

“Let’s Learn Some Gaelic” (Part 2)

Scots Gaelic, (Gàidhlig) is the old Scottish language that was considered the main language of Scotland, especially in the Highlands until around the mid-1600s until English, or better described as Scots English had begun to be spoken around Scotland. Scots Gaelic is spoken by around 1.2% of Scotland of present day Scotland, according to recent statistics. The Gaelic language belongs to the Goidelic branch of Celtic dialects, alongside Irish and Manx.

In the last article, we learned:

Ciamar a tha thu?	[kimmer uh ha oo]	How are you?
Tha gu math.	[ha goo ma]	I’m fine/OK.

Here are some more fun and basic phrases in Scots Gaelic.

Dè an t-ainm a th' ort?	[jay un ten-um a horsht]	What is your name?
S’mise ... [your name]	[smee-sha...]	My name is...

The Scots Gaelic language is a very guttural language, meaning that there are a lot of dark throat sounds. Similar to languages like German, Gaelic has sounds like kkh as if you had something caught in your throat. Give it a try with some of these funny sounding Gaelic phrases!

Tha mi duilich.	[ha mee doo-leekkh]	I’m sorry.
Chan eil mi cinnteach	[kkhan yil mee keen-chokkh]	I’m not sure.

To learn more about Scots Gaelic and the Gaelic Society and Culture in Nova Scotia, visit: <https://www.novascotia.com/explore/culture/celtic-gaelic-culture> or keep up with the next publication article of “Let’s Learn Some Gaelic.” It is up to YOU to keep the interest of the Scots Gaelic language alive! Nach bruidhinn sinn Gàidhlig! (Let’s speak Gaelic!)