

~ A VERY BRIEF INTRODUCTION TO CLASSICAL GREEK ~

Alpha-bet(a).

A α	alpha ("ah")
B β	beta ("b")
Γ γ	gamma ("g")
Δ δ	delta ("d")
E ε	epsilon ("eh")
Z ζ	zeta ("dz")
H η	eta ("ay")
Θ θ	theta ("th")
I ι	iota ("ih/ee")
Κ κ	kappa ("k")
Λ λ	lambda ("l")
Μ μ	mu ("m")
Ν ν	nu ("n")
Ξ ξ	xi ("ks")
Ο ο	omicron ("hot")
Π π	pi ("p")
Ρ ρ	rho ("r")
Σ σ,ς	sigma ("s")
Τ τ	tau ("t")
Υ υ	upsilon ("put")
Φ φ	phi ("f")
Χ χ	chi ("kh")
Ψ ψ	psi ("ps")
Ω ω	omega ("go")

Vowel combinations.

αι = "eye"	οι = "oy"
αυ = "ow"	ου = "oo"
ει = "ay"	υι = "we"
ευ = "eh-oo"	

A few Greek words with their English-letter equivalents.

βιβλιον	δημοκρατια	ἐξοδος	γυμνασιον
biblion	dēmokratia	exodos	gumnasion
φιλοσοφια	ἰδιωτης	ψυχη	μητροπολις
philosophia	idiōtēs	psuchē	mētropolis

Famous easy one-liners (use the "dictionary" below).

- δος μοι που στω και ταν γαν κινασω. (Archidomedes)
dos moi pou stō kai tan gan kinasō.
- Οὐτις με κτεινει. (Polyphemus the Cyclops)
outis me kteinei.
- φιλοσοφια βιου κυβερνητης. (Phi Beta Kappa Society)
philosophia biou kubernētēs.
- τα Καισαρος αποδοτε Καισαρι, και τα του θεου τω θεω. (Jesus)
ta Kaisaros apodote Kaisari, kai ta tou theou tō theō.
- ὁ ἀνεξεταστος βιος ἐστιν οὐ βιωτος. (Socrates)
ho anexetastos bios estin ou biōtos.

A very brief dictionary (in Greek alphabetical order).

ἀνεξεταστος: unexamined	κινασω: I will move
ἀποδοτε: [you] give back	κτεινει: kills, is killing
βιος: life	κυβερνητης: helmsman (steers ships)
βιου: of life	με: me (direct object)
βιωτος: livable, to be lived	μοι: to me
γαν: earth (direct object)	ὁ: the
δος: [you] give	οὐ: not
ἐστιν: is	Οὐτις: no one, "No-man"
θεου: of God	που: where
θεω: to God	στω: I may stand
και: and	τα: the [things]
Καισαρος: of Caesar	ταν, του, τω: the
Καισαρι: to Caesar	φιλοσοφια: love of wisdom

The Greek Alpha-beta from Alpha-particles to Omega-bytes

Letter name:	pronounced:	Practice filling in the outline of the letter:	Try writing the letter freehand:
Alpha	Α "AH"	α α α α α α α α α α	.....
Beta	Β "B"	β β β β β β β β β β	.....
Gamma	Γ as in "GO"	γ γ γ γ γ γ γ γ γ γ	.....
Delta	Δ "D"	δ δ δ δ δ δ δ δ δ δ	.....
Epsilon	Ε as in "GET"	ε ε ε ε ε ε ε ε ε ε	.....
Zeta	Ζ as in "ADS"	ζ ζ ζ ζ ζ ζ ζ ζ ζ ζ	.....
Eta	Η "AY"	η η η η η η η η η η	.....
Theta	Θ "TH"	θ θ θ θ θ θ θ θ θ θ	.....
Iota	Ι "EE"	ι ι ι ι ι ι ι ι ι ι	.....
Kappa	Κ "K"	κ κ κ κ κ κ κ κ κ κ	.....
Lambda	Λ "L"	λ λ λ λ λ λ λ λ λ λ	.....
Mu	Μ "M"	μ μ μ μ μ μ μ μ μ μ	.....
Nu	Ν "N"	ν ν ν ν ν ν ν ν ν ν	.....
Xi	Ξ "KS"	ξ ξ ξ ξ ξ ξ ξ ξ ξ ξ	.....
Omicron	Ο as in "ON"	ο ο ο ο ο ο ο ο ο ο	.....
Pi	Π "P"	π π π π π π π π π π	.....
Rho	Ρ "R"	ρ ρ ρ ρ ρ ρ ρ ρ ρ ρ	.....
Sigma	Σ "S"	σ σ σ σ σ σ σ σ σ σ	.....
word-ending Sigma	ς "S"	ς ς ς ς ς ς ς ς ς ς ς	.....
Tau	Τ "T"	τ τ τ τ τ τ τ τ τ τ	.....
Upsilon	Υ as in "PUT"	υ υ υ υ υ υ υ υ υ υ	.....
Phi	Φ "F"	φ φ φ φ φ φ φ φ φ φ
Chi	Χ "KH"	χ χ χ χ χ χ χ χ χ χ
Psi	Ψ as in "UPS"	ψ ψ ψ ψ ψ ψ ψ ψ ψ ψ
Omega	Ω "OH"	ω ω ω ω ω ω ω ω ω ω

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Φαίνεται μοι (*Phainetai moi*) by Sappho of Lesbos (circa 590 BC)

1 φαίνεται μοι κηνος ἴσος θεοῖσιν phainetai moi kēnos isos theoisin seems to me that equal to-gods	9 ἄλλα καμ μὲν γλῶσσα ἔαγε, λεπτόν alla kam men glōssa eage, lepton but down indeed tongue shivers, light
2 ἔμμεν' ὄνηρ, ὅτις ἐναντίος τοῖ emmen' ōnēr, ottis enantios toi to-be man, who opposite to-you	10 δ' αὐτίκα χρωὶ πυρ ὑποδεδρομηκεν. d' autika khrōi pur upodedromhken, & immediately skin fire runs-deep-under,
3 ἰσδάνει καὶ πλάσιον ἄδῦ φωνεῖ- isdanei kai plasion adu phōnei- sits and nearby sweetly speak-	11 ὄππατεσσι δ' οὐδὲν ὀρημμ', ἐπιρρομ- oppatessi d' ouden orēmm', epirrom- (with) eyes & nothing I-see, rum-
4 σὰς ὑπακούει sas upakouei -ing listens-to [you]	12 βεῖσι δ' ἀκούαι, beisi d' akouai, -ble & ears,
5 καὶ γελαισὰς ἱμεροῦν, τὸ μ' ἤμαν kai gelaisas imeroen, to m' ē man and laughing gently, which my truly	13 καδ' δε μ' ἰδρῶς κაკχεεται, τρομὸς δε kad' de m' idrōs kakkheetai, tromos de down & me sweat flows-down, trembling &
6 καρδιαν ἐν στήθεσιν ἐπτοαῖσεν: kardian en stēthesin eptoaisēn: heart in chest smashes:	14 παῖσαν ἀγρεῖ, χλωροτέρα δε ποῖας paisan agrei, khlōrotera de poias all (of me) seizes, greener & (than) grass
7 ὥς γὰρ εἰσίδω βροχέως σε, φωνὰς ōs gar eisidō brokheōs se, phōnas as for I-look-at briefly you, of-voice	15 ἔμμι, τεθνακην δ' ὀλιγῷ ἴδευης emmi, tethnakhn d' oligō 'pideuēs I-am, dying & little short (of)
8 οὐδὲν ἔτ' ἴκει, ouden et' ikei, nothing anymore comes,	16 φαίνομ' ἄλλα. phainom' alla. I-seem other(wise).

Catullus 51

1 Ille mi par esse deo videtur,	9 Lingua sed torpet, tenuis sub artūs
2 ille, si fas est, superare divos,	10 flamma demanat, sonitu suopte
3 qui sedens adversus identidem te	11 tintinant aures, geminā teguntur
4 spectat et audit	12 lumina nocte.
5 dulce ridentem, misero quod omnis	13 Otium, Catulle, tibi molestum est;
6 eripit sensus mihi; nam simul te,	14 otio exsultas nimiumque gestis;
7 Lesbia, aspexi, nihil est super mi	15 otium et reges prius et beatas
8	16 perdidit urbes.