

Lesson Twelve

Πρω ἕμαρ μἠτ ἕναϣ

Syllables

The Coptic word may consist of one or more syllables.

Types of syllables:

1. Open syllable which ends with a vowel : e.g. **ἕα** : Place
2. Closed syllable which ends with a consonant :
e.g. **ἠϣ** : to read

A syllable is a part of a word which consist of :

1. A vowel
2. Two vowels compounded into one sound (**αι**).
3. Consonant and a vowel.
4. Consonant with jinkim (**π̣**).
5. Consonant and a compound sound (**ϣαι**).
6. More than one consonant and a vowel (**ϣομτ** : three {3}).

Dividing the word into syllables facilitates reading.

Examples :

- 1) Two syllable word : **βα|κι** : city
- 2) Three syllable word : **μο|να|χοc** : monk
- 3) Four syllable word : **ἕ|ϣ|ρη|τ̣** : like, as
- 4) Five syllable word : **εϣ|λο|ση|με|νοc** : blessed

Exercise: Divide the following words into syllables and write them:

1. μαρτυρος

6. θεος

2. ἕταρος

7. μετμαρτυρος

3. εθουαβ

8. αρχη

4. πιχριστος

9. αγγελος

5. ιεροναλιμ

10. πιεναγγελιστης