Typing in Blin

The Blin keyboard () uses a system where the Blin sounds are matched to the English letters (a style called "phonetic"). You can think of how a word sounds in Blin and then type it out with English.

> Example: typing **selam** becomes ሰላም

Because Blin has more sounds than English does, we sometimes have to adjust this rule. For example, English does not have 'ኘ' and the closest similar letter would be 'g'. In this case, you should type with "capital G":

> Example: typing **xGKuulen** becomes ሽኛኹለን

Notice that we used capital 'K' also for 'ኹ' and we needed both "uu" together to make the 5th 'ክ' letter 'ኹ'. When the letter you want to type does not appear when you hit the similar sounding key in English, try using the capital next.

Next, when you need to type the extra letters of Blin like ኢ, ሚ, or ኩ you can do so by typing an extra vowel after a 'u':

> Example: typing **mua** becomes ሚ
> Example: typing **Kuu** becomes ኩ

Finally, we must introduce a special rule for ' (apostrophe). Some words are spelt with a ሳድስ (6th) letter followed by a vowel, like ርኤ in ገብርኤል. We use the apostrophe here to type "geb<u>r'ie</u>l" to make sure we get "ርኤ" instead of 'ሬ'.

> Example: typing **mel'ak** becomes መልአክ
> Example: typing **m'Eraf** becomes ምዕራፍ

The following typing tables show how to type all Blin letters, numbers, and punctuation.

Blin Typing Table

ቤተሰብ	ግዕዝ	ካዕብ	ሣልስ	ራብዕ	ኃምስ	ሳድስ	ሳብዕ	ዘመደ-ግዕዝ	ዘመደ-ካዕብ	ዘመደ-ሣልስ	ዘመደ-ራብዕ	ዘመደ-ኃምስ
ሆይ	ህ 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				ሏ lua	
ሐውት	ሐ He	ሑ Hu	ሒ Hi	ሓ Ha	ሔ Hie	ሕ H	ሖ Ho				ሗ Hua	
ማይ	መ me	ሙ mu	ሚ mi	ማ ma	ሜ mie	ም m	ሞ mo				ሟ mua	
ሳት	ሰ se	ሱ su	ሲ si	ሳ sa	ሴ sie	ስ s	ሶ so				ሷ sua	
ርእስ	ረ re	ሩ ru	ሪ ri	ራ ra	ሬ rie	ር r	ሮ ro				ሯ rua	
ሻ-ሳት	ሸ xe	ሹ xu	ሺ xi	ሻ xa	ሼ xie	ሽ x	ሾ xo				ሧ xua	
ቃፍ	ቀ qe	ቁ qu	ቂ qi	ቃ qa	ቄ qie	ቅ q	ቆ qo	ቈ que	ቍ quu	ቍ qui	ቋ qua	ቌ quie
ቓ-ቃፍ	ቐ Qe	ቑ Qu	ቒ Qi	ቓ Qa	ቔ Qie	ቕ Q	ቖ Qo	ቘ Que	ቝ Quu	ቝ Qui	ቛ Qua	ቜ Quie
ቤት	በ be	ቡ bu	ቢ bi	ባ ba	ቤ bie	ብ b	ቦ bo				ቧ bua	
ታው	ተ te	ቱ tu	ቲ ti	ታ ta	ቴ tie	ት t	ቶ to				ቷ tua	
ነሐስ	ነ ne	ኑ nu	ኒ ni	ና na	ኔ nie	ን n	ኖ no				ኗ nua	
አልፍ	አ aa	ኡ u	ኢ i	ኣ a	ኤ ie	እ e	ኦ o					
ካፍ	ከ ke	ኩ ku	ኪ ki	ካ ka	ኬ kie	ክ k	ኮ ko	ኰ kue	ኵ kuu	ኵ kui	ኳ kua	ኴ kuie
ኻ-ካፍ	ኸ Ke	ኹ Ku	ኺ Ki	ኻ Ka	ኼ Kie	ኽ K	ኾ Ko	ዀ Kue	ዅ Kuu	ዅ Kui	ዃ Kua	ዄ Kuie
ወዌ	ወ we	ዉ wu	ዊ wi	ዋ wa	ዌ wie	ው w	ዎ wo					
ዐይን	ዐ A	ዑ Au / U	ዒ Ai / I	ዓ Aa	ዔ Aie / Ie	ዕ Ae / E	ዖ Ao/ O					
የመነ	የ ye	ዩ yu	ዪ yi	ያ ya	ዬ yie	ይ y	ዮ yo					

ቤተሰብ	ግዕዝ	ካዕብ	ሣልስ	ራብዕ	ኃምስ	ሳድስ	ሳብዕ	ዘመደ-ግዕዝ	ዘመደ-ካዕብ	ዘመደ-ሣልስ	ዘመደ-ራብዕ	ዘመደ-ኃምስ
ድንት	ደ de	ዱ du	ዲ di	ዳ da	ዴ die	ድ d	ዶ do				ዷ dua	
ጅ-ድንት	ጀ je	ጁ ju	ጂ ji	ጃ ja	ጄ jie	ጅ j	ጆ jo				ጇ jua	
ገምል	ገ ge	ጉ gu	ጊ gi	ጋ ga	ጌ gie	ግ g	ጎ go	ጐ gue	ጉ guu	ጒ gui	ጓ gua	ጔ guie
ጘ-ገምል	ጘ Ge	ጙ Gu	ጚ Gi	ጛ Ga	ጜ Gie	ጝ G	ጞ Go	ጘ Gue	ጙ Guu	ጚ Gui	ጟ Gua	ጜ Guie
ጠይት	ጠ Te	ጡ Tu	ጢ Ti	ጣ Ta	ጤ Tie	ጥ T	ጦ To				ጧ Tua	
ጨ-ጠይት	ጨ Ce	ጩ Cu	ጪ Ci	ጫ Ca	ጬ Cie	ጭ C	ጮ Co				ጯ Cua	
ቻ-ታው	ቸ ce	ቹ cu	ቺ ci	ቻ ca	ቼ cie	ች c	ቾ co				ቿ cua	
ኛ-ነሐስ	ኘ Ne	ኙ Nu	ኚ Ni	ኛ Na	ኜ Nie	ኝ N	ኞ No				ኟ Nua	
ዘይ	ዘ ze	ዙ zu	ዚ zi	ዛ za	ዜ zie	ዝ z	ዞ zo				ዟ zua	
ዠ-ዘይ	ዠ Ze	ዡ Zu	ዢ Zi	ዣ Za	ዤ Zie	ዥ Z	ዦ Zo				ዧ Zua	
ጸደይ	ጸ Se	ጹ Su	ጺ Si	ጻ Sa	ጼ Sie	ጽ S	ጾ So				ጿ Sua	
ጰይት	ጰ Pe	ጱ Pu	ጲ Pi	ጳ Pa	ጴ Pie	ጵ P	ጶ Po				ጷ Pua	
አፍ	ፈ fe	ፉ fu	ፊ fi	ፋ fa	ፌ fie	ፍ f	ፎ fo				ፏ fua	
ፕሳ	ፐ pe	ፑ pu	ፒ pi	ፓ pa	ፔ pie	ፕ p	ፖ po				ፗ pua	
ቬ-ቤት	ቨ ve	ቩ vu	ቪ vi	ቫ va	ቬ vie	ቭ v	ቮ vo				ቯ vua	

Consonant and Vowel Marks

Dots can be added above letters to indicate a stressed vowel or consonant using "**CTRL + .** ". For example:

አባ **CTRL .** ⇒ አባ̇ ("ab<u>aa</u>", "a" is stressed)

አባ̇ **CTRL .** ⇒ አባ̈ ("a<u>bb</u>a", "b" is stressed)

አባ̈ **CTRL .** ⇒ አባ̈ ("a<u>bbaa</u>", "b" and "a" are stressed)

Typing Punctuation

Ethiopic Punctuation

፡	።	፣	፤	፦	፥	፧	※	፨
:	::	,	;	:-	,,	??	:+	:#

‹	›	«	»
<	>	<<	>>

Period, '.' may also be used to enter '፨'. When a number follows '፡', '፣' and '።' they will change back to their Latin form automatically. For example:

> 123፣456 ⇒ 123,456
> 12።50   ⇒ 12.50
> 12፡50   ⇒ 12:50

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

The hash mark is used Ge'ez numbers, so #1 becomes ፩ and so on. When a '#' is needed before a number in your document, just type # twice.

Ethiopic Numerals

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

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

 The "connected" style of Ethiopic numerals can be created by changing the font from "Abyssinica SIL" to "Abyssinica SIL Connected" as seen in the following table:

Abyssinica SIL	Abyssinica SIL Connected
፲፼፶፸፻	፲፼፶፸፻

Blin Fonts

The "Waldba" font collection is installed with the desktop keyboard (Windows and Mac) and provides many styles for the Blin letters. Examples are shown below:

ዋልድባ - ህዋእሽ

ሀለሐመ ... ጘ ጙ ጚ ጛ ጜ ጝ ጞ ጟ ጘ ጙ ጚ ጙ

ዋልድባ - ውቂያኖስ

ሀለሐመ ... ጘ ጙ ጚ ጛ ጜ ጝ ጞ ጟ ጘ ጙ ጚ ጙ

ዋልድባ - ዘላን

ሀለሐመ ... ጘ ጙ ጚ ጛ ጜ ጝ ጞ ጟ ጘ ጙ ጚ ጙ

ዋልድባ - የብሰ

ሀለሐመ ... ጘ ጙ ጚ ጛ ጜ ጝ ጞ ጟ ጘ ጙ ጚ ጙ

ዋልድባ - ይገዙ ብሥራት ነቲክ

ሀስለሐመ ... ጘ ጙ ጚ ጛ ጜ ጝ ጞ ጟ ጘ ጙ ጚ ጙ

ዋልድባ - ይገዙ ብሥራት ነፈር

ሀስለሐመ ... ጘ ጙ ጚ ጛ ጜ ጝ ጞ ጟ ጘ ጙ ጚ ጙ

ዋልድባ - ጅረት

ሀለሐመ ... ጘ ጙ ጚ ጛ ጜ ጝ ጞ ጟ ጘ ጙ ጚ ጙ

ዋልድባ - ጥንት

ሀስለሐመ ... ጘ ጙ ጚ ጛ ጜ ጝ ጞ ጟ ጘ ጙ ጚ ጙ

ዋልድባ - ፋንትዋ

ሀለሐመ ... ጘ ጙ ጚ ጛ ጜ ጝ ጞ ጟ ጘ ጙ ጚ ጙ

Along with the Waldba font collection, the following fonts have also been included that support Blin orthography:

Abyssinica SIL

ሀለሐመ ... ኻ ኹ ኺ ኻ ኼ ኻ ኾ ዂ ዀ ዂ ዄ ዂ

Noto Ethiopic Sans

ሀለሐመ ... ኻ ኹ ኺ ኻ ኼ ኻ ኾ ዂ ዀ ዂ ዄ ዂ

Noto Ethiopic Serif

ሀለሐመ ... ኻ ኹ ኺ ኻ ኼ ኻ ኾ ዂ ዀ ዂ ዄ ዂ