

=====HIGH LEVEL JAN 26TH CLASS SUMMARY=====

Quiz #2

Introduction to Scottish Gàidhlig Culture (Cultar):

- * Traditional Gàidhlig instruments (Piobaireachd, Clarsach, Voice/Coisir)
- Special Guest – Piping demonstration

Introduction to Scottish Gàidhlig language (Canan)

Language

- Grammar
 - Copula verbs (Bi/Is, etc)
- Conversational Skills
 - Review saying what you are doing
 - Expressing Desires

=====SPECIAL GUEST=====

Cultar:

References: 1) 2) 3)

Lament for Donald of Laggan

Donald of Laggan was the 8th laird of Glengarry, who died in 1645 aged 102. He was in constant conflict with the neighbouring Grants and MacKenzies, and hostilities included the burning of the church of Cill Chrìosd, and the capture and destruction of Glengarry’s stronghold, Strome Castle. Both of these events are commemorated in separate tunes of a lively nature, unlike this sublime lament to the old clan chief.

Strome Castle is a ruined castle on the shore of Loch Carron in Stromemore, 3.5 miles south-west of the village of Lochcarron, on the west coast of the Scottish Highlands. Originally built by the Macdonald Earls of Ross.

<http://www.undiscoveredscotland.co.uk/lochcarron/stromecastle/>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cill_Chriosd

<http://meanderingsabound.com/2012/06/24/cill-chriosd-christs-church-or-kilchrist-isle-of-skye/>

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Cànan:

Copula

Gaelic has not one, but two verbs which correspond to the English verb "to be". One of these verbs is "bi" and its forms which we've looked at already (tha, bha, bidh, bhiodh, etc).

- "Bi" is normally used to join a noun to an adjective ("I am sick", "he is tall"), or to describe

the action of a verbal noun ("they are running", "we are walking"). What "bi" cannot do is directly join a noun with another noun, to say that Thing A is Thing B, for instance "I'm Neil" or "he is the King" or "that was the end".

- In a sentence of this kind, "Thing A" is called the "subject" and "Thing B" is called the "predicate", and the verb that joins them is called the "copula". In Gaelic, the basic form of that copula verb is (coincidentally enough) "is". Sentences using "is" are typically subdivided for convenience. The first type is called the identification sentence and tells you *who* or *what* someone is. The subject in this kind of sentence is usually a personal pronoun and the emphatic forms are almost always used:
 - Is mise Niall. -- I am Neil
 - Is tusa Iain. -- You are Iain.
 - Is ise Màiri. -- She is Mary.
 - Is esan an t-ollamh. -- He is the professor.
 - Is iadsan Sìne agus Calum. -- They are Jenny and Calum.
- However, when the subject is not a pronoun, but is a proper name or a noun preceded by a definite article or a possessive, "is" is followed by "e" ("Is e...", often abbreviated as "Se...") which comes before the subject:
 - Is e Dòmhnall an tidsear. -- Donald is the teacher.
 - Is e Anna mo phiuthar. -- Anna is my sister.
 - Is e Seumas an sagart againn. -- Seumas is our priest.
 - Is e m'athair am ministear. -- My father is the minister.
 - Is e an Tighearna mo bhuachaille. -- The Lord is my shepherd.
- When the subject is not a pronoun *or* a proper name *or* a definite noun, we keep "Is e" but add a relative clause to the copula:
 - Is e seinneadair a tha ann an Iain. -- Iain is a singer. (Literally: it's a singer that is in Iain).
 - Is e bàrd a tha ann am Màiri. -- Mary is a poet. (Literally: it's a poet that is in Mary).
- (This is obviously similar to the "Tha Iain 'na sheinneadair" and "Tha Màiri 'na bàrd" kinds of sentences we learned earlier). Since "ann an" is still a preposition, it cannot be followed by a pronoun but must use a combined form. These forms are annam ("in me"), annad ("in you"), ann ("in him"), innte ("in her"), annainn ("in us"), annaibh ("in you"), and annta ("in them"):
 - Is e oileanaich a tha annta. -- They are students. (Literally: it's students that are in them).
 - Is e Ameireaganach a tha innte. -- She is an American. (Literally: it's an American that is in her).

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- A fourth kind of copula sentence involves an adjective as the predicate. Normally sentences using "bi" are reserved for joining nouns with adjectives, as mentioned earlier, but "is" is used when strong emphasis is required to convey the sense or for poetic effect, e.g.:
 - "Is beannaichte na daoine macanta". -- "Blessed are the meek." (lit: "the meek people")
- This lends a sense of permanency that "tha" cannot give. The use of "is" with adjectives is also common in Gaelic song.

Copula Questions, Negative Form etc.

- Questions involving the copula are asked using "an" ("am" before b, f, m, or p) or, for a negative question, "nach":
 - An ise Peigi? -- Is she Peggy?
 - Nach tusa Iain? -- Aren't you Iain?
 - An e Seonag do mhàthair? -- Is Seonag your mother?
 - Nach e Uilleam do bhràthair? -- Isn't William your brother?
 - An e tidsear a tha annad? -- Are you a teacher?
 - Nach e dotair a tha ann an Pòl? -- Isn't Paul a doctor?
- The negative form of "is" is "cha" (or "chan" before a vowel), which causes aspiration:
 - Cha mhise Calum. -- I am not Calum.
 - Chan e Seumas an tidsear. -- Seumas is not the teacher.
 - Chan e saor a tha annam. -- I am not a carpenter. (saor [m.])
- The normal "yes" answer to a copula question in the present tense is "Is e" or "Se".
- The normal "no" answer is "Chan e". However in questions where the subject is a pronoun, the "yes" is "is" plus the unemphatic form of the pronoun and "no" is "cha" plus the unemphatic form of the pronoun.

Quick Review:

- 3 types of numbers: Counting, Counting People, Ordinal
- 16 prepositional pronouns (amalgamates of Prepositions/Pronouns)
- Three types of events to be aware of: Highland Games, Fèisean, Mòds.
 - Many Highland Games, primarily composed of Piping, Highland Dancing and Track/Field events and competitions
 - Many Fèisean, primarily composed of music and performance events
 - There are just 3 Mòds internationally, The Royal National Mòd annually in Scotland

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(Various Places), US National Mòd annually in Ligonier, Pennsylvania, and Mòd Chanada annually in Ottawa, Canada

- Two common types of traditional Gàidhlig singing are Puirt-a-beul (or, mouth-music) and Waulking songs (working songs usually sang by women)
- Possessive pronouns are another way to express possession (my pen, your car, his house). We have seen that the prepositional pronoun “aig” can be used to say that one has something, the possessive pronouns go one degree further in expressing my, your, his/her, your (pl), our, their (mo, do, a/a, ur, ar, an/am)

=====REVIEW=====

Language

We've seen quite a bit of the copula verb "Bi" (To be), and today will have a look at the other copula verb "Is" (To be).

Usage.

Copula

<http://learngaelic.net/sol/episodes/9/1.jsp>

<http://learngaelic.net/sol/episodes/9/9.jsp>

Speaking Our Language

Tha mi ag iarraidh

<http://learngaelic.net/sol/episodes/5/5.jsp>

<http://learngaelic.net/sol/episodes/5/6.jsp>

<http://learngaelic.net/sol/episodes/5/7.jsp>

'S toigh leam (I like)

<http://learngaelic.net/sol/episodes/6/1.jsp>

<http://learngaelic.net/sol/episodes/6/2.jsp>

<http://learngaelic.net/sol/episodes/6/3.jsp>

<http://learngaelic.net/sol/episodes/6/4.jsp>

<http://learngaelic.net/sol/episodes/6/5.jsp>

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Traditional instruments of Gàidhlig music/culture:

Clàrsach (Harp), Pìob (Pipes), Fidheall (Fiddle), Guth/Coisir (Voice/Choir)

* Last class, we had a demo of singing and choirs

* Today, we will have a wonderful display of Ceòl Beag and Ceòl Mòr (or Pìobaireachd) with Bethany Bisailion, Pipe Major of The Sons of Scotland Pipe Band

Beth has had a private audience playing for the Queen of England several times

<http://www.cbc.ca/player/News/World/Jubilee/ID/2240652941/>

, was the piper for Prince William and Kate when they came to Ottawa

, has performed with Supertramp's Roger Hodgson at Scotiabank Place

, was a recent recipient of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee medal
and has more accolades that I can list here...

It is a great honour to have Beth pipe for us today...she will play the Ground (Ùrlar) and first movement of the Lament for Donald of Laggan, a traditional Pìobaireachd that is almost 400 years old, and a March-Strathspey-Reel