

Caibideil 16

Ath-sgrudadh

Review

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
- The definite article (“the”) & the nominative case of nouns
- Dualchas nan Gàidheil – ***Am faoinsgeul Cù-Chulainn***
- Òran - “A ghaoil, leig dhachaigh gum mhàthair mi”

Sean fhacal na Seachdaine

Proverb / 'Old Saying" of the Week

Chan eil saoidh air nach laigh leòn.



No hero is proof against a wound.

(There is not a hero / righteous person upon whom does not land a wound.)

The definitive article (“the”) with nouns

As we’ve discussed before, there is no word for *a* or *an* in Gàidhlig. All indefinite nouns simply are referred to by the noun by itself:

- Doras – a door
- Balach – a boy
- Taigh – a house
- Eaglais – a church
- Leabaidh – a bed
- Caileag – a girl

For definite nouns (those taking a “the”), the case is quite different. There is a variety of articles (*the*’s) that are used with Gaelic nouns (not to scare you, but the definite article can vary according to

- gender,
- case,
- initial/first letter, or
- singular/plural

– all in all, making for something like 60 different possibilities, *depending ...*), and for this reason we need to approach this topic slowly, starting off with the nominative.

Grammar reminder:

Definition: a “nominative” noun is the root form of the noun -- the word form you will find in the dictionary when you look it up – the unchanged, unaltered, singular version of the noun. (Remember, a noun is a “person, place, thing, or idea.”)

The nominative is also known as the accusative or the subjective form or “case”. The latter because it is the form used when the noun is the subject of the sentence.

Grammar reminder: the subject of a sentence is the “do-er” of the action, as in

- The **boy** hit the ball.

In this, “boy” is the subject of the verb.

Masculine nouns:

For masculine nouns that begin with a vowel, use the article “an” and the prefix t- (or an t-), thusly

Hint for memorizing: Sometimes, it is easier to remember a specific example than a general rule. Hence, these are given with the adjective mnemonic to further remind you of the gender); as well, a suggested commonly used noun is colored in red. So, if you remember, for instance, “an t-òran binn” as your model for masculine nouns that begin with a vowel, you can plug any similar noun into that pattern. For illustration, the examples are completed with adjectives that demonstrate this mnemonic device.

Noun	English	Definite	w/ adjective
Òran	Song	An t-òran	An t-òran binn
Each	Horse	An t-each	An t-each mòr
Òrd	Hammer	An t-òrd	An t-òrd mòr
Ùrlar	Floor	An t-ùrlar	An t-ùrlar dubh*
Ionad	Place, location	An t-ionad	An t-ionad mòr
Actar	Actor	An t-actar	An t-actar math

Dubh=black

Binn = ‘sweet’ (for songs)

For masculine nouns that begin with the infamous b, f, m, & p, (bowl of fluffy mashed potatoes) the article “**am**” is used:

Noun	English	Definite form	w/ adjective
Balach	Boy	Am balach	Am balach mòr
Bàta	Boat	Am bàta	Am bàta beag
Bata	Stick	Am bata	Am bata mòr
Facal	Word	Am facal	Am facal math
Mathan	Bear	Am mathan	Am mathan fiadhaich*
Muir	Sea	Am muir	Am muir mòr
Paipear	Paper	Am paipear	Am paipear fiosrachail
Pàigheadh	Paying, payment	Am pàigheadh	Am pàigheadh math
Boireannach	Woman	Am boireannach	Am boireannach beag

*fiadhaich= fierce

Fiosrachail = informative; (as in, chan eil fhios ‘m = I don’t know, is not knowledge at me)

For all other masculine nouns, we use the article **an**:

Noun	English	Definite form	w/ adjective
Cnoc	Hill	An cnoc	An cnoc mòr
Toll	Hole	An toll	An toll beag
Latha	Day	An latha (là)	An latha fada*
Saighdear	Soldier	An saighdear	An saighdear gaisgeil*
Duine	Man	An duine	An duine math
Seòmar	Room	An seòmar	An seòmar beag
Rùm	Room	An rùm	An rùm mòr

*Fada = long

Gaisgeil = heroic; gaisgeach = hero

Feminine nouns

Feminine nouns beginning with our infamous b, f, m, p and the gutturals c & g are **all lenited and take the article a’**:

Noun	English	Definite form	w/ adjective
Caileag	Girl	A' chaileag	A' chaileag bheag
Cailleach	Old woman	A' chailleach	A' chailleach mhòr
Gealach	Moon	A' ghealach	A' ghealach mhòr
Bùth	Shop	A' bhùth	A' bhùth bheag
Màthair	Mother	A' mhàthair	A' mhàthair bheag
Maighdeann	Maiden, girl	A' mhaighdeann	A' mhaighdeann mhòr
Breug	Lie	A' bhreug	A' bhreug mhòr

The f-feminine nouns present us with a special case:

Like the words above, those feminine nouns that are **f + consonant** are lenited and take the article **an** :

Noun	English	Definite form	w/ adjective
Freagairt	Answer	An fhreagairt	An fhreagairt mhath
Fraing	France	An Fhraing	An Fhraing bhòidheach
Fleasg	Garland, spray (of flowers)	An fhleasg	An fhleasg bhrèagha

*bòidheach/bhòidheach = beautiful

For 'f + vowel' feminine nouns, the definite article **an** is **still** used, but the noun is lenited:

Noun	English	Definite form	w/ adjective
Fiamhachd	Fear, timidity	an fhiamhachd	An fhiamhachd mhòr
Fàilte	Welcome	An fhàilte	An fhàilte mhath
Fianais	Evidence	An fhianais	An fhianais mhath
Fineag	Mite	An fhineag	An fhineag bheag
Fine	Clan, race, tribe	An fhine	An fhine shean
Finealtachd	Polished manners, sensitivity	An fhinealtachd	An fhinealtachd mhodhail

Modhail = well mannered

S: For feminine nouns beginning with an s+vowel, or an s+liquid (sl-, sn-, or sr-), you use an + the prefix t- (an t-):

Noun	English	Definite form	w/ adjective
Snàthad	Needle	An t-snàthad	An t-snàthad gheur*
Sùil	Eye	An t-sùil	An t-sùil dhonn
Sràid	Street	An t-sràid	An t-sràid fhada*
Slat	Stick, rod	An t-slat	An t-slat fhada
Sith	Peace	An t-sith	An t-sith ghoirid
Side	Weather	An t-side	An t-side mhath

*fada / fhada = long

Geur = sharp

The good news is that **both** masculine & feminine nouns – beginning with d, t, l, n, r, sg, sm, sp, or st all take the definite article an (some of these have already been covered in the section on masc. nouns, above):

Note the groupings – not in alphabetical order, but by types of sounds, that is,

- **d & t**, the ‘plosives’ (called this, because they kind of “*explode*” out of your mouth)
- the ‘**liquids**’ – n & r (these just kind of ‘*flow*’)
- the ‘**difficult**’ s+ words (the trouble makers!) that don’t lend themselves to lenition

As you’re looking over this list, see if you can figure out what the gender of each noun is.

Noun	English	Definite form	w/ adjective
The plosives			
Duine	Man	An duine	An duine mòr
Dachaigh	home	An dachaigh	An dachaigh shnog
Taigh	House	An taigh	An taigh mòr
Taibhse	Ghost	An taibhse	An taibhse fheagalach
The liquids			
Leabhar	Book	An leabhar	An leabhar fada
Làmh	Hand	An làmh	An làmh chli
Nead	Nest	An nead	An nead snog
Nighean	Girl, daughter	An nighean	An nighean bhrèagha
Ròn	Seal	An ròn	An ròn donn
Roinn	Area, county, division	An roinn	An roinn mhòr
The ‘difficult’ s+ words			
Sgàthan	Mirror	An sgàthan	An sgàthan briste
Sgian	Knife	An sgian	An sgian dubh
Sgeilp	Shelf	An sgeilp	An sgeilp ghorm
Smachd	Authority, control, discipline	An smachd	An smachd math
Smaoin	Thought, reflection	An smaoin	An smaoin fhada
Speuradair	Astronomer	An speuradair	An speuradair glic
Spàin	Spoon	An spàin	An spàin bheag
Staidhre	Stair(s), staircase	An staidhre	An staidhre fhada
Stòr	Treasure, storehouse, repertoire	An stòr	An stòr mòr

Briste = broken

Cli / chli = left

Fheagalach = form of eagalach, scary; eagalach-feagalach = hairy-scary

Plural nouns

Once in a while, Gaelic gives us a break. And here it is!

The nominative plural article in all instances (that is, whether masc. or fem.) is **na** :

Noun	English
Na leabhraichean	The books

Na làithean	The days
Na nigheanan	The girls
Na ballaich	The boys
Na fir	The men
Na bùithtean	The shops
Na saighdearan	The soldiers
Na càraichean	The cars

Except ... (with Gàidhlig, there's always an exception)

Plurals that begin with a vowel, the plural definite article = **na h-** (whether masculine or feminine)

Na h-òrain	The songs
Na h-adhbharan	The reasons
Na h-eich	The horses

*na Hearadh = Harris; used to be written as na h-Earadh

Another 'h' word: *horo-gheallaidh* – hootenanny, a wild party!

EACARSAICHEAN:

Here we're concentrating on nouns with definite articles:

EXERCISE 1 Translate into English

1. An robh thu anns an eaglais?
2. Tha an gille anns an rùm
3. Cha robh duine aig an doras
4. A bheil thu aig an sgoil? Tha
5. Bha i tinn agus cha robh i aig an sgoil
6. Tha mi glè bhlàth faisg air an teine (blàth = warm, teine = fire; faisg air = near)
7. Bha iad ris an doras
8. A bheil an leabaidh anns an rùm?
9. Chan eil an sgoil glan.
10. Tha an eaglais fuar.
11. An robh an sgian geur?
12. A bheil an litir mòr?
13. Bha an nead falamh.
14. Chan robh an t-òran snog.
15. Tha an leabhar fada.

EXERCISE 2 Translate into Gàidhlig

1. The man is busy on the road
2. The boat is on the river
3. They were in the hotel.

4. We weren't very hot at the fire
5. There is a letter from the girl (nighean)
6. There isn't an empty room in the house.
7. Was the book small?
8. The lad is terribly tired.
9. The floor was not wet.
10. The fire was hot.
11. The hand was cold.
12. The girl was not happy.
13. The night is cold.

Sgrìobhadh saor (free writing):

Write 5-10 sentences using a noun with a definite article and using the new vocabulary words below:

Vocabulary:

Adjectives:

Falamh - empty Glan - clean Salach	Geur Ìosal teth
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nouns

Abhainn river Balach - boy Bàta - boat Bata - stick Caileag - girl Doras - door Duine - person, husband, man Each - horse Eaglais - church Fearg - anger Gille - lad Làmh - hand Làr - floor Leabaidh - bed	Leabhar - book Litir - letter Loch - loch Nead - nest Nighean - girl, daughter Oidhche - night Òran - song Peann - pen Rathad - road Seòmar - room Sgàthan mirror Sgian - knife Sgoil - school Sìth - peace Snàthad - needle Taigh - house
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Dualchas nan Gàidheil
Am faoinsgeul Chù-Chulainn
The legend of Cuchulainn

Cuchulainn - The Hound of Ulster



Ancient bards

- Tell the stories of one of the greatest heroes ... the boy known as Setanta ... the son of a god and a mortal woman.



The King's sister Dechtire and all the women of the royal court disappeared ...

- The king Conor Mac Nessa sent out his warriors to find them





- They followed a swarm of blackbirds ...

They found a poor, little cottage ...



- But when they entered ... a magnificent hall ...



And Lugh ... the God



- And a beautiful woman ...
Dechtire, the King's sister ...
who had been living with the
God as his wife

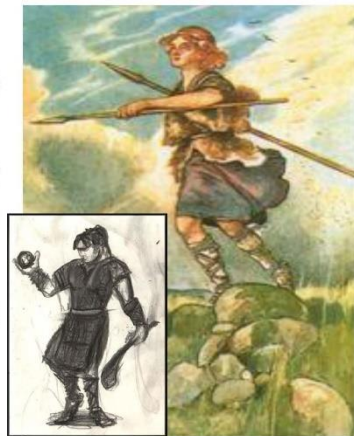


It is your sister's son, my lord ...



- And the son of a god ..
- All the warriors of the king vied to foster the child ...

As a boy, he was reknown for his prowess ... at play and training for war.



He took the name of Cuchulain ...

- **The Hound of Culan ...**
- When he killed the guard dog of a neighboring King – Culan - he volunteered to become his “dog” until a new one was obtained



Warp spasm of Cuchulain



When entering into battle, Cuchulain would go into a frenzy, his face would distort, his hair stand on end .



In this warp spasm, he was uncontrollable, even by himself ... dangerous to everyone, even his friends.



- Once, when he had not had enough of fighting, he remained in his spasm and threatened to attack his own men ...
- The king ordered the women to strip naked ...
- Embarrassed, Cuchulain allowed himself to be thrown into a vat of cold milk, where he 'cooled off'

Cuchulainn is sent to

- Dùn Scathaich on the Isle of Skye



- To train in the arts of war with Scathaich – the woman warrior ...



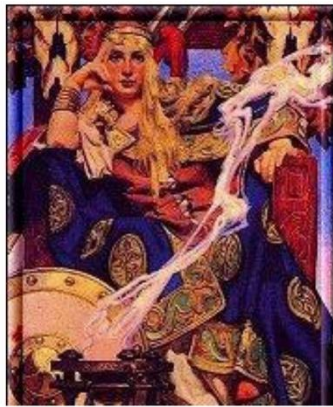
He was there, too,
he learned the arts
of love ...

- After an affair with Uathach, daughter of Scathaich, he fathers a son on Aife, the enemy of Scathach.

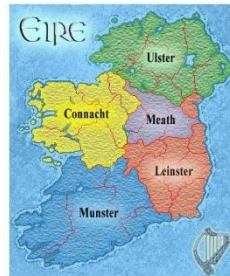


- As a parting gift Scathach gave him **The Gáe Bulg** – the “Belly Spear.”
- Made from the bone of a sea monster, it entered a man's body with a single wound, like a javelin, then opened into thirty barbs.
- Only by cutting away the flesh could it be taken from that man's body

The Tain Bo Cuailgne



Queen
Maebh
of Connacht



But there was such a bull ...

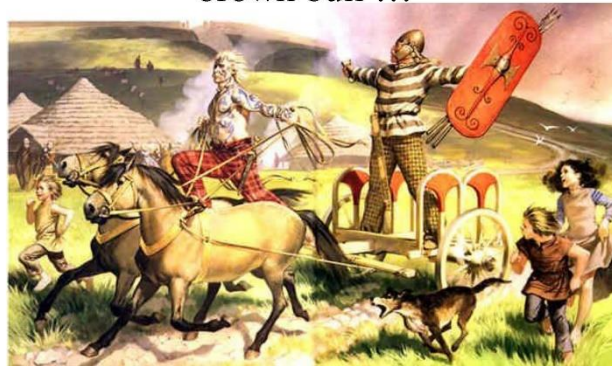
- She tried to borrow it
...
- Promising a 1,000 cows
...
- And the pleasure of my
thighs ...
- But Ulster refused ...



I will have the bull!



She launched a war to get the
brown bull ...



The Ulstermen, stricken by the
curse of Macha ...

- ... fall down as if in
pains of labor



Flashback ...



Crunchu had lost his wife

- One day a beautiful woman appeared to him ...



- She said she would stay with him



But you must tell no one



They lived together



- And he discovered she was faster than his fastest horses



The king declared a *games* ...



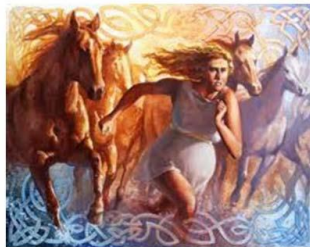
Crunchu could not resist
bragging

- My wife is faster
than the king's
horses!



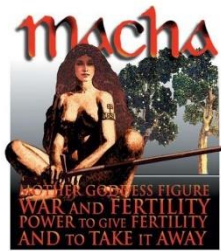
She protested but the king
commanded...

- She won, but ...



- She doubled over in
pain of childbirth
...





- She was really the goddess ...

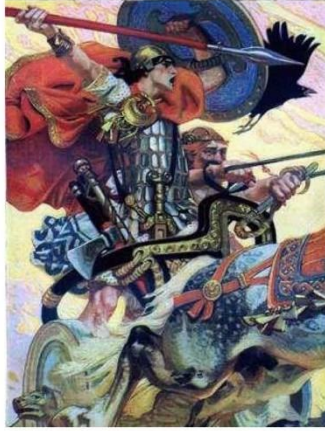
From this day on you will be afflicted by this weakness because of your cruel treatment of me.

- At the hour of your greatest need, when you are under attack, every Ulsterman will become as defenseless and helpless as a woman giving birth. For five days and four nights you will remain in that state, and your descendants will be afflicted for nine generations.



- So, Cuchulain was left to himself to fight the invasion ...

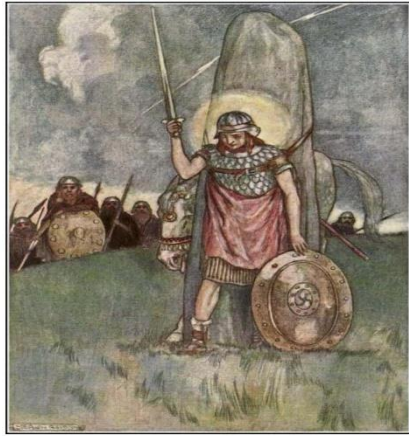




Death of
Connla,
only son of
Cuchulain

...





The death
of
Cuchulain



Òran na seachdain

And as promised, we're going to concentrate on

Aon òran:

“A ghaoil, leig dhachaigh gum mhàthair mi”

(but don't worry, we're going to take our time and not going to do the whole thing)

Sung by Julie Fowlis

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JOu0qORSDK0>

<p>A ghaoil, leig dhachaigh gum mhàthair mi; A ghràidh, leig dhachaigh gum mhàthair mi; A ghaoil, leig dhachaigh gum mhàthair mi - An tòir chrodh-laoigh a thàinig mi.</p> <p>Gur ann a-raoir a chuala mi Mo ghaol a bhith ri buachailleachd, 'S ged fhuair thu 'n iomall na buaile mi, A ghaoil, leig dhachaigh mar fhuair thu mi.</p> <p>'S mi dìreadh ris na gàrraidhean, 'S a' teàrnadh ris na fàirichean, Gun d' thachair fleasgach bàigheil rium, 'S cha d' dh' fheuch e bonn ga chàirdeis rium.</p> <p>Ged bheireadh tu crodh agus caoraich dhomh, Ged bheireadh tu eachaibh air thaodaibh dhomh, Ged bheireadh tu sin agus daoine dhomh, A ghaoil, leig dhachaigh mar fhuair thu mi.</p> <p>Trodaidh m' athair 's mo mhàthair riut, Trodaidh mo chinneadh 's mo chàirdean riut, Ach marbhaidh mo thrìùir bhràithrean thu Mura tèid mi dhachaigh mar thàinig mi.</p> <p>Gheall mo mhàthair gùn thoirt dhomh, Gheall i ribean a b' ùire dhomh, Is gheall i breacan ùr thoirt dhomh Ma thèid mi dhachaigh mar fhuair thu mi</p>	<p>Love, let me (go) home to my mother Darling, let me (go) home to my mother Love, let me home to my mother I only came for the cattle.</p> <p>It was only last night That I heard that my love was herding And though you found me at the edge of the cattle fold Love, let me home as you found me.</p> <p>I was clambering up the dykes And descending the ridges When a friendly lad met me And he did not enforce his friendship on me.</p> <p>Though you were to give me cattle and sheep Though you were to give me tethered horses Though you were to give me that and men Love, let me home as you found me.</p> <p>My mother and father will chastise you My clan and my relatives will chastise you But my three brothers will kill you If I don't return home as I came.</p> <p>My mother promised me a gown Decorated with the newest of ribbons And she promised me a new plaid If I return home the way you found me.</p>
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