

Coptic Language Grade 7&UP 2017

❖ Letters similar to English

Ⲁ ⲁ	A	A vowel pronounced (as “a” in father)	Ⲁⲛⲧ- ⲱⲛⲓⲟⲥ	Antonios	Anthony
Ⲗ ⲗ	B V	A consonant pronounced as I. “v” if followed by a vowel (as “v” volt) II. “b” if not followed by a vowel (as “b” big)	ⲛⲟⲩⲃ ⲃⲁⲗ	Noub Val	Gold Eye
Ⲉ ⲉ	E	A vowel pronounced (as “ai” in main)	Ⲉⲗⲓⲥⲉⲟⲥ	Eliseos	Elisha
Ⲙ ⲙ	Z	A consonant pronounced (as “z” in zinc)	Ⲙⲱⲛⲏ	zwnee	Belt
Ⲓ ⲓ	I	A vowel pronounced (as “i” in big)	ⲒⲱⲥⲏⲪ	Yosif	Joseph
Ⲕ ⲕ	K	A consonant pronounced (as “k” in cook)	Ⲕⲣⲓⲗ- ⲗⲟⲥ	Kyrillos	Kyrillos
Ⲛ ⲛ	N	A consonant pronounced (as “n” in nancy)	ⲛⲓⲱⲧ	nishti	Great
Ⲑ ⲑ	O	A vowel pronounced (as “o” in not)	ⲥⲐⲛ	soun	Brother
Ⲙ ⲙ	C	A consonant pronounced (as “s” in savior)	Ⲙⲟⲩⲣⲓⲏⲗ	Souriel	Souriel
Ⲙ ⲙ	T	A consonant pronounced (as “t” in take)	ⲧⲟⲧⲥ	Tots	Chair
Ⲓ ⲓ		A vowel pronounced as I. “v” if coming after Ⲁ or Ⲉ II. “o” if coming after Ⲑ III. “e” in all other cases	ⲟⲩⲏⲃ ⲉⲩⲙⲛⲟⲥ ⲙⲁⲩ	Ouib Hemnoc Mav	Priest Song Mother
Ⲙ ⲙ	Ti	A consonant pronounced (as “tee” in teeth)	ⲧⲛⲟⲩ	Tinou	Now
Ⲓ ⲓ		A vowel pronounced (as “ee” in see)	ⲉⲏⲧ	Heat	Heart
Ⲙ ⲙ	W	A vowel pronounced (as “oa” in throw)	ⲱⲓⲕ	ouik	Bread

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P p	R	A consonant pronounced (as “r” in run)	ⲣⲁⲛ	Ran	Name
X x		A consonant pronounced as I. “k” Coptic origin words II. "sh" (sheep) if coming before ε, ι, η, ϣ III. “kh” (Mikhaeel) otherwise	ⲭⲏⲙⲓ ⲭⲉⲣⲉ ⲭⲣⲏⲥⲧⲟⲥ	Kimi Shere Ekhrastos	Egypt Hail Christ

❖ More Letters

Ⲕ ⲕ	KH	A consonant pronounced as in Arabic “kh”	Ⲕⲏⲃⲥ	Khibs	Lamp
Ⲩ ⲛ	H	A consonant pronounced as “h” in house	Ⲩⲏⲧ	Heat	Heart
Ⲙ ⲙ	L	A consonant pronounced as “l” in look	Ⲙⲁⲥ	Las	Tongue
Ⲙ ⲙ	M	A consonant pronounced as “m” in mother	ⲙⲟⲕⲙⲉⲕ	Mokmek	Think
Ⲭ ⲭ	J	A consonant pronounced as I. “j” if coming before ε, ι, η, ϣ junior II. “g” otherwise	ⲬⲓⲬ	Jig	Hand
Ⲡ ⲡ	P	A consonant pronounced as “p” in Peter	Ⲡⲉⲧⲣⲟⲥ	Petros	Peter
Ⲥ Ⲧ	F	A consonant pronounced as “f” in fan	Ⲥⲓ- ⲗⲟⲡⲁⲧⲏⲣ	Filopater	Philopater
Ⲗ ⲗ	Ch	A consonant pronounced as “ch” in Church	Ⲗⲟⲓⲥ	Chois	Lord
Ⲙ ⲙ	X	A consonant pronounced as “x” in box	Ⲙⲟⲙⲏ	Xomi	Ruler
Ⲑ ⲑ	Th	A consonant pronounced as “Th” in think	Ⲑⲉⲗⲏⲗ	thelil	
Ⲙ ⲙ	Th, D	TH as in then, (D in names)	Ⲙⲟⲗⲁ Ⲙⲁⲣⲓⲗ	Zoksa David	Glory David
Ⲥ Ⲧ	F	A consonant pronounced as “f” in fan	Ⲥⲟⲧⲉ	fote	Towel

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Ϛ ϛ	G, GH, NG	A consonant pronounced as I. “g” if coming before ε, ι, η, ϣ II. “ng” if coming before ϣ, κ, ζ, ϛ III. “gh” otherwise	Γαβριηλ Ἀγγελος ταγμα	Ghabriel Angelos taghma	Gabriel Angel Rank
Ϙ ϙ	Ps	PS (both are pronounced)	ψαλι	psali	Song
Ϡ ϡ	Sh	A consonant pronounced as “sh” in <u>shake</u>	ϣαι	shy	feast
Ϝ	So	it is the numeral 6	ἕξ ἡμεροῦ	so enehoou	6 days

❖ Jenkem or

- I. When Jenkem comes over a vowel letter, the letter must be pronounced by itself.
- II. When Jenkem comes over a consonant, an w sound proceeds the letter.

for example ḥ = εη ḡ = εη

❖ Coptic Grammar

Articles

	Definite article			Indefinite article
Singular masculine	ⲡⲓ	ⲛ̀	ⲉ̀ⲫ	ⲟⲩ
Singular feminine	ⲧ	ⲩ̀	ⲉ̀Ⲑ	ⲟⲩ
Plural	Ⲛⲓ	ⲚⲈⲚ		ⲉ̀ⲁⲚ

1) The definite article,

"the" in English, has different forms for a boy, a girl, and many

- 1- ⲡⲓ or ⲧ used for any word in general.
- 2- ⲉ̀ⲫ or ⲉ̀Ⲑ used for words that begin with any of the following letters: **Ⲗ, ⲓ, ⲣ, Ⲛ, ⲗ, ⲙ**
- 3- ⲛ̀ or ⲩ̀ used for words **not** begin with any of the following letters: **Ⲗ, ⲓ, ⲣ, Ⲛ, ⲗ, ⲙ**
- 4- Ⲛⲓ plural "the" for both masculine and feminine. **General use.**
- 5- ⲚⲈⲚ plural "the" for both masculine and feminine. **Specific use.** when a noun is followed by another noun.

Examples:

ⲡⲓⲣⲱⲙⲓ	the man	ⲧⲡⲁⲣⲑⲈⲚⲟⲥ	the virgin
ⲛ̀ⲡⲟⲩⲣⲟ	the king	ⲩ̀ⲱⲉⲣⲓ	the daughter
ⲉ̀ⲫⲓⲱⲧ	the father	ⲉ̀ⲚⲚⲖ	the lady
Ⲛⲓⲁⲩⲩⲉⲗⲟⲥ	the angels	ⲚⲈⲚⲱⲙⲓⲣⲓ	the sons

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ⲡⲓⲕⲁⲓ	̀ⲡⲕⲁⲓ	the earth
ⲡⲓⲣⲱⲙⲓ	̀Ⲫⲣⲱⲙⲓ	the man
ⲧⲙⲁⲣ	̀Ⲫⲙⲁⲣ	the mother
ⲧⲭⲟⲙ	̀ⲧⲭⲟⲙ	the power
ⲛⲓⲱⲛⲣⲓ	ⲛⲉⲛⲱⲛⲣⲓ	the sons
ⲛⲉⲛⲭⲱⲙ ⲛ̀ⲧⲉⲕⲕⲁⲛⲥⲓⲁ		the books of the church
ⲛⲉⲛⲣⲱⲙⲓ ⲛ̀Ⲫⲛⲟⲩⲧ		God's men

2) The indefinite article, "a" or "an" in English,

ⲟⲩⲭⲱⲙ	a book	ⲉⲗⲁⲛⲭⲱⲙ	books or some books
ⲟⲩⲕⲁⲱ	a pen or a pencil	ⲉⲗⲁⲛⲱⲱ	lessons
ⲟⲩⲱⲛⲣⲓ	Son	ⲉⲗⲁⲛⲱⲛⲣⲓ	Sons

ⲡⲓⲱⲓⲕ ⲛ̀ⲧⲉ ⲛ̀ⲱⲛⲃ : ⲉ̀ⲧⲁϥⲓ ⲉ̀ⲡⲉⲥⲛⲧ : ⲛⲁⲛ ⲉ̀ⲃⲟⲗⲃⲉⲛ ⲛ̀ⲧⲪⲉ : ⲁϥⲧ ⲛ̀ⲱⲛⲃ ⲛ̀ⲡⲓⲕⲟⲥⲙⲟⲥ.	The Bread of life, which came down for us from heaven, has given life to the world.
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ⲡⲓⲱⲓⲕ	the Bread
̀ⲛ̀ⲱⲛⲃ	the life
̀ⲧⲪⲉ	the heaven
ⲡⲓⲕⲟⲥⲙⲟⲥ	the world

Ⲭⲛⲛⲥⲧⲓⲁ ⲛⲉⲙ ⲡⲓⲱⲗⲛⲗ : ⲛ̀Ⲫⲱⲟⲩ ⲡⲉ ⲛ̀ϥⲱⲧ ⲛ̀ⲛⲉⲛⲫⲣⲭⲏ : ⲡⲓⲧⲟⲩⲃⲟ ⲛⲉⲙ ⲧⲙⲉⲪⲙⲏⲓ : ⲛ̀Ⲫⲱⲟⲩ ⲡⲉ ⲱⲁⲣⲣⲁⲛⲁϥ ⲛ̀Ⲫⲛⲟⲩⲧ.	Fasting and prayer, are the salvation for our souls, purity and righteousness, they are what please God.
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Ⲫⲏⲥⲧⲓⲁ	the Fasting
ⲡⲓⲱⲗⲏⲗ	the prayer
ⲓⲡⲱⲧ	the salvation
ⲡⲓⲧⲟⲩⲃⲟ	the purity
ⲧⲙⲉⲑⲙⲏⲓ	the righteousness
Ⲭⲏⲟⲩⲧ	the God

Ⲑⲉⲛⲑⲏⲛⲟⲩ ⲉ̀ⲡⲱⲓ ⲛⲓⲱⲏⲣⲓ ⲏⲧⲉ ⲡⲓⲟⲩⲱⲏⲓ : ⲏⲧⲉⲛⲗⲱⲥ ⲉ̀ⲡⲃⲟⲓⲥ ⲏⲧⲉ ⲛⲓⲭⲟⲙ.	Arise O children of the light, let us praise the Lord of hosts.
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ⲉ̀ⲡⲱⲓ	Arise
ⲛⲓⲱⲏⲣⲓ	The children
ⲡⲓⲟⲩⲱⲏⲓ	the light
ⲡⲃⲟⲓⲥ	the Lord
ⲛⲓⲭⲟⲙ	the hosts

3) The Preposition ‘Of’

ⲏⲧⲉ	ⲏ	ⲉ̀
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In English, the preposition ‘of’ comes between two nouns to indicate possession of the second to the first. For example, “the book of Mark” → Mark owns the book.

1. ⲏⲧⲉ can be shortened to ⲏ and attached to the beginning of the second noun.
2. In front of nouns that start with one of the letters Ⲃ, ⲙ, ⲡ, Ⲭ and ⲱ, ⲏ is converted to ⲉ̀.

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̀ⲡⲏⲏ ⲛⲧⲉ ⲛⲓⲁⲥⲥⲉⲗⲟⲥ	The house of the angels
̀ⲡⲃⲟⲓⲥ ⲛⲧⲉ ⲛⲓⲗⲟⲙ	The Lord of the powers
̀ⲧⲱⲉⲣⲓ ⲛⲒⲒⲱⲛ	The daughter of Zion
̀ⲑⲙⲁⲧ ⲛⲓⲛⲥⲟⲩⲥ	The mother of Jesus
̀ⲡⲱⲏⲣⲓ ⲙ̀Ⲥⲛⲟⲩⲧ	The son of God
̀Ⲥⲓⲱⲧ ⲙ̀ⲡⲉⲛⲃⲟⲓⲥ	The Father of our Lord

4) Personal Pronouns

ⲁⲛⲟⲕ	I	ⲁⲛⲟⲛ	We
̀ⲛⲑⲟⲕ	You(masc.)	̀ⲛⲑⲱⲧⲉⲛ	you(pl; m&f)
̀ⲛⲑⲟ	you(fem.)		
̀ⲛⲑⲟϥ	He	̀ⲛⲑⲱⲟⲩ	They (m&f)
̀ⲛⲑⲟⲥ	She		

Connectors for simple being

ⲡⲉ -am, is(s,m)

ⲧⲉ -am, is(s,f)

ⲛⲉ -are (pl, m&f)

ⲁⲛⲟⲕ ⲡⲉ ⲡⲓⲱⲙⲓ	I am the man.
̀ⲛⲑⲟϥ ⲡⲉ ̀Ⲥⲓⲱⲧ	He is the father.
̀ⲛⲑⲟ ⲧⲉ ⲧⲱⲟⲩⲣⲏ	You are the censor.
̀ⲛⲑⲟⲥ ⲧⲉ ⲧⲒⲗⲓⲙⲓ	She is the lady.
̀ⲛⲑⲟⲕ ⲡⲉ ⲡⲓⲥⲟⲛ	You are the brother.
ⲁⲛⲟⲛ ⲛⲉ ⲛⲓⲥⲛⲏⲟⲩ	We are brothers.