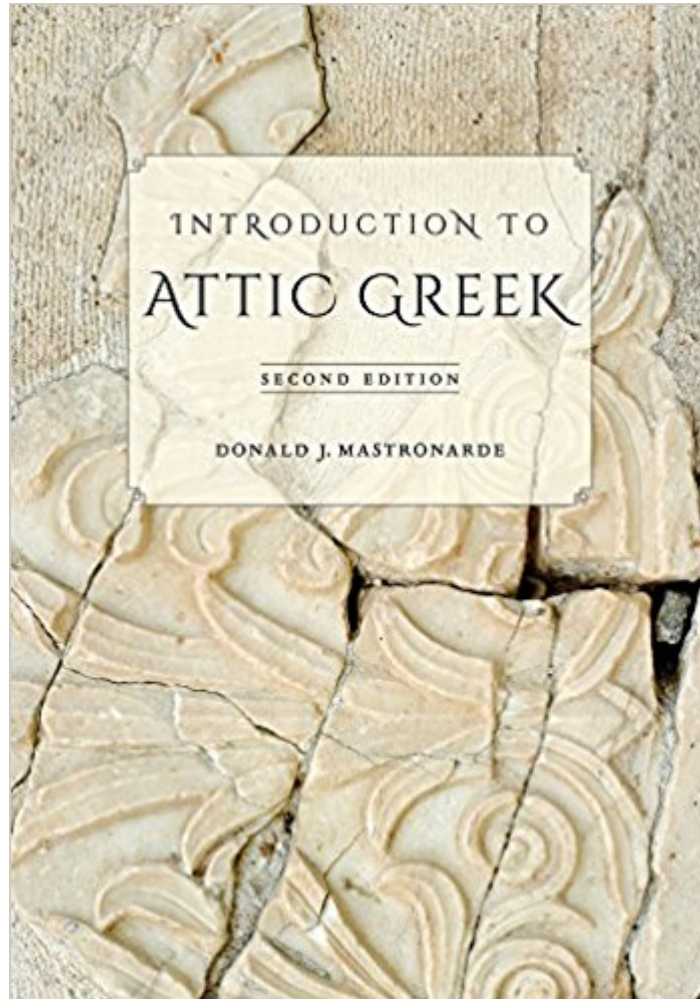




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# Introduction To Attic Greek



## Synopsis

Thoroughly revised and expanded, Introduction to Attic Greek, 2nd Edition gives student and instructors the most comprehensive and accessible presentation of ancient Greek available. The text features:

- Full exposure to the grammar and morphology that students will encounter in actual texts
- Self-contained instructional chapters, with challenging, carefully tailored exercises
- Progressively more complex chapters to build the student's knowledge of declensions, tenses, and constructions by alternating emphasis on morphology and syntax
- Readings based on actual texts and include unadapted passages from Xenophon, Lysias, Plato, Aristophanes, and Thucydides
- Concise introduction to the history of the Greek language
- Composite list of verbs with principal parts, and an appendix of all paradigms
- Greek-English and English-Greek glossaries

Additional Resources:

- Robust online supplements for teaching and learning available at [atticgreek.org](http://atticgreek.org)
- Answer Key to exercises also available from UC Press (978-0-520-27574-4)

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Donald J. Mastronarde is Melpomene Professor of Classics at the University of California, Berkeley. Among his many books are *The Art of Euripides: Dramatic Technique and Social Context*, *Euripides, Medea*, and *Euripides, Phoenissae*.

The greatness of Mastronarde's text suffers a compromise but probably through no fault of the author. UC Press sewed the pages of the first edition but unwisely chose not to for this lovely

second. Despite this poor choice in production design, Mastronarde's text possesses a precision and thoroughness of no equal. Granted, the reader will need to bone up on grammar and prepare to learn detailed linguistic concepts along the way! But above all, Mastronarde, the man himself, possesses a marvelous magnanimity, and this special quality communicates itself through his exposition of the beautiful Attic Greek language. Perhaps UC Press will consider reissuing the second edition Smyth sewn?

the instructions and exercise are both very helpful. well designed for beginners. I am going to finish all the chapters, and hopefully I can read some ancient works by then.

Book as advertised. Thanks.

Superb. Used as reference.

I love this book. It is not easy, especially working on my own. But you will definitely have an excellent grasp of the subject if you can follow it.

Extremely helpful.

Many Greek texts (and, for that matter, texts for many other disciplines) take great effort to make their presentations fun for the student. This is certainly not a fault, provided this motive is not overriding to the detriment of mastering the discipline itself. Indeed, enjoyment is a major factor effective learning. Enjoyment, however, can come from many sources, and it would seem that by the time a student is beginning to tackle Classical Greek, it should find its origin in the delight for the language itself. "Introduction to Attic Greek" by Donald Mastronarde does not dazzle with multi-colored illustrations, humorous anecdotes or invented stories about the life of a farmer. What it does do is present an admittedly difficult language in a clear, well-organized and thoughtful manner. It is linguistically very thorough, goes out of its way to explain clearly concepts that used to be understood by most people with a high school education (this is no longer the case), and helps the student who puts forth the effort to make rapid progress in reading real Attic Greek. The complaints to the effect that Mastronarde's text is dry suggest a lack of real interest in putting forth the effort to master the language. The serious student will find in this text a wealth of detail, vocabulary lists of very acceptable length, and grammar concepts clearly presented, with an abundance of exercises

designed to cement the material in the student's mind, not excluding English-to-Greek sentences in moderation for those who seek a greater challenge (these need not be done, but as a teacher I find them excellent for students who really want to check their mastery). I might add that, as with most texts, the material can be entertaining if offered by a good classroom instructor. True, there are perhaps easier books out there, though "easiness" should not be the qualifying motive for choosing a text. Clarity of presentation, manageable vocabularies and grammar topics, and good exercises will do far more to generate a love of the language and a pride in making good progress which is the real "entertainment" when studying any language. This is especially important when one is tackling a highly inflected language like Ancient Greek. In the end, all learners are different. It may be that you are moved to choose another text. But what you will find in "An Introduction to Attic Greek" is sound methodology that will give you many clues early on which will be a great help in future mastery. Mastronarde's text is challenging, but "do-ably" so, thorough without being overwhelming, and eminently rewarding the deeper one goes. It works well for those studying Classical Greek (its intended audience), but is not unsuited even for Biblical koine Greek and even later texts (whose authors often sought to imitate the Classical idiom). I highly recommend this book even for those working on their own without a teacher, especially if they have had previous experience with another inflected language (e.g., Latin, Russian, or even German). The student of any language needs patience, and nowhere is this more true than in the study of Classical Greek. Be patient, set reasonable goals, and review often.

I studied classics in college and taught Latin for thirty years before retiring. I used this text and the corresponding answer key to revive and, more importantly, to reestablish my ancient Greek skills from forty years ago. The book is very demanding of your time, but rightly so. By using these two books as well as the incredible textbook website, I was able to successfully resurrect my 1970 skills. The website enables students to test themselves on vocabulary and grammar. I am now able to translate ancient Greek texts!

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