



HOW OUR LANGUAGE WORKS



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Fuaimean – Sounds

An ` lengthens the sound of a vowel: fàilte; bò; cù; ìm; èist

Diphthongs can vary. (ea, ia, ai, etc)

Consonants – There is no **j, k, q, v, w, x, y, z.**

Most sounds are as in English.

'b' in the middle of a word can have a **'p'** sound ('bàta' but 'leabaidh')

'c' with **i/e** wants a **'k'** sound ('cat' but 'cìr')

'd/t' with a, o, u, want a 'flattened' sound (madainn, tapadh leat)

'd/t' with **i/e** want a **'j'** sound ('donn' but 'dearg', 'taigh' but 'càit..')

'g' with **i/e** wants a **'gy'** sound ('glas' but 'geal'). **'g'** sounds like **'c'** in the middle of a word. (baga)

'l' with **i/e** wants a slender 'l' sound ('latha' but 'leat')

'll' with **i/e** wants a 'liquidy' sound (gille)

's' with **i/e** wants a 'sh' sound ('suidh' but 'sìos')

Many grammar changes are made by adding 'h' after the first letter.

This will change the sound of that letter.

Exceptions: never an **h** after: a **vowel, l, n, r,** or the group **sg, sm, sp, st.**

bh – v

ch – ch as in loch

ch with **i / e** wants a softer 'ch' sound (chì)

dh – gh (open throated g sound)

dh with **i/ e** gives a 'y' sound

fh – h (or the sound of the next letter)

gh – as dh above

mh – v

ph – f

sh – h

th – h

PRESENT

is, are, am (yes) is not, are not, am not (no) is...? are...? am...? isn't...? aren't...? amn't...?

Tha...

Chan eil...

A bheil...?

Nach eil...?

PAST

was, were (yes) was not, were not (no) was...? were...? wasn't...? weren't...?

Bha...

Cha robh...

An robh...?

Nach robh...?

FUTURE

will be (yes) will not be (no) will...be...? won't...be...?

Bidh...

Cha bhi...

Am bi...?

Nach bi...?

Pronouns

I	mi	mise
---	----	------

you	thu	thusa
-----	-----	-------

he/it	e	esan
-------	---	------

she/it	i	ise
--------	---	-----

we	sinn	sinne
----	------	-------

you	sibh	sibhse
-----	------	--------

they	iad	iadsan
------	-----	--------

UNIT 5

UNIT 9

A bheil...?	mi	sgìth	a' leughadh	(reading)	leabhar	(book)
	thu					
Tha...	e	fuar	a' sgrìobhadh	(writing)	sgèulachd	(story)
	i					
Chan eil...	sinn	toilichte	a' cunntadh	(counting)	litir	(letter)
	sìbh					
	iad	brònach	ag èisteachd ri	(listening to)	clàran	(CD)
	Calum					
An robh...?	Dòmhnall	sia	a' bruidhinn ri	(speaking to)	àireamhan	(numbers)
	Seòras					
Bha...	Seonag	fìchead 's a h-aon	a' coimhead	(watching)	ceòl	(music)
	mo/do bhràthair					
Cha robh...	mo/do charaid	an seo	a' seinn	(singing)	telebhisean	(TV)
	mo/do phiuthar					
	mo/do mhàthair	an sin	a' dèanamh	(doing/making)	òran	(song)
	mo/do sheanair					
UNIT 8						
Am bi...?	mo/do sheanmhair	ann an Glaschu	ag ionnsachadh	(learning)	dealbh	(picture)
	an tidsear					
Bidh...	an clas	ann am Peairt	a' cluich	(playing)	gèam	(game)
	an teaghlach					
Cha bhi...	an nighean	anns an sgoil	ag obair	(working)	Gàidhlig	(Gaelic)
	am balach					

Possessive

	with consonants	with vowels
mo* my	mo mhàthair	m' athair
do* your	do mhàthair	d' athair
a* his	a mhàthair	athair
a her	a màthair	a h-athair
ar our	ar màthair	ar n-athair
ur your	ur màthair	ur n-athair
an/am their (b f m p)	am màthair an cù	an athair

aig

Tha cù **aig** Màiri.

Chan eil cù **aig** Calum.

agam

agad

aige

aice

againn

agaibh

aca

air

Tha falt bàn **air** Màiri.
Chan eil falt bàn **air** Calum.

orm

ort

air

oirre

oirnn

oirbh

orra

le

Is toigh **le** Màiri bainne.

Cha toigh **le** Calum bainne.

leam

leat

leis

leatha

leinn

leibh

leotha

do

Is urrainn **do** Mhàiri snàmh.

Is urrainn **do** Iain snàmh.

dhomh

dhut

dha

dhi

dhuinn

dhuibh

dhaibh

ri

Tha iad a' bruidhinn **ri** Iain.

Tha mi a' bruidhinn **ri** Sìne.

rium

riut

ris

rithe

rinn

ribh

riutha

ann an

'S e tidsear a tha **ann an** Calum.

'S e tidsear a tha **ann an** Anna.

annam

annad

ann

innte

annainn

annaibh

annta

Lenition

Lenition is a softening of the sound of a consonant. This is usually indicated by the insertion of the letter **h** after the consonant.

Vowels do not lenite.

Words beginning with L, N, R, sg, sm, sp, st do not lenite.

Lenition occurs in several circumstances:

- vocative case e.g. a M**h**àiri!
- after possessives mo, do, a (masculine) e.g. mo m**h**àthair
- an adjective with a feminine noun e.g. oidhche m**h**ath
- some prepositions – bho, do, mar, mu, ro, tro, fo, gun
e.g. mu t**h**imcheall
- after the few adjectives which come before the noun – corra, deagh, droch,
prìomh, seann e.g. seann **ch**ù
- with the modifiers glè, fìor, ro, sàr e.g. glè m**h**ath
- the numerals aon, dà, a' chiad e.g. dà **ch**ù
- a verb in the past tense e.g. **ch**oisich mi
- the verb bu e.g. bu **ch**òir dhut
- the negative particle cha e.g. cha **s**heas mi

Taken from **Gràmar na Gàidhlig** by Michel Byrne

An toigh leat cèic?

Do you like cake?

'S toigh. **'S toigh leam cèic.**

Yes. I like cake.

Cha toigh. **Cha toigh leam cèic.**

No. I don't like cake.

Dè 's toigh leat?

What do you like? Is toigh leam cèic.

Dè nach toigh leat?

What don't you like? Cha toigh leam ugh.

A bheil thu ag iarraidh cèic?

Do you want cake?

Tha. **Tha mi ag iarraidh cèic.**

Yes. I want cake.

Chan eil. **Chan eil mi ag iarraidh cèic.**

No. I don't want cake.

Dè tha thu ag iarraidh?

What do you want? Tha mi ag iarraidh cèic.

PRESENT TENSE

<p style="text-align: center;">THA</p> <p>Tha mi sgìth I am tired</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">CHAN EIL</p> <p>Chan eil mi sgìth. I am not tired.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">A BHEIL?</p> <p>A bheil thu sgìth? Are you tired?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">NACH EIL</p> <p>Nach eil thu sgìth? Aren't you tired?</p>

PAST TENSE

<p style="text-align: center;">BHA</p> <p>Bha mi sgìth I was tired</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">CHA ROBH</p> <p>Cha robh mi sgìth. I was not tired.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">AN ROBH</p> <p>An robh thu sgìth? Were you tired?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">NACH ROBH</p> <p>Nach robh thu sgìth? Weren't you tired?</p>

FUTURE TENSE

<p style="text-align: center;">BIDH</p> <p>Bidh mi sgìth I will be tired</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">CHA BHI</p> <p>Cha bhi mi sgìth. I will not be tired.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">AM BI?</p> <p>Am bi thu sgìth? Will you be tired?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">NACH BI</p> <p>Nach bi thu sgìth? Won't you be tired?</p>

BHIOS is a separate form of the verb in the future tense used with ...

Cò? (Who?) **Dè?** (What?) **Cuin?** (When?) **Ciamar?** (How?) **Carson?** (Why?)

Dè bhios tu a' dèanamh? What will you be doing?/What do you do?

Cuin a bhios tu a' seinn? When will you sing?/When do you sing?

An urrainn dhut?

Are you able to? Can you?

An urrainn dhut snàmh?

An urrainn dhut dràibheadh?

There are no words corresponding to YES and NO in Gaelic.

You must answer YES or NO using the verb in which the question was asked.

Is urrainn. Is urrainn dhomh snàmh.

Chan urrainn. Chan urrainn dhomh snàmh.

1. I can run. _____

2. Can you sing? _____

3. I can't drive. _____

'S urrainn dhomh I can / am able to

'S urrainn dhut You can

'S urrainn dha He can

'S urrainn dhi She can

'S urrainn dhuinn We can

'S urrainn dhuibh You can

'S urrainn dhaibh They can

Is urrainn do Mhàiri snàmh.**Is urrainn do Iain snàmh.****Chan urrainn do Chatriona snàmh.**

USING 'The'

Feminine words

Initial letter	'The'	Example
a,e,i,o,u	an	an Eadailt
b,p,c,g,m	a' *	a' Ghearmailt
f	an *	an Fhraing
sa,se,si,so,su,sl,sn,sr	an t-	an t-Suain
d,t,l,n,r,sg,sm,sp,st	an	an Spàinn

Masculine words

Initial letter	'The'	Example
a,e,i,o,u	an t-	an t-Eilean
b,p,f,m	am	am Ploc
all other	an	an Sruthan

AFTER A PREPOSITION – USE FEMININE RULES

Initial letter	'The'	Example
a,e,i,o,u	an	às an Eadailt
b,p,c,g,m	a' *	às a' Ghearmailt
f	an *	air an fheasgar
sa,se,si,so,su,sl,sn,sr	an t-	às an t-Suain
d,t,l,n,r,sg,sm,sp,st	an	air an latha

A bheil?

Tha

Chan eil

An robh?

Bha

Cha robh

Am bi?

Bidh

Cha bhi

An toigh?

'S toigh

Cha toigh

An urrainn?

'S urrainn

Chan urrainn

There are two forms of the verb 'to be'.

One takes the form **IS** and is used to **DEFINE**.

The other takes the form **THA** and is used to **DESCRIBE**.

Tha	Chan eil
A bheil ?	Nach eil?

(pronoun)		(adjective)	
It	is	black.	DESCRIPTION
Tha	e	dubh.	
Tha	mi	fiar.	

'S e	Chan e
An e ?	Nach e?

(pronoun)		(noun)	
It	is	a cow.	CONFIRMS IDENTITY
'S e	bò	a th' ann.	
'S e	tidsear	a th' ann am Màiri.	
'S e	duine beag	a th' ann an Calum.	

Cò th' annam? Who am I?

annam	in me	annainn	in us
annad	in you	annaibh	in you
ann	in him/it	annta	in them
inntè	in her/it		

Occupations are literally 'in you' In stating your occupation, you are defining rather than describing.

'S e tidsear a th' annam.	I am a teacher.
An e tidsear a th' annad?	Are you a teacher?
'S e/Chan e	Yes/No

- 'S e dotair a th' annam.
- An e fìaclair a th' annad?
- Chan e poileas a th' ann.
- 'S e post a th' ann an Iain.
- 'S e oileanach a th' ann an Sìne.
- An e bèicear a th' ann an Càilean?
- 'S e nurs a tha nam mhàthair.
- An e dotair a tha nad bhràthair?
- Chan e saor a tha nam phiuthar!

Dè an obair a th' agad?

Dè an obair a th' aig do charaid?

Dè an obair a th' aice?

Dè an obair a th' againn?

PAST TENSE OF VERBS

PAST TENSE - POSITIVE

To make the past tense you usually add an **h** to the **COMMAND FORM** of the verb.

suidh	shuidh (sat)	cluich	chluich (played)	seas	sheas (stood)
cuir	chuir (put)	gabh	ghabh (took/had/ate)	tòisich	thòisich (started)

Sheas sinn aig an doras. We stood at the door.

Chuir mi air an solas. I put on the light.

If the **COMMAND FORM** starts with a vowel, you add **dh'** before it:

ith	dh'ith (ate)	òl	dh'òl (drank)
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Dh'èirich mi aig ochd uairean. I got up at eight o'clock.

Dh'òl Anna am bainne. Anna drank the milk.

If the **COMMAND FORM** starts with **f** plus a vowel, you add **dh'** before it AND **h** after the **f**.

fosgail	dh'fhosgail (opened)	fuirich	dh'fhuirich (waited/stayed)	fàs	dh'fhàs (grew)
---------	----------------------	---------	-----------------------------	-----	----------------

Dh'fhosgail i an doras. She opened the door. **Dh'fhuirich Iain a-staigh.** Iain stayed in.

Words beginning with l,n,r,sg,sm,sp,st **DO NOT CHANGE** and nothing is added.

leugh	leugh (read)	nigh	nigh (washed)	ruith	ruith (ran)
sgriobh	sgriobh (wrote)	smaoinich	smaoinich (thought)	stad	stad (stopped)

Sgriobh mi litir. I wrote a letter.

Stad am bus aig an sgoil. The bus stopped at the school.

PAST TENSE - NEGATIVE

To answer or say 'no', 'did not', you use **Cha do...** and the same rules apply

Cha do shuidh mi aig a' bhòrd.	I didn't sit at the table.	Cha do shuidh.	answer 'no'
Cha do dh'fhuirich iad aig an taigh.	They didn't stay at home.	Cha do dh'fhuirich.	
Cha do dh'òl sibh am bainne.	You didn't drink the milk.	Cha do dh'òl.	
Cha do ruith e suas an rathad.	He didn't run up the road.	Cha do ruith.	

PAST TENSE - QUESTION

To ask a question in the past tense..(Did...?) use **An do...? ...** and the same rules apply.

An do thòisich sibh?	Did you start?	Th òisich	answer 'yes'
An do shuidh thu?	Did you sit?	Sh uidh	
An do dh'ith Màiri an teòclair?	Did Mary eat the chocolate?	Dh' ith	

Past tense of verbs

Answer 'yes' to the following questions.

1. An do chluich sibh ball-coise Disathairne? _____ Chluich. _____
2. An do dh'èirich e aig ochd uairean? _____
3. An do chuir iad air an telebhisean? _____
4. An do dh'fhosgail i an doras? _____
5. An do ghabh e a bhracaist? _____

Answer 'no' to the following questions.

1. An do choisich sinn dhan sgoil? _____ Cha do choisich. _____
2. An do ruith thu dhan sgoil? _____
3. An do dhùin thu an uinneag? _____
4. An do nigh thu an cupa? _____
5. An do sgrìobh i litir? _____

Make questions using the commands below.

1. buannaich! __An do bhuannaich thu?_____ (Did you win?) _____
2. tòisich! _____
3. fàg! _____
4. leugh! _____
5. òl! _____

Past tense of verbs

Write the following in English.

1. An do chluich i ball-coise Disathairne?
2. Chluich i ball-coise Disathairne.
3. An do dh'òl Iain uisge?
4. Cha do dh'òl. Dh'òl e bainne.
5. An do chaidil thu gu math a-raoir?
6. Chaidil mi gu math, tapadh leat.

Write these sentences in Gaelic.

1. He sat on a chair.
2. I walked to school today.
3. He read a book.
4. She opened the door.
5. John closed the window.
6. Did Anna put on the light?

Past tense of verbs

Write the following in English.

1. Cha do ghabh mi bracaist an-diugh.
2. Cha do chuir Seumas an solas air.
3. Cha do shuidh Calum ri taobh Màiri.
4. Cha do bhuannaich Alba an gèam.
5. Cha do choimhead mi airson leabhar.
6. Cha do sgrìobh mi litir idir.
7. Cha do dhùin an tidsear an doras.
8. Cha do chuir mi mo pheansail anns a' bhaga.
- 9.
- 10.

10 verbs - PAST TENSE

		POSITIVE		NEGATIVE		QUESTION	
going	a' dol	went	chaidh	didn't go	cha deach	did he go?	an deach e?
hearing	a' cluinntinn	heard	chuala	didn't hear	cha chuala	did he hear?	an cuala e?
seeing	a' faicinn	saw	chunnaic	didn't see	chan faca	did she see?	am faca i?
saying	ag ràdh	said	thuirt	didn't say	cha thuirt	did she say?	an thuirt i?
getting	a' faighinn	got	fhuair	did not get	cha d' fhuair	did he get?	an d' fhuair e?
giving	a' toirt	gave	thug	did not give	cha tug	did you give?	an tug thu?
coming	a' tighinn	came	thàinig	did not come	cha tàinig	did she come?	an tàinig i?
arriving	a' ruighinn	arrived	ràinig	did not arrive	cha do ràinig	did he arrive?	an do ràinig e?
catching	a' breith	caught	rug (air)	did not catch	cha do rug (air)	did they catch?	an do rug iad air...?
doing	a' déanamh	made/ did	rinn	didn't make do	cha do rinn	did you do/ make?	an do rinn thu?

Past tense of verbs

Write these sentences in English.

1. Chaidh mi dhachaigh aig ochd uairean.
2. Rinn mi an dinnear airson mo mhàthar.
3. Bhuannaich i an gèam.
4. Chunnaic mi thusa air an T.Bh!
5. Bha mi aig partaidh Disathairne.
6. Cha robh mi a' cluich rugbaidh an-dè.
7. Ghabh mi iasg agus sgealban ann an cafaidh.
8. Shuidh mi ri taobh Anna anns a' chlas.
9. An robh thu air a' bhus Diluain?
10. Chuir mi mo chòta orm.

Write these sentences in English.

1. Dhùin mi an doras agus shuidh mi sìos.
2. Thàinig mo charaid à Glaschu air a' bhus.
3. Cha do rinn sinn càil Didòmhnaich.
4. Chuala mi ceòl air an rèidio.
5. Dè rinn thu Diciadain?
6. Leugh mi leabhar agus sgrìobh mi litir.
7. Cha robh mi a' snàmh Diardaoin.
8. Bha mi anns a' bhùth airson mo mhàthar. Bha i ag iarraidh bainne.
9. An robh do phiuthar anns an sgoil an-diugh?
10. Choimhead mi airson cairt ann am bùth WH Smith.

FUTURE TENSE OF VERBS

FUTURE TENSE – POSITIVE

To form the future tense of REGULAR VERBS:

Use the command form of the verb and add an ending - **idh** or **aidh**

Cuir! Cuir**idh** mi air an solas. Sgrìobh! Sgrìobh**aidh** mi.

FUTURE TENSE – NEGATIVE

To answer in the negative add **cha** before the verb and **h** after the first letter.

Cha chuir mi air an T.Bh.

BUT 1. Add **chan** instead of **cha** if the verb begins with a vowel.
(No **h** is needed after a vowel.)

Chan òl mi tè idir.

2. If the verb begins with **f** and a vowel e.g. fuirich
add **chan** and add **h** to the command form.

Chan fhuirich Màiri aig an taigh.

FUTURE TENSE – QUESTION

To make the question add **an** or **am** (b,f,m,p) to the command form.

An cuir thu air an T.Bh.? **Am** fàg thu an sgoil aig ceithir uairean?

REMEMBER : **l, n, r, sg, sm, sp, st** NEVER have an **h** added.

An leugh thu an leabhar?

Cha leugh.

An nigh thu an cupa?

Cha nigh.

An sgrìobh thu litir?

Cha sgrìobh.

10 verbs - FUTURE TENSE

		POSITIVE		NEGATIVE		QUESTION	
going	a' dol	will go	thèid	will not go	cha tèid	will...go?	An tèid..?
hearing	a' cluinntinn	will hear	cluinnidh	will not hear	cha chluinn	will...hear?	An cluinn..?
seeing	a' faicinn	will see	chì	will not see	chan fhaic	will...see?	Am faic..?
saying	ag ràdh	will say	canaidh	will not say	cha chan	will...say?	An can..?
getting	a' faighinn	will get	gheibh	will not get	chan fhaigh	will...get?	Am faigh..?
giving	a' toirt	will give	bheir	will not give	cha toir	will...give?	An toir..?
coming	a' tighinn	will come	thig	will not come	cha tig	will...come?	An tig..?
arriving	a' ruighinn	will arrive	ruigidh	will not arrive	cha ruig	will...arrive?	An ruig..?
catching	a' breith	will catch	beiridh (air)	will not catch	cha bheir	will...catch?	Am beir..?
doing	a' dèanamh	will do/ make	nì	will not do/ make	cha dèan	will...do/make?	An dèan..?

Sgrìobh ann am Beurla

1. Seinnidh Seumas òrain aig a' chèilidh anns an talla Disathairne.
2. Cuiridh mi an salann agus am piobar air a' bhòrd.
3. Èistidh sinn ri clàr ùr anns a' chàr.
4. Cha ghabh mi dinnear a-nochd idir.
5. An dèan sinn Fraingis anns a' chlas an-diugh?
6. Am bruidhinn thu ri Sìne air a' fòn?
7. Chan òl Anna fìon dearg.
8. Chan fhuirich mo bhràthair anns an sgoil airson dinnear.
9. Chan fhàg am bus gu seachd uairean.
10. Cha leugh mi leabhar ach coimheadaidh mi prògram air an T.Bh.

Sgrìobh ann an Gàidhlig

1. We will not listen to music in the car.
2. The class will play football in the afternoon.
3. My sister will not wait at the station.
4. I will put on my red jacket tomorrow.
5. I will close the book and I will watch television.
6. Will you eat bacon and egg for breakfast tomorrow?
7. John will not play tennis tonight.
8. Will you have a cup of tea?
9. The bus will not stop at the hospital.
10. The teacher will read a book.

Sgrìobh ann am Beurla.

1. An dèan sinn obair-dachaigh a-nochd?
2. Chì mi thu aig an sgoil Diluain.
3. Thèid sinn a dh'Inbhir Nis feasgar ma tha thu ag iarraidh.
4. Cha toir mi fada a' coiseachd dhan sgoil.
5. Canaidh mi facal no dhà ann an Gàidhlig.
6. Chan fhaigh mi càr ùr am-bliadhna.
7. An ruig do charaid mu chairteal gu naoi?
8. Cha tig an cù a-mach cuairt ma tha i fliuch a-muigh.
9. Am beir sinn air an trèan no am bi sinn ro anmoch?
10. Cluinnidh mo bhràthair agus mo phiuthar clàran ùr aig an diosgo.

Sgrìobh ann an Gàidhlig.

1. I will go home at ten o'clock tonight.
2. Will you see Mary in school tomorrow?
3. We will not hear them at a concert at the SECC.
4. Will you say that in Gaelic?
5. My sister will get a dog at the weekend.
6. Calum will give the book to the teacher.
7. My mother will not come with me.
8. Will the bus arrive at half past six?
9. They will not catch the train tonight.
10. My brother will make chicken and potatoes for dinner.

Use the following verbs in their past and future forms.

cuir	stad	leugh
gabh	ruith	coimhead
dùin	òl	bruidhinn
coisich	ith	seinn
cuidich	cluich	fàg
tòisich	fuirich	ceannaich
èist	sgrìobh	seas
suidh	fosgail	geàrr
tog	cùm	glan

aig + mi = agam aig + thu = agad etc Tha cù aig Màiri/Calum	air + mi = orm air + thu = ort etc Tha ad air Màiri/Calum	le + mi = leam le + thu = leat etc 'S toigh le Màiri / Calum bainne	ri + mi = rium ri + thu = riut etc Tha mi a' bruidhinn ri Màiri/Calum.	do + mi = dhomh do + thu = dhut etc Is urrainn do Mhàiri/Calum snàmh.	ann + mi = annam ann + thu = annad etc 'S e tidsear a th' ann am Màiri. 'S e tidsear a th' ann an Calum.
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1. I have a cake but you don't have cake.
2. Sheena has a dog but Iain doesn't have a pet.
3. He is wearing a hat and Anna is wearing a coat.
4. I don't like cake, Mary doesn't like cake but Calum likes cake.
5. I am listening to music and Karen is not listening.
6. He is able to sing but my mother cannot sing at all.
7. He is a teacher and Anna is a teacher also.