

LESSON 17

Augmented Prepositions

Pronouns in Gàidhlig can not follow verbal nouns as in English, e.g. I am doing it. Instead the possessive adjective is placed before the verbal noun to indicate the person. There are two basic ways that this can happen:

1. WITH PRESENT PARTICIPLES

With present participles the verbal noun is already preceded by the preposition **a' / ag** (which are simply reduced forms of the preposition **aig**):

Tha mi ag ithe Tha mi a' faicinn

The preposition **aig** combines with the possessive adjectives to form what is termed an Augmented Prepositions:

gam - at my gar - at our
gad - at your gur - at your
ga - at his gan/gam - at their
ga - at her

Uses:

Tha e gam bhualadh * ‡ - He is hitting me/He hits me (lit. He is at my hitting)
Tha mi gad fhaicinn * - I am seeing you/I see you (lit. I am at your seeing (sing.)
Tha mi ga dhèanamh * - I am doing it /I do it (lit. I am at its doing) e.g. it = writing (m)
Tha mi ga h-ithe † - I am eating it/I eat it (lit. I am at its eating) e.g. it = dinner (f)
Tha e gar cuideachadh - He is helping us/He helps us (lit. He is at our helping)
Tha mi gur faicinn - I am seeing you/I see you (lit. I am at your seeing (pl.)
Tha i gan togail - She is lifting them/She lifts them (lit. She is at their lifting)
Tha i gam bualadh - She is hitting them/She hits them (lit. She is at their hitting)

* Like the corresponding possessive adjectives, the 1st, 2nd & 3rd person singular augmented prepositions will lenite the verbal noun whenever possible.

† Like the corresponding possessive adjective, **ga** when referring to a feminine object requires **h-** before a verbal noun beginning with a vowel.

‡ When followed by a consonant **gam** and **gad** are frequently pronounced **ga mo** and **ga do** respectively:

Tha e gam bhualadh - He is hitting me/He hits me (lit. He is at my hitting)
Tha mi gad choimhead - I am watching you (lit. I am at your watching (sing.))

2. VERBS OF ACTION

Verbs expressing continuous actions use the augmented preposition based on **ann** (in) in place of **ag**, giving rise to the following:

nam - in my	nar - in our
nad - in your	nur - in your
na - in his	nan/nam - in their
na - in her	

The verbal nouns commonly affected are ones describing a condition: standing, sitting, lying, running, stopping, waking, stretching out, sleeping & being still/quiet/at rest:

Tha mi nam shuidhe * ‡ - I am sitting down/I am seated (lit. I am in my sitting)
Thu thu nad chadal * ‡ - You are sleeping/You are asleep (lit. You are in your sleeping (sing.)
Tha e na shineadh * - He is stretched out (lit. He is in his stretching out)
Tha i na laighe - She is lying down (lit. She is in her lying)
Thàinig sinn nar ruith - We came running (lit. We came in our running)
Tha sibh nur dùisg - You are awake (lit. You are in your waking (pl.)
Tha iad nan seasamh - They are standing (lit. They are in their standing)
Tha sinn nar stad - We are stopped (lit. We are in our stopping)
Tha iad nan tàmh - They are still/at rest (lit. They are in their stillness)

* Like the corresponding possessive adjectives the 1st, 2nd & 3rd person singular augmented prepositions will lenite the verbal noun whenever possible.

‡ When followed by a consonant **nam** and **nad** are frequently pronounced **na mo** and **na do** respectively:

Tha mi nam shuidhe - I am sitting down/I am seated (lit. I am in my sitting)
Thu thu nad chadal - You are sleeping/You are asleep (lit. You are in your sleeping (sing.)

The augmented prepositions using **ann** have another important use in expressing profession, trade etc:

Tha mi nam sheòladair - I am a sailor (lit. I am in my sailor)
Tha thu nad dhealbhaiche - You are a designer (lit. You are in your designer (sing.)
Tha e na shaor - He is a joiner (lit. He is in his joiner)
Tha i na saor - She is a joiner (lit. She is in her joiner)
Tha sinn nar banaltraman - We are nurses (lit. We are in our nurses)
Tha sibh nur ministearan - You are ministers (lit. You are in your ministers (plur.)
Tha iad nan sagartan - They are priests (lit. They are in their priests)
Tha iad nam balaich - They are boys (lit. They are in their boys)

The augmented prepositions can be used with verbal nouns in any tense of the verb **To Be**.

All augmented prepositions are shown in [Appendix 1](#).

Common Usage

The augmented preposition of **aig** may also be used where the possessive adjective **†** follows the preposition **ann**:

Dè tha agad nur làimh? - What do you have in your hand?

Chan eil dad agam nam phòcaid - I don't have anything in my pocket

Tha rud aice na sùil † - She has something in her eye

† Not shown here but like the corresponding possessive adjective, **na** when referring to a feminine subject requires **h-** before a noun beginning with a vowel.

‡ Remember the possessive adjective is usually used in preference to the prepositional pronouns of **aig** when expressing close personal associations e.g. kinship, parts of the body etc (see Lesson 13).

NEW WORDS

Adverbs

air ais - back

cuideachd - also, too

air falbh - away

uair - once (once upon a time)

Nouns

banaltram (m) - nurse

ministear (m) - minister

saighdear (m) - soldier

saor (m) - carpenter

sgrìobhadair (m) - writer

dealbhaiche (m) - designer

neach-teagaisg (m) - teacher

sagart (m) - priest

seòladair (m) - sailor

tàmh (m) - rest, stillness

Verbs

caidil, cadal - sleep

cuidich, cuideachadh (air) - remember

laigh, laighe - lie down

stad, stad - stop

cuidich, cuideachadh - help

dùisg, dùsgadh - awake, wake up

sìn, sìneadh - stretch out

tuig, tuigsinn - understand

EXERCISE 1 Translate into English

1. Tha e na sheasamh ris an doras
2. A bheil iad ga fhàgail aig an taigh? Tha
3. Bha e ga toirt dhan nighean
4. Tha e ag ràdh gun robh e uair na shaighdear
5. Am bi thu ga chur dhachaigh? Cha bhi
6. Bha i na laighe na leabaidh fhèin
7. Bidh iad daonnan nan ruith
8. Bha i gan cur air falbh anns a' bhocsa
9. Tha mi a' smaointinn gum bi iad ga cuideachadh le a h-obair
10. An robh an teine gur cumail blàth? Bha
11. Am biodh sibh ga fosgladh a-màireach? Bhiodh
12. Uair bha i na sgrìobhadair Gàidhlig

EXERCISE 2 Translate into Gàidhlig

1. He was a soldier but now he is a carpenter
2. He says that he wasn't throwing them away
3. Do you see it now? Yes I see it
4. They were all standing on the road
5. Was she sleeping in your bed last night? I indeed not
6. I think (that) you hear me very well
7. I don't remember him at all
8. Will you be taking him to the park tomorrow? Yes
9. I want you (sibh) to go down the street to the shop
10. Don't you understand me at all?
11. He was a teacher but he will soon be a designer
12. He is the priest in this parish and she is the minister

- ministeàr
12. Tha e na shagart anns an sgìre seo, agus tha i na na dhealbhaiche
 11. Bha e na neach-teagaisg ach a dh'athghearr b'ìdh e
 10. Nach eil thu gam thuigsinn idir?
 9. Tha mi gurr-n-iarraidh a dhol sìos an t-sràid dhan bhùth
 8. Am bi sibh ga thoirt dhan phàirc a-màireach?
 7. Chan eil mi ga chuimhnachadh idir
 6. Tha mi a' smaointinn gu bheil thu gam chluinntinn g'le mhath
 5. An robh i na cadal nad leapaich a-raoir? Cha robh gu dearbh
 4. Bha iad uile nan seasamh air an rathad
 3. A bheil thu ga fhàicinn a-nis? Tha, tha mi ga fhàicinn
 2. Tha e ag ràdh nach robh e gan tilgeil air falbh
 1. Bha e na shaigndear ach a-nis tha e na shaor
- LESSON 17: ANSWERS 2**

1. He is standing at (against) the door
 2. Are they leaving him/it at home? Yes
 3. He was giving it to the girl
 4. He says that he was once a soldier
 5. Will you be sending him home? No
 6. She was lying in her own bed
 7. They are always running
 8. She was putting them away in the box
 9. I think that they will help (will be helping) her with her work
 10. Was the fire keeping you warm? Yes
 11. Would you be opening it tomorrow? Yes
 12. At one time she was a Gàidhlig writer
- LESSON 17: ANSWERS 1**