

LESSON 34

The Genitive Singular Case of Masculine Nouns

The Genitive Case is the form of the noun used to express possession and attributes.

The masculine genitive singular noun exhibits identical initial consonant changes as the masculine singular dative nouns (see Lesson 3).

There is also a number of internal vowel modifications analogous to those of the feminine singular dative nouns (see Lesson 7). These modifications are the same for both definite and indefinite nouns. The general principle is, by the process of slenderisation, to make the final vowel of a word narrow, i.e. **i**.

To help you recognise the changes they are placed here as close as possible into the same distinct types as the feminine singular dative nouns of Lesson 7.

Initial changes in the noun and definite article are the same as the masculine dative singular definite noun so these are given as a reference point.

Only the genitive noun can have the definite article. The meaning of a preceding noun, whether **a** or **the**, is understood from the context.

If you are not sure or are looking for the genitive of any noun used in this course then go to the Vocabulary section

Type 1

In monosyllabic nouns a letter **i** is inserted after the last broad vowel after a change in the final broad vowel

Most common changes are **a >> ui**, **o >> ui** (**ò >> ùi**):

Dative Singular Definite

leis a' bhall - with the member

air a' bhòrd - on the table

air a' chnoc - on the hill
the hill top)

Genitive Singular Definite

làmh a' bhuill - hand of the member
(- the member's hand)

cas a' bhùird - leg of the table
(- the table leg)

mullach a' chnuic - top of the hill
(- a hill base)

Genitive Singular Indefinite

làmh buill - hand of a member
(- a member's hand)

cas bùird - leg of a table
(- a table leg)

bun cnuic - base of a hill (-

Type 2

In both mono- and polysyllabic nouns a letter **i** is inserted after the last broad vowel or **ao** group:

Dative Singular Definite

anns a' bhùrn - in the water

leis a' ghaol - with the love

Genitive Singular Definite

blas a' bhùirn - taste of the water
(- the taste of the water)

blàths a' ghaoil - the warmth of the love

Genitive Singular Indefinite

blas bùirn - taste of water
(- a taste of water)

blàths gaoil - the warmth of love

anns an leabhar - in the book	còmhdach an leabhair - cover of the book (- the book cover)	còmhdach leabhair - cover of a book (- a book cover)
air an t-sagart - on the priest	taigh an t-sagairt - house of the priest (- the priest's house)	taigh sagairt - house of a priest (- a priest's house)

Type 3

In polysyllabic nouns the final vowel group **ea** will change to **ei** or **i** (common in the group **-each** >> **-ich**):

Dative Singular Definite

air an eilean

leis an I leach - with the I slayman

anns a' phàipear - in the paper

Genitive Singular Definite

bòidhchead an eilein - beauty of the island
(- the beauty of the island)

bàta an I lich - boat of the I slayman
(- the I slayman's boat)

dath a' phàipeir - colour of the paper
(- the paper colour)

Genitive Singular Indefinite

bòidhchead eilein - beauty of an island
(- the beauty of an island)

bàta I lich - boat of an I slayman
(- an I slayman's boat)

dath pàipeir - colour of a paper
(- a paper colour)

Type 4

The monosyllabic nouns the vowel group **ea** will change to **i**:

Dative Singular Definite

ris an fhear - to the man

anns a' pheann - in the pen
the pen nib)

Genitive Singular Definite

còta an fhir - coat of the man
(- the man's coat)

gob a' phinn - nib of the pen
(- a pen nib)

Genitive Singular Indefinite

còta fir - coat of a man
(- a man's coat)

gob pinn - nib of a pen (-

Type 5

In a small number of monosyllabic nouns the diphthong **ia** will change to **èi**:

Dative Singular Definite

leis an fhiadh - with the deer

Genitive Singular Definite

biadh an fhèidh - the deer food

Genitive Singular Indefinite

biadh fèidh - deer food

Type 6

In a small number of monosyllabic nouns the diphthong **io** will change to **ì**:

Dative Singular Definite

leis an t-sìol - with the seed

Genitive Singular Definite

plaosg an t-sìl - the seed pod

Genitive Singular Indefinite

plaosg sìl - a seed pod

Type 7

In a small number of monosyllabic nouns the diphthong **eu** will change to **eòì**:

Dative Singular Definite

anns a' bheul - in the mouth

leis an eun - with the bird

anns an fheur - in the grass

Genitive Singular Definite

oir a' bheòil - the edge of the mouth

sgrìach an eòin - the screech of the bird

fàileadh an fheòir - the smell of the grass

Genitive Singular Indefinite

oir beòil - the edge of a mouth

sgrìach eòin - the screech of a bird

fàileadh feòir - the smell of grass

Type 8

In a small number of monosyllabic nouns the vowel group **eò** will change to **iù**:

Dative Singular Definite

leis a' cheòl - with the music
air an t-seòl - on the sail

Genitive Singular Definite

gràdh a' chiùil - the love of the music
oir an t-siùil - the edge of the sail

Genitive Singular Indefinite

gràdh ciùil - the love of music
oir siùil - the edge of a sail

Type 9

Nouns Showing no Change

When the noun ends in a vowel or if the last vowel is already an **i** or if the noun ends in **-chd**:

Dative Singular Definite

anns a' bhàta - in the boat
leis a' bheachd - with the opinion
anns a' bhogsa - in the box
aig a' ghille - at the boy
ris an iasgair - to the fisherman

Genitive Singular Definite

seòl a' bhàta - the boat's sail
adhbhar a' bheachd - the cause of the opinion
ceann a' bhogsa - the top of the box
cù a' ghille - the boy's dog
lámh an iasgair - the fisherman's hand

Genitive Singular Indefinite

seòl bàta - a boat's sail
adhbhar beachd - a cause of opinion
ceann bogsa - the top of a box
cù gille - a boy's dog
lámh iasgair - a fisherman's hand

Some common irregular genitives are best learned. All family members lose the final **i** :

Dative Singular Definite

leis an athair - with the father
ris a' bhràthair - to the brother
leis a' chù - to the dog
aig a' mhac - at the son
leis a' mhìr - with the piece
air an taigh - on the house

Genitive Singular Definite

taigh an athar - the father's house
càr a' bhràthar - the brother's car
earball a' choin - the tail of the dog
cù a' mhic - the son's dog
meud a' mhìre - the size of the piece
mullach an taighe - the roof of the house

Genitive Singular Indefinite

taigh athar - a father's house
càr bràthar - a brother's car
earball coin - the tail of a dog
cù mic - a son's dog
meud mìre - the size of a piece
mullach taighe - a roof of a house

Where there is more than one noun in the genitive then only the final one can take the genitive form and only this noun can have a definite article, e.g.

dath earball an eòin - the colour of the tail of the bird (- the bird's tail colour)

mullach taigh an fhir - the roof of the house of the man (- the man's house roof)

dath aghaidh a' bhalaich - the colour of the face of the boy (- the colour of the boy's face)

The possessive adjective can also be used with a genitive noun, e.g.

lámh mo mhic - my son's hand

meud do bheòil - the size of your mouth

blàths a chridhe - the warmth of his heart/blàths a cridhe (- the warmth of her heart)

NEW WORDS

Adjectives

cùbhraidh - fragrant

goirt - sore, sour

goirid - short

milis - sweet

Nouns

adhbhar (m) - reason, cause

blas (m) - taste

bòidhchead (m) - beauty

coigreach (m) - stranger

cridhe (m) - heart

deireadh (m) - end

fàileadh (m) - smell

gaol (m) - love

gràdh (m) - love

iasgair (m) - fisherman

mìr (m) - piece

òr (m) - gold

plaosg (m) - pod (normally of a legume)

sgriach (m) - shriek

sreath (m) - row, series

tuathanach (m) - farmer

aghaidh (f) - face

prìs - price (f)

beachd (m) - opinion

blàths (m) - warmth

bùrn (m) - fresh water

còmhdach (m) - cover

dath (m) - colour

earball (m) - tail

fuachd (m) - cold, coldness

gob (m) - beak, nib

gunna (m) - gun

meud (m) - size

mullach (m) - roof, ceiling

pìos (m) - piece

sabhal (m) - barn

Slànaighear - Saviour, healer

taillear (m) - tailor

uachdar (m) - surface, cream

oir (f) - edge

spòg (f) - paw, claw

Verbs

cuir, cur - plant, put, place

srac, sracadh - tear

EXERCISE 1 Translate into English

1. Bha làmh a' bhalaich air làimh a leannain
2. Tha e na sheasamh aig doras an taighe
3. Ruith cù an tuathanaich tron t-sràid
4. Tha ceann a' bhogsa sracte
5. Bhiodh fàileadh cùbhraidh an fhraoich cho bòidheach
6. A bheil sibh ag iarraidh pìos arain?
7. Tha dath a' phinn agam gorm
8. Bha an taigh aca aig ceann an rathaid
9. Bha spòg a' chait goirt
10. Nach eil cas a' bhùird briste?
11. Tha earball cù mo bhràthar goirid
12. Tha blas uisge an uillt milis

EXERCISE 2 Translate into English

1. làmh a' bhodaich; doras an t-seòmair; botal bainne; cas balaich
2. bràthair m' athar; bogsa guail; làr an talla; dath a' chòta
3. rathad a' ghlinn; seòrsa duine; airgead an sgàthain; meud an rùm
4. earball èisg; fraoch a' mhonaidh; allt a' chladaich; blas uisge
5. prìs òir; sabhail a' chruidh; mullach an t-sabhail
6. dath an t-solais; làmh a' chopain; obair saoir

7. sgriach pèin; falt mo chinn; doras a' bhanca
8. balla a' phuirt; taigh a' mhinisteir; gunna saighdeir
9. searmon an t-sagairt; sgeul bàird; balla a' chaisteil
10. sgeilp leabharlainn; bòidhchead an t-seallaidh; cat a' bhoireannaich
11. leabaidh an leanaibh; aghaidh coigrich; ceòl an eilein
12. cù mo bhràthar; cat a mic; taigh a h-athar
13. gaol bràthar; talla a' bhaile; ballachan an taighe agam

3. the glen road; sort of man; the silver of the mirror; the size of the room
4. a fish tail; the heather of the moor; the shore burn; a taste of water
5. price of gold; the cattle barn; the barn roof
6. the colour of the light; the cup handle; work of a joiner
7. a cry of pain; the hair of my head; the door of the bank
8. the wall of the port; the minister's house; a soldier's gun
9. the priest's sermon; the poet's tale; the castle wall
10. a library shelf; the beauty of the view; the woman's cat
11. the baby's bed; a stranger's face; the island music
12. my brother's dog; her son's cat; her father's house
13. a brother's love; the town hall; the walls of my house

LESSON 34: ANSWERS 1

1. The boy's hand was on his girlfriend's hand
2. He was standing at the door of the house
3. The farmer's dog ran through the street
4. The lid of the box is torn
5. The fragrant smell of the heather would be so beautiful

LESSON 34: ANSWERS 2

1. Do you want a piece of bread?
2. The colour of my pen is blue
3. Their house was at the end of the road
4. The cat's paw was sore
5. Isn't the table leg broken?
6. The tail of my brother's dog is short
7. The taste of the stream water is sweet
8. the old man's hand; the room door; a bottle of milk; a boy's leg
9. my paternal uncle; a box of coal; the hall floor; the colour of the coat