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# Ge'ez script - Wikipedia

20-25 minutes

This article is about the script. For the language, see [Ge'ez](#).

"Hahu" redirects here. For the airport with the ICAO code "HAHU", see [Humera Airport](#).

Ge'ez	
Type	<a href="#">Abugida</a>
Languages	<a href="#">Ethiopian Semitic languages</a> (e.g. <a href="#">Ge'ez</a> , <a href="#">Amharic</a> , <a href="#">Tigrinya</a> , <a href="#">Tigre</a> , <a href="#">Harari</a> , etc.), but also <a href="#">Bilen</a> , <a href="#">Me'en</a> , as one of two scripts in <a href="#">Anuak</a> , and unofficially in some contexts of other <a href="#">languages of Ethiopia</a> and <a href="#">Eritrea</a>
Time period	c. AD 100 to present
Parent systems	<a href="#">Egyptian hieroglyphs</a> <sup>[1]</sup> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><a href="#">Proto-Sinaitic script</a></li><li><a href="#">Ancient South Arabian script</a><sup>[2][3]</sup></li><li>Ge'ez</li></ul>
Child systems	<a href="#">Amharic alphabet</a> , <a href="#">Tigrinya</a> various other alphabets of Ethiopia and Eritrea
Direction	Left-to-right
<a href="#">ISO 15924</a>	Ethi, 430
Unicode alias	Ethiopic
<a href="#">Unicode range</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><a href="#">U+1200–U+137F</a> Ethiopic</li><li><a href="#">U+1380–U+139F</a> Ethiopic Supplement</li><li><a href="#">U+2D80–U+2DDF</a> Ethiopic Extended</li></ul>

- [U+AB00–U+AB2F](#) Ethiopic Extended-A

This article contains [IPA phonetic symbols](#). Without proper [rendering support](#), you may see [question marks, boxes, or other symbols](#) instead of [Unicode](#) characters. For an introductory guide on IPA symbols, see [Help:IPA](#).

**Ge'ez** ([Ge'ez](#): ግዕዝ, *Gə'əz*), also known as **Ethiopic**, is a script used as an [abugida](#) (alphasyllabary) for several languages of [Eritrea](#) and [Ethiopia](#). It originated as an *abjad* (consonant-only alphabet) and was first used to write [Ge'ez](#), now the [liturgical language](#) of the [Eritrean Orthodox Tewahedo Church](#), the [Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church](#), and [Beta Israel](#), the Jewish community in Ethiopia. In [Amharic](#) and [Tigrinya](#), the script is often called *fidäl* (ፊደል), meaning "script" or "alphabet".

The Ge'ez script has been adapted to write other languages, mostly [Semitic](#), particularly Amharic in Ethiopia, and Tigrinya in both Eritrea and Ethiopia. It is also used for [Sebat Bet](#), [Me'en](#), and most other languages of Ethiopia. In Eritrea it is used for [Tigre](#) and it has traditionally been used for [Bilen](#), a [Cushitic language](#). Tigre, spoken in western and northern Eritrea, is considered to resemble Ge'ez more than do the other derivative languages.<sup>[*[citation needed](#)*]</sup> Other [Cushitic peoples](#) in the [Horn of Africa](#), such as [Oromos](#), [Somalis](#) and [Afars](#), used [Latin](#)-based orthographies.

For the representation of sounds, this article uses a system that is common (though not universal) among linguists who work on [Ethiopian Semitic languages](#). This differs somewhat from the conventions of the [International Phonetic Alphabet](#). See the articles on the individual languages for information on the pronunciation.

## History and origins[[edit](#)]



The earliest inscriptions of [Semitic languages](#) in [Eritrea](#) and [Ethiopia](#) date to the 9th

century BCE in [Ancient South Arabian script](#), which is known as Epigraphic South Arabian (ESA), an [abjad](#) shared with contemporary kingdoms in [South Arabia](#).

After the 7th and 6th centuries BCE, variants of the script arose, evolving in the direction of the later Ge'ez [abugida](#) or alphasyllabary. This evolution can be seen most clearly in evidence from inscriptions (mainly graffiti on rocks and caves) in the [Tigray Region](#) in northern Ethiopia and the former province of [Akele Guzai](#) in Eritrea.<sup>[4]</sup>

By the first centuries CE,<sup>[clarification needed]</sup> what is called "Old Ethiopic" or the "Old Ge'ez alphabet" arose, an abjad written left-to-right (as opposed to [boustrophedon](#) like ESA) with letters basically identical to the first-order forms of the modern vocalized alphabet (e.g. "k" in the form of "kä"). There were also minor differences, such as the letter "g" facing to the right instead of to the left as in vocalized Ge'ez, and a shorter left leg of "l", as in ESA, instead of equally-long legs in vocalized Ge'ez (somewhat resembling the Greek letter [lambda](#)).<sup>[5]</sup> Vocalization of Ge'ez occurred in the 4th century, and though the first completely vocalized texts known are inscriptions by Ezana, vocalized letters predate him by some years, as an individual vocalized letter exists in a [coin](#) of his predecessor, [Wazeba of Axum](#).<sup>[6][7]</sup> Linguist Roger Schneider has also pointed out in an unpublished early 1990s paper anomalies in the known inscriptions of [Ezana of Axum](#) that imply that he was consciously employing an archaic style during his reign, indicating that vocalization could have occurred much earlier.<sup>[8]</sup><sup>[better source needed]</sup>

As a result, some<sup>[who?]</sup> believe that the vocalization may have been adopted to preserve the pronunciation of Ge'ez texts due to the already moribund or extinct status of Ge'ez, and that, by that time, the common language of the people were already later [Ethiopian Semitic languages](#). At least one of Wazeba's coins from the late 3rd or early 4th century contains a vocalized letter, some 30 or so years before Ezana.<sup>[9]</sup> Kobishchanov, [Peter T. Daniels](#), and others have suggested possible influence from the [Brahmic scripts](#) in vocalization, as they are also [abugidas](#), and the [Kingdom of Aksum](#) was an important part of major trade routes involving India and the [Greco-Roman world](#) throughout [classical antiquity](#).<sup>[10][11]</sup>



Ge'ez script used to advertise [injera](#) (ከገጽራ) to the Ethiopian diaspora in the USA.

According to the beliefs of the [Eritrean Orthodox Tewahedo Church](#) and [Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church](#), the original consonantal form of the Ge'ez *fidäl* was divinely revealed to [Enos](#) "as an instrument for codifying the laws", and the present system of vocalisation is attributed to a team of Aksumite scholars led by [Frumentius](#) (*Abba Selama*), the same missionary said to have converted King Ezana to [Christianity](#) in the 4th century.<sup>[12]</sup> It has been argued that the vowel marking pattern of

the script reflects a South Asian system such as would have been known by Frumentius.<sup>[13]</sup> A separate tradition, recorded by Aleqa Taye, holds that the Ge'ez consonantal alphabet was first adapted by Zegdur, a legendary king of the Ag'azyan [Sabaean](#) dynasty held to have ruled in Ethiopia c. 1300 BCE.<sup>[14]</sup>

Ge'ez has 26 consonantal letters. Compared to the inventory of 29 consonants in the South Arabian alphabet, continuants are missing of *ḡ*, *z*, and South Arabian *s<sup>3</sup>* *ṣ* (Ge'ez Sawt *ሠ* being derived from South Arabian *s<sup>2</sup>* *ṣ*), as well as *z* and *t*, these last two absences reflecting the collapse of the [interdental](#) with the [alveolar fricatives](#). On the other hand, emphatic *Pait* *Ṗ*, a Ge'ez innovation, is a modification of *Ṣādai* *Ṣ*, while Pesa *ፒ* is based on Tawe *ተ*.



Sign in [Amharic](#) using the Ge'ez script at the Ethiopian millennium celebration

Thus, there are 24 correspondences of Ge'ez and the South Arabian alphabet:

Translit.	<i>h</i>	<i>l</i>	<i>ḥ</i>	<i>m</i>	<i>ś</i> (SA <i>s<sup>2</sup></i> )	<i>r</i>	<i>s</i> (SA <i>s<sup>1</sup></i> )	<i>k</i>	<i>b</i>	<i>t</i>	<i>ḥ</i>	<i>n</i>
Ge'ez	ሀ	ለ	ሐ	መ	ሠ	ረ	ሰ	ቀ	በ	ተ	ከ	ነ
South Arabian	ሀ	ḥ	ሐ	ṣ	ṣ	ṣ	ṣ	ṣ	ṣ	ṣ	ṣ	ṣ

  

Translit.	<i>ʾ</i>	<i>k</i>	<i>w</i>	<i>ʿ</i>	<i>z</i> (SA <i>ḏ</i> )	<i>y</i>	<i>d</i>	<i>g</i>	<i>t</i>	<i>ṣ</i>	<i>ḏ</i>	<i>f</i>
Ge'ez	አ	ከ	ወ	ዐ	ዘ	የ	ደ	ገ	ጠ	ጸ	ፀ	ፈ
South Arabian	አ	ከ	ወ	ዐ	ዘ	የ	ደ	ገ	ጠ	ጸ	ፀ	ፈ

Many of the letter names are cognate with those of [Phoenician](#), and may thus be assumed for the [Proto-Sinaitic script](#).

## Ge'ez alphabets[[edit](#)]

Two alphabets were used to write the Ge'ez language, an [abjad](#) and later an [abugida](#).

### Ge'ez abjad[[edit](#)]

The abjad, used until c. 330 AD, had 26 consonantal letters:

*h, l, ḥ, m, ś, r, s, k, b, t, ḥ, n, ʾ, k, w, ʿ, z, y, d, g, t, p, ṣ, ṣ, f, p*

Translit.	<i>h</i>	<i>l</i>	<i>ḥ</i>	<i>m</i>	<i>ś</i>	<i>r</i>	<i>s</i>	<i>k</i>	<i>b</i>	<i>t</i>	<i>ḡ</i>	<i>n</i>	'
Ge'ez	ሀ	ለ	ሐ	መ	ሠ	ረ	ሰ	ቀ	በ	ተ	ገ	ነ	አ

Translit.	<i>k</i>	<i>w</i>	'	<i>z</i>	<i>y</i>	<i>d</i>	<i>g</i>	<i>ṭ</i>	<i>p̣</i>	<i>ṣ</i>	<i>ṣ̣</i>	<i>f</i>	<i>p</i>
Ge'ez	ከ	ወ	ዐ	ዘ	የ	ደ	ገ	ጠ	ጰ	ጸ	ፀ	ፈ	ፐ

Vowels were not indicated.

### Ge'ez abugida[[edit](#)]

አኅሂ፡ለእመ፡ወሰዳ፡የዕቅብ፡  
 ለራሱል፡ወደር፡ኃ፡በቃሉ፡ወበ  
 ክዩ፡ወዳድሉ፡ለራሱል፡ከመ፡  
 ወልደ፡እገቱ፡ለሳባ፡ውእቱ፡ወ  
 ከመ፡ወልደ፡ርብቃ፡ውእቱ፡  
 ወርእቱ፡ራሱል፡ወእደድዳዩ፡  
 ለእቡሂ፡ዘኋቱ፡ነገረ፡ወሶባ፡  
 ስምዳ፡ቅለ፡ከመ፡የዕቅብ፡ወ  
 ልደ፡ርብቃ፡እገቱ፡ርእ፡ወተቀ  
 ባሎ፡ወሐቀ፡ወሰዳ፡ወወሰ  
 ደ፡ቤቶ፡ወነገር፡ለሳባ፡ከሎ፡  
 ዘኋቱ፡ነገረ፡ወደቤሎ፡ለባ፡ለ  
 የዕቅብ፡እመ፡ዐደመዳ፡ወእመ  
 ኃ፡ሠገዩ፡አኋቱ፡ወነበረ፡መስሌ  
 ሁ፡ሠላሳ፡መዋዕለ፡  
 ወደቤሎ፡ለባ፡ለየዕቅብ፡እ  
 ስመ፡እኑዩ፡አኋቱ፡ኢተተቀኃ፡  
 ለተ፡በክ፡ኃግረ፡ዐስበክ፡መ  
 ኃቱ፡ውእቱ፡ወደቱ፡ለሳባ፡ክል  
 ኤ፡አዋልድ፡ከ፡ወ፡ለእኋቱ፡ተል

Modern Ge'ez is written from left to right.

The Ge'ez abugida developed under the influence of Christian scripture by adding obligatory vocalic diacritics to the consonantal letters. The diacritics for the vowels, *u*, *i*, *a*, *e*, *ə*, *o*, were fused with the consonants in a recognizable but slightly irregular way, so that the system is laid out as a syllabary. The original form of the consonant was used when the vowel was *ä* (/ə/), the so-called [inherent vowel](#). The resulting forms are shown below in their traditional order. For some vowels, there is an eighth form for the [diphthong](#) -*wa* or -*oa*; and for some of those, a ninth for -*yä*.

To represent a consonant with no following vowel, for example at the end of a syllable or in a [consonant cluster](#), the *ə* (/i/) form is used (the letter in the sixth column).

		ä [ə] or [a]	u	i	a	e	ə [i]	o	wa	yä [jə]
<a href="#">Hoy</a>	<i>h</i>	ሀ	ሁ	ሂ	ሃ	ሄ	ህ	ሆ		
<a href="#">Läwe</a>	<i>l</i>	ለ	ሉ	ሊ	ላ	ሌ	ሎ	ሎ	ሊ	
<a href="#">Häwt</a>	<i>ḥ</i>	ሐ	ሑ	ሒ	ሓ	ሔ	ሕ	ሐ	ሒ	

<a href="#"><i>May</i></a>	<i>m</i>	መ	ሙ	ሚ	ማ	ሜ	ም	ሞ	ሚ	ሚ
<a href="#"><i>Śāwt</i></a>	<i>ś</i>	ሠ	ሡ	ሢ	ሣ	ሤ	ሥ	ሦ	ሧ	
<a href="#"><i>Rē's</i></a>	<i>r</i>	ረ	ሩ	ሪ	ራ	ሪ	ረ	ሪ	ሪ	
<a href="#"><i>Sat</i></a>	<i>s</i>	ሰ	ሱ	ሲ	ሳ	ሴ	ስ	ሶ	ሷ	
<a href="#"><i>Kaf</i></a>	<i>k</i>	ቀ	ቁ	ቂ	ቃ	ቄ	ቅ	ቆ	ቇ	
<a href="#"><i>Bet</i></a>	<i>b</i>	በ	ቡ	ቢ	ባ	ቤ	ብ	ቦ	ቧ	
<a href="#"><i>Tāwe</i></a>	<i>t</i>	ተ	ቱ	ቲ	ታ	ቼ	ት	ቸ	ቷ	
<a href="#"><i>Harm</i></a>	<i>h</i>	ከ	ኩ	ኪ	ካ	ኬ	ኸ	ኹ	ኺ	
<a href="#"><i>Nāhas</i></a>	<i>n</i>	ነ	ኑ	ኒ	ና	ኔ	ነ	ኖ	ኗ	
<a href="#"><i>ʾĀlf</i></a>	<i>ʾ</i>	አ	ኡ	ኢ	ኣ	ኤ	አ	ኦ	ኦ	
<a href="#"><i>Kaf</i></a>	<i>k</i>	ከ	ኩ	ኪ	ካ	ኬ	ኸ	ኹ	ኺ	
<a href="#"><i>Wāwe</i></a>	<i>w</i>	ወ	ዐ	ዑ	ዒ	ዓ	ዐ	ዑ	ዒ	
<a href="#"><i>ʾĀyn</i></a>	<i>ʾ</i>	ዐ	ዑ	ዒ	ዓ	ዐ	ዑ	ዒ	ዓ	
<a href="#"><i>Zäy</i></a>	<i>z</i>	ዘ	ዐ	ዑ	ዒ	ዓ	ዐ	ዑ	ዒ	
<a href="#"><i>Yāmān</i></a>	<i>y</i>	የ	ዐ	ዑ	ዒ	ዓ	ዐ	ዑ	ዒ	
<a href="#"><i>Dānt</i></a>	<i>d</i>	ደ	ዐ	ዑ	ዒ	ዓ	ዐ	ዑ	ዒ	
<a href="#"><i>Gāml</i></a>	<i>g</i>	ገ	ገ	ገ	ገ	ገ	ገ	ገ	ገ	
<a href="#"><i>Tāyt</i></a>	<i>t</i>	ጠ	ጠ	ጠ	ጠ	ጠ	ጠ	ጠ	ጠ	
<a href="#"><i>Ṗāyt</i></a>	<i>p</i>	ጸ	ጸ	ጸ	ጸ	ጸ	ጸ	ጸ	ጸ	
<a href="#"><i>Ṣādäy</i></a>	<i>ṣ</i>	ጸ	ጸ	ጸ	ጸ	ጸ	ጸ	ጸ	ጸ	
<a href="#"><i>Ṣäppä</i></a>	<i>ṣ</i>	ፀ	ፀ	ፀ	ፀ	ፀ	ፀ	ፀ	ፀ	
<a href="#"><i>Äf</i></a>	<i>f</i>	ፈ	ፈ	ፈ	ፈ	ፈ	ፈ	ፈ	ፈ	
<i>Psa</i>	<i>p</i>	ፑ	ፑ	ፑ	ፑ	ፑ	ፑ	ፑ	ፑ	

### Labiovelar variants[[edit](#)]

The letters for the [labialized velar](#) consonants are variants of the non-labialized velar consonants:

<b>Consonant</b>	<i>k</i>	<i>ḵ</i>	<i>k</i>	<i>g</i>
------------------	----------	----------	----------	----------

	ቀ	ኀ	ከ	ኀ
Labialized variant	ቀ <sup>w</sup>	ኀ <sup>w</sup>	ከ <sup>w</sup>	ኀ <sup>w</sup>
	ቐ	ኸ	ከ	ኸ

Unlike the other consonants, these labiovelar ones can only be combined with five different vowels:

	ä	i	a	e	ə
ቀ <sup>w</sup>	ቐ	ቀኢ	ቀኣ	ቀዳ	ቀላ
ኀ <sup>w</sup>	ኸ	ኸኢ	ኸኣ	ኸዳ	ኸላ
ከ <sup>w</sup>	ከ	ከኢ	ከኣ	ከዳ	ከላ
ኀ <sup>w</sup>	ኸ	ኸኢ	ኸኣ	ኸዳ	ኸላ

## Adaptations to other languages[\[edit\]](#)

The Ge'ez abugida has been adapted to several modern languages of Eritrea and Ethiopia, frequently requiring additional letters.

### Additional letters[\[edit\]](#)

Some letters were modified to create additional consonants for use in languages other than Ge'ez. This is typically done by adding a horizontal line at the top of a similar-sounding consonant. The pattern is most commonly used to mark a palatalized version of the original consonant.

Consonant	<i>b</i>	<i>t</i>	<i>d</i>	<i>ʈ</i>
	በ	ተ	ደ	ጠ
Affricated variant	<i>v</i> [v]	<i>č</i> [tʃ]	<i>ǵ</i> [dʒ]	<i>č̣</i> [tʃʰ]
	ቨ	ቸ	ጀ	ጮ

Consonant	<i>k</i>	<i>k</i>
	ቀ	ከ
Affricated variant	<i>kʰ</i> [q]	<i>x</i> [x]
	ቐ	ኸ
Labialized variant	<i>kʰw</i> [qʷ]	<i>xʷ</i> [xʷ]
	ቐ	ኸ

Consonant	<i>s</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>z</i>
	ሰ	ነ	ዘ
Palatalized variant	ṣ [ʃ]	ñ [ɲ]	ž [ʒ]
	ሸ	ኘ	ዝ

Consonant	<i>g</i>	<i>gʷ</i>
	ገ	ጐ
Nasal variant	[ŋ]	[ŋʷ]
	ኘ	ኞ

The vocalised forms are shown below. Like the other labiovelars, these labiovelars can only be combined with five vowels.

	<i>ä</i>	<i>u</i>	<i>i</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>e</i>	<i>ə</i>	<i>o</i>	<i>wa</i>
<b>š</b>	ሸ	ሹ	ሺ	ሻ	ሼ	ሽ	ሾ	ሺ
<b>kʰ</b>	ቀ	ቁ	ቂ	ቃ	ቄ	ቅ	ቆ	
<b>kʰw</b>	ቈ		ቊ	ቄ	ቆ	ቇ		
<b>v</b>	ቨ	ቩ	ቪ	ቫ	ቬ	ቭ	ቯ	ቪ
<b>č</b>	ቸ	ቹ	ቺ	ቻ	ቼ	ች	ቾ	ቻ
<b>[ŋʷ]</b>	ኞ		ኽ		ኾ	኿		

	<i>ä</i>	<i>u</i>	<i>i</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>e</i>	<i>ə</i>	<i>o</i>	<i>wa</i>
<b>ñ</b>	ኘ	ኙ	ኼ	ኽ	ኾ	኿	ኾ	ኼ
<b>x</b>	ኸ	ኹ	ኺ	ኻ	ኼ	ኽ	ኾ	
<b>xʷ</b>	ኸ		ኺ	ኼ	ኼ	ኽ		
<b>ž</b>	ዝ	ዞ	ዟ	ዠ	ዡ	ዣ	ዤ	ዥ
<b>ǧ</b>	ጀ	ጀ	ጀ	ጀ	ጀ	ጀ	ጀ	ጀ
<b>[ŋ]</b>	ኘ	ኙ	ኼ	ኽ	ኾ	኿	ኾ	ኼ
<b>č</b>	ቸ	ቹ	ቺ	ቻ	ቼ	ች	ቾ	ቻ

Letters used in modern alphabets[\[edit\]](#)

The [Amharic alphabet](#) uses all the basic consonants plus the ones indicated below. Some of the Ge'ez labiovelar variants are also used.

[Tigrinya](#) has all the basic consonants, the Ge'ez labiovelar letter variants, except for *h<sup>w</sup>* (ሐ), plus the ones indicated below. A few of the basic consonants are falling into disuse in [Eritrea](#). See [Tigrinya language#Writing system](#) for details.

[Tigre](#) uses the basic consonants except for *ś* (ሠ), *h* (ሐ) and *ç* (ሐ). It also uses the ones indicated below. It does not use the Ge'ez labiovelar letter variants.

[Bilen](#) uses the basic consonants except for *ś* (ሠ), *h* (ሐ) and *ç* (ሐ). It also uses the ones indicated below and the Ge'ez labiovelar letter variants.

	š	k <sup>h</sup>	k <sup>hw</sup>	v	č	ŋ <sup>w</sup>	ñ	x	x <sup>w</sup>	ž	ǵ	ŋ	č
	ሸ	ቀ	ቀፊ	ቨ	ቸ	ንፊ	ኸ	ኸፊ	ኸፊ	ኸፊ	ጀ	ገ	ቸ
<b>Amharic alphabet</b>	✓			✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
<b>Tigrinya alphabet</b>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
<b>Tigre alphabet</b>	✓				✓					✓		✓	
<b>Bilen alphabet</b>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Note: "V" is used for words of foreign origin except for in some [Gurage languages](#), e.g. *cravat* 'tie' from [French](#). "X" is pronounced as "h" in Amharic.

## List order[\[edit\]](#)

For Ge'ez, Amharic, Tigrinya and Tigre, the usual [sort order](#) is called *halāhamā* (h–l–h–m). Where the labiovelar variants are used, these come immediately after the basic consonant and are followed by other variants. In Tigrinya, for example, the letters based on ስ come in this order: ስ, ስፊ, ኸ, ኸፊ. In Bilen, the sorting order is slightly different.

The alphabetical order is similar to that found in other South Semitic scripts, as well as in the ancient [Ugaritic alphabet](#), which attests both the southern Semitic h-l-h-m order and the northern Semitic '–b–g–d (*abugida*) order over three thousand years ago.

## Other usage[\[edit\]](#)

Ge'ez is a sacred script in the [Rastafari movement](#). [Roots reggae](#) musicians have used it in [album art](#).

The films [500 Years Later](#) (፮፻-ዓመታት በኋላ) and [Motherland](#) (እናት ሀገር) are two mainstream [Western](#) documentaries to use Ge'ez characters in the titles. The script also appears in the trailer and promotional material of the films.

## Numerals[[edit](#)]

<a href="#">Numeral systems</a>
<div> <div>0123456789</div> <div>⌵⌶⌷⌸⌹⌺⌻⌼⌽</div> <div>I II III IV V VI VII VIII IX X</div> <div>ዐ ሀ ሂ ሃ ሄ ህ ሆ ሇ ለ ሰ ሱ</div> <div>፬፭፮፯፰፱፻፷፸፹</div> <div>፬፭፮፯፰፱፻፷፸፹</div> <div>〇 一 二 三 四 五 六 七 八 九</div> </div>
<a href="#">Hindu–Arabic numeral system</a>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Western Arabic</a></li> <li><a href="#">Eastern Arabic</a></li> <li><a href="#">Bengali</a></li> <li><a href="#">Devanagari</a></li> <li><a href="#">Gurmukhi</a></li> <li><a href="#">Sinhala</a></li> <li><a href="#">Tamil</a></li> <li><a href="#">Balinese</a></li> <li><a href="#">Burmese</a></li> <li><a href="#">Dzongkha</a></li> <li><a href="#">Gujarati</a></li> <li><a href="#">Javanese</a></li> <li><a href="#">Khmer</a></li> <li><a href="#">Lao</a></li> <li><a href="#">Mongolian</a></li> <li><a href="#">Thai</a></li> </ul>
East Asian
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Chinese</a></li> <li><a href="#">Suzhou</a></li> <li><a href="#">Hokkien</a></li> <li><a href="#">Japanese</a></li> </ul>

<div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><a href="#">Korean</a></li><li><a href="#">Vietnamese</a></li><li><a href="#">Tangut</a></li><li><a href="#">Counting rods</a></li></ul></div>
<div><a href="#">Alphabetic</a></div>
<div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><a href="#">Abjad</a></li><li><a href="#">Armenian</a></li><li><a href="#">Āryabhata</a></li><li><a href="#">Cyrillic</a></li><li><a href="#">Ge'ez</a></li><li><a href="#">Georgian</a></li><li><a href="#">Greek</a></li><li><a href="#">Hebrew</a></li><li><a href="#">Roman</a></li></ul></div>
<div>Former</div>
<div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><a href="#">Aegean</a></li><li><a href="#">Attic</a></li><li><a href="#">Babylonian</a></li><li><a href="#">Brahmi</a></li><li><a href="#">Chuvash</a></li><li><a href="#">Egyptian</a></li><li><a href="#">Etruscan</a></li><li><a href="#">Glagolitic</a></li><li><a href="#">Inuit</a></li><li><a href="#">Kharosthi</a></li><li><a href="#">Mayan</a></li><li><a href="#">Muisca</a></li><li><a href="#">Quipu</a></li></ul></div>

• <a href="#">Prehistoric</a>
<a href="#">Positional systems by base</a>
• <a href="#">2</a>
• <a href="#">3</a>
• <a href="#">4</a>
• <a href="#">5</a>
• <a href="#">6</a>
• <a href="#">8</a>
• <a href="#">10</a>
• <a href="#">12</a>
• <a href="#">16</a>
• <a href="#">20</a>
• <a href="#">60</a>
<a href="#">Non-standard positional numeral systems</a>
• <a href="#">Bijective numeration</a> (1)
• <a href="#">Signed-digit representation</a> ( <a href="#">Balanced ternary</a> )
• <a href="#">mixed</a> ( <a href="#">factorial</a> )
• <a href="#">negative</a>
• <a href="#">Complex-base system</a> ( <a href="#">2i</a> )
• <a href="#">Non-integer representation</a> ( $\phi$ )
• <a href="#">Asymmetric numeral systems</a>
<a href="#">List of numeral systems</a>
• <a href="#">v</a>
• <a href="#">t</a>
• <a href="#">e</a>

Ge'ez uses an additional [alphabetic numeral system](#) comparable to the [Hebrew](#), Arabic [abjad](#) and [Greek numerals](#). It differs from these systems, however, in that it lacks individual characters for the multiples of 100. For example, 475 is written ፬፻፲፭, that is "4-100-75", and 83,692 is ፳፻፳፻፲፭፻፳፻፳፻ "8-10,000-36-100-92". Numbers are over-

and underlined with a [vinculum](#); in proper typesetting these combine to make a single bar, but some less sophisticated fonts cannot render this and show separate bars above and below each character.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
× 1	፩	፪	፫	፬	፭	፮	፯	፰	፱
× 10	፲	፳	፴	፵	፶	፷	፸	፹	፺
× 100	፻								
× 10,000	፽								

Ethiopian numerals were borrowed from the [Greek numerals](#), possibly via [Coptic uncial letters](#).<sup>[15]</sup>

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100
Ethiopic	፩	፪	፫	፬	፭	፮	፯	፰	፱	፲	፳	፴	፵	፶	፷	፸	፹	፺	፻
Greek	Α	Β	Γ	Δ	Ε	Ϛ	Ζ	Η	Θ	Ι	Κ	Λ	Μ	Ν	Ξ	Ο	Π	Ϙ	Ρ
Coptic	Ⲁ	Ⲃ	Ⲅ	Ⲇ	Ⲉ	Ϩ	Ⲑ	Ⲓ	Ⲕ	Ⲗ	Ⲙ	Ⲛ	Ⲝ	Ⲟ	Ⲡ	Ⲣ	Ⲥ	Ⲧ	Ⲩ

## Punctuation[[edit](#)]

Punctuation, much of it modern, includes

፡፡ section mark

፡ [word separator](#)

፡፡ full stop (period)

፡ comma

፡ colon

፡ semicolon

፡ preface colon. Uses:<sup>[16]</sup>

In transcribed interviews, after the name of the speaker whose transcribed speech immediately follows; compare the colon in western text

In ordered lists, after the ordinal symbol (such as a letter or number), separating it from the text of the item; compare the colon, period, or right parenthesis in western text

Many other functions of the colon in western text

፡ question mark

፡፡ paragraph separator

## Unicode[[edit](#)]

Ethiopic has been assigned [Unicode](#) 3.0 codepoints between U+1200 and U+137F (decimal 4608–4991), containing the consonantal letters for Ge'ez, Amharic and Tigrinya, punctuation and numerals. Additionally, in [Unicode](#) 4.1, there is the supplement range from U+1380 to U+139F (decimal 4992–5023) containing letters for [Sebat Bet](#) and tonal marks, and the extended range between U+2D80 and U+2DDF (decimal 11648–11743) containing letters needed for writing Sebat Bet, [Me'en](#) and [Bilen](#). Finally in Unicode 6.0, there is the extended-A range from U+AB00 to U+AB2F (decimal 43776–43823) containing letters for [Gamo-Gofa-Dawro](#), [Basketo](#) and [Gumuz](#).

<a href="#">Ethiopic<sup>[1][2]</sup></a> <a href="#">Official Unicode Consortium code chart</a> (PDF)																
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	A	B	C	D	E	F
U+120x	ሀ	ሁ	ሂ	ሃ	ሄ	ህ	ሆ	ሇ	ለ	ሉ	ሊ	ላ	ሌ	ል	ሎ	ሊ
U+121x	ሐ	ሑ	ሒ	ሓ	ሔ	ሕ	ሖ	ሐ	መ	ሙ	ሚ	ማ	ሜ	ም	ሞ	ሚ
U+122x	ሠ	ሡ	ሢ	ሣ	ሤ	ሥ	ሦ	ሧ	ረ	ሩ	ሪ	ራ	ራ	ር	ሮ	ሯ
U+123x	ሰ	ሱ	ሲ	ሳ	ሴ	ስ	ሶ	ሷ	ሸ	ሹ	ሺ	ሻ	ሼ	ሽ	ሾ	ሿ
U+124x	ቀ	ቁ	ቂ	ቃ	ቄ	ቅ	ቆ	ቇ	ቈ		ቀ	ቁ	ቂ	ቀ		
U+125x	ቈ	቉	ቊ	ቋ	ቌ	ቍ	ቆ		ቈ		ቀ	ቁ	ቂ	ቈ		
U+126x	በ	ቡ	ቢ	ባ	ቤ	ብ	ቦ	ቧ	ቨ	ቩ	ቪ	ቫ	ቬ	ቭ	ቮ	ቯ
U+127x	ተ	ቲ	ታ	ታ	ቲ	ተ	ቶ	ቷ	ቸ	ቹ	ቺ	ቻ	ቼ	ች	ቾ	ቿ
U+128x	ኀ	ኁ	ኂ	ኃ	ኄ	ኅ	ኆ	ኇ			ኀ	ኁ	ኂ	ኀ		
U+129x	ነ	ኑ	ኒ	ና	ኔ	ን	ኖ	ኗ	ኘ	ኙ	ኚ	ኛ	ኜ	ኝ	ኞ	ኟ
U+12Ax	አ	አ	ኢ	ኣ	ኤ	ኦ	ኦ	ኸ	ከ	ኩ	ኪ	ካ	ኬ	ክ	ኮ	ኰ
U+12Bx	ኰ		ኰ	ካ	ካ	ኰ			ኸ	ኹ	ኺ	ኻ	ኼ	ኽ	ኾ	
U+12Cx	ኰ		ኰ	ኺ	ኺ	ኰ			ወ	ወ	ዐ	ዐ	ዐ	ወ	ዐ	ዐ
U+12Dx	ዐ	ዐ	ዒ	ዒ	ዒ	ዐ	ዐ		ዘ	ዘ	ዘ	ዘ	ዘ	ዘ	ዘ	ዘ
U+12Ex	ዘ	ዘ	ዘ	ዘ	ዘ	ዘ	ዘ	ዘ	ዘ	ዘ	ዘ	ዘ	ዘ	ዘ	ዘ	ዘ
U+12Fx	ዘ	ዘ	ዘ	ዘ	ዘ	ዘ	ዘ	ዘ	ዘ	ዘ	ዘ	ዘ	ዘ	ዘ	ዘ	ዘ
U+130x	ጀ	ጀ	ጀ	ጀ	ጀ	ጀ	ጀ	ጀ	ጀ	ጀ	ጀ	ጀ	ጀ	ጀ	ጀ	ጀ

U+131x	ጠ		ጡ	ጢ	ጣ	ጤ	ጥ	ጦ	ጧ	ጨ	ጩ	ጪ	ጫ	ጬ	ጭ	ጮ
U+132x	ጰ	ጱ	ጲ	ጳ	ጴ	ጵ	ጶ	ጷ	ጸ	ጹ	ጺ	ጻ	ጼ	ጽ	ጾ	ጿ
U+133x	ሐ	ሑ	ሒ	ሓ	ሔ	ሕ	ሖ	ሗ	መ	ሙ	ሚ	ሚ	ሚ	ሚ	ሚ	ሚ
U+134x	ፀ	ፁ	ፊ	ፋ	ፅ	ፈ	ፇ	ፈ	ፉ	ፊ	ፋ	ፅ	ፈ	ፇ	ፈ	ፇ
U+135x	ተ	ፑ	ፒ	ፓ	ፔ	ፕ	ፖ	ፘ	ፙ	ፚ	፛			፝	፞	፟
U+136x	ሠ	ሡ	ሢ	ሣ	ሤ	ሥ	ሦ	ሧ	ረ	ሪ	ሪ	ሪ	ሪ	ሪ	ሪ	ሪ
U+137x	ሸ	ሹ	ሺ	ሻ	ሼ	ሽ	ሾ	ሿ	፠	፡	።	፣	፤	፥	፦	፧

**Notes**

1. <sup>^</sup> As of Unicode version 13.0
2. <sup>^</sup> Grey areas indicate non-assigned code points

[Ethiopic Supplement<sup>\[1\]\[2\]</sup>](#)[Official Unicode Consortium code chart](#) (PDF)

	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	A	B	C	D	E	F
U+138x	ሠ	ሡ	ሢ	ሣ	ሤ	ሥ	ሦ	ሧ	ረ	ሪ	ሪ	ሪ	ሪ	ሪ	ሪ	ሪ
U+139x	ሠ	ሡ	ሢ	ሣ	ሤ	ሥ	ሦ	ሧ	ረ	ሪ	ሪ	ሪ	ሪ	ሪ	ሪ	ሪ

**Notes**

1. <sup>^</sup> As of Unicode version 13.0
2. <sup>^</sup> Grey areas indicate non-assigned code points

[Ethiopic Extended<sup>\[1\]\[2\]</sup>](#)[Official Unicode Consortium code chart](#) (PDF)

	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	A	B	C	D	E	F
U+2D8x	ሐ	ሑ	ሒ	ሓ	ሔ	ሕ	ሖ	ሗ	መ	ሙ	ሚ	ሚ	ሚ	ሚ	ሚ	ሚ
U+2D9x	ሐ	ሑ	ሒ	ሓ	ሔ	ሕ	ሖ	ሗ	መ	ሙ	ሚ	ሚ	ሚ	ሚ	ሚ	ሚ
U+2DAx	ሐ	ሑ	ሒ	ሓ	ሔ	ሕ	ሖ	ሗ	መ	ሙ	ሚ	ሚ	ሚ	ሚ	ሚ	ሚ
U+2DBx	ሐ	ሑ	ሒ	ሓ	ሔ	ሕ	ሖ	ሗ	መ	ሙ	ሚ	ሚ	ሚ	ሚ	ሚ	ሚ
U+2DCx	ሐ	ሑ	ሒ	ሓ	ሔ	ሕ	ሖ	ሗ	መ	ሙ	ሚ	ሚ	ሚ	ሚ	ሚ	ሚ
U+2DDx	ሐ	ሑ	ሒ	ሓ	ሔ	ሕ	ሖ	ሗ	መ	ሙ	ሚ	ሚ	ሚ	ሚ	ሚ	ሚ

**Notes**

- <sup>1</sup> <sup>^</sup> As of Unicode version 13.0
- <sup>2</sup> <sup>^</sup> Grey areas indicate non-assigned code points

[Ethiopic Extended-A](#)<sup>[1][2]</sup>

[Official Unicode Consortium code chart](#) (PDF)

	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	A	B	C	D	E	F
U+AB0x		ሰ	ሱ	ሲ	ሳ	ሴ	ስ			፩	፪	፫	፬	፭	፮	
U+AB1x		ሸ	ሹ	ሺ	ሻ	ሼ	ሽ									
U+AB2x	፳፬	፳፭	፳፮	፳፯	፳፰	፳፱	፳፺		፳፻	፳፽	፳፿	፳፼	፳፽	፳፾	፳፿	

**Notes**

- <sup>1</sup> <sup>^</sup> As of Unicode version 13.0
- <sup>2</sup> <sup>^</sup> Grey areas indicate non-assigned code points

**See also**<sup>[[edit](#)]</sup>

- [Ancient South Arabian script](#)
- [History of the alphabet](#)

**Literature**<sup>[[edit](#)]</sup>

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**References**<sup>[[edit](#)]</sup>

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- <sup>2</sup> <sup>^</sup> Daniels, Peter T.; Bright, William, eds. (1996). *[The World's Writing Systems](#)*. Oxford University Press, Inc. pp. [89](#), [98](#), [569–570](#). [ISBN 978-0-19-507993-7](#).

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16. <sup>^</sup> ["Notes on Ethiopic Localization". The Abyssinia Gateway. 2013-07-22. Archived from the original on 2014-09-10. Retrieved 22 March 2015.](#)

### External links<sup>[[edit](#)]</sup>

- [Chart](#) correlating [IPA](#) values for the Amharic alphabet
- Unicode specification
- [Ethiopic](#)
- [Ethiopic Supplement](#)
- [Ethiopic Extended](#)

- [Ethiopic Extended-A](#)
- [A Look at Ethiopic Numerals](#)
- [The Names of Ge'ez Letters](#)