

APPENDIX V

THE CHIEF RULES FOR ACCENTS

I. In Greek there are two accents, the Acute (as on λόγος) and the Circumflex (as on πρᾶγμα).

The Acute accent on the last syllable of a word is changed to the Grave ` when another word follows, unless that word be an enclitic, in which case the Acute remains.

A word with the Acute on the last syllable is called Oxytone.¹

A word with the Acute on the last syllable but one is called Paroxytone.

A word with the Acute on the last syllable but two is called Proparoxytone.

A word with the Circumflex on the last syllable is called Perispomenon.²

A word with the Circumflex on the last syllable but one is called Properispomenon.

GENERAL RULES

II. Position of Acute and Circumflex.—The Acute may stand on long or short syllables, the Circumflex only on syllables containing a vowel long by nature or a diphthong.

The Acute may stand on any of the last three syllables, the Circumflex only on the last or last but one. But if the last syllable is long, the Acute cannot stand on the last but two, nor the Circumflex on the last but one.

e.g. ἀνθρωπος, but ἀνθρώπου, λῦσον, λυθῶ.

¹ ὀξύς τόνος = acute tone.

² περισπάω = I draw in different directions.

III. In words of which the last syllable is short and the last but one long by nature, if the accent is on the last but one it must be the circumflex.

e.g. τεῖχος, ποιεῖτε.

IV. Contracted Syllables have the Circumflex when the first of the two syllables was accented.

e.g. φιλέω, φιλῶ.

They have the Acute when the second syllable was accented.

e.g. φιλέετω, φιλείτω.

They are unaccented if neither of the two syllables was accented.

e.g. φίλεε, φίλει.

V. Enclitics.—Certain words called Enclitics (*leaning words*) lose their accent through being pronounced in close connection with the preceding word.

Such are—

- (a) All forms of the Indefinite τις.
- (b) The Indefinite adverbs, πως, που, ποτέ, etc.
- (c) The following cases of the Personal Pronouns, με, μου, μοι, σε, σου, σοι, έ, ού, οί.
- (d) The Present Indicative of εἰμί, I am, and φημί, I say (except in the 2nd Pers. Sing.)¹
- (e) The Particles, τε, γε, τοι, νυν, περ.

¹ The whole present of εἰμί is accented when it denotes existence. The 3rd Pers. Sing. is accented on the first syllable in the following cases:—

- (a) When it denotes existence, e.g. οὐκέτ' ἔστιν, he is no more.
- (b) In the sense, 'it is possible' where it = ἔξεστι.
- (c) When it begins a sentence.
- (d) After εἰ, καί, οὐκ, ὥς.

Rules for Enclitics.

- (a) If the preceding word is proparoxytone or properispomenon, the accent of the enclitic is thrown back as an acute on the last syllable.
e.g. τοῦτό μοι ἔδωκέ τις.
- (b) If the preceding word is paroxytone, an enclitic of one syllable loses its accent with no other change, an enclitic of two syllables retains its accent.
e.g. λόγος τις, λόγοι τινές.
- (c) If the preceding word is perispomenon, the enclitic loses its accent without other change; if it is oxytone it retains the acute accent. (See Rule 1.)
e.g. ἀγαθός τις, a certain good man.
ὁδῶν τινων, of certain roads.
- (d) When several enclitics follow one another, each throws its accent back, so that only the last is unaccented.
e.g. εἴ ποτέ ποῦ τι εἶδον.

VI. Atonics.—A few words have no accent, unless they are followed by an enclitic or stand as the last word of a sentence.

- (a) The nom. of the Article, ὁ, ἡ, οἱ, αἱ.
(b) οὐ, ὥς (=how).
(c) εἰς, ἐν, ἐκ, ὡς (=to).
(d) εἰ, ὡς (=when, as, that).

VII. Anastrophe (throwing back).

- (a) The dissyllabic prepositions throw back their accent to the first syllable when they follow their case (except ἀμφί, ἀντί, ἀνά, διά).
e.g. τούτων περί, concerning these things.
- (b) Oxytone words, except indeclinable words, become paroxytone when the final vowel is elided.
e.g. δεῖν' ἔπαθε (for δεινὰ ἔπαθε),
but ἐπ' αὐτοῦ.

ACCENTS ON VERBS

VIII. (1) Generally the accent stands as far back as possible.

e.g. ἔλυσε, ἐλύθην, λύσαι.

(N.B.—Final syllables in αι and οι are treated as short except in the Optative.)

e.g. λύσαι (Inf.), λύσαι (Opt.).

(2) Contracted forms are accented according to Rule IV. The following are treated as contracted forms:—

(a) The Subjunctive of all passive aorists.
e.g. λυθῶ, πλακῶ.

(b) The Subjunctive and Optative of Pres. and Str. Aor. Act. and Mid. of verbs in -μι (except in -νυμι).
e.g. τιθῶ, τιθείμεν, θῶ, θείσθε.

EXCEPTIONS

(1) The Str. Aor. is accented on the last syllable in the Inf. and Part. Act. and in the 2nd Sing. of the Imperative Mid., and on the last syllable but one in the Inf. Mid.
e.g. λαβεῖν, λαβών, λαβοῦσα, λαβόν, λαβοῦ,¹ λαβίσθαι.

(2) The following Str. Aorists are oxytone in the Imperative:—

εἰπέ, ἐλθέ, εὐρέ, ἰδέ, λαβέ.

(3) The following parts of verbs are paroxytone if the last syllable but one is short, properispomenon if it is long:—

(a) Wk. Aor. Inf. Act.

e.g. τιμῆσαι, πλέξαι.

(b) All Infinitives in -ναι.

e.g. τιθέναι, λευκέναι, στήναι.

(c) All Infinitives and Participles of the Perf. Pass.

e.g. λελυμένος, τετιμῆσθαι.

¹ But ἀφίκου, ἐπιλάθου.

(4) All active Participles of verbs in -μι, and all others in -εις and -ως are oxytone.

e.g. τιθείς, λυθείς, λελυκώς.

(5) In compound verbs the accent may not go back:

(a) Beyond the augment.

e.g. παρέσχον, κατήγον.

(b) Beyond the last syllable of the preposition.¹

e.g. ἀπόδος, ἐπίσches.

(c) Beyond the verbal part of Infinitives and Participles of verbs in -μι.

e.g. ἀποδούς, ἀποδόσθαι.

Or beyond the verbal part of 2nd Sing. Imp. Mid. of verbs in -μι compounded with a preposition of one syllable.

e.g. προθοῦ, but μετάδου.

NOUNS AND ADJECTIVES

(N.B. -αι and -οι, Nom. Pl., are treated as short.)

IX. (1) Generally the accent on the oblique cases remains on the same syllable as in the Nominative, as far as is permitted by the general rules (Rule II.).

e.g. ἄνθρωπος, ἄνθρωπον, ἀνθρώπων.

(2) All Genitives and Datives of oxytone words of the 1st and 2nd declension are perispomena.

e.g. ὁδός, ὁδοῦ, ὁδοί, ὁδῶν.²

(3) In the first declension the Gen. Plur. is perispomenon.

(4) In the 3rd declension the Gen. and Dat. of monosyllables are accented on the last syllable.³

e.g. χεῖρ, χειρός, χεῖρες, χειρῶν.

¹ But notice ἄπειμι, πάρεστι, ἄπιθι, etc.

² But in the Attic 2nd declension the acute is retained.

e.g. λεώς, λεῶ.

³ Except Participles *θείς*, *θίντος*, with *τίς*, *τίνος*; *πᾶς*, *πάντων*, *πᾶσι*; *παίδων*, and some others.

(5) In words like πόλις and πῆχys the endings -εως, -εων are treated as one syllable.

e.g. πόλεως, πῆχεων.

X. No complete rules can be given for accenting the Nominative Singular. But the following rules are generally true.

(1) Oxytone are—Nouns in -εως, *e.g.* βασιλεύς.

-ω, *e.g.* πειθώ.

-ας (-αδης), *e.g.* φυγᾶς (φυγάδος).

-ις (Acc. Imparisyllabic), *e.g.* ἐλπίς (Acc. ἐλπίδα).

Most Adjectives in -ρος, *e.g.* αἰσχροός.

-νος, ἱκανός.

-ης, ἀληθής.

-υς, ἡδύς.

-ικος, πρακτικός.

Verbal Adjectives in -τος, λυτός.

Adj. meaning 'good' or 'bad,' ἀγαθός, κακός.

(2) Paroxytone. Most Nouns in -ια, *e.g.* δειλία.

Verbal Nouns in -τωρ, ῥήτωρ.

Patronymics, Ἀλκιβιάδης.

Verbal Adj. in -τεος, λυτέος.

(3) Proparoxytone. Nouns in -εια except those from Verbs in -εύω, ἀλήθεια, but δουλεία.

(4) The accent goes back as far as possible in Verbals in -μα, *e.g.* πρᾶγμα.

Neuters in -ος, μέγεθος.

Nouns in -ις (Acc. -ιν), δύναμις.

Comparatives and Superlatives, καλλίων, ἄριστος.

Adjectives in -ιμος, φρόνιμος.