Ancient Language First Aid
Middle Egyptian Syntax Digest
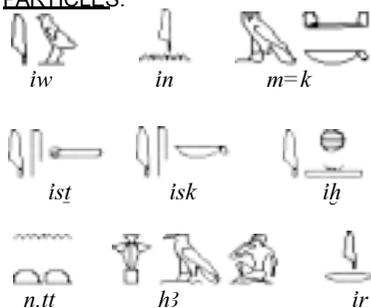
Tele's Angels

The sentence/clause *may* begin with:
- a non-enclitic PARTICLE
- an AUXILIARY form
- a NEGATION

Although these are not always present, when they are they mark the *start of a sentence*. Look out for these:

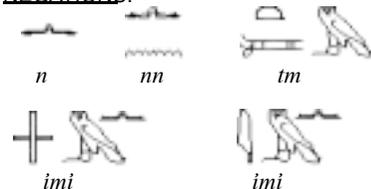<u>PARTICLES</u>:

iw   *in*   *m=k*

ist   *isk*   *iḫ*

n.tt   *ḫ3*   *ir*

<u>AUXILIARIES</u>:

ʿḥʿ.n   *wnn*   *wn.in*

<u>NEGATIONS</u>:

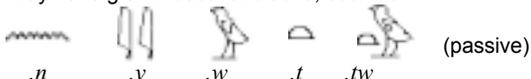*n*   *nn*   *tm*

imi   *imi*

In the case of the first two categories, note the form, and move on to the next word. In the case of negations, there are somewhat different rules. Consult the NEGATIONS TABLES to ascertain the corresponding affirmative sentence type, and then relate to this table.

VERBAL PREDICATE

<u>1st Position = PREDICATE</u>
Verb
May have grammatical additions, such as:

.*n*   .*y*   .*w*   .*t*   .*tw*   (passive)

For purposes of syntax, these can be taken as *part of the verb.*

<u>2nd Position</u>
Noun / Noun Phrase
OR
Suffix Pronoun   = SUBJECT
OR
Dependent Pronoun = OBJECT   (look at *next word* for Subject)

(Note: The "Suffix Dative" - the preposition ~~~~~ with Suffix Pronoun attached - can appear 2nd. If so, treat next word as 2nd.)

ADVERBIAL PREDICATE

<u>1st Position = SUBJECT</u>
Noun / Noun Phrase
OR
Suffix Pronoun (after *iw* , *wnn*)
OR
Dependent Pronoun
(after particles other than *iw* and *wnn*)

<u>2nd Position = PREDICATE</u>
Preposition + [Noun / Noun Phrase or Suffix Pronoun]
OR
Single word Adverb
OR
Special verbal form called Old Perfective
(has its own series of suffixes acc.to gender and number)

NOMINAL PREDICATE

<u>1st Position</u>
[a] **Noun / Noun Phrase = SUBJECT** *IF* it is preceded by the particle: *in* ⟹

[b] **Noun / Noun Phrase = PREDICATE** *IF* ⟹

OR
Independent Pronoun = SUBJECT ⟹

<u>2nd Position</u>
Noun Phrase = PREDICATE , formed from either a Parl a Prospective *sḏm=f*. Also known as the "*in*-construction".

followed by **the Demonstrative** *pw* **= SUBJECT**
(*pw* follows gender and number of Predicate - he, she, they, it)

Noun or **Noun Phrase = PREDICATE ,** the latter often formed from a Participle or a Relative Form, as for [a] (see above).

(Note: Some Nominal sentences are formed by simply placing two Nouns / Noun Phrases together. In this case, Subject is first.)

ADJECTIVAL PREDICATE

<u>1st Position = PREDICATE</u>
Adjective
May have the element   .*wy* added to express admiration - "How…."
OR
Special possessive expression using the **nisbe adjective** *n.y* , the word "of".

<u>2nd Position = SUBJECT</u>
Noun / Noun Phrase
OR
Dependent Pronoun