



## Coptic Lesson 1: Coptic Letters Similar to English Letters

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Almost half the Coptic Alphabet is similar (in shape and some times phonetic expression) to the English Alphabet. Therefore, if you already know how to read English, you already 50% proficient in reading Coptic.

Let's first learn the letters that look and sound like English letters: (below is the shape of the letter, its name, its ASCII equivalent (developed by Copt-Net), and its pronunciation)

Note: not all pronunciation rules will be included, just the basic ones, to avoid confusion.

<b>Letters that look like English letters and are pronounced similarly</b>							
Letter	Shape	Pron	Example	Letter	Shape	Pron	Example
Alpha	Αα	A	ART	Vita	Ββ	V B	VALVE BELL
Ei	Εε	E	PEN	Zeta	Ζζ	Z	ZOO
Yota	Ιι	I	SIT	Kappa	Κκ	K	LIKE
Me y	Μμ	M	MOON	Ne y	Νν	N	NEAR
O	Οο	O	NOT	Sima	Σσ	S	CITY
Tav	Ττ	T	TEST	Oou	Ωω	Oa	Board
<b>Letters that look like English letters but are pronounced differently</b>							
Letter	Shape	Pron	Example	Letter	Shape	Pron	Example
Eeta	Ηη	A	FEET	Ro	Ρρ	R	ROAD
Khe	Χχ	SH KH	SHOWER "KHIAR" (ARABIC)				



Now that you know almost half the Coptic Letters, let's read some easy words using these letters:

Word	Pronunciation	Word Meaning
Ⲁⲃⲃⲁ	Avva	Ava (father, as in bishop)
ⲓⲁⲟⲥ	Ta-ooS	Peacock / "Taos" (arabic)
Ⲥⲁⲣⲣⲁ	Se-ra	Sari (Abraham's wife)
ⲤⲎⲈ	Es-ne	The city of Esna in Egypt
Ⲥⲓⲣ	Seer	Well / "Zeer" (arabic)
Ⲥⲁⲭⲭⲁⲣⲓⲁ	Za-ka-ra-sya	Zakaria
ⲄⲈⲤⲓⲨ	Ver-seem	Grass / "Barseem" (arabic)
Ⲥⲟⲩⲕ	Sawk	Close / "sok" (arabic)
ⲕⲎⲕ	Keak	Cake
ⲤⲒⲎⲁ	Se-na	The city of Sinai, Egypt
ⲀⲎⲤⲟⲛⲓⲟⲥ	An-ton-ious	Anthony

*Give me ears to hear Thee, eyes to see Thee, taste to partake of Thee, sense of smell to inhale Thee. Give me feet to walk unto Thee; lips to speak of Thee, heart to fear and love Thee. Teach me Thy ways, O Lord, and I shall walk in Thy truth. For Thou art the way, the truth and the life.*

**-Unknown**