BM06: Fuaimean na Gàidhlig

Gaelic Sounds

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ÌRE:	**Bunaiteach-Meadhanach**	LEVEL:	**Beginner-Intermediate**
CUSPAIR:	**Fuaimean na Gàidhlig**	TOPIC:	**Gaelic Sounds**
PUINGEAN CÀNAIN:	**Fuaimreagan goirid agus fada; connragan leathann agus caol agus a' bhuaidh aca air litrichean eile**	LANGUAGE POINTS:	**Long and short vowels; palatal and non-palatal consonants and their effect**

ANGELA:

Fàilte. Bheir sinn sùil air cuid de rudan a bhios a' toirt buaidh air fuaimneachadh na Gàidhlig.

Mar luchd-ionnsachaidh, tha e uaireannan doirbh dhuinn am blas dòigheil fhaighinn. Tha deagh naidheachd agam dhut ged-tà. Ma chumas tu rud no dhà nad inntinn fhad 's a bhios tu a' bruidhinn, bidh am fuaimneachadh agad fada nas fheàrr, nas nàdarra, agus bidh do chuid Gàidhlig nas fhasa a thuigsinn.

A' chiad rud, agus is dòcha an rud as cudromaiche, 's e sin, dè cho fada 's a tha na **fuaimreagan** agad? Sin agad na litrichean **a, e, i, o** agus **u**. Uaireannan bidh iad air am fuaimneachadh fada, agus ann an Gàidhlig an latha an-diugh tha iad gan sgrìobhadh fada le bhith a' cur stràc os an cionn: **à, è, ì, ò** agus **ù**. Tha iad dha-rìribh fada. Tha e fada nas ceirte a bhith gam fuaimneachadh ro fhada seach ro ghoirid. Bidh iad a' cuideachadh ruitheam do chainnt. Mar eisimpleir tha e fada nas fheàrr a bhith ag ràdh: "Chì mi a-màireach thu," seach: "Chi mi a-maireach thu."

Uaireannan, 's e an diofar eadar dà fhacal gu tur diofraichte a tha san fhuaimreig agus cho fada 's a tha i. Fàisg agus faisg no bàta agus bata. Gabh air do shocair e agus dèan cinnteach gu bheil na fuaimreagan fada agad dha-rìribh fada.

ANGELA:

Welcome. Let's take a look at some of the factors that affect Gaelic pronunciation.

As learners, it can sometimes be difficult for us to find the correct accent. I have good news for you though. If you bear a couple of points in mind whilst you are speaking, your pronunciation will be much better, more natural and your spoken Gaelic will be easier to understand.

The first, and possibly the most important point is how long are your **vowels**? These are the letters **a, e, i, o** and **u**. Sometimes they are sounded long, and in modern-day Gaelic, their length is indicated by the addition of a grave accent above them: **à, è, ì, ò** and **ù**. They really are long. It is much more correct to sound them too long than too short. They help with the rhythm of your speech. For example, it's much better to say: "Chì mi a-màireach thu," than: "Chi mi a-maireach thu."

Sometimes the difference between two very different words is indicated by the vowel and its length. Squeeze and near or boat and walking stick. Take your time and make sure that your long vowels are indeed long.

ANGELA:

Tha fuaimreagan cudromach cuideachd san ath rud air an toir sinn sùil. Bidh fuaimreagan a' toirt buaidh air na litrichean a tha mun cuairt orra. Tha seo a rèir an e fuaimreag leathann a tha ann: **a/à, o/ò no u/ù,** no **caol: e/è** no **i/ì**. Bidh thu a' cluinntinn seo tric nuair a bhios daoine a' bruidhinn.

Èist ri seo.

Seall. 'S e latha math a th' ann. Nach tèid sinn don bhaile leis na gillean?

An cuala tu diofar seòrsaichean de "l" an sin? "l" leathann ann an "seall" agus "latha" agus "l" caol ann am "baile", "leis" agus "gillean".

Seall. 'S e latha math a th' ann. Nach tèid sinn don bhaile leis na gillean?

Bidh an aon seòrsa rud a' tachairt le caochladh de litrichean. Bidh na fuaimreagan a bhios mun cuairt orra a' toirt buaidh air mar a chanas tu iad.

Èist ri seo. Feuch an cluinn thu an diofar eadar litrichean le fuaimreagan caol mun cuairt orra agus na h-aon litrichean le fuaimreagan leathann mun cuairt orra.

Bha sinn ann an Lunnainn uaireigin agus chunnaic sinn tòrr rudan inntinneach. Chòrd e gu mòr rinn. An Tùr fhèin agus Drochaid an Tùir. Chaidh sinn seachad air Lùchairt Bhuckingham agus chaidh sinn air Rathad-iarainn Aotrom nan Calaidhean agus chunnaic sinn na togalaichean mòra an sin. Bha sinn ann an Abaid Westminster agus chunnaic sinn Lia Fàil, no mar a tha aig cuid, Clach-chrùnaidh na h-Alba. Tòrr rudan, ach na rudan a b' fheàrr leinn, 's e na taighean-tasgaidh agus margaidhean nan sràidean.

ANGELA:

Vowels are also important in the next case we are going to look at. Vowels have an effect on the letters that surround them. This depends on whether the vowel is **broad: a/à, o/ò** or **u/ù**, or **slender: e/è** or **i/ì**. You often hear this when people are speaking.

Listen to this.

Look. It's a nice day. Shall we go into town with the boys?

Did you hear different types of "l" there? A broad "l" in "seall" and "latha" and a slender "l" in "baile", "leis" and "gillean".

Look. It's a nice day. Shall we go into town with the boys?

The same thing happens with a number of letters. The vowels that surround them affect the way in which you pronounce them.

Listen to this. See if you can hear the difference between letters surrounded by slender vowels and the same letters surrounded by broad vowels.

We once went to London and we saw lots of interesting things. We really enjoyed it. The Tower and Tower Bridge. We went past Buckingham Palace and we took the Docklands Light Railway and saw the large buildings there. We went to Westminster Abbey and saw the Stone Of Destiny, or, as some call it, the Coronation Stone of Scotland. Lots of things, but the things we enjoyed most were the museums and street markets.

ANGELA:
Is dòcha gun toir e greiseag mus bi do chluais an gleus gus na diofar fhuaimean a chluinntinn. Tha beagan cuideachaidh dhut anns na bonn-nòtaichean.

Mar sin leibh an-dràsta.

Bonn-nòtaichean

Èist ris an diofar eadar:

- an dà ‘**nn**’ ann an “**Lunnainn**”
- an ‘**r**’ ann an “**Tùr**” agus “**Tùir**”, agus ann am “**mòr**” agus “**air**”
- an ‘**d**’ ann an “**rudan**”, “**seachad**” no “**rathad**” agus “**sràidean**”, “**Drochaid**” no “**Abaid**”.

An cluinn thu fhèin litrichean eile a tha diofraichte?

ANGELA:
It may take a while for your ear to become attuned to the different sounds. There are some pointers for you in the footnotes.

Goodbye for now.

Footnotes

Listen to the difference between:

- the two ‘**nn**’ sounds in “**Lunnainn**”
- the ‘**r**’ sounds in “**Tùr**” and “**Tùir**”, and in “**mòr**” and “**air**”
- the ‘**d**’ sounds in “**rudan**”, “**seachad**” or “**rathad**” and “**sràidean**”, “**Drochaid**” or “**Abaid**”.

Can you hear any other letters (sounds) which differ?