

Beginning NT Greek - Chapter 2: Memorizing NT Greek

- I. Three Basic Memory Techniques (one will usually fit a particular word):
 - A. "Cognate" = an English word borrowed directly from Greek:
 1. Some are immediately recognizable:
 - a. E.g., ἀπόστολος "apostle"
 2. Learn to recognize vowel/consonant combinations (or roots) which signal fact that an English word has been borrowed from Greek (refer to your "English Borrowed from Greek" handouts for help):
 - a. Engl. initial "hy-" comes from Greek "ύ-" (w/ rough breath).
 - i. E.g., ύπό "under" + θερμός "hot" → "hypothermia" (= drop in body temp.)
 - b. English 2-letter "ph" comes from a single Greek letter "φ".
 - ii. E.g., φιλέω "I love" + σοφία "wisdom" → "philosophy" (= love of wisdom)
 - B. "Relation" = an English word derived from a Greek root and related to the thing or activity in question:
 1. E.g., γράφω "I write" → graph-ic (related to something written).
 2. E.g., α- "not, without" + γινώσκω "I know" → a-gnos-tic (someone without knowledge).
 - C. "Association" = an English word or phrase whose sound or meaning reminds you of the Greek word, and which can be associated with the Greek word to form a mental picture:
 1. E.g., λέγω "I say" → "I say, le'go of my leg!" (think of a British explorer talking w/ cannibal in the jungle!)
 2. E.g., βλέπω "I see" → "I see a blip on the radar screen!" (think of being on duty in a World War II submarine!)
 3. These last two examples are written w/ exclamation marks (!) to remind you that putting as much emotion & imagination as you can into creating word-sound associations will greatly enhance your initial learning and subsequent recall of NT Greek vocabulary!
- II. Index Cards:
 - A. Cut 3x5 index cards in half; Greek on one side, English on other.
 - B. Right now we're mainly concerned with translating in one direction only - from Greek into English, so concentrate on that.
- III. Cassette Tape:
 - A. Tape yourself saying first the Greek word, a short pause for you to say the English, and then the English on tape to check your answer.
 - B. Listen to the tape during your "free" moments; e.g., going to work.
- IV. Study-Time Strategy:
 - A. The easiest way to learn and retain a large Greek vocabulary is to spend short periods of time on a regular basis, not cramming an intense study session in right before the class meeting.
 - B. Try spending 10 minutes, 2-3 times daily writing/saying vocabulary.
- V. Involve as many of the senses as you can while studying!
 - A. Read the words in the text book and from your cards.
 - B. Write out the words on a piece of scratch paper.
 - C. Listen to the words on the tape, and actively interact with it.
 - D. Say the Greek words with the English translation.
 - E. Taste Greek food & learn vocabulary (@ favorite Greek restaurant).
 - F. Be filled with the Spirit; get excited about what you're doing.
 1. Enthusiasm is your most valuable asset in learning NT Greek!
 - a. ἐν "in" + θεός/θεός "God" → "en-thus-iasm" (= God in you!)