

Lesson 4

4.1 Relative Clause: Coptic uses three forms of the relative pronoun. They are used with nouns of either gender or number as well as verbs, adjectives, and adverbs. The forms are as follows:

ε- εΤ- εΤε-

The most common form is εΤ-. They all are translated in English as, 'who', 'whom', or 'which'. They are usually used with sentences containing adverbial predicates, examples:

πι.ρωμ	εΤ.θεν	π.η	The man who is in the house
πεν.ιωτ	εΤ.θεν	νι.φ.ηογ	Our father who is in the heavens

4.1.1 The relative pronoun εΤ- functions as the subject of the relative clause:

Affirmative

†.εζωμ	εΤ.ζι	φ.μωιτ	The woman who is on the road
νι.θελλοι	εΤ.θεν	†.εκκλ.ηγια	the monks who are in the church

Negative

νι.θελλοι	εΤ.θεν	†.εκκλ.ηγια	αν	the monks who are not in the church
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4.1.2 The relative clause cannot be used to modify an indefinite noun.

4.2 Relative Nouns: Nouns can be formed out of adjectives by prefixing the definite article to the relative pronoun and attaching the new prefix to an adjective, as follows:

Singular Masculine

πεΤ- πεΤε-

Plural

νεΤ- νεΤε-

Examples:

πεθ.ογαβ	The holy one, the one who is holy
πετ.ζωογ	The evil one, the one who is evil

4.3 Demonstrative Adjectives - Far Objects: The demonstrative for the far objects trails the noun it modifies. It is formed from a combination of the relative pronoun 'εΤε-' and the adverb 'μμεγ'. In English it is translated as 'that' for singular and 'those' for plural. However Coptic has one form for either gender or number, as follows:

πρωμι ἐτεῦμαγ	that man
†.ἐρμι ἐτεῦμαγ	that woman
μι.ὀνηογ ἐτεῦμαγ	those brothers

4.4 Greek Nouns: A typical Coptic text contains a large number of Greek loan-words, mostly nouns. Greek masculine and feminine nouns retained their gender when they were used in Coptic. Neuter nouns were treated as masculine nouns. All Greek nouns came into Coptic in the nominative singular case and such form is kept the same in all other cases in Coptic, examples:

πιδγγελος	m.	The angel
†.ἐπιστολη	f.	The letter
πι.πνευμα	n..	The spirit

4.5 Vocabulary 4:

ἔμαγ	adv.	there	ϣερι	f.	daughter, girl
ναρπεν	prep	in the presence of	ϣηρι	m.	son, child, boy
νογ†	m.	god	ρπεν	prep.	at the entrance of
ϕνογ†	m.	God	ρωογ	adj.	evil
ρο	m.	door, gate, mouth	βοις	m.	master, owner
ρωογ	pl.	doors, gates	πβοις	m.	the Lord
χακι	m.	darkness	βοιςεγ	pl.	masters, owners
ῥρο	m.	shore, bank	†μι	m.	village

Greek Nouns

αγγελος	m.	angel, messenger	μαθητης	m.	disciple, pupil
εκκλησια	f.	church	πολις	f.	city
ἐπιστολη	f.	letter, epistle	ταφος	m.	tomb
θαλασσα	f.	sea			

4.6 Exercises 4: Translate the following into English:

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| <p>A 1. ριρεν †.εκκλῆσια</p> <p>2. ϑεν φ.ραν ἔ.π.βοις</p> <p>3. παρρεν π.οὔρο</p> <p>4. πι.χρο ἔ.πι.μαρο</p> | <p>5. οὔ.εκκλῆσια ἦτε πι.†αι</p> <p>6. πι.χωαι ἔ.πι.μαθητης</p> <p>7. π.βοις ἔ.πι.χοι</p> <p>8. ϑεν οὔ.χακι</p> |
| <p>B 1. πι.ωνι ετ.ϑεν †εμρω</p> <p>2. πι.αγγελος ετ.ϑεν †.φε</p> <p>3. πι.χακι ετ.ριχεν †.πολις</p> | <p>4. πι.ρωαι ἦ.†.πολις ἐτεῖμαγ</p> <p>5. πι.εκκλῆσια ἦτε †.πολις</p> <p>6. πι.ωηρι ἔ.πι.βωκ ἐτεῖμαγ</p> |