

## LESSON 4

### Introduction to Adjectives

You saw in Lesson 1 that adjectives can be used predicately, following the verb **To Be**. The adjective never changes in this situation:

**Masculine noun** Tha am balach beag - The boy is small  
**Feminine noun** Tha a' chaileag beag - The girl is small  
**Plural nouns** Tha na balaich beag - The boys are small Tha na caileagan beag - the girls are small

However, an adjective must agree in both case and gender with the noun it directly describes. This is called the attribute position. For nominative (basic) forms of nouns these are as follows:

**Masculine singular (no change in adjective)** Gille mòr - A big lad  
An gille mòr - The big lad  
**Feminine singular (lenite adjective if possible) †** Caileag mhòr - A big girl  
A' chaileag mhòr - The big girl  
**Plural nouns (add -a or -e to adjective) \*** Gillean mòra - Big lads  
Na gillean mòra - The big lads  
Caileagan mòra - Big girls  
Na caileagan mòra - The big girls

† All adjectives with initial consonant quality can be lenited except those beginning with **l, n, r, sg, sm, sp** or **st**. For example, caileag mhòr, caileag bheag but caileag sgìth.

\* The ending follows the Gàidhlig spelling rule. For example, if a syllable ends in a narrow vowel (i.e. **i** or **e**) then the following syllable must begin with a narrow vowel. Similarly if a syllable ends in a broad vowel (i.e. **a, o** or **u**) then the following syllable must begin with a broad vowel. Hence mòr >> mòra, glic (wise) >> glice.

The adjectives **seo - this/these** and **sin - that/those** never change in any position:

#### Masculine

an gille seo - this lad  
an gille mòr seo - this big lad  
na gillean seo - these lads  
na gillean mòra seo - these big lads  
an gille sin - that lad  
an gille mòr sin - that big lad  
na gillean sin - those lads  
na gillean mòra sin - those big lads

#### Feminine

a' chaileag seo - this girl  
a' chaileag bheag seo - this small girl  
na caileagan seo - these girls  
na caileagan beaga seo - these small girls  
a' chaileag sin - that girl  
a' chaileag bheag sin - that small girl  
na caileagan sin - those girls  
na caileagan beaga sin - those small girls

As nouns have either masculine or feminine gender in Gàidhlig. So when you want to describe something using its pronoun you must refer to it by either **e** or **i** for masculine and feminine nouns respectively. Both mean **it**:

**Masculine pronoun** Tha an seòmair fuar - The room is cold      Tha **e** fuar - It is cold  
**Feminine pronoun** Tha an eaglais fuar - The church is cold      Tha **i** fuar - It is cold

## NEW WORDS

### Adjectives

dearg - red

fada - long

gorm - blue, verdant green

inntinneach - interesting

sin - that

ùr - new

dona - bad

goirid - short

math - good

seo - this

tinn - ill, sick

### Pronouns

e - it (masculine subject)

i - it (feminine subject)

## EXERCISE 1 Translate into English

1. Chan eil an sgoil mhòr cho glan
2. Tha an eaglais bheag làn
3. An robh an sgian ùr geur? Cha robh
4. Bha am peann gorm tioram
5. Tha an litir seo inntinneach
6. Bha an taigh sin falamh
7. Tha an snàthad gheur salach
8. Tha an gille dona sin leisg
9. An robh an seòmair beag blàth? Cha robh
10. Cha robh a' chaileag bheag tinn

## EXERCISE 2 Translate into Gàidhlig

1. Was the small book wet? No
2. The long river was very dirty
3. Was the new door dry?
4. The short floor was wet
5. That dirty mirror isn't new
6. The long peace was good
7. Was the house not empty? Yes
8. The hot fire was very good
9. That red hand is wet
10. The long night was cold
11. The blue boat isn't full

12. The bad girl wasn't pleased
13. That man is dry and warm
14. That long loch was high

- LESSON 4: ANSWERS 2**
1. An robh an leabhar beag fliuch? Cha robh
  2. Bha an abhainn fhada glè shalach
  3. An robh an doras ùr tioram?
  4. Bha an iar gòrid fliuch
  5. Chan eil an sgàthan salach sin ùr
  6. Bha an t-sìth fhada math
  7. Nach robh an taigh falamh? Bha
  8. Bha an teine teth glè mhath
  9. Tha an lamh dhearg sin fliuch
  10. Bha an oidhche fhada fuar
  11. Chan eil am bàta gorm làn
  12. Cha robh a' chailleag dhona toillechte
  13. Tha am fear sin tioram agus blàth
  14. Bha an loch fada sin àrd

- LESSON 4: ANSWERS 1**
1. The big school isn't so clean
  2. The small church is full
  3. Was the new knife sharp? No
  4. The blue pen was dry
  5. This letter is interesting
  6. That house was empty
  7. The sharp needle is dirty
  8. That bad lad is lazy
  9. Was the small room warm? No
  10. The little girl wasn't ill