

The Coptic Language

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Lesson 2

Review

The Bohairic dialect has two distinct types of definite articles (e.g., ‘the’ in English) in the singular. The longer form is referred to as ‘Strong’ and the shorter one is labeled as ‘Weak’.

Type	Singular مفرد		Plural جمع
	Masculine مذكر	Feminine مؤنث	
Strong	πι	ϑ	NI NEN
Weak	̀π ̀ϕ	̀τ ̀ϑ	

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	
̀ϕνοϣϥ	God الله	Πινοϣϥ	the god الإله
̀τϕε	Heaven السماء	ϥϕε ̀ϖβερι	the new heaven السماء الجديدة

Plural Nouns

The main article is NI (in special cases NEN can be used). NEN has very limited use. It can be used when relating a plural name to another name, e.g., the sons of Israel نενωηρι ̀ϖΠισραηλ. Even in this situation, NI can be used; نيωηρι ̀ϖΠισραηλ

Examples

Plural	Singular	Meaning	Arabic
ΝΙCΝΗOϣ	ΠΙCΟΝ	the brother	الأخ
ΝΙϨOϡ	ΠΙϨOϡ	the book	الكتاب
ΝΙΑϨϨΕΛΟC	ΠΙΑϨϨΕΛΟC	the angel	الملاك
ΝΙOϡΗΡΙ	̀ΠOϡΗΡΙ	the son	الابن
Πινοϣϥ	̀ϕνοϣϥ	(the) God	الإله

ΝΙ ΙΟΪ	ἸΩΤ	the father	الأب
ΝΙΡΑΝ	ἸΡΑΝ	the name	الاسم
ΝΙΠΑΡΘΕΝΟΣ	ΪΠΑΡΘΕΝΟΣ	the virgin	العذراء
ΝΙΜΑΥ	ἸΜΑΥ	the mother	الأم
ΝΙΦΗΟΥΙ	ἸΦΕ	the heaven	السماء

The use of the word “ΝΕΩ” which means “and” or “with”

The original meaning of this word is “with”, but it is very commonly used to mean “and” when it comes between two nouns (not verbs).

Examples

ΦΙΩΤ ΝΕΩ ΠΩΗΡΙ	The Father and the Son	الأب والابن
ΠΑΙΩΤ ΝΕΩ ΤΑΜΑΥ	My Dad and my Mom	الأب والأم
ΠΑΣΟΝ ΝΕΩ ΤΑΣΩΝΙ	My brother and my sister	الأخ والأخت
ΠΙΣΩΩ ΝΕΩ ΠΙΚΑΨ	The book and the pen	الكتاب والقلم
ΠΙΡΩΩΙ ΝΕΩ ΠΙΝΟΥΒ	The man and the gold	الرجل والذهب

Exercise

1. Translate the following into English/Arabic

باسم الأب والابن والروح القدس. إله واحد. آمين.

ἮΕΝ ἸΡΑΝ ἸΦΙΩΤ ΝΕΩ ΠΩΗΡΙ ΝΕΩ ΠΙΠΝΕΥΜΑ ΕΘΟΥΑΒ. ΟΥΝΟΥΪ ΝΟΥΩΤ. ΔΩΗΝ.

2. Read the following

ΩΝΙ	Rock, stone	صخرة أو حجر	ΩΙ	On	علي
ΤΩΟΥ	Mountain	جبل	ῥΕΛΛΟ	Old man, monk	شيخ أو راهب
ΗΙ/ΗΟΥ	House/houses	بيت أو بيوت	ῥΕΛΛΟΙ	Old men, monks	شيوخ أو رهبان
ῥΔ	Under	تحت	ΡΩΩΙ	Man	رجل
ΩΙΞΕΝ	Upon	علي	ῥΩΩΙ	Woman	امرأة
ῥΕΝ	In	في أو ب	ῥΕΛΛΩ	Old woman	شيخة

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.

The bipartite is formed in the affirmative sentence as follows:

Definite noun + Prepositional phrase **OR**
 (Definite article + Noun) + (Preposition + Definite article + Noun)
 πρωμι ει πιζοι → The man is on the ship الرجل في السفينة

The bipartite is formed in the negative sentence as follows:

Definite noun + Prepositional phrase + Negative particle
 πρωμι δεν πι ηι αν → The man is not in the house الرجل ليس في البيت

3. Read the following

<p>βεν φραν υφωτ νεμ Πωηρι νεμ Πιπνευμα εθουαβ Ϛτριάς εθουαβ νόμοοογιοσ.</p>	<p>In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, the Holy and co-essential Trinity.</p>	<p>باسم الآب والابن والروح القدس الثالث المساوي.</p>
<p>Δζια αζια αζια: †αζια Μαρια †παρθενος.</p>	<p>Worthy, worthy, worthy, St. Mary the Virgin.</p>	<p>مستحقة، مستحقة، مستحقة، القديسة مريم العذراء.</p>
<p>Δζιοσ αζιοσ αζιοσ: ω Μιχαηλ πιηιω† ηαρχιασττελοσ.</p>	<p>Worthy, worthy, worthy, Michael, the great archangel.</p>	<p>مستحق، مستحق، مستحق، رئيس الملائكة العظيم ميخائيل.</p>
<p>Δζιοσ αζιοσ αζιοσ: Δββα Πιωοι νεμ Δββα Παυλε.</p>	<p>Worthy, worthy, worthy, Abba Bishoy and Abba Paul.</p>	<p>مستحق، مستحق، مستحق، أنبا بيشوي وأنبا بولا.</p>