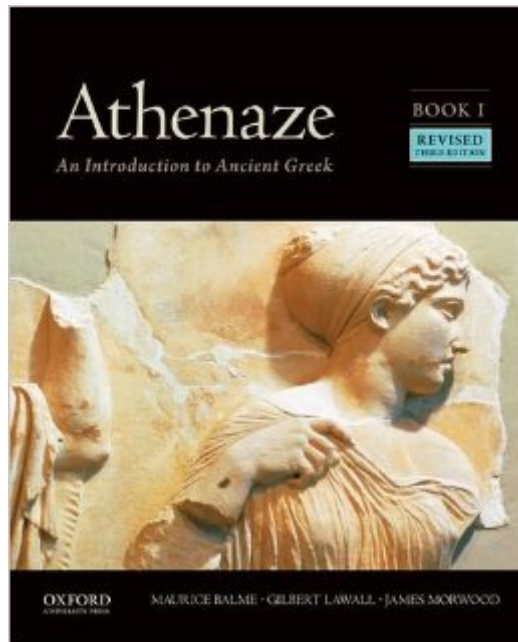


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# Athenaze, Book I: An Introduction To Ancient Greek



## Synopsis

Combining the best features of traditional and modern methods, *Athenaze: An Introduction to Ancient Greek 3/e*, provides a unique, bestselling course of instruction that allows students to read connected Greek narrative right from the beginning and guides them to the point where they can begin reading complete classical texts. Carefully designed to hold students' interest, the course begins in Book I with a fictional narrative about an Attic farmer's family placed in a precise historical context (423-431 B.C.). This narrative, interwoven with tales from mythology and the Persian Wars, gradually gives way in Book II to adapted passages from Thucydides, Plato, and Herodotus and ultimately to excerpts of the original Greek of Bacchylides, Thucydides, and Aristophanes' *Acharnians*. Essays on relevant aspects of ancient Greek culture and history are also woven throughout.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Just terrible. The previous edition is much better and clearer. The new one has pictures that are not crisp. The text seems scrunched together in places (you can't tell if the words go together or not) and does not give space for the eyes, lastly there are errors that were not in the 2nd edition. 2nd edition is the same as this but better. 3rd edition has just some added references in the end for British and Australian students. They also don't offer the teacher's manual for this edition although the 2nd edition manual works with the 3rd just as well. Overall the text has been hurried, badly put together when they had a chance to really improve it they did not. 2nd edition is best so far. They

didn't give adequate space for the text.

Really disappointed with the new edition. Athenaze was the set text for my undergrad Greek classes. I enjoyed learning with it and I've taught with it successfully with several classes at high school level. My dog-eared copy of the second edition was nearing the end of its life, so I was excited to see that a new edition was being released. It is, however, extremely disappointing. From the poor quality of the binding (very thin softcover, thin pages ) to the poor quality of the printing (pixellated images, the 'colour pictures' being limited to 10 plates in the middle - nothing to get excited about), even to the font chosen for the Greek, it feels like a step backward rather than a step forward. It's a shame, as there may well be some benefits to the edited text compared to the older edition, but I won't be using the text for my classes.

I've used Athenaze for years and was excited to see a new edition. I'm not a fan of the new Greek font, but I can live with it. I'm not seeing the problems with pixelated images that other reviewers note, and I appreciate the new color images. I do think that the new layout is more visually appealing. The new shaded boxes for the vocabulary, cultural information, Classical Greek and New Testament Greek are a big improvement, in my opinion. Some of the maps show dramatic improvement; for example the one of "Greece and the Aegean Sea" just before chapter 1. Perhaps even more significant is that many of the tables are easier to read; the line that separates the headings of the tables from the forms might seem like a small thing, but I believe it was a good change. On the negative side, the binding is the typical OUP paperback binding, which has never been robust. I've had to replace my copies of the 2nd edition every few years, so I can't really say that's a step backward. Unfortunately, the change in font has caused the entire book to be re-paginated, so all existing syllabi are obsolete and will have to be recreated. In general, both my students and I have liked Athenaze over the years. The changes to the new edition are mostly cosmetic, but I believe there are as many positives as negatives.

I'm not quite sure why other reviewers have taken such a negative stance toward the 3rd edition of Athenaze. Yes, some of the black and white photographs are not quite as crisp as they could be, but the loss of clarity is very minor. Yes, the font is slightly different than the 2nd edition, but it is imminently readable and only slightly different than the font used in the 2nd edition. No, the color plates really don't add that much to the student's experience, but they are certainly not a detractor. These are essentially minor cosmetic issues. Other updates to the presentation are helpful (such as

shaded boxes for vocabulary lists), and the core of the book is essentially unchanged, making it quite easy to move from 2nd edition to 3rd in the classroom. Though Athenaze is not a perfect textbook, neither is any other, and Athenaze is easily more useful in the classroom than any other Attic text I've used. The overall quality of the text remains unchanged; the positives and negatives of the cosmetic changes basically balance one another. I'll be sticking with Athenaze as my text.

The reviewer who finds the production aspects of this edition woefully inadequate must have received a throw-away copy. Mine is nicely bound, with wonderful pictures to accompany a great text. So far as I can see it is the same text as the 2nd edition, which was an outstanding text with which to learn Greek. Each chapter begins with vocabulary to be learned; then comes a large Greek reading section, whose vocabulary will usually crop up later in chapter vocabulary lists. Then comes grammar, clearly explained, and then exercises. Finally comes information about Greek history and culture. One simply could not ask for a better beginning Greek text. It is so well thought out that it is used even in secondary schools. If you want to learn Greek but are afraid it might be too hard, then this book is for you. If you are intrepid and diligent and passionate about learning Greek, then this book is also for you. Just keep in mind the Latin maxim, *Repetitio est mater memoriae*: Repetition is the mother of memory. We learned our mother tongue through endless repetition. That obtains for all language learning. Study each day with this fine text and you should do very well.

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