Coptic Language – Level 4

❖ 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 using Coptic verbs
❖ Learn and memorize how to pray the Lord's prayer in Coptic

Coptic Vowels		
Ⲁ, ⲁ	Alpha	• a as in Animal
Ⲉ, ⲉ	Eyy	• e as in 'ten' e.g. ⲉⲑⲟⲩⲁⲃ = Holy
Ⲓ, ⲓ	Yota	• Pronounced i as in 'machine' e.g. ⲙⲓⲥⲓ = give birth • or y as in 'yet' e.g. ⲓⲱⲧ = father
Ⲏ, ⲏ	Eeta	• Pronounced ee as in 'feet' e.g. ⲣⲏ = Sun.
Ⲩ, ⲩ	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. ⲉ̀ϩⲟⲟⲩ = day, ⲙⲉⲧⲟⲩⲣⲟ = kingdom. • 'ee' as in 'deep' e.g. ⲛⲩⲛ = now.
Ⲟ, ⲟ	o	• O as in oh.
Ⲱ, ⲱ	oo	• Long "O" e.g. ⲣⲱⲙⲓ = man

Coptic Consonants		
Ⲃ, ⲃ	Veeta	• B in names (e.g. Ⲃⲁⲥⲓⲗⲓ) 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, ⲏ, ⲩ e.g. ⲅⲏ = earth, ⲁⲅⲓⲟⲥ = Holy/Saint
		  • Gh (غ) if followed by ⲁ, ⲟ, ⲱ or consonants e.g. Ⲅⲁⲃⲣⲓⲏⲗ
		  • N if followed by ⲅ, ⲕ, ⲭ , e.g. ⲁⲅⲅⲉⲗⲟⲥ

Ⲇ, ⲇ	Delta	• D in proper names (e.g. Ⲇⲓⲛⲁ, Ⲇⲁⲛⲓⲏⲗ, Ⲇⲁⲩⲓⲇ) • Th in other words (e.g. Ⲇⲓⲁⲕⲟⲛ = deacon, Ⲇⲱⲣⲟⲛ = present)
Ⲋ̄	So-oo	• The number 6 i.e. not a letter
Ⲍ, ⲍ	Zeeta	• Pronounced Z
Ⲑ, ⲑ	Theeta	• Th (generally) e.g. ⲑⲉⲟⲧⲟⲕⲟⲥ = mother of God. • T if preceded by ⲥ, ⲧ, ϣ, e.g. ⲥ̀ⲑⲟⲓⲛⲟϥⲓ = incense
Ⲕ, ⲕ	Kappa	• Pronounced K. e.g. ⲕⲁϣ = pen.
Ⲗ, ⲗ	Lavla	• Pronounced L. e.g. ⲗⲁⲥ = tongue.

Ⲙ, ⲙ	Mey	• M as in Ⲙⲁⲣⲓⲁ
Ⲛ, ⲛ	Ney	• N as in ⲛⲉⲙ = and
Ⲍ, ⲍ	Eksee	• Pronounced "ex" e.g. ⲍⲟⲣⲡ= ring.
Ⲟ, ⲟ	O	• O as in ⲟⲛⲟ̀ = live
Ⲡ, ⲡ	Pee	• P as in Ⲡⲁⲩⲗⲟⲥ = Paul
Ⲣ, ⲣ	Ro	• R as in ⲣⲟⲙⲁ = Rome
Ⲥ, ⲥ	Seema	• S as in ⲥⲱⲙⲁ = body
Ⲧ, ⲧ	Tav	• T as in Ⲧⲁⲙⲁⲩ = my mother
Ⲫ, ⲫ	Fei	• F as in ⲫⲁⲓ = this

Ⲭ, ⲭ	Key	• "K" in words of Egyptian origin e.g. ⲭⲏⲙⲓ = Egypt
		• "Sh" or Kh" in words with Greek origin:
		  • Sh if followed by ⲉ, ⲓ, ⲏ, ⲩ as in ⲭⲉⲣⲉ = hail , ⲉⲩⲭⲏ = prayer
		  • Kh if followed by ⲁ, ⲟ, ⲱ or consonants, e.g. ⲭⲣⲓⲥⲧⲟⲥ = Christ, ⲭⲟⲣⲟⲥ = choir

Ⲯ, ⲯ	Epsee	• "ps" as in ⲯⲁⲗⲙⲟⲥ = psalm
Ⲱ, ⲱ	Shai	• "Sh" as in ⲱⲏⲣⲓ = son
Ϥ, ϥ	Fai	• "F" as in ϥⲧⲟⲩ = four
Ⳁ, ⳁ	Khai	• "Kh" as in ⳁⲉⲗⲗⲟ = old man
Ⲋ, ⲋ	Hori	• "H" as in ⲋⲱⲥ= praise
Ⲭ, ⲭ	Genga	• "J" as in "joy" if followed by ⲉ, ⲓ, ⲏ, e.g. ⳓⲓⳓ= hand. • "G" otherwise. e.g. ⳓⲱ = say, ⳓⲟⲙ = power, ⲁⳓⲡ = watch
Ϭ, ϭ	Cheema	• "Ch" as in ϭⲣⲟⲙⲡⲓ = dove.
Ϯ, ϯ	Tee	• "Ti" e.g. ⲥⲓϯ = plant.

Jinkem (ⲛ̀)

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

Examples					
Ⲫ̀ⲛⲟⲩϯ	ef-noutee	God	ⲁϥⲓ	af-ei	He came
ⲡ̀ⲱⲏⲣⲓ	ep-sheeri	The Son	ⲁ̀ⲛⲟⲕ	a'-nok	I
ⲥ̀ⲙⲟⲩ	es-mou	Bless/Praise	ⲉ̀ⲱⲟⲩ	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 "ⲁⲥ", "ⲟⲥ", "ⲟⲛ" are usually Greek
    2. Words include "ⲍ", "ⲇ", "ⲅ", "ⲯ", "ⲝ", "ⲩ" as vowels are usually Greek
    3. Verbs end with "ⲓⲛ", "ⲉⲓⲛ", "ⲁⲛ", "ⲥⲑⲉ", "ⲓⲧⲉ", "ⲥⲟⲛ", "ⲱⲙⲉⲛ", "ⲟⲩⲛ", "ⲟⲓⲛ" are usually Greek
    4. Words include any of the specific Coptic letters "ϣ", "ϥ", "ϧ", "ϫ", "ϭ", "ϯ" are *not* Greek. Note that the Coptic letter "ϩ" is not included here as it can show in Greek words to indicate a certain sound "rough breathing".

- **Rule of "ⲛⲧ" in Greek words**
    When "ⲛⲧ" comes in Greek words, the tav "ⲧ" letter is pronounced "d". Examples:
    1. ⲡⲁⲛⲧⲟⲥ (pronounced pandos)
    2. ⲟⲛⲧⲟⲥ (pronounced ondos)

- **Rule of "ⲥⲙ" in Greek words**
    When "ⲥⲙ" comes in Greek words, the ceema "ⲥ" letter is pronounced "z". Examples:
    1. ⲁⲥⲡⲁⲭⲙⲟⲥ (pronounced aspazmos)
    2. ⲡⲗⲁⲥⲙⲁ (pronounced plazma)

- **Rule of "ⲭ" in Greek words**
    When "ⲭ" is followed by any of "ⲉ", "ⲏ", "ⲩ", "ⲓ" in Greek words, it is pronounced "sh". Examples:
    1. ⲭⲉⲣⲉ (pronounced shere)
    2. ⲉⲩⲭⲏ (pronounced evshee)

Let us learn the names of family members in Coptic:

Coptic Family Member	Translation
ⲡⲁⲓⲱⲧ	My Father
ⲧⲁⲙⲁⲩ	My Mother
ⲡⲁϣⲏⲣⲓ	My Son
ⲧⲁϣⲉⲣⲓ	My Daughter
ⲡⲁⲥⲟⲛ	My Brother
ⲧⲁⲥⲱⲛⲓ	My Sister
ⲡⲁϩⲁⲓ	My Husband
ⲧⲁ`ⲥϩⲓⲙⲓ	My Wife

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

   Example:

   Singular masculine   ϣHⲣI = son   oⲩϣHⲣI = a son
                        Iⲱⲧ = father   oⲩIⲱⲧ = a father

   Singular Feminine   cⲱNI = sister   oⲩcⲱNI = a sister
                        ⲙⲁⲩ = mother   oⲩⲙⲁⲩ = a mother

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

   Example:

   ⲙⲁⲩ = mother   ⲥⲁNⲙⲁⲩ = mothers
   ⲭⲱⲙ = book   ⲥⲁNⲭⲱⲙ = books

Father	ⲓⲱⲧ	A father	Oⲩⲓⲱⲧ	Fathers	ⲍⲁⲛⲓⲱⲧ
Mother	ⲙⲁⲩ	A mother	Oⲩⲙⲁⲩ	Mothers	ⲍⲁⲛⲙⲁⲩ
Son	ϣⲏⲣⲓ	A son	Oⲩϣⲏⲣⲓ	Sons	ⲍⲁⲛϣⲏⲣⲓ
Daughter	ϣⲉⲣⲓ	A daughter	Oⲩϣⲉⲣⲓ	Daughters	ⲍⲁⲛϣⲉⲣⲓ
Brother	ⲥⲟⲛ	A son	Oⲩⲥⲟⲛ	**Brothers**	**ⲍⲁⲛⲥ̄ⲛⲏⲟⲩ**
Sister	ⲥⲱⲛⲓ	A sister	Oⲩⲥⲱⲛⲓ	Sisters	ⲍⲁⲛⲥⲱⲛⲓ
Husband	ⲍⲁⲓ	A husband	Oⲩⲍⲁⲓ	Husbands	ⲍⲁⲛⲍⲁⲓ
Wife	ⲥ̀ⲍⲓⲙⲓ	A wife	Oⲩⲍⲁⲓ	**Wives**	**ⲍⲁⲛⲍⲓⲟ̀ⲙⲓ**

Note that not all nouns become plural by adding "ⲍⲁⲛ" 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	Definite article		
	ⲡⲓ	ⲡ̀	ⲫ̀
	ϯ	ⲧ̀	ⲑ̀
	ⲛⲓ	ⲛⲉⲛ	

Rules of how to use these articles:

1. ⲫ̀ and ⲑ̀ are used with nouns that start with ⲃ-ⲓ-ⲗ-ⲙ-ⲛ-ⲟ-ⲣ, which can be remembered by "vilmnor" or "vilminor" to make it easy. Examples:
    a. ⲫ̀ⲓⲱⲧ = the father
    b. ⲑ̀ⲙⲁⲩ = the mother
    c. ⲫ̀ⲣⲱⲙⲓ = the man
2. ⲫ̀ and ⲑ̀ are also used with specific definite noun. For example, God the Father is very specific from the father of my friend.
3. ⲡ̀ and ⲧ̀, similar to ⲫ̀ and ⲑ̀, 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. ⲡⲓ and ϯ are very general and can be used with any noun. Examples:
    a. ⲡⲓϫⲱⲙ = the book

b. ⲡⲓⲕⲁϣ = the pen

c. ϯⲥⲱⲛⲓ = the sister

d. ϯⲙⲁⲩ = the mother (Note that it has the "vilminor" rule, but I still can use "ϯ" if I do not mean a specific definite man, in such a case I should use "ⲑⲙⲁⲩ" following Rule # 2)

e. ⲡⲓⲣⲱⲙⲓ = the man (Note that it has the "vilminor" rule, but I still can use "ⲡⲓ" if I do not mean a specific definite man, in such a case I should use "ⲫⲣⲱⲙⲓ" following Rule #2)

5. ⲛⲓ is used for all plural genders and all cases, EXCEPT the case of Rule 6. Examples:

a. ⲛⲓϫⲱⲙ = the books

b. ⲛⲓⲕⲁϣ = the pens

c. ⲛⲓⲥⲱⲛⲓ = the sisters

d. ⲛⲓⲙⲁⲩ = the mothers

e. ⲛⲓⲣⲱⲙⲓ = the men

6. ⲛⲉⲛ is used for plural nouns that belong to another noun. In other words, (noun 1) of (noun 2). Examples:

a. ⲛⲉⲛⲕⲁϣ ⲙ̀Ⲙⲏⲛⲁ = The pens of Mina

b. ⲛⲉⲛϫⲱⲙ ⲛ̀Ⲥⲁⲣⲁ = The books of Sara

Now, let us apply these rules to our family members

Member	Coptic	Definite English	Definite Coptic (General)	Definite Coptic (Specific)	Plural English	Plural Coptic
Father	ⲓⲱⲧ	The father	ⲡⲓⲱⲧ	ⲫ̀ⲓⲱⲧ	The fathers	ⲛⲓⲓⲱⲧ
Mother	ⲙⲁⲩ	The mother	ϯⲙⲁⲩ	ⲑⲙⲁⲩ	The mothers	ⲛⲓⲙⲁⲩ
Son	ϣⲏⲣⲓ	The son	ⲡⲓϣⲏⲣⲓ	ⲡ̀ϣⲏⲣⲓ	The sons	ⲛⲓϣⲏⲣⲓ
Daughter	ϣⲉⲣⲓ	The daughter	ϯϣⲉⲣⲓ	ⲧ̀ϣⲉⲣⲓ	The daughters	ⲛⲓϣⲉⲣⲓ
Brother	ⲥⲟⲛ	The son	ⲡⲓⲥⲟⲛ	ⲡ̀ⲥⲟⲛ	<mark>The brothers</mark>	<mark>ⲛⲓⲥ̀ⲛⲏⲟⲩ</mark>
Sister	ⲥⲱⲛⲓ	The sister	ϯⲥⲱⲛⲓ	ⲧ̀ⲥⲱⲛⲓ	The sisters	ⲛⲓⲥⲱⲛⲓ
Husband	ϩⲁⲓ	The husband	ⲡⲓϩⲁⲓ	ⲡ̀ϩⲁⲓ	The husbands	ⲛⲓϩⲁⲓ
Wife	ⲥ̀ϩⲓⲙⲓ	The wife	ϯⲥϩⲓⲙⲓ	ⲧ̀ⲥϩⲓⲙⲓ	<mark>The wives</mark>	<mark>ⲛⲓϩⲓⲟⲙⲓ</mark>

Note that not all nouns become plural by only adding "ⲛⲓ" 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			Indefinite article
	ⲡⲓ	ⲡ̀	ⲫ̀	ⲟⲩ
	ϯ	ⲧ̀	ⲑ̀	ⲟⲩ
	ⲛⲓ	ⲛⲉⲛ		ϩⲁⲛ

Indefinite articles (complete in blanks follow the example)

	Coptic word	Meaning	Gender	Indefinite singular	Indefinite plural
Ex.	Ⲕⲁϣ	Pen	♂	ⲟⲩⲕⲁϣ	ϩⲁⲛⲕⲁϣ
1	ⲥⲱⲙⲁ	Body	♂		
2	ϣⲉⲣⲓ	Daughter	♀		
3	ⲙⲁⲩ	Mother	♀		
4	ϣⲏⲣⲓ	Son	♂		

Definite articles (follow the example)

	Coptic word	Meaning	Gender	Definite singular	Definite plural
Ex.	Ⲕⲁϣ	Pen	♂	ⲡⲓⲕⲁϣ	ⲛⲓⲕⲁϣ
Ex.	Ϣⲟⲩⲣⲓ	Censer	♀	ϯϣⲟⲩⲣⲏ	ⲛⲓϣⲟⲩⲣⲏ
1	ⲥⲱⲙⲁ	Body	♂		
2	ϣⲉⲣⲓ	Daughter	♀		
3	ⲙⲁⲩ	Mother	♀		
4	ⲣⲱⲙⲓ	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:

Ⲫⲁⲓ	Is for singular masculine
Ⲑⲁⲓ	Is for singular feminine
Ⲛⲁⲓ	Is for plural (masculine and feminine)

Now let's learn the structure through an example:

Structure for indefinite case:

Ⲫⲁⲓ
Demonstrative pronoun

ⲟⲩ	ⲣⲱⲙⲓ
Indefinite article	Noun

ⲡⲉ
Connector like verb to be

Ⲫⲁⲓ ⲟⲩⲣⲱⲙⲓ ⲡⲉ means this is a man.

The connector ⲡⲉ is for singular masculine, ⲧⲉ is for singular feminine and ⲛⲉ for plural.   Note that the indefinite determiner "ⲟⲩ" is replaced with "ϩⲁⲛ" for plural as we learned earlier.

Here are some examples:

Ⲫⲁⲓ ⲟⲩⲣⲱⲙⲓ ⲡⲉ	This is a man
Ⲑⲁⲓ ⲟⲩϣⲉⲣⲓ ⲧⲉ	This is a girl
Ⲑⲁⲓ ⲟⲩⲙⲁⲩ ⲧⲉ	This is a mother
Ⲛⲁⲓ ϩⲁⲛⲣⲱⲙⲓ ⲛⲉ	These are men
Ⲛⲁⲓ ϩⲁⲛⲙⲁⲩ ⲛⲉ	These are mothers

What about the definite case? Here is an example:

Structure for definite case:

Ⲫⲁⲓ
Demonstrative pronoun

ⲡⲉ
Connector like verb to be

ⲡⲓ	ⲣⲱⲙⲓ
Definite article	Noun

Ⲫⲁⲓ ⲡⲉ ⲡⲓⲣⲱⲙⲓ means This is the man.

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

Ⲫⲁⲓ ⲡⲉ Ⲙⲏⲛⲁ	This is Mina
Ⲑⲁⲓ ⲧⲉ ϯⲥⲱⲛⲓ	This is the sister
Ⲛⲁⲓ ⲛⲉ ⲛⲓⲧⲟⲧⲥ	These are the chairs
Ⲫⲁⲓ ⲡⲉ ⲡⲓⲉϩⲟⲟⲩ	This is the day
Ⲑⲁⲓ ⲧⲉ Ⲓⲗⲏⲙ	This is Jerusalem

<u>Exercise:</u>

Translate from English to Coptic and vice-versa.

Hint: ⲙⲁⲩ = mother, ⲥⲱⲛⲓ = sister, ⲭⲱⲙ = book.

Ⲛⲁⲓ ϩⲁⲛⲙⲁⲩ ⲛⲉⲙ ϩⲁⲛⲥⲱⲛⲓ ⲛⲉ	Those are mothers and sisters
Ⲛⲁⲓ ⲛⲉ ⲛⲓⲭⲱⲙ	Those are the books

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

Those are:

     ⲡⲁⲓ   for singular masculine,

     ⲧⲁⲓ   for singular feminine, and

     ⲛⲁⲓ   for plural.

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

Ⲡⲁⲓⲣⲱⲙⲓ ⲡⲉ Ⲙⲏⲛⲁ	This man is Mina
Ⲡⲁⲓⲱⲓⲕ	This bread
Ⲧⲁⲓⲣⲟⲙⲡⲓ	This year

Try to translate the following sentence:

This man and this girl are Mina and Irini.

Answer: Ⲡⲁⲓⲣⲱⲙⲓ ⲛⲉⲙ ⲧⲁⲓϣⲉⲣⲓ ⲛⲉ Ⲙⲏⲛⲁ ⲛⲉⲙ Ⲓⲣⲏⲛⲓ.

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.

Example: Describes   possessed Describes possessor
                             Noun

ⲡⲁⲓⲱⲧ = My father

ⲡ	ⲁ	ⲓⲱⲧ
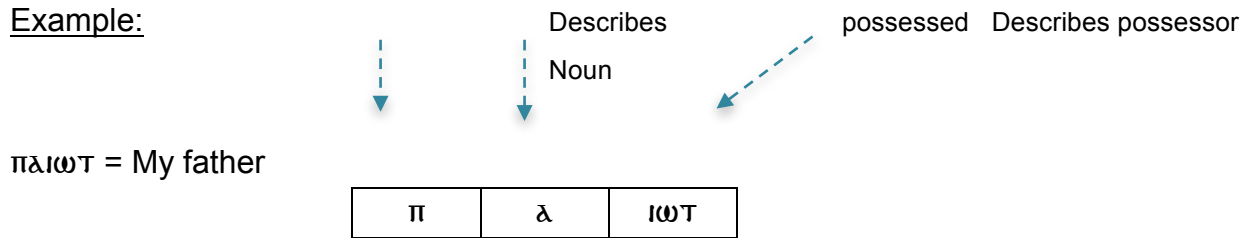
- The first slot has the letter "ⲡ" since the possessed noun is <u>singular masculine.</u>
- The second slot has an "ⲁ" since the possessor is me.
- The third slot has the noun

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

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

ⲡ	ⲉⲛ	ⲓⲱⲧ

Correct!! The only change is in the second slot, that of the possessor. In fact, ⲡⲉⲛⲓⲱⲧ = our father so the owner or the possessor is us and this is why "ⲁ" changed to "ⲉⲛ".
- In Coptic, <u>the first slot</u>, which describes <u>the possessed</u> noun, can be a "ⲡ" for singular masculine, or "ⲧ" for singular feminine, or "ⲛ" for plural.
- The second slot can be ⲁ-ⲉⲛ-ⲉⲕ-ⲉ-ⲉⲧⲉⲛ-ⲉϥ-ⲉⲥ-ⲟⲩ depending on <u>the possessor</u>.

The following table summarizes all possible combinations through examples:

	Possessor (owner)	Possessed noun is singular masculine (father) ⲡ	Possessed noun is singular feminine (mother) ⲧ	Possessed is a plural noun (books) ⲛ
First Person	My	ⲡⲁⲓⲱⲧ	ⲧⲁⲙⲁⲩ	ⲛⲁϫⲱⲙ
	Our	ⲡⲉⲛⲓⲱⲧ	ⲧⲉⲛⲙⲁⲩ	ⲛⲉⲛϫⲱⲙ
Second Person	Your (Sing. Masc.)	ⲡⲉⲕⲓⲱⲧ	ⲧⲉⲕⲙⲁⲩ	ⲛⲉⲕϫⲱⲙ
	Your (Sing. Fem.)	ⲡⲉⲓⲱⲧ	ⲧⲉⲙⲁⲩ	ⲛⲉϫⲱⲙ
	Your (Plural)	ⲡⲉⲧⲉⲛⲓⲱⲧ	ⲧⲉⲧⲉⲛⲙⲁⲩ	ⲛⲉⲧⲉⲛϫⲱⲙ
Third Person	His	ⲡⲉϥⲓⲱⲧ	ⲧⲉϥⲙⲁⲩ	ⲛⲉϥϫⲱⲙ
	Her	ⲡⲉⲥⲓⲱⲧ	ⲧⲉⲥⲙⲁⲩ	ⲛⲉⲥϫⲱⲙ
	Their	ⲡⲟⲩⲓⲱⲧ	ⲧⲟⲩⲙⲁⲩ	ⲛⲟⲩϫⲱⲙ

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

	My	Our	Your			His	Her	Their
			s.m.	s.f.	p			
Father	Ⲡⲁⲓⲱⲧ	Ⲡⲉⲛⲓⲱⲧ	Ⲡⲉⲕⲓⲱⲧ	Ⲡⲉⲓⲱⲧ	Ⲡⲉⲧⲉⲛⲓⲱⲧ	Ⲡⲉϥⲓⲱⲧ	Ⲡⲉⲥⲓⲱⲧ	Ⲡⲟⲩⲓⲱⲧ
Mother	Ⲧⲁⲙⲁⲩ	Ⲧⲉⲛⲙⲁⲩ	Ⲧⲉⲕⲙⲁⲩ	Ⲧⲉⲙⲁⲩ	Ⲧⲉⲧⲉⲛⲙⲁⲩ	Ⲧⲉϥⲙⲁⲩ	Ⲧⲉⲥⲙⲁⲩ	Ⲧⲟⲩⲙⲁⲩ
Son	Ⲡⲁϣⲏⲣⲓ	Ⲡⲉⲛϣⲏⲣⲓ	Ⲡⲁⲕϣⲏⲣⲓ	Ⲡⲉϣⲏⲣⲓ	Ⲡⲉⲧⲉⲛϣⲏⲣⲓ	Ⲡⲉϥϣⲏⲣⲓ	Ⲡⲉⲥϣⲏⲣⲓ	Ⲡⲟⲩϣⲏⲣⲓ
Daughter	Ⲧⲁϣⲉⲣⲓ	Ⲧⲉⲛϣⲉⲣⲓ	Ⲧⲉⲕϣⲉⲣⲓ	Ⲧⲉϣⲉⲣⲓ	Ⲧⲉⲧⲉⲛϣⲉⲣⲓ	Ⲧⲉϥϣⲉⲣⲓ	Ⲧⲉⲥϣⲉⲣⲓ	Ⲧⲟⲩϣⲉⲣⲓ
Brother	Ⲡⲁⲥⲟⲛ	Ⲡⲉⲛⲥⲟⲛ	Ⲡⲉⲕⲥⲟⲛ	Ⲡⲉⲥⲟⲛ	Ⲡⲉⲧⲉⲛⲥⲟⲛ	Ⲡⲉϥⲥⲟⲛ	Ⲡⲉⲥⲥⲟⲛ	Ⲡⲟⲩⲥⲟⲛ
Sister	Ⲧⲁⲥⲱⲛⲓ	Ⲧⲉⲛⲥⲱⲛⲓ	Ⲧⲉⲕⲥⲱⲛⲓ	Ⲧⲉⲥⲱⲛⲓ	Ⲧⲉⲧⲉⲛⲥⲱⲛⲓ	Ⲧⲉϥⲥⲱⲛⲓ	Ⲧⲉⲥⲥⲱⲛⲓ	Ⲧⲟⲩⲥⲱⲛⲓ
Husband	Ⲡⲁϩⲁⲓ			Ⲡⲉϩⲁⲓ			Ⲡⲉⲥϩⲁⲓ	
Wife	Ⲧⲁⲥϩⲓⲙⲓ		Ⲧⲉⲕⲥϩⲓⲙⲓ			Ⲧⲉϥⲥϩⲓⲙⲓ		

<u>Exercises:</u>

1) Put the appropriate possessive determiner in the blanks:

ⲛⲉϥⲥⲱⲛⲓ = his sisters   ⲛⲉⲧⲉⲛⲓⲟϯ = your fathers (your is of 2nd person)

ⲡⲟⲩϣⲏⲣⲓ = their son   ⲡⲉⲥⲥⲟⲛ = her brother

ⲛⲁϫⲱⲙ = my books   ⲧⲉⲛϣⲉⲣⲓ = Our daughter

2) Translate from Coptic to English and from English to Coptic, knowing that ϣⲫⲏⲣ = friend, ⲥⲱⲧⲏⲣ = savior, ϭⲟⲓⲥ = master, ⲥⲛⲏⲟⲩ = brothers, ⲙⲉⲛⲣⲓⲧ = beloved, ⲥⲱⲛⲓ = sister, ϩⲁⲓ = husband, ⲥϩⲓⲙⲓ = wife, ϣⲏⲣⲓ = son.

English	Coptic
My brothers and their sisters	Ⲛⲁⲥⲛⲏⲟⲩ ⲛⲉⲙ ⲛⲟⲩⲥⲱⲛⲓ
Her beloved and our savior	Ⲡⲉⲥⲙⲉⲛⲣⲓⲧ ⲛⲉⲙ ⲡⲉⲛⲥⲱⲧⲏⲣ
Your master and my master	Ⲡⲉⲧⲉⲛϭⲟⲓⲥ ⲛⲉⲙ ⲡⲁϭⲟⲓⲥ
Your friends and his brothers	ⲛⲉⲧⲉⲛϣⲫⲏⲣ ⲛⲉⲙ ⲛⲉϥⲥⲛⲏⲟⲩ
His sister and her sisters	Ⲧⲉϥⲥⲱⲛⲓ ⲛⲉⲙ ⲛⲉⲥⲥⲱⲛⲓ
Her husband and his wife and their sons	Ⲡⲉⲥϩⲁⲓ ⲛⲉⲙ ⲧⲉϥⲥϩⲓⲙⲓ ⲛⲉⲙ ⲛⲟⲩϣⲏⲣⲓ

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

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

Verbs

Let's learn about the present, past and future in Coptic.

I.   Present Tense

Let's take a verb like `ϣⲗⲏⲗ = pray. Here is an example that will teach you the structure.

Example:

Subject	Verb	
ϯ	`ϣⲗⲏⲗ	=I am praying

In the place of the subject we have the following possibilities depending on the subject:

First person	ϯ (I)	ⲧⲉⲛ (we)	
Second person	`ⲕ (you s.m.)	ⲧⲉ (you s.f.)	ⲧⲉⲧⲉⲛ (you plural)
Third person	`ϥ (He)	`ⲥ (she)	ⲥⲉ (they)

Note: `ⲕ of the singular masculine of the second person changes to `ⲭ if the verb starts with any of these letters {ⲃ-ⲗ-ⲙ-ⲛ-ⲣ}

Exercise: Translate from Coptic to English and vice-versa.
Hint: ϩⲉⲙⲥⲓ = sit, ⲧⲟⲧⲥ= chair, ϩⲓϫⲉⲛ = on, ⲥⲁϫⲓ = talk or speak, `ϣⲫⲏⲣ = friend, ⲁⲛⲟⲕ = I.

ϯϩⲉⲙⲥⲓ ϩⲓϫⲉⲛ ⲡⲓⲧⲟⲧⲥ	I am sitting on the chair.
ⲧⲉⲛϩⲉⲙⲥⲓ ϩⲓϫⲉⲛ ⲛⲓⲧⲟⲧⲥ	We are sitting on the chairs.
Ⲙⲏⲛⲁ ϥⲥⲁϫⲓ ⲛⲉⲙ ⲛⲉϥϣⲫⲏⲣ	Mina is talking with his friends.
Ⲛⲁⲥⲛⲏⲟⲩ ⲥⲉϣⲗⲏⲗ ⲛⲉⲙ ⲛⲁⲥⲱⲛⲓ	My brothers are praying with my sisters.
Ⲁⲛⲟⲕ ⲛⲉⲙ ⲡⲁⲓⲱⲧ ⲛⲉⲙ ⲧⲁⲙⲁⲩ ⲧⲉⲛϣⲗⲏⲗ	I and my dad and my mother we are praying.

I. Past

Now if we would like to say, "I prayed", how do we say that in Coptic? Here is the structure of the past:

Example:

Subject	Verb	
ⲁⲓ	ⲱⲏⲗ	=I prayed

First person	ⲁⲓ (I), ⲁⲛ (We)
Second person	ⲁⲕ (You s.m.), ⲁⲣⲉ (you s.f.), ⲁⲣⲉⲧⲉⲛ (you pl.)
Third person	ⲁϥ (He), ⲁⲥ (She), ⲁⲩ (they)

Note: They all start with an "ⲁ". This immediately tells you that the verb is in the past.
Now that we have learned about present and past, let's look at the structure of the future.

III. Simple Future

The structure is as follows:

Subject	ⲛⲁ	Verb

- As you can see, we introduce "ⲛⲁ" between the subject and the verb to characterize the future.
- The subjects are exactly like the present. Note that for the second person singular masculine (s.m.) we use `ⲭ for the subject since the first letter after the subject is `ⲛ.
- The only exception to the rule above is the singular feminine second person. Instead of "ⲛⲁ" we use "ⲣⲁ".

Example: You will conceive

ⲧⲉ	ⲣⲁ	ⲉⲣⲃⲟⲕⲓ

Can you guess why?

IV. Negation (Negative present and future)

1. For present and future we add "ⲁⲛ" after the verb to make it negative.
2. Alternatively, we could also use `ⲛ... ⲁⲛ (for emphasis).

Here are the different structures and then we will see some examples:

Negative Present 1	Subject	Verb		ⲁⲛ

Negative Present 2	`ⲛ	Subject	Verb		ⲁⲛ

Negative Future 1	Subject	ⲛⲁ	Verb		ⲁⲛ

Negative Future 2	`ⲛ	Subject	ⲛⲁ	Verb	ⲁⲛ

Examples:

Ⲥⲉ	ϣⲗⲏⲗ		ⲁⲛ

`ⲛ	ⲥⲉ	ϣⲗⲏⲗ		ⲁⲛ

} They do not pray

Ⲥⲉ	ⲛⲁ	ϣⲗⲏⲗ		ⲁⲛ

`ⲛ	ⲥⲉ	ⲛⲁ	ϣⲗⲏⲗ		ⲁⲛ

} They will not pray

ϯ	ⲙⲉⲩⲓ		ⲁⲛ

I do not remember

Ⲧⲉⲛ	ⲟⲩⲱϣ		ⲁⲛ

We do not want

Exercises:

Write the following in Coptic given that:
ⲥⲁϫⲓ = speak, `ⲓ = come, ⲟⲩⲱⲙ = eat, ⲥⲟⲛ = brother, ⲁⲗⲟⲩ = boy

- I will not speak
- My brother will not come
- You will not eat (Use "you" for singular feminine)
- The boy is speaking
- The boy will speak

Answers:

I will not speak = Ϯⲛⲁⲥⲁϫⲓ ⲁⲛ

My brother will not come = Ⲡⲁⲥⲟⲛ `ϥⲛⲁⲓ̀ ⲁⲛ

You will not eat = Ⲧⲉⲣⲁⲟⲩⲱⲙ ⲁⲛ

The boy speaks = Ⲡⲓⲁⲗⲟⲩ `ϥⲥⲁϫⲓ

The boy will speak = Ⲡⲓⲁⲗⲟⲩ `ϥⲛⲁⲥⲁϫⲓ

Exercise: Given that:

ϣ̀ⲗⲏⲗ = pray   ⲓⲱⲧ = father   ⲥⲁϫⲓ = speak   ϭⲓ `ⲥⲃⲱ= study

ϣ̀ⲫⲏⲣ = friend   ⲱϣ = read   ⲙⲟϣⲓ =walk

Translate the following from Coptic to English and Vice-Versa.

- I will speak with my father
  Ϯⲛⲁⲥⲁϫⲓ ⲛⲉⲙ ⲡⲁⲓⲱⲧ

- She will read the book
  Ⲥ̀ⲛⲁⲱϣ ϧⲉⲛ ⲡⲓϫⲱⲙ

- We will study with our friends
  Ⲧⲉⲛⲛⲁⲁ̀ⲣⲉϩ ⲛⲉⲙ ⲛⲉⲛϣ̀ⲫⲏⲣ

- They are walking with their father
  Ⲥⲉⲙⲟϣⲓ ⲛⲉⲙ ⲡⲟⲩⲓⲱⲧ

- I sat on the chair with my friend and we read
  Ⲁⲓϩⲉⲙⲥⲓ ϩⲓϫⲉⲛ ⲡⲓⲧⲟⲧⲥ ⲛⲉⲙ ⲡⲁϣ̀ⲫⲏⲣ ⲟⲩⲟϩ ⲁⲛⲱϣ

- You prayed with your brothers
  Ⲁⲕϣ̀ⲗⲏⲗ ⲛⲉⲙ ⲛⲉⲕⲥ̀ⲛⲏⲟⲩ

Based on all what we have learned, let's summarize the rules of present, future and past where we use the verb ϣ̀ⲗⲏⲗ

	Subject	Present	Future	Past
1st person	I	Ϯϣⲗⲏⲗ	Ϯⲛⲁϣⲗⲏⲗ	ⲁⲓϣⲗⲏⲗ
	We	ⲧⲉⲛϣⲗⲏⲗ	ⲧⲉⲛⲛⲁϣⲗⲏⲗ	ⲁⲛϣⲗⲏⲗ

2nd person	You (s.m.)	ⲕϣⲗⲏⲗ	ⳉⲛⲁϣⲗⲏⲗ	ⲁⲕϣⲗⲏⲗ
	You (s.f.)	ⲧⲉϣⲗⲏⲗ	ⲧⲉⲣⲁϣⲗⲏⲗ	ⲁⲣⲉϣⲗⲏⲗ
	You (plural)	ⲧⲉⲧⲉⲛϣⲗⲏⲗ	ⲧⲉⲧⲉⲛⲛⲁϣⲗⲏⲗ	ⲁⲣⲉⲧⲉⲛϣⲗⲏⲗ
3rd person	He	ϥϣⲗⲏⲗ	ϥⲛⲁϣⲗⲏⲗ	ⲁϥϣⲗⲏⲗ
	She	ⲥϣⲗⲏⲗ	ⲥⲛⲁϣⲗⲏⲗ	ⲁⲥϣⲗⲏⲗ
	They	ⲥⲉϣⲗⲏⲗ	ⲥⲉⲛⲁϣⲗⲏⲗ	ⲁⲩϣⲗⲏⲗ

Lord's Prayer

ϧⲉⲛ ⲫ̀ⲣⲁⲛ ⲙ̀ⲫⲓⲱⲧ ⲛⲉⲙ ⲡ̀ϣⲏⲣⲓ ⲛⲉⲙ ⲡⲓⲡ̀ⲛⲉⲩⲙⲁ ⲉⲑⲟⲩⲁⲃ ⲟⲩⲛⲟⲩϯ ⲛ̀ⲟⲩⲱⲧ ⲁ̀ⲙⲏⲛ.	In the name of the Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit, One God Amen.
ⲁⲣⲓⲧⲉⲛ ⲛ̀ⲉⲙⲡ̀ϣⲁ ⲛ̀ϫⲟⲥ ϧⲉⲛ ⲟⲩϣⲉⲡϩ̀ⲙⲟⲧ Ⲭⲉ:	Make us worthy to pray thankfully:

ⲡⲉⲛⲓⲱⲧ ⲉⲧϧⲉⲛ ⲛⲓⲫⲏⲟⲩⲓ
ⲙⲁⲣⲉϥⲧⲟⲩⲃⲟ ⲛ̀ϫⲉ ⲡⲉⲕⲣⲁⲛ
ⲙⲁⲣⲉⲥⲓ̀ ⲛ̀ϫⲉ ⲧⲉⲕⲙⲉⲧⲟⲩⲣⲟ
ⲡⲉⲧⲉϩⲛⲁⲕ ⲙⲁⲣⲉϥϣⲱⲡⲓ
ⲙ̀ⲫ̀ⲣⲏϯ ϧⲉⲛ ⲧ̀ⲫⲉ ⲛⲉⲙ ϩⲓϫⲉⲛ ⲡⲓⲕⲁϩⲓ
ⲡⲉⲛⲱⲓⲕ ⲛ̀ⲧⲉ ⲣⲁⲥϯ ⲙⲏⲓϥ ⲛⲁⲛ ⲙ̀ⲫⲟⲟⲩ
ⲟⲩⲟϩ ⲭⲁ ⲛⲏⲉⲧⲉⲣⲟⲛ ⲛⲁⲛ ⲉ̀ⲃⲟⲗ
ⲙ̀ⲫ̀ⲣⲏϯ ϩⲱⲛ ⲛ̀ⲧⲉⲛⲭⲱ ⲉ̀ⲃⲟⲗ
ⲛ̀ⲛⲏⲉ̀ⲧⲉ ⲟⲩⲟⲛ ⲛ̀ⲧⲁⲛ ⲉ̀ⲣⲱⲟⲩ
ⲟⲩⲟϩ ⲙ̀ⲡⲉⲣⲉⲛⲧⲉⲛ ⲉ̀ϧⲟⲩⲛ ⲉ̀ⲡⲓⲣⲁⲥⲙⲟⲥ
ⲁⲗⲗⲁ ⲛⲁϩⲙⲉⲛ ⲉ̀ⲃⲟⲗϩⲁ ⲡⲓⲡⲉⲧϩⲱⲟⲩ
ϧⲉⲛ ⲡⲓⲭ̀ⲣⲓⲥⲧⲟⲥ Ⲓⲏⲥⲟⲩⲥ ⲡⲉⲛϭⲟⲓⲥ
ϫⲉ ⲑⲱⲕ ⲧⲉ
ϯⲙⲉⲧⲟⲩⲣⲟ ⲛⲉⲙ ϯϫⲟⲙ ⲛⲉⲙ ⲡⲓⲱ̀ⲟⲩ
ϣⲁ ⲉ̀ⲛⲉϩ ⲁ̀ⲙⲏⲛ.

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.