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I. INTRODUCTION

Students regularly ask, "What Internet resources do you recommend for learning Greek?" My answer always is, "None." After a dramatic pause enjoying their quizzical stares, I then explain, "Nothing substitutes for a live instructor in a real classroom." If you do any extensive research on the web, you will notice what I have. Two crucial assumptions almost always are made on every Greek website:

- (1) *Almost every website assumes the use of an existing textbook.*
- (2) *Almost every website assumes some type of live presentation in conjunction with the existing grammar text and web material.*

Thus, nothing on the web is meant as a "self-contained" Greek course that you are assumed to navigate and survive by yourself. By taking Greek under a live instructor in a real classroom, you already have made the smartest move academically for which no Internet website pretends to substitute and almost all assume.

Still, students ask, “I need help. I need a tutor. Is there anything out there on the web that can be of assistance?” Probably so. First, however, before we go plunging into recommending websites for your consideration, we need to recognize that the observation above, that Greek websites assume a particular textbook, has serious and important implications germane to your purpose as a beginning Greek student. We shall mention at least four of these implications.

(1) Presentation order. A major implication about an assumed textbook is *order of presentation*. If almost all websites assume the use of a particular textbook, the material will be organized and presented according to the outline of the given textbook. This organization of material and order of presentation will not match what you have in your own textbook, because no two Greek textbooks handle the material in the same way. Thus, trying to review on the web a particular set of grammar points in your particular chapter of your textbook will be difficult if not impossible due to an inability to get the material in your particular chapter of your text to match the website presentation. This problem is not user-friendly and often not overcome by slick Java graphics and streaming multimedia.

(2) Vocabulary acquisition. Another implication is the hidden problem of *vocabulary acquisition*. Grammars build vocabulary with differing lists per chapter. The problem is, all discussion of grammatical points in a given textbook assumes the vocabulary acquired up to that point. Thus, a discussion will have Greek words on the website that you have not encountered yet in your own grammar. You will have difficulty, or even be at a total loss, to follow the discussion of some points. This problem of vocabulary acquisition is a hidden reef not charted on your web map as you try to sail along a Greek grammar website.

(3) Pedagogical variation. A third implication is that conventions of grammar instruction encoded in particular grammar texts can vary widely. Using multiple textbooks (the one on the web; the one in class) will create all kinds of pedagogical variations that the neophyte student will find confusing, distracting, and even disconcerting. One website will argue for Modern Greek pronunciation. Another will stay with the traditional academic pronunciation. One website will present the noun inflections in the tradition patterns of theme vowels plus endings. Another will reduce the noun inflections to endings alone. One website will emphasize Greek accents and rules for their proper use. Another will ignore them entirely. These are only the minor variations!

(4) Grammar mistakes. No one is perfect. We all evidence the state of education we have been able to achieve at this point in our lives within our circumstances and our means. However, some errors in grammatical understanding and presentation can be egregious. We should be well aware of the problem of using the word “punctiliar” for describing the kind of action of the aorist tense. We should be well aware of the problem of describing certain Greek middle verbs as “deponent,” as if that description is an actual grammatical category. Yet, some websites preserve and pass on these type errors and misunderstandings and others. The student using the web is vulnerable to these shortcomings.

These type problems, by the way, are not limited exclusively to Internet Greek help. They would be true also of your various CD-ROM offerings and Greek computer programs as well. Most of these electronic offerings assume a given textbook, and most assume they are supplementing a live instructor in a real class.

II. INTERNET RESOURCES

With the above caveats in mind, what do I recommend for beginning Greek students for help on the web? Well, I extensively researched the issue of Greek on the web in the fall of 2003, and I summarized and annotated some of the major websites at that time. The results of that survey are posted here:

<http://homepage.mac.com/glstevens/NetResources/NetResHome.htm>

Most of those observations still apply today some three years later. Some websites have evolved, some have added more material, and some have improved. Some have gone defunct. We do have a few new sites, and you may find others, but none is really distinctive from the list already compiled. As always with the web, some of the hyperlinks have changed. However, often you can find the new server without too much trouble with the information I have included. (Where does that author teach? Has his or her school changed their web server address? Etc.)

“That’s great, doc. Thanks for all your hard work. Lots of information there and all that, but what about a short list? What about your top picks?”

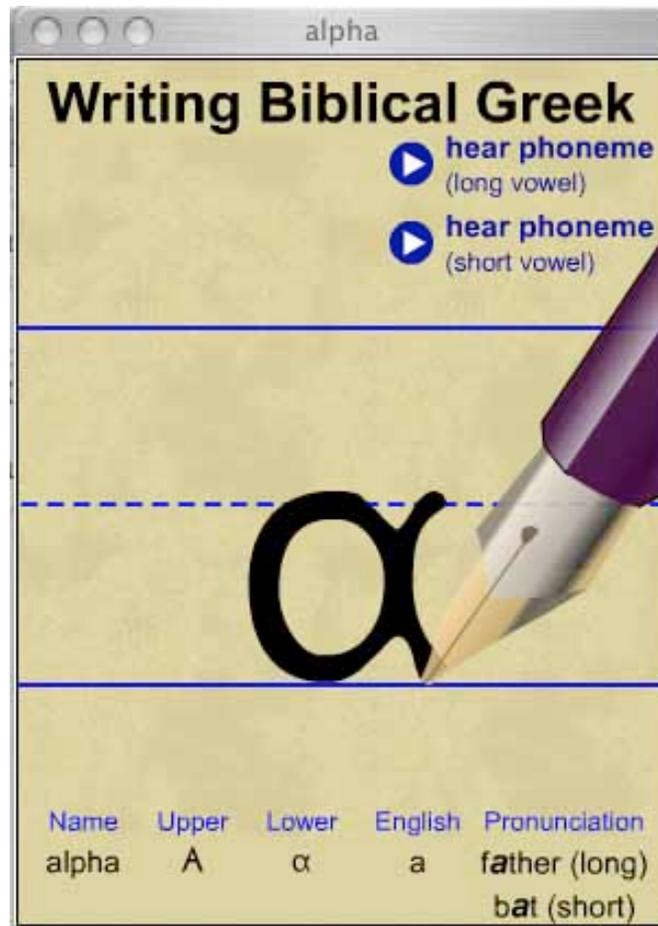
OK. Let me give you a quick list of my top favorites. This list is a condensed summary of the material I have posted at the link above. I

have organized the summary in the three basic categories of the alphabet, vocabulary, and grammar.

A. RESOURCES—THE GREEK ALPHABET

a. *Alphabet: Wade Bibb's Greek Alphabet*

<http://religion.cumberlandcollege.edu/biblang/bibgreek/greek/letters.htm>



Name	Upper	Lower	English	Pronunciation
alpha	Α	α	a	father (long) bat (short)

Part of Cumberland College's Biblical Language Lab website offering both Hebrew and Greek, the Biblical Greek pages were developed by Dr. Wade Bibb of Carson-Newman College on a grant from the Appalachian College Association. The material on writing Greek is the best on the web, uncharacteristically better than anything else on the entire site. These dynamic, Java enhanced files, artfully constructed, and including audio, are the best on the web.

b. Alphabet: William Ramey's Learn NT Greek

<http://www.inthebeginning.org/ntgreek/alphabet/alpha.htm>

Alpha **A a**



- Alpha (ἄλφα)
- Beta (βῆτα)
- Gamma (γάμμα)
- Delta (δέλτα)
- Epsilon (ἒ ψιλόν)
- Zeta (ζῆτα)
- Eta (ἦτα)
- Theta (θῆτα)
- Iota (ἰῶτα)
- Kappa (κάππα)
- Lambda (λάμβδα)
- Mu (μῦ)
- Nu (νῦ)
- Xsi (ἒϊ)
- Omikron (ὀ μικρόν)

Ἄλφα
ἄλφα



< ahl-fah >

InTheBeginning.org





[Home](#) | [NTGreek](#)

<< PREVIOUS PAGE

This website is sponsored by two Dallas Theological Seminary graduates, William Ramey and John Sweigart. Both use "Dr." in front of their names on the website, but these doctorates are honorary only. Ramey, in fact, is an installer of fire extinguishers for Grinnel Fire Protection Services, and Sweigart is a Presbyterian pastor serving in Arkansas. Their Greek material, however, is solid. Part of a Greek grammar course available online, the animated alphabet files with pronunciation particularly are nicely done. The audio is encoded as MP3 files and requires QuickTime, RealAudio, or other MP3 player. The SPionic Greek font is required to view the Greek properly (free download). Caveats: The alphabet link loads a little slowly. Also, the animated .gif files progress a little slowly for my tastes. If you click the audio icon, a new blank window comes up that takes up the entire screen, hiding the main alphabet window. Further, you get a new window every single time you click the audio icon, even for the same letter you already have listened to the audio—a little cumbersome and annoying having to dismiss all these redundant audio windows all the time.

c. *Alphabet: Tony Larsson's Paidagogos—The First Taste of Greek*
<http://www.cling.gu.se/~cl8tlars/greek/ped/PedEng.html>



PAIDAGOGOS - THE FIRST TASTE OF GREEK

Welcome!

In ancient Greece, a 'Paidagogos' (meaning 'child-leader' = pedagogue) was a slave whose main task was to make sure the children got to school properly without going astray.

And that is what this program is meant for: to be a stepping-stone for you who stand at the threshold of the Greek language, casting curious and longing glances at the treasures inside.

You will get a fun and easy introduction to the Greek alphabet, as you make your way through the ten levels toward the final exam: phrases straight from the original Greek text of the New Testament.

And you will marvel at the number of words you recognize from English.

Final test at once OK

Problems or questions?
If this page isn't enough, drop me a mail: tony.larsson@cling.gu.se.
[What am I supposed to do?](#)

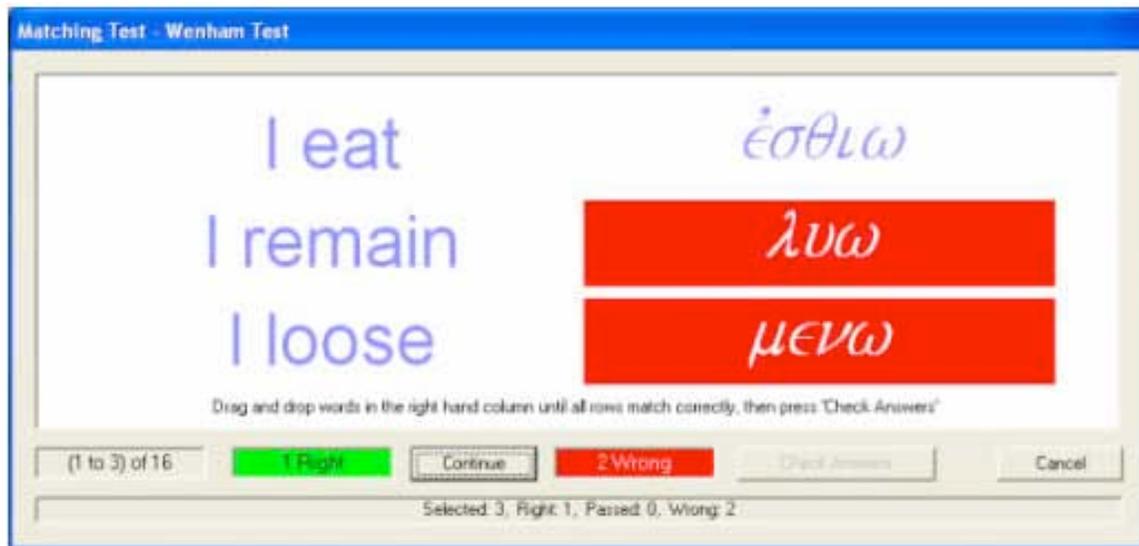
Tony Larsson has written a nice, interactive introduction to the Greek alphabet that teaches recognition of the Greek letters quite well. Larsson has no fancy colors or graphics, but functionally, the program is surprisingly effective. Transliteration associations are used with scoring right and wrong answers until a perfect performance allows one to progress to the next level up to the tenth and final level. You can download a Windows version of the program to run locally on your computer without having to be connected to the Internet.

B. RESOURCES—GREEK VOCABULARY

Windows:

a. *Vocabulary: Karl R. B. Jones's VocabWorks*

<http://www.aireville.fsnet.co.uk/vocabworks/index.htm>



An innovative, sophisticated vocabulary flashcard system, Windows only, by Karl R. B. Jones, parish administrator of St. Marks Church, Utley, UK. Mr. Jones has incorporated testing filters to set up each test, along with creative, multiple methods of testing (standard, scrolling, multiple choice, matching, pictorial prompt). Pre-made sets already are available for some existing Greek grammars (Stevens, Wenham, Dobson, Mounce), with others promised. Users can customize their own vocabulary sets. Greek is not the only language offered either. Hebrew, Aramaic, and other languages can be set up with this system. This program perhaps is the most flexible, versatile software available on the net for vocabulary review, and freeware to boot! Though a lot are out there, this one beats them all, hands down. Many thanks to Delio Delrio for compiling the Stevens database, available as "VocabWorksSTEVENS.vcb," and the tests as "VocabWorksSTEVENS.tst," in the folder "Greek" at:

<http://homepage.mac.com/glstevens/FileSharing2.html>

Macintosh:

b. Vocabulary: Bill Mounce's Teknia Language Tools—FlashWorks

<http://www.teknia.com/index.php?page=tlmac>

Teknia Language Tools: FlashWorks

Session Get Mix | Auto Manual | Previous Wrong Right Next

ἄγω

[ἄγων], ἄξω, ἄγαγον, -, -, ἄχθην

I lead, bring, arrest
(Eng: synagogue, demagogue)

Specifics

Chapter: 17 Difficulty: 5 (difficult) Allow FlashWorks to set the difficulty of this word automatically
Frequency: 69 Type: Verb

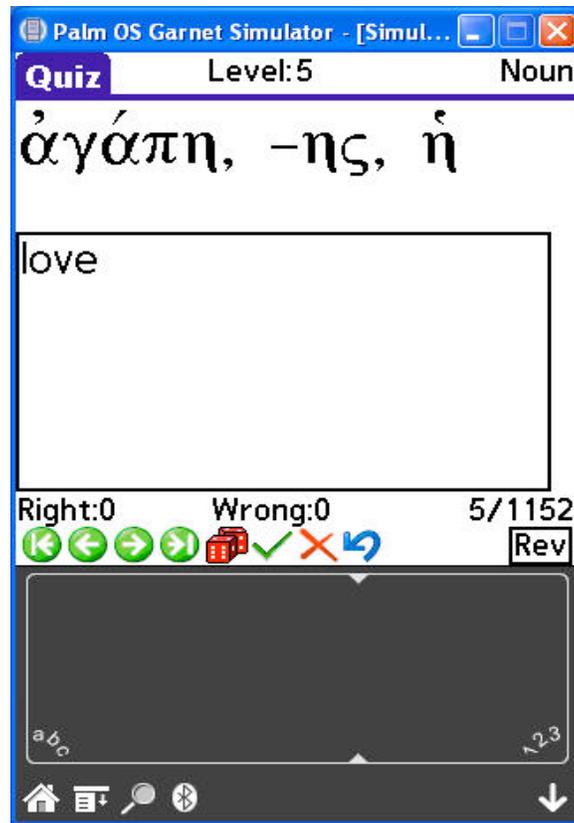
This extensive site augments all the Zondervan publications by Bill Mounce. Included are Mounce's tools for vocabulary review and verb parsing connected to his publications, available for both Windows and Mac. Very clean, well designed, and flexible. Mounce finally has updated the vocabulary software to allow customizable databases. I have compiled a Stevens database, "FlashWorksSTEVENS.vcb," including English derivatives, which can be downloaded here (2.4 MB):

<http://homepage.mac.com/glstevens/FileSharing2.html>

Palm OS:

c. Vocabulary: Jamie Macleod's MiniFlash, Scholars Edition (\$18.95)

<http://store2.esellerate.net/store/catalog.aspx?s=STR639343716&pc>



Jamie Macleod has provided a Palm OS (3.3 to 5.1) Greek and Hebrew flash card system. He also has added Latin and Aramaic. The Greek uses Mounce's TekniaGreek font mappings. The Greek has full diacriticals and the Hebrew has vowel pointings. The program even is customizable: you can add your own new Greek words or even change the glosses to words. Very nice. The software is available at Macleod's SouthPaw Solutions website. I have compiled a Stevens database that is available for free on the MiniFlash site here:

<http://www.telusplanet.net/public/spaw/downloads.htm>

C. GREEK GRAMMAR

a. Grammar: Wade Bibb's Biblical Greek

http://religion.cumberlandcollege.edu/biblang/bibgreek/Tense_formation.htm

Formation of the First Passive Active Indicative

ε	λυ	θ	η	μεν
Augment	Verb stem	Tense formative (tense sign)	Thematic or linking vowel	Secondary active ending

Place your mouse over one of the verb components to see a detailed explanation.

ἑλύθημεν

We were loosed, we were destroyed

Replay movie

End movie

Part of Cumberland College's Biblical Language Lab website offering both Hebrew and Greek, the Biblical Greek pages were developed by Dr. Wade Bibb of Carson-Newman College on a grant from the Appalachian College Association. While the website itself overall can be a little hard to navigate, this particular material on verb tense formation is nicely done. The Java files are color-coded. Each element of formation is a hotspot that offers a popup action connected to cursor movement. The popup provides additional description of that element.

b. Grammar: Donald Mastronarde's Ancient Greek Tutorials

http://socrates.berkeley.edu/~ancgreek/ancient_greek_start.html

Verb Drill
(Unicode)

Ancient Greek
Tutorials Home

λαμβάνει

Drill for Unit
8

Show Answer after:
2 tries

Instructions

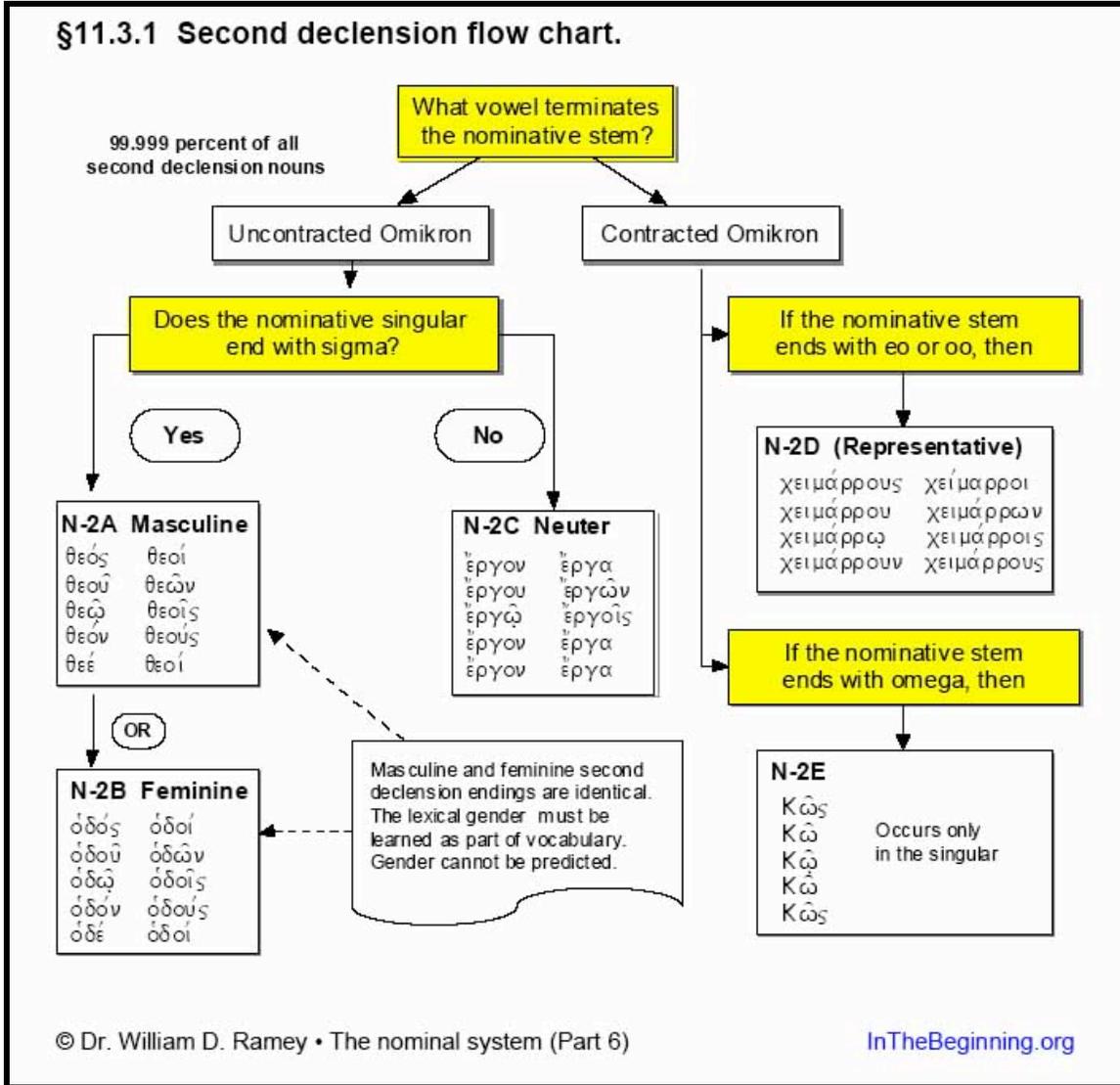
[Go to Random Drill](#)
[Go to Drill by Form-Type](#)

NEXT	1st PP	All PPs	DEFINITION	PARADIGM
------	--------	---------	------------	----------

FORM TYPE	FINITE	INFINITIVE	PARTICIPLE	
PERSON	NUMBER	TENSE	VOICE	MOOD
	SINGULAR	PRESENT	ACTIVE	INDICATIVE
THIRD				

The Ancient Greek Tutorial site is sponsored by the highly respected Department of Classics at the University of California, Berkeley. The project itself is the work of Professor Donald Mastronarde and the Berkeley Language Center. A CD-ROM of the site is available for both Windows and Mac. The material is based on Mastronarde's textbook, *Introduction to Attic Greek* (University of California Press, Berkeley and Los Angeles, 1993). While based on Attic Greek, the material is still very helpful for New Testament Greek. The exercises are interactive and cleanly presented, and the paradigms particularly are well done and easily accessible. One can practice in multiple areas, not just vocabulary, including pronunciation, accentuation, principal parts, vocabulary, verb drills, and noun drills. This site is very good for overall review of Greek grammar and vocabulary.

c. Grammar: William Ramey’s Learn NT Greek
<http://www.inthebeginning.org/>



This Greek grammar course is in the process of development, offered free online by two Dallas Theological Seminary graduates, William Ramey and John Sweigart. Both use “Dr.” in front of their names on the website, but these doctorates are honorary only. Ramey, in fact, is an installer of fire extinguishers for Grinnel Fire Protection Services, and Sweigart is a Presbyterian pastor serving in Arkansas. Their Greek material, however, is solid. All lessons, exercises, and answer keys are downloadable pdf files. The website is nicely laid out, user-friendly, and easily navigated. The pdf files are excellent, cleanly formatted,

and quite useable. Adobe Reader 6.0 and an active connection to the Internet are required to access audio links in the pdf files. The audio is encoded as MP3 files and requires QuickTime, RealAudio, or other MP3 player. The SPionic Greek font is required to view the Greek properly (free download).

d. Grammar: Jeff Smelser's NT Greek

<http://www.ntgreek.net>

[Overview](#)

[Course I](#)

[Course II](#)

[Course III](#)

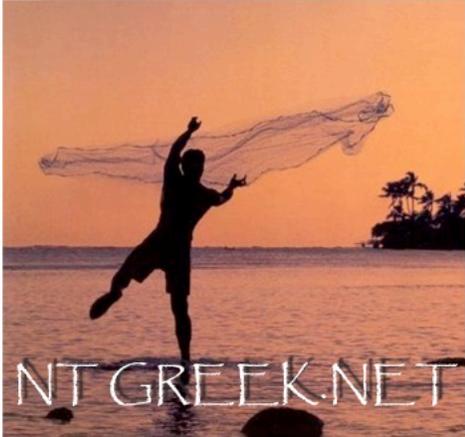
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If you live in northern Virginia, you can enroll in face-to-face courses from NTGreek.net. [Details](#)

QuickMem Greek

Darren Twa has created a very nice "flash card" program for students of New Testament Greek. Download it [here!](#)

[Greek Text, New Testament & Septuagint](#)

Purchase the **Key to Exercises** for use with **New Testament Greek, A Beginning and Intermediate Grammar** by James Allen Hewett

[Order BibleWorks 7](#)



Other Sites of Interest

[Greek New Testament](#)

[Septuagint](#)

[Concordance](#)

[Extra Biblical Writings](#)

[LSJ lexicon](#)

[Smyth's Grammar](#)

[Dictionary of Greek and Roman Antiquities](#)

[Textual Criticism, Manuscripts](#)

Jeff Smelser is pastor of Centreville Church of Christ in the northern Virginia side of the metro Washington DC area. He studied Greek at Florida College and has continued to pursue Greek study during his ministry. He has helped laypersons in Bible classes and other settings learn Greek for Bible study, out of which Smelser created an online course, not yet complete, based on the grammar by James A. Hewett (*New Testament Greek: A Beginning and Intermediate Grammar*, Hendrickson, 1986). You can learn online, or you may register officially (for a fee) and receive e-mail feedback. The free Unicode font, Gentium, is used. Audio files are included for pronunciation, and an online vocabulary drill with flashcards includes audio. This site is a comprehensive effort, well done, nicely formatted, easily navigated, and a fine contribution to web Greek. However, all the vocabulary and grammar is ordered and presented according to the Hewett text.

e. Grammar: Bill Mounce's Summary Lectures

http://www.biblicaltraining.org/classes/greek/greek_f.html

The screenshot displays a video player interface for a lecture. The main content area shows the Greek word **χαίρειν** (Chairein) in a stylized font, with the first two syllables in red and the rest in black. Below the text is a large, hand-drawn red smiley face. The video player controls at the bottom indicate a duration of 25 minutes, 50 seconds and a 'Hello' button. The left sidebar contains a navigation menu with links to various sections of the course, including 'Greek Home', 'Greeting from Dr. Mounce', 'Class orientation', 'Introduction', and 'Nouns'.

Bill Mounce has uploaded QuickTime files of lectures made in the academic year 2000-2001 as he taught elementary Greek from his Zondervan publication, *The Basics of Biblical Greek*, at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. Lecture audio is accompanied by a few graphic slides that change as the lecture progresses. These files are recorded well and the graphics help visually. Since any lecture can be accessed directly, and its content is spelled out in the chapter title, students can find and coordinate the Mounce lecture content with any particular topic being covered in their own grammar for additional insight. Caveat: Mounce uses a non-traditional approach to the noun endings, emphasizing the primitive endings without the theme vowel. Students will have to adjust to this approach, which has both advantages and disadvantages. The lectures are based upon the second edition of the text, in which Mounce has responded to some criticism of his order and sequence of material. The first edition student will want to be aware that some material in the second edition has been shifted around to different places from the first edition, and verbs are brought in earlier in the process.

f. Grammar: Herbert Weir Smyth's Greek Grammar (Perseus)

<http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/cgi-bin/ptext?doc=Perseus%3Atext%3A1999.04.0007&layout=&loc=1&query=toc>

The screenshot shows the Perseus website interface. At the top, there are navigation links for 'Perseus · Tufts' and a list of collections: Classics, Papyri, Renaissance, London, California, Upper Midwest, Chesapeake, Boyle, and Tufts History. Below this is a search bar and a 'Configure display' link. The main content area is titled 'Herbert Weir Smyth, A Greek Grammar for Colleges' and 'Part IV: Syntax: THE VERB: VOICES: THE TENSES'. A progress bar indicates the current position in the text is marked in red. A 'Table of Contents' link and a 'Go to' input field with the number '1852' are visible. The text on the page discusses the 'STAGE OF ACTION' and provides examples of verb forms in Greek, such as 'graphô', 'peithô', 'anthei', 'egraphon', 'epeithon', 'ênthê', 'grapsô', 'basileusei', 'gegrapha epistolên', 'ênthêke', 'egegraphê epistolên', 'tethnêxei', 'egrapsa', 'epeisa', and 'ebasileuse'.

This is the full text of Smyth's classic handbook reference grammar on Classical Greek. The coverage is extensive, accurate, and sufficient to answer even detailed questions about Greek grammar. Because of the overall similarities between Classical and Hellenistic Greek, this grammar is a tremendous online resource for Greek grammar in general. (Note: Perseus sometimes takes a while to load.)