POSSIBILITIES OF ACCENT

1. -a-p-ú + pause
2. -a-p-ù + word without a pause
3. -a-p-u but not -a-p-ú
4. -á-p-ú
5. -a-p-ū
6. -a-p-ū

- Acute accent
- Grave accent
- Circumflex accent

u = ultima
p = penult
a = antepenult
\( \hat{a} \) = short vowel
\( \hat{e} \) = long vowel or diphthong

Not marked = short vowel, long vowel, or diphthong

RECESSIVE ACCENT: The accent of a word is said to be recessive when it goes back from the end of the word as far as is allowed by the rules for the possibilities of accent. Most verb forms have recessive accent.

To accent a word of three or more syllables which has recessive accent, check the ultima. If it contains a short vowel, the word will have an acute accent on the antepenult. If the ultima contains a long vowel or diphthong, the word will have an acute accent on the penult. Contrast the verb forms παιδεύει and παιδεύει.

In a two-syllable word which has recessive accent, the accent must be on the penult and is an acute or a circumflex depending on the length of the vowels both in the penult and the ultima. To accent such a word, check the penult first. If it contains a short vowel, the accent must be an acute, since the circumflex cannot appear over a short vowel: μένε. If the penult contains a long vowel or a diphthong, check the length of the vowel in the ultima. If the ultima contains a short vowel, the accent is a circumflex. If the ultima contains a long vowel or a diphthong, the accent is an acute: μείνων, μείνῃς.

PERSISTENT ACCENT: The accent of a word is said to be persistent when it tries to stay over the same vowel or diphthong unless forced by the rules for the possibilities of accent to change nature or position.