Coptic Language – Level 3

- ❖ Learn Coptic Alphabet and rules of different sounds and rules of Greek words
- Learn and memorize family members
- Learn using the indefinite and definite articles in Coptic nouns
- Learn using the demonstrative articles
- Learn using possessive pronouns
- Learn and memorize how to pray the Lord's prayer in Coptic

		Coptic Vowels				
λ , λ	Alpha • a as in Animal					
€, €	Еуу	• e as in 'ten' e.g. εθογλβ = Holy				
1, 1	Yota	• Pronounced i as in 'machine' e.g. 🖽 = give birth				
		or y as in 'yet' e.g. ιωτ= father				
Н, н	Eeta	• Pronounced ee as in 'feet' e.g. рн = Sun.				
T, r	Epsilon	 Pronounced 'v' if preceded by a or e e.g. ετλ= Eva 				
		• ou pronounced 'ou' as in 'soup' if it comes after o e.g. ἐεοοτ = day, μετοτρο=				
		kingdom.				
		• 'ee' as in 'deep' e.g. หาก = now.				
0 , o	0	O as in oh.				
W , w	00	• Long "O" e.g. թաու = man				

		Coptic Consonants			
В, в	Veeta	• B in names (e.g. Βλειλι) or end of words (e.g. εθογλβ = Holy)			
		• V if followed by a vowel (e.g. มิลิล = eye)			
5, 5	Gamma	 G if followed by ε, ι, н, r e.g. รн = earth, ฉรเอc = Holy/Saint 			
		• Gh (غ່) if followed by λ, ο, ω or consonants e.g. Σаврінλ			
		 N if followed by τ, κ, χ, e.g. αττελος 			
λ, λ	Delta	 D in proper names (e.g. Δเทล, Δανιήλ, Δαγιά) 			
		• Th in other words (e.g. Διακον = deacon, Δωρον= present)			
₹	So-00	The number 6 i.e. not a letter			
ζ, τ	Zeeta	Pronounced Z			
θ, θ	Theeta	Th (generally) e.g. θεοτοκος = mother of God.			
		• T if preceded by c, τ, ω, e.g. ἐθοικοςι = incense			
К, к	Карра	• Pronounced K. e.g. κλω = pen.			
λ, λ	Lavla	Pronounced L. e.g. λλc = tongue.			
U, u	Mey	• M as in ปลุ่มล			

И, и	Ney	• N as in พะพ = and
Z ., z	Eksee	Pronounced "ex" e.g. χογρ= ring.
0 , o	0	• O as in onฮ = live
Π, π	Pee	 P as in Πλγλος = Paul
Р, р	Ro	• R as in pona = Rome
С, с	Seema	• S as in cաաձ = body
Д, т	Tav	• T as in ปัลยลช = my mother
Ф, ф	Fei	• F as in φλι = this
Χ, χ	Key	• "K" in words of Egyptian origin e.g. ჯнш = Egypt
		"Sh" or Kh" in words with Greek origin:
		 Sh if followed by є, ι, н, r as in χερε = hail , єтхн = prayer
		 Kh if followed by λ, ο, ω or consonants, e.g. χριστος = Christ, χορος =
		choir
Ψ, ψ	Epsee	• "ps" as in ψλλμος = psalm
W , w	Shai	• "Sh" as in யு нp រ = son
વ, વ	Fai	• "F" as in e τον = four
þ , ø	Khai	• "Kh" as in ∌ελλο = old man
ક ,ક	Hori	• "H" as in გωc= praise
X , x	Genga	• "J" as in "joy" if followed by є, ı, н, е.g. хıх= hand.
		 "G" otherwise. e.g. xω = say, xon = power, λxπ = watch
6 ', 6	Cheema	• "Ch" as in δροωπι = dove.
∄, †	Tee	• "Ti" e.g. cr† = plant.

Jinkem ()

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

Examples					
Фиот†	ef-noutee	God	aqi	af-ei	He came
п္ကာမb၊	ep-sheeri	The Son	а̀нок	a'-nok	I
cuor	es-mou	Bless/Praise	èwor	e-oo-ou	Donkey

Pronunciation Rules of Greek Words

The Coptic language has many Greek words. The Greek words have a few more rules of pronunciation. Let us study these rules.

- First, let us learn how to identify Greek words. We can identify Greek words by observing the following:
 - 1. Words end with "ac", "oc", "on" are usually Greek
 - 2. Words include "z", "\(\begin{align*} \bar{\pi} \bar{\
 - 3. Verbs end with "in", "ein", "an", "coe", "ite", "con", "when", "orn", "oin" are usually Greek
 - 4. Words include any of the specific Coptic letters "ω", "q", "Δ", "x", "6", "†" are *not* Greek. Note that the Coptic letter "ε" is not included here as it can show in Greek words to indicate a certain sound "rough breathing".

• Rule of "หฐ" in Greek words

When "ητ" comes in Greek words, the tav "τ" letter is pronounced "d". Examples:

- 1. πantoc (pronounced pandos)
- 2. on toc (pronounced ondos)
- Rule of "cu" in Greek words

When "cm" comes in Greek words, the ceema "c" letter is pronounced "z". Examples:

- 1. acπaxmoc (pronounced aspazmos)
- 2. πλασμα (pronounced plazma)
- Rule of "x" in Greek words

When " $_{\chi}$ " is followed by any of " $_{\varepsilon}$ ", " $_{H}$ ", " $_{\tau}$ ", " $_{I}$ " in Greek words, it is pronounced "sh". Examples:

- 1. χερε (pronounced shere)
- 2. етхн (pronounced evshee)

Let us learn the names of family members in Coptic:

Coptic Family Member	Translation
Τωιλπ	My Father
танат	My Mother
π&ωμρι	My Son
тащері	My Daughter
π&CON	My Brother
имоът	My Sister
ІВЗАП	My Husband
IMISSAT	My Wife

What are the indefinite articles?

- ❖ These articles are like saying "a" or "an" in English
- ❖ They come before a noun like saying "a book" and "an apple" in English

What are the definite articles?

- These articles are like saying "the" in English
- ❖ They come before a noun like saying "the book" in English

What are the differences between the English and Coptic articles?

- 1. The English articles do not depend on the gender of the noun, in other words masculine (for boys) and feminine (for girls)
- 2. The Coptic articles may depend on the gender, masculine or feminine
- 3. The English articles do not depend on using one or many (singular or plural)
- 4. The Coptic articles depend on using one or many
- 5. The only similarity is like an English using the "an" for nouns that start with vowels, the Coptic articles may depend on the first letter of the noun, as we will see later
- 6. In English, we do not use indefinite article "a" or "an" with many things (plural). The regular plural in English is defined by the "s" letter in the end of the nouns
- 7. In Coptic, we use an indefinite article with plural, which differentiate the plural from singular
- 8. In Coptic, the article is always attached to the noun, as we will see later

Indefinite articles:

1. In Coptic the article is "or" (pronounced "oo" as in "soup"). It precedes both **masculine singular** or **feminine singular** nouns. It is like the "a" or "an" in English.

Example:

 $\mathbf{i}\mathbf{\omega}\mathbf{T} = \mathbf{father}$ $\mathbf{o}\mathbf{r}\mathbf{i}\mathbf{\omega}\mathbf{T} = \mathbf{a} \mathbf{father}$

Singular Feminine cwni = sister orcwni = a sister

uar = mother or uar = a mother

2. For plural we use "อุลห" (feminine or masculine)

Example:

Now let us apply these indefinite articles on the family members we learned in previous lessons

Father	ıwT	A father	Oriwt	Fathers	TWINAS
Mother	uat	A mother	Oruar	Mothers	Taun <mark>a</mark> S
Son	Ю нЫ	A son	О тюны	Sons	одн о пи ч
Daughter	ώεbι	A daughter	Οτ ώερι	Daughters	szumebi
Brother	con	A son	Orcon	Brothers	РОНИЗИЗВ
Sister	cmui	A sister	Отсши	Sisters	เกพวทฐ
Husband	158	A husband	14840	Husbands	1.58n.5.8
Wife	્રકામા	A wife	158TO	Wives	moisnas

Note that not all nouns become plural by adding "¿¸¸¬" in the beginning of it, there are some irregular nouns like man and men in English. You do not have to worry about this now, may be next year.

Definite articles:

The Coptic definite article, "the" in English, has different forms for a boy, a girl, and many

Noun	Def	inite a	rticle
<u> </u>	πι	π	.
	4	Ţ,	, 0
	นเ	N	єи

Rules of how to use these articles:

- 1. 🔖 and 🗟 are used with nouns that start with ք.լ.Ջ.ա.ո-օ-թ, which can be remembered by "vilmnor" or "vilminor" to make it easy. Examples:
 - a. $\psi_{1}\omega_{1}$ = the father
 - b. bux = the mother
 - c. Trous = the man
- 2. and are also used with specific definite noun. For example, God the Father is very specific from the father of my friend.
- 3. π and τ, similar to τ and τ, are also used with specific definite noun but if the noun does not start with the "vilminor" rule. For example, Christ the Son is very specific from the son of my friend.
- 4. πr and $\frac{1}{2}$ are very general and can be used with any noun. Examples:
 - a. πιχωι = the book

- b. πικλω = the pen
- c. tcwn = the sister
- d. †mar = the mother (Note that it has the "vilminor" rule, but I still can use "†" if I do not mean a specific definite man, in such a case I should use "•mar" following Rule # 2)
- e. πιρωμι = the man (Note that it has the "vilminor" rule, but I still can use "πι" if I do not mean a specific definite man, in such a case I should use "τρωμι" following Rule #2)
- 5. MI is used for all plural genders and all cases, EXCEPT the case of Rule 6. Examples:
 - a. NIXWW = the books
 - b. MIKAW = the pens
 - C. MICWMI = the sisters
 - d. Muser = the mothers
 - e. אוףשאו = the men
- 6. MEN is used for plural nouns that belong to another noun. In other words, (noun 1) of (noun 2). Examples:
 - a. менкаю ивниа = The pens of Mina
 - b. ทะทรงห ท Capa = The books of Sara

Now, let us apply these rules to our family members

Member	Coptic	Definite English	Definite	Definite	Plural English	Plural Coptic
			Coptic	Coptic		
			(General)	(Specific)		
Father	ιωτ	The father	τωιπ	τωιφ	The fathers	TWIIN
Mother	uay	The mother	†uar	°uar	The mothers	MIMAY
Son	м ны	The son	πιωμρι	ιαнωπ	The sons	սւաւ
Daughter	М€b1	The daughter	4 ա̂εեւ	1d3ÃL	The daughters	итбеы
Brother	CON	The son	πιcon	πсои	The brothers	ијсинот
Sister	смиі	The sister	4смиі	LCMNI	The sisters	NICMNI
Husband	158	The husband	IASIN	1.8ST	The husbands	IASIN
Wife	્રકામા	The wife	1 ,081mi	ınısof	The wives	เหอุเรเม

Note that not all nouns become plural by only adding "м" in the beginning of it, there are some irregular nouns like man and men in English. You do not have to worry about this now, may be next year.

Summary & Exercises

Noun	Definite article		rticle	Indefinite article
<u> </u>	πι	π	∕⊕	٥٣
	4	4	ď	٥٣
	หเ	N	єи	nas

Indefinite articles (complete in blanks follow the example)

	Coptic word	Meaning	Gender	Indefinite singular	Indefinite plural
Ex.	Καω	Pen	*	откащ	ганкаш
1	comy	Body	*		
2	நீ சb1	Daughter	*		
3	uar	Mother	*		
4	М ны	Son	*		

Definite articles (follow the example)

	Coptic word	Meaning	Gender	Definite singular	Definite plural
Ex.	Kaw	Pen	*	пікащ	นเหรฑิ
Ex.	Mosbi	Censer	*	†ლотрн	игбољьн
1	conr	Body	*		
2	நீ சb1	Daughter	*		
3	uat	Mother	*		
4	հաու	Man	*		

Demonstrative Pronouns

In English, "this", "that", "these," and "those "are demonstrative pronouns. In Coptic, there are demonstrative pronouns, which are written separately and others, which are connected to the referenced noun(s).

Let's start with the separate ones. Those are summarized in the following table:

Фаі	Is for singular masculine
θλι	Is for singular feminine
Наі	Is for plural (masculine and feminine)

Now let's learn the structure through an example:

Structure for indefinite case:

Фаі
Demonstrative
pronoun

01	bmmi
Indefinite	Noun
article	

πε
Connector like
verb to be

Φαι στρωμι πε means this is a man.

The connector $\pi \epsilon$ is for singular masculine, $\tau \epsilon$ is for singular feminine and $\kappa \epsilon$ for plural. Note that the indefinite determiner "or" is replaced with "ខaห" for plural as we learned earlier.

Here are some examples:

Фаі отршиі пє	This is a man
θαι οτωερι τε	This is a girl
θαι ογμαν τε	This is a mother
Наі ганршші не	These are men
Nai sanuat ne	These are mothers

What about the definite case? Here is an example:

Structure for definite case:

Фаі
Demonstrative
pronoun

πε
Connector like
verb to be

πι	bom
Definite	Noun
article	

Φαι πε πιρωμι means This is the man.

The same rules apply for singular and plural. Try to translate the following sentences (try going in both directions).

Фаі пе Инна	This is Mina
Ө аі те †сшы	This is the sister
Иаі не нітотс	These are the chairs
Фαι πε πιέδοος	This is the day
θλι τε Ιλημ	This is Jerusalem

Exercise:

Translate from English to Coptic and vice-versa.

Hint: $u \lambda r = mother$, $c \omega n = sister$, $x \omega u = book$.

Nai rannas nen sanconi ne	Those are mothers and sisters
Nai ne nixwa	Those are the books

Now we move to the demonstrative articles that are connected to the noun.

Those are:

πλι for singular masculine,

ты for singular feminine, and

ทลเ for plural.

It is best to see their structure in the sentence through examples:

Паіршыі пе Инна	This man is Mina
Πλιωικ	This bread
Тагромпі	This year

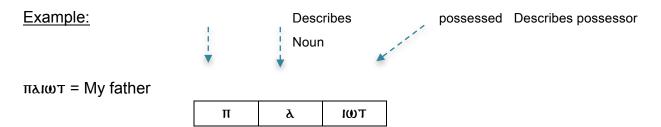
Try to translate the following sentence:

This man and this girl are Mina and Irini.

Answer: Паіршші нем таіщері не Инна нем Ірнні.

Possessive Articles (Determiners)

This year we will also learn about possessive determiners. Possessive determiners attribute possession to someone or something. In English, the words "my", "your", and "her" are examples of such determiners. Let us explain the structure of possessive determiners through an example.



- The first slot has the letter "π" since the possessed noun is singular masculine.
- The second slot has an "λ" since the possessor is me.
- The third slot has the noun

You must have heard the word πενιωτ before in church. So what about πενιωτ?

Again, let us divide the word into 3 parts as before:

π	€И	IWT

Correct!! The only change is in the second slot, that of the possessor. In fact, $\pi \in \mathbb{N}$ our father so the owner or the possessor is us and this is why " λ " changed to " $\in \mathbb{N}$ ".

- In Coptic, the first slot, which describes the possessed noun, can be a "π" for singular masculine, or "τ" for singular feminine, or "n" for plural.
- The second slot can be λ-εν-εκ-ε-ετεν-εq-εc-or depending on the possessor.

The following table summarizes all possible combinations through examples:

	Possessor (owner)	Possessed noun is singular masculine (father)	Possessed noun is singular feminine (mother)	Possessed is a plural noun (books)
First Person	My	πλιωτ	TAUAT	имхии
	Our	тенішт	теншат	иєнхюн
	Your	πεκιωτ	текшат	иєкхюй
	(Sing. Masc.)			
Second Person	Your	πειωτ	темат	иехши
	(Sing. Fem.)			
	Your	тетенішт	тетеншат	ишхиэтэи
	(Plural)			
	His	πεαιωτ	тециат	иедхюи
Third Person	Her	πεсιωτ	тесиат	иесхом
	Their	почит	тотиат	M@XLOU

Now that we learned about possessive determiners let us do some exercises.

	Му	Our	Your			His	Her	Their
			s.m.	s.f.	р			
Father	Ташт	Пенішт	Πεκιωτ	∏€IWT	тшиэтэП	Ledima	Песіют	Ποτιωτ
Mother	Tanar	Тепиат	Текнач	Tenar	Течениат	Течилт	Techar	Toruar
Son	Пашнрі	Пєифны	Пакшны	<mark>П</mark> €ЮнЫ	Петеифиы	ПедФны	Песфны	Потшны
Daughter	Тащері	Тепшер і	Текшері	∑ €@epı	Дедеи мері	ြာ ေျ က္တစ္မေား	Lec mebi	Lormebi
Brother	N acon	Пенсон	Пексон	Песон	Петенсон	Печсои	Пессои	Потсон
Sister	Tacwni	Tencwni	T ekcwni	T €cwni	Т€т€исшиі	№ ечсюиі	Leccmui	Torcwni
Husband	15SAN			1583∏			П≰८२३∏	
Wife	Inisəz <u>a T</u>		Lek çsımı			ો હતંદુકાજા		

Exercises:

1) Put the appropriate possessive determiner in the blanks:

νεσιονι = his sistersνετενιο† = your fathers (your is of 2nd person)ποτωμρι= their sonπεccon = her brotherνλχων = my booksτενωερι = Our daughter

2) Translate from Coptic to English and from English to Coptic, knowing that ผู้ปุ่นค = friend, с๛тнр = savior, боіс = master, сัทноช = brothers, ษะทุกт = beloved, сผก = sister, อล = husband, `cอเน = wife, ผูหก = son.

My brothers and their sisters

Her beloved and our savior
Your master and my master
Your friends and his brothers
His sister and her sisters
Her husband and his wife and their sons

Nachhot nem notewni

Песменріт нем пенсютнр
Петенбоіс нем пабоіс
нетенффнр нем нессинот
Јессині нем тессині
Песваї нем тессвімі нем нотюнрі

Practice with plural family members using the example given in previous page

	My	Our	Your			His	Her	Their
			s.m.	s.f.	р			
Fathers								
Mothers								
Sons								
Daughters								
Brothers								
Sisters								

Lord's Prayer

Δεη φραη μφίωτ μεμ πωμρι μεμ πιπηετμα εθοταβ οτμοτή μοτωτ αμημ.

αριτεν νεμπώα ύχος δεν οτώεμεποτ Χε:

πενιωτ ετδεν νιφηοτι
μαρεςτοτβο ήχε πεκραν
μαρεςί ήχε τεκμετοτρο
πετεδνακ μαρεςμωπι
μφρητ δεν τφε νεω διχεν πικαδι
πενωικ ήτε ρας τ μης ναν μφοοτ
οτος χα νηετερον ναν έβολ
μφρητ δων ήτενχω έβολ
νημέτε οτον ήταν έρωστ
οτος μπερεντεν έδοτν επιρασμος
αλλα ναδμεν έβολδα πιπετδωστ
δεν πιχριστος Ιμσοτς πενδοις
χε θωκ τε
τμετοτρο νεω τχου νεω πιώστ
ωα ένες άμην.

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.