

BREATHINGS ON VOWELS

“Breathings” are marks placed over initial vowels to indicate whether they are aspirate or not.

The smooth breathing shows that the vowel is not preceded by a sound like English h. It should be drawn curved, so that it does not look like an accent: $\acute{\alpha}$, $\acute{\epsilon}$, $\acute{\omicron}$

The rough breathing shows that the vowel is preceded by a sound like English h, and it too should be drawn curved: $\grave{\iota}$ $\grave{\alpha}$ $\grave{\omega}$

When you start using accents you will learn how to combine them with breathings: $\acute{\alpha}$, $\acute{\epsilon}$, $\acute{\omicron}$, $\acute{\omega}$

When a word begins with a diphthong, any of these symbols are written over the second vowel of the diphthong:

$\alpha\acute{\upsilon}$ $\epsilon\acute{\iota}$ $\epsilon\tilde{\upsilon}$

[Accents are introduced in lesson 7, with a brief note in lesson 5. It is suggested that you do not use them yet.]