

# Greek ordering

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## Aims and methods

This mini-study looks at a number of problems related to Greek ordering. It aims to derive the standard praxis from a representative samples culled from Greek dictionaries. To make comparison easier I have concentrated on a number of terms that bring one or more of the relevant problems into focus.

- Treatment of the final sigma ζ in relation to the normal sigma σ
- Ordering of diacritical marks. Directionality on level 2
- Word-by-word versus letter-by-letter: What is preferred?
- Uppercase vs. lowercase on level 3. Clear rules?

The words selected for this exercise are:

- Ἄιδης / ἄιδης,<sup>1</sup> ἄδω and ῥάδιος
- ἦ, ἦ, ἦ, ἦα, ἦατα<sup>2</sup>
- πρῶ vs. πρωί<sup>3</sup>
- ἄσσα vs. ἄσσα and ἄττα vs. ἄττα<sup>4</sup>
- δόλιος vs. Δολίος<sup>5</sup> and δόλων vs. Δόλων
- εἰμί vs. εἶμι
- τίς vs. τῖς<sup>6</sup>
- πρὸς, compounds and other words in alphabetical sequence

Other words are quoted if deemed appropriate.

Comma-delemited lists are to be read as ordered lists which reflect the sequence of the dictionary in question

## Classical Greek

*Gemoll97* offers the following sequences:

- ἄ-δήριτος, Ἄιδης, ἀδήσειε<sup>7</sup>
- ἄσσα, ἄσσα and ἄττα, ἄττα, ἄττα [!]<sup>8</sup>
- ἄ-δυτος, ἄδω, ἄδών etc.
- ἦ, ἦ, ἦ, ἦα, ἦατα
- πρῶ, πρῶην, πρωθ-ήβης, πρωί
- Δόλων, δόλων and δόλιος, Δολίος<sup>9</sup>
- εἰμί, εἶμι
- τίς, τῖς
- πρὸς, προ-σάββατον, προσ-αγγέλλω, προσ-αγόρευσις

<sup>1</sup> These are but an upper-/lowercase pair

<sup>2</sup> Homographs of different meanings are unified in this list. An examples is ἦ, signifying both an interjection and »or«

<sup>3</sup> These are variants of one word

<sup>4</sup> The σσ and ττ versions are dialectal variants

<sup>5</sup> This is, of course, a problematic example as it mixes two problems

<sup>6</sup> τί / τῖ are ignored.

<sup>7</sup> *Real* αι is, however, ordered as such: Ἄτως, οἱ... The same is valid for the variant Ἄιδης

<sup>8</sup> This is obviously an error in *Gemoll97*

<sup>9</sup> In view of the otherwise pretty consistent left-to-right directionality on level 2 this example is hard to explain

*Benseler* offers the following sequences:

- ἀ-δήριτος, ἄιδης (ἄδης), ἀδηφαγία
- ἄδυτος, ἄδω, ἀδών
- ἄσσα, ἄσσα and ἄττα, ἄττα
- δόλιος, Δολιός
- δόλων, Δόλων
- ἦ, ἦ, ἦ, ἦ, ἦ, ἦα
- εἰμί, εἶμι
- πρὸς, προ-σάββατον, προσ-αγγέλλω, προσ-αγόρευσις, προσαγορευτέος
- πρῶ, πρῶην, πρωθήβης, πρωί
- τίς, τίς

*LiddellScott* offers the following sequences:

- ἀδήριτος, ἄιδης (or ἄδης), ἀδήσω
- ἄδυτος, ἄδω, ἀδωμητος, ἀδών
- ἄσπρος, ἄσσα (ἄσσα), ἄσσαριαῖος
- ἄτρωτος, ἄττα (ἄττα), ἄττα, ἄτταβυγάζ
- ἦ, ἦ, ἦ, ἦ, ἦα, ἦαρινός
- πρῶ (or πρῶ), πρῶή, πρῶην, πρωθ-ευρετής, πρωί
- No upper-/lowercase pairs could be established
- εἰμί, εἶμι
- πρὸς, προ-σάββατον, προσ-αγγέλλω, προσ-αγόρευσις, προσαγορευτέος
- τίς (τι), (τίς, τί)

*LiddellScottItalian* offers the following sequences:

- ἀ-δήριτος, ἄδης (ο ἄιδης), ἀδήσειε
- ἄ-δυτος, ἄδω, ἀδών, ἄδων
- ἄσσα, ἄσσα / ἄττα, ἄττα
- ἦ, ἦ, ἦ, ἦ, ἦ, ἦα, ἦα
- No upper-/lowercase pairs could be established
- εἰμί, εἶμι
- πρὸς, προ-σάββατον, προσ-αγανακτέω
- πρῶ, πρῶαν, πρωζός, πρῶην, πρωθ-ήβης, πρωί
- ΤΙΣ

*MagnienLacroix* offers the following sequences:

- ἄδηρις, ἄιδης,<sup>10</sup> ἀδήσειε
- ἀδύφωνος, ἄδω, ἀδῶμητος
- ἄσσα, ἄσσα / ἄττα, ἄσσα
- η, {ἦ, ἦ, ἦ, ἦ}<sup>11</sup>, ἦ, ἦ, ἦα, ἦα
- πρῶ, πρῶαν, πρωηρότης, πρωθήβη, πρωί
- δόλων, Δόλων
- εἰμί, εἶμι
- πρὸς, προ-σάββατον, προσ-αγανακτέω, προσ-αγγελία, προσ-αγγέλλω
- τίς, τί (τίς, τί)

*Pape1* and *Pape2* offer the following sequences:

- ἀ-δήριτος, ἄιδης, ἀδήσειεν
- ἄ-δυτος, ἄδω, ἄ-δῶμητος, ἀδών
- ἄσσα, ἄσσα / ἄττα, ἄττα
- η, ἦ, ἦ, ἦ, ἦ, ἦ, ἦα, ἦα
- No upper-/lowercase pairs could be established
- εἰμί, εἶμι
- πρὸς, προ-σάββατος[·], προσ-αγανακτέω, προσ-αγγέλλω

<sup>10</sup> The dictionary renders (quite against normal custom) the *iota adscriptum* as a *iota subscriptum*

<sup>11</sup> Those four entries appear under one heading in the dictionary

*LangenscheidtAltGriechisch* offers the following sequences:

- ἄ-δήριτος, ἄιδης, ἀδήσειε
- ἄ-δυτον, ἄδω, ἀδωνιάζω
- ἦ, ῆ, ῆ̂, ῆ̃, ῆ̄, ῆ̅
- πρῶ, πρωαίτατος, πρῶην, προθ-ήβης, πρωῖ
- Δόλων, δόλων and Δολίος, δόλιος
- εἰμί, εἶμι
- πρὸς, προ-σάββατον, προσ-αγγέλλω, προσαγόρευσις
- ἄσσα, ἄσσα, Ἄσσᾶ
- ἄττα, ἄττα, ἄττα
- τίς, τίς

## Modern Greek

*LangenscheidtNeuGriechisch* offers the following sequences:

- η-, ῆ, ῆ̂, ῆ̃, ῆ̄, ῆ̅
- πρὸς, προσ-, προσαγόρευση, προσάγω
- εἶς, εἶς-, εἶς-, εἶς
- κοῦφος, κουφός

*Tsukana* offers the following examples:

- ῆ, ῆ̂, ῆ̃, ῆ̄, ῆ̅
- πενιά, πενία
- πρὸς, προσαγόρευσις, προσάγω
- εἶς, εἶς
- κοῦφος, κουφός

## Conclusions

The idea to differentiate between σ and ζ is contrary to all available evidence, both for modern and for classical Greek. They are just two glyph variants.<sup>12</sup> Whether they are distinguished on level 2 or level 3 is purely a matter of personal taste. The evidence offers no clue one way or the other. However, as most »modified« forms are distinguished on level 2, this is in my eyes the logical position to go for.

Both vowel + *iota adscriptum* and vowel + *iota subscriptum* are treated as equivalent to their base letters on level 1. The η-examples demonstrate that in most cases it is treated as the highest-priority distinction on level 2 in line with the practice of the tables of the current draft of the Unicode Ordering Algorithm,<sup>13</sup> though we find two examples in line with the EOR-practice.<sup>14</sup> Stringency within a draft should thus be given priority in my view

All evidence points to a clear preference for »forward« directionality on level 2

Simple diacritics appear before combinations of that diacritic with other diacritics.

The »most important« diacritics are breathing marks which determine groups of diacritics.<sup>15</sup> This is in line with the treatment in both the European Ordering Rules and the tables of the Unicode Ordering Algorithm. As combinations between breathing mark and acute / grave are frequent

<sup>12</sup> It may be interesting that the »beta code« of the renowned, Tufts University based Perseus project does not differentiate between σ and ζ in its transcription, though very exact in every other respect. Both are rendered as »s«.

<sup>13</sup> The *iota subscriptum* U0345 has class 220, whereas accents above the letters have class 230 (thanks to Ken Whistler for this information)

<sup>14</sup> These are in *LangenscheidtAltGriechisch* and *LiddleScottItalian*. These dictionaries are likewise the most consistent with respect to ordering

<sup>15</sup> The one exception is sometimes the *iota adscriptum* (qv)

indeed in polytonic Greek, this is of no small importance for producing a culturally acceptable ordering sequence.

The relative order does not seem to follow a consistent practice, though some preferences can be established: *spiritus lenis* comes usually (but not always) before *spiritus asper*. The acute usually precedes the grave.<sup>16</sup>

A clear preference of upper- vs. lowercase cannot be deduced from the evidence, though the majority of examples points to »small before capital«. A confusing example is *Benseler's* δόλιος before Δολίος which is out of line with their practice otherwise.

Spaces and hyphens are consistently ignored. In other words, all dictionaries use letter-by-letter ordering

## Bibliography

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<sup>16</sup> This is in line with current practice in both the EOR and the Unicode Ordering Algorithm, but at variance with statements from EAOT