

Introduction

Welcome

This is the start of an online textbook to help you learn Greek. It is a work in progress, chapters may be added, renumbered, or otherwise edited over the next few years. The cost of publishing a Greek textbook, either commercially or privately, has escalated so much that I have decided to make this book available free on the InterNet, with the aim of helping anyone who wishes to learn to read Greek - particularly the Greek New Testament.

It is designed primarily for use by my Greek students, both in-class and online.

It may be used freely by other teachers, students, home-schoolers, and self-teachers.

Teachers may adapt and edit the material to suit the needs of their classes.

It may not be used for commercial purposes.

I retain the copyright and all rights to this work.

I would be grateful for any constructive ideas and suggestions from other teachers and students.

Rationale

The main purpose of learning New Testament Greek is to be able to read and understand the Greek New Testament. I have tried a variety of textbooks over the years that I have taught Greek, and I have found that the strictly grammatical-analytical methods employed by many textbooks do not encourage students to develop facility or to enjoy reading Greek. On the other hand, the few "inductive" or "living language" textbooks tend to skimp on the grammar and leave students without a firm grasp of the essentials.

I have struggled with this for over 10 years, and have written many handouts and supplements to go with whatever textbook I happened to be trying at the time, but still came up with a patch-work of bits and pieces from various books.

So I have decided to write a complete textbook which will attempt to make reading Greek enjoyable but will also be firmly rooted in the grammar of the language. It is my hope that this will lead to students reading the Greek New Testament as part of their regular daily study of Scripture even before they finish the textbook.

What you will need

- a. The book is available as .pdf files on the InterNet. So you will need a computer with access to the InterNet, a printer, and software such as Adobe Reader™ to read and print the pages.
- b. The font I am using is Times New Roman Unicode, with the Greek polytonic characters. You will need to have a polytonic Greek Unicode font installed on your computer in order to see and print the Greek texts correctly. Some polytonic Greek Unicode fonts may be downloaded from my font pages.
- c. You will need some 3-ring binders for the pages and for your work-sheets and homeworks.
- d. You will need a copy of the Greek New Testament with a dictionary bound in the back. This is preferable to a Greek New Testament and a separate Dictionary. The dictionary will always be to hand when you do your reading, and the dictionary which is bound in the back of the New Testament contains irregular verb forms which some other dictionaries do not include. Do not use an interlinear - you will learn much faster and gain confidence if you try without the "training wheels".

Organization

The book is organized into chapters. Each chapter deals with one main point of grammar.

A typical chapter contains

- a short review of previous material if necessary, with an introduction to the new material;
- the paradigm for the grammar to be covered;
- short practice sentences in Greek and English;
- longer Greek sentences for reading and translation, with a key available for home-schoolers;
- a short Greek text to be copied by hand;
- an extended Greek passage for reading and translation;
- a vocabulary of words to learn.

It is recommended that students spend half-an-hour to an hour each day, Monday to Friday, in review, reading, and learning new material. Several chapters may be completed in one week of study.