Typing in Blin

The Blin keyboard (1) 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 ሰሳም

Because Blin has more sounds than English does, we sometimes have to adjust this rule. For example, English does not have "7" and the closest similar letter would be 'g'. In this case, you should type with "capital G":

Example: typing xGKuulen becomes ሽማዥለን

Notice that we used capital 'K' also for '**ħ**' and we needed both "uu" together to make the 5th '**ħ**' letter '**ħ**'. 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 **1**, **7**, or **1** you can do so by typing an extra vowel after a 'u':

Example: typing **mua** becomes **%** Example: typing **Kuu** becomes **%**

Finally, we must introduce a special rule for ' (apostrophe). Some words are spelt with a $\Lambda \mathcal{L} \Lambda$ (6th) letter followed by a vowel, like $\mathcal{L} \mathcal{L}$ in $\mathcal{L} \Lambda \mathcal{L} \Lambda$. We use the apostrophe here to type "gebr'iel" to make sure we get " $\mathcal{L} \mathcal{L}$ " instead of ' \mathcal{L} '.

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

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

Blin Typing Table

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Consonant and Vowel Marks

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

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ង។ CTRL . \Rightarrow ងាំ ("ab<u>aa</u>", "a" is stressed)
ងាំ CTRL . \Rightarrow ងាំ ("a<u>bba</u>a", "b" is stressed)
ងាំ CTRL . \Rightarrow ងាំ ("a<u>bbaa</u>", "b" and "a" are stressed)
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Typing Punctuation

Ethiopic Punctuation

:	;;	Ĩ	Ī	:-	‡	i	*	:::
,	::	;	;;	:-	,,	??	:+	:#

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

$$123:456 \Rightarrow 123,456$$

 $12:50 \Rightarrow 12.50$

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 **5** 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	2 #7	ጟ #8	ਉ #9			
፲	索	#30	떨	प्र	五	፸	宜	দ্র	፻	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).

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 - ህዋእ

ሀከሐመ ... ጘጙጚጛጜጘጘጟዀጙዄዅ

ዋልድባ - ውቂያኖስ

Uham ... ግፕግጋጌግግግጉ ች ይች

ዋልድባ - ዘላን

Uhdoo ... 1 ች ጊ ጋ ጌ ሻ ጎ ጊ ች ች ጔ ች

ዋልድባ - የብሰ

ሀከሐመ ... ግ ጉ ጊ ጋ ጌ ጣ ሻ ጊ ጐ ኍ ጔ ኍ

Undom ... ጘጙጘጛጘጘጙጟጙ

<u>ዋልድባ - ይገዙ ብሥራት ጎፈር</u>

收入批准 ... 对华年等年有共货条件货车

<u> ዋልድባ - ጅረት</u>

ሀለሐመ ... ጘችጚጛጜጘጞጟዀጙጟጙ

uham... 44454444444

ዋልድባ - ፋንትዋ

Սհատ ... ቫቫቪቫቪቫቪቪሎች ይች