

Coptic Language Grade 7&UP

❖ Letters similar to English

Ⲁ ⲁ	A	A vowel pronounced (as “a” in f<u>a</u>ther)	Ⲁⲛⲧ- ⲱⲛⲓⲟⲥ	Antonios	Anthony
Ⲗ Ⲙ	B V	A consonant pronounced as I. “v” if followed by a vowel (as “v” v<u>o</u>lt) II. “b” if not followed by a vowel (as “b” b<u>i</u>g)	ⲛⲟⲩⲃ ⲃⲁⲗ	Noub Val	Gold Eye
Ⲏ ⲏ	E	A vowel pronounced (as “ai” in m<u>a</u>in)	Ⲏⲗⲓⲥⲉⲟⲥ	Eliseos	Elisha
Ⲓ ⲓ	Z	A consonant pronounced (as “z” in z<u>i</u>nc)	Ⲓⲱⲛⲏ	zwnee	Belt
Ⲙ ⲙ	I	A vowel pronounced (as “i” in b<u>i</u>g)	Ⲙⲟⲥⲏⲫ	Yosif	Joseph
Ⲙ ⲙ	K	A consonant pronounced (as “k” in co<u>o</u>k)	Ⲙⲣⲓⲗ- ⲗⲟⲥ	Kyrillos	Kyrillos
ⲛ Ⲏ	N	A consonant pronounced (as “n” in n<u>a</u>ncy)	ⲛⲓⲫⲧ	nishti	Great
ⲟ ⲡ	O	A vowel pronounced (as “o” in no<u>t</u>)	ⲥⲟⲛ	soun	Brother
Ⲙ ⲙ	C	A consonant pronounced (as “s” in s<u>a</u>vi<u>o</u>r)	Ⲙⲟⲩⲣⲓⲏⲗ	Souriel	Souriel
ⲧ Ⲩ	T	A consonant pronounced (as “t” in t<u>a</u>ke)	ⲧⲟⲧⲥ	Tots	Chair
Ⲣ ⲣ		A vowel pronounced as I. “v” if coming after Ⲁ or Ⲏ II. “o” if coming after ⲟ III. “e” in all other cases	ⲟⲩⲏⲃ Ⲓⲩⲙⲛⲟⲥ ⲙⲁⲩ	Ouib Hemnoc Mav	Priest Song Mother
Ⲩ ⲩ	Ti	A consonant pronounced (as “tee” in te<u>e</u>th)	ⲧⲛⲟⲩ	Tinou	Now
ⲏ Ⲑ		A vowel pronounced (as “ee” in se<u>e</u>)	Ⲓⲏⲧ	Heat	Heart
ⲱ Ⲳ	W	A vowel pronounced (as “oa” in th<u>ro</u>w)	ⲱⲓⲕ	ouik	Bread

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P p	R	A consonant pronounced (as “r” in run)	ⲣⲁⲛ	Ran	Name
Ⲭ ⲭ		A consonant pronounced as I. “k” Coptic origin words II. "sh" (sheep) if coming before ⲉ, ⲓ, ⲛ, Ⲯ III. “kh” (Mikhaeel) otherwise	Ⲭⲏⲙⲓ Ⲭⲉⲣⲉ Ⲭⲣⲏⲥⲧⲟⲥ	Kimi Shere Ekhristos	Egypt Hail Christ

❖ More Letters

Ⲕ ⲕ	KH	A consonant pronounced as in Arabic “kh”	ⲕⲏⲃⲥ	Khibs	Lamp
Ⲩ ⲩ	H	A consonant pronounced as “h” in house	Ⲩⲏⲧ	Heat	Heart
ⲗ Ⲙ	L	A consonant pronounced as “l” in look	ⲗⲁⲥ	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 ⲉ, ⲓ, ⲛ, Ⲯ junior II. “g” otherwise	ⲭⲓⲭ	Jig	Hand
Ⲡ ⲡ	P	A consonant pronounced as “p” in Peter	Ⲡⲉⲧⲣⲟⲥ	Petros	Peter
Ⲥ ⲥ	F	A consonant pronounced as “f” in fan	Ⲥⲓ- ⲗⲟⲡⲁⲧⲏⲣ	Filopater	Philopater
Ⲟ ⲟ	Ch	A consonant pronounced as “ch” in Church	Ⲟⲟⲓⲥ	Chois	Lord
Ⲙ ⲙ	X	A consonant pronounced as “x” in box	Ⲙⲟⲙⲏ	Xomi	Ruler
Ⲟ ⲟ	Th	A consonant pronounced as “Th” in think	Ⲟⲉⲗⲏⲗ	thelil	
ⲗ Ⲙ	Th, D	TH as in then, (D in names)	ⲗⲟⲗⲁ ⲗⲁⲮⲓⲗ	Zoksa David	Glory David

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Ϥ ϥ	F	A consonant pronounced as “f” in fan	ϥⲱⲧⲉ	fote	Towel
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Ϩ ϩ	G, GH, NG	A consonant pronounced as I. “g” if coming before ε, ι, η, ϣ II. “ng” if coming before ϣ, κ, ζ, ⲭ III. “gh” otherwise	Ϩⲁⲃⲣⲓⲏⲗ ⲁⲩⲧⲉⲗⲟⲥ ⲧⲁⲩⲙⲁ	Ghabriel Angelos taghma	Gabriel Angel Rank
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Ϩ ϩ	Ps	PS (both are pronounced)	ϣⲁⲗⲓ	psali	Song
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Ϩ ϩ	Sh	A consonant pronounced as “sh” in shake	ϣⲁⲓ	shy	feast
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Ⲛ	So	it is the numeral 6	ⲉ̀ⲛⲉ̀ⲗⲟⲟⲩ	so enehoou	6 days
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❖ 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 ⲛ̀ = ⲉⲛ ⲙ̀ = ⲉⲙ

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❖ Coptic Grammar

Articles

	Definite article			Indefinite article
Singular masculine	ⲡⲓ	̀ⲡ	̀Ⲫ	ⲐⲮ
Singular feminine	ⲥ	̀ⲥ	̀Ⲫ	ⲐⲮ
Plural	ⲎⲒ	ⲎⲎⲎ		ⲉⲁⲎ

1) The definite article,

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

- 1- ⲡⲓ or ⲥ used for any word in general.
- 2- ̀Ⲫ or ̀Ⲫ used for words that begin with any of the following letters: **Ⲃ, Ⲓ, ⲣ, Ⲏ, ⲗ, ⲙ**
- 3- ̀ⲡ or ̀ⲥ used for words **not** begin with any of the following letters: **Ⲃ, Ⲓ, ⲣ, Ⲏ, ⲗ, ⲙ**
- 4- ⲎⲒ plural "the" for both masculine and feminine. **General use.**
- 5- ⲎⲎⲎ plural "the" for both masculine and feminine. **Specific use.** when a noun is followed by another noun.

Examples:

ⲡⲓⲣⲱⲙⲓ	the man	ⲥⲡⲁⲣⲑⲎⲐⲐⲐⲐ	the virgin
̀ⲡⲐⲐⲣⲐⲟ	the king	̀ⲥⲱⲉⲣⲓ	the daughter
̀Ⲫⲓⲱⲧ	the father	̀ⲪⲎⲎⲂ	the lady
Ⲏⲓⲁⲥⲥⲉⲗⲟⲥ	the angels	ⲎⲎⲎⲱⲙⲓ	the sons

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ⲡⲓⲕⲁⲓ	̀ⲡⲓⲕⲁⲓ	the earth
ⲡⲓⲣⲱⲙⲓ	̀Ⲫⲣⲱⲙⲓ	the man
Ⲫⲙⲁⲣ	̀Ⲫⲙⲁⲣ	the mother
Ⲫⲭⲟⲙ	̀Ⲫⲭⲟⲙ	the power
ⲙⲓⲱⲛⲣⲓ	ⲙⲎⲉⲱⲛⲣⲓ	the sons
ⲙⲎⲉⲛⲭⲱⲙ ⲛ̀ⲧⲉⲕⲕⲁⲛⲥⲓⲁ		the books of the church
ⲙⲎⲉⲣⲱⲙⲓ ⲛ̀Ⲫⲛⲟⲩⲧⲓ		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 ⲉ̀ⲡⲉⲤⲤⲧ : 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

Ⲭⲛⲥⲧⲓⲁ ⲙⲎⲉ ⲡⲓⲱⲗⲛⲗ : ⲛ̀Ⲫⲱⲟⲩ ⲡⲉ ⲛ̀ϥⲱⲧ ⲛ̀ⲙⲎⲫⲩⲭⲏ : ⲡⲓⲧⲟⲩⲃⲟ ⲙⲎⲉ ⲧⲓⲙⲉⲐⲙⲏ : ⲛ̀Ⲫⲱⲟⲩ ⲡⲉ ⲱⲁⲣⲣⲁⲛⲁϥ ⲛ̀Ⲫⲛⲟⲩⲧⲓ.	Fasting and prayer, are the salvation for our souls, purity and righteousness, they are what please God.
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Ⲭⲏⲥⲧⲓⲁ	the Fasting
ⲡⲓⲱⲗⲏⲗ	the prayer
ⲓⲡⲱⲧ	the salvation
ⲡⲓⲧⲟⲩⲃⲟ	the purity
ⲧⲙⲉⲑⲙⲏ	the righteousness
Ⲭⲏⲟⲩⲧ	the God

Ⲭⲉⲛⲑⲏⲛⲟⲩ 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 ⲛⲓⲁⲟⲩ	The Lord of the powers
̀ⲧⲱⲉⲣⲓ ⲛⲒⲓⲱⲛ	The daughter of Zion
̀ⲑⲙⲁⲧ ⲛⲓⲛⲥⲟⲩⲥ	The mother of Jesus
̀ⲡⲱⲏⲣⲓ ⲙ̀Ⲡⲩⲛⲟⲩⲧ	The son of God
̀Ⲡⲓⲱⲧ 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 ̀Ⲡⲓⲱⲧ	He is the father.
̀ⲛⲑⲟ ⲧⲉ ⲧⲱⲟⲩⲣⲏ	You are the censer.
̀ⲛⲑⲟⲥ ⲧⲉ ⲧⲒⲗⲓⲙⲓ	She is the lady.
̀ⲛⲑⲟⲕ ⲡⲉ ⲡⲓⲥⲟⲛ	You are the brother.
ⲁⲛⲟⲛ ⲛⲉ ⲛⲓⲥⲛⲏⲟⲩ	We are brothers.