

CLASSIC GREEK

The alphabet. The Greek language used twenty-four letters.

	FORMS		NAMES	SOUNDS
	<i>Italic</i>	<i>Roman</i>		
A	α	α	alpha	a
B	β	β	beta	b
Γ	γ	γ	gamma	g
Δ	δ	δ	delta	d
E	ε	ε	epsilon	e short
Z	ζ	ζ	zeta	z
H	η	η	eta	e long
Θ	θ	θ	theta	th
I	ι	ι	iota	i
K	κ	κ	kappa	k, c
Λ	λ	λ	lambda	l
M	μ	μ	mu	m
N	ν	ν	nu	n
Ξ	ξ	ξ	xi	x
O	ο	ο	omicron	o short
Π	π	π	pi	p
Ρ	ρ	ρ	rho	r
Σ	σ	σ ς	sigma	s
T	τ	τ	tau	t
Υ	υ	υ	upsilon	u
Φ	φ	φ	phi	ph
X	χ	χ	chi	ch
Ψ	ψ	ψ	psi	ps
Ω	ω	ω	omega	o long

The letters β and ς are rare forms of the delta, and should not be used as symbols.

The letter σ is the sigma used at the beginning or in the middle of a word; ς is used at the end of a word.

Accents and aspirates. The accents and aspirates used in the Greek are as follows:

• lenis (smooth breathing)	˘ lenis acute	◌̂ circumflex asper
• asper (rough breathing)	˘ lenis grave	˘˘ dieresis
˘ acute	˘ asper acute	˘˘ dieresis acute
˘ grave	˘ asper grave	˘˘ dieresis grave
˘ circumflex	˘ circumflex lenis	