

**Leasan 1**  
**2 am Màirt 2021**

**A little reminder -**  
We really should pay the piper



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**Seanfhacal an latha**  
**Proverb of the Day**

Bheir aon fhear each gu uisge,  
ach cha toir dà fhear dheug air òl.

- One man may lead a horse to water, but twelve won't make him drink.



**READING:** *Speaking our language*,  
 ○ Where you're from, page 15

**As time allows, we will be**

- Going over the material in *Speaking Our Language* and the material below
- reviewing counting
- **Fhir a Bhàta** (a new song)
- Perhaps some old songs
- A new story – *Na Sòmbaidhean*
- And whatever 😊
- Beagan grammar (a little grammar)–  
 Review:
- Pronouns: review
 

	<b>Pronunciation</b>		<b>Pronunciation</b>
mi = I, me	Me	sinn = we, us	Shin
thu = you	Ouh, as in <i>flu</i>	sibh = you, form./plu	shiv, sheev
e = he, him	Ay as in <i>fate, gate</i>	iad = they, them	ee-at, sometimes <i>id</i> (almost like 'it')
i = she, her	Ee as in <i>cheese</i>		
- The verb **to be**: independent form & question/dependent form – **bi**

**1. The Present Tense of the Verb TO BE**

Like all verbs in Gàidhlig there is only one form for all persons. For a **positive** statement in the present tense this is **Tha**. Just add the subject to it, either a pronoun or a noun.

The pronouns combine with the verb **Tha** as follows :

**Tha mi** - I am  
**Tha thu** - you are  
**Tha e** - he is  
**Tha i** - she is

**Tha sinn** - we are  
**Tha sibh** - you are (plural & formal)  
**Tha iad** - they are

Similarly with nouns:

Tha am fear .. - The man is ..  
 Tha na coin .. - The dogs are ..

## Adjectives

Adjectives can be used following the verb **To Be**. This adjective (the adjective predicate) is the same for all subjects (which is different from when the adjective directly modifies the noun, but we'll get to that later):

*Feminine subject*

*Tha i fuar - She is cold*

*Plural subject*

*Tha iad fuar - They are cold*

*Masculine subject*

*Tha Calum fuar - Calum is cold*

## NEW WORDS

### Adjectives

beag - small

blàth - warm

fliuch - wet

fuar - cold

leisg - lazy, reluctant, loath

mòr - big, large

sgìth - tired

tioram - dry

trang - busy

snog - nice

toilichte - pleased, happy

## Nouns

### 2. A bhith - To be

All verbs have what is known as an **independent** form; for the verb **To Be** this is **Tha**, which as you saw above is used to form positive statements. All verbs have another form, the **dependent**; this is used to form the negative statement and interrogatives (question forms).

For the present tense of the verb **To Be**:

#### Independent - tha

**Tha** for positive statements:

Tha e fuar - It is cold

#### Dependent “to be” – bheil / eil (> vell / ell)

In Gaelic, verbs have a separate, different form for dependent and question usages. This is different from English in which the verb remains the same.

For example,

Independent: The man **is** tired. (independent)

Dependent: He said the man **is** tired.

**Thuirt e gu bheil an duine sgìth**

Dependent: He said that the man **is** tired.

Question: **Is** the man tired?

**A bheil an duine sgìth?**

Question: The man is tired, **isn't** he? ( ... is he not?)

**Tha an duine sgìth, nach eil?**

You see from this that in English, the verb remains constant no matter whether it is used in an independent clause, a dependent clause, or a question.

Not so in Gaelic, in which the form of the verb changes depending on whether its usage is independent on the one hand and dependent/question on the other:

An examples:

### **Independent:**

**Tha** mi fuar. I am cold.

**Tha** iad toilichte. They are happy.

### **Chan eil** for negative statements:

**Chan eil** e fuar - It is not cold

### **A bheil?** for asking a question (interrogative)\*:

**A bheil** e fuar? - Is it cold? (Is *he* cold?)

- In addition you will also find the form **Am bheil?** (usually in older pieces of writing) and in spoken Gàidhlig the contraction **Eil?** (which is also the form always used for a negative statement and question)

• **Am bheil** sinn fadalach? Are we late?

• **'Eil** thu trang, a charaid? Are you busy, friend?

### **Nach eil?** for a negative question (negative interrogative):

**Nach eil** e fuar? - Is it not cold?

Tha e fuar, **nach eil?**

**Nach eil** e fuar! (used as an exclamation, not just a question)

## **EXERCISE 3 Translate into English**

1. A bheil thu sgìth?

2. Nach eil i fliuch?

3. Chan eil iad trang

4. Chan eil sinn fuar
5. Nach eil iad leisg?
6. A bheil sibh fuar?

#### **EXERCISE 4 Translate into Gàidhlig**

- 1.I am not cold
- 2.Are you warm?
- 3.Are you not warm?
- 4.Is she tired?
- 5.Are they pleased?
- 6.Isn't she nice?
- 7.He isn't dry
- 8.We aren't lazy

#### **ANSWERS EXERCISE 1**

- 1.I am tired
- 2.They are busy
- 3.She/it is cold
- 4.They are warm
- 5.We are lazy
- 6.You are dry

#### **ANSWERS EXERCISE 2**

- 1.Tha sinn fuar
- 2.Tha thu/sibh beag
- 3.Tha iad mòr
- 4.Tha mi leisg
- 5.Tha e trang
- 6.Tha i sgìth

#### **ANSWERS EXERCISE 3**

- 1.Are you tired?
- 2.Isn't she wet?
- 3.They aren't busy
- 4.We aren't cold
- 5.Aren't they lazy?
- 6.Are you cold?

## ANSWERS EXERCISE 4

- 1.Chan eil mi fuar
- 2.A bheil thu/sibh blàth?
- 3.Nach eil thu/sibh blàth?
- 4.A bheil i sgìth?
- 5.A bheil iad toilichte?
- 6.Nach eil i snog?
- 7.Chan eil e tioram
- 8.Chan eil sinn leisg

### 3. The prepositional pronoun

**READING:** *Speaking our language,*

- Where you're from, page 15

In this section, we see an example of a category of words known as *prepositions* – these are words like on, from, to, under

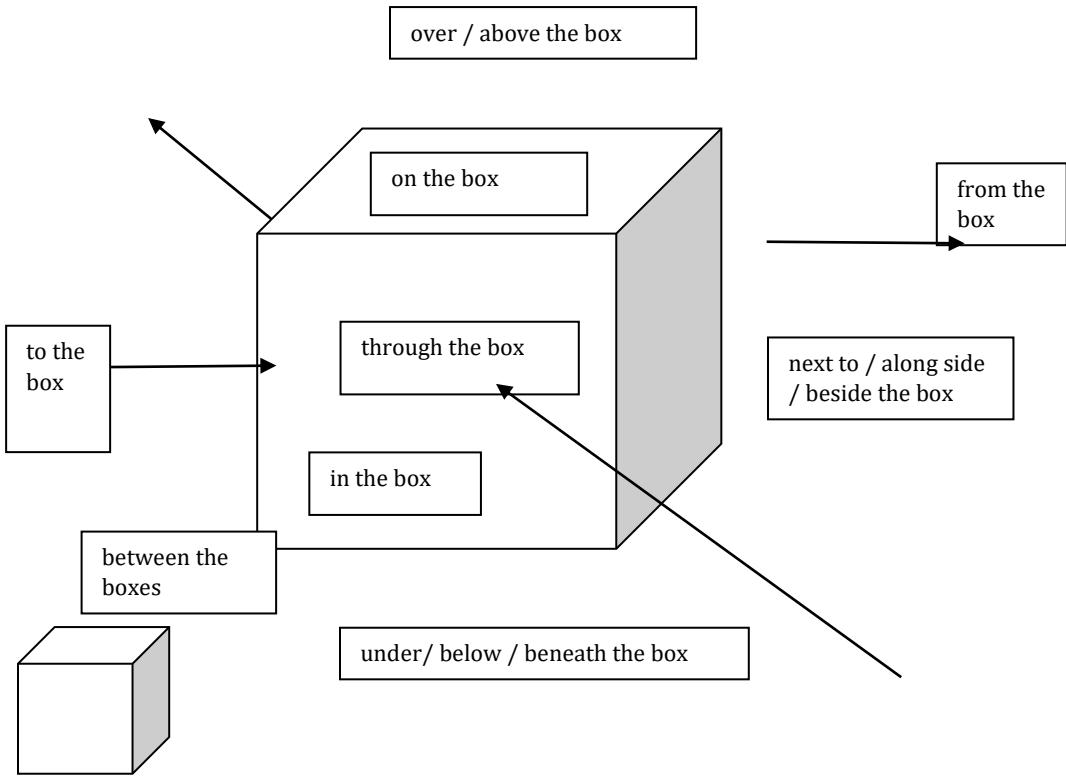
**The Preposition** is a connecting word, but in a different way from a conjunction. A preposition shows relationship and most frequently exists within a phrase -- (called a **prepositional phrase**):

one **of** your problems ...

far **from** home ...

**through** the woods **to** grandmother's house **by** the river **in** the next county

One of the ways to remember prepositions is that they show you where you are in relationship to the box - the **preposition box**:



Even though the preposition box is mentioned as a mnemonic device to help you remember just what prepositions are, be aware that prepositions do not just indicate physical relationships. They can indicate figurative relationships, too.

So, for instance, if your instructor gives you an assignment to write an essay on your grandmother, this doesn't mean that you are to take a marker and literally inscribe the essay on her skin!



When you say that someone you know is in love, you don't necessarily mean that they are residing in (or even visiting) Love, Saskatchewan.



Most of the times, a preposition takes what is called a "complement," which is to say, an object. This forms a prepositional phrase:

- You let the cat out of the bag.
- Let's go there for dinner.
- He's in the vicinity of the main office.
- The dog chewed on the stick.
- The lion was sleeping beneath the tree.

You'll note above that nouns are often the objects of the preposition, but so are pronouns.

- She gave the flowers to me.
- He told a story about her.
- Mrs. Grandover walked across it.

The point is that in English, we use the preposition by itself and then attach it to the pronoun that is the object of the preposition –

- For me
- On it
- To them
- Etc.

**This is not the case in Gaelic**, where we create a “new” word – the **prepositional pronoun** – that combines the preposition and the pronoun.

Which brings us to the lesson in the text *Speaking our Language*:

- **dè an t-ainm a tha oirbh?**
  - the prepositional pronoun **air +**:

Here we see the use of the prepositional pronoun in the question – what is your name? or rather,

***What name is on you?***

This can be expanded in many forms:

Orm = on me Ort = on you (fam) Air = on him Oirre = on her	Pronunciation o-rum oorst as “air” in Engl o-ra	Oirnn = on us Oirbh = on you Ora = on them	Pronunciation o-rin o-riv ora
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In use:

Dè an t-ainm a tha orm? (on me) Dè an t-ainm a tha ort? (on you, familiar) Dè an t-ainm a tha air? (on him) Dè an t-ainm a tha oirre? (on her)	Dè an t-ainm a tha oirnn? (on us) Dè an t-ainm a tha oirbh (on you, pl, formal) Dè an t-ainm a tha ora (on them)	What name is on me? What name is on you? (familiar) What name is on him? What name is on her?	What name is on us? What name is on you? (pl, formal) What name is on them?
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- Numbers – review – tunnagan
- Question and response –
- Sgeulachd: Sòmbaidhean –
- Cultar Gàidhlig – *Selkie*
- Song: *fhir a bhàta*
- Còmhradh

**Rumaging around the Preposition Box: à / às**

The text, Speaking our Language introduced us to the preposition à / às – from or 'out of'

In the form that it is used here, it signifies that somebody is 'from' someplace.

- Tha mi à California – I am from California
- Tha e às an Eilean Sgitheanach – He is from the Isle of Skye
- Cò às a tha thu/sibh? Where are you from?

Às is used when the name of the location includes the definite article – 'the'. For example,

- À Glaschu – from Glasgow
- À Alba – from Scotland
- À Steòrnabhagh – from Stornoway
- À Nirribhidh – from Norway
- À Sasainn – from England

But ...

- Às an Eilean Sgitheanach – from the Isle of Skye
- Às a' Ghearsdain – from Fort William (lit., the Garrison )
- Às an Spàinn – from Spain (lit., 'the Spain')
- Às na Hearadh – from Harris (lit., 'the Harris')
- Às a' Ghemailt – from Germany

**Exercise:**

1. He is from Harris
2. Are they not from Edinburgh? (Aren't they ...)
3. She is from Glasgow and he is from Edinburgh
4. Are you from Germany?
5. They are from Spain.

Discussing languages and saying where you come from

## A' bruidhinn mu chànanan agus ag innse cò às a tha thu

### SAYING THAT YOU SPEAK A LANGUAGE

**tha ... agam** – I speak...

**Gàidhlig** (*Gaablick*) – Gaelic

**Beurla** (*Baybrlub*) – English

**tha Gàidhlig agam** – I speak Gaelic, or I can speak Gaelic

**tha Beurla agam** – I speak English

### SAYING THAT YOU UNDERSTAND

**tha mi a' tuigsinn** (*ba me ub tubyksbin*) – I understand

### APPLYING FOR A JOB

You are applying for a job in a busy tourist hotel. Say that you can speak or understand these languages.

**Gàidhlig**

**Beurla**

**Albais** (*Ablabbeesh*) – Scots

**Fraigis** (*Fryngueesh*) – French

**Gearmailtis** (*Gebrehmehlteesb*) – German

**Spàinnit** (*Spaahyntesh*) – Spanish



.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

### ASKING SOMEONE WHETHER THEY SPEAK A LANGUAGE

**a bheil ... agaibh?** – do you speak...?

**a bheil Gàidhlig agaibh?** – do you speak Gaelic?

**tha, tha Gàidhlig agam** – yes, I speak Gaelic

Talking to a child you would use

**a bheil Gàidhlig agad?** – do you speak Gaelic?



### TALKING ABOUT FLUENCY

The following replies will be useful:

**tha, beagan** (*ba baybkabn*) – yes, a little

**tha, gu leòr** (*ba gub lyewbr*) – yes, plenty

and

**tha mi ag ionnsachadh...** (*ba me uk yubnsuchugh*)  
– I'm learning...

**tha mi fileanta** (*ba me feeblabntub*) – I'm fluent

### Translation Sentences

Familiarize yourself with these sentences / phrases - questions and responses

Iseabail: 'S mise Iseabail Chaimbeul.

I am Iseabail Campbell.

Tormod: Hàlo, Iseabail. Ciamar a tha thu?

Hello, Iseabail. How are you?

Iseabail: Tha gu math, tapadh leat. Dè an t-ainm a th' ort?

Very well thank you. What is your name?

Tormod: 'S mise Tormod.

I am Tormod.

Iseabail: Halo, a Thormoid. Ciamar a tha thu fhèin?

Hello, Tormod. How are you yourself?

Tormod: Tha mi meadhanach math, tapadh leibh.

I am reasonably well, thank you.

Iseabail: Nach eil e fuar 's fliuch?

Isn't it cold and wet?

's = and / agus or is

'n (and) = In 'n Out ...

Sgìth 's toilichte > sgìths toilichte

Tormod: Gu dearbh! Chan mi mi toilichte idir idir idir.

Indeed, I'm not happy at all! (at all! At all!)

Iseabail: Carson? Co às a tha thu?

Why? Where are you from?

Tormod: Tha mi às an Spàinn. Tha i blàth an sin.

I'm from Spàinn.

Iseabail: Chan eil i blàth ann an Alba, gu dearbh. A bheil i brèagha anns an Spàinn?

It's not warm in Scotland, indeed. Is it beautiful in Spain?

Tormod: O, tha. Tha i glè bhrèagha. Tioram agus brèagha agus blàth.

O, yes. It is very beautiful. Dry and beautiful and warm!

Bhrèagha > vree-a

Iseabail: O, uill, tha mi trang an-diugh, 's tha mi sgìth an-dràsta.

O, well, I'm busy today, and I'm tired now.

Tormod: Uill, oidhche mhath.

Well, good night.

Iseabail: Teòiridh.

Cheerio.

**Còmhradh / conversation**  
**Practice free form responses**

**Practice responding to the following sentences**

**Topics:**

- a. Addressing people.
- b. Pronouns.
- c. Verb 'To be'

**Questions: try to answer in a complete answer (see #2 for example)**

1. Ciamar a tha thu?
2. A bheil thu meadhanach math?

**Sample:**

Tha. Tha mi meadhanach math.  
Chan eil. Chan eil mi meadhanach math.

3. A bheil thu trang?
4. Nach eil thu fuar?
5. A bheil thu blàth?
6. A bheil thu tioram?
7. A bheil thu sgìth?
8. Nach eil i brèagha?
9. A bheil iad fliuch?

10. Nach eil thu toilichte?

11. A bheil i fliuch?

12. Cò às a tha sibh?

**Seanfhacal an latha  
Proverb of the Day**

Bheir aon fhear each gu uisge,  
ach cha toir dà fhear dheug air òl.



- One man may lead a horse to water, but twelve won't make him drink.

**A little reminder –  
We really should pay the piper**



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