

Lesson Ten
Πρω ἀμα μητ

**The Pronunciation of Coptic
Letters in Greek words**

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| Ϣ + α = Z | ΠΛΑCμα : creation |
| Ν + Ϛ = D | ΕΝΤΟΛΗ : commandment ΛΕΝΤΙΟΝ : handkerchief |
| Ϟ + α,ο,ω,ϙ = KH (d) + ε,ι,η,ϣ = SH (t) | ϞαριCμα : grace (gift) Ϟερε : Hail |
| Ο + ι = e | ΛΟΙΠΟΝ : also |
| α + ι = a | Και : 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 |
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| 1. contain one or more of the Demotic ¹ letters : | Demotic letters do not exist in Greek alphabet. |

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

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| <p>ϣ, ϣ, ϣ, ϣ, ϣ, ϣ, †</p> <p>2. ----</p> <p>3. ----</p> <p>4. One word only contain letter (ϣ) : ⲁⲛⲗⲏⲃ : school</p> | <p>Contain letters ϣ, ⲁ</p> <p>Most of the time : end with the syllable :</p> <p>ⲁϣ, Ⲑϣ, ⲏϣ, Ⲑⲛ</p> <p>or letters : ⲁ or ⲏ</p> <p>Contain letter ϣ</p> |
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Exercise (2)

Read, write and memorize the following words :

1. **ⲁⲐⲗⲐⲐ** : word
2. **ⲡⲣⲟⲫⲏⲧⲏⲥ** : prophet
3. **ⲁⲐⲗⲏⲃ** : glory
4. **ⲁⲣⲗⲏ** : chief , beginning.

5 to 11 and finally settled for seven Demotic letters, forming a 32 alphabet for the Coptic language.