

LESSON SEVEN

ACCENT MARKS, BREATHING MARKS, PUNCTUATION MARKS, SPECIAL PUNCTUATION MARKS, & SPECIAL PRONUNCIATION COMBINATIONS

In this lesson we are going to cover grammar marks that accompany Greek words that express *emphasis*, *stop* or *slow-down* in reading; marks that indicate that a rough-breathing or "H" sound is to be pronounced, as well as special combinations of letters that produce special pronunciations.

NOTE: YOU SHOULD CONTINUE TO PRACTICE LESSON 6 EXERCISE 1 WHILE YOU STUDY THIS LESSON.

PART 1: ACCENT MARKS

An accent mark is a mark that has been placed over a vowel to indicate that stress or emphasis is to be placed on that syllable in the word. These accent marks are already in the Greek text. For now you should become familiar with them; when we get to Lesson 8 they will be pointed out to you as we study the Greek text itself.

There are three (3) accent marks in Greek:

The ACUTE - - - - - (')

The GRAVE - - - - - (`)

The CIRCUMFLEX - - - - - (^) or (~) or (ˆ)

(The circumflex accent has 3 different ways in which it appears in Greek texts.)

EXAMPLES: á à é è í ì ñ ñ ñ

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PART 1: ACCENT MARKS (continued)

The original formation and placing of accents into Greek was to indicate pitch or inflection. The acute accent denoted a rising inflection; the grave accent denoted a falling inflection; and the circumflex accent denoted a rising and falling inflection and is a combination of the acute and grave accents. In today's pronunciation of Koine Greek there is no distinction in pitch or inflection. Each accent denotes where the STRESS or EMPHASIS is to be placed in pronouncing the word.

ACCENT RULES:

#1 - The accent stands over the vowel of a syllable.

EXAMPLES: κόσμος χάριτος φῶς

#2 - The accent stands over the second vowel of a diphthong.

EXAMPLE: θεοῦ

PART 2: BREATHING MARKS

There is no "H" sound in the Greek alphabet. The "H" sound is represented by a rough breathing mark over the letter or vowel. When no "H" sound is to be pronounced, there will be a smooth breathing mark over the letter or vowel.

ROUGH BREATHING MARK:

ϝ

EXAMPLE: ἐν

SMOOTH BREATHING MARK:

ϗ

EXAMPLE: ἐν

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BREATHING MARK RULES:

- #1 - A breathing mark is always placed over a vowel or a diphthong at the beginning of a word.

EXAMPLES: ἐκ ἀληθείας υἱός

- #2 - When a breathing mark is in a word, it will always be placed over a vowel or the second vowel in a diphthong.

EXAMPLES: οἱ αἱμάτων ὀπίσω

- #3 - When a breathing mark and an accent mark stand over the same vowel, the breathing mark is placed first, then the accent mark, except with the circumflex accent which stands over the breathing mark.

EXAMPLES: ἄνθρωπον εἶπον

- #4 - A UPSILON (υ) or a RHO (ρ) at the beginning of a word will always have a rough breathing mark.

EXAMPLES: ῥῆμα ὑβρίσκω

PART 3: PUNCTUATION MARKS

The Greek text, like English, is also punctuated to show when to slow-down and when to stop or raise the voice in the form of a question. There are four (4) punctuation marks that are found in the Greek text.

- 1) The **COMMA** - - - (,) functions the same as the English comma.
- 2) The **PERIOD** - - - (.) functions the same as the English period.
- 3) The **COLON** - - - - (:) functions the same as the English colon and semi-colon.
- 4) The **QUESTION** - (;) functions like the English question mark (?) but looks like the English semi-colon.

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PART 4: SPECIAL PUNCTUATION MARKS

We are going to study three (3) special punctuation marks that are found in the Greek text.

1) The **ELISION**

An ELISION mark is placed at the end of a word when the final vowel of a word is dropped. The final vowel is dropped when the word is followed by a word that begins with a vowel. When a vowel is dropped (or elided), the vowel is replaced by an ELISION mark. The ELISION mark is represented by an apostrophe (').

EXAMPLE: **ἀλλὰ ἐκ** becomes **ἀλλ' ἐκ**

2) The **DIAERESIS**

A DIAERESIS mark (¨) is placed over the second of two vowels in a diphthong to indicate that they form two vowel sounds instead of one.

EXAMPLE: **ἡσαΐας**

3) The **IOTA SUBSCRIPT**

An IOTA SUBSCRIPT is formed when an IOTA (ι) follows a long **α**, **η**, or **ω**. During the development of the Greek language, when this combination occurred, the IOTA (ι) was not pronounced. It was indicated as originally in the text but not pronounced by placing an IOTA SUBSCRIPT under each of these three letters. The letters are still pronounced the same and the IOTA (ι) is not pronounced.

EXAMPLES: **α** **η** **ω**

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PART 5: SPECIAL PRONUNCIATION RULES

COMBINATION LETTERS

In the reading of the Greek New Testament, there are certain letters formed in combination with GAMMA (γ) that produce a special pronunciation. When a GAMMA (γ) comes before another GAMMA (γ), KAPPA (κ), CHI (χ), or XI (ξ), the first GAMMA (γ) forms an "N" sound.

COMBINATION LETTER CHART

γγ = ng

γκ = nk

γχ = nch

γξ = nks

These combination letters will be pointed out and pronounced for you in the reading of the Greek New Testament.

After you review the material in this lesson on accent marks, breathing marks, punctuation marks, special punctuation marks, and special pronunciation combinations, you will be ready to go on to the exercises in this lesson on page 6.

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EXERCISE ONE

PRONUNCIATION EXERCISES

In this exercise, the ACCENT MARKS, BREATHING MARKS, PUNCTUATION MARKS, SPECIAL PUNCTUATION MARKS, and SPECIAL PRONUNCIATION COMBINATIONS will be presented and pronounced for you. You will be taken through once with the pronunciations and explanations presented to you. The second time through you will be asked to respond with the pronunciation of the letter or letters.

Line 1:	λό Fig. 1	όν Fig. 2	πάν Fig. 3	του̇ Fig. 4	φῶς Fig. 5	ὄς Fig. 6
Line 2:	έν Fig. 1	ό Fig. 2	ού Fig. 3	ἦν Fig. 4	αὐ Fig. 5	ὀ Fig. 6
Line 3:	άρ Fig. 1	έ Fig. 2	ού Fig. 3	ἦ Fig. 4	άν Fig. 5	ὀ Fig. 6
Line 4:	ί Fig. 1	εί Fig. 2	ι Fig. 3	έρ Fig. 4	έγ Fig. 5	οί Fig. 6
Line 5:	έξ Fig. 1	οί Fig. 2	ούκ Fig. 3	αί Fig. 4	ές Fig. 5	ὄς Fig. 6
Line 6:	έμ Fig. 1	υί Fig. 2	ών Fig. 3	χῆ Fig. 4	τῶ Fig. 5	ά Fig. 6
Line 7:	ἀλλά Fig. 1	έκ Fig. 2		becomes	ἀλλ' Fig. 3	έκ Fig. 4

After you practice this exercise, you should go on to the presentation of the Greek text of the Gospel of John in Lesson 8. In Exercise 1 of Lesson 8, everything that you have learned in the first seven lessons will be presented to you. In Exercise 2 of Lesson 8, you will be reading the words and complete text of John 1:1-18.

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