Typing in the Ge'ez Languages of Ethiopia & Eritrea

The Modern Ge'ez keyboard (**) is designed to make it easy to type all 523 letters, punctuation and numerals specified for "Ethiopic Script" in the Unicode standard. In addition, this keyboard package provides two additional fonts to help type 59 "alternative" letter shapes (Appendix A).

The languages of Ethiopian and Eritrea that use the Ge'ez script have many additions. The languages also use the same letters but sometimes with different sounds. A number of letters that were in use by a language for a short time were also abandoned. The keyboard package groups letters currently in use as the "Modern Ge'ez Syllabary", and letters formerly in use as the "Legacy Ge'ez Syllabary" (Appendix B & C). The letters in use are given the higher priority and are a little easier to type and enter on touchscreen layouts.

Typing letters follows the spoken sounds and are matched to corresponding English letters (a style called "phonetic"). You can think of how a word sounds and then type it out with English.

Example: typing selam becomes ሰሳም

Because Ethio-Eri languages have more sounds than English does, we sometimes have to adjust this rule. For example, English does not have 'm' and the closest similar letter would be 't'. In this case you should type with "capital T":

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 **sselam** becomes **wh?**Example: typing **SSeHey** becomes **bh**.

Next, when you need to type the extra letters of Amharic and other languages like: **A**: **A**: **b** you can do so by typing an extra vowel after a 'u':

Example: typing **mua** becomes **?** Example: typing **guie** becomes **?**

Finally, we must introduce a special rule for '(apostrophe). Some words are spelt with a **15th** (6th) letter followed by a vowel, like **Ch** in **111<u>Ch</u>A**. We use the apostrophe here to type "geb<u>r'ie</u>l" to make sure we get "**Ch**" instead of '**G**'.

Example: typing mel'ak becomes ምልአክ Example: typing m'Eraf becomes ምዕራፍ

If an apostrophe, ', is needed after a **12** letter in your document, type it twice like:

Example: k" to produce h'

The following typing tables show how to type all Modern and Legacy Ge'ez letters, numbers, and punctuation.

Modern Ge'ez Typing Table

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٨	ሉ	λ.	ሳ	ሌ	A	ሎ			ሷ		
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ф	ሑ	ሐ	ф	ሔ	ሕ	ሐ	dю	dъ	ሗ	dъ	ሎ
He	Hu	Hi	Ha	Hie	Н	Но	kue	kui	kua	kuie	kuu
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ННе	HHu	HHi	ННа	HHie	HH	ННо					
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w	w	Ч.	버	rg.	p	r			ሧ		
sse	ssu	ssi	ssa	ssie	SS	SSO			ssua		
ሬ	ሩ	b	G	6	C	C.			ሯ		
re	ru	ri	ra	rie	r	ro			rua		
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te	tu	ti	ta	tie	t	to			tua		
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ce	cu	ci	ca	cie	С	co			cua		
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ne	nu	ni	na	nie	n	no			nua		
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ጠ	ጡ	ጢ	Щ	ጤ	T	M			Д		
Te	Tu	Ti	Ta	Tie	T	То			Tua		
ക	க	வு	ጫ	æ	P	въ			டி		
Ce	Cu	Ci	Ca	Cie	С	Co			Cua		
ጰ	ጱ	ጰ.	ጳ	ጴ	ጵ	ጶ			久		
Pe	Pu	Pi	Pa	Pie	P	Po			Pua		
8	ጹ	ጺ	ጻ	ጼ	ጽ	8			Ŋ,		
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SSe	SSu	SSi	SSa	SSie	SS	SSo					
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pe	pu	pi	pa	pie	p	po	pue	pui	pua	puie	puu

Modern Gurage Shapes

Modern Gurage uses some letter shapes that modify the traditional Ge'ez shapes used by other languages. Both can be typed, but priority is given to the Ge'ez shapes. In these cases when two shapes are available, the Gurage shape can be typed by adding an extra vowel as shown in the table below:

Ge'ez Shape	ቀኣ	ቌ	ቀኄ	ኵ	Ъ	ኵ	<i>ጉ</i> ч	,	ጕ
Ge ez Shape	qui	quie	quu	kui	kuie	kuu	gui	guie	guu
Madam Cunaga Chana	ተ °	ф°	ቝ	h ₅	he	ክ _የ	æ	r	ም
Modern Gurage Shape	quii	aniie	quuu	knii	knije	kuuu	onii	guiie	0111111

Legacy Ge'ez Typing Table

								ዘመደ	ዘመደ	ዘመደ	ዘመደ	ዘመደ	ዘመደ
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							hoo						
							ለሶ						
							loo						
							ЯР		<i>ማ</i> ሩ 		%		Ж
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							xoo						
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xxe	xxu	xxi	xxa	xxie	XX	XXO							
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ě	ķ	Ě	Þ	Ě	ě	¥							
qqe	qqu	qqi	qqa	qqie	qq	qqo							
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	ZZu		ZZa	ZZIC		ZZO	ዯ						
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							Soo						
									&		40		Z
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							T		K		Љ		
							poo		puii		puiie		
							Poo		1		Pullo		

Consonant and Vowel Marks

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

አባ CTRL . \Rightarrow አባ ("abaa", "a" is stressed) አባ CTRL . \Rightarrow አባ ("abba", "b" is stressed) አባ CTRL . \Rightarrow አባ ("abbaa", "b" and "a" are stressed)

Typing Punctuation

Ethiopic Punctuation

:	;;	ĺ	Ī	:-	‡	??	*	:::
:	::	,	• •	:-	,,	??	:+	: #
]				

Period, '.' may also be used to enter '".' When a number follows ':', ';' and '"' they will change back to their Latin form automatically. For example:

$$123:456 \Rightarrow 123.456$$
, $12:50 \Rightarrow 12.50$, $12:50 \Rightarrow 12:50$

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 § and so on. When a '#' is needed before a number in your document, just type # twice.

Ethiopic Numerals

ద్ద #1	g #2	፫ #3	റ്റ #4	፫ #5	½ #6	7. #7	ቯ #8	ট্র #9			
፲	র	1 #30	9	9	克	द्ध	宜	½	፫	፲፫	P
#10	#20		#40	#50	#60	#70	#80	#90	#100	#1000	#10000

Numeral composition will continue as 0s are entered up to FF (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
<u> </u>	፲፱፻፹፫

Typing Zaima Qirts (የዜጣ፡ ቅርጽ፡)

ይዘት	ኀጺር ፡ ርክርክ ፡	chch	ቀርጥ	ደረት	ድፋት	<i>ጭረት</i>	ቅናት	ሐደት	ደረት፡ ሒደት፡
	:	:	ŀ	U	n	,	ر	_	ட
_1	_2	_3	_4	_5	_6	_7	_8	_9	_0

When typing '_' the following menu will appear:

Type the number that corresponds to the qirts that you want and it will appear and the menu close.

Appendix A: Alternative Letter Shapes

The shapes of letters may change over the centuries, and by region, language, or individual, etc. The Abyssinica SIL font provides the most commonly found variant shapes. The alternative shapes are typed as you would the regular shapes, however an "alternate" font must be selected. The fonts "Abyssinica SIL Alternate 1" and "Abyssinica SIL Alternate 2" are installed with this keyboard package and may be selected as shown in the following tables to reveal the alternative letter shapes.

Abyssinica SIL (Standard)	万子飞行飞行停负
Abyssinica SIL Alternate 1	5525255
Abyssinica SIL (Standard)	ዠ ዡ ዢ ዣ ዤ ዥ ጕ
Abyssinica SIL Alternate 2	光光光光光光
Abyssinica SIL (Standard)	史
Abyssinica SIL Alternate 1	皇先先号是
Abyssinica SIL (Standard)	ጐ ሉ
Abyssinica Alternate 1	ゆみよみか
Abyssinica SIL (Standard)	ንጙጚጛጜጝጘ

ブゲングなダブ

Abyssinica SIL Alternate 1

Abyssinica SIL	Abyssinica SIL
(Standard)	Alternate 1
柯	衲
7	ፏ
2	7
M	N
5	7
ç	ኋ
ዃ	Ħ
ጟ	7
ጵ	ጵ
3 、	2
4	6.
40	%
飞	石
ዥ	H

A 1	A 1	A 1
Abyssinica	Abyssinica	Abyssinica
SIL	SIL	SIL
(Standard)	Alternate 1	Alternate 2
刄	र्म	Ţ
σgι	σq	ØD4
goo	go4	O D4
ጟ	ኗ	꿏
3	2	2
ፏ	£	4.

Appendix A: The Modern Ge'ez Syllabary

	-∂	-u	-i	- <i>a</i>	- е	-(i)	-0	-w <i>∂</i>	- <i>w</i> i	- wa	- <i>w</i> e	-w(i)
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$\boldsymbol{x}^{\mathrm{y}}$	Ж	ሑ	ж.	җ	Ж	ሕ	ж					
m	ØD	ØÞ•	Ф.	சு	ሚ	go	Ф	Ø₽°	T.	Ą	ሜ	goo
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r	۲.	ሩ	b	G	6	С	C.			ሯ		
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š	ሸ	ዅ	ሽ.	ሻ	<u>ፕ</u>	ห	7			ሿ		
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k	h	ኩ	ከ.	ካ	ኬ	h	ኮ	ሎ	ሎ/ሎ	ኳ	ኴ/ኰ	ተ/ሎ
x	'n	፝ዅ	'ኺ	ኻ	'n	ኽ	ኾ	ዀ	ዂ	ዃ	Ţ,	ዅ
w	Ø	Ф.	ዊ	P	B	ው	P					
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z	H	H	Н.	н	њ	าเ	н			其		
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ğ	ጀ	፫	ጇ	肾	ጀ	ጅ	ጆ			Ř.		
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ŋ	ሻ	ኍ	ግ.	ヺ	น	र्भ	ጘ	<i>"</i> ቦ	<i>ኘ</i> ኣ	ጟ	ዄ	ኍ
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f	6.	4	6.	ፋ	bo	ፍ	G.	Ġ.	હ	ፏ	<i>6</i> °	R
p	Т	F	T,	T	ፔ	Т	7	ፑ	Ŧ	Ţ	F	ዀ

Appendix B: The Legacy Ge'ez Syllabary

					<i>J</i>	<u> </u>			<i>,</i> `		<u> </u>			
	-∂	-u	-i	-a	-e	-(i)	-0	-3	-wə	- wi	-wa	-we	-w(i)	-ya
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