

## LESSON 36

### Using the Genitive Case of Nouns

Use the genitive case whenever two or more nouns come together.

Whatever the number of nouns **only** the last noun will be in the genitive case. The other nouns will be indefinite and nominative:

#### **Indefinite Genitive Case**

seacaid balaich - the jacket of a boy  
(- a boy's jacket)

putan seacaid balaich - the button of the jacket of a boy  
(- the button of a boy's jacket)

ad caileig(e) - the hat of a girl  
(- a girl's hat)

ite ad caileig(e) - the feather of the hat of a girl  
(- the feather of a girl's hat)

cù tuathanaich - the dog of a farmer  
(- a farmer's dog)

cas cù tuathanaich - the leg of the dog of a farmer  
farmer(- a farmer's dog's leg)

#### **Definite Genitive Case**

seacaid a' bhalaich - the jacket of the boy  
(- the boy's jacket)

putan seacaid a' bhalaich - the button of the jacket of the boy  
(- the button of the boy's jacket)

ad na caileig(e) - the hat of the girl  
(- the girl's hat)

ite ad na caileig(e) - the feather of the hat of the girl  
(- the feather of the girl's hat)

cù an tuathanaich - the dog of the farmer  
(- the farmer's dog)

cas cù an tuathanaich - the leg of the dog of the  
farmer(- the farmer's dog's leg)

Use the genitive case after the prepositions **chun**, **rè**, **thar** and **trid** (and after the compound prepositions - see Lesson 47):

Ruith mi chun na h-eaglais(e) - I ran toward the church

Leum sinn thar na h-aibhne - We leapt over the river

Bha an t-side math rè na bliadhna - The weather was good throughout the year

Dh'ionnsaich iad trid na h-obrach - They learned through (the) work

A definite noun following a verbal noun is in the genitive case. It is accepted practice in both the written and spoken language to keep an indefinite noun in the nominative:

#### **Indefinite Noun Following Verbal Noun**

Tha e a' faicinn balach - He sees a boy

Tha mi a' gearradh mòine - I am cutting peat

#### **Definite Noun Following Verbal Noun**

Tha e a' faicinn a' bhalaich - He sees the boy

Tha mi a' gearradh na mòna - I am cutting the peat

However, when more than one noun follows the verbal noun only the last noun is in the genitive:

Tha iad a' faicinn ad caileig(e) - They see the hat of a girl  
(- They see a girl's hat)

A bheil thu a' cluinntinn fuaim uillt? - Do you hear the sound of a stream?

Tha iad a' faicinn ad na caileig(e) - They see the hat of the girl  
(- They see the girl's hat)

A bheil thu a' cluinntinn fuaim an uillt? - Do you hear the sound of the stream?

## Genitives of Proper Nouns

Male names are lenited in the genitive, and exhibit analogous internal vowel modifications to those found with masculine genitive singular nouns:

Calum	taigh Chaluim - Calum's house
Coinneach	bean Choinnich - Kenneth's wife
Uilleam	cù Uilleim - William's dog

Female names exhibit analogous internal vowel modifications to those found in feminine genitive singular nouns. Traditionally they do not lenite but it has become common practice:

Mòrag	taigh Mhòraig/taigh Mòraig - Marion's house
Catrìona	cat Chatrìona/cat Catrìona - Catherine's cat
Pèigi	gàrradh Phèigi/gàrradh Pèigi - Peggy's garden

Names of establishments, organisations and multi-word placenames all lenite the initial element in the genitive, even if they already contain a noun in the genitive case:

Comann na Gàidhlig - The Society of Gàidhlig	Ceannard Chomann na Gàidhlig - The head of the Society of Gàidhlig
Bòrd an Dealain - The Electricity Board	Oibriche Bhòrd an Dealain - The Electricity Board worker
Baile na h-Eaglaise - Falkirk (placename)	Colaiste Bhaile na h-Eaglaise - Falkirk College

## NEW WORDS

### Nouns

gairdeachas (m) - joys	stoc (m) - scarf
breac (m) - trout	
bean (f) - wife, woman	comhairle (f) - council, counsel, advice
colaiste (f) - college	mòine (f) - peat
side (f) - weather	

### Verbs

eadar-theangaich, eadar-theangachadh - translate	
cladhaich, cladhach - dig	feuch, feuchainn (ri) - try (to)
figh, fighe - knit	geàrr, gearradh - cut
lìon, lìonadh - fill	teagaisg, teagasg (do) - teach (to)

## EXERCISE 1 Translate into English

1. Tha taigh Sheumais làn gairdeachais
2. Am bi thu a' faicinn Chaluim a-nochd? Cha bhi
3. Uair bha mi ag obair airson Chomhairle nan Eilean
4. A bheil thu a' leughadh leabhar math? Tha

## EXERCISE 2 Translate into English

1. Bha e ag eadar-theangachadh na sgeulachd
2. An robh iad a' cladhach a' ghàrraidh? Bha
3. Tha i a' sgrìobhadh na litreach gu a màthair

4. Bha e a' leughadh an leabhair gu sàmhach
5. Bha mo sheanmhair a' fighe an stuic dhomh
6. Bha m' athair a' cleachdadh a' bhàta aige a-raoir
7. Chunnaic mi e a' tilgeil clach ris a' chù

### EXERCISE 3 Translate into Gàidhlig

1. They were building a new house
2. He was reading the book when I saw him
3. They were standing under the town hall clock
4. Will you take a piece of cheese with the bread?
5. The ship will be leaving the port at 6.30 am
6. I am teaching Gàidhlig to my friends
7. Where did you put the house door key?
8. I said he was filling the bottle with water
9. The colours of the trout were so beautiful
10. Will you be cutting peat tomorrow? Yes

- LESSON 36: ANSWERS 3**
1. Bha iad a' togail taigh ùr
  2. Bha e a' leughadh an leabhair nuair a chunnaic mi e
  3. Bha iad nan seasamh fo ghleoc tall' a' bhaile
  4. An toir thu pìos càise leis an aran?
  5. Bidh an long a' fàgail a' phuir aig 6.30 anns a' mhadaim
  6. Tha mi a' teagasg Gàidhlig do mo chàirdean
  7. Càit an do chuir thu iuchair doras an taighe?
  8. Thuir mi gun robh e a' lìonadh a' bhotal le bùrn
  9. Bha dathan a' bhric cho bòidheach
  10. Am bi sibh a' gearradh na mòna a-màireach?  
Bitheadh

- LESSON 36: ANSWERS 2**
1. Senmas' house is full of joy
  2. Will you be seeing Calum tonight? No
  3. At one time I was working for Comhairle nan Eilean
  4. Are you reading a good book? Yes
- LESSON 36: ANSWERS 1**
1. He was translating the story
  2. Were they digging the garden? Yes
  3. She was writing the letter to her mother
  4. He was quietly reading the book
  5. My grandmother was knitting the scarf for me
  6. My father was using his boat last night
  7. I saw him throwing a stone at the dog