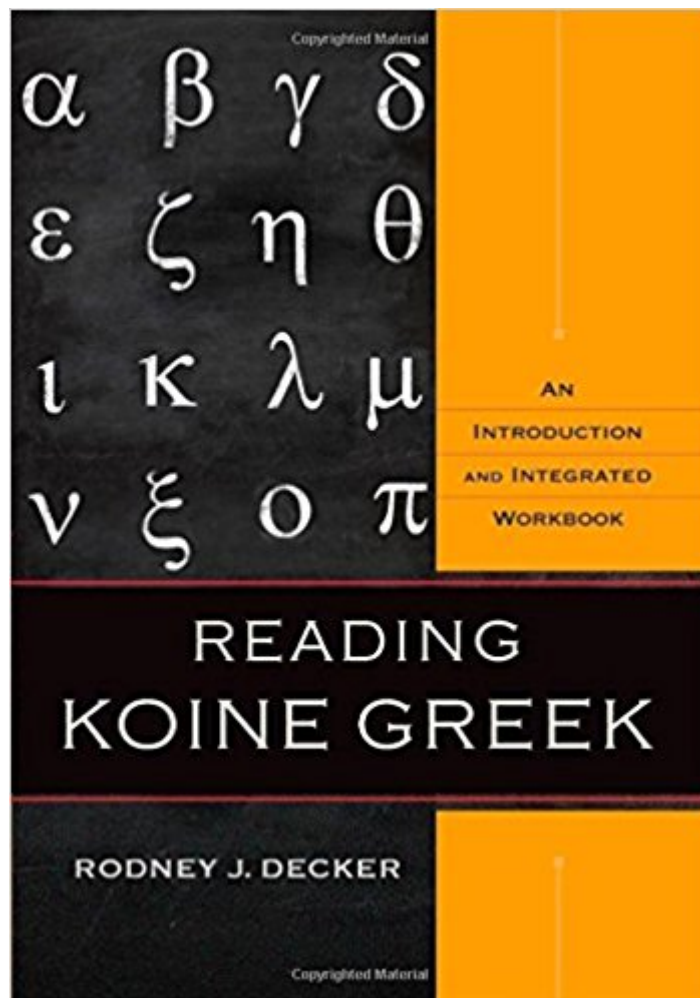




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# Reading Koine Greek: An Introduction And Integrated Workbook



## Synopsis

This in-depth yet student-friendly introduction to Koine Greek provides a full grounding in Greek grammar, while starting to build skill in the use of exegetical tools. The approach, informed by twenty-five years of classroom teaching, emphasizes reading Greek for comprehension as opposed to merely translating it. The workbook is integrated into the textbook, with exercises appearing within each chapter rather than pushed to the end or located in a separate book. This enables students to practice concepts as they encounter them in the chapter--ideal for distance learning or studying beyond the traditional classroom. The book covers not only New Testament Greek but also the wider range of Bible-related Greek (LXX and other Koine texts). It introduces students to reference tools for biblical Greek, includes tips on learning, and is supplemented by robust web-based resources through Baker Academic's Textbook eSources. Resources for students include flash cards and audio files. Resources for professors include a test bank and an instructor's manual.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Reading Koine Greek is readable and user friendly, yet remarkably sophisticated linguistically. Students learn not just forms and paradigms but, far more important, how language works and how the text as a whole functions as a communicative event. Students will also benefit from the hands-on workbook approach, which teaches by using Greek examples from the New Testament, the Septuagint, and other Koine texts. This is a pedagogically effective, accurate, and

comprehensive text."--Mark L. Strauss, Bethel Seminary San Diego"A wonderful Koine Greek grammar for the twenty-first century. Unlike most grammars currently in print, Decker's work is up to date with the cutting-edge issues in Greek linguistics, including verbal aspect, voice, lexical semantics, and pronunciation. This grammar demonstrates clear pedagogical concern, making the material accessible and teachable."--Constantine R. Campbell, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School"Reading Koine Greek reflects the most recent discussion of the Greek language, presented in a clear and practical way. Naturally, it will be especially attractive to Greek instructors in colleges and seminaries who share Decker's understanding of Greek verbal aspect. Even those who understand the topic differently may be tempted to use this work, given the attractive features of this introductory grammar."--Roy E. Ciampa, Nida Institute for Biblical Scholarship and Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary"It is a joy to see a new textbook in Biblical Greek in keeping with the best of traditional pedagogy that is also attuned to more recent insights into how students learn and how the language works. I am particularly pleased to see Greek voice forms and usage presented in terms of the newly emerging consensus in this area."--Carl W. Conrad, Washington University in St. Louis (retired)"Decker's decades of experience teaching Greek shine through this beautifully laid-out textbook. It is strongly recommended for teachers who want their students to get a thorough grounding in both Greek and exegesis, as well as for those wanting to recharge their Greek."--Stephen C. Carlson, Uppsala University"Rodney Decker's consummate skill as both a Greek scholar and a teacher is clearly evident in Reading Koine Greek, which draws heavily on insights from modern linguistics while always remaining very accessible. Students will find using Reading Koine Greek to be like having a master teacher guiding them through the sometimes turbulent waters of learning the language of the New Testament."--Martin Culy, editor, Baylor Handbook on the Greek New Testament

Rodney J. Decker (1953-2014) received his ThD from Central Baptist Theological Seminary and served as professor of Greek and New Testament at Baptist Bible Seminary in Pennsylvania. He authored Temporal Deixis of the Greek Verb in the Gospel of Mark with Reference to Verbal Aspect and several major Greek study books, including A Koine Greek Reader and the forthcoming Mark volumes in the Baylor Handbook on the Greek New Testament.

I have been studying Greek as an independent learner for a couple of years and have been through several popular grammars (e.g., Mounce, Black, etc.). I found those references excellent. In all honesty, I bought a copy of this grammar to support Prof. Decker's family, not as a further grammar

to read. I received the book, put it on the shelf, and paid no further attention. Today, I needed to confirm a small point of grammar. I turned to Mounce, couldn't readily find what I wanted. Turned to Black, couldn't find what I wanted. Tried Wallace, couldn't quickly find anything. Then I turned to this grammar. Not only found what I wanted very quickly, but it had the most fully fleshed out discussion I can recall reading. I decided to spend a little more time with the book and was delighted with its content. I plan on making my way through the entire book. It is truly outstanding. Given my now extensive library of Greek grammars, readers, and other works, I can unreservedly state that this book is one of the best. I highly recommend it for the serious student.

This is my first ever review on . I am reviewing the Kindle version. I am now studying Greek using Mounce's BBG and bought this book as a supplement based on the excellent reviews here. So I am not an expert but keen student of Greek. I am approaching this review on the basis of how it is helping me learn. I have to say I am not disappointed with the content itself. On style and sequencing, I prefer Mounce and suspect I would have been a little more lost had I started with Decker. BUT for my purpose of secondary reference, this book is all and more that I hoped for. Particularly the advanced notes on grammatical diagramming and categorizing vocabulary. The one negative I have concerns the Kindle version and Appendix E on archaic letters (digamma, vau, etc). None of the actual archaic letters are shown, only a square box like a font that cannot be displayed properly. This was a disappointment for me.

I have been reading Greek for 35 years, but I always add to my library new grammars (even first-year grammars) because I enjoy Greek so much. (I first learned with Goetichius, then reviewed with Mounce which was far better.) If you too love NT Greek, you will enjoy this grammar as well. Sadly, Decker passed to his eternal reward this summer, May 25, 2014, at age 61. Most first-year Greek students are assigned a textbook by their professor, probably Bill Mounce, Stanley Porter, or David Alan Black. (Perhaps Machen, Summers, etc., are still used by some.) I would recommend Decker's Reading Koine Greek as a great alternative. If you are attempting to renew your Greek abilities from classes long ago, this is an outstanding place to start. But Mounce has the advantage of video lectures to help you if you want that. First, this grammar is 667 pages long. Decker includes (1) a more extensive explanation of the material than Mounce, which is helpful if you don't have a teacher to explain it; (2) a more informed discussion of linguistics, including supplemental materials and sidebars that are very helpful (quotes by Silva, etc.); and (3) an integrated "workbook," (but this is rather thin). A supplemental workbook would be far better. Second, Decker is a well-respected

scholar with advanced publications on Greek verbal aspect, perhaps second only to Porter for those who have published beginning grammars. Decker advocates for three aspects: Perfective, (aorist tense-form); Imperfective, (present and imperfect tense-form); Stative, (perfect and pluperfect tense-form). He substantially agrees with Porter and Constantine Campbell (although Campbell does not view the stative as an aspect). The understanding of Greek aspect is widely debated by scholars with publications by McKay, Porter, Fanning, Decker, Black, et al. I believe it is important to include verbal aspect in first-year classes so that a student's misunderstanding does not need to be corrected in 2nd year classes. Not much is included by Decker regarding Aktionsart, because that is a 2nd year topic. So his book's length is not because of the inclusion of a lot of second-year material. Third, the number of vocabulary words is less than other grammars, far less than Porter's. But Decker does a better job than all others because he includes extended definitions with the vocabulary (more than a BDAG-type definition), rather than a 1-2 word gloss. So we begin by learning vocabulary with greater depth. (The word "Logos" has a range of meaning far greater than "word.") Fourth, the book is linguistically informed. The older grammars are really out of date because they could not include the advances in linguistic studies during the past 35 years (since the Porter, Fanning publications). This grammar, like Porter's, understands that linguistics is important. Fifth, it has great appendixes, including reference charts (as all have). But it also has its glossary with extended definitions and explanations, and a helpful participle chart. Sixth, we study verses from the LXX, so this is a Koine Greek grammar, not just a NT grammar. Students will enjoy working with the Greek of the Old Testament as they learn. What a great idea. Seventh, I hope someone is working on a companion workbook with extended exercises. The exercises in this text are helpful, but too few. Conclusion. Sadly, not everyone sees the value of NT Greek since we have so many great exegetical commentaries available. But if you like eating what you kill, your understanding of NT Greek will greatly benefit with this book. If you are really interested in studying Koine Greek, you will not be disappointed. And if you agree that an understanding of NT Greek is priceless, then do not hesitate to purchase this book. Instructors in first-year Greek may choose a different grammar for you, but you will be fortunate if your instructor chooses this one. If Greek is going to be important to you, then use this to supplement any other grammar you are using.

I am actually in a second level Greek course and when I am confused about something, I read the corresponding chapter in Rodney Decker's book and then I get it! I plan to go back to the beginning and read through the whole book, including the exercises - which are very helpful and well done - after my class is over. I would like to teach Greek sometime and I would use this book as the

textbook. Having the exercises "embedded" in the book makes it handy; there is less to keep track of.

Great book! Not so basic, but closer to intermediary. The explanations are very clear and well illustrated. To be not restrict to New Testament but include Septuagint and other Koine Greek literature is a strong point of this book. Maybe a first year student has to do more if this book is the text book for his/her course, but this student will be able to do good exegesis with what has learned just from it.

I am reviewing the hardback version and not the Kindle. Although I have learned Greek on my own, I can see where this book could be used in a classroom or individually and for that reason, it is an excellent choice for beginner to intermediate learners. Plus having the workbook included without having a second book was preferable for me. Unlike Mounce, this author does not make statements regarding his theological presuppositions. Therefore, the text could be used in a wide variety of seminaries. For a true beginner who is learning on their own without a teacher, I would recommend a different text however, probably William Countryman's Read it in Greek. But for an intermediate student, I like the chapter lengths, vocabulary level, and additional advanced information for reference.

Wonderful! It is the PERFECT book to refresh and deepen your understanding and use of the GNT. Get his Koine Reader as well!

Arrived in excellent condition, and of course the book itself is amazing.

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