

OUTLINE OF SAHIDIC COPTIC MORPHOLOGY

Lance Eccles

PRONOUN PREFIXES AND SUFFIXES

Pronoun prefixes

The 1 sing., 1 plur. and 3 plur. forms vary in the two columns.

person	If conjugation prefix precedes	If no conjugation prefix precedes
1 sing	ⲓ	ⲧ
2 sing masc	ⲕ	ⲕ
3 sing masc	ϥ	ϥ
3 sing fem	ϥ	ϥ
1 plur	ⲛ	ⲧⲛ
2 plur	ⲧⲈⲧⲛ	ⲧⲈⲧⲛ
3 plur	Ⲑⲗ or ⲗ	ϥⲈ

Pronoun suffixes

The preceding verb or preposition takes its pronominal form, except before the long 2pl. form.

1 sing	ⲓ	after single vowel
	ⲧ	elsewhere (but zero after ⲧ)
2 sing masc	ⲕ	
3 sing masc	ϥ	
3 sing fem	ϥ	
1 plur	ⲛ	
2 plur (short)	ⲧⲛ̄	after ⲁ (which becomes Ⲟ) after ⲱ
2 plur (long)	ⲧⲞⲗⲧⲛ̄	after Ⲑ (which becomes ⲱ) elsewhere (verb in construct)
3 plur	Ⲑⲗ or ⲗ	occasionally ϥⲐⲗ

Second person singular

The second person singular feminine prefixes and suffixes are rarer and less regular in form. They are given later.

VERB CONJUGATIONS

The converters

Prefixes placed before conjugation prefixes, personal prefixes or noun subject.

Converter	Form	Function
preterite	NE NEPE before noun	Shifts tense back one degree into past.
circumstantial	E EPE before noun	Subordinates verb (or verbless clause) to another verb.
focalisation	E EPE before noun NT before perfect	Focuses on some element in the clause. E (EPE) can be used to convert present, future, and aorist.
relative	ET, ETE ETEP before noun NT or ENT before perfect	'Which', 'who', 'that'. Relates clause to antecedent.

Durative Conjugations (present and future)

Present ...

I am seeing

†'NAØ

K'NAØ

q'NAØ

C'NAØ

πρωμε NAØ

TN'NAØ

TETN'NAØ

CE'NAØ

Future ...NA

I shall see

†'NA'NAØ

K'NA'NAØ

q'NA'NAØ

C'NA'NAØ

πρωμε NA'NAØ

TNA'NAØ

TETNA'NAØ

CE'NA'NAØ

Focalised present E...*

It is... that I am seeing

E'INAØ

E'K'NAØ

E'q'NAØ

E'C'NAØ

EPE πρωμε NAØ

E'N'NAØ

E'TETN'NAØ

E'Ø'NAØ

Focalised future E...NA**

It is... that I will see

E'INA'NAØ

E'K'NA'NAØ

E'q'NA'NAØ

E'C'NA'NAØ

EPE πρωμε NA'NAØ

E'N'NA'NAØ

E'TETNA'NAØ

E'Ø'NA'NAØ

*Same forms as circumstantial present *me seeing*.

**Same forms as circumstantial future *me being about to see*.

Present with preterite conversion

NE...

I was seeing

NE'INAØ

NE'K'NAØ

NE'q'NAØ

NE'C'NAØ

NEPE πρωμε NAØ

NE'N'NAØ

NE'TETN'NAØ

NE'Ø'NAØ

Future with preterite conversion

NE...NA

I would have seen

NE'INA'NAØ

NE'K'NA'NAØ

NE'q'NA'NAØ

NE'C'NA'NAØ

NEPE πρωμε NA'NAØ

NE'N'NA'NAØ

NE'TETNA'NAØ

NE'Ø'NA'NAØ

Non-durative Conjugations

Perfect α...*

I saw

ἀ·Γ·Ναϑ	ἀ·Ν·Ναϑ
ἀ·Κ·Ναϑ	ἀ·ΤΕΤῆ·Ναϑ
ἀ·Ϙ·Ναϑ	ἀ·ϑ·Ναϑ
ἀ·C·Ναϑ	
α πρωμε ναϑ	

Negative perfect ᾠπε...**

I did not see

ᾠπ·Γ·Ναϑ	ᾠπε·Ν·Ναϑ
ᾠπε·Κ·Ναϑ	ᾠπε·ΤΕΤῆ·Ναϑ
ᾠπε·Ϙ·Ναϑ	ᾠπε·ϑ·Ναϑ
ᾠπε·C·Ναϑ	
ᾠπε πρωμε ναϑ	

* Preterite conversion ('I had seen'): Νε·ἀ·Γ·Ναϑ, Νε·α πρωμε ναϑ etc.

** Preterite conversion ('I had not seen'): Νε·ᾠπ·Γ·Ναϑ etc.

Focalised perfect ἄτα...*

It was... that I saw

ἄτα·Γ·Ναϑ	ἄτα·Ν·Ναϑ
ἄτα·Κ·Ναϑ	ἄτα·ΤΕΤῆ·Ναϑ
ἄτα·Ϙ·Ναϑ	ἄτα·ϑ·Ναϑ
ἄτα·C·Ναϑ	
ἄτα πρωμε ναϑ	

Circumstantial perfect ε·α...

me having seen

ε·α·Γ·Ναϑ	ε·α·Ν·Ναϑ
ε·α·Κ·Ναϑ	ε·α·ΤΕΤῆ·Ναϑ
ε·α·Ϙ·Ναϑ	ε·α·ϑ·Ναϑ
ε·α·C·Ναϑ	
ε·α πρωμε ναϑ	

* The relative perfect *which I saw* is ἄτα·Γ·Ναϑ or εντα·Γ·Ναϑ.

Aorist ὤα...

I am accustomed to see

ὤα·Γ·Ναϑ	ὤα·Ν·Ναϑ
ὤα·Κ·Ναϑ	ὤα·ΤΕΤῆ·Ναϑ
ὤα·Ϙ·Ναϑ	ὤα·ϑ·Ναϑ
ὤα·C·Ναϑ	
ὤαρε πρωμε ναϑ	

Negative aorist με...

I am not accustomed to see

με·Γ·Ναϑ	με·Ν·Ναϑ
με·Κ·Ναϑ	με·ΤΕΤῆ·Ναϑ
με·Ϙ·Ναϑ	με·ϑ·Ναϑ
με·C·Ναϑ	
μερε πρωμε ναϑ	

Optative ε...ε

I will see, thou shalt see

ε·Γ·ε·Ναϑ	ε·Ν·ε·Ναϑ
ε·Κ·ε·Ναϑ	ε·ΤΕΤῆ·ε·Ναϑ
ε·Ϙ·ε·Ναϑ	ε·ϑ·ε·Ναϑ
ε·C·ε·Ναϑ	
ερε πρωμε ναϑ	

Negative optative ἄνε...

I will not see, thou shalt not see

ἄνα·Ναϑ	ἄνε·Ν·Ναϑ
ἄνε·Κ·Ναϑ	ἄνε·ΤΕΤῆ·Ναϑ
ἄνε·Ϙ·Ναϑ	ἄνε·ϑ·Ναϑ
ἄνε·C·Ναϑ	
ἄνε πρωμε ναϑ	

Conditional ε...ὤαν

If/ when I see

ε·Γ·ὤαν·Ναϑ	ε·Ν·ὤαν·Ναϑ
ε·Κ·ὤαν·Ναϑ	ε·ΤΕΤῆ·ὤαν·Ναϑ
ε·Ϙ·ὤαν·Ναϑ	ε·ϑ·ὤαν·Ναϑ
ε·C·ὤαν·Ναϑ	
ερὤαν πρωμε ναϑ	

Negative conditional ε...τᾠ*

If I do not see

ε·Γ·τᾠ·Ναϑ	ε·Ν·τᾠ·Ναϑ
ε·Κ·τᾠ·Ναϑ	ε·ΤΕΤῆ·τᾠ·Ναϑ
ε·Ϙ·τᾠ·Ναϑ	ε·ϑ·τᾠ·Ναϑ
ε·C·τᾠ·Ναϑ	
ερε πρωμε τᾠ·Ναϑ	

* ὤαν of the positive form may be retained: εϘὤαντᾠ·Ναϑ.

Temporal $\bar{\eta}$ τερε...

When I saw

$\bar{\eta}$ τερ·Γ·Ναο	$\bar{\eta}$ τερε·Ν·Ναο
$\bar{\eta}$ τερε·Κ·Ναο	$\bar{\eta}$ τερε·τετ $\bar{\eta}$ ·Ναο
$\bar{\eta}$ τερε·Ϛ·Ναο	$\bar{\eta}$ τερε·ο·Ναο
$\bar{\eta}$ τερε·ς·Ναο	
$\bar{\eta}$ τερε πρωμε Ναο	

'Until' ψ ανт...

Until I see

ψ ανт·Ναο	ψ ανт· $\bar{\eta}$ ·Ναο
ψ ανт·Κ·Ναο	ψ ανт·τεт $\bar{\eta}$ ·Ναο
ψ ανт·Ϛ·Ναο	ψ ανт·ο·Ναο
ψ ανт·ς·Ναο	
ψ ανтe πρωμε Ναο	

'Not yet' $\bar{\mu}$ παт...

I have not yet seen

$\bar{\mu}$ παт·Ναο	$\bar{\mu}$ παт· $\bar{\eta}$ ·Ναο
$\bar{\mu}$ παт·Κ·Ναο	$\bar{\mu}$ παт·τεт $\bar{\eta}$ ·Ναο
$\bar{\mu}$ παт·Ϛ·Ναο	$\bar{\mu}$ παт·ο·Ναο
$\bar{\mu}$ παт·ς·Ναο	
$\bar{\mu}$ παтe πρωμε Ναο	

Causative тρε...*

cause me to see

тра·Ναο	тρε·Ν·Ναο
тρε·Κ·Ναο	тρε·τεт $\bar{\eta}$ ·Ναο
тρε·Ϛ·Ναο	тρε·ο·Ναο
тρε·ς·Ναο	
тρε πρωμε Ναο	

* тρε can take various prefixes:

 φ ·тρε·Ϛ·Ναο he causes him to see α ·Ϛ·тρε·Ϛ·Ναο he caused him to see $\bar{\mu}$ $\bar{\eta}$ · $\bar{\eta}$ · α ·тρε·Ϛ·Ναο after he saw ρ $\bar{\mu}$ ·π·тρε·Ϛ·Ναο while he sees/saw**Conjunctive** $\bar{\eta}$...

and I see

$\bar{\eta}$ та·Ναο	$\bar{\eta}$ ·т $\bar{\eta}$ ·Ναο
$\bar{\eta}$ ·т·Ναο	$\bar{\eta}$ ·τεт $\bar{\eta}$ ·Ναο
$\bar{\eta}$ ·Ϛ·Ναο	$\bar{\eta}$ ·се·Ναο
$\bar{\eta}$ ·ς·Ναο	
$\bar{\eta}$ тe πρωμε Ναο	

Future Conjunctive таρε...*

and I will see

таρ·Γ·Ναο	таρ· $\bar{\eta}$ ·Ναο
таρε·Κ·Ναο	таρε·т $\bar{\eta}$ ·Ναο
таρε·Ϛ·Ναο	таρ·ο·Ναο
таρε·ς·Ναο	
таρε πρωμε Ναο	

* $\bar{\eta}$ may be prefixed to all these forms ($\bar{\eta}$ таρε...).**Jussive** μαρε...

Let me see

μαρ·Γ·Ναο	μαρ· $\bar{\eta}$ ·Ναο
μαρε·Κ·Ναο*	μαρε·т $\bar{\eta}$ ·Ναο*
μαρε·Ϛ·Ναο	μαρ·ο·Ναο
μαρε·ς·Ναο	
μαρε πρωμε Ναο	

Negative jussive $\bar{\mu}$ π $\bar{\rho}$ тρε...

Let me not see

$\bar{\mu}$ π $\bar{\rho}$ ·тра·Ναο	$\bar{\mu}$ π $\bar{\rho}$ ·тρε·Ν·Ναο
$\bar{\mu}$ π $\bar{\rho}$ ·тρε·Κ·Ναο	$\bar{\mu}$ π $\bar{\rho}$ ·тρε·τεт $\bar{\eta}$ ·Ναο
$\bar{\mu}$ π $\bar{\rho}$ ·тρε·Ϛ·Ναο	$\bar{\mu}$ π $\bar{\rho}$ ·тρε·ο·Ναο
$\bar{\mu}$ π $\bar{\rho}$ ·тρε·ς·Ναο	
$\bar{\mu}$ π $\bar{\rho}$ ·тρε πρωμε Ναο	

*The 2nd person forms may not actually occur.

FORMS OF THE VERB

A Coptic verb can have as many as four forms, each with a different function.

1. Absolute

The “default” form found in dictionaries.

Some common patterns (C = consonant).

(i) CωC

ϣωπ hide

If the first consonant is ϯ or ϩ, ω becomes οϣ: ϯοϣρ bind.

(ii) CωCC

ϭωλπ reveal

If the first consonant is ϯ or ϩ, ω becomes οϣ: ϩοϣτϩ loosen.

(iii) τ...ο

Verbs that begin with τ and end with ο usually have a causative meaning:

τḅḅο cleanse

(iv) C¹οC²C¹C²

Two-syllable reduplicated verbs stressed on the first syllable:

ϣοτϣτ examine

(v) C¹C²οC³C²C³

Same pattern as (iv), but with an extra consonant at the beginning:

ϣτορτḅ disturb

(vi) CCοC

These verbs have an adjectival meaning:

ϣλοϭ become sweet

Besides these, there are various other patterns.

2. Construct

This is the unstressed form used when a noun object follows immediately. The stress shift from the verb to the noun, and the vowel of the verb is reduced in quality. Only transitive verbs have a construct form.

Patterns corresponding to the absolute patterns above.

(i) CεC

ϣεπ hide

(ii) CεCC

ϭελπ reveal

(iii) τ...ε

τḅḅε cleanse

(iv) C¹εC²C¹C²

ϣετϣτ examine

(v) C¹C²C³C²C³

ϣτḅτḅ disturb

(vi) Verbs following this pattern are intransitive.

3. Pronominal

This is the form taken when a pronoun object suffix is attached. Only transitive verbs have a pronominal form.

Patterns corresponding to the absolute patterns above.

(i) CoC

ϱοπ hide

If the second consonant is ϱ (or sometimes υ), ο changes to α:

καρ make level (from κωρ)

(ii) CoCC

σολπ reveal

If the second consonant is ϱ (or sometimes υ), ο changes to α:

σαρμ defile (from σωμ)

(iii) T...O

τββο cleanse

(iv) C¹εC²C¹ωC²

ρετωτ examine

The stress moves to the second syllable.

(v) C¹C²C³C²ωC³

υτρτωρ disturb

The stress moves to the second syllable.

vi) Verbs following this pattern are intransitive.

4. Qualitative

The qualitative expresses a state resulting from the verbal process. Semantically it resembles a participle in a European language.

Patterns corresponding to the absolute patterns above.

(i) CHC

ρηπ hidden

(ii) CoCC

σολπ revealed

If the second consonant is ϱ, ο changes to α: σαρμ defiled, polluted.

(iii) T...Hσ, T...HσT

τββησ cleansed, pure

τακησT destroyed (from τακο)

(iv) C¹εC²C¹ωC²

ρετωτ examined

The stress moves to the second syllable.

(v) C¹C²C³C²ωC³

υτρτωρ disturbed

The stress moves to the second syllable.

vi) CoCC

ρολσ sweet

SOME SUFFIX VERBS

<p>ΠΕΞΔ·Ι ΠΕΞΔ·Κ ΠΕΞΔ·Υ ΠΕΞΔ·Σ ΠΕΞΔ·Ν ΠΕΞΗ·Τῆ ΠΕΞΔ·Ϻ ΠΕΞΕ Π·ΡΩΜΕ</p>	<p>I said etc. the man said</p>
<p>ΟῚῆΤΑ·Ι ΟῚῆΤΑ·Κ ΟῚῆΤΑ·Υ ΟῚῆΤΑ·Σ ΟῚῆΤΑ·Ν ΟῚῆΤΗ·Τῆ ΟῚῆΤΑ·Ϻ ΟῚῆΤΕ Π·ΡΩΜΕ</p>	<p>I have etc. the man has</p>
<p>ΜῆΤΑ·Ι ΜῆΤΑ·Κ ΜῆΤΑ·Υ ΜῆΤΑ·Σ ΜῆΤΑ·Ν ΜῆΤΗ·Τῆ ΜῆΤΑ·Ϻ ΜῆΤΕ Π·ΡΩΜΕ</p>	<p>I don't have etc. the man doesn't have</p>
OTHER EXAMPLES	
<p>ΝΕΣΩ·Σ ΝΕΣΕ ΤΕΣΩΜΕ ΤΕΣΩΜΕ ΕΤ·ΝΕΣΩ·Σ</p>	<p>she is beautiful the woman is beautiful the woman who is beautiful (= the beautiful woman)</p>
<p>ΝΑΝΟϺ·Υ ΝΑΝΟϺ·Σ ΝΑΝΟϺ ΠΡΩΜΕ ΠΡΩΜΕ ΕΤ·ΝΑΝΟϺ·Υ</p>	<p>he is good she is good The man is good the man who is good (= the good man)</p>
<p>ΠΛΗΗΨΕ ΕΤ·ΝΑΨΩ·Υ ΝΑΨΕ ΝΕΝ·ΝΟΒΕ</p>	<p>the crowd that is numerous (= the big crowd) our sins are numerous</p>

NEGATION OF VERBS

In most conjugations, the verb is negated by placing ΔΝ ‘not’ after the verb.
Optionally ᾠ may be placed before the verb:

ϣ·ΝΑ·ΝΑϞ ερο·ϣ	He will see him.
(ᾠ) ϣ·ΝΑ·ΝΑϞ ερο·ϣ ΔΝ	He will not see him.

However, certain verbal prefixes have special negative forms:

Optative

ε...ε	ᾠΝε
ε·ϣ·ε·οϞομ·ϣ	ᾠΝε·ϣ·οϞομ·ϣ
He shall eat it.	He shall not eat it.

Perfect

Δ	ᾠΠε
Δ·ϣ·οϞομ·ϣ	ᾠΠε·ϣ·οϞομ·ϣ
He ate it.	He didn't eat it.

Aorist

ϠΔ	Με
ϠΔ·ϣ·βωκ	Με·ϣ·βωκ
He is accustomed to go.	He doesn't go.

Imperative

—	ᾠΠῚ
ϭωτᾠ	ᾠΠῚ·ϭωτᾠ
Listen!	Don't listen!

Jussive

ΜΔρε	ᾠΠῚτρε
ΜΔρε·ϣ·ϭωτᾠ	ᾠΠῚ·τρε·ϣ·ϭωτᾠ
Let him hear. (May he hear.)	Let him not hear. (May he not hear.)
	τρε = ‘cause’, ‘let’

Conditional

ε...ϠΔΝ	ε...ϠΔΝτᾠ or ε...τᾠ
ε·ϣ·ϠΔΝ·βωκ	ε·ϣ·ϠΔΝ·τᾠ·βωκ or ε·ϣ·τᾠ·βωκ
If/when he goes	If he doesn't go

Conjunctive

ᾠ	ᾠ...τᾠ
ϣ·ΝΑ·ϑε ᾠ·ϣ·τωοϞΝ	ϣ·ΝΑ·ϑε ᾠ·ϣ·τᾠ·τωοϞΝ
He will fall and rise.	He will fall and not rise.

Infinitive

ε	ε·τᾠ
ε·ΝΑϞ	ε·τᾠ·ΝΑϞ
To see.	Not to see.

PRONOUNS

ΔΝΟΚ, ΔΝῚ-	I	ΔΝΟΝ, ΔΝῚ-	we
ἸΤΟΚ, ἸΤῚ-	thou	ἸΤΩΤῚ, ἸΤΕΤῚ-	ye
ἸΤΟΥ, ἸΤῚ-	he	ἸΤΟΥΘ	they
ἸΤΟΣ	she		

ΠΔ ΤΔ ΝΔ	my*	ΠΕΝ ΤΕΝ ΝΕΝ	our
ΠΕΚ ΤΕΚ ΝΕΚ	thy	ΠΕΤῚ ΤΕΤῚ ΝΕΤῚ	your
ΠΕΥ ΤΕΥ ΝΕΥ	his	ΠΕΘ ΤΕΘ ΝΕΘ	their
ΠΕC ΤΕC ΝΕC	her		

*See note at bottom of page.

ΠΩΙ ΤΩΙ ΝΟῚΙ	mine	ΠΩΝ ΤΩΝ ΝΟῚΝ	ours
ΠΩΚ ΤΩΚ ΝΟῚΚ	thine	ΠΩΤῚ ΤΩΤῚ ΝΟῚΤῚ	yours
ΠΩΥ ΤΩΥ ΝΟῚΥ	his	ΠΩΘ ΤΩΘ ΝΟῚΘ	theirs
ΠΩC ΤΩC ΝΟῚC	hers		

Emphatic pronouns

ῶ (ῶΩ, ῶΩΤ)	myself	ῶΩΝ	ourselves
ῶΩΚ	thyself	ῶΩΤ ΤΗῚΤῚ	yourselves
ῶΩΥ	himself	ῶΩΘ	themselves
ῶΩC	herself		

Reciprocal pronouns (-ερηῚ)

ΝΕΝΕΡΗῚ	one another [of ourselves]
ΝΕΤῚΕΡΗῚ	one another [of yourselves]
ΝΕΘΕΡΗῚ	one another [of themselves]

Nexus pronoun

ΠΕ ΤΕ ΝΕ	[equivalent of copula: is/are/was/were]
----------	---

DEMONSTRATIVES

Π-, ΠΕ-	Τ-, ΤΕ-	Ἰ-, ΝΕ-	the + NOUN
ΠΙ-	†-	ΝΙ-	the (emphatic — rare)
ΠΔΙ, ΠΔΕΙ	ΤΔΙ, ΤΔΕΙ	ΝΔΙ, ΝΔΕΙ	this/these one/s
ΠΕΙ, ΠΕΕΙ, ΠΙ	ΤΕΙ, ΤΕΕΙ, ΤΙ	ΝΕΙ, ΝΕΕΙ, ΝΙ	this/these + NOUN
ΠΗ	ΤΗ	ΝΗ	that/those one/s
Π-...ΕΤῚΜΔΘ	Τ-...ΕΤῚΜΔΘ	Ν-...ΕΤῚΜΔΘ	that/those + NOUN
ΠΔ-	ΤΔ-	ΝΔ-	the one/s belonging to + NOUN*

*Demonstrative ΠΔ ΤΔ ΝΔ are distinguishable from the 'my' possessives in that the noun, if it is not a proper noun, will usually be preceded by the definite article. The 'my' possessives are never attached to an article: ΠΔ ΤῚϣῚΕῚΕΤ 'the one belonging to the bride'; ΤΔ ῚϣῚΕῚΕΤ 'my bride'.

Occasionally, demonstrative ΠΔ ΤΔ ΝΔ can also mean "the one possessing".

SOME COMMON PREPOSITIONS

Before a noun	Before a pronoun suffix (3 sing masc illustrated)	Meaning
ն̄	առօօց	(object marker)
ն̄	նաօց	to, for (dative marker)
Don't confuse these prepositions with the genitive marker ու (‘of’).		
և	երօց	to
սը	սընթաց	towards, as far as
ևն	ևնաօց	with
ըն	ընդհատօց	in
ըսն	ըստօց	upon
ըսն	ըստօց	upon, over
ետե	ետեհատօց	because of
օտե	օտեհատօց	against
առն	առնատօց	without
ըն	ընթաց	under
նե	նեց	after

NUMERALS

units (1–9)

	masc.	fem.	construct (before hundreds, thousands)	after tens (11–98)
1	ο̄ϑα	ο̄ϑει		-ο̄ϑε (m), -ο̄ϑει (f)
2	ϷΝΔϑ	ϷΝ̄ΤΕ		-ϷΝ̄ΟΟϑϷ (m), -ϷΝ̄ΟΟϑϷΕ (f)
3	ϷΟΜ̄ΝΤ	ϷΟΜΤΕ	ϷΜ̄Τ-, ϷΜ̄ΝΤ-	-ϷΟΜΤΕ
4	Ϸ̄ΤΟΟϑ	Ϸ̄ΤΟΕ, Ϸ̄ΤΟ	Ϸ̄ΤΟϑ-, Ϸ̄ΤΕϑ	-ΔϷΤΕ
5	†ο̄ϑ	†ε		-ΤΗ
6	ϷΟΟϑ	ϷΟΕ, ϷΟ	ϷΕϑ-	-ΔϷΕ
7	ϷΔϷϷ̄	ϷΔϷϷΕ		-ϷΔϷϷ, -ϷΔϷϷΕ
8	ϷΜΟϑΝ	ϷΜΟϑΝΕ		-ϷΜΗΝ, -ϷΜΗΝΕ
9	ϷΙϷ, ϷΙΤ	ϷΙΤΕ		

tens (10–90)

	masc.	fem.	construct (unit following)
10	ΜΗΤ	ΜΗΤΕ	Μ̄ΝΤ-
20	ΞΟϑΩΤ	ΞΟϑΩΤΕ	ΞΟϑΤ-
30	ΜΔΔΒ	ΜΔΔΒΕ	ΜΔΒ-
40	ϷΜΕ		
50	ΤΔΙΟϑ		
60	ϷΕ		
70	ϷϷΕ, ϷϷϷΕ		
80	ϷΜΕΝΕ		ϷΜΝΕ-
90	Π̄ϷΤΔΙΟϑ		ϷΔΙΤ-

hundreds (100–900)

		or
100	ჟე	
200	ჟჰტ	
300	ჟჰნ̄ტ ჟე	ჟოჰნ̄ტ ნ̄ ჟე
400	ჟ̄ტოჯ ჟე	ჟ̄ტოოჯ ნ̄ ჟე
500		ჟოჯ ნ̄ ჟე
600	ჯეჯ ჟე	ჯოოჯ ნ̄ ჟე
700		ჯაჟჟ̄ ნ̄ ჟე
800		ჟჰოჯნ̄ ნ̄ ჟე
900		ჟჰტ ნ̄ ჟე

thousands (1000–10 000)

		or
1000	ჟო	
2000	ჟო ცნაჯ	
3000	ჟჰნ̄ტ ჟო	ჟოჰნ̄ტ ნ̄ ჟო
4000	ჟ̄ტოჯ ჟო	ჟ̄ტოოჯ ნ̄ ჟო
5000	ცICTბა	
6000	ჯეჯ ჟო	ჯოოჯ ნ̄ ჟო
7000		ჯაჟჟ̄ ნ̄ ჟო
8000		ჟჰოჯნ̄ ნ̄ ჟო
9000		ჟჰტ ნ̄ ჟო
10 000	ტბა	

Ordinals: prefix მეჯ-

COPTIC/GREEK LETTERS AS NUMERALS

$\bar{\alpha}$	α'	1	ⲟⲩⲁ		$\bar{\rho}$	ρ'	100	ϣϵ
$\bar{\beta}$	β'	2	ϢⲚⲁⲩ		$\bar{\sigma}$	σ'	200	ϣⲏⲧ
$\bar{\gamma}$	γ'	3	ϣⲟⲙⲛⲧ		$\bar{\tau}$	τ'	300	ϣⲙⲛⲧϣϵ
$\bar{\delta}$	δ'	4	ϥⲧⲟⲟⲩ		$\bar{\upsilon}$	υ'	400	ϥⲧⲟⲟⲩ ⲛ ϣϵ
$\bar{\epsilon}$	ε'	5	ⲧⲟⲩ		$\bar{\phi}$	φ'	500	ⲧⲟⲩ ⲛ ϣϵ
$\bar{\varsigma}$	ς'	6	Ϣⲟⲟⲩ		$\bar{\chi}$	χ'	600	Ϣⲟⲟⲩ ⲛ ϣϵ
$\bar{\zeta}$	ζ'	7	Ϣⲁϣϥ		$\bar{\psi}$	ψ'	700	Ϣⲁϣϥ ⲛ ϣϵ
$\bar{\eta}$	η'	8	ϣⲙⲟⲩⲛ		$\bar{\omega}$	ω'	800	ϣⲙⲟⲩⲛ ⲛ ϣϵ
$\bar{\theta}$	θ'	9	ϣⲓⲧ		$\bar{\lambda}$	λ'	900	ϣⲓⲧ ⲛ ϣϵ
$\bar{\iota}$	ι'	10	ⲙⲏⲧ					
$\bar{\kappa}$	κ'	20	Ϩⲟⲩⲱⲧ					
$\bar{\lambda}$	λ'	30	ⲙⲁⲁⲃ					
$\bar{\mu}$	μ'	40	ϩⲙϵ					
$\bar{\nu}$	ν'	50	ⲧⲁϵⲓⲟⲩ					
$\bar{\xi}$	ξ'	60	Ϣϵ					
$\bar{\omicron}$	ο'	70	ϣϥϵ					
$\bar{\pi}$	π'	80	ϩⲙϵⲛϵ					
$\bar{\varphi}$	φ'	90	ⲛϢⲧⲁⲓⲟⲩ					

$$\overline{\varphi\theta} = \Delta\text{MHN}$$

$$\Delta\text{MHN} = 1 + 40 + 8 + 50 = 99 = \overline{\varphi\theta}$$

THE CONDITIONAL (“IF”)

The sentence contains two halves: the *protasis* (the “if” clause), and the *apodosis* (the “then” clause).

The Real Conditional (it could happen)

ε...ἤλθῃ... or εἰῤἥλθῃ...

PROTASIS	APODOSIS
εἰῤἥλθῃ οὐδὲ βῶκ ἐροῦσθῆν ῥῆτοοτ	ϕῆνα·οὐ·ᾶδῆι.
If one goes in by me	he will be saved.
ε·τετῆ·ἤλθῃ τὰρ κω εβὸλ ἡ ἡ·ρωμε ἡ νεῦ·νοβε	ϕῆνα·κω ῥωω·ϕ ηη·τῆ εβὸλ ἡγι πῆτῆ·εἰωτ ετ·ῥῆ ᾠ·πῆθε.
For if you forgive to men their sins	your father who is in the heavens will himself forgive to you.

The *protasis* may be preceded by εἰῤἥωπτε or εἰῤἥξε (“if”), or by κἀν (“even if”).

The Unreal Conditional (it won’t/didn’t happen)

Protasis: εἰνε... (circumstantial + preterite converter)
εἰνερε... with noun subject

Apodosis: νε...ηδ... (preterite converter + future)
νερε... ηδ... with noun subject

εἰνε·ϕ·κοοῦσθῆν ἡγι π·ᾶοεις ᾠ π·ηι	νε·ϕ·ηδ·κἀδ·ῥ δῆν ε ῥωτῶ ε πεϕ·ηι.
If the master of the house knew [or had known]	he would not allow [or would not have allowed] them to break in to his house.

RELATIVES ΕΤ, ΕΤΕ, ΕΤΕΡΕ, ΕΝΤΑ

Durative conjugations

Relative present conjugation

Antecedent is doing the action in the relative clause. No pronoun prefix after ΕΤ.

πρωμε ετ'οσωμ ἄμοϋ	The man who is eating it
ἄρωμε ετ'οσωμ ἄμοϋ	The men who are eating it

Antecedent is having the action done to it in the relative clause.

ποεικ εϕ'οσωμ ἄμοϋ	The loaf that I eat
ποεικ ετ'ῤ'οσωμ ἄμοϋ	The loaf that you eat
ποεικ ετ'ῆ'οσωμ ἄμοϋ	The loaf that he eats
ποεικ ετ'Ὶ'οσωμ ἄμοϋ	The loaf that she eats
ποεικ ετ'ἢ'οσωμ ἄμοϋ	The loaf that we eat
ποεικ ετετἢ'οσωμ ἄμοϋ	The loaf that you eat
ποεικ ετ'οσ'οσωμ ἄμοϋ	The loaf that they eat
ποεικ ετερε πρωμε οσωμ ἄμοϋ	The loaf that the man eats

Relative future conjugation

Antecedent is doing the action in the relative clause. No pronoun prefix after ΕΤ.

πρωμε ετ'να'οσωμ ἄμοϋ	The man who will eat it
ἄρωμε ετ'να'οσωμ ἄμοϋ	The men who will eat it

Antecedent is having the action done to it in the relative clause.

ποεικ εϕ'να'οσωμ ἄμοϋ	The loaf that I shall eat
ποεικ ετ'ῤ'να'οσωμ ἄμοϋ	The loaf that you will eat
ποεικ ετ'ῆ'να'οσωμ ἄμοϋ	The loaf that he will eat
ποεικ ετ'Ὶ'να'οσωμ ἄμοϋ	The loaf that she will eat
ποεικ ετ'ἢ'να'οσωμ ἄμοϋ	The loaf that we shall eat
ποεικ ετετἢ'να'οσωμ ἄμοϋ	The loaf that you will eat
ποεικ ετ'οσ'να'οσωμ ἄμοϋ	The loaf that they will eat
ποεικ ετερε πρωμε να'οσωμ ἄμοϋ	The loaf that the man will eat

Non-durative

Relative perfect conjugation

Antecedent is doing the action in the relative clause. Pronoun prefix required after $\epsilon\tau\alpha$.

$\pi\rho\omega\mu\epsilon \epsilon\tau\alpha \cdot \gamma \cdot \omicron\sigma\omicron\mu\cdot\gamma$

The man who ate it

$\bar{\nu}\cdot\rho\omega\mu\epsilon \epsilon\tau\alpha \cdot \delta \cdot \omicron\sigma\omicron\mu\cdot\gamma$

The men who ate it

Antecedent is having the action done to it in the relative clause.

$\rho\omicron\epsilon\iota\kappa \epsilon\tau\alpha \cdot \Gamma \cdot \omicron\sigma\omicron\mu\cdot\gamma$

The loaf that I ate

$\rho\omicron\epsilon\iota\kappa \epsilon\tau\alpha \cdot \bar{\kappa} \cdot \omicron\sigma\omicron\mu\cdot\gamma$

The loaf that you ate

$\rho\omicron\epsilon\iota\kappa \epsilon\tau\alpha \cdot \bar{\gamma} \cdot \omicron\sigma\omicron\mu\cdot\gamma$

The loaf that he ate

$\rho\omicron\epsilon\iota\kappa \epsilon\tau\alpha \cdot \bar{\tau} \cdot \omicron\sigma\omicron\mu\cdot\gamma$

The loaf that she ate

$\rho\omicron\epsilon\iota\kappa \epsilon\tau\alpha \cdot \bar{\nu} \cdot \omicron\sigma\omicron\mu\cdot\gamma$

The loaf that we ate

$\rho\omicron\epsilon\iota\kappa \epsilon\tau\alpha \cdot \tau\epsilon\tau\bar{\nu} \cdot \omicron\sigma\omicron\mu\cdot\gamma$

The loaf that you ate

$\rho\omicron\epsilon\iota\kappa \epsilon\tau\alpha \cdot \delta \cdot \omicron\sigma\omicron\mu\cdot\gamma$

The loaf that they ate

$\rho\omicron\epsilon\iota\kappa \epsilon\tau\alpha \pi\rho\omega\mu\epsilon \omicron\sigma\omicron\mu\cdot\gamma$

The loaf that the man ate

More examples of relatives

$\pi\lambda\omicron\sigma\tau\epsilon\iota \epsilon\tau\omicron\sigma\omega\mu \bar{\mu} \pi\rho\omega\mu\epsilon.$

The lion that is eating the man.

$\pi\lambda\omicron\sigma\tau\epsilon\iota \epsilon\tau\eta\delta\omicron\sigma\omega\mu \bar{\mu} \pi\rho\omega\mu\epsilon.$

The lion that will eat the man.

$\pi\lambda\omicron\sigma\tau\epsilon\iota \epsilon\tau\alpha\gamma\omicron\sigma\tau\epsilon\mu \pi\rho\omega\mu\epsilon.$

The lion that ate the man.

$\pi\delta\iota \pi\epsilon \pi\rho\omega\mu\epsilon \epsilon\tau\epsilon\tau\epsilon \pi\lambda\omicron\sigma\tau\epsilon\iota \eta\delta\omicron\sigma\omega\mu \bar{\mu}\lambda\omicron\gamma.$

This is the man whom the lion will eat (him).

$\pi\delta\iota \pi\epsilon \pi\rho\omega\mu\epsilon \epsilon\tau\alpha \pi\lambda\omicron\sigma\tau\epsilon\iota \omicron\sigma\omicron\mu\cdot\gamma.$

This is the man whom the lion ate (him).

$\pi\delta\iota \pi\epsilon \pi\gamma\eta\tau \epsilon\tau\alpha\gamma\omicron\sigma\tau\epsilon\mu \pi\epsilon\beta\rho\omicron\varsigma.$

This is the worm that ate the seed.

$\pi\delta\iota \pi\epsilon \pi\gamma\eta\tau \epsilon\tau\alpha\gamma\omicron\sigma\omicron\mu\cdot\gamma.$

This is the worm that ate it.

$\pi\delta\iota \pi\epsilon \pi\rho\omega\mu\epsilon \epsilon\tau\alpha\gamma\omicron\sigma\tau\epsilon\mu \rho\omicron\epsilon\iota\kappa.$

This is the man who ate the bread.

$\pi\delta\iota \pi\epsilon \pi\rho\omega\mu\epsilon \epsilon\tau\epsilon \bar{\mu}\pi\epsilon\gamma\omicron\sigma\tau\epsilon\mu \rho\omicron\epsilon\iota\kappa.$

This is the man who did not eat the bread.

$\pi\delta\iota \pi\epsilon \pi\rho\omega\mu\epsilon \epsilon\tau\eta\delta\eta\omicron\sigma\tau\epsilon \bar{\mu} \pi\epsilon\beta\rho\omicron\varsigma.$

This is the man who who will cast the seed.

$\pi\delta\iota \pi\epsilon \pi\rho\omega\mu\epsilon \epsilon\tau\epsilon \gamma\eta\delta\eta\omicron\sigma\tau\epsilon \delta\eta \bar{\mu} \pi\epsilon\beta\rho\omicron\varsigma.$

This is the man who who will not cast the seed.

$\mu\alpha\rho\iota\gamma\alpha\mu \tau\epsilon \tau\epsilon\tau\iota\mu\epsilon \epsilon\tau\eta\delta\theta \epsilon\pi\chi\omicron\epsilon\iota\varsigma.$

Mary is the woman who sees the Lord.

$\mu\alpha\rho\iota\gamma\alpha\mu \tau\epsilon \tau\epsilon\tau\iota\mu\epsilon \epsilon\tau\eta\delta\theta \epsilon\rho\omicron\gamma.$

Mary is the woman who sees him.

$\mu\alpha\rho\iota\gamma\alpha\mu \tau\epsilon \tau\epsilon\tau\iota\mu\epsilon \epsilon\tau\epsilon \bar{\nu} \varsigma\eta\delta\theta \epsilon\pi\chi\omicron\epsilon\iota\varsigma \delta\eta.$

Mary is the woman who does not see the Lord.

$\mu\alpha\rho\iota\gamma\alpha\mu \tau\epsilon \tau\epsilon\tau\iota\mu\epsilon \epsilon\tau\epsilon \bar{\nu} \varsigma\eta\delta\theta \epsilon\rho\omicron\gamma \delta\eta.$

Mary is the woman who does not see him.

ADJECTIVES

Coptic has only a couple of dozen native adjectives, but a very large number of adjectives borrowed from Greek. They usually follow the noun they qualify and are linked to it with $\bar{\text{N}}$.

The most common native adjectives are:

$\text{K}\bar{\text{O}}\bar{\text{T}}\text{I}$	small
$\text{M}\bar{\text{E}}\text{P}\text{I}\text{T}$	beloved
$\text{N}\bar{\text{O}}\bar{\text{S}}$	big
$\text{C}\bar{\Delta}\bar{\text{B}}\bar{\text{E}}$	wise
$\text{W}\bar{\text{O}}\text{P}\text{I}$	first
$\text{Q}\bar{\text{H}}\text{K}\bar{\text{E}}$	poor
$\text{Q}\bar{\text{L}}\bar{\text{A}}\bar{\text{O}}$	old
$\text{Z}\bar{\text{O}}\bar{\text{W}}\bar{\text{P}}\bar{\text{E}}$	strong
$\text{W}\bar{\text{H}}\bar{\text{M}}$	small

$\text{P}\bar{\Delta}\text{W}\bar{\text{H}}\bar{\text{P}}\bar{\text{E}} \bar{\text{M}} \text{M}\bar{\text{E}}\text{P}\text{I}\text{T}$	my beloved son
$\text{O}\bar{\text{T}}\bar{\text{P}}\bar{\text{O}}\bar{\text{M}}\bar{\text{E}} \bar{\text{N}} \text{Q}\bar{\text{H}}\text{K}\bar{\text{E}}$	a poor man
$\text{O}\bar{\text{T}}\bar{\text{N}}\bar{\text{O}}\bar{\text{S}} \bar{\text{N}} \text{T}\bar{\text{B}}\text{T}$	a big fish

$\text{W}\bar{\text{H}}\bar{\text{M}}$ is attached without the linking particle $\bar{\text{N}}$:

$\text{O}\bar{\text{T}}\bar{\text{W}}\bar{\text{H}}\bar{\text{P}}\bar{\text{E}} \text{W}\bar{\text{H}}\bar{\text{M}}$	a child, a youth
---	------------------

Adjectives borrowed from Greek take their Greek masculine form (usually ending in OC) when qualifying a person, and the Greek neuter form (usually ending in ON) when qualifying a thing.

SECOND SINGULAR FEMININE FORMS

(Forms other than those given here may be encountered)

PRONOUNS

ἄΤΟ, ἄΤΕ-	thou
ΠΟῶ, ΤΟῶ, ΝΟῶ	thy
ΠΩ, ΤΩ, ΝΟῶ	thine
ῥΩΩΤΕ	thyself

OBJECT OF VERB/PREPOSITION

thee	ε	after consonant
	[zero]	after vowel

IN VERB PARADIGMS (ΝΑῶ as example)

Present	ΤΕ·ΝΑῶ	Aorist	ῠΔ·ΡΕ·ΝΑῶ
Preterite + pres.	ΝΕ·ΡΕ·ΝΑῶ	Neg. aorist	ΜΕ·ΡΕ·ΝΑῶ
Focalised pres.	Ε·ΡΕ·ΝΑῶ	Conditional	Ε·ΡΕ·ῠΔ·Ν·ΝΑῶ
Future	ΤΕ·ΝΑ·ΝΑῶ	Neg. conditional	Ε·ΡΕ·Τ·Μ·ΝΑῶ
Preterite + fut.	ΝΕ·ΡΕ·ΝΑ·ΝΑῶ	Temporal	ἄΤΕΡ·Ε·ΝΑῶ
Focalised fut.	Ε·ΡΕ·ΝΑ·ΝΑῶ	'Until'	ῠΔ·ΝΤ·Ε·ΝΑῶ
Optative	Ε·Ρ·Ε·ΝΑῶ	'Not yet'	ΜΠ·ΔΤ·Ε·ΝΑῶ
Neg. Optative	ἄΝΕ·ΝΑῶ	Causative	ΤΡΕ·ΝΑῶ
Perfect	Δ·ΡΕ·ΝΑῶ	Jussive	ΜΔΡΕ·ΝΑῶ*
Neg. perfect	ΜΠ·Ε·ΝΑῶ	Neg. jussive	ΜΠ·Ὶ·ΤΡΕ·ΝΑῶ
Focalised perf.	ἄΤΔ·ΡΕ·ΝΑῶ	Conjunctive	ἄΤ·Ε·ΝΑῶ
		Fut. conjunctive	ΤΔΡΕ·ΝΑῶ

* This form may not actually occur.