

VANGUARD GREEK  
PART 3

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INTRODUCTION

This is the third series of Greek lessons. If the student has not completed the first and second parts in this book, these must be done before this part is begun.

What follows are guidelines. The purpose is for the student to learn all of the material taught. The instructor may alter the guidelines below as needed to accomplish this purpose.

WHEN TO BEGIN

This series of lessons is best taught after the child has begun the Vanguard French lessons. The gender and adjectival grammar taught toward the beginning of the Vanguard French lessons is necessary to understanding this set of Greek lessons.

If following the Vanguard curriculum, this set of Greek lessons is timed to be taught somewhere late in the child's seventh year of age, before the child's eighth birthday. The age is not that important, but this set of Greek lessons should not be taught before the child has completed Beyond the English Horizon as part of the Vanguard French course.

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. If these are not already posted on the schoolroom wall, photocopy all three of these and post them the schoolroom wall. Also, the names of the Greek letters, written in Greek and English, should be available.

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, and a summary table is located in the beginning of this book.)

FIRST DAY

Remind the child that he learned the Greek alphabet before. Now it is time to review it. It will be easy this time, because he has already learned the Greek alphabet twice 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 as his memory allows through the Greek alphabet, 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. Ask the child to give the sound of the letter that was learned yesterday.

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, three, or four new letters each day, teach that many 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.

Each day, keep switching between the three Greek letter posters so that the child becomes accustomed to each one.

#### WHEN THE ENTIRE GREEK ALPHABET IS LEARNED

Eventually the child will be able to recite the entire Greek alphabet. Review the Greek vowels at that time. On the next day, begin reviewing the Greek and English spellings of each letter. (Photocopy the list from the end of Part 2.) This may take one day or several days, depending on how much the student remembers from last year.

If you need to, 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. This prevents the child from "cheating" by reading the English if he cannot read the Greek.

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. Do this random letter review for one or two days.

## NEW VOCABULARY

Now the child is ready to learn some basic Greek vocabulary words. Have the child read Lesson 1 (Diacritic Marks: Breathings). The student should read aloud to you, which may make for an unusually long Greek class for that day. On the next day, have the child read aloud Lesson 2. The child then reads one new page (lesson) each day.

The child should pronounce all Greek words and not mumble over them. Look back at the Greek alphabet if necessary to remind oneself of the sound of each letter. Having the child read the Greek words will be slow and tedious, but it is necessary in order to learn and to become better at reading Greek.

On subsequent days the child learns one new Greek word each day by reading one new page each day. Each day will begin with the student reading the review list at the top of each page. If you would like, you can make a game of quizzing the child about the words on the day's review list, but do not spend large amounts of time doing this. Greek class is short and sweet each day.

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LESSON 1  
DIACRITIC MARKS: BREATHINGS

You have done well. You have learned the entire Greek alphabet. You have also learned how to read the names of the Greek letters in English and in Greek. Now you are ready to learn some more Greek words.

First, you need to know some diacritic marks.

DIACRITIC MARKS

As you have learned French, you have had to learn about those marks above or below some of the French letters. Those marks are called diacritic marks. They help us know how to pronounce the letter.

Greek has diacritic marks as well. Today we are going to learn about a certain type of Greek diacritic mark known as a breathing mark.

BREATHINGS

Erasmian Greek has two *breathings*, a *rough breathing* and a *smooth breathing*. These marks are placed above the first letter of a Greek word if the Greek word begins with a vowel.

A smooth breathing looks like a comma above the letter. I don't know why they bother to put it there. All it means is to pronounce the letter normally. A rough breathing mark, on the other hand, means something special.

Did you notice that the Greek alphabet does not have the letter *h* in it? In order to make the letter *h* at the beginning of a word, the Greek alphabet puts a rough breathing mark above the first letter of the word.

Let's use the English word *and* as an example. If we put a smooth breathing mark above the *a*, then the *a* is pronounced normally.

˘and = and

But, if we put a rough breathing mark above the first letter of *and*, it means that we pronounce the word like it has an *h* in front: *hand*.

˘and = hand

I am often confused as to which mark is the rough breathing mark and which is the smooth breathing mark. One way I remember is that the rough breathing mark looks like a tiny *h* with the hump of the *h* all squished down. Maybe that will help you remember as well.

Another way to remember is that a comma is normal in English, so you pronounce the word normally (without an *h* in front). A backward comma is not normal in English, so when you see one you have to do something that is not normal: you place an *h* sound in front of the word.

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LESSON 2  
HELLENIC

Yesterday you learned two Greek diacritic marks. Diacritic marks are marks placed above or below a letter to tell us how to pronounce the letter.

Yesterday you learned about breathing marks. You learned that Greek breathing marks are placed above the first letter of a Greek word if the Greek word begins with a vowel. A *smooth breathing* mark looks like a comma and tells us to pronounce the letter normally. A *rough breathing* mark looks like a backward comma and tells us to put an *h* in front of the word. The example we learned yesterday was the word *and*:

ἄnd = and  
ἄnd = hand

Now let's learn a Greek word that uses a breathing mark.

HELLENIC

Greeks do not call themselves Greeks. The word *Greek* comes from Latin. The Romans are the ones who called the Greeks the Greeks. Here is the Greek word for what the Greeks call themselves:

Ἑλλῆν - a Greek man, a Grecian

Notice the rough breathing mark in front of the epsilon. This means to say the word as though there is an *h* in front of the word. The Greek word Ἑλλῆν sounds like *Hellain*.

When you see Greek words that are typed in a textbook (such as this one) it is hard to put the diacritic marks above the capital letters. The diacritic marks are often placed in front of the capital letters when you see Greek that is typed.

Here is another Greek word which comes from Ἑλλην:

Ἑλληνικός – Hellenic, Greek (adjective)

This is a singular adjective form of the word Greek. It means that something is Greek. For example, the Greek alphabet is Greek. Like this:

ὁ Ἑλληνικός ἀλφάβητος - The Greek alphabet.  
*the Greek alphabet*

For now, all you need to remember is that Ἑλληνικός means *Greek*.

By the way, did you notice that the word ἀλφάβητος means *alphabet*? (It has a smooth breathing mark over the first alpha, which means that you say “alphabaytos” and not “halphabaytos.”) Our English word *alphabet* comes from the Greek word ἀλφάβητος.

When we learn the English alphabet, sometimes people referred to it as “learning our ABC’s.” That is how it is in Greek as well. When learning the Greek alphabet, it is like learning our AB’s. In Greek that is learning our *alpha beta*’s. When we put *alpha* and *beta* together, we get *alphabet* – alphabet!

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LESSON 3  
ΒΙΒΛΟΣ

REVIEW

Ἑλληνικος  
ἄλφαβητος

Hellenic, Greek (adjective)  
alphabet

BIBLE

The Greek word for book is βιβλος. In classical Greek times, Greek books were written on scrolls. A scroll is a long paper that is written on and then rolled up into the shape of a tube. Thus, the Greek word βιβλος means a book or a scroll.

The Bible is a book. Our English word Bible comes from the Greek word βιβλος. The Bible is not just a book, it is *the* book, it is *the* βιβλος, it is *the* Bible.

There are other English words that come from βιβλος. For example, a *bibliography* is a list of books. In French, a *bibliothèque* is a library.

Βιβλος is a book or a scroll. (A fuller explanation is given in Part 8, Lesson 16.)

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LESSON 4  
ΛΟΓΟΣ

REVIEW

Ἑλληνικός	Hellenic, Greek (adj.)
ἄλφαβητος	alphabet
βιβλος	book (or scroll)

-LOGY

Λογος is the next Greek word we will learn together. Λογος means *word*. When there is more than one *word*, we say there are *words*. When there is more than one λογος, the Greeks say there are λογοι. Λογοι is the plural of λογος.

Λογοι means much more in Greek than *words* does in English, though. Are you ready for this? Λογοι mean words, a speech, a teaching, a discourse, a story, a debate, a rumor, or a statement. Λογοι can be used in many ways!

Λογος and λογοι are used in many ways in English. For example, a *log* book is a book that you write words in to keep a record of what is happening. The English word *log* often has extra letters on the end, to make *logue*. From this we get words such as *prologue* (words that come before), *postlogue* (words that come after), *epilogue* (words that are an overview), and *dialogue* (a conversation, negotiation, et cetera).

Λογοι is often put on the end of other words in English, in the form of *-logy*. When we do this, it means that it is words, a teaching, or knowledge about a subject. For example, *biology* means teaching about or knowledge about life. Here are just a few other English words that end in *-logy*: *theology*, *zoology*, *geology*, *neurology*, *anthropology*, *archæology*, *cardiology*, the list goes on and on. All of these are fields of science. They are fields of knowledge. They are fields that have a discourse (teaching) on a subject, they have λογοι on a subject.

Λογος means word.

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LESSON 5  
ΘΕΟΣ

REVIEW

Ἑλληνικος	Hellenic, Greek (adj.)
ἄλφαβητος	alphabet
βιβλος	book (or scroll)
λογος	word (discourse, statement, etc.)

THEO-

Θεος is the Greek word for God.

The ancient Greeks worshiped many gods. They made temples and statues to these gods. In Athens there was once a statue to the unknown θεος, the unknown god. When the apostle Paul saw this, he used it as an opportunity to teach the Athenians about God. (Acts 17, beginning in verse 15) Many modern Greeks are Christians now.

In English we place *theo-* in front of a word to mean *God*. For example, *theology* is the study of God.

Do you see where the word *theology* comes from? *Theo* (Θεος) and *logy* (λογοι) together make *theology* (Θεολογοι). *Theology* is a discourse (a teaching) about God. We say that *theology* is the study of God.

Θεος means God.

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LESSON 6  
ἌΝΘΡΩΠΟΣ

REVIEW

Ἑλληνικος	Hellenic, Greek (adj.)
ἄλφαβητος	alphabet
βιβλος	book (or scroll)
λογος	word (discourse, statement, etc.)
θεος	God

ANTHROPO-

Ἄνθρωπος has a smooth breathing mark in front of it, so it is pronounced normally, with no *h* in front. Ἄνθρωπος is the Greek word for a person, a man, a human being.

There are many English words that come from ἄνθρωπος. If something is *anthropoid*, it is like a human being. *Anthropology* (ἄνθρωπος + λογος) is the study of people.

Ἄνθρωπος means man, person, human being.

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LESSON 7  
ΧΡΟΝΟΣ

REVIEW

Ἑλληνικός	Hellenic, Greek (adj.)
ἄλφαβητος	alphabet
βιβλος	book (or scroll)
λογος	word (discourse, statement, etc.)
θεος	God
ἄνθρωπος	man, person, human being

CHRONO-

Χρονος is difficult to pronounce because it begins with the Greek letter χ (χι or chi). Χρονος is the Greek word for time or a season.

Χρονος is used in English. In English it is in the form *chrono*. For example, if we say something is *chronic*, that means it has been happening for a long time. A *chronic problem* is a problem that has been a problem for quite a while.

A *chronicle* is a record of the timing (dates) of events in history. In the Bible, the books of 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Chronicles are history books for Israel and Judah. They give time (dates) by the years of each king's reign.

Many times in English we combine *chrono* (χρονος) with *λογοι*. This makes two different English words: *chronology* and *chronologue*. Both are a record or a study of the dates and times that events happened. For example, a *chronology* of history would study the dates that various events happened in history.

A *chronograph* writes down the times that things happened. A *chronometer* measures time. Clocks and watches are *chronometers*.

Χρονος is the Greek word for time.

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LESSON 8  
ΝΙΚΗ

REVIEW

Ἑλληνικος	Hellenic, Greek (adj.)
ἄλφαβητος	alphabet
βιβλος	book (or scroll)
λογος	word (discourse, statement, etc.)
θεος	God
ἄνθρωπος	man, person, human being
χρονος	time

NIKE

Here is a fun one: Νικη. The English form, *nike*, is used as a brand of sports shoes. It is also the name of a type of U.S. military rocket. But what does νικη mean? Νικη (Nike) means victory!

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LESSON 9  
ΓΕΩΡΓΟΣ

REVIEW

Ἑλληνικός	Hellenic, Greek (adj.)
ἄλφαβητος	alphabet
βιβλος	book (or scroll)
λογος	word (discourse, statement, etc.)
θεος	God
ἄνθρωπος	man, person, human being
χρονος	time
νικη	victory

GEORGE

Is your name George? The name George comes directly from the Greek word γεωργος. Γεωργος, and George, mean *farmer*. In the United States, γεωργος would mean *farmer* or *rancher*. If your name is Georgina, Georgie, or Georgiana, this means *farmer's wife*, or a female farmer.

What about the state of Georgia in the United States? Georgia is named after King George, king of the United Kingdom. Georgia was a royal colony. However, since the English name "George" comes from the Greek word for a farmer, and Georgia is named after King George, then the name Georgia is related to the Greek word for a farmer.

In English we do not use the word γεωργος much, except as the name George. When we talk about farmers and farming, English usually borrows the Latin word *agricola*, which means *farmer*. From Latin we get such English words as *agriculture* and *agrarian*.

Γεωργος means farmer or a rancher.

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LESSON 10  
GENDER OF GREEK WORDS

REVIEW

Ἑλληνικος	Hellenic, Greek (adj.)
ἄλφαβητος	alphabet
βιβλος	book (or scroll)
λογος	word (discourse, statement, etc.)
θεος	God
ἄνθρωπος	man, person, human being
χρονος	time
νικη	victory
γεωργος	farmer (or rancher)

Let's look again at the list of Greek words that you already know. Did you notice that all of the Greek words in the list above end in -ος except for νικη? In Greek, the masculine words usually end in -ος.

The feminine Greek words usually end in -η. Νικη ends in -η. Νικη is feminine.

Looking at the end of a word to see if it is masculine or feminine works almost every time, but it does not work every time. The word βιβλος looks like a masculine word because it ends in -ος, but it is not. Βιβλος is a feminine word! You must memorize βιβλος as an exception to the rule. You must memorize the fact that βιβλος is feminine.

If you remember from French, you must change the adjective to fit the noun. If the noun is masculine you must use a masculine adjective. If the noun is feminine, you must use the feminine form of the adjective.

One of the words in the above list is an adjective. It is the word Ἑλληνικος. This is the masculine form of the word. It also has two other forms of the word, a feminine form and a neuter form. To change the word from the masculine form to the feminine form, we

remove the masculine -ος ending and add the feminine -η ending. Like this: Ἑλληνικός → Ἑλληνική. Did you see how that worked? Did you see that the end of the word Ἑλληνικός changed from -ος to -η to make it a feminine adjective?

For example, a Greek god is Ἑλληνικός θεός, while a Greek victory would be Ἑλληνική νίκη. We must change the end of the adjective to match the noun it is describing.

Now review the list of Greek words again. This time, have someone give you the English word (such as book or time) and see if you can remember the Greek word. Also, say whether the Greek word is masculine or feminine.

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LESSON 11  
REVIEW

Ἑλληνικός	Hellenic, Greek ( <i>m. adj.</i> )
βιβλος	book (or scroll) ( <i>f.</i> )
νίκη	victory ( <i>f.</i> )
ἄνθρωπος	man, person, human being ( <i>m.</i> )
Ἑλληνική	Hellenic, Greek ( <i>f. adj.</i> )
λογος	word (discourse, statement, etc.) ( <i>m.</i> )
θεος	God ( <i>m.</i> )
χρονος	time ( <i>m.</i> )
ἄλφαβητος	alphabet ( <i>m.</i> )
γεωργος	farmer (or rancher) ( <i>m.</i> )

Review the list until the child knows it well. Part 3 is completed when the student can do the following with the words in the list above:

1. The student should be able to read each Greek word in the list above and pronounce each correctly.

2. Know the difference between a rough and smooth breathing mark, and know what each means.

3. Know the English definition of each Greek word in the list above after reading the word. Also, know the English definition of each Greek word above after hearing (but not reading) the Greek word.

4. Given the English definition, the student should be able to give the Greek word that corresponds to that definition.

5. Know which Greek word ending is masculine (-ος), which is feminine (-η). Identify the gender of each Greek word in the word list above. Be sure the child recognizes βιβλος as feminine, and an exception to the rule that words ending in -ος are masculine.