

Coptic Language – Level 1

- ❖ Learn Coptic Alphabet and rules of different sounds
- ❖ Learn and memorize the Lord's prayer in Coptic
- ❖ Learn and memorize some Coptic vocabulary
- ❖ Practice reading Coptic passages

| Coptic Vowels | | |
|---------------|---------|---|
| Ⲁ, ⲁ | Alpha | • a as in Animal |
| Ⲓ, ⲓ | Eyy | • e as in 'ten' e.g. ⲉⲑⲟⲩⲁⲃ = Holy |
| Ⲙ, ⲙ | Yota | • Pronounced i as in 'machine' e.g. ⲙⲓⲥⲓ = give birth • or y as in 'yet' e.g. ⲓⲱⲧ = father |
| Ⲟ, ⲟ | Eeta | • Pronounced ee as in 'feet' e.g. ⲣⲞ = Sun. |
| Ⲡ, ⲡ | Epsilon | • Pronounced 'v' if preceded by a or e e.g. ⲉⲩⲁ = Eva • ou pronounced 'ou' as in 'soup' if it comes after o e.g. ⲉ̀ⲃⲟⲟⲩ = day, ⲙⲉⲧⲟⲩⲣⲟ = kingdom. • 'ee' as in 'deep' e.g. ⲛⲩⲛ = now. |
| Ⲫ, ⲫ | o | • O as in oh. |
| Ⲭ, ⲭ | oo | • Long "O" e.g. ⲣⲱⲙⲓ = man |

| Coptic Consonants | | |
|-------------------|--------|---|
| Ⲃ, ⲃ | Veeta | • B in names (e.g. Ⲃⲁⲥⲓⲛⲓ) or end of words (e.g. ⲉⲑⲟⲩⲁⲃ = Holy) • V if followed by a vowel (e.g. Ⲃⲁⲗ = eye) |
| Ⲅ, ⲅ | Gamma | • G if followed by ⲉ, ⲓ, Ⲟ, ⲡ e.g. ⲩⲞ = earth, ⲁⲩⲓⲟⲥ = Holy/Saint • Gh (Ϸ) if followed by ⲁ, ⲟ, ⲱ or consonants e.g. Ⲅⲁⲃⲣⲓⲛⲗ • N if followed by ⲩ, ⲕ, ϭ, e.g. ⲁⲩⲩⲉⲗⲟⲥ |
| Ⲇ, ⲇ | Delta | • D in proper names (e.g. Ⲇⲓⲛⲁ, Ⲇⲁⲛⲓⲛⲗ, Ⲇⲁⲩⲓⲛⲗ) • Th in other words (e.g. Ⲇⲓⲁⲕⲟⲛ = deacon, Ⲇⲱⲣⲟⲛ = present) |
| Ⲉ | So-oo | • The number 6 i.e. not a letter |
| ⲉ, Ⲋ | Zeeta | • Pronounced Z |
| ⲋ, Ⲍ | Theeta | • Th (generally) e.g. ⲑⲉⲟⲩⲟⲕⲟⲥ = mother of God. • T if preceded by ⲥ, ⲧ, ϩ, e.g. ⲥⲑⲟⲓⲛⲟϩⲓ = incense |
| ⲍ, Ⲏ | Kappa | • Pronounced K. e.g. ⲕⲁϩ = pen. |
| ⲏ, Ⲑ | Lavla | • Pronounced L. e.g. ⲗⲁⲥ = tongue. |
| ⲑ, Ⲓ | Mey | • M as in Ⲭⲁⲣⲓⲁ |

| | | |
|------|--------|--|
| Π, π | Ney | • N as in ΝΕΜ = and |
| Ξ, ξ | Eksee | • Pronounced “ex” e.g. ζοϣρ = ring. |
| Ο, ο | O | • O as in οΝθ = live |
| Π, π | Pee | • P as in Παϣλοϑ = Paul |
| Ρ, ρ | Ro | • R as in ρομλ = Rome |
| ϑ, ϑ | Seema | • S as in ϑωμλ = body |
| Ϝ, ϝ | Tav | • T as in Ϝλλλϣ = my mother |
| Φ, φ | Fei | • F as in φλλ = this |
| Χ, χ | Key | • “K” in words of Egyptian origin e.g. χΗμλ = Egypt • “Sh” or Kh” in words with Greek origin: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sh if followed by ε, ι, η, ϣ as in χερε = hail , εϣχΗ = prayer • Kh if followed by λ, ο, ω or consonants, e.g. χϣιϑτοϑ = Christ, χοροϑ = choir |
| Ψ, ψ | Epsee | • "ps" as in ψλλμοϑ = psalm |
| Ω, ω | Shai | • "Sh" as in ωϣηρι = son |
| Ϙ, ϙ | Fai | • "F" as in Ϙτοϣ = four |
| Ϟ, ϟ | Khai | • "Kh" as in ϟελλο = old man |
| Ϡ, ϡ | Hori | • "H" as in ϡωϑ = praise |
| Ϝ, ϝ | Genga | • “J” as in “joy” if followed by ε, ι, η, e.g. ϙιϙ = hand. • “G” otherwise. e.g. ϙω = say, ϙομ = power, λϙπ = watch |
| Ϟ, ϟ | Cheema | • “Ch” as in ϟρομπλ = dove. |
| Ϡ, ϡ | Tee | • “Ti” e.g. ϑιϣ = plant. |

Jinkem ()

It looks like an accent ` When placed over a consonant letter, it adds the sound e to the letter, like ñ sounds "en". If it is placed over a vowel, it increases its duration and makes it as a separate vowel.

| Examples | | | | | |
|----------|-----------|--------------|-------|---------|---------|
| ϞΝοϣϣ | ef-noutee | God | λϙì | af-ei | He came |
| πϣηρι | ep-sheeri | The Son | λ'νοκ | a'-nok | I |
| ϑμοϣ | es-mou | Bless/Praise | ὲωοϣ | e-oo-ou | Donkey |

Lord's Prayer

ΘΕΝ ΦΕΡΑΝ ΑΦΙΩΤ ΝΕΩ ΠΩΗΡΙ ΝΕΩ
ΠΙΠΝΕΥΜΑ ΕΘΟΥΑΒ ΟΥΝΟΥΤ ΝΟΥΩΤ
ΑΜΗΝ.

ΑΡΙΤΕΝ ΝΕΩ ΠΩΑ ΝΧΟΣ ΘΕΝ ΟΥΩΕΠΖΩΟΤ
Χε:

ΠΕΝΙΩΤ ΕΤΘΕΝ ΝΙΦΗΟΥΙ
ΜΑΡΕΥΤΟΥΒΟ ΝΧΕ ΠΕΚΡΑΝ
ΜΑΡΕΣΙ ΝΧΕ ΤΕΚΜΕΤΟΥΡΟ
ΠΕΤΕΖΝΑΚ ΜΑΡΕΥΩΠΙ
ΑΦΕΡΗΤ ΘΕΝ ΤΦΕ ΝΕΩ ΖΙΧΕΝ ΠΙΚΑΖΙ
ΠΕΝΩΙΚ ΝΤΕ ΡΑΣΤ ΜΗΙΦ ΝΑΝ ΑΦΟΟΥ
ΟΥΟΣ ΧΑ ΝΗΕΤΕΡΟΝ ΝΑΝ ΕΒΟΛ
ΑΦΕΡΗΤ ΖΩΝ ΝΤΕΝΧΩ ΕΒΟΛ
ΝΝΗΕΤΕ ΟΥΟΝ ΝΤΑΝ ΕΡΩΟΥ
ΟΥΟΣ ΑΠΕΡΕΝΤΕΝ ΕΘΟΥΝ ΕΠΙΡΑΧΜΟΣ
ΑΛΛΑ ΝΑΖΜΕΝ ΕΒΟΛΖΑ ΠΙΠΕΤΖΩΟΥ
ΘΕΝ ΠΙΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ ΙΗΟΥΣ ΠΕΝΘ ΟΙΣ
ΧΕ ΘΩΚ ΤΕ
ΤΜΕΤΟΥΡΟ ΝΕΩ ΤΧΟΜ ΝΕΩ ΠΙΩΟΥ
ΩΑ ΕΝΕΖ ΑΜΗΝ.

In the name of the Father, the Son,
the Holy Spirit, One God Amen.

Make us worthy to pray thankfully:

Our Father who art in heaven
Hallowed by Thy name
Thy kingdom come
Thy will be done
On earth as it is in heaven
Give us this day our daily bread
And forgive us our trespasses
As we forgive
Those who trespass against us
And lead us not into temptation
But deliver us from the evil
In Christ Jesus our Lord
For Thine is
The kingdom, the power, and the glory
Forever, Amen.

Let us learn (memorize) some Coptic vocabulary:

| Coptic | Translation | Coptic | Translation |
|--------|---------------------|------------------|-------------------------|
| ⲡⲁⲓⲱⲧ | My Father | Ⲭⲏⲟⲩⲥ ⲟⲩⲉⲁⲓ ⲡⲉ | God is love |
| ⲧⲁⲙⲁⲩ | My Mother | ⲡⲏⲏ ⲏⲧⲉ ⲏⲓⲁⲩⲉⲗⲟⲥ | The house of the angels |
| ⲡⲁⲱⲏⲣⲓ | My Son | ⲡⲱⲏⲣⲓ ⲙⲉⲩⲏⲟⲩⲥ | The Son of God |
| ⲧⲁⲱⲉⲣⲓ | My Daughter | ⲧⲉⲛⲱⲗⲏⲗ | We pray |
| ⲡⲁⲥⲟⲛ | My Brother | ⲧⲉⲛⲉⲱⲥ | We praise |
| ⲧⲁⲥⲱⲏⲓ | My Sister | ⲡⲓⲃⲟⲓⲥ ⲏⲧⲉ ⲏⲓⲭⲟⲙ | The Lord of hosts |
| ⲡⲉⲛⲓⲱⲧ | Our Father (Abouna) | Ⲡⲏⲟⲕ ⲡⲉ ⲡⲓⲕⲟⲩⲓ | I am the youngest |
| ⲡⲉⲛⲏⲏⲃ | Our Master (Saydna) | ⲡⲁⲓ ⲏⲏⲓ Ⲭⲏⲟⲩⲥ | Have mercy upon me |

Let us practice reading this passage:

Ⲭⲏⲟⲩ ⲡⲁⲏⲏⲃ ⲏⲛⲁⲭⲁ ⲡⲉⲕⲃⲱⲕ ⲉⲃⲟⲗ: ⲉⲃⲉⲛ
 ⲟⲩⲉⲓⲣⲏⲏⲏ ⲕⲁⲧⲁ ⲡⲉⲕⲥⲁⲭⲓ. Ⲭⲉ ⲁⲧⲏⲁⲩ ⲏⲛⲉ
 ⲏⲁⲃⲁⲗ ⲉⲡⲉⲕⲏⲟⲩⲉⲙ:
 ⲫⲏⲉⲧⲁⲕⲥⲉⲃⲧⲱⲧⲉ ⲙⲡⲉⲙⲑⲟ ⲏⲏⲓⲗⲁⲟⲥ ⲧⲏⲣⲟⲩ.
 Ⲡⲟⲩⲟⲩⲱⲏⲓ ⲉⲛⲃⲱⲣⲓ ⲉⲃⲟⲗ ⲏⲧⲉ ⲉⲗⲏⲉⲑⲏⲟⲥ: ⲛⲉⲙ
 ⲟⲩⲱⲟⲩ ⲏⲧⲉ ⲡⲉⲕⲗⲁⲟⲥ ⲡⲓⲥⲣⲁⲏⲗ.

ⲡⲓⲱⲟⲩ ⲫⲁ ⲡⲉⲛⲏⲟⲩⲥ ⲡⲉ. Ⲡⲙⲏⲏ.

"Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, according to Your word. For my eyes have seen Your salvation which You have prepared before the face of all peoples. A light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of Your people Israel."

Glory be to God forever. Amen.
 Luke 2:29-32