

Greek support for Babel with XeTeX/LuaTeX

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The babel option «greek» activates the support for the Greek language defined in the file «greek.ldf» (source «greek.dtx»).

Typesetting Greek texts requires a font containing Greek letters. With the XeTeX or LuaTeX engines, the user must ensure that the selected font contains the required glyphs (the default Latin Modern fonts miss them). Examples for suitable fonts are the «Deja Vu», «Linux Libertine», or «Free Serif» OpenType fonts.

1 Language Switch

The declaration `\selectlanguage` switches between languages.

Τί φήις; Ἰδὼν ἐνθὲδε παῖδ' ἐλευθέραν τὰς πλησίον Νύμφας στεφανοῦσαν, Σώστρατε, ἔρῶν ἀπῆλθες εὐθύς;

The command `\foreignlanguage` sets its second argument in the language specified as first argument. This is intended for short text parts like Βιβλιοθήκη.

2 Font Encoding

Switching to a font encoding supporting the Greek script is possible without switching the Babel language using the declarations `\greekscript` (no switch if the current encoding supports Greek script) or `\greektext` (always switch to LGR). The corresponding macros `\ensuregreek` and `\textgreek` typeset their argument in a Greek-supporting font encoding.

With XeTeX or LuaTeX, declaring the LGR font encoding is optional. The macros `\greektext` and `\textgreek` are only defined, if the LGR font encoding is declared via the `fontenc` package *before* loading babel (see `test-unicode-lgr.tex`).

Every language switch to greek calls the `\extrasgreek` command which in turn calls `\greekscript` to ensure a Greek-supporting font encoding (LGR, EU1, or EU2). (For customization, you can add to or redefine the `\extrasgreek` command.)

The LGR font encoding does not support Latin characters. Therefore, the Babel core defines the declaration `\latintext` and the command `\textlatin` to switch to the T1 or OT1 font encoding or typeset the argument using this encoding. `greek-fontenc` adds a test for EU1 and EU2. At this point, the «latinencoding» is EU1.

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5 Greek Numerals

See `greek.pdf` for the formation rules of Greek numerals. Some examples:

α', β', γ', δ', ε', ζ', ζ', η', θ', ι', ια', ιβ', κ', τμε', φ', ,αϞοζ', ,βιγ',

A', B', Γ', Δ', E', Ζ', Ζ', Η', Θ', Ι', ΙΑ', ΙΒ', Κ', ΤΜΕ', Φ', ,ΑϞΟΖ', ,ΒΙΓ',

Enumerated lists use Greek characters/numerals in the second and fourth level:

1. item 1
 - (α') item 1.1
 - i. item 1.1.1
 - A'. item 1.1.1.1
 - B'. item 1.1.1.2
 - ii. item 1.1.2

This may be problematic with fonts that only partially support Greek and miss the numeral signs (`dexiakeraia` and `aristerikeraia`). You may redefine the commands `\textdexiakeraia` and `\textaristerikeraia` to some substitute characters. Or, if you prefer the "normal" enumeration, write in the preamble after loading `babel`:

```
\makeatletter
\addto\extrasgreek{\let\@alph\latin@alph
\let\@Alph\latin@Alph}
\makeatother
```