

ENCYCLOPEDIA OF ANCIENT GREEK LANGUAGE AND LINGUISTICS

Volume 3
P–Z, Index

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LEIDEN • BOSTON
2014

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Utterance

The utterance (υ) is the largest recognized unit of → prosody (Nespor and Vogel 1986:221–248) and is usually bordered on either side by silence. Part of the → syntax-phonology interface, it tends to correspond with the syntactic notion *sentence* (simple, complex, or compound), but often consists of less (Selkirk 1980; Nespor and Vogel 1986:221–223), as the beginning of Plato’s *Crito* (43a) illustrates. The dialogue begins with two utterances (marked off in square brackets), each of which is a complete sentence:

Socrates:	[<i>tí tēnikáde aphêxai, ô Krittôn?</i>] _υ	[<i>ê ou prôi éti estín?</i>] _υ	
	‘Why have you come so early, Crito?’	Or is it no longer early?’	

But the following utterances are made up only of sentence fragments:

Crito:	[<i>pánu mèn oún.</i>] _υ ‘No, it certainly is.’
Socrates:	[<i>pēnika mèn málista?</i>] _υ ‘So what time is it exactly?’
Crito:	[<i>óρθρος bathús.</i>] _υ ‘Early dawn.’

They are in turn followed by an utterance that contains a complex sentence (*thaumázō* ‘I’m amazed’ plus an embedded clause):

Socrates:	[<i>thaumázō hópōs êthélēsé soi ho toû desmôtēríou phúlax hupakoúsai</i>] _υ ‘I’m amazed that the prison guard was willing to let you in’
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What these utterances all have in common is that they are bounded by silence and not contained in any other (known) unit of prosody.

In non-corpus languages, typical phonetic correlates of the utterance include final lengthening, pause (Devine and Stephens 1994:411; Smith 2002), devoicing (Devine and Stephens 1994:80; Michelson 1999; Smith 2002; Taylor 2003:249), modulation of voice quality (Duncan and Fiske 1977; Gobl 1988; Klatt and Klatt 1990; Epstein 2002; Ogden 2004), accent alterations (Devine and Stephens 1994:146; Woodbury 1999; Dutta and Hock 2006), and tone shifts (Devine and Stephens 1994:430, 438); see also Devine and Stephens (1994:418–420).

Some of these features are also associated with other prosodic constituents, especially the → intonational phrase, but they are typically marked more strongly at the end of an utterance than elsewhere (Joseph 1999; Devine and Stephens 1994:148). Nespor and Vogel (1986:223–225) argue that flapping in American English as well as *r*-insertion in British English (1986:226–228) occur within the domain of the utterance. What phenomena in Ancient Greek belong to the utterance-level, if any, remains to

be determined, and this remains an underexplored area of research.

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