Pronunciation, Syllabification, Punctuation and Intro to Nouns Lesson Notes

**Vocabulary**

* Iota subscript: A tiny ι that sometimes appears under a vowel
* Syllabification: how to divide words into syllables (Sound groups)
* Diphthong: two vowels pronounced as a unit with one sound
* Breathing Marks: marks above initial vowels or rho’s that tell you whether or not to add an “h” sound.

**Pronunciation (pgs 9-10)**

* Letters are pronounced like the initial sound in their name.
* γαμμα nasal: when followed by γ, κ, χ, or ξ gamma is pronounced like an “n”
  + E.g. ἀγγελος – *angelos –* angel

Breathing marks:

* + Rough ἁ
  + Smooth ἀ
* Only appear over vowels or ρ’s that begin a word
* Rough:
  + Opens right
  + Looks like a tiny “c”
  + Makes a hard “h” sound
* Smooth:
  + Opens left
  + Looks like a tiny backwards “c”
  + Does not change pronunciation
* Is essential to the spelling of a word

Diphthongs:

* A diphthong is two vowels that produce one sound
  + E.g. should, ointment, aisle
* 8 Greek Diphthongs: αι ει οι υι αυ ευ ου ηυ
* Pronounce diphthongs like the two separate letters “smushed” together
* Improper Diphthongs/Iota subscripts:
  + Some diphthongs formed with an iota are pronounced as if there is no diphthong. The *meaning* is still unique, but the pronunciation is the same as if the iota were absent.
  + ᾳ ῃ ῳ = usually seen at the end of a word

**Syllabification (pgs 14-15)**

* Greek syllabifies the same way English does.
* Simply sounding out words will tell you the syllables.
* The “Clap” method
* 1 Syllable per vowel/diphthong.

Examples

* ἄγγελος ἄγ γε λος
* ἀμήν ἀ μήν
* ἄνθρωπος ἄν θρω πος
* ἔσχατος ἔσ χα τος

**Punctuation (Pg 13)**

* 4 punctuation characters in Greek.
  + Comma “,”
  + period “.”
  + semi-colon “.”
  + question mark “;”
* Apostrophe: indicates a final vowel has been dropped for smoother reading.
  + ἀπο ἐμου > ἀπ᾽ἐμου
* Diaeresis: indicates that what looks like a diphthong should be pronounced as two separate vowels
  + E.g. naïve or Ἠσαϊας
* 3 accents
  + Acute ά
  + Grave ὰ
  + Circumflex ᾶ ᾶ
* Accents used to indicate a specific type of pronunciation (up or down).
* Nowadays, simply stress the syllable with the accent.
  + ἄγγελος (not ἀγγέλος nor ἀγγελός)

**Intro to Nouns (Pgs 22-26)**

Inflection

* Inflection occurs when a word performs a different function or carries a different meaning.
  + E.g. “She is my wife and I love her.”
  + E.g. “Egg > Eggs”, or “jump>jumped>jumping”
* Inflection is simply a word taking on a slight change in form to give you extra information. Greek is a HIGHLY inflected language.

Case

* All nouns have a case determined by their function in a sentence.
* 3 English Noun cases:
  + Subject (the thing doing the verb) “Bill threw the ball.”
  + Possession (the thing possessing something) “That is Bill’s ball. It’s his!”
  + Object (the thing the verb is being done to) “Bill threw the ball.”
* Greek has 5 Cases, to be discussed next class.

Number

* All nouns have a number determined by the amount of “things” they are describing.
* 2 “numbers” in English:
  + Singular
  + Plural
* Greek has the same numbers.

Gender

* Some nouns have a gender in English. (seen most easily in pronouns)
* 3 Genders in English:
  + Masculine “He did it.”
  + Feminine “She did it.”
  + Neuter “It did it.”
* Greek has the same genders.
* NOT “male” or “female” – those are sexes.