

# LESSON 37

## Summary of Dative and Genitive Changes in Singular Nouns

This lesson summarises the changes associated with the dative and genitive changes in singular masculine and feminine nouns.

### Masculine Nouns

There is no indefinite article in any of the cases.

1. The Nominative Case:

The definite article is **an** except for nouns beginning with **b, f, m & p** when it is **am**;  
A **t-** is placed before definite nouns beginning with a **vowel**.

2. The Dative Case:

The definite article is otherwise **an** except for nouns beginning with **b, m, p, c & g** when it is **a'**;

Definite nouns beginning with **b, f, m, p, c & g** lenite the initial consonant;

A **t-** is placed before definite nouns beginning with **sl, sn, sr & s+vowel**;

After prepositions ending in a vowel the definite article remains **an** and fuses with the preposition e.g. **dha + an >> dhan**.

3. The Genitive Case:

The definite article is **an** except for nouns beginning with **b, m, p, c & g** when it is **a'**;

Definite nouns beginning with **b, f, m, p, c & g** lenite the initial consonant;

A **t-** is placed before definite nouns beginning with **sl, sn, sr & s+vowel**;

The nouns undergo internal vowel modifications: with the general trend of narrowing the final internal vowel to **i**.

The following is a brief summary of singular nouns from nominative through dative to genitive cases. The examples are with the article to illustrate initial consonant changes:

Nominative	Dative	Genitive	Internal Vowel Changes
am bàrd - the poet	dhan bhàrd - to the poet	a' bàird - of the poet	addition of i a >> ai o >> oi u >> ui ao >> aoi
an ròn - the seal	bhon ròn - from the seal	an ròin - of the seal	
an dùn - the fort	anns an dùn - in the fort	an dùin - of the fort	
an gaol - the love	leis a' ghaol - with the love	a' ghaoil - of the love	

Nominative	Dative	Genitive	Internal Vowel Changes
an t-allt - the stream	anns an t-allt - in the stream	an uillt - of the stream	<b>a &amp; o &gt;&gt; ui</b>
an corp - the body	fon chorp - under the body	a' chuirp - of the body	
am port - the port	ris a' phort - at the port	a' phuirt - of the port	
am mac - the son	leis a' mhac - with the son	a' mhic - of the son	<b>a, ea &amp; io &gt;&gt; i</b>
an coileach - the cock	fon choileach - under the cock	a' choilich - of the cock	
am fear - the man	ris an fhear - to the man	an fhir - of the man	
an sìol - seed	anns an t-sìol - in the seed	an t-sil - of the seed	
an coibhneas - the kindness	leis a' choibhneas - with the kindness	a' choibhneis - of the kindness	<b>ea, eu &amp; ia &gt;&gt; ei</b>
an ceum - the step	anns a' cheum - in the step	a' chèim - of the step	
am fiadh - the deer	fon fhiadh - under the deer	an fhèidh - of the deer	
an t-iasg - the fish	air an iasg - on the fish	an èisg - of the fish	
an dall - blindman	ris an dall - to the blindman	an doill - of the blindman	<b>a &gt;&gt; oi</b>
am beul - the mouth	air a' bheul - on the mouth	a' bheòil - of the mouth	<b>eu &gt;&gt; eoi</b>
an t-eun - bird	don eun - to the bird	an eòin - of the bird	
am fear - grass	anns an fheur - in the grass	an fheòir - of the grass	
an ceòl - the music	tron cheòl - through the music	a' chiùil - of the music	<b>eo &gt;&gt; iui</b>
an seòl - the sail	fon t-seòl - under the sail	an t-siùil - of the sail	

## Feminine Nouns

There is no indefinite article in any of the cases.

### 1. The Nominative Case:

The definite article is **an** except for nouns beginning with **b, m, p, c & g** when it is **a'**;  
 Definite nouns beginning with **b, f, m, p, c & g** lenite the initial consonant;  
 A **t-** is placed before definite nouns beginning with **sl, sn, sr & s+vowel**.

2. The Dative Case:

The definite article is **an** except for nouns beginning with **b, m, p, c & g** when it is **a'**;

Definite nouns beginning with **b, f, m, p, c & g** lenite the initial consonant;

A **t-** is placed before definite nouns beginning with **sl, sn, sr & s+vowel**;

After prepositions ending in a vowel the definite article remains **an** and fuses with the preposition e.g. **dha + an >> dhan**;

The nouns undergo internal vowel modifications ‡ : with the general trend of narrowing the final internal vowel to **i**.

‡ These internal vowel changes are less frequently heard in the spoken language, but still appear in formal literature

3. The Genitive Case:

The definite article is always **na** (**na h-** before vowels);

The nouns undergo internal vowel modifications: with the general trend of narrowing the final internal vowel to **i**;

A terminal **e** is added to monosyllabic nouns. Polysyllabic nouns exhibit this to a lesser degree and it is considered optional in both the spoken and written language.

Nominative	Dative	Genitive	Internal Vowel Changes
a' mharag - the pudding	anns a' mharaig - in the pudding	na maraig(e) - of the pudding	addition of i a >> ai o >> oi
an tòn - the rump	air an tòin - on the rump	na tòine - of the rump	
an long - the ship	air an luing - on the ship	na luinge - of the ship	o >> ui
an tonn - the wave	fon tuinn - under the wave	na tuinne - of the wave	
a' chearc - hen	dhan chirc - to the hen	na circe - of the hen	ea & io >> i
a' chrìoch - the boundary	aig a' chrìch - at the boundary	na crìche - of the boundary	
a' bhas - palm	air a' bhois - on the palm	na boise - of the palm	a >> oi
a' clann - the children	dhan chloinn - to the children	na cloinne - of the children	
an fhras - the shower	fon fhrois - under the shower	na froise - of the shower	

Nominative	Dative	Genitive	Internal Vowel Changes
a' chaileag - the girl	dhan chaileig - to the girl	na caileig(e) - of the girl	ea, eu & ia >> ei
a' chreach - the plunder	anns a' chreich - in the plunder	na creiche - of the plunder	
an t-sealg - the hunt	anns an t-seilg - in the hunt	na seilge - of the hunt	
a' bhreug - the lie	leis a' bhrèig - with the lie	na brèige - of the lie	
a' ghrian - the sun	ris a' ghrèin - to the sun	na grèine - of the sun	
an iall - the strap	air an èill - on the strap	na h-èille - of the strap	

## NEW WORDS

### Nouns (with genitive singular and nominative plural)

allt, g. & pl. uillt (m) - stream	ball, g. & pl. buill (m) - member
beul, g. & pl. beòil (m) - mouth	car, g. cuir, pl. caran (m) - twist
càirdeas, g. càirdeis (m) - friendship	càrn, g. & pl. càirn & cùirn (m) - carn
ceum, g. cèim, pl. ceumannan (m) - step, pace	clag, g. & pl. cluig (m) - bell
cliabh, g. & pl. clèibh (m) - creel	coibhneas, g. coibhneis (m) - kindness
coileach, g. & pl. coilich (m) - cockerel	corp, g. & pl. cuirp (m) - body
dall, g. & pl. doill (m) - blindman	deur, g. & pl. deòir (m) - tear
dùn, g. & pl. dùin (m) - fort	eun, g. & pl. eòin (m) - bird
lìon, g. & pl. lìn (m) - net	mac, g. & pl. mic (m) - son
meur, g. pl. meòir (m) - finger	nèamh, g. nèimh, pl. nèamhan (m) - heaven
neul, g. & pl. neòil (m) - cloud	olc, g. uilc (m) - evil
òrd, g. & pl. ùird (m) - hammer	sìol, g. & pl. sìl (m) - seed
sliabh, g. slèibh, pl. slèibhtean (m) - hill, hillside	tonn, g. & pl. tuinn (m) - wave
toll, g. & pl. tuill (m) - hole	cealg, g. ceilge, pl. cealgan (f) - deceit
breug, g. brèige, pl. breugan (f) - lie	
ciall, g. cèille, pl. cialltan (f) - sense	
creach, g. creiche, pl. creachan (f) - plunder, raid	
creag, g. creige, pl. creagan (f) - cliff, crag, rock	
crìoch, g. crìche, pl. crìochan (f) - limit, boundary	
fras, g. froise, pl. frasan (f) - shower	geug, g. gèige, pl. geugan (f) - branch, bough
iall, g. èille, pl. ialltan (f) - strap, leash	leac, g. lice, pl. leacan (f) - slab, tile, flagstone
lorg, g. luirge, pl. lorgan (f) - trace, track	sealg, g. seilge, pl. sealgan (f) - hunt
sgeul, g. & pl. sgeòil (f) - story	tonn, g. tuinne, pl. tonnan (f) - wave

## EXERCISE 1 Translate into English

1. òrain a' bhàird; ad a' bhoireannaich; clachan a' chùirn;
2. fuaim a' chluig; ceann fir; cas coilich; làmh a' mhic;
3. meud an lìn; ceann an èisg, earball fèidh; seinn Eòin;
4. sruth deòir; drochaid na luinge; ruith tuinne; callaid crìche;
5. gob circe; dèideagan cloinne; là na seilge; fear na creiche

## EXERCISE 2 Translate into Gàidhlig

1. the taste of bread; a boy's hand; the water of the burn; grazing of cattle;
2. the glen road; a trout head; my son's house; the kindness of friendship;
3. the grass of the slope; the story's end; the colour of the cloud;
4. the movement of the sail; the leg pain; the size of the stone;
5. a woman of deceit; window glass; the sense of the story

the man of the raid

5. a hen's beak; children's toys; the day of the hunt;

wave; a boundary fence;

4. the flow of a tear; the ship's bridge; a run of a

tail; the singing of a bird;

3. the size of the net; the head of the fish; a deer's

leg; the son's hand;

2. the sound of the bell; a man's head; the cockerel's

the cairn;

1. the poet's songs; the woman's hat; the stones of

### LESSON 37: ANSWERS 2

1. bias arain; lamh balach; uisge an uillt; ionatrachd

cruidh;

2. rathad a' ghlinn; ceann bric; taigh mo mhic;

coibhneas càirdes;

3. fear an t-sleibh; crìoch an sgeòil; dath an neòil;

4. gluasad an t-sùil; pian na coise; meud na cloiche;

5. boireannach ceilge; glainne uinneig; ciall na sgeòil

### LESSON 37: ANSWERS 1

1. the poet's songs; the woman's hat; the stones of

the cairn;

2. the sound of the bell; a man's head; the cockerel's

leg; the son's hand;

3. the size of the net; the head of the fish; a deer's

tail; the singing of a bird;

4. the flow of a tear; the ship's bridge; a run of a

wave; a boundary fence;

5. a hen's beak; children's toys; the day of the hunt;

the man of the raid