

2. Punctuation marks / Τα σημεία στίξης

2.1 The accent mark

In modern Greek, there is only one accent mark (´) denoting stress. This accent mark appears in two or more syllable words above the vowel of the syllable on which the stress falls. The vowel can be a plain vowel (ά, έ, ή, ί, ό, ύ, ώ) or a vowel digraph (εί, αί, οί, αύ, εύ, ήύ). Single-syllable words do not receive an accent mark because it is clear where the stress falls. However, there are exceptions to this rule. These include, among others, the interrogative pronouns **πού** (where) and **πώς** (how) and the conjunction **ή** (or), in distinction to the relative pronouns **που** (who, that), **πως** (that) and the definite article **η** (the), respectively.

Only the last three syllables can be accented, thus the accent mark falls always on the first, second or third syllable from the end of words - the *ultima* (the last syllable, λήγουσα), the *penult* (the second the last syllable, παραλήγουσα) and the *antepenult* (the the third-to-last, προπαραλήγουσα). On capital letters, the accent mark is not on top of the letter but in front of it, on the upper left (´Αννα, ´Ολυμπος). On words written with capital letters, there is no accent mark (ANNA, ΟΛΥΜΠΟΣ). **Notice that the dieresis** (see below) -the two dots above the ï, ü- does appear on words written with capital letters (ΑΡΧΑΪΣΜΟΣ).

2.2 Other punctuation marks

In Greek, most punctuation marks -period, comma, colon, exclamation mark, ellipsis points, apostrophe- are the same as in English. However, there are exceptions, among others, the question mark and the semicolon. The question mark is represented by a semicolon and the semicolon by a high dot:

(?) = ;

(;) = ´

The following paragraphs describe the use of the most common punctuation marks:

(´) the **apostrophe**, the apostrophe replaces a vowel that has fallen away

θα = θ´

έρθω = ´ρθω

(¨) the **diaeresis** or two dots, the two dots come above the ï, ü, when the ι and υ should be pronounced separately with the vowel preceding them.

αϊ αϊ (a-i) instead of (e) αι, αί

εϊ εϊ (e-i) instead of (i) ει, εί

οϋ οϋ (o-i) instead of (oo) ου

(-) the **hyphen**, the hyphen is used to separate words when they do not fit at the end of a line and to connect words.

... **ψυχο-**

λόγος ...

Αγια-Μαρίνα

Αϊ-Γιώργης

(“ ” or « ») the **quotation marks**, quotation marks are used to quote a statement verbatim and to represent book titles, ship names, etc.

Η Μαρία ρώτησε: “Πού είναι η μητέρα;”

Mary asked, “Where is mother?”

“Κώδικας Da Vinci”

“Τιτανικός”