

Lesson 8

8.1 Tripartite Construction: This sentence structure is the typical verbal sentence in Coptic. It is usually made up of three parts, a verbal prefix (tense marker), a subject (nominal or pronominal), and a verb.

8.1.1 First Perfect Tense:

8.1.1.1 Form: This is the best form of the narrative past tense. It corresponds to the English simple past, or in some cases, the perfect tense. It is conjugated with the eight different persons that we have encountered in previous lessons. The verb 'ⲙⲟⲩⲩ' 'to walk' will be used as an example here, and it is conjugated as follows:

<u>Person</u>	<u>Singular</u>		<u>Plural</u>	
1-mf	ⲁ.ⲓ.ⲙⲟⲩⲩ	I walked	ⲁ.ⲛ.ⲙⲟⲩⲩ	we walked
2-m	ⲁ.ⲕ.ⲙⲟⲩⲩ	you (m) walked	ⲁⲣⲉ.ⲧⲉⲛ.ⲙⲟⲩⲩ	you (pl) walked
2-f	ⲁⲣⲉ.ⲙⲟⲩⲩ	you (f) walked	same	
3-m	ⲁ.ϥ.ⲙⲟⲩⲩ	he walked	ⲁ.ⲣ.ⲙⲟⲩⲩ	they walked
3-f	ⲁ.ϥ.ⲙⲟⲩⲩ	she walked	same	

8.1.1.2 Nominal Subject: The use of the nominal subject is dependent in large on the style of the literary writer. Three different forms are available in Coptic, as follows:

ⲁ ⲡⲓ.ⲣⲱⲙⲓ ⲙⲟⲩⲩ	the man walked
ⲡⲓ.ⲣⲱⲙⲓ ⲁ.ϥ.ⲙⲟⲩⲩ	same
ⲁ.ϥ.ⲙⲟⲩⲩ ⲛⲉⲗⲉ ⲡⲓ.ⲣⲱⲙⲓ	same

Note: 'ⲛⲉⲗⲉ' is used in verbal construction to move the nominal subject after the verb. It is frequently used in texts translated from the Greek.

8.2. Prepositions with Verbs of Motion: The prepositions 'ⲉ- , ⲩⲁ , ⲉⲗⲉⲛ' are frequently used with verbs of motion, as follows:

8.2.1 ⲉ- indicates motion to or toward a place or a person:

ⲁ.ϥ.ⲙⲟⲩⲩ ⲉ.ⲡⲉϥ.ⲛⲓ	he walked to his house
ⲁ.ϥ.ϥⲱⲧ ⲉ.ⲧ.ⲉⲕⲕⲗⲛϥⲓⲁ	he ran to the church

8.2.2 ⲱⲁ indicates motion to or up to. It is more frequently used with persons than places:

ⲁ.ϣ.ϣⲱⲧ	ⲱⲁ	ⲡⲉϣ.ⲓⲱⲧ	he ran to his father
ⲁ.ⲛ.ⲱⲉ	ⲱⲁ	ⲡⲓ.ⲉ̇ⲡⲓⲕⲟⲡⲟⲥ	we went to the bishop

8.2.2 ⲉ̇ⲭⲉⲛ indicates motion onto or on:

ⲁ.ϣ.ⲙⲟⲱⲓ	ⲉ̇ⲭⲉⲛ	ⲡⲓ.ⲙⲱⲟⲩ	he walked upon the water
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8.3 Vocabulary 8:

ⲓ	vb.	to come	ⲥⲱⲧ	vb.	to run, flee
--- ⲛ̇ⲥⲁ	vb.	to come after	--- ⲛ̇ⲥⲁ	vb.	to pursue
ⲓⲱ	m.	donkey	ⲱⲉ	vb.	to go
ⲙⲟⲱⲓ	vb.	to walk	ⲱ̇ⲗⲏⲗ	vb.	to pray
ⲛ̇ⲭⲉ		namely	---	m.	prayer
ⲣⲓⲙⲓ	vb.	to weep	ⲭⲉⲙⲥⲓ	vb.	to sit
			ⲭ̇ⲑⲟ	m.	horse

Greek Nouns:

θ̇ⲣⲟⲛⲟⲥ	m.	throne	ⲧ̇ⲣⲁⲡⲉⲗⲁ	f.	table
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8.4 Exercises 8: Translate the following into English:

- A 1. ⲁ ⲛⲓ.ⲥ̇ⲛⲏⲟⲩ ⲱⲉ ⲉ̇.ⲧ̇.ⲡⲟⲗⲓⲥ
2. ⲡⲓ.ⲱⲛⲣⲓ ⲁ.ϣ.ⲓ ⲉ̇.ⲡⲉⲛ.ⲛⲓ
3. ⲁ.ϣ.ⲙⲟⲱⲓ ⲛ̇ⲭⲉ ⲓⲛⲥⲟⲩⲥ ⲉ̇ⲭⲉⲛ ⲡⲓ.ⲭ̇ⲣⲟ ⲛ̇.ⲧ̇.ⲑⲁⲗⲁⲥⲥⲁ
4. ⲁ.ⲩ.ⲓ ⲛ̇ⲥⲁ ⲡⲟⲩ.ⲱⲛⲣⲓ
5. ⲁ ⲡⲉϣ.ⲙⲁⲑⲏⲧⲏⲥ ⲥⲱⲧ ⲉ̇.ⲕⲉ.ⲙⲁ
6. ⲁ.ⲓ.ⲣⲓⲙⲓ ⲉ̇ⲭⲉⲛ ⲛⲁ.ⲡⲟⲃⲓ
7. ⲁ.ⲩ.ⲭⲉⲙⲥⲓ ⲉ̇.ⲧ̇.ⲧ̇ⲣⲁⲡⲉⲗⲁ ⲛ̇ⲭⲉ ⲧⲉϣ.ⲥ̇ⲗⲓⲙⲓ ⲛⲉⲙ ⲡⲉϣ.ⲱⲉⲣⲓ