

Typing in Tigrinya (Ethiopian Conventions)

The Tigrinya keyboard (🗝️) 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 does, we sometimes have to adjust this rule. For example English does not have ‘ጽ’ or ‘ቕ’ 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 ኅርቢ

Next, when you need to type the extra letters of Tigrinya like ህ፡ ሚ፡ ኃ you can do so by typing an extra vowel after a ‘u’:

Example: typing **mua** becomes ሚህ

Example: typing **guie** becomes ኃይ

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

Example: typing **wag’u** becomes ዋግህ

Example: typing **T’uum** becomes ተዑም

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				ሲ lua	
ሐውት	ሐ He	ሑ Hu	ሒ Hi	ሐ Ha	ሔ Hie	ሕ H	ሐ Ho				ሒ Hua	
ማይ	መ me	ሙ mu	ሚ mi	ማ ma	ሜ mie	ም m	ሞ mo				ሚ mua	
ሠውት	ሠ sse	ሡ ssu	ሢ ssi	ሣ ssa	ሤ ssie	ሥ ss	ሦ sso				ሢ ssua	
ርእስ	ረ re	ሩ ru	ሪ ri	ራ ra	ሪ rie	ር r	ሮ ro				ሪ rue	
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	ኧ xa	ኬ xie	ክ x	ኸ xo				ኪ xua	
ቃፍ	ቀ qe	ቁ qu	ቂ qi	ቃ qa	ቂ qie	ቅ q	ቆ qo	ቂ que	ቅ quu	ቅ qui	ቅ qua	ቅ quie
ቃ-ቃፍ	ቅ Qe	ቆ Qu	ቂ Qi	ቃ Qa	ቂ Qie	ቅ Q	ቆ Qo	ቂ Que	ቅ Quu	ቅ Qui	ቅ Qua	ቅ Quie
ቤት	በ be	ቡ bu	ቢ bi	ባ ba	ቤ bie	ብ b	ቦ bo				ቢ bua	
ቤ-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	
ታ-ታው	ቸ ce	ቹ cu	ቺ ci	ቻ ca	ቼ cie	ች c	ቸ co				ቺ cua	
ኅርም	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 aa	ኡ u	ኢ i	አ a	ኡ ie	እ e	ኦ o					
ካፍ	ከ ke	ኩ ku	ኪ ki	ካ ka	ኬ kie	ክ k	ኸ ko	ከ kue	ኩ kuu	ከ kui	ከ kua	ከ kuie

ቤተሰብ	ግዕዝ	ካዕብ	ሣልስ	ራብዕ	ኃምስ	ሳድስ	ሳብዕ	ዘመደ-ግዕዝ	ዘመደ-ካዕብ	ዘመደ-ሣልስ	ዘመደ-ራብዕ	ዘመደ-ኃምስ
ኸ-ካፍ	ኸ Ke	ኹ Ku	ኺ Ki	ኻ Ka	ኼ Kie	ኽ K	ኾ Ko	ኹ Kue	ኹ Kuu	ኹ Kui	ኹ Kua	ኹ Kuie
ወዌ	ወ we	ዉ wu	ዊ wi	ዋ wa	ዌ wie	ው w	ዎ wo					
ዐይን	ዐ A	ዑ U / Au	ዒ I / Ai	ዓ Aa	ዔ IE / Aie	ዕ E / Ae	ዖ O / Ao					
ዘይ	ዘ ze	ዙ zu	ዚ zi	ዛ za	ዞ zie	ዝ z	ዞ zo				ዘ zua	
ዠ-ዘይ	ዠ Ze	ዡ Zu	ዢ Zi	ዣ Za	ዤ Zie	ዥ Z	ዦ Zo				ዣ 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	ዴ die	ድ d	ዶ do				ዲ dua	
ጅ-ድንት	ጅ je	ጆ ju	ጇ ji	ገ ja	ገ jie	ገ j	ገ jo				ገ jua	
ገምል	ገ ge	ጉ gu	ጊ gi	ጋ ga	ጌ gie	ግ g	ጎ go	ጎ gue	ጎ guu	ጎ gui	ጎ gua	ጎ guie
ጠይት	ጠ Te	ጡ Tu	ጢ Ti	ጣ Ta	ጤ Tie	ጥ T	ጦ To				ጢ Tua	
ጨ-ጠይት	ጨ Ce	ጨ Cu	ጨ Ci	ጨ Ca	ጨ Cie	ጨ C	ጨ Co				ጨ Cua	
ጰይት	ጰ Pe	ጱ Pu	ጲ Pi	ጳ Pa	ጴ Pie	ጵ P	ጶ Po				ጵ Pua	
ጸደይ	ጸ Se	ጹ Su	ጺ Si	ጻ Sa	ጺ Sie	ጽ S	ጾ So				ጺ Sua	
ፀጳ	ፀ SSe	ፀ SSu	ፀ SSi	ፀ SSa	ፀ SSie	ፀ SS	ፀ 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	

Consonant and Vowel Marks

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

- አባ CTRL . ⇒ አባ̇ (“abaa”, “a” is stressed)
- አባ̇ CTRL . ⇒ አባ̇ (“abba”, “b” is stressed)
- አባ̇ CTRL . ⇒ አባ̇ (“abbaa”, “b” and “a” are stressed)

Typing Punctuation

Ethiopic Punctuation

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

፤	፪	፫	፬
<	>	<<	>>

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	፺፻ #1000	፻፵፻ #10000

Numeral composition will continue as 0s are entered up to ፻፵፻ (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