# 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 'ጘ' and the closest similar letter would be 'g'. In this case, you should type with "capital G":

Example: typing **xGKuulen** becomes ሸጛኹለን

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

Example: typing **mua** becomes ሟ
Example: typing **Kuu** becomes ኩ

Finally, we must introduce a special rule for ' (apostrophe). Some words are spelt with a ሳድስ (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 'ሬ'.

Example: typing **mel'ak** becomes መልአክ
Example: typing **m'eeraf** becomes ምዕራፍ

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 | | | | ሏ lua | |
| ሐውት | ሐ He | ሑ Hu | ሒ Hi | ሓ Ha | ሔ Hie | ሕ H | ሖ Ho | | | | ሗ Hua | |
| ማይ | መ me | ሙ mu | ሚ mi | ማ ma | ሜ mie | ም m | ሞ mo | | | | ሟ mua | |
| ሳት | ሰ se | ሱ su | ሲ si | ሳ sa | ሴ sie | ስ s | ሶ so | | | | ሷ sua | |
| ርእስ | ረ re | ሩ ru | ሪ ri | ራ ra | ሬ rie | ር r | ሮ ro | | | | ሯ rua | |
| ሻ-ሳት | ሸ xe | ሹ xu | ሺ xi | ሻ xa | ሼ xie | ሽ x | ሾ xo | | | | ሿ xua | |
| ቃፍ | ቀ qe | ቁ qu | ቂ qi | ቃ qa | ቄ qie | ቅ q | ቆ qo | ቈ que | ቍ quu | ቍ qui | ቋ qua | ቌ quie |
| ቓ-ቃፍ | ቐ Qe | ቑ Qu | ቒ Qi | ቓ Qa | ቔ Qie | ቕ Q | ቖ Qo | ቘ Que | ቝ Quu | ቝ Qui | ቛ Qua | ቜ Quie |
| ቤት | በ be | ቡ bu | ቢ bi | ባ ba | ቤ bie | ብ b | ቦ bo | | | | ቧ bua | |
| ታው | ተ te | ቱ tu | ቲ ti | ታ ta | ቴ tie | ት t | ቶ to | | | | ቷ tua | |
| ነሐስ | ነ ne | ኑ nu | ኒ ni | ና na | ኔ nie | ን n | ኖ no | | | | ኗ nua | |
| አልፍ | አ aa | ኡ u | ኢ i | አ a | ኤ ie | እ e | ኦ o | | | | | |
| ካፍ | ከ ke | ኩ ku | ኪ ki | ካ ka | ኬ kie | ክ k | ኮ ko | ኰ kue | ኵ kuu | ኵ kui | ኳ kua | ኴ kuie |
| ኻ-ካፍ | ኸ Ke | ኹ Ku | ኺ Ki | ኻ Ka | ኼ Kie | ኽ K | ኾ Ko | ዀ Kue | ዅ Kuu | ዅ Kui | ዃ Kua | ዄ 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 | ዔ Aie / Aie | ዕ Ae / E | ዖ Ao / O | | | | | |
| የመነ | የ ye | ዩ yu | ዪ yi | ያ ya | ዬ yie | ይ y | ዮ yo | | | | | |

| ቤተሰብ | ግዕዝ | ካዕብ | ሣልስ | ራብዕ | ሓምስ | ሳድስ | ሳብዕ | ዘመደ-ግዕዝ | ዘመደ-ካዕብ | ዘመደ-ሣልስ | ዘመደ-ራብዕ | ዘመደ-ሓምስ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ድንት | ደ de | ዱ du | ዲ di | ዳ da | ዴ die | ድ d | ዶ do | | | | ዷ dua | |
| ጅ-ድንት | ጀ je | ጁ ju | ጂ ji | ጃ ja | ጄ jie | ጅ j | ጆ jo | | | | ጇ jua | |
| ገምል | ገ ge | ጉ gu | ጊ gi | ጋ ga | ጌ gie | ግ g | ጎ go | ጐ gue | ጒ guu | ጒ gui | ጓ gua | ጔ guie |
| ጝ-ገምል | ጘ Ge | ጙ Gu | ጚ Gi | ጛ Ga | ጜ Gie | ጝ G | ጞ Go | ጟ Gue | ጙ Guu | ጚ Gui | ጛ Gua | ጜ Guie |
| ጠይት | ጠ Te | ጡ Tu | ጢ Ti | ጣ Ta | ጤ Tie | ጥ T | ጦ To | | | | ጧ Tua | |
| ጨ-ጠይት | ጨ Ce | ጩ Cu | ጪ Ci | ጫ Ca | ጬ Cie | ጭ C | ጮ Co | | | | ጯ Cua | |
| ቻ-ታው | ቸ ce | ቹ cu | ቺ ci | ቻ ca | ቼ cie | ች c | ቾ co | | | | ቿ cua | |
| ኛ-ነሐስ | ኘ Ne | ኙ Nu | ኚ Ni | ኛ Na | ኜ Nie | ኝ N | ኞ No | | | | ኟ Nua | |
| ዘይ | ዘ ze | ዙ zu | ዚ zi | ዛ za | ዜ zie | ዝ z | ዞ zo | | | | ዟ zua | |
| ዠ-ዘይ | ዠ Ze | ዡ Zu | ዢ Zi | ዣ Za | ዤ Zie | ዥ Z | ዦ Zo | | | | ዧ Zua | |
| ጸደይ | ጸ Se | ጹ Su | ጺ Si | ጻ Sa | ጼ Sie | ጽ S | ጾ So | | | | ጿ Sua | |
| ጰይት | ጰ Pe | ጱ Pu | ጲ Pi | ጳ Pa | ጴ Pie | ጵ P | ጶ Po | | | | ጷ Pua | |
| አፍ | ፈ fe | ፉ fu | ፊ fi | ፋ fa | ፌ fie | ፍ f | ፎ fo | | | | ፏ fua | |
| ፕሳ | ፐ pe | ፑ pu | ፒ pi | ፓ pa | ፔ pie | ፕ p | ፖ po | | | | ፗ pua | |
| ቬ-ቤት | ቨ ve | ቩ vu | ቪ vi | ቫ va | ቬ vie | ቭ v | ቮ vo | | | | ቯ vua | |

## Consonant and Vowel Marks

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

አባ **CTRL .** ⇒ አባ̇ ("ab<u>aa</u>", "a" is stressed)
አበ̇ **CTRL .** ⇒ አበ̈ ("a<u>bb</u>a", "b" is stressed)
አባ̈ **CTRL .** ⇒ አባ̈ ("a<u>bbaa</u>", "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 | ፪ | ፫ | ፬ | ፭ | ፮ | ፯ | ፰ | ፱ | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| #1 | #2 | #3 | #4 | #5 | #6 | #7 | #8 | #9 | | | |
| ፲ | ፳ | ፴ | ፵ | ፶ | ፷ | ፸ | ፹ | ፺ | ፻ | ፲፻ | ፼ |
| #10 | #20 | #30 | #40 | #50 | #60 | #70 | #80 | #90 | #100 | #1000 | #10000 |

Numeral composition will continue as 0s are entered up to ፼፼ (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 - ህዋእሽ**

ሀከሐጮ ... ጛ ጚ ጚ ጛ ጔ ጛ ጛ ጚ ጛ ጛ ጛ

**ዋልድባ - ውቂያኖስ**

ሀከሐጮ ... ጛ ጚ ጚ ጛ ጔ ጛ ጛ ጚ ጛ ጛ ጛ ጛ

**ዋልድባ - ዘላን**

ሀከሐጮ ... ጛ ጚ ጚ ጛ ጔ ጛ ጛ ጚ ጛ ጛ ጛ

**ዋልድባ - የብሰ**

ሀከሐጮ ... ጛ ጚ ጚ ጛ ጔ ጛ ጛ ጚ ጛ ጛ ጛ

**ዋልድባ - ይገዙ ብሥራት ነቲክ**

ሀኽከጮ ... ጛ ጚ ጚ ጛ ጔ ጛ ጛ ጚ ጛ ጛ ጛ

**ዋልድባ - ይገዙ ብሥራት ነፈር**

ሀኽከጮ ... ጛ ጚ ጚ ጛ ጔ ጛ ጛ ጚ ጛ ጛ ጛ ጛ

**ዋልድባ - ጅረት**

ሀለሐመ ... ጛ ጚ ጚ ጛ ጔ ጛ ጛ ጚ ጛ ጛ ጛ ጛ

**ዋልድባ - ጥንት**

ሀከከጮ ... ጛ ጚ ጚ ጛ ጔ ጛ ጛ ጚ ጛ ጛ ጛ

**ዋልድባ - ፋንትዋ**

ሀከሐጮ ... ጛ ጚ ጚ ጛ ጔ ጛ ጛ ጚ ጛ ጛ ጛ