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:

	Masculine			**Feminine**
ιωτ	father		ⲙⲁⲩ	mother
ⲕⲁϩⲓ	earth		ϥⲉ	heaven

	Singular			**Plural**
ιωτ	father		ιⲟϯ	fathers
ⲥⲟⲛ	brother		ⲥⲛⲏⲟⲩ	brothers

2.2 Definite Article: Coptic uses three distinct characters to define gender and number of a noun. They are **'π'** 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'.

Type	**Singular**		**Plural**
	Masculine	**Feminine**	
Strong	ⲡⲓ–	ϯ–	ⲛⲓ– ⲛⲉⲛ–
Weak	ⲡ̇– ϥ̇–	ⲧ̇– ⲑ̇	

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:

	Weak			**Strong**	
ϥ̇.ⲛⲟⲩϯ	God		ⲡⲓ.ⲛⲟⲩϯ	the god
ⲧ̇.ϥⲉ	Heaven		ϯ.ϥⲉ ⲙ̇.ⲃⲉⲣⲓ	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.ϣⲏⲣⲓ ⲙ̇.ⲡ̇.ⲓⲥⲣⲁⲏⲗ   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   ⲡ̇ⲓ   ⲡⲓ.ϫⲟⲓ   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   ϧⲉⲛ   ⲡⲓ.ⲏⲓ   ⲁⲛ   The man is not in the house

2.5 **Vocabulary:**

ⲁⲛ		*not*	ⲱⲛⲓ	*m.*	*rock, stone*
ⲏⲓ	*m.*	*house*	ϧⲁ—	*prep.*	*under*
ⲏⲟⲩ	*pl.*	*houses*	ϧⲉⲗⲗⲟ	*m.*	*old man, monk*
ⲙⲱⲓⲧ	*m.*	*road, way*	ϧⲉⲗⲗⲟⲓ	*pl.*	*old men, monks*
ⲛⲉⲙ—	*prep.*	*with, and*	ϧⲉⲗⲗⲱ	*f.*	*old woman*
ⲛⲟⲩⲃ	*m.*	*gold*	ϧⲉⲛ—	*prep.*	*in*
ⲣⲱⲙⲓ	*m.*	*man*	ϩⲓ—	*prep.*	*on*
ⲥ̇ϩⲓⲙⲓ	*f.*	*woman*	ϩⲓϫⲉⲛ—	*prep.*	*upon*
ⲧⲱⲟⲩ	*m.*	*mountain*	ϫⲱⲙ	*m.*	*book*

2.6 Exercises 2: Translate the following into English:

A   1.   ϩⲓ ⲡⲓ.ⲙⲱⲓⲧ   8.   ⲛⲉⲙ ⲛⲓ.ⲣⲱⲙⲓ

    2.   ϩⲓⲭⲉⲛ ⲡⲓ.ⲧⲱⲟⲩ   9.   ⲛⲉⲙ ϯ.ϭ̇ϩⲓⲙⲓ

    3.   ϧⲉⲛ ⲡⲓ.ⲙⲱⲓⲧ   10.   ⲛⲉⲙ ⲡⲓ.ϧⲉⲗⲗⲟ

    4.. ϧⲉⲛ ⲡ̇.ⲏⲓ   11.   ϧⲁ ⲛⲓ.ⲏⲟⲩ

    5.   ϧⲁ ⲡ̇.ⲏⲓ   12.   ϩⲓ ⲡⲓ.ⲧⲱⲟⲩ

    6.   ϧⲁ ⲡⲓ.ⲱⲛⲓ   13.   ϧⲉⲛ ⲛⲓ.ⲏⲟⲩ

    7.   ϩⲓ ⲡⲓ.ϫⲱⲙ

B   1.   ⲛⲓ.ⲣⲱⲙⲓ ⲛⲉⲙ ϯ.ϭ̇ϩⲓⲙⲓ   3.   ⲡⲓ.ⲛⲟⲩⲃ ϧⲁ ⲡⲓ.ϫⲱⲙ

    2.   ⲡⲓ.ϧⲉⲗⲗⲟ ϩⲓⲭⲉⲛ ⲡⲓ.ⲧⲱⲟⲩ   4.   ⲛⲓ.ϫⲱⲙ ϧⲉⲛ ⲡⲓ.ⲏⲓ ⲁⲛ