

Typing in Ge'ez

The Ge'ez keyboard (ግ) provides *only* the letters used in the Ge'ez languages. It uses a system whereby the Ge'ez sounds are matched to English letters (a style called “phonetic”). You can think of how a word sounds in Ge'ez and then type it out with English.

Example: typing **selam** becomes ሰላም

Because Ge'ez has more sounds than English we sometimes have to adjust this rule. For example English does not have ‘ጠ’ and the closest similar letter would be ‘ጥ’. In this case you should type with “capital T”:

Example: typing **qTqaTie** becomes ቅጥቃጤ

Notice that we needed both “ie” together to make the 5th ‘ጠ’ letter ‘ጤ’. When the letter you want to type does not appear when you hit the similar sounding key in English, try using the capital next. If typing the capital does not work, then try hitting the key two times:

Example: typing **sselam** becomes ሠላም

Example: typing **SSeHey** becomes ፀሐይ

Next, when you need to type the extra letters of Ge'ez like ሷ, ሸ, ኀ you can do so by typing an extra vowel after a ‘u’:

Example: typing **mua** becomes ሸ

Example: typing **guie** becomes ኀ

Finally, we must introduce a special rule for ' (apostrophe). Some words are spelt with a ሷፍፍ (6th) letter followed by a vowel, like ሸፍፍ in ገብረፍፍል. We use the apostrophe here to type “gebr'iel” to make sure we get “ሸፍፍ” instead of ‘ፍ’.

Example: typing **mel'ak** becomes ሙልአክ

Example: typing **m'eeraf** becomes ምዕራፍ

We also use the hash mark for English numbers, so #1 becomes 1 and so on. If a # is needed in your document just type # twice. This works for other punctuation as well, typing ‘;’ once produces ‘፤’ and a second time gives English ‘;’. The typing table shows how to type all Ge'ez letters, numbers and punctuation.

Ge'ez Typing Table

ቤተሰብ	ግዕዝ	ካዕብ	ሣልስ	ራብዕ	ኃምስ	ሳድስ	ሳብዕ	ዘመደ-ግዕዝ	ዘመደ-ካዕብ	ዘመደ-ሣልስ	ዘመደ-ራብዕ	ዘመደ-ኃምስ
ሆይ	ሀ he	ሁ hu	ሂ hi	ሃ ha	ሄ hie	ህ h	ሆ ho					
ላዊ	ለ le	ሉ lu	ሊ li	ላ la	ሌ lie	ል l	ሎ lo				ሏ lua	
ሐውት	ሐ He	ሑ Hu	ሐ Hi	ሐ Ha	ሐ Hie	ሐ H	ሐ Ho				ሐ Hua	
ማይ	መ me	ሙ mu	ሚ mi	ማ ma	ሚ mie	ም m	ሞ mo				ሚ mua	
ሠውት	ሠ sse	ሡ ssu	ሢ ssi	ሣ ssa	ሢ ssie	ሥ ss	ሦ sso				ሢ ssua	
ርእስ	ረ re	ሩ ru	ሪ ri	ራ ra	ሪ rie	ር r	ሮ ro				ሪ rua	
ሳት	ሰ se	ሱ su	ሲ si	ሳ sa	ሴ sie	ስ s	ሶ so				ሲ sua	
ቃፍ	ቀ qe	ቁ qu	ቂ qi	ቃ qa	ቂ qie	ቅ q	ቆ qo	ቂ que	ቅ qui	ቅ quu	ቅ qua	ቅ quie
ቤት	በ be	ቡ bu	ቢ bi	ባ ba	ቤ bie	ብ b	ቦ bo				ቢ bua	
ታው	ተ te	ቱ tu	ቲ ti	ታ ta	ቱ tie	ት t	ቶ to				ታ tua	
ኀርም	ኀ hhe	ኁ hhu	ኂ hhi	ኃ hha	ኄ hhie	ኅ hh	ኆ hho	ኀ hue	ኁ hui	ኂ huu	ኃ hua	ኄ huie
ነሐስ	ነ ne	ኑ nu	ኒ ni	ና na	ኔ nie	ን n	ኖ no				ኔ nua	
አልፍ	አ a	ኡ u	ኢ i	ኣ ea	ኤ ie	እ e	ኦ o					
ካፍ	ከ ke	ኩ ku	ኪ ki	ካ ka	ኬ kie	ክ k	ኸ ko	ከ kue	ኩ kui	ኪ kuu	ካ kua	ኬ kuie
ወዌ	ወ we	ዉ wu	ዊ wi	ዋ wa	ዌ wie	ው w	ዎ wo					
ዐይን	ዐ A / aaa	ዑ Au / uu	ዒ Ai / ii	ዓ Aa / aa	ዔ Aie / iie	ዕ Ae / ee	ዖ Ao / oo					
ዘይ	ዘ ze	ዛ zu	ዚ zi	ዛ za	ዚ zie	ዝ z	ዞ zo				ዚ zua	
የመነ	የ ye	ዩ yu	ይ yi	ያ ya	የ yie	ይ y	ዮ yo					

ድንት	ደ de	ዱ du	ዲ di	ዳ da	ዴ die	ድ d	ዶ do				ዲ dua	
ገምል	ገ ge	ጉ gu	ጊ gi	ጋ ga	ጊ gie	ግ g	ጎ go	ጎ gue	ጉ gui	ጉ guu	ጓ gua	ጊ guie
ጠይት	ጠ Te	ጡ Tu	ጢ Ti	ጣ Ta	ጤ Tie	ጥ T	ጦ To				ጧ Tua	
እይት	እ Pe	እ Pu	እ Pi	እ Pa	እ Pie	ኦ P	እ Po				እ Pua	
እደይ	እ Se	እ Su	እ Si	እ Sa	እ Sie	ኦ S	እ So				እ Sua	
ፀኦ	ፀ SSe	ፀ SSu	ፀ SSi	ፀ SSa	ፀ SSie	ፀ SS	ፀ SSo					
ኦፍ	ፈ fe	ፈ fu	ፈ fi	ፈ fa	ፈ fie	ፍ f	ፍ fo				ፈ fua	
ፕሳ	ፕ pe	ፕ pu	ፕ pi	ፕ pa	ፕ pie	ፕ p	ፕ po				ፕ pua	

Special Note

- The keystroke of ‘x’ is added for the ‘ጎ’ family in agreement with classic Ge’ez phonology and modern transliteration conventions.
- The keystroke of ‘D’ is added for the ‘ፀ’ family in agreement with classic Ge’ez phonology.

Typing Punctuation

Ethiopic Punctuation

፡	፡፡	፡-	፡+	፡#	፡,	፡,,	፡;	፡?
:	::	:-	:+	:#	,	,,	;	?

Keyboard Punctuation

All regular punctuation on your keyboard remains available. Most punctuation can be typed with a single keystroke as usual. Those used to input Ethiopic symbols can be entered by hitting the punctuation key two or more times until it appears.

Typing Numbers

Ethiopic Numerals

፩ 1	፪ 2	፫ 3	፬ 4	፭ 5	፮ 6	፯ 7	፰ 8	፱ 9				
፲ 10	፳ 20	፴ 30	፵ 40	፶ 50	፷ 60	፸ 70	፹ 80	፺ 90	፻ 100	፷፱ 1000	፻፱፻ 10000	

Numeral composition will continue as 0s are entered up to ፻፱፻ (100,000,000).

Western Digits

Western numbers may be typed with a ‘#’ mark followed by the desired digit 1-9.

1 #1	2 #2	3 #3	4 #4	5 #5	6 #6	7 #7	8 #8	9 #9
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Typing Zaima Qirts (የዜማ ቅርጽ፡)

ይዘት	ጎጲር፡ CḥCḥ	CḥCḥ	ቁርጥ	ደረት	ድፋት	ጭረት	ቅናት	ሒደት	ደረት፡ ሒደት
• _1	፡ _2	፤ _3	፡ _4	፡ _5	፡ _6	፡ _7	፡ _8	፡ _9	፡ _0

Other Letters

Only the letters used in the Ge’ez language may be typed with this keyboard. To type additional Ethiopic letters used by other languages, please download a keyboard for the language needed or the *language-neutral* keyboard that supports composition of all Ethiopic symbols found in Unicode 4.1