

Typing in Tigrinya (Ethiopian Conventions)

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

Example: typing **selamat** becomes ሰላማት

Because Tigrinya has more sounds than English we sometimes have to adjust this rule. For example English does not have ‘ጽ’ or ‘ቐ’ and the closest similar letters would be ‘s’ and ‘q’ respectively. In this case you should type with “capital S” and “capital Q”:

Example: typing **SbuQ** becomes ጽቡቕ

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 **sselamat** becomes ሠላማት

Example: typing **aarbi** becomes ዓርቢ

Next, when you need to type the extra letters of Tigrinya like ሷ፤ ሸ፤ ኳ you can do so by typing an extra vowel after a ‘u’:

Example: typing **mua** becomes ሸ፤

Example: typing **guie** becomes ኳ

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

Example: typing **wag’u** becomes ዋግኡ

Example: typing **T’uum** becomes ጥዑም

We also use the hash mark for Ge’ez numbers, so #1 becomes ፩ 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 Tigrinya letters, numbers and punctuation.

Tigrinya 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				ሟ 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				ሯ rua	
ሳት	ሰ se	ሱ su	ሲ si	ሳ sa	ሴ sie	ስ s	ሶ so				ሷ sua	
ሻ-ሳት	ሸ xe	ሹ xu	ሺ xi	ሻ xa	ሼ xie	ሽ x	ሾ xo				ሿ xua	
ቃፍ	ቀ qe	ቁ qu	ቂ qi	ቃ qa	ቄ qie	ቅ q	ቆ qo	ቈ que	ቅ qui	ቅ quu	ቅ qua	ቅ quie
ቻ-ቃፍ	ቸ Qe	ቹ Qu	ቺ Qi	ቻ Qa	ቼ Qie	ች Q	ቾ Qo	ቸ Que	ቹ Quu	ቺ Qui	ቻ Qua	ቼ Quie
ቤት	በ be	ቡ bu	ቢ bi	ባ ba	ቤ bie	ብ b	ቦ bo				ቧ bua	
ቪ-ቤት	ቨ ve	ቩ vu	ቪ vi	ቫ va	ቮ vie	ቭ v	ቮ vo				ቮ vua	
ታው	ተ te	ቱ tu	ቲ ti	ታ ta	ቲ tie	ት t	ቶ to				ታ tua	
ቻ-ታው	ቸ ce	ቹ cu	ቺ ci	ቻ ca	ቼ cie	ች c	ቾ co				ቸ cua	
ኅርም	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				ኗ nua	
ኛ-ነሐስ	ኘ Ne	ኙ Nu	ኚ Ni	ኛ Na	ኜ Nie	ኝ N	ኞ No				ኛ Nua	
አልፍ	አ a	አ u	አ i	አ ea	አ ie	አ e	አ o	አ ae				
ካፍ	ከ ke	ኩ ku	ኪ ki	ካ ka	ኬ kie	ክ k	ኮ ko	ከ kue	ከ kui	ከ kuu	ካ kua	ካ kuie

ኸ-ከፍ	ኸ Ke	ኸ Ku	ኸ Ki	ኸ Ka	ኸ Kie	ኸ K	ኸ Ko	ኸ Kue	ኸ Kuu	ኸ Kui	ኸ Kua	ኸ Kuie
ወዌ	ወ we	ወ wu	ወ wi	ወ wa	ወ wie	ወ w	ወ wo					
ዐይን	ዐ A / aaa	ዐ Au / uu	ዐ Ai / ii	ዐ Aa / aa	ዐ Aie / iie	ዐ Ae / ee	ዐ Ao / oo					
ዘይ	ዘ ze	ዘ zu	ዘ zi	ዘ za	ዘ zie	ዘ z	ዘ zo				ዘ zua	
ዝ-ዘይ	ዝ Ze	ዝ Zu	ዝ Zi	ዝ Za	ዝ Zie	ዝ Z	ዝ Zo				ዝ Zua	
የመነ	የ ye	የ yu	የ yi	የ ya	የ yie	የ y	የ yo					
ድንት	ድ de	ድ du	ድ di	ድ da	ድ die	ድ d	ድ do				ድ dua	
ጅ-ድንት	ጅ je	ጅ ju	ጅ ji	ጅ ja	ጅ jie	ጅ j	ጅ jo				ጅ jua	
ገምል	ገ ge	ገ gu	ገ gi	ገ ga	ገ gie	ገ g	ገ go	ገ gue	ገ gui	ገ guu	ገ gua	ገ guie
ጠይት	ጠ Te	ጠ Tu	ጠ Ti	ጠ Ta	ጠ Tie	ጠ T	ጠ To				ጠ Tua	
ጨ-ጠይት	ጨ Ce	ጨ Cu	ጨ Ci	ጨ Ca	ጨ Cie	ጨ C	ጨ Co				ጨ Cua	
ጳይት	ጳ Pe	ጳ Pu	ጳ Pi	ጳ Pa	ጳ Pie	ጳ P	ጳ Po				ጳ Pua	
ጸደይ	ጸ Se	ጸ Su	ጸ Si	ጸ Sa	ጸ Sie	ጸ S	ጸ So				ጸ Sua	
ፀጳ	ፀ SSe	ፀ SSu	ፀ SSi	ፀ SSa	ፀ SSie	ፀ SS	ፀ SSo					
ኦፍ	ኦ fe	ኦ fu	ኦ fi	ኦ fa	ኦ fie	ኦ f	ኦ fo				ኦ fua	
ፕሳ	ፕ pe	ፕ pu	ፕ pi	ፕ pa	ፕ pie	ፕ p	ፕ po				ፕ pua	
	:	፡	፡	፡	፡	፡-				፡	,	;
	:	፡፡	,	;	፡፡	፡-				፡፡	፡፡፡	፡፡፡
	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	፲፪ #1000	፳፻ #10000

Typing all languages













Since the creation of the Unicode system for Ethiopic many letters have become available on the computer. Unicode defines 461 letters for Ethiopic writing in many languages. This is too many letters for Tigrinya so to avoid typing unexpected letters they are not allowed in the Tigrinya keyboard. However, on the occasion that you need to type Ethiopic letters outside of Tigrinya, you can do so with the “Unicode Keyboard”.

There are two ways to start the Unicode keyboard:





























1. Type Ctrl + Alt + Y this should make the  icon appear in your task bar and the Unicode keyboard is ready.
2. Click on the  icon in your task bar then select the  icon and the Unicode keyboard is ready.

The typing for letters of other languages are now shown:

Awngi/Blin/Kayla/Kufal/Quara/Qimant/Xamtanga

 Ge	 Gu	 Gi	 Ga	 Gie	 G	 Go
 Gue	 Guu	 Gui	 Gua	 Guie		

Bench/Dizi

 xxe	 xxu	 xxi	 xxa	 xxie	 xx	 xxo
 cce	 ccu	 cci	 cca	 ccie	 cc	 cco
 ZZe	 ZZu	 ZZi	 ZZa	 ZZie	 ZZ	 ZZo
 CCe	 CCu	 CCi	 CCa	 CCie	 CC	 CCo

Ge'ez

Zaima Notation

ይዘት	ግጺር፡ ርክርክ	ርክርክ	ቁርጥ	ደረት	ድፋት	ጭረት	ቅናት	ሒደት	ደረት፡ ሒደት
.	:	:	ተ	ጋ	ጋ	ጋ	ጋ	—	ጋ
_1	_2	_3	_4	_5	_6	_7	_8	_9	_0

Punctuation

:	※	※
??	:+	:#

Ge'ez numbers can also be typed with the Unicode keyboard without requiring the typing of a ' before a number. This way is a little easier than typing numbers from the Tigrinya keyboard.

Me'en/Mursi/Suri

ሀ	ላ	ሞ	ሮ	ሶ	ኦ	ቃ	ቦ	ቶ	ቶ	ኸ	ኸ	ኸ	ኸ
hoa	loa	moa	roa	soa	xoa	qoa	boa	toa	coa	hhoa	noa	Noa	oa
ከ	ዎ	ዘ	ዮ	ዶ	ዶ	ገ	ገ	ገ	ገ	ገ	ገ	ገ	
koa	woa	zoa	yoa	doa	Doa	joa	goa	Toa	Coa	Poa	SSoa	poa	

Me'en/Mursi/Suri & Historical Oromo/Sidama

ደ	ደ	ደ	ደ	ደ	ደ	ደ	ደ
De	Du	Di	Da	Die	D	Do	Dua

Sebatbeit

ቃ	ቃ	ቃ	ቃ	ቃ	ቃ	ቃ
qye	qyu	qye	qye	qye	qye	qyo
ኸ	ኸ	ኸ	ኸ	ኸ	ኸ	ኸ
kye	kyu	kyi	kya	kyie	ky	kyo
ኸ	ኸ	ኸ	ኸ	ኸ	ኸ	ኸ
Kye	Kyu	Kyi	Kye	Kyie	Ky	Kyo
ኸ	ኸ	ኸ	ኸ	ኸ	ኸ	ኸ
gye	gyu	gyi	gya	gyie	gy	gyo

ሞ	mue
ቦ	bue
ፈ	fue
ፑ	pue

ሞ	mui
ቦ	mue
ፈ	fue
ፑ	pue

ሞ	muie
ቦ	muu
ፈ	buie
ፑ	buu
ፈ	fuie
ፑ	fuu
ፑ	puie
ፑ	puu