

Business Mathematics (BK/IBA) – Quantitative Research Methods I (EBE)

The Greek alphabet

Introduction

The Greek alphabet is often used for mathematical expressions, and therefore in derived topics, such as finance, marketing, business statistics, etc. Below is a list of the letters in use, listing their lowercase and uppercase forms as well as their name. Letters that are hardly used because they resemble Latin letters are printed in parantheses. For some letters (ε/ϵ , θ/ϑ , ρ/ϱ , φ/ϕ) two forms are given.

Lowercase	Capital	English name	Dutch name
α	(A)	alpha	alfa
β	(B)	beta	bèta
γ	Γ	gamma	gamma
δ	Δ	delta	delta
ε, ϵ	(E)	epsilon	epsilon
ζ	(Z)	zeta	zèta
η	(H)	eta	èta
θ, ϑ	Θ	theta	thèta
(i)	(I)	(iota)	(iota)
κ	(K)	kappa	kappa
λ	Λ	lambda	lambda
μ	(M)	mu	mu
ν	(N)	nu	nu
ξ	Ξ	xi	xi
(o)	(O)	(omicron)	(omikron)
π	Π	pi	pi
ρ, ϱ	(P)	rho	rho
σ	Σ	sigma	sigma
τ	(T)	tau	tau
(v)	(Υ)	(upsilon)	(ypsilon)
ϕ, φ	Φ	phi	phi
χ	(X)	chi	chi
ψ	Ψ	psi	psi
ω	Ω	omega	omega

Pronunciation

Use the modern English or Dutch way to pronounce the letters, not the classical Greek way. Most letters are pronounced pretty straightforward. However, mind the following cases:

- β /*Beta* (beta), in English not as [bèta] but as [bita] or [béta]
- similar for ζ /Z (zeta), η /H (eta), and θ /Θ (theta)
- ξ /Ξ (xi), in English not as [ksai] but as [zai]
- χ /X (chi), in English not as [chai] or [tchai], but as [kai]; in Dutch not as [sjie] or [tsjie], but as [gi] with a hard g (like in Giethoorn)
- ψ /Ψ (psi), in English not as [psai] but as [sai]