

# Learn the Alphabet

## Mounce Chapter Three - The Alphabet and Pronunciation

### Greek Alphabet

α	Alpha	a as in f <u>a</u> ther	ν	Nu	n as in <u>n</u> ew
β	Beta	b as in <u>B</u> ible	ξ	Xsi	x as in a <u>x</u> iom
γ	Gamma	g as in g <u>o</u> ne	ο	Omicron	o as in n <u>o</u> t
δ	Delta	d as in <u>d</u> og	π	Pi	p as in <u>p</u> each
ε	Epsilon	e as in m <u>e</u> t	ρ	Rho	r as in <u>r</u> od
ζ	Zeta	z as in d <u>z</u> e	σ'	Sigma	s as in <u>s</u> tudy
η	Eta	e as in o <u>b</u> ey	τ	Tau	t as in <u>t</u> alk
θ	Theta	th as in <u>th</u> ing	υ	Upsilon	oo as in <u>oo</u> k
ι	Iota	i as in <u>i</u> ntrigue	φ	Phi	ph as in <u>ph</u> one
κ	Kappa	k as in <u>k</u> itchen	χ	Chi	ch as in <u>ch</u>
λ	Lamba	l as in <u>l</u> aw	ψ	Psi	ps as in <u>ps</u>
μ	Mu	m as in <u>m</u> other	ω	Omega	o as in <u>o</u> ne
Learning Greek is fun!		Tune of 1 little, 2 little., 3 little...	See how far we've come!		... 3 little Indians

Be Careful! Don't confuse η (eta) with English "n", the ν (nu) with the "v", the ρ (rho) with the "p", the χ (chi) with the "x" or the ω (omega) with the "w."

There are two sigmas in Greek, Σ occurs only at the end of a word and the ς occurs within the word. The vowels in Greek are α, ε, η, ι, ο, υ, ω.

Gamma (γ) usually has a hard "g" sound, as in "get." However, when it is immediately followed by γ, κ, χ or ξ it is pronounced as a "n." For example, the word ἀγγελοῦ is pronounced "angelos." This is called the gamma nasal.

Alpha and iota may be either long or short. Epsilon and omicron are always short, while eta and omega are always long.

All words beginning with a vowel or a rho should have a breathing mark. A rough breathing mark, ῀, adds a "h" sound to the word. A smooth breathing mark, ῁, is placed over the first vowel and is not pronounced. Thus ὑπερ is pronounced "huper" and ὑπερ would be pronounced "uper" if it were a real Greek word. Don't confuse the accent symbol and remember all rho and upsilons have rough breathings.

### DIPHTHONGS

αι	as in <u>a</u> isle	῀ρω
ει	as in <u>e</u> ight	῀ι
οι	as in <u>o</u> il	οῖκῆ
αυ	as in <u>sau</u> erkra <u>u</u> t	αὐτό
ου	as in <u>so</u> u <u>p</u>	οὐδέ
υι	as in <u>sui</u> te	υῖο
ευ,ηυ	as in <u>fe</u> ud	εὐθύ

Note the breathing mark over the second letter of the diphthong. An improper diphthong is an iota placed beneath an alpha, eta or omega ending. It does not effect pronunciation but is essential for proper translation so watch for them.

Use the worksheet below to write out the name of the Greek letter and practice writing it. Add a breathing mark to vowels and rho.

