

Read and Speak Ancient Greek

Course has several sections that belong to one of three parts. Only the first part is almost complete. A substantial portion of the second part has also been completed.



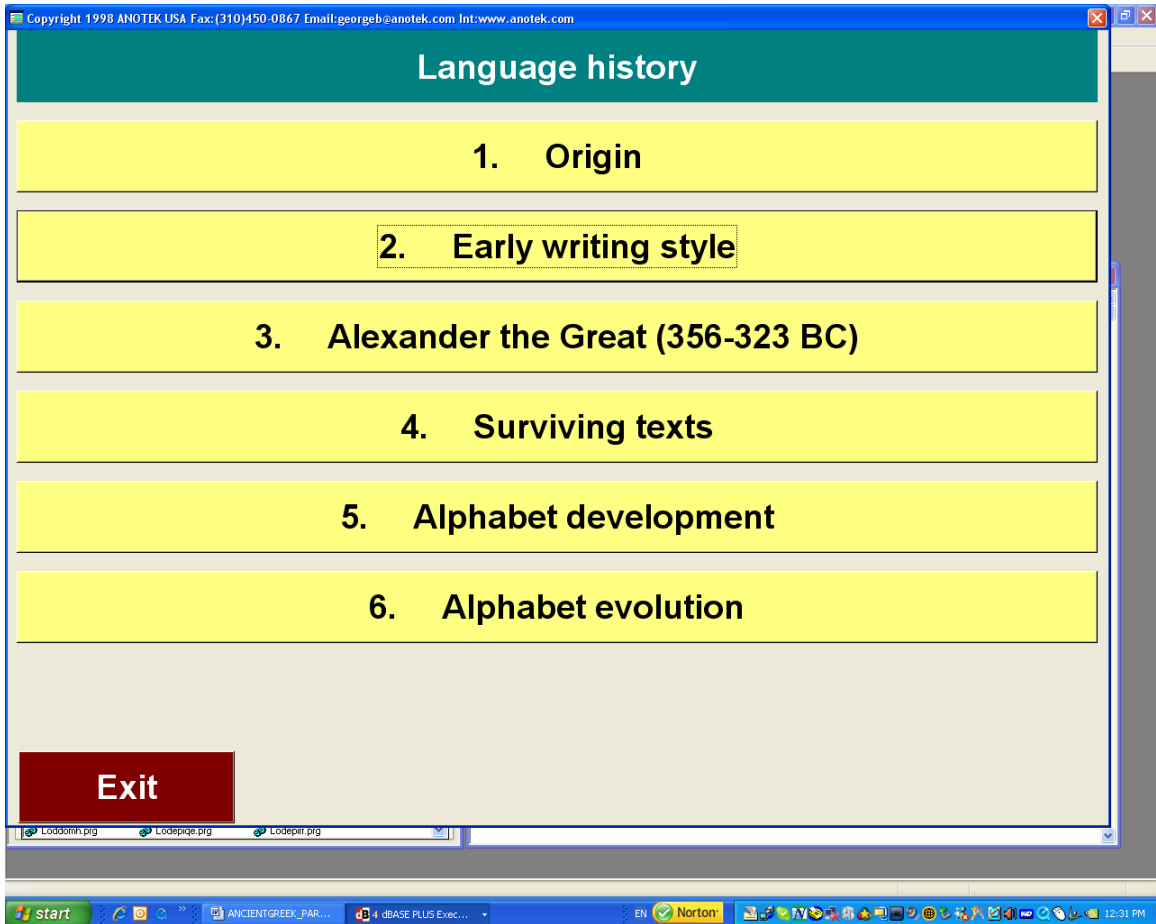
1. First Part

This part contains the sections titled **The Introduction**, **The Alphabet**, **The Vocabulary**, **The Phonetics**, and **The Marks of the Language**.

a. The Introduction

A brief description of the history of the Greek language is provided. The reasons for choosing the Modern Greek pronunciation are explained. Some examples of Ancient Greek in the English language are noted.

A detailed description of the history of the Greek language is given. The history, which is divided along the lines shown in the next image, notes the early Indoeuropean roots, the early writing style, significance of Alexander the Great and the merging of the dialects into a common dialect called Koine or Biblical Greek, usage of techniques that increased the amount of published books, the development of accents and other marks and the use of Koine in surviving texts.



The development of the Greek alphabet is explained in some detail. The most important scripts used prior to the Greek Alphabet are described (Egyptian hieroglyphics, Mesopotamian cuneiform, North-Semitic alphabet-like script). In addition, the Greek Linear B script is noted. Finally, the transmission of the Greek alphabet to Etruscans and then to Romans made the Greek alphabet to be the standard alphabet used in the Western world. The first inscription in Greek letters from an Athenian vase is noted and explained.

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Alphabet development

Prior to the development of the Greek alphabet around 750 BC, there were three major scripts used for writing: (1) the Egyptian hieroglyphics, (2) the Mesopotamian cuneiform, (3) the North Semitic alphabet-like script

1. Egyptian hieroglyphics
2. Mesopotamian cuneiform
3. North Semitic alphabet-like script
4. Greek script - Linear B
5. Greek alphabet development

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The evolution of the Greek alphabet is explained. The major Greek dialects (Ionic, Doric, Attic) used prior to merging into the Koine language are noted and their differences explained. Important aspects of Koine are noted. The evolution of Koine into Modern Greek is described.

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Language development

1. Origin (4500BC-1100BC)
2. Ionic dialect (1100BC-650BC)
3. Doric dialect (900BC-900AD)
4. Attic dialect (700BC-300BC)
5. Koine or Alexandrian (300BC-700AD)
6. Modern Greek (200BC-present)
7. Choice of Pronunciation System

Exit

Preliminary aspects of Koine are briefly introduced in order to help the understanding of sections that follow. Specifically, the breathings, accents, subscript iota, article “the”, arithmetic adjective “one” and the indefinite pronoun “a, someone/something” are described.

b. The Alphabet

The Koine alphabet letters are described and sounded out and exercises are provided. Several additional early letters and characters are also noted. The vowels and diphthongs and their long or short character, either by nature or by position, are noted. Some very important accenting rules are introduced. The consonants and their divisions are also described.

Form

Alphabet and exercises

1. The Greek alphabet
2. Letter names exercise
3. Vowels
4. Consonants
5. Vowel and consonant recognition
6. Learning to make words
7. Spelling
8. Penmanship

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Greek Alphabet

	Letter	Name		Letter Name		Letter	Name	
01	α A	ἄλφα,	09	ι I	ἰῶτα,	17	ρ P	ῥῶ,
02	β B	βῆτα,	10	κ K	κάππα,	18	σ ς Σ	σίγμα,
03	γ Γ	γάμμα,	11	λ Λ	λάμβδα,	19	τ T	ταῦ,
04	δ Δ	δέλτα,	12	μ M	μῦ,	20	υ Υ	ῦ ψιλόν,
05	ε E	ἔ ψιλόν,	13	ν N	νῦ,	21	φ Φ	φῖ,
06	ζ Z	ζῆτα,	14	ξ Ξ	ξῖ,	22	χ X	χῖ,
07	η H	ἦτα,	15	ο O	ὀ μικρόν,	23	ψ Ψ	ψῖ,
08	θ Θ	θῆτα,	16	π Π	πί,	24	ω Ω	ὦ μέγα,

This letter is a **vowel** and sounds like **a in art**

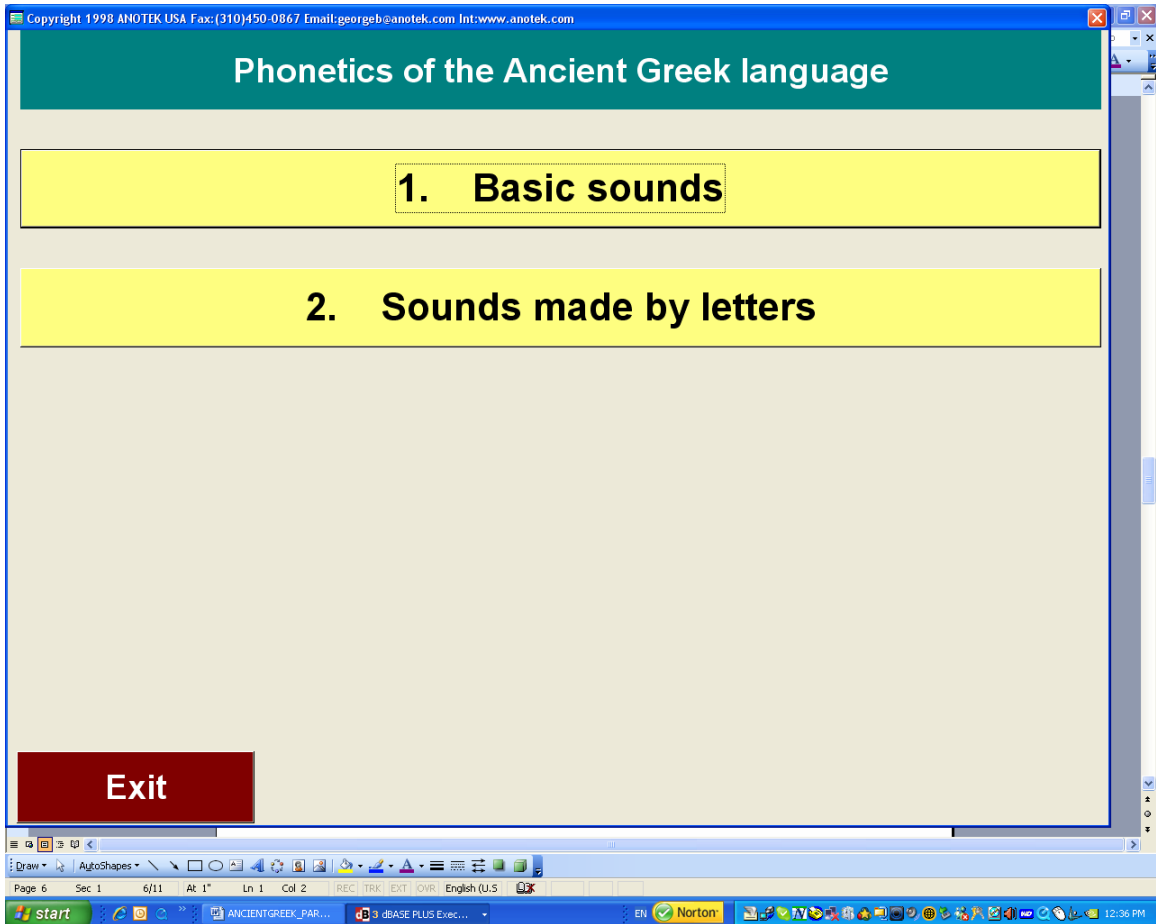
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3. The Phonetics

This section notes the basic sounds of Koine and the sounds of the letter combinations.



Each basic sound is documented with the letter, or letter combination, that makes the sound and a Greek word that contains the sound along with its image.

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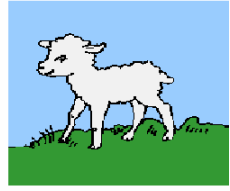
Greek Letter Combination

α
β
γ
γκ, γγ
δ
ε
ζ
θ
ι
κ
λ
μ
μπ
ν
ντ

Exit

Basic Sounds

Example word



ἀμνός

lamb

Sounds Like

a in art

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The letters and letter combinations are listed and sounded out. Example words and their syllabification are provided.

Greek Letter Combination

- α
- α̂
- αι̂
- αι̃
- αῑ
- αι, αι̂
- αϋ
- αυ, αυ̂ (αβ)
- αυ, αυ̂ (αφ)
- β
- γ
- γκ, γγ

Sounds

Sounds Like

a in art

Exit

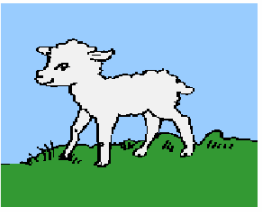
Examples

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SOUND SYLLABIFICATION

Greek word	α μνος
▶ ἄμνός,	↓
ἀστήρ,	α-μνος
ἄπιον,	↓
ἄρκτος,	ἄμνός,
	↓
	ὁ ἄμνός,
	the lamb,



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4. Marks of the Language

The Marks of the Greek language are explained and exercises are provided. As background we provide an inscription from the island of Samos that shows the early writing style. Punctuation and spelling marks are noted. The two breathings (smooth and rough breathing) are explained and their development is described. The accents (acute, circumflex and grave), dieresis, accenting rules, enclitics, proclitics, persistent and recessive accents are explained and illustrated.

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Marks of the Language

The marks

1. Exercises on long-by-position
2. Exercises on words with consonants
3. Exercises on long/short vowels and accents
4. Exercises on quantity and accents
5. Exercises on breathings and accents
6. Exercises on enclitics and proclitics
7. Exercises on persistent accenting
8. Exercises on recessive accenting

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background

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The marks	τὰ σημεῖα,
Background	
1. the punctuation marks,	τὰ σημεῖα στίξεως,
2. the spelling marks,	τὰ ὀρθογραφικὰ σημεῖα,
3. the accents and dieresis,	οἱ τόνοι καὶ ἡ διαίρεσις,
4. the breathings,	τὰ πνεύματα,

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Use of Capital Letters

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