

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

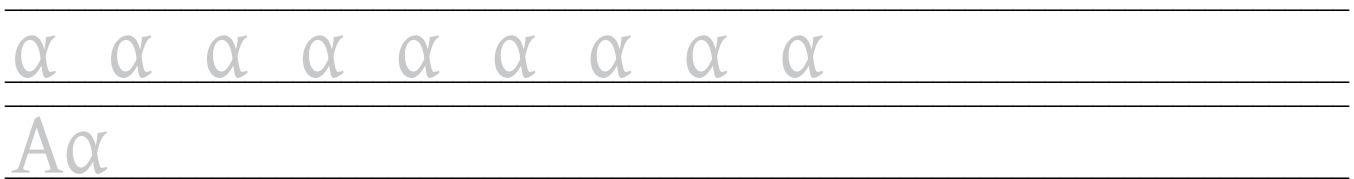
"I am the alpha and the omega,
the beginning and the end."

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**. Lower case 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.



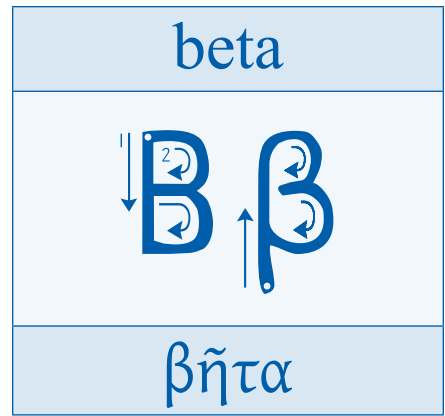
Fill in the blanks.

- _____ is the first letter in the Greek alphabet, and is the first of the _____ Greek vowels. Write the word **alpha** again. _____
- The sound symbol for long alpha is _____ and for short alpha is _____ both illustrated by the English word _____.
- Jesus said I am the _____ and the _____, the _____ and the _____.
- An _____ personality wants to be first.
- Alpha** is used to describe the _____ in a series, such as the _____ star in a constellation.

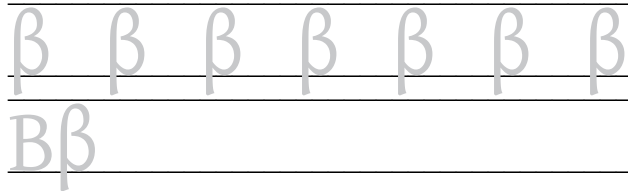


Bβ, **beta**, is the second letter in the Greek alphabet. Upper case **beta** is identical to the English **B**. Lower case beta looks rather like a slimmer upper case **B** with a tail below the line. The sound of Greek β is the same as an English **b** as in *boat*. The sound symbol for **beta** is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

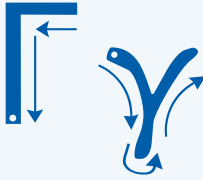


Trace and then write letters to complete each line.



Fill in the blanks.

1. _____ is the second letter in the Greek alphabet. Write it again. _____
2. The sound symbol for beta is _____, as in _____
3. **Beta** is often used to designate the _____ in a series.
4. The word alphabet comes from what two Greek words? _____

gamma

γάμμα

$\Gamma\gamma$, **gamma**, is the third letter in the Greek alphabet, corresponding to the seventh letter in the English alphabet, **G, g**. Upper case **gamma** looks like an upside down English **L**, and lower case **gamma** looks like a cursive English **y**. **Gamma** is always *hard* as in *goat*, never *soft* as in *gym*. The sound symbol for Greek **gamma** is /g/.

Gamma is often used to designate the *third item in a series*. Many advanced concepts in mathematics, physics, chemistry, and astronomy are named with Greek alphabet and

letter names. For instance, in chemistry or physics you will learn that the three kinds of rays that come from the nucleus of an atom are called **alpha**, **beta**, and **gamma** rays. **Alpha** particles are the largest, then **beta**, and last, **gamma** rays.

Trace and then write letters to complete each line.

γ γ γ γ γ γ γ γ

Γ γ

Α α Β β Γ γ

Fill in the blank.

- _____ is the third letter in the Greek alphabet. Write it again. _____
- In English and Christian Latin, **g** can be *hard* or *soft*. In Greek, **gamma** is always _____.
- The sound symbol for **gamma** is _____ as in _____, not in _____.
- Sciences that use Greek letters as symbols and names for advanced concepts are _____.
- Lower case **gamma** is confusing because it looks like an English _____.

	HONORS: Research and make a poster or write a report on alpha, beta, and gamma rays.
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REVIEW 1

Complete chart, writing Greek letters in order.

Upper	Lower	English Name	Sound Symbol	Sound Word
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Trace and then write letters to complete each line.

ΑΒΓ

αβγ αβγ αβγ αβγ

Αα Ββ Γγ

Fill in the blanks.

- _____ often names the first of a series, _____ the second of a series, and _____ the third of a series.
- The three kinds of emissions from the decay of the nucleus of an atom are _____
- Jesus said I am the _____ and the _____, the _____ and the _____.
- Gamma** is always _____ not soft.