

LESSON 3

The Nominative Case of Nouns

This is the basic form used when the noun is either the subject or the direct object in a sentence.

E.g. in English:

boy as subject The boy is cold

boy as direct object I saw the boy

There is no word for **a** or **an** in Gàidhlig. All indefinite nouns are simply entered without an article. Nouns are considered to be either masculine or feminine, you will see these in the **NEW WORDS** and **Vocabulary** sections as either (m) or (f) respectively:

doras (m) - door

eaglais (f) - church

balach (m) - boy

leabaidh (f) - bed

taigh (m) - house

caileag (f) - girl

Masculine Nouns

The masculine nominative nouns have the definite article as **an t-** before a vowel; **am** before words beginning with **b, f, m, or p**; and **an** in all other instances:

An t-òran † - The song

An t-each † - The horse

Am balach - The boy

Am peann - The pen

An duine - The man

An seòmair - The room

† The omission of the initial **t-** is not uncommon in colloquial speech

Feminine Nouns

Feminine nominative nouns beginning with **b, f, m, p, c** or **g** are all lenited with the definite article **a'** (or **an** with lenited **f**). Words beginning with **sl, sn, sr** or **s+vowel** have the definite article as **an t-**. In all other instances the definite article is **an**:

A' chaileag - The girl

An fhearg - The anger

An t-snàthad - The needle

An t-sìth - The peace

An abhainn - The river

An litir - The letter

The good news is that all nominative nouns, whether masculine or feminine, beginning with **d, t, l, n, r, sg, sm, sp** or **st** all have their definite articles as **an**:

An leabhar (m) - The book

An làmh (f) - The hand

An sgàthan (m) - The mirror

An sgian (f) - The knife

An nead (m) - The nest

An nighean (f) - The daughter

Plurals

The nominative plural definite article in all cases is **na**:

Na taighean (m) - The houses

Na caileagan (f) - The girls

Don't worry too much just now about the plurals. Remember you can find the other forms of the nouns in the **Vocabulary** section.

NEW WORDS

Adjectives

falamh - empty
glan - clean
salach - dirty

geur - sharp
ìosal - low
teth - hot

Nouns

balach (m) - boy
doras (m) - door
each (m) - horse
làr (m) - floor
loch (m) - loch
òran (m) - song
rathad (m) - road
sgàthan (m) - mirror
teine (m) - fire
caileag (f) - girl
fearg (f) - anger
leabaidh (f) - bed
nighean (f) - girl, daughter
sgian (f) - knife
sìth (f) - peace

bàta (m) - boat
duine (m) - person, husband
gille (m) - lad
leabhar (m) - book
nead (m) - nest
peann (m) - pen
seòmar (m) - room
taigh (m) - house
abhainn (f) - river
eaglais (f) - church
làmh (f) - hand
litir (f) - letter
oidhche (f) - night
sgoil (f) - school
snàthad (f) - needle

EXERCISE 1 Translate into English

1. Chan eil an sgoil glè ghlan
2. Tha an eaglais fuar
3. An robh an sgian geur? Cha robh
4. A bheil an litir mòr? Chan eil
5. Tha am peann tioram
6. Nach eil an loch ìosal? Tha
7. Tha an t-snàthad glè gheur
8. Bha an nead falamh
9. A bheil an seòmar blàth? Chan eil
10. Cha robh an t-òran snog

EXERCISE 2 Translate into Gàidhlig

1. Was the book small? No
2. The lad is terribly tired
3. Is the door dry?
4. The floor wasn't wet

5. The mirror isn't clean
6. The peace was nice (good)
7. Wasn't the house empty? Yes
8. The fire was hot
9. The hand was wet
10. Isn't the night cold? Yes
11. The bed wasn't clean
12. The girl wasn't too happy
13. The anger was great

- LESSON 3: ANSWERS 2**
1. An robh an leabhar beag? Cha robh
 2. Tha an gille uabhasach sgìth
 3. A bheil an doras tioram?
 4. Cha robh an iar fliuch
 5. Chan eil an sgàthan glan
 6. Bha an t-sìth math
 7. Nach robh an taigh falamh? Bha
 8. Bha an teine teth
 9. Bha an lamh fliuch
 10. Nach eil an oidhche fuar? Tha
 11. Cha robh an leabaidh glan
 12. Cha robh a' chailleag ro thoilichte
 13. Bha an fhearg mòr

- LESSON 3: ANSWERS 1**
1. The school isn't very clean
 2. The church is cold
 3. Was the knife sharp? No
 4. Is the letter big? No
 5. The pen is dry
 6. Isn't the loch low? Yes
 7. The needle is very sharp
 8. The nest was empty
 9. Is the room warm? No
 10. The song wasn't nice