

Typing in Tigrinya (Ethiopian Conventions)

The Tigrinya keyboard (**ተ**) provides *only* the letters used in modern 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 ‘**ʃ**’ or ‘**ḥ**’ 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 **Arbi** becomes **ዓርቢ**

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

Example: typing **mua** becomes **ሟ**

Example: typing **guie** becomes **ጒ**

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

Example: typing **wag’u** becomes **ዋግኡ**

Example: typing **T’uum** becomes **ጥዑም**

The following typing tables show 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				ሊ lua	
ሐውት	ሐ He	ሑ Hu	ሒ Hi	ሓ Ha	ሔ Hie	ሕ H	ሐ Ho				ሓ 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	ሤ ssie	ሥ ss	ሦ ssso				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	
ኧ-ሳት	ኧ xe	ከ xu	ኪ xi	ኣ xa	ኬ xie	ኧ x	ኦ xo				ኪ xua	
ቃፍ	ቀ qe	ቁ qu	ቂ qi	ቃ qa	ቄ qie	ቅ q	ቆ qo	ቂ que	ቅ quu	ቆ qui	ቃ qua	ቄ quie
ቃ-ቃፍ	ቐ Qe	ቑ Qu	ቊ Qi	ቋ Qa	ቌ Qie	ቍ Q	ቆ Qo	ቋ Que	ቍ Quu	ቆ Qui	ቃ Qua	ቄ Quie
ቤት	በ be	ቡ bu	ቢ bi	ባ ba	ቤ bie	ብ b	ቦ bo				ቢ bua	
ቪ-ቤት	ቨ ve	ቩ vu	ቪ vi	ባ va	ቤ vie	ብ v	ቦ vo				ቪ vua	
ታው	ተ te	ቱ tu	ቲ ti	ታ ta	ቲ tie	ት t	ቶ to				ቲ tua	
ቻ-ታው	ቸ ce	ቹ cu	ቺ ci	ቻ ca	ቼ cie	ች c	ቸ co				ቻ cua	
ኀርም	ኀ hhe	ኁ hhu	ኂ hhi	ኃ hha	ኄ hhie	ኅ hh	ኆ hho	ኀ hue	ኁ huu	ኂ hui	ኃ hua	ኄ huie
ነሐስ	ነ ne	ኑ nu	ኒ ni	ና na	ኔ nie	ን n	ኖ no				ኒ nua	
ኛ-ነሐስ	ኘ Ne	ኙ Nu	ኚ Ni	ኛ Na	ኜ Nie	ኝ N	ኞ No				ኚ Nua	
አልፍ	አ ee	ኡ u	ኢ i	አ a	ኤ ie	እ e	ኦ o					
ካፍ	ከ ke	ኩ ku	ኪ ki	ካ ka	ኬ kie	ክ k	ኮ ko	ከ kue	ኩ kuu	ኪ kui	ካ kua	ኬ kuie
ካ-ካፍ	ኸ Ke	ኹ Ku	ኺ Ki	ኻ Ka	ኼ Kie	ኽ K	ኾ Ko	ኸ Kue	ኹ Kuu	ኺ Kui	ኻ Kua	ኼ Kuie
ወዌ	ወ we	ዉ wu	ዊ wi	ዋ wa	ዌ wie	ወ w	ዐ wo					

ቤተሰብ	ግዕዝ	ካዕብ	ሣልስ	ራብዕ	ኃምስ	ሳድስ	ሳብዕ	ዘመደ-ግዕዝ	ዘመደ-ካዕብ	ዘመደ-ሣልስ	ዘመደ-ራብዕ	ዘመደ-ኃምስ
ዐይን	ዐ Ee	ዑ Eu / U	ዒ Ei / I	ዓ Ea / A	ዔ Eie / Ie	ዕ E	ዖ Eo / O					
ዘይ	ዘ ze	ዙ zu	ዚ zi	ዛ za	ዞ zie	ዝ z	ዞ zo				ዟ zua	
ዝ-ዘይ	ዝ Ze	ዞ Zu	ዟ Zi	ዠ Za	ዡ Zie	ዢ Z	ዣ Zo				ዤ Zua	
የመነ	የ ye	ዩ yu	ይ yi	ያ ya	የ yie	የ y	ዮ yo					
ድንት	ደ de	ዱ du	ዲ di	ዳ da	ዲ die	ድ d	ዶ do				ዷ dua	
ጅ-ድንት	ጆ je	ጅ ju	ጆ ji	ጇ ja	ገ jie	ገ j	ገ jo				ገ jua	
ገምል	ገ ge	ጉ gu	ጊ gi	ጋ ga	ጌ gie	ግ g	ጎ go	ጐ gue	጑ guu	ጒ gui	ጓ gua	ጔ guie
ጠይት	ጠ Te	ጡ Tu	ጢ Ti	ጣ Ta	ጤ Tie	ጥ T	ጦ To				ጧ Tua	
ጨ-ጠይት	ጨ Ce	ጨ Cu	ጨ Ci	ጨ Ca	ጨ Cie	ጮ C	ጮ Co				ጭ Cua	
ጳይት	ጳ Pe	ጴ Pu	ጵ Pi	ጶ Pa	ጷ Pie	ጸ P	ጹ Po				ጺ Pua	
ጸደይ	ጸ Se	ጹ Su	ጺ Si	ጻ Sa	ጺ Sie	ጼ S	ጿ So				ጺ Sua	
ፀጳ	ፀ SSe	ፁ SSu	፺ SSi	፻ SSa	፺ SSie	፼ SS	፽ SSo					
አፍ	ፈ fe	ፉ fu	ፊ fi	ፋ fa	ፌ fie	ፍ f	ፎ fo				ፉ fua	
ፕሳ	ፕ pe	ፑ pu	ፒ pi	ፓ pa	ፔ pie	ፕ p	ፖ po				ፕ pua	

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

The hash mark is used Ge'ez numbers, so #1 becomes ፩ and so on. When a '#' is needed before a number in your document, just type # twice.

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	፺፻ #1000	፻፺፻ #10000

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