

Typing in Blin

The Blin keyboard (📄) uses a system where the Blin sounds are matched to the English letters (a style called “phonetic”). You can think of how a word sounds in Blin and then type it out with English.

Example: typing **selam** becomes ሰላም

Because Blin has more sounds than English does, we sometimes have to adjust this rule. For example, English does not have ‘ገ’ and the closest similar letter would be ‘g’. In this case, you should type with “capital G”:

Example: typing **xGKuulen** becomes ጸጃኸሊን

Notice that we used capital ‘K’ also for ‘ኸ’ and we needed both “uu” together to make the 5th ‘ኸ’ letter ‘ኸሊ’. When the letter you want to type does not appear when you hit the similar sounding key in English, try using the capital next.

Next, when you need to type the extra letters of Blin like ሊ, ሢ, or ኸ you can do so by typing an extra vowel after a ‘u’:

Example: typing **mua** becomes ሢላ

Example: typing **Kuu** becomes ኸሁ

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

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

Example: typing **m'Eraf** becomes ሙዕራፍ

The following typing tables show how to type all Blin letters, numbers and punctuation.

Blin 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 | ሐ Ha | ሒ Hie | ሕ H | ሐ Ho | | | | ሒ Hua | |
| ማይ | መ me | ሙ mu | ሚ mi | ማ ma | ሜ mie | ም m | ሞ mo | | | | ሚ mua | |
| ሳት | ሰ se | ሱ su | ሲ si | ሳ sa | ሴ sie | ስ s | ሶ so | | | | ሲ sua | |
| ርእስ | ረ re | ሩ ru | ሪ ri | ራ ra | ሪ rie | ር r | ሮ ro | | | | ሪ rua | |
| ኧ-ሳት | ኧ xe | ኩ xu | ኪ xi | ኧ xa | ኪ xie | ኧ x | ኦ xo | | | | ኪ xua | |
| ቃፍ | ቀ qe | ቂ qu | ቂ qi | ቃ qa | ቂ qie | ቂ q | ቃ qo | ቂ que | ቃ quu | ቃ qui | ቂ qua | ቂ quie |
| ቃ-ቃፍ | ቅ Qe | ቅ Qu | ቅ Qi | ቃ Qa | ቅ Qie | ቅ Q | ቃ Qo | ቅ Que | ቃ Quu | ቃ Qui | 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 | ቲ tie | ት t | ቶ to | | | | ቲ tua | |
| ነሐስ | ነ ne | ኑ nu | ኒ ni | ና na | ኔ nie | ን n | ኖ no | | | | ኒ nua | |
| አልፍ | አ aa | ኡ u | ኢ i | አ a | ኡ ie | እ e | ኦ o | | | | | |
| ካፍ | ከ ke | ኩ ku | ኪ ki | ካ ka | ኪ kie | ክ k | ኮ ko | ከ kue | ከ kuu | ከ kui | ካ kua | ከ kuie |
| ኧ-ካፍ | ኧ Ke | ኩ Ku | ኪ Ki | ኧ Ka | ኪ Kie | ኧ K | ኮ Ko | ኧ Kue | ከ Kuu | ከ Kui | ካ Kua | ከ Kuie |
| ወዌ | ወ we | ዉ wu | ዊ wi | ዋ wa | ዌ wie | ው w | ዎ wo | | | | | |
| ዐይን | ዐ A | ዑ Au / U | ዒ Ai / I | ዓ Aa | ዒ Aie / Ie | ዕ Ae / E | ዖ Ao / O | | | | | |
| የመነ | የ ye | ዩ yu | ይ yi | ያ ya | ዩ yie | ይ y | ዮ yo | | | | | |

| ቤተሰብ | ግዕዝ | ካዕብ | ሣልስ | ራብዕ | ኃምስ | ሳድስ | ሳብዕ | ዘመደ-ግዕዝ | ዘመደ-ካዕብ | ዘመደ-ሣልስ | ዘመደ-ራብዕ | ዘመደ-ኃምስ |
|-------|---------|---------|---------|---------|----------|--------|---------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| ድንት | ደ de | ዱ du | ዲ di | ዳ da | ዴ die | ድ d | ዶ do | | | | ዲ dua | |
| ጅ-ድንት | ጀ je | ጅ ju | ጂ ji | ጃ ja | ጄ jie | ጅ j | ጆ jo | | | | ጂ jua | |
| ገምል | ገ ge | ጉ gu | ጊ gi | ጋ ga | ጌ gie | ግ g | ጎ go | ግዜ gue | ግህ guu | ግዛ gui | ግዛ gua | ግዛ guie |
| ኘ-ገምል | ኘ Ge | ኙ Gu | ኚ Gi | ኛ Ga | ኜ Gie | ኝ G | ኞ Go | ኞ Gue | ኙ Guu | ኙ Gui | ኘ Gua | ኘ Guie |
| ጠይት | ጠ Te | ጡ Tu | ጢ Ti | ጣ Ta | ጤ Tie | ጥ T | ጦ To | | | | ጦ Tua | |
| ጨ-ጠይት | ጨ Ce | ጡ Cu | ጢ Ci | ጣ Ca | ጤ Cie | ጥ C | ጦ Co | | | | ጦ Cua | |
| ቻ-ታው | ቻ ce | ቼ cu | ቺ ci | ቻ ca | ቼ cie | ች c | ቾ co | | | | ቼ cua | |
| ኛ-ነሐስ | ኛ Ne | ኙ Nu | ኚ Ni | ኛ Na | ኜ Nie | ኝ N | ኞ No | | | | ኘ Nua | |
| ዘይ | ዘ ze | ዙ zu | ዚ zi | ዛ za | ዜ zie | ዝ z | ዞ zo | | | | ዝ zua | |
| ዝ-ዘይ | ዝ Ze | ዞ Zu | ዛ Zi | ዛ Za | ዜ Zie | ዝ Z | ዞ Zo | | | | ዝ Zua | |
| ጸደይ | ጸ Se | ጱ Su | ጺ Si | ጳ Sa | ጴ Sie | ጵ S | ጶ So | | | | ጵ Sua | |
| ጸይት | ጸ Pe | ጱ Pu | ጺ Pi | ጳ Pa | ጴ Pie | ጵ P | ጶ Po | | | | ጵ Pua | |
| አፍ | ፈ fe | ፋ fu | ፊ fi | ፋ fa | ፌ fie | ፍ f | ፎ fo | | | | ፋ fua | |
| ፕሳ | ፕ pe | ፑ pu | ፒ pi | ፓ pa | ፔ pie | ፕ p | ፖ po | | | | ፕ pua | |
| ቪ-ቤት | ቪ ve | ቩ vu | ቪ vi | ቫ va | ቮ vie | ቭ v | ቮ vo | | | | ቫ vua | |

Consonant and Vowel Marks

Dots can be added above letters to indicate a stressed vowel or consonant using “CTRL + .”. For example:

- አሳ CTRL . ⇒ አሳ̇ (“abaa”, “a” is stressed)
- አሳ̇ CTRL . ⇒ አሳ̇̇ (“abba”, “b” is stressed)
- አሳ̇̇ CTRL . ⇒ አሳ̇̇̇ (“abbaa”, “b” and “a” are stressed)

Typing Punctuation

Ethiopic Punctuation

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|----|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|
| ⋮ | ⋈ | ፡ | ፤ | ፡- | ፥ | ፤ | ⌘ | ⌘ |
| : | :: | , | ; | :- | ,, | ?? | :+ | :# |

| | | | |
|---|---|----|----|
| ◀ | ▶ | « | » |
| < | > | << | >> |

Period, ‘.’ may also be used to enter ‘፡’. When a number follows ‘፡’, ‘፥’ and ‘⋈’ they will change back to their Latin form automatically. For example:

123፡456 ⇒ 123,456

12፥50 ⇒ 12.50

12፡50 ⇒ 12:50

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 | ፷፬ #1000 | ፷፱ #10000 |

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

The “connected” style of Ethiopic numerals can be created by changing the font from “Abyssinica SIL” to “Abyssinica SIL Connected” as seen in the following table:

| Abyssinica SIL | Abyssinica SIL Connected |
|----------------|--------------------------|
| ፲፱፻፹፫ | ፲፱፻፹፫ |

Blin Fonts

The “Waldba” font collection is installed with the desktop keyboard (Windows and Mac) and provides many styles for the Blin letters. Examples are shown below:

ዋልድባ - ህዋእኸ

ሀከሐመ ... ሻ ች ሺ ኃ ሼ ሽ ሸ ሹ ጐ ጑

ዋልድባ - ውቂያኖስ

ሀከሐመ ... ሻ ች ሺ ኃ ሼ ሽ ሸ ሹ ጐ ጑

ዋልድባ - ዘላን

ሀከሐመ ... ሻ ች ሺ ኃ ሼ ሽ ሸ ሹ ጐ ጑

ዋልድባ - የብስ

ሀከሐመ ... ሻ ች ሺ ኃ ሼ ሽ ሸ ሹ ጐ ጑

ዋልድባ - ይገዙ ብሥራት ጎቲክ

ሀከሐመ ... ሻ ች ሺ ኃ ሼ ሽ ሸ ሹ ጐ ጑

ዋልድባ - ይገዙ ብሥራት ጎፈር

ሀከሐመ ... ሻ ች ሺ ኃ ሼ ሽ ሸ ሹ ጐ ጑

ዋልድባ - ጅረት

ሀከሐመ ... ሻ ች ሺ ኃ ሼ ሽ ሸ ሹ ጐ ጑

ዋልድባ - ጥንት

ሀከሐመ ... ሻ ች ሺ ኃ ሼ ሽ ሸ ሹ ጐ ጑

ዋልድባ - ፋንትዋ

ሀከሐመ ... ሻ ች ሺ ኃ ሼ ሽ ሸ ሹ ጐ ጑