

LESSON 47

Non-Dative Prepositions

1. Simple Prepositions Taking the Genitive Case of Nouns

There are a few one word prepositions which require the genitive case of nouns:

bhàrr/far - from off, off

chun/thun - to, towards

rè - during

thar - over

tre - by means of, through

trid - through

Some Examples:

bhàrr a' bhalla - from off the wall

chun na coinneimhe - to the meeting

rè an t-samhraidh † - during the summer

thar an rathaid - over the road

tre sgrìobhaidh † - by means of writing

trid na glainne - through the glass

† **rè** + **an** and **tre** + **an** frequently combine to give **rèn** and **tren** respectively

2. Compound Prepositions Taking the Genitive Case of Nouns

These are all made up of two elements; a simple dative preposition followed by a noun. The most common are:

a dh'aindeoin - despite

a dh'ionnsaigh - towards

air beulaibh - in front (of)

air cùlaibh/air chùl - behind

air feadh - throughout

air muin - atop, on top (of)

air sgàth - for the sake (of), because (of)

air son/airson - for, for the sake (of)

am broinn - within, inside

am measg - among

an aghaidh - against

an àite - instead (of), in place (of)

an comhair - in the direction (of)

an dèidh/às dèidh - after

an làthair - in the presence (of)

a rèir - according to

às aonais - without

às leth - on behalf (of)

a thaobh - regarding, with regard to

fa chomhair - in front (of)/before (place)

mu choinneimh/mu choinneamh - opposite

mu dhèidhinn - concerning

mun cuairt - around

mu thimcheall - around, aroundabout

os cionn - above, over

ri taobh - beside

Some Examples:

a dh'aindeoin do chomhairle - despite your advice

a dh'ionnsaigh a' bhaile - toward the town

air beulaibh a' chaisteil - in front of the castle

air chùl an taighe - behind the house

air feadh an t-saoghail - throughout the world

air muin nan leabhraichean - on top of the books

air sgàth an t-solais - because of the light
 airson a' bhalaich ‡ - for the boy's sake
 am broinn a' phasgain - inside the parcel
 am measg nan daoine - among the men
 an aghaidh na gaoithe - against the wind
 an àite mo mhàthar - instead of my mother
 an comhair - see section below
 an dèidh na dinnearach - after the dinner
 an làthair a' bhanaltraim - in the presence of the nurse
 a rèir an t-sagairt - according to the priest
 às aonais airgid - without money
 às leth mo pheathar - on behalf of my sister
 a thaobh an airgid - regarding the money
 fa chomhair a' mhinisteir - before the minister
 mu choinneimh na h-eaglaise - opposite the church
 mu dheidhinn na cùise - concerning the matter
 mun cuairt na pàirce - around the park
 mu thimcheall na sgoile - around the school
 os cionn na craoibhe - above the tree
 ri taobh an dorais - beside the door

‡ In spoken Gàidhlig and often in the written language **airson** behaves like a simple dative preposition. There is also a growing tendency for some or all these prepositions to be followed by the dative noun; and by the nominative noun when the noun is indefinite.

The preposition **an comhair** occurs only in a small number of related idioms:

	Thuit mi an comhair mo chùil - I fell backward
an comhair a' chùil - backward (lit. in the direction of the back)	Thuit thu an comhair do chùil - You fell backward
	Thuit e an comhair a chùil - He fell backward
	Thuit i an comhair a cùil - She fell backward
	etc
	Thuit mi an comhair mo chinn - I fell headlong
an comhair a' chinn - headlong (lit. in the direction of the head)	Thuit thu an comhair do chinn - You fell headlong
	Thuit e an comhair a chinn - He fell headlong
	Thuit i an comhair a cinn - She fell headlong
	etc

Compound Prepositions and Pronouns

Compound prepositions cannot be followed directly by a pronoun. Instead the corresponding possessive adjective must be used before the final noun element:

dha ur n-aindeoin - despite you	dha ar n-ionnsaigh ‡ - towards us
dha do rèir - according to you	dha mo thaobh - with regard to me
air mo bheulaibh - in front of me	air a chùlaibh - behind him
air a feadh - throughout it [sgeul (f) - story]	

air am muin - on top of them
air mo shon - for my sake
às a leth - on her behalf
mu ur coinneimh ‡ - opposite you
mu an timcheall ‡ - around them
ri mo thaobh ‡ - beside me

air ar sgàth - for our sake
às d' aonais - without you
fa ar comhair ‡ - in front of us
mu mo dheidhinn ‡ - concerning me
os a cionn - above her

The augmented prepositions of **ann** are used when the first element is either **am** or **an** (contracted forms of **ann** = **in**). You have already met these in:

nam bhroinn - inside me
nan aghaidh - against them
nad dhèidh - after you
nar measg - among us
nur n-àite - in your place (instead of you)
nar làthair - in our presence

‡ Similarly whenever the first element (preposition) ends in a vowel the following pronoun can appear as an augmented preposition. These forms are optional but are encountered frequently in both the written and spoken language (see Appendix 1):

dhur n-aindeoin - despite you
dhad rèir - according to you
far comhair - in front of us
mum dheidhinn - concerning me
rim thaobh - beside me
dhar n-ionnsaigh - toward us
dham thaobh - with regard to me
mur coinneimh - opposite you
mun timcheall - around them

As with all other possessive adjectives the emphatic suffices can and are often added. You met these endings in Lesson 11 and Lesson 12:

air am muin-san - on top of **them**
air mo shon-sa - for **my** sake
ri mo thaobh-sa - beside **me**
nar measg-ne - among **us**
nad dhèidh-sa - after **you**
air ar sgàth-ne - for **our** sake
às a leth-se - on **her** behalf
nam bhroinn-sa - inside **me**
nan aghaidh-san - against **them**
nar làthair-ne - in **our** presence

3. Other Prepositions

One important preposition takes the nominative noun:

eadar - between

Some Examples:

Bha cù ann eadar am balach agus an nighean - There was a dog between the boy and the girl
A bheil eanchainn agad ann eadar na cluasan? - Do you have a brain between your (the) ears?

Two important prepositions are irregular. Without the article they are followed by the dative noun, but with the article the nominative noun is used. This rule is often broken in the spoken language with both behaving as simple dative prepositions:

gu/gus (before definite noun) - to, until
mar - as, like

Followed by an Indefinite Noun	Followed by a Definite Noun
Bha am fiodh mar chloich ‡ - The wood was like stone	Bha am fiodh mar a' chlach - The wood was like the stone
Chuir mi litir gu caileig - I sent a letter to a girl	Chuir mi litir gus a' chaileag - I sent a letter to the girl

‡ The indefinite noun is always lenited after **mar**.

NEW WORDS

Adjectives

binn - melodious, tuneful

ladarna - bold, impudent

Adverbs

air fad - entire, whole

Nouns

britheamh (m) - judge

fasgadh (m) - shelter

geàrd (m) - guard

saoghal (m) - world

tarbh (m) - bull

cèis-litreach (f) - envelope

mòinteach (f) - moor

cead (m) - permission, licence

fear-seòlaidh (m) - guide, leader

prìosanach (m) - prisoner

seanchaidh (m) - story teller

teaghlach (m) - family

eanchainn (f) - brain

Prepositions

a dh'aindeoin - despite

air beulaibh - in front of

air feadh - throughout

air sgàth - on account (of), because (of)

am broinn - within, inside

an aghaidh - against

an comhair - in the direction (of)

an làthair - in the presence of

às aonais - without

a thaobh - regarding, with regard to

chun/thun - to, towards

mu choinneimh - opposite

mun cuairt - around

os cionn - above, over

thar - over

trìd - through

a dh'ionnsaigh - towards

air cùlaibh/air chùl - behind

air muin - atop, on top (of)

airson - for, for the sake (of)

am measg - among

an àite - instead of

an dèidh/às dèidh - after

a rèir - according to

às leth - on behalf of

bhàrr/far - from off, off

fa chomhair - in front of/before

mu dhèidhinn - concerning

mu thimcheall - around, aroundabout

ri taobh - besides - during

tre - by means of, through

Pronoun

sa chèile - of one another

Verbs

ceileir, ceileireadh - sing (as a bird)

cìr, cìreadh - comb

cruinnich, cruinneachadh - gather, collect
verb)

cuir am falach, cur am falach - hide (transitive)

deasaich, deasachadh - prepare, edit

leum, leum - jump, leap

seòl, seòladh - sail

EXERCISE 1 Translate into English

1. Sheas am prìosanach eadar an dà gheàrd fa chomhair a' bhrìtheimh
2. Bha an teine air mo bheulaibh agus a' chathair air mo chùl(aibh)
3. Sheòl am bàta chun a' phuirt air sgàth na stoirme
4. Leum an tarbh thar an uillt agus chaidh e am measg a' chruidh
5. Ghlan iad mu thimcheall an taighe airson am màthar
6. An robh iad a' bruidhinn mu mo dhèidhinn?
7. Shiùbhail iad mun cuairt an t-saoghail às aonais na cloinne aca
8. Chuir e na leabhraichean air muin a chèile
9. Chaidh e dhan choinneimh nam àite, agus às aonais mo chead
10. Shabaid iad an aghaidh na gaoithe a dh'ionnsaigh an fhasgaidh
11. Sheas i mu choinneimh an sgàthain agus chìr i a falt
12. Bha fios againn gun robh sinn am measg charaidean
13. Sgrìobh i an litir às ar leth
14. Dha rèir, bidh sneachd ann a-màireach
15. Dh'fhàg iad an càr aca mu choinneimh a' bhanca
16. Ruith na geàrdan às dèidh a' phrìosanaich
17. Bidh mi ann a dh'aindeoin a' chnatain a tha orm
18. Dè thuirt e a thaobh na litreach?

EXERCISE 2 Translate into Gàidhlig

1. Everyone gathered around the storyteller
2. He went to the door for me
3. There was a terrible storm during the night
4. There is a garden in front of the building
5. The men came in after the women
6. I wouldn't like to be in your place
7. During the winter I would not be without a coal fire
8. She prepared dinner for the entire family
9. The boy was impudent in the presence of the school master
10. We walked around the old castle behind the guide
11. I ran through(out) the park after the dog
12. She placed the kettle on the table beside the pot
13. She hid the money on top of the cupboard

14. They put the card in the envelope
15. The farmer walked over the bridge towards the wood
16. The larks were singing sweetly (melodiously) above the moor
17. They went sailing (to sail) despite the bad weather
18. Regarding the loan, you don't (won't) need to pay it back to me

1. Chrúinnich a h-uile duine mun cuairt/mu thimcheall an t-seanchaidh
2. Chaidh e a dh'ionnsaigh/chun an dorais air mo shon-sa
3. Bha stoir m uabhasach ann ré na h-oidhche
4. Tha gárradh ann air beulaibh an togalaich
5. Tháinig na fir a-staigh an deidh nam boireannach
6. Cha bu toil leam a bhith nad áite/nur n-áite
7. Rén gheamhráidh cha bhithinn as aonais teine guail
8. Dheasaich i dinnear airson an teaghlach air fad
9. Bha am balach ladarna an láthair a' mhaighistir-sgoile
10. Choisich e mun cuairt an t-seann chaisleil air chúil an fhír-sheòlaidh
11. Ruithe mi air feadh na páirce an deidh a' choin
12. Chuir i an coire air a' bhord ri taobh na poite
13. Chuir i an t-airgead am falach air muin a' phreasa
14. Chuir iad a' chait am broinn na cèise-ilitreach
15. Choisich an tuathanach thar na drochaide a dh'ionnsaigh na colle
16. Bha na h-uiseagan a' cèileireadh gu binn os cionn na mòintiche
17. Chaidh iad a sheòladh a dh'aindeoin na droch shìde
18. A thaobh an iasaid, chan fheum thu a phàigheadh air ais dhomh

LESSON 47: ANSWERS 2

1. The prisoner stood between the two guards in front of the judge
2. The fire was in front of me and the chair behind me
3. The boat sailed towards the port because of the storm
4. The bull jumped over the burn and went among the cattle
5. They cleaned around the house for their mother
6. Were they speaking about me?
7. They travelled around the world without their children
8. He put the books on top of one another
9. He went to the meeting in my place, and without my permission
10. They fought against the wind towards (the) shelter
11. She stood before (opposite) the mirror and combed her hair
12. We knew we that were among friends
13. She wrote the letter on our behalf
14. According to him, there will be snow tomorrow
15. They left their car opposite the bank
16. The guards ran after the prisoner
17. I'll be there despite the cold I have
18. What did he say regarding the letter?

LESSON 47: ANSWERS 1