

## LESSON 13

### Possessive Adjectives

The possessive adjectives are:

mo - my (lenites next word)

do - your (lenites next word)

a - his (lenites next word)

a - her

ar - our

ur, bhur - your †

an/am - their †

† **am** - **their** is used before nouns beginning with **b**, **f**, **m** or **p**

† **bhur** - **your** is often used following a word ending in a vowel

Examples:

mo chòta - my coat

do chòta - your coat

a chòta - his coat

a còta - her coat

ar còta - our coat

ur còta - your coat

an còta - their coat

am màthair - their mother

When the word following begins with a vowel the following forms are used:

m' airgead - my money

d' airgead - your money

' airgead - his money §

a h-airgead - her money

ar n-airgead - our money †

ur n-airgead - your money †

an airgead - their money

§ the apostrophe before a noun beginning with a vowel indicates the loss of the possessive adjective HIS and is not always used in the written language.

† **ar n-** and **ur n-** are frequently substituted by **ar h-** and **ur h-** respectively in the spoken language (particularly in the Lewis dialect).

Possessive adjectives are used in preference to the prepositional pronouns of **aig** when expressing close personal associations e.g. kinship, parts of the body etc:

mo chòta, an còta agam - my coat

do chù, an cù agad - your dog

a sgoil, an sgoil aige - his school \*

a sgoil, an sgoil aice - her school \*

ar taigh, an taigh againn

ur n-airgead, an t-airgead agaibh

an sgoil, an sgoil aca - their school §

an taigh, an taigh aca - their house §

\* a sgoil - his/her school: where ambiguity exists you should use the prepositional pronouns to indicate possession.

§ - similarly, confusion with the definite noun can be avoided by using the prepositional pronoun.

Confusion in these situations can also be avoided by using the emphatic suffices you met in Lesson 12:

a sgoil-san - his school

a sgoil-se - her school

an sgoil-san - their school

an taigh-san - their house

## NEW WORDS

### Adjectives

bàn - fair, blond

ceàrr - wrong

tràth - early

buidhe - yellow

ceart - correct

### Adverbs

gu math - well, rather, fairly

### Conjunctions

is - and (for familiar associations)

### Nouns

athair (m) - father

cofaidh (m) - coffee

freagairt (f) - answer

piuthar (f) - sister

bràthair (m) - brother

ospadal (m) - hospital

màthair (f) - mother

## EXERCISE 1 Translate into English

1. Tha mo chòta ùr salach
2. Tha an t-seacaid bhuidhe aice anns a' bhocsa
3. Bha fhalt gu math bàn
4. Am biodh do chù a' ruith anns a' phàirc?
5. Chan eil am bainne agam ùr
6. Tha ar n-eaglais air an t-sràid thall an sin
7. A bheil am bràthair-san gu math a-nis? Tha
8. Tha bhur taigh blàth is cofhartail
9. Am bi do mhàthair a' dol a-mach a-nochd? Cha bhi
10. Bha mo chopan làn de chofaidh

## EXERCISE 2 Translate into Gàidhlig

1. Is my answer right or wrong? It's correct, very good
2. Our money was in that bank over there
3. Their cat is sick just now
4. My father will be going out on the moor with his dog
5. His brother will be staying in our house tonight
6. My sister has a friend in (the) hospital

7. My pen is green, and your (sibh) pen is red
8. Will my money be safe in that box? Yes, certainly
9. My mother and (is) my father are not so young now
10. Your sheep were in our garden yesterday

- 3a. Tha an cat aca tinn an-dràsta
- 3b. Tha an cat-san tinn an-dràsta
- 4a. Bìdh m' athair a' dol a-mach air a' mhonadh leis a' chu aige
- 4b. Bìdh m' athair a' dol a-mach air a' mhonadh le a' chu
5. Bìdh a bhràthair a' fuireach anns an taigh againn a-nochd
6. Tha caraid aig mo phìuthar anns an ospadal
- 7a. Tha mo pheann uaine, agus tha ur peann dearg
- 7b. Tha am peann agam uaine, agus tha am peann agaidh dearg
- 8a. Am bi m' airgead sàbhailte anns a' bhogsa sin?
- 8b. Am bi an t-airgead agam sàbhailte anns a' bhogsa sin? Bìdh, gu cinnteach
9. Chan eil mo mhàthair is m' athair cho òg a-nis
10. Bha ur caoraich anns a' ghàrradh againn an-dè

**LESSON 13: ANSWERS 1**

1. My new coat is dirty

2. Her yellow jacket is in the box

3. His hair was rather fair

4. Would your dog be running in the park?

5. The milk I have isn't fresh

6. Our church is on (that) street over there

7. Is their brother well now? Yes

8. Your house is warm and comfortable

9. Will your mother be going out tonight? No

10. My cup was full of coffee

**LESSON 13: ANSWERS 2** Answers a & b denote possible variations.

1. A bheil m' fhrèagairt ceart no ceàrr? Tha e ceart, ghe mhat

2a. Bha ar n-airgead anns a' bhanca thall an sin

2b. Bha an t-airgead againn anns a' bhanca thall an sin