

LESSON 11

The Conditional Tense of the Verb TO BE

The independent form of the verb is **Bhiodh** (or **Bhitheadh** for more emphatic usage), and the dependent form **Biodh** (or **Bitheadh** for more emphatic usage). As with the other tenses the dependent forms are used with the dependent particles **Cha**, **Am** and **Nach** to provide the four forms of the verb. There are, however separate forms for the 1st person singular - **Bhithinn**, and 1st person plural **Bhiomaid†** (or **Bhitheamaid** for more emphatic usage):

Bhithinn/Bhiodh/Bhiomaid - for positive statements

Bhithinn fuar - I would be cold

Bhiodh tu ‡/e/i/sibh/iad fuar - You/he/she/you/they would be cold

Bhiomaid fuar - We would be cold

Cha bhithinn/Cha bhiodh/Cha bhiomaid - for negative statements §

Cha bhithinn fuar - I would not be cold

Cha bhiodh tu/e/i/sibh/iad fuar - You/he/she/you/they would not be cold

Cha bhiomaid fuar - We would not be cold

Am bithinn?/Am biodh?/Am biomaid? - for asking a question (interrogative)

Am bithinn fuar? - Would I be cold?

Am biodh tu/e/i/sibh/iad fuar? - Would you/he/she/you/they be cold?

Am biomaid fuar - Would we be cold?

Nach bithinn?/Nach biodh?/Nach biomaid? - for a negative question (negative interrogative)

Nach bithinn fuar? - Would I not be cold?

Nach biodh tu/e/i/sibh/iad fuar? - Would you/he/she/you/they not be cold?

Nach biomaid fuar - Would we not be cold?

† This form is becoming less common, and particularly in spoken Gàidhlig is being replaced by the more regular **Bhiodh sinn** etc

‡ The second person singular **thu** changes to **tu** in the conditional tense

§ Note that **Cha** always lenites the following word if possible, thus **Cha bhithinn/Cha bhiodh/Cha bhiomaid**

Saying Yes and No

The pattern is the same as the other tenses you have met. You need to use the positive or negative forms of the verb in the conditional tense:

Am biodh tu toilichte le sin? - Would you be happy with that?

Bhiodh - Yes

Cha bhiodh - No

Repeated Past and Continuous Conditional Tenses

The conditional tense of the verb **To Be** with a **present participle** conveys either a continuous conditional action or a repeated past action. The meaning is understood from the context:

Bhithinn ag obair anns an sgoil - I would be working in the school

Bhithinn ag obair a h-uile là - I (usually) worked every day

Cha bhiodh iad a' dol dhan sgoil - They wouldn't be going to school

Cha bhiodh iad a' dol dhan sgoil a h-uile là - They (usually) didn't go to school every day

NEW WORDS

Adjectives

a h-uile - every (before noun)

cofhartail - comfortable

cinnteach - certain

sona - happy

Nouns

àm (m) - occasion, time

bodach (m) - old man

càise (m) - cheese

crodh (m) - cattle

preas (m) - cupboard, press

cathair (f) - chair

balla (m) - wall

cat (m) - cat

còta (m) -coat

gual (m) - coal

solas (m) - light

EXERCISE 1 Translate into English

1. Bhithinn a' dol dhan chèilidh a-màireach
2. Cha bhiodh iad a' dol dhan bhaile idir
3. Bhiodh an cat daonnan aig an teine
4. Am biodh e ag obair air a' bhàta? Bhiodh
5. Cha bhithinn uabhasach toilichte
6. Nach biodh iad sona a' cluich air a' chladach?
7. Bhiodh ìm ann air a' bhòrd agus càise anns a' phreas
8. Bhiodh an crodh air a' mhonadh aig an àm sin

EXERCISE 2 Translate into Gàidhlig

1. There would be coal on the fire and a light in the room
2. I would be cold outside without a coat
3. It would be nice (good) and warm at the fire
4. He would not be long running up the street
5. Wouldn't they be singing in the hall tonight? No
6. We would certainly be returning to the hotel
7. It would be dry and warm in the morning
8. I would not be comfortable in that chair

- LESSON 11: ANSWERS 1**
1. I would be going to the ceilidh tomorrow
 2. They wouldn't be going to (the) town at all
 3. The cat would forever (always) be at the fire
 4. Would he be working on the boat? Yes
 5. I wouldn't be terribly pleased
 6. Would they not be happy playing on the shore?
 7. There would be butter on the table and cheese in the cupboard
 8. The cattle would be on the moor at that time

- LESSON 11: ANSWERS 2**
1. Bhiodh gual ann air an teine agus solas ann ann an rùm
 2. Bhithinn fuar a-muigh gun chòta
 3. Bhiodh e math agus blàth aig an teine
 4. Cha bhiodh e fada a' ruith suas an t-sràid
 5. Nach bhiodh iad a' seinn anns an talla a-nochd? Cha bhiodh
 6. Bhiodh sinn gu cinn-teach a' tilleadh dhan taigh-osta
 7. Bhiodh e tioram agus blàth anns a' mhadainn
 8. Cha bhithinn cofhar-tail anns a' chathair sin