

# LESSON 50

## More Incomplete Verbs

### Group 1: Verbs based on the Assertive Verb

A number of verbs in this group were met in Lesson 20. Some other common ones are introduced here.

a. Assertive form of the verb + preposition **le**. With the prepositional pronouns these are:

#### Present Tense

I s coma leam/leat/etc -

I /you/etc care not, do not like

I s cuimhne leam/leat/etc -

I /you/etc remember

I s dòcha leam/leat/etc -

I /you/etc suppose, think it likely

I s fada leam/leat/etc -

I /you/etc long

I s iongnadh leam/leat/etc -

I /you/he/etc wonder, am astonished

I s leisg leam/leat/etc -

I /you/etc am loath, reluctant

I s miann leam/leat/etc -

I /you/etc desire, wish

I s truagh leam/leat/etc -

I /you/etc pity, feel sorrow  
pity, would feel sorrow

#### Past and Conditional Tenses

Bu choma leam/leat/etc -

I /you/etc cared not, did not like

I /you/etc would care not, would not like

Bu chuimhne leam/leat/etc -

I /you/etc remembered

I /you/etc would remember

Bu dòcha leam/leat/etc -

I /you/etc supposed, thought it likely

I /you/etc would suppose, would think it likely

B' fhada leam/leat/etc -

I /you/etc longed

I /you/etc would long

B' iongnadh leam/leat/etc -

I /you/etc wondered, was astonished

I /you/etc would wonder, would be astonished

Bu leisg leam/leat/etc -

I /you/etc was loath, was reluctant

I /you/etc would be loath, would be reluctant

Bu mhiann leam/leat/etc -

I /you/etc desired, wished

I /you/etc would desire, would wish

Bu truagh leam/leat/etc -

I /you/etc pitied, felt sorrow I /you/etc would

A number of these can be rendered using regular verbs:

cuimhnich, cuimhneachadh - remember

Tha mi a' cuimhneachadh - I remember

miannaich, miannachadh - desire, wish

Mhiannaich e - He desired

gabh iongantas, gabhail iongantas - be astonished

Ghabhadh e iongantas - He would be astonished

b. Assertive form of verb + preposition **do**. With the prepositional pronouns these are:

### Present Tense

I s èiginn dhomh/dhut/etc -

I /you/etc really have to, am compelled to

I s fheàrr dhomh/dhut/etc † -

It's better for me/you/etc

I s fheudar dhomh/dhut/etc † -

I /you/etc have to, must

I s fhiach dhomh/dhut/etc ‡ -

It's worth my/your/etc while

### Past and Conditional Tenses

B' èiginn dhomh/dhut/etc -

I /you/etc really had to, was compelled to

I /you/etc would really have to, would be compelled to

B' fheàrr dhomh/dhut/etc -

It was better for me/you/etc

It would be better for me/you/etc

B' fheudar dhomh/dhut/etc -

I /you/etc had to

I /you/etc would have to

B' fhiach dhomh/dhut/etc -

It was worth my/your/etc while

It would be worth my/your/etc while

‡ This is often rendered colloquially as '**S d' fhiach dhomh/dhut** etc.

† Words beginning with **f** are lenited after **Is**.

### The Other Forms of the Verb

For the present tense drop the **Is** and add:

**Cha** for negative statements

Cha mhiann leam sin - I don't desire that

Chan fhada leam mo dhùthaich fhèin - I don't long for my own country

**An** for interrogative

An èiginn dhut falbh? - Do you really have to leave? 'S èiginn - Yes, Chan èiginn - No

An truagh leibh e? - Do you pity him? 'S truagh - Yes, Cha truagh - No

**Nach** for negative interrogative

Nach cuimhne leat i? - Don't you remember her? 'S cuimhne - Yes, Cha cuimhne - No

Nach fhiach dhasan sin? - Is that not worth his while? Is fhiach - Yes, Chan fhiach - No ‡

‡ These are often rendered colloquially as **Nach d' fhiach/'S d' fhiach/Cha d' fhiach**

For the past and conditional tenses add:

**Cha** for negative statements

Cha b' fhiach dhomhsa sin - That wouldn't be worth my while?/That wasn't worth my while?

Cha bu chuimhne leis an sgeul - He didn't remember the story

**Am** for interrogative

Am miann leò taigh ùr? - Do they wish for a new house? Bu mhiann - Yes, Cha bu mhiann - No

Am b' fheudar dhut innse dha? - Did you have to tell him? B' fheudar - Yes, Cha b' fheudar - No

**Nach** for negative interrogative

Nach b' iongnadh leat sin? - Did that not astonish you? B' iongnadh - Yes, Cha b' iongnadh - No

Nach bu truagh leat iad? - Did you not feel sorrow for them?/Would you not feel sorrow for them? Bu truagh - Yes, Cha bu truagh - No

**Examples of Use**

When the incomplete verbs are followed directly by a verb, the verbal noun is used. Exceptions in both literature and the spoken language are the verbs **To Be** (a bhith), **To Go** (a dhol) and **To Come** (a thighinn):

Is coma leam leughadh - I do not like reading

An cuimhne leat coiseachd dhan sgoil? - Do you remember walking to the school?

Nach fhada leibh tilleadh dhan dùthaich agaibh fhèin? - Don't you long to return to your own (native) country?

Bu dòcha leis tilleadh dhan sgoil - He thought it likely to return to school

Is iongnadh leatha a bhith anns a' cho-fharpais? - She is astonished to be in the competition? Bu leisg leò bruidhinn rinn - They were loath to speak to us

Bu mhiann leam suidhe sìos - I wished to sit down

B' èiginn dha coiseachd dhachaigh - He really had (was compelled) to walk home

Is fheàrr dhaibh a bhith cùramach - They are right to be careful

Am feudar dhomh a thighinn a-staigh? - Must I come in?

Is d' fhiach dhaibh a dhol ann - It's worth their while going there

When incomplete verbs are followed by a verbal noun taking a direct object word order reversal takes place. Here the object comes first followed by **a + lenited verbal noun**. The **a** is dropped before verbal nouns beginning with vowel or beginning with **f + vowel**:

An iongnadh leat ceòl a chluinntinn? - Are you surprised to hear music?

An cuimhne leat am fiolm fhaicinn air an TBh? - Do you remember seeing the film on TV?

Is truagh leam an naidheachd sin a chluinntinn - I am sorry (consider it a pity) to hear that news

Cha b' fheudar dhut do chòta a chur ort - You wouldn't have to put your coat on

Nach b' fheàrr dha litir a sgrìobhadh ga mhàthair? - Would he not be better writing a letter to his mother?

Cha b' fhiach dhut an litir a fhreagairt - It wouldn't be worth your while answering the letter

When the object of the sentence is a pronoun then the pronoun is replaced by its possessive adjective placed before the verbal noun. The possessive adjectives **mo**, **do** and **a** (his/its) lenite the following word whenever possible:

Cha b' iongnadh leò m' fhaicinn? - They weren't surprised to see me?

An cuimhne leis a bualadh? - Does he remember hitting her?

Am fiach dhaibh a thogail an sin? - Is it worth their while building it (=taigh) there?

B' fheàrr dhaibh a cur anns a' phost - They had better (It would be better for them to) send it by post

#### **Group 4: A few others can be added to the miscellany of incomplete verbs**

a. Reporting a completed action using **An dèidh + do + subject + verbal noun**. The verbs **To Be** (a bhith), **To Go** (a dhol) and **To Come** (a thighinn) are used in preference to the verbal noun in both literature and the spoken language. When the subject is a pronoun the corresponding prepositional pronouns must be used:

An dèidh do Mhàiri a dhol dhachaigh, dheasaich i an dinnear - After Màiri went home, she prepared the dinner

An dèidh dhomh trod ris, thòisich e ri gul - After I scolded to him, he started crying

When the verbal noun takes a direct object word order reversal takes place. Here the object comes first followed by **a + lenited verbal noun**. The **a** is dropped before verbal nouns beginning with vowel or beginning with **f + vowel**:

An dèidh do Mhàiri an dinnear a dheasachadh - After Màiri prepared the dinner

An dèidh dhomh am balach fhaicinn - After I saw the boy

An dèidh dhì an litir a fhreagairt - After she answered the letter

When the object of the sentence is a pronoun then the pronoun is replaced by its possessive adjective placed before the verbal noun. The possessive adjectives **mo**, **do** and **a** (his/its) lenite the following word whenever possible:

An dèidh do Mhàiri a deasachadh - After Màiri prepared it (the dinner)

An dèidh dhomh fhaicinn - After I saw him (the boy)

An dèidh dhì a freagairt - After she answered it (the letter)

b. A very common way to describe **need** is to use the verb **To Be + aig + subject + ri + verbal noun**. When the subject is a pronoun the corresponding prepositional pronouns must be used:

Tha aig Màiri ri dhol dhachaigh † - Màiri has to go home

Bha aig Màiri ri thighinn dhachaigh - Màiri had to come home

Bidh aig Màiri ri bruidhinn riutha - Màiri will need to speak to them

Bhiodh aig Màiri ri bhith sàmhach - Màiri would need to be quiet

Bha aige ri trod rithe - He had to scold her

† The verbs **To Be** (a bhith), **To Go** (a dhol) and **To Come** (a thighinn) are used in preference to the verbal noun in both literature and the spoken language. The initial **a** of the infinitive is elided after the preposition **ri** in both literature and the spoken language.

When the verbal noun takes a direct object word order reversal takes place. Here the object comes first followed by **a + lenited verbal noun**. The **a** is dropped before verbal nouns beginning with vowel or beginning with **f + vowel**:

Bha aig Màiri ri(s) an dinnear a dheasachadh † - Màiri had to prepare the dinner

Tha agam ri(s) an litir a fhreagairt - I have to answer the letter

Bha aig Calum ri(s) am balach fhaicinn - Calum had to see the boy

† **ri** in this situation is not followed by the dative as it does not directly qualify the object.

When the object of the sentence is a pronoun then the pronoun is replaced by its possessive adjective placed before the verbal noun. The possessive adjectives **mo**, **do** and **a** (his/its) lenite the following word whenever possible:

Bha aig Màiri ra (ri a) deasachadh † - Màiri had to prepare it (the dinner)

Tha agam ra (ri a) freagairt - I have to answer it (the letter)

Bha aig Calum rim (ri m') fhaicinn - Calum had to see me

† the augmented prepositions of **ri** are commonly used. These can be found in Appendix 1.

Although not standard language, in some dialects the preposition **ri** has been dropped giving such forms as:

Tha aig Màiri a dhol dhachaigh - Màiri has to go home

Bha aige trod rithe - He had to scold her

Bha aig Màiri an dinnear a dheasachadh - Màiri had to prepare the dinner

Bha aig Calum m' fhaicinn - Calum had to see me

A common alternative is to use the noun **feum** (= need) after the verb **To Be**:

Bha feum aig Màiri ri thighinn dhachaigh † - Màiri had to come home

Bha feum aige ri trod rithe - He had to scold her

Tha feum agam ri an litir a fhreagairt - I have to answer the letter

Bha feum aig Calum rim' fhaicinn - Calum had to see me

† All other incomplete verbs constructed using the verb **To Be + noun + aig** follow the same pattern.

## NEW WORDS

### Adjectives

truagh - sorrowful, miserable

### Nouns

faradh (m) - fare

fiach (m) - value, worth

iongantas (m) - astonishment, phenomenon

miann (m) - desire, wish

feum (m & f) - need

foirm (m) - form

leisgeul (m) - excuse, apology

pàrtaidh (m) - party

stiùireadh (m) - instruction

boglach (f) - bog(land)

èiginn (f) - compulsion, emergency

riaghailt-bhìdh (f) - diet

cuimhne (f) - memory

pile (f) - pill

### Verbs

aidich, aideachadh - admit, confess

biadh, biadhadh - feed

cuimhnich, cuimhneachadh - remember

fiosraich, fiosrachadh - experience

gabh iongantas, gabhail iongantas - be astonished

guil, gul - cry, weep

troid, trod (ri) - scold, reprimand

beàrr, bearradh - shave

buair, buaireadh - disturb, upset

feuch, feuchainn - test

miannaich, miannachadh - desire, wish

### Verbal Phrases

thoir leabaidh air - go to bed

thug mi mo leabaidh orm - I went to (my) bed

bheir e a leabaidh air - he will go to (his) bed

bheireadh sibh ur leabaidh oirbh - you would go to (your) bed

tha i a' toirt a leabaidh oirre - she is going to (her) bed

### EXERCISE 1 Translate into English

1. B' fheàrr dhuibh ur seacaid a chur oirbh
2. 'S coma leam cofaidh
3. Nach fhada leat na saor-làithean?
4. B' iongnadh leam an tigeadh e dhan phàrtaidh
5. Bu leisg dha aideachadh gun d' rinn e an eucoir
6. B' fhada leatha pìos mòr de chèic sheòclaid
7. 'S truagh leam cluinntinn mu bhàs do mhàthar
8. 'S èiginn dhut a dhol air riaghailt-bhìdh
9. Nach b' fheàrr dhì an obair-sgoile a dhèanamh anns an t-seòmar aice fhèin?
10. Cha b' fhiach dhomhsa an trod-san
11. Gabhaibh mo leisgeul ach cha chuimhne leam sibhse ag innse ur n-ainm dhomh
12. B' fheudar dhomh na cearcan a bhiadhadh
13. An dèidh dhì na soithichean a nighe, thug i a leabaidh oirre
14. Bha agam ra fhaicinn dhomh fhèin
15. Thuirt e nach robh feum aige ri faradh a' bhus a phàigheadh
16. Chuir mi umam mo lèine an dèidh dhomh bearradh
17. An dèidh dha an talamh fheuchainn, choisich e thairis air a' bhoglaich
18. Cha chuimhne leam sin innse dhaibh

### EXERCISE 2 Translate into Gàidhlig

1. You really must tell me the truth
2. I was sorry to hear them say he was guilty

3. I know he will be astonished when he hears that
4. I wasn't sure if she would be surprised to see me
5. You would be better reading the instructions again
6. I wouldn't wish to upset you
7. Calum was not surprised to hear the sad news
8. Would it not be better for them to fill (out) the form again?
9. After I experienced their situation, I pitied them
10. I am astonished he did as you asked him
11. I had to make sure everything was alright
12. They were compelled to build their house near the river
13. Do you know if he remembers me?
14. It's not worth her while taking the pills
15. Màiri was reluctant to hold the party in her own house
16. They longed for a calm moment to themselves
17. No-one wishes to hear your lies
18. I had to get a new job

## LESSON 50: ANSWERS 1

1. You had better put on your jacket
2. I don't care for coffee
3. Do you not long for the holidays?
4. I would be surprised if he came to the party
5. He was reluctant to admit he committed the crime
6. She longed for a large piece of chocolate cake
7. I am sorry to hear of your mother's death
8. You really must go on a diet
9. Would she not be better doing her schoolwork in her own room?
10. It wasn't worth my time chastising them
11. Excuse me but I don't remember you telling me your name
12. I had better feed the chickens
13. After she washed the dishes she went off to bed
14. I had to see it (him) for myself
15. He said he didn't need to pay the bus fare
16. I put on my shirt after I shaved
17. After testing the ground, he walked over the bog
18. I don't remember telling them the story

## LESSON 50: ANSWERS 2

4. Cha robh mi cinnteach nam b' iongnadh leatha m' fhacinn
5. B' fheàrr dhut na stiùiridhean a leughadh a-rithist
6. Cha bu mhianann leam do bhualtheadh
7. Cha b' iongnadh le Calum an naidheachd mhuladach a chluinntinn
8. Nach b' fheàrr dhathb am foirm a lìonadh a-rithist?
9. An dèidh dhomh an suidheachadh aca fhiosrachadh, bu truaigh leam iad
10. 'S iongnadh leam gun d' rinn iad mar a dh' iarr thu orra
- 11a. Bha agam ri dèanamh cinnteach gun robh a h-uile ni ceart gu leòr
- 11b. B' fheudar dhomh dèanamh cinnteach gun robh a taigh aice fhèin
12. B' èiginn dhathb an taigh aca a thogail faisg air an abhainn
13. Eil fhios agad an cuimhne leis mi?
14. Cha d' fhìach leatha na pillichean a ghabhail
15. Bu leisg le Màiri am partaidh a chumail anns an taigh aice fhèin
16. B' fhada leò uine chiuin dhathb fhèin
17. Cha mhianann le duine sam bith na breugan agad a chluinntinn
- 18a. Bha agam ri obair ùr fhàighinn
- 18b. B' fheudar dhomh obair ùr fhàighinn