

Biblical Greek Workbook

I strongly recommend you print a hard-copy of the Alphabet Pronunciation key and Keyboard layout and use it as necessary to work through the problems in this workbook. You can download the Alphabet Pronunciation and Keyboard chart from the tools page on the Biblical Greek web site (biblicalgreek.blog).

Problem Set I – Getting To Know the Greek Alphabet

Exercise 1

Cover the left-most column on the Alphabet Chart and read the Greek letters forward and backward at least 10 times. Make sure you're looking at each letter as you recite it. It is especially useful to touch each letter as you fo. Do this for both the small and the capital letters. Test yourself. If you are unable to recall any of the letters without looking in the left-most column, keep repeating this exercise until you can.

Next, cover all of the columns except the leftmost column (the ones with the letter names). Now, looking at the names, write the corresponding letter in its capital and small letter forms.

Exercise 2

- (a) Cover the right-most 4 columns (i.e., all columns except the letter names). Now, for each name, write both its capital and small versions. HINT: each time you write a letter, also recite its correct pronunciation.
- (b) Try to recite the alphabet, forward and backward, from memory. HINT: memorize 4 letters at a time. Here's how practiced. I recite four letters at a time. See below:

“alpha, beta, gamma, delta”

“alpha, beta, gamma, delta, epsilon, zeta, eta, theta”, ...

... now backward

“omega, psi, chi, phi”

“omega, psi, chi, phi, upsilon, tau, sigma, rho”, ...

In other words, once you memorize the first 4 words, memorize the next 4 words by reciting the previous 4 and the next 4. Continue to the end of the alphabet. Do this for both forward and backward directions.

***** DO NOT MOVE ON TO THE NEXT EXERCISES UNTIL YOU HAVE *****

***** MEMORIZED THE ALPHABET *****

Exercise 3

Now, count the number of constants and vowels in the following text. What vowel(s) are missing? What consonants are missing?

ἐγένετο Ἰωάννης ὁ βαπτίζων ἐν τῇ ἐρήμῳ καὶ κηρύσσων
βάπτισμα μετανοίας εἰς ἄφεσιν ἁμαρτιῶν.

Exercise 4

The following are English words written using Greek diphthongs¹. For example, the English word 'pure' written with Greek letters would be 'πευρ', and the English word 'fool' would be 'φουλ'. Practice reciting the words below noting which one contains no diphthong?

μαικ, βαικ, αύκ, λαικ, τραικ, δαικ, υιαιτ
φαιν, δαιν, γρινδ, μαινδ, βαινδ, λαιξ
παυ, αυτ, αυρ, σαυρ, ταυερ, παυερ
ειτ, βειτ, κρειτ, διφθογγ, δειτ, δειτεδ, φειτ,
βοιλ, λοιτερ, ρεκανοιτερ, γοιτερ
φηυλ, πηυρ, ηυρ, φηυδ, ηύριστικ,

¹ Pronounced /difthongs/ not /diphthongs/

Exercise 5

In this exercise, identify all of the diphthongs in the following two Greek Verses HINT: by my count there are 15 diphthongs and I've already identified one of them (the bolded, colored text).

Ὡς γέγραπται ἐν τοῖς προφήταις, Ἴδού, ἐγὼ ἀποστέλλω τὸν ἄγγελόν μου πρὸ προσώπου σου, ὃς κατασκευάσει τὴν ὁδὸν σου ἔμπροσθέν σου. φωνὴ βοῶντος ἐν τῇ ἐρήμῳ, Ἐτοιμάσατε τὴν ὁδὸν Κυρίου· εὐθείας ποιεῖτε τὰς τρίβους αὐτοῦ.

Exercise 6

- (a) Next count the vowels in the text above (exercise 5). How many are there? What word has the most vowels? How many words have only 1 vowel?
- (b) Count the number of diphthongs, vowels (remember, 2 per diphthong), and consonants in the following verse from the New Testament

καὶ ἐξεπορεύετο πρὸς αὐτὸν πᾶσα ἡ Ἰουδαία χώρα καὶ οἱ Ἱεροσολυμίται πάντες, καὶ ἐβαπτίζοντο ὑπ' αὐτοῦ ἐν τῷ Ἰορδάνῃ ποταμῷ ἐξομολογούμενοι τὰς ἁμαρτίας αὐτῶν.

Exercise 7

Listen to, recite, and memorize the following recording (it's a common Greeting used by Paul). The link is [here](#)

Χάρις ἔλεος εἰρήνη ἀπὸ θεοῦ πατρὸς καὶ Χριστοῦ Ἰησοῦ
Charis eleos eirēnē apo theou patros kai Christou Iēsou

τοῦ κυρίου ἡμῶν.
tou kyriou hēmōn.

- (a) Identify all letters and diphthongs that DO NOT occur in the passage above

Exercise 8

Arrange the following words in alphabetical order:

καὶ ἦν ὁ Ἰωάννης ἐνδεδυμένος τρίχας καμήλου καὶ ζώνην δερματίνην περὶ τὴν ὀσφὺν αὐτοῦ καὶ ἐσθίων ἀκρίδας καὶ μέλι ἄγριον

Exercise 9

Pronounce the following names. The first line contain names from the Bible. The second are familiar (English) names written in Greek letters

Παῦλ, Στέφαν, Μάρια, Βαρνάβας, Μαιχαήλ
Στάν, Ροβερτ, Βεττι, Γιλβερτ, Φρεδ, Γαιλ, Μονικα, Ανθωνι, Ανθονι,
Ζωρω, Αβραάμ

Exercise 10

Arrange the following words in alphabetic order

Οὐδὲν, ἄρα, νῦν, κατάκριμα, τοῖς, ἐν, Χριστῷ, Ἰησοῦ, μὴ, κατὰ, σάρκα, περιπατοῦσιν, ἀλλὰ, κατὰ, πνεῦμα

Exercise 11

For this exercise, we need to learn about something called the “*rough breathing mark*”. What is a “rough breathing mark”, you ask?

The *rough breathing mark* a diacritical mark on a vowel when that vowel is to be pronounced with an /h/ sound. For example, here are three English words, *hello*, *hotel*, and *hyper* written in a larger than usual Greek letters so that the *rough breathing mark* is clearly visible. Note that the epsilon and omega have what appears to be a reversed comma above the letter. That’s the *rough breathing mark*. Note also that the *rough breathing mark* occurs on the second letter of the diphthong in “hyper”. This is characteristic of all diphthongs.

έλλο, ώτελ, αίπερ

Write or type the following English sentences using Greek letters.

A thin, but quick brown fox escaped from his pen.

He sang a beautiful song.

A good student stops when told to do so.

Harry handled Henry where Hank had only hoped.

A hoot owl finished hooting when daylight came.

Let us slide down the slippery slope on Sunday.

A big black bug bled blue blood in a bucket.

Rats always follow pied pipers.

Do you listen to Bach frequently?

Suzy is friends with Zoey.

Do you read Mexican text?

How many stops between here and the zoo in Zurich?

Exercise 12

Here yet some more English words, this time written with capital Greek letters. Write the same words using Greek small letters.

OMNIPREZENT

ΦΟΡΤΟΥΑΤΑΣ

ΠΝΕΥΜΟΘΟΡΑΧ

ΙΛΛΟΥΜΙΝΑΤ

ΤΡΑΝΣΕΝΔΕΝΤ

ΘΕΡΜΟΝΟΥΚΛΙΑΡ

ΦΡΩΖΕΝ

ΕΞΠΕΚΤΟΡΕΙΤ

Problem Set II

Exercise 1 – Greek Accents and Breathing Marks

Greek accents came into being around 200 BCE as aids for foreigners who had difficulty pronouncing Greek words correctly. Accents are important for two reasons: first, in rare cases they can be used to discriminate between two words that are spelled identically but have different meanings. Second, the acute accent (see below) is always found on the vowel of the syllable to be stressed. To illustrate what I mean by stress, let's consider the name of the first human in the Bible, Adam.

- /A/-/dm/ – English pronunciation. In English, *Adam* has its first syllable is stressed or lengthened (bolded). The vowel in the second syllable is barely, if ever, pronounced.
- /ə/-/dahm/ - Hebrew pronunciation. The first syllable is scarcely more than an abbreviated /uh/, while the second syllable is lengthened (bolded) so much that it rhymes with /tom/

Now, let's work through the pronunciation of the Greek word θεός. Note that the omicron (the first vowel of the second syllable) is accented. Accented in this way, the second syllable is lengthened but the first syllable is very short. Pronounced correctly, θεός rhymes with *Laos* (the country) or, as in some dialects, *chaos*. Either way, the accented syllable is lengthened (i.e., stressed)

Try to correctly pronounce the following biblical Greek words:

Θεός, Φίλιππος, γένος, φόβος καρδία, Χριστός, απόστολος

Exercise 2

Read and pronounce the following word pairs aloud (HINT: Some of the small case words begin with a capital. Names beginning with a capital letter and followed by small letters are names of people, in this exercise the names are from the New Testament)

ΠΑΤΗΡ, πατήρ

ΨΥΧΗ, ψυχή

ΠΟΛΙΣ, πόλις

ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ, Χριστός

ΦΟΒΟΣ, φόβος

ΓΕΝΟΣ, γένος

ΦΙΛΙΠΠΟΣ, φίλιππος

ΕΞΟΔΟΣ, ἔξοδος

ΖΩΗ, ζωη

ΠΕΤΡΟΣ, Πέτρος

ΘΕΟΣ. Θεός

ΓΥΝΗ, γυνη