

PolytonicGreekRD.keylayout

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Documentation and Test File

The file <PolytonicGreekRD.keylayout> is a Mac OS X 10.3.x+ Unicode keyboard layout file for polytonic Greek (classical and koine). It is designed to follow the TLG transliteration scheme. This enables a simple, easy-to-remember system for representing Greek, including full diacritics. On Windows this has been implemented by Manuel Lopez as a keyboard (“Classical Greek”) for Tavultesoft’s Keyman (details on my Unicode page; see URL above). The same general system has been followed here, though reflecting the necessary adaptations to the Mac OS. (The primary difference is that the diacritic is typed first, then the letter; using Keyman on Windows the letter is typed first, then the diacritic.) This provides not only an easy to use keyboard for Mac users, but greatly simplifies life for those of us who move back and forth between Mac and Windows systems.

The TLG transliteration for alphabetic characters has been followed:

Typing:

a b g d e z h q i k l m n c o p r s t u f x y w

produces the Greek alphabet:

α β γ δ ε ζ η θ ι κ λ μ ν ξ ο π ρ σ τ υ φ χ ψ ω

Diacritics are entered as follows. *Before* typing, e.g., a vowel with a breathing mark, *first* type the dead key for the diacritic, then type the vowel. The dead keys which overstrike the next character (where appropriate) are as follows:

Acute	/
Grave	\
Circumflex	=
Smooth breathing]
Rough breathing	[
Iota subscript	
Diaresis	+
Breve	-
Macron	—

Note that the shape of many of these is very mnemonic: the forward and back slash mimic the slope of the acute and grave accents, and the square brackets face the same direction as the corresponding breathing mark, etc.

All of these diacritics stack (if appropriate) and they can be typed in any order. Be careful with line spacing! With stacked diacritics it sometimes appears on screen as if the top element is missing (esp. a circumflex over a breathing mark). Increasing the line spacing fixes this apparent problem (in Word, use a fixed line spacing of at least 15 pts. for 12 pt. text).

When a dead key is typed before an inappropriate letter (e.g., a consonant), either the diacritic itself will appear in front of the consonant or in some cases (esp. with compound diacritics involving an iota subscript), nothing will appear. Diacritics are not entered alone in Greek text, but typing the dead key followed by a space will often generate that character in this keyboard layout. This is primarily for didactic purposes since when teaching Greek (as I do) it is often desirable to be able to represent the diacritic by itself in classroom materials.

Punctuation:

Period	.
Comma	,
Question mark	;
Mid-dot [·]	:

A few characters use the Mac option key, but this is not the usual method of text entry with this keyboard layout. Final sigma [ς] is entered with option-s. Diagamma [Ϝ ϝ] is on the 'v' key (both regular and shifted). Other characters (e.g. koppa, Ϟ) can be found by exploring with Apple's Keyboard Viewer (found under the Text Input menu at the right end of the menu bar—assuming you have it turned on, which will be necessary to use this keyboard layout anyway.) Not all obsolete characters are included, nor are the modern monotonic characters, but they can all be found and entered with the Keyboard Viewer or the Character Palette.

I have also included easy access to the newly approved (in Unicode 4.1) Nestle-Aland text critical symbols. These are on the number row using the option key (option-`, 1, 2 ... 9, 0, -, =). Most fonts do not yet have these symbols, but a few do (including my own Galilee Unicode font—though two are incorrect since I created this before the Unicode assignment was finalized; I'll fix that when I get time). You can also check David Perry's Cardo font which does include them: <http://scholarsfonts.net/cardofnt.html>. (Gentium, unfortunately, does not yet have these symbols.)

The following characters can all be entered using this keyboard layout. (The characters shown here are from the Lucida Grande font and follow the Unicode chart sequence; each row below is one column on the charts, though not always complete.)

Α Β Γ Δ Ε Ζ Η Θ Ι Κ Λ Μ Ν Ξ Ο Π Ρ Σ Τ Υ Φ Χ Ψ Ω Ĩ Ÿ
 α β γ δ ε ζ η θ ι κ λ μ ν ξ ο π ρ σ τ υ φ χ ψ ω ï ü ϕ ς Ϝ ϝ Ϟ
 ᾶ ᾷ Ᾰ Ᾱ ἀ ἁ ἂ ἃ ἄ ἅ ἆ ἇ Ἀ Ἁ Ἂ Ἃ Ἄ Ἅ Ἆ Ἇ Ἀ Ἁ Ἂ Ἃ Ἄ Ἅ Ἆ Ἇ

