

Typing Greek Accents with the Polytonic Greek Keyboard on Microsoft Windows

In polytonic (“multi-accented”) Greek, there are three types of accents. The rules of accentuation can get really complex, having entire books dedicated to the topic. A short treatment of the subject can be found in *Athenaze* (Αθήναζε) book 1 on pages 284-286. A better treatment can be found in Smyth’s *Greek Grammar* in sections 149-187.¹

In the information on this page, the case (uppercase or lowercase) of the letter is important. If a small **q** is listed, you must *not* enter a capital **Q** when inputting your characters. This will make the difference between í (with **q**) and ï (with **Q**).

I’ve tried to arrange the material in this table in an orderly fashion. The rows are in groups according to similarity of key strokes.

To create an acute accent (acute), put the keyboard in Greek (EL or ΕΛ), type the **q** key and then the vowel that you want the accent to fall on (acute é í η ó ú ώ). To add the iota subscript, hold the **Alt** key on the right side of the space bar (**Alt** refers *only* to the right-side key), type the **q**, release the **Alt** key, and then type the desired vowel (acute η ι ώ).²

acute	q	grave]	circumflex	[alpha	{	breve	Q
acute	Alt+q	grave	Alt+]	circumflex	Alt+[
acute	'	grave	"	breve	`	breve	~	breve	Alt+`
grave	/	grave	\	circumflex	=				
grave	Alt+/ ?	grave	Alt+\	circumflex	Alt+=				
grave	Alt+?	grave	Alt+	circumflex	Alt++	alpha	Alt+}	breve	q+Space

¹ You can find a digital (HTML) version of Smyth’s *Greek Grammar* online, hosted by the *Perseus Project* website at <http://www.perseus.tufts.edu>.

² For detailed instructions on how to execute the polytonic Greek accents, read through Nathan Bauman’s instructions online at <http://nathanbauman.com/nathanbaumanhowtotypingreek.html>.