

Lesson 2

2.1 Noun Classifications: Nouns are classified by gender, masculine (m) or feminine (f), and by number, singular (sg) or plural (pl). In most cases there are no distinctions between singular and plural forms of the same noun, only the prefixed article provides such distinction. Examples:

<u>Masculine</u>		<u>Feminine</u>	
ⲓⲱⲧ	father	ⲙⲁⲩ	mother
ⲕⲁⲓⲛ	earth	Ⲫⲉ	heaven
<u>Singular</u>		<u>Plural</u>	
ⲓⲱⲧ	father	ⲓⲱⲧ	fathers
ⲕⲟⲛ	brother	ⲕⲟⲛⲟⲩ	brothers

2.2 Definite Article: Coptic uses three distinct characters to define gender and number of a noun. They are 'ⲡ' for the singular masculine, 'ⲧ' for the singular feminine, and 'ⲛ' for the plural. This arrangement occurs in many nominal prefixes. The first one that we will deal with is the "Definite Article".

2.2.1 Form: The Bohairic dialect has two distinct types of articles in the singular. The longer form is referred to as 'Strong' and the shorter one is labeled 'Weak'. The definite article is always prefixed to the noun it modifies. In English the definite article is equivalent to 'the'.

<u>Type</u>	<u>Singular</u>		<u>Plural</u>
	<u>Masculine</u>	<u>Feminine</u>	
Strong	ⲡⲓ-	ⲧⲓ-	ⲛⲓ- ⲛⲉⲛ-
Weak	ⲡⲓ- Ⲫⲉ-	ⲧⲓ- ⲉ	

2.2.2 Uses:

2.2.2.1 Singular: Weak articles are used to specify the word in a less exact way, so they are used for generic nouns, abstract nouns, and nouns that are one of a kind. Strong articles on the other hand specify the word in a more exact way by referring to specific person or thing, as follows:

<u>Weak</u>	<u>Strong</u>
Ⲫⲉ.ⲛⲟⲩⲧ	ⲡⲓ.ⲛⲟⲩⲧ
ⲧⲓ.Ⲫⲉ	ⲧⲓ.Ⲫⲉ ⲙⲉⲃⲉⲣⲓ
God	the god
Heaven	the new heaven

2.2.2.2 Plural: For plural articles (both genders) ⲛⲉⲛ- is used only with prefixed nouns, while ⲛⲓ- is used everywhere else, example:

ⲛⲉⲛ.ⲩⲱⲛⲣⲓ ⲙⲉ.ⲡⲓ.ⲓⲥⲣⲁⲛⲗ The sons of Israel

2.3 Prepositions: In Coptic, prepositions (prep.) are unstressed and bound to the word they govern.

Note: The preposition **ⲛⲉⲙ** (with) is also used as the conjunctive 'and' in joining two nouns, example:

ⲡⲓ.ⲣⲱⲙⲓ ⲛⲉⲙ ⲡⲓ.ⲛⲟⲩⲃ The man and the gold

2.4 Simple Bipartite Clause: Coptic can achieve full predication (complete sentence) with or without the benefit of a verb. One type of these sentences is called a 'bipartite sentence', which means a sentence made out of two parts. For the sake of brevity, we will deal with only one of the five forms of this sentence construction. To achieve the correct meaning in English, the appropriate form of verb 'to be' is used in the translation.

2.4.1 Affirmative: In the affirmative, the bipartite is formed in the following manner:

Definite noun + Prepositional phrase

or

(Definite article + Noun) + (Preposition + Definite article + Noun)

ⲡⲓ.ⲣⲱⲙⲓ ⲉⲓ ⲡⲓ.ⲭⲟⲓ The man is on the ship

2.4.2 Negative: In the negative the sentence form is as follows:

Definite noun + Prepositional phrase + Negative particle

ⲡⲓ.ⲣⲱⲙⲓ ⲉⲛ ⲡⲓ.ⲛⲓ ⲁⲛ The man is not in the house

2.5 Vocabulary:

ⲁⲛ		<i>not</i>	ⲱⲛⲓ	<i>m.</i>	<i>rock, stone</i>
ⲛⲓ	<i>m.</i>	<i>house</i>	ⲉⲁ-	<i>prep.</i>	<i>under</i>
ⲛⲟⲩ	<i>pl.</i>	<i>houses</i>	ⲉⲗⲗⲟ	<i>m.</i>	<i>old man, monk</i>
ⲙⲱⲓⲧ	<i>m.</i>	<i>road, way</i>	ⲉⲗⲗⲟⲓ	<i>pl.</i>	<i>old men, monks</i>
ⲛⲉⲙ-	<i>prep.</i>	<i>with, and</i>	ⲉⲗⲗⲱ	<i>f.</i>	<i>old woman</i>
ⲛⲟⲩⲃ	<i>m.</i>	<i>gold</i>	ⲉⲛ-	<i>prep.</i>	<i>in</i>
ⲣⲱⲙⲓ	<i>m.</i>	<i>man</i>	ⲉⲓ-	<i>prep.</i>	<i>on</i>
ⲉⲉⲙⲓ	<i>f.</i>	<i>woman</i>	ⲉⲓⲉⲛ-	<i>prep.</i>	<i>upon</i>
ⲧⲱⲟⲩ	<i>m.</i>	<i>mountain</i>	ⲭⲱⲙ	<i>m.</i>	<i>book</i>

2.6 Exercises 2: Translate the following into English:

A 1. ϣⲓ ⲡⲓ.ⲙⲱⲓⲧ

2. ϣⲓϭⲉⲛ ⲡⲓ.ⲧⲱⲟⲩ

3. ϭⲉⲛ ⲡⲓ.ⲙⲱⲓⲧ

4.. ϭⲉⲛ ⲡⲓ.ⲙⲱⲓ

5. ϭⲁ ⲡⲓ.ⲙⲱⲓ

6. ϭⲁ ⲡⲓ.ⲱⲛⲓ

7. ϣⲓ ⲡⲓ.ϭⲱⲙ

8. ⲛⲉⲙ ⲛⲓ.ⲣⲱⲙⲓ

9. ⲛⲉⲙ ⲡⲓ.ϭⲓⲙⲓ

10. ⲛⲉⲙ ⲡⲓ.ϭⲉⲗⲗⲟ

11. ϭⲁ ⲛⲓ.ⲙⲱⲩ

12. ϣⲓ ⲡⲓ.ⲧⲱⲟⲩ

13. ϭⲉⲛ ⲛⲓ.ⲙⲱⲩ

B 1. ⲛⲓ.ⲣⲱⲙⲓ ⲛⲉⲙ ⲡⲓ.ϭⲓⲙⲓ

2. ⲡⲓ.ϭⲉⲗⲗⲟ ϣⲓϭⲉⲛ ⲡⲓ.ⲧⲱⲟⲩ

3. ⲡⲓ.ⲙⲱⲩ ϭⲁ ⲡⲓ.ϭⲱⲙ

4. ⲡⲓ.ϭⲱⲙ ϭⲉⲛ ⲡⲓ.ⲙⲱⲩ ⲁⲛ