

LESSON 30

The Conditional Tense - Irregular Verbs

The following four verbs which are irregular in the Past Tense are completely regular in the Conditional Tense. They are given here for completeness:

Verbal Noun	Root	Independent	Dependent
breith - bearing/catching - /grasping	beir	bheirinn/ bheireamaid/ bheireadh	beirinn/ beireamaid/ beireadh
cluinntinn - hear	cluinn	chluinninn/ chluinneamaid/ chluinneadh	cluinninn/ cluinneamaid/ cluinneadh
dèanamh - doing/making	dèan	dhèanainn/ dhèanamaid/ dhèanadh	dèanainn/ dèanamaid/ dèanadh
ruigsinn - reaching/arriving	ruig	ruiginn/ ruigeamaid/ ruigeadh	ruiginn/ ruigeamaid/ ruigeadh

The following six verbs are irregular in the Conditional Tense. You might like to note that the regular conditional endings **-inn/-ainn**, **-eamaid/-amaid** and **-eadh/-adh** are added to the Future Tense dependent and independent forms to get the respective conditional ones.

Alternative marginalised forms exists for dol - going and toirt - taking:

Verbal Noun	Root	Independent	Dependent
dol - going ‡	rach	rachainn, dheighinn/ rachamaid, dheigheamaid/ rachadh, dheigheadh	rachainn, deighinn/ rachamaid, deigheamaid/ rachadh, deigheadh
faicinn - seeing	faic	chithinn/ chitheamaid/ chitheadh	faicinn/ faiceamaid/ faiceadh
faighinn - getting/ - obtaining	faigh	gheibhinn/ gheibheamaid/ gheibheadh	faighinn/ faigheamaid/ faigheadh
ràdh - saying †	abair	theirinn/ theireamaid/ theireadh	abairinn/ abaireamaid/ abaireadh
tighinn - coming	thig	thiginn/ thigeamaid/ thigeadh	tiginn/ tigeamaid/ tigeadh
toirt - taking/ - giving (+ preposition do)	thoir	bheirinn, thugainn/ bheireamaid, thugamaid/ bheireadh, thugadh	toirinn, tugainn/ toireamaid, tugamaid/ toireadh, tugadh

‡ You would be better learning the first form which is more common and is regularly derived from the root **rach**. The alternative and irregular forms are derived from the root **deigh** and are confined to only a limited area.

† In the Conditional Tense the regular verb **Can** is preferred, particularly in the spoken language.

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 (For compactness the form with the **-amaid** ending has been omitted in the audio file):

Dheighinn - I would go

Dheigheamaid - We would go

Dheigheadh tu/etc - You/etc would go

Cha deighinn - I would not go

Cha deigheamaid - We would not go

Cha deigheadh tu/etc - You/etc would not go

An deighinn? - Would I go?

An deigheamaid? - Would we go?

An deigheadh tu?/etc - Would you/etc go?

Nach deighinn? - Would I not go?

Nach deigheamaid? - Would we not go?

Nach deigheadh tu?/etc - Would you/etc not go?

Chithinn - I would see

Chitheamaid - We would see

Chitheadh tu †/etc - You/etc would see

Chan fhaicinn * - I would not see

Chan fhaiceamaid - We would not see

Chan fhaiceadh tu/etc - You/etc would not see

Am faicinn? - Would I see?

Am faiceamaid? - Would we see?

Am faiceadh tu?/etc - Would you/etc see?

Nach fhaicinn? ‡ - Would I not see?

Nach fhaiceamaid? - Would we not see?

Nach fhaiceadh tu?/etc - Would you/etc not see?

Gheibhinn - I would get

Gheibheamaid - We would get

Gheibheadh tu/etc - You/etc would get

Chan fhaighinn - I would not get

Chan fhaigheamaid - We would not get

Chan fhaigheadh tu/etc - You/etc would not get

Am faighinn? - Would I get?

Am faigheamaid? - Would we get?

Am faigheadh tu?/etc - Would you/etc get?

Nach fhaighinn? - Would I not get?

Nach fhaigheamaid? - Would we not get?

Nach fhaigheadh tu?/etc - Would you/etc not get?

Theirinn - I would say

Theireamaid - We would say

Theireadh tu/etc - You/etc would say

Chan abairinn - I would not say

Chan abaireamaid - We would not say

Chan abaireadh tu/etc - You/etc would not say

An abairinn? - Would I say?

An abaireamaid? - Would we say?

An abaireadh tu?/etc - Would you/etc say?

Nach abairinn? - Would I not say?

Nach abaireamaid? - Would we not say?

Nach abaireadh tu?/etc - Would you/etc not say?

Thiginn - I would come	Bheirinn - I would take
Thigeamaid - We would come	Bheireamaid - We would take
Thigeadh tu/etc - You/etc would come	Bheireadh tu/etc - You/etc would take
Cha tiginn - I would not come	Cha toirinn - I would not take
Cha tigeamaid - We would not come	Cha toireamaid - We would not take
Cha tigeadh tu/etc - You/etc would not come	Cha toireadh tu/etc - You/etc would not take
An tiginn? - Would I come?	An toirinn? - Would I take?
An tigeamaid? - Would we come?	An toireamaid? - Would we take?
An tigeadh tu?/etc - Would you/etc come?	An toireadh tu?/etc - Would you/etc take?
Nach tiginn? - Would I not come?	Nach toirinn? - Would I not take?
Nach tigeamaid? - Would we not come?	Nach toireamaid? - Would we not take?
Nach tigeadh tu?/etc - Would you/etc not come?	Nach toireadh tu?/etc - Would you/etc not take?

* Whenever possible **cha/chan** will lenite the irregular verb, except for verbs beginning with **d** and **t**.

† 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):

Thuir i gum faigheadh i briosgaid - She said that she would get a biscuit

Thuir i nach fhaigheadh e briosgaid - She said that he would not get a biscuit

Shaoil esan gun tigeadh e a-màireach - He thought that he would come tomorrow

Chreid mi nach tigeadh e - I believed that he would not come

The Relative Verb

Some examples are given below.

The pattern is the same as the Present Tense of verb To Be (see Lesson 21):

Is mise a chitheadh an solas agus is tusa nach fhaiceadh - I t's me who could (would) see and you who could not

Is i Màiri a thigeadh mura robh droch shìde ann - I t's Màiri who would come unless there was bad weather

With Interrogative Pronouns:

Some examples are given below.

The pattern is the same as the Present Tense of verb To Be (see Lesson 22):

Dè gheibhinn do mo mhàthair? - What could (would) I get for my mother?

Cò bheireadh dhomh freagairt? - Who could (would) give me an answer?

Carson a theireadh tu a leithid de rud? - Why would you say such a thing?

Ciamar a dh'fhaighinn lethbhreac? - How could (would) I get a copy?

Cuin a chitheadh tu a-rithist e? - When would you see him again?

Càit am faighinn lethbhreac? - Where could (would) I get a copy?

With Conjunctions

Some examples are given below.

The pattern is the same as the Present Tense of verb To Be (see Lesson 23):

Thigeadh e nan tigeadh sibh - He would come if you would

Cha bhiodh i toilichte mura faigheamaid dhachaigh - She wouldn't be happy if we couldn't (wouldn't) get home

Cha dhèanainn sin mus faigheadh tu-fhèin cothrom - I wouldn't do that before you got (would get) a chance

NEW WORDS

Nouns

cothrom (m) - chance, opportunity

eilean (m) - island

geata (m) - gate

lethbhreac (m) - copy

caraid (m) - friend

uiseag (f) - skylark

EXERCISE 1 Translate into English

1. Thuirt e gun tigeadh e dhan chèilidh a-nochd
2. Tha mi cinnteach gun dèanadh iad sin
3. Dh'innis mi dhaibh nach fhaiceadh iad a' choille bhon uinneig aca
4. Cha robh fios agam na theirinn riutha
5. An toireadh sibh cobhair dhan fhear sin? Bheireadh
6. Is mise a dhèanadh an dinnear
7. Thuirt iad gun ruigeadh iad am baile ann an ùine ghoirid
8. Bha i an dòchas gum faigheadh i airgead bho a caraid
9. Thuirt mi gun cluinninn iad a' cluich a-muigh
10. Thuirt iad nach rachadh iad a-mach ann am bàta

EXERCISE 2 Translate into Gàidhlig

1. She wouldn't come with me to the concert
2. I know that they wouldn't do such a thing
3. I am sure I would catch them before they would reach the gate
4. It's in the country that you would hear the skylark singing
5. When would you do the job?
6. They would reach the island before morning
7. Someone said that she would not get her money back
8. I wouldn't give you a penny for (airson) a car like that
9. Why would you not go with me?
10. Would you say that he was handsome?

LESSON 30: ANSWERS 2

1. Cha tigeadh i leam dhan chuir-m-chiùil
2. Tha fios agam nach dèanadh iad a leithid de rud
3. Tha mi cinnteach gum beirinn orra mus ruigeadh iad an gata
4. 'S ann air an dùthaich a chluinneadh sibh uiseag a' seinn
5. Cui a dhèanadh tu an obair?
6. Ruigeadh iad an t-eilean ron mhadainn
7. Thuir d'aine nach fhaigheadh i a h-airgead air ais
8. Cha toirinn dhut sgillinn airson càr mar sin
9. Carson nach rachadh sibh leam/còmhla rium?
10. An abairheadh tu gun robh e eirrachdail?

LESSON 30: ANSWERS 1

1. He said he would come to the ceilidh tonight
2. I'm sure they would do that
3. I told them they wouldn't see the forest from their window
4. I didn't know what I would say to them
5. Would you give (some) help to that man? Yes
6. It's me who would make dinner
7. They said they would reach the town in a short while
8. She was hoping that she would get (some) money from her friend
9. I said that I could (would) hear them playing outside
10. They said that they wouldn't go out in a boat