

# Introduction to Accents

## Syllable names

Only the last three syllables in a word can take an accent:

<b>Ultima</b>	=	last syllable	Antepenult / Penult / Ultima
<b>Penult</b>	=	next to last syllable	
<b>Antepenult</b>	=	before the penult syllable	

## Quantity (Short or Long) of vowels and diphthongs

**Short:** vowels: ε, ο; diphthongs: just αι, οι in end-position

**Long:** vowels: η, ω; diphthongs: all except αι and οι in end-position; iota subscripts: α̣, η̣, ω̣

**Short or Long:** vowels α, ι, υ (learn by observing how they act)

## Types of Accent & Possible Positions:

	antepenult	penult	ultima
<b>Acute</b> ( ´ ) on any of last <i>three</i> syllables	´	´	´
<b>Circumflex</b> ( ˆ ) on any of last <i>two</i> syllables		ˆ	ˆ
<b>Grave</b> ( ` ) on <i>last</i> syllable only			`

## Six Accent Rules

- Verbs are recessive: their accent recedes towards the first syllable (antepenult) as far as is possible.
- Substantives (Nouns, Pronouns, Adjectives) are retentive (persistent): They tend to keep their accents on the same syllable as in the "lexical" (or "dictionary") form.
- If the ultima is long, then the antepenult cannot be accented.
- If the ultima is long, and if the penult is accented, then it must be acute.
- A short ultima with a long penult must be a circumflex if it is accented.
- Acute on the last syllable (ultima) is changed to a grave when followed by another word.

**Circumflex** accent goes only on *long* syllables.

### Accent on Antepenult

	antepenult	penult	ultima
• If <i>short ultima</i> and 3 or more syllables, then <i>acute</i> accent may be on antepenult	´		short
• If <i>long ultima</i> and 3 or more syllables, then <i>acute</i> moves from antepenult to penult.	→	´	long

### Accent on Penult

• <i>Circumflex</i> only with a <i>short ultima</i> and <i>long, accented penult</i> .	ˆ	<b>long</b>	<b>short</b>
• <i>Acute</i> on all other combinations.	´	short	short
	´	long	long
	´	short	long

### Accent on Ultima

• If an <i>acute</i> accent is on the ultima followed by a word and no punctuation in between, then the acute changes to <i>grave</i>	´ + word → `
• <i>Circumflex</i> in verbs usually indicates a contract verb	ᾶγαπῶ/πληροῖ

## Procedure for Determining Accent:

- Place accent *temporarily* in "starting" position:
  - If *Verb* (remember, it has "recessive" accent), move as far back from ultima as rules will permit.
  - If *noun* (remember, it has "persistent" accent), look up word in dictionary and *start* with accent type and position as given in this "lexical" form.
- With accenting this "starting" position:
  - Use appropriate section of General Rules above
  - Find correct sub-section and accent according to syllable pattern.