The Ancient Egyptians called their language 'words of god'. Between 3000 BC and AD 600, they used four scripts when writing in Egyptian: Hieroglyphs, Hieratic, Demotic and Coptic.

Ancient Egypt’s well-known hieroglyphic script was in use for almost four thousand years. However, the carving or engraving and then painting of the sacred hieroglyphs on monumental objects and buildings required great care and precision. A more practical and speedily written script, known as Hieratic, was introduced for less formal writings and record-keeping. Hieratic was written in two different styles: a more elegant script for official records and literary manuscripts, and a simpler version for business and private correspondence.

By the mid-1st millennium BC, a new user-friendly script for everyday writing had developed. The Greeks called this script 'Demotic' because it was the writing of the people.

The final script adopted by the Ancient Egyptians was the Coptic alphabet, a revised version of the Greek alphabet adapted to represent the sounds of the Egyptian language. Coptic became the standard script when Christianity became the official religion of Egypt in the 4th century AD. Hieroglyphs were then condemned as pagan and were abolished.