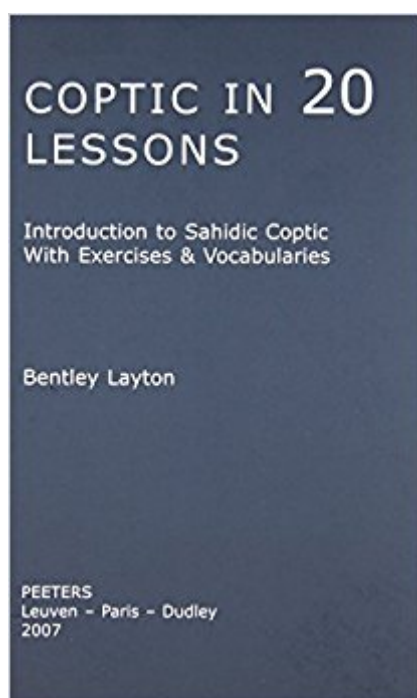


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Coptic In 20 Lessons: Introduction To Sahidic Coptic With Exercises And Vocabularies



Synopsis

Coptic in 20 Lessons is written by the author of the most authoritative reference grammar of the Coptic language, and is based on decades of pedagogical experience. In easy steps and simple explanations, it teaches the patterns and syntax of Sahidic Coptic, along with the most useful vocabulary. Drills, compositions, and translation exercises enable the student to gain fluency. All words that occur more than fifty times in the Sahidic New Testament are introduced lesson by lesson in vocabulary lists, which are arranged by semantic field and accompanied by both Greek equivalents and English glosses. The book concludes with three chapters of the Gospel of Mark, in which all new vocabulary is glossed in footnotes. Coptic in 20 Lessons is the ideal resource for use in the classroom or for teaching oneself Coptic.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

A most useful book for those of us with interest in the last stage of the ancient Egyptian language, Coptic. It provides a time-saving brief format, with two great assets: emphasis and examples for proper translation from Sahidic-Coptic into English, and easy reference to the more detailed text book "A COPTIC GRAMMER" by Layton. The reviewer, however, is of Coptic origins, whose primary interest in the Coptic language leans more toward the "Northern dialect known as Memphetic or Bohairic", which continues to be used by the Coptic Orthodox Church in its liturgy, and included by Copts all over the world - at least in the form of a few sentences or hymns - in their individual daily prayers from the the Prayer Book of the Hours, the Agpeya. With that in mind, the reviewer found that frequent consultation with a "Bohairic Grammar" - "Grammaire Copte" by Mallon, translated

from French into English by Boulos Ayad - was necessary. In summary, the reviewer finds this book to be most useful, though somewhat challenging for an autodidact without the benefit of an instructor or a teacher. He wishes, it might have been presented in the Bohairic dialect too. Presenting Coptic Grammar in both Sahidic and Bohairic dialects, was common among the Coptic writers who recorded Coptic Grammar for posterity, e.g. Athanasius of Qus.

Layton's student-centered teaching grammar for Sahidic Coptic is a wonderful resource and more up-to-date than Lambdin's Coptic Grammar textbook -- BUT be aware that this is not a book meant for people with little prior language learning experience. It's more a "student-centered" distillation of his larger technical grammar than a typical student textbook, and it reads like it. Even in the first few chapters, his explanations of things are fairly technical and can be confusing for newbies to ancient languages. I have previously worked through Lambdin's Coptic textbook, which I liked very much, and decided to work through this one with a colleague just to get more practice and see how Layton explains things differently. Lambdin really is aimed at the beginner (although he assumes you've had some Greek, as every textbook does) with fairly straightforward explanations, but Layton's language is more technical. If I hadn't already worked through another textbook, I'm not sure how easy it would be to follow Layton. Also, a big strike against Layton is that there is no chapter vocabulary glossary in the back. If you hit an exercise in Chapter 8 that asks you to remember the meaning of a word introduced in an early chapter, you'll have to manually flip to and scan every single page of previous vocabulary looking for that word. Seems like a missed opportunity. (Pet peeve: I also hate the 'null-article' symbol Layton seems addicted to. Erg. It's visually distracting.) All that said, this book is still a wonderful resource. The exercises are quite good, and the high volume of sentences that you are required to compose into Coptic are intimidating but fantastic and extremely helpful. Do be aware that there is currently no answer key available for the exercises (we're slowly compiling one ourselves as we work through it), so if you don't previously have any Coptic exposure, it's hard to use this book alone for self-teaching. If you're choosing between Layton and Lambdin... I'd start with Lambdin. If you find that you really like it, then move into this one as well. It would be fascinating to hear from somebody who alternated doing two chapters from Lambdin and then one chapter from Layton. If you're serious about Coptic, then definitely give this a look.

Really easy to use, very helpful

Bently Layton's new Coptic grammar book fills a great need for both students and scholars. It is well-arranged, thorough, concise, and easy to follow. Its format is refreshing, with the needs of serious students in mind. The exercises and vocabularies are adequate and progressive. With this book, the student really gets a good grasp of Sahidic Coptic, and skill in reading and translating it. This is an excellent tool for anyone studying the Sahidic Coptic New Testament or Coptic literature in general.

If you know me apart from mixing music I love the Classical and Romance languages. But learning Coptic and the Medu Neter is part of my journey spiritually. Now I'm studying Greek and Latin.

Terrific grammar

It is very helpful for the Coptic course I am enrolled in

Good book.

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