

## LESSON 24

### The Past Tense - Regular Verbs

As you discovered in a continuous action in the past is expressed by using the past tense of the verb **To Be** with the **present participle**:

Bha e a' cluich anns a' phàirc fad an là an-dè - He was playing in the park all day yesterday

In contrast, you must use the past tense (or finite) of a verb to express a single completed action in the past. Fortunately, this corresponds very closely in meaning with the finite verb in English.

Whenever possible lenite the root of the verb to get the independent form of the past tense. Verbs beginning with a vowel (and lenited **fh** - which is silent) are preceded by an initial **dh'**.

The dependent form of the verb = **do** + independent form:

<b>Verbal Noun</b>	<b>Root</b>	<b>Independent *</b>	<b>Dependent</b>
bualadh - hitting	buail	bhuail	do bhuail
fàgail - leaving	fàg	dh'fhàg	do dh'fhàg
leughadh - reading	leugh	leugh	do leugh
ruith - running	ruith	ruith	do ruith
seasamh - standing	seas	sheas	do sheas
sgrìobhadh -writing	sgrìobh	sgrìobh	do sgrìobh
òl - drinking	òl	dh'òl	do dh'òl
togail - lifting/building	tog	thog	do thog

As with the verb **To Be** add either **Cha**, **An/Am** or **Nach** to the dependent form to get the negative and interrogatives.

\* Grammar: Historically the Independent and Dependent were identical. However, in the Independent **do** was in an unstressed initial position and was subsequently lost but its leniting influence remains.

#### **Example Uses:**

Bhuail iad - They hit

Cha do bhuail iad - They didn't hit

An do bhuail iad? - Did they hit?

Nach do bhuail iad? - Didn't they hit?

Dh'fhàg iad - They left

Cha do dh'fhàg iad - They didn't leave

An do dh'fhàg iad? - Did they leave?

Nach do dh'fhàg iad? - Didn't they leave?

Leugh iad - They read

Cha do leugh iad - They didn't read

An do leugh iad? - Did they read?

Nach do leugh iad? - Didn't they read?

Ruith iad - They ran

Cha do ruith iad - They didn't run

An do ruith iad? - Did they run?

Nach do ruith iad? - Didn't they run?

Sheas iad - They stood  
Cha do sheas iad - They didn't stand  
An do sheas iad? - Did they stand?  
Nach do sheas iad? - Didn't they stand?

Sgrìobh iad - They wrote  
Cha do sgrìobh iad - They didn't write  
An do sgrìobh iad? - Did they write?  
Nach do sgrìobh iad? - Didn't they write?

Thog iad - They lifted  
Cha do thog iad - They didn't lift  
An do thog iad? - Did they lift?  
Nach do thog iad? - Didn't they lift?

Dh'òl iad - They drank  
Cha do dh'òl iad - They didn't drink  
An do dh'òl iad? - Did they drink?  
Nach do dh'òl iad? - Didn't they drink?

### **With the Dependent Clause**

The pattern is the same as the verb **To Be** (see Lesson 15):

Tha e ag ràdh gun do bhuail iad e - He says that they hit him

Tha e ag ràdh nach do bhuail iad e - He says that they didn't hit him

Tha e ag ràdh gun do dh'fhàg iad - He says that they left

Tha e ag ràdh nach do dh'fhàg iad - He says that they didn't leave

### **The Relative Verb**

Some examples are given below.

The pattern is the same as the verb **To Be** (see Lesson 21):

'S iadsan a bhuail mi - It's they who hit me

'S iadsan nach do bhuail mi - It's they who didn't hit me

### **With Interrogative Pronouns**

Some examples are given below.

The pattern is the same as the verb **To Be** (see Lesson 22):

Dè leugh thu anns an sgoil an diugh? - What did you read in school today?

Cò sgrìobh an litir? - Who wrote the letter?

Carson a bhuail thu am balach? - Why did you hit the boy?

Ciamar a sheas i? - How did she stand?

Cuin a dh'fhàg thu? - When did you leave?

Càit an do thog iad an taigh? - Where did they build the house?

### **With Conjunctions**

Some examples are given below.

The pattern is the same as the verb **To Be** (see Lesson 23):

Sgrìobh mi litir mus do dh'fhàg mi - I wrote a letter before I left

Bha e dorch nuair a bhuail an càr am balach - It was dark when the car hit the boy

Leugh mi am pàipear-naidheachd fhads a dh'ith mi dìnnear - I read the paper while I ate dinner

Mur do bhuail thusa am balach, cò bhuail? - If you didn't hit the boy, who did (hit)?

## Saying Yes and No

The pattern is the same for the verb **To Be**. You need to use the positive or negative forms of the verb in the Past Tense:

n do bhuail iad an cù ? - Did they hit the dog? Bhuail - Yes Cha do bhuail - No

Nach do sheas iad aig an doras? - Didn't they stand at the door? Sheas - Yes Cha do sheas - No

## NEW WORDS

### Adjectives

sàmhach - quiet

### Nouns

boireannach (m) - woman

leanabh (m) - baby

briosgaid (f) - biscuit

leithid (f) - like, type

coire (m) - kettle, corry

pàipear-naidheachd (m) - newspaper

dèideag (f) - toy, bauble

staidhre (f) - stair

### Verbs

bris, briseadh - break

freagair, freagairt - answer

pòs, pòsadh (aig) - marry

tòisich, tòiseachadh (air) - start (to)

caidil, cadal - sleep

goil, goil - boil, seethe

saoil, saoilinn (air) - think (about)

tuit, tuiteam - fall

### Miscellany

fad an là - all day

leithid de rud - such a thing

## EXERCISE 1 Translate into English

1. Dh'fhàg an toit a h-uile rud anns an taigh salach
2. An do chuir thu bainne anns a' chopan? Chuir
3. Cò bhris an uinneag agam? 'S ise a bhris i
4. Cha do dh'fhuirich e fada nuair a thill sinn
5. Nach do cheannaich iad càr ùr? Cheannaich
6. Chluich ar leanabh leis an dèideig fad an là
7. Chuir mi an t-uisge anns a' choire agus ghoil mi e
8. Dh'ionnsaich mi Gàidhlig nuair a bha mi nam bhalach
9. Shaoil mi gum b' aithne dhomh e
10. Can e mar a sgrìobh iad e

## EXERCISE 2 Translate into Gàidhlig

1. Did you buy anything in the shop? No
2. He put his hand on her hand
3. I broke my leg when I fell down the stairs
4. My sister returned from her holiday last night
5. Did she answer the question correctly? Yes
6. I ate the biscuit before I drank the milk

7. Who moved my chair away from the fire? I t's him that moved it
8. Why did you marry that man/that woman?
9. I wrote a long letter when I returned home
10. They played quietly while she slept

#### LESSON 24: ANSWERS 1

1. The smoke left everything in the house dirty
2. Did you put (some) milk in the cup? Yes
3. Who broke my window? She broke it
4. He didn't stay long when we returned
5. Didn't they buy a new car? Yes
6. Our baby played with the toy all day
7. I put the water in the kettle and I boiled it
8. I learned Gàidhlig when I was a boy
9. I thought that I knew him
10. Say it as they wrote it

#### LESSON 24: ANSWERS 2

1. An do cheannach sibh càil anns a' bhùth? Cha do cheannach
2. Chuir e a làmh-san air a làmh-se
3. Bhriis mi mo chas nuair a thuit mi sìos na staidhrichean
4. Thill mo phìuthar bhon saor-là aice a-raoir
5. An do fhreagair i a' cheist gu ceart? Fhreagair
6. Dh'ith mi a' bhriosgaid mun do dh'òl mi am bainne
7. Co ghluais mo chathair air falbh bhon teine? 'S esan a ghluais i
- 8a. Carson a phòs thu am fear sin?
- 8b. Carson a phòs thu an tè sin?
9. Sgrìobh mi litir fhada nuair a thill mi dhachaigh
10. Chluich iad gu sàmhach fhads a chaidil!