

INTRODUCTION TO IONIC DIALECT

The Ionic dialect is closely related to Attic. Indeed they are often represented as part of the same dialect group (Attic-Ionic), and Attic is sometimes referred to as a refinement of Ionic. There are two phases of Ionic: *Old Ionic*, in which Archilochus (c. 680–645) wrote and which formed the core of the epic dialect of Homer and Hesiod; and *New Ionic*, in which Herodotus (484–420s) and the medical writer Hippocrates (c. 460 BCE) wrote.

The main differences between the Ionic dialect (Old and New) and Classical Attic were the following:

SPELLING

1. The shift from long \bar{a} to η occurs in almost all words (in Attic it does not occur after η , ι , and ρ): e.g. *αἰτή* (*αἰτία*), *πρήγμα* (*πράγμα*).
2. κ for π : e.g. *κῶς* (*πῶς*), *κότερος* (*πότερος*), *κοῦ* (*ποῦ*), *ἵκκος* (*ἵππος*).
3. With a few exceptions, there are no ‘h’ sounds in Ionic. Thus aspiration usually omitted: *ἀπικνέομαι* (*ἀφικνέομαι*), *μετήμι* (*μεθήμι*); and rough mutes in Attic (φ , θ , χ) are smooth (π , τ , κ): *αῦτις* (*αῦθις*), *δέκομαι* (*δέχομαι*).
4. Ionic "σσ" appears as "ττ" in later Classical Attic: *τέσσαρες* (*τέτταρες*).
5. Herodotus frequently does not contact vowels in verbs and nouns: e.g. *φιλέω* (*φιλω*), *ποιέειν* (*ποιεῖν*), *νόος* (*νοῦς*), *γένεα* (*γένη*).
6. Crasis, or the contraction of a vowel or diphthong at the end of a word with a vowel or diphthong beginning the following word, is common: *τῶντό* (*τὸ αὐτό*), *ἄλλοι* (*οἱ ἄλλοι*).

VERBS

7. Verb forms are generally the same as Attic, but Epic endings such as *-αται* (*-νται*), *-ατο* (*-ντο*) occur in optative and present and imperfect of *-μι* verbs.
8. Verb augment often lacking, especially in verbs beginning with a diphthong.
9. There is no dual.

PRONOUNS

10. Relative pronoun is identical with the definite article, although masc. sing. *ὅς*.
11. The forms of the third-person pronoun are Epic (see table on right).



Important Vowel Difference

Herodotus	Attic	e.g.
ει (before ν, ρ, λ)	ε	ξένος
ε	ει	ἀπόδειξις
ευ	εο/ου	σευ, ποιούμενα
η (after ε, ι, ρ)	ᾶ	αἰτή, πρήγμα
ηι	ει	οἰκῆμος
ου (before ν, ρ, λ)	ο	μῦθος
ω	α/ου	ἔωντοῦ, ὄν (οὖν)

Important Consonant Changes

Herodotus	Attic	e.g.
κ	π	κῶς (<i>πῶς</i>), ἵκκος (<i>ἵππος</i>)
σσ	ττ	θάλασσα, πρήσσω

Frequent Variations in Declensional Endings

	Attic	Herodotus
1st decl.		
gen. s.	-ου	-εω
	-ῶν	-έων
gen. pl.	-αις	-ησι(ν)
dat. pl.		
2nd decl.		
dat. pl.	-οις	-οισι(ν)
3rd decl.		
dat. pl.	-σι(ν)	-εσσι(ν)
many endings uncontracted: <i>γενέος</i>		

Differences in Personal pronouns

	Attic	Herodotus
1st pers.		
gen. s.	ἐμοῦ, μου	ἐμέο, ἐμεῦ
gen. pl.	ἡμῶν	ἡμέων
2nd pers.		
gen. s.	σοῦ, σου	σέο, σεῦ
dat. s.	σοί, σοι	τοι
gen. pl.	ὑμῶν	ὑμέων
acc. pl.	ὑμᾶς	ὑμέας
3rd pers.		
gen. s.	αὐτοῦ, -ῆς	εὔ
dat. s.	αὐτῷ, -ῆ	οἶ
acc. s.	αὐτόν, -ήν, -ό	μιν
nom. pl.	αὐτοί, -αί, -ά	σφείς
gen. pl.	αὐτῶν	σφέων
dat. pl.	αὐτοῖς, -αῖς	σφι(ν)
acc. pl.	αὐτούς, -άς, -ά	σφέας