

LESSON 23

Some Common Conjunctions

Group 1

agus - and/as, ach - but/however, oir - for/because

These are considered to be the simple conjunctions as they are followed by the simple statement forms of the verb (positive and negative):

Tenses of the Verb TO BE

Present	Past	Future	Conditional
tha	bha	bidh	bhithinn/bhiodh
chan eil	cha robh	cha bhi	cha bhithinn/cha bhiodh

Uses:

Cha bhi mi a' dol a-muigh oir tha an t-uisge ann - I will not be going out because it is raining

Group 2

fhads - while, ged - although, mar - as/how, ma - if, nuair - when, on/bhon - since

These are all followed by the relative clause:

Tenses of the Verb TO BE

Present	Past	Future	Conditional
a tha	a bha	a bhios	a bhithinn/a bhiodh
nach eil	nach robh	nach bi	nach bithinn/nach biodh

Uses:

Fhads a tha dòchas ann - While there is hope

Ged a tha e beag tha e làidir - Although he is small he is strong

Seo mar a bha e - This is as (how) it was

Ma bhios e blàth a-màireach, bidh mi ann * - If it is (will be) dry tomorrow, I'll be there

Tha e mì-chàilear nuair a tha e fuar is fliuch - It is unpleasant when it is cold and wet

Bha i mar sin on a bha i na caileig òig - She has been like that since she was a young girl

* Where the conjunction ends in a vowel the relative pronoun **a** is elided in both speech and literature.

Group 3

far - where, mus, mun/mum - before, gus - until/in order that, mur/mura - unless, if not

These are all followed by the the interrogative forms of the verb:

Tenses of the Verb TO BE

Present	Past	Future	Conditional
a bheil	an robh	am bi	am bithinn/am biodh
nach eil	nach robh	nach bi	nach bithinn/nach biodh

Uses:

Suidh far a bheil thu! - Sit where you are!

Bha e na bhanaltram mus robh e na dhotair * - He was a nurse before he was a doctor

Bha e na bhanaltram mun robh e na dhotair * - He was a nurse before he was a doctor

Fuirich gus am bi mì-fhìn ann - Wait until I'm (will be) there

Cha bhi mi ann mura bi thu-fhèin ann ‡ - I will not be there unless you are (will be)

Chan eil mi toilichte mur eil thusa ‡ - I am not happy if you aren't

* the interrogative particle **an/am** is not used after **mus** or **mun/mum**

‡ the interrogative particle **an/am** is not used after **mur** except in the past tense. The form **mura** is used before verbs beginning with a consonant. With the Present Tense of the verb **To Be** the form **eil** is used in place of **bheil**. The negative verb can never be used with **mur/mura**.

In the past tense we therefore find:

Ciamar a tha fios agad mur an do leugh thu an litir? - How do you know unless you read the letter?

Bha m' ad air a' bhòrd mur an do ghluais duine i - My hat was on the table unless someone moved it

NEW WORDS

Adjectives

anmoch - late

deiseil - ready

deònach - willing

dorch - dark

glic - wise

làidir - strong

mì-chàilear - unpleasant/distasteful

Conjunctions

far - where

ged - although

gus - until

mar/man - as

mur - unless, if not

mus, mun/mum - before

nuair - when

oir - for, because

on, bhon - since

Nouns

bus (m) - bus

rud (m) - thing

càil (f) - anything

Verbal phrases

EXERCISE 1 Translate into English

1. Chan eil fios agam far a bheil do mhàthair
2. Suidh sìos gus am bi do dhinnear deiseil
3. Bha uisge trom ann nuair bha iad ag iasgach air an loch
4. Ged a tha iad trang bhiodh iad toilichte gad chuideachadh
5. Dèan mar a tha mi ag ràdh
6. Bidh e dorch mus bi i dhachaigh
7. Cha b' urrainn dhomh càr a cheannach on nach robh airgead agam
8. Bha i cho bòidheach nuair bha i òg
9. Ma tha sibh sgìth suidhibh sìos
10. Mar as (= a + 's) urrainn dhut faicinn chan eil càil agam nam phòcaid
11. Bha mi a' bruidhinn rithe fhads a bha sinn a' coiseachd
12. An toil leat far a bheil thu a' fuireach?

EXERCISE 2 Translate into Gàidhlig

1. Although he is not very (so) big he is quite strong
2. I was staying in that town when I was a boy
3. That's the place where I would prefer to be
4. Don't go out(side) until the rain is off (=dheth)
5. Since he is so lazy he will not be willing to go to the shop
6. He will be singing at the ceilidh although he is ill
7. Are you happy where you're sitting? Yes
8. Run home before it rains
9. Run when I say 'ready'
10. She will not be coming since she isn't sure that there will be a bus home

1. Ged nach eil e cho mòr tha e gu math làidir
2. Bha mi a' fuireach anns a' bhaile sin nuair a bha mi nam bhalach
3. Sin an t-àite far am b' fheàrr leam a bhith
4. Na rach a-muigh gus am bi an t-uisge dheth
5. On a tha e cho leisg cha bhì e deònach a dhol dhan bhùth
6. Bidh e a' seinn aig a' chèilidh ged tha e tinn
7. A bheil thu toilichte far a bheil thu nad shuidhe?
8. Ruithe dhachaigh mus bi an t-uisge ann
9. Dèan a' bhaile nuair a tha mi ag ràdh 'deiseil'
10. Cha bhì i a' tighinn on nach eil i cinnteach gum bi bus dhachaigh

LESSON 23: ANSWERS 2

1. I don't know where your mother is
2. Sit down until your dinner is ready
3. It was raining heavy when they were fishing on the loch
4. Although they are busy they would be pleased to help you
5. Do as I say
6. It will be dark before she's (will be) home
7. I couldn't buy a car since I hadn't any money
8. She was so beautiful when she was young
9. If you are tired sit down
10. As you can see I don't have anything in my pocket
11. I was speaking to her while we were walking
12. Do you like where you are staying?

LESSON 23: ANSWERS 1