

Gael-Talk

Learning Gaelic Year 1 Caibideil 24

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

- Fàilte!
- Sean fhacal na seachdain
- Gràmar na Seachdain -- The 3rd way to say **thing 1 = thing 2** (actually a *person* = something)
- Sgeul na Seachdain – *Maisy Luch le Aodach Brèige*
- Òran na seachdain – *Seallaibh air curaich Eòghainn*

Fàilte!



Thigibh dhan Eileanan! – Come to the Isles!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dxQDXKXXC8A>

Drams Ceilidh Band: Strip the Willow

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zGXAubk9BwA>

Sean fhacal na seachdain

Na daoine a thug buaidh air fhèin thug iad buaidh air an nàmhaid.



Those who conquer themselves conquer their enemy.

Gràmar na Seachdain

Another way to say that one thing is another thing

'S e dòigh eile a th' innte!

There is yet another way to say that one thing is another thing, only in this case, for the most part we're talking about people.

To recap, we've learned

- Is esan tidsear. = He is a teacher. (lit. Is he a teacher.)
- 'S e bana-phoileas a th' innte. She is a policewoman. (lit. It is a policewoman that is in her.) [Also, and perhaps more "correctly": 'S i bana-phoileas a th' innte.)

But there is another form that we can use when we wish to communicate some sort of temporariness. And with this form, we go back to our old friend, tha & bha:

This is what it looks like:

- Bha mi nam bhalach. = I was in my boy.
- Bha i na saighdear = She was in her soldier. (... na bana-shaighdear)

In this form, we're allowed to use the bi form of the verb to be, but we can't say that something is something else, technically we're saying that one thing is in another thing.

Also, it should be noted that this form communicates some sort of temporary feature, as in

- Bha mi nam bhalach – lit., I was in my boy -- I was a boy (but am no longer).

It would even be incorrect in this sense to use the form we have just learned –

B' e balach a bh' anam – It was a boy that I was

Because the 'is' communicates a sense of permanent identity. So, you could say that somebody is an American, or was an American, speaking in the past tense –

- B' e Ameireaganach a bh' ann
- Bu esan Ameireaganach.

because being an American is something that one can't change (or being French, or Algerian, or Chinese, or Scottish); this national and/or ethnic identity is considered permanent and indelible, unchangeable, inalienable – it is just something that you are.

On the other hand, occupations can change. One's stage in life may change.

In the same way, one's relationship to others is not considered changeable. Like it or not, you are your brother's sibling (if not his keeper). You can't really say, *well, for now, he's my brother*, (but not for long ...). This is why we would use the IS verb "to be" to communicate this kind of relationship (or status):

'S e esan mo bhràthair a th' ann. (he is my brother – and always will be)
 'S esan mo bhràthair -- “ “
 'S e mo bhràthair a th' ann an Seumas – Seumas *is* my brother.

However, you could cast or look on other types of relationships as less permanent, less fixed, such as

- Bha mi nam nàbaidh aca. – I was their neighbor – I was *in* my neighbor of them. (But I am not their neighbor anymore)
- Bha e na cheannard agam. – he was my boss – he was *in* his boss of mine (but no longer)

This form of temporary identify can also be used in the present tense, as in something many waiters in Hollywood might use,

- Tha mi nam fhrithealaidh an-dràsta, ach 's e cleasaiche (or bana-chleasaiche) a th' anam.

Or

- Tha mi nam fhrithealaidh an-dràsta, ach 's mise cleasaiche (or bana-chleasaiche).



In other words, *I am a waiter now, but that's not what I really am. I'm **really** an actor; that is, I identify myself as an actor. I'm just waiting tables until I get my big break ... (Isn't Gaelic much more concise and efficient!?)*



The prepositional contraction:

In this form, you might have noticed we use a **prepositional contraction** instead of the complete form of the preposition *ann an* + *the possessive pronoun* – which to refresh our memories are the following:

- mo = my (lenites)
- do = your (lenites)
- a = his (lenites)
- a = her
- ar = our
- ur = your (plural, formal)
- an – am = their

So, the contraction for this form is a shortened form of “ann an” plus some shortened form of the possessive pronoun, as listed below:

Complete form (not used)	English	Contraction (always used)
Ann an mo*	In my	Nam*
Ann an do*	In your	Nad*
Ann an a*	In his	Na*
Ann an a	In her	Na
Ann an ar	In our	Nar
Ann an ur	In your (pl / form)	Nur
Ann an an/am**	In their	Nan / nam **

* lenites – that is, the contraction retains the leniting power of the possessive pronoun

Bha e **na** shaighdear

Bha i **na** saighdear

** Bowl of Fluffy Mashed Potatoes rule (BFMP)

In the category of

Nothing is permanent.

Time catches up with everything ... even Gàidhlig!

It used to be that somethings were inalienable, such as one's gender. You could state unequivocally that

- 'S e duine a th' ann – he is a man
- 'S i maighdeann a th' innte – she is a girl



You could say,

- B' e duine a bh' ann
He was a man (in the permanent, inalienable sense)

However, even such formerly intractable, indelible markers of identity in our day and age seem to have become subject to change. So, while I have not heard such an expression, I would not be surprised to hear something like,

- Bha Bruce Jenner na dhuine -- Bruce Jenner was in his man ... (but no longer)

Or ...

- Bha Caitlyn Jenner na dhuine ...
- Bha i na dhuinne ...

Though, as Jerry Seinfeld said,

Not that there's anything wrong with that!



Not that there's
anything wrong wit

But so confusing sometimes ... at least for someone trying to learn Gàidhlig!



Eacarsaichean

Eacarsaich #1

In the following exercise, use the form described in this lesson to state the identity of the following. Refer to the illustrated vocabulary below for unfamiliar words.

The first one has been completed for you to give you an idea:

1. I was a boy/girl.
 - a. Bha mi nam bhalach / nighean
 - b. Bha mi nam phàiste (a younger child – toddler)
2. I was a postman/woman.
3. I am a waiter.
4. She was a carpenter. (saor)
5. He is a judge. (breitheamh)
6. He was a soldier.
7. They were actors. (cleasaichean)
8. You were singers (plural) (seinneadairean)
9. You are a barber / hair stylist. (gruagaire)
10. She was a painter. (house painter) (peantair)

Eacarsaich #2

Along the same lines, which form would you use in the following instances (just speaking of the ‘usual’ circumstances – don’t go out of your way to find an exception):

1. Somebody was a teacher for 40 years
 - a. B’ i tidsear a bh’ innte
 - b. Bha i na tidsear
2. Somebody when they were young ...
 - a. Bha e na bhalach
 - b. ’S e balach a bh’ ann
3. A family you used to live next door to when you were a kid
 - a. Bha iad nar nàbaidhean.
 - b. B’ e nàbaidhean againn a bh’ ann
4. Somebody who served two years in the military:
 - a. Bha e na shaighdear
 - b. ’S e saighdear a bh’ ann
5. Vincent Van Gogh:
 - a. ’S e dealbhadair a bh’ ann
 - b. Bha e na dhealbhadair
6. Somebody who ‘took up’ painting for a year while they were in high school
 - a. ’S e dealbhadair a th’ ann
 - b. Bha e na dhealbhadair
7. Your sister

- a. Tha i na piuthar agam
 - b. 'S e mo phiuthar a th' innte
8. An old dog (now) when it was a puppy
- a. Bha e na chuilean
 - b. B' e cuilean a bh' ann
9. A puppy (now) **
- a. Tha e na chuilean
 - b. 'S e cuilean a th' ann
10. A person who has run the neighborhood bakery shop for as long as you can remember
- a. Tha i na bèicear
 - b. 'S i bèicear a th' innte

- Often occurring word (for children) – modhail – ‘well behaved’
- Duine **gasta** = ‘nice’, considerate, polite, helpful

* **Remember**, for the past tense IS form, you can use the past or the present tense of the verb IS – the ‘heavy lifting’ of tense is performed by the tha/bha – these sentences mean essentially the same thing (the uncontracted forms given as well):

- **'S** e baile mòr a **bh'** ann – it is a great city that was in it – it was a great city
 - **Is** e baile mòr a bh' ann
- **B'** e baile mòr a **bh'** ann – it was a great city that was in it
 - **Bu** e baile mòr a **bh'** ann

** Trick question – kind of depends on what sense of the animals “puppyhood” you’re trying to communicate

Faclan ùra

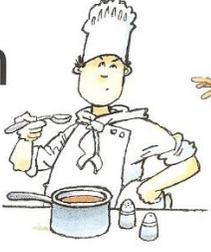
Rudan a-staigh an taighe

Study the pictures and the names of the occupations below

Obraichean



cleasaiche bana-chleasaiche



còcaire



dannsairean



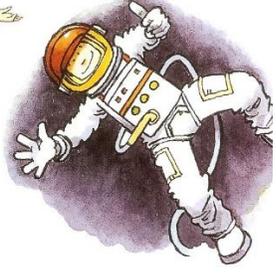
seinneadairean



bùidsear
no feòladair



poileas
no
poileasman bana-phoileas



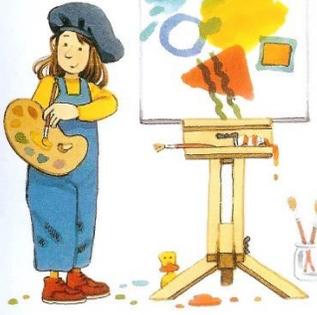
speurair



saor



smòladair



dealbhadair



britheamh



innleadairean càir



gruagaire



dràibhear làraidh



dràibhear bus



fear-frithealaidh tè-frithealaidh



post



fiaclair



dàibhear



peantair



bèicear

Fear-frithealaidh / tè-frithealaidh

An teaghlach



mac
bràthair



nighean
piuthar



màthair
bean
athair
duine



piuthar-
athar/
-màthar



co-ogha



seanair



seanmhair



a' phiseag

Eacarsaich #3

Opposite the pictures below, write a description of what each person is (or persons are) **in the three ways we have learned** in this and the preceding two lessons.

For the purposes of this exercise, **ignore the “rules” regarding the appropriate form.**

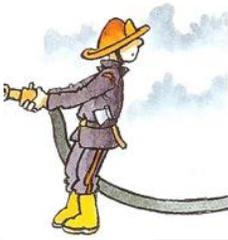
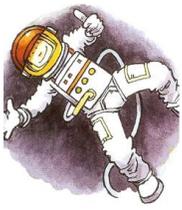
The first one has been done for you as an example:

1.	Is i seanmhair 'S e seanmhair a th' innte (or 'S i seanmhair a th' innte) Tha i na seanmhair	
2.		
3.		

4.		
5.		
6.		
7.		
8.		

9.		 A cartoon illustration of a mail carrier wearing a green uniform and a cap, holding a yellow mail bag and a stack of letters, standing in front of a yellow door with a house number '2'.
10.		 A cartoon illustration of a female waiter with blonde hair, wearing a white lab coat over a dark skirt, holding a tray with a glass and a drink.
11.		 A cartoon illustration of a male waiter with brown hair, wearing a white lab coat over dark trousers, holding a tray with a glass and a drink.
12.		 A cartoon illustration of a person wearing a green jumpsuit and a white helmet, standing on a yellow platform.
13.		 A cartoon illustration of a dentist in a white coat examining a patient's teeth in a dental chair. The patient is wearing a red shirt and blue pants.
14.		 A cartoon illustration of a yellow school bus with a driver's window and a door. A small figure of a person is standing next to the bus.

15.		
16.		
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20.		

21.		
22.		
23.		
24.		
25.		
26.		

27.		
28.		
29.		 eas
30.		

Answer keys:

Eacarsaich #1 – answer key

In the following exercise, use the form described in this lesson to state the identity of the following. Refer to the illustrated vocabulary below for unfamiliar words.

The first one has been completed for you to give you an idea:

1. I was a child.
 - a. Bha mi nam bhalach / nighean
 - b. Bha mi nam phàiste
2. I was a postman/woman.
 - a. Bha mi nam phost
3. I am a waiter.
 - a. Tha mi nam fhear-frithealaidh / thè-frithealaidh
4. She was a painter.
 - a. Bha i na peantair
5. He was a judge.
 - a. Bha e na bhreitheamh
6. He was a soldier.
 - a. Bha e na shaighdear
7. They were actors.
 - a. Bha iad nan cleasaichean
8. You were singers (plural)
 - a. Bha sibh nur seinneadairean
9. You are a barber / hair stylist.
 - a. Tha thu nad ghruagaire
10. She was a painter (artist).
 - a. Bha i na dealbhadair

Eacarsaich #2 – answer key

Along the same lines, which form would you use in the following instances (just speaking of the ‘usual’ circumstances – don’t go out of your way to find an exception):

1. Somebody was a teacher for 40 years
 - a. **B’ i tidsear a bh’ innte**
 - b. Bha i na tidsear
2. Somebody when they were a boy ...
 - a. **Bha e na bhalach**
 - b. ’S e balach a bh’ ann
3. A family you used to live next door to when you were a kid
 - a. **Bha iad nan nàbaidhean againn.**
 - b. B’ e nàbaidhean againn a bh’ ann
4. Somebody who served two years in the military:
 - a. **Bha e na shaighdear**

- b. 'S e saighdear a bh' ann
- 5. Vincent Van Gogh:
 - a. 'S e dealbhadair a bh' ann
 - b. Bha e na dhealbhadair
- 6. Somebody who 'took up' painting for a year while they were in high school
 - a. 'S e dealbhadair a th' ann
 - b. **Bha e na dhealbhadair**
- 7. Your sister
 - a. Tha i na piuthar agam
 - b. 'S e mo phiuthar a th' innte
- 8. An old dog (now) when it was a puppy
 - a. **Bha e na chuilean**
 - b. B' e cuilean a bh' ann
- 9. A puppy (now) **
 - a. Tha e na chuilean
 - b. 'S e cuilean a th' ann

Either one – depends on your perspective – are you regarding its puppyhood as a temporary thing, or are you thinking of its being a puppy as a kind of permanent identity? (I told you it was a trick!)
- 10. A person who has run the neighborhood bakery shop for as long as you can remember
 - a. Tha i na bèicear
 - b. 'S i bèicear a th' innte.

Eacarsaich #3 - answer key

Opposite the pictures below, write a description of what each person is (or persons are) **in the three ways we have learned** in this and the preceding two lessons.

For the purposes of this exercise, **ignore the "rules" regarding the appropriate form.**

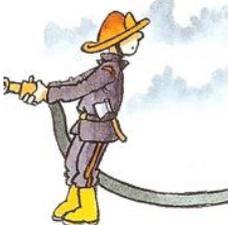
The first one has been done for you as an example:

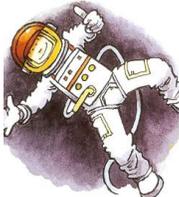
1.	<p>Is i seanmhair 'S e seanmhair a th' innte (or 'S i seanmhair a th' innte) Tha i na seanmhair</p>	
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2.	<p>'S e seanmhair a th' ann Is e seanair Tha e na sheanair</p>	
3.	<p>'S e athair / duine a th' ann Is e duine / athair Tha e na athair</p>	
4.	<p>'S e bean / màthair a th' innte 'S i bean / màthair a th'innte Is i bean / màthair Tha i na bean / màthair</p>	
5.	<p>'S i nighean / piuthar a th' innte Also, 'S e nighean/piuthar a th' innte Is i nighean / piuthar Tha i na nighean / piuthar</p>	

6.	'S e mac / bràthair a th' ann Is e mac / bràthair Tha e na mhac / bhràthair	
7.	'S e bèicear a th' innte (also, 'S i ...) 'S i bèicear a th' innte Is i bèicear Tha i na bèicear *also, bana-bhèicear or tè-bhèicear	
8.	'S e peantair a th' ann Is e peantair Tha e na pheantair	
9.	'S e post a th' ann Is e post Tha e na phost	
10.	'S i tè-fhrithealaidh a th' innte Is i tè-frithealaidh Tha i na tè-fhrithealaidh Also, bana-fhrithealaidh	

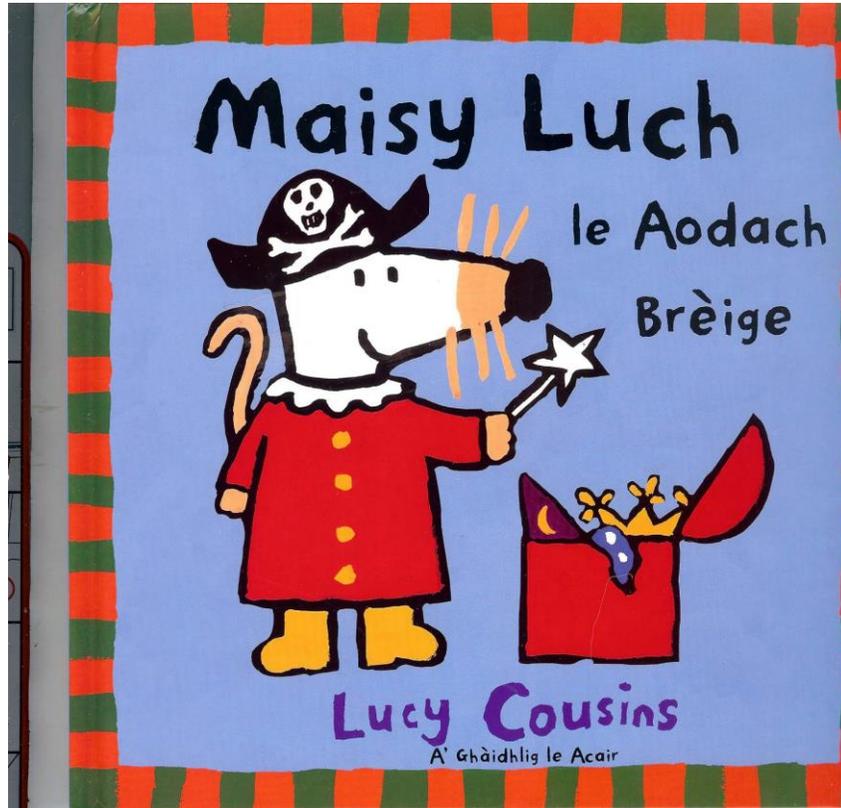
11.	'S e fear-frithealaidh a th' ann Is e fear-frithealaidh Tha e na fhear-frithealaidh	
12.	'S e dàibhear a th' ann Is e dàibhear Tha e na dhàibhear *bana-dhaibhear / tè-dhaibhear	
13.	'S e fiaclair a th' innte (also, 'S i ...) Is i fiaclair Tha i na fiaclair *bana-fhiaclair / tè-fhiaclair	
14.	'S e dràibhear bus a th' ann Is e dràibhear bus Tha e na dhràibhear bus *Bana-dhràibhear / tè-dhraibhear	
15.	'S e dràibhear bus a th' ann Is e dràibhear bus Tha e na dhràibhear bus	
16.	'S e gruagaire a th' ann Is e gruagaire Tha e na ghruagaire	
17.	'S e innleadairean càir a th' annta 'S iad innleadairean càir Tha iad nan innleadairean càir	

18.	'S e breitheamh a th' ann Is e breitheamh Tha e na bhreitheamh	
19.	'S e bùidsear a th' ann Is e bùidsear Tha e na bhùidsear	
20.	'S i dealbhadair* a th' innte (or 'S e dealbhadair* a th' innte 'S i dealbhadair* Tha i na dealbhadair * Also, <i>bana</i> -dhealbhadair or <i>tè</i> -dhealbhadair... etc)	
21.	'S e smàladair a th' ann Is e smàladair Tha e na smàladair	
22.	'S e cleasaiche a th' ann Is e cleasaiche Tha e na chleasaiche	
23.	'S e còcaire a th' ann Is e còcaire Tha e na chòcaire	

24.	'S iad / e dannsairean a th' annta 'S iad dannsairean Tha iad nan dannsairean	
25.	'S iad / e seinneadairean a th' annta 'S iad seinneadairean Tha iad nan seinneadairean	
26.	'S e speuran a th' ann (or bana-speuran or tè-speuran a th' innte) Is e speuran (or Is i bana-speuran / tè-speuran) Tha e na speuran / Tha i na bana-speuran / tè-speuran	
27.	'S e poileas a th' ann Is e poileas Tha e na phoileas	
28.	'S e bana-phoileas a th' innte / 'S i bana-phoileas a th' innte Is i bana-phoileas Tha i na bana-phoileas Also, tè-phoileas	
29.	'S e saor a th' ann Is e saor Tha e na shaor	
30.	'S e piseag a th' innte Also, 'S i piseag a th' innte Is i piseag Tha i na piseag	

Sgeul na Seachain

Story of the Week



Tha Maisy air
fios fhaighinn
gu pàrtaidh
aodach brèige
Tallulah.



Dè an t-aodach
brèige a chuireas i
oirre?

Tha i a' toirt sùil
dhan bhogsa anns
am bi i a' cumail
a h-aodach brèige.



Dh'fhaodadh i
bhith na
spùinneadair -
ach tha Teàrlach
a' dol ann mar
spùinneadair.



Dh'fhaodadh i
bhith na bànrigh -
ach tha Eddie
a' dol ann mar rìgh!



Dh'fhaodadh i bhith
na smàladair -
ach tha Cyril a' dol
ann mar smàladair!



Tha deagh smaoin
aig Maisy! Nì i
aodach a dh'aon
ghnothach.



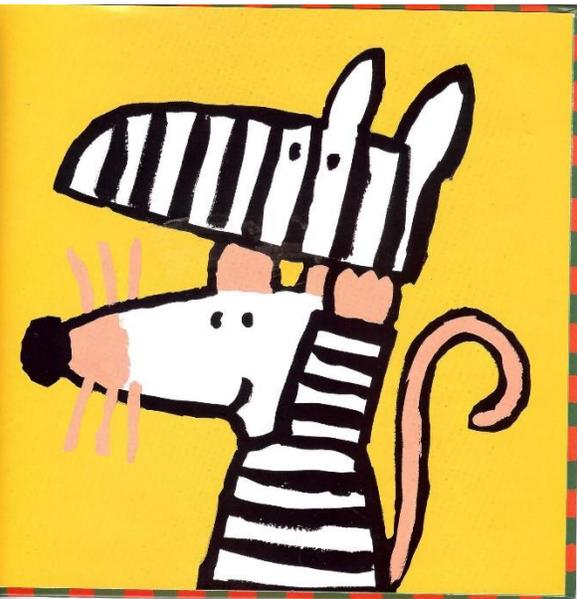
Tha càch aig
taigh Tallulah
mu thràth.



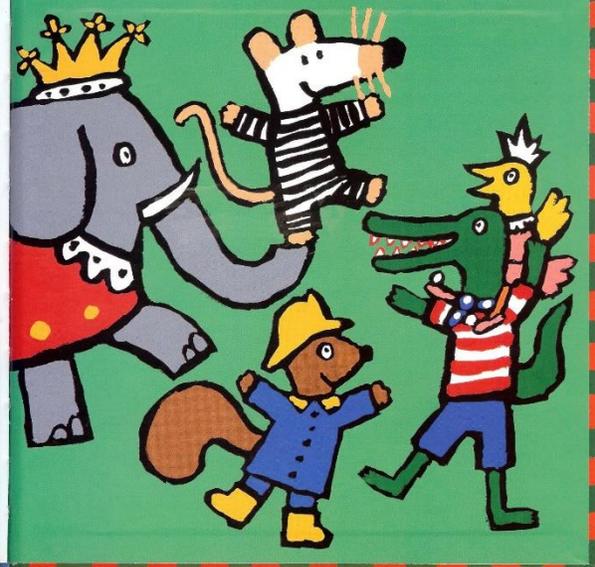
An uair sin
cluinnidh iad an
clag agus dè a
nochdas ach ...
sìobra!



O, 's e th' ann
ach Maisy!



Tha am pàrtaidh
a-nis
a' tòiseachadh.



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:

(see if you can keep up! 😊)

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

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

<p>O, seallaibh curaigh* Eòghainn, Is còig ràimh fhichead oirre. Seallaibh curaigh Eòghainn 'S i seachad air a' Rubha Bhàn.</p> <p>* seallaibh = command, plural; seall = look, see * very often spelled "curaich"</p> <p>O, seallaibh curaigh Eòghainn, Is còig ràimh fhichead oirre.</p>	<p>Oh, look at Ewan's coracle With twenty-five oars on her. Look at Ewan's coracle And she is passing the White Point.*</p> <p>*It is she passing the White Point</p> <p>Oh, look at Ewan's coracle With twenty-five oars on her.</p>
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<p>Seallaibh curaigh Eòghainn 'S i seachad air a' Rubha Bhàn.</p> <p>Bidh Eòghann, Bidh Eòghann, Bidh Eòghann na sgiobair oirr', Bidh Eòghann, Bidh Eòghann, 'S i seachad air a' Rubha Bhàn.</p> <p>* Literally the “bidh” means “will be” but the meaning is not literally in the future tense – it means more either an expectation that Eòghann is the captain (we can't see the individual sailors, after all); or that, he “is” the captain in a habitual and ongoing sense</p> <p>Bidh Eòghann, Bidh Eòghann, Bidh Eòghann na sgiobair oirr', Bidh Eòghann, Bidh Eòghann, 'S i seachad air a' Rubha Bhàn.</p> <p>*na sgiobair = form we learned tonight</p>	<p>Look at Ewan's coracle And she is passing the White Point.</p> <p>Ewan is, Ewan is Ewan is the captain on her, Ewan is, Ewan is, And she is passing the White Point.</p> <p>Ewan is, Ewan is Ewan is the captain on her, Ewan is, Ewan is, And she is passing the White Point.</p>
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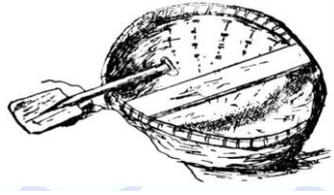
Traditional coracle (curach)

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):

