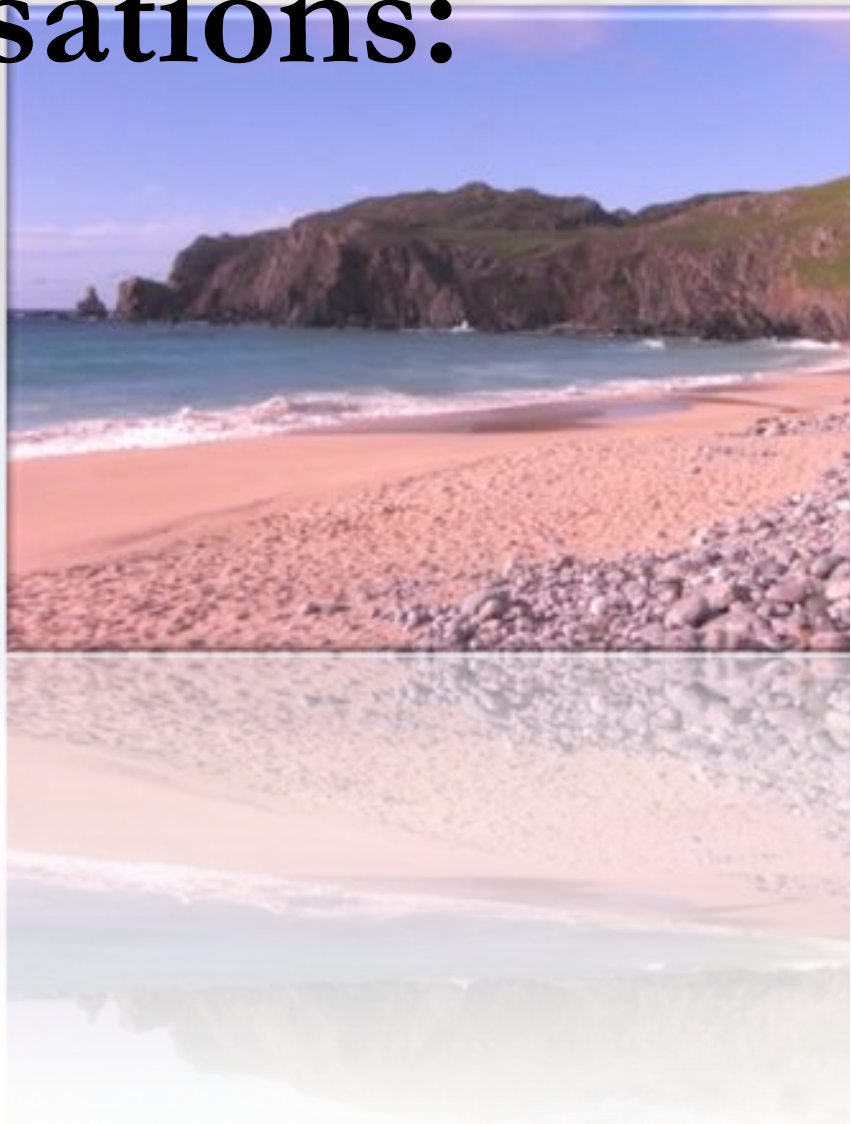


Progressive Gaelic 2 Reading Texts and Conversations: Key



Unit 23 Reading

Many scholars say that the Gaels first came to Scotland from Ireland. It was around 1600 years ago that they came. Dalriada was the name of their kingdom in the north-east of Ireland. Three major families came to Scotland: Cenél Loairn, Cenél nGabráin and Cenél nÓengus. It is from that that the name Argyll comes, meaning 'the coastline of the Gaels'. The name Lorne came from the name 'Loairn'. The Gaels spread from the north-east [of Ireland] to other places, and they met the Picts. It was when the Gaels and Picts joined together in 840 that the kingdom of Scotland began.

Unit 23 Conversation

- MÀIRI: You are late!
CALUM: I know. Did you notice the teacher?
MÀIRI: Yes. She wasn't happy.
CALUM: Where is she anyway?
MÀIRI: She said that she was going to get something.
CALUM: What is she going to get?
MÀIRI: I don't remember.
CALUM: Màiri...
MÀIRI: Yeah?
CALUM: Do you want to go out to dinner with me tonight?
MÀIRI: Oh... tonight? I can't. I'm sorry. I'm busy tonight. I'll be working in the hotel with Sorcha.
CALUM: Oh, right. That's ok.
MÀIRI: But, I'm not doing anything tomorrow night...
CALUM: That's good. Tomorrow night, then. That'll be really good.
MÀIRI: When will you pick me up?
CALUM: What time will you be finished at University?
MÀIRI: About five o'clock.
CALUM: I'll pick you up at six then.
TEACHER: Calum, Niall, agus Gòrdan! Why were you late? Come with me!

Unit 24 Reading

Oh-oh! When I came back from Lewis three weeks ago, the weather was so bad! It was windy and stormy. It was raining all the time. We started sailing from Stornoway around about two o'clock in the afternoon when the cars were all on board. The boat was shaking and the sea was high. I didn't enjoy it. I wasn't feeling well at all, at all! I was seasick the whole time. It was awful! Many people were frightened too. They thought they were going to die! I myself was hoping I was going to die!

Unit 24 Conversation

- MÀIRI: Calum! Calum! Here!
- CALUM: Oh, hi, Màiri! There you are. I didn't see you.
- MÀIRI: How are you tonight?
- CALUM: I'm in good form. Are you well yourself?
- MÀIRI: Oh, yes! I'm really well. What happened today with the teacher?
- CALUM: What do you mean?
- MÀIRI: When you were late, she came in and you all went out with her. Where did you go?
- CALUM: We went down the stairs. She asked us to carry boxes of books up the stairs for her.
- MÀIRI: But you didn't come back. Why didn't you come back?
- CALUM: There were a lot of boxes! She told us what you were doing in the class today, and she said that it was ok to go away when we were finished with the boxes. We were tired, and we didn't want to come back to the class.
- MÀIRI: Aren't you lazy!
- CALUM: Are you hungry, then?
- MÀIRI: Yes, a little. Where are we going?
- CALUM: The Tame Sow. It's a new restaurant. I saw an advert in the newspaper, saying it's really good.
- MÀIRI: That's good. Are we going then?
- SEONAI DH: Good evening, friends! Are you well?
- CALUM: Yes. How are you, mate?
- SEONAI DH: Fine, man. How was the food? Did you enjoy it?
- MÀIRI: Certainly did. It was very good. Did *you* make it?
- SEONAI DH: No! So, what now? Are you going to kiss each other?
- CALUM: Seonaidh!
- MÀIRI: That's ok, Seonaidh. Well, Calum. That's a good question. Are we going to kiss each other?
- CALUM: Oh dear...
- MÀIRI: I'll see you later, Seonaidh!

Unit 25 Reading

Shinty is an excellent game. Shinty is one of the traditional games associated with the Highlands. People play it all over the Highlands and in the cities, such as Glasgow, Edinburgh and Aberdeen. There are teams in the universities, as well. In shinty, two teams play against each other. There are twelve people in each team, and they play for ninety minutes per game. The 'camán' is the name of the stick they use. There is another name for a 'camán': namely, 'iomain'. The two teams want a 'goal'. The team with more goals wins the game. The Shinty Association is in Inverness. The Shinty Association is in charge of shinty all over the world. Many Gaelic speakers play shinty, and Gaelic is the official language in the sport. Kingussie, Newtonmore, Fort William, Oban and Inveraray are some of the best teams.

Unit 25 Conversation

- CALUM: Hey, Gòrdan, there you are. Come in.
GÒRDAN: Aye aye, lad. How are you today?
CALUM: Good. How are you yourself? Were you out last night?
GÒRDAN: No. I stayed at home. But I heard that *you* went out. Was it with Màiri?
CALUM: Yes. Who told you?
Is it you who told him, Niall?
NIALL: Ummm... no...
CALUM: I think it was.
NIALL: I didn't do anything.
CALUM: Why did Gòrdan look at you, then?
NIALL: Did he?
CALUM: Yes.
NIALL: I don't think he did.
CALUM: You're going to get a whack, boy.
NIALL: Don't pay him any attention, Calum. He's taking the mickey out of you.
CALUM: Anyway, did you bring the book with you, Gòrdan?
GÒRDAN: Yes. Here it is.

Unit 26 Reading

Islay is a medium-sized island, in the south-west of Scotland. Islay is in Argyll, and that means that the Gaels went there from Ireland very early on. There are still links between the people of Islay and the people in the north-east of Ireland. There are about three thousand people living in Islay, and about a thousand of them know Gaelic. Whisky is an important industry in Islay, and Islay whisky is important all over the world. There are seven big distilleries there, and tourists visit Islay each year for a taste of their whisky. Bowmore is the main town in Islay. There is a famous round church at the end of the street in Bowmore. Until the year 1493, there was a separate kingdom in the west of Scotland, from the Western Isles down to Kintyre. The kings lived in Islay, ruling from a small island in a loch in the middle of Islay.

Unit 26 Conversation

- CALUM: Now, Gòrdan, who was that girl the other day?
GÒRDAN: What was she like?
CALUM: She was average height, and she had long black hair.
GÒRDAN: Where did you see us?
CALUM: You were near the library.
GÒRDAN: Oh, yeah! That was Anna-Màiri.
NIALL: And who is she?
GÒRDAN: She's a friend of mine. She works in an office, but she is also a part-time student.
- CALUM: I'm going to make coffee. Who wants coffee?
NIALL: Me.
GÒRDAN: Me too.
CALUM: Do you take milk or sugar in your coffee, Gòrdan?
GÒRDAN: A little milk, cheers.

Unit 27 Reading

Mairead, Màiri and Sorcha were going out for a meal together. Mairead and Sorcha wanted to find out how Màiri and Calum got on the night before. They didn't know at first where they were going to eat. Màiri had enjoyed the restaurant the night before – that is, the Tame Sow – but she didn't want to go back there so soon. Mairead was fond of Japanese food, and she knew that there was a good Japanese restaurant in Aberdeen. Sorcha was fond of old-fashioned food, and she wanted to go to a restaurant on Union Street. But Màiri didn't want that at all. Mairead had a look at her computer. There was a restaurant nearby that did lots of kinds of food. She got the phone number, and they found out that they had a table available.

Unit 27 Conversation

- MAIREAD: Well, friends, are you thirsty?
MÀIRI: Oh, yes! I'm really thirsty. If we're getting a drink first, I want something big and cold!
SORCHA: Really? I want someone big and warm!
MÀIRI: What have they got on the menus?
MAIREAD: They've got all sorts: everything. What will you have?
MÀIRI: I'll take a pint of beer.
SORCHA: A pint of beer? Are you sure?
MÀIRI: Hush! What will you have yourself?
SORCHA: White wine just now.
MAIREAD: I'll buy these drinks. Wait a minute... Do I have money in my purse? Yes. We're ok, girls!
SORCHA: Will we sit at one of the tables?
MAIREAD: The waiter takes us to a table.
RUARaidh: Good evening, girls. How are you?
MÀIRI: Hi, Ruairaidh. Fine. I didn't know you were working here.
RUARaidh: I started last night. I really enjoy it.
MAIREAD: Did you do the homework yet, Ruairaidh? It was hard.
RUARaidh: No. I didn't have time: I was busy.
MAIREAD: Don't leave it till tomorrow: I was doing it for three hours.
RUARaidh: Oh no! Well, did you get a menu yet?
SORCHA: No, and we're hungry!

Unit 28 Reading

Singing is an important element in Gaelic culture. Even in the modern era, many people still sing Gaelic in the Highlands. In the old days, people sang when they were working. The songs helped them when they were doing things over and over for many hours. For instance, when a group was waulking cloth, they sang together, and that kept them together with the work, a thing that was important. People still sing waulking songs today: in Scotland, usually, it is women who sing waulking songs, but in Canada, it is men who sing them. There are many religious songs, and the religious songs are very important, because instruments were not permitted in some of the churches. In the Free Church, one person preents a line, and then the others sing it. In Gaelic culture, people did not play musical instruments to accompany singing. Even nowadays, many people sing without music.

Now children learn Gaelic songs in school, in choirs, and at *fèisean*. There are competitions, too, at mods. In the old days, people went visiting (*ceilidhing*), and that meant that they were getting together for a chat, for stories and for singing. Now, usually, bands play at 'ceilidhs' and people dance. There are many Gaelic bands now, too. Some of them sing in the old styles, and some of them play and sing in new styles.

Unit 29 Reading

Doctors say we should eat at least five pieces of fruit and vegetables every day. That is, if we want to be healthy. But there is more to it than that. There are many kinds of food, and experts put them into groups. One group is fruit and veg, and that group is very important, but there are also other important groups. We get all sorts of nutrients from the different groups. For example, we get a great deal of energy from food like bread, rice, potatoes, and cereal. From milk and cheese, we get calcium, which is good for our bones. From meat, fish and eggs, we get protein. Although we need protein, there are some people who don't eat meat at all. They must get protein from other food, for instance from beans or nuts. There are some people who don't eat or drink anything at all that comes from living creatures. They must get calcium from other food: like soya with calcium added, tofu, nuts, beans, fruits, vegetables and so on. In addition to the food that is good for us, there is a lot of food that is not so good for us. Doctors say we should not eat too much sugar. Sugar (especially white sugar) is bad for the teeth and for the health in general.

Unit 29 Dialogue

MAÌRI: What will you eat, then, girls?
SORCHA: I'm not sure... I like sausages, but I see they have a pork pie, too...
MAIREAD: Good Heavens, Sorcha!
SORCHA: What?
MAIREAD: Pork pies are full of salt and fat.
SORCHA: And they're tasty!
MAIREAD: They're not good for you.
SORCHA: You're like my mother: 'Oh, Sorcha, you'll get fat if you eat that!'
MAIREAD: And sausages are even worse! There's nothing healthy in a
 sausage. You don't know what's in it.
SORCHA: Maybe... but I know that I like them!

Unit 30 Reading

You must close the window.
Calum must close the window.
Must I close the window?
Yes.
Must she close the window?
No.
I heard that Mòrag must close the window.
Maybe you don't have to close the window.

You may read the book.
Seonag may read the book.

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May I read the book?

Yes.

May he read the book?

No.

Iomhair said that I may read the book.

I think that Ailean may not read the book.

I would like to see that film.

Sìle would like to see that film.

Would you like to see that film?

Yes.

Would she like to see that film?

No.

I heard that he would like to see that film.

Maybe we would not like to see that film.

I usually eat porridge every morning.

Seònaid usually eats porridge every morning.

Do you usually eat porridge every morning?

Yes.

Does she usually eat porridge every morning?

No.

Dòmhnall said that he usually eats porridge every morning.

I'm sure that they don't usually eat porridge every morning.

I used to swim when I was young.

Tormod used to swim when he was young.

Did she used to swim when she was young?

Yes.

Did Griogair used to swim when he was young?

No.

I heard that you used to swim when you were young.

They told me that you (pl.) did not used to swim when you were young.

I can play the fiddle.

Ciorstaidh can play the fiddle.

Can Ailig play the fiddle?

Yes.

Can they play the fiddle?

No.

I hope that you can play the fiddle.

It is clear that she can't play the fiddle.

I'd better buy a new coat.

Seumas had better buy a new coat.

Had you better buy a new coat?

Yes.

Had she better buy a new coat?

No.

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I heard that you'd (pl.) better buy a new coat.

I think that I'd better not buy a new coat.

I must go.

Catrìona must go.

Must I go?

Yes.

Must they go?

No.

Dòmhnall said that he must go.

You (pl.) told me that you need not go.

You may start now.

The band may start now.

May I start now?

Yes.

May she start now?

No.

Donnchadh said that you may start now.

They say that we may not start now.

I would like to come to the Mòd.

Màrtainn would like to come to the Mòd.

Would you like to come to the Mòd?

Yes.

Would she like to come to the Mòd?

No.

I heard that Greum would like to come to the Mòd.

It seems that Marsaili would not like to come to the Mòd.

I usually get up early.

Mòrag usually gets up early.

Does she usually get up early?

Yes.

Do they usually get up early?

No.

I noticed that Donnchadh usually gets up early.

Sorcha said that she doesn't usually get up early.

I used to work at home.

Iain used to work at home.

Did you used to work at home?

Yes.

Did Catrìona used to work at home?

No.

Ruaraidh said that he used to work at home.

I heard that you (pl.) did not used to work at home.

I can dance.

Sìne can dance.
Can he dance?
Yes.
Can you (pl.) dance?
No.
Maybe she can dance.
I saw that you can't dance.

I'd better stay here.
Ciorstaidh had better stay here.
Had you better stay here?
Yes.
Had Calum better stay here?
No.
I think that she'd better stay here.
Donnchadh told me that he'd better stay here.

Unit 31 Reading

According to the 2001 census, less than 60000 people in Scotland spoke Gaelic, although more than 30000 others understood it. About half of those people lived in the Western Isles, Skye, Tiree, Islay and in the Highlands as a whole. The rest lived throughout Scotland. A large proportion lived in cities, especially Glasgow. Many Gaels have lived in Glasgow since the middle of the 18th century. Some of them still maintain links with families that live in the islands and in the Highlands. Many people with Gaelic live in Edinburgh too. Many Gaels, in the islands and the Highlands, throughout Scotland, and all over the world, take part in An Comunn Gaidhealach. An Comunn Gaidhealach is a support organisation. 'An Comunn' exists to encourage people to use Gaelic, sing Gaelic songs, write Gaelic literature, and take part in all of Gaelic culture. An Comunn is in charge of the Royal National Mòd. There are branches of An Comunn in many towns all over Scotland, and in a few other countries, too.

Unit 31 Conversation

SORCHA: Oh my goodness!
MAIREAD: What's wrong with you, dear?
SORCHA: I'm not well at all.
MÀIRI: Come here. Do you want to lie down?
SORCHA: Yes. No. Oh, I'm not sure. I'll try that.
MÀIRI: Do you want me to make you tea?
SORCHA: Oh Lord! I couldn't drink anything just now!
MAIREAD: How are you feeling, dear? What exactly is wrong?

- SORCHA: My stomach is really sore, I'm sweating, and I'm dizzy.
MAIREAD: I think that's food poisoning.
SORCHA: Oh, hush! It's only a sore stomach.
MÀIRI: If your stomach is sore, you shouldn't lie down, Sorcha. You should sit.
SORCHA: I don't want to sit now.
Oh no! I'm going to be sick!

Unit 32 Reading

Although the number of people with Gaelic is very small, there is a great deal of writing, and literature is very healthy in the language. There are many types of writing, from poetry to essays, from newspaper pieces to novels, from short stories to drama, and from film scripts to translations. There is one magazine for Gaelic writing today, *Gath*, but there was another wonderful magazine for fifty years, from 1952 until 2002. *Gairm* was the title of that magazine. Ruairidh MacThòmais (Derick Thomson) was the editor for those fifty years, and he published four issues each year, until there were two hundred of them at the end. There was a Gaelic newspaper between 1998 and 2008, *An Gàidheal Ùr*. Murchadh MacLeòid was the editor. A few years ago, there was a lot of poetry, but there was not much creative prose at all. Now, though, creative prose is just as common as poetry. The Ùr-Sgeul initiative started in 2003 in order to publish fiction for adults. Maybe the most famous writer in Gaelic from the past century was Sorley MacLean. He was a very significant poet, and many people still read his poetry, both in Gaelic and in English translations.

Unit 32 Conversation

- NIALL: Calum!
CALUM: Yeah?
NIALL: Have you ever read this?
CALUM: What is it?
NIALL: Look!
CALUM: Oh, yeah. No. Is it good?
NIALL: I have no idea! I haven't read it either!
CALUM: Oh, Lordy! How are we going to get through the exams?
NIALL: Maybe there's still time to read it.
CALUM: Maybe, but what about all the other books? Can you read eight books in three weeks?
NIALL: Och, yes. Don't worry, Calum. We'll be ok.
CALUM: Niall, you don't usually read even one book in a week.
NIALL: Maybe not, but I have to read the eight books: so, I'll read them.
CALUM: Right, then.

Unit 33 Reading

In this picture, there is a road. The road is broad at first, but it grows narrower when it goes past a tree.

In these pictures, the weather is getting worse than it was. It was sunny at first. After that, the clouds grew worse. A big wind came. Finally, it was stormy, the worst of all.

In these pictures, the first dog is bigger than the other dog.

In these pictures, the first cat is smaller than the other cat.

The Day of All Weathers

Yesterday was a strange day. I got up about seven o'clock in the morning, as usual. I went downstairs and had breakfast. I ate a bowl of porridge, drank a cup of coffee, and picked up an apple to eat later. At that time, it was warm and sunny out. So, I put on a light shirt, and I didn't wear a jacket or coat at all. I left the house at quarter to eight. It was getting a little bit cloudy, but I wasn't worried: it was warm enough yet. I walked down the High Street and took the first road on the left to Church Street. The wind started then, and it got a bit colder. I was sorry that I didn't have a warmer shirt on, but I kept going anyway. When I came to School Street, it was getting cloudier and windier, and much colder. Before I arrived at my work, it was the stormiest day I've seen in my life!

Unit 34 Conversation

- IAIN: Calum! Gòrdan! Wait a minute guys!
CALUM: Hi, Iain. I didn't see you there. How are you?
IAIN: Great, pal. What are you (pl.) up to today?
CALUM: I'm taking Gòrdan to the football. He hasn't seen a live game yet.
IAIN: Really! That's amazing!
GÒRDAN: To tell the truth, I'm not that interested in football, but Calum persuaded me!
IAIN: This is my uncle, Lachaidh.
LACHAIDH: Good afternoon, boys. How are you (p.)?
CALUM: Fine, Lachaidh. Where are you (pl.) from?
LACHAIDH: I'm from Back in Lewis. Have you ever been?
CALUM: No. I know Lewis a little bit, but I've never been in Back.
LACHAIDH: That's a pity, man. There's no better place. And where are you from, lad?
GÒRDAN: I'm English.
LACHAIDH: Are you really? You have a good Gaelic accent.
CALUM: That's Mairead. She's from Lewis.

- IAIN: That's right. Hey, Mairead! How are you today?
MAIREAD: I'm fine. What's happening?
IAIN: This is my uncle from Lewis. Lachaidh, this is Mairead.
LACHAIDH: It's good to meet you, Mairead. Who do you belong to?
MAIREAD: I'm from Stornoway. My dad is Aonghas Iain Moireasdan.
LACHAIDH: Aonghas Iain Sheòrais 'Ain Òig?
MAIREAD: Yes, that's him. Seòras 'Ain Òig is my grandfather.
LACHAIDH: We were in school together. I haven't seen him and I haven't heard a thing about him for long years. I'll give you my phone number: tell him I want to talk to him.
MAIREAD: Right then.

Unit 35 Reading

The guitar is a very capable instrument. Many people play the guitar, old and young, to make a living and for fun. There are many different sorts of guitars: for example, the classical guitar, with nylon strings and a little body, the acoustic guitar, with steel strings (usually) and a bigger body, and the electric guitar, which links to an amplifier and appears in many different forms. When people are playing the classical guitar, they use long nails on the strings. With an acoustic guitar and an electric guitar, most people play with a little piece of plastic. There was a famous player who was called Django Reinhardt. When he was eighteen years old, there was a fire in Reinhardt's house. After that, he could only use two fingers on his left hand for playing, but he was extremely good despite that. There was a classical player, who was called Andrés Segovia, who was also very famous. The important thing Segovia did was that he played with both nails and the tips of his fingers: after Segovia, many classical players do that. In America, there was a man called Robert Johnson. Johnson sang and played accompaniment, his own songs. Johnson played 'blues', and people still learn his style. Johnson died when he was very young. There was another man around the same time who was called Merle Travis. It was from him that we got the style 'Travis picking'. Travis played country music, and he started using his thumb for bass notes while he played the melody with his fingers. Travis had a big influence on many players, Chet Atkins among them. On the electric guitar, Jimi Hendrix was the most famous player. People still say that he was the best electric guitar player ever.

Unit 36 Conversation

- MAIREAD: I'd like to learn a new instrument. What do you (pl.) think? What will I learn? Guitar would be good, wouldn't it?
CALUM: Yes, but do you like guitar music?

- MAIREAD: People play all sorts of music on guitar.
MÀIRI: I think fiddle would be good. I'd learn to play fiddle if I had the opportunity.
IAIN: Why don't you learn fiddle then? You've plenty opportunity: you don't work all day, you don't have children yet, a fiddle isn't terribly dear when you start. Try it.
MÀIRI: Maybe I will then.
MAIREAD: What about you, Iain? What would you play if you had the opportunity?
IAIN: Tuba, without any doubt!
Why are you all laughing? What's funny?
CALUM: I don't know, but I didn't think *you* would play a tuba.
IAIN: Hmph!
MÀIRI: Anyway, it's not so easy, Iain. Maybe I don't work all day, but I'm busy with my university work and with a part-time job, and we go out a night or two each week, and I have Celtic Society, and I sing in the choir...
IAIN: So, you're saying that you would learn the fiddle if you didn't have other hobbies?
MÀIRI: It would be good if I was completely free. Think: what would you do if you were completely free? What would you do if you had enough time for anything?
MAIREAD: And if we had a big pile of money?
MÀIRI: Yeah: plenty of time and plenty of money... Would you (pl.) still work? Would you do lots of travelling? Would you have new hobbies?
MAIREAD: I'd buy a shop.
MÀIRI: A shop?
MAIREAD: A shoe shop!
CALUM: Would you (pl.) stay here?
IAIN: Maybe, but I'd buy a big house near the beach.
MAIREAD: Why would you buy a house near the beach? You don't like sand.
IAIN: No, but I like the sea. What would you buy, Calum?
CALUM: A football team. Yeah: that's what I would have: a football team!
IAIN: Aberdeen FC?
CALUM: I said that I'd buy a football team: weren't you listening at all?
IAIN: I'd hit you if it was worth the effort.

Unit 37 Reading

Sorley MacLean was a very important writer. He was from Raasay, a little island beside Skye. He was born in 1911 and he died in 1996. His father's family were from Uist, and his mother's family were from Skye. There were poets, singers and tradition bearers in the family. But, Sorley himself was not good at singing at all. He said that that was one of the reasons he started with poetry. He went to

secondary school in Portree in Skye, but then he went to Edinburgh University. He did a degree in English, although he did Celtic courses as well. He wanted to do a Celtic degree, but he didn't think there would be jobs for people with that at the time. He was a teacher when he graduated. He did teaching in Edinburgh and in Plockton. He wanted to go to the war in Spain in 1936, but the family needed the money he was earning; therefore, he didn't go. He started writing important poetry at that time. He kept going with the poetry when he went to fight in the Second World War in 1940. He wrote the long poem, 'An Cuilthionn' in 1939. From 1939 to 1941, he was writing the 'Dàin do Eimhir'. It was his book *Dàin do Eimhir agus Dàin Eile* that started the renaissance in Gaelic literature.

Unit 38 Conversation

- GÒRDAN: Will you (pl.) help me? I have to buy a present for my grandmother.
- MAIREAD: Yes. Is it her birthday?
- GÒRDAN: Yes. I'm going home this afternoon for the weekend. I'll buy something here in Aberdeen, because I won't have time to go to the shops at home.
- SORCHA: What's her name?
- GÒRDAN: Mildred.
- SORCHA: Right then, and what age will she be?
- GÒRDAN: She'll be seventy-five tomorrow.
- SORCHA: Ok. I have an idea or two, then. Are you free just now?
- GÒRDAN: Yes.
- SORCHA: Come on.
- GÒRDAN: A sweater? Are you sure?
- SORCHA: Oh yes. Winter is coming. This jumper is lovely, isn't it, Mairead?
- MAIREAD: Yes. I'm sure your grandmother will like this.
- SORCHA: What size is she?
- GÒRDAN: I don't know. About five feet six...
- SORCHA: I didn't say 'how tall'! Is she about my size, or bigger, or smaller?
- GÒRDAN: Round about the same size...
- MAIREAD: This'll definitely fit her, then. Buy this.
- GÒRDAN: Right. What does it cost?
- MAIREAD: It's thirty-four pounds.
- GÒRDAN: That's fine.
- MAIREAD: I hope she likes it.
- GÒRDAN: You'll (pl.) hear from me tomorrow. Thanks, girls.

Unit 39 Reading

Interesting days in history...

1. On the eighteenth of January, nineteen twelve, Scott reached the South Pole.
2. It was on the tenth of February, fourteen ninety-five that Aberdeen University was founded.
3. On the twenty-third (of March), nineteen fifty-six, Pakistan achieved independence.
4. It was on the fourth of April, nineteen sixty-eight that Martin Luther King was murdered in Memphis.
5. On the twenty-eighth of May, nineteen sixty-seven, Francis Chichester reached England after sailing round the world on his own.
6. On the twelfth of June, nineteen sixty-four, Nelson Mandela was put in prison.
7. It was on the thirtieth (of July), nineteen sixty-six that England won the World Cup for football.
8. It was on the fourteenth of August, nineteen sixty-nine that the British Government said that soldiers would be going onto the streets in Northern Ireland.
9. On the eighteenth of September, nineteen seventy, the guitar player Jimi Hendrix died.
10. On the twenty-ninth of October, nineteen twenty-nine, the Stock Market crashed in New York.
11. It was on the ninth of November, nineteen eighty-nine that the Berlin Wall started to come down.
12. It was on the twentieth of December, two thousand and six that the film *Letters from Iwo Jima* came to cinemas for the first time.

Unit 40 Conversation

- NIALL: That's really good, man.
IAIN: Thanks. I learned it yesterday.
NIALL: Give it to me for a minute.
I'd like to learn guitar, mate.
IAIN: Aye, it's good. I haven't done much yet, but I'm enjoying it.
NIALL: Who is teaching you?
IAIN: Sìne.
NIALL: Who? Sìne, the Gaelic lecturer from the University?
IAIN: Yes.
NIALL: That's good! I didn't know she played.
IAIN: I'll say to her that you want to learn as well.
NIALL: Will you? That's cool: thanks, man.

- IAIN: But you're not free when I learn, are you?
NIALL: No: I have work down at the health centre at those times.
IAIN: When are you free then? What will I say to her about the times?
NIALL: I'm not sure. I'll speak to her tomorrow.

Unit 41 Reading

There are many groups in the Gaelic world, which support the language and culture in several ways. An Comunn Gaidhealach is the oldest of them. An Comunn was established in 1891 in Oban to promote the music and the language. An Comunn organises the Scottish National Mòd each year. Another name has a similar name, Comunn na Gàidhlig. Although Comunn na Gàidhlig (CnaG) supports the language as well, it is very different from An Comunn Gaidhealach. CnaG was established in 1984 after a report was published about the language, *Cor na Gàidhlig*. *Cor na Gàidhlig* proposed things that would need to happen to keep Gaelic healthy. CnaG have offices in Inverness, Stornoway and Glasgow. They work at different levels throughout the country, trying to encourage people to use Gaelic in their social lives and in their work. CnaG direct the Gaelic Iomairtean as well: the Gaelic Iomairtean help people learn and use Gaelic at local levels. Fèisean nan Gàidheal was established in 1991 when there were many fèisean beginning in places all over the world. A fèis is a gathering in which people improve their skills in singing, playing, drama, dance and music in general. There are two groups who help with publishing Gaelic books: the Gaelic Books Council and Stòrlann Nàiseanta na Gàidhlig. Books for primary and secondary school receive support from Stòrlann, and other books receive support from the Gaelic Books Council. Bòrd na Gàidhlig is the group that was established by the Government to support Gaelic. Bòrd na Gàidhlig has official powers giving them authority according to the Gaelic Act of 2005. Bòrd na Gàidhlig require public groups to publish Gaelic plans, explaining how they provide facilities and policies which will help Gaelic.

Unit 42 Reading

There is a national radio station for Gaelic: BBC Radio nan Gàidheal. RnanG broadcasts many kinds of programmes through the day: from news to music programmes, from programmes to help with learning Gaelic to chat and opinion programmes. There are also programmes for children and religious and sports programmes. A Gaelic television station started in 2008: BBC Alba. BBC Alba shows many kinds of programmes too, and they broadcast every evening. BBC Alba gets support from the group MG Alba, which was established by the Government to direct funding in Gaelic broadcasting. MG Alba are involved in LearnGaelic.net as well, a website that is very good for Gaelic learners.

Unit 43 Conversation

- MÀIRI: Oh dear, Calum! I got a text from my mother! She is coming to see me today!
- CALUM: Emm... isn't that a good thing?
- MÀIRI: Yes, but the flat is in a mess. She won't be happy to see how untidy and dirty everything is.
- CALUM: Right. Well, when is she coming?
- MÀIRI: She will be in about two o'clock in the afternoon.
- CALUM: There you are, then: we've got three hours for tidying and cleaning.
- MÀIRI: Will you clean the kitchen, then?
- CALUM: I'll do that; I was going to do it anyway.
- MÀIRI: The bathroom was cleaned yesterday: that will be ok. I'll do the bedroom and the sitting room.
- CALUM: That's fine. Maybe Sorcha or Niall will come to help us. Will I phone them?
- MÀIRI: Yes. It would be good to see them anyway.

Unit 44 Reading

You have now finished level 1 of the course. You are not a beginner now: you have Gaelic! Maybe you're not fluent yet, but you are on the way to fluency, and that's a big thing. Congratulations! In Book 1 and Book 2, you saw a good many of the structures in the language. Do you remember the list I made at the start of Book 1? I gave you a list of the important features of the language. If you look at that list again, you will see that we have gone over every thing that was there. I know that you won't be using every structure confidently yet, but I'm sure that you will be very good at some of the most important ones already. In Book 3 and Book 4, we will go through the points that have not received much attention yet, and we will go over the important things that will need revision. At the end of level 2 (the end of Book 4), you will be very familiar with every structure in the language. Maybe you will be approaching fluency after that, but you will not be fluent until you learn a very large amount of vocabulary: keep going with the words, every day. Try to learn 5-10 words every day. You are on the path now, but it's up to you to follow that path!