

Middle Egyptian Grammar
by James E. Hoch
(Benben Publications, Mississauga, 1997)
Key to the exercises (under construction)

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The key is presented here as far as it was made public by the author himself. Here I merely add transliterations and occasional comments. I do not intend to add a key for the remaining exercises.

Lesson I _____

- 1** *n ky s* to another man
3 *iw kt ht im* Another thing is there.
5 *iw dd s n ky* The man speaks to another.
6 Note: Choose one of the possible translations of preposition *r* to make the sentence meaningful.

Lesson II _____

- 1** This scribe speaks to this woman.
3 See, the scribe hears this plan.
5 Look, the sun is in the sky.
7 See, the boat is in the water when the sun shines forth in (or "from") the horizon.
9 The man hears another plan in the city.

Lesson III _____

- 1** Look, the steward's daughter is on her maid-servant's donkey.
3 Re' crosses the sky in his great bark.
5 The Lord of the Two Lands is in joy over this great construction project.
7 See the mother of your servant in her little house, her children with her. (Or "See, the mother of your servant is in her little house, her children being with her.")

9 Our lord send his servant to another city concerning this construction project.

Lesson IV _____

2 How sweet is the taste of honey! It is finer than anything in this land!

4 A son who listens to his father when he is a child is good. (Or "Good is a son who listens to his father when he is a child.") How well it goes for him with this advice in his heart every day.

6 I am a hm-ntr-priest who does not know the taste of misfortune.

7 Slaves of great strength are given to you together with kind-hearted female slaves.

9 How great is this house of yours! It is rich in all sorts of fine things.

Lesson V _____

1 All the property of this temple was in good order when the hm-ntr-priest ordered its inspection. (Or "that it be inspected")

3 (As caption) Arrival of His Majesty to slay the enemy of vile Kush. (As narrative infinitive) His Majesty arrived to slay the enemy of vile Kush.

5 I am one who is dearly beloved in the heart of his lord, who is generous to all the people of his town. (Or "who was*")

6 The servant loaded it for his master after he had ordered that it be done for him.

8 He said it to him after sitting down upon his great throne.

Lesson VI _____

2 The wife of this loud-mouthed peasant is making 13 loaves of bread and 8 jugs of beer to take to him and her children in the fields.

4 Look, he is talking to your daughter!

6 Amen-nakhte was eating a little bread and drinking beer, the third hour of evening having arrived.

7 He slayed 8 lions by shooting in the twinkle of an eye.

8 The w⁴b-priest saw the goddess in the pool bathing herself, she having laid her garments on the ground.

Lesson VII _____

1 Look, it is good for people to listen. (Or "listening is good for people." Or, "Look, it is good to listen to people.")

3 The children of the chief hm-ntr-priest were brought to me that I might inform them of this fine thing.

5 His Majesty came that he might eliminate corruption in this land in its entirety and that he might let one town discover its boundary from (that of) another.

- 7 He predicted this to me saying: "A ship will come from home. You are to go with them (back) home so that you might die in your town." (Or "so that you might go (back) home and so that**")
- 9 They were fleeing headlong to Megiddo with faces of fear, having abandoned their horses and chariots of gold and silver.

Lesson VIII _____

- 1 One of these donkeys filled its mouth with a shoot of Upper Egyptian barley.
- 3 She had a chest filled with clothing brought to him.
- 6 (The context requires a future time reference.) The rivers of Egypt will have turned dry so that the water can be crossed on foot. One will search for water for the boats in order to sail (on) it, its course having become a sand-bank.

Lesson IX _____

- 1 Look, I have been appealing to you, but you do not listen to it. I will go so that I might make an appeal concerning you to Anubis.
- 3 There is a box of flint there in the room called "Inventory" in Heliopolis. Look, it is in that box.
- 5 He enters the house of Osiris. He sees the mysteries that are in it.
- 7 Here I am come before you, having brought justice to you, having driven out injustice for you, and not having done wrong against people.
- 9 I had many pine ships constructed upon the mountains of God's Land in the vicinity of the Lady of Byblos, they being placed upon carts, with oxen drawing (them) as they travelled before My Majesty in order to cross that great river that occurs between that land and Naharen.
- 11 I am pure, there being no part of me devoid of righteousness, for I have bathed in the southern pool.

Lesson X _____

- 2 You are Ha'py who makes the meadows green, who re-establishes the ravaged tracts.
- 4 The limits of art have not been attained. There is no artisan who has mastered his craft. Fine speech is more hidden than green-stone. (Yet) it is found with slave-girls at the grind-stone.

Lesson XI _____

- 1 Book of conjuring migraine headaches: Strip of fine linen, placed around his head.
- 3 Hereditary nobleman, Count, Supervisor of hm-ntr-priests, Hepdjefa says to his ka-priest: "Look, all of these things that I have placed under contract with (or literally "in the hands of") these w'b-priests are under your supervision. Now look, it is a man's ka-priest who perpetuates his things and who perpetuates his funerary offerings."
- 6 Here begin the prescriptions that are made to drive fleas from the house: You are then to sprinkle it with a natron-water (solution) in order to drive (them out).

Lesson XII _____

- 1 He found him lying on a mat at the threshold of his wall, a slave at his head anointing him, and another massaging his feet. (This sentence describes how he found him, and one could also translate "how he found him was*" but since this sentence type is the one normally used with gmi "to find," no particular shift of focus is needed in the English.)
- 2 Then this Nemty-nakhte said to his retainer: "Go get me a sheet from my house." Then it was brought to him immediately. He spread it out at the fork at the head of the path. Its fringe was resting right in the water and its hem right over the barley. This peasant walked along the public road. Then this Nemty-nakhte said: "Be so good, peasant, as to not walk upon my cloth!" (Literally: "Do well, peasant, so that you have not tread upon my cloth!")
- 4 I returned serving him as an alert one with absolutely no loss having occurred in my troops. (It is possible, but less likely that the focus begins with "serving him.*")
- 6 I travelled at night. No sooner did the day dawn than I reached Peten. (Or "I reached Peten just as the day was dawning.")

Lesson XIII

- 1 (Geneology: Grandfather is Intef [no nick-name]. His son is Mery, called Kebi. Mery's son is named after the grandfather: Intef, but is called Iusonbu.) Regnal year 39, 4th month of Inundation, day 19. Transfer of title that the phyle controller Mery-called Kebi-son of Intef made for his son, Intef-called Iusonbu. I am giving my phyle controllership to my son, Intef-called Iusonbu-son of Mery to be my staff of old age in view of the fact that I have grown old. Let him be appointed from this moment. As for the transfer of title that I made for his mother previously, let it be revoked. As for my house that is in the estate of Hut-medet, it is for my children who were born to me by the daughter of the attendant of the district magistrate Sobek-em-het, Nebet-neni-nisu, together with all that is in it. List of witnesses in whose presence (literally "at whose side") this transfer of title was made.
- 3 Do the scales go wrong? Does the balance tilt to one side? Now does Thoth show mercy?

Lesson XIV

- 2 Wrongdoing has never brought to port its venture, for when the end comes around, justice prevails.
- 4 If you are a poor man, serve a wealthy man so that all your conduct will be fine with the god. Do not find out for yourself (his) former poverty. May you not be arrogant concerning him because of what you know of him from former times. Respect him in view of what has accrued to him. Wealth doesn't just come on its own. It is their law for the ones that they love.

References

[Hoc97] J.E. Hoch. *Middle Egyptian Grammar*. Benben Publications, Mississauga, 1997.