

Gael-Talk

Learning Gaelic Year 1 Caibideil 23

Nas fheàrr a' Ghàidhlig bhriste n' a' Bheurla chliste!

Better Broken Gaelic than fluent English!

A little reminder –
We really should pay the piper
(*mòran taing* to those who have!)



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This week we will learn ...

- Thigibh a cèilidh – Come to the Ceilidh!
- Sean fhacal na seachdain
- Is #2 – the assertive verb (air a leantainn - *continued*)

- Roinn an Dualchais – Culture Corner: The Coming of the Gaels
- Òran na seachdain – ***Seallaibh air curaich Eòghainn***

Thigibh a cèilidh: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D1QUUOc1rhM>

Deagh = good –

- *.deagh charaid = good friend*
- *Deagh chraic = good fun!*
- *Deagh deoch = good drink!*

Deoch = drink

Sean fhacal na seachdain

Glac thusa foighidinn 's glacaidh tu iasg



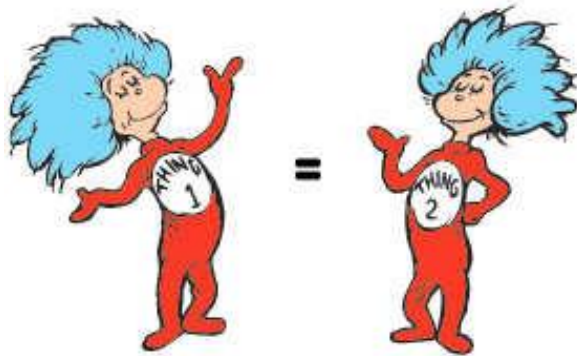
Catch patience, and you will catch fish.

Gràmar na Seachdain

Another way to say that one thing is another thing

'S e dòigh eile a th' innte!

Furthering our learning about the assertive verb IS, this week we're going to learn another way to say that



Thing 1 = Thing 2

In this form, **Dòigh a Dhà** (Way #2), we use the assertive verb IS not to say directly that one thing is another but that one thing is **in** another, a type of phraseology is quite common in Gaelic.

Here are some examples:

Thing 1 is **in** thing 2

'S e tidsear a th' ann	He is a teacher	It is a teacher that is in him
'S e tidsear a th' innte	She is a teacher	It is a teacher that is in her.
'S i tidsear a th' innte		It is a policeman that is in Seumas
'S e poileas a th' ann an Seumas	Seumas is a policeman	

Important points to note:

- This form begins with the phrase 'S e or 'S i / Is e or Is i: He/it is / she/it is (depending on the **gender** of the person, place, or thing you're talking about)
- Though very often the first "it" defaults to the generic masculine "e"
 - For example, you might encounter *'S e nighean bhrèagha a innte* just as much as the technically more correct *'S i nighean bhrèagha a innte*. (It's a beautiful girl that is in her / She's a beautiful girl).

Some other examples:

- Is e duine tapaidh a th' ann -- he's a clever man (lit. it is a clever man that is in him)
- Is e caileag bhòidheach a bh' innte -- she was a beautiful girl
 - B' e caileag bhòidheach a bh' innte
- 'S e iasgair a th' ann an Seòras -- George is a fisherman
- B' e banaltram a bh' ann am Mairead -- Margaret was a nurse
 - 'S e banaltram a bh' ann am Mairead
- B' e duine àrd tana a bh' ann -- He was a tall, thin man
 - 'S e duine àrd tana a bh' ann
- Is e manaidsear banca a th' annam -- I'm a bank manager
- 'S e cànaichean Ceilteach a th' anna le chèile -- They are both Celtic languages

Things to note from the above:

- Sometimes the complete assertive verb **IS** is used rather than the contraction **'S**
- The **th' ann** or **bh' ann** = *tha ann* or *bha ann*
- when introducing a clause with a verb in the past tense, the ass v was traditionally also in the past tense, but it is now more commonly found always in the present tense. The *tha* or *bha* (that is in x or that was in x) bears the 'weight' of communicating the tense of the phrase, so sentences such as the following may be used interchangeably:

B' e nighean mhodhail a bh' innte	It was a well-behaved girl that was in her	She was a well-behaved girl
'S e nighean mhodhail a bh' innte	It is a well-behaved girl that was in her	She was a well-behaved girl

- In all cases, B' and Bu are interchangeable, as are 'S and Is

You might have noticed, as well, the use of the prepositional pronouns associated with ann (in). When referring to a pronoun, as we've learned before, we cannot say (or write)


- *... a th' ann **e**
 - *... a th' ann **mi**
- *=does not occur

and so on and so forth.

We have to use the **prepositional pronouns**, which are presented below as a reminder:

In me	Anam
In you (singular, familiar)	Annad

In him	Ann
In her	Innte
In us	Annainn
In you (plural, formal)	Annaibh
In them	Annta



Cuimhnich!

Learning tip: One way to learn / get used to this form is to practice it in “*funny* English” or “Gaelish”: thinking or saying to yourself sentences like:

It is a big car that is in it
It is a beautiful child that is in him.
It is smart people that is in them.
It is a fortunate family that is in us.

And so on and so forth.

Doing this will help you become accustomed to the Gaelic syntax.

How to ask questions:

We ask questions in this format by employing the question particle an / am (according to the bowl of fluffy mashed potatoes rule).

- An e tidsear a th’ ann* – Is it a teacher that is in him? – Is he a teacher?
- Am b’ e càic a’ bh’ innte?* – Was it a cake that was in her/it – Was it a cake?

* In the present tense – **An e** – the IS is subsumed, that is, it disappears and is assumed.

**Remember it would be equally correct to let the “*bha*” carry the weight of the tense:

- An e càic a’ bh’ innte? Was it a cake? (Is it a cake that **was** in her)

How to make a negative statement or question:

Similarly to how we have seen before, we use the negative particles cha/chan and nach thusly:

Chan e tidsear math a th’ ann.	It is not a good teacher that is in him	He <i>is</i> not a good teacher.
Cha b’ e tidsear math a bh’ ann	It was not a good teacher that was in him	He <i>was</i> not a good teacher.
Chan e tidsear math a bh’ ann.	It is not a good teacher that was in him.	He <i>was</i> not a good teacher.

Nach e tidsear math a th' ann?	Isn't it a good teacher that is in him?	<i>Isn't</i> he a good teacher?
Nach b' e tidsear math a bh' ann?	Wasn't it a good teacher that was in him?	<i>Wasn't</i> he a good teacher?
Nach e tidsear math a bh' ann?	Isn't it a good teacher that was in him?	<i>Wasn't</i> he a good teacher?

How to answer a question – yes and no.

We answer a question, as usual, by employing the same verb that was used to ask the question.

- An e bùth mòr a' th' ann? Is it a large store?
 - Yes – 'S e
 - No – Chan e.
- Am b' e cogadh fada a bh' ann? Was it a long war?
 - Yes -- B' e
 - No – Cha b' e

(And of course, you can go on with a longer sentence in your response.)

And now ...

Eacarsaichean

For each exercise, the first one has been done for you.

Ex. 1: Translate into English

1. 'S e saighdear a th' ann.
He is a soldier.
2. Nach e caileag bhòidheach a bh' innte? B' e.
3. 'S e bana-mhinistear a th' innte.
4. 'S e rùnaire a th' ann dhan chompanaidh sin.
5. 'S e Sgiathanaich th' annta.
6. An e Uibhisteach a th' annaibh? 'S e.
7. An e iolaire a th' ann? Chan e.
8. 'S e luch a th' innte.
9. 'S i an seinneadair ag a' chèilidh a-nochd a th' ann an mo phiuthar.
10. Nach e latha brèagha a th' ann an-diugh?
11. 'S e bradan mòr a bh' ann.
12. 'S e càr luath a th' ann.
13. Am b' e duine àrd a bh' ann?
14. Nach e film math a th' ann?
15. 'S e coimpiutair briste a th' ann.
16. An i nighean ghlic a th' innte?

17. An e sgioba math a th' anna?
18. 'S e cogadh fada bh' ann.
19. Nach e plana mòr a th' ann?
20. 'S e dotair math a th' ann an Mòrag.

Ex. 2: Translate into Gàidhlig using the assertive verb IS and in the format studied in this lesson.

1. I am a sailor on that ship.
'S e seòladair a th' annam air a' bhàta sin.
2. He is my brother Calum.
3. The bird is an eagle.
a. 's e iolaire a th' ann an eun.
4. He is a handsome man.
5. She is a carpenter. (bana-shaoir, saoir, tè-shaoir)
6. My brother was a doctor.
7. It is a fierce dog.
8. She is a good singer.
9. I am a secretary.
10. He was an innocent man.
11. Are they students in the high school?
12. It's a beautiful picture.
13. It's a fast car.
14. Seumas is a short man.
15. Betty is a good doctor.
16. She was a beautiful girl.
17. *War and Peace* is a long book.
18. The Ford Mustang is a fast car.
19. It was difficult work.
20. Was it a good dinner?

Answer key: (na coimhead air!)

Ex. 1: Translate into English

1. 'S e saighdear a th' ann.
He is a soldier.
2. Nach e caileag bhòidheach a bh' innte? B' e.
Isn't she a beautiful girl?
3. 'S e bana-mhinistear a th' innte.
She is a minister.
4. 'S e rùnaire a th' ann dhan chompanaidh sin.
He is a secretary for that company.
5. 'S e Sgiathanaich th' anna.
They are Skye-folk.

6. An e Uibhisteach a th' annaibh? 'S e.
Are you an Uist-person?
7. An e iolaire a th' ann? Chan e.
Is it an eagle? No.
8. 'S e luch a th' innte.
It is a mouse.
9. 'S i a bhana-sheinneadair ag a' chèilidh a-nochd ann an mo phiuthar.
My sister is the singer at the ceilidh tonight.
10. Nach e latha brèagha a th' ann an-diugh?
Isn't it a beautiful day today?
11. 'S e bradan mòr a bh' ann.
It's a big salmon.
12. 'S e càr luath a th' ann.
It's a fast car.
13. Am b' e duine àrd a bh' ann?
Is he a tall man?
14. Nach e film math a th' ann?
Isn't it a good film?
15. 'S e coimpiutair briste a th' ann.
It's a broken computer.
16. An i nighean ghlic a th' innte?
Is she a wise (smart) girl?
17. An e sgioba math a th' ann?
Are they a good team?
18. 'S e cogadh fada bh' ann.
It is a long war.
19. Nach e plana mòr a th' ann?
Isn't it a great plan?
20. 'S e dotair math a th' ann an Mòrag.
Mòrag is a good doctor.

Ex. 2: Translate into Gàidhlig using the assertive verb IS and in the format studied in this lesson.

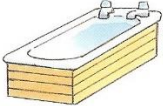
1. I am a sailor on that ship.
'S e seòladair a th' annam air a' bhàta sin.
2. He is my brother Calum.
'S e mo bhràthair Calum a th' ann.
3. That bird is an eagle.
'S e iolaire a th' ann an eun sin.
4. He is a handsome man.
'S e duine eireachdail a th' ann.
5. She is a carpenter.
'S e saor a th' innte.
6. My brother was a doctor.
'S e dotair a bh' ann an mo bhràthair.
7. It is a fierce dog.

- 'S e cù fiadhaich a th' ann.
8. She is a good singer.
'S e bana-sheinneadair mhath a th' innte.
9. I am a secretary.
'S e rùnaire a th' anam.
10. He was an innocent man.
B' e duine neo-cinnteach a bh' ann.
11. Are they students in the high school?
An e oileanaich a th' annta anns an àrd-sgoil?
12. It's a beautiful picture.
'S e dealbh bòidheach a th' ann.
13. It's a fast car.
'S e càr luath a th' ann.
14. Seumas is a short man.
'S e duine goirid a th' ann an Seumas.
15. Betty is a good doctor.
'S e dotair math a th' ann an Betty.
16. She was a beautiful girl.
B' e nighean bòidheach a bh' innte.
17. *War and Peace* is a long book.
'S e leabhar fada th' ann an *War and Peace*.
18. The Ford Mustang is a fast car.
'S e càr luath a th' ann am Ford Mustang.
19. It was difficult work.
'S e obair cruaidh/doirbh a bh' innte.
20. Was it a good dinner?
An e dinneair math (blasta) a bh' ann?


Faclan ùra

Rudan a-staigh an taighe


Study the pictures of the rooms below




amar




siabann




goc




pàipear-glanaidh




bruis-fhiaclan




uisge no bùrn




toileat




spong



mias-ionnlaid




frasair



searbhadair

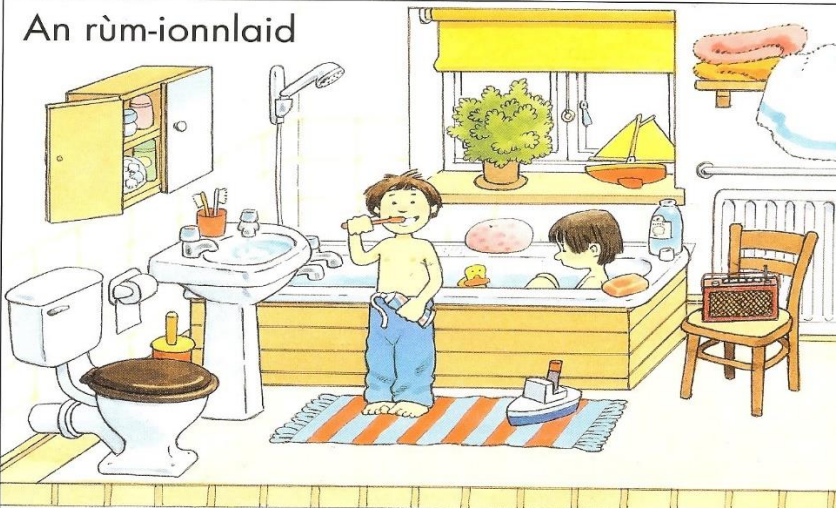
A-staigh

leabaidh

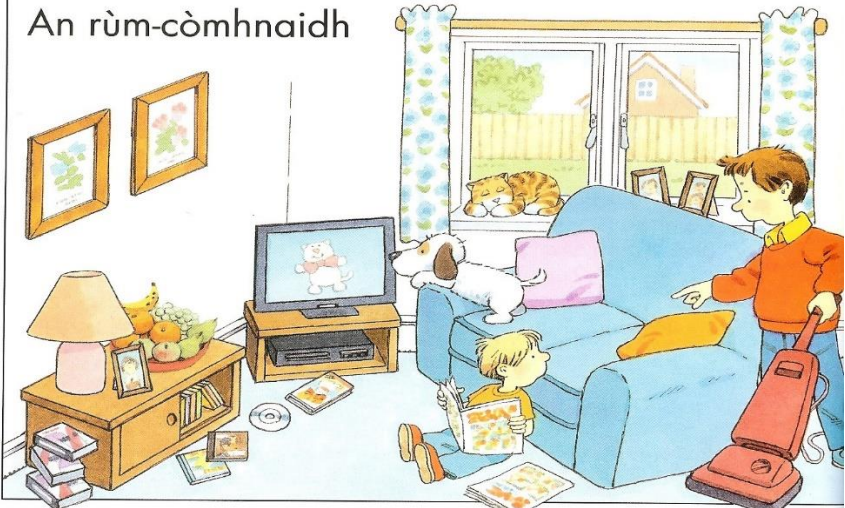



leabaid

An rùm-ionnlaid




An rùm-còmhnaidh







uachdar-fhiaclan




rèidio




cùisean



meanbh-chlàr



brat-ùrlair



sèise

Dè an rud a th' ann?








What is this thing?

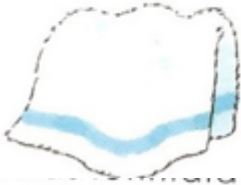









Now, answer the questions. The gender has been inserted after the question –

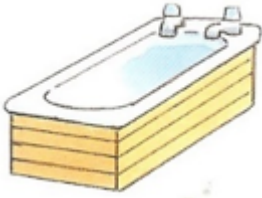



f = fireannach (masc)

b = boireannach (fem)

(The first one has been done for you as an example.)

Dè an rud th' ann? f 'S e amar a th' ann.	
Dè an rud th' ann? b	
Dè an rud th' ann? f	
Dè an rud th' ann? f	
Dè an rud th' ann? f	
Dè an rud th' ann? f	
Dè an rud th' ann? f	

Dè an rud th' ann? f	
Dè an rud th' ann? f	
Dè an rud th' ann? b	
Dè an rud th' ann? f	
Dè an rud th' ann? f	
Dè an rud th' ann? f	
Dè an rud th' ann? b	
Dè an rud th' ann? F	
Dè an rud th' ann? f	
Dè an rud th' ann? f	

Dè an rud th' ann? f	
Dè an rud th' ann? b	
Dè an rud th' ann? f	
Dè an rud th' ann? f	

Roinn Dualchais na seachdain

The Culture Corner of the Week

The Coming of the Gaels:

The Invasions of Ireland

The Origins of the Gaels

The Legends of the “Invasions” of Ireland

Gaelic origin story

- Unique amongst world mythologies -- no known Creation myth
- World (and Ireland) had always existed
- That world (Ireland) changed and shaped throughout its existence by the successive waves of invaders and in-comers

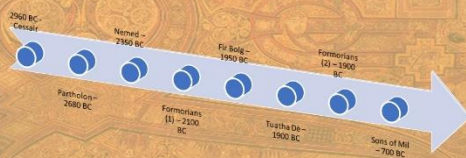
Lebor Gabála

(11th century manuscript)

- Humanity is descended from Adam through the sons of Noah,
- A Scythian king, descendant of Noah's, is forebear of the Gaels.
- one of 72 chieftains who built the **Tower of Babel**.
- His son Nel weds **Scota**, daughter of an Egyptian pharaoh, and they have a son named Goidel Glas.
- Goidel crafts the Goidelic (Gaelic) language from the original 72 languages that arose after the confusion of tongues.
- Goidel's offspring, the Goidels (Gaels), leave Egypt at the same time as the Israelites (the Exodus) and settle in Scythia.
- Even today, the Gaelic languages are classified as “Goidelic”



The “Invasions” of Ireland



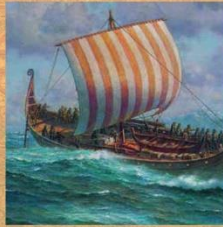
Cessair – the first invasion

- Granddaughter of Noah (flood)
- Brought sheep to Ireland
- 50 women / 3 men
- 2 men died, and the third one fled -- **horrified at the thought of having to see to the needs of 50 women!**
- Cessair & other women died of broken hearts



Factoid:

- These "invasions" were remarkably small (to our thinking)
- Only 50 + people in the invasion of Cessair
- Just about the capacity of one of the primitive ships



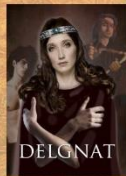
Partholon

- From Greece – fled after killing mother and father
- w/ wife, 3 sons & their wives
- Brought 'guest house,' brewing, cooking, & dueling
- Descendants occupied Ireland until they all died of a plague
- Tuan Mac Cairill – nephew lived on as witness of times to come – shape shifted to salmon, stag, boar & eagle

Even in the midst of invading a new land,
we have time for fun & games:

Adultery!

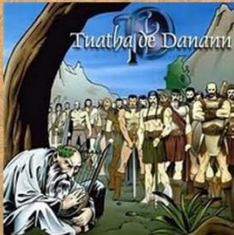
- Partholon and his wife Delgnat lived on an island
- Once, while Partholon was out touring his domain, Delgnat seduced a servant named Topa.
- Afterward, the lovers drank from Partholon's ale
- Partholon discovered the affair when he drank his ale and recognized the taste of Delgnat's and Topa's mouths on the jug.
- In anger, he killed Delgnat's dog and Topa.
- But Delgnat was unrepentant and insisted that Partholon was to blame, as leaving them alone together was like leaving honey before a child, milk before a cat, edged tools before a craftsman, or meat before a dog, and expecting them not to take advantage.
- (I guess he bought it!) ☹️



Nemed

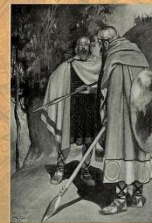
- Old name for sacred or holy
- Wife Macha, 4 sons & wives, & 20 others
- Duidical connections
- Numerous ships but all destroyed searching for tower of gold in voyages across the seas
- Defeated Fomorians but later overthrown
- Escaped to return later

Tuatha de Dannan – the people of the Goddess Danu



- Magical race
- Descendents of Nemed
- Macha (wife of Nemed) is goddess
- Gaelic race – later, sons of the king are named Mac Cuill, Mac Cecht and Mac Gréine (Gaelic names)
- Had to fight for land against other invaders

Fir Bolg



- Unknown origin of name – theories
 - Men (people) of the fiery darts / arrows / spears > perhaps after the Gath Bolga mythical spear used by Cu-Chulainn that swelled upon hitting target
 - Men of bags? Fir Bulg – Had been in Greece on poor soil – made it fertile by dropping bags of soil on it
 - Possibly Celtic people from Gaul Belgae? (Belgium)
 - Men fierce in battle? They "swelled" with battle rage (like Cuchulainn).
 - Proto-Celtic root "belg- or "bolg- meaning "to swell" particularly with anger/battle fury/etc. – word related to bolg (bag, to swell)
 - Men of ?Bags? Former slaves from Greece who were made to carry bags "bolg" of soil to fertilize fields of their masters until they escaped?
 - Men of ? Bulg? – Gauls from modern Belgium? (but the legends have them coming from Greece / the Mediterranean)
 - Men of lances – like the Gath Bolga (the swelling dart) of Cuchulainn – the mythical spear that expanded upon entering a man's body
 - Or men of swords – old Irish use of the word – *caladbolg*, for Excalibur, (the sword of Arthur)
- Came to Ireland via Spain about the time of Israelite exodus out of Egypt

Great War between Fir Bolg & Tuatha de Danann



- Nuada, King of the Tuatha de Danann requested land
- Fir Bolg refused
- Battle of Mag Tuired – 4 days long

Sreng, the champion of the Fir Bolg, challenged Nuada to single combat.

- With one sweep of his sword, Sreng cut off Nuada's right hand.
- But Fir Bolg were defeated and their king slain by a goddess, The Morrigan
- Fir Bolg retained 1/5 of Ireland - Connacht



Fomorians

- Race of Giants that invaded Ireland before the Irish came.
- Repeatedly tried to conquer Ireland



Fomorians

- The giant Balor was their leader
- Had evil eye – kept covered
- To uncover, eye lid had to be propped open by his men
- Then shot out death ray to kill enemies



Example of convergence of myth, legend, & history: Lugh

- Gaelic lord of every skill. Also, bard / seer
- worshipped during 30 day Lughnasadh (Lunasdal – August) midsummer feast
- Fertility magic during festival ensured ripening of the crops & good harvest.
- Lugh = light
- *Lamfhada* = 'of the long arm' because of great spear and sling.



The killing of Balor & the final defeat of the Formorians

- Predicted that Lugh Lamhfhada would kill grandfather, Formorian King Balor
- Lugh = One of triplets but saved from death (3 = magic number)
- Not allowed to join Tuatha de Danaan in war ag. Formorians until he revealed skill in *all* arts/skills (iol-danach)
- Lugh drove a spear through Balor's eye
- Forced the eye out the back of Balor's head and destroyed his own Formorian army



The coming of the Gaels

- The Sons of Mil from Spain
- Forefathers of present-day Gaels
- Descended from builders of Tower of Babel
- Ancestor Fenius = linguist, alone remembered all the languages ...
- Grandson, Gaedheal Glas, fashioned Gaelic from 72 languages in existence



- Encountered the three Tuatha De Danann goddesses Banba, Fotla and Eriu each of whom asked that Ireland be named after her in turn and their respective husbands – chose to name the land after Eriu (which became Ireland)
- These asked that they be allowed to keep the kingship of Ireland for a mere three days more and that during that time the sons of Mil should return to their ships and wait off the Irish coast a distance of nine waves.

The Tuatha De Danann druids caused a great storm to spring up
 Swept Sons of Mil further out to sea and was in danger of swamping their ships
 Druid/poet Amergin sang a magic verse which calmed the seas and Milesians were able to return.



The prayer of Amergin

- I am a wind of the sea,
 I am a wave of the sea,
 I am a sound of the sea,
 I am an ox of seven fights,
 I am a stag of seven tines,
 I am a hawk on a cliff,
 I am a tear of the sun,
 I am fair among flowers,
 I am a boar,
 I am a salmon in a pool,
 I am a lake on a plain,
 I am a hill of poetry,
 I am a battle-waging spear,
 I am a god who has fire for a head.



The exile of the Tuatha de Dannan

- Milesians & Tuatha de Dannan agree to divide Ireland between them.
- The Gaels take the world above, while the Tuath Dé take the world below (i.e. the Otherworld) and enter the *sidhe*, the ancient mounds that dot the Irish landscape
- Tuatha De Danann retreated "under mountains" and lived on as the *fairyfolk*



Òran na seachdain

Seallaibh Curaich Eòghainn



<https://learngaelic.scot/littlebylittle/songs/curaigh/index.jsp>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8j5QWkXTkNY>

part 2:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kWPM_uE8fw8

speed trial:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wXscQKfzMMU>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=08lVoSDYL_g

O, seallaibh curaich Eòghainn, Is còig ràimh fhichead oirre. Seallaibh curaich Eòghainn 'S i seachad air a' Rubha Bhàn.	Oh, look at Ewan's coracle With twenty-five oars on her. Look at Ewan's coracle And she is passing the White Point.
O, seallaibh curaich Eòghainn, Is còig ràimh fhichead oirre. Seallaibh curaich Eòghainn 'S i seachad air a' Rubha Bhàn.	Oh, look at Ewan's coracle With twenty-five oars on her. Look at Ewan's coracle And she is passing the White Point.

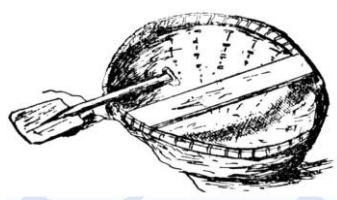
Traditional coracle (curach)

A coracle is a small, rounded, lightweight boat of the sort traditionally used in Wales, Ireland, and Scotland. Used mostly in navigating and fishing in rivers and streams. In this song, however, because of the apparent size (25-oars), the type of vessel described is not a *curach* as the word is now known, but is probably more of a *birlinn* – a galley -- of the type used in the Isles (and as depicted above).



Dwelly describes the *curach* thusly:

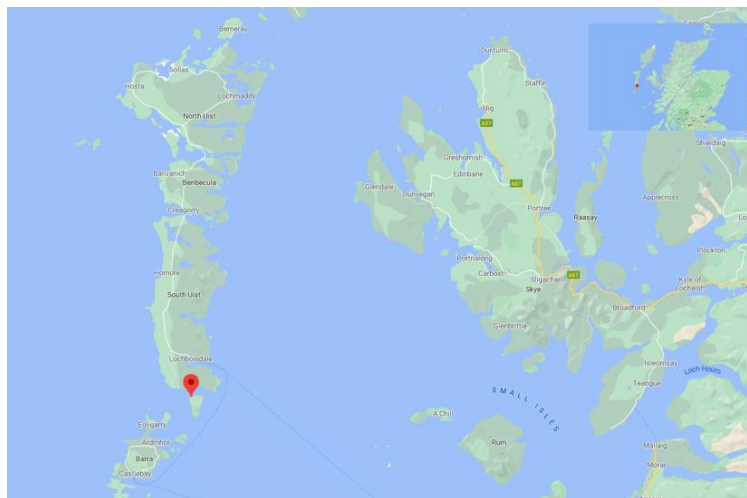
Boat made of wicker and covered with skins or hides. The coracle may seem to moderns a very unsafe vehicle to trust to in tempestuous seas, yet our forefathers fearlessly committed themselves in these slight vessels to the mercy of the most violent weather. They were once much in use in the Western Isles. *Illustration from Dwelly:*



An Rubha Bhàn

(The White Point)

On the north end of Eirisgeigh (Eriskay), near Uibhist a Deas (South Uist):



And finally ...

Insult for a-hole who tells you that you can't learn the bagpipes
because you're a woman:

A mhic do sheanar!

or in keeping with tonight's lesson:

'S e mac do sheanar a th' annad!

In either case: *Son of your grandfather ...*