

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 ሰላም

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”:

Example: typing **TienaysTIN** becomes ጤናይስጥልኝ

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 ሠላም

Example: typing **SSeHey** becomes ፀሐይ

Next, when you need to type the extra letters of Amharic and other languages like: ሷ፤ ሸ፤ ኳ you can do so by typing an extra vowel after a ‘u’:

Example: typing **mua** becomes ሸ፤

Example: typing **guie** becomes ኳ

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 “ሪ”.

Example: typing **mel'ak** becomes ሙልአክ

Example: typing **m'Eraf** becomes ምዕራፍ

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

Example: k'' to produce ክ'

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

Modern Ge'ez Typing Table

ግዕዝ	ካዕብ	ሣልስ	ራብዕ	ኃምስ	ሳድስ	ሳብዕ	ዘመደ-ግዕዝ	ዘመደ-ሣልስ	ዘመደ-ራብዕ	ዘመደ-ኃምስ	ዘመደ-ሳድስ
ሀ he	ሁ hu	ሂ hi	ሃ ha	ሄ hie	ህ h	ሆ ho					
ለ le	ሉ lu	ሊ li	ላ la	ሌ lie	ል l	ሎ lo			ሊ lua		
ሐ He	ሑ Hu	ሒ Hi	ሐ Ha	ሒ Hie	ሐ H	ሐ Ho	ሐ kue	ሐ kui	ሐ kua	ሐ kuie	ሐ kuu
ሐ HHe	ሐ HHu	ሐ HHi	ሐ HHa	ሐ HHie	ሐ HH	ሐ HHo					
መ me	ሙ mu	ሚ mi	ማ ma	ሚ mie	ም m	ሞ mo	መ kue	ሙ kui	ሚ kua	ሚ kuie	ም kuu
ሠ sse	ሠ ssu	ሢ ssi	ሣ ssa	ሢ ssie	ሥ ss	ሦ sso			ሢ ssua		
ረ re	ሩ ru	ሪ ri	ራ ra	ሪ rie	ር r	ሮ ro			ሪ rue		
ሰ se	ሱ su	ሲ si	ሳ sa	ሲ sie	ሰ s	ሶ so			ሲ sua		
ሸ xe	ሹ xu	ሺ xi	ሻ xa	ሺ xie	ሸ x	ሾ xo			ሺ xua		
ቀ qe	ቁ qu	ቂ qi	ቃ qa	ቂ qie	ቀ q	ቆ qo	ቀ que	ቀ qui	ቀ qua	ቀ quie	ቀ quu
ቐ Qe	ቑ Qu	ቒ Qi	ቃ Qa	ቒ Qie	ቐ Q	ቆ Qo	ቀ Que	ቀ Qui	ቀ Qua	ቀ Quie	ቀ Quu
በ be	ቡ bu	ቢ bi	ባ ba	ቢ bie	በ b	ቦ bo	በ bue	በ bui	በ bua	በ buie	በ buu
ቨ ve	ቩ vu	ቪ vi	ቫ va	ቪ vie	ቨ v	ቮ vo			ቪ vua		
ተ te	ቱ tu	ቲ ti	ታ ta	ቲ tie	ተ t	ቶ to			ታ tua		
ቸ ce	ቹ cu	ቺ ci	ቻ ca	ቺ cie	ቸ c	ቾ co			ቻ cua		
ኀ hhe	ኁ hhu	ኂ hhi	ኃ hha	ኄ hhie	ኀ hh	ኆ hho	ኀ hue	ኁ hui	ኂ hua	ኄ huie	ኁ hhu
ነ ne	ኑ nu	ኒ ni	ና na	ኒ nie	ነ n	ኖ no			ኒ nua		
ኘ Ne	ኙ Nu	ኚ Ni	ኛ Na	ኘ Nie	ኘ N	ኞ No			ኘ Nua		
አ a	ሁ u	ኢ i	አ aa	ኤ ie	እ e	ዐ o			አ ae		
ከ ke	ኩ ku	ኪ ki	ካ ka	ኬ kie	ከ k	ኰ ko	ከ kue	ከ kui	ከ kua	ከ kuie	ከ kuu
ኸ Ke	ኹ Ku	ኺ Ki	ኻ Ka	ኼ Kie	ኸ K	ኾ Ko	ኸ Kue	ኸ Kui	ኸ Kua	ኸ Kuie	ኸ Kuu

ግዕዝ	ካዕብ	ሣልስ	ራብዕ	ኃምስ	ሳድስ	ሳብዕ	ዘመደ-ግዕዝ	ዘመደ-ሣልስ	ዘመደ-ራብዕ	ዘመደ-ኃምስ	ዘመደ-ሳድስ
ወ we	ዉ wu	ዒ wi	ዋ wa	ዌ wie	ው w	ዎ wo					
ዐ A	ዑ Au / U	ዒ Ai / I	ዓ Aa	ዔ Aie / Ie	ዕ Ae / E	ዖ Ao / O					
ዘ ze	ዙ zu	ዚ zi	ዛ za	ዞ zie	ዝ z	ዞ zo			ዟ zua		
ዠ Ze	ዡ Zu	ዢ Zi	ዣ Za	ዤ Zie	ዥ Z	ዦ Zo			ዧ Zua		
የ ye	ዩ yu	ዪ yi	ያ ya	ይ yie	ዮ y	ዐ yo					
ደ de	ዱ du	ዲ di	ዳ da	ዲ die	ድ d	ዶ do			ደ dua		
ጀ je	ጁ ju	ጂ ji	ጃ ja	ጄ jie	ጅ j	ጆ jo			ጇ jua		
ገ ge	ጉ gu	ጊ gi	ጋ ga	ጌ gie	ግ g	ገ go	ጐ gue	጑ gui	ጒ gua	ጓ guie	ጔ guu
ገ Ge	ጉ Gu	ጊ Gi	ጋ Ga	ጌ Gie	ግ G	ገ Go	ጐ Gue	጑ Gui	ጒ Gua	ጓ Guie	ጔ Guu
ጠ Te	ጡ Tu	ጢ Ti	ጣ Ta	ጤ Tie	ጥ T	ጦ To			ጧ Tua		
ጨ Ce	ጨ Cu	ጨ Ci	ጨ Ca	ጨ Cie	ጨ C	ጨ Co			ጨ Cua		
ዳ Pe	ዱ Pu	ዲ Pi	ዳ Pa	ዲ Pie	ድ P	ዶ Po			ደ Pua		
ዳ Se	ዱ Su	ዲ Si	ዳ Sa	ዲ Sie	ድ S	ዶ So			ደ Sua		
ፀ SSe	ፀ SSu	ፀ SSi	ፀ SSa	ፀ SSie	ፀ SS	ፀ SSo					
ፈ fe	ፉ fu	ፊ fi	ፋ fa	ፌ fie	ፍ f	ፎ fo	ፎ fue	ፉ fui	ፊ fua	ፋ fuie	ፌ fuu
ፐ pe	ፑ pu	ፒ pi	ፓ pa	ፔ pie	ፕ p	ፖ po	ፖ pue	ፑ pui	ፒ pua	ፓ puie	ፔ 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	ቁ qui	ቁ quie	ቁ quu	ከ kui	ከ kuie	ከ kuu	ጒ gui	ጒ guie	ጒ guu
Modern Gurage Shape	ቁ quii	ቁ quiee	ቁ quuuu	ከ kuii	ከ kuiie	ከ kuuuu	ጒ guii	ጒ guiie	ጒ guuuu

Legacy Ge'ez Typing Table

ግዕዝ	ካዕብ	ሣልስ	ራብዕ	ኃምስ	ሳድስ	ሳብዕ	ሳምን	ዘመደ -ግዕዝ	ዘመደ -ሣልስ	ዘመደ -ራብዕ	ዘመደ -ኃምስ	ዘመደ -ሳድስ	ዘመደ -ያ
							ሀ hoo						
							ሎ loo						
							ሞ moo		ሞ mui		ሜ muie		ሚ mY
							ሮ roo						ሪ rY
							ሶ soo						
	ሱ sssu	ሲ sssi	ሳ sssa	ሴ sssie	ሰ sss	ሶ ssso							
							ኧ xoo						
ኧ xxe	ኧ xxu	ኧ xxi	ኧ xxa	ኧ xxie	ኧ xx	ኧ xxo							
							ቆ qoo						
ቆ qqe	ቆ qqu	ቆ qqi	ቆ qqa	ቆ qqie	ቆ qq	ቆ qqo							
							ቦ boo		ቦ bui		ቦ buie		
							ቶ too						
							ቶ coo						
ቸ cce	ቸ ccu	ቸ cci	ቸ cca	ቸ ccie	ቸ cc	ቸ cco							
							ኸ hhoo						
							ኸ noo						
							ኸ Noo						
							ኡ oo						
							ኡ koo						
ኸ kke	ኸ kku	ኸ kki	ኸ kka	ኸ kkie	ኸ kk	ኸ kko							

ግዕዝ	ካዕብ	ሣልስ	ራብዕ	ኃምስ	ሳድስ	ሳብዕ	ሳምን	ዘመደ -ግዕዝ	ዘመደ -ሣልስ	ዘመደ -ራብዕ	ዘመደ -ኃምስ	ዘመደ -ሳድስ	ዘመደ -ያ
ኸ KKe	ኹ KKu	ኺ KKi	ኻ KKa	ኼ KKie	ኽ KK	ኾ KKo							
							ዎ woo						
							ዘ zoo						
	ዘ zzu	ዘ zzi	ዘ zza	ዘ zzie	ዘ zz	ዘ zzo							
ዘ ZZe	ዘ ZZu	ዘ ZZi	ዘ ZZa	ዘ ZZie	ዘ ZZ	ዘ ZZo							
							ዮ yoo						
							ዶ doo						
ደ De	ደ Du	ደ Di	ደ Da	ደ Die	ደ D	ደ Do	ደ Doo						
	ደ ddu	ደ ddi	ደ dda	ደ ddie	ደ dd	ደ ddo							
							ጆ joo						
							ጎ goo						
ኀ gge	ኀ ggu	ኀ ggi	ኀ gga	ኀ ggie	ኀ gg	ኀ ggo							
							ጠ Too						
							ጮ Coo						
	ጮ CCu	ጮ CCi	ጮ CCa	ጮ CCie	ጮ CC	ጮ CCo							
ጮ CCCe	ጮ CCCu	ጮ CCCi	ጮ CCCa	ጮ CCCie	ጮ CCC	ጮ CCCco							
							ፆ Poo						
ፆ SSe	ፆ SSu	ፆ SSi	ፆ SSa	ፆ SSie	ፆ SS	ፆ SSo							
							ፆ Soo						
								ፎ fui		ፎ fuie		ፎ fY	
							ፆ poo		ፆ pui		ፆ puie		

Consonant and Vowel Marks

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

አሳ CTRL . ⇒ አሳ̇ (“abaa”, “a” is stressed)
 አሳ̇ CTRL . ⇒ አሳ̈ (“abba”, “b” is stressed)
 አሳ̈ CTRL . ⇒ አሳ̈̈ (“abbaa”, “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 #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	፻፻፻ #10000

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

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)	ኘ ኙ ነ ኑ ኔ ኝ ኞ ኟ
Abyssinica SIL Alternate 1	ኘ ኙ ነ ኑ ኔ ኝ ኞ ኟ

Abyssinica SIL (Standard)	ዠ ዡ ዢ ዣ ዤ ዦ ዧ
Abyssinica SIL Alternate 2	ዠ ዡ ዢ ዣ ዤ ዦ ዧ

Abyssinica SIL (Standard)	ደ ዱ ዲ ዳ ዴ ድ ዶ
Abyssinica SIL Alternate 1	ደ ዱ ዲ ዳ ዴ ድ ዶ

Abyssinica SIL (Standard)	ኀ ኁ ኂ ኃ ኄ
Abyssinica Alternate 1	ኀ ኁ ኂ ኃ ኄ

Abyssinica SIL (Standard)	ኘ ኙ ነ ኑ ኔ ኝ ኞ ኟ
Abyssinica SIL Alternate 1	ኘ ኙ ነ ኑ ኔ ኝ ኞ ኟ

Appendix A:

The Modern Ge'ez Syllabary

	-ə	-u	-i	-a	-e	-(i)	-o	-ʷə	-ʷi	-ʷa	-ʷe	-ʷ(i)
<i>h</i>	ሀ	ሁ	ሂ	ሃ	ሄ	ህ	ሆ					
<i>l</i>	ለ	ሉ	ሊ	ላ	ሌ	ል	ሎ			ሏ		
<i>ḥ</i>	ሐ	ሑ	ሒ	ሓ	ሔ	ሕ	ሖ	ሐፀ	ሐ፯	ሑ	ሐ፭	ሐ፮
<i>xʸ</i>	ሸ	ሹ	ሺ	ሻ	ሼ	ሽ	ሾ					
<i>m</i>	መ	ሙ	ሚ	ማ	ሜ	ም	ሞ	ሙፀ	ሚ፯	ሚ	ሚ፭	ም፮
<i>s</i>	ሠ	ሡ	ሢ	ሣ	ሤ	ሥ	ሦ			ሢ		
<i>r</i>	ረ	ሩ	ሪ	ራ	ሪ	ር	ሮ			ረ		
<i>s</i>	ሰ	ሱ	ሲ	ሳ	ሴ	ስ	ሶ			ሲ		
<i>š</i>	ሸ	ሹ	ሺ	ሻ	ሼ	ሽ	ሾ			ሺ		
<i>q</i>	ቀ	ቁ	ቂ	ቃ	ቄ	ቅ	ቆ	ቁ	ቀላ/ቁ፯	ቂ	ቂ/ቁ፮	ቀላ/ቅ፮
<i>q</i>	ቸ	ቹ	ቺ	ቻ	ቼ	ች	ቾ	ቼ	ቸላ	ቹ	ቹ	ቸላ
<i>b</i>	በ	ቡ	ቢ	ባ	ቤ	ብ	ቦ	ቡ	ቤ	ቢ	ቤ	ብ
<i>v</i>	ቨ	ቩ	ቪ	ቫ	ቬ	ቭ	ቮ			ቪ		
<i>t</i>	ተ	ቱ	ቲ	ታ	ቲ	ት	ቶ			ቲ		
<i>č</i>	ቸ	ቹ	ቺ	ቻ	ቼ	ች	ቾ			ቸ		
<i>h</i>	ኀ	ኁ	ኂ	ኃ	ኄ	ኅ	ኆ	ኀፀ	ኀላ	ኃ	ኃ፭	ኀላ
<i>n</i>	ነ	ኑ	ኒ	ና	ኔ	ን	ኖ			ኔ		
<i>ñ</i>	ኘ	ኙ	ኚ	ኛ	ኜ	ኝ	ኞ			ኚ		
ፊ	ኦ	ኦ	ኦ	ኦ	ኦ	ኦ	ኦ			ኦ		
<i>k</i>	ከ	ከ	ከ	ካ	ኬ	ክ	ኮ	ከፀ	ከላ/ከ፯	ካ	ካ/ከ፮	ከላ/ከ፮
<i>x</i>	ኸ	ኹ	ኺ	ኻ	ኼ	ኽ	ኾ	ኸፀ	ኸላ	ኺ	ኺ	ኸ
<i>w</i>	ወ	ወ	ወ	ወ	ወ	ወ	ወ					
ፊ	ዐ	ዐ	ዐ	ዐ	ዐ	ዐ	ዐ					
<i>z</i>	ዘ	ዘ	ዘ	ዛ	ዜ	ዝ	ዞ			ዘ		
<i>ž</i>	ዸ	ዸ	ዸ	ዸ	ዸ	ዸ	ዸ			ዸ		
<i>y</i>	የ	የ	የ	ያ	ዩ	ይ	ዮ					
<i>d</i>	ደ	ደ	ደ	ዳ	ዴ	ድ	ዶ			ደ		
<i>ǵ</i>	ጀ	ጀ	ጀ	ጀ	ጀ	ጀ	ጀ			ጀ		
<i>g</i>	ገ	ገ	ገ	ገ	ገ	ገ	ገ	ገፀ	ገላ/ገ፯	ገ	ገ/ገ፮	ገላ/ገ፮
<i>ḡ</i>	ጸ	ጸ	ጸ	ጸ	ጸ	ጸ	ጸ	ጸፀ	ጸላ	ጸ		
<i>t</i>	ጠ	ጠ	ጠ	ጠ	ጠ	ጠ	ጠ			ጠ		
<i>č</i>	ጸ	ጸ	ጸ	ጸ	ጸ	ጸ	ጸ			ጸ		
<i>p</i>	ፈ	ፈ	ፈ	ፈ	ፈ	ፈ	ፈ			ፈ		
<i>š</i>	ፈ	ፈ	ፈ	ፈ	ፈ	ፈ	ፈ			ፈ		
<i>š</i>	ፀ	ፀ	ፀ	ፀ	ፀ	ፀ	ፀ					
<i>f</i>	ፈ	ፈ	ፈ	ፈ	ፈ	ፈ	ፈ	ፈፀ	ፈላ	ፈ	ፈ፭	ፈ፮
<i>p</i>	ፐ	ፐ	ፐ	ፐ	ፐ	ፐ	ፐ	ፐፀ	ፐላ	ፐ	ፐ፭	ፐ፮

Appendix B:

The Legacy Ge'ez Syllabary

	-ə	-u	-i	-a	-e	-(i)	-o	-ɔ	- ^w ə	- ^w i	- ^w a	- ^w e	- ^w (i)	-ya
<i>h</i>								ሐ						
<i>l</i>								ሎ						
<i>m</i>								ም		ማ		ሜ		ሜሊ
<i>r</i>								ሮ						ሯ
<i>s</i>								ሶ						
<i>ts</i>		ሱ	ሲ	ሳ	ሴ	ሰ	ሶ							
<i>š</i>								ሾ						
<i>ʂ</i>		ሹ	ሺ	ሻ	ሼ	ሸ	ሹ							
<i>q</i>								ቃ						
<i>k^y</i>	ቀ	ቁ	ቂ	ቃ	ቄ	ቅ	ቆ							
<i>b</i>								ቦ		ቡ		ባ		
<i>t</i>								ቸ						
<i>č</i>								ቻ						
<i>tʂ</i>		ቼ	ች	ቾ	ቿ	ቻ	ቼ							
<i>ŋ</i>								ፍ						
<i>n</i>								ፍ						
<i>ñ</i>								ፍ						
<i>ʾ</i>								አ						
<i>k</i>								ከ						
<i>k^y</i>	ከ	ኩ	ኪ	ካ	ኬ	ኸ	ኹ							
<i>x^y</i>	ኸ	ኹ	ኺ	ኻ	ኼ	ኽ	ኾ							
<i>w</i>								ዎ						
<i>z</i>								ዘ						
<i>dz</i>		ዘ	ዪ	ዩ	ዬ	ዸ	ዹ							
<i>ʒ</i>		ዸ	ዹ	ዺ	ዻ	ዼ	ዿ							
<i>y</i>								የ						
<i>d</i>								ዶ						
<i>d'</i>	ደ	ዱ	ዲ	ዳ	ዴ	ድ	ዶ	ዶ						
<i>d'</i>		ዱ	ዲ	ዳ	ዴ	ድ	ዶ							
<i>ǵ</i>								ጆ						
<i>g</i>								ጎ						
<i>g^y</i>	ጎ	጑	ጒ	ጓ	ጔ	ጕ	጖							
<i>t</i>								ጠ						
<i>č</i>								ጡ						
<i>c'</i>	ጨ	ጨ	ጨ	ጨ	ጨ	ጨ	ጨ							
<i>tʂ'</i>		ጨ	ጨ	ጨ	ጨ	ጨ	ጨ							
<i>ḥ</i>	ጸ	ጸ	ጸ	ጸ	ጸ	ጸ	ጸ							
<i>p</i>								ቀ						
<i>ʂ</i>								ቀ						
<i>f</i>										ፈ		ፋ		ፈ
<i>p</i>								ፖ		ፕ		ፕ		