



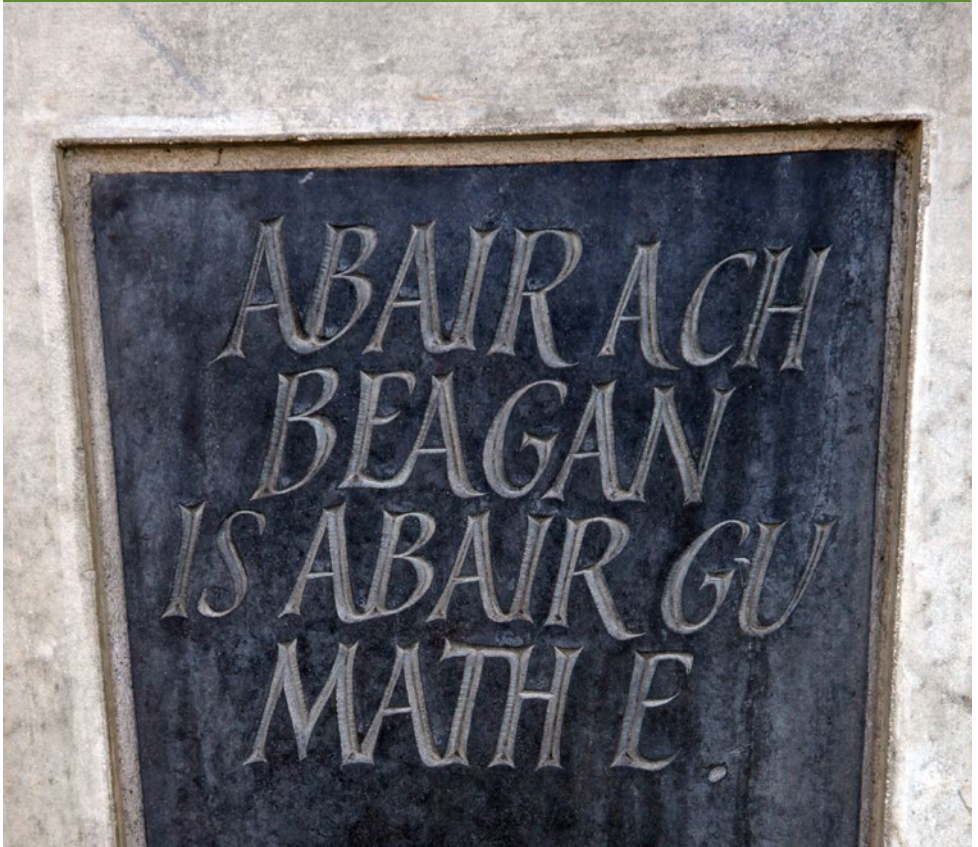
The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## **ABAIR BEAGAN**

**[ap-er bek-an]**

*'Speak a Little'*

*A selection of Gaelic words and phrases*



## Pronunciation key

**tch** = the sound in English batch, catch, match

**ch** = the sound in Scots loch and German Bach

**ou** = the vowel sound in English noun

**aw** = the vowel sound in English law

**oeu** = is like the vowel sound in English food but said with the lips unrounded. Try saying 'ooh' then spread your lips flat.

\*The stress in Gaelic words usually falls on the **first** syllable. We've tried to indicate this in the phonetics with **bold text**.

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We hope that you find this guide useful, however if you have any questions or for more information about the Gaelic Service at the Scottish Parliament, please contact:



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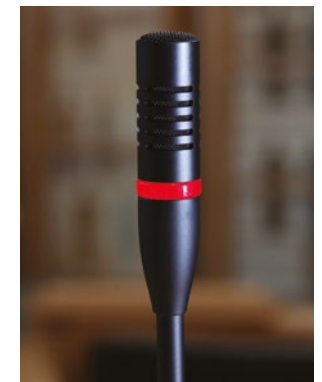
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## You can listen to these Gaelic phrases online!

If you would like to listen to sound files of the phrases included in this publication click on the Gaelic text on the following pages. You can also find these online along with a range of other Gaelic resources at: [www.scottish.parliament.uk/gaelic](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/gaelic).



## Greetings, welcomes and farewells

**Madainn mhath** [mat-eeen vah] *Good morning*

**Feasgar math** [fesk-ur mah] *Good afternoon / evening*

**Fàilte oirbh** [faal-tcha or-iv] *Welcome to you*

**Fàilte oirbh uile** [faal-tcha or-iv ool-ah] *Welcome to you all*

**Fàilte gu Pàrlamaid na h-Alba** [faal-tcha goo paarl-ah-mitch nah hal-uh-pah] *Welcome to the Scottish Parliament*

**Fàilte gu Taigh an Ròid** [faal-tcha goo tie un rawtch] *Welcome to Holyrood*

**Ceud mìle fàilte** [kee-ut meel-ah faal-tcha] *100,000 welcomes (a traditional Gaelic welcome)*

**'S mise ...** [smish-ah ...] *My name is ... / I am...*

**Tha e na thoileachas mòr dhomh a bhith ann an-diugh** [ha eh nah hol-uch-us more gaw avee oun un-joo] *It's a great pleasure to be here today*

**Tha mi duilich, chan eil Gàidhlig agam** [ha mee dool-eech chan yayl gaal-ick akum] *I'm sorry, I don't speak Gaelic*

**Chan eil ach beagan Gàidhlig agam** [chan yay-l ach bek-an gaal-ick akum] *I only have a little bit of Gaelic*

**Oidhche mhath leibh** [oych-ya vah leev] *Good night*

**Beannachd leibh** [b-yan-uch kleev] *Goodbye (formal)*

**Mar sin leibh** [mar shin leev] *Goodbye (informal)*

## Forms of address and thanks

**A charaid** [ah char-ridge] *Friend (the traditional form of address)*

*\*Try saying the English a carriage, change the 'c' to an 'h': a harriage, then strengthen the 'h' sound to a 'ch': a charriage*

**A chàirdean** [ah char-jun] *Friends (the traditional form of address)*

**Oifigeir Riaghlaidh 's a chàirdean** [off-ick-er ree-al-ee sah char-jun] *Presiding Officer and Members/Friends*

**A Neach-gairm 's a chàirdean** [an yech ger-um sah char-jun] *Convener and Members/Friends*

**Tapadh leibh...** [tap-ah leev] *Thank you...*

...**Oifigeir Riaghlaidh** [off-ick-er ree-al-ee] ...*Presiding Officer*

...**a Leas-oifigeir Riaghlaidh** [ah less off-ick-er ree-al-ee] ...*Deputy Presiding Officer*

...**a Phrìomh Mhinisteir** [ah freev veen-ish-tcher] ...*First Minister*

...**a Mhinisteir** [ah veen-ish-tcher] ...*Minister*

...**a Rùnaire** [ah roon-er-ah] ...*Cabinet Secretary*

...**a Neach-gairm** [an yech ger-um] ...*Convener*

...**a charaid** [ah char-ridge] ...*Member/Friend*

...**a chàirdean** [ah char-jun] ...*Members/Friends*

**'S e ur beatha** [sheh oor beh-ha] *You're welcome (often said in reply to receiving thanks)*

## Parliamentary phrases

'S math a rinn sibh! [smah ah rhine shiv] *Well done!*

Tha mi a' dol leibh [ha mee dol leev] *I agree*

Tha mi a' dol leibh gu mòr [ha mee dol leev goo more]  
*I strongly agree*

Chan eil mi a' dol leibh [chan yayl mee dol leev] *I disagree*

Chan eil mi a' dol leibh idir [chan yayl mee dol leev eetch-er]  
*I strongly disagree*

'S math sin a chluinntinn [smah shin ah chloon-tchin]  
*It is great to hear that*

Rian is Riaghailt! [ree-an is ree-iltch] *Order! Order!*

Tha mi air a shon [ha mee air ah hon] *I'm in favour of it*

Tha mi na aghaidh [ha mee nah ug-ee] *I'm against it*

Tha mi a' seachnadh [ha mee ah shech-nug] *I abstain*

Gearan! [g-yer-an] *Objection!*

Na togaibh mi gus an tuit mi [nah toke-iv mee goos un tootch mee]  
*Please don't interrupt me (lit. 'Don't lift me until I fall')*

Gura math thèid leibh! [goor-ah mah hage leev] *Good luck!*

'S math sin! [smah shin] *That's great!*

## Scotland...

Alba [al-uh-pah] *Scotland*

Ball Pàrlamaid na h-Alba (BPA) [boul paarl-ah-mitch nah hal-uh-pah]  
*Member of the Scottish Parliament (MSP)*

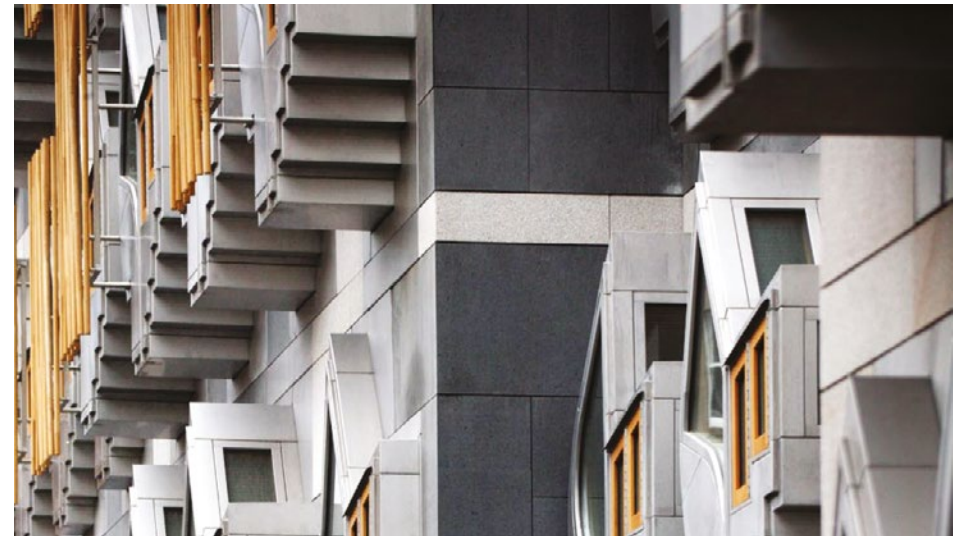
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba [paarl-ah-mitch nah hal-uh-pah]  
*The Scottish Parliament*

Riaghaltas na h-Alba [ree-alt-us nah hal-uh-pah] *The Scottish Government*

Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd [korl-ya nah gayl-tach-k]  
*The Highland Council*

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar [korl-ya nun yay-lun sheer]  
*The official name of the council for the Western Isles*

Na h-Eileanan an Iar [na hayla-nun un yee-ar] *The official name of the Scottish Parliament and UK Parliament constituencies for the Western Isles*



## ...and beyond

**An Rìoghachd Aonaichte (RA)** [un ree-uch koeun-eech-tcha]  
*The United Kingdom (UK)*

**Ball Pàrlamaid (BP)** [boul paarl-ah-mitch] *Member of the UK Parliament (MP)*

**Taigh nan Cumantan** [tie nung koom-un-tun] *The House of Commons*

**Taigh nam Morairean** [tie num mor-er-un] *The House of Lords*

**Seanadh Nàiseanta na Cuimrigh** [shen-ug naash-unta nah koom-ree] *The National Assembly for Wales*

**Seanadh Èireann a Tuath** [shen-ug ayr-un ah too-ah]  
*The Northern Ireland Assembly*

**Pàrlamaid na h-Eòrpa** [paarl-ah-mitch na h-yore-pah]  
*The European Parliament*

**Ball Pàrlamaid na h-Eòrpa (BPE)** [boul paarl-ah-mitch na h-yore-pah] *Member of the European Parliament (MEP)*