



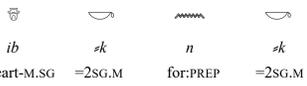
Old Egyptian Multiword Expressions consisting of a head word + *ib* "heart"

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Meaning of *ib*

The noun *ib* has a literal meaning "heart" and a metonymic idiosyncratic meaning "desire", "wish" and "mind", cf.:

Literal meaning (in a mortuary ritual):


ib =2SG.M for:PREP =2SG.M
"Your heart is for you."

Metonymic idiosyncratic meaning:


be hostile:PTCP(M.SG) heart-M.SG every-M.SG
"Everyone who is hostile of heart (i.e. mind)." > "Any evil-minded person."

Earliest attestation

The earliest instances of *ib* used with a metonymic idiosyncratic meaning occur in NMWEs from the Early Dynastic Period (ca. 2900–2730 BC), e.g.:

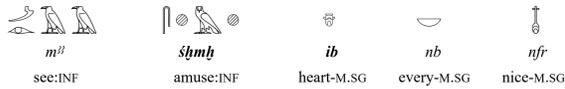

im heart-M.SG
be kind:PTCP(M.PL) heart-M.SG
"One who is kind of heart."
"A well-liked one."



Typology

In Old Egyptian, three types of *ib*-MWEs can be distinguished depending on the morphology of the head word:

1) NOMINAL MULTIWORD EXPRESSIONS (NMWEs) if the head word is a noun, an infinitive, an adjective or a participle, e.g.:


m *šmḥ* *ib* *nb* *nfr*
see:INF amuse:INF heart-M.SG every-M.SG nice-M.SG
"Seeing every nice amusement of the heart."
"Seeing every nice entertainment."

2) PREPOSITIONAL MULTIWORD EXPRESSIONS (PMWEs) if the head word is a preposition. This type of MWE usually gives rise to complex prepositions, e.g.:


šmḥ *šw* *n* *ib* *n* *hr(.w)* *ꜥꜥ(n)*
forget:IMP =3SG.M for:PREP heart-M.SG of-M.SG children-M.PL =2PL
"Forget it for the heart of your children."
"Forget it for the sake/love of your children."

3) VERBAL MULTIWORD EXPRESSIONS (VMWEs) if the head word is a verb. They can be LIGHT-VERB CONSTRUCTIONS (LVCs) or VERBAL IDIOMS (IDs), eg.:

Example of a LVC:

ir *r* *ib* *(ꜥi)*
do:IMP according to:PREP heart-M.SG (=1SG)
"Do according to (my) heart."
"Act according to (my) will."

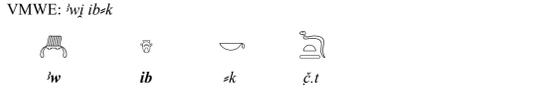
Example of an ID:

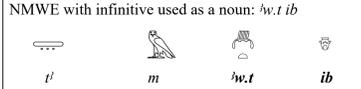
nꜥm *ib* *n(i)* *[Wniš]*
be sweet:SBIV heart-M.SG of-M.SG Unas-NAME
"The heart of Unas shall be sweet."
"Unas shall be kind."

Idiosyncratic features

A word stem can be used in different types of MWEs (see 1, 13, 20, 21, 22, 29, 33, 38, 42, 51 and 52). The following features should be noted:

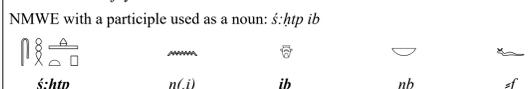
1) A verb stem in a VMWE can be transformed into an infinitive or a participle used as a noun in a NMWE, cf.:

VMWE: *ḥwj ibꜥk*

ḥw *ib* *ꜥk* *ꜥ.t*
be long:SBIV heart-M.SG =2SG.M eternally:ADV
"Your heart shall be long eternally."
"You shall be glad eternally."

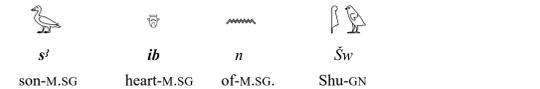
NMWE with infinitive used as a noun: *ḥw.t ib*

t *m* *ḥw.t* *ib*
earth-M.SG in:PREP length-F.SG heart-M.SG
"The earth is in length of heart."
"The earth is in joy."

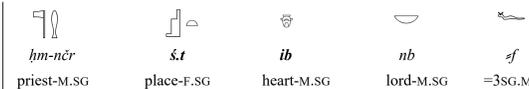
VMWE: *š:ḥtpꜥf ib*

š:ḥtp *ꜥf* *ib* *ꜥk*
satisfy:FUT =3SG.M heart-M.SG =2SG.M
"He will satisfy your heart."
"He will satisfy you."

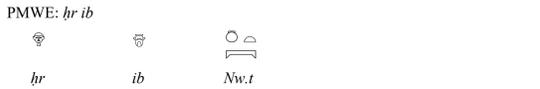
NMWE with a participle used as a noun: *š:ḥtp ib*

š:ḥtp *n(i)* *ib* *nb* *ꜥf*
satisfier:PTCP of-M.SG heart-M.SG lord-M.SG =3SG.M
"The satisfier of the heart of his lord."
"One who satisfies his lord."

2) Most of NMWEs consist of an infinitive or a participle used as a noun derived from a verb stem. There are only a few NMWEs consisting of a noun as a head word:


s *ib* *n* *šw*
son-M.SG heart-M.SG of-M.SG Shu-GN
"The son of Shu's heart."
"Shu's dearest son."


ḥm-nꜥr *š.t* *ib* *nb* *ꜥf*
priest-M.SG place-F.SG heart-M.SG lord-M.SG =3SG.M
"The priest of the place of the heart of his lord."
"The priest wished by his lord (i.e. the favourite priest of his lord)."

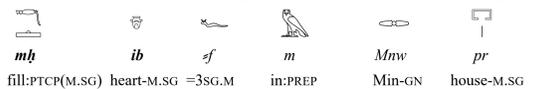
3) A preposition in a PMWE can also be used as a nisba adjective in a NMWE, cf.:

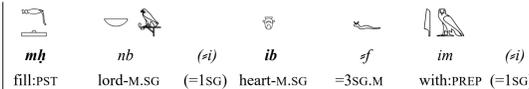
PMWE: *hr ib*

hr *ib* *Nw.t*
on-PREP heart-M.SG Nut-GN
"(...) on the heart of Nut (the goddess of heaven)."
"(...) inside the heaven"

NMWE: *hr(.i) ib*

Ppy-nḥ *hr(.i)* *ib*
Pepi-ankh-NAME one who is on-M.SG heart-M.SG
"Pepi-ankh, the one who is on heart."
"Pepi-ankh, the middle one."

4) The meaning of a MWE consisting of the same word stem and *ib* can change if the syntactic structure of the two expressions is different, cf.:


mḥ *ib* *ꜥf* *m* *Mnw* *pr*
fill:PTCP(M.SG) heart-M.SG =3SG.M in:PREP Min-GN house-M.SG
"One who fills his heart in the temple of Min."
"One who earns his trust (i.e. his confidant) in the temple of Min."


mḥ *nb* *(ꜥi)* *ib* *ꜥf* *im* *(ꜥi)*
fill:PST lord-M.SG (=1SG) heart-M.SG =3SG.M with:PREP (=1SG)
"(My) lord filled his heart with (me)."
"(My) lord trusted (me)."

A prototypical form of an Old Egyptian MWE is defined by the following features

- 1) It consists of a word stem as its head and a phrase containing the word *ib* as its modifier.
 - 2) It is the primary expression from which other types of MWEs are derived.
 - 3) It is formulated in a non-negated form and in the third person m. sing.
- If the prototypical form with these three features is not preserved, it can be reconstructed. An asterisk (*) indicates that it is a reconstructed prototypical form.

Prototypical form	Type	Attestation	Literal meaning	Free translation
(1) <i>ḥwj ibꜥk</i>	NMWE	<i>ḥw.t ib</i>	length + heart	joy
	VMWE	<i>ḥwj ibꜥk</i>	shall be long + your heart	you shall be glad
(2) <i>ḥgbḥ ibꜥf</i>	VMWE	<i>ḥgbḥ ib n(i)</i>	shall quiver + heart (of sb.)	(sb.) shall shudder with joy
(3) <i>irꜥf r ib</i>	LVC	<i>irꜥi r ib</i>	I shall do + according to + heart	I shall act according to the will
(4) <i>ꜥi ibꜥf</i>	VMWE	<i>ꜥi ibꜥf</i>	shall be great + his heart	he shall be proud
(5) <i>nḥ ibꜥf</i>	VMWE	<i>nḥ ibꜥk</i>	shall be alive + your heart	you shall be lively
(6) <i>ḥꜥf ib (*)</i>	NMWE	<i>ḥꜥ ib</i>	one who enters + heart	a confidant
(7) <i>wꜥi ibꜥf (*)</i>	NMWE	<i>wꜥi ib</i>	one who gets ready + heart	one who is ready
(8) <i>wꜥꜥf hr ib</i>	VMWE	<i>wꜥꜥi hr ib n(i)</i>	I was rooted + on + heart (of sb.)	I was pleasant to (sb.)
(9) <i>wḥ ibꜥf</i>	VMWE	<i>wḥ ibꜥf r</i>	shall be set down + his heart + towards	he shall care about
(10) <i>wꜥꜥf ibꜥf (*)</i>	VMWE	<i>n wꜥꜥf ibꜥk</i>	not + be weary + your heart	you will not give up
(11) <i>wꜥꜥf ibꜥf (*)</i>	VMWE	<i>wꜥꜥf ibꜥk</i>	Lift up + your heart	rejoice
(12a) <i>wꜥꜥf nꜥw m ibꜥf</i>	LVC	<i>iw wꜥꜥf nꜥw m ibꜥf</i>	KN + put + fear + in + their hearts	KN instilled fear in them
(12b) <i>(w)ꜥꜥf ir ibꜥf</i>	LVC	<i>(w)ꜥꜥf ir ibꜥk</i>	put + to + your heart + (sth.)	take (sth.) to heart
(13) <i>wꜥꜥi ibꜥf</i>	NMWE	<i>wꜥꜥi ib</i>	healing + heart	happiness
	VMWE	<i>wꜥꜥi ibꜥf</i>	shall be hale + your heart	you shall be happy
(14) <i>pgꜥf ib (*)</i>	NMWE	<i>pgꜥf ib</i>	one who opens + heart	an open-hearted
(15) <i>pꜥf ibꜥf</i>	VMWE	<i>pꜥf ibꜥf</i>	shall stretch (himself) out + his heart	he is pleased
(16) <i>m ibꜥf (*)</i>	NMWE	<i>im(i) ib</i>	one who is in + heart	a favourite one
(17) <i>m š.t ibꜥf (*)</i>	NMWE	<i>[im(i).w š.t ib(w)]</i>	those who are in + place + hearts	favourite ones
(18) <i>mr ibꜥf</i>	VMWE	<i>mr ibꜥf</i>	shall be sick + her heart	she shall have compassion
(19) <i>mrꜥf ibꜥf</i>	NMWE	<i>mrꜥf ibꜥf</i>	which desires + his heart	which he wishes
(20) <i>mḥ ib (*)</i>	NMWE	<i>nn mḥ.t ib</i>	without + forgiveness + heart	without forgetting
	VMWE	<i>n mḥ.n ib(ꜥi)</i>	cannot forget + (my) heart	(I) am not forgetful
(21) <i>mḥꜥf ibꜥf</i>	NMWE	<i>mḥ ib</i>	one who fills + heart	one who earns (sb.'s) trust
	VMWE	<i>mḥ nꜥꜥf ibꜥf imꜥi</i>	filled + my lord + his heart + with me	my lord trusted me
(22) <i>n ibꜥf (*)</i>	PMWE	<i>n ib n(i)</i>	for + heart + of	for the sake/love of
	NMWE	<i>n(i) ib</i>	one who belongs + heart	a favourite one
(23) <i>n š.t ib (*)</i>	NMWE	<i>n(i) š.t ib</i>	one who belongs + place + heart	a beloved one
(24) <i>nꜥꜥf ib (*)</i>	NMWE	<i>nꜥꜥf ib</i>	one who is smooth + heart	a calm one
(25) <i>nḥꜥf m ibꜥf (*)</i>	NMWE	<i>nḥꜥf m ibꜥf</i>	one who has wrath + in + his heart	a grim/furious one
(26) <i>nḥrḥr ibꜥf</i>	NMWE	<i>nḥrḥr ibꜥf</i>	is joyful + heart (of sb.)	(sb.) is joyful
(27) <i>nḥꜥf ibꜥf</i>	NMWE	<i>nḥꜥf ibꜥf</i>	strength + his heart	his persistence
(28) <i>nḥnḥ ibꜥf</i>	VMWE	<i>nḥnḥ ib</i>	shall be glad + heart (of sb.)	(sb.) shall be glad
	NMWE	<i>nꜥm ib</i>	sweetness + heart	kindness
(29) <i>nꜥm ibꜥf</i>	VMWE	<i>nꜥm ib</i>	shall be sweet + heart (of sb.)	(sb.) shall be kind
(30a) <i>rꜥꜥf (...) n ibꜥf (*)</i>	VMWE	<i>ꜥꜥk (...) n ibꜥk</i>	you should give (...) + to + your heart	you should try
(30b) <i>ꜥꜥf ib (*)</i>	VMWE	<i>im ib</i>	give/cause + heart	be careful!
(31) <i>hrꜥf š.t ib (*)</i>	NMWE	<i>hr š.t ib</i>	one who is pleased + place + heart	a content one
(32) <i>ḥ' ibꜥf</i>	VMWE	<i>ḥ' ib</i>	while rejoices + heart (of sb.)	while (sb.) is happy
(33) <i>hr ibꜥf</i>	PMWE	<i>hr ib</i>	on + heart	in the midst of / inside
	NMWE	<i>hr(i) ib</i>	one who is on + heart	one who dwells
(34) <i>ḥtp ibꜥf</i>	VMWE	<i>ḥtp ibꜥf</i>	is satisfied + his heart	he is satisfied
(35) <i>ḥntꜥf ibꜥf</i>	VMWE	<i>ḥntꜥf ibꜥf</i>	is glad + his heart	he is glad
(36) <i>hr.t ibꜥf</i>	NMWE	<i>hr.t ibꜥf</i>	condition + his heart	his wish
(37) <i>ḥꜥf ibꜥf (*)</i>	VMWE	<i>n ḥꜥf(w) ibꜥf</i>	not + will be reproved + his heart	his desire will not be frustrated
(38) <i>ḥtm ibꜥf</i>	NMWE	<i>ḥtm ibꜥf</i>	seal + his heart	firmness
	PMWE	<i>n ḥtm n(i) ib(ꜥi)</i>	for + seal + of + (my) heart	due to (my) firmness
(39) <i>ḥ'k ibꜥf (*)</i>	NMWE	<i>ḥ'k ib</i>	one who is hostile + heart	an evil-minded one
(40) <i>s' n(i) ibꜥf</i>	NMWE	<i>s' n(i) ib(ꜥi)</i>	son + of + (my) heart	(my) dearest son
(41) <i>sk ibꜥf</i>	VMWE	<i>sk ib(ꜥi)</i>	is excavated + (my) heart	(?)
	NMWE	<i>š.t ib</i>	place + heart	a will/desire/wish
	PMWE	<i>mr š.t ib</i>	like + place + heart (of sb.)	at the request (of sb.)
(42) <i>š.t ibꜥf</i>	PMWE	<i>r š.t ib</i>	according + place + heart (of sb.)	according to (sb.'s) wish
	PMWE	<i>ḥft š.t ib</i>	corresponding to + place + heart (of sb.)	corresponding to (sb.'s) wish
(43) <i>š:wꜥꜥf n ibꜥf</i>	VMWE	<i>š:wꜥꜥf n ibꜥf</i>	he will lengthen + to + his heart	he will make him glad
(44) <i>š'ḥ ib</i>	NMWE	<i>š'ḥ ib</i>	one who pulls together + heart	a self-possessed one
(45) <i>š:i ibꜥf</i>	NMWE	<i>š:i ibꜥf</i>	to make stride + his heart	to assist him
(46) <i>šir ibꜥf (*)</i>	VMWE	<i>n šir ib</i>	not + be deprived + heart (of sb.)	sb. will not be in need
(47) <i>šnb ib</i>	NMWE	<i>šnb ib</i>	health + heart (euphemism)	hunger
(48) <i>š:nꜥf ibꜥf</i>	NMWE	<i>š:nꜥf ib</i>	one who makes perfect + heart (of sb.)	one who pleases (sb.)
(49) <i>š:nḥ'ḥ' ibꜥf</i>	NMWE	<i>š:nḥ'ḥ' ib</i>	to make dangle + heart (of sb.)	to gladden (sb.)
(50) <i>šnk ib</i>	NMWE	<i>šnk ib</i>	dark + heart	a reserved one
	NMWE	<i>š:nꜥm n ib</i>	to make sweet + heart (of sb.)	to comfort/inform (sb.)
(51) <i>š:nꜥmꜥf (n) ibꜥf</i>	VMWE	<i>š:nꜥmꜥf n ibꜥf</i>	he will make sweet + to + his heart	he will comfort/inform him
	NMWE	<i>š:ḥtp n(i) ib</i>	satisfier + of + heart (of sb.)	one who satisfies (sb.)
	VMWE	<i>š:ḥtpꜥf ibꜥk</i>	he will satisfy + your heart	he will satisfy you
(53) <i>šm ibꜥf</i>	VMWE	<i>šm ibꜥf</i>	shall be powerful + your (f.) heart	you (f.) shall be stout-hearted
(54) <i>šmḥ ib</i>	NMWE	<i>šmḥ ib</i>	to amuse + heart	to take recreation/entertain
(55) <i>šsm ib</i>	VMWE	<i>šsm ꜥw ibꜥk</i>	shall guide + you + your heart	your will shall guide you
(56) <i>šꜥmꜥf n ibꜥf (*)</i>	VMWE	<i>šꜥm n ibꜥf</i>	listen + to + his heart	obey him
(57) <i>šmšꜥf ib (*)</i>	NMWE	<i>šmšꜥf ib</i>	one (f.) who follows + heart (desire)	a pleasure-seeking (f.)
(58) <i>šn' ibꜥf</i>	NMWE	<i>šn' ib(ꜥi)</i>	which repulses + (my) heart	which (I) dislike
(59) <i>šsp ibꜥf</i>	PMWE	<i>ḥft šsp ibꜥf</i>	corresponding to + reception + his heart	whenever he feels like doing it
(60) <i>kbb ibꜥf</i>	VMWE	<i>kbb ibꜥk</i>	may be cool + your heart	you may be calm/satisfied
(61) <i>kn ibꜥf (*)</i>	NMWE	<i>kn.t ib</i>	bravery + heart	an act of bravery
(62) <i>šw šrf ib</i>	NMWE	<i>šw šrf ib</i>	man + warm + heart	a hard-working man
(63) <i>ꜥt.n ibꜥf</i>	VMWE	<i>ꜥt.n ibꜥf</i>	said + his heart	he decided

