

Lesson 1: Indefinite Articles

Nouns

A noun is a word that names a person, place, thing or idea. For example: Peter, bicycle, dog, Alexandria, and truth are all nouns. Coptic nouns are classified by number and gender.

Number: They can be singular (s.) or plural (pl.) like in English. Contrast this with Arabic where a noun can be singular, dual (du.) or plural. Many Coptic nouns do not have a distinct plural form, but some do. We will call these the irregular plural form. The number (singular or plural) is only evident from the preceding article.

Gender: Singular nouns can also be either masculine (m.) or feminine (f.) like in French, Spanish or Arabic. There is no neuter gender in Coptic (like in Greek or English).

Indefinite Articles

Indefinite articles are used to denote a noun that is not specified. For example, when we talk of "a book," we are referring to any book. Coptic has two forms of the indefinite article (singular and plural), which are attached directly to the beginning of the noun.

ⲁ: Singular Indefinite Article for both masculine and feminine nouns. Translated to "a" or "an" in English

ⲟ: Plural Indefinite Article which translates to the "s" at the end of a noun

Examples

	ⲁ, an	ⲟ	-s
	a name	ⲟ	names
	a man	ⲟ	men
ⲓⲁ	a woman	ⲟ ⲓⲁ	women
ⲉ	an elder	ⲟ ⲉ	elders
	an eye	ⲟ	eyes
ⲧ	a god	ⲟ ⲧ	gods

Translate the following phrases into Coptic. Note that you can use the preposition as "and" to connect two nouns.

1. a man and a woman
2. a boy and a girl
3. a father and a mother
4. a father and a son
5. fathers and mothers
6. women and men
7. boys and girls
8. a king and a queen

Exercise 2: Translate to English

Translate the following phrases into English:

- 1.
2. ⲉ
3. ⲁ ⲁ ⲁ ⲁ
4. ⲁ ⲁ ⲁ ⲁ
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
8. ⲁ ⲁ ⲁ ⲁ
- 9.

Resources

- Moawad Daoud Lesson 1
- ACTS 2990 Lesson 2A
- Sameh Younan Chapter 2 (2.1.i, 2.1.ii)
- Nabil Mattar Chapter 2, Chapter 4

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