
















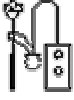
































Lesson 2- Common Determinatives


Since Hieratic is simply a cursive form of Hieroglyphic, it has the same types of signs. One of these with which you are no doubt familiar is determinatives. Most words in Egyptian are accompanied by one or more determinatives. In fact, picking out determinatives in a text is one way of finding where one word ends and the next begins. They are of course essential in many cases for us to know which of several words of different meaning that are otherwise spelled the same.


In this lesson a number of common and useful determinatives are presented. Some of these are also used as phonetic signs, so they will be your first signs representing more than one consonant. The phonetic values (if any) are indicated after the meaning as a determinative, in larger type.

| Hieratic | Meaning | Hieroglyph | Hieratic | Meaning | Hieroglyph |
|---|--------------------------|---|---|---------------------------------|---|
|  | man, person |  |  | town, city |  |
|  | talk, eat |  |  | singular * | |
|  | strike, force, effort |  |  | plural | |
|  | praise, worship |  |  | abstract |  |
|  | walk, run |  |  | writing <i>ss</i> |  |
|  | small, weak evil |  |  | star <i>dwa</i> |  |
|  | wood |  |  | house, building <i>pr</i> |  |
|  | sky, heaven <i>pt</i> |  |  | god <i>nTr</i> |  |

| | | | | | |
|---|------------------------------|---|---|----------------------------|---|
|  | irrigated land |  |  | boat, ship |  |
|  | foreign country desert |  |  | sun, day, time |  |
|  | eye, see <i>ir</i> |  |  | ear, hearing <i>sDm</i> |  |
|  | woman |  |  | child |  |
| | | |  | negative |  |

* This sign is used after another to indicate that the first sign is to be read as an ideogram, that is, as the object the sign is a picture of.

** When there is a need to fit this sign into a small space, it is reduced to .

*** When this sign is fitted into a small space, it is reduced to .

**** The dot on top of this sign was sometimes quite small, leading to confusion

 with "n"