

## 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 Ⲅϣ Ⲅⲕ	"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
	as Greek vowel "i"	same
αϣ	"av"	"aw"
εϣ	"ev"	"ew"
ηοϣ		"aiw"
οϣω		"wo"
ωοϣ		"ow"
ϕ	"ph" as in "phone"	same
ϣ	"k" as in "kin", in Coptic words "sh" or "kh" in some Greek words	same
ψ	"ps"	same
ω	"o" as in "hope"	same
ϣ	"sh" as in "shall"	same
ϣ	"f" as in "foot"	same
ϣ	"kh" as in "khan"	same
ϣ	"h" as in "high"	same
ϣ	"g" as in "go" "j" as in "judge" after ε, η, ι	same
ϣ	"ch" as in "church"	same
ϣ	"ti"	same
ϣ	"e"	same

1.2.1 Examples:

ἀβοτ	<i>month</i>	ἀφε	<i>head</i>	αρεϣ	<i>to keep</i>
βωκ	<i>servant</i>	βαλ	<i>eye</i>	ἐβολ	<i>from</i>
ἀγιοϣ	<i>holy</i>	ἀγορα	<i>marketplace</i>	αγγελοϣ	<i>angel</i>
Διακων	<i>deacon</i>	ερμη	<i>tear</i>	εθεβε	<i>because</i>
εθοϣαβ	<i>holy</i>	αναζηβ	<i>school</i>	ηι	<i>house</i>
ηρπ	<i>wine</i>	θεληλ	<i>rejoice</i>	θηηη	<i>just</i>
θαμιο	<i>to create</i>	ιωτ	<i>father</i>	ιομ	<i>sea</i>
ιηι	<i>to bring</i>	κιμ	<i>to move</i>	καϣ	<i>bone</i>
κοϣϣι	<i>little</i>	ἀλολι	<i>grapes</i>	αλωμ	<i>cheese</i>
λαϣ	<i>tongue</i>	μα	<i>place</i>	μαϣ	<i>mother</i>
μοηη	<i>to shepherd</i>	ηαϣ	<i>to see</i>	ηιβεν	<i>every</i>
ηοβι	<i>sin</i>	οη	<i>also</i>	οϣι	<i>to stand</i>
ωπ	<i>to count</i>	ρο	<i>door</i>	ρωμ	<i>man</i>
ωβι	<i>to laugh</i>	εμοϣ	<i>to bless</i>	ϣιμ	<i>grass</i>
τοϣβο	<i>to purify</i>	τακο	<i>to destroy</i>	ταϣθο	<i>to return</i>
οϣωμ	<i>to eat</i>	οϣωϣ	<i>to want</i>	οϣωρπ	<i>to send</i>

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## Fundamentals of Bohairic Coptic

ⲱⲓⲕ	<i>bread</i>	Ⲯⲁⲓ	<i>nose</i>	ⲉⲱⲓ	<i>hair</i>
ⲉⲗⲏⲗⲟ	<i>elder</i>	ⲉⲱⲃ	<i>thing</i>	ⲭⲱⲙ	<i>book</i>
ⲉⲟⲓⲉ	<i>lord</i>	ⲉⲙⲓ	<i>village</i>		

### 1.3 Vocabulary:

Ⲅⲁⲗ	<i>m.</i>	<i>eye</i>	ⲗⲁⲉ	<i>m.</i>	<i>tongue</i>
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### 1.4 Exercises:

Practice the pronunciation of the examples listed above.