Other Diacritical Marks

1. The diaeresis (¨), pronounced dy-**eer**-i-sis, is placed over the second of two vowels to show they form two syllables and not a diphthong. English example: naïve (nah-**eev**). Greek examples: Μωϋσης or διϊσχυριζετο.

2. The coronis (’), pronounced kor-ō-nĭs, is used to indicate crasis (i.e., contraction). It is placed over contracted syllable. Greek example: κἀγω from καί + ἔγω.

3. The apostrophe (’), is used to indicate elision—omission of a vowel or syllable in pronunciation. It is placed after the word with the elided vowel. Greek example: ἐπ’ αὐτόν.

4. The iota subscript is not found in any uncial (i.e., capital only) manuscripts. It was introduced around the 12th Century A.D. to indicate ancient diphthongs. It does not change the pronunciation, but it does indicate a different word or meaning.

Realize that a lot of these editorial devices came much later on in the manuscripts. The early uncial manuscripts were even without breaks between the words and most sentences. Breathing, accents, iota subscripts, punctuation marks—which often influence the translation—are later editorial editions and should be treated as such.

The ultimate authority in every case is the unedited text: what meaning does the context require? If it is ambivalent, then the interpreter must refrain from dogmatic assertion.