

Key

1. The standard Greek alphabet, roughly transliterated to Roman characters.

A α	alpha	a	
B β	beta	b	
Γ γ	gamma	g	
Δ δ	delta	d	
E ε	epsilon	e	[<i>e-psilon</i> , ‘simple E’ (vs. the homophonous diphthong <i>ei</i>)]
Z ζ	zeta	z	
H η	eta	ē	
Θ θ	theta	th	
I ι	iota	i	
K κ	kappa	k	
Λ λ	lambda	l	
M μ	mu	m	
N ν	nu	n	
Ξ ξ	xi	x	
O ο	omicron	o	[<i>o-micron</i> , ‘little O’]
Π π	pi	p	
P ρ	rho	r	
Σ σ ς	sigma	s	
T τ	tau	t	
Υ υ	upsilon	u, y	[<i>u-psilon</i> , ‘simple U’ (vs. the late homophonous <i>oi</i>)]
Φ φ	phi	ph	
X χ	khi	kh	
Ψ ψ	psi	ps	
Ω ω	omega	ō	[<i>o-mega</i> , ‘long O’]

2. Koine (‘common’) Greek, the Greek of the New Testament, underwent much phonetic and grammatical change during its heyday (roughly 300 BCE to 400 CE), at the end of which time it was much closer in pronunciation to modern Greek than to the Greek of the Classical period. The pronunciation of all pre-modern Greek languages is a topic of frequent debate; it doesn’t matter a whole lot how you pronounce it for our purposes. For period specifics, see Sidney’s classic *Vox Graeca* (1987), and Kantor’s new *Short Guide to the Pronunciation of Koine Greek* (2023); for a broad overview, see Horrocks’ *Greek: A History of the Language and its Speakers* (1997).

3. PIE = Proto-Indo-European, a reconstructed common ancestor of languages belonging to the Indo-European family. There is no direct attestation of PIE; rather, roots and meanings are reconstructed by linguists by comparative study of related daughter languages. An asterisk indicates a hypothesized reconstruction based on similarities in meaning and morphology in words from languages which evolved from PIE. For (a highly simplified example), the PIE root **weyk-*, “to enter, settle; homestead, village” is the reconstructed ancestor of Proto-Hellenic **wóikos*, which is itself a reconstructed precursor to Greek οἶκος *oikos*, “house.” The cognate Latin *vicus*, “village, hamlet” is preceded by the reconstructed Proto-Italic **weikos*, which itself derives from the same PIE root **weyk-*.
4. New Testament translations are (at times modified) from the New International Version. Other translations are by L. Dehr.

Some bibliography

Reference works:

A Greek-English Lexicon (Oxford, eds. Liddell, Scott, & Jones) = LSJ

Encyclopedia of Ancient Christianity (Oxford, ed. di Berardino)

Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature (Chicago, eds. Bauer, Arndt, Gingrich, and Danker) = BAGD/BDAG

Oxford Classical Dictionary (ed. Whitmarsh) = OCD

Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy (eds. E.N. Zalta, U. Nodelmann) = SEP

Secondary scholarship [not necessarily endorsed!]:

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Links

LSJ, et al.: <https://logeion.uchicago.edu/lexidium>

OCD: <https://oxfordre.com/classics/> [subscription required]

SEP: <https://plato.stanford.edu/index.html>