


UNIT I

THE ALPHABET

Αα	alpha	Ξξ	xi
Ββ	beta		
Γγ	gamma	Οο	omicron
Δδ	delta	Ππ	pi
Εε	epsilon	Ρρ	rho
		Σσς	sigma
Ζζ	zeta	Ττ	tau
Ηη	eta	Υυ	upsilon
Θθ	theta		
		Φφ	phi
Ιι	iota	Χχ	chi
Κκ	kappa	Ψψ	psi
Λλ	lambda		
Μμ	mu	Ωω	omega
Νν	nu		

alpha

ἄλφα

Αα, **alpha** is the first letter in the Greek alphabet. In Rev.1:8, Jesus said,

“I am the alpha and the omega,
the beginning and the end.”

The meaning of this statement is clear only if you know that **alpha** is the first letter of the alphabet and that **omega** is the last. Capital **alpha** is identical to English **A**. Lowercase **alpha** looks much like the cursive English **a**. **Alpha** is the first of seven Greek **vowels**. **Alpha** has a long and short sound. The

sound symbol for the long sound is /ah/ and for the short sound is /uh/. Both are illustrated in the word *drama*. (Short **a** in English is the **a** in *cat*, which is not a sound in Greek.)

The letter **alpha** is often used to designate the *first in a series*. For example, in astronomy the brightest star in a constellation is called the *alpha star*. **Alpha** is also used to describe high achieving personalities. An *alpha* person wants to achieve and be first.

Trace and then write letters to complete each line.

α α α α α α α α α

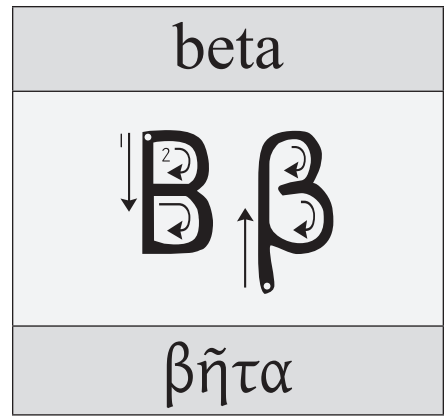
Αα

Fill in the blanks.

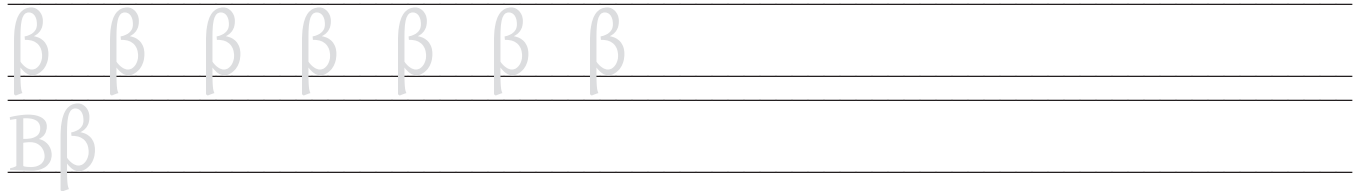
1. Alpha is the first letter in the Greek alphabet, and is the first of the seven Greek vowels. Write the word **alpha** again. alpha
2. The sound symbol for long **alpha** is /ah/ and for short **alpha** is /uh/, both illustrated by the English word drama.
3. Jesus said, "I am the alpha and the omega, the beginning and the end."
4. An alpha personality wants to be first.
5. **Alpha** is used to describe the first in a series, such as the brightest star in a constellation.

Ββ, **beta** is the second letter in the Greek alphabet. Uppercase **beta** is identical to the English **B**. Lowercase **beta** looks rather like a slimmer uppercase **B** with a tail below the line. The sound of Greek β is the same as an English **b** as in *boat*. The sound symbol for **beta** is /b/.

The word *alphabet* comes from combining the first two letters of the Greek alphabet — *alpha* and *beta*. **Beta** is often used to designate the *second in a series*. The second brightest star in a constellation is the *beta star*.



Trace and then write letters to complete each line.



Fill in the blanks.

- _____ Beta _____ is the second letter in the Greek alphabet. Write it again. _____ beta _____
- The sound symbol for **beta** is _____ /b/ _____, as in _____ bat _____.
- Beta** is often used to designate the _____ second _____ in a series.
- The word *alphabet* comes from what two Greek words? _____ alpha and beta _____