

**Your Coptic Language**  
*Learn it ... and Speak it*

# Chapter 1

Coptic Alphabet consists of 32 Letters

The first 25 letters are taken from the Greek Language

The last seven letters are Egyptian letters

The Coptic Language is written from left to right as single letters

Coptic Letters are divided between Vowels and Consonants

- Vowels : Ⲁ Ⲅ Ⲉ Ⲋ Ⲏ Ⲑ Ⲕ Ⲙ Ⲛ
- Consonants: the rest of the Coptic letter.
- The Jinkim: An apostrophe is put on top of the letter

# The Jinkim (cont.)

Examples:

ϥ	ϥ̇	ϥ	ϥ̇	ϥ	ϥ̇	ϥ	ϥ̇
f	if	th	ith	h	ih	kh	ikh
ϣ	ϣ̇	ϣ	ϣ̇				
sh	ish	m	im				

There are nine Letters that cannot have a jinkim:

ⲃ	Ⲅ	ⲅ	Ⲇ	ⲇ	Ⲉ	ⲉ	Ⲋ	ⲋ
veeta	delta	soo	zeeta	lolaa	iksee	ro	ipsee	tee

# Chapter 2

## The Coptic Letters and their pronunciation

# 1st: Consonants

**B**    **β**

Name: Veeta    Order: 2nd Letter in Alphabet

Possible pronunciations :

B b

V v

**Pronounced as 'B' if:**

It is not followed by one of the vowels

It is the last letter in the Word

It is a name of City, Country, Person..(Proper nouns )

**Pronounced as 'V' if:**

It is the first Letter of the Word followed by a vowel

# (Cont.) Examples

Examples For pronunciation as a 'B'

Ⲭⲏⲃⲥ ⲗⲱⲃⲱ Ⲓⲱⲃ Ⲡⲏⲃ ⲠⲏⲒⲥⲉⲣⲟⲩⲃⲏⲉ ⲗⲃⲣⲁⲁⲉ

Kheeb̄s Lobsh̄ Hobe Neeb̄ Neeshero-beem̄ Abra-  
aam̄

Examples For pronunciation as a 'V'

Ⲃⲁⲗ Ⲃⲱⲗ

Vaal Voal

## Exercises:

Please determine the pronunciation of the Letter Veeta in each word:

Ⲃⲁⲣⲥⲱⲉⲁ ⲗⲃⲂⲁ ⲂⲁⲣⲂⲁⲣⲟⲥ ⲂⲏⲂ ⲈⲂⲟⲗ

ⲬⲱⲧⲂ ⲠⲏⲩⲣⲂⲥⲃⲏⲁ ⲈⲂⲟⲩⲁⲂ ⲠⲟⲂⲏ ⲠⲟⲩⲂ

Ϯ Ϯ

Name: *Ghama* Order: 3rd Letter in Alphabet

Possible pronunciations :

G g as in God

Gh gh as in *ghali* in Arabic

N n

**Pronounced as 'G' if:**

It is followed by one of the vowels (except α ο ω οϣ)

**Pronounced as 'Gh' if:**

It is followed by a consonant

It is followed by one of these letters (α ο ω οϣ)

# Ϯ (Cont.)

Pronounced as 'N' if:

It is followed by one of these letters (Ϯ κ ξ ∞)

In that case the first 'Ϯ' letter is pronounced as an 'N' and the letter that follows is pronounced normally.

## Examples

Examples For pronunciation as a 'G'

Γυμνασια Ἅγιος

Gim-nasia Agios

Examples For pronunciation as a 'Gh'

Γραφη

Ghrafee

# (Cont.) Examples

Examples For pronunciation as a 'N'

Ἀγγελος

Anghelos

## Exercises:

Please determine the pronunciation of the Letter Ghama in each word:

ἄγιος

γάλα

ἄγων

γη

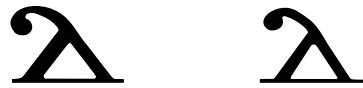
ἀνάγκη

εὐχος

γνοφος

ἀγορά

εψιγξ



Name: *ZELTA* Order: 4TH Letter in Alphabet(All its words are Greek)

Possible pronunciations :

D d

Z z

Pronounced as 'D' if:

It is a Proper Noun

Pronounced as 'Z' if:

It is **not** a Proper Noun

# Δ (Cont.)

Examples For pronunciation as a 'D'

ΑΔΑΕ ΔΑΥΙΔ

Ah-daam Doveed

Examples For pronunciation as a 'Z'

ΔΩΡΟΝ ΔΙΑΚΩΝ

Zoroan Zi-yakon

## Exercises:

Please determine the pronunciation of the Letter Zelta in each word:

ΔΑΝΗΔ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ ΔΟΞΑ ΠΙΟΥΡΔΑΝΗΣ

ΔΥΜΙΑΝΗ ΔΙΚΕΟΣ ΔΟΞΟΛΟΓΙΑ ΔΕΥΤΕ



Name: *Sou*      Order: 6TH Letter in Alphabet (It is not a Letter)

Possible pronunciations : none

It is the number '6'

The Coptic Language doesn't have its own independent symbols for numbers

Using the letter " " as a guide , one can determine the rest of the numbers

Note that numbers are distinguished by a bar on the top



# (Cont.)

ⲁ̅

Ⲃ̅

Ⲅ̅

Ⲍ̅

Ⲏ̅

Ⲑ̅

Ⲓ̅

Ⲕ̅

Ⲗ̅

Ⲙ̅

ⲟⲩⲁⲓ

Ⲉⲛⲁⲩ

ⲩⲟⲙⲧ

Ⲉⲧⲟⲩ

ⲓⲧⲟⲩ

Ⲫⲟⲟⲩ

ⲩⲁⲩⲩⲥ

ⲩⲩⲙⲏⲛ

ⲩⲩⲥⲧ

ⲙⲏⲧ

owaaye

isnaf

shomt

iftu

ityu

sou

shashf

ishmeen

ipseet

meet

One

Two

Three

Four

Five

Six

Seven

Eight

Nine

Ten

ⲙ̅

ⲕ̅

Ⲍ̅

ⲙ̅

ⲛ̅

Ⲓ̅

ⲟ̅

ⲡ̅

Ⲫ̅

Ⲥ̅

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ⲕⲁⲙⲏⲉ

ⲡⲓⲦⲧⲁⲩ

ⲩⲉ

meet

goot

maap

ihmeh

teh-vee

seh

ish-veh

khamneh

pistav

sheh

Ten

Twenty

Thirty

Fourty

Fifty

Sixsty

Seventy

Eighty

Ninety

Hundred