

# Learn This Little Song

(To the Tune 1 Little, 2 Little 3 Little Indians)

Alpha, Beta, Gamma, Delta,  
Epsilon, Zeta, Eta, Theta,  
Iota, Kappa, Lambda, Mu  
Learning Greek is Fun  
Nu, Xi, Omicron, Pi,  
Rho, Sigma, Tau, Upsilon  
Phi, Chi, Psi, Omega  
See how far we've come.

Now learn this better version of the same song:  
 $\alpha \beta \gamma \delta, \epsilon \zeta \eta \theta, \iota \kappa \lambda \mu,$  Learning Greek is Fun  
 $\nu \xi \omicron \pi, \rho \sigma \tau \upsilon, \phi \chi \psi \omega,$  See how far we've come.

(In our home a 3 year old learned this song, you can do it)

Dr. Mounce gives these tips for Chapter 3 *The Alphabet and Pronunciation*:

It is essential that you learn the Greek Alphabet right away. You cannot learn anything else until you do.

Learn English name, how to write the letter, and how to pronounce the letter.

The vowels in Greek are  $\alpha, \epsilon, \eta, \iota, \omicron, \upsilon$  and  $\omega$ .

Every word beginning with a vowel must have either a rough or smooth breathing mark. If the word begins with a diphthong, the breathing mark is over the second vowel. If the word is capitalized, the breathing mark goes either before the first vowel or over the second vowel, depending on whether the two vowels form a diphthong.

A diphthong consists of two vowels pronounced as a single sound. The second vowel is always an iota or upsilon.

An improper diphthong is a diphthong with an iota subscript under the vowel. The iota subscript does not effect pronunciation, but is important in translation.

This may seem like over kill for the third chapter, but lets review the alphabet thoroughly anyway. We will move on to punctuation and Syllabification in the next chapter.

## A Review of the Alphabet

Memorize the Greek Alphabet

$\alpha$	<a href="#">Alpha</a>	a as in f <u>a</u> ther	$\nu$	<a href="#">Nu</a>	n as in <u>n</u> ew
$\beta$	<a href="#">Beta</a>	b as in <u>B</u> ible	$\xi$	<a href="#">Xi</a>	x as in a <u>x</u> iom
$\gamma$	<a href="#">Gamma</a>	g as in g <u>o</u> ne	$\omicron$	<a href="#">Omicron</a>	o as in n <u>o</u> t
$\delta$	<a href="#">Delta</a>	d as in <u>d</u> og	$\pi$	<a href="#">Pi</a>	p as in <u>p</u> each
$\epsilon$	<a href="#">Epsilon</a>	e as in m <u>e</u> t	$\rho$	<a href="#">Rho</a>	r as in <u>r</u> od
$\zeta$	<a href="#">Zeta</a>	z as in d <u>z</u> e	$\sigma \varsigma$	<a href="#">Sigma</a>	s as in <u>s</u> tudy
$\eta$			$\tau$		

θ	<a href="#">Eta</a>	e as in obey	υ	<a href="#">Tau</a>	t as in talk
ι	<a href="#">Theta</a>	th as in <u>th</u> ing	φ	<a href="#">Upsilon</a>	oo as in <u>oo</u> k
κ	<a href="#">Iota</a>	i as in <u>i</u> ntrigue	χ	<a href="#">Phi</a>	ph as in <u>ph</u> one
λ	<a href="#">Kappa</a>	k as in <u>k</u> itchen	ψ	<a href="#">Chi</a>	ch as in <u>ch</u>
μ	<a href="#">Lamba</a>	l as in <u>l</u> aw	ω	<a href="#">Psi</a>	ps as in <u>ps</u>
	<a href="#">Mu</a>	m as in <u>m</u> other		<a href="#">Omega</a>	o as in <u>o</u> ne

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, ζ 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 αγγελος 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, ϑ, adds a "h" sound to the word. A smooth breathing mark, φ, is placed over the first vowel and is not pronounced.

Thus ὑπερ is pronounced "huper" and υπερ 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>ai</u> le	αίρω
ει	as in <u>ei</u> ght	εί
οι	as in <u>oi</u> l	οἶκία
αυ	as in <u>au</u> erkra <u>u</u> t	αὐτός
ου	as in <u>ou</u> p	οὐδέ
υι	as in <u>ui</u> te	υἱός
ευ,ηυ	as in <u>eu</u> d	εὐθύς

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.

Dr. Mounce continues: "We cannot stress enough how important it is to learn to pronounce the language.

After years of teaching Greek we assure you that if you do not learn to pronounce it, you will never master the language. As you are reading, do not worry about the meaning of the words. Practice reading the selection over and over. Read it out loud until you can read it correctly."

## Practice Pronunciations

Pronounce a letter at a time, and watch for the diphthongs

( It will make you eager to learn syllablification in the [next lesson](#) )

John 1:1 (GTR) εν αρχη ην ο λογος και ο λογος ην προς τον θεον και θεος ην ο λογος

According to Matthewt 1:7- 17

ΚΑΤΑ ΜΑΤΘΑΙΟΝ 7 Σολομών δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ῥοβοάμ, Ῥοβοάμ δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ἀβιά, Ἀβιά δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ἀσά,

8 Ἀσὰ δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ἰωσαφάτ, Ἰωσαφὰτ δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ἰωράμ, Ἰωράμ δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ὀζίαν,

9 Ὀζίας δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ἰωάθαμ, Ἰωάθαμ δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ἀχαζ, Ἀχαζ δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ἐζεκίαν,

10 Ἐζεκίας δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Μανασσῆ, Μανασσῆς δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ἀμών, Ἀμών δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ἰωσίαν,

11 Ἰωσίας δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ἰεχονίαν καὶ τοὺς ἀδελφοὺς αὐτοῦ ἐπὶ τῆς μετοικεσίας Βαβυλῶνος.

12 Μετὰ δὲ τὴν μετοικεσίαν Βαβυλῶνος Ἰεχονίας ἐγέννησε τὸν Σαλαθιήλ, Σαλαθιήλ δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ζοροβάβελ,

13 Ζοροβάβελ δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ἀβιούδ, Ἀβιούδ δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ἐλιακίμ, Ἐλιακίμ δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ἀζώρ,

14 Ἀζώρ δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Σαδῶκ, Σαδῶκ δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ἀχειμ, Ἀχειμ δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ἐλιούδ,

15 Ἐλιούδ δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ἐλεάζαρ, Ἐλεάζαρ δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ματθάν, Ματθάν δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ἰακώβ,

16 Ἰακώβ δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ἰωσήφ τὸν ἄνδρα Μαρίας, ἐξ ἧς ἐγεννήθη Ἰησοῦς ὁ λεγόμενος Χριστός.

17 Πᾶσαι οὖν αἱ γενεαὶ ἀπὸ Ἀβραὰμ ἕως Δαυῖδ γενεαὶ δεκατέσσαρες, καὶ ἀπὸ Δαυῖδ ἕως τῆς μετοικεσίας Βαβυλῶνος γενεαὶ δεκατέσσαρες, καὶ ἀπὸ τῆς μετοικεσίας Βαβυλῶνος ἕως τοῦ Χριστοῦ γενεαὶ δεκατέσσαρες.

According to Matthewt 1:7-17

According to Matthew 1: 7 And Solomon begat Roboam; and Roboam begat Abia; and Abia begat Asa;

8 And Asa begat Josaphat; and Josaphat begat Joram; and Joram begat Ozias;

9 And Ozias begat Joatham; and Joatham begat Achaz; and Achaz begat Ezekias;

10 And Ezekias begat Manasses; and Manasses begat Amon; and Amon begat Josias;

11 And Josias begat Jechonias and his brethren, about the time they were carried away to Babylon:

12 And after they were brought to Babylon, Jechonias begat Salathiel; and Salathiel begat Zorobabel;

13 And Zorobabel begat Abiud; and Abiud begat Eliakim; and Eliakim begat Azor;

14 And Azor begat Sadoc; and Sadoc begat Achim; and Achim begat Eliud;

15 And Eliud begat Eleazar; and Eleazar begat Matthan; and Matthan begat Jacob;

16 And Jacob begat Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus, who is called Christ.

17 So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations; and from David until the carrying away into Babylon are fourteen generations; and from the carrying away into Babylon unto Christ are fourteen generations.

(KJB)

# **Do Dr. Decker Lesson One**

[Lesson One pdf file on Chap 3-4 by Dr.Decker](#)

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[Back to Index](#) or Syblification in the [Next Lesson 4](#) )