

# Greek Alphabet Chart

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<u>Uncial</u>	<u>Miniscule</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Transliteration</u> <sup>1,2</sup>	<u>Pronunciation</u> <sup>3</sup>
A	α	Alpha	<i>a</i>	<b>a</b> as in father
B	β	Beta	<i>b</i>	<b>b</b> as in boy
Γ	γ	Gamma	<i>g</i> <i>n</i> <sup>4</sup>	<b>g</b> as in get see next page
Δ	δ	Delta	<i>d</i>	<b>d</b> as in dog
E	ε	Epsilon	<i>e</i>	<b>e</b> as in red
Z	ζ	Zeta	<i>z</i>	<b>z</b> as in zero
H	η	Eta	<i>ē</i>	<b>ē</b> as in obey
Θ	θ	Theta	<i>th</i>	<b>th</b> as in thin
I	ι	Iota	<i>I</i>	<b>i</b> as in machine <sup>5</sup>
K	κ	Kappa	<i>k</i>	<b>k</b> as in king
Λ	λ	Lambda	<i>l</i>	<b>l</b> as in lot
M	μ	Mu	<i>m</i>	<b>m</b> as in met
N	ν	Nu	<i>n</i>	<b>n</b> as in nap
Ξ	ξ	Xsi	<i>x</i>	<b>xs</b> as in axiom
O	ο	Omicron	<i>o</i>	<b>o</b> as in not
Π	π	Pi	<i>p</i>	<b>p</b> as in pat
P	ρ	Rho	<i>r</i>	<b>r</b> as in ran
Σ	σ	Sigma	<i>s</i>	<b>s</b> as in sat
	ς	final Sigma <sup>6</sup>	<i>(same)</i>	<i>(same)</i>
T	τ	Tau	<i>t</i>	<b>t</b> as in tin
Υ	υ	Upsilon	<i>u</i> <sup>7</sup>	<b>u</b> as in put
Φ	φ	Phi	<i>ph</i>	<b>ph</b> as in phone
X	χ	Chi	<i>ch</i>	<b>ch</b> as in loch
Ψ	ψ	Psi	<i>ps</i>	<b>ps</b> as in tips
Ω	ω	Omega	<i>ō</i>	<b>ō</b> as in obey
ˆ	ˆ	Rough Breather	<i>h</i> <sup>8</sup>	<b>h</b> as in hot
˘	˘	Smooth Breather	none	

<sup>1</sup> Note that these are italicized, this should be done whenever you transliterate from Greek or Hebrew

<sup>2</sup> Source: "The SBL Handbook of Style," p. 29.

<sup>3</sup> There are other possible pronunciations of these letters. They are all fairly similar, but this is one of the standards.

<sup>4</sup> Before γ κ ξ χ gamma changes pronunciation and transliteration.

<sup>5</sup> Iota can also be pronounced long (i as in pit), usually when in a diphthong (two vowels together which have a different pronunciation), see the next page.

<sup>6</sup> When sigma is written at the end of the word, it is written in this form.

<sup>7</sup> This is frequently transliterated "y," especially when not joined with another vowel (e.g. *hyper* from ὑπερ), but you may stick with the "u" transliteration.

<sup>8</sup> When a rough breather occurs over the first letter of a word, transliterate an "h" before the first letter. The exception is when that first letter is rho, then the "h" follows the rho: *rh*.

### Diphthongs

A *Diphthong* is when two vowels are together and together have a unique pronunciation.

αι	<b>ai</b> as in <b>aisle</b>
ει	<b>ei</b> as in <b>eight</b>
οι	<b>oi</b> as in <b>oil</b>
ου	<b>ou</b> as in <b>group</b>
υι	<b>ui</b> as in <b>suite</b>
αυ	<b>ow</b> as in <b>cow</b>
ευ	<b>eu</b> as in <b>feud</b>

### Double Consonants

As noted earlier, when the gamma occurs before certain consonants, its pronunciation changes.

γγ	<b>ng</b> as in <b>anger</b>
γκ	<b>nk</b> as in <b>ink</b>
γξ	<b>nx</b> as in <b>sphinx</b>
γχ	<b>nch</b> as in <b>anchor</b>

### Accents

Greek uses accents to show which syllable to accent (stress). The different ways of writing the accents used to indicate what pitch of voice was to be used, but in modern pronunciation, all accents are stressed the same.

'	Acute
ˆ	Circumflex
`	Grave

### Punctuation Marks

It is very important to know that different punctuation marks are used in Greek than in English. Here is a side-by-side comparison.<sup>9</sup>

<u>Mark</u>	<u>English</u>	<u>Greek</u>
θεός,	comma	comma
θεός.	period	period
θεός˙	period above line	semicolon
θεός;	semicolon	question mark
θεός!	exclamation mark	command

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<sup>9</sup> The punctuation marks are not original but were added by modern editors.