

Typing in Tigre (Eritrean Conventions)

The Tigre keyboard (📄) provides *only* the letters used in modern Eritrean Tigre. It uses a system whereby the Tigre sounds are matched to the English letters (a style called “phonetic”). You can think of how a word sounds in Tigre and then type it out with English.

Example: typing **selamat** becomes ሰላማት

Because Tigre has more sounds than English does, we sometimes have to adjust this rule. For example, English does not have ‘**ጽ**’ or ‘**ጥ**’ and the closest similar letters would be ‘s’ and ‘t’ respectively. In this case you should type with “capital S” and “capital T”:

Example: typing **SbeT** becomes ጽበጥ

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 Tigre like ሷ: ሸ: ኀ you can do so by typing an extra vowel after a ‘u’:

Example: typing **mua** becomes ሸ

Example: typing **guie** becomes ኀ

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

Example: typing **gb’e** becomes ገብእ

Example: typing **r’is** becomes ሸፍፍ

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

Tigre 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	ሑ Hie	ሕ H	ሐ Ho				ሒ Hua	
ማይ	መ me	ሙ mu	ሚ mi	ማ ma	ሜ mie	ም m	ሞ mo				ሚ mua	
ርእስ	ረ re	ሩ ru	ሪ ri	ራ ra	ሪ rie	ር r	ሮ ro				ሯ rue	
ሳት	ሰ se	ሱ su	ሲ si	ሳ sa	ሴ sie	ስ s	ሶ so				ሲ sua	
ሻ-ሳት	ሸ xe	ሹ xu	ሺ xi	ሻ xa	ሼ xie	ሽ x	ሾ xo				ሺ xua	
ቃፍ	ቀ qe	ቁ qu	ቂ qi	ቃ qa	ቄ qie	ቅ q	ቆ qo	ቂ que	ቅ quu	ቆ qui	ቂ qua	ቆ 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	
ቻ-ታው	ቸ ce	ቹ cu	ቺ ci	ቻ ca	ቼ cie	ች c	ቸ co				ቼ cua	
ነሐስ	ነ ne	ኑ nu	ኒ ni	ና na	ኔ nie	ን n	ኖ no				ኒ nua	
ኛ-ነሐስ	ኸ Ne	ኹ Nu	ኺ Ni	ኛ Na	ኼ Nie	ኽ N	ኸ No				ኺ 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	ኩ kue	ኪ kuu	ካ kui	ኪ kua	ካ 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					
ዘይ	ዘ ze	ዙ zu	ዚ zi	ዛ za	ዜ zie	ዝ z	ዞ zo				ዚ zua	

ዝ-ዘይ	ዝ Ze	ዞ Zu	ዛ Zi	ያ Za	ዤ Zie	ኝ Z	ዠ Zo				ሂ 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				ዷ dua	
ጅ- ድንት	ጅ je	ጅ ju	ጅ ji	ጅ ja	ጅ jie	ጅ j	ጅ jo				ጅ jua	
ገምል	ገ ge	ጉ gu	ጊ gi	ጋ ga	ጌ gie	ግ g	ጎ go	ግ gue	ግ guu	ግ gui	ግ gua	ግ guie
ጠይት	ጠ Te	ጡ Tu	ጢ Ti	ጣ Ta	ጤ Tie	ጥ T	ጦ To				ጦ Tua	
ጨ- ጠይት	ጨ Ce	ጨ Cu	ጨ Ci	ጨ Ca	ጨ Cie	ጨ C	ጨ Co				ጨ Cua	
ጳይት	ጳ Pe	ጴ Pu	ጵ Pi	ጶ Pa	ጷ Pie	ጸ P	ጹ Po				ጸ Pua	
ጸደይ	ጸ Se	ጹ Su	ጺ Si	ጻ Sa	ጺ Sie	ጻ S	ጼ So				ጸ Sua	
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	

Neighboring Language Typing

ቻ-ቃፍ	ቻ Qe	ቼ Qu	ቻ Qi	ቻ Qa	ቼ Qie	ቻ Q	ቻ Qo	ቼ Que	ቻ Quu	ቻ Qui	ቻ Qua	ቻ Quie
ቪ-ቤት	ቪ ve	ቪ vu	ቪ vi	ቪ va	ቪ vie	ቪ v	ቪ vo				ቪ vua	
ካ-ካፍ	ካ Ke	ካ Ku	ካ Ki	ካ Ka	ካ Kie	ካ K	ካ Ko	ካ Kue	ካ Kuu	ካ Kui	ካ Kua	ካ Kuie

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	፳፻ #1000	፳፻፳፻ #10000	

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