alpha*

β. *eta*

δ. no letter always has a rough breathing

21. Which of the following pair of words is correctly transliterated?

α. ῥαπιζω rhapizo

γ. ῥαπιζω rhapizō

β. ῥαπιζω hrapizō

δ. ῥαπιζω rapizō

22. Every word has as many syllables as it has separate

α. consonants

γ. semi-vowels

β. vowels and diphthongs

δ. total number of consonants

23. As far as syllabification is concerned, two consecutive vowels which do not form a diphthong are

α. divided into syllables

γ. pronounced together

β. marked breathing

δ. never divided

24. A single consonant surrounded by vowels normally

α. is omitted

γ. begins a new syllable

β. is not pronounced

δ. never occurs

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

1. All consonants may be classified as either a stop or continuant consonant. There are NO exceptions. True False
2. The two liquid voiced continuants are *lambda* and *rho*. True False
3. The three labial stop consonants are *beta*, *pi*, and *theta*. True False

4. *Gamma* belongs to the same voiced order and is coordinate with the stop consonants *delta* and *bēta*. True False
5. The palatal consonant stops belong to the same class because they are formed in back of the throat by the closure of the tongue near or touching the hard palate in the oral cavity. True False
6. *Gamma* may be either a voiced consonant stop, or a nasal continuant. True False
7. Every word has as many syllables as it has separate vowels and/or diphthongs. True False
8. A word that has two or more syllables is called disyllabic. True False
9. Two or more consonants together within a word begin a new syllable if they can begin a word. True False
10. A word that has three or more syllables is called monosyllabic. True False
11. If a syllable contains a long vowel (Η η, Ω ω) or diphthong, its quantity is undefined. True False
12. An inseparable grouping of consonants is called a consonant cluster. True False
13. Syllables are not usually divided between double consonants. True False
14. When a syllable is said to be “closed”, it means that the syllable ends with a vowel or diphthong. True False
15. Accent sustention pertains to the accent’s ability to carry the syllable or syllables that follow. True False