

Typing in Ge'ez

The Ge'ez keyboard (🗇) provides *only* the letters used in the Ge'ez languages. It uses a system whereby the Ge'ez sounds are matched to English letters (a style called “phonetic”). You can think of how a word sounds in Ge'ez and then type it out with English.

Example: typing **selam** becomes ሰላም

Because Ge'ez has more sounds than English does, we sometimes have to adjust this rule. For example English does not have ‘ጠ’ and the closest similar letter would be ‘t’. In this case, you should type with “capital T”:

Example: typing **qTqaTie** becomes ቅጥቃጤ

Notice that we needed both “ie” together to make the 5th ‘ጠ’ letter ‘ጤ’. When the letter you want to type does not appear when you hit the similar sounding key in English, try using the capital next. If typing the capital does not work, then try hitting the key two times:

Example: typing **sselam** becomes ሠላም

Example: typing **SSeHey** becomes ፀሐይ

Next, when you need to type the extra letters of Ge'ez like ሷ, ሸ, ኃ you can do so by typing an extra vowel after a ‘u’:

Example: typing **mua** becomes ሸሷ

Example: typing **guie** becomes ኃ

Finally, we must introduce a special rule for ' (apostrophe). Some words are spelt with a ሷጅጎ (6th) letter followed by a vowel, like ርኤ in ገብርኤል. We use the apostrophe here to type “gebr'iel” to make sure we get “ርኤ” instead of ‘ሬ’.

Example: typing **mel'ak** becomes ሙልአክ

Example: typing **m'eeraf** becomes ምዕራፍ

The following typing tables show how to type all Ge'ez letters, numbers and punctuation.

Ge'ez Typing Table

| ቤተሰብ | ግዕዝ | ካዕብ | ሣልስ | ራብዕ | ኃምስ | ሳድስ | ሳብዕ | ዘመደ-ግዕዝ | ዘመደ-ካዕብ | ዘመደ-ሣልስ | ዘመደ-ራብዕ | ዘመደ-ኃምስ |
|------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|
| ሆይ | ሀ he | ሁ hu | ሂ hi | ሃ ha | ሄ hie | ህ h | ሆ ho | | | | | |
| ላዊ | ለ le | ሉ lu | ሊ li | ላ la | ሌ lie | ል l | ሎ lo | | | | ሲ lua | |
| ሐውት | ሐ He | ሑ Hu | ሐ. Hi | ሐ Ha | ሐ Hie | ሐ H | ሐ Ho | | | | ሐ Hua | |
| ማይ | መ me | ሙ mu | ሚ mi | ማ ma | ሚ mie | ም m | ሞ mo | | | | ሚ mua | |
| ሠውት | ሠ sse | ሡ ssu | ሢ ssi | ሣ ssa | ሢ ssie | ሥ ss | ሦ sso | | | | ሢ ssua | |
| ርእስ | ረ re | ሩ ru | ሪ ri | ራ ra | ሪ rie | ር r | ሮ ro | | | | ሩ rua | |
| ሳት | ሰ se | ሱ su | ሲ si | ሳ sa | ሲ sie | ሰ s | ሶ so | | | | ሲ sua | |
| ቃፍ | ቀ qe | ቁ qu | ቂ qi | ቃ qa | ቁ qie | ቅ q | ቆ qo | ቁ que | ቁ quu | ቁ qui | ቁ qua | ቁ quie |
| ቤት | በ be | ቡ bu | ቢ bi | ባ ba | ቤ bie | ብ b | ቦ bo | | | | ቢ bua | |
| ታው | ተ te | ቱ tu | ቲ ti | ታ ta | ቱ tie | ት t | ቶ to | | | | ቲ tua | |
| ኀርም | ኀ hhe | ኁ hhu | ኂ hhi | ኃ hha | ኄ hhie | ኅ hh | ኆ hho | ኅ hue | ኅ hhu | ኅ hui | ኅ hua | ኅ huie |
| ነሐስ | ነ ne | ኑ nu | ኒ ni | ና na | ኑ nie | ን n | ኖ no | | | | ኒ nua | |
| አልፍ | አ a | አ u | አ i | አ ea | አ ie | አ e | አ o | | | | | |
| ካፍ | ከ ke | ከ ku | ከ ki | ካ ka | ከ kie | ክ k | ኮ ko | ከ kue | ከ kuu | ከ kui | ከ kua | ከ kuie |
| ወዌ | ወ we | ወ wu | ዊ wi | ዋ wa | ዌ wie | ወ w | ዎ wo | | | | | |
| ዐይን | ዐ A / aaa | ዑ Au / uu | ዒ Ai / ii | ዓ Aa / aa | ዔ Aie / iie | ዕ Ae / ee | ዖ Ao / oo | | | | | |
| ዘይ | ዘ ze | ዘ zu | ዘ zi | ዛ za | ዘ zie | ዝ z | ዞ zo | | | | ዘ zua | |
| የመነ | የ ye | የ yu | የ yi | ያ ya | የ yie | ይ y | ዮ yo | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|
| ድንት | ደ | ዱ | ዲ | ዳ | ዴ | ድ | ዶ | | | | ዷ | |
| | de | du | di | da | die | d | do | | | | dua | |
| ገምል | ገ | ጉ | ጊ | ጋ | ጌ | ግ | ጎ | ጐ | ጑ | ጒ | ጓ | ጔ |
| | ge | gu | gi | ga | gie | g | go | gue | guu | gui | gua | guie |
| ጠይት | ጠ | ጡ | ጢ | ጣ | ጤ | ጥ | ጦ | | | | ጧ | |
| | Te | Tu | Ti | Ta | Tie | T | To | | | | Tua | |
| ጸይት | ጸ | ጹ | ጺ | ጻ | ጼ | ጽ | ጾ | | | | ጿ | |
| | Pe | Pu | Pi | Pa | Pie | P | Po | | | | Pua | |
| ጸይይ | ጸ | ጹ | ጺ | ጻ | ጼ | ጽ | ጾ | | | | ጿ | |
| | Se | Su | Si | Sa | Sie | S | So | | | | Sua | |
| ፀጳ | ፀ | ፁ | ፂ | ፃ | ፄ | ፅ | ፆ | | | | | |
| | SSe | SSu | SSi | SSa | SSie | SS | SSo | | | | | |
| አፍ | ፈ | ፉ | ፊ | ፋ | ፍ | ፎ | | | | | ፏ | |
| | fe | fu | fi | fa | fie | f | fo | | | | fua | |
| ፕሳ | ፕ | ፑ | ፒ | ፓ | ፔ | ፕ | ፖ | | | | ፘ | |
| | pe | pu | pi | pa | pie | p | po | | | | pua | |

Special Note

- The keystroke of ‘x’ is added for the ‘ጎ’ family in agreement with classic Ge’ez phonology and modern transliteration conventions.
- The keystroke of ‘D’ is added for the ‘ፀ’ family in agreement with classic Ge’ez phonology.

Typing Punctuation

Ethiopic Punctuation

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| ፡ | ፡፡ | ፡- | ፡* | ፡፡ | ፡፡ | ፡፡ | ፡፡ | ፡፡ | ፡፡ |
| : | :: | :- | :+ | :# | , | , | , | ; | ? |

Keyboard Punctuation

All regular punctuation on your keyboard remains available. Most punctuation can be typed with a single keystroke as usual. Those used to input Ethiopic symbols can be entered by hitting the punctuation key two or more times until it appears.

Typing Numbers

Ethiopic Numerals

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|----------|------------|--------------|
| ፩ 1 | ፪ 2 | ፫ 3 | ፬ 4 | ፭ 5 | ፮ 6 | ፯ 7 | ፰ 8 | ፱ 9 | | | |
| ፲ 10 | ፳ 20 | ፴ 30 | ፵ 40 | ፶ 50 | ፷ 60 | ፸ 70 | ፹ 80 | ፺ 90 | ፻ 100 | ፺፻ 1000 | ፳፻፱ 10000 |

Numeral composition will continue as 0s are entered up to ፳፻፱ (100,000,000).

Western Digits

Western numbers may be typed with a '#' mark followed by the desired digit 1-9.

| | | | | | | | | |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1 #1 | 2 #2 | 3 #3 | 4 #4 | 5 #5 | 6 #6 | 7 #7 | 8 #8 | 9 #9 |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|

Typing Zaima Qirts (የዜማ ቅርጽ፡)

| ይዘት | ጎጂር፡ ChCh: | ርከርከ | ቁርጥ | ደረት | ድፋት | ጭረት | ቅናት | ሒደት | ደረት፡ ሒደት፡ |
|-----|---------------|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|--------------|
| . | : | ፤ | ኮ | ሀ | ገ | ጎ | ጊ | ፡ | ፡ |
| _1 | _2 | _3 | _4 | _5 | _6 | _7 | _8 | _9 | _0 |

When typing '_' the following menu will appear:

[1.2:3:4ኮ5ሀ6ገ7ጎ8ጊ9_0_፡_፡]

Type the number that corresponds to the qirts that you want and it will appear and the menu close.

Other Letters

Only the letters used in the Ge'ez language may be typed with this keyboard. To type additional Ethiopic letters used by other languages, please download a keyboard for the language needed or the *language-neutral* keyboard that supports composition of all Ethiopic symbols found in Unicode 4.1.