

# Lesson 1

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# **Some Preliminaries**

- These lessons do not replace your textbook (Mounce, *Basics of Biblical Greek*). They are rather a supplement to it and a guide for studying it. (I will refer to it simply as "Mounce" in this course.)
- The materials that you view with Adobe Acrobat Reader may be printed out, but even if you do, I would encourage you to refer frequently to the screen version so that you have the benefit of the color coding—it serves the same purpose here as my pointing to specific "pieces" on the whiteboard or overhead. (You are welcome to print these pages on a color printer, but I suspect that you will soon find that it takes a lot of ink cartridges, and that gets expensive.)
- Before you begin this lesson, you should have already read Mounce pp. x-xvii and 1-6.
  Although you will not be quizzed on those pages, they will help orient you to the study of Greek and to the approach used by our textbook.

## Chapters 3–4, The Alphabet & Pronunciation

This is where it all begins! Until you learn the alphabet well, we can't do much else. As you study chapter 3, pay particular attention to these points. Supplement the textbook and this material with the on-line resources listed on the web page for this lesson so that you have some audio guidance.

- ◆ Each letter sounds like the first sound in its name.
  - $\alpha$  sounds like the <u>a</u> in <u>alpha</u>
  - $\lambda$  sounds like the  $\underline{\mid}$  in <code>\_lambda</code>
  - $\phi$  sounds like the <u>ph</u> in <u>ph</u>i

#### ♦ Vowels: α ∈ιουηω

Hint: to help remember the Greek vowels, relate them to English vowels (of course that only helps if you know what they are!):

#### *a e i o u* + η and ω

•  $\gamma$  [gamma] sounds like the English letter `g,' but  $\gamma\gamma$  sounds like `ng.'

**\* "Breathing marks"**: 2 kinds:

smooth breathing: ' à rough breathing: ' à

- **smooth** = no change in pronunciation
- rough = put an English **h** sound in front of the regular sound
- A breathing mark is written on all words that begin with a vowel or a ρ (rho). The combination ρ is pronounced *rh*, not *hr*; that is, the *h* sound comes after the vowel instead of before it.
- When you write/type Greek (e.g., on quizzes or exams), there *must* be a breathing mark on every Greek word that begins with a vowel or a rho. If there is not, it is wrong. (A word to the wise...!)
- An ι (iota) at the beginning of a word is pronounced with an English y sound: 'Ιησους = Yā-sous. (This is common in Greek names, especially those names that originated as Hebrew/Aramaic words.)

#### Dipthongs:

2 vowels, 1 sound

	An English equivalent	A Greek Example
αι	aisle	αἰρω
ει	<mark>e</mark> ight	εἰ
οι	oil	οίκια
αυ	sauerkraut	αύτος
ου	soup	οὐδε
υι	s <mark>ui</mark> te	νίος
ευ, ηυ	f <mark>eu</mark> d	<mark>εὐ</mark> θυς ηὐξαμεν

#### Improper dipthongs:

Here the letter iota is written *below* the preceding letter. This does not always happen. That is, just because an iota occurs in a word, it does not necessarily get subscripted. It usually happens when various endings are added to a word, and then only if the preceding vowel is a long vowel.  $q \eta \omega$ 

#### Greek Punctuation

Comma, period: same as English:  $\theta \epsilon \circ \varsigma$ ,  $\theta \epsilon \circ \varsigma$ . Semicolon = raised dot:  $\theta \epsilon \circ \varsigma$ . Question mark = (English) semicolon:  $\theta \epsilon \circ \varsigma$ ;

#### Accents

- acuté
- gravè
- circumflex

See examples in workbook, p. 6, ## 1-2, 8

◆ Accent rules are *complicated*!

#### You need to know:

- Names of the accents (quiz material!)
- *Stress* the accented syllable when you pronounce a Greek word.

#### You do **not** need:

- to know all the rules
- to write the accents in handwritten/typed Greek text

As you should be able to tell, I do not place a lot of emphasis on the accents. That is contrary to what some other Greek profs do. If you were learning to write Greek or to speak Greek and not just to read it, then it would be more important. Just be aware that this is one area in which this course will not train you—but then any first year course must pick and choose what it will and will not include. (At least I have warned you as to what I'm omitting!) There will be a few instances (most of them next semester) in which the accent *will* make a difference in the word, and in those cases I will tell you what you must learn.

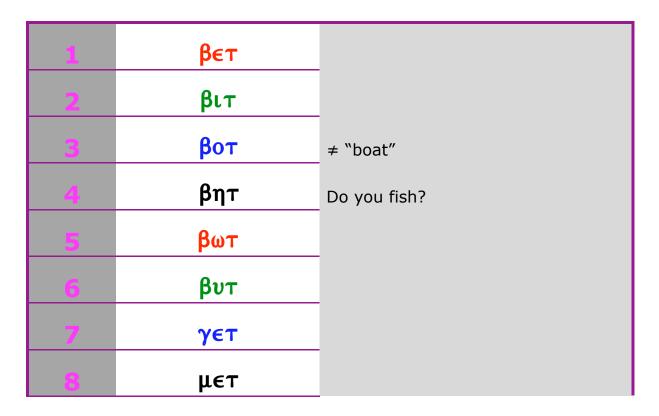
For those who want to go further in this area (and that's not at all a bad idea!), then pay particular attention to Mounce, 14–15 (#3) and the advanced information on 20 (§4.4). The next helpful step beyond that is to study D. A. Carson's *Greek Accents: A Student's Manual* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1985).

## **Greek Pronunciation Drill**

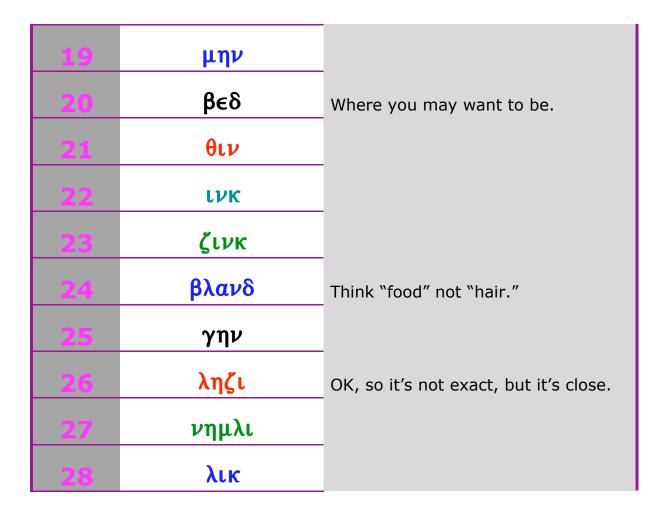
Prepared by Dr. William W. Combs (used by permission)

Each of the Greek "words" below sounds like a (fairly) common English word. These are *not* real Greek words. They serve a helpful purpose at this stage in the game, however. If you sound them out and they come out sounding familiar, you've probably got the correct

pronunciation—or at least something that resembles it close enough for our purposes. The third column consists of my own notes/hints (not Dr. Combs' material). (Don't take them all too seriously.)



9	λετ	
10	πετ	
11	νετ	
12	σετ	
13	δετ	
14	βαρ	
15	μιλκ	You should drink this!
16	βενδ	
17	λιζ	
18	δεθ	



29	φλυκ	
30	πικ	
31	φυδ	Not "Elmer"
32	ληξ	
33	πηστ	
34	στεπ	
35	μωλ	
36	ρωστ	beef (or turkey)
37	λυτ	
38	βρηξ	

39	βηστ	
40	σλιπ	
41	θιμβολ	
42	σκιλετ	
43	χωτ	You do <i>not</i> sleep on this one.
44	кот	
45	γητ	
46	μωτελ	
47	σκητ	
48	στων	

49	φωνετιξ	
50	φαιλ	Be careful of the dipthongs below. Some sound the same.
51	φαυλ	
52	φουλ	
53	φευλ	
54	φειλ	
55	φοιλ	
56	φηλ	
57	φολ	
58	φιλ	

59	φελ	
60	σαιδ	Running can produce pain here.
61	μειζ	
62	καιτ	
63	ζου	
64	λαυδ	
65	βοι	
66	συιτ	
67	ταυν	
68	σταρ	

69	κρειτ	
70	ais	cold
71	αυτς	3 per inning
72	σουν	
73	μωστ	
74	γωλς	
75	γρικ	I have doubts about the pronunci- ation of this one!
76	τεμπτ	
77	καρδ	

78	γρυπ
79	συιπ
80	θιμ
81	βεισικ