

VANGUARD GREEK
PART 2

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INTRODUCTION

This is the second series of Greek lessons. If the student has not learned the Greek alphabet already (see Part 1) then that part must be completed before this one.

WHEN TO BEGIN

In general this set of Greek lessons should be taught later in the child's sixth year, but before the seventh birthday.

PREPARATION

There are three Greek alphabet posters in this book. One has the capital and small letters together, one has capital letters only, and one has small letters only. Photocopy all three of these and post them on the schoolroom wall.

Be sure you know each new letter ahead of time so you can teach your child. (A complete list of all of the Greek letters, names and sounds is found at the end of Part 1.)

FIRST DAY

Remind the child that he learned the Greek alphabet several months ago. Now it is time to learn it again. It will be easy this time, because he has already learned the Greek alphabet once before.

On the first day see how much of the Greek alphabet the child can recite from memory. Have the child point at each letter as he names the letter. The child may only remember alpha and beta, or may be able to get most of the way through the alphabet. It does not matter how much or how little he remembers, but it is exciting to the child to see how much he can remember.

After the child has gone as far through the Greek alphabet as his memory allows, note the letter the child became stuck on. (For example, perhaps the child remembered alpha, beta and gamma, but could not remember delta. Remember the letter delta, because that is where you are going to begin teaching.) Go back to the beginning of the alphabet and have the child give the sound of each letter of the alphabet that he remembers, up to the one he got stuck on. (In our example, the child gives the sounds of alpha, beta and gamma).

Have the child learn the letter he became stuck on. (In our example, have the child learn the name and sound of the letter delta.)

Finish the day's Greek class by having the child recite the portion of the alphabet that he knows, up to and including the letter that was just learned. Have him give the sound of the letter he just learned.

The first day of Greek class may take only one minute. That is fine.

SECOND AND SUBSEQUENT DAYS

Begin where the child left off yesterday by having the child recite the alphabet up to the letter that was learned yesterday. Be sure to have the child point to each letter as he names it. Go through a second time and have the child give the sound of each letter as he points to each one.

Once this review is done, learn the next letter in the Greek alphabet. Teach the child the name and sound of the letter. If the child is able to learn two new letters each day, teach two new letters each day.

End the class by having the child recite the entire Greek alphabet that he knows so far, up to the letter(s) learned today. Be sure the child points to and looks at each letter as he names it, so that the visual image of the letter will be combined with the name of the letter he is pronouncing.

Keep switching between the three Greek letter posters so that the child learns from each one.

WHEN THE ENTIRE GREEK ALPHABET IS LEARNED

Eventually the child will be able to recite the entire Greek alphabet. On that day, it is time to review the vowels. Remind the student that English has five vowels, while Greek has seven vowels. See if the child can remember which letters are vowels. If the child remembers all seven, superb! If not, remind the child which are vowels. The Greek vowels are listed in Part 1 under the heading "Greek Vowels."

On the day after the child can name and identify all of the letters of the Greek alphabet, begin learning the Greek and English spellings of each letter. These are found on a sheet at the end of this part. Please photocopy the sheet.

The day after the child is able to point to and identify all of the letters of the Greek alphabet, the classes change a little. The new pattern is to begin the class by having the child review the entire Greek alphabet, identify which seven Greek letters are vowels, then learn a new letter name from the list of Greek letter names.

Show the child the list of the names of the Greek letters, written in Greek letters and in English letters. (This list is located at the end of this part.) On the first day, have the child spend about one minute reading the names of the Greek letters, in Greek. The next and each subsequent day, have him continue down the list, reading for about a minute each day. When all of the names in the Greek column are read, move over to the English column and continue there.

Many times the child will "cheat" by reading the English column when he is supposed to be reading the Greek column. To avoid this, fold the page of Greek letter names in half, top to bottom, so that the child can only see the Greek column or the English column at one time.

Eventually all of the Greek letter names will be learned. Then randomly point out names for the child to read. Have him say the name he is reading, and then point to that letter on one of the Greek letter posters. Concentrate on the ones he has trouble with.

ENDING

The Part 2 Greek class is complete when the child can do the following: (1) Knows the name and sound of each letter of the Greek alphabet, (2) knows that there are seven Greek vowels, and knows which ones they are, (3) knows and can read the name of each Greek letter in Greek and in English. It is best to review for an additional day or two before ending Part 2. It is intended that all of this should be done before the child's seventh birthday, so that Greek class does not interfere with the beginning of the Age 7 curriculum, but is fresh in the child's mind when he begins the Age 7 curriculum.

When the student has completed Greek Part 2, it is best to post the list of Greek letter names (written in Greek and English) on the schoolroom wall next to the Greek letters, so the child can look at the list if desired.

OPTIONAL

You can make flash cards with the names of the Greek letters in Greek on one side and the English spelling of the Greek letter name on the other side. I found that children learn just as well in the method described above, but if your children would benefit from flash cards you can do that.

αλφα

βητα

γαμμα

δελτα

εψιλον

ζητα

ητα

θητα

ιωτα

καππα

λαμβδα

μυ

νυ

ξι

ομικρον

πι

ρο

σιγμα

ταυ

υψιλον

φι

χι

ψι

ωμεγα

alpha

beta

gamma

delta

epsilon

zeta

eta

theta

iota

kappa

lambda

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omicron

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sigma

tau

upsilon

phi

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psi

omega