

Attic Number System (ROUGH DRAFT)

The Attic Number System is based on the values listed in the following table.

Symbol	Value	Origin
I	1	a stroke representing one unit
Γ	5	πέντε (originally ΓΕΝΤΕ)
Δ	10	δέκα (originally ΔΕΚΑ)
𐀀	50	Combination of Γ and Δ
H	100	ἑκατόν (originally ΗΕΚΑΤΟΝ)
𐀁	500	Combination of Γ and H
X	1000	χίλιοι (originally ΧΙΛΙΟΙ)
𐀂	5000	Combination of Γ and X
M	10000	μύριοι (originally ΜΥΡΙΟΙ)
𐀃	50000	Combination of Γ and M

Example: the number 84 is written 𐀀ΔΔΔΙΙΙΙ

Example: the number 2005 is written ΧΓ

Example: the number 45789 is written ΜΜΜΜ𐀁𐀁ΗΗ𐀀ΔΔΔΓΙΙΙΙ

Attic numbers were later replaced by the Ionian numbers even in Attica. (Attica is a region of Greece whose main city is Athens).

Attic numbers were largely used for cardinal numbers (for counting, not for ordering) and were not used to represent fractions.

The letter 𐀀 is an archaic form of Π (pi), not to be confused with Γ (gamma).

The letter H (eta) is usually pronounced as a long *e*. However, early on, in some regions of Greece, it was pronounced like we pronounce *h*. Thus in the archaic spelling ΗΕΚΑΤΟΝ for ἑκατόν, the letter H is pronounced like *h*. (In Greek the *h* sound is found at the start of words, and was dropped altogether in some dialects. Because of this the Greeks eventually decided to use eta for a vowel sound, and eventually the accent ´ was used to indicate an *h* sound.)