

Lesson 1

1.1 Introduction.

1.2 Coptic Alphabet: The Coptic alphabet consists of 31 phonetic characters, a special numerical character, and a vowel point. The first 24 characters plus the special numerical character come from the Greek alphabet. The last seven characters are Demotic characters, modified to match the script of the first 24 characters. Pronunciation rules vary for some characters depending on whether they occur in words of Egyptian or Greek origin.

The orthography (or shape of the characters) reflects the way Greek uncial (block) characters were written in the 2nd century A.D. Since then, many of the characters evolved along Egyptian artistic ways, independent of the natural evolution of the Greek characters.

<u>Character</u>	<u>Current Modern Pronunciation</u>	<u>Modified Pronunciation</u>
Ⲁ	"a" as in "apple"	same
Ⲃ	"b" as in "back", or "v" as in "vine"	same
Ⲅ Ⲅ Ⲅ Ⲅ ⲕ	"g" as in "good", "ng" as in "England" "nk"	same
Ⲇ	"th" as in "then" "d" as in "dog" in proper nouns	"d" as in "dog"
Ⲉ	"e" as in "let"	same
Ⲋ		
Ⲍ	"z" as in "zoo"	same
Ⲏ	"ee" as in "feet"	"ai" as in "aid"
Ⲑ	"th" as in "thin" "t" as in "top" after "c"	"t" as in "top"
Ⲓ	"i" as in "machine" "y" as in "yet" following a vowel	same
Ⲕ	"k" as in "skin"	same
Ⲗ	"l" as in "law"	same
Ⲙ	"m" as in "man"	same
Ⲛ	"n" as in "net"	same
Ⲝ	"ks"	same
Ⲟ	"o" as in English "fog"	same
Ⲡ	"p" as in "spin"	same
Ⲣ	"r" as in "road"	same
Ⲥ	"s" as in "see"	same
Ⲧ	"t" as in "stop"	same

ϣ οϣ	as Coptic vowel "oo" as in "food"	same
ⲁϣ	as Greek vowel "i"	same
ⲉϣ	"av"	"aw"
ⲙⲟϣ	"ev"	"ew"
ⲟϣω		"aiw"
ωⲟϣ		"wo"
		"ow"
ϥ	"ph" as in "phone"	same
ϫ	"k" as in "kin", in Coptic words "sh" or "kh" in some Greek words	same
ϣ	"ps"	same
ω	"o" as in "hope"	same
ϣ	"sh" as in "shall"	same
ϥ	"f" as in "foot"	same
ϥ	"kh" as in "khan"	same
ϥ	"h" as in "high"	same
ϥ	"g" as in "go"	same
	"j" as in "judge" after ⲉ, ⲙ, ⲓ	
ϥ	"ch" as in "church"	same
ⲥ	"ti"	same
ⲥ	"e"	same

1.2.1 Examples:

ⲁⲃⲟⲧ	<i>month</i>	ⲁⲥⲉ	<i>head</i>	ⲁⲣⲉϥ	<i>to keep</i>
ⲃⲱⲕ	<i>servant</i>	ⲃⲁⲗ	<i>eye</i>	ⲉⲃⲟⲗ	<i>from</i>
ⲁⲩⲓⲟⲥ	<i>holy</i>	ⲁⲩⲟⲣⲁ	<i>marketplace</i>	ⲁⲩⲩⲉⲗⲟⲥ	<i>angel</i>
ⲗⲓⲁⲕⲱⲛ	<i>deacon</i>	ⲉⲣⲙⲙ	<i>tear</i>	ⲉⲃⲉⲉ	<i>because</i>
ⲉⲃⲟⲩⲁⲃ	<i>holy</i>	ⲁⲛⲁⲗⲙⲉ	<i>school</i>	ⲙⲓ	<i>house</i>
ⲙⲣⲡ	<i>wine</i>	ⲉⲉⲗⲙⲗ	<i>rejoice</i>	ⲉⲙⲙⲓ	<i>just</i>
ⲉⲁⲙⲓⲟ	<i>to create</i>	ⲓⲱⲧ	<i>father</i>	ⲓⲟⲙ	<i>sea</i>
ⲓⲛⲓ	<i>to bring</i>	ⲕⲓⲙ	<i>to move</i>	ⲕⲁⲥ	<i>bone</i>
ⲕⲟⲩⲭⲓ	<i>little</i>	ⲁⲗⲟⲗⲓ	<i>grapes</i>	ⲁⲗⲱⲙ	<i>cheese</i>
ⲗⲁⲥ	<i>tongue</i>	ⲙⲁ	<i>place</i>	ⲙⲁⲩ	<i>mother</i>
ⲙⲟⲛⲓ	<i>to shepherd</i>	ⲛⲁⲩ	<i>to see</i>	ⲛⲓⲃⲉⲛ	<i>every</i>
ⲛⲟⲃⲓ	<i>sin</i>	ⲟⲛ	<i>also</i>	ⲟⲗⲓ	<i>to stand</i>
ⲱⲡ	<i>to count</i>	ⲣⲟ	<i>door</i>	ⲣⲱⲙⲓ	<i>man</i>
ⲥⲱⲃⲓ	<i>to laugh</i>	ⲥⲙⲟⲩ	<i>to bless</i>	ⲥⲓⲙ	<i>grass</i>
ⲧⲟⲩⲃⲟ	<i>to purify</i>	ⲧⲁⲕⲟ	<i>to destroy</i>	ⲧⲁⲥⲉⲟ	<i>to return</i>
ⲟⲩⲱⲙ	<i>to eat</i>	ⲟⲩⲱⲩⲱ	<i>to want</i>	ⲟⲩⲱⲣⲡ	<i>to send</i>

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Fundamentals of Bohairic Coptic

ⲱⲓⲕ	<i>bread</i>	Ⲯⲁⲓ	<i>nose</i>	ⲉⲱⲓ	<i>hair</i>
ⲉⲗⲏⲛⲟ	<i>elder</i>	ⲉⲱⲃ	<i>thing</i>	ⲉⲱⲙ	<i>book</i>
ⲉⲟⲓⲉ	<i>lord</i>	ⲉⲱⲓ	<i>village</i>		

1.3 Vocabulary:

ⲃⲁⲛ	<i>m.</i>	<i>eye</i>	ⲛⲁⲉ	<i>m.</i>	<i>tongue</i>
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1.4 Excercises:

Practice the pronunciation of the examples listed above.