

In the following sections, we'll explore phonology, orthography, noun and pronoun systems, verb conjugation, adjective placement, sentence structure, and common pitfalls. By the end, you will have a solid foundation to confidently construct sentences, understand native texts, and appreciate the linguistic beauty of Amharic.

Unlike many Indo European languages, Amharic is **verb subject object (VSO)** language, though subject verb object (SVO) order can appear in certain contexts. It features a rich system of verbal affixes that encode tense, aspect, mood, person, and number. Nouns are marked for case, number, and definiteness, and adjectives follow the noun they modify.

3. Noun Morphology

3.1. Gender and Number

Amharic nouns are inherently **gendered** as **masculine** or **feminine**. Gender is not always predictable from meaning, so memorization is essential. Plurality is marked by suffixes:

- - u for most nouns (e.g., ልጆች ልጆች u “men”).
- - • v } for irregular plurals (e.g., ፈተኞች ፈተኞች • v } “students”).

3.2. Definiteness

Amharic marks definiteness with the prefix **ə** (ə-). For example, (house) becomes (the house). The definite article is obligatory before proper names and in most contexts.

3.3. Case System

Unlike many languages, Amharic does not have a rich case system. However, it uses prepositions and postpositions to indicate grammatical relations. The most common postposition is (፻)፻ used to indicate similarity or identity.

4. Pronouns

4.1. Personal Pronouns

Amharic distinguishes between singular and plural, inclusive and exclusive, and uses gender distinctions in some contexts. Here's a quick reference:

- ማሳ – I (singular)
- ማሳ ፈተኞች – you (masculine singular)
- ማሳ ፈተኞች – you (feminine singular)
- ማሳ ፈተኞች – we (inclusive)
- ማሳ ፈተኞች – we (exclusive)
- ማሳ ፈተኞች – you (plural)
- ማሳ ፈተኞች – they (plural)

4.2. Demonstratives

Demonstratives are formed by adding - (my), - (your), - (his/her), etc., to the noun. For example, (hand) becomes (my hand).

5. Verb Conjugation

5.1. Root System

Amharic verbs are built around a trilateral root, usually consisting of three consonants. Morphological processes add prefixes, infixes, and suffixes to express grammatical categories.

5.2. Tenses and Aspects

Amharic distinguishes between **past**, **present**, and **future** tenses. It also marks aspect through additional suffixes:

- - u – habitual (e.g., ሰላሳ - 3 – “he/she goes” regularly).
- - – progressive (e.g., ሰላሳ - 3 – “he/she is going”).

5.3. Mood

Indicative, imperative, conditional, and subjunctive moods are expressed through specific affixes. For instance, the imperative is formed by adding - to the root.

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