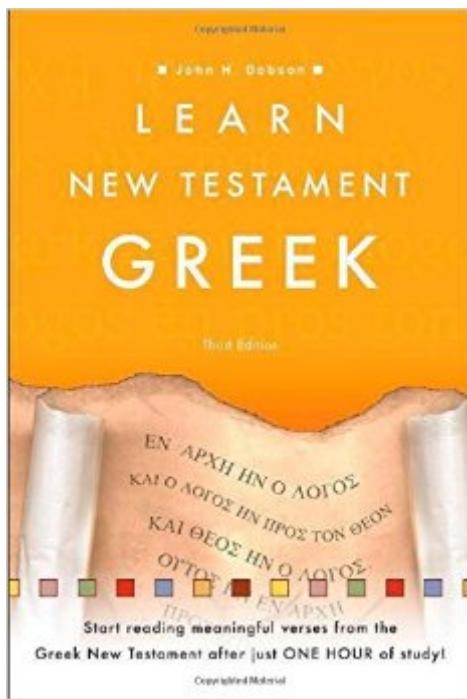


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Learn New Testament Greek



Synopsis

This comprehensive guide uses a highly effective teaching method to introduce readers to New Testament Greek quickly. The book provides all the basics of a beginning grammar. In addition, it includes a wealth of reading and translation exercises and activities, helpful grammatical resources, and accented Greek text. Audio files for the book are available through Baker Academic's Textbook eSources. Now in paper.

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Customer Reviews

Let me state up front: I am extremely skeptical that one can adequately learn Biblical Greek inductively. With that caveat, this is the best inductive grammar that I have ever seen. For those who have used previous editions of Dobson's grammar, the third edition offers significant improvements. Some of the noteworthy features include:1. The book is unusually well printed and a delight to read. If you have ever tried to read books created with inadequate Greek or Hebrew fonts, you will appreciate how important a feature this is - particularly in a grammar for beginners.2. The book is essentially error free. This is one of the benefits of a third edition, but it is a meaningful benefit. There are few things more frustrating to a new student than trying to figure out why he or she is wrong when it is the text that is in error.3. Dobson does a superb job of selecting exercises throughout the work. He keeps introducing minor variations so that students don't become lazy knowing what the answer "should be" in this section. This ringing of changes is the genius of inductive language study, and Dobson is a master in this art.4. Dobson has added simple, brief,

grammatical explanations throughout the book that will help students relate what they are learning to traditional deductive grammars. My concerns: 1. In trying to create excitement about learning Biblical Greek, Dobson implies that the student is becoming more competent than anyone could become through one year of language study. Would you hire someone with only 1 year of German to teach German literature at a University? Of course not!

Some people love it, some people don't. So you can decide for yourself, let me tell you how the book is set up: BACKGROUND Greek is 'inflected' -- depending on their meaning in a sentence, nouns have several forms. The word is 'o logos'. But if you're saying it, the word is 'ton logon.' And if it's Mark's, the word is 'tou logou'. And if you're convincing someone with the word, it's ... well, you get the idea. The word(s) = o logo, ton logon, tou logou, oi logoi, tous logous, tw logw, etc. So having a "vocabulary" of Greek words isn't particularly helpful until you get the endings in your brain and tou logou makes you think "[of] the word" more or less automatically, without you really thinking about it. How hard is it to learn the endings? Plenty. For nouns there are three genders, five cases, single, plural, double, all done in three versions = declensions. 230 endings, all nicely tabularized in my old Greek textbook (not this one). Verbs have tenses, moods and voices. So all you have to do to read a sentence in Greek is figure out each word's root, identify each ending, match it with the table in your head [nominative, dative, accusative, genitive, dative, or vocative; singular or plural; masculine, feminine or neuter] ... and translate the grammar into English -- quick, you do know the English equivalent of the dative plural of 'book', right? And what's the English aorist subjunctive active form of 'go'? -- and viola, you're on to the next word. Did I mention "the"? My old text lists 30 !! versions. Thirty ways to say "the": o, tou, ton, to, ta, tw, tous, oi, etc. etc. METHODS #1 TRADITIONAL Greek textbooks list tables of noun endings = "declensions."

For Christmas I asked for and received this book and the NT Greek grammar by Mounce at the same time, thinking that they would complement each other. So far, my expectation has been completely fulfilled! The good points of this book are: 1. It provides lots of practice with reading Greek sentences. Lots of practice is the only way to become fluent in any language, and this book provides it. To me this is the book's primary good point (but see #4 below). 2. As the other reviews say, it gets you into the language right away with few technical details. 3. It is highly inductive, meaning it doesn't go thru lists of paradigms and rules, but gets you right into reading the text. 4. This book has the only really good explanation of preposition usage I've seen. They all - including Mounce - show the little boxes with arrows: eis, en, ex, hypo, etc. This is useful as far as it goes. But

this book does something I've never seen: it gives multiple examples from the New Testament for each possible meaning of each preposition. For example, most books say "en" means "in, with, or by"; but this book gives you actual NT examples of "en" meaning each of these. Wonderful! The bad points are: 1. It is highly inductive. I don't think this kind of learning style suits me as an adult at all. True, the deductive method is different from how we learned language as children. Proponents of inductive learning (such as Prof. Harris in his sometimes interesting alternative Latin grammar) always point this out and state without proof that everybody knows the inductive method is superior. And for children, they're probably right. However, we **were** children then.

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