

Lesson Ten
Πρω ἄμαρ μητ
The Pronunciation of Coptic
Letters in Greek words

Ϣ + Ϡ = Z	Πλᾶσιμα : creation
Ν + Ϟ = D	ἐντολὴ : commandment ἁγνῆτιον : handkerchief
Ϡ + ᾀ, ο, ω, Ϡ = KH (خ) + Ϣ, ι, Η, ϣ = SH (ش)	Χάρισμα : grace (gift) Χερε : Hail
Ο + Ι = e	λοιπὸν : also
ᾀ + Ι = a	καί : and

Exercise (1)

Read and memorize the examples in the table.
 Practice writing each word a few times.

Few hints to differentiate Coptic words from Greek words

Coptic Words	Greek Words
1. contain one or more of the Demotic ¹ letters : Ϡ, ϣ, Ϛ, ϛ, Ϟ, ϟ, †	Demotic letters do not exist in Greek alphabet.
2. -----	Contain letters ϣ, λ
3. -----	Most of the time : end with the syllable : ᾀϢ, οϢ, ΗϢ, οΝ or letters : ᾀ or Η
4. One word only contain letter (ϛ) : ᾀΝϛΗᾀ : school	Contain letter ϛ

¹ The Egyptian original script (Hieroglyphic) was time consuming because it required elaborate drawings. A simplified version of the Hieroglyphic script, invented and used by the priests and authorities, was called the "Heratic" script. For the purpose of exchanging written texts among people, a more simplified version of the script -- called the Demotic script -- was derived and used during the intermediate Kingdom. At about 200 BC, Greek was understood in places like Alexandria due to the influence of the Greek culture and religion. In fact many Greek words entered the Egyptian (Coptic) language at that time. The Egyptians adopted a phonetic Greek alphabet for their language since about 200 BC. To suit their language, they incorporated some Demotic letters, that varied from 5 to 11 and finally settled for seven Demotic letters, forming a 32 alphabet for the Coptic language.

Exercise (2)

Read, write and memorize the following words :

1. ΛΟΓΟΣ : word
2. ΠΡΟΦΗΤΗΣ : prophet
3. ΔΟΞΑ : glory
4. ΑΡΧΗ : chief , beginning.