

LESSON 29

The Conditional Tense - Regular Verbs

The formation of the Conditional Tense of regular verbs is identical to that seen in for the verb **To Be**. As you discovered the Conditional Tense of the verb **To Be** is used with the **present participle** to express either a continuous conditional action or a repeated past action:

Bhiodh e a' cluich anns a' phàirc - He would be playing in the park

Bhiodh e a' cluich anns a' phàirc a h-uile là - He played in the park every day

To express both the future and a repeated habitual action in the present you need to use the future tense of a verb.

To get the dependent form of the verb take the root of the verb, and add:

1 **-inn/-ainn** according to the spelling rule for the first person singular

2 **-eamaid/-amaid** according to the spelling rule for the first person plural *

3 **-eadh/-adh** all other persons

* this form is now much less common and is now regularly formed according to rule 3 above.

The independent form of the verb is produced by lenition, whenever possible, of the dependent. Verbs beginning with a vowel (and lenited **fh** - which is silent) are preceded by an initial **dh'**:

Verbal Noun	Root	Independent	Dependent
bualadh - hitting	buail	bhuailinn/ bhuileamaid/ bhuileadh	buailinn/ buileamaid/ buileadh
fàgail - leaving	fàg	dh' fhàgainn/ dh' fhàgamaid/ dh' fhàgadh	fàgainn/ fàgamaid/ fàgadh
leughadh - reading	leugh	leughainn/ leughamaid/ leughadh	leughainn/ leughamaid/ leughadh
ruith - running	ruith	ruithinn/ ruitheamaid/ ruitheadh	ruithinn/ ruitheamaid/ ruitheadh
seasamh - standing	seas	sheasainn/ sheasamaid/ sheasadh	seasainn/ seasamaid/ seasadh
sgrìobhadh - writing	sgrìobh	sgrìobhainn/ sgrìobhamaid/ sgrìobhadh	sgrìobhainn/ sgrìobhamaid/ sgrìobhadh

togail - lifting/building	tog	thogainn/ thogamaid/ thogadh	togainn/ togamaid/ togadh
òl - drinking	òl	dh'òlainn/ dh'òlamaid/ dh'òladh	òlainn/ òlamaid/ òladh

As with the verb **To Be** add either **Cha/Chan**(before a vowel), **An/Am** or **Nach** to the dependent to get the negative and interrogative forms of the verb.

Example Uses (A complete analysis is given for only the first two examples):

Bhuailinn - I would hit	Dh'fhàgainn - I would leave
Bhuaileamaid - We would hit	Dh'fhàgamaid - We would leave
Bhuaileadh tu ‡/etc - You/etc would hit	Dh'fhàgadh tu / etc - You/etc would leave
Cha bhuailinn * - I would not hit	Chan fhàgainn - I would not leave
Cha bhuaileamaid - We would not hit	Chan fhàgamaid - We would not leave
Cha bhuaileadh tu/etc - You/etc would not hit	Chan fhàgadh tu / etc - You/etc would not leave
Am buailinn? - Would I hit?	Am fàgainn? - Would I not leave?
Am buaileamaid? - Would we hit?	Am fàgamaid? - Would we not leave?
Am buaileadh tu? /etc - Would you/etc hit?	Am fàgadh tu? / etc - Would you/etc not leave?
Nach buailinn? - Would I not hit?	Nach fhàgainn? † - Would I not leave?
Nach buaileamaid? - Would we not hit?	Nach fhàgamaid? - Would we not leave?
Nach buaileadh tu? /etc - Would you/etc not hit?	Nach fhàgadh tu? / etc - Would you not leave?
Leughadh tu - You would read	Ruitheadh tu - You would run
Cha leughadh tu - You would not read	Cha ruitheadh tu - You would not run
An leughadh tu?- Would you/etc read?	An ruitheadh tu? - Would you run?
Nach leughadh tu? - Would you/etc not read?	Nach ruitheadh tu? - Would you not run?
Sheasadh tu - You would stand	Sgrìobhadh tu - You would write
Cha sheasadh tu - You would not stand	Cha sgrìobhadh tu - You would not write
An seasadh tu? - Would you stand?	An sgrìobhadh tu? - Would you write?
Nach seasadh tu? - Would you not stand?	Nach sgrìobhadh tu? - Would you not write?
Thogadh tu - You would lift	Dh'òladh tu - You would drink
Cha thogadh tu - You would not lift	Chan òladh tu - You would not drink
An togadh tu? - Would you lift?	An òladh tu? - Would you drink?
Nach togadh tu? - Would you not lift?	Nach òladh tu? - Would you not drink?

* Whenever possible **cha/chan** will lenite the verb.

‡ The second person singular is always **tu**.

† **nach** lenites verbs beginning with **f**.

With the Dependent Clause

Some examples are given below.

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

Tha e ag ràdh gum buaileadh e - He says that he would strike

Tha e ag ràdh nach buaileadh e - He says that he would not strike

Tha e ag ràdh gum fàgadh e - He says that he would leave

Tha e ag ràdh nach fhàgadh e - He says that he would not leave

The Relative Verb

Some examples are given below.

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

Is mise a bhuaileadh e - It is I who would hit him

Is esan a bhuaileadh mi - It is he who would hit me

Is mise nach fhàgadh thu - It is I who would not leave you

Is mise nach fhàgadh tu - It is I who you would not leave

Seo leabhar a leughainn - Here's a book I would read

Agus seo leabhar nach leughainn - And here's a book I would not read

With Interrogative Pronouns

Some examples are given below.

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

Dè thogadh tu air an talamh? - What would you build on the land?

Cò sgrìobhadh litir thugam? - Who would write me letter? (lit. Who would write a letter to me?)

Carson a bhuaileadh tu am balach? - Why would you hit the boy?

Ciamar a sheasadh i? - How would she stand?

Cuin a dh'fhàgadh tu? - When would you leave?

Càit an òladh iad? - Where would they drink?

With Conjunctions

Nan/nam - **if** replaces **ma** in the Conditional tense *

This and some other examples are given below.

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

Bhithinn toilichte nam fàgadh tu - I would be happy if you would leave

Bhiodh i as aonais mus òladh i an t-uisge salach - She would be without before she would drink the dirty water

Bhiodh tu duilich nan togadh tu taigh an sin - You would sorry if you built (would build) a house there

* **Nan** can also be used conditionally with the Past Tense of the verb **To Be**, much the same way as in English:

Nan robh an t-airgead agam, thogainn taigh ùr - If I had the money, I would build a new house

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 Conditional Tense:

An sgrìobhadh tu litir thugam?- Would you write me a letter? Sgrìobhadh - Yes Cha sgrìobhadh - No
Nach òladh tu am bainne? - Would you not drink the milk? Dh'òladh - Yes Chan òladh - No

Repeated Actions in the Past

The meaning is understood from the context:

Ghabhadh e bracaist a h-uile madainn - He took breakfast every morning
Sgrìobhamaid litir thuige a h-uile là - We wrote (to) him a letter every day

Able To Do

As with the Future Tense the Conditional Tense may also convey the idea of being able to do something. This meaning is understood from the context:

Tha fios agamsa far an seasainn - I know where I would (could) stand
An sgrìobhadh tu d' ainm dhomhsa? - Would (could) you write you name for me?

NEW WORDS

Adjectives

glan - clean, fresh

salach - dirty

Compound Prepositions

as aonais - without

Conjunctions

nan/nam - if

Nouns

coigreach (m) - stranger

dorchadas (m) - darkness

talamh (m) - land, ground

Verbs

atharraich, atharrachadh - change, alter

diùlt, diùltadh - deny, refuse

innis, innse (do) - tell, relate (to)

loisg, loisgeadh - burn

reic, reic (ri) - sell (to)

EXERCISE 1 Translate into English

1. Dh' fhàgadh e an taigh sin a-màireach
2. Thuirt mi nach bruidhninn riutha a-rithist
3. Bha fios aice nach ruitheadh e air falbh
4. Dè a sgrìobhadh sibh anns an litir?
5. Cha choisichinn dhachaigh anns an dorchadas
6. Shaoil i gun tilleadh iad ro mheadhan-là

7. Chan òlainn a-riamh a-mach à botal
8. Dh'innis e dhomh gun loisgeadh e na pàipearan
9. Cha ghabhadh i airgead bho choigreach
10. Càit an togadh sibh ur taigh ùr?

EXERCISE 2 Translate into Gàidhlig

1. Would you buy that house? Yes
2. You didn't think that you would catch (any) fish in that loch?
3. I wouldn't stay in Glasgow at all
4. He said he would sell his car tomorrow
5. Would you change anything in the room? No
6. She wouldn't drink anything but fresh water
7. I wouldn't deny that he was looking guilty
8. She said she would write a letter to (gu) the newspaper
9. They hoped that everything would work correctly
10. I wouldn't say she was pretty

1. An ceannachadh tu an taigh sin? Cheannachadh
2. Cha do shaoil thu gun glacadh tu iasg ann an loch sin?
3. Chan fhuirichinn ann an Glaschu idir
4. Thuir e gun reiceadh e an càr aige a-màireach
5. An atharrachadh sibh càil anns an rùm? Chan atharrachadh
6. Chan oladh i càil ach uisge glan
7. Cha dilùtainn gun robh e a' coimhead ciontach
8. Thuir i gun sgrìobhadh i litir gun phàipear-naidheachd
9. Bha dòchas aca gun obrachadh a h-uile rud gu ceart
10. Chan chanainn gun robh i bòidheach

LESSON 29: ANSWERS 2

1. He would leave the house tomorrow
2. I said that I wouldn't speak to them again
3. She knew that he wouldn't run away
4. What would you write in the letter?
5. I wouldn't walk home in the dark
6. She thought that they would return before midday
7. I would never drink out of a bottle
8. He told me he would burn the papers
9. She wouldn't accept money from a stranger
10. Where would you build your new house?

LESSON 29: ANSWERS 1