

### Exercise 3

## The Alphabet and Pronunciation

Write out and pronounce the Greek letters of the alphabet several times. It is essential to learn how to recognize, write, and pronounce each letter. You cannot continue until you have done so.

α

β

γ

δ

ε

ζ

η

θ

ι

κ

λ

μ

ν

ξ

ο

π

ρ

σ

ς

τ

υ

φ

χ

ψ

ω

### Grammar

1. What are the seven vowels?
  - a.
  - b.
  - c.
  - d.
  - e.
  - f.
  - g.

### 3.4 Breathing marks

Greek has two breathing marks. Every word beginning with a vowel or rho has a breathing mark.

- The **rough** breathing is a  $\text{'}^{\text{h}}$  placed over the first vowel and adds an "h" sound to the word. ὑπέρ is pronounced "huper." Every word that begins with a rho or upsilon takes a rough breathing.
- The **smooth** breathing is a  $\text{'}$  placed over the first vowel and is not pronounced. ἀπόστολος is pronounced "apostolos."

If a word begins with a capital single vowel, the breathing is placed before the vowel (e.g., Ἰσαάκ).

### 3.5 Pronouncing diphthongs

1. A **diphthong** is two vowels that produce one sound. The second vowel is always an ι or an υ. They are pronounced as follows.<sup>11</sup>

<u>αι</u>	as in aisle	αἶρω
<u>ει</u>	as in eight	εἶ
<u>οι</u>	as in oil	οἰκία
<u>αυ</u>	as in sauerkraut	αὐτός
<u>ου</u>	as in soup	οὐδέ
<u>υι</u>	as in suite	υἱός
ευ, ηυ	as in feud <sup>12</sup>	εὐθύς / ηὔξανεν

υι and ηυ are less common than the others.

2. An **improper diphthong** is made up of a vowel and an **iota subscript**. An iota subscript is a small iota written under the vowels α, η, or ω (α, η, ω) and normally is the last letter in a word. This iota has no effect on the pronunciation but is essential for translation, so pay close attention to it.

α ὥρα = *dative case!*  
η γραφῆ  
ω λόγῳ

3. If a word begins with a diphthong, the breathing mark is placed over the second vowel of the diphthong (αιτέω, Αἴγυπτος).
4. In some words you will find two vowels that normally form a diphthong, but in the case of this word do not. To show that these two vowels are pronounced as two separate sounds, a **diaeresis** (¨) is placed over the second vowel.

αι normally forms a diphthong, but in the case of Ἡσαΐας, the diaeresis indicates that αι forms two separate sounds: Ἡ σα ἰ ας. Cf. naïve in English.

Here is how the diphthongs are different in modern Greek.

- αι as "e" in "hen"
- ει as "ee" in "meet"
- οι as "ee" in "meet"
- αυ as "af" or "av"
- ευ as "eff" or "ev"
- υι as the short "i" in "intrigue"



<sup>11</sup> ου is used in Classical Greek, but occurs in the New Testament only in the name Μωϋσῆς where there is always a diaeresis, indicating that it is not a diphthong.

<sup>12</sup> Some suggest that the pronunciation of ηυ is the same as saying "hey you" if you run the words together.

## Exercise 4

# Punctuation and Syllabification

### Syllabification

Divide the following words into syllables. If you are learning the rules, indicate which ones apply.

1. ἀμήν
2. γραφή
3. ἔσχατος
4. καρδία
5. πνεῦμα
6. προφήτης
7. σάββατον
8. ἄγγελος
9. ἄνθρωπος
10. περιπατέω

### Reading

I cannot stress enough how important it is to learn to pronounce the language. After years of teaching Greek I assure you that if you do not learn to pronounce it, you will never master the language. As you are reading, do not worry about the meaning of the words.

Practice reading this selection over and over and over. Read it out loud until you can read it correctly in under 15 minutes. You can hear me read the passage on the website at [www.teknia.com/bbg\\_chapter\\_4](http://www.teknia.com/bbg_chapter_4).