

## A GUIDE TO THE GREEK ALPHABET

The following table is intended to be helpful for mathematics students, not linguists. Ancient and modern Greek are very different, and mathematical usage is more aware of the ancient forms. Variations between dialects and changes in the pronunciation of the languages involved mean that the “as in” column in the chart can only be considered a rough guide. It shows modern English words derived from ancient Greek words which used the letter in question. - Neil Porter, March 2002

Name	miniscule (lower case)	classic (upper case)	English equivalent	as in
alpha	$\alpha$	A	A	radius
beta	$\beta$	B	B	parabola
gamma	$\gamma$	$\Gamma$	C	polygon
delta	$\delta$	$\Delta$	D	diagonal
epsilon	$\epsilon$	E	E (short)	perimeter
zeta	$\zeta$	Z	Z	trapezium
eta	$\eta$	H	E (long)	scheme
theta	$\theta$	$\Theta$	TH	theorem
iota	$\iota$	I	I	diameter
kappa	$\kappa$	K	K	cone
lambda	$\lambda$	$\Lambda$	L	polygon
mu	$\mu$	M	M	diameter
nu	$\nu$	N	N	cone
xi	$\xi$	$\Xi$	X	axis
omicron	o	O	O (short)	polygon
pi	$\pi$	$\Pi$	P	polygon
rho	$\rho$	P	RH	rhombus
sigma	$\sigma, \varsigma$	$\Sigma$	S	sphere
tau	$\tau$	T	T	trapezium
upsilon	$\upsilon$	$\Upsilon$	U	cube
phi	$\phi$	$\Phi$	PH	sphere
chi	$\chi$	X	CH	dichotomy
psi	$\psi$	$\Psi$	PS	ellipse
omega	$\omega$	$\Omega$	O (long)	cone