

# Rules of Greek Accent

## General Rules of Greek accent (Verbs and Nouns)

- 1) Definitions:
  - a) Ultima (Last syllable)
  - b) Penult (Second to last syllable)
  - c) Antepenult (Before the Penult – third to last syllable)
- 2) A Syllable is short when has short vowel; long when it has long vowel.
  - a) Diphthongs are always long (except  $\alpha\iota$  and  $οι$  at end of a word are treated as short).
- 3) Acute:
  - a) Acute can stand on any of last three syllables;
  - b) Accent tends to be an ‘acute’ unless some reason to be circumflex or grave.
  - c) Therefore the accent cannot go further forward than the antepenult.
- 4) Circumflex:
  - a) Circumflex can only stand on last two syllables;
  - b) Circumflex can only go on a long syllable.
- 5) Grave:
  - a) Grave can only stand on last syllable.
- 6) If ultima strong, then pulls accent back to penult
- 7) “Long-Short Rule”: If Penult is long and Ultima is short, then there will be a circumflex accent on the Penult.

## Accenting Verbs.

- 1) Accent on Verbs is Recessive (versus nouns, which are persistent).
- 2) Will go as far back as the rules of accent allow.
  - a) If Ultima is short, accent will be an acute on the Antepenult
  - b) If Ultima is long, accent will be an acute on the Penult