



The Coptic Letters

1. The Vowels

The letter	Name	Sound	Word in Coptic	In English	Meaning
Ⲁ	Alpha	A	ⲁⲃⲃⲁ	Avva	Father
Ⲉ	E	E	ⲈⲚⲔⲘⲚⲘⲘⲘ	Ek`klycia	Church
Ⲩ	Eeta	EE	ⲨⲨⲨⲨ	Eshmyn	Eight
Ⲑ	o	O	ⲐⲚⲁⲓ	Ouai	One
Ⲓ	Yota	I	ⲒⲡⲨⲨⲨⲓ	Eepshoui	Ascend
Ⲕ	Oo	OU	ⲔⲚⲔ	Ounkh	Life

2. letters like the English letters

The letter	Name	Sound	Word in Coptic	In English	Meaning
Ⲃ	Vita	B	ⲂⲚⲁⲃ	Ouab	Holy
		V	Ⲃⲁⲗ	Val	Eye
Ⲅ	Seema	S	ⲄⲚⲁⲩ	Esnav	Two
Ⲇ	Mey	M	ⲆⲁⲐⲐⲐⲐⲐⲐ	Mathytc	Disciples
Ⲉ	Ney	N	ⲈⲚⲔⲘ	Nahty	Faith
Ⲋ	Kabba	K	Ⲋⲁⲃⲓ	Kahi	Earth
Ⲍ	Tav	T	Ⲍⲁⲙⲁⲩ	Tamav	My mother
Ⲏ	Zeeta	Z	ⲎⲣⲁⲡⲈⲤⲁ	etrapeza	Table

Note:- The letter B (Veta) sounds like B always
but if came after it a vowel it will sound like V

3- Letters look like English but different pronunciations

The letter	Name	Sound	Word in Coptic	In English	Meaning
Ⲑ	Roo	R	ⲐⲁⲚ	ran	Name

Ⲭ	Eeta	EE	Ⲫⲟⲩⲏ	Eshmyn	Eight
Ⲭ	Key	k	ⲕⲗⲟⲩ	eklom	Crown
	(in the greek words)	kh	ⲭⲣⲓⲥⲧⲟⲥ	ekhristos	Christ
		sh	ⲁⲣⲭⲏⲁⲗⲥⲥⲉⲗⲟⲥ	arsheeangelos	archangel

Note:- The letter **Key** sounds **K** normally in the coptic letters
Kh in the **Greek words**
Sh if one of the **E family** (ⲉ Ⲏ ⲓ ⲣ) comes after it
they transfer the kh to Sh (in the **Greek words**)

4- Letters look like Math or Science letters

The letter	Name	Sound	Word in Coptic	In English	Meaning
Ⲑ	Theeta	Th	Ⲑⲣⲟⲩⲟⲥ	ethronos	Throne
		T	ⲐⲎⲎⲉⲐⲓⲥ	gennetes	Born
Ⲡ	Delta	Z	ⲠⲓⲁⲕⲱⲎ	theacoun	Deacon
	(Names)	D	Ⲡⲁⲅⲓⲃ	daveed	David
Ⲡ	Lolla	L	Ⲡⲁⲗⲓ	lali	Sing
Ⲑ	Ghamma	gh	ⲙⲉⲑⲁⲗⲟ	meghalo	
		g	Ⲡⲓⲟⲥ	agios	Holy
		n	Ⲡⲥⲥⲉⲗⲟⲥ	angelos	Angel

Note:- The letter **Theeta** sounds normally **th**.
If one of these letters (**ct2**) comes before it it will sounds like **t**.

Note:- The letter **Delta** normally sounds like **z**.
and it sounds like **D** only with **names**.

Note:- The letter **Ghamma** sounds normally like **gh**
If any of the **E family** comes after it , it will sounds like **g**.
If any of these letters(**ⲐⲕⲬ**) comes after it , it will sounds like **N**

5-The rest of the coptic letters.

The letter	Name	Sound	Word in Coptic	In English	Meaning
Ⲥ	Fi	F	ⲁⲫⲟⲧ	afot	Cup

ϣ	Fai	F	ϣΟΤΕ	fote	Towel
Ϩ	Gunga	G	ϨΟΜ	gom	Power
		J	ΟΥΣΑΙ	ougay	Salvation
Ϩ	Shai	Sh	ϨΛΗΛ	shleel	Pray
Ϫ	Cheema	Ch	ΠΕΝΘΟΙΣ	penshois	our Lord
Ϩ	Horry	H	ϨΜΟΤ	ehmot	grace
Ϩ	Khay	Kh	ΩΝϪ	onkh	Life
Ϩ	Epsolon	E	ΚΗΡΙΕ	keriee	Lord
		V	ΣΤΑΥΡΟΣ	stavros	Cross
		O	ΙΩΑΝΝΟΥ	youanno	John
Ϩ	Exsi	X	Α&ΙΟC	aksios	worthy
Ϩ	Soo	Soo	Ϩ	Soo	Six
Π	Pee	p	ΠΕΤΡΟΣ	petros	Peter
Ϩ	Epsi	Eps	ΑΡΙΑ	psaria	small fish
Ϩ	Tee	Ti	Ϩ'ΩΟΥ	teeoou	Glorify

Note:-The letter **Gunga** normally sounds like **g**
If any of the **E family** comes after it will sounds like **j**

Note:- The letter **Epsolon** sounds like **O** after o
sounds like **V** after **A** and **E** otherwise it sounds like **I**

References: -

<http://stshenoudajc.org/index.php/Learning-To-Read-Coptic/Father-David-Bebawy-Coptic-Lesson-1.html>

There are four lessons by Fr. Daoud

Very beneficial