# Typing in Geʾez

ግ

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

Example: typing **selam** becomes ሰላም

Because Geʾez has more sounds than English does, we sometimes have to adjust this rule. For example, English does not have ‘ጠ’ and the closest similar letter would be ‘t’. In this case, you should type with “capital T”:

Example: typing **qTqaTie** becomes ቅጥቃጤ

Notice that we needed both “ie” together to make the 5th ‘ጠ’ letter ‘ጤ’. 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 Geʾez like ሏ, ሟ, ኴ you can do so by typing an extra vowel after a ‘u’:

Example: typing **mua** becomes ሟ

Example: typing **guie** becomes ጔ

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 **ar’est** becomes አርእስት

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

# Sheik Bakri Sapalo Typing Table

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Key** | **\*** | **a** | **u** | **i** | **e** | **o** | **aa** | **uu** | **ii** | **ee** | **oo** |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **+x** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **b** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **bb** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **j** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **jj** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **d** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **dd** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **h** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **hh** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **w** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **ww** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **z** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **zz** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **hx** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **hxx** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **x** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **xx** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **y** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **yy** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **k** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **kk** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **l** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **ll** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **m** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **mm** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **n** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **nn** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **s** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **ss** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **f** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **ff** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **sx** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **sxx** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **q** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **qq** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **r** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **rr** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **sh** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **shh** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **t** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **tt** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **kx** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **kxx** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **dh** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **dhh** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **g** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **gg** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **c** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **cc** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **ny** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **nyy** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **ch** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **chh** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **ph** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **phh** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **A** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Ax** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **p** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **pp** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **v** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **vv** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **zy** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **zyy** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **ts** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **tss** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

### Special Note

* The keystroke of ‘x’ is added for the ‘ኀ’ family in agreement with classic Geʾez phonology and modern transliteration conventions.
* The keystroke of ‘D’ is added for the ‘ፀ’ family in agreement with classic Geʾez phonology.

**Consonant and Vowel Marks**

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

አባ **CTRL .** ⇒ አባ፞ (“abaa”, “a” is stressed)  
 አባ፞ **CTRL .** ⇒ አባ፟ (“abba”, “b” is stressed)  
 አባ፟ **CTRL .** ⇒ አባ፝ (“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**

**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 | ፲፻ 1000 | ፼ 10000 |

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

**Western Digits**

Western numbers may be typed with a ‘#’ mark followed by the desired digit 1-9.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **1** #1 | **2** #2 | **3** #3 | **4** #4 | **5** #5 | **6** #6 | **7** #7 | **8** #8 | **9** #9 |

**Typing Zaima Qirts (**የዜማ፡ቅርጽ፡**)**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ይዘት | ኅጺር፡ርክርክ፡ | ርክርክ | ቁርጥ | ደረት | ድፋት | ጭረት | ቅናት | ሒደት | ደረት፡ሒደት፡ |
| ᎐  \_1 | ᎓  \_2 | ᎒  \_3 | ᎙  \_4 | ᎑  \_5 | ᎔  \_6 | ᎖  \_7 | ᎕  \_8 | ᎗  \_9 | ᎘  \_0 |

When typing ‘\_’ the following menu will appear:

[1᎐2᎓3᎒4᎙5᎑6᎔7᎖8᎕9᎗0᎘]

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

**Letters of Other Languages**

Only the letters used in the Geʾez language may be typed with this keyboard. To type additional Ethiopic letters used by other languages, please download a keyboard for the language needed from the *Keyman* website.