

Lesson 8

8.1 Tripartite Construction: This sentence structure is the typical verbal sentence in Coptic. It is usually made up of three parts, a verbal prefix (tense marker), a subject (nominal or pronominal), and a verb.

8.1.1 First Perfect Tense:

8.1.1.1 Form: This is the best form of the narrative past tense. It corresponds to the English simple past, or in some cases, the perfect tense. It is conjugated with the eight different persons that we have encountered in previous lessons. The verb 'ⲙⲟⲩⲩ' 'to walk' will be used as an example here, and it is conjugated as follows:

<u>Person</u>	<u>Singular</u>		<u>Plural</u>	
1-mf	ⲁ.ⲓ.ⲙⲟⲩⲩ	I walked	ⲁ.ⲛ.ⲙⲟⲩⲩ	we walked
2-m	ⲁ.ⲕ.ⲙⲟⲩⲩ	you (m) walked	ⲁⲣⲉ.ⲧⲉⲛ.ⲙⲟⲩⲩ	you (pl) walked
2-f	ⲁⲣⲉ.ⲙⲟⲩⲩ	you (f) walked	same	
3-m	ⲁ.ϥ.ⲙⲟⲩⲩ	he walked	ⲁ.ⲅ.ⲙⲟⲩⲩ	they walked
3-f	ⲁ.ϥ.ⲙⲟⲩⲩ	she walked	same	

8.1.1.2 Nominal Subject: The use of the nominal subject is dependent in large on the style of the literary writer. Three different forms are available in Coptic, as follows:

ⲁ πⲓ.ⲣⲱⲙⲓ ⲙⲟⲩⲩ	the man walked
πⲓ.ⲣⲱⲙⲓ ⲁ.ϥ.ⲙⲟⲩⲩ	same
ⲁ.ϥ.ⲙⲟⲩⲩ ἵⲛⲉ πⲓ.ⲣⲱⲙⲓ	same

Note: 'ἵⲛⲉ' is used in verbal construction to move the nominal subject after the verb. It is frequently used in texts translated from the Greek.

8.2. Prepositions with Verbs of Motion: The prepositions 'ἔ- , ὡⲁ , ἔⲗⲉⲛ' are frequently used with verbs of motion, as follows:

8.2.1 ἔ- indicates motion to or toward a place or a person:

ⲁ.ϥ.ⲙⲟⲩⲩ ἔ.ⲡⲉϥ.ⲛⲓ	he walked to his house
ⲁ.ϥ.ϥⲱⲧ ε.ⲧ.ⲉⲕⲕⲗⲛϥⲓⲁ	he ran to the church

8.2.2 $\psi\alpha$ indicates motion to or up to. It is more frequently used with persons than places:

$\alpha.\sigma.\phi\omega\tau$	$\psi\alpha$	$\pi\epsilon\sigma.\iota\omega\tau$	he ran to his father
$\alpha.\eta.\omega\epsilon$	$\psi\alpha$	$\pi\iota.\epsilon\pi\iota\sigma\kappa\omicron\pi\omicron\varsigma$	we went to the bishop

8.2.2 $\epsilon\chi\epsilon\eta$ indicates motion onto or on:

$\alpha.\sigma.\mu\omicron\omega\iota$	$\epsilon\chi\epsilon\eta$	$\pi\iota.\mu\omega\omicron\upsilon$	he walked upon the water
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8.3 Vocabulary 8:

$\dot{\iota}$	<i>vb.</i>	<i>to come</i>	$\phi\omega\tau$	<i>vb.</i>	<i>to run, flee</i>		
---	$\dot{\eta}\sigma\alpha$	<i>vb.</i>	<i>to come after</i>	---	$\dot{\eta}\sigma\alpha$	<i>vb.</i>	<i>to pursue</i>
$\iota\omega$	<i>m.</i>	<i>donkey</i>	$\omega\epsilon$	<i>vb.</i>	<i>to go</i>		
$\mu\omicron\omega\iota$	<i>vb.</i>	<i>to walk</i>	$\psi\lambda\eta\lambda$	<i>vb.</i>	<i>to pray</i>		
$\dot{\eta}\chi\epsilon$		<i>namely</i>	---	<i>m.</i>	<i>prayer</i>		
$\rho\iota\mu\iota$	<i>vb.</i>	<i>to weep</i>	$\chi\epsilon\mu\iota$	<i>vb.</i>	<i>to sit</i>		
			$\dot{\epsilon}\theta\omicron$	<i>m.</i>	<i>horse</i>		

Greek Nouns:

$\epsilon\theta\omicron\pi\omicron\varsigma$	<i>m.</i>	<i>throne</i>	$\tau\omicron\pi\epsilon\zeta\alpha$	<i>f.</i>	<i>table</i>
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8.4 Exercises 8: Translate the following into English:

- A 1. α $\pi\iota.\dot{\iota}\sigma\eta\eta\omicron\upsilon$ $\omega\epsilon$ $\epsilon.\dagger.\rho\omicron\lambda\iota\varsigma$
2. $\pi\iota.\omega\eta\eta\iota$ $\alpha.\sigma.\dot{\iota}$ $\epsilon.\pi\epsilon\eta.\eta\iota$
3. $\alpha.\sigma.\mu\omicron\omega\iota$ $\dot{\eta}\chi\epsilon$ $\eta\sigma\omicron\upsilon\varsigma$ $\epsilon\chi\epsilon\eta$ $\pi\iota.\dot{\chi}\rho\omicron$ $\dot{\eta}.\dagger.\theta\alpha\lambda\alpha\sigma\sigma\alpha$
4. $\alpha.\gamma.\dot{\iota}$ $\dot{\eta}\sigma\alpha$ $\rho\omicron\upsilon.\omega\eta\eta\iota$
5. α $\pi\epsilon\sigma.\mu\alpha\theta\eta\tau\eta\varsigma$ $\phi\omega\tau$ $\epsilon.\kappa\epsilon.\mu\alpha$
6. $\alpha.\iota.\rho\iota\mu\iota$ $\epsilon\chi\epsilon\eta$ $\eta\alpha.\rho\omicron\beta\iota$
7. $\alpha.\gamma.\chi\epsilon\mu\iota$ $\epsilon.\dagger.\tau\omicron\pi\epsilon\zeta\alpha$ $\dot{\eta}\chi\epsilon$ $\tau\epsilon\sigma.\dot{\iota}\rho\iota\mu\iota$ $\eta\epsilon\mu$ $\pi\epsilon\sigma.\omega\epsilon\eta\iota$