

Rules for Greek Accent Marks

Rule 1: There will always be an accent placed on one of the last three syllables in a Greek word.

Antepenult: Third to last syllable.

Penult: Second to last syllable.

Ultima: Last syllable.

Rule 2: If accented, the second vowel of a diphthong receives the accent.

Example: τοῖς ναύταις

Rule 3: There are three main accent marks in Greek: the acute, the grave, and the circumflex.

Acute: ᾶ

Grave: ὶ

Circumflex: ῶ

**Smooth & rough breathing marks are not considered accents.*

Rule 4: Graves replace acutes at the end of words which are followed immediately by accented syllables.

Example: τὸν δένδρον

Rule 5: ε and ο are always short; η, ω, and diphthongs are always long; α, ι, and υ may be either long or short depending on context.

Rule 6: The antepenult is only accented if the ultimate is short, and it always has an acute accent.

Example: ἀνθρωπος

Rule 7: If the penult is accented, it is acute when followed by a long ultima and has a circumflex when the ultima is short.

Examples: ἀνθρώπων, ἐνδομῦχος

Rule 8: If the ultima is short and accented, it is acute, but if it is long and accented it is acute or takes a circumflex depending on its case.

Example: ἀστός

Resource for more in-depth accent rules:

<https://ucbclassics.dreamhosters.com/ancgreek/accenttutU/accenuationU.html>



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