

## BM-21: Ainmean-àite 1

### Place names 1

Presenter: Seumas Dòmhnallach (James MacDonald)



ÌRE **Bunaiteach-Meadhanach**  
CUSPAIR **Ainmean-àite 1**  
PUINGEAN CÀNAIN **An Tuiseal Ginideach Fireann Singilte**

#### SEUMAS:

Fàilte. Bidh sinn a' coimhead air ainmean-àite agus chì sinn mar a bhios ainmearan ag atharrachadh ann an ainmean-àite.

Ach an toiseach, dè th' ann an ainmear? Uill, 's e ainm rud air no duine a th' ann.

Am measg nan ainmearan a chì sinn an seo, tha "am bealach". 'S e slighe eadar dà bheinn no dà mhonadh a th' ann am bealach. Tha baile beag ann an Earra-Ghàidheal faisg air bealach. Uaireigin cha robh ach aon taigh ann, agus 's e Taigh a' Bhealaich an t-ainm a th' air fhathast. An cuala sibh mar a tha "am bealach" eadar-dhealaichte ann an Taigh a' Bhealaich? "Am bealach", ach "a' bhealaich".

Bidh a' chuid mhòr de dh' ainmearan fireann a' dèanamh seo, mar eisimpleir: "am pùball" a' dol gu "a' phùbail", ann an Achadh a' Phùbail, baile beag ann an Loch Abar. Tha an aon rud a' tachairt le "am manach". 'S e Baile a' Mhanaich an t-ainm a th' air baile ann am Beinn nam Fadhlà. Tha "am manach" a' dol gu "a' mhanaich".

Sin mar a tha ainmearan fireann a' tòiseachadh le "b", "p" or "m" a' dol, ach dè mu dheidhinn ainmearan fireann a' tòiseachadh le litrichean eile?

LEVEL **Beginner-Intermediate**  
TOPIC **Place names 1**  
LINGUISTIC POINTS **Genitive case masculine singular**

#### JAMES:

Welcome. We'll take a look at place names and see how nouns are modified in place names.

But first, what is a noun? Well, it's the name of a thing or person.

Among the nouns we'll see here is "am bealach". A "bealach" is a pass between two mountains or hills. There's a small village in Argyll near a pass. At one time there was only one house there, and it's still called Taigh a' Bhealaich (Tayvallich). Did you hear how "am bealach" changed in Taigh a' Bhealaich? "Am bealach", but "a' bhealaich".

This happens with most masculine nouns, for example: "am pùball" (tent, pavilion) changes to "a' phùbail", in Achaphubuil (the field of the tent or pavilion), a village in Lochaber. The same thing happens with "am manach" (monk). Balivanich ("the monk's farm") is the name of a town on Benbecula. "Am manach" changes to "a' mhanaich".

That's what happens to masculine nouns beginning with "b", "p" or "m", but what about masculine nouns beginning with other letters?

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#### SEUMAS:

Seo "an cladach" a' tòiseachadh le "c". Ann an Ìle tha taigh-staile leis an ainm Bruach a' Chladaich, agus is cinnteach gun cuala sibh an diofar eadar "an cladach" agus "a' chladaich". Ann am Bòid, tha baile beag leis an ainm, Ceann a' Gharaidh, far a bheil "an garadh" a' dol gu "a' gharaidh", dìreach mar a chaidh "an cladach" gu "a' chladaich" ann am Bruach a' Chladaich.

Seo a-nis ainmearan a' tòiseachadh le fuaimreag: "a", "e", "i", "o", no "u". Bidh sibh eòlach air an ainmear, "an t-aiseag", agus tha e a' nochdadh ann an Àird an Aiseig ann an Earra-Ghàidheal. "An t-aiseag" a' dol gu "an aiseig". Agus seo eisimpleir eile: "an t-aonach" a' dol gu "an aonaich" ann an Taigh an Aonaich faisg air Inbhir Pheofharain.

Tha "f" eadar-dhealaichte. Tha "am fàn" a' dol gu "an fhàn", mar a chluinneas sinn ann am Baile an Fhàn faisg air Inbhir Nis.

Agus bidh "s" eadar-dhealaichte cuideachd mar as trice. Mar eisimpleir, tha "an sìthean" a' dol gu "an t-sithein", mar a chì sinn ann an Sròn an t-Sithein agus Àird an t-Sithein.

Tha na litrichean eile fada nas sìmplidhe: "d", "t", "l", "n", "r", "sg", "sm", "sp", "st". Cha bhi toiseach an ainmeir ag atharrachadh idir, ach bithidh an deireadh. Seo eisimpleir no dhà: "an dùn" a' dol gu "an dùin" ann an Loch an Dùin; "an rathad" a' dol gu "an rathaid" ann an Taigh an Rathaid agus "an sgitheach" a' dol gu "an sgithich" ann am Machair an Sgithich.

Chì sinn ainmearan boireann a-rithist. Mar sin leibh an-dràsta.

#### SEUMAS:

Here is "an cladach" which begins with "c". On Islay, there's a distillery called Bruichladdich ("the bank of the shore") and you must have heard the difference between "an cladach" and "a' chladaich". On Bute, there's a small village which is called Kingarth ("the end of the den") where "an garadh" changes to "a' gharaidh", just as "an cladach" changed to "a' chladaich" in Bruach a' Chladaich.

Now for nouns beginning with a vowel: "a", "e", "i", "o", or "u" You'll be familiar with the noun, "an t-aiseag", and that appears in Ardanashaig in Argyll. "An t-aiseag" changes to "an aiseig". And here is another example: "an t-aonach" changes to "an aonaich" in Teaninich which is near Dingwall.

"f" is different. "Am fàn" becomes "an fhàn", as you'll hear in Balnain which is near Inverness.

And "s" usually behaves differently too. For example, "an sìthean" changes to "an t-sithein", as we see in Sròn an t-Sithein and Àird an t-Sithein.

The other letters are much simpler: "d", "t", "l", "n", "r", "sg", "sm", "sp", "st". The beginning of the noun doesn't change at all, but the ending does. Here are some examples: "an dùn" becomes "an dùin" in Loch an Dùin; "an rathad" becomes "an rathaid" in Taigh an Rathaid (Gatehouse of Fleet) and "an sgitheach" becomes "an sgithich" in Machair an Sgithich (Macheraskeoch: Cairnryan).

We'll look at feminine nouns later. Goodbye for now.