

LESSON 48

If-type Conjunctions

1. Rendering the Meaning If

Using Ma

The conjunction **Ma** was introduced in . This conjunction is limited to the positive relative verb and can be used with only: (1) the Present, Past and Future tenses of the verb **To Be**; (2) the Present tense of the Assertive Verb; (3) the Past (Finite) and Future tenses of other verbs. The meaning is factual rather than conjectural:

Verb	Tense	Example
To Be	Present	Ma tha thu fuar, cuir ort do chòta - If you're cold, put on your coat (lit. If you are in fact cold, put on your coat)
	Past	Ma bha thu sona ann, carson a dh'fhàg thu? - If you were happy there, why did you leave?
	Future	Ma bhios sìde mhath ann, gabhaidh sinn cuirm-chnuic air an tràigh - If the weather is (will be) good, we'll have a picnic on the beach
Assertive	Present	Mas e do roghainn e, ceannaich e ‡ - If it's your preference, buy it
		Mas ann fuar a bhios an là, cha ghabh sinn cuirm-chnuic air an tràigh - If the day is cold , we will not have a picnic on the beach
All Others	Past	Bidh e fhathast ann, ma dh'fhàg thu an sin e - It will still be there if you left it there
	Future	Bidh tu nas cofhartaile, ma chuireas tu dhìot do chòta - You'll be more comfortable, if you take off your coat

‡ **Ma + is** (Assertive Verb) combines to give **Mas**

Using Nan/Nam

The conjunction **Nan/Nam** is always used with the dependent form of the verb and can be used with only: (1) the Conditional tense of verbs; (2) the Conditional tense of the Assertive Verb; (3) the Past tense of the verb **To Be**. In contrast to **Ma**, the meaning of **Nan/Nam** is conjectural and is used to introduce a conditional clause:

Verb	Tense	Example
To Be	Past	Nan robh mi na bu shine, phòsainn a-màireach thu - If I were older I would marry you tomorrow
	Conditional	Nan robh thu sàmhach chluinneadh tu mi † - If you were quiet you would hear me
Assertive	Conditional	Nam b' e an-diugh an-dè, cha bhitheadh tu cho gòrach - If today were yesterday, you would not be so foolish
		Nam b' ann an-dè a thòisich thu, bhiodh tu deiseil an-diugh - If you had started yesterday , you would be finished today
All Others	Conditional	Nam biodh tu sàmhach chluinneadh tu mi † - If you would (= were to) be quiet you would hear me
		Nan suidheadh sibh sìos bhiodh sibh na bu chofhartaile - If you would sit down you would be more comfortable

† With **Nan/Nam** the Past and Conditional tenses of the verb **To Be** are identical in meaning.

The use of the Past tense of the verb **To Be** in Gàidhlig is analogous to English. The mood is subjunctive:

Nan robh thu deanadach, gheibheadh tu tuarastal math - If you were industrious, you'd get a good salary

Nan robh iad glic, cha choisicheadh iad air deigh thana - If they were wise they wouldn't walk on thin ice

The last two examples can equally well be represented by the Conditional tense of the verb **To Be**:

Nam biodh tu deanadach, gheibheadh tu tuarastal math - If you were industrious, you'd get a good salary

Nam biodh iad glic, cha choisicheadh iad air deigh thana - If they were wise they wouldn't walk on thin ice

2. Asking an Indirect Question

To ask an indirect question simply follow the main clause in a sentence by an interrogative:

Statement	Meaning
A bheil fhios agad an robh i aig a' chèilidh	lit. Do you know, was she at the ceilidh? = Do you know whether she was at the ceilidh? = Do you know if she was at the cèilidh?
Chan fhaca mi an robh càr ùr aige	lit. I didn't see, did he have a new car = I didn't see whether he had a new car = I didn't see if he had a new car
Dh'fhaighnich e an do cheannaich iad taigh ùr	lit. He enquired, did they buy a new house = He enquired whether they bought a new house = He enquired if they bought a new house

3. Rendering the Meaning Unless

The conjunction **Mur/Mura** was introduced in Lesson 23. It is mentioned again here for completeness. It can be translated as **Unless** or **If Not** and is followed by the dependent form of the verb:

Mura dèan thu an obair, chan fhaigh thu duais - Unless you do the work, you will not get an reward

Mura bi thu sàmhach, dùisgidh tu an leanabh - If you are not quiet, you'll waken the baby

Mur ith mi an dràsta, bidh an t-acras orm fhathast ‡ - If I don't eat just now, I'll be hungry later

Mur eil thu tinn, siuthad † - Unless you are ill, carry on/If you are not ill carry on

‡ **Mur** is used before a vowel

† **Eil** always replaces **Bheil** after **Mur**

4. Rendering the Meaning Even If

The conjunction **Ged** was introduced in Lesson 23 with the meaning **Though**. It can also have the meaning **Even If** or **Even Though**:

Bidh sinn a' dol a shnàmh ged a tha an t-uisge fuar - We'll be going swimming even if the water is cold

Am bi sibh a' dol ann ged nach eil ticead agaibh? - Will you be going even if you don't have a ticket?

NEW WORDS

Adverbs

a dh'oidhche - at night, of a night

coma - indifferent, without a care

air chall - lost, astray

Nouns

cairt-iùil (m) - map

putan (m) - button

tuarastal (m) - wage, salary

càin (f) - fine

cìs (f) - tax

mearachd (f) - mistake

roghainn (f) - choice, preference

ticead (f) - ticket

deireadh-sheachdain (m) - weekend

sgàilean-uisge (m) - umbrella

comain (f) - favour, obligation

dàil (f) - delay

obair-dachaigh (f) - homework

slàinte (f) - health

Pronouns

an dithis againn/an triùir againn/etc - the two of us/the three of us/etc

an dithis agaibh/an triùir agaibh/etc - the two of you/the three of you/etc

an dithis aca/an triùir aca/etc - the two of them /the three of three/etc

Verbs

dùisg, dùsgadh - wake, awaken

feith, feitheamh (air) - wait (for)

nigh, nighe - wash

rach air chall, dol air chall - get lost, go astray

tadhail, tadhal (air) - visit

èist, èisteachd (ri) - listen (to)

fuaigheil, fuaigheal - sew

put, putadh - push

Verbal Phrases

nam chomain/nad chomain/na chomain/etc - in my favour/in your favour/in his favour/etc

Tha mi nad chomain - I am obliged to you

Tha mi fada nad chomain - I am much obliged to you

EXERCISE 1 Translate into English

1. Ma tha fios agad far a bheil i, innis dhomh gun dàil
2. Mura cùm thu ri d' obair anns an sgoil chan fhaigh thu obair mhath
3. Chan eil fios agam an tèid mi dhan chèilidh

4. Nam bu mhise do mhàthair chuirinn chun an t-seòmair agad thu
5. Mur èist thu rium cha bhi fios agad mar a nì thu e
6. Ma thèid thu a Ghlaschu, tadhail air mo phàrantan
7. Mur urrainn dhut innse dhomh an sgeul, faighnichidh mi de dhuine eile
8. Mur toil leat càl, fàg air oir an truinnseir e
9. Nam b' urrainn dhut sin a dhèanamh dhomhsa, bhithinnsa fada nad chomain
10. Nan laigheadh tu sìos, thuiteadh tu nad chadal
11. Mura leugh sinn gu ceart e, nì sinn mearachd
12. I th an càl, ged nach toil leat e
13. Ged a tha e beartach, feumaidh e feitheamh mar a h-uile duine eile
14. Nan robh fios agam an-dè na tha agam an-diugh
15. Mura dèan iad an obair-dachaigh, gheibh iad peanas anns an sgoil a-màireach
16. Ma rinn sibh gu ceàrr e, dèanaibh a-rithist e
17. Ma phutas tusa is mise an càr gluaisidh e
18. Mur eil cairt-iùil agaibh, thèid sibh air chall

EXERCISE 2 Translate into Gàidhlig

1. If you are in good health you may climb the mountain
2. If you don't have an umbrella you will get (become) wet
3. If you were strong you could (would) lift that great weight
4. Will you wash the dishes for me if I give you a pound?
5. If the pair of us were to push the car I am sure it would start
6. I asked her if she would sew a button on my shirt
7. If we were to paint the walls white the room would be brighter
8. If they were to lock the door at night, the house would be much safer
9. If you were sit up straight, your back wouldn't be sore
10. Even if **you** don't care, I'll keep an eye on them
11. If you don't listen to my advice, you'll get be lost
12. If they don't pay the taxes soon they will need to pay a fine
13. If you don't wash the dishes you won't get any money at the weekend
14. Even if I don't like them, I wouldn't like to see them without food and a place to stay
15. If the children do not play quietly, I will send them outside
16. If they were to write more slowly, their writing would be neater

LESSON 48: ANSWERS 2

1. Ma tha thu ann an deagh shlàinte faodaidh tu a' bheinn a streap
2. Mur eil sgailean-uisge agaih fasaich sibh fliuch
3. Nan robh thu làidir thogadh tu an cudrom mòr sin
4. An nigh thu na soitheichean air mo shon ma bheir mi nota dhut?
5. Nam putadh an dìthis againn an càr tha mi cinnteach gun tòisichheadh e
6. Dh'fhaighnich mi dhith am fuigheilleadh i putan air mo léine
7. Nam peantadh sinn na ballachan geal, bhiodh an seòmar na bu shoilleire
8. Nan glaiseadh iad an doras a dh'oidhche, bhiodh an taigh na bu shabhailte
9. Nan suidheadh tu gu dìreach, cha bhiodh do dhruim goirt
10. Ged a tha thusa coma, cumaidh mi suil orra
11. Mur èist sibh ri mo chomhairle, thèid sibh air chall
12. Mura pàigh iad na cìsean a dh'athghearr, feumaidh iad càin a phàighheadh
13. Mura nigh thu na soitheichean, chan fhaigh thu airgead aig an deireadh-sheachdain
14. Ged nach toil leam iad, cha bu toil leam am faicinn gun bhìadh is àite-fuirich
15. Mura cluich a' chlànn gu sàmhach, cuiridh mi a-muigh iad
16. Nan sgrìobhadh iad na bu mhalile, bhiodh an sgrìobhadh aca na bu sgìobalta

LESSON 48: ANSWERS 1

1. If you know where she is, tell me immediately (without delay)
2. If you don't keep at your work in school you'll not get a good job
3. I don't know whether (if) I'll go to the cèilidh
4. If I were your mother I would send you to your room
5. Unless you listen to me you won't know how (as) you'll do it
6. If you go to Glasgow visit my parents
7. If you can't tell me the story, I will ask someone else
8. If you don't like cabbage, leave it on the edge of the plate
9. If you could possibly do that for me, I would be much obliged to you
10. If you were to lie down, you would fall asleep
11. If we don't read it correctly, we'll make a mistake
12. Eat the cabbage, even if you don't like it
13. Even if he is wealthy, he will need to wait like every one else
14. If I knew yesterday what I know today
15. If they don't do their homework, they will get a punishment in school tomorrow
16. If you did it wrong, do it again
17. If you and I push the car it will move
18. If you don't have a map you'll get lost