

## BM-09: Ainmean Teaghlaich 1

### Surnames 1

Presenter: Sarah Cruickshank



ÌRE: **Bunaiteach-Meadhanach**  
CUSPAIR: **Ainmean Teaghlaich 1**  
PUINGEAN CÀNAIN: **Tuiseal Ginideach Ainmearan Fireann**

#### SARAH:

Fàilte.

Bidh sinn a' coimhead air ainmean teaghlaich, ainmean a' tòiseachadh le Mac agus ainm pearsanta às a dhèidh. Coimheadaidh sinn air ainmean mar MacDhòmhnail agus MacRuairidh. Tha na h-ainmean seo cumanta anns a' Ghàidhlig agus chì sinn mar a chuireas sinn ri chèile iad.

Bidh sibh eòlach air ainmean fireann mar Dòmhnall, Fionnlagh, Eòghann, Ruairidh agus Niall, agus tha mòran ainmean teaghlaich stèidhte air ainmean pearsanta mar seo.

Dòmhnall an toiseach. Ma bhios mac aig Dòmhnall, 's e mac Dhòmhnail a bhios ann: am mac aig Dòmhnall. Tro na bliadhnaichean, chaidh ainmean mar seo nan ainmean teaghlaich, agus a-nis tha MacDhòmhnail am measg nan ainmean as cumanta an Alba. Cluinnidh sibh an diofar eadar Dòmhnall agus Dhòmhnail. Tha toiseach agus deireadh an ainm air atharrachadh. Ann an sgrìobhadh, cuiridh sinn 'h' a-steach às dèidh ciad litir an ainm agus 'i' ro na connragan mu dheireadh, agus mar sin, bidh Dòmhnall a' dol gu Dhòmhnail, agus gheibh sinn an t-ainm: MacDhòmhnail.

Tha an aon rud a' tachairt le Fionnlagh. Tha toiseach agus deireadh an ainm ag atharrachadh, agus tha Fionnlagh a' dol gu Fhionnlaigh. Ma bhios taigh aig Fionnlagh, 's e taigh Fhionnlaigh a bhios ann: an taigh aig Fionnlagh. A' cumail ris a' phàtran a chunnaic sinn mar-thà, gheibh sinn an t-ainm, MacFhionnlaigh.

LEVEL: **Beginner-Intermediate**  
TOPIC: **Surnames 1**  
LINGUISTIC POINTS: **Genitive Case of Masculine Nouns**

#### SARAH:

Welcome.

We're going to look at surnames, names beginning with Mac followed by a personal name. We'll look at names like MacDonald and MacRory. These names are common in Gaelic and we'll look at how they are formed.

You will be familiar with male names like Donald, Finlay, Ewan, Rory and Neil, and many surnames are based on personal names like these.

First, Donald. If Donald has a son, he will be "mac Dhòmhnail": the son of Donald. Over the years, names like this became surnames, and now, MacDonald is one of the most common surnames in Scotland. You'll hear a difference between Dòmhnall and Dhòmhnail. The beginning and end of the name have changed. In the written form, an 'h' is inserted after the initial letter of the name and an 'i' before the final consonants, which means Dòmhnall changes to Dhòmhnail, and that gives us the name: MacDonald.

The same thing happens with Finlay. The beginning and ending of the name change, and Fionnlagh becomes Fhionnlaigh. If Finlay has a house, it is "taigh Fhionnlaigh": Finlay's house. Following the pattern we've already seen, we get the name, Mackinlay.

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Dè tha a' tachairt ma tha an t-ainm a' tòiseachadh le fuaimreag, 's e sin a, e, i, o, no u, mar Eòghann? Uill, chan urrainn dhuinn fuaimreag atharrachadh, agus mar sin cha dèan sinn dad aig toiseach an ainm. Ach 's urrainn dhuinn deireadh an ainm atharrachadh ann an sgrìobhadh le bhith a' cur 'i' a-steach. Ma nì sinn sin, gheibh sinn Eòghainn agus an t-ainm, MacEòghainn.

Dè mu dheidhinn ainm mar Ruairidh? Ann an sgrìobhadh, chan fhaod sinn 'h' a chur còmhla ri 'l', 'n' no 'r' anns a' Ghàidhlig. Tha i aig deireadh an ainm mar-thà, agus mar sin, chan fheum sinn dad a dhèanamh an sin. Tha sin a' ciallachadh nach eil dad idir ri dhèanamh, agus tha Ruairidh a' toirt MacRuairidh dhuinn.

Uaireannan, ann an ainmean goirid, bidh an fhuaimreag fhèin ag atharrachadh ann an suidheachaidhean mar seo. 'S e ainm goirid a th' ann an Niall. Ann an sgrìobhadh, chan fhaod sinn 'h' a chur còmhla ri 'l', 'n' no 'r', mar a chunnaic sinn, ach 's urrainn dhuinn 'i' a chur a-steach ro na connragan mu dheireadh. Ma nì sinn sin, gheibh sinn Niaill, ach chan eil e furasta sin a ràdh. Mar sin, bidh an fhuaimreag fhèin ag atharrachadh, agus gheibh sinn Nèill agus MacNèill, agus canaidh cuid Nill agus MacNill.

Mas e boireannach a th' annaibh, chan e Mac a bhios oirbh, ach Nic. Mar eisimpleir, Calum MacDhòmhnaill, ach Anna NicDhòmhnaill.

Mar sin leibh an-dràsta.

What happens when the name begins with a vowel, that's a, e, i, o or u, such as Ewen? Well, we can't change the vowel, so nothing happens to the beginning of the name. But we can change the ending of the name's written form by adding an 'i'. In this way, we get Eòghainn and the name MacEwan.

What about a name like Rory? In the written form, we aren't able to add an 'h' to 'l', 'n' or 'r' in Gaelic. There is already an 'i' at the end of the name, and so we don't have to change anything there. That means we don't have to change anything, and Rory gives us the surname MacRory (MacRury).

Sometimes, in short names, the vowel itself can be changed in situations like this. Niall is a short name. In the written form, we can't combine 'h' with 'l', 'n', or 'r', as we've already seen, but we can insert an 'i' before the final consonants. That gives us Niaill, but that isn't easy to pronounce. As a result, the vowel itself changes, and that gives us Neil and MacNeil, or some people say Nill and MacNill.

If you are a woman, your name won't begin with Mac, but with Nic. For example, Calum MacDhòmhnaill, but Anna NicDhòmhnaill.

Goodbye for now.