

The Greek Alphabet: Forms, Pronunciations, and Usage

Greek Alphabet Chart

Lowercase	Uppercase	Name	Pronunciation Example
α	Α	Alpha	“ah” as in father
β	Β	Beta	“b” as in ball
γ	Γ	Gamma	“g” as in gift; γγ = “ng”
δ	Δ	Delta	“d” as in dog
ε	Ε	Epsilon	“eh” as in echo
ζ	Ζ	Zeta	“dz” as in kudzu
η	Η	Eta	“ay” as in ate
θ	Θ	Theta	“th” as in thin
ι	Ι	Iota	“ee” as in ski
κ	Κ	Kappa	“k” as in key
λ	Λ	Lambda	“l” as in lock
μ	Μ	Mu	“m” as in mom
ν	Ν	Nu	“n” as in nail
ξ	Ξ	Xi	“ks” as in fox
ο	Ο	Omicron	“aw” as in often
π	Π	Pi	“p” as in pond
ρ	Ρ	Rho	“r” as in rhyme
σ / ς	Σ	Sigma	“s” as in sand
τ	Τ	Tau	“t” as in tap
υ	Υ	Upsilon	“oo” as in boot
φ	Φ	Phi	“ph” as in phone
χ	Χ	Chi	“ch” as in ache
ψ	Ψ	Psi	“ps” as in oops
ω	Ω	Omega	“ōh” as in obey

Additional Alphabet Features

Vowels

Short: α, ε, ι, ο, υ. Long: η, ω. α, ι, υ can be either short or long.

Diphthongs

Diphthong	Pronunciation
αι	“eye” as in aisle
αυ	“ow” as in kraut
ει	“ay” as in freight
ευ	“yew” as in feud
οι	“oi” as in oil
ου	“oo” as in soup
υι	“we” as in suite

Breathing Marks

Smooth: ᾱ = “ah”; Rough: ᾰ = “hah”. Rho (ῥ) takes a rough breathing mark.

Accent Marks

Acute (´), Grave (`), Circumflex (ˆ). They indicate syllable stress and vowel length.

Punctuation Marks

Greek Mark	Modern Equivalent
·	Period (.)
‚	Comma (,)
·	Semicolon (;)
;	Question mark (?)