

Typing in Tigrinya (Eritrean Conventions)

The Tigrinya keyboard (ት) provides *only* the letters used in modern Eritrean 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 **aarbi** becomes ኅርቢ

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

Example: typing **mua** becomes ሸፊ

Example: typing **guie** becomes ኂፊ

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

Example: typing **wag’u** becomes ዋግኡ

Example: typing **T’uum** becomes ተዑም

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	
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	
ኸ-ሳት	ኸ xe	ኹ xu	ኺ xi	ኻ xa	ኼ xie	ኽ x	ኾ xo				ኻ 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
ቃ-ቃፍ	ቐ Qe	ቑ Qu	ቒ Qi	ቃ Qa	ቄ Qie	ቅ Q	ቆ Qo	ቈ Que	ቅ Quu	ቅ Qui	ቅ Qua	ቅ 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	ቬ vie	ቭ v	ቮ vo				ቫ vua	
ታው	ተ te	ቱ tu	ቲ ti	ታ ta	ቲ tie	ት t	ቶ to				ታ tua	
ታ-ታው	ቸ ce	ቹ cu	ቺ ci	ቻ ca	ቼ cie	ች c	ቸ co				ቻ cua	
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	ኞ N	ኝ No				ኞ Nua	
አልፍ	አ a	አ u	አ i	አ ea	አ ie	እ e	አ o					
ካፍ	ከ ke	ኩ ku	ኪ ki	ካ ka	ኬ kie	ክ k	ኮ ko	ኰ kue	ኰ kui	ኰ kuu	ኰ kua	ኰ kuie
ኸ-ካፍ	ኸ Ke	ኹ Ku	ኺ Ki	ኻ Ka	ኼ Kie	ኽ K	ኾ Ko	ኰ Kue	ኰ Kuu	ኰ Kui	ኰ Kua	ኰ 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 / ie	ዕ Ae / ee	ዖ Ao / oo					
ዘይ	ዘ ze	ዙ zu	ዚ zi	ዛ za	ዞ zie	ዝ z	ዞ zo				ዘ zua	
ዝ-ዘይ	ዝ Ze	ዞ Zu	ዛ Zi	ዛ Za	ዞ Zie	ዝ Z	ዞ Zo				ዘ 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				ዲ 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	
ጸይት	ጸ Pe	ጸ Pu	ጸ Pi	ጸ Pa	ጸ Pie	ጸ P	ጸ Po				ጸ Pua	
ጸደይ	ጸ Se	ጸ Su	ጸ Si	ጸ Sa	ጸ Sie	ጸ S	ጸ So				ጸ Sua	
ኦፍ	ፈ fe	ፈ fu	ፈ fi	ፈ fa	ፈ fie	ፈ f	ፈ fo				ፈ 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	፲፱ #1000	፳፱ #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 of letters for other languages is described in the following sections.

Ge'ez

ሠ	ሠሠ	ሠሠ	ሠሠ	ሠሠ	ሠሠ	ሠሠ				ሠሠ	
sse	ssu	ssi	ssa	ssie	ss	sso				ssua	
ኀ	ኀኀ	ኀኀ	ኀኀ	ኀኀ	ኀኀ	ኀኀ	ኀኀ	ኀኀ	ኀኀ	ኀኀ	ኀኀ
hhe	hhu	hhi	hha	hhie	hh	hho	hue	hui	huu	hua	huie
ፀ	ፀፀ	ፀፀ	ፀፀ	ፀፀ	ፀፀ	ፀፀ					
SSe	SSu	SSi	SSa	SSie	SS	SSo					

Zaima Notation

ይዘት	ገጽ: ርክርክ	ርክርክ	ቁርጥ	ደረት	ድፋት	ጭረት	ቅናት	ሒደት	ደረት: ሒደት
.	:	:	ኮ	፡	፡	፡	፡	፡	፡
_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 Blin keyboard.

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

ገ Ge	ጉ Gu	ጊ Gi	ጋ Ga	ጊ Gie	ግ G	ግ Go
ግ Gue	ጉ Guu	ጊ Gui	ጋ Gua	ጊ Guie		

Bench/Dizi

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

Me'en/Mursi/Suri

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

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

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

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

ሙ mue
ቡ bue
ፊ fue
ፑ pue

ሙ mui
ቡ mue
ፊ fue
ፑ pue

ሙ muie	ሙ muu
ቡ buie	ቡ buu
ፊ fuie	ፊ fuu
ፑ puie	ፑ puu