

Gael-Talk

Learning Gaelic Year 1 Caibideil 34

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!)



Pipers of the 1st Scots Guards

*Please send donations for the class to Paypal:
profmcintyre@yahoo.com
the amount is up to you, but the suggested donation is \$5*

Clàr na seachdain 34 (the schedule of week 34)

I'm not usually this organized, but perhaps we'll give it a try.

Clàr-ama na h-oidhche:

• 7:00-7:10	Fàilte! / Sean-fhacal
• 7:10-7:30	Sgeulachd na Seachdaine: Samhain
• 7.30 - 8:00	Grammar – future of regular verbs
• 8:00-8:15	Cleachdadh còmhraidh (conversation practice)
• 8:15 -8:30	Òran: 'S Toigh Leam Cruinneag Dhonn Nam Bo

Fàilte!

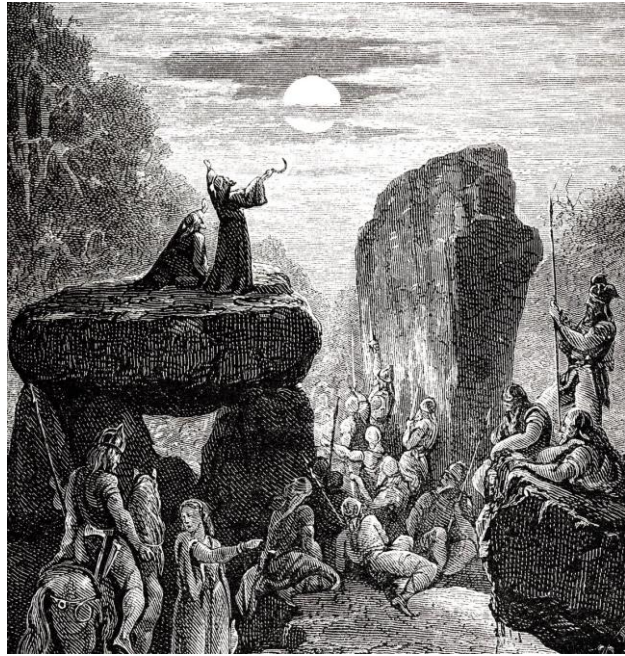
Sean fhacal na seachdaine

Gabh an latha math 'fhad 's a gheibh thu e.



William McTaggart *Spring* (1864)

Take the good day while you may.



Sgeulachd na Seachdaine

AN T-SAMHAIN

The original Halloween.

An t-Samhain

the original Halloween



- First day of winter
- Welcoming of winter
- Gathering of harvest
- It welcomed the coming of the 'dark part of the year' when the barriers between the physical and spirit world broke down to allow a connection with the Otherworld.



Celtic pagan origins

- some Neolithic (stone age) passage tombs are aligned with the sunrise at the time of Samhain.
- ancient burial mounds, which were seen as portals to the Otherworld, were opened.



- Samhain was a liminal or threshold festival, when the boundary between this world and the Otherworld thinned, meaning the Aos Sí (the 'spirits' or 'fairies') could more easily come into our world.
- cattle were brought down from the summer pastures and when livestock were slaughtered.
- The *sithichean* were appeased with offerings of food and drink, to ensure the people and their livestock survived the winter.
- The souls of dead kin were also thought to revisit their homes seeking hospitality, and a place was set at the table for them during a Samhain meal.
- Mumming and gusling were part of the festival from at least the early modern era, whereby people went door-to-door in costume reciting verses in exchange for food. The costumes may have been a way of imitating, and disguising oneself from, the *Aos Sí*.



- special bonfires were lit. These were deemed to have protective and cleansing powers and there were rituals involving them.
- children gathered ferns tar barrels stalks suitable for bonfire on hills
- Fire near each house – object who had biggest
- Whole districts brilliant with bonfires
- Possible deity Baal involved in ancient times but more recently not – simple 'defiance' of season of darkness and cold



Massive cèilidh Variety of games – *cleasan*

- 'fortune telling'
- Who were they to marry?
- What would future husband or wife be like?
- Names, trade, color of hair, wealth?



Snop apple night, by David MacIain, 1883

- Unmarried woman took ball of thread to kiln ... threw ball in eye of kiln – *sùil àth* (the eye of the kiln) w/ name of sweetheart '*co seo shios air ceann mo ròpain'* (who is down there at the end of my little rope)
- Story about a fellow who wanted to play a trick and hid behind kiln and replied 'Tha mise, an deamhan!' (It is I, the devil)
- Girl never played this game again!



Divining / fortune-telling games

- Shoe tossed over shoulder – what direction toe pointed
- White of eggs – dropped in water ... how many children
- Blind man's bluff w/ names written on chimney
- Dish of milk and meal – fuarag – ring put in ... spoons passed out and vigorous attack made –
- Apples cut – cut 9 pieces ... eat 8 throw last piece over shoulder – image of future spouse seen in mirror



- Allt criche ... lift stone and hold between middle finger and thumb ...
Togaich mise chlach
I lift a stone
Mar a thog Moire dha Mac
As did Mary for her son
Air bhrìgh, air bhuidh, 's air neart;
In spirit, in virtue, and in strength
Gun robh a' chlach sam dhòrn
That would be the stone in my hand
Gus an ruig mi mo cheann-uidhe
Till I reach my end
- Stones put below the head when going to sleep



Samhain featured in many ancient sagas

- each Samhain the people of Nemed (one of the earliest settlers of Ireland) had to give two-thirds of their children, their corn and their milk to the monstrous Fomorians.
- This tribute paid by Nemed's people may represent a "sacrifice offered at the beginning of winter, when the powers of darkness and blight are in the ascendant".
- associated with a god (or monster) called Crom Cruach. The texts claim that a first-born child would be sacrificed at his stone idol.



Echtra Neraí ('The Adventure of Nera'),

- King All of Connacht, along with Queen Maebh of Cuchulainn fame, sets his retinue a test of bravery on Samhain night. He offers a prize to whoever can make it to a gallows and tie a band around a hanged man's ankle.
- Each challenger is thwarted by demons and runs back to the king's hall in flight.
- However, Nera succeeds, and the dead man then asks for a drink. Nera carries him on his back and they stop at three houses.
- They enter the third, where the dead man drinks and spits it on the householders, killing them.
- Returning, Nera sees a fairy host burning the king's hall and slaughtering those inside.
- He follows the host through a portal into the Otherworld and the kingdom of the fairies – the síthcheann.
- Nera is tasked by the king of the fairies to go to a woman's house and bring a piece of firewood back to him (the king) each day. He does this for a long time and then the woman tells him that what he saw was only a vision of what will happen the next Samhain unless something is done.
- Also, by the way, she's pregnant.
- He is able to return to the hall and warns the king. The king and his warriors are able to prepare to fight the síthichean and defeat them.
- Nera returns to join his son and (now) wife. And enjoys happiness and prosperity until the end of time.



The Boyhood Deeds of Fionn

- the sidhe (fairy mounds or portals to the Otherworld) "were always open at Samhain".
- Each year the fire-breather Allien emerges from the Otherworld and burns down the palace of Tara (the 'capital' of the ancient Gaelic kingdom of Ireland) during the Samhain festival after killing everyone to sleep with his music.
- One Samhain, the young Fionn mac Cumhaill is able to stay awake and stays afloat with a magical spear, for which he is made leader of the Fianna (the protectors of Ireland).
- In a similar tale, one Samhain the Otherworld being Cúchulainn comes out of the burial mound and snatches a roach pig. Fionn kills Cúchulainn with a spear throw as he re-enters the mound.
- Fionn's thumb is caught between the door and the post as it shuts, and he puts it in his mouth to ease the pain. As his thumb had been inside the Otherworld, Fionn is bestowed with great wisdom. (gaining knowledge from the ancestors)



In another tale, three female werewolves

- emerge from the cave of Cruachan (an Otherworld portal) each Samhain and kill livestock.
- When Cas Corach plays his harp, they take on human form,
- the Fianna warrior Caitle mac Rónáin then slays them with a spear.



And in case you're inclined to scoff at all this as mere superstition, Remember what happened to Tam O'Shanter (according to Robert Burns) when he ventured out one Samhain eve after having drunk his fill of...

Inspiring bold John Barleycorn!

What dangers thou canst make us scorn!

Wi' ta'penny, we fear nae evil;

Wi' usquabae, we'll face the devil!

- With the scene set, suddenly:

"wow! Tam saw an unco sight!"



In modern times, the biggest Scottish Halloween tradition is guising.

- Guising (dis-guising) or Mumming as it was once called, began during the Samhain festival and parents would dress their children up in scary disguises so as to protect them from the evil spirits and the Aos Sí. (the fairies).
- The children would then go door to door in their costume and people would give them offerings of food, again to ward off the evil spirits.



Warlocks and witches in a dance ...

No cotillion, brand new from France,
But hornpipes, jigs, strathspeys, and reels,
Put life and mettle in their heels.
In a window alcove in the east,
There sat Old Nick, in shape of beast;
A shaggy dog, black, grim, and large,
To give them music was his charge:
He screwed the pipes and made them squeal,
Till roof and rafters all did ring.
Coffins stood round, like open presses,
That showed the dead in their last dresses;
And, by some devilish magic sleight,
Each in its cold hand held a light:
By which heroic Tom was able
To note upon the holy table,

A murderer's bones, in gibbet-irons;
Two span-long, small, unchristened babies;
A thief just cut from his hanging rope -
With his last gasp his mouth did gape;
Five tomahawks with blood red-rusted;
Five scimitars with murder crusted;
A garter with which a baby had strangled;
A knife a father's throat had mangled -
Whom his own son of life bereft -
The grey-hairs yet stuck to the shaft;
With more o' horrible and awful,
Which even to name would be unlawful.
Three Lawyers' tongues, turned inside out,
Sown with lies like a beggar's cloth -
Three Priests' hearts, rotten, black as muck
Lay stinking, vile, in every nook.

Today, the festival continues ...
with a modern *slant*

- The *Samhuinn Fire Festival* in Scotland showcases the transition from Summer into Winter through a performance of dance and music, but it also focuses on how aspects of life can change during the different seasons.



Gràmar na Seachdaine

The future tense of the regular verb

So, far we've relied on expressing the future through the use of the verbal noun and the future tense of the verb *bi* (to be), as in

- Bidh mi a' dol = I will be going (will go)
- Bidh mi a' ceannach biadh aig a' bhùth = I will be buying (will buy) food at the store
- Bidh mi a' snàmh a-màireach anns an loch – I will be swimming (will swim) tomorrow in the loch

Perhaps you haven't noticed this reliance on the 'helping verb' (or *bi* used as a helping verb) because this is the way we form the future in English.

- I **will** go
- I **will** sing
- I **will** dance
 - Etc.

But Gàidhlig has a "true" future tense (unlike English), and that is what we are going to learn in this lesson.

What is meant by a "true" future tense is that the verb expresses the future without relying on a helping verb, just as a "true" past tense expresses the past without reliance on a 'helper.' So, just as in English, we could use a 'helping' verb to express the past

- Did help

We can also express the past in a 'pure' past tense:

- Helped.

In English, we can't do anything similar for the future tense, but in Gàidhlig we can.

Forming the future tense for a regular verb in Gàidhlig is relatively simple (we'll get to the irregulars later).

Start with the root verb

- Snàmh - swim

Add *-aidh* / *-idh* to the end of the root:

- Snàmhaidh – will swim

(The choice between these depends on the last vowel of the root verb. Remembering the rule, broad to broad, narrow to narrow: if the last vowel is broad (a, o, u), then we add -*aidh*; if it is narrow (e, i), then we add -*idh*. In either case, the ending is pronounced the same: as an *eee*.)

Some more examples:

- **dùisg!** Wake! (note the final “i” in the root)
- **dùisgidh mi** : I will wake

- **éirich!** : Rise! Get up!
- **éirichidh mi** : I will get up

- **cuir – put**
- **cuiridh mi**: I will put

- **fàg – leave**
- **fàgaidh mi** – I will leave

- **snàmh – swim**
- **snàmhaidh mi** – I will swim

You see! That’s how simple it is! (There are other forms for the future question and the relative future, but we’ll leave those for another lesson.) It’s so simple, we’ll do these exercises. For the following root verbs, supply the future tense. (It seems like a lot, but once you get into the rhythm, I’m sure you’ll find it’s easy!)

Verb	English	Future
Aidich	Admit	
Aontaich	Agree	
At	Swell	
Atharraich	Change	
Bac	Stop, hinder	
Bàsaich	Die	
Bid	Bite	
Blàthaich	Warm	
Breab	Kick	
Bris	Break	
Bruadair	Dream	
Brùchd	Belch	
Buail	Hit	
Buain	reap	
Buinnig	Win, conquer, gain	
Cac	defecate	
Caidil	Sleep	
Caill	Lose	

Càir	Mend, fix	
Caith	Waste, spend	
Can	Speak	
Caochail	Die, change	
Caoin	Weep, wail	
Ceangail	Tie together, combine	
Ceannaich	buy	
Ceum	Step	
Ciallaich	Mean	
Cladhaich	Dig	
Clàr	Record	
Cleachd	Use	
Clìùthaich	Praise	
Cluich	Play	
Cnàmh	Chew	
Còcairich	Cook	
Co-dhùin	Decide	
Coimhead	Watch (air)	
Coinnich	Meet	
Coirich	Blame	
Coisich	Walk	
Coisinn	Earn	
Comharraich	Mark	
Comhartaich	Bark	
Còmhdaich	Cover	
Cosg	Cost	
Crath	Shake	
Creid	Believe	
Crìochnaich	End	
Crith	Shiver, tremble	
Croch	Hang, depend on (air)	
Cruinnich	gather	
Cuairtich	Enclose, surround	
Cuidich	Help	
Cuimhnich	Remember	
Cuir	Put, send, plant (as in seeds)	
Cum	Keep	
Cunnt	Count	
Danns	Dance	
Dealaich	Part, separate	
Dealbh	Draw, create, design	
Dearbh	Prove	
Deàrrs	Radiate, shine	
Deoc	Suck	
Diochuimhnich	Forget	
Diogail	Tickle	
Dioghail	Pay, reward, avenge	
Dion	Protect	
Dirich	Climb	

Diùlt	Refuse	
Dochainn	Harm	
Dòirt	Pour	
Dràibhig	Drive	
Dùin	Close	
Dùisg	Wake (up)	
Eadar-theangaich	Translate	
Earb	Trust, confide in (ri)	
Èigh	Yell	
Èignich	Force	
Èirich	Rise (up)	
Èist	Listen (ri)	
Fàg	Leave	
Faighnich	Ask	
Fairich	Feel	
Falaich	Hide	
Fan	Wait	
Fanaid	Mock, deride, scorn	
Fàs	Grow	
Feuch	Try	
Figh	Weave, knit	
Fògair	Banish, exile, send away	
Foillsich	Publish	
Fòn	Phone	
Freagair	Answer	
Fritheil	Serve	
Fuaimnich	Pronounce, sound	
Fuiling	Suffer	
Fuin	Bake	
Fuirich	Stay, wait, reside/dwell	
Gabh	Get, receive	
Gail	Cry, weep	
Gàir	laugh	
Gairm	Call, summon	
Geall	Promise	
Gearain	Complain	
Gèarr	Cut, shorten	
Geum	Bellow	
Giùlain	Carry	
Glas	Lock	
Glan	Clean	
Gluais	Move	
Glug	Gurgle, gulp, stammer	
Gnìomhaich	Act, perform, operate, activate execute (as in computing)	
Gnog	Knock	
Goid	Steal	
Goirtich	Hurt	
Guidh	Pray	
Guil	Cry	

Iarr	Want	
Iasgaich	Fish	
Imich	Move (location)	
Imlich	Lick	
Iomair	Row	
Ionndrainn	Miss (miss somebody, someplace)	
Ionnsaich	Learn, teach	
Itealaich	Fly	
Ith	Eat	
Laigh	Lie (down)	
Làimhsich	Handle	
Leag	Let down, drop	
Leagh	Read	
Lean	Follow	
Lean air (lean ort, lean oirre, etc)	Continue	
Leig	Allow	
Leòn	Wound	
Leugh	Melt	
Leum	Jump	
Lìon	Fill	
Litrich	Spell	
Loisg	Burn	
Lorg	Seek, look for, and find	
Mair	Endure, continue to exist	
Malairtich	Trade	
Marbh	Die	
Math	Forgive	
Meal	Enjoy	
Meall	Deceive, cheat	
Measg	Mix	
Mill	Destroy	
Mi-mhol	Disparage	
Mìnich	Explain	
Misnich	Encourage, hearten, give courage to	
Mol	Praise	
Murt	Murder, massacre	
Neartaich	Strengthen,	
Nigh	Wash, clean	
Obraich	Work	
Òl	Drink	
Pàigh	Pay	
Paisg	Pack, fold, wrap	
Peanasaich	Punish, penalize	
Peant	Paint	
Pòg	Kiss	
Pòs	Marry	
Post	Mail (as in send in the mail)	

Pronn	Beat, pound, pulverize	
Put	Push	
Ràn	Roar	
Reòth	Freeze	
Reub	Tear asunder	
Roinn	Divide, parcel out	
Ro-innse	Foretell	
Ròst	Roast	
Rùisg	Strip, peel	
Ruith	Run	
Sabaid	Fight	
Sàbhail	Save	
Saoil	Think, wonder	
Sealg	hunt	
Seall	Show	
Seas	Stand (up)	
Sèid	Blow (as in the wind blows, or blow out candle)	
Seirm	Ring (as bell)	
Sgaoil	Disperse, scatter	
Sgread	Scream, screech	
Sgriobh	Write	
Sgrios	Destroy	
Sguab	Brush, sweep	
Sguir	Stop	
Sìn	Stretch, reach	
Sir	Search, seek	
Sitrich	Neigh, bray, (also, horse's 'raspberry' sound)	
Slànaich	Heal	
Slaop	Poach (cooking)	
Smaoinich	Think	
Smoc	Smoke	
Snàig	Creep	
Spàirn	struggle, strain	
Stad	Stop	
Stèidhich	Establish, found (as in institution)	
Stiùir	Steer, guide	
Streap (sreap)	Climb	
Strì	Struggle, strive	
Suath	Stroke, wipe	
Suidh	Sit (down)	
Tabhainn	Offer	
Tachair	Happen	
Tadhail	Visit	
Tagh	Choose	
Taisbean	Demonstrate, present	
Tàlaidh	Entice, attract	
Tarraing	Pull, haul, tug, attract	
Teagaisg	Teach	

Teannaich	Tighten, contract, compress	
Teich	Flee	
Tilg	Throw	
Till	Return	
Tionndaidh	Turn	
Tiorraich	Dry	
Tog	Lift	
Toinn	Spin, twist, twine, wreath	
Tòisich	Begin	
Trod	Argue	
Tuig	Understand	
Tuit	Fall, tumble	
Ùraich	Renew, refresh, update (computing)	

There are a few regular verbs that contract the last syllable for the future tense, probably for ease of pronunciation. These include words like

Verb	English	Future tense
Caidil	Sleep	Caidlidh
Freagairt	Answer	Freagraidh
Innis	Tell	Innsidh

But these are small in number, and we won't worry about them right now.

Cleachdadh – Practice

**In our break-out groups, practice asking and responding to the following questions.
Extra points for how long you can keep the conversational “ball” in the air!**



1. An tàinig thu dhachaigh aig meadhan-oidhche?
Did you come home at midnight?
2. Am bi thu ag iarraidh a bhith ag ithe ann an taigh-bìdh a-màireach?
Will you want to eat in a restaurant tomorrow?
3. An do chluich na caileagan a-muigh air an t-sràid?
Are the (little) girls playing outside on the street?
3. An tug thu airgead do Sheumas?
Did you give money to Sheumas?

Òran na seachdain

(click the link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zN7dDoz4GAI>)

sing along:

'S Toigh Leam Cruinneag Dhonn Nam Bò

'S toigh leam cruinneag dhonn nam bò Shiùbhlainn leat troimh choill nan cnò 'S toigh leam cruinneag dhonn nam bò	I love the brown-haired milkmaid I would traverse the hazel-wood with you I love the brown-haired milkmaid
'S toigh leam cruinneag dhonn na h-àirigh Dh'an tug mi mo ghràdh 's mi òg 'S toigh leam cruinneag dhonn nam bò Shiùbhlainn leat troimh choill nan cnò 'S toigh leam cruinneag dhonn nam bò	I love the brown-haired lass from the shieling To whom I pledged my love as a youth
'S toigh leam banarach na buaile Buain a' fhraoich gu dath a' chlà 'S toigh leam cruinneag dhonn nam bò Shiùbhlainn leat troimh choill nan cnò 'S toigh leam cruinneag dhonn nam bò	I love the milkmaid from the fold Plucking the heather to dye the cloth
Shiùbhlainn leat troimh choill a' bharrach Ged bhiodh càch a' fanaid oirnn 'S toigh leam cruinneag dhonn nam bò Shiùbhlainn leat troimh choill nan cnò 'S toigh leam cruinneag dhonn nam bò	I would walk through the birch-forest with you Though the others would mock us
Ri cur a' chrodh-laoigh dh' an innis Dh'aithnichinn a' tighinn do cheòl 'S toigh leam cruinneag dhonn nam bò Shiùbhlainn leat troimh choill nan cnò 'S toigh leam cruinneag dhonn nam bò	When putting the cows to pasture I would recognize your coming by your singing
'S toigh leam cruinneag dhonn nam bò	I love the brown-haired milkmaid