

# teach<sup>®</sup> yourself

## **gaelic conversation**

boyd robertson and  
gordon wells



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Recorded at Alchemy Studios, London

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## Track listing

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## Conversation 1: Making acquaintances

### Part 1: Meeting and greeting people

**Seumas** Hallo. Is mise Seumas.

**Catriona** Madainn mhath, a Sheumais.  
Is mise Catriona.

**Seumas** Ciamar a tha sibh, a Chatriona?

**Catriona** Tha gu math, tapadh leibh.  
Ciamar a tha sibh fhèin?

**Seumas** Glè mhath, tapadh leibh.  
Tha i snog an-diugh, nach eil?

**Catriona** Tha gu dearbh! Tha i brèagha.

### Part 2: Introducing people

**Catriona** Hallo, a Mhicheil.

Ciamar a tha thu a-nochd?

**Micheal** Chan eil dona, tapadh leat.  
Ciamar a tha thu fhèin?

**Catriona** Dìreach san àbhaist, tapadh leat.  
Seo Seumas.

**Micheal** Feasgar math, a Sheumais.

**Catriona** Seo mo charaid, Micheal.

**Seumas** Feasgar math, a Mhicheil.  
Seo mo bhanacharaid, Anna.

**James** Hello. I'm James.

**Catriona** Good morning, James.  
I'm Catriona.

**James** How are you, Catriona?

**Catriona** Fine, thank you.  
How are you yourself?

**James** Very well, thanks.  
It's nice today, isn't it?

**Catriona** Yes indeed! It's beautiful.

**Catriona** Hello, Michael.

How are you tonight?

**Michael** Not bad, thank you.  
How are you yourself?

**Catriona** Just as usual, thank you.  
This is James.

**Michael** Good afternoon, James.

**Catriona** This is my friend, Michael.

**James** Good afternoon, Michael.  
This is my friend, Anna.



## Conversation 2: Getting to know people

### Part 1: Finding out where people are from

- Mairead** Is mise Mairead. Seo mo bhràthair, Calum.  
**Seumas** Is mise Seumas. Seo mo bhanacharaid, Anna.  
**Mairead** Cò às a tha sibh?  
**Anna** Tha mise à Dun Èideann.  
**Seumas** Agus tha mise à Canada – à Ceap Breatainn.  
 Cò às a tha sibh fhèin?  
**Calum** Tha sinne à Inbhir Nis.  
**Seumas** Ah! Inbhir Nis! Faisg air Loch Nis.  
 Bha sinn ann ach chan fhaca sinn an uilebheist!

### Part 2: Finding out about people's jobs and where they live

- Seumas** A bheil sibh a' fuireach ann an Inbhir Nis?  
**Calum** Tha mise a' fuireach ann an Inbhir Nis ach tha Mairead a' fuireach ann an Glaschu.  
**Anna** Dè an obair a th' agad, a Mhairead?  
**Mairead** 'S e nurs a th' annam.  
 Dè an obair a th' agad fhèin, Anna?  
**Anna** 'S e oileanach a th' annam. Ann an Dùn Èideann.  
 Dè an obair a th' agadsa, a Chalum?  
**Calum** 'S e tidsear a th' annam.  
**Seumas** Tha mise a' fuireach san Eilean Sgitheanach an-dràsta.  
 Tha mi ag ionnsachadh Gàidhlig.

- Margaret** I'm Margaret. This is my brother, Calum.  
**James** I'm James. This is my friend, Anne.  
**Margaret** Where are you from?  
**Anne** I'm from Edinburgh.  
**James** And I'm from Canada – from Cape Breton.  
 Where are you from yourself?  
**Calum** We're from Inverness.  
**James** Ah! Inverness! Near Loch Ness.  
 We were there but we didn't see the monster!

- James** Do you live in Inverness?  
**Calum** I live in Inverness but Margaret lives in Glasgow.  
**Anne** What is your occupation, Margaret?  
**Margaret** I'm a nurse.  
 What is your own occupation, Anne?  
**Anne** I'm a student. In Edinburgh.  
 What is your occupation, Calum?  
**Calum** I'm a teacher.  
**James** I'm living on the Isle of Skye just now.  
 I'm learning Gaelic.

## Conversation 3: Socializing with friends

### Part 1: Planning a night out

- Seumas** Dè tha sibh a' dèanamh a-nochd?
- Mairead** Tha sinn a' dol gu cèilidh san taigh-òsta.  
Dè tha sibh fhèin a' dèanamh?
- Anna** Tha sinn a' dol gu dannsa.  
Cuin a tha an cèilidh a' tòiseachadh?
- Mairead** Aig ochd uairean.
- Calum** Càit a bheil an dannsa?
- Seumas** Anns an talla.
- Mairead** Cuin a tha an dannsa a' tòiseachadh?
- Anna** Aig aon uair deug.
- Calum** A bheil sibh airson a dhol chun a' chèilidh?
- Anna** Tha gu dearbh.  
A bheil sibhse airson a dhol chun an dannsa?
- Mairead** O tha!
- Calum** Bidh sin math.

### Part 2: Discussing the night out

- Mairead** Càit a bheil an talla?
- Anna** Tha e faisg air an taigh-òsta.
- Seumas** Tha e eadar an taigh-òsta agus an sgoil.
- Calum** Cò tha cluich aig an dannsa?
- Seumas** Còmhlan Chailein.
- Mairead** A bheil iad math?
- Anna** Tha gu dearbh.
- Mairead** Cuin a tha an dannsa a' stad?
- Anna** Aig dà uair sa mhadainn.
- Calum** Obh! Obh! Bidh sinn sgìth a-màireach.

- James** *What are you doing tonight?*
- Margaret** *We're going to a ceilidh in the hotel.  
What are you doing yourselves?*
- Anne** *We're going to a dance.  
When does the ceilidh start?*
- Margaret** *At 8 o'clock.*
- Calum** *Where is the dance?*
- James** *In the hall.*
- Margaret** *When does the dance start?*
- Anne** *At 11 o'clock.*
- Calum** *Do you want to go to the ceilidh?*
- Anne** *Yes indeed.  
Do you want to go to the dance?*
- Margaret** *Oh yes!*
- Calum** *That will be good.*
- Margaret** *Where is the hall?*
- Anne** *It's near the hotel.*
- James** *It's between the hotel and the school.*
- Calum** *Who's playing at the dance?*
- James** *Colin's Band.*
- Margaret** *Are they good?*
- Anne** *Yes, indeed.*
- Margaret** *When does the dance stop?*
- Anne** *At 2 o'clock in the morning.*
- Calum** *Oh my goodness! We'll be tired tomorrow.*

## Conversation 4: Making travel arrangements

### Part 1: Booking flights

- Tè oifis** Madainn mhath. Loganair an seo.
- Seumas** Madainn mhath. Tha mi airson siubhal a Ghlaschu Diciadain.
- Tè oifis** A bheil sibh airson siubhal sa mhadainn no feasgar?
- Seumas** Sa mhadainn. A bheil àite air a' phleana madainn Diciadain?
- Tè oifis** Fuirich mionaid agus chì mi.
- \*\*\*
- Tha.
- Seumas** Cuin a tha am pleana a' ruighinn Glaschu?
- Tè oifis** Bidh am pleana ann an Glaschu aig deich uairean. Cuin a tha sibh a' tilleadh?
- Seumas** Feasgar Dihaoine.

### Part 2: Discussing travel arrangements

- Anna** Cuin a tha thu a' dol a Ghlaschu?
- Seumas** Madainn Diciadain.
- Anna** Cuin a tha am pleana a' fàgail?
- Seumas** Aig naoi uairean sa mhadainn.
- Anna** A bheil trèan a' dol eadar Port-adhar Ghlaschu agus am baile?
- Seumas** Chan eil ach tha bus ann.
- Anna** Cuin a tha thu a' tilleadh?
- Seumas** Feasgar Dihaoine. Tha am pleana a' fàgail aig ceithir uairean.
- Anna** Glè mhath. Faodaidh sinn a dhol chun an dannsa Oidhche Haoine.

- Airport staff** *Good morning. Loganair here.*
- James** *Good morning. I want to travel to Glasgow on Wednesday.*
- Airport staff** *Do you want to travel in the morning or the afternoon?*
- James** *In the morning. Is there a place on the plane on Wednesday morning?*
- Airport staff** *Wait a minute and I'll see.*
- \*\*\*
- Yes.*
- James** *When does the plane arrive in Glasgow?*
- Airport staff** *The plane will be in Glasgow at 10 o'clock. When are you returning?*
- James** *On Friday afternoon.*
- Anne** *When are you going to Glasgow?*
- James** *On Wednesday morning.*
- Anne** *When does the plane depart?*
- James** *At 9 o'clock in the morning.*
- Anne** *Is there a train going between Glasgow Airport and the city?*
- James** *No, but there is a bus.*
- Anne** *When are you coming back?*
- James** *On Friday afternoon. The plane leaves at 4 o'clock.*
- Anne** *Very good. We can go to the dance on Friday night.*

## 10 Conversation 5: Discussing everyday activities

### Part 1: Discussing what you've been doing

- Anna** Dè bha thu a' dèanamh an-diugh, a Mhòrag?  
**Mòrag** Bha mi anns a' bhaile sa mhadainn.  
**Anna** An robh am baile trang?  
**Mòrag** Bha gu dearbh.  
**Anna** Agus dè bha thu ris feasgar?  
**Mòrag** Bha mi a' nigheadaireachd agus ag iarnaigeadh agus a' dustadh agus a' sgioblachadh.  
**Anna** Bha thu trang dha-rìribh!  
**Mòrag** Dè bha thu fhèin ris, Anna?  
**Anna** Bha mi a' còcaireachd agus a' fuine.  
**Mòrag** Dè bha thu a' dèanamh?  
**Anna** Bha mi a' dèanamh brot agus aran.

### Part 2: Discussing planned activities

- Mòrag** Dè tha thu a' dèanamh a-nochd?  
**Anna** Tha mi dol a choimhead TV.  
**Mòrag** Dè tha thu dol a choimhead?  
**Anna** Tha mi dol a choimhead prògram air siubhal.  
**Mòrag** Cuin a tha e a' tòiseachadh?  
**Anna** Aig naoi uairean. Dè tha thu fhèin dol a dhèanamh?  
**Mòrag** Tha mi a' dol gu gèam ball-coise.  
**Anna** Cò tha cluich?  
**Mòrag** Obar Dheathain agus Inbhir Nis.  
**Anna** Bidh sin math. Cuin a tha e a' tòiseachadh?  
**Mòrag** Aig ochd uairean.

- Anne** What were you doing today, Morag (Marion)?  
**Marion** I was in town in the morning.  
**Anne** Was the town busy?  
**Marion** It was indeed.  
**Anne** And what were you up to in the afternoon?  
**Marion** I was washing and ironing and dusting and tidying.  
  
**Anne** You were indeed busy!  
**Marion** What were you up to yourself, Anne?  
**Anne** I was cooking and baking.  
**Marion** What were you making?  
**Anne** I was making soup and bread.  
  
**Marion** What are you doing tonight?  
**Anne** I'm going to watch TV.  
**Marion** What are you going to watch?  
**Anne** I'm going to watch a programme on travel.  
**Marion** When does it start?  
**Anne** At 9 o'clock. What are you going to do yourself?  
**Marion** I'm going to a football match.  
**Anne** Who's playing?  
**Marion** Aberdeen and Inverness.  
**Anne** That'll be good. When does it start?  
**Marion** At 8 o'clock.



## Conversation 6: Visiting a pub

### Part 1: Ordering a drink

- Seumas** Feasgar math. A bheil Gàidhlig agaibh?
- Fear a' Bhàir** Tha gu dearbh. Cò às a tha sibh?
- Seumas** Tha mi à Canada, ach tha mi a' fuireach san Eilean Sgitheanach an-dràsta. Tha mi ag ionnsachadh Gàidhlig.
- Fear a' Bhàir** Glè mhath. Dè ghabhas sibh ri òl? Leann, uisge-beatha, fion dearg, fion geal...
- Seumas** Dè seòrsa leann a th' agaibh?
- Fear a' Bhàir** Tha a h-uile seòrsa againn. Tha fear às an Eilean Sgitheanach againn cuideachd.
- Seumas** Gabhaidh mi am fear sin ma-thà.

### Part 2: Ordering food

- Fear a' Bhàir** Dè ghabhas sibh ri ithe?
- Seumas** Oh, a bheil biadh agaibh cuideachd?
- Fear a' Bhàir** Tha.
- Seumas** Dè seòrsa?
- Fear a' Bhàir** Well, tha brot againn.
- Seumas** Glè mhath, gabhaidh mi brot le aran is ìm, mas e ur toil e.
- Fear a' Bhàir** A bheil sibh ag iarraidh càise leis an aran cuideachd?
- Seumas** Chan eil, tapadh leibh. 'S toil leam aran is ìm, ach cha toil leam càise.
- \*\*\*
- Fear a' Bhàir** A bheil sibh airson tì no cofaidh a-nis, le cèic no briosgaid?
- Seumas** Chan eil, tapadh leibh. Tha mi cho làn ri ugh!

- James** *Good afternoon. Do you speak Gaelic?*
- Barman** *Yes indeed. Where are you from?*
- James** *I'm from Canada, but I'm living in the Isle of Skye just now. I'm learning Gaelic.*
- Barman** *Very good. What will you have to drink? Beer, whisky, red wine, white wine...*
- James** *What kind of beer have you got?*
- Barman** *We have every kind. We have one from the Isle of Skye too.*
- James** *I'll take that one then.*
- Barman** *What will you have to eat?*
- James** *Oh, do you have food as well?*
- Barman** *Yes.*
- James** *What kind?*
- Barman** *Well, we have soup.*
- James** *Very good. I'll have soup with bread and butter, please.*
- Barman** *Would you like cheese with the bread too?*
- James** *No thank you. I like bread and butter, but I don't like cheese.*
- \*\*\*
- Barman** *Would you like tea or coffee now, with cake or a biscuit?*
- James** *No thank you. I'm full up!*

## Conversation 7: At a ceilidh

### Part 1: Talking about the music

- Seumas** Tha còmhlan eile ann a-nochd.
- Anna** Tha. Tha Còmhlan Chailein san Eilean Sgitheanach a-nochd. Tha Còmhlan an Eilein againn an seo.
- Seumas** Tha piob ann, tha fìdheall ann, agus tha bogsa ann cuideachd. Glè mhath. 'S toil leam ceòl a' bhogsa.
- Anna** An toil? Cha toil leamsa idir e. 'S fheàrr leam fhèin a' phìob no an fhìdheall.
- Seumas** Tha seinneadair ann cuideachd. 'S toil leamsa òrain Ghàidhlig.
- Anna** An toil? Glè mhath. An gabh thu fhèin òran, ma-thà?
- Seumas** Oh, cha ghabh. Tha mi diùid.

### Part 2: Talking about the refreshments

- Seumas** Tha Còmhlan an Eilein math, nach eil?
- Anna** Tha, tha iad glè mhath.
- Seumas** 'S toil leam cèilidhean ann an Uibhist. Tha am biadh math cuideachd, nach eil?
- Anna** Tha, an gabh thu cèic eile?
- Seumas** Gabhaidh, an gabh thu fhèin cèic?
- Anna** Cha ghabh, ach gabhaidh mi briosgaid. An gabh thu uisge-beatha eile?
- Seumas** Gabhaidh gu dearbh.
- \*\*\*
- Anna** A bheil thu airson dannsa, ma-thà?
- Seumas** Tha gu dearbh. Agus an uair sin gabhaidh mi òran. Chan eil mi cho diùid a-nis.

- James** *There's another band tonight.*
- Anne** *Yes. Colin's Band are in the Isle of Skye tonight. We have the Island Band here.*
- James** *There are bagpipes, there's a fiddle, and there's an accordion too. Very good. I like accordion music.*
- Anne** *Do you? I don't like it at all. I myself prefer the bagpipes or the fiddle.*
- James** *There's a singer too. I like Gaelic songs.*
- Anne** *Do you? Very good. Will you sing a song yourself, then?*
- James** *Oh no (I will not). I'm shy.*
- James** *The Island Band are good, aren't they?*
- Anne** *Yes, they're very good.*
- James** *I like ceilidhs in Uist. The food's good too, isn't it?*
- Anne** *Yes, will you have another cake?*
- James** *Yes, will you have a cake yourself?*
- Anne** *No, but I'll have a biscuit. Will you have another whisky?*
- James** *Yes, indeed.*
- \*\*\*
- Anne** *Do you want to dance then?*
- James** *Yes, indeed. And then I'll sing a song. I'm not so shy now.*

## Conversation 8: Out hillwalking

### Part 1: On the climb

- Anna** Tha i brèagha an-diugh, nach eil?
- Mairead** Tha, tha i snog an-dràsta, co-dhiù. Tha mi 'n dòchas nach bi i fliuch fuar feasgar.
- Anna** Gu dearbh, tha mi 'n dòchas nach bi! 'S e latha math a th' ann airson coiseachd air a' mhonadh.
- Mairead** 'S e, 's e latha blàth tioram a th' ann.
- Anna** Tha beathaichean gu leòr air a' mhonadh, nach eil? Tha mi a' faicinn caoraich an seo, ach dè tha mi a' faicinn an sin?
- Mairead** 'S e fèidh a tha thu a' faicinn an sin.
- Anna** An e?
- Mairead** 'S e. 'S e fèidh a th' anna.

### Part 2: At the top

- Anna** Abair sealladh, a Mhairead!
- Mairead** Tha e brèagha, nach eil?
- Anna** Oh tha, tha gu dearbh. Dè an loch a tha mi a' faicinn an seo?
- Mairead** 'S e Loch Euphort a th' ann. Tha lochan gu leòr ann an Uibhist, nach eil?
- Anna** Tha! Agus dè na beanntan a tha mi a' faicinn an sin?
- Mairead** 'S e beanntan na Hearadh a tha thu a' faicinn an sin.
- Anna** Tha seo mìorbhaileach! Ach a bheil mi a' faicinn sgòthan ann an Uibhist a Deas?
- Mairead** Tha. Feumaidh sinn a dhol dhachaigh, no bidh sinn fliuch!

- Anne** *It's beautiful today, isn't it?*
- Margaret** *Yes, it's nice just now, anyway. I hope it won't be wet and cold this afternoon.*
- Anne** *Indeed, I hope not! It's a good day for walking on the moor.*
- Margaret** *Yes, it's a warm, dry day.*
- Anne** *There are lots of animals on the moor, aren't there? I see sheep here, but what do I see there?*
- Margaret** *It's deer you see there.*
- Anne** *Is it?*
- Margaret** *Yes, they're deer.*

- Anne** *What a view, Margaret!*
- Margaret** *It's beautiful, isn't it?*
- Anne** *Oh yes, yes indeed. What's the loch I see here?*
- Margaret** *It's Locheport. There are plenty of lochs in Uist, aren't there?*
- Anne** *Yes! And what are the mountains I see there?*
- Margaret** *It's the hills of Harris you see there.*
- Anne** *This is marvellous! But do I see clouds in South Uist?*
- Margaret** *Yes. We must go home, or we'll be wet.*

## Conversation 9: At the shops

### Part 1: Shopping for food

- Anna** Feumaidh mi ùbhlán agus uighean. A bheil thu gam faicinn?
- Mairead** Tha, tha mi a' faicinn ùbhlán. Ach chan eil mi a' faicinn uighean idir.
- Anna** Seadh, tha na h-ùbhlán a' coimhead snog, nach eil? Dè do bheachd?
- Mairead** Tha iad math, agus chan eil iad daor idir. Dè eile a dh'fheumas tu?
- Anna** Well, feumaidh mi càise agus bainne cuideachd. Càite bheil iad?
- Mairead** Seall! Tha mi gam faicinn an sin.
- Anna** Seadh, tapadh leat. Agus a bheil feòil ann cuideachd?
- Mairead** Tha, ach chan eil i a' coimhead math idir. Ach cha bhi mi fhèin ag ithe feòil co-dhiù.
- Anna** Nach bì?
- Mairead** Cha bhi. Cha bhi mi ag ithe feòil idir.

### Part 2: Shopping for pleasure

- Anna** 'S e bùth shnog a th' ann, a Mhairead, nach e?
- Mairead** 'S e, nach e? An toil leat fàinneachan is bràistean?
- Anna** 'S toil gu dearbh.
- Mairead** Bidh iad gan dèanamh sa bhùth seo fhèin.
- Anna** Am bì? Tha iad glè mhath.
- Mairead** Tha gu leòr ann.
- Anna** Tha, ach tha iad a' coimhead daor. Chan eil airgead gu leòr agam.
- Mairead** Seadh, ach tha airgead gu leòr aig Seumas, nach eil?
- Anna** Chan eil fios agam, a Mhairead! Chan eil fios agam idir!

- Anne** *I need apples and eggs. Do you see them?*
- Margaret** *Yes, I see apples. But I don't see eggs at all.*
- Anne** *Yes, I see. The apples look nice, don't they? What do you think?*
- Margaret** *They're good, and they're not at all expensive. What else do you need?*
- Anne** *Well, I need cheese and milk too. Where are they?*
- Margaret** *Look! I see them there.*
- Anne** *Right, thank you. And is there meat as well?*
- Margaret** *Yes, but it doesn't look good at all. But I (myself) don't eat meat anyway.*
- Anne** *Don't you?*
- Margaret** *No. I don't eat meat at all.*

- Anne** *It's a nice shop, Margaret, isn't it?*
- Margaret** *Yes, isn't it? Do you like rings and brooches?*
- Anne** *Yes, indeed.*
- Margaret** *They make them in this very shop.*
- Anne** *Do they? They're very good.*
- Margaret** *There are plenty.*
- Anne** *Yes, but they look expensive. I don't have enough money.*
- Margaret** *I see, but James has plenty of money, doesn't he?*
- Anne** *I don't know, Margaret! I don't know at all!*



## Conversation 10: At the museum and art centre

### Part 1: In the art gallery

- Seumas** Oh, 'S toil leam an dealbh seo. *Muir is Tir*. Seall!
- Calum** Dè th' ann?
- Seumas** Chan eil mi cinnteach. An e taigh a tha seo?
- Calum** 'S e, 's e taigh beag geal a th' ann, tha mi a' smaoineachadh.
- Seumas** Ach dè an rud mòr uaine a tha seo? An e eilean a th' ann?
- Calum** Chan e. 'S e a' mhuir a th' ann, nach e?
- Seumas** Oh 's e, 's e. Tha thu ceart. Agus dè an rud dubh a tha seo anns a' mhuir?
- Calum** 'S e bàta a th' ann, no an e iasg mòr a th' ann? No 's dòcha eilean beag.
- Seumas** Oh seadh. Tha thu ceart. Tha an dealbh seo brèagha, nach eil?
- Calum** Mmm, chan eil mi cinnteach.

### Part 2: In the art centre café

- Seumas** Bha an dealbh sin snog, nach robh?
- Calum** Cha robh. Bha e grannda.
- Anna** Dè bh' ann?
- Seumas** Well, bha taigh dubh ann.
- Calum** Cha robh an taigh dubh, bha e geal.
- Seumas** Oh bha, bha. Tha thu ceart. 'S e am bàta a bha dubh.
- Calum** Chan e. Chan e bàta a bh' ann. 'S e iasg a bh' ann.
- Seumas** Well, cha robh sinn cinnteach.

- James** Oh, I like this picture. Sea and Land. Look!
- Calum** What is it?
- James** I'm not sure. Is this a house?
- Calum** Yes, it's a small white house, I think.
- James** But what's this big green thing? Is it an island?
- Calum** No. It's the sea, isn't it?
- James** Oh yes, yes. You're right. And what's this black thing in the sea?
- Calum** It's a boat, or is it a big fish? Or maybe a small island.
- James** Oh yes. You're right. This picture's pretty, isn't it?
- Calum** Mmm, I'm not sure.
- James** That picture was nice, wasn't it?
- Calum** No. It was ugly.
- Anne** What was it?
- James** Well, there was a black house.
- Calum** The house wasn't black, it was white.
- James** Oh, yes, yes. You're right. It's the boat that was black.
- Calum** No. It wasn't a boat. It was a fish.
- James** Well, we weren't sure.

**Mairead** Dè eile bh' ann?

**Seumas** Well, bha eilean uaine ann cuideachd, nach robh? No an robh e dearg? Bha e glè bheag co-dhiù.

**Anna** Dè? Eilean dearg? A Sheumais! A bheil thu ri fealla-dhà?

**Margaret** *What else was there?*

**James** *Well, there was a green island as well, wasn't there? Or was it red? It was very small anyway.*

**Anne** *What? A red island? James! Are you joking?*

## Cultural information

### The Gaelic language

Scottish Gaelic is a Celtic language closely related to Irish and Manx Gaelic and less directly to Welsh. It is the longest established language in Scotland and was, for a period in the tenth and eleventh centuries, the language of the Crown and Government.

In the 2001 Census, 60,000 Scots identified themselves as Gaelic speakers while a further 30,000 claimed an understanding of the language. The strongest Gaelic communities are in the Western Isles but there are substantial numbers of Gaelic speakers in urban centres such as Glasgow, Edinburgh and Inverness. The Gaelic language and culture was introduced to North America by emigrants from Scotland displaced by the Highland Clearances and Gaelic can still be heard in parts of Nova Scotia in Canada.

Strenuous efforts are being made to arrest the decline in the number of Gaelic speakers and the language today enjoys an unprecedented level of official recognition and support. The Scottish Government has taken a number of significant steps to enhance the status of the language and to secure its future. *Bòrd na Gàidhlig*, an official agency for language regeneration was set up in 2002, a Gaelic Language Act was passed unanimously by the Scottish Parliament in 2005 and the first National Plan for the language was published in 2007.

### The Gaelic influence on Scotland

The impact of the Gael is evident in the very name of the country. The Gaelic-speaking people who arrived in modern day Argyll and Galloway in the fourth and fifth centuries AD were known to the Romans as 'Scotti' and the country in which they settled came to be called Scotland. The country's Gaelic heritage is perhaps most readily apparent nowadays in personal names and place names.

#### Personal names

A quick scan of a telephone directory in any area of Scotland reveals the extent to which surnames beginning with Mac or Mc predominate. These names derive from the Gaelic word *mac* meaning 'son'. So MacDhòmhnaill or MacDonald is 'Son of Donald' while Mac an t-Sagairt or MacTaggart is 'Son of the Priest'.

Surnames beginning in Gil or Gill are derived from the word for 'a lad', *gille*. Examples of these are Gillies, Gilchrist and Gillespie, where the second element refers to Jesus, Christ and Bishop respectively. Other common surnames which are Gaelic in origin are those of the clans Campbell and Cameron. The bearers of these names might prefer not to know their meanings, 'squint mouth' and 'squint nose'! The word 'clan' itself comes from the Gaelic word for 'children', *clann*. There are many Scottish first names which also come from Gaelic. Alasdair, Calum, Catriona, Duncan, Eilidh, Finlay, Fiona, Hamish, Iain, Kirsty, Lachlan, Mairi, and Sheena are some of the better-known ones.

#### Place names

Gaelic elements are found widely in place names across Scotland and provide evidence that the language was spoken in most parts of the country at one time. The Gaelic element often occurs as the first part of a name as with Ach/Auch (a field), Bal (town, township), Dun/Dum (fort), Inver (river mouth), Kil ('church' or 'cell'), Kin/Ken (head of, end of) and Strath (wide valley). The names Auchinleck, Balmoral, Dundee, Inverness, Kilmarnock, Kingussie and Strathclyde contain these elements. Adjectives such as *mòr* (big), *beag* (small), *bàn* (fair) and *dubh* (black) are common as second or third elements in names and they often appear in anglicized form as -more, -beg, -bane and -du/-dhu. Bens, glens, cairns, craigs, lochs and skerries abound on maps of Scotland and demonstrate the widespread impact of Gaelic. Further information about the meaning and origin of place names can be obtained from the *Ainmean-Àite na h-Alba* (AÁA)/Gaelic Place-Names of Scotland project website [www.gaelicplacenames.org](http://www.gaelicplacenames.org).

### Gaelic music and song

Music, song and poetry were integral to Clan society and culture and continue to play a prominent part in Gaelic community life. The great Highland bagpipe and the *clàrsach*, or harp, were the traditional instruments of Gaelic society. One form of bagpipe music, *ceòl mòr* (great music), is considered by some experts to be Scotland's most significant contribution to world music. It consists of a slow theme tune and intricate variations on the theme.

Unaccompanied psalm singing, in which a precentor sings a line of a tune and the congregation repeat it in a highly ornamented way, is a



very distinctive type of religious praise which has been called 'the soul music of the Highlands'. Gaelic has many kinds of work song which reflect the rhythms of certain forms of labour and are designed to lighten the burden of the work. Waulking songs, used in the shrinking of the tweed, are a particularly rhythmic and appealing genre. *Puirt-a-beul*, or 'Mouth music', are up-tempo songs to which the likes of strathspeys and reels can be danced.

All these forms of music and song are fostered by *fèisean*, community-led festivals, which provide tuition for young people in traditional arts and sports. A national organization, *Fèisean nan Gàidheal*, provides a support structure for the network of 43 *fèisean* held throughout Scotland.

Gaelic music and song is showcased at annual events like the National Mod and Glasgow's Celtic Connections Festival. The National Mod is a competitive festival akin to the Welsh Eisteddfod and is held in a different venue each October.

## Gaelic in education

Gaelic features in the curriculum of a small minority of Scottish schools in one, or more, of three ways – as a subject of study for learners, as a subject for fluent speakers and as a medium of education. Most schools with Gaelic are in the Highlands and Islands.

Provision of Gaelic-medium education was first made in 1985 in two urban Primary schools. Today, over 3,000 pupils are educated through the medium of Gaelic in 137 nursery, primary and secondary centres across Scotland and there are thriving all-Gaelic schools in Glasgow and Inverness. The Gaelic College, *Sabhal Mòr Ostaig* on Skye, offers further and higher education courses in Gaelic. Other partner colleges in the UHI Millennium Institute, which aims to become the University of the Highlands and Islands, also offer some Gaelic provision. The Universities of Aberdeen, Edinburgh and Glasgow have long established Celtic Studies departments.

## Gaelic in the media

The BBC is the main producer of Gaelic radio and television programmes through its *Craoladh nan Gàidheal* service. Residents in most parts of Scotland can tune in to a good variety of Gaelic radio programmes 14 hours each weekday. Gaelic television is set to

expand greatly in 2008 with the setting-up of a Gaelic channel which will allow several hours of Gaelic output daily. Gaelic language programmes and online resources can be accessed at any time on the BBC Scotland Gaelic website at [www.bbc.co.uk/scotland/alba](http://www.bbc.co.uk/scotland/alba). The website has playback facilities for all broadcast programmes.

Gaelic is not as well served by the print media. Most Gaelic input comes in the form of weekly columns and occasional items or features in local newspapers. *The Scotsman* is the only national daily that carries regular Gaelic items. The nearest thing to a Gaelic newspaper is a monthly paper, *An Gàidheal Ùr*, distributed mainly as an insert in local weeklies. There is also a quarterly mainly literary magazine, *Gath*.

## Learning Gaelic

Provision for learning Gaelic ranges from weekly evening classes to full-time immersion courses. Many local authority education departments and some universities and colleges offer evening classes as part of their lifelong learning programmes, while *Sabhal Mòr Ostaig* in Skye and some Further Education colleges provide immersion courses. A number of Gaelic agencies organize other forms of intensive course, including one which adopts the Welsh *Wpan* model and another based on learning in the home. The Gaelic College also runs a series of one- and two-week short courses in the language and in aspects of the culture. A voluntary sector co-ordinating body, *Cli Gàidhlig*, promotes short courses around Scotland and represents adult learners' interests. It is a good reference point for finding out what provision is available in, and beyond, Scotland ([www.cli.org.uk](http://www.cli.org.uk)).

For learners working independently, there are successful distance learning or online options. *Sabhal Mòr Ostaig's 'Cùrsa Inntrigidh'* (Gaelic access course) aims to take beginners up to a level suitable for university entry through a combination of online materials, telephone tutorials and optional intensive weekend courses. This course takes students from all over the world. Gaelic is also taught in other countries, including Canada and the USA. *An Comann Gàidhealach Ameireaganach* ([www.acgamerica.org](http://www.acgamerica.org)) is a useful first point of reference for finding out about learning opportunities in North America.



## Listening skills: Survival phrases

I don't understand.	<i>Chan eil mi a' tuigsinn.</i>
Slowly, please.	<i>Air do shocair, mas e do thoil e.</i>
Say that again, please.	<i>Can sin a-rithist, mas e do thoil e.</i>
Do you speak Gaelic?	<i>A bheil Gàidhlig agad?</i>
I am learning Gaelic.	<i>Tha mi ag ionnsachadh Gàidhlig.</i>
I don't know.	<i>Chan eil fhios agam.</i>
Can we...?	<i>An urrainn dhuinn...?</i>
Where is...?	<i>Càit a bheil...?</i>
Where are the toilets?	<i>Càit a bheil na taighean-beaga?</i>
Where is the hotel?	<i>Càit a bheil an taigh-òsta?</i>
excuse me	<i>gabh mo leisgeul</i>
sorry	<i>tha mi duilich</i>
How much is all that?	<i>Dè na tha sin?</i>
please	<i>mas e do thoil/mas e ur toil e</i>
Thank you very much.	<i>Mòran taing.</i>
OK	<i>ceart gu leòr</i>
It doesn't matter.	<i>Is coma./Chan eil e gu diofar.</i>
I'm lost, can you help me?	<i>Tha mi air chall, an tèid agad air mo chuideachadh?</i>

## Grammar

### 1 Word order

In English, the subject usually comes first in a statement and is followed by the verb or doing word. For example:

Subject	Verb	Other
We	were	tired

In Gaelic, however, the order is different – the verb normally comes at the beginning of a statement and is followed by the subject:

Verb	Subject	Other
Bha (were)	sinn (we)	sgith (tired)

There is also a difference in word order involving the naming words, nouns, and the describing words (adjectives), that accompany them. In English, the adjective comes before the noun as in a 'good book'. In Gaelic, the order is reversed to *leabhar math*, where *leabhar* is the word for 'a book' and *math* means 'good'.

### 2 Lenition

It is common in Gaelic to change the initial sound of a word from the normal sound of the first letter. This change, known as 'lenition' or 'aspiration', is shown in writing by the insertion of an 'h' as the second letter of the word. An example of the change can be seen in the word *math* for 'good'. When it is preceded by *glè* meaning 'very', it becomes *mhath*. The initial sound changes from 'm' to 'v'. Lenition takes place under certain conditions, e.g. in an adjective following a feminine noun and it is only shown in the consonants below:

Initial letter	Lenited version	Pronounced as
b	bh	v
c	ch	'ch' as in 'loch'
d	dh	a voiced 'ch'
f	fh	silent or 'h' only
g	gh	a voiced 'ch'
m	mh	v
p	ph	f
s	sh	h
t	th	h

30 Certain consonants cannot be lenited in this way – 'l', 'n', 'r' and 'sg', 'sm', 'sp', 'st'.

### 3 Gender

There is no neuter gender in Gaelic so all nouns are either masculine or feminine. This has implications for the form of adjective that accompanies the noun. For example, a feminine noun usually causes lenition of the following adjective, e.g. *sgeulachd mhath* (a good story). A masculine noun does not.

### 4 Possessive pronouns

The pronoun forms below are used to indicate possession:

<i>my</i>	mo (+ lenition)	<i>our</i>	ar
<i>your</i>	do (+ lenition)	<i>your</i>	ur
<i>his</i>	a (+ lenition)	<i>their</i>	an or am
<i>her</i>	a		

### 5 'Yes' and 'no'

There is no single word for 'yes' or 'no' in Gaelic. To answer 'yes' to a question, you respond with the positive form of the verb used when asking the question. To answer 'no' to a question, you respond with the negative form of the verb used when asking the question.

Here are some examples :

	Yes	No
A bheil thu deiseil? (Are you ready?)	Tha.	Chan eil.
An robh sibh trang? (Were you busy?)	Bha.	Cha robh.
An gabh thu deoch? (Will you have a drink?)	Gabhaidh.	Cha ghabh.

### 6 'A' and 'the'

Gaelic does not have an equivalent to the little word 'a' (or 'an') which you find in English. A noun in Gaelic such as *cèic* can mean 'cake' or 'a cake'.

In English, 'the' is used to specify the particular object under discussion, e.g. 'the shop at the end of the street'. There are several different forms of 'the' in Gaelic. The table below indicates which one to use when the noun is the subject of the sentence:

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Gender & number	First letter of noun	Form of article	Example
Masculine singular	b, f, m, p	am	am baile (the town)
	a, e, i, o, u	an t-	an t-ugh (the egg)
	other letters	an	an leabhar (the book)
Feminine singular	b, c, g, m, p	a' + (len)	a' bheinn (the hill)
			a' chraobh (the tree)
	f	an + (len)	an fhàinne (the ring)
	sl, sn, sr, s + vowel	an t-	an t-sràid (the street)
	other letters	an	an sgoil (the school)
Masculine, feminine plural	consonant	na	na lochan (the lochs)
	vowel	na h-	na h-adan (the hats)

These forms change when the nouns are in other cases, e.g. genitive and dative.

## 7 Prepositional pronouns

Prepositions like *aig* (at) and *air* (on) combine with the pronouns thus:

*aig* (at) + *mi* (I) = *agam*

*air* (on) + *thu* (you) = *ort*

A list of the more common prepositional pronouns is given below.

Singular				
Preposition	1st	2nd	3rd Masc.	3rd Fem.
<i>aig at</i>	<i>agam at me</i>	<i>agad at you</i>	<i>aige at him/it</i>	<i>aice at her/it</i>
<i>air on</i>	<i>orm on me</i>	<i>ort on you</i>	<i>air on him/it</i>	<i>oirre on her/it</i>
<i>ann in</i>	<i>annam in me</i>	<i>annad in you</i>	<i>ann in him/it</i>	<i>innte in her/it</i>
<i>às out of</i>	<i>asam out of me</i>	<i>asad out of you</i>	<i>às out of him/it</i>	<i>aiste out of her/it</i>
<i>de of, off</i>	<i>dhiom of me</i>	<i>dhiot of you</i>	<i>dheth of him/it</i>	<i>dhith of her/it/them</i>
<i>do to</i>	<i>dhomh to me</i>	<i>dhut to you</i>	<i>dha to him/it</i>	<i>dhi to her/it/them</i>
<i>gu/chun to</i>	<i>thugam to me</i>	<i>thugad to you</i>	<i>thuige to him/it</i>	<i>thuice to her/it</i>
<i>le with, by</i>	<i>leam with me</i>	<i>leat with you</i>	<i>leis with him/it</i>	<i>leatha with her/it</i>
<i>ri to</i>	<i>rium to me</i>	<i>riut to you</i>	<i>ris to him/it</i>	<i>rithe to her/it</i>

## Plural

Preposition	1st	2nd	3rd
<i>aig at</i>	<i>againn at us</i>	<i>agaibh at you</i>	<i>aca at them</i>
<i>air on</i>	<i>oirnn on us</i>	<i>oirbh on you</i>	<i>orra on them</i>
<i>ann in</i>	<i>annainn in us</i>	<i>annaibh in you</i>	<i>annta in them</i>
<i>às out of</i>	<i>asainn out of us</i>	<i>asaibh out of you</i>	<i>asta out of them</i>
<i>de of, off</i>	<i>dhinn of us</i>	<i>dhibh of you</i>	<i>dhiubh of them</i>
<i>do to</i>	<i>dhuinn to us</i>	<i>dhuibh to you</i>	<i>dhaibh to them</i>
<i>gu/chun to</i>	<i>thugainn to us</i>	<i>thugaibh to us</i>	<i>thuca to them</i>
<i>le with, by</i>	<i>leinn with us</i>	<i>leibh with you</i>	<i>leotha with them</i>
<i>ri to</i>	<i>rinn/ruinn to us</i>	<i>ribh/ruibh to you</i>	<i>riutha to them</i>



# Gaelic-English glossary

NB: Numbers indicate the conversation in which the vocabulary item first appears.

a (4) *to*  
 Abair sealladh! (8) *What a view!*  
 a bheil sibh? (2) *are you?*  
 a bheil sibh ag iarraidh? (6) *do you want?*  
 A bheil Gàidhlig agaibh? (6) *Do you speak Gaelic?*  
 A bheil thu gam faicinn? (9) *Do you see them?*  
 à Ceap Breatainn (2) *from Cape Breton*  
 ach (2) *but*  
 a choinnhead TV (5) *to watch TV*  
 a' còcaireachd (5) *cooking*  
 a' coimhead (9) *looking, seeming*  
 a' dèanamh? (3) *doing, making*  
 a' dol (3) *going*  
 à Dùn Èideann (2) *from Edinburgh*  
 a' dustadh (5) *dusting*  
 a' fàgail (4) *depart(ing), leave, leaving*  
 a' fuine (5) *baking*  
 a' fuireach (2) *staying, living*  
 ag iarraigeadh (5) *ironing*  
 ag ionnsachadh Gàidhlig (2) *learning Gaelic*  
 a Ghlaschu (4) *to Glasgow*  
 agus (2) *and*  
 a h-uile seòrsa (6) *every kind*  
 aig ochd uairean (3) *at eight o'clock*  
 air (4) *on*  
 air a' mhonadh (8) *on the moor*  
 air a' phleana (4) *on the plane*  
 airgead (9) *money*  
 airson (3) *for*  
 airson a dhol (3) *want to go*  
 àite (4) *place*  
 a-màireach (3) *tomorrow*  
 am baile (4) *the town, the city*  
 am fear sin (6) *that one*  
 am pleana (4) *the plane*

an-diugh (1) *today*  
 an-dràsta (2) *just now*  
 An gabh thu ceic eile? (7) *Will you have another cake?*  
 An gabh thu fhèin òran? (7) *Will you sing a song yourself?*  
 a' nigheadaireachd (5) *washing, doing the washing*  
 a-nis (6) *now*  
 ann an Glaschu (2) *in Glasgow*  
 ann an Inbhir Nis (2) *in Inverness*  
 anns a' bhaile (5) *in town, in the town*  
 a-nochd (1) *tonight*  
 an robh? (5) *was?, were?, was it?*  
 an seo (4) *here*  
 an sgoil (3) *the school*  
 an sin (8) *there*  
 an talla (3) *the hall*  
 an uair sin (7) *then, after that*  
 an uilebheist (2) *the monster*  
 aon uair deug (3) *eleven o'clock*  
 aran (5) *bread*  
 a' ruighinn (4) *arrive, arriving, reach, reaching*  
 a' sgioblachadh (5) *tidying*  
 a' smaoinachadh (10) *thinking*  
 a' stad (3) *stopping*  
 a' tilleadh (4) *return, returning*  
 a' tòiseachadh (3) *starting, beginning*  
 bainne (9) *milk*  
 ball-coise (5) *football*  
 banacharaid (2) *female friend*  
 bàta (10) *boat*  
 beag (10) *small, little*  
 beanntan (8) *hills, mountains*  
 beanntan na Hearadh (8) *the hills of Harris*  
 beathaichean (8) *animals*

beathaichean gu leòr (8) *plenty of animals*  
 Beurla (6) *English (language)*  
 bha sinn ann (2) *we were there*  
 biadh (6) *food*  
 bidh iad gan dèanamh (9) *they make them*  
 bidh sin math (3) *that will be good*  
 blàth (8) *warm*  
 bogsa (7) *accordion*  
 bràistean (9) *brooches*  
 brèagha (1) *beautiful*  
 briosgaid (6) *biscuit*  
 brot (5) *soup*  
 bus (4) *bus*  
 bùth (9) *shop*

càise (6) *cheese*  
 càit a bheil? (3) *where is?*  
 caoraich (8) *sheep*  
 caraid (2) *friend*  
 ceart (10) *right*  
 cèic (6) *cake*  
 cèilidhean (7) *ceilidhs*  
 ceithir uairean (4) *four o'clock*  
 ceòl (7) *music*  
 ceòl a' bhogsa (7) *accordion music*  
 Cha bhi mi fhèin ag ithe feòil. (9) *I myself don't eat meat.*  
 cha ghabh (7) *I will not, no*  
 chan eil dona (1) *not bad*  
 Chan eil fios agam. (9) *I don't know.*  
 chan fhaca sinn (2) *we didn't see*  
 cha robh (10) *wasn't, weren't, no*  
 Cha toil leam càise. (6) *I don't like cheese.*  
 chì mi (4) *I'll see*  
 cho (7) *so, as*  
 chun an dannsa (3) *to the dance*  
 Ciamar a tha sibh? (1) *How are you? (polite and plural)*  
 Ciamar a tha sibh fhèin? (1) *How are you yourself? (polite and plural)*  
 Ciamar a tha thu? (1) *How are you? (familiar)*  
 Ciamar a tha thu fhèin? (1) *How are you yourself? (familiar)*

cinnteach (10) *sure, certain*  
 Cò às a tha sibh? (2) *Where are you from?*  
 co-dhiù (8) *anyway*  
 cofaidh (6) *coffee*  
 coiseachd (8) *walking*  
 Còmhlan an Eilein (7) *The Island Band*  
 Còmhlan Chailein (3) *Colin's Band*  
 Cò tha cluich? (3) *Who is playing?*  
 cuideachd (6) *also*  
 cuin? (3) *when?*

dannsa (3) *dance*  
 daor (9) *expensive, dear*  
 dà uair sa mhadainn (3) *two o'clock in the morning*  
 dealbh (10) *picture*  
 Dè an obair a th'agad? (2) *What is your occupation?*  
 Dè bha thu ris? (5) *What were you up to?*  
 Dè do bheachd? (9) *What do you think?*  
 Dè eile a dh'fheumas tu? (9) *What else do you need?*  
 Dè ghabhas sibh? (6) *What will you have?*  
 deich uairean (4) *ten o'clock*  
 dè seòrsa? (6) *what kind?*  
 Dè seòrsa leann a th' agaibh? (6) *What kind of beer have you got?*  
 Dè tha sibh a' dèanamh? (3) *What are you doing?*  
 dhachaigh (8) *home, homewards*  
 dha-riribh (5) *indeed*  
 Diciadain (4) *Wednesday*  
 dìreach san àbhaist (1) *just as usual*  
 diùid (7) *shy*  
 dubh (10) *black*

e (3) *it, he*  
 eadar (3) *between*  
 eile (7) *another*  
 fàinneachan (9) *rings*  
 faisg air (2) *near*



Faodaidh sinn (4) *we can, we may*  
 feallà-dhà (10) *joking, fun*  
 fear (6) *one*  
 feasgar (4) *afternoon, evening*  
 feasgar Dihaoine (4) *Friday*  
*afternoon, Friday evening*  
 feasgar math (1) *good afternoon,*  
*good evening*  
 fèidh (8) *deer*  
 feòil (9) *meat*  
 feumaidh mi (9) *I must*  
 feumaidh sinn (8) *we must*  
 fidheall (7) *fiddle, violin*  
 fion dearg (6) *red wine*  
 fion geal (6) *white wine*  
 fliuch (8) *wet*  
 Fraingis (6) *French (language)*  
 fuar (8) *cold*  
 fuirich mionaid (4) *wait a minute*

gabhaidh (7) *I will, yes*  
 gabhaidh mi (6) *I'll take*  
 gèam (5) *game, match*  
 gèam ball-coise (5) *football match*  
 glè mhath (1) *very well, very good*  
 grannda (10) *ugly*  
 gu cèilidh (3) *to a ceilidh*  
 gu leòr (8) *plenty*

i (1) *it, she*  
 iad (3) *they*  
 iasg (10) *fish*  
 idir (7) *at all*  
 ìm (6) *butter*  
 Is mise... (1) *I am...*  
 ithe (6) *eat*

le (6) *with*  
 leann (6) *beer*  
 loch (8) *loch, lake*  
 lochan (8) *lochs*  
 Loch Euphort (8) *Loch Eport*  
 Loch Nis (2) *Loch Ness*

madainn (1) *morning*  
 madainn Diciadain (4) *Wednesday*  
*morning*

madainn mhath (1) *good morning*  
 mas e ur toil e (6) *please, if you*  
*please*  
 math (1) *good*  
 ma-thà (6) *then*  
 mi (2) *I, me*  
 miorbhaileach (8) *marvellous*  
 mise (1) *I, me (emphatic)*  
 mo (2) *my*  
 mo bhanacharaid (1) *my female*  
*friend*  
 mo bhràthair (2) *my brother*  
 mo charaid (1) *my friend*  
 mòr (10) *big, large*  
 muir (10) *sea, ocean*

nach bi i (8) *that it won't be*  
 nach eil (1) *isn't it*  
 naoi uairean (4) *nine o'clock*  
 no (4) *or*  
 nurs (2) *nurse*

obair (2) *work, occupation*  
 Obar Dheathain (5) *Aberdeen*  
 Obh! Obh! (3) *Oh my goodness!*  
 oidhche Haoine (4) *Friday night*  
 oileanach (2) *student*  
 òrain (7) *songs*  
 òrain Ghàidhlig (7) *Gaelic songs*  
 òran (7) *song*

piob (7) *bagpipes*  
 port-adhar (4) *airport*  
 prògram (5) *programme*

ri òl (6) *to drink*  
 rud (10) *thing*

sa mhadainn (3) *in the morning*  
 san Eilean Sgitheanach (2) *in the*  
*Isle of Skye*  
 's dòcha (10) *maybe, perhaps*  
 seadh (9) *yes, I see*  
 Seall! (9) *Look!*  
 sealladh (8) *view*  
 'S e fèidh a th' annta. (8) *They're*  
*deer.*

seinneadair (7) *singer*  
 'S e latha math a th'ann. (8) *It's a*  
*good day.*  
 'S e nurs a th'annam. (2) *I'm a*  
*nurse.*  
 Seo... (1) *This is...*  
 'S fheàrr leam (7) *I prefer*  
 sgòthan (8) *clouds*  
 sibh (1) *you (polite and plural)*  
 sibhse (3) *you (emphatic)*  
 sgith (3) *tired*  
 siubhal (4) *travel*  
 'S toil leam aran is im. (6) *I like*  
*bread and butter.*

tha a h-uile seòrsa againn (6) *we*  
*have every kind*  
 tha còmhlan eile ann (7) *there is*  
*another band*  
 tha gu dearbh (1) *yes indeed*  
 tha gu math (1) *fine*  
 taigh (10) *house*  
 taigh-òsta (3) *hotel*  
 tapadh leat (1) *thank you (familiar)*  
 tapadh leibh (1) *thank you (polite*  
*and plural form)*  
 Tha i snog. (1) *It is nice.*  
 Tha mi a' faicinn. (8) *I see.*  
 Tha mi cho làn ri ugh. (6) *I'm full up.*  
 Tha mi gam faicinn. (9) *I see them.*  
 tha mi 'n dòchas (8) *I hope*  
 Tha mise à Dun Èideann. (2) *I'm*  
*from Edinburgh.*  
 Tha piob ann. (7) *There are*  
*bagpipes.*  
 Tha sinne à Inbhir Nis. (2) *We're*  
*from Inverness.*  
 thu (1) *you (familiar)*  
 ti (6) *tea*  
 tidsear (2) *teacher*  
 tioram (8) *dry*  
 tìr (10) *land*  
 trang (5) *busy*  
 tràan (4) *train*

uaine (10) *green*  
 ùbhlán (9) *apples*  
 Uibhist (7) *Uist*  
 Uibhist a Deas (8) *South Uist*  
 uighean (9) *eggs*  
 uisge-beatha (6) *whisky*

# English-Gaelic glossary

NB: Numbers indicate the conversation in which the vocabulary item first appears.

*Aberdeen* Obar Dheathain (5)  
*accordion* bogsa (7)  
*accordion music* ceòl a' bhogsa (7)  
*after that* an uair sin (7)  
*afternoon* feasgar (4)  
*airport* port-adhar (4)  
*also* cuideachd (6)  
*and* agus (2)  
*animals* beathaichean (8)  
*another* eile (7)  
*anyway* co-dhiù (8)  
*apples* ùbhlán (9)  
*are you?* a bheil sibh? (2)  
*arrive, arriving* a' ruighinn (4)  
*as* cho (7)  
*at all* idir (7)  
*at eight o'clock* aig ochd uairean (3)

*bagpipes* piob (7)  
*baking* a' fuine (5)  
*beautiful* brèagha (1)  
*beer* leann (6)  
*beginning* a' tòiseachadh (3)  
*between* eadar (3)  
*big* mòr (10)  
*biscuit* briosgaid (6)  
*black* dubh (10)  
*boat* bàta (10)  
*bread* aran (5)  
*brooches* bràistean (9)  
*bus* bus (4)  
*busy* trang (5)  
*but* ach (2)  
*butter* im (6)

*cake* cèic (6)  
*ceilidh: to a ~* gu cèilidh (3)  
*ceilidhs* cèilidhean (7)  
*certain* cinnteach (10)

*cheese* càise (6)  
*clouds* sgòthan (8)  
*coffee* cofaidh (6)  
*cold* fuar (8)  
*Colin's Band* Còmhlan Chailein (3)  
*cooking* a' còcaireachd (5)

*dance* dannsa (3)  
*dance: to the ~* chun an dannsa (3)  
*dear* daor (9)  
*deer* fèidh (8)  
*depart(s), departing* a' fàgail (4)  
*Do you see them?* A bheil thu gam faicinn? (9)  
*Do you speak Gaelic?* A bheil Gàidhlig agaibh? (6)  
*do you want...?* a bheil sibh ag iarraidh...? (6)

*doing* a' dèanamh? (3)  
*drink: to ~* ri òl (6)  
*dry* tioram (8)  
*dusting* a' dustadh (5)

*eat* ithe (6)  
*eating* ag ithe (6)  
*eggs* uighean (9)  
*eleven o'clock* aon uair deug (3)  
*English (language)* Beurla (6)  
*evening* feasgar (4)  
*every kind* a h-uile seòrsa (6)  
*expensive* daor (9)

*female friend* banacharaid (2)  
*fiddle* fìdheall (7)  
*fine* tha gu math (1)  
*fish* iasg (10)  
*food* biadh (6)  
*football* ball-coise (5)  
*football match* gèam ball-coise (5)

*for* airson (3)  
*four o'clock* ceithir uairean (4)  
*French (language)* Fraingis (6)  
*Friday afternoon/evening* feasgar Dihaoine (4)  
*Friday night* Oidhche Haoine (4)  
*friend* caraaid (2)  
*from Cape Breton* à Ceap Breatainn (2)  
*from Edinburgh* à Dùn Èideann (2)  
*fun* fealla-dhà (10)

*Gaelic songs* òran Ghàidhlig (7)  
*game* gèam (5)  
*Glasgow: to ~* a Ghlaschu (4)  
*going* a' dol (3)  
*good* math (1)  
*good afternoon/evening* feasgar math (1)  
*good morning* madainn mhath (1)  
*green* uaine (10)

*hall: the ~* an talla (3)  
*he* e (3)  
*here* an seo (4)  
*hills* beanntan (8)  
*hills of Harris: the ~* beanntan na Hearadh (8)  
*home, homewards* dhachaigh (8)  
*hotel* taigh-òsta (3)  
*house* taigh (10)  
*How are you? (familiar)* Ciamar a tha thu? (1)  
*How are you? (polite and plural)* Ciamar a tha sibh? (1)  
*How are you yourself?* Ciamar a tha thu/sibh fhèin? (1)

*I* mi (2)  
*I (emphatic)* mise (1)  
*I am...* Is mise... (1)  
*I am a nurse.* 'S e nurs a th' annam. (2)  
*I am from Edinburgh.* Tha mise à Dùn Èideann. (2)

*I am full up.* Tha mi cho làn ri ugh. (6)  
*I don't know.* Chan eil fios agam. (9)  
*I don't like cheese.* Cha toil leam càise. (6)  
*I hope* tha mi 'n dòchas (8)  
*I like bread and butter.* 'S toil leam aran is im. (6)  
*I must* feumaidh mi (9)  
*I myself don't eat meat.* Cha bhi mi fhèin ag ithe feòil. (9)  
*I prefer* 's fheàrr leam (7)  
*I see them* Tha mi gam faicinn. (9)  
*I see* tha mi a' faicinn (8)  
*I will not, no* cha ghabh (7)  
*I will see* chì mi (4)  
*I will take* gabhaidh mi (6)  
*I will, yes* gabhaidh (7)  
*indeed* dha-rìribh (5)  
*in Glasgow* ann an Glaschu (2)  
*in Inverness* ann an Inbhir Nis (2)  
*in the Isle of Skye* san Eilean Sgitheanach (2)  
*in the morning* sa mhadainn (3)  
*in town, in the town* anns a' bhaile (5)  
*ironing* ag iarnaigeadh (5)  
*isn't it* nach eil (1)  
*it* e (3), i (1)  
*It is a good day.* 'S e latha math a th' ann. (8)  
*It is nice.* Tha i snog. (1)

*joking, fun* fealla-dhà (10)  
*just as usual* dìreach san àbhaist (1)  
*just now* an-dràsta (2)

*lake* loch (8)  
*land* tìr (10)  
*large* mòr (10)  
*learning Gaelic* ag ionnsachadh Gàidhlig (2)  
*leave, leaving* a' fàgail (4)  
*little* beag (10)  
*living* a' fuireach (2)



*loch* loch (8)  
*Loch Eport* Loch Euphort (8)  
*Loch Ness* Loch Nis (2)  
*lochs* lochan (8)  
*Look!* Seall! (9)  
*looking a'* coimhead (9)

*making a'* dèanamh (3)  
*marvellous* miorbhaileach (8)  
*match* gèam (5)  
*maybe* 's dòcha (10)  
*me* mi (2)  
*me* (emphatic) mise (1)  
*meat* feòil (9)  
*milk* bainne (9)  
*money* airgead (9)  
*monster: the ~* an uilebheist (2)  
*morning* madainn (1)  
*mountains* beanntan (8)  
*music* ceòl (7)  
*my* mo (2)  
*my brother* mo bhràthair (2)  
*my female friend* mo bhanacharaid (1)  
*my friend* mo charaid (1)

*near* faisg air (2)  
*nine o' clock* naoi uairean (4)  
*not bad* chan eil dona (1)  
*now* a-nis (6)  
*nurse* nurs (2)

*ocean* muir (10)  
*occupation* obair (2)  
*Oh my Goodness!* Ohh! Ohh! (3)  
*on* air (4)  
*on the moor* air a' mhonadh (8)  
*on the plane* air a' phleana (4)  
*one* fear (6)  
*or* no (4)

*perhaps* 's dòcha (10)  
*picture* dealbh (10)  
*place* àite (4)

*plane: on the ~* am pleana (4)  
*please, if you please* mas e ur toil e (6)  
*plenty* gu leòr (8)  
*plenty of animals* beathaichean gu leòr (8)  
*programme* prògram (5)

*reach, reaching a'* ruighinn (4)  
*red wine* fion dearg (6)  
*return, returning a'* tilleadh (4)  
*right* ceart (10)  
*rings* fàinneachan (9)

*school: the ~* an sgoil (3)  
*sea* muir (10)  
*seeming a'* coimhead (9)  
*she* i (1)  
*sheep* caoraich (8)  
*shop* bùth (9)  
*shy* diùid (7)  
*singer* seinneadair (7)  
*small* beag (10)  
*so* cho (7)  
*song* òran (7)  
*songs* òrain (7)  
*soup* brot (5)  
*South Uist* Uibhist a Deas (8)  
*starting a'* tòiseachadh (3)  
*staying a'* fuireach (2)  
*stopping a'* stad (3)  
*student* oileanach (2)  
*sure* cinnteach (10)

*tea* tè (6)  
*teacher* tidsear (2)  
*ten o'clock* deich uairean (4)  
*thank you* (familiar) tapadh leat (1)  
*thank you* (polite and plural) tapadh leibh (1)  
*that it won't be* nach bi i (8)  
*that one* am fear sin (6)  
*That will be good.* Bidh sin math. (3)  
*The Island Band* Còmhlan an Eilein (7)

*then* ma-thà (6), an uair sin (7)  
*there* an sin (8)  
*There are bagpipes.* Tha piob ann. (7)  
*they* iad (3)  
*they make them* bidh iad gan dèanamh (9)  
*They're deer.* 'S e fèidh a th' annta. (8)  
*thing* rud (10)  
*thinking a'* smaoineachadh (10)  
*This is...* Seo... (1)  
*tidying a'* sgioblachadh (5)  
*tired* sgith (3)  
*to a* (4)  
*today* an-diugh (1)  
*tomorrow* a-màireach (3)  
*tonight* a-nochd (1)  
*town/city: the ~* am baile (4)  
*train* trèan (4)  
*travel* siubhal (4)  
*two o'clock in the morning* dà uair sa mhadainn (3)

*ugly* grannda (10)  
*Uist* Uibhist (7)

*very good* glè mhath (1)  
*very well* glè mhath (1)  
*view* sealladh (8)  
*violin* fidheall (7)

*Wait a minute.* Fuirich mionaid. (4)  
*walking* coiseachd (8)  
*want to go* airson a dhol (3)  
*warm* blàth (8)  
*was?, was it?* an robh? (5)  
*washing, doing the washing a'* nigheadaireachd (5)  
*wasn't, weren't, no* cha robh (10)  
*watch TV: to ~* a choimhead TV (5)  
*We are from Inverness.* Tha sinne à Inbhir Nis. (2)  
*we can/may* faodaidh sinn (4)  
*we didn't see* chan fhaca sinn (2)

*Wednesday* Diciadain (4)  
*Wednesday morning* madainn Diciadain (4)  
*we have every kind* tha a h-uile seòrsa againn (6)  
*we must* feumaidh sinn (8)  
*were?* an robh? (5)  
*weren't* cha robh (10)  
*we were there* bha sinn ann (2)  
*wet* fliuch (8)  
*What a view!* Abair sealladh! (8)  
*What are you doing?* Dè tha sibh a' dèanamh? (3)  
*What do you think?* Dè do bheachd? (9)  
*What else do you need?* Dè eile a dh'fheumas tu? (9)  
*What is your occupation?* Dè an obair a th'agad? (2)  
*what kind?* dè seòrsa? (6)  
*What kind of beer have you got?* Dè seòrsa leann a th' againn (6)  
*What were you up to?* Dè bha thu ris? (5)  
*What will you have?* Dè ghabhas sibh? (6)  
*when?* cuin? (3)  
*Where are you from?* Cò às a tha sibh? (2)  
*Where is...?* Càit a bheil...? (3)  
*whisky* uisge-beatha (6)  
*white wine* fion geal (6)  
*Who is playing?* Cò tha cluich? (3)  
*Will you have another cake?* An gabh thu ceic eile? (7)  
*Will you sing a song yourself?* An gabh thu fhèin òran? (7)  
*with* le (6)  
*work* obair (2)

*yes indeed* tha gu dearbh (1)  
*yes, I see* seadh (9)  
*you* (emphatic) sibhse (3)  
*you* (familiar) thu (1)  
*you* (polite and plural) sibh (1)

## Greetings and other phrases

<i>Cheers!/Good health!</i>	Slàinte mhath!
<i>Do you like...?</i>	An toil leat...?/An caomh leat...?
<i>good morning</i>	madainn mhath
<i>good afternoon/evening</i>	feasgar math
<i>goodnight</i>	oidhche mhath
<i>goodbye</i>	mar sin leat/mar sin leibh
<i>hello</i>	hallo
<i>I am Julia.</i>	Is mise Sileas.
<i>I like...</i>	Is toil leam.../Is caomh leam...
<i>no problem</i>	gun dragh sam bith
<i>of course</i>	gu dearbh
<i>we like...</i>	is toil leinn.../is caomh leinn...
<i>What is your name?</i>	Dè an t-ainm a th' ort?/Dè an t-ainm a th' oirbh?
<i>why not...?</i>	Carson nach...?
<i>you're welcome</i>	's e do bheatha/'s e ur beatha

## Food and drink

<i>beef</i>	mairtfeòil
<i>beer</i>	leann
<i>bread</i>	aran
<i>butter</i>	im
<i>cheese</i>	càise
<i>chicken</i>	cearc/sitheann
<i>chips</i>	slisnean
<i>egg</i>	ugh
<i>fish</i>	iasg
<i>fruit</i>	measan
<i>ham</i>	hama
<i>juice</i>	sùgh
<i>lamb</i>	uanfheòil/feòil uain
<i>meat</i>	feòil
<i>milk</i>	bainne
<i>potatoes</i>	buntàta
<i>red wine</i>	fion dearg
<i>sausage</i>	isbean
<i>vegetables</i>	glasraich
<i>water</i>	uisge
<i>white wine</i>	fion geal

## Directions

<i>behind</i>	air cùlaibh (+gen)
<i>beside</i>	ri taobh (+gen)
<i>between</i>	eadar
<i>in front of</i>	air beulaibh (+gen)
<i>next door to</i>	an ath dhoras do
<i>opposite</i>	mu choinneamh (+gen)
<i>straight on</i>	dìreach air aghaidh
<i>to the left</i>	gu clì
<i>to the right</i>	gu deas

## Days of the week

<i>Sunday</i>	Didòmhnaich/Latha na Sàbaid
<i>Monday</i>	Diluain
<i>Tuesday</i>	Dimàirt
<i>Wednesday</i>	Diciadain
<i>Thursday</i>	Diardaoin
<i>Friday</i>	Dihaoine
<i>Saturday</i>	Disathairne

## Sunday night

Oidhche
Dhòmhnaich/
Oidhche na Sàbaid
Oidhche Luain
Oidhche Mhàirt
Oidhche Chiadain
Oidhche Ardaoin
Oidhche Haoine
Oidhche
Shathairne

## Monday night

## Tuesday night

## Wednesday night

## Thursday night

## Friday night

## Saturday night

## Months of the year

<i>January</i>	Am Faoilleach
<i>February</i>	An Gearran
<i>March</i>	Am Màrt
<i>April</i>	An Giblean
<i>May</i>	An Cèitean/Am Màigh
<i>June</i>	An t-Ògmhios
<i>July</i>	An t-Iuchar
<i>August</i>	An Lùnastal
<i>September</i>	An t-Sultain
<i>October</i>	An Dàmhair
<i>November</i>	An t-Samhain
<i>December</i>	An Dùbhlachd

## Seasons

<i>spring</i>	an t-Earrach
<i>summer</i>	an Samhradh
<i>autumn</i>	am Foghar
<i>winter</i>	an Geamhradh

## Colours

<i>black</i>	dubh
<i>blue</i>	gorm
<i>brown</i>	donn
<i>green</i>	uaine
<i>grey</i>	glas
<i>orange</i>	orains
<i>purple</i>	purpaidh
<i>red</i>	dearg
<i>yellow</i>	buidhe
<i>white</i>	geal

## Numbers

0	neoni
1	aon
2	dà/dhà
3	trì
4	ceithir
5	còig
6	sia
7	seachd
8	ochd
9	naoi
10	deich
11	aon-deug
12	dà-dheug
13	trì-deug
20	fichead
30	trithead/deich air fhichead
40	ceathrad/dà fhichead
50	lethcheud/caogad
60	seasgad/trì fichead
70	seachdad/trì fichead sa deich
80	ochdad/ceithir fichead
90	naochad/ceithir fichead sa deich
100	ceud
1,000	mìle
million	mìlean

## Counting people

<i>one person</i>	aon duine
<i>two people</i>	dithis
<i>three people</i>	triùir
<i>four people</i>	ceathrar
<i>five people</i>	còignear
<i>six people</i>	sianar
<i>seven people</i>	seachdnar
<i>eight people</i>	ochdnar
<i>nine people</i>	naoinear
<i>ten people</i>	deichnear



## Telling the time

*What time is it?*

*It's one o'clock.*

*It's five minutes past one.*

*It's ten minutes past one.*

*It's quarter past one.*

*It's twenty minutes past one.*

*It's twenty-five minutes past one.*

*It's half past one.*

*It's twenty-five minutes to two.*

*It's twenty minutes to two.*

*It's quarter to two.*

*It's ten minutes to two.*

*It's five minutes to two.*

Dè 'n uair a tha é?

Tha e uair.

Tha e còig mionaidean an dèidh uair.

Tha e deich mionaidean an dèidh uair.

Tha e cairteal an dèidh uair.

Tha e fichead mionaid an dèidh uair.

Tha e còig mionaidean fichead an dèidh uair.

Tha e lethuair an dèidh uair.

Tha e còig mionaidean fichead gu dhà.

Tha e fichead mionaid gu dhà.

Tha e cairteal gu dhà.

Tha e deich mionaidean gu dhà.

Tha e còig mionaidean gu dhà.