The Greek Alphabet

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Letter Upper, lower** | **Name** | **Pronounced** | **When speaking, sounds like** |
| A, α | alpha | AHL-fah | ah |
| Β, β | vita | VEE-tah | the letter **v** |
| Γ, γ | gamma | GHAH-mah | the letter **y** when it comes before e, u, i; otherwise like a soft gargle **gh** |
| Δ, δ | thelta | THEL-tah | hard **th** as in "there" |
| Ε, ε | epsilon | EHP-see-lon | eh |
| Ζ, ζ | zita | ZEE-tah | the letter **z** |
| Η, η | ita | EE-tah | ee |
| Θ, θ | thita | THEE-tah | soft **th** as in "through" |
| Ι, ι | iota | YO-tah | ee |
| Κ, κ | kappa | KAH-pah | the letter **k** |
| Λ, λ | lamtha | LAHM-thah | the letter **l** |
| Μ, μ | mu | mee | the letter **m** |
| Ν, ν | nu | nee | the letter **n** |
| Ξ, ξ | xee | ksee | the letter **x** |
| Ο, ο | omikron | OH-mee-kron | oh |
| Π, π | pi | pee | the letter **p** |
| Ρ, ρ | ro | roh, roe | a rolled **r** |
| Σ, σ, ς | sigma | SEEGH-mah | the letter **s** |
| Τ, τ | tau | tahf | the letter **t** |
| Υ, υ | upsilon | EWP-see-lon | ee |
| Φ, φ | phi | fee | the letter **f** |
| Χ, χ | chi | hee | a light gargly **ch** as in "challah" |
| Ψ, ψ | psi | psee | **ps** as in "chips" |
| Ω, ω | omega | oh-MEH-ghah | somewhere between "awe" and "oh" |

Common Diphthongs

A diphthong is a sound that is formed by the combination of two vowels in a single syllable. The sound starts in one vowel and then moves toward the other. Some examples in English are *coin* and *loud.*This chart outlines some Greek diphthongs.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| ΑΥ, αυ | au | av or af |
| ΕΥ, ευ | eu | ev or ef |
| ΟΥ, ου | ou | oo |
| ΑΙ, αι | ai | eh |