

# Orthography

Temenia's alphabet consists of 19 lower-case characters from the Greek alphabet. Upper-case characters are not used, not even for names. The writing proceeds left to right, and top to bottom (as in all European languages). Words are alphabetized in the same sequence as the Greek alphabet. Numerals use the same so-called Arabic numerals in use throughout the world today: 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9.

# Phonetics

Glyph	Phoneme	Allophones	Examples
α	a		f <u>a</u> vor (Spanish)
ε	e		m <u>e</u> sa (Spanish)
ζ	s	z	s <u>i</u> t
η	n		n <u>a</u> me
θ	h		<u>h</u> ot
ι	i		ke <u>ep</u>
κ	k	g	<u>k</u> ite
λ	l		<u>l</u> ead
μ	m		<u>m</u> an
ξ	ʃ	ʒ	<u>sh</u> ow
ο	o		mu <u>ch</u> o (Spanish)
π	p	b	<u>p</u> ea
ρ	r	r ɹ ɾ R	pe <u>r</u> o (Spanish)
τ	t	d	<u>t</u> op
υ	u		<u>u</u> boot
φ	f	v	<u>f</u> ox
χ	x	γ	to <u>ch</u> ter (German)
ψ	j		<u>y</u> es
ω	w		<u>w</u> et

(You can listen to the pronunciation of the phonemes on the web site.)

The phonemes of Temenia can be categorized as follows:

Vowels: α ε ι ο υ

Semivowels: ψ ω

Plosives: κ π τ

Fricatives: ζ θ ξ φ χ

Nasals: η μ

Liquids: λ ρ

The vowels of Temenia are “pure” vowels, as in Spanish or German or Arabic; not diphthongs, like the English “o” (which is really “ou”). This is important since all possible diphthongs exist in Temenia: αε, αι, αο, αυ, εα, ει, εο, ευ, ια, ιε, ιο, ιυ, οα, οε, οι, ου, υα, υε, υι, υο.

Note that the voiced/voiceless distinction is not used in Temenia. Although the voiceless phoneme is nominal, the associated voiced phoneme is allophonic with its voiceless counterpart. Moreover, although the simple flapped ‘r’ is nominal, in recognition of the various ways ‘r’ is pronounced in various languages, the trilled, approximant, retroflexive and uvular ‘r’s are considered allophonic.

## Morphophonemics

The syllable in Temenia consists of a single consonant followed by a single vowel or by two different vowels (a diphthong).

Syllable = CV<sub>1</sub>[V<sub>2</sub>]

This allows for 350 different syllables.

Words consist of one or more syllables.

ψα *yes*

τικερε *tiger*

There exist also various suffixes that may be affixed to nouns or verbs or modifiers. They always consist of a single consonant followed by a single vowel.

Clearly, all words in Temenia end in a vowel.

## Intonation

There are no prescribed intonational patterns, including stress or pitch accents. The language is designed so that even if there is no intonational variation whatsoever, no lack of clarity results. Emphasis can be indicated by changing the word order and placing the focus on any part of the sentence. Questions are indicated unambiguously by an initial interrogative particle. However, there is no prohibition against intonation. Most likely new speakers will utilize intonational patterns similar to their native languages.

# Transliteration

Because so many have complained about the difficulty of typing Greek characters, I have developed this straightforward table of transliteration, which will allow people to write Temenia using the Roman alphabet. This does not mean that this represents an alternate alphabet; the alphabet for Temenia remains the one using Greek lower case characters as described in the “Orthography” section. Rather, the table below gives a system of transliteration.

<b>Temenia Letter</b>	<b>Roman Transliteration</b>	<b>Phoneme</b>
α	a	a
ε	e	e
ζ	s	s
η	n	n
θ	h	h
ι	i	i
κ	k	k
λ	l	l
μ	m	m
ξ	c	ʃ
ο	o	o
π	p	p
ρ	r	r
τ	t	t
υ	u	u
φ	f	f
χ	x	x
ψ	y	j
ω	w	w