

LESSON 46

More Interrogative Pronouns

The Interrogative Pronoun Cò

1. **Cò + 3rd person singular prepositional pronoun + relative clause** forms interrogative prepositions. From the examples below you can see that in many cases it's essential to know the preposition a verb takes:

Preposition	Interrogative
aig - at	Cò aige tha an taigh sin? ‡ - Whose house is that? (lit. Who at is that house?)
air - on	Cò ai a tha thu a' coimhead? - Who are you looking at? (Who on are you looking?)
às - from, out of	Cò às a tha thu cinnteach? - Who are you sure of? (lit. Who of are you sure?)
bho - from	Cò bhuaithe gheibh thu sin? ‡ - Who will you get that from? (lit. Who from will you get that?)
do/dha - to	Cò dha thug thu a' chomhairle? - To whom did you give the advice? (Who to did you give the advice?)
de - of, off	Cò dheth a dh' fhaighnich thu? - Of whom did you enquire? (Who of did you enquire?)
fo - under, below	Cò fodha a chuir thu a' chluasag? - Who did you put the pillow under? (lit. Who under did you put the pillow?)
le - with	Cò leis a tha an càr? - Who owns the car? (lit. Who with is the car?)
gu - to	Cò thuige a tha an litir a' dol? - Who is the letter going to? (lit. Who to is the letter going?)
mu - about	Cò uime tha i a' bruidhinn? ‡ - Who is she speaking about? (lit. Who about is she speaking?)
ri - to, against	Cò ris a bha thu a' bruidhinn? - Who were you speaking to? (lit. Who to were you speaking?)

‡ Notice that the relative pronoun **a** is not required after a prepositional pronoun ending in a vowel.

As shown in the following the translation of **Cò** in the above examples could equally well be **What**, **Where**, or **Which** depending on the context:

Cò air a tha thu a' coimhead? - What are you looking at?

Cò uime tha i a' bruidhinn? - What is she speaking about?

Cò fodha a chuir thu a' chluasag? - What did you put the pillow under?

Cò às a tha thu cinnteach? - What are you sure of?

Cò às a tha thu ? - Where are you from?

2. **Cò + definite noun + relative clause.** Again the meaning **Who, What** or **Which** is understood from the context:

Cò am fear a chunnaic an tubaist? - Who's the one (man) who saw the accident?

Cò a' chaileag a ghlac am breac? - Who's the girl who caught the trout?

Cò a' bhùth a tha seo? - What/which shop is this?

3. **Cò + dhiubh** (3rd person plural prepositional pronoun of **de**) + **relative clause** meaning **Whether**:

Cò dhiubh a bhios mi ann no nach bi ‡ - Whether I'll be there or not

Cò dhiubh a bha mi ann no nach robh - Whether I was there or not

Cò dhiubh a tha thu ga iarraidh no nach eil - Whether you want it or not

‡ The **or not** part is provided by the negative relative clause using the same verb as the primary clause.

The Interrogative Pronoun **Cia mheud**

Cia mheud is used to ask **How many**. It is always followed by the singular noun:

Cia mheud duine ?- How many people?

Cia mheud taigh ?- How many houses?

Cia mheud boireannach ?- How many women?

To extend the question add the relative clause:

Cia mheud duine a tha anns an dealbh? - How many people are in the picture?

Cia mheud taigh a tha air an t-sràid? - How many houses are on the street?

Cia mheud boireannach a bha anns a' chòisir? - How many women were in the choir?

The Interrogative Pronoun **Dè**

1. **Dè + na** (relative pronoun meaning **all that**) can be used in a similar fashion to **Cia mheud** to ask **How many** but also depending on context can be translated as **How much**:

Dè na tha sin? - How much is it? (lit. What all that is that?)

Dè na bha ann anns a' bhàta? - How many were in the boat? (lit. What all that was in the boat?)

2. **Dè + na + relative clause + de** again meaning either **How many** or **How much** depending on the context:

Dè na tha ann de dh'airgead? - How much money is there? (lit. What all that is there of money?)

Dè na bha ann de bhàtaichean? - How many boats were there? (lit. What all that was there of boats?)

3. A common extension of Example 2 above is in combination with the preposition **aig**:

Dè na tha agad de dh'airgead? ‡ - How much money do you have? (lit. What all that is there at you of money?)

Dè na bha aca de leabhraichean? - How many books did they have? (lit. What all that was there at them of books?)

‡ The **dh'** before an indefinite noun beginning with a vowel is very common after the preposition **de**.

4. **Dè + cho + adjective + 's + relative clause** to enquire of an attribute:

Dè cho àrd 's a tha do bhràthair? - How tall is your brother? - lit. How so tall is your brother?

Dè cho trang 's a bhios tu? - How busy will you be? - lit. How so busy will you be?

Dè cho cruaidh 's a bha thu ag obair? - How hard were you working? - lit. How so hard were you working?

Dè cho fad 's a bhios a' choinneamh? ‡ - How long will the meeting be? - lit. How so long will the meeting be?

‡ **fad** is used in preference to **fada** in this structure.

5. Use **Dè + dimension + relative clause + ann** to ask about dimensions. The meaning can be similar to Example 4 above. The dimensions are:

fad - length (also faide)

àirde - height

doimhne - depth

leud - width, breadth

cudrom - weight

tìde - time, duration

Dè am fad a tha anns an t-sràid? - What length is the street? (mean. How long is the street?)

Dè an àirde a tha anns an togalach? - What height is the building? (mean. How high is the building?)

Dè an doimhne a tha anns an uisge? - What depth is the water? (mean. How deep is the water?)

Dè an leud a bha anns an abhainn? - What width was the river? (mean. How wide was the river?)

Dè an cudrom a tha innte? ‡ - What weight is she? (mean. How heavy is she?)

‡ The prepositional pronouns of **ann** are used when referring to a pronoun object

There are two ways to respond to type **4** and **5** questions above. Both use the contracted form **a** of the word **de** (of) before the dimension:

a dh'fhaide † - of length

a dh'àirde † - of height

a dhoimhne - of depth

a leud - of width, of breadth

a chudrom - of weight

a thìde - of time

† **a dh'fhaid** and **a dh'àird** are acceptable alternatives.

Tha an t-sràid ceud slat a dh'fhaid

Tha ceud slat a dh'fhaid anns an t-sràid

The street is one hundred yards long

The an togalach dà mhìle troigh a dh'àird
The dà mhìle troigh a dh'àird anns an togalach
Tha an t-uisge deich òirlich a dhoimhne
Tha deich òirlich a dhoimhne anns an uisge
Bha dusan meatair a leud anns an abhainn
Bha an abhainn dusan meatair a leud
Tha lethcheud cileagram a chudrom innte
Tha i lethcheud cileagram a chudrom

The building is two thousand feet high

The water is a ten inches deep

The river was a dozen metres wide

She is fifty kilograms in (of) weight

NEW WORDS

Adjectives

nàiseanta - national

pinc - pink

pailt - plentiful, abundant

Nouns

ceudameatair (m) - centimetre

co-ogha (m) - cousin

cudrom (m) - weight

iasad (m) - loan

òirleach (m & f) - inch

rèidio (m) - radio

taigh-beag (m) - toilet

uncail (m) - uncle

àirde (f) - height

cluasag (f) - pillow

doimhne (f) - depth

leud (f) - width

slat (f) - yard (measure)

cileagram (m) - kilogram

crannchur (m) - lottery

dusan (m) - dozen

meatair (m) - metre

pasgan (m) - parcel

seòmar-suidhe (m) - sitting room, lounge

tiodhlac (m) - gift, present

antaidh (f) - aunt

còisir (f) - choir

faide (f) - length [alternative to fad (m)]

mìle (f) - mile

Verbs

buannaich, buannachadh - win

pàigh, pàigheadh - pay

gabh, gabhail - hold (contain)

EXERCISE 1 Translate into English

1. Cò aige tha fios?
2. Cia mheud duine a ghabhas do chàr? Ceathrar
3. Dè cho tric 's a bhios tu a' tighinn an seo?
4. Cò às a tha do mhàthair? Tha i à Inbhir Nis
5. Cò uime bha sibh a' faighneachd? 'S ann mu Mhàiri
6. Dè cho pailt 's a tha na bric anns an loch seo?
7. Chan eil fios agam cia mheud slat a tha ann am mìle
8. Cò air tha thu a' smaointinn? Mo sheanair
9. Cia mheud turas a bha sibh ann am Portrigh?
10. Cò air a tha an cnatan? 'S ann ormsa

11. Dè cho fada 's a bhios e a' fuireach leibh?
12. Chan eil fios agam idir cò bhuithe gheibh mi iasad
13. Dè an àirde a tha annad? Meatair is seasgad ceudameatair
14. A bheil fios agad na tha agam de dh'airgead? Chan eil
15. Dè na phàigh thu airson an taigh?
16. Cò an tè a bhuannaich an crannchur nàiseanta? 'S e tè à Dùn Èideann
17. Cò uime a bha iad a' sgrìobhadh?
18. Dè cho leathan 's tha an seòmar-suidhe?
19. Cò dha dh'innseas mi an sgeul? Innis do Mhàiri i
20. Cia mheud òirleach a tha ann an slait?

EXERCISE 2 Translate into Gàidhlig

1. How long were you working at sea? Three years
2. Who were they talking about? About themselves
3. I don't know where he's from
4. How many fish did you catch yesterday? One
5. How many times do (will) I need to say that
6. Who owns the big house on the hill? It's Calum's
7. Whose is the red pen? It's mine
8. Who did you grasp by the hand?
9. How much change do you have in your pocket?
10. Who was she writing to (gu)? (It's) to her grandmother
11. Who has the toothache? She has
12. To whom did you give the present? (It's) to my friend
13. Who was wearing the pink dress? Màiri
14. Who's the man that caught the biggest fish? (It's) Calum
15. What were you listening to on the radio?
16. How much did the book cost? Six pounds
17. Who did you send the parcel to? (It's) to my uncle
18. Who did you get the parcel from? (It's) from my aunt
19. Did you see how many people were there?
20. Who knows when we will see them again?

LESSON 46: ANSWERS 1

1. Who knows?
2. How many people can (will) your car take (hold)?
Four
3. How often do you come here?
4. Where is your mother from? She's from Inverness
5. Who were you enquiring about? (I t's) about Màiri
6. How abundant are the trout in this loch?
7. I don't know how many yards there are in a mile
8. Who are you thinking about (on)? My grandfather
9. How many times were you in Portree?
10. Who has a cold? (I t's on) me
11. How long will he be staying with you?
12. I don't know at all who I can (will) get a loan from
13. What height are you? One metre and sixty centimetres
14. Do you know how much money I have? No
15. How much did you pay for the house?
16. Who's the woman that won the national lottery? (I t's) a woman from Edinburgh
17. Who/What are you writing about?
18. How broad is the sitting room?
19. Who can (will) I tell the story to? Tell it to Màiri
20. How many inches are there in a yard?

LESSON 46: ANSWERS 2

1. Dè cho fad 's a bha sibh ag obair aig muir? Tri bliadhna
2. Cò uime a bha iad a' bruidhinn? 'S ann umpa fhèin
3. Chan eil fios agam cò às a tha e
4. Cia mheud iasg a ghliac thu an-dè? A h-aon
5. Cia mheud turas a dh'fheumas mi sin a ràdh
6. Cò leis a tha an taigh air a' chnoc? 'S le Calum e
7. Cò aige tha am peann dearg? 'S agamsa e
8. Cò air a rug thu air an làimh?
9. De na tha agad de dh'iomlaid nad phòcaid?
10. Cò thuige bha i a' sgrìobhadh? 'S ann gu a seanmhair
11. Cò air a tha an dèidheadh? 'S ann oirrese
12. Cò dha thug sibh an tìodhlac? 'S ann do mo charaid
13. Cò air a bha an dreasa phinc? 'S ann air Màiri
14. Cò am fear a ghliac an t-iasg as motha? 'S e Calum
15. Cò ris a bha thu ag èisteachd air an rèidio?
16. De na chosg an leabhar? 'S iad notaichean
17. Cò thuige a chuir thu am pasgan? 'S ann gu m' uncall
18. Cò bhualtìhe a fhuair thu am pasgan? 'S ann bho m' antaidh
- 19a. Am faca tu na bha ann de dhaoine?
- 19b. Am faca tu cia mheud duine a bha ann?
20. Cò aige tha fhios cuin a chi sinn a-rithist iad