

Duilleag Mìneachaidh

1.

Bàrdachd | Poetry

filidh | high poet, minstrel**bàrd** | poet, bard**dàn** | poem, song**duan** | ditty**meatrachd** | metre**dàn dìreach** | classic metres**còrdadh** | agreement**sruth-fhacal** | alliteration**ruitheam** | rhythm**comhardadh** | (end-)rhyme**samhlachas** | symbolism**samhla** | metaphor, symbol**ìomhaigh** | image**rannaidheachd** | versification**ìomhaigheachd** | imagery**brìgh** | essence, sense**ciall** | meaning**seagh** | sense, meaning

2.

'S i a' Ghàidhlig | It's Gaelic

We look at the short simple poem written by **Donnchadh MacGuaire** called '**S i a' Ghàidhlig**' in this section of the lesson. As we will no doubt understand, this poem is about Gaelic, but it also contains a useful grammar point which we look at here. In this short poem MacGuaire repeats the phrase '**S i a' Ghàidhlig leam...**' in each line, until breaking the rhythm in the last line of the poem.

In the phrase '**S i a' Ghàidhlig...**' a feminine noun is used directly with the copula **Is**. But in the last line we see **Mura b' e i**, rather than **Mura b' i**. The meaning here is slightly different, MacGuaire is saying 'If it wasn't for her...' - the feminine pronoun is not being used directly with the copula, but with **cha bu mhi** 'I wouldn't be' **mi** is directly used with **cha**. This subtle but important difference can be a bit confusing.

- '**S i a' Ghàidhlig leam gach nì rim bheò.**
The *Gaelic* is to me everything in my life.
- '**S e Dòmhnall an tidsear.**
Donald is the teacher.
- '**S e an giotàr an ionnsramaid as fheàrr.**
The guitar is the best instrument.
- **Mura b' e i cha bu mhi.**
If it wasn't for her/it I wouldn't be.
- '**S i Màiri an tidsear.**
Mary is the teacher.
- '**S i a' phìob an ionnsramaid as fheàrr.**
The pipe is the best instrument.

Mura h-ionnsaich sinn | If we don't learn

We also saw **Mura b' e** in the poem '**S i a' Ghàidhlig** by **Donnchadh MacGuaire**. We should remember that **mura** means 'if not', and that we can use this with any verb in its dependent form. But we need to add an **h-** before any verb that starts with a vowel.

mura robh | if wasn't
mura bi | if won't be
mura tèid | if won't go
mura deach | if didn't go
mura dèan | if won't do
mura do rinn | if didn't do
mura do dh'ionnsaich | if didn't learn
mura do thòisich | if didn't start
mura do dh'atharraich | if won't change
mura do chuir | if didn't put
mura do dh'fhuirich | if didn't stay

mura h-eil | if isn't
mura h-e / mur e | if isn't
mura h-urrainn / mur urrainn | if can't
mura h-ith | if won't eat
mura h-òl | if won't drink
mura h-èist | if won't listen
mura h-ionnsaich | if won't learn
mura h-imrich | if won't flit/migrate
mura h-atharraich | if won't change
mura h-aithne | if won't recognise
mura h-aidich | if won't admit

Remember that this will not apply in the past tense, where even verbs which start with a vowel will be preceded by **do dh'** already, meaning no further change is needed.

mura do dh'ith | if didn't eat
mura do dh'òl | if didn't drink
mura do dh'èist | if didn't listen
mura do dh'ionnsaich | if didn't learn
mura do dh'atharraich | if won't change

mura h-ith | if won't eat
mura h-òl | if won't drink
mura h-èist | if won't listen
mura h-ionnsaich | if won't learn
mura h-atharraich | if won't change

Especially in poetry, we see **ainmearan** 'nouns' followed by **buadhairean** 'adjectives', to be descriptive and informative. We also see these combinations used in the different **tuislean** 'cases': **an tuiseal ainmneach** 'the nominative case', **an tuiseal tabhartach** 'the dative case', and **an tuiseal ginideach** 'the genitive case'.

We need to know the gender of a noun to do this correctly as this will affect its article and adjective change. Take a look back at **B1 Cuspair 17A** for guidance on the gender of nouns. We learned how to use nouns in the different cases many times throughout the **B1** course, take a look back at **B1 Cuspair 4A** and **Cuspair 20A** if you need to.

The following tables summarise the rules for each gender in each case and give examples of their use:

NOMINATIVE - MASCULINE
FIRST LETTER: ARTICLE: EXAMPLE:

b,f,m,p	am	<i>am broilleach beag</i> <i>am falt bàn</i>
Vowel	an t-	<i>an t-aodann bòidheach</i>
-other-	an	<i>an slugan fosgailte</i>

NOMINATIVE - FEMININE
FIRST LETTER: ARTICLE: EXAMPLE:

b,c,g,m,p	a' _h	<i>a' ghlùn mhòr</i>
f	an _h	<i>an fheusag bhàn</i>
sl,sn,sr,s+V	an t-	<i>an t-sròn cham</i>
-other-	an	<i>an imleag bheag</i>

DATIVE - MASCULINE

b,c,g,m,p	a' _h	<i>air a' bhroilleach bheag</i>
f	an _h	<i>san fhalt bhàn</i>
sl,sn,sr,s+V	an t-	<i>san t-slugan fhosgailte</i>
-other-	an	<i>air an aodann bhòidheach</i>

DATIVE - FEMININE

+ Noun is Slenderised

b,c,g,m,p	a' _h	<i>air a' ghlùin mhòir</i>
f	an _h	<i>san fheusaig bhàin</i>
sl,sn,sr,s+V	an t-	<i>air an t-sròin chaim</i>
-other-	an	<i>air an imleig bhig</i>

GENITIVE - MASCULINE

+ Noun is Slenderised

b,c,g,m,p	a' _h	<i>... a' bhroilich bhig</i>
f	an _h	<i>... an fhuilt bhàin</i>
sl,sn,sr,s+V	an t-	<i>... an t-slugain fhosgailte</i>
-other-	an	<i>... an aodainn bhòidhich</i>

GENITIVE - FEMININE

Consonant	na	<i>... na glùine mòire</i> <i>... na feusaige bàine</i> <i>... na sròine caime</i>
Vowel	na h-	<i>... na h-imleige bige</i>

Further examples of each situation are given in the tables on the following page.

AINMNEACH FIREANN

am falt fada dubh

am boireannach bòidheach

an t-aodann beag snog

an cuan mòr glas

AINMNEACH BOIREANN

a' mhuir mhòr maiseach

a' bhàrdachd bhòidheach

an aghaidh bheag bhrèagha

an tè mhòr laghach

TABHARTACH FIREANN

anns **an fhalt fhada dhubh**

leis **a'** bhoireannach bhòidheach

air **an** aodann bheag shnog

air **a'** chuan mhòr ghlas

TABHARTACH BOIREANN

air **a'** mhuir mhòir mhaiseach

anns **a'** bhàrdachd bhòidhich

air **an** aghaidh bhig bhrèagha

aig **an** tè mhòir laghaich

GINIDEACH FIREANN

fear mòr **an fhuilt fhada dhuibh**

aodann **a'** bhoireannaich bhòidhich

coltas **an** aodainn bhig shnoig

dathan **a'** chuain mhòir ghlais

GINIDEACH BOIREANN

meud **na mara mòire maisiche**

brìgh **na bàrdachd bòidhiche**

coltas **na h-**aghaidhe bige brèagha

air beulaibh **na tè mòire laghaiche**