

Elementary Greek: Week 1, Class 2  
Wednesday, September 5, 2018  
**Introduction to the Greek Alphabet and its Sounds**

1. PUNCTUATION MARKS: What do they mean?

period (.) –

comma (,) –

raised period (·) –

semicolon (;) –

2. **Vowels:** There are SEVEN vowels in the Greek alphabet. Which are they?

- Some are always long, meaning pronouncing them takes longer (about 2x):
- Some are always short, meaning pronouncing them is quicker:
- Some are either long or short ('of variable quantity'):

### 3. Diphthongs & vowel combinations

Diphthong	Transliteration	Pronunciation
αι	ai, ae, e	(ai) <i>aisle</i> , high [ī]
αυ	au	(au) <i>sauerkraut</i>
ει	ei, e, i	(ei) <i>sleigh</i> [ā]
ευ (also ηυ)	eu	(ε + υ)
οι	oi, oe, e, i	(oi) <i>coin</i> , <i>toy</i>
ου	ou, u	(ou) <i>soup</i> [oo]
υι	ui	(uy) (cf. <i>New York</i> )

#### 4. Long diphthongs & the iota subscript

When a **long vowel** combines with an **iota** (ι) to make a diphthong, the iota turns into a “tail” under the long vowel.

Examples:

Should you pronounce the iota?

## 5. BREATHINGS, also known as ASPIRATION

Gives us the sound for the letter “h”

MUST appear over words beginning with vowel or diphthong, even if no “h” sound is necessary.

“ROUGH” breathing:

“SMOOTH” breathing:

Where does the symbol go?

εἰς (“eis”, into)

εἷς (“heis”, one)

ὅδος (“odos”, threshold)

ὁδός (“hodos”, road)

Review Homework:

2. Pronounce the following words. Transliterate them into the Roman alphabet. Do you recognize any words that are similar to English words? For the time being, stress or raise the pitch of the syllable that has the accent mark (´ ` ˘).

Example: πάθος: pathos; Engl. pathos, -path, patho-

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|------------|-----------|------------|--------------|
| 1. ψυχή    | 5. μικρός | 9. ποταμός | 13. βάρβαρος |
| 2. ξένος   | 6. θεός   | 10. αγορά  | 14. ζῶον     |
| 3. δένδρον | 7. λόγος  | 11. φίλος  |              |
| 4. δράμα   | 8. σκηνή  | 12. ἀρχή   |              |

