

Gael-Talk

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

**Learning Gàidhlig
Year 1
Caibideil 13**

Nas fheàrr a' Ghàidhlig bhriste na Beurla chliste

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



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

This week we will learn ...

- Sean fhacal na seachdain
- Review
- Dualchas nan Gàidheil -
- Òran na seachdain -

Sean fhacal na seachdain

Am fear dhan dàn a' chrochadh,
cha tèid gu bràth a bhàthadh.

The man whose fate is to be hung

will never be drowned.



Clas Ath-sgrùdaidh

Review Session

This week we're going to do something a little different. We will review the material we've covered in the lessons prior to this.

Caibideil 1

Pronouns (A pronoun is a word that "takes the place of a noun," so that instead of saying "Bob," we can say "he"; or instead of saying "Tom, Dick, and Harry," we can say "they.")

The Gaelic pronouns. Note that Gaelic does not distinguish between the subjective and the objective cases – in other words, for example, the word "mi" for *I* also serves for *me*, and so on and so forth.

- mi = I, me
- thu = you
- e = he, him
- i = she, her

- sinn = we, us
- sibh = you (plural & singular formal)
- iad = they, them

Present tense of the verb 'bi' – 'to be'

Independent form

All verbs have what is known as an **independent** form; this is the form for when you are making a declarative statement. (I am, she is, etc.). For the verb **bi** 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**:

- **tha**

Tha for positive statements:

- 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

Question / Dependent form

This is the form that we use when we are asking a question and forming dependent clauses (which we'll get to later). For the verb *bi*, this is *eil* or *bheil*

- Question
 - A bheil i fuar? – Is it cold?
 - A bheil thu sgìth? Are you tired.
- Negative statement –

This is formed using the question/dependent form of the verb and the negative **chan**

- Chan eil e an seo – He is not here
- Chan eil i fuar an-diugh – It is not cold today.
- Rhetorical question or exclamation:

In this construction, we use another word for the negative – **nach**.

- Nach eil i fuar! – Isn't it cold!
- Nach eil i fuar? – Isn't it cold?

EXERCISE 1 – Translate into English

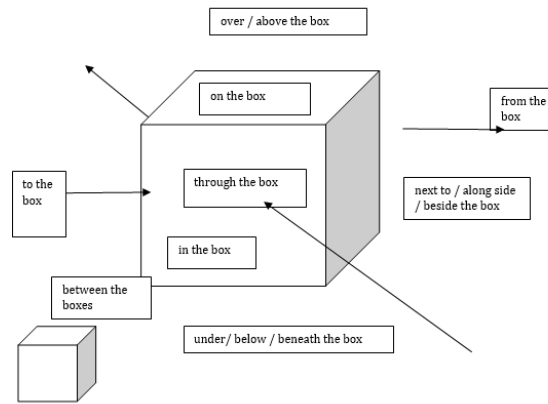
1. Tha mi sgìth
2. Tha iad trang.
3. A bheil thu sgìth?
4. 2. Nach eil i fliuch?

EXERCISE 2 – Translate into Gàidhlig

1. We are cold.
2. You are small.
3. I am not cold
4. Are you warm?

Common Prepositions

We learned about prepositions – those little words that tell us where we are in relationship to the “preposition box”:



A couple quite common prepositions we learned are

à / às = from

- Cò às a tha thu? *Where are you from?*
- Tha mi à Inbhir Nis – *I am from Inverness.*
- Tha mi às an Fhraing – *I am from France (the France).*

Note the feature which is quite common in Gàidhlig of the addition of the “s” when the next word begins with a vowel, or is a definite article.

Òran: Faireachdainn (feelings)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z_voxVpotL4

Clas Ath-sgrùdaidh

Review Session

Caibideil 2

Gaelic has an admittedly complicated system of denoting the definite article, so don't be upset if you don't get it all right away. For now, just remember the *gist* of it – that such distinctions exist. The exact forms will come to you over time. Here are some of the basics:

The articles (“the” or “a” / “an”)

The article: ‘the’ & ‘a/an’

This deserves a much longer treatment than we'll give to it here. (We'll save the long version for later). For now, briefly, note that Gaelic does not use an indefinite article – that is, an ‘a’ or ‘an’, so

- Taigh – a house
- Cù – a dog
- Duine – a man

The definite article – the equivalent of “the” in English – is signified variously as

- An
- Am
- A'
- Na
- Nan
- Nam

Which is why we're saving it for later! We'll make this clear in due time, but for now, if you see a noun with one of these in front of it, more likely than not, we're talking about “**the** ... *something*”

Past tense of the verb 'bi' – 'to be'

Independent form

All verbs have what is known as an **independent** form; this is the form for when you are making a declarative statement. (I am, she is, etc.). For the verb **bi** the past tense is **bha**, which is used to form positive statements.

- Bha mi - I was
- Bha thu - you were
- Bha e - he was
- Bha i - she was

- Bha sinn - we were
- Bha sibh - you were (plural & formal)
- Bha iad - they were

Question / Dependent form

All verbs have another form, the **dependent**; this is used to form the negative statement and interrogatives (question forms). This is the form that we use when we are asking a question and forming dependent clauses (which we'll get to later). For the past tense of the verb *bi*, this is *robh*:

- Question
 - An robh i fuar? – Was it cold?
 - An robh thu sgìth? Were you tired.
- Negative statement –

This is formed using the question/dependent form of the verb and the negative **cha**

- Cha robh e an seo – He was not here
- Cha robh i fuar an-diugh – It is not cold today.

- Rhetorical question or exclamation:

In this construction, we use another word for the negative – **nach**.

- Nach robh i fuar! – Isn't it cold!
- Nach robh i fuar? – Isn't it cold?

EXERCISE 2.1 Translate into English

- 1.Bha iad glè thoilichte
- 2.Cha robh i shnog
- 3.An robh iad sgìth? Cha robh
- 4.An robh i tioram? Bha

EXERCISE 2.2 Translate into Gàidhlig

- 1.The man wasn't tired
- 2.Weren't you warm? No
- 3.Wasn't she wet? Yes
- 4.Wasn't I nice? Yes

ANSWERS EXERCISE 2.1

- 1.They were very pleased
- 2.She wasn't nice
- 3.Were they tired? No
4. Was it/she dry? Yes

ANSWERS EXERCISE 2.2

- 1.Cha robh am fear sgìth
- 2.Nach eil thu/sibh blàth? Chan eil
- 3.Nach robh i fliuch? Bha
- 4.Nach robh mi snog? Bha

A' Rannsachadh mu cuairt Bogsa nan Roimhearan

Aig

Rummaging around the Preposition Box, we came up with the preposition for “at” – aig.

This word has several different applications. One of these is to denote possession, for in Gàidhlig we don't say we “have” something, we say, rather, that something is “at” us.

- Tha taigh aig Seumas
- Tha cù aig Màiri

Additionally, in Gàidhlig, we don't say something is **on me** or **at me** as two different words, we make use of *prepositional pronouns*, which is the formation of a single word that means those things.

For aig, these take the form

Agam = at me	Againn = at us
Agad = at you (singular, familiar)	Agaibh = at you (plural, formal)
Aige = at him	Aca = at them
Aice = at her	

So, in order to say that I (or you, or she, etc) have/has something, I use one of these prepositional pronouns.

- Tha cù agam = I have a dog
- Tha cù agad = You have a dog
- Tha cù aige = He has a dog
- Tha cù aice = She has a dog

- Tha cù againn = We have a dog
- Tha cù agaibh = You (pl / frml) have a dog
- Tha cù aca = They have a dog

EXERCISE 2.3 – Translate into Gàidhlig

1. We have a car.
2. He had a boat.
3. Did you have a book?
4. Do they have a house?

Answers Exercise 2.3

1. Tha càr againn.
2. Bha bàta aige.
3. An robh leabhar agad?

4. A bheil taigh aca?

Òran: *Tha taigh agam*

An òran:

Tha Bean Agam, Tha Taigh Agam

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QmiV96Y049o>

Tha bean agam, tha taigh agam,
Tha allt aig ceann an taigh' agam,
Tha punnd de shiabann geal agam
'S mo lèine salach grànnda.

Dè nì mi gun lèine ghlan, gun lèine gheal,
Gun lèine ghlan?
Dè nì mi gun lèine ghlan,
'S mi falbh on taigh a-màireach?

Vocabulary:

Parts of the face

Aodann (m) • Face

The illustration shows three children's faces. On the left is a girl with blonde hair, in the middle is a boy with dark hair, and on the right is a girl with dark curly hair. Lines connect Gaelic and English labels to specific parts of their faces.

- falt (m) hair
- maoil (f) forehead
- mala (f) eyebrow
- sùil (f) eye
- sròn (f) nose
- beul (m) mouth
- cluas (f) ear
- gruaidhean (f) cheeks
- fiacian (f) teeth
- smiogaid (f) chin

Clas Ath-sgrùdaidh

Review Session

Caibideil 3

The verbal noun (& the progressive verb)

We've already seen in a couple different instances how we can say where we live or whether we understand something

Tha mi a' tuigsinn – I understand

Tha mi a' fuireach – I live (as in to *reside* or *dwell*)

We've already learned how “aig” can be used to express possession

Tha taigh agam – I have a house

Tha cù agam – I have a dog

Additionally, the preposition ‘aig’ has a different use. It is used to form what in English is called the progressive – the **-ing** -- form of the verb, as in the English ...

- I am running
- I am speaking

Since there is no present tense in Gaelic, this form is used also to express present action (much like in English).

- **Tha** mi a' ruith – I'm running
- **Tha** mi a' bruidhinn – I'm speaking

This form is convenient for the Gaelic learner because we can easily shift from the present tense to the past tense by using the present tense and the past tense of the verb **to be** (we learned the past tense in week 2).

- **Bha** mi a' ruith. – I was running
- **Bha** mi a' bruidhinn – I was speaking

Every verb in Gaelic has a form of a verbal noun. This is a noun/verb that sometimes serves as a “verb” and sometimes as a noun.

In the following examples, a' is the contracted form of aig ... this contraction is used when the verbal noun begins with a consonant:

As in

Tha mi a' ruith – I am running
 Tha mi a' tuigsinn – I am seeing
 Tha mi ag òl – I am drinking

The syntax for the sentence in its basic structure is

To be	Subject (person, place, or thing doing the action)	Verbal noun	Object of the verb (if there is one)
Tha	Alasdair	a' seinn	an òran
Alasdair is singing the song			
Bha	na balaich	a' cluich	ball- coise
The boys were playing soccer			
Tha	mi	a' leughadh	an leabhar
I was reading a book			
Bha	Màiri	a' sgrìobhadh	litir
Mary was writing a letter			
An robh	iad	a' togail	taigh?
Were they building (raising) a house?			
Bha	e	a' snàmh	
He was swimming			

Some verbal nouns

a' fuireach -	Staying, living (dwelling)
a' dol	Going
a' tighinn	Coming
a' cluinntinn	Hearing
ag ràdh / a' ràdh **	Saying
a' seinn	Singing
a' cluich	Playing
a' dèanamh	Doing
a' faicinn	Seeing
a' faighinn	Getting
a' toirt do	Giving
a' toirt bho	Taking
a' bruidhinn	Speaking
a' tuigsinn	Understanding
a' togail	Lifting, building (as in, a building)
a' ruith	Running
a' leughadh	Reading
ag òl *	Drinking
ag ithe *	Eating
a' coiseachd	walking

EXERCISE 3.1 – Translate into Gàidhlig

1. He is reading a book
2. The man is drinking
3. The woman was eating dinner
4. He is walking in the park
5. She understood.

EXERCISE 3.2 – Translate into English

1. Tha iad a' bruidhinn Gàidhlig.
2. Tha Màiri a' seinn òran.
3. Bha mi a' fuireach ann an California.
4. Bha mi a' dol dhachaigh.
5. Tha e a' dèanamh dinnear.

EXERCISE 3.1 – Answers

1. Tha e a' leughadh leabhar.
2. Tha an duine ag òl.
3. Bha am boireannach ag ithe dinnear.
4. Tha e a' coiseachd anns a' phàirc.
5. Bha i a' tuigsinn.

EXERCISE 3.2 – Answers

1. They are speaking Gaelic.
2. Mary is singing a song.
3. I was living in California.
4. I was going home.
5. He is making dinner.

Exercise 3.3

Translate into English

1. A bheil thu a' dol a Ghlaschu an-diugh?
2. A bheil thu a' bruidhinn Gàidhlig?
3. An robh thu ag obair an-diugh?
4. Càit' a bheil thu a' fuireach an-dràsta?
5. Càit' a bheil thu ag obair?
6. An robh thu ag ithe dinnear?

7. A bheil thu a' faicinn cat?
8. A bheil thu a' dèanamh dinnear anns a' chidsin?
9. An robh thu a' faicinn an cu anns a' phàirc?
10. An robh thu a' faighinn càr ùr an-dè?

Answers 3.3

1. Are you going to Glasgow today?
2. Do you speak Gàidhlig? (Are you speaking Gàidhlig?)
3. Were you working today?
4. Where are you living now?
5. Where do you work?
6. Did you eat dinner? (Were you eating dinner?)
7. Do you see a cat?
8. Are you making dinner in the kitchen?
9. Did you see the dog in the park?
10. Did you get a new car yesterday?

A' rannsachadh mu chuairt bogsa nan roimhearan Rummaging around the preposition box

Ann an / anns an / ann am

Such a little word ... such a great difficulty!

Ann

The word **ann** has a few different uses in Gaelic and is expressed in a few different ways.

1. First, it means simply “in” and is combined with “an” or “am”:

Tha cat **ann an** taigh. – A cat is in a house.

Tha airgead **ann am** бага. – Money is in a bag.

Note what happens when the noun begins with **b, f, m, p**, which we know by the device, **Bowl (of) Fluffy Mashed Potatoes**.



The “ann an” becomes “ann **am**” – this is typical of treatment of the article of masculine nouns that begin with these letters (b, f, m, p).

Tha cèic ann **am** bogsa. – A cake is in a box.

Tha gliocas ann **am** boireannach.* Wisdom is in a woman. (A woman is wise.)

*Grammatically, “*boireannach*” – woman – is masculine, though only grammatically - of course, Gaels know the difference between boys and girls!

When the meaning is **in the** (something), the “ann” becomes ‘**anns**’ as in ...

Tha airgead **anns** a’ bhaga. Money is in **the** bag.

Tha cèic **anns** a’ bhogsa – A cake is in **the** box.

Tha cat **anns** an taigh. – A cat is in **the** house.

Tha gliocas **anns** a' bhoireannach. Wisdom is in the woman. (The woman is wise.)

And to be even-handed, we could say,

Tha gliocas **anns** an duine. Wisdom in the man. (The man is wise.)

(Perhaps you've noticed how "the" changes its form in the above examples. We won't explain that now, but be prepared for a complete explanation at a later date.)

- Tha airgead **anns** a' bhaga. Money is in **the** bag.
- Tha cat **anns** an taigh. – A cat is in **the** house.
- Ann = 'there'
- Ann an = in (a)
- Anns an = in the

As distinct from,

- Tha cat **ann** an taigh - a cat is in **a** house
- Tha cat **ann** am bogsa - a cat is in **a** box (note the 'am' before the b f m p word -- 'bogsa')

Exercise 3.3 – Translate into Gàidhlig

1. The dog is in a garden (garden = *gàrradh*)
2. The boy is in the car.
3. Màiri was in the house.
4. It was in the box.
5. Is it in the box?

Exercise 3.3 – Answers

1. Tha an cù ann an gàrradh.
2. Tha am balach anns a' chàr.
3. Bha Màiri anns an taigh.
4. Bha e anns a' bhogsa.
5. A bheil e anns a' bhogsa?

2. **There's a there there: There is** another usage that does not translate as "in" – this is what is called the expletive construction in English – the "there is / there are" type of sentence.

In the English constructions

- There is ...
- There are ...

the “there” is a particle that doesn’t point to any specific location (the *there*) but is simply a placeholder because English does not allow a statement (as opposed to a question) such as

- Is a man at the door.

It is important not to try to translate these constructions literally, because the *'anns'* or the *ann*, and in fact, the complete phrase -- the *'anns an'* and *'ann an'* -- both signal 'in' as in 'in the' and 'in a' but in a way that can't be broken down word by word in English, for *'anns'* is not 'the' although it signals the definite article (“the” in English); and while, following *'anns'* any of the various forms of the definite article (“the”)

- *an, am, a', na*

but following *ann*, the “an” is not the definite article (“the”), so while following *ann* (as in *ann an*), the *'ann'* does signify 'in,' the *'an'* is neither a definite or indefinite article (“a” or “an” in English); it is simply a part of *'ann an'*.

Let's see if I can explain this –

In these examples, the *a'* and *an* signify the definite article - 'the'. We know this because the 's' at the end of *'anns'* signifies the coming of the definite article.

- Tha cat ann anns a' bhogsa ... There is a cat in the box
- Tha cat ann ann am bhogsa ... There is a cat in a box
- Tha cat ann ann an taigh ... There is a cat in a house

The first *'ann'* forms what in English we call the expletive construction: *There is ...* or *there are ...*

We can see these at work:

- Tha duine **ann** aig an doras. – **There is** a man at the door.
- Tha cat **ann** anns an taigh. **There is** a cat in the house.
- Tha cèic **ann** anns a' bhogsa. **There is** a cake in the box.

Or, to illustrate using the sentences above:

- Tha airgead **ann** anns a' bhaga. **There is** money in **the** bag.
- Tha cèic **ann** anns a' bhogsa – **There is** a cake in **the** box.
- Tha cat **ann** anns an taigh. – **There is** a cat in the house.
- Tha gliocas **ann** anns a' bhoireannach. **There is** wisdom in the woman.
(The woman is wise.)

- Tha gliocas **ann** anns an duine. **There is** wisdom in the man. (The man is wise.)

Note how this “**ann**” is different (has a different meaning) than the locational “there”. So, while we translate these sentences into a “there is/are” English sentence, we are not to understand/translate this “ann” as containing a verb as in “there **are**” – in a sense, it “goes back” and modifies the “tha.”

On the other hand, *ann/anns* can combine with *an, am, a’, or na* to communicate “in a” or “in the.”

Mostly simply, the construction for the indefinite – the singular “a” or “an” in English, or the unexpressed indefinite plural. We always use *ann an*.

Observe how the word functions when we break it down expressing the twin ideas:

- Tha eòin **ann ann an** craobhan – **There** are birds are in trees.
- Tha eòin *ann an* craobhan – Birds are in trees.
- Tha eòin **ann ann an** craobh. **There** are birds in a tree.
- Tha eòin *ann an* craobh. – Birds are in a tree.

This is how we might break down the sentences:

Tha	eòin	ann	anns	na	craobhan
be/are	Birds	[there (are)]*	In	The	trees
Tha	eòin	anns	na	craobhan	
Be/are	birds	In	The	trees	
Tha	eòin	ann	ann	an	craobhan
Be/are	Birds	(there are)*		in	trees

We’ve switched to the plural in this example, so as to clearly mark the distinct parts of the sentence: you can see clearly the distinction between “ann an” and the definite article – the plural “the” in this case is “na,” while the singular “the” would be “an” -- which might lead to further confusion (if not in this case, in other possible sentences) – m.e., (mar eisimpleir), you might have sentences such as:

- Tha clann ann anns an taigh – There are children in **the** house
- Tha clann ann ann an taigh – There are children in **a** house
- Tha clann anns an taigh – Children are in **the** house
- Tha clann ann an taigh – Children are in **a** house

Exercise 3.4

Translate into Gàidhlig

1. There is a man in the house.
2. A man is in the house.
3. A cat is in a box.
4. There is a cat in a box.
5. A girl is in the park.
6. There is a girl in the park.

Exercise 3.4 – answer key

1. Tha duine ann anns an taigh.
2. Tha duine anns an taigh.
3. Tha cat ann am bogsa.
4. Tha cat ann ann am bogsa.
5. Tha nighean anns a' phàirc.
6. Tha nighean ann anns a' phàirc.

Òran: *Fhir a' bhàta*



Vocabulary: am bodhaig - the body

Talking about the body

A' bruidhinn mun bhodhaig

AN CEANN – THE HEAD

The following are names of parts of the head. You will have met some of them before. Others will be new to you.

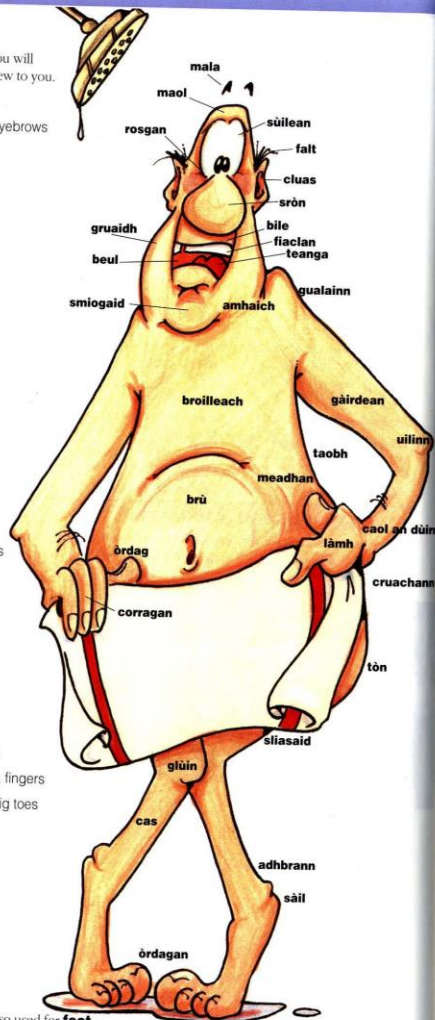
- aodann** or **aghaidh** – face
- mala** or **malaidh, mailghean** – eyebrow, eyebrows
- maol** – forehead
- sùil, sùilean** – eye, eyes
- rosg, rosgan** – eyelash, eyelashes
- falt** or **gruag** – hair
- cluas, cluasan** – ear, ears
- sròn** – nose
- gruaidh, gruaidhean** – cheek, cheeks
- beul** – mouth
- bile, bilean** or **lip, lipean** – lip, lips
- fiacail, fiacian** – tooth, teeth
- teanga** – tongue
- smiogaid** – chin

A' BHODHAIG – THE BODY

The following are the names of the main parts of the body:

- amhaich** – throat or neck
- gualainn, gualainnean** – shoulder, shoulders
- druim** – back
- broilleach** – chest
- gàirdean, gàirdeanan** – arm, arms
- uilinn, uilinnean** – elbow, elbows
- meadhan** – waist
- brù, mionach** or **stamag** – belly or stomach
- làmh, làmhan** – hand, hands
- caol an dùirn, caoil nan dòrn** – wrist, wrists
- corrag, corragan**, or **meur, meuran** – finger, fingers
- òrdag, òrdagan** – thumb, thumbs, or big toe, big toes
- cruachann** – hip
- tòn** or **màs** – bottom, buttocks
- taobh** – side
- sliasaid, sliasaidean** – thigh, thighs
- glùin, glùinean** – knee, knees
- cas, casan** – leg, legs or foot, feet
- adhbrann, adhbrannan** – ankle, ankles
- sàil, sàilean** – heel, heels

Note: **troigh** is also used for **foot**



Sgeulachd na Seachdain

Story of the Week





Alasdair



Màiri



Fraochan
aig
Alasdair

Peasan
aig
Màiri



Peasan agus Fraochan



Alasdair agus Màiri



Peasan
dubh



Fraochan geal



Peasan
dubh
aig
Màiri



Fraochan agus Alasdair

Fraochan
geal
aig
Alasdair



Peasan
agus
Màiri



Fraochan beag Alasdair mór

Tha Fraochan
agus Peasan
beag



Tha
Peasan
beag.
Tha Màiri
mór



Tha
Alasdair
agus
Màiri mór





Maide aig Fraochan



Peasan ag òl



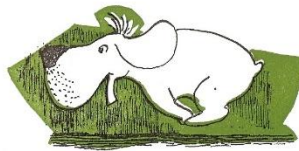
Ball aig Peasan



Fraochan ag ithe



Peasan dubh
a' cluich



Fraochan
geal
a'
cluich

Peasan a'
cluich le
ball



Fraochan
a'
cluich
le
maide



Peasan
a' cluich
le ball
beag



Fraochan
a' cluich
le maide
mór

Leasan 14

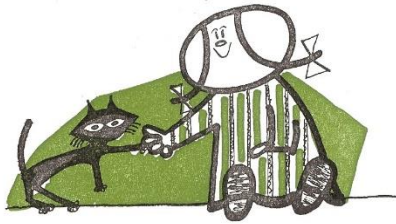


Alasdair
a' cluich le Fraochan

Leasan 15



Alasdair agus Màiri ag ithe



Màiri
a' cluich le Peasan



Fraochan agus Peasan ag òl

Òran na seachdain

- Suas leis a' Ghàidhlig

