

LESSON 32

Verbal Adjectives and Nouns

Many adjectives and nouns are derived from verbs. That is, they are part of a system of words sharing the same root. The root is thought of as a set of radicals with a certain meaning.

For example, the word **ማዕጽ** *door*, like **ዕጽወ** *closed*, is from the root **ዓጸወ** *close*. In this case the final **ወ** has been dropped or assimilated, as often happens with “weak” letters, but the common root can still be seen. There is some regularity in the way words are formed from the roots, and it is helpful to see this especially when learning vocabulary.

1. Verbal adjectives are passive participles, generally formed with the vowels 6-2-6. Thus from **ሰበረ** *break* is formed the adjective **ሰበረ** *broken*, with its feminine **ሰበረቲ** and plural **ሰበራት**. The form **ሰበረ** has the vowels 6th form, 2d form, and 6th form, or 6-2-6. So also **ከፋት** *open*; **ዕጽወ** *closed*; **ግሩም** *wonderful*.

2. Verbal nouns are formed in various ways. Two more or less regular patterns are:

a. Nouns signifying the agent or the name of a profession are usually formed with the vowels 1-4-3, or sometimes 1-4-4 plus **ይ**.

ሰባሪ	ሰባሪት (f.)	ሰበረቲ (pl.)	<i>breaker</i>
ፈራዲ			<i>judge</i>
ሐራዲ			<i>butcher</i>
ዘዋሪ			<i>driver</i>
ጽሐፊ or ጽሓፋይ			<i>writer</i> or <i>secretary</i>
አላማ or አላማይ			<i>weaver</i>

b. Nouns signifying tools or instrumentality are often formed with **መ** plus 6-1-3, or **መ** plus 6-1-3 plus **ት**.

መጽረሲ	<i>plane</i> (carpenter's tool)
መድሃኒት	<i>medicine</i> (lit. <i>that saves</i> from disease)
መፈንቀለ	<i>sledge-hammer</i> or <i>wedge</i>

Some of these nouns are formed with the vowels 6-1-6.

መንበር	<i>chair</i>
-------------	--------------

LESSON 33

Ordinal Numbers

The ordinal numbers are inflected for gender, and agree with the noun they modify.

masc.	fem.	
ቀዳማይ	ቀዳመይቲ	first
ካልኦይ	ካልኦይቲ	second
ሳልሳይ	ሳልሳይቲ	third
ራብዓይ	ራብዓይቲ	fourth
ሐምሻይ	ሐምሻይቲ	fifth
ሻድሻይ	ሻድሻይቲ	sixth
ሻብዓይ	ሻብዓይቲ	seventh
ሻምናይ	ሻምናይቲ	eighth
ታሸዓይ	ታሸዓይቲ	ninth
ዓስራይ	ዓስራይቲ	tenth

The ordinal numbers *eleventh* and higher are made by using the word መበል with the cardinal number.

መበል ዓስርተው ሐደ	eleventh
መበል ዓስርተው ክልተ	twelfth

Some common fractions are as follows.

ፍርቂ	one-half
ሲሶ	one-third
ርብዓ	one-fourth
ሕምሲት	one-fifth
ሐምሻይ አፍ	
or ሐምሻይ አድ	a fifth portion
ስምኒት	one-eighth
ዕስራት	one-tenth

LESSON 34

Direct and Indirect Objects

The grammatical direct object of a verb can often be identified as the person or thing that receives the action of the verb. In some languages, like Latin and Greek, it is in a distinctive case (the accusative). In Tigrinya, it comes before the verb.

ካህን ጸሎት ወዲሁ። *The priest ended the prayer.*

እምብልታኦም እናወቕዑ እቶም ሰብኡት ናብቲ ዝ

አተዉ። *Playing their flutes, the men entered the house.*

The direct object of the verb may be introduced by ን prefixed, although this prefixed ን is not obligatory. When it is used, the verb will have a pronoun suffix that corresponds to the object. In the first sentence below, the suffixed የ is masculine singular, corresponding to the noun phrase, "his good friend." In effect, the object is expressed twice, once as noun and once as pronoun.

1. In any one nominal group, ን occurs only once.

ነቲ ሕያዋይ ዓርኩ ርእየዮ። *I have seen his good friend.*

2. When there are several objects, ን can appear before each object, or it can appear only one time.

ነቲ ሐለቓን ነቶም ወተሃደራትን ሐዝም። *He helped the chief and the soldiers.*

ንሐለቓን ወተሃደራትን ሐዝም። (the same)

3. If the direct object is a pronoun, the verbal suffix alone can express it. However, a pronominal suffix can be added with ን, in the form ንኣ. But the verb will still have its suffix. In effect, the object is expressed twice, both times as a pronoun.

እቶም ቁልዑ ረአዩኒ። *Those children saw me.*

እቶም ቁልዑ ንኣይ ረአዩኒ። (the same)

The indirect object is expressed by **ን** prefixed to the noun.

እቲ ጭቃ ንወተሃደራት ገንዘብ ሂብዎም። *The chief of the village gave money to the soldiers.*

If there are several indirect objects, **ን** may be used with each one, or only once.

ነቶም አወዳቱን ነተን አዋልዱን ዝ ይህቦም። *He is giving the house to his sons and his daughters.*

ንአቦይን አደይን ተዛሪብዎም። *He spoke to my father and mother.*

In the second sentence, if the parents are addressed individually, it is better to use **ን** with each: **ንአቦይን ንአደይን.**

The direct object may be placed before the indirect, or vice-versa.

እዚ መጽሓፍ ንመምህር ሃቦ። *Give this book to the teacher.*

ንመምህር እዚ መጽሓፍ ሃቦ። (the same)

If the indirect object is a pronoun, the pronoun object suffixes of the verb may be employed. When **ን** is used with a pronoun, pronoun suffixes of the type used with nouns are attached to the particle **ንኡ**.

ኢሉኒ *He said to me.*

ንዓይ ሂቡኒ *He gave to me.*

The preposition **ለ** or **ል**

The preposition **ለ** or **ል** with a pronoun object suffix attached is used with verbs. It cannot introduce a noun. Its usual meaning is *on behalf of, for the benefit of*. With some verbs, it introduces an ordinary indirect object. In effect, this preposition **ለ** with its

pronoun is like a Latin or Greek dative, which can be a "dative of advantage," a "dative of reference," or a "dative indirect object."

	Singular		Plural
3 m.	-ሉ <i>for him</i>	-ሎም	<i>for them</i>
f.	-ላ <i>for her</i>	-ለን	<i>for them</i>
2 m.	-ልካ <i>for you</i>	-ልኩም	<i>for you</i>
f.	-ልኪ <i>for you</i>	-ልክን	<i>for you</i>
1 c.	-ለይ <i>for me</i>	-ልና	<i>for us</i>

ማዕጸ ኸፈትዎ። *He opened the door.*

ማዕጸ ኸፈቱሉ። *He opened the door for him.*

ነቲ መጽሓፍ ባዕሉ ጸሒፍዎ። *He wrote that book himself.*

መጽሓፍ ጸሒፉልና። *He wrote a book for us.*

መስኪሩልካ። *He testified on your behalf.*

ነቲ ኸልቢ አሰሮ። *He tied the dog.*

ነቲ ኸልቢ አሰሩለይ። *He tied the dog for me.*

ተፈቂዱልና። *It is permitted for us. (Latin licet nobis)*

አምጽአለይ። *Bring [it] to me.*

መሊሱሎም። *He gave them back*

መሊሱሎም። *He answered them.*

Some verbs, such as **መለሰ** *answer*, **ሰገደ** *worship*, **ደንገጸ** *pity*, use **ን** with the object expressed independently and **ል** with the corresponding object pronoun as it is suffixed to the verb.

ንአምላኽ ሰገደሉ። *He worshiped God.*

ፈራዲ ነቲ ሰራቂ ደንገጸሉ። *The judge pitied the thief.*

In compound tenses, the suffixes are always joined to the main verb and not to the auxiliary.

ነቲ ኸልቢ ይአስሮ ነበረ። *He was tying the dog.*

LESSON 35

Interrogatives

Questions can be asked with interrogative pronouns and adverbs.

እንታይ	what?
አበይ	where?
ካበይ	from where?
ናበይ	to where?
መላስ	when?
መን	who?
ምስ መን	with whom?
ናይ መን	of whom, whose?
ንመን	to whom?
አየናይ	which?
ክንደይ	how many?
ከመይ	how?
ብምንታይ	how, by what means?
ንምንታይ	why, for what?
ስለምንታይ	why, for what reason?

If an interrogative word is not used, questions are formed with a special particle, **ዶ**. This is attached as a suffix to the appropriate word. But when it is attached to **እዩ** or **አሎ**, it is prefixed rather than suffixed, and does not have the 7th form vowel.

	with እዩ		with አሎ
3 m.	ድዩ	ድዮም	ደሎ
f.	ድያ	ድየን	ደለዎ
2 m.	ዲኻ	ዲኹም	ደሎኻ
f.	ዲኺ	ዲኸን	ደሎኸን
1 c.	ድዮ	ዲና	ደሎኸ

The particle **ዶ** is used only once in a question.

ጽቡቅ ድዩ፡ ወይስ ሕማቅ እዩ፡ *Is it good or bad?*

When the answer expected is positive, **ዶ** is used with a negative verb (cf. Latin *nonne*).

ከልብን ተኹላን መበቆሎም ካብ ሓደ እዩ፡ አይኮነን፡ *The dog and the wolf are from the same species, aren't they?*

ከልብን ተኹላን መበቆሎም ሓደ ዶ አይኮነን፡ *Aren't the dog and the wolf from the same species?*

ዕባይ ከተማ ዶ ማሕረስ ይኸእል፡ *Do city boys know how to plow?*

ብዕራይ ዶ ይወልድ፡ *Can an ox have a calf?*

Questions are marked in speech by a rising intonation. The traditional written question mark **፤** (**ስለስተ ነጥቢ**, *three dots*) has now largely been replaced by the mark “?” especially in handwriting.

LESSON 36

Causatives

The different stems of a verb, or themes (this is the term used by W. Leslau) are conjugations of the verb in which a regular transformation is applied through all the inflections of person, number, and so on. These transformations imply a regular effect on the meaning of the verb. For example, when a verb is systematically altered by prefixing the radical **አ**, the whole collection of new forms is the conjugation of the "causative stem" of the verb. The common meaning of these forms is generally the meaning of the root verb with the idea of causation added to it. Thus from **ገበረ** *do* is derived **አግበረ** *cause to do*.

The radical **አ** is a "weak" radical, and when it is added to another word its presence is not always obvious.

When **አ** is prefixed to a verb like **ገደፈ** *leave off*, which begins with a 6th form radical, the prefix and the radical make a single syllable that ends with the 6th form silent: **አግደፈ** *cause to leave off* (pronounced **አግ - ደፈ**).

When **አ** is prefixed to an inflected form of the verb beginning with a person marker like **ይ** or **ት**, the prefix causes the 6th form radical to become 1st form, and the radical **አ** of the prefix does not itself appear. **ትባርኸ** *she blesses* plus **አ** becomes **ተባርኸ** *she causes to bless*.

In type A verbs, and in family III.1, the first radical of the root remains in the 6th form.

Simple perfect	Imperfect	Gerundive	Jussive-imperative
አስበረ	የስብር	አስቢሩ	የስብር
አጽሐፈ	የጽሕፍ	አጽሒፉ	የጽሕፍ

In type B and C verbs, the first radical keeps its original vowel.

Simple perfect	Imperfect	Gerundive	Jussive-imperative
አበደለ	የበድል	አበዲሉ	የበድል
አባረኸ	የባርኸ	አባረኹ	የባርኸ

In all verbs, in the imperfect and jussive-imperative, the second and following radicals become 6th form.

In some verbs a letter, **ን** or **ም**, is added for the sake of pronunciation, between the causative prefix and the first radical of the root.

ቀጥቀጠ *pound*, **አንቀጥቀጠ** *tremble*

Notice the uses of the causative in the following examples.

ወጸአ።	<i>He went out.</i>
ነታ ዱሙ አውጸአዋ።	<i>He caused the cat to go out.</i>
ትማሊ መጸአ።	<i>He came yesterday.</i>
ትማሊ ነቲ ገንዘብ አምጸአዎ።	<i>He brought the money yesterday (lit caused the money to come)</i>
ነቲ ገንዘብ የምጽአ አሎ።	<i>He is bringing the money.</i>
ጽባሕ ነቲ ገንዘብ ኬምጽአ እዩ።	<i>He will bring the money tomorrow.</i>
ነቲ መጽሐፍ አብ ሰደቻ አቅመጠ።	<i>Put the book on the table.</i>

Some verbs are causative in form, but not causative in meaning.

አመስገነ	<i>give thanks</i>
አምለጠ	<i>escape</i>
አለለየ	<i>recognize</i>

LESSON 37

Passives

To form the passive stem, the letter ተ is prefixed. However, in the imperfect, jussive, and infinitive, the ተ is assimilated by the first radical of the root and does not appear.

	Singular		Plural
3 m.	ተሀረመ <i>he was struck</i>	ተሀረሙ	<i>they were struck</i>
f.	ተሀረመች <i>she was struck</i>	ተሀረሙ	<i>they were struck</i>
2 m.	ተሀረምካ <i>you were struck</i>	ተሀረምኩም	<i>you were struck</i>
f.	ተሀረምኪ <i>you were struck</i>	ተሀረምኩን	<i>you were struck</i>
1 c.	ተሀረምኩ <i>I was struck</i>	ተሀረምና	<i>we were struck</i>

There is a relatively wide range of pronunciation of some forms of the passive.

In the simple perfect of type A verbs, when the third radical is a form other than 6th, the second radical usually becomes a 6th form. But sometimes an alternate spelling with the 1st form exists. Thus ተሰብረ and ተሰበረ are equivalent. The meaning is *it was broken*, a passive from ሰበረ *break*.

In type A and B verbs, in the imperfect, the first radical becomes 6th form, and the second remains 1st form. For example, the simple imperfect እምኒ ገለ ይሰበር *the stone was breaking something*, becomes in the passive እምኒ ይሰበር *the stone was being broken*. The ሰ becomes ስ but በ remains በ.

When the passive is formed of the simple perfect of family III.1, the first radical becomes 4th form and the second radical becomes 6th form. Thus the simple perfect ጽሐፈ *he wrote* becomes ተጽሐፈ *it was written*. For the imperfect passive of family III.1, the second radical becomes 1st form. Thus ይጽሐፍ *he was writing* when made passive is ይጽሐፍ *it was being written*. For the jussive-imperative passive of family III.1, the first radical becomes 1st form. Thus ይጽሓፍ *let him write* becomes the passive ይጽሓፍ *let it be written*.

The passive is used as a regular passive, as a reflexive (the Greek “middle”), and as a deponent. A deponent verb is one that is “passive in form but active in meaning,” like Latin *hortor* “I exhort,” not “I am exhorted.” Tigrinya examples are:

እቲ ወዲ ተሀረመ።	<i>The boy was hit. (passive)</i>
እቲ ሸሐኒ ተሐጸቡ።	<i>The plate has been washed. (passive)</i>
ተሐጸባ።	<i>She washed herself. (reflexive, or “middle”)</i>
ተዛረበ	<i>speak (deponent)</i>
ተጻወተ	<i>play (deponent)</i>
ተመነየ	<i>desire, covet (deponent)</i>

LESSON 38

Relatives

Introduction

Relative clauses in English are usually introduced by the relative pronouns, *who*, *which*, *that*, and so on. "The letter you wrote," and "the letter that you wrote," amount to the same thing, but the second uses the relative pronoun "that" to introduce the clause "you wrote." Tigrinya does not use a separate word for this function. Instead, the simple perfect or imperfect of the verb is inflected by prefixing **ዝ** or **እ** to it.

መልእኹቲ ጽሒፍካ *You wrote a letter.*
ዝጽሓፍካ መልእኹቲ *the letter [that] you wrote [it]*

The second phrase might be translated *the you-wrote-it letter*, in order to display the fact that the modifying or defining clause in Tigrinya is one word, not several words as in English. It also illustrates how the Tigrinya word is something like a participle. It can be made into a substantive by using an article.

ዚመጽእ ሰሙን *the coming week*
እቲ ዚመጽእ መን እዩ፤ *That person coming, who is it?*

Formation of the Relative

In general, the relative prefix is **ዝ**. Its vowel can be modified by the radicals that follow it. However, when the verb begins with the personal markers **ት** or **ን**, the prefix is **እ** rather than **ዝ**. Further details about these prefixes follow.

ዝ is prefixed to the simple perfect or imperfect.

ገበረ *he did* **ዝገበረ** *that did*
ይገብር *he is doing* **ዚገብር** *that is doing*

እ is used in front of the personal markers **ት** and **ን**. The person markers are doubled when the relative is prefixed.

እንገብር *we who are doing*
እትገብር *you who are doing*

እ (rarely **ዝ**) is used in front of the passive prefix **ተ**.

እተገብረ *that was done*
እተዳለወ *that was made ready; prepared*
እተጻሕፈ መልእኹቲ *a letter that was written*

When **ዝ** precedes **እ**, the first person singular marker, the marker is dropped and only **ዝ** appears.

እሰምዕ *I am listening* **ዝሰምዕ** *I who listen*

When **ዝ** precedes **ይ**, the combination becomes **ዚ**.

ይገብር *he is doing* **ዚገብር** *that is doing*

ዝ with **አሎ** makes **ዘሎ**, and so forth.

እምነት ዘላቶ *the one who has faith*

A negative verb in the indicative begins with **አይ** and ends with **ን**. With the relative, the verb begins with **ዘይ** and the suffix **ን** is not used.

እቲ ዘይገበሮ ወዲ *the boy who did not do it*

When **ዝ** precedes **አ**, from the causative, the combination becomes **ዘ**.

Usage

When the relative clause is an adjective clause, it comes before the noun. For example,

እታ ዝመጸት ጓል ሳራ እያ። *The girl who came is Sarah.*
ነታ ትማሊ ዝመጸት ጓል ጸውዓያ። *Call the girl who came yesterday (lit To the yesterday arrived girl, call her. This sentence would also be correct without the preposition ን, that is, with እታ instead of ነታ.)*

When the relative clause is a noun clause, it replaces the noun in the sentence order.

ናብ ከረን ደይቡ ድማ፡ ንዝደለዮም ጸውዒ፡ ናብኡ ኸአ መጹ። *He went up into a mountain and called whom he would, and they came to him.*

Points of construction

The verb in the relative clause has the usual object suffixes, direct and indirect.

እቲ እትርእዮ ዘሎኻ ሰብ ኩናማ እዩ። *The man whom you see is from Kunama.*
እቲ ዝገበርካለይ ብዙሕ እዩ። *What you have done for me is much.*

When the semantic relationship of the verb in a relative clause to the noun it modifies is indirect, the preposition **ል** and the third person pronouns may be used for the suffixes of the verb. (The suffixes would be **-ሎ -ላ -ሎም -ለን**)

እታ እትጻውተላ ዘሎኻ ኩዕሶ ከባብ ኣይኩነተን። *The ball you are playing with isn't round.* The instrumental "with" accounts for the preposition **ል** in **እትጻውተላ**.
እቲ ዝሓደርናሉ ሆተል ናይ ተስፋይ እዩ። *The hotel in which we spent the night belongs to Tesfai.*
በታ እተወለድኩላ ዓመት ብርቱዕ ዝናም ዘነመ። *There were heavy rains in the year that I was born.*

There are some verbs, such as **ሰፈረ** *stay a while*, and **አሎ** *be present*, that might seem to require the preposition **ል** but which do not use it. They use the direct object suffix.

እቲ ዝሰፈርናዮ ዓዲ ሃሩር እዩ። *The village we stopped in is hot.*

እቲ ዘሎናዮ ዝገ ገፊሕ እዩ። *The house we are in is large.*

If the verb in the relative clause has a direct object marked with the prefix **ን**, the verb does not take an object suffix.

እታ ንዋና-ጸሓፊ ዝረአየት ሰበይቲ ሓብተይ እያ። *The woman who has seen the First Secretary is my sister.* (Note that the form **ዝረአየት** is used, rather than **ዝረአየቶ**.)

The relative construction is used often with the verb "to be." Depending on the emphasis, either the relative or the verb can be last.

እቲ ዝሽደ ሓወይ እዩ። *The person who just left is my brother.*
ሓወይ እዩ ዝሽደ። *My brother is the one that went.*

In a question, the word order is often the relative, the interrogative, and then the verb "to be."

እዚ ዝገበረ መን እዩ፤ *The one who did this is who?*

The relative with a negative verb and the word **እኳ** is used to mean "not even" in a defensive sense.

ንሰኻ ሰቢርካዮ። እዋይ ዘይሓዝክዎ እኳ። *You broke it! —What! I haven't even touched it!*

LESSON 39

Comparatives and Superlatives

The comparative is expressed by using the verb in the imperfect with ካብ.

ጸጋ ካብ ሐብታ ትነውሕ። *Tsega is taller than her sister.*

ካብታ ናይ ትማሊ እቲ ሎሚ ዝኸፍትናዮ ይበዝሕ። *We have dug more ground today than yesterday (lit From that of yesterday what today we have dug is more).*

ምድሪ ካብ ጸሐይ ትንእስ። *The earth is smaller than the sun.*

Question sentences and negative sentences using the comparative follow the rule except in such sentences as: "Which is smaller, the sun or the earth?"

ኣየናይ ይንእስ፤ ጸሐይ'ዶ ወይስ ምድሪ፤ *Which is smaller, the sun or the earth?*

Note that there is no ካብ ; only the verb is used.

The superlative in Tigrinya is expressed by the use of a relative clause.

እዚ እቲ ዝነውሐ ገመድ እዩ። *This is the longest rope.*

እቲ ዝበለጸ ወዲ እዚ እዩ። *This is the best boy.*

እዚኣ እታ ዝበለጸት ጓል እያ። *This is the best girl.*

LESSON 40

Coordinate Conjunctions and Interjections

A coordinate conjunction is a word that like "and," connects two words, phrases, or clauses, that are grammatically or logically parallel. By way of comparison, a subordinate conjunction is a word like "since," which connects two clauses but represents one of them as an explanation or cause of the other. The main clause is stated and the other clause is subordinated to it. Subordinate conjunctions are treated in the next lesson.

1. **ን** *and* is the most common coordinate conjunction. It is placed at the end of each word that is to be joined. Thus in any use it must occur two or more times.

ሰደቓን ወንበርን ኣምጽእ። *Bring a table and chair.*

መጽሐፍካን ጥራዝካን ውሰድ። *Take your book and your exercise book.*

2. **ውን** *and* (**እውን** after a word ending in a vowel)

a. **ውን** *and* is used to bind two clauses together, and is placed after the word which is to be emphasized.

ናብ ቤት ትምህርቲ ከይዱ ኣብኡ እውን ከዕሶ ተጻዊቲ።
He went to school and there he played ball.

ናብ ቤት ትምህርቲ ከይዱ ከዕሶ እውን ተጻዊቲ። *He went to school and played ball.*

- b. It is sometimes used to mean "then."

ንጽብሒቱ እውን ናብ ዝዋና እተን ከብቲ ከይዱ።
Then, the next day, he went to the house of the owner of the cattle.

- c. It is used to mean "also"

ፈረሰይ'ውን ሞይቲ *My horse also is dead.*

3. **ከአ** or **ኸአ** *and, also*

እነ ኸአ ጉይታይ፡ ከሳዕ መአዝ፤ *And I said, "Lord, until when?"*

4. **ድማ** *and, also*

ንሱ ድማ ከተማታት ከሳዕ ዝባድማ በለ። *And he said, "Until the cities are wasted."* (Isaiah 6:11)

When used together in a compound sentence, **ከአ** and **ድማ** mean *and*. Usually **ከአ** precedes and **ድማ** follows.

5. **ስጋብ** *until* (also **ከሳዕ**). This word is used only with the simple imperfect tense.

6. **ወይ** *or*

ብእግሪ ወይ ብብቕሊ ከትከዱ ትኸእሉ ኢኹም። *You can go by foot or by mule.*

7. **ኩነ** *either* (**ኩነ . . . ኩነ** *whether . . . or*). Often in speech only the initial **ኩነ** is used.

ንያዕቆብ ጽቡቕ ኩነ ክፉእ ከይትዛረቦ ተጠንቀቕ በሎ።
Take care you speak not either good or bad to Jacob. (Genesis 31:24)

ጳውሎስ ወይ ኦጵሎስ፡ ኬፋ ኹነ ዓለም ኩነት፡ ህይወት ኩነት ሞት ኩነ፡ *Whether Paul or Apollos, Cephas, the world, or life, or death* (1 Cor 3:22).

8. **አሽንኳይ'ዶ . . . ውን** *not only . . . but also*

አሽንኳይ አራዊት ሰብ'ውን ጨካን እዩ። *Not only wild animals but people also are cruel.*

9. **ጌና** or **ግን** *but* (adversative)

እዚ ወደይ እዩ፡ እቲ ግን ወዲ ሐወይ እዩ። *This is my son, but that is my brother's son.*

10. **እምበር** *but*

a. **እምበር** is used mainly with a negative comparison. The word order of the sentence is typically (1) the positive statement, (2) **እምበር**, and (3) the negative statement. The verb is not used in the positive statement if it is the same as the verb of the negative statement.

እቶም ፈሪሳውያን ክብሪ ሰብ እምበር፡ ንኸብረ አምላኽ አይደለዩን። *The Pharisees (desired) the glory of men, but did not desire the glory of God.*

b. It is used as a mild adversative, as in a resumptive sense.

እምበር'ዶ ገንዘብ አለዎ፤ *But does he have money?*

c. It is used to express something unexpected.

ንሱ እምበር መጸኡ። *But instead he came* (although he was not expected to come).

11. **እምበኣር** *therefore, so*. The rhetorical particle **ሲ** is often used with **እምበኣር**.

እምበኣርሲ፡ አብርሃም አቦና፡ ብስጋ እንታይ ረኺቡ፡ ክንብል ኢና፤ *What shall we say that Abraham our father in the flesh has found?* (Romans 4:1)

12. **ደአ** *better, rather, in preference to, sooner*

ነዚ ፈረስ እዚ እሰሮ ደአ። *Better tie this horse.*
እዚ ደአ ክወስድ። *I had rather take this one.*

13. **ግዳ** *please* (also, but rarely, **ኩታ**)

ምሃረና ግዳ። *Please teach us.*

14. **እሞ** *therefore, in consequence* (always postpositive—i.e. not the first word in its phrase)

ሎሚ ከኸይድ እየ እሞ፡ ነዚ ሰራሕ ባዕልኻ ግበሮ። *I will go today, therefore you do this work yourself.*

15. **እኳ** *not even, even*

ሐንቲ ሳንቲም እኳ የብለይን። *I don't have even one cent.*

እቲ ካብ ከተማኹም ዝለገበና ተጐን እኳ ንነግፈልኩም አሎና። *We are wiping off against you even the dust of your cities that sticks to us. (Luke 10:11)*

16. **ደጊም** *therefore*

ካብ ንግሆ ከሳዕ ምሽት ስሪሕና እሞ፡ ደጊም ንዕረፍ። *We worked from morning till evening, so let us rest.*

17. **ስለምንታይ** *why?*

ስለምንታይ ናብ አሥመራ ኬድካ፤ *Why have you gone to Asmara?*

18. **ብዝተረፈ** *finally* (lit for *what remains.*). This word signals the conclusion of a discourse).

ብዝተረፈ ዋጋ እዚ መጽሐፍ'ዚ ሕሱር እዩ። *And finally, the price of this book is cheap.*

ብዝተረፈስ አኅዋተይ፡ ብጐይታ ተሓጐሱ። *Finally, my brothers, rejoice in the Lord. (Philippians 3:1)*

19. **ማለት** *that is to say, that means*

እቶም ደቂ፡ ማለት ተኸለን አብርሃምን ናብ ሩባ ወረዱ። *The children, that is Tekle and Abraham, went down to the river.*

List of coordinate conjunctions and interjections

1. **ን ን** *and*
2. **ውን** *and* (**እውን** after a word ending in a vowel)
3. **ከአ** *and, also*
4. **ድማ** *and, also*
5. **ስጋብ** *until* (also **ከሳዕ**) only with s.impf. tense.
6. **ወይ** *or*
7. **ኩነ** *either* (**ኩነ ... ኩነ** *whether ... or*)
8. **አሽንኳይ'ዶ ... ውን** *not only ... but also*
9. **ጌና** or **ግን** *but* (adversative)
10. **እምበር** *but*
 - a. mainly with a negative comparison.
 - b. as a mild adversative, as in a resumptive sense—returning to a topic in the course of discussion.
 - c. to express something unexpected.
11. **እምበኣር** *therefore, so.*
12. **ደአ** *better, rather, in preference to, sooner*
13. **ግዳ** *please* (also, but rarely, **ኩታ**)
14. **እሞ** *therefore, in consequence* (always post-positive, that is, occurring after the first word of a phrase)
15. **እኳ** *not even, even*
16. **ደጊም** *therefore*
17. **ስለምንታይ** *why?*
18. **ብዝተረፈ** *finally* (lit for *what remains.*).
19. **ማለት** *that is to say, that means*

Subordinate Conjunctions

Subordinate conjunctions join two elements, but not in parallel. The two elements that are joined may differ grammatically to a greater or lesser extent, along with the logical and syntactic subordination. This is true in English and in other languages. For example, in "She *went* to the river and *washed* her clothes," the verbs "went" and "washed" are parallel and are joined by means of the coordinate conjunction "and." But when a relation of time, purpose, or result is expressed, the verbs may no longer be grammatically parallel. Thus, "She *went* to the river *to wash* her clothes," or, "After *going* to the river, she *washed* her clothes" no longer use the two simple past tenses "went" and "washed." The following paragraphs give examples of such constructions in Tigrinya.

1. **ስጋብ** *until, up to, as far as* (also spelled **ስጋዕ**. An equivalent word less widely used is **ከላዕ** or **ከላብ**). The conjunction is followed by **ዝ** with the simple imperfect.

ከጻወት መሰል የብሉን ስጋብ ስርሑ ዝውድእ። *He has no right to amuse himself until he has finished his work.*

- 2.a. **ካብ** or **እንካብ** *than*. With **ዝ** and the simple imperfect.

ከዛወር እፈቱ ካብ ንስራሕ ምኻድ። *I like to go for a walk better than to work.*

- 2.b. **ካብ** *since, because*. With the simple perfect, or with **ዝ** and the simple imperfect.

ካብ በልካንስ አያአምነካን እየ። *Since you said that to me, I don't believe you.* The suffix **ስ** of **በልካን** is a rhetorical addition.

እዚ ካብ በልካኒ አይአምኖን እየ። *Since you said this to me, I don't believe him.* The conjunctions **እኖ** and **ስለ**

are more common than **ካብ** in this type of construction.

እዚ ስለ ዝብሉኒ *because he says this to me ...*

እዚ ኢሉኒ እየኖ፡ ስለዚ *well, he said this to me, and so ...*

3. **ከ...**, **ከ...** with the simple imperfect and **አሎ** : *while*. The simple imperfect with **አሎ** is conjugated normally, but the particle **ከ** is prefixed to both verb elements. This construction is for an action that is simultaneous with the main verb.

ከበልዕ ከለኹ ርእየኒ። *While I was eating he saw me.*

- 4.a. **ከይ** with the simple imperfect is a negative purpose construction : *lest*. The construction is also used with the verbs **ፈርህ** *fear* and **ጠርጠረ** *doubt*.

ከይስበር ተጠንቀኝ *Be careful that it doesn't break.*
ከይወድኝ እፈርህ *I'm afraid that he might fall.*

- 4.b. **ከይ** with the simple perfect expresses an unfulfilled circumstance.

ከይነገረኒ መጸኡ *He came without letting me know.*
ከይኸደ ጽውዓዩ *Before he goes, call him.*

5. **ምእንቲ** *in order to, for the purpose of*.

ምሕረት ከዳውንታ ምእንቲ ከትሐጽብ ናብቲ ሩባ ወሪዳ። *Meheret went to the river to wash her clothes.*

6. **ስለ** *because* (answers a question "why"), with **ዝ** and the simple perfect.

በሊዑ ስለ ዝነበረ *because he had eaten*

7. **ከም** *that*, with **ዝ** and the simple perfect or imperfect, is a form for indirect speech. It is used after verbs of perception.

ከም ዝመጸ እፈልጥ። *I know that he came.*

ከም ዝመጽእ እፈልጥ። *I know that he will come.*

8. **ምንም እኳ ... እንተ**, or **ሽሕ እኳ ... እንተ**, with the simple perfect : *even if, although*. **እንተ** comes before the verb.

ምንም እኳ ሃብታም እንተ ኩንኩ *even if I were rich*

ምንም እኳ ዕዳኻ እንተከፈልካ *even if you pay your debts*

9. **እንተ** with **ዝ** and the simple imperfect is used to express a wish. A wish can also be expressed with the jussive.

ዝእክል ገንዘብ እንተዝህልወኒ *If I only had enough money!*

አየ ንሱ እንተ ዚመጽእ *If he could only come!*

የምጽአለይ *I wish he would come* (the jussive; lit *may he (God) make him come for me*)

10. **አብ ክንዲ** *instead of* can be followed by a relative clause.

አብ ክንዲ ዚሃረብ ትም ይበል። *Instead of speaking, let him keep silent.*

11. **ምስ** *with*. Used with the simple perfect.

ንሱ ምስ መጸ፡ ኩሉ ኺነግረና እዩ። *When he comes, he will tell us all things.*

ንሱ ምስ መጸ ኩሉ ነገሮም። *When he came he told them everything.*

12. **እና** with the simple perfect is used when two actions take place at the same time and have the same subject : *while*.

እናሰሐቐ ወጸኡ *He went out laughing.*

Summary chart of subordinate conjunctions

	conjunction	translation	construction
1.	ስጋብ or ከሳዕ	<i>until</i>	ዝ + s.impf.
2.a.	ካብ or እንካብ	<i>than</i>	ዝ + s.impf.
2.b.	ካብ	<i>since, because</i>	ዝ + s.impf. or pf.
3.	ከ, ከ	<i>while</i>	ከ with verb and አሎ
4.a.	ከይ	<i>lest</i>	s.impf.
4.b.	ከይ	<i>without, before</i>	s.pf.
5.	ምእንቲ	<i>in order to</i>	ከ + s.impf.
6.	ስለ	<i>because</i>	ዝ + s.pf.
7.	ከም	<i>that</i>	ዝ + s.impf. or pf.
8.	ምንም እኳ ... እንተ or ሽሕ እኳ ... እንተ	<i>even if</i>	s.pf.
9.	እንተ	<i>expresses a wish</i>	ዝ + s.impf.
10.	አብ ክንዲ	<i>instead of</i>	ዝ + s.impf.
11.	ምስ	<i>when</i>	s.pf.
12.	እና	<i>while</i>	s.pf.

LESSON 42

Reciprocals and Frequentatives

The reciprocal and frequentative systems or themes are formed by making an internal change to the verb instead of by adding a prefix or suffix.

The *reciprocal* system can be made from the passive system, as well as from the causative system, by giving the third-to-last radical of the verb a 4th form vowel. For a typical three-radical verb, this would be the first radical, and the root will start with a 4th form vowel.

የሃንሰን ተስፋይን ንሐድሕዶም ትሳሐቹ። *Yohannes and Tesfai laughed at each other.*

ንሐድሕና እንተ ተፈቅርና፡ አምላኸ አባና ይነብር።
If we love one another, God remains in us.

Some verbs, such as ባረኸ *bless*, ናፈቅ *long for*, and ላጸየ *shave*, have their normal conjugation in this form, except for the nounal infinitive, which is plain, and the frequentative, which is explained below. A chart gives the conjugation of ናፈቅ.

The *frequentative* system is formed by repeating the second-to-last radical of the verb. The first of the two repeated radicals is written with the 4th form vowel. The frequentatives can be formed from the active, the passive, and the causative stems. The basic meaning of the frequentative is repeated or continuous action.

እንዳ ጸዓርና ድርቂ ግን ይመላለስና አሎ። *Despite our efforts, famine keeps coming back.*

እዚ አቁጽልቲ ኩሉ ጊዜ ይንቀሳቅስ ዋላ ንፋስ እንተ ዘሐለ።
The leaves keep waving even when the wind is low.

Lesson 42 – Internal Stem Change

to long for	perfect	imperfect	imperative-jussive	gerundive	future
I -1 sing.	ናፈቅኩ	እናፍቅ አሎኸ	እናፍቅ	ናፈቅ ነይረ	ክናፍቅ
we -1 pl.	ናፈቅና	ንናፍቅ አሎና	ንናፍቅ	ናፈቅና ኔርና	ክንናፍቅ
you -2 m.sg.	ናፈቅካ	ትናፍቅ አሎኸ	ናፍቅ	ናፈቅካ ኔርካ	ክትናፍቅ
you -2 f.sg.	ናፈቅኪ	ትናፍቂ አሎኺ	ናፍቂ	ናፈቅኪ ኔርኪ	ክትናፍቂ
you -2 m.pl.	ናፈቅኩም	ትናፍቁ አሎኩም	ናፍቁ	ናፈቅኩም ኔርኩም	ክትናፍቁ
you -2 f.pl.	ናፈቅኩን	ትናፍቅ አሎኩን	ናፍቅ	ናፈቅኩን ኔርኩን	ክትናፍቅ
he -3 m.sg.	ናፈቅ	ይናፍቅ አሎ	ይናፍቅ	ናፈቅ ነይሩ	ክናፍቅ
she -3 f.sg.	ናፈቅት	ትናፍቅ አላ	ትናፍቅ	ናፈቅ ነይራ	ክትናፍቅ
they -3 m.pl.	ናፈቁ	ይናፍቁ አሎው	ይናፍቁ	ናፈቁም ነይሮም	ክናፍቁ
they -3 f.pl.	ናፈቅ	ይናፍቅ አለዋ	ይናፍቅ	ናፈቁን ነይረን	ክናፍቅ
negatives	አይናፈቅን	አይናፈቅን	አይናፈቅ	አይናፈቅ	አይናፈቅን
		አይናፍቅን	አይናፍቅ		አይናፍቅን

LESSON 43

በለ Verb

The verb **በለ** was originally **በሀለ**. Its basic meaning is “say,” but it has many idiomatic uses. Some of its tenses are given below, followed by a number of uses. In many of these uses, **በለ** means something like *to act* in a way determined by the context. It resembles an English “helping verb” like “to do,” whose meaning comes from the verb it accompanies. Note paragraphs 3, 4, and 6 below.

በለ	perfect
ቢሉ or ኢሉ	gerundive
ይብል	imperfect
በል	imperative

1. **በለ** can be added before or after the imperative of another verb, as an exclamation. This use is similar to the use of “Well, then,” in English.

በል ኪድ *Well then, go.*
ንዐናይ በል *Let's go (i.e. accompany me).*

2. The gerundive form **ኢሉ**, or less commonly **ቢሉ**, is used at the end of a direct quotation. The main verb follows, specifying the kind of speech act that has just been related: speaking, asking, commanding, and so forth.

የሱስ ንደቀ መዛሙርቱ ስዓቡኒ ኢሉ አዘዞም። lit *Jesus said to his disciples “Follow me”— he commanded them.*

This example could be translated, *Jesus commanded his disciples to follow him*, or, *Jesus commanded his disciples, “Follow me.”*

3. It can express purpose.

ከዳውንቲ ከትዕድግ ኢላ፡ ናብ ድኳን አትያ። *She went into the shop to buy clothes.*

4. It may be conjugated and used adverbially.

ተሎ ኢሉ መጸ። *He came quickly.*

5. It is used like English “say,” “oh,” to get attention.

በል ሓብትይ *Oh, Sister . . .*

6. In the form of the causative gerundive **አቢሉ**, it means *by, across, near, through, about, approximately*, etc.

ብከረን አቢሉ መጸኡ። *He came, passing through Keren.*
ሰዓት ሰለስተ አቢሉ ከመጽአካ እየ። *I'll come to you about three o'clock.*

7. It is used alone as an exclamation, meaning *to act on something*. What specific action is in mind varies according to context. Thus it is used to encourage someone playing soccer, with the ball as a feminine singular object suffix: **በላ** *kick it!*

8. **በለ** is commonly used with certain invariable forms that are not conjugated. Prepositions if any come between **በለ** and the invariable. Prefixes and suffixes are attached to **በለ**. In this usage, **በለ** is fully conjugated in its active and causative forms. It does not use the passive.

ሐፍ በል	<i>Stand up</i>
ኮፍ በል	<i>Sit down</i>
ሱቕ በል	<i>Be quiet</i>
ጸው በል	<i>Get lost</i>
ቀስ በል	<i>Slow down, Be careful</i>

ጽን በል	<i>Listen carefully</i>
ዓው በል	<i>Be loud</i>
ደው በል	<i>Stop</i>
ፋሕ በል	<i>Spread out, Scatter</i>
ጠፃም በል	<i>Taste it</i>

9. An intensive force may be given to some verbs by putting all radicals in the 6th form, and using በል in a manner similar to the manner just noted (paragraph 8).

ገልጽ ኢሉ	<i>He looked around</i>
ፍግም ኢሉ	<i>He bowed down</i>
ሀዲሙ	<i>He ran away</i>
ሀድም ኢሉ	<i>He ran away as fast as he could</i>
ቀሪቡ	<i>He came near, is near to finishing</i>
ቅርብ ኢሉ	<i>He sneaked up</i>

LESSON 44

Direct Speech

Often in Tigrinya direct speech is used where English uses indirect speech. Thus *Jesus told his disciples to follow him*, would be said in Tigrinya: የሱስ ንደቂ መዛሙርቱ፤ ስዓቡኒ፡ በሎም።

The direct quotation is closed with the verb በል. Following it, another verb such as ጨደሩ *he shouted* or መለሰሉ *he answered* will make the action more specific. In this case the general act of saying is conveyed by በል, and the content or purpose of what is said is conveyed by the second verb. The two verbs can occur together with no conjunction: ኢሉ መለሰሉ *he said he answered*. The effect in English is one of repetition. One might compare the language of the Authorized Version, "answered and said," "called and said," and so forth. Such phrases occur because the Hebrew uses two verbs where only one is necessary in English, but the translators imitated the Hebrew syntax and included both verbs.

In written Tigrinya, the quotation can be marked off with punctuation. Preceding is ፤ and following is ፡. The usual word order is: first the subject; then the preposition ን and the person spoken to; next the words quoted, with the marks of punctuation; finally the verb phrase. In the verb phrase, በል comes first; next, any modifiers to the second verb; last, the second verb. In the following example (John 3:3), the translation follows this word order rather than what English requires.

የሱስ ንኒቀዲሞስ፤ ካብ ላዕሊ እንተ ዘይተወልደ ንመንግስቲ፡ ኣምላኽ ክርእይ ዚኽእል ከም ዘየሎ፡ ብሓቂ ብሓቂ እብለካ ኣሎኹ፡ ኢሉ መለሰሉ።

Jesus to Nicodemus: "If you are not born from above, that you will not be able to see the kingdom of God, in all truth I am telling you," he said, he answered him.

LESSON 45

Indirect Discourse

Verbs of saying, telling, reporting, commanding, and so on, that are not followed by a direct quotation, are generally followed by a subordinate clause specifying what was said. In English, the relative pronoun of the subordinate clause is often omitted. The following are grammatical examples in English:

1. Direct quotation. *She says, "Cactuses won't grow in Italy."*
2. Indirect. *She says that cactuses won't grow in Italy.*
3. Indirect, omitting the relative pronoun "that": *She says cactuses won't grow in Italy.*

The form of an English sentence may not correspond exactly to the form of a Tigrinya sentence that expresses the same idea. The following examples cover subordinate constructions with verbs of saying, telling, knowing, thinking, and the like.

Statements in indirect discourse

A. In the present.

ቶማስ እኹል ጨው ከምዘሎ እናፈለጠ ንምንታይ ዝያዳ ይልዩ፤ *Tom knows we have enough salt, why is he asking about more?*

B. Action in the future. The adverbial infinitive (**ከ** + imperfect) is used.

ሽዑ የሱስ ከይበኸዩ አዘዘም። *Then Jesus commanded them not to cry.*

C. Relative clause construction for the thing said.

ንጉስ አከአብ፡ እቲ ኢልያስ ዝገበሮ ኩሉ ንኢዛቤል ነገራ።
King Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done.

D. Past tense. **ከም ዝ** + simple perfect is used.

ሳሙኤል ኣብ ክንዲ ሽኮር ጨው ናብ ሻሂኡ ከምዝገበረሉ ንሓብቲ ነገራ። *Samuel told his sister how he had put salt instead of sugar in the tea.*

E. For the English construction “of” with a possessive and a gerund, use the nounal infinitive.

ምምጽኡ ኣይሰማዕኩን። *I didn't hear of his coming.*

Questions in indirect discourse

A. Indirect questions introduced by “if” or “whether,” and thus admitting possibility or doubt, are expressed as follows.

1. For present or incomplete action, use **ዝ** with the simple imperfect **እንተኹነ**.

ጸባሕ ምሳይ ዝኸይድ እንተኹነ ጠይቆ፤ *Ask him whether he will accompany me tomorrow.*

2. For past or complete action, use the gerundive and **እንተኹነ**.

ትማሊ መጺኡ እንተኹነ ጠይቆ፤ *Ask him if he came yesterday.*

B. Indirect questions introduced by an interrogative word are expressed as follows.

1. For present or incomplete action, use the interrogative, **ከምዝ**, and the simple imperfect.

ጸባሕ ኣበይ ከምዝምስሑ ተፈልጥዶ፤ *Do you know where they will take lunch tomorrow?*

ንግስቲ ቀመም ኣበይ ከምዝረኸቦቶ ኣይፈልጥን። *I don't know where Negisty found the spice.*

2. For past or complete action, use the interrogative, **ከምዝ**, and the simple perfect.

ኣበይ ከምዝሰርሑ ትፈልጥዶ፤ *Do you know where they worked?*

ኣበይ ከምዝተወልደት ኣይፈልጥን። *I don't know where she was born.*

LESSON 46

Defective and Irregular Verbs

Defective

The verbs **እዩ** and **አሎ** are called defective verbs because they do not have forms in all tenses. The forms they lack are supplied from other verbs.

እዩ	<i>forms</i>	<i>comments</i>
simple imperfect	እዩ	
simple impf. negative	አይከላን	negative of ከላን
simple perfect	ነበረ	
gerundive	ነበሩ or ነይሩ	
future	ከኸውን	future of ከላን
imperative-jussive	ኩን , ይኸን	imprtv-juss. of ከላን
nounal infinitive	ምክን	from ከላን

አሎ		
simple imperfect	አሎ	
simple impf. negative	የሎን	or የልዩን (unconjugated)
simple perfect	ነበረ	
gerundive	ነበሩ or ነይሩ	
future	ከህሉ እዩ	from ሀለወ
imperative-jussive	ይህሉ	expressing uncertainty
nounal infinitive	ምህላው	from ሀለወ

Example for the imperative-jussive of **እዩ** :

በእምሮ ሰብሉት ኩኑ፡ በከፍላት ደረሰኝኝ ኩኑ እምበር፡ በካዕባ ስነ ፍልጠት ግና፡ ቁልዑ አይትኹኑ። *In mind, be men; in evil, be infants; but in understanding do not be children* (1 Cor 14:20).

Irregular

Three important irregular verbs are **ሀበ**, **ሐዘ**, and **በለ**. In their conjugations, many forms can be explained as abbreviations of forms from the conjugation of a more regular, triconsonantal verb.

1. **ሀበ** means *give*. It is derived from **ወሃበ**, and in some forms the **ወ** appears.
2. **ሐዘ** means *hold*. It is probably derived from ***ተሐዘ**. The initial radical appears in some stems with an internal change.
3. **በለ** means *say*. It is derived from **በሀለ**, and in some forms the **ሀ** appears.

See the following chart for a synopsis of these verbs.

Repeated final radicals

In Type A verbs, that is, verbs without doubling of the second-to-last radical, a consonant may be dropped from the spelling under certain circumstances. This happens when a 6th form radical with its vowel silent or final comes before another radical of the same consonant. The 6th form radical is dropped, and the two consonants are written as one. However, in pronunciation there will still be some differentiation of such a consonant. This contraction of spelling does not apply to Type B verbs, where the middle radical is geminated (doubled).

type A		type B, geminated	
ሐተተ	<i>ask</i>	አዘዘ	<i>command</i>
ይሐቱ	<i>they are asking</i>	ይእዘዙ	<i>they are commanding</i>
ተሐተ	<i>he was asked</i>	ተእዘዘ	<i>he is commanded</i>

Irregular verbs	simple perfect	simple imperfect	gerundive	imperative-jussive	agent	nounal infinitive
<i>give, active</i>	ሀበ	ይህብ	ሂቡ	ሀብ - ይህብ	ወሃቢ	ምሃብ
<i>be given, pass.</i>	ተዋህበ	ይወሃብ	ተዋሂቡ	ይወሃብ	ተወሃቢ	ምሃብ or ምወሃብ
<i>hold, active</i>	ሐዘ	ይሕዝ	ሐዙ	ሐዝ - ይሐዝ	ሐዘ	ምሐዝ
<i>be held, pass.</i>	ተሐዘ	ተታሕዝ	ይሐዝ	ተታሐዙ	ተተሐዘ	ምትሐዝ
<i>say, active</i>	በለ	ይብል	ኢሉ	በል	በሃሊ	ምባል
<i>be said, passive</i>	ተባሀለ	ይብሃል	ተባሂሉ	ተብሃል	ተባሃሊ	ምብሃል

LESSON 47

Impersonal Verbs

Impersonal verbs are used in the 3d person singular, of whatever tense, like English "it is necessary," "it was necessary," "it will be necessary." Tigrinya has no neuter ("it"), and uses a masculine singular instead. The person implicated in the action of the verb is shown by object suffixes. A corresponding English construction would be a prepositional phrase: "It's necessary for me." The word **ይግባኣኒ** can be translated literally into Latin as *mihi oportet*, *it's necessary for me*; but in English it is usual to say "I must" or "I have to."

ደስ ኢሉኒ	<i>It pleased me. lit It says gladness to me.</i>
ደስ ኢሉና	<i>It pleased us.</i>
ይመስለኒ	<i>It seems to me.</i>
ይግባኣኒ	<i>I must. lit It is fitting for me.</i>
ይአኸለኒ	<i>It is enough for me.</i>
ይሕሸኒ	<i>I am feeling better. or It's better for me.</i>
ይጥዕመኒ	<i>It's convenient for me.</i>
ይጠቐመኒ	<i>It is useful for me.</i>

These impersonal verbs are used in other tenses.

መሲሉኒ	<i>It seemed to me.</i>
ሒሹኒ	<i>I felt better.</i>
አኸለኒ	<i>It was enough for me.</i>

Some other verbs are used either way, personal or impersonal, but in these verbs the personal form seems to predominate. Examples:

Impersonal	Personal	
የሐመኝ	ሐሚመ	<i>I am sick.</i>
ጠምየኝ	ጠምየ	<i>I am hungry.</i>
ጸሚኡኝ	ጸምኤ	<i>I am thirsty.</i>
ደኸሙኝ	ደኸመ	<i>I am tired.</i>
ተረዲኡኝ	ተረዲኤ	<i>I understand.</i>
ይከላለኝ	እኸእል	<i>I can.</i>

These other verbs, except the last, are gerundive in form, although they describe a present circumstance. To describe a circumstance in the past, add the appropriate form of the verb ነይሩ .

የሐመኝ ነይረ	ሐሚመ ነይረ	<i>I was sick.</i>
የሐመዎ ነይሩ	ሐሚሙ ነይሩ	<i>He was sick.</i>

LESSON 48

Stative Tenses

Like the English progressive tenses, stative tenses express a state of being. The Tigrinya verb is formed with the gerundive plus the appropriate form of አሎ or ነይሩ .

ኮፍ ኢለ አሎኹ።	<i>I am sitting.</i>
ኮፍ ኢለ ነይረ።	<i>I was sitting.</i>
ኮፍ ኢለ ሰሪሔ።	<i>I worked while sitting.</i>
ሕጂ እቲ ቈልዓ ደቂሱ አሎ።	<i>The child is sleeping now.</i>
ሕጂ እቲ ቈልዓ ኮፍ ኢሉ አሎ።	<i>The child is sitting now.</i>
እቲ መንበር ተሰቢሩ አሎ።	<i>The chair is (still) broken.</i>
ጸጊበ አሎኹ።	<i>I'm satisfied; I'm full.</i>
ዐጊበ አሎኹ።	<i>I'm satisfied.</i>

When the action is in mind, rather than the resulting state of being, the ordinary tenses are used.

እታ መርከብ ምስ ትንቀሳቐስ ኮፍ እብል።	<i>When the boat moves, I sit down.</i>
ጽባሕ አብ ልዕሊ ህድሞ ኮፍ ክብል ኢየ።	<i>I'll sit on top of the hut tomorrow.</i>

LESSON 49

Conditionals

Conditional sentences can indicate possibility, impossibility, or improbability. The conditional clause comes before the principal clause.

A possible conditional clause is introduced by either

- (A) the simple imperfect and እንተኹነ, or
- (B) እንተ and the simple perfect;
እንተ and ዝ and the simple imperfect; or
እንተ and the gerundive.

A negative possible conditional is introduced by

- ዘይ and the simple imperfect and እንተኹይነ; or
እንተዘይ and the simple perfect.

The principal clause will be in either the future or the imperative-jussive tense.

An impossible or improbable conditional clause is introduced by either

- (A) the gerundive and እንተ and ዘ and the simple imperfect of ኩነ; or
- (B) እንተ and ዝ and the simple imperfect; or
እንተ and the simple perfect or the gerundive.

A negative impossible or improbable conditional is formed by

እንተ and ዘይ and the simple imperfect or simple perfect.

The principal clause is formed with ም and the simple perfect, or for the negative አይ and ም and the simple perfect. To represent the action as completed, the appropriate form of ነይሩ is added to the simple perfect.

In the examples, the sentences continue from the left column over to the right, under the corresponding grammatical descriptions.

subordinate clauses

principal clauses

1. POSSIBLE CONDITIONS

1.(A) s-impf + እንተኹነ

future

ትደልዮ እንተኹንካ፡

ውሰዱ።

If you like,

take it.

future (colloquial)

future

ከትጽሕፍ እንተኹንካ

ርሳስ ክገዛልካ እየ።

If you will write,

I'll buy you a pencil.

NEGATIVE POSSIBLE CONDITIONS

ዘይ + s-impf + እንተኹነ

future or impvtv-juss

ዘይፈርህ እንተኹይነ

ምላና ይኸድ።

If he isn't afraid,

let him go with us.

ዘይመጽእ እንተኹይነ

አነ ክኸይድ እየ።

If he doesn't come,

I will go.

1.(B) እንተ + s-pf

future or impvtv-juss

እቲ ፈረስ እንተተረኸበ

ክሸጦ እየ።

If the horse is found,

I will sell it.

ነቲ ፈረስ እንተረኸብካዮ

ሳዕሪ አብልዓዮ።

If you find that horse,

feed him.

እንተ + ዝ + s-impf + ኮይነ

future or impvtv-juss

እንተ ዚኸይድ ኮይነ

ንገረኒ።

If he is going,

tell me.

Common Expressions

NEGATIVE POSSIBLE CONDITIONS (continued)

እንተ + gerundive

future or imptv-juss

እንተ በሊዕካዮ

ከትሐምም ኢኻ።

*If you eat it,**you will be sick.*

እንተዘይ + s-impf

future or imptv-juss

እንተዘይ መጸ

በይነይ ከኸይድ እየ።

*If he does not come,**I will go alone.*

2. IMPOSSIBLE OR IMPROBABLE CONDITIONS

2.(A) grndv + እንተ + ዘ
+ s-impf of ከካ

ም + s-pf (+ ነይሩ)

ሐወይ መጸኢ እንተዘኸኸውን

ምተሐገሰኩ ነይረ።

*If my brother had come,**I would have been glad.*

2.(B) እንተ + ዝ + s-impf

ም + s-pf

እንተ ዝኸይድ

ዕረፍቲ ምረኽብኩ።

*If he would go,**I would find rest.*

እንተ + s-pf (or gerundive)

ም + s-pf

እንተጸሐፈ

አይምተሸገርኩን።

*If he had written,**I wouldn't be worried.*

NEGATIVE IMPOSSIBLE OR IMPROBABLE CONDITION

እንተ + ዘይ + s-impf or s-pf

ም + s-pf

ማይ እንተ ዘይሃርም

ትማሊ ምመጸ።

*If it had not rained,**he would've come yesterday.*

These greetings and expressions can be used from the first days of study. There are both polite and familiar forms of address for speaking to both men and women. The familiar form of address is usually reserved for children, students, and young people. Unknown adults, adults older than oneself, and government officials regardless of age are spoken to with the polite form of address. When in doubt, the polite form is safe.

With few exceptions, the same verb form is used for "you" polite and "you" plural. The exceptions are found mainly in greetings and demonstratives. The pronoun "you" in the masculine polite singular is commonly used also for the masculine plural, although a specific plural form exists. The same is true for the pronoun "you" of the feminine polite singular and the feminine plural. The third person plural is often used as a polite form for the third person singular, e.g. መምህር መጸአም *The teacher has come.*

When speaking to or about groups of people that include both women and men, the masculine form is usual.

The following pages include greetings and other expressions which must be conjugated for person and number. Some examples are given to show what this typically involves, and others are left to the reader.

The abbreviations used are: s. *singular*, p. *plural*, pol. *polite*, m. *masculine*, f. *feminine*, c. *common*. The particle ዲ signifies a question. The traditional question mark consisting of three dots (∴) is written here, but the familiar mark (?) is displacing it.

A. Greetings

1. ሰላም *Hello; good-bye (lit. peace)*
2. ደላንዶ ሓዲርካ፤ *Good morning (lit. Did you pass the night safely? m.s. (addressing one man)*
 ደላንዶ ሓዲርኪ፤ *Good morning f.s. (addressing one woman)*
 ደላንዶ ሓዲርኩም፤ *m.pol. and m.p.*
 ደላንዶ ሓዲርክን፤ *f.pol. and f.p.*
 ደላንዶ ሓዲራትኩም፤ *m.polite, not commonly used*
 ደላንዶ ሓዲራትክን፤ *f.polite, not commonly used*
3. ደላንዶ ውዲልካ፤ *Good afternoon m.s.*
 ደላንዶ ውዲልኪ፤ *f.s.*
 ደላንዶ ውዲልኩም፤ *m.p. and m.pol.*
 ደላንዶ ውዲልክን፤ *f.p. and f.pol.*
4. ደላንዶ አምሲኻ፤ *Good evening m.s.*
 ደላንዶ አምሲኪ፤ *f.s.*
 ደላንዶ አምሲኹም፤ *m.p. and m.pol.*
 ደላንዶ አምሲክን፤ *f.p. and f.pol.*
5. ደላን ውዓል *Good-bye (in the morning);*
Have a nice day
 ደላን ውዓሊ *f.s.*
 ደላን ውዓሉ *m.p. and m.pol.*
 ደላን ውዓላ *f.p. and f.pol.*
6. ደላን አምሲ *Good-bye (in the afternoon)*
Have a nice evening
 ደላን አምሲዪ *f.s.*
 ደላን አምሲዬ *m.p. and m.pol.*
 ደላን አምሲያ *f.p. and f.pol.*

7. ደላን ሕደር *Good night m.s.*
 ደላን ሕደሪ *f.s.*
 ደላን ሕደሩ *m.p. and m.pol.*
 ደላን ሕደራ *f.p. and f.pol.*
8. ደላንዶ አሎኻ፤ *Are you well? m.s.*
 ከመይ አሎኻ፤ *How are you? m.s.*
 (አሎኻ is conjugated)
9. ደላንዶ ቀኒኻ፤ *How are you? (lit. How have you spent the week? This is used after a short time of not having seen someone.)*
10. ይመስገን። ደላንዶ አሎኹም፤ *I am fine. How are you? (lit. May he (God) be thanked; are you well?)*
11. እግዚአብሔር ይመስገን። *Let God be thanked (this reply is given in response to every greeting that asks about one's well-being, before the same greeting is repeated)*
 መስገን *Thank him (God)*
 abbrev. of ይመስገን
 መስገኖ *Thanks to him (God)*
 abbrev. of ይመስገኖ
12. ስድራኻ ደላንዶ አለዉ፤ *Is your family well?*
 ልዩዎቻችሁ ደላንዶ አለዉ፤ *Are your parents well?*
13. ይመስገን፡ ደላን አለዉ። *Thank you, they are well.*

B. Courteous Expressions

- | | | |
|-----|--|--|
| 14. | የቸንየለይ | Thank you (lit, May God give to you for me) |
| 15. | ገንዘብካ | You're welcome (lit, It is your possession.) |
| 16. | ጽቡቅ | Good, fine |
| 17. | እወ | Yes |
| 18. | ሕራይ | All right, OK |
| 19. | አይፋለይን | No (m.s.; conjugated) |
| 20. | ይአክል | It is enough |
| 21. | አቤት | Yes, sir (when called) |
| 22. | በጃኝ | Please (conjugated) |
| 23. | ይቸፊታ
ይቸረ በለለይ
ይቸረ በልለይ
ይቸረ በሉለይ | I'm sorry; pardon me
pardon me m.s.
pardon me f.s.
pardon me m.p. |
| 24. | አይትሐዘለይ | Excuse me; forgive me
(conjugated; lit, Don't hold it against me.) |

C. Expressions used in Visiting

- | | | |
|-----|------------|--------------------|
| 25. | መን እዩ ስምካ፤ | What is your name? |
|-----|------------|--------------------|

- | | | |
|-----|------------------------------------|---|
| 26. | ስመይ ዮሃንስ እዩ። | My name is John. |
| 27. | ከንደይ ቂልዑ አለዉኝ፤ | How many children do you have? |
| 28. | ሐደ ቂልዓ አሎኝ።
ሐንቲ ቂልዓ አላትኝ። | I have one child (boy) .
I have one child (girl) . |
| 29. | ከልተ ቂልዑ አለዉኝ። | I have two children. |
| 30. | ቂልዑ የብለይን። | I don't have any children. |
| 31. | ደቅኝ አበይ አለዉ፤ | Where are your children? |
| 32. | ደቀይ አብ ገዛ አለዉ። | My children are at home. |
| 33. | ደቀይ ናብ ቤት
ትምህርቲ ከይደም። | My children went to school. |
| 34. | ወደይ አብ ገዛ አሎ። | My son is at home. |
| 35. | ከንደይ ዓመት ገይሩ፤
ከንደይ ዓመት ገይራ፤ | How old is he?
How old is she? |
| 36. | ወዲ ከንደይ ዓመት እዩ፤
ጓል ከንደይ ዓመት እያ፤ | How old is he? (polite)
How old is she? (polite) |
| 37. | ከንደይ ዓመት ጌርካ፤ | How old are you? |
| 38. | እዚአቶምዶ ደቅኝ እዮም፤ | Are these your children? |
| 39. | እወ ደቀይ እዮም። | Yes, they are my children. |
| 40. | ደቀይ አይከኑኑን። | They are not my children. |
| 41. | እቲ ወደይ እዩ። | That boy is my son. |

42. እቴሌ፡ ጓል ጐረቤትና እያ። *That girl is our neighbor's daughter.*
43. ክንደይ አሕዋት አለዉኻ፤ *How many brothers do you have?*
44. ምሉእ ዕድሜኻዶ አብ አስመራ ተቐሚጥኻ፤ *Have you lived in Asmara all your life?*
45. ገዛ ተኸለ አበይ እዩ፤ *Where does Tekle live?*
እንዳ ተኸለ ገዛ አበይ እዩ፤
46. እቶ፡ ኮፍ በል *Come in; sit down. m.s.*
እተዊ፡ ኮፍ በሊ *f.s.*
እተዉ፡ ኮፍ በሉ *m.pl. or m.pol.*
እተዋ፡ ኮፍ በላ *f.pl. or f.pol.*
47. ጣይታዶ ትበልዕ ኢኻ፤ *Do you eat taita (a kind of bread)?*
48. እዉ፡ ጣይታ እበልዕ እየ። *Yes, I eat taita.*
49. ብላዕ *Eat. m.s. (used at table)*
ብልዒ *f.s.*
ብልዑ *m.pl. or m.pol.*
ብልዒ *f.pl. or f.pol.*
50. እበልዕ አሎኹ *I am eating.*
51. ጸጊበ *I'm satisfied. (food only)*
52. ሻሂ'ዶ ትሰቲ ኢኻ፤ *Do you drink tea?*
53. እዉ፡ ሻሂ እሰቲ እየ። *Yes, I drink tea.*
54. እቲ ማይ ፈሊሑ'ዶ፤ *Has the water boiled?*

55. ሻሂ አፍልሒ። *Boil the tea.*
56. ሻሂ ክነፍልሐልኩም። *We will make tea for you.*
57. ጥዑም *Very good! Delicious!*
(should always be said)
58. ጥዑም ይሃብኩም። *Thank you (the reply to ጥዑም; lit. May he (God) give you good things.*
59. ክጥዕም'ዶ ተፍቅደለይ፤ *May I taste it?*
60. እዚ ንምንታይ ይጠቅም፤ *What is this useful for?*
61. መጎጎ ንመሰንከቲ ይጠቅም። *The magogo is used for baking.*
62. ከመይ ከም ዚግበር አርእየኒ። *Show me how to do it.*
63. ገዛና ቀረባ እዩ። *Our house is nearby.*
64. ጐረባብቲ ኢና። *We are neighbors.*
65. ገዛኻ ቀረባ'ዶ እዩ፤ *Is your house near?*
66. ገዛይ ርሑቕ እዩ። *My house is far.*
67. ክኸይድ ፍቓድካ'ዶ እዩ፤ *May I go?*
68. ካልእ ምዓልቲ ክመጽእ እየ። *I'll come another time.*
69. ዓርቢ'ዶ ናብ ገዛና ክትመጽእ ይጥዕመካ፤ *Would Friday be convenient for you to come to our house?*

70. ሎሚ ከመጽእ አይጥዕመንን እዩ። *It is not convenient for me to come today.*
71. ጽባሕ ከመጽእ ይጥዕመኒ እዩ። *It is convenient for me to come tomorrow*
- ጽባሕ ከኸይድ ይጥዕመኒ እዩ። *It is convenient for me to go tomorrow*
72. ሕጂ ናብ ገዛይ ክምለስ እዩ። *I will return to my house now.*
73. ትማሊ'ዶ ናብ ገለ ገዛ ኬድካ፤ *Did you go to any house yesterday?*
74. ምስ መን ኬድካ፤ *Whom did you go with?*
75. ምስ ዓርከይ ከይደ። *I went with my friend.*
76. አብቲ ገዛ እንታይ ጌርካ፤ *What did you do in the house?*
77. ምስቶም ሰብ ተላሊና። *We became acquainted with those people.*
78. ተረዲኡካ'ዶ፤ *Do you understand?*
79. ተረዲኡኒ
አስተውዒለ *I understand. (not conjugated)
I understand.*
80. አይተረድኣንን *I don't understand.
We don't understand.*
81. ትግርኛ'ዶ ትዛረብ ኢኻ፤ *Do you speak Tigrinya?*
82. ትግርኛ ብዙሕ አይዛረብን እዩ። *I don't speak much Tigrinya.*

83. ትግርኛ ከመሃር እደሊ አሎኹ። *I want to learn Tigrinya.*
84. እንግሊዝ እዛረብ እዩ። *I speak English.*
85. እንግሊዝ ከመሃር አይደልን እዩ። *I don't want to learn English.*
86. እንታይ ትብል አሎኻ፤ ድገሞ፤ *What are you saying? Repeat it.*
87. ቀስ በል። *Do it slowly.*
88. ቀስ ኢልካ ተዛረብ። *Speak slowly.*
89. እዚ እንታይ ይበሃል፤ *What is this called?*
90. ልክዕ ድዩ፤ *Is it correct?*
91. አንቢብካ'ዶ ትኸእል፤ *Can you read?*
92. አንቢበ አይክእልን እዩ። *I cannot read.*
93. እንግሊዝ ከንብብ እኸእል እዩ። *I can read English.*
94. ከንብበልካ'ዶ፤ *Shall I read to you?*
95. ረሲዌዮ። ድሓሪ ሕጂ ግና ክዝከሮ እዩ። *I forgot it, but after this I will remember it.*
96. መአስ መጸኣካ፤ *When did you come?*
97. ቅድሚ ሰለስተ ሰሙን መጸኤ። *I came three weeks ago.*
98. ቅድሚ ክልተ ወርሒ መጽኤ። *I came two months ago.*

99. ዓድና ይሰማምዓኩም'ዶ አሎ፤ *Do you like our country?*
100. ካብ አየናይ ሃገር መጸእካ፤ *What country did you come from?*
101. ካብ አሜሪካ መጸኤ። *I came from America.*
102. ብባሕሪ መጸኤ። *I came by sea.*
103. ብነፋሪት መጸኤ። *I came by plane.*
104. ብሰለስተ ሰሙን አቲና። *It took three weeks for us to come.*
105. ተመርዒኻ'ዶ፤ *Are you married?*
106. እወ፤ ተመርዕዎ፤ *Yes, I am married.*
107. አይተመርዓኹን። *I am not married.*
108. እንታይ እዩ ስራሕካ፤ *What is your work?*
109. መምህር እየ። *I'm a teacher.*
110. አላይት ሕሙማት እየ። *I'm a nurse.*
111. ቃል እግዚአብሔር ክነግር መጸኤ። *I came to tell God's word.*
112. አቦይ ምዉት እየ። *My father is dead.*
113. ትማሊ *Yesterday.*
114. ሎሚ ንግሆ *This morning.*
115. ሎሚ ምሽት *This evening.*

116. ተጠንቀቅ *Be careful.*
117. ቀልጥፍ *Hurry up.*
118. ማኪና ደው አብላ። *Stop the car.*
119. ግደፍ *Leave it! Stop!*
120. አይትሐዞ *Don't take hold of it! Don't touch.*
121. ፈንዎ *Let it go. (an animal or moving object) m.s.*
ፈንዋ *Let it go. f.s.*
122. ስማዕ *Listen!*
123. ትሃዊኸ አሎኸ። *I'm in a hurry.*
124. በበይኑ እዩ *It's different. It's not the same.*
125. ምለሶ *Put it back.*
126. አቐምጦ *Put it down.*
127. አይተፈልጠን *It is not known.*
128. ተሰከመለይ ግዳ። *Carry this for me, please.*
129. ክሕግዘካ'ዶ፤ *May I help you?*
130. በጃኸ ሐግዘኒ *Please help me.*
131. ካብ አሥመራ መአስ ክትከይድ ኢኻ፤ *When will you leave from Asmara?*

132. ድሕሪ ሹዱሽተ ወርሒ ከኸይድ እየ። *I will leave in six months.*
133. ናበይ ትኸይድ አሎኸ? *Where are you going?*
134. ከንደይ ወርሒ ከትጸንሕ ኢኸ? *How many months will you stay?*
135. ተማላኦኒ *Give me a ride.*
136. ሰፍራ የልቦን። *There is no room.*
137. ልማድና አይኮነን *It isn't our custom.*
138. እዚ ምግባር ሕማቕ እዩ። *To do this is bad.*
139. ስራሕ'ዶ ሒዝኸ? *Are you busy? (lit. Is your work keeping you?)*
140. ጠምየ *I am hungry.*
ጠምየን *She is hungry. f.pol.*
ጠምዮም *They are hungry. m.p. or m.pol.*
141. ጠሚኸ'ዶ፤ *Are you hungry?*
142. ጸሚእኸ'ዶ፤ *Are you thirsty?*
143. ጸሚኡ። ጸሚኡ። *I am thirsty. He is thirsty.*
144. ሐሚምኸ ዲኸ፤ *Are you sick? m.s.*
ሐሚምኪ ዲኺ፤ *Are you sick? f.s.*
145. ሐሚመ *I am sick.*
146. ጉንፋዕ ሒዙኒ። *I have a cold.*

147. ይሕሸኒ *I am better.*
148. ተጸሊእዎ *He is a little sick.*
149. ሐዊኸ'ዶ፤ *Are you better?*
150. ደኺምኸ ዲኸ፤ *Are you tired? m.s.*
ደኺምኪ ዲኺ፤ *Are you tired? f.s.*
151. ደኺመ *I am tired.*
152. ቈሪረ *I am cold.*
153. ሎሚ ሃሩር አሎ። *It is hot today.*
154. ሎሚ ቀራር አሎ። *It is cold today.*
155. ተሐጉሰ *I'm glad*
156. አብዩ *He refused.*
አብዩ *She refused.*
አብዮም *They refused. m.p.*
አብዮን *They refused. f.p.*
157. ይመስለኒ። *It seems to me.*
158. “ሕራይ” ኢሉ። *He said “OK.”*
159. ሕጂ ኸድ እሞ፤ *Go now, and return tomorrow.*
ጽባሕ ተመለስ። *(addressed to m.s.)*
160. ደሓር ግበሮ። *Do it later. m.s.*
ደሓር ግበርዮ። *Do it later. f.s.*
161. ደሓር ይሕሸኒ። *Later is better for me.*
162. ሐደሐደ ግዜ *Sometimes.*

163. ኩሉ ሳዕ *Always.*
164. ሐደ ጥራይ አሎ። *There is only one.*
165. ግዜ የብለይን። *I don't have time.*
166. ተስፋ እገብር። *I'm hopeful, I hope so.*
ተስፋ አሎኒ።
167. ክርእዮ'ዶ፤ *May I see it?*
168. ምስ'ቲ ሰብ አፋልጠኒ። *Introduce me to that person.*
169. ክስእለካ'ዶ፤ *May I take your picture? m.s.*
ክስእለኪ'ዶ፤ *May I take your picture? f.s.*
170. ናብ ዓደይ ክሰዶ ደልየ። *I want to send it to my country.*
171. አብዚ ውሽጢ መካብብያ፤ *How many families live together in this compound?*
ክንደይ ስድራ አለዉ፤
172. ክልተ ስድራ አለዉ። *There are two families.*
173. መገዲ አዲስ አበባ ክንደይ መዓልቲ የኸይድ፤ *How many days does it take to go to Addis Ababa?*
174. ዓድኻ ብእግሪ ክንደይ ሰዓት የኸይድ፤ *How many hours does it take to go to your village by foot?*
175. መዓስ ክትበጽሐና ኢኻ፤ *When will you visit us?*
176. ሰንበት ክበጽሓኩም እየ። *Sunday I will visit you.*

C. Household Expressions

177. ውዑይ ማይ አምጽእ። *Bring hot water.*
178. ዝሒል ማይ አምጽእ። *Bring cold water.*
179. ነቲ ቂልዓ ምስ ተንሰኤ አምጽእዮ። *Bring the lad when he wakes up. (addressed to f.s.)*
180. ምስ ተንሰኤት ጸውዕኒ። *When she wakes up, call me.*
181. ነቲ ሕፃን ሕጸብዮ። *Wash the baby.*
182. እግሪ'ዶ ተኸላ፤ *Can she walk?*
183. ክዳን ቀይርሉ። *Change the [child's] clothes.*
184. ክዳውንቲ ሕጸብዮ። *Wash the clothes.*
ክዳውንቲ ሰጥሕዮ። *Let the clothes air dry.*
185. ክዳውንቲ አስታርር። *Iron the clothes. m.s.*
ክዳውንቲ አስታርሪ። *f.s.*
ክዳውንቲ አስታርሩ። *m.p.*
ክዳውንቲ አስታርራ። *f.p.*
186. ማይ ሰኽትቲ። *Put the water on the fire. (the verb is only for liquids)*
187. እቲ ማይ አውርዲዮ ካብ እቶን። *Take the water off the fire.*
188. ድንሽ አብስሊ። *Cook the potatoes. (f.s.)*
189. ሰደቓ አዳልዉ። *Set the table. (m.s.)*
190. ሽሐውንቲ ሕጸቢ። *Wash the dishes. (f.s.)*

191. ገዛ አጽርዮ። *Clean the house. (m.s.)*
192. ምድሪ ቤት ኮሰትር። *Sweep the floor. (m.s.)*
193. ምድሪ ቤት ወልውሊ። *Wash the floor. (f.s.)*
194. ነቲ መናብር ንገፎ። *Dust the chairs. (m.s.)*
195. ወልዓዮ or አብርሃዮ። *Turn on [the light]. (m.s.)*
196. እጐድዮ or ሐዊ እጐዲ። *Light the fire. (f.s.)*
197. አጥፍአዮ። *Turn off [light or fire]. (m.s.)*
198. ማይ ዕጸውዮ። *Turn off the water. (m.s.)*
199. ማይ ክፈትዮ። *Turn on the water. (f.s.)*
200. ብምንታይ ተሰሪሑ፤ *How is it made?*
201. ባዕልኻ'ዶ ሰሪሕካዮ። *Have you made it yourself?*
202. ክዳውንተይ ብማኪና እዩ ተሰፍዩ። *My clothes are sewn by machine.*
203. እንታይ አብሊዖምኹም፤ *What did they give you to eat?*
204. ዝግኒ አብሊዖሙና። *They gave us zigeni.*
205. ሻሂ አስትዮሙና። *They gave us tea.*
206. እንታይ ዓይነት ጽብሒ ቀሪቦሙልካ፤ *What kind of sauce did they prepare for you?*
207. ሽሮ ቀሪቦሙለይ። *They prepared shiro for me.*

E. At the Market

208. እኸሊ አበይ እዩ ዝሸየጥ፤ *Where is grain sold?*
209. እቲ እንታይ ዕይነት እኸሊ እዩ፤ *What kind of grain is that?*
210. አብ ክረምቲ ክንደይ ወርሒ አሎ፤ *How many months is the rainy season?*
211. ክርቢት ግዝአለይ። *Buy matches for me.*
212. ጽባሕ ክኸፍለካ እዮ። *I will pay you tomorrow.*

F. In the School

213. ሰቕ በል or ትም በል። *Be quiet.*
214. ደው በል። *Stand up.*
215. አብ ሰሌዳ ጽሐፍ። *Write on the chalkboard.*
216. ሰሌዳ ወልውል። *Clean the chalkboard.*
217. አቃጭላ። *Ring it [the bell].*
218. ርሳሰይ'ዶ ክጸርብ፤ *May I sharpen my pencil?*
219. ተመሃሮ አብ ቤት ትምህርቲ ይመሃሩ። *The students learn in the school.*
220. ሰዓት ዐስርተው ሐደን ርብዕን ትምህርቲ አሎና። *At eleven-fifteen we have class.*
221. መን ምሂሩካ፤ *Who taught you?*

222. አቶ ገብረሀይወት ምረጉ። *Ato Gebre-Hiwet taught me.*
223. አበይ ተማረካ፤ *Where did you go to school?*
224. አብ አየናይ ክፍሊ ትምህር አሎኻ፤ *What grade are you in?*
225. ታስዓይ ክፍሊ ምስ ወዳእኩ መምህር ክኸውን እየ። *When I finish ninth grade, I'll become a teacher.*
226. ንጸሊ። *Let us pray.*
227. ነዚ ጥቕሲ አጽንዖ። *Memorize (m.s.) this verse.*
228. አየናይ መዝሙር ክንዝምር፤ *Which song shall we sing?*

G. At Clinic

229. እንታይ የሕመካ፤ *What's wrong with you?*
230. መአስ ጀሚሩካ፤ *When did it begin?*
231. አበይ የቕንዝወካ፤ *Where do you have pain?*
232. ረስኒ'ዶ አሎካ፤ *Do you have a fever?*
233. የውጽኣካ'ዶ፤ *Do you have diarrhea?*
234. የምልሰካ'ዶ፤ *Do you have vomiting?*

H. Greetings for Special Occasions

235. ርሑስ በዓል ፈሲካ ይግበረልካ። *Happy Easter! (conjugated)*
236. ርሑስ በዓል ልደት ይግበረልካ። *Merry Christmas! (conjugated)*
237. ርሑስ አውደ ዓመት ይግበረልካ። *Happy New Year! (conjugated)*
238. አሕቢሩ። *The same to you. lit Be united in this wish. (Reply to nos. 235, 236, and 237)*
239. እግዚአብሔር ይምሐርካ። *Get well soon. lit May God have mercy on you.*
240. ምሕረት የውርደልካ። *Get well soon. lit May mercy descend on you.*
241. እግዚአብሔር የጽንዕካ
or እግዚአብሔር የበርትዕካ *May God strengthen you (to someone in mourning; sg.).*
- or እግዚአብሔር ጽንዓት ይሃብኩም። *(the same, pl.)*
242. አይትሕሰሙ።
or ሕሰም አይትርከቡ። *(Reply to no. 241. lit May you not find evil.)*
243. መገዲ ደሐን ይውሰድካ። *Have a good trip. (m.s.) (can be conjugated)*
244. ብደሐን እቶ። *Bon voyage.*
245. እንቋዕ ብደሐን መጻእካ። *Welcome. lit Wonderful that you have arrived safely.*

246. እንቋዕ ብድሐን ጸናሕካ። *Glad to see you. (Reply to no. 245. lit Wonderful that you have stayed well.)*
247. እግዚአብሔር የዕብዮ። *May God make him grow (to parents of a newborn or at baptism).*
248. አሜን። *Amen. This is used to reply to all expressions of good will.*