

BM-23: Ainmean-àite 3

Place names 3

Presenter: Seumas Dòmhnaillach (James MacDonald)



ÍRE	Bunaiteach-Meadhanach
CUSPAIR	Ainmean-àite 3
PUINGEAN CÀNAIN	An Tuiseal Ginideach Iolra

SEUMAS:

Fàilte. Bheir sinn sùil air ainmean-àite agus chì sinn mar a bhios ainmearan iolra ag atharrachadh annta.

An toiseach, ge-tà, dè tha iolra a' ciallachadh? Ma tha aon rud ann, 's e sin singilte. Ma tha còrr is aon rud ann, 's e sin iolra.

Tha trì dùighean ann air ainmearan iolra a dhèanamh anns a' Ghàidhlig, mar eisimpleir, le bhith a' cur "i" a-steach: "an seileach" agus "na seilich"; le bhith a' cur "-an" ris an fhacal: "a' mhuc" agus "na mucan"; agus le bhith a' cur rudeigin eile ris an fhacal: "am bràthair" agus "na bràithrean".

Co-dhiù, bheir sinn sùil air a' chiad sheòrsa de dh'ainmear, far a bheil "i" a' dol a-steach. Eadar Inbhir Nis agus Loch Carrann, tha àite ann far a bheil craobhan gu leòr a' fàs. Am measg nan craobhan tha seilich. 'S e craobhan beaga ìseal a tha anns na seilich, agus tha stèisean ann far a bheil iad a' fàs, agus 's e Achadh nan Seileach an t-ainm a th' air. Chì sinn gur e "nan" a th' agaínn eadar an dà ainmear, agus nach eil an "i" ann tuilleadh.

LEVEL	Beginner-Intermediate
TOPIC	Place names 3
LINGUISTIC POINTS	The Genitive Case of Plurals

SEUMAS (JAMES):

Welcome. We're going to look at place names and we'll see how plural nouns are modified in them.

But first, what does plural mean? If there is one of something, that's singular. If there are more than one, that's plural.

There are three ways to form plurals in Gaelic, for example, by inserting an "i": "an seileach" and "na seilich"; by adding "-an" to the word: "a' muc" and "na mucan"; and by adding something else to the word: "am bràthair" and "na bràithrean".

Anyway, let's take a look at the first type of noun, where an "i" is inserted. Between Inverness and Lochcarron, there's a place where lots of trees grow. The trees include some willows. Willows are small, low trees, and there's a station where they grow, and it's called Achnashellach (the field of the willows). We can see that "nan" has been inserted between the two nouns and that the "i" is no longer there.

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SEUMAS:

Bheir sinn sùil a-nis air an dàrna seòrsa, far a bheil "-an" a' dol aig an deireadh. Faisg air Mallaig, tha eilean beag ris an canar Eilean nam Muc. Chan eil sinn cinnteach dè na mucan a tha seo, an e mucan fhèin a th' ann no an e mucan-mara, ach chì sinn anns an ainm gu bheil an t-ainmear iolra "na mucan" a' dol gu "nam muc". A rèir gràmar na Gàidhlig, bhiodh e ceart gu leòr Eilean nam Muc an a ràdh, ach 's e Eilean nam Muc a chanas a h-uile duine. Tha an t-ainm seo a' sealltann gum faod sinn "-an" a chumail no fhàgail às anns an t-suidheachadh seo. Chan eil e gu diofar.

Mu dheireadh chì sinn an treas seòrsa, far a bheil rudeigin eile a' tachairt aig deireadh an ainmeir iolra. Bidh sibh eòlach air an fhacal "na bràithrean", agus ann an Ceann Loch Goibhle tha seann eaglais leis an ainm Cill nam Bràithrean. Feumaidh sinn an t-ainmear iolra a chumail mar a bha e, ach bidh an t-alt a' dol bho "na" gu "nan" no "nam".

Agus tha seo a' togail ceist: cuin a chanas sinn "nan" agus cuin a chanas sinn "nam"? Chan eil seo doirbh: ma thòisicheas an dàrna ainmear le "b", "f", "m" no "p", canaigh sinn "nam". Tha e nas fhasa. Nach fheuch sibh fhèin ri Eilean nan Muc a ràdh agus an uair sin Eilean nam Muc? Agus Cill nan Bràithrean agus an uair sin Cill nam Bràithrean. Tha e nas fhasa nam a ràdh, nach eil?

Uill, sin e an-dràsta. Mar sin leibh.

SEUMAS (JAMES):

We'll take a look at the second type, where "-an" is added to the end. Near Mallaig, there's a small island called Eilean nam Muc (Muck). We don't know for certain what type of pigs these are, whether they are pigs or whales (sea pigs), but we see from the name that the plural noun "na mucan" changes to "nam muc". According to Gaelic grammar, it would be correct to say Eilean nam Mucan, but everyone says Eilean nam Muc. This name shows that we can either add "-an" or leave it off in this case. It doesn't matter.

Lastly, we'll look at the third type, where something else happens at the end of the plural noun. You will be familiar with the word "na bràithrean", and in Lochgoilhead, there's an old church called Cill nam Bràithrean. The plural noun stays exactly as it is, but the article changes from "na" to "nan" or "nam".

And this raises a question: when do we say "nan" and when do we say "nam"? This isn't difficult: if the second noun begins with "b", "f", "m" or "p", we say "nam". It's easier. Why don't you try to say Eilean nan Muc and then Eilean nam Muc? And Cill nan Bràithrean and then Cill nam Bràithrean. It's easier to say (nam), isn't it?

Well, that's all for now. Goodbye.