

# Greek Resources

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Resources for the study of ancient Greek (and Homer in particular):

The Pharr 4<sup>th</sup> Edition Resource Page of P. Debnar:

[https://ella.mtholyoke.edu/access/content/user/pdebnar/Pharr\\_4/Pharr%204th](https://ella.mtholyoke.edu/access/content/user/pdebnar/Pharr_4/Pharr%204th)

Debnar's "Quizlet" page:

<http://quizlet.com/pdebnar>

Greek and Latin texts with facing vocab and commentary:

<http://geoffreysteadman.com/>

Iliad readings:

-- Stephen G. Daitz, City University of New York

<http://www.rhapsodes.fll.vt.edu/iliad1.htm>

<http://www.rhapsodes.fll.vt.edu/audiofiles/Ilias1.mp3>

-- Stanley Lombardo

<http://www.wiredforbooks.org/iliad>

<http://www.wiredforbooks.org/mp3/Iliad.mp3>

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The following notes provide a synopsis of several emails sent by Mr. Zeitlin toward the end of the Summer 2013 Greek Institute at St. John's College (Santa Fe campus). Supplementary notes and online links have been inserted per student and tutor suggestions.

1. Useful lexicons:
  - Liddell and Scott (the big one), Oxford U. Press
  - Liddell and Scott (intermediate), Oxford U. Press
  - A Lexicon of the Homeric Dialect*, by Cunliffe, Oklahoma U. Press
  - A Homeric Dictionary*, by Autenrieth, Oklahoma U. Press.
  - The Intermediate Liddell & Scott is available as an app for iPad. Cheap and useful!
2. LSJ – The Online Liddell-Scott-Jones Greek-English Lexicon:  
<http://www.tlg.uci.edu/ljsj/#eid=1&context=lsj>
3. Also, I believe that both versions of the Liddell Scott (big and intermediate) are available on line at [Perseus.Tufts.edu](http://Perseus.Tufts.edu), which in any case is an extremely useful resource. (Perseus has many texts, Greek and Roman, some grammars, and some lexicons as well.)

All the dictionaries mentioned above give basic etymological information – though some of that information is out of date.

Fuller and more up-to-date treatments of etymology can be found in the following resources.

*Dictionnaire Etymologique de la langue Grecque* (Pierre Chantraine)

*American Heritage Dictionary of Indo-European Roots, 3rd ed.* (Calvert Watkins)

The latter is especially accessible, since it costs less than \$20 new.

As for grammar books, the following are useful reference grammars.

*Greek Grammar* (Herbert Weir Smyth, revised by Messing)

*Greek Grammar* (W.W. Goodwin)

Of these, Smyth's *Grammar* is probably to be preferred since it is cited more widely.

There are two grammars specifically devoted to Homer.

*Grammaire Homerique* (Chantraine)

*Homeric Grammar* (Munro).

Of these, Chantraine's is more up-to-date, but you have to be able to read French pretty well to use it.

Digitized Munro: *Homeric Grammar*

<http://archive.org/details/grammarofhomeri00monruoft>

<http://archive.org/stream/grammarofhomeri00monruoft#page/n3/mode/2up>

As for a grammar textbook that will help you learn Attic Greek (the Greek of Plato, Demosthenes, Thucydides) and then without much difficulty move to the Greek of Herodotus (non-Attic Ionian) and the tragedians (Attic with admixtures of other dialects, especially in the lyrics), the following are good.

*Introduction to Attic Greek* (Donald Mastronarde)

*Greek: An Intensive Course* (Hansen and Quinn)

In addition, our very own Thucydides (Tom Conroy) praises *Learn to Read Greek* (Keller and Russell), and from what I've seen of this textbook, he is right to do so.

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This section concerns commentaries, of which Greek Institute students have already experienced two examples. Steadman's edition of *Odyssey* Bks. 6-8 consists of text, commentary and vocabulary assistance. Our textbook (Pharr: *Homeric Greek 4<sup>th</sup> ed.*), too, arguably incorporates a commentary on *Iliad* book 1, since it gives us helpful notes to enable us to grammatically analyze, translate and understand the text. You know, then, basically what a commentary is.

I divide my brief discussion of commentaries into four classes.

1) The first type consists of commentaries of the type we see exemplified in the edition of *Odyssey* Bks. 6-8 by Steadman. A commentary like this one offers the maximum convenience and, for a beginner, the maximum assistance. Steadman (<http://geoffreysteadman.com/>) has published similar commentaries for *Odyssey* Bks. 9-12; *Iliad* Bks. 6 & 22; Plato's *Symposium*; and a few other works of classical Greek literature. Such commentaries offer wonderful help to a beginner, making it relatively easy to cover a fair amount of ground. On the other hand, they may promote too much dependency on the running vocabularies, and they are not edited to a very high standard. (There are similar commentaries, including running vocabularies, edited by scholars other than Steadman. You might try searching on Amazon under the heading "Greek with running vocabulary," or "Greek with facing vocabulary.")

2) The next step up in difficulty is well exemplified by the series called "Bryn Mawr Greek Commentaries." These are very affordable books, with the commentary often coming in a companion volume to the text itself, giving sound grammatical guidance, replete with references to Smyth's Greek Grammar and other scholarly material (including fuller commentaries such as those mention below in [3] and [4]). They do not have running vocabularies, so you will need to use your accumulated knowledge and doubtless the dictionary when working with them. This is a wide-ranging series, covering most of the Platonic dialogues, many tragedies (especially those of Euripides), many of the comedies of Aristophanes, and a tiny bit of Homer and Thucydides.

3) The next step up in difficulty (and here we reach real scholarly excellence, at least at times) is exemplified by the series entitled "Cambridge Greek and Latin Classics." These are the green and yellow books you've heard me talking about in class. They consist of well edited classical texts with generous commentaries, pitched at an intermediate-advanced level. They cover a wide range of classical authors. For example, there is one (by Garvie) on Odyssey books 6-8, another on Iliad 24 (in our bookstore!), another on Odyssey 19-20, lots on Plato, lots on the tragedians, some on Thucydides, Herodotus, and the orators (Lysias, Demosthenes), and lots more. The only downside to these is that they're rather expensive. Apart from this Cambridge series there are, on this level, older commentaries on the Odyssey (by W.B. Stanford) and the Iliad (by M. Willcock and W. Leaf) that can be quite helpful. These are available in reprints--unfortunately not very cheaply.

4) Lastly, there are what I'd call super-scholarly commentaries. As beginners you will not often be able to derive much use out of these, but even now there will be the occasional note that will help you. I would not worry about these much at present, but there are multi-volume commentaries on this level that cover both the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey*. The *Odyssey* commentary (\*A Commentary on Homer's Odyssey,\* Oxford U.P.) is in 3 volumes, and edited by Heubeck, West, et al. It is mostly excellent. The *Iliad* commentary, published by Cambridge under the general editorship of G. Kirk, is in 6 volumes. It is good, and excellent in places. There are similarly high-powered commentaries for lots of other classical texts--most of them published by Oxford and Cambridge. Get in touch with [Mr. Zeitlin] if you have any particular authors or texts in mind and want a commentary on this very advanced level.

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More resources:

This site includes online tests for vocabulary and grammar, and can be tweaked to accommodate a variety of levels of learning. It is particularly geared to students using *Reading Greek*, by the JACT: [www.etoncollege.com/GreekProject](http://www.etoncollege.com/GreekProject)

More JACT links:

[http://www.jact.org/summer\\_schools.html](http://www.jact.org/summer_schools.html)

<http://www.jact.org/publications/goodtext/goodtextguide.php>

In addition, here's a link to Mastronarde's on line assistance:

<http://socrates.berkeley.edu/~ancgreek/>

Another online resource (Ancient Greek Dictionary) which includes several links to further resources:

[http://www.lexilogos.com/english/greek\\_ancient\\_dictionary.htm](http://www.lexilogos.com/english/greek_ancient_dictionary.htm)