

Typing in Gurage

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

Example: typing **selam** becomes ሰላም

Because Gurage has more sounds than English does, we sometimes have to adjust this rule. For example, English does not have ‘ጮ’ and the closest similar letter would be ‘c’. In this case you should type with “Capital C”:

Example: typing **enCerebie** becomes እንጮረቤ

Notice that we needed both “ie” together to make the 5th ‘ጠ’ letter ‘ጢ’. 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 followed by a “y”:

Example: typing **yetgyekyere** becomes የትኅዥረ

Example: typing **qyes** becomes ቕስ

Next, when you need to type the extra letters of Gurage like ‘ኸጐ’, ‘ሟ’, ‘ኸጐ’ you can do so by typing an extra vowel after a ‘u’:

Example: typing **mua** becomes ሟ

Example: typing **pue** becomes ጥጥ

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 ንብርኤል. We use the apostrophe here to type “gebr*ie*l” to make sure we get “ርኤ” instead of ‘ራ’.

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

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

If an apostrophe, ' , is needed after a ሳድስ letter in your document, type it twice like:

Example: k'' to produce ክ'

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

An Amharic typing practice document can be downloaded from the link below:

<http://keyboards.ethiopic.org/docs/AmharicTypingPractice.docx>

Legacy Gurage Typing Table

	ግዕዝ	ካዕብ	ሣልስ	ራብዕ	ኃምስ	ሳድስ	ሳብዕ	ዘመደ ግዕዝ	ዘመደ ሣልስ	ዘመደ ራብዕ	ዘመደ ኃምስ	ዘመደ ሳድስ
h	ኸ he	ኸሁ hu	ኸሲ hi	ኸሳ ha	ኸሴ hie	ኸህ h	ኸወ ho	ኸወ hue	ኸሲ hui	ኸሁ hua	ኸሴ huie	ኸወ huu
hy	ኸካ hye	ኸካሁ hyu	ኸካሲ hyi	ኸካሳ hya	ኸካሴ hyie	ኸካህ hy	ኸካወ hyo					
l	ለ le	ለሁ lu	ለሲ li	ለሳ la	ለሴ lie	ለህ l	ለወ lo					
m	መ me	መሁ mu	መሲ mi	መሳ ma	መሴ mie	መህ m	መወ mo	መወ mue	መሲ mui	መሁ mua	መሴ muie	መወ muu
r	ረ re	ረሁ ru	ረሲ ri	ረሳ ra	ረሴ rie	ረህ r	ረወ ro					
s	ሰ se	ሰሁ su	ሰሲ si	ሰሳ sa	ሰሴ sie	ሰህ s	ሰወ so					
x	ኸ xe	ኸሁ xu	ኸሲ xi	ኸሳ xa	ኸሴ xie	ኸህ x	ኸወ xo					
q	ቀ qe	ቀሁ qu	ቀሲ qi	ቀሳ qa	ቀሴ qie	ቀህ q	ቀወ qo	ቀወ que	ቀሲ qui	ቀሁ qua	ቀሴ quie	ቀወ quu
qy	ቀካ qye	ቀካሁ qyu	ቀካሲ qyi	ቀካሳ qya	ቀካሴ qyie	ቀካህ qy	ቀካወ qyo					
b	በ be	በሁ bu	በሲ bi	በሳ ba	በሴ bie	በህ b	በወ bo	በወ bue	በሲ bui	በሁ bua	በሴ buie	በወ Buu
t	ተ te	ተሁ tu	ተሲ ti	ተሳ ta	ተሴ tie	ተህ t	ተወ to					
c	ቸ ce	ቸሁ cu	ቸሲ ci	ቸሳ ca	ቸሴ cie	ቸህ c	ቸወ co					
n	ነ ne	ነሁ nu	ነሲ ni	ነሳ na	ነሴ nie	ነህ n	ነወ no					
N	ኘ Ne	ኘሁ Nu	ኘሲ Ni	ኘሳ Na	ኘሴ Nie	ኘህ N	ኘወ No					
e	አ e	አሁ u	አሲ i	አሳ a	አሴ ie	አህ ee	አወ o					
k	ከ ke	ከሁ ku	ከሲ ki	ከሳ ka	ከሴ kie	ከህ k	ከወ ko	ከወ kue	ከሲ kui	ከሁ kua	ከሴ kuie	ከወ kuu
ky	ከካ kye	ከካሁ kyu	ከካሲ kyi	ከካሳ kya	ከካሴ kyie	ከካህ ky	ከካወ kyo					
w	ወ we	ወሁ wu	ወሲ wi	ወሳ wa	ወሴ wie	ወህ w	ወወ wo					

	ግዕዝ	ካዕብ	ሣልስ	ራብዕ	ኃምስ	ሳድስ	ሳብዕ	ዘመደ ግዕዝ	ዘመደ ሣልስ	ዘመደ ራብዕ	ዘመደ ኃምስ	ዘመደ ሳድስ
A	ሐ A	ሐ Au / U	ሳ Ai / I	ሳ Aa	ሳ Aie / Ie	ሐ Ae / E	ሐ Ao / O					
z	ዘ ze	ዘ zu	ዘ zi	ዛ za	ዘ zie	ዘ z	ዘ zo					
Z	ዘ Ze	ዘ Zu	ዘ Zi	ዘ Za	ዘ Zie	ዘ Z	ዘ Zo					
y	የ ye	የ yu	የ yi	ያ ya	የ yie	የ y	የ yo					
d	ደ de	ደ du	ደ di	ደ da	ደ die	ደ d	ደ do					
j	ጆ je	ጆ ju	ጆ ji	ጆ ja	ጆ jie	ጆ j	ጆ jo					
g	ገ ge	ገ gu	ገ gi	ገ ga	ገ gie	ገ g	ገ go	ገ gue	ገ gui	ገ gua	ገ guie	ገ guu
gy	ኃ gye	ኃ gyu	ኃ gyi	ኃ gya	ኃ gyie	ኃ gy	ኃ gyo					
T	ጠ Te	ጠ Tu	ጠ Ti	ጠ Ta	ጠ Tie	ጠ T	ጠ To					
C	ጨ Ce	ጨ Cu	ጨ Ci	ጨ Ca	ጨ Cie	ጨ C	ጨ Co					
f	ፈ fe	ፈ fu	ፈ fi	ፈ fa	ፈ fie	ፍ f	ፍ fo	ፍ fue	ፍ fui	ፍ fua	ፍ fuie	ፍ fuu
p	ጥ pe	ጥ pu	ጥ pi	ጥ pa	ጥ pie	ጥ p	ጥ po	ጥ pue	ጥ pui	ጥ pua	ጥ puie	ጥ puu

Consonant and Vowel Marks

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

- አሳ CTRL . ⇒ አሳ̇ (“abaa”, “a” is stressed)
- አሳ̇ CTRL . ⇒ አሳ̇ (“abba”, “b” is stressed)
- አሳ̇ CTRL . ⇒ አሳ̇ (“abbaa”, “b” and “a” are stressed)

Typing Punctuation

Ethiopic Punctuation

፡	።	፣	፤	፦	፧	፨	፩	፪
:	::	,	;	:-	,,	??	:+	:#

◀	▶	◀◀	▶▶
<	>	<<	>>

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 #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	፻፺፻ #10000	

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