

Greek Alphabet IV

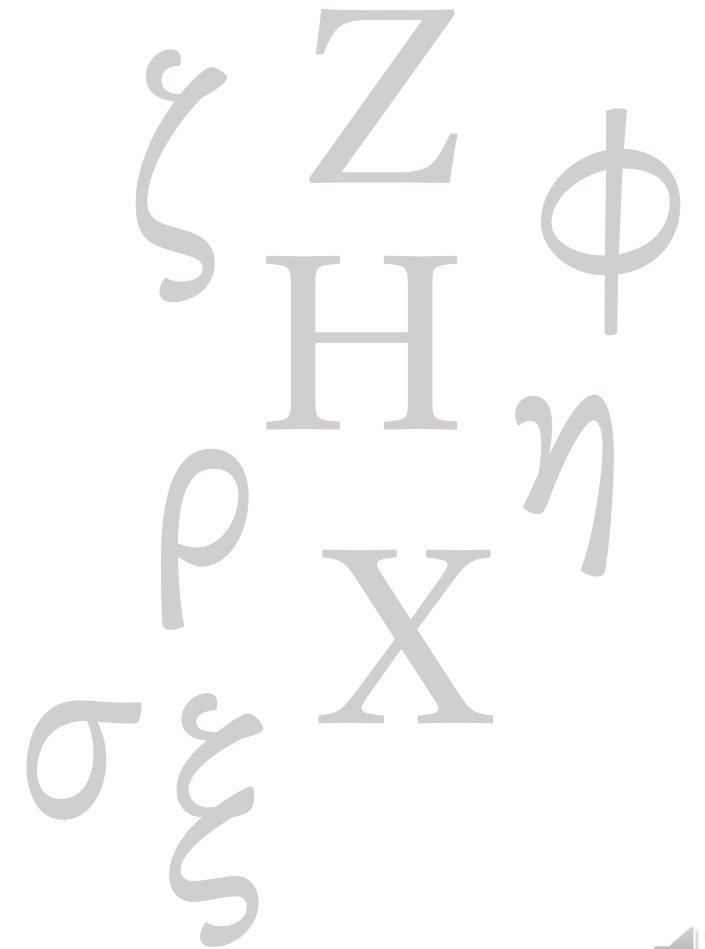
Diphthongs and Punctuation

A lesson for the *Paideia* web-app
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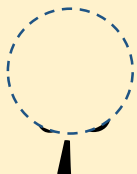
Beyond Individual Letters

- We've now learned all of the Greek alphabet
 - As well as breathing marks and accents
 - How γ reacts to following letters
- Still need to fill in some details
 - How do vowels act when combined?
 - What punctuation is used?



Diphthongs and Punctuation

Monophthong	Diphthongs					
ου	αι	ει	οι	ευ/ηυ	αυ	υι

Iota Subscript


Semicolon	Question Mark	Period	Comma	Quotation Marks	Apostrophe
Άνω τελεία	Έρωτηματικά	Περίοδος	Κομμα	Είσαγωγικά	Άποστροφος
•	;	•	,	<< >>	,



When two vowels go awalking . . .

- In both English and Greek vowels can change their sound when they appear side-by-side
 - These sound changes follow patterns
 - English: "When two vowels go a-walking, the first one does the talking"
 - These patterns are pretty inconsistent in English
 - "meat" and "fear" vs. "pear" and "bear"
 - They are much more consistent in Greek
 - this may be in part because our pronunciation of ancient Greek is artificial
 - but even modern Greek is much more consistent than English



When two vowels go awalking . . .

- Make two distinct sounds (hiatus)
 - "co-ordinate", "prior", "siesta"
 - usually the two vowels belong to different syllables
- Combine to make one simple sound (a "monophthong")
 - "fear", "pear", "poor", etc.
- Combine to make a "diphthong"
 - "soil", "loud" (vs "pour")
 - a slide from one vowel sound to another
 - stay together in the same syllable



Two Separate Sounds

- Default treatment of vowels in Greek

- *ια* (*ee-ah*)

- σκοτια, "darkness" (*skah-tee-ah*)

- *αο* (*ah-aw*)

- λαος, "people" (*lah-aws*)

- *εα* (*e-ah*)

- εαν, "if" (*e-ahn*)



A Rare Monophthong

- Single sound like English "oo"
 - πλουτος, "rich"
 - βουλη, "council"
 - μου, "my"
- Never as in "pout" or "pour"

ου



Diphthongs

- “ah-y” sound
 - Like “igh” in “high” or “fight”
 - Like “y” in “my”
 - Like “ie” in “lie” or “pie”
 - **παις**, “child” (pahys)
 - **ἀδελφαι**, “sisters” (a-delf-ahy)
- Never as in “pail” or “mail”

αι



Diphthongs

- “eh-ee” sound
 - Same sound as letter **η**
 - Like “ay” in “pay”
 - Like “eigh” in “weigh”
 - **ἐγείρω**, “I raise up” (*eh-gay-row*)
- Never “ee” sound as in “ceiling”

ελ



Diphthongs

- "oh-ee" sound
 - Like "oi" in "boil"
 - Like "oy" in "toy"
 - **λοιπος**, "remainder" (*loy-pahs*)
 - **πλοιον**, "boat" (*ploy-ahn*)

oi



Diphthongs

- both diphthongs make the same sound
- "ee-oo" sound
 - Like "ew" in "pew"
 - Like "ue" in "hue"
 - Like "iew" in "view"
 - Like "eu" in "feud"
 - *εὐαγγέλιον*, "gospel" (ew-agg-el-ee-on)

ευ/ηυ



Diphthongs

- “ah-oo” sound
 - Like “ow” in “plow”
 - Like “ou” in “loud”
 - *ἐπαύριον*, “tomorrow” (*ep-ow-ree-on*)
- Never as in “haul” or “applaud”

au



Diphthongs

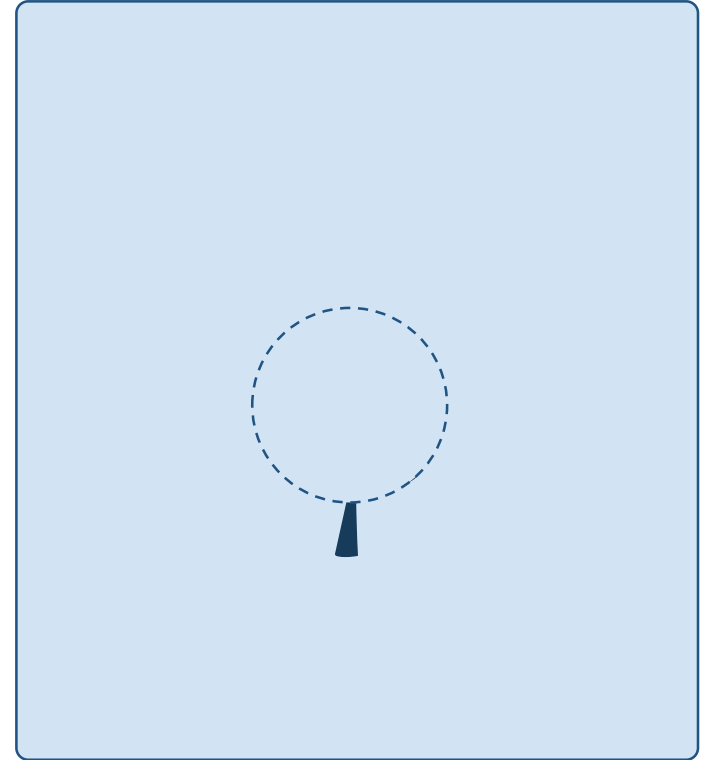
- “wee” sound
 - Like English word “we”
 - Like “wee” in “tween”
 - υῖος, “son” (hwee-ahs)
- Never as in “fluid” or “ruin”

υι



Iota Subscript

- When **ι** shifts below preceding letter
 - Like a small tail
 - Only under three vowels: **α**, **η**, **ω**
- An iota that was no longer pronounced
 - A medieval development in spelling
- In uppercase the iota often spelled normally (**ΑΙ**, **ΗΙ**, **ΩΙ**)
 - still not pronounced when the lowercase would be subscript



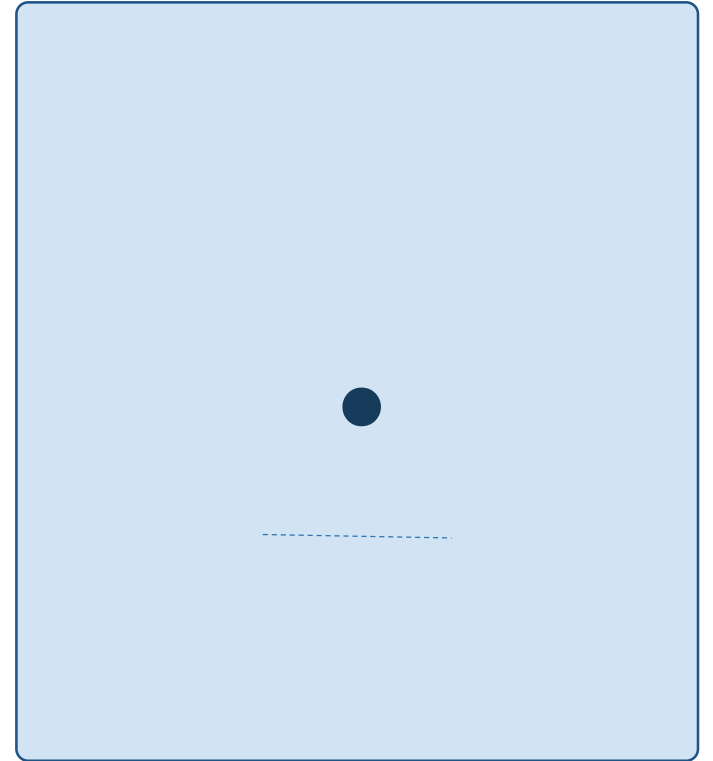
Punctuation Common to English and Greek

- Period (περίοδος)
 - Marks the end of a sentence
- Comma (κομμα)
 - Marks a pause that is not at the end of a sentence
 - Often left out where we would use it
- Both are modern innovations in Greek
 - Not used in ancient or medieval manuscripts



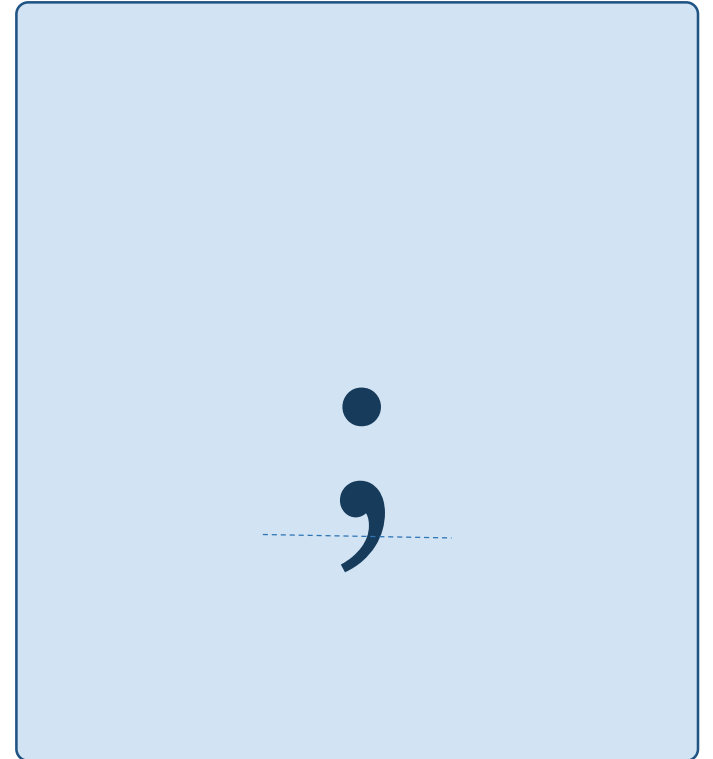
Greek Semicolon

- *άνω τελεια*
- Only punctuation mark in early medieval manuscripts
 - Originally marked a full stop
 - Lower dot introduced to mark pauses like comma or semicolon
- Now like English semicolon
 - Separates complete sentences that are related in sense



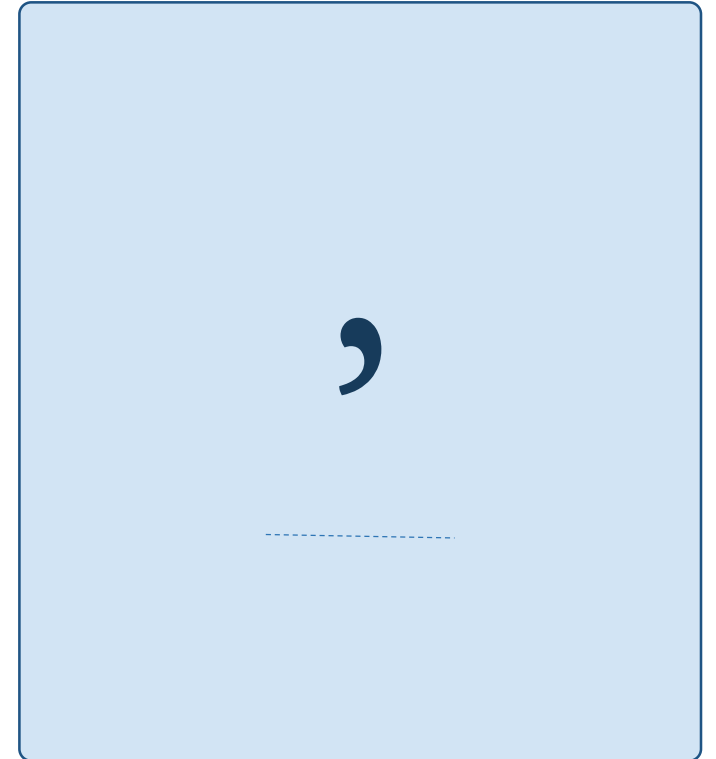
Greek Question Mark

- *ἐροτοματικά*
 - from *ἐρωτάω*, "I ask"
- Looks like an English semicolon
 - But totally different meaning
- Used just like English question mark
 - Placed at the end of a question



Apostrophe

- ἀποστροφος
 - from ἀποστρεφω, "I turn aside, turn away"
- Don't confuse it with smooth breathing mark
 - Appears after a word, not above a letter
- Marks where a final vowel has been dropped from a word
 - preposition ἀπο ("from") often ἀπ'
 - preposition ἐπι ("upon") often ἐπ'



Greek Quotation Marks

- *ἔισαγωγικά*
- Only introduced in modern Greek
 - Ancient and medieval Greek had no quotation marks
- Regular English quotation marks often used in biblical texts
 - But it's good to recognize these



Keep Learning

- You can find more about Greek diphthongs and punctuation in:
 - Mounce, *Basics of Biblical Greek* (3rd edition)
 - The Greek alphabet, Chapter 2

