

Font features in Abyssinica SIL

When Abyssinica SIL is used in applications that support Graphite, and that provide an appropriate user interface, various user-controllable font features are available that allow access to alternatively-designed glyphs that might be preferable for use in some contexts. In the Graphite version of OpenOffice 3.2¹ the font features can be turned on by choosing the font (ie Abyssinica SIL), followed by a colon, followed by the feature ID, and then followed by the feature setting. So, for example, if the Archaic Oromo dda forms are desired, the font selection would be “Abyssinica SIL:101=1”. If you wish to apply two (or more) features, you can separate them with an “&”. Thus, “Abyssinica SIL:101=1&102=1” would apply “Archaic Oromo dda forms” plus the “Gumuz nya forms” feature. This particular paragraph has “latin” punctuation turned on so that the punctuation and numbers have a less Ethiopic feel (Abyssinica SIL:114=1). The next paragraph does not have “latin” punctuation turned on. You should see a difference in the style of numbers and quotation marks.

For applications which support OpenType Stylistic Sets, such Word 2010 and InDesign CS 4+, the Stylistic Set number is given. In InDesign, from the “Character” palette select “OpenType / Stylistic Sets” and then choose the Set(s) you want to apply to the text you have selected. You must either have “[no language]” selected or an Ethiopic language selected in order for the Stylistic sets to work (Stylistic Sets 1-13 will not work if “English” is selected). In Word 2010, Stylistic Sets are also available. Choose “Font / Advanced tab.” Select “Opentype Features / Stylistic Sets” and then choose the set you want to apply to the text you have selected. At this point, Word 2010 does not have a user interface for selecting more than one Stylistic Set at a time. Publisher 2010 also supports Stylistic Sets. However, at this point it does not have support for the Ethiopic script. Thus, the only Stylistic Set available for use is Stylistic Set 14 which turns off Ethiopic-style punctuation when you wish to use Latin-style punctuation.

Archaic Oromo dda forms (Stylistic Set 1, Graphite id:101) (U+12F8..U+12FE)

Default: ሰ ሱ ሲ ሳ ሴ ስ ሶ

Feature on: ሰ ሱ ሲ ሳ ሴ ስ ሶ

Gumuz nya forms (Stylistic Set 2, Graphite id:102) (U+1298..U+129F)

Default: ኘ ኙ ኚ ኛ ኜ ኝ ኞ ኟ

Feature on: ኘ ኙ ኚ ኛ ኜ ኝ ኞ ኟ (this will be the default form if an application supports the Gumuz language)

Old Style forms (Stylistic Set 3, Graphite id:103) (U+1297 U+12C3 U+12E5 U+1313 U+133F U+134F)

Default: ኘ ኙ ኚ ኛ ኜ ኝ ኞ ኟ

Feature on: ኘ ኙ ኚ ኛ ኜ ኝ ኞ ኟ

Disconnected gga forms (Stylistic Set 4, Graphite id:104) (U+1318..U+131F)

Default: ኘ ኙ ኚ ኛ ኜ ኝ ኞ ኟ

Feature on: ኘ ኙ ኚ ኛ ኜ ኝ ኞ ኟ

Sebat Bet gwaa form (Stylistic Set 5, Graphite id:105) (U+1313)

Default: ኘ

Feature on: ኘ (this will be the default form if an application supports the Sebat Bet language)

¹ Download here: <http://www.openoffice.org/>.

Leslau's Sebat Bet alternates (Stylistic Set 6, Graphite id:106) (U+1381 U+1383 U+1387 U+138B U+138F))

Default: ማሉ ምሉ ብሉ ፍሉ ፑሉ

Feature on: መሉ መሉ ብሉ ፍሉ ፑሉ

Sebat Bet xwa forms (Stylistic Set 7, Graphite id:107) (U+1288 U+128A U+128B U+128C U+128D)

Default: ንሉ ንሉ ንሉ ንሉ ንሉ

Feature on: ሀሉ ሀሉ ሂሉ ሂሉ ሀሉ

Sebat Bet 3rd form alternates (Stylistic Set 8, Graphite id:108) (U+124A U+12B2 U+12C2 U+1312 U+1381 U+1385 U+138D)

Default: ቀሉ ከሉ ኸሉ ገሉ ማሉ ብሉ ፑሉ

Feature on: ቁሉ ከሉ ኸሉ ገሉ ማሉ ብሉ ፑሉ

Sebat Bet 6th form alternates (Stylistic Set 9, Graphite id:109) (U+124D U+12B5 U+12C5 U+1315)

Default: ቀሉ ከሉ ኸሉ ገሉ

Feature on: ቁሉ ከሉ ኸሉ ገሉ

Sebat Bet mwe alternate (Stylistic Set 10, Graphite id:110) (U+1383)

Default: ምሉ

Feature on: ምሉ

Traditional fwee alternate (Stylistic Set 11, Graphite id:111) (U+138A)

Default: ፉሉ

Feature on: ፉሉ

Typewriter ggwaa alternate (Stylistic Set 12, Graphite id:112) (U+131F)

Default: ኸሉ

Feature on: ኸሉ

xoa alternate (Stylistic Set 13, Graphite id:113) (U+1287)

Default: ኸሉ

Feature on: ኸሉ

Latin punctuation (Stylistic Set 14, Graphite id:114) (U+00A1 U+0021 U+0024 U+20AC U+0025 U+002A U+002B U+00D7 U+002F U+003D U+003F U+0030 U+0031 U+0032 U+0033 U+0034 U+0035 U+0036 U+0037 U+0038 U+0039 U+2070 U+00B9 U+00B2 U+00B3 U+2074 U+2075 U+2076 U+2077 U+2078 U+2079 U+00A9 U+00AB U+00BB U+2039 U+203A U+201C U+201D U+2018 U+2019)

Default: ¡!\$€%*+×/= ?0123456789⁰¹²³⁴⁵⁶⁷⁸⁹©«»(){}“”‘’

Feature on: ¡!\$€%*+ × / = ?0123456789⁰¹²³⁴⁵⁶⁷⁸⁹©«»(){}“”‘’