

# 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:  
profmccintyre@yahoo.com  
the amount is up to you, but the suggested donation is \$5*

This week we will learn ...

- Sean fhacal na seachdain
- Review – ath-shealladh
- Dualchas nan Gàidheil –
- Òran na seachdain -

## *Sean fhacal na seachdain*

**Is beag an t-ioghnadh amadan a bhi leannanachd ri òinsich.**

**It's no wonder to see a fool courting an idiot.**



For example, more people die taking selfies than are killed in shark attacks.



## Clas Ath-sgrùdaidh

### Review Session

This week we're going to continue to review the material we've covered in the lessons prior to this.

### Caibideil 5

#### Gender and the Gaelic noun:

**First**, the rules that determine whether a word is feminine or not are much more narrowly defined than if the word is masculine. So, by default, you can first determine whether the word is feminine, and if it is not, it's the other (masculine). (Personally, I like this method because it cuts down on the amount of work you have to do.)

Remember that these tools are not 100%, but use them, and you'll be right maybe 80% of the time – which is a whole heck of a lot better than you would be if you hadn't learned them!

“Tells” that the word feminine:

#### 1. Ending:

- **-achd** at the end of the word
  - *siobhalt**achd*** (civilization),
  - *nàiseant**achd*** (nationality).
- **-ag** (& **-eag**) at end of word, m.e.
  - *cuile**eag*** (fly),
  - *uinne**eag*** (window)

#### 2. Slender last vowel: **i** as last vowel in word – a good chance it's female. This is not the last letter in a word, but the last vowel (there may be other letters later, but these are consonants). m.e.

- *braca**i**st* (breakfast)
- *seaca**i**d* (jacket)
- *sgo**i**l* (school)

Conversely, if the last vowel is broad, then *chances are* the word is masculine.

**Except** words that signify males, especially in occupations, m.e. (mar eisimpleir – for example ...)

- *seòlad**a**ir* – sailor(man)
- *iasg**a**ir* – fisher(man)
- *trust**a**ir* - Filthy or nasty fellow, indecent or obscene person

3. **Certain categories** tend to be feminine. Here is a **mnemonic** for the gender categories: **a b c d e**

- **A - *Ainmhidhean*** agus pearsachan boireannach - female animals and people - m.e.,
  - *bò* - cow,
  - *caora* – sheep,

Also, not to imply there's any convergence of the categories, but just trying to cram into the same mnemonic – nouns that signify **female persons** are usually of the feminine gender\*:

- *nighean* - girl;
- *maighdeann* - maiden, young woman;
- *màthair* - mother;
- *Piuthar* - sister.
- *Seanmhair* – grandmother
- *Bana-shaighdear* – female soldier, warrior
- *Bean-an-taighe* – landlady, “lady of the house”

\*Except *boireannach* – woman – which is masculine. Go figure!

- **B - *Bodhaig*** – body, *pàirt dhen bhodhaig* - parts of the **body**, m.e.
  - *cas* - leg,
  - *làmh* - hand;
- **C - *Ceòl*** – music, *innealan ciùil\** - traditional musical instruments, m.e.
  - *pìob* - bagpipe
  - *fidheall* – fiddle

\*exception – *clarsach* = harp (m)

- **D - *Dùthchannan*** - nations
  - *Alba* – Scotland;
  - *an t-Suain* – Sweden
  - *an Fhraing* – France
- **E \*** (sorta) – ***Iarmailt\**** (pronounced **ee**-ar-mailtch) – the sky, the “heavens” – rudan anns an iarmailt – things in the “heavens,” that is, heavenly bodies m.e.
  - *grian* – sun
  - *gealach* – moon

This is sort of a cheat ... even though it's spelled “iarmailt” you pronounce the first syllable with an *ee* sound (as in English) – which gives us the **a b c d e** mnemonic

**Masculine nouns:**

1. If a word is not in the above groups, most often it is male.
2. Imported / loan words from English\* are usually masc.
  - 'bus' - bus
  - 'càr' - car
  - Plèan (plèana) - plane

**\*Exception:** though *troilidh*, trolley, is feminine, *perhaps because of the last vowel rule*

3. **Verbal nouns** are masc. (that is, when operating as a noun)
  - atharrachadh - change, amendment, modification
  - faighneachd = **act** of asking, questioning
  - ceannachadh = **act** of buying, purchasing

Look how they work as **nouns**:

- Chuir **an t-atharrachadh** iongnadh orm = The change surprised me
- Tha **am faighneachd** sin mi-mhodhail. = That question is rude.
- Tha mi toilichte leis **an ceannachadh** agam. = I'm happy with my purchase.

This verbal-noun "rule" works even when there might be a counter-indicator, such as,

- Ruith = a run, a chase: The final 'i' vowel would lead us to believe it is feminine, but in fact the word is *masculine* (because it is a verbal noun):
  - Bha iad a' ruith = they were running
  - Bha *an ruith* fada = the race was long

\*Though don't forget that these verbal nouns can act as "verbs" in their own right, as when we use them in verbal noun constructions:

- Tha na làithean **ag atharrachadh**. = The days are changing
- Tha e **a' faighneachd** ceist. = He is asking a question.
- Bha Màiri **a' ceannachadh** càr ùr. Mary was buying a new car.

But the pattern holds true enough that it gives you a good "guess" - **the odds are in your favor!** 😊

Examples of exceptions to the above rules:

- *aiseag* (ferry) = masc.
- *bùth* (shop, store) = fem.
- *Boireannach* (woman) = masc

And then you have a small number of words that are masculine in one region but feminine in another. The Colin Mark dictionary gives this example:

- *aiseal* - ass (donkey) – fem but masc “in some places”

There are words that are one gender in one case but another in another case. One that comes to mind is *muir* (sea):

- *Am muir* – the sea (masc)
- but
- *Na mara* – *of* the sea (fem, genitive)

Additionally, a teacher from Lewis once told me that people in Lewis tend to “over-feminize” words, that is, make words fem. that according to the dictionary aren’t fem. Sometimes a writer – or even an individual speaker – might ‘switch’ genders for some reason or another (or no real reason). Nobody seems to get too upset by this.

But these exceptions are not numerous, so at this point you don’t have to worry about them.

### **Adjectives with feminine and masculine nouns:**

An Adjective is declined differently whether it modifies a masculine or a feminine noun. In short, the “basic” adjective is used with the masculine noun, and the lenited form of the adjective is used with a feminine noun:

- *Càr dearg* – a red car
- *Am muir domhainn* – the deep sea
- *An cù donn* – the brown dog
- *An duine mòr* – the big man

**But ...**

- *Bùth bheag* – the little shop
- *Piseag bhòidheach* – a beautiful kitten
- *Bò dhonn* – a brown cow
- *Nighean bheag* – a little girl

**Another handy mnemonic**

This offers us **another handy** mnemonic for remembering the gender of nouns: When you learn a noun, remember a simple adjective with the root form of the noun. It can be any adjective you want, as in the examples above, but to save memory ‘computing power,’ you could just use the adjectives *mòr* and *bheag* to modify every noun – leniting (**m**hòr and **b**heag) when with feminine nouns, of course!

So, in other words, instead of learning just *bùth* for shop, learn *bùth bheag* – little shop – the lenition of the one-syllable adjective will remind you that the word is feminine (as opposed, for instance, to *càr mòr* – the big car).

So, instead of just *bùth* (f) for ‘shop’ or ‘store,’ learn *bùth mhòr*

### Eisimpleirean:

- Càr (m, car) –càr mòr
- Boireannach (m, woman) - boireannach mòr
- Òrd (m, hammer) –òrd mòr
- Nighean (f, daughter, girl) –nighean bheag
- Gealach – (f, moon), - Gealach bhuidhe

(And to answer your question, yes, native speakers do acquire these forms so they are intuitive. Saying something else just doesn’t “sound right.” The rest of us who are not so fortunate to acquire these *bho ghlùn a’ mhàthair* -- from the knee of the mother – have to learn them through memorization.

There are some exceptions.

- Some words are both masculine & feminine
- According to dialect/region m.e. *cofaidh* (female in South Uist, male everywhere else),
- Sometimes words are male in the accusative but female in genitive, m.e.
  - *Muileann (masc): but in the genitive doras a’ mhuilinn agus doras na muilne.* (in this case, both male and female in genitive);
  - *muir (masc), am muir, grunn na mara (male in root form, but female in genitive)*
- In some cases, a word may be masculine in one area and feminine in another. Not many words of this sort and these sorts of regional differences seem to be fading out.
- **Nb**, I have heard that people in Lewis tend to ‘over-feminize’ – that is, cast otherwise male words as fem.
- Different forms of the same word might be variously masc. or fem. Mar eisimpleir – for example -- the word for “language”
  - *Cànan* (masc)
    - *an cànan,*
    - *eachdraidh a’ chànain.*
  - *cànain* (fem -- note the **i** as last vowel):
    - root: *a’ chànain,*
    - genitive: *eachdraidh na cànain(e)*

### Eacarsaich:

Go through the following list and identify the gender of the noun. F for feminine and M for masculine. Refer to the criteria above as guidelines.

Also, after you have done that, apply a modifying adjective to the word to help you remember its gender. (For the most part, the words below do conform to the rules spelled out above. That is, I've attempted to omit any exceptions.)

The first couple have been filled out m.e. (mar eisimpleirean – as examples):

| Noun                          | Gender | why                      | Word w/<br>adjective |
|-------------------------------|--------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Sgoil – school             | F      | Final i                  | Sgoil bheag          |
| 2. Athair – father            | M      | -air ending, masc person | Athair mòr           |
| 3. Bàrdachd – poetry          |        |                          |                      |
| 4. A' Chuimrigh - Wales       |        |                          |                      |
| 5. Cuspair – subject          |        |                          |                      |
| 6. Piseag – kitten            |        |                          |                      |
| 7. Reul-eòlaiche – astronomer |        |                          |                      |
| 8. Coltas – appearance        |        |                          |                      |
| 9. Ospadal – hospital         |        |                          |                      |
| 10. Uaireadair – watch        |        |                          |                      |
| 11. Cabhsair – sidewalk       |        |                          |                      |
| 12. Pàrant – parent           |        |                          |                      |
| 13. Màthair – mother          |        |                          |                      |
| 14. Iasgair – fisherman       |        |                          |                      |
| 15. Cailleach – old woman     |        |                          |                      |
| 16. Cearc – chicken           |        |                          |                      |
| 17. Seanmhair – grandmother   |        |                          |                      |
| 18. Aran – bread              |        |                          |                      |
| 19. A' Ghrèig – Greece        |        |                          |                      |
| 20. Smugaid – spit, spittle   |        |                          |                      |
| 21. Fasan – fashion, habit    |        |                          |                      |
| 22. Sgioba – team             |        |                          |                      |
| 23. Alba – Scotland           |        |                          |                      |
| 24. Pitheid – magpie          |        |                          |                      |
| 25. Fidheall – fiddle, violin |        |                          |                      |
| 26. Pìoba – bagpipe           |        |                          |                      |
| 27. Clàrsach – harp           |        |                          |                      |
| 28. Druma – drum              |        |                          |                      |
| 29. Fiadh – deer              |        |                          |                      |
| 30. Bò – cow                  |        |                          |                      |
| 31. Caora – sheep             |        |                          |                      |
| 32. Muc – pig (sow)           |        |                          |                      |
| 33. Drochaid – bridge         |        |                          |                      |
| 34. Fear – man, 'one'         |        |                          |                      |
| 35. Eagal – fear              |        |                          |                      |
| 36. Tè – woman, 'one'         |        |                          |                      |
| 37. Achadh – field            |        |                          |                      |
| 38. Bothan – cottage          |        |                          |                      |
| 39. Càr – car                 |        |                          |                      |
| 40. Bus – bus                 |        |                          |                      |



|  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|
| <p>41. Làraidh – truck<br/> 42. Coimpiutair – computer<br/> 43. Cù – dog<br/> 44. Pàirc – park (the place)<br/> 45. Dealbh – picture, photo<br/> 46. Sròn – nose<br/> 47. Amhaich – neck<br/> 48. Cluas – ear<br/> 49. Cas – leg<br/> 50. cruachann – hip<br/> 51. Sùil – eye<br/> 52. Maoil – forehead<br/> 53. Mala – eyebrow<br/> 54. Gruaidh – cheek<br/> 55. Òrdag – thumb (sometimes finger)<br/> 56. Glùn – knee<br/> 57. Bòrd – table<br/> 58. Cathair – chair<br/> 59. Rùm – room<br/> 60. Seòmar – room<br/> 61. Làr – floor<br/> 62. Doras – door<br/> 63. Truinnsear – plate<br/> 64. Forc – fork<br/> 65. Sgian – knife<br/> 66. Leabhar – book<br/> 67. Sgeilp – shelf (furniture)<br/> 68. Snàthad – needle<br/> 69. Òrd – hammer<br/> 70. Sgeulachd – story<br/> 71. Eaglais – church<br/> 72. Bracaist – breakfast<br/> 73. Bràthair – brother<br/> 74. Craobh – tree<br/> 75. Preas – bush<br/> 76. Eun – bird<br/> 77. Ròn – seal<br/> 78. Balach – boy<br/> 79. Nighean – girl<br/> 80. Leanabh – baby<br/> 81. Leannan – lover, sweetheart<br/> 82. Cìr – comb<br/> 83. Bruis – brush<br/> 84. Poit – pot (as for cooking)<br/> 85. Eilean – island<br/> 86. Tìr – land, country, territory<br/> 87. Tuathanas – farm<br/> 88. Each – horse<br/> 89. Feòrag – squirrel<br/> 90. Staidhre – stairs<br/> 91. Bàta – ship<br/> 92. Bata – stick<br/> 93. Uinneag – window<br/> 94. Cuilean – puppy</p> |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|

|                               |  |  |  |
|-------------------------------|--|--|--|
| 95. Coineanach – rabbit       |  |  |  |
| 96. Fraoch – heather          |  |  |  |
| 97. Ubhal – apple             |  |  |  |
| 98. Figheadaireachd – weaving |  |  |  |
| 99. An Fhraing – France       |  |  |  |
| 100. Cat – cat                |  |  |  |



We've done so well with that very difficult exercise, we deserve a song!

**"Gaol ise Gaol i"**



Traditional Hebridean waulking song (Òran Luaidh)

Performed by Kathleen MacInnes

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=avLlyNs3R0Q>

The song is sung in two voices – that of the young man who declares “Gaol ise gaol i” – my love is she, she is my love” – and that of the woman, Anna, daughter of Neil, who is pregnant by the son of the Laird of the Ships.

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <p><b>Mac fir Bhaile nan Long -</b><br/>Gaol ise gaol i<br/>Hu ri rì o hùo<br/>Ro-ho ì o hì o</p> <p>Gaol ise, gaol i<br/>E ho hùo hùo<br/>Hu ri rì o hùo<br/>Ro-ho ì o hì o</p> <p>Gaol air Anna ní'n Nill<br/>E ho hùo hùo..</p> | <p><b>Song of the Laird of the Ships --</b><br/>My love is she, she is my love</p> <p>My love is she, she is my love</p> <p>Love for Ann daughter of Neil</p> |
|--|---|

**Anna ní'n Nill**

Mi torrach, mi trom  
E ho hùo hùo..  
Chan ann le balach mo throm  
E ho hùo hùo..  
Ach leis an lasgaire dhonn  
E ho hùo hùo..  
Mac fir Bhaile nan Long  
E ho hùo hùo..  
Leis an èireadh na suinn  
E ho hùo hùo..  
Mi dualach mi donn  
E ho hùo hùo..  
Mi gur bior-shùileach, binn  
E ho hùo hùo..  
Mi mar smeòraich an craoibh'  
E ho hùo hùo..  
Mi mar chuthaig an coill'  
E ho hùo hùo..

Mi cuimir 's mi cruinn  
E ho hùo hùo..

**Mac fir Bhaile nan Long -**

Gaol ise gaol i  
E ho hùo hùo..  
Gaol air Anna ní'n Nill  
E ho hùo hùo..

**Anna, daughter of Neil**

I am heavy with child  
By no ordinary lad is my child  
But by the brown-haired hero  
Son of the Laird of the Ships  
With whom warriors would rise  
My hair curly and brown  
Keen my eyes – sweet my voice  
Like a thrush in a tree  
Like a cuckoo in a wood  
I am well-proportioned and I am curvy

**Song of the Laird of the Ships --**

My love is she, she is my love  
Love for Ann daughter of Neil





## Caibideil 7

Ath-sgrùdadh:

the verbal noun sentence

Dè tha iad a' dèanamh?

Choose the sentence that describes what is being done in the picture opposite

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Tha iad a' cluich ball-coise</li><li>• Tha i a' seinn</li><li>• Tha iad ag obair</li><li>• Tha iad a' togail taigh</li></ul> |    |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Tha iad a' cluich ball-coise</li><li>• Tha i a' seinn</li><li>• Tha iad ag obair</li><li>• Tha iad a' togail taigh</li></ul> |   |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Tha iad a' cluich ball-coise</li><li>• Tha i a' seinn</li><li>• Tha iad ag obair</li><li>• Tha iad a' togail taigh</li></ul> |  |



- Tha i a' snàmh
- Tha iad a' coiseachd
- Tha i a' sgrìobhadh
- Tha e a' ruith



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- Tha i a' sgrìobhadh
- Tha e a' ruith



- Tha i a' snàmh
- Tha iad a' coiseachd
- Tha i a' sgrìobhadh
- Tha e a' ruith





Tha an duine ag òl uisge-beatha  
Tha na fir a' cluich nan pìoban  
Tha an teaghlach ag ithe dinnear  
Tha na nigheanan a' dannsadh



Tha an duine ag òl uisge-beatha  
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Tha na fir a' cluich nan pìoban  
Tha an teaghlach ag ithe dinnear  
Tha na nigheanan a' dannsadh



- Tha na maighdeannan a' leughadh leabhar
- Tha na daoine a' dol dhan eaglais
- Tha iad ag èisteachd ri ceòl
- Tha na boireannaich a' coimhead air film ann an taigh-dealbh



- Tha na maighdeannan a' leughadh leabhar
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- Tha iad ag èisteachd ri ceòl
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Dè an Dath a tha seo? [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uwxcq\\_mvsyM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uwxcq_mvsyM)

òran dathan <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yflmh2jfUNw>



And “special” colors:

- bàn = white, fair, (people, animals); sometimes “blond” for people
- ruadh = red (hair, fur)
- gorm = green (grass)

## **Òran: Làithean na Seachdain**

### **Dè an Latha a th' ann?**

- Diluain Monday
- Dimàirt Tuesday
- Diciadain Wednesday
- Diardaoin Thursday
- Dihaoine Friday
- Disathairne Saturday
- Didòmhnaich Sunday
  - (also known as Latha na Sàbaid – but it wouldn't fit into the song ;)

# **Ceàrn an Dùthchais**

.

**To follow ...**

# Òran na Seachdain

## *Griogal Cridhe*

Lament made by his widow for Gregor MacGregor Glenstrae, beheaded by the Campbells in 1570. Legend has it that the wife wrote the song while looking out the window at the gates of the city where the head of her husband was sitting on top of the pole.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=scc-XXZDvdE>

*The lyrics in italics below are not included in the linked song*

'S iomadh h-oidhche fhliuch is thioram  
Sìde na seachd sian  
Gheibheadh Griogal dhomhsa creagan  
Ris an gabhainn dian

Chorus:

Òbhan òbhan òbhan iri  
Òbhan iri, o!  
Òbhan òbhan òbhan iri

*'S mór mo mhulad, 's mór  
Dh'èirich mi dh'an t-seòmar mhullaich,  
'S theirinn mi 'n taigh-làir,  
'S cha d'fhuair mise Griogal cridhe  
Na shuidhe mu 'n chlàr.*

*Eudaìl mhóir a shluaigh an Domhain,  
Dhòirt iad d'fhuil o 'n-dé,  
'S chuir iad do cheann air stob daraich  
Tacan beag bho d'chré.*

*B'annsa bhi le Griogal cridhe  
Teàrnadh chruidh le gleann,  
Na le Baran mór na Dalach,  
Sìoda geal mu m'cheann.*

'Nuair a bhios mnàthan òg a' bhaile,  
'Nochd nan cadal sèimh,  
'S ann bhios mis' air bruaich do lice,  
'Bualadh mo dhà làimh.

'S ged tha mi gun ùbhlán agam,  
'S ùbhlán uil' aig càch;  
'S ann tha m' ubhal cùbhraidh grinn,  
'S cùl a chinn ri lar.

Many a night both wet and dry  
Weather of the seven elements  
Gregor would find for me a rocky shelter  
Which I would take eagerly.

Chorus:

Obhan, Obhan, Obhan iri  
Obhan iri O!  
Obhan Obhan Obhan iri,

Great is my sorrow, great.  
I climbed into the upper chamber  
And lay upon the floor  
And I would not find my dearest Gregor  
At the table in his place.

Great darling of the World's people  
They spilt your blood yesterday  
And they put your head on an oaken stake  
Near where your body lay.

I would be glad to be with dear Gregor  
Guarding cattle in the glen  
Instead of with the great Baron of Dalach,  
White silk around my head.

While the young wives of the town  
Serenely sleep tonight  
I will be at the edge of your gravestone  
Beating my two hands.

Though now I have no apples,  
And others have them all,  
My own apple, fragrant, handsome –  
And the back of his head on the ground.

