The Greek Alphabet

Small letters	Transliteration	Capitals	Name	Sound
α	a	A	alpha	short "a" as in "f<u>a</u>ther"
β	b	B	beta	"b" as in "<u>b</u>oy"
γ	g	Γ	gamma	"g" as in "<u>g</u>o"
δ	d	Δ	delta	"d" as in "<u>d</u>id"
ε	e	E	epsilon	"e" as in "g<u>e</u>t"
ζ	z	Z	zeta	"dz" or "ds" as in "a<u>ds</u>"
η	ē	H	eta	long "a" as in "d<u>a</u>te," or "e" as in "h<u>ey</u>!"
θ	th	Θ	theta	"th" as in "<u>th</u>ing"
ι	i	I	iota	"i" as in "h<u>i</u>t" or "ee" as in "meet"
κ	k	K	kappa	"k" as in "<u>k</u>it"
λ	l	Λ	lambda	"l" as in "<u>l</u>ife"
μ	m	M	mu	"m" as in "<u>m</u>other"
ν	N	N	nu	"n" as in "<u>n</u>ow"
ξ	xs	Ξ	xi	"x" or "xs" as in "e<u>x</u>it"
ο	o	O	omicron	short "o" as in "n<u>o</u>t"
π	p	Π	pi	"p" as in "<u>p</u>an"
ρ	r	P	rho	"r" as in "<u>r</u>un"
σ, ς	s	Σ	sigma	"s" as in "<u>s</u>and"
				The first form σ is used in the middle of a word and the second form ς is used at the end of a word.
τ	t	T	tau	"t" as in "<u>t</u>op"
υ	u / y	Y	upsilon	"yu" as in "<u>Y</u>ugoslavia" or short "i" as in "h<u>i</u>t"
φ	ph	Φ	phi	"f" as in "<u>f</u>un," or "ph" as in "<u>ph</u>ilosophy"
χ	ch	X	chi	"ch" as in German "Ach!"
ψ	ps	Ψ	psi	"ps" as in "po<u>ps</u>icle"
ω	ō	Ω	omega	long "o" as in "n<u>o</u>te"

NOTES:

1.In the sixteenth century, Erasmus introduced a pronunciation that makes it easier to learn the language, because it makes a clear distinction in sound between all the letters. This has become

the most common pronunciation in academic circles, and is the one used in this table. The question of pronunciation still stirs debate, since others prefer the pronunciation according to modern Greek. See "Guide to Greek Pronunciation Conventions," 17 May 2007 <http://www.biblicalgreek.org/links/pronunciation.html> and "History of the Greek Language," 17 May 2007 <http://www.elia.org.gr/pages.fds?pagecode=14.02.04&langid=2>.

2. There are no fixed rules to write Greek transliterations, and there are a variety of versions.

3. Some Greek textbooks recommend using the modern pronunciation of the υ (upsilon), which is an "i" as in "hit." Others prefer to pronounce it as "yu" to distinguish it more easily from the ι (iota). The υ was probably pronounced like "yu" in ancient Greek, and was possibly changed to "i" around the time of the New Testament, but there is no certainty. See William Sanford LaSor, *Handbook of New Testament Greek* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1973).