

Gael-Talk

(a pun - a' Ghàidhealtachd = "the Highlands" / Gaelic region)

**Learning Gàidhlig
Year 1
Caibideil 12**

Nas fheàrr a' Ghàidhlig bhriste na Beurla chliste

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



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This week we will learn ...

- Sean fhacal na seachdain
- How to say you will do "it" – that is, use a pronoun with a verbal noun
- Dualchas nan Gàidheil - *Am Bliadhna Theàrlaich: An Rathad a Chùl Lodair*
- Òran na seachdain - *Cò a sheinneas an fhideag airgid*

Sean fhacal na seachdain

An rathad fada glan, 's an rathad goirid salach.



The long clean road, and the short dirty road.

Short cuts often lead into mud and mire. So is it also with those who hasten to take short cuts to “get ahead” fast.

The augmented preposition

In this lesson, we will learn how to use a pronoun with a verbal noun. Perhaps, you've noticed that we haven't learned how to say, the Gàidhlig equivalent of

- He is reading **it**
- They are helping **me**
- She was making **it**

Or any one of innumerable ways that we can use a pronoun as the object of a verb (in this case, the verbal noun).

Perhaps, you haven't thought how convenient pronouns are. They're like the 'salt in the bread' – that is necessary, but not noticed. (From a Gaelic legend about a daughter whose father was insulted when she said she loved him like the salt in her bread. The father banished her, and years later when his unfaithful other children rebelled against him and exiled him, he was wandering homeless, he came on her castle (she had since married a prince). He didn't recognize her, but she recognized him. She took him in, gave him shelter, and fed him ... bread without salt. The old king spit out the bread saying he couldn't live on such horrible food. That's when the daughter revealed herself and made her point: that's what she was saying! You might recognize the story line: it was used by Shakespeare in his play *King Lear*.)

Anyway, imagine what we would have to speak/write if we had no pronouns.

Bob is a good friend of Michael, the writer of this paragraph. Bob has helped Michael many times in Michael's life. Once when Michael's car broke down, Bob drove more than a hundred miles to help Michael repair the car. And then Bob bought Michael lunch before Bob and Michael drove back home!

Pronouns certainly make things a lot simpler!

But there's a reason we haven't tackled this issue yet – because Gàidhlig handles the usage of a pronoun object of the verbal noun in a unique way.

For one thing, in Gàidhlig, while you can say (and write)

- Tha mi a' dèanamh cèic – I am making a cake

you can't say,

- *Tha mi a' dèanamh **e** – I am doing **it**

And while you can say,

- Bha i a' leughadh leabhar – she was reading a book.

You can't say,

- *Bha i a' leughadh e – she was reading it

*does not occur

Then how do we express that idea, the necessity for which (or at least the convenience) occurs quite frequently in language? – that is, the convenience of using a pronoun instead of repeating the noun all the time?

How do we say?

- I'm doing it.
- He is making it.
- They see it.

So, remember to say I am making something, we employ the aig + formation (ag / +) with the verbal noun.

- Tha mi a' dèanamh – I am making / I am at making.
- Tha iad a' faicinn – They are seeing / They are at seeing.
- Tha i ag òl – She is drinking / She is at drinking.

But if we can't use a simple pronoun after the verb (verbal noun) to indicate

- ... making it ...
- ... seeing him ...
- ... drinking it ...

How do we do express this idea?

The answer is that we employ the aig / preposition that we use in the formation of the verbal noun construction plus the possessive pronoun. So instead of

- Ag / a'

in front of the verbal noun, the prepositional pronoun takes on a different form:

- the aig (ag, a') + verbal noun

becomes

- aig + the possessive pronoun + verbal noun.

(Remember, the possessive pronoun are the words for *my, your, his*, etc – or, in Gaelic, *mo, do, a* etc.)

In this construction,

- Aig + mo = gam
- Aig + do = gad

- Aig + a (masc) = ga
- Aig + a (fem) = ga

- Aig + ar = gar
- Aig + ur = gur (pl & form)
- Aig + an / am = gan / gam*

So, this is what this form looks like:

- Tha mi **ga** dhèanamh – I am **at its** making (I am making **it** – masc ‘it’)
- Bha i **ga** leughadh – She was **at its** reading (she was reading **it**)
- Bha iad **gam** chuideachadh – they were **at my** helping (They were helping **me**)

- Tha e **gam** fhaicinn – he is at my seeing (aig + mo)
- Tha i **gad** fhaicinn – she is at your seeing (aig + do)
- Tha i **ga** fhaicinn – she is at his seeing (aig + a / masc)
- Tha e **ga** faicinn – she is at her seeing (aig + a / fem – **no lenition!**)

Remember the ‘a’ for his lenites & the ‘a’ for her does not

- A bhràthair – **his** brother
- A bràthair – **her** brother

- Tha e gar faicinn – he is at our seeing (aig + ar)
- Tha e gur faicinn – he is at your seeing (aig + ur / pl, form)
- Tha e **gam** faicinn – he is at their seeing (aig + an/am)
- Tha e **gan** cluinntinn – he is their hearing

Special notes:

1. Lenition

As the possessive pronouns

- mo
- do
- a (his)

lenite,

- mo **b**hràthair
- do **ch**ù
- a **ch**eann

so do the augmented pronouns (gam, gad etc)

- gam
- gad
- ga (at his / it masc.)

as in

- Tha e **gam** bhualadh. – He is hitting me. [He is **at my** hitting.]
- A bheil e **gad** chuideachadh? – Is he helping you? [Is he **at your** helping?]
- Tha iad **ga** fhaicinn. – They see him/it [They are **at his/its** seeing.]

Making a cake

- Tha i ga dhèanamh (bòrd)
- Tha i ga dèanamh (cèic)
Bha i ga mhealladh (bòrd)

2. Distinguishing seemingly identical forms

Sometimes, the lenition is the only way to distinguish meaning. In two cases, the augmented prepositions can mean different things.

- ga
- gam

Ga can mean *at his* or *at her*.

Gam can mean *at my* or *at their*.

So, how do we tell them apart?

By whether or not they lenite!

Examples –

- aig + mo > lenition
 - Tha e **gam** bhualadh – He is hitting **me** [He is at **my** hitting]
- Aig + am (their) > no lenition
 - Tha e **gam** bualadh – He is hitting **them** [He is at **their** hitting]
- Aig + a (his/its) > lenition
 - Tha mi ga fhaicinn – I see **him**/it [I am at **his** seeing]
- Aig + a (her / its) > no lenition
 - Tha mi ga faicinn – I see **her**/it [I am at **her** seeing]

Also, keep in mind that the *at their* augmented preposition – *gan & gam* – takes two different forms according to the *bfmp rule*.

- Tha e **gam** faicinn = He sees **them** [He is at **their** seeing]
- Tha i **gan** dèanamh = She is making **them** [She is at **their** making]

3. Another way to distinguish between ‘at him’ and ‘at her’

When the verbal noun begins with a vowel, the augmented preposition *ga* is treated differently depending on whether it indicates

- at his
- at her

In the first case, the *ga* is unchanged

- Tha Seumas **ga** òl – Seumas is drinking it (uisge-beatha, masc)

But in the second instance (‘at her’) the verbal noun takes on a h- prefix

- Tha Seumas **ga h-**òl - Seumas is drinking it (teatha, fem)

4. In a similar fashion, *gar* and *gur* (at our and at your / pl., form) add a prefix to a vowel-onset verbal noun.

- Bha sinn **gur** n-àrdachadh – We are raising you (up) (pl, form.)

5. Lastly, it should be noted that not all verbs take an object. So, while you can “make it”:

- ... **ga** dhèanamh

You can’t “go it”

- *... **ga** dol (go it)
- * ... **ga** tighinn (come it)

6. Some verbs require a preposition to complete ...

In English, you don’t

- Listen it
- Listen to it

And so in Gaelic,

- Èisteachd ri + (listen to)

- Suidhe sìos ... sit down
- Leig e sìos – ‘let’ it down / tha mi ga leigeil sìos – I am at its letting down

Eacarsaichean

Drawing on our list of verbal nouns (below, following the exercises), paying attention to past, present, future tenses ...

In this exercise, since we have not learned the simple past or future tenses, **use the verbal noun** construction in all cases, even though technically, sometimes this form translates as the -ing form. So, for example, if you are asked to translate the following sentence into Gaelic:

- Did you see it? (cù, masc)

For this exercise, you would answer

- An robh thu ga fhaicinn?

We will become more precise in our application of verb tenses as we go forward.

Pay attention to the difference between gam – at my – and gam – at their. The first one, gam, lenites, and that is how we can tell that it is at my – aig mo (remember, mo – my -- lenites). The second one, at their – aig am -- doesn’t lenite.

Like the possessive adjective, ga when referring to a feminine object requires h- before a verbal noun beginning with a vowel; and gar / gur requires n- before a verbal noun beginning with a vowel.

Translate into English

1. A bheil iad ga fhàgail aig an taigh? Tha.
2. Bha e ga toirt dhan nighean.
3. Am bi thu ga chur dhachaigh? Cha bhi.
4. Bha i gan cur air falbh anns a’ bhogsa.
5. An robh an teine gur cumail blàth? Bha.
6. Bha e gam bhualadh.
7. Bha mi gad fhaicinn.
8. Bi mi ga dhèanamh.
9. Tha e gar cuideachadh.
10. Bha mi gur faicinn.
11. Tha i gan togail.
12. Tha e gam bualadh
13. Tha mi ga h-ithe

14. Bha ar màthair gar faicinn.
15. Bidh sinn ga h-àrdachadh.
16. Bha iad gur n-àrdachadh.
17. A bheil thu ga h-aithneachadh
18. Bidh iad ga thogail an ath-bhliadhna
19. Bidh iad ga togail an ath-bhliadhna
20. Bidh mi ga cur anns ghàradh
21. Bha Shakespeare ga sgrìobhadh.
22. Bha sinn ga cluinntinn.
23. Bha e gam mealladh.
24. Bha e gam mhealladh.
25. Bidh sinn ga ghlanadh.

Translate into Gàidhlig

1. Do you see it now? Yes, I see it.
2. Seamus hears you very well.
3. Will you be taking him to the park tomorrow? Yes.
4. Don't you understand me at all?
5. Will you be opening it tomorrow? Yes.
6. We see her.
7. Màiri hears you.
8. I heard you.
9. She is making it. (fem.)
10. She was making it. (masc)
11. They were helping me.
12. They will see him.
13. They were helping me.
14. Will you sing it? (òran / masc)
15. I will read it tomorrow. (leabhar / masc)
16. They got them.
17. They got me.
18. Do you speak it? (Gàidhlig, fem)
19. Did you say it?
20. My brother drank it (uisge-beatha, masc)
21. We will exult it (Gàidhlig, fem)
22. Did Tòmas eat it (cèic, fem)
23. Will you eat it (ubhal, masc)
24. Micheal was saying it. (generalized 'it', default, masc)
25. We will keep it (piseag, fem)
26. Will you keep it (cù, masc)
27. Alasdair denied it (generalized 'it', default masc)

28. J.K. Rowling wrote it (leabhar, masc)
29. I will plant it in the garden (craobh, tree, fem)
30. We heard it (ceòl, masc)
31. We saw it (prògram, masc)
32. Did Màiri recognize you?
33. Will you recognize him?
34. Did you eat it? (biadh, masc)
35. Do you smell it? (biadh, masc)
36. Do you smell it? (bò, fem)
37. Shakespeare wrote it (bàrdachd, fem)
38. He deceived me
39. I was cleaning it (rùm, masc)
40. Do you deny it? (generalized 'it', default, masc)

pronunciation note: dèanamh > jee-en-ev** or jee-en-**nou**

Ga dèanamh > ga jen-ev / ga jen-nou

Ga dhèanamh > ga yen ev / ga yen-nou

Airson do chuideachaidh (for your assistance)

Refresher: List of some Verbal Nouns

àrdachadh	Raising (up), exulting!
sgrìobhadh	writing
aithneachadh	recognizing
cluinntinn	Hearing
ràdh	Saying
seinn	Singing
cluich	Playing
dèanamh	Doing
faicinn	Seeing
faighinn	Getting
cumail	keeping
aideachadh	deny
bruidhinn	Speaking
tuigsinn	Understanding
togail	Lifting, building (as in, a building)
cur	Sending, planting, putting
leughadh	Reading
òl	Drinking
ithe	Eating
faireachdainn	Feeling, smelling

mealladh	Deceiving
glanadh	cleaning

Ceàrn an Dualchais

Heritage corner

Am Bliadhna Theàrlaich: The Year of Charles

Am Bliadhna Theàrlaich

The Year of Charlie



What was the 45 rebellion all about?

- Partly a dynastic struggle (between different “royal” houses) between House of Hanover and the House of Stuart
- Partly a religious struggle – Protestants in Britain didn’t want a Catholic on the throne
- Were many “Jacobites” in Britain -- (after Latin name for James, the Stuart claimant to the throne)
- Many clans in Highlands adherents to Stuart house (which they saw as rightful possessors of the throne of Britain)

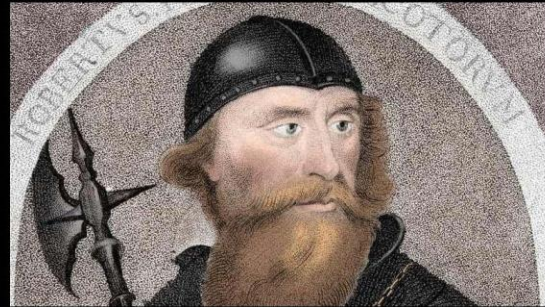
House of Hanover -- a German, Protestant family

- Cousin to former Queen Anne & Charles II
- Seated on British throne
- George II (father of George III of American Revolution fame)



The House of Stuart

- Descended from ancient kings of Scotland
- Went back to Robert the Bruce
- First king of both Scotland & England (James VI / I)
- Catholic (predominantly)





Who was Bonnie Prince Charlie?

- Charles Edward Louis John Casimir Sylvester Severino Maria Stuart, (1720 -1788)
- Charles's grand-uncle was Charles II;
- his grandfather was the exiled Roman Catholic King James II (ruled 1685–88),
- Father, James Edward, the Old Pretender, in exile – titled himself King James III (never reigned)

Not “really” Scottish – or so, only by distant ancestry

- Characterized as an “Italian-Polish” fop
- Given to boasting, foolish impetuosity, and self-importance: “I am determined to relieve his Majesty’s subjects or to perish with them.”
- The Prince’s heavy drinking had been noted by his father before he left for Scotland in 1745.
- He consoled himself with alcohol to see himself through his anxieties and discomforts.
- After Culloden, hiding in South Uist, he would drink straight from the bottle, and initiated a party that lasted for three days and three nights.





Cladach a' Phrionnsa The Prince's Shore Island of Eriskay

- French supply ship driven away by British warship. His companions besought the Prince to return to France, but he refused and was chased by a British man-of-war
- He escaped and landed on Eriskay.
- The Highland clan chiefs were dismayed that he had brought no French troops, few arms and very little money to fund his campaign.
- Some refused outright to give him any support. After failing to convince him of the futility of his mission some clan chiefs joined him against their better judgement.



Stayed in cottage of Angus MacDonald

- Cold, rainy day
- Smoke filled "black house"
- Charles kept fidgeting, going inside & outside
- "What a plague is the matter with that fellow that he can neither sit nor stand still, and neither keep within nor without doors!" exclaimed MacDonald who didn't know who the Prince was.

Raising of the Standard

- On 19 August 1745, after Prince Charles judged he had enough military support, he climbed the hill near Glenfinnan.
- Announced he claimed the British throne in the name of his father James Stuart ('the Old Pretender') (son on Charles II).



Welcomed to Edinburgh

- Though Highland army was "rag-tag" assemblage, only half of which was armed
- Prince made royal proclamation
- Faced British force holding Edinburgh Castle



Lord George Murray

- Most able of Charlie's commanders, a Scot and a Highlander
- Designed most successful aspects of campaign
- Viewed with suspicion by some Highlanders because ...
 - Talents were offset by a quick temper, arrogance and inability to take advice
 - Furious argument with Charles prior to the Battle of Prestonpans; although his rejection of a frontal assault in favor of surprise attack proved successful, it caused deep offence.
 - He had sworn allegiance to George II and taken a position under the 'corrupt government' before he went into exile
 - While his knowledge of Highland military customs was an asset, his appointment heightened tensions with the Franco-Irish exiles.
 - a generalized Scottish resentment of exiles, who were perceived as risking relatively little. Scots faced execution as rebels and loss of titles and lands; as many of the exiles held French commissions, they would be treated as prisoners of war and exchanged.
 - poorly concealed view that Charles was a 'reckless adventurer.'



Early battles successful: Prestopans

- Outside Edinburgh
- Uneasy positioning of opposing forces
- local farmer knew of a secret route through the marshlands to the Government army's open flank.
- Jacobite force set off at 4 am. In total silence, they arrived to the east of government army
- As the sky brightened, the left wing of the Jacobite army charged!
- Total victory for the Prince's army



But ... uneasy sign of things to come



- Dispute amongst clans
- MacDonalds traditionally held place of honor on right flank of charge (since time of Robert the Bruce)
- Other clans desired this prestige
- “Compromise” based on drawing of lots – Camerons won
- Grumbling & complaining threatened Prince’s army with mutiny



Charlie and the Highlanders advanced into England

- (along with some French, Irish, and English troops)
- Based on Charlie’s *lie* of promised English support,
- Got to Derby – 100 miles from London (3-4 days march ... which was fast in those days)
- Did not know that London was in a panic, royal family was packing up to flee
- Because ...
 - Traditional Highland warfare stopped in the winter months; the trickle of clansmen returning home with their booty turned into a flood
 - lack of supplies,
 - lack of promised support, (Charlie’s *lie*)
 - Feuding between factions & clans
- Council of Highland chiefs voted to retreat to Scotland
- Began long march back ...



An ath-
sheachain ...

An rathad a Chùl Lodair



Òran na seachdain

Song of the Week

In keeping with the subject of this week's Ceàrn an Dualchais (culture corner), we will sing this Jacobite song:

Cò a sheinneas an fhèideag airgid <u>Sèist:</u> Ho ro hu a hu il Hi ri hu o, hi ri hu	<i>Who will play the silver whistle?</i> <u>Chorus (after each verse):</u> Ho ro hu a hu il Hi ri hu o, hi ri hu
Mac mo rìgh air tighinn a dh'Alba	<i>The son of my king has come to Scotland</i>
Air long mhòr nar trì chrann airgid	<i>On a great ship with three masts of silver</i>
Air long rìomhach nam ball airgid	<i>On the handsome vessel with the silver rigging</i>
Teàrlach òg nan gorm shùil mealach	<i>Young Charles with the blue bewitching eyes</i>
Failte, failte miann is cliù dhuit	<i>Welcome, welcome, may you be desired and famous</i>
Fidhleireachd is ragha ciùil dhuit	<i>May there be fiddling and the choicest music before you</i>
Cò a sheinneadh? Nach seinninn fhin i?	<i>Who'd play it? Would I not play it myself?</i>
Cò a sheinneas an fhèideag airgid?	<i>Who will play the silver whistle?</i>

