

# The Coptic Language

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## Lesson 5

ἮΕΝ ΦῚΡΑΝ ἠΦΙΩΤ ΝΕΜ ΠΩΗΡΙ ΝΕΜ ΠΙΠΝΕΥΑ ΕΘΟΥΑΒ. ΟΥΝΟΥΤ ἸΝΟΥΤ. ΔΑΗΝ.

**U** (mei): This is the thirteenth letter of the Coptic Alphabet, and it is conventionally pronounced as the English “m”.

ⲙⲁⲩ → mother أم

ⲙⲱⲙⲁ → body جسد

ⲙⲁⲣⲧⲩⲣⲟⲥ → martyr شهيد

**Π** (nei): This is the fourteenth letter of the Coptic Alphabet, and it is conventionally pronounced as the English “n”.

ⲛⲓⲱ → who من

ⲛⲟϥⲣⲓ → happy, delightful, good or hi سعيد

ⲛⲁⲛⲉ → good خير أو حسن

**Π** (pee): This is the seventeenth letter of the Coptic Alphabet, and it is conventionally pronounced as the English “P”.

ⲡⲣⲁⲗⲓϥ → action or deed عمل

ⲡⲁⲛⲧⲁ → every كل

ⲡⲁⲛⲧⲱϥ → certainly بالتأكيد أو اكد

**P** (ro): This is the eighteenth letter of the Coptic Alphabet, and it is conventionally pronounced as the English “R”.

ⲣⲓ → room حجرة

ⲓⲁⲣⲟ → river نهر

ⲟⲩⲣⲟ → king ملك

[ⲓⲁⲣⲱⲟⲩ → rivers أنهار]

[ⲟⲩⲣⲱⲟⲩ → kings ملوك]

Ϥ (fei): This is the twenty-second letter of the Coptic Alphabet, and it is conventionally pronounced as the English “ph”.

ϥραϤη → scripture كتب مقدسة

ϥϤε → the heaven السماء

[ⲛⲓϤⲏⲟⲩⲓ → the heavens السماوات]

Ϥⲁⲓ → this (masculine) هذا

ϥ (fai): This is the twenty-seventh letter of the Coptic Alphabet, and it is conventionally pronounced as the English “F”.

ⲛⲟϥⲣⲓ → hi or good سلام أو خير أو جيد

ϥⲟⲧⲉ → towel فوطة

ⲁϥ → meat لحم

## 1. Indefinite Article:

**1.1 form:** Coptic has two distinct indefinite articles, one for the singular ⲟⲩ- and one for the plural ϫⲁⲛ-. Like the definite article, they are prefixed directly to the nouns they modify, examples:

<u>Singular</u>		<u>Plural</u>	
ⲟⲩϫⲟⲓ	a ship سفينة	ϫⲁⲛⲉϫⲏⲟⲩ	ships, some ships سفن
ⲟⲩⲣⲱⲱⲓ	a man رجل	ϫⲁⲛⲣⲱⲱⲓ	men, some men رجال

## 1.2 uses:

**1.2.1 Singular:** The indefinite article for singular is used for both masculine and feminine. In English it is translated as ‘a’ or ‘an’ before vowel-sounding letters. It is sometimes deleted in Coptic but should always be written out when translating into English.

**1.2.2 Plural:** The indefinite article for the plural is always written out in Coptic. In English it is translated as ‘some’ or in most cases not translated. Care should be taken in translating the noun that follows it in the plural.

**2. Genitive (simple possessive):** Relationship between two nouns is expressed by the preposition  $\grave{\eta}$  ( $\grave{\eta}$ ) ‘of’, as follows:

πιηι $\grave{\eta}$ πιρωι	The house of the man بيت الرجل
†ωερι $\grave{\eta}$ †εριωι	The daughter of the woman ابنة الامراة

In special cases, the genitive preposition  $\grave{\eta}$  ( $\grave{\eta}$ ) is replaced with the fuller form  $\grave{\eta}\tau\epsilon$ , as follows:

(a) If the first noun is indefinite:

ογρωι  $\grave{\eta}\tau\epsilon$  πιθελλο      A book of the monk كتاب الراهب

(b) If the first noun has a strong definite article:

πιβωκ  $\grave{\eta}\tau\epsilon$  πιογρο      The servant of the king خادم الملك

(c) If both nouns are proper nouns:

θεν τκανα  $\grave{\eta}\tau\epsilon$  †σαλιλα      In Cana of Galilee في قانا الجليل

**3. Simple Bipartite Clause - Indefinite Nouns:** Refer to lesson 2 for definition.

**3.1 Affirmative:** In the affirmative, the bipartite is formed in the following manner:

Auxiliary verb + Indefinite noun + Prepositional phrase

or

Auxiliary verb + (Indefinite article + Noun) + Preposition + (Definite article + Noun)

ογον ογθελλο ει πιωωιτ      A monk is on the road (there is a monk on the road) راهب على الطريق

**3.3.2 Negative:** In the negative, the sentence form is as follows:

Negative auxiliary verb + Indefinite noun + Prepositional phrase

$\omega\omega\omega\omega\omega$  θελλο ει πιωωιτ      There is no monk on the road ليس هناك راهب على الطريق

Note: Before the negative auxiliary  $\omega\omega\omega\omega\omega$ , the indefinite article for the singular is deleted.

## 4. Vocabulary

βωκ	<i>m.</i>	Servant خادم	εβιαικ	<i>pl.</i>	Servants خدام
βωκι	<i>f.</i>	Maid servant خادمة	ωωογ	<i>m.</i>	Water ماء
αϑ		Meat لحم	τεβτ	<i>m.</i>	Fish سمك

εἰς	prep.	about, concerning عن	ἑρμῶ	f.	Harbor ميناء
οὐρανῶν	m.	Light نور	οὐρανῶν	pl.	kings, queens ملوك
οὐρα	f.	Queen ملكة	οὐρα	m.	King ملك
ἔστι		there is not لا يوجد	οὐκ ἔστι		there is يوجد
ἰσθμῶν		Rivers أنهار	ἰσθμῶν	m.	River نهر

**5. Exercises:** Translate the following into English/Arabic:

A)	1.	ἐξῆλθεν βασιλεῖς	6.	ἔστι ἑρμῶ
	2.	ἐκ οὐρα	7.	ἐκ ἰσθμῶν
	3.	ἐκ τῆς	8.	εἰς οὐρανῶν
	4.	ἔστι οὐρανῶν	9.	εἰς ἑρμῶν
	5.	ἔστι νηπιῶν	10.	εἰς οὐρανῶν
B)	1.	ἔστι ἰσθμῶν	4.	οὐρανῶν ἔστι ἑρμῶ
	2.	ἑρμῶν ἰσθμῶν	5.	ἑρμῶν ἰσθμῶν
	3.	νηπιῶν ἑρμῶν	6.	ἑρμῶν ἰσθμῶν
C)	1.	οὐκ ἔστι οὐρανῶν ἑρμῶν νηπιῶν	2.	ἔστι ἑρμῶν ἰσθμῶν

**Response to the Gospel during Weekends of Lent**

مرد الإنجيل أيام السبوت والأحد في الصوم الكبير

Ἐπεὶ Πενήντη ἔστι νηπιῶν:  
μαρτυροῦντο ἕνεκεν περὶ: μαρτυροῦντο ἕνεκεν  
τεκεῖτο ἑρμῶν: ἕνεκεν περὶ ἑρμῶν  
νηπιῶν.

Ἐπεὶ ἑρμῶν ἑρμῶν ἑρμῶν  
Πνεῦμα: ἑρμῶν Πνεῦμα ἑρμῶν: Πνεῦμα  
ἑρμῶν ἑρμῶν: ἑρμῶν ἑρμῶν  
ἑρμῶν ἑρμῶν.

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed by Your name, may Your kingdom come, for Yours is the glory forever.

Blessed be the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, the perfect Trinity. We worship Him and glorify Him.

أبانا الذي في السموات ليتقدس اسمك ليأت ملكوتك لأن لك المجد إلى الأبد.

مبارك الآب والابن والروح القدس، الثالوث الكامل، نسجد له ونمجده.