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Study Guide Answer Key

The Greek Alphabet

Sight and Sounds of the Greek Letters (Module B)

Phonology (Part 2)

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

1. Ten Greek letters appear very close to their English counterparts.

A α	B β	δ	E ε	I ι
K κ	O ο	ς	T τ	υ

- How many of these letters are vowels? **Five**. Which vowels may be pronounced both long and short? **A α**, **I ι**, and **υ**. Which two vowels are always short? **E ε**, **O ο**
- Which letter is written as a figure “8” on its side and opened at the right? **α**.
- Which letter is never dotted? **ι**
- Which letter crosses, then its curve drops down below the line? **ς**
- Which letter has a “tail” that extends below the line? **β**
- Which letters have capitals that are very different from their small letters? **δ**, **ς**, and **υ**.
- Which letter has as its capital letter Σ? **ς**
- Which letter has as its capital letter Υ? **υ**
- Which letter has as its capital letter Δ? **δ**

2. Six deceptively looking Greek letters appear to be English letters. These letters will prove difficult unless learned well.

γ η ν Ρ ρ Χ χ ω

- 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”? ω
- f. Which small letter has a capital that looks like a horseshoe? ω
- g. Which letter sounds like “ē”? 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 chí

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

Ζ ζ Θ θ Λ λ Μ μ Ξ ξ
Π π Σ σ Φ φ Ψ ψ

- Which letter has a final form? Σ σ (ς)
- Which letter looks like a cactus? Ψ ψ
- 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.

ΤΑΧΙΝ	ταχιν	ΚΟΣΜΟΝ	κοσμον
ΣΩΤΗΡΟΣ	σωτηρος	ΛΙΤΡΑ	λιτρα
ΝΥΞ	νυξ	ΚΑΛΩΝ	καλων
ΑΓΑΠΩΣΙΝ	αγαπωσιν	ΨΥΧΗ	ψυχη
ΘΕΟΣ	θεος	ΑΜΠΕΛΟΣ	αμπελος
ΦΥΛΑΚΗ	φυλακη	ΧΑΡΙΣΜΑ	χαρισμα
ΤΟΙΣ	τοις	ΗΜΕΡΑΣ	ημερας
ΕΧΘΡΟΝ	εχθρον	ΗΜΩΝ	υμων
ΥΜΙΝ	υμιν	ΤΟΥΤΟΝ	τουτον

Exercise Four: True and False Questions

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

Exercise Five: Multiple Choice. Choose the best answer.

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

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
8. $\chi\sigma\iota$ is pronounced like the “x” as in what following word?
- a. xylophone
 - b. Xenophon
 - c. **axe**
 - d. xysts
9. While writing Greek lower case letters, which letter may be confused with υ ?
- a. $\bar{\Omega}$ mega
 - b. **$\bar{\Nu}$**
 - c. Gamma
 - d. $\bar{\Xi}$ ta
10. $\bar{\Omega}$ mega’s corresponding short vowel is which letter?
- a. υ
 - b. ψ
 - c. **\omicron**
 - d. ϵ

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 an “answer key” was not available). 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.

What is the underlying reason for you to study New Testament Greek? If you do not keep this in focus, you will soon find something “better” to do than to study Greek. One thing for certain, you will find the naysayers who will try to divert you from your goal.