

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
ϣ	"f" as in "foot"	same
ϥ	"kh" as in "khan"	same
ϥ	"h" as in "high"	same
ϫ	"g" as in "go" "j" as in "judge" after ⲉ, ⲙ, ⲓ	same
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>	ⲉⲃⲉ	<i>because</i>
ⲉⲃⲟⲩⲁⲃ	<i>holy</i>	ⲁⲛⲁⲗⲙⲃ	<i>school</i>	ⲙⲓ	<i>house</i>
ⲙⲣⲡ	<i>wine</i>	ⲉⲃⲗⲙⲗ	<i>rejoice</i>	ⲉⲙⲙⲓ	<i>just</i>
ⲉⲁⲙⲓⲟ	<i>to create</i>	ⲓⲱⲧ	<i>father</i>	ⲓⲱⲙ	<i>sea</i>
ⲓⲛⲓ	<i>to bring</i>	ⲕⲓⲙ	<i>to move</i>	ⲕⲁⲥ	<i>bone</i>
ⲕⲟⲩⲗⲓ	<i>little</i>	ⲁⲗⲟⲗⲓ	<i>grapes</i>	ⲁⲗⲱⲙ	<i>cheese</i>
ⲗⲁⲥ	<i>tongue</i>	ⲙⲁ	<i>place</i>	ⲙⲁϣ	<i>mother</i>
ⲙⲟⲛⲓ	<i>to shepherd</i>	ⲛⲁϣ	<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>	ⲥⲙⲟϣ	<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>	ⲟⲩⲱϣ	<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 Exercices:

Practice the pronunciation of the examples listed above.