

Part III: Writing Greek Letters

Certain conventions may be observed in writing Greek letters. With practice one can write them with ease and speed. There should be no difficulty in imitating the printed forms of the capitals; the small letters may be written as indicated below. A small "s" indicates the point where each letter should be begun ("s₁," "s₂," etc., are used if it is necessary to lift the pen or pencil) and an arrowhead (--->) indicates the direction in which the pen or pencil should move. For convenience, the letters may be divided into four groups:

(1) Eleven of the Greek small letters do not extend below the line of writing, and are approximately as wide as they are high (cf. English a, c, e, etc.). (The corresponding capitals are given first, then the printed forms of the small letters, then the "diagrams" for imitation.)

Α	Ε	Ι	Κ	Ν	Ο
α	ε	ι	κ	ν	ο

Π	Σ	Τ	Υ	Ω
π	σ	τ	υ	ω

Note that ν has a point at the bottom, whereas υ is round.

(2) Three of the Greek small letters rest on the line of writing but are twice as high as the letters in group 1:

Δ	Θ	Λ
δ	θ	λ

(3) Seven of the Greek small letters rest on the line of writing and extend below it, but do not extend above the letters of group 1:

Γ	Η	Μ	Π	(Σ)	Φ	Χ
γ	η	μ	π	ς	φ	χ

(4) Four of the Greek small letters extend both above and below the line of writing:

Β	Ζ	Ξ	Ψ
β	ζ	ξ	ψ

Students will, of course, develop their own writing style, and slight variations from the method of forming the letters that has just been described will not, in general, cause confusion.

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