Typing in Awngi

The Awngi keyboard uses a system where the Awngi sounds are matched to the English letters (a style called “phonetic”). You can think of how a word sounds in Awngi and then type it out with English.

Example: typing selam becomes ወላም

Because Awngi has more sounds than English we sometimes have to adjust this rule. For example English does not have ‘m’ and the closest similar letter would be ‘t’. In this case you should type with “capital T”:

Example: typing TienaysTlN becomes እንዳይስጥልኝ

Notice that we used capital ‘N’ also for ‘ኝ’ and we needed both “ie” together to make the 5th ‘m’ letter ‘ኝ’. When the letter you want to type does not appear when you hit the similar sounding key in English, try using the capital next. If typing the capital does not work, then try hitting the key two times:

Example: typing sselam becomes ወላም
Example: typing SSeHey becomes ቁለይ

Next, when you need to type the extra letters of Awngi like እ, የ, እ you can do so by typing an extra vowel after a ‘u’:

Example: typing mua becomes ብ
Example: typing guie becomes ገ

Finally, we must introduce a special rule for ‘ (apostrophe). Some words are spelt with a ፋ (6th) letter followed by a vowel, like ይብ ነ in ይብትል. We use the apostrophe here to type “gebr’iel” to make sure we get “ርኤ” instead of ‘ሬ’.

Example: typing mel’ak becomes እልአክ
Example: typing m’eeraf becomes ይርዖቃ

We also use the apostrophe for Ethiopic numbers, so ‘1 becomes እ and so on. If a ‘ is needed in your document just type ‘ twice. This works for other punctuation as well, typing ‘;’ once makes ‘t’ and a second time gives English ‘;’.

The typing table shows how to type all Awngi letters, numbers and punctuation.
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**Awngi Typing Table**
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| '10 | '20 | '30 | '40 | '50 | '60 | '70 | '80 |

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This document contains a table with various symbols and characters, possibly representing a reference to a language chart or a chart of symbols. The table includes columns with different symbols and characters, which are likely to be part of a language script or a set of symbols used in a specific context.
**Typing all languages**

Since the creation of the Unicode system for Ethiopic many letters have become available on the computer. Unicode defines 461 letters for Ethiopic writing in many languages. This is too many letters for Awngi so to avoid typing unexpected letters they are not allowed in the Awngi keyboard. However, on the occasion that you need to type Ethiopic letters outside of Awngi, you can do so with the “Unicode Keyboard”.

There are two ways to start the Unicode keyboard:

1. Type Ctrl + Alt + Y this should make the icon appear in your task bar and the Unicode keyboard is ready.
2. Click on the icon in your task bar then select the icon and the Unicode keyboard is ready.

The typing for letters of other languages are now shown:

**Amharic**

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</table>
Ge’ez numbers can also be typed with the Unicode keyboard without requiring the typing of a ‘ before a number. This way is a little easier than typing numbers from the Awngi keyboard.

Me’en/Mursi/Suri/Dizi

Me’en/Mursi/Suri/Dizi & Historical Oromo/Sidama

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Installing and Using the Keyboard

The AwngiKeyboard7.exe file contains the Tavultesoft Keyman and font installer.

To begin the installation:

1. Double click it and follow the installation instructions.
2. After successful installation you will find the Tavultesoft Keyman in your “Programs” menu. To start the keyboard software click:
   - Start > All Programs
     - Tavultesot Keyman Desktop Light 7.1
     - Keyman Desktop Light 7.1
3. Click the 📝 icon on the right bottom of your taskbar.
4. Select the 🇪🇹 icon from the pop-up menu that appears.
5. Select an Ethiopic font and begin typing.