

Lesson 6

6.1 Nominal Sentence: Coptic, like many of the languages of the Middle East, has full sentences that are constructed without the aid of a true verb. These sentences are characterized by the frequent use of a helping verb, sometimes called 'copula'. This helping verb follows the same format that we have seen in defining nouns in Coptic. In other words, it has a form for masculine singular 'πε', a form for feminine singular 'τε', and a form for the plural 'νε'. In English, the meaning rendered for such helping verb is the appropriate form of verb 'to be'.

6.1.1 Two-member Nominal Sentence: This type of sentence contains two parts. The first is a predicate noun, with a prefixed article, and the second is the helping verb, as follows:

πα.ιωτ	πε	he is my father	οϣ.ρωμ	πε	he is a man
τα.μαϣ	τε	she is my mother	οϣ.ζιμι	τε	she is a woman
να.ζηνοϣ	νε	they are my brothers	ζαν.εϣνοϣ	νε	they are ships

6.1.2 Three-member Nominal Sentence: This is the more common form of the nominal sentence. It contains a subject noun and a predicate noun along with the helping verb. The position of the helping verb is dependent on the predicate. If indefinite, it is always followed by the helping verb regardless of its position in the sentence. When the predicate is definite, then the helping verb usually falls in between it and the subject. The position of the predicate and the subject is mostly dependent on style and emphasis, as follows:

οϣ.αθ	πε	πα.ιωτ	my father is a teacher
πα.ιωτ	οϣ.αθ	πε	my father is a teacher
πα.ρωμ	πε	πεν.αθ	this man is our teacher
πεν.αθ	πε	πα.ρωμ	this man is our teacher

6.1.3 Rules of Agreement: The rules for choosing the gender and number of the helping verb are as follows:

6.1.3.1 Two-member Nominal Sentence: The helping verb agrees with the predicate noun in gender and number, as shown in the examples of 6.1.1 above.

6.1.3.2 Three-member Nominal Sentence: The rules here are more complex by virtue of having three parts in the sentence to contend with. These rules can be summarized as follows:

a. The helping verb agrees in gender and number with both the subject and predicate if they in turn are nouns (or pronouns in the 3rd person) and in agreement with each other.

b. If there is disagreement in gender or number, then the helping verb in the masculine singular form 'πε' is used.

c. If The subject is a pronoun in the 1st or 2nd person then the masculine singular form 'πε' is usually used regardless of the gender and number of the predicate.

Examples:

ϩαη.ρεμ.η.χημυ	πε	ηα.ιοϥ	my fathers are Egyptian
ϥ.φε	πε	πα.θροηοϥ	the Heaven is my throne
ηθο	πε	ϥ.ωοϥρη	you (f) are the censor
ηθοϥ	τε	τα.μαϥ	she is my mother

6.1.4 Negative Construction: The negation of the nominal sentence is achieved by placing the particle 'η(η)' before the predicate and 'αν' before the helping verb, as follows

2-member sentence:	η.πα.ιωτ	αν	πε	he is not my father	
3-member sentence:	πα.ιωτ	η.οϥ.αθ	αν	πε	my father is not a teacher

6.1.5 Relative Construction in the Nominal Sentence: nominal sentences are converted to the status of relative clauses by using the relative pronoun 'ετε', as follows:

πι.ρωμυ	ετε	οϥ.αθ	πε	the man who is a teacher	
πι.ρωμυ	ετε	η.οϥ.αθ	αν	πε	the man who is not a teacher
ετε	φαι	πε		that is (namely)	

6.2 Demonstrative Pronouns - Nearer Objects:

6.2.1 Form: The demonstrative pronoun for the nearer objects has a similar form to the demonstrative adjective explained in Lesson 5. However they are not prefixed to any other word. In English, they would be translated as '*this one, these ones*', as follows:

<u>Masculine Singular</u>	<u>Feminine Singular</u>	<u>Plural</u>
φαι	θαί	ηαι

6.2.2 Uses: They are frequently employed as subjects in sentences with nominal predicates, and they agree in gender and number with the predicate:

ηαι	πε	ηεϥ.ααχι	these are his words
θαί	οϥ.βωκι	τε	this is a maidservant
οϥ.βωκι	τε	θαί	this is a maidservant

6.3 Vocabulary 6:

ερφει	m.	temple, sanctuary		ΟΥΗΒ	m.	priest
ΜΗΤ	f.	middle, midst		ΖΔΙ	m.	husband
ϥΕΝ	†.ΜΗΤ	ἡ-		ΖΔΜΥΕ	m.	carpenter
ΜΗΥ	m.	crowd, multitude		ΧΔΜΟΥΛ	m.	camel
ϥΔϥ	m.	teacher, scribe		ΧΟΜ	f.	power

Greek Nouns

ΔΣΠΔΣΜΟC	m.	greeting		CΩΤΗΡ	m.	savior
ΕΥΑΓΓΕΛΙΟΝ	m.	gospel		ΧΡΙCΤΟC	m.	Christ
ΠΑΡΘΕΝΟC	f.	virgin				

6.4 Exercises 6: Translate the following into English:

- A
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| 1. ΟΥ.ΒΩΚ ΠΕ ἨΤΕ ΤΔ.ΜΔΥ | | 4. ΟΥ.ΠΑΡΘΕΝΟC ΤΕ |
| 2. ΟΥ.ΤΕΒΤ ΠΕ | | 5. ΠΙ.ΧΔΜΟΥΛ ΠΕ Ἰ.ΠΕϩ.ΙΩΤ |
| 3. ΟΥ.ΧΩΜ ΠΕ ἨΤΕ ΠΕΚ.ϐΟΝ | | |
- B
1. ΘΔΙ ΤΕ ἰ.ΧΟΜ Ἰ.ϕ.ΝΟΥ†
 2. ΝΔΙ ΝΕ ΝΙ.ϐΔΧΙ Ἰ.ΠΙ.ΕΥΑΓΓΕΛΙΟΝ
 3. ΠΕϩ.ΩΗΡΙ ΟΥ.ΟΥΗΒ ΠΕ
- C
1. ΠΑΙ.ΧΩΜ ΕΤΕ ΦΔΙ ΠΕ ΠΙ.ΕΥΑΓΓΕΛΙΟΝ
 2. †.ϥΕΛΛΩ ΕΤΕ ΟΥ.ΠΑΡΘΕΝΟC ΤΕ