

# Timeline of the Egyptian Language and Personal Letters (Allen's timeline)

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## Old Egyptian (~2890–2686 BCE)

First appearance during the end of the 2nd Dynasty.

- First known sentence under Pharaoh Peribsen. Sentence translates as "He has united the Two Lands for his son, Dual King Perisben." Located on a cylinder seal.

## Early Old Egyptian (~2600–2500 BCE)

Represented by secular texts from the 4th and early 5th Dynasties.

## Late Old Egyptian (~2450–2100 BCE)

Noted for the appearance of pseudo-verbal constructions.

## Middle Egyptian (Classical) (~2000–1650 BCE, Dynasties 11–13)

Classical literary and monumental script.

## Late Middle Egyptian (~1650–1350 BCE, Dynasties 14–18)

Used during the Second Intermediate Period and New Kingdom.

## Traditional Middle Egyptian (~1350 BCE–4th century CE)

Used mainly for religious/monumental purposes after falling out of daily use.

## Late Egyptian (~1350–650 BCE, Dynasties 18–26)

Common written language of administration and daily life.

- Early Stage: 1300–1100 BCE

- Late Stage: 1100–650 BCE

## Demotic (~650 BCE–5th century CE)

Evolved from Late Egyptian; used for legal, administrative, and private writing.

- March 257 BCE – Simale to Zenon (about her son)

- 168 BCE – Isias to Hephaestion

- **2nd century BCE:**

- **Grandmother suggests name for newborn girl**

- **Note about learning Egyptian**

- 127 BCE – Dionysia to Theon

- **28 BCE:**

- **Isidora to Asklepiades: "Reply to me quickly"**

- **Isidora to Asklepiades: Instructions**

### **Coptic (~3rd century CE–10th century CE)**

Final written stage of Egyptian; used in Christian religious texts.

- **2nd–3rd century CE – Thermouthas and Valeria to Apolinarios (about travel and money)**