

ROMANIZATION SYSTEM FOR TIGRINYA

BGN/PCGN System 2007

The BGN/PCGN system for Tigrinya is designed for use in romanizing geographical names written in Tigrinya (Ge'ez) characters. The Roman letters and letter combinations shown as equivalents to the Tigrinya characters reflect modern Tigrinya pronunciation, while taking into account some conscious archaisms based on Ge'ez and liturgical practices.

It should also be noted that an orthographic reform was apparently promulgated in Eritrea in 1991, but as yet these are unassessed.

TIGRINYA BASIC CHARACTERS

	<i>1st order</i>		<i>2nd order</i>		<i>3rd order</i>		<i>4th order</i>		<i>5th order</i>		<i>6th order¹</i>		<i>7th order</i>	
1	ሀ	he	ሁ	hu	ሂ	hi	ሃ	ha	ሄ	hie	ህ	h / hĩ	ሆ	ho
2	ለ	le	ሉ	lu	ሊ	li	ላ	la	ሌ	lie	ል	l / lĩ	ሎ	lo
3	ሐ	he	ሑ	hu	ሒ	hi	ሓ	ha	ሔ	hie	ሕ	h / hĩ	ሐ	ho
4	መ	me	ሙ	mu	ሚ	mi	ማ	ma	ሜ	mie	ም	m / mĩ	ሞ	mo
5 ²	ሠ	se	ሡ	su	ሢ	si	ሣ	sa	ሤ	sie	ሥ	s / sĩ	ሦ	so
6	ረ	re	ሩ	ru	ሪ	ri	ራ	ra	ሪ	rie	ር	r / rĩ	ሮ	ro
7	ሰ	se	ሱ	su	ሲ	si	ሳ	sa	ሴ	sie	ስ	s / sĩ	ሶ	so
8	ሸ	she	ሹ	shu	ሺ	shi	ሻ	sha	ሼ	shie	ሽ	sh / shĩ	ሾ	sho
9	ቀ	k'e	ቁ	k'u	ቂ	k'i	ቃ	k'a	ቄ	k'ie	ቅ	k' / k'ĩ	ቆ	k'o
10	ቆ	kh'e	ቇ	kh'u	ቈ	kh'i	቉	kh'a	ቊ	kh'ie	ቋ	kh' / kh'ĩ	ቌ	kh'o
11	ቦ	be	ቦ	bu	ቦ	bi	ቦ	ba	ቦ	bie	ቦ	b / bĩ	ቦ	bo
12	ተ	te	ተ	tu	ተ	ti	ተ	ta	ተ	tie	ተ	t / tĩ	ተ	to
13	ቸ	che	ቸ	chu	ቸ	chi	ቸ	cha	ቸ	chie	ቸ	ch / chĩ	ቸ	cho
14	ኀ	he	ኁ	hu	ኂ	hi	ኃ	ha	ኄ	hie	ኅ	h / hĩ	ኆ	ho
15	ነ	ne	ኑ	nu	ኒ	ni	ና	na	ኔ	nie	ን	n / nĩ	ኖ	no
16	ኘ	nye	ኙ	nyu	ኚ	nyi	ኛ	nya	ኜ	nyie	ኝ	ny / nyĩ	ኞ	nyo

¹ The 6th-order characters should be romanized either with or without the letter ĩ, depending on pronunciation.

² Forms of the consonant character ሠ are understood to be becoming obsolete in Tigrinya.

	1 st order	2 nd order	3 rd order	4 th order	5 th order	6 th order ¹	7 th order
17 ³	አ ⁴ e / 'e	ኡ u / 'u	ኢ i / 'i	ኣ a / 'a	ኤ ie / 'ie	አ ṽ / 'ṽ	ኦ o / 'o
18	ከ ke	ከ ku	ከ ki	ካ ka	ካ kie	ከ k / kī	ከ ko
19	ኸ khe	ኸ khu	ኸ khi	ኸ kha	ኸ khie	ኸ kh / khī	ኸ kho
20	ወ we	ወ wu	ወ wi	ወ wa	ወ wie	ወ w / wī	ወ wo
21	ዐ 'e	ዐ 'u	ዐ 'i	ዐ 'a	ዐ 'ie	ዐ ' / 'ṽ	ዐ 'o
22	ዘ ze	ዘ zu	ዘ zi	ዘ za	ዘ zie	ዘ z / zī	ዘ zo
23	ዠ zhe	ዠ zhu	ዠ zhi	ዠ zha	ዠ zhie	ዠ zh / zhī	ዠ zho
24	የ ye	የ yu	የ yi	የ ya	የ yie	የ y / yī	የ yo
25	ደ de	ደ du	ደ di	ደ da	ደ die	ደ d / dī	ደ do
26	ጀ je	ጀ ju	ጀ ji	ጀ ja	ጀ jie	ጀ j / jī	ጀ jo
27	ገ ge	ገ gu	ገ gi	ገ ga	ገ gie	ገ g / gī	ገ go
28	ጠ t'e	ጠ t'u	ጠ t'i	ጠ t'a	ጠ t'ie	ጠ t' / t'ī	ጠ t'o
29	ጨ ch'e	ጨ ch'u	ጨ ch'i	ጨ ch'a	ጨ ch'ie	ጨ ch' / chī	ጨ ch'o
30	ጰ p'e	ጰ p'u	ጰ p'i	ጰ p'a	ጰ p'ie	ጰ p' / p'ī	ጰ p'o
31	ጸ ts'e	ጸ ts'u	ጸ ts'i	ጸ ts'a	ጸ ts'ie	ጸ ts' / ts'ī	ጸ ts'o
32	ፀ ts'e	ፀ ts'u	ፀ ts'i	ፀ ts'a	ፀ ts'ie	ፀ ts' / ts'ī	ፀ ts'o
33	ፈ fe	ፈ fu	ፈ fi	ፈ fa	ፈ fie	ፈ f / fī	ፈ fo
34	ፐ pe	ፐ pu	ፐ pi	ፐ pa	ፐ pie	ፐ p / pī	ፐ po
35	ቨ ve	ቨ vu	ቨ vi	ቨ va	ቨ vie	ቨ v / vī	ቨ vo

COMBINATIONS WITH W (Labialized Consonants)

1 st order	3 rd order	4 th order	5 th order	6 th order
ከዐ kwe	ከዐ kwi	ከዐ kwa	ከዐ kwie	ከዐ kwī
ኸዐ khwe	ኸዐ khwi	ኸዐ khwa	ኸዐ khwie	ኸዐ khwī
ቁ k'we	ቁ k'wi	ቁ k'wa	ቁ k'wie	ቁ k'wī
ቁኸ kh'we	ቁኸ kh'wi	ቁኸ kh'wa	ቁኸ kh'wie	ቁኸ kh'wī
ገዐ gwe	ገዐ gwi	ገዐ gwa	ገዐ gwie	ገዐ gwī
ገዐ ḥwe	ገዐ ḥwi	ገዐ ḥwa	ገዐ ḥwie	ገዐ ḥwī
		ገገ lwa		
		ገገ mwa		

³ The vowel characters in row 17 should be romanized with the apostrophe unless appearing as a word-initial.

⁴ Forms of the character አ are understood to be falling into disuse in Tigrinya.

COMBINATIONS WITH W (Labialized Consonants) *continued*

1 st order		3 rd order		4 th order		5 th order		6 th order	
				ረ	rwa				
				ሰ	swa				
				ሻ	shwa				
				ቢ	bwa				
				ቲ	twa				
				ቸ	chwa				
				ኗ	nwa				
				ኗ	nywa				
				ዘ	zwa				
				ሻ	zhwa				
				ደ	dwa				
				ጃ	jwa				
				ጥ	t'wa				
				ጭ	ch'wa				
				ጸ	ts'wa				
				ፍ	fwa				

NUMERALS

፩	፪	፫	፬	፭	፮	፯	፰	፱	፲	፳	፴	፵	፶	፷	፸	፹	፺	፻		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	20	21	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100

PUNCTUATION

Word Break (space)	:
Comma	፡
Semicolon	፣
Period	::

NOTES

1. Where consonant character sequences give rise to the romanizations k-h, n-y, z-h and s-h, a hyphen may be added between them to differentiate those romanizations from the digraphs kh, ny, zh and sh.
2. Where possible, consonant gemination should be reflected. Though not evident from the Ge'ez script, this may be ascertained from a reference source, such as the *Tigrinya-English dictionary*, Thomas Leiper Kane, Dunwoody Press, Springfield, VA, 2000.