

# LESSON 51

## The Passive Voice of Verbs - Literary Form

The Passive Voice, like the Active Voice, is found in three tenses: Future (Habitual Present), Past & Conditional.

Gàidhlig has three different methods of rendering passive verbs.

### Method 1: Using Verb Endings

Except for a few common verbs, this form can be regarded as a high register literary or formal form.

**Intransitive verbs formed by this method should be regarded as impersonal forms. (These verbs can never be passive)**

### REGULAR VERBS

#### Future (Present Habitual) Passive Tense

The dependent and independent forms are identical and are derived by replacing the active future ending **-idh/-aidh** with **-ear/-ar**. The negative and interrogative particles are identical to the active voice:

Verb Root	Dependent	Independent	Relative
buail - hit/ strike	Am buailear mi? * - Will I be struck? Cha bhuair mi † - I will not be struck Nach buailear mi - Will I not be struck?	Buailear mi - I will be struck	bhuair
fàg - leave	Am fàgar sinn? * - Will we be left? Chan fhàgar sinn ‡ - We will not be left Nach fhàgar sinn? § - Will we not be left?	Fàgar sinn - We will be left	dh'fhàgar
òl - drink	An òlar e? - Will it be drunk? Chan òlar e ‡ - It will not be drunk Nach òlar e? - Will it not be drunk?	Òlar e - It will be drunk	dh'òlar
sgriobh - write	An sgrìobhar i? - Will it be written? Cha sgrìobhar i - It will not be written Nach sgrìobhar i? - Will it not be written?	Sgrìobhar i - It will be written	sgriobhar
tog - lift/build/ raise	An togar iad? - Will they be lifted? Cha togar iad - They will not be lifted Nach togar iad? - Will they not be lifted?	Togar iad - They will be lifted	thogar

\* The interrogative particle is **An** except before verbs beginning with **b, f, m, or p** when it is **Am**.

† **Cha/Chan** should only lenite verbs beginning with **b, f, m, p, c, g** or **s**. However there is a growing tendency to also lenite **t** and **d**.

‡ **Chan** is used before verbs beginning with a vowel or lenited **f**.

§ **Nach** lenites verbs beginning with **f**.

## Past Passive Tense

The dependent and independent forms are identical and are derived by adding the ending **-eadh/-adh** to the past active tense. The negative and interrogative particles are identical to the active voice:

Verb Root	Dependent	Independent	Relative
buail - hit/ strike	An do bhuailleadh mi? - Was I struck? Cha do bhuailleadh mi - I was not struck Nach do bhuailleadh mi - Was I not struck?	Bhuailleadh mi - I was struck	bhuailleadh
fàg - leave	An do dh'fhàgadh sinn? - Were we left? Cha do dh'fhàgadh sinn - We were not left Nach do dh'fhàgadh sinn? - Were we not left?	Dh'fhàgadh sinn - We were left	dh'fhàgadh
òl - drink	An do dh'òladh e? - Was it drunk? Cha do dh'òladh e - It was not drunk Nach do dh'òladh e? - Was it not drunk?	Dh'òladh e - It was drunk	dh'òladh
sgriobh - write	An do sgrìobhadh i? - Was it written? Cha do sgrìobhadh i - It was not written Nach do sgrìobhadh i? - Was it not written?	Sgrìobhadh i - It was written	sgriobhadh
tog - lift/build/ raise	An do thogadh iad? - Were they lifted? Cha do thogadh iad - They were not lifted Nach do thogadh iad? - Were they not lifted?	Thogadh iad † - They were lifted	thogadh

† This one is commonly used in speech:

Thogadh mi ann an Dùn Èideann - I was raised (brought up) in Edinburgh.

## Conditional Passive Tense

The dependent and independent forms are derived by replacing the active conditional ending **-inn/-eadh/-adh** with **-te** irrespective of the spelling rule. The negative and interrogative particles are identical to the active voice:

Verb Root	Dependent	Independent	Relative
buail - hit/ strike	Am buailte mi? * - Would I be struck? Cha buailte mi † - I would not be struck Nach buailte mi - Would I not be struck?	Bhuailte mi - I would be struck	bhuailte
fàg - leave	Am fhàgte sinn? * - Would we be left? Chan fhàgte sinn † - We would not be left Nach fhàgte sinn? ‡ - Would we not be left?	Dh'fhàgte sinn - We would be left	dh'fhàgte
òl - drink	An òlte e? - Would it be drunk? Chan òlte e † - It would not be drunk Nach òlte e? - Would it not be drunk?	Dh'òlte e - It would be drunk	dh'òlte
sgriobh - write	An sgrìobhte i? - Would it be written? Cha sgrìobhte i - It would not be written Nach sgrìobhte i? - Would it not be written?	Sgrìobhte i - It would be written	sgriobhte
tog - lift/build/ raise	An togte iad? - Would they be lifted? Cha togte iad - They would not be lifted Nach togte iad? - Would they not be lifted?	Thogte iad - They would be lifted	thogte

\* The interrogative particle is **An** except before verbs beginning with **b, f, m, or p** when it is **Am**.

† **Cha/Chan** should only lenite verbs beginning with **b, f, m, p, c, g** or **s**. However there is a growing tendency to also lenite **t** and **d**.

‡ **Chan** is used before verbs beginning with a vowel or lenited **f**.

§ **Nach** lenites verbs beginning with **f**.

In the Isles of Lewis and Harris the alternative ending **-iste/-aiste** predominates. These may also be found in dialect literature from these areas:

Verb Root	Dependent	Independent	Relative
buail - hit/ strike	Am buailiste mi? - Would I be struck? etc	Bhuailiste mi - I would be struck	bhuailiste
fàg - leave	Am fàgaiste sinn? - Would we be left? etc	Dh'fhàgaiste sinn - We would be left	dh'fhàgaiste
òl - drink	An òlaiste e? - Would it be drunk? etc	Dh'òlaiste e - It would be drunk	dh'òlaiste
sgriobh - write	An sgrìobhaiste i? - Would it be written? etc	Sgrìobhaiste i - It would be written	sgriobhaiste
tog - lift/build/ raise	An togaiste iad? - Would they be lifted? etc	Thogaiste iad - They would be lifted	thogaiste

## IRREGULAR VERBS

The rules for the particles before the dependent form is identical to regular verbs:

The interrogative is **Am** before verbs beginning with **b & f** ;

The negative **Cha** will lenite all verbs except for verbs beginning with **d** and **t** ;

The negative interrogative **Nach** will lenite verbs beginning with **f**.

The passive voice of irregular verbs is formed in the same way as regular verbs with only a few exceptions:

Verb Root	Mood	Future (Present Habitual)	Past	Conditional (Past Habitual)
abair - say	Independent & Relative	theirear	thuirteadh	theirte/theiriste
	Dependent	abrar	tuirteadh	abairte/abairiste
beir - bear/ catch/grasp	Independent & Relative	beirear	rugadh †	bheirte/bheiriste
	Dependent	beirear	d'rugadh	beirte/beiriste
cluinn - hear	Independent & Relative	cluinn(t)ear	chualas	chluinnte/chluinniste
	Dependent	cluinn(t)ear	cualas	cluinnte/cluinniste
dèan - make/do	Independent & Relative	nithear	rinneadh	dhèante/dhèanaiste
	Dependent	dèanar	d'rinneadh	dèante/dèanaiste
faic - see	Independent & Relative	chìthear	chunnacas	chìte/chìthiste
	Dependent	faicear	facas	faicte/faiciste

faigh - get	Independent & Relative	gheibhear	fhuaras	gheibhte/gheibhiste
	Dependent	faighear	d'fhuaras	faighte/faighiste
rach - go *	Independent & Relative	thèidear	chaidheas	rachte/dheighiste
	Dependent	tèidear	deachas	rachte/deighiste
ruig - reach/ arrive	Independent & Relative	ruigear	ràiningeadh	ruigte/ruigiste
	Dependent	ruigear	d'ràiningeadh	ruigte/ruigiste
thig - come *	Independent & Relative	thigear	thàinigear	thigte/thigiste
	Dependent	tigear	tàinigear	tigte/tigiste
thoir - give/ take	Independent & Relative	bheirear	thugadh	bheirte/bheiriste
	Dependent	toirear	tugadh	toirte/toiriste

\* The verbs **thig - come** and **rach - go** also have 'passive' forms which function as impersonal verbs:

Ma thigear dhan choinneimh - If anyone comes to the meeting

Chaidheas thall thairis - Everyone went abroad

† This verb and tense is the only irregular one commonly used in speech:

Rugadh is thogadh mi ann an Dùn Èideann - I was born and raised (brought up) in Edinburgh

### INCOMPLETE VERBS

The auxiliary verbs **Feum** and **Faod** have passive forms in all tenses, and are commonly used impersonally in speech.

The rules for the particles before the dependent form is identical to regular complete verbs:

The interrogative is **Am** is used

The negative **Chan** will lenite.

The negative interrogative **Nach** will lenite.

Verb Root	Mood	Future (Present Habitual)	Past	Conditional (Past Habitual)
feum - must	Independent & Relative	feumar	dh'fheumadh	dh'fheumte/ dh'fheumaiste
	Dependent	feumar	feumadh	feumte/feumaiste
faod - may	Independent & Relative	faodar	dh'fhaodadh	dh'fhaoite/ dh'fhaodaiste
	Dependent	faodar	faodadh	faoite/faodaiste

The rule regarding word order inversion applies:

Feumar taigh ùr a thogail - A new house must be built (One would need to build a new house)

Chan fheumadh taigh ùr a thogail - A new house did not need to be built (One would not need to build a new house)

Dh'fheumte a' cheist a fhreagairt - The question would need to be answered (One would need to answer the question)

Nach fheumte a' cheist a fhreagairt - Would the question not need to be answered (Would one not need to answer the question)

**Dh'fhaoite** is used idiomatically with a conjectural meaning, and often in conjunction with '**S math**:

Dh'fhaoite gun tig e - Perhaps he will come

'S math dh'fhaoite gum faic mi thu † - Maybe I will see you

† '**S math dh'fhaoite** is commonly shortened to '**S maite** or '**S mathaid** in both the written and spoken language.

The assertive verb cannot be passive. However, an absurd construction has arisen with the incomplete verb **Is urrainn**. The rule regarding word order inversion applies:

'S urrainnear taigh a thogail an seo - A house can be built here

Chan urrainnear taigh a thogail an seo - A house can't be built here

B' urrainnear taigh a thogail an seo - A house could be built here

## THE VERB TO BE

The verb **To Be** has analogous forms. Although they can have a passive meaning they are usually regarded as impersonal constructions:

Tense	Dependent	Independent	Relative
Present	A Bheilear? Chan eilear Nach eilear?	Thathar/Thathas	thathar/thathas
Future	Am bithear? Cha bhithear Nach bithear?	Bithear	bhithear
Past	An robhar? Cha robhar Nach robhar?	Bhathar/Bhathas	bhathar/bhathas
Conditional	Am bithte?/Am bithiste? Cha bhithte/Cha Bhithiste Nach bithte?/Nach bithiste?	Bhithte/Bhithiste	bhithte/bhithiste

The impersonal forms are generally restricted to formal situations e.g. official notices, newspapers and speeches. In speech they are replaced by the active voice much the same as colloquial English.

Formal	Speech
Thathar ag iarraidh duine ealanta - A talented person is sought (= One is looking for a talented person)	Tha sinn ag iarraidh duine ealanta - They are looking for a talented person
Bhathar a' seòladh fad na h-oidhche - The sailing took all night (= One was sailing all night)	Bha iad a' seòladh fad na h-oidhche - They sailed all night
Am bithear ri iasgach fad na seachdain? - Will the fishing take all week? (= Will one be fishing all week?)	Am bi iad ri iasgach fad na seachdain? - Will they be fishing all week?

## USAGE

### With the Dependent Clause

Some examples are given below:

Tha e ag ràdh gun togar taigh ùr - He says that a new house will be built

Tha e ag ràdh nach do dhùineadh an doras - He says that the door was not closed

Tha e ag ràdh gun cumte (cumaiste) an uinneag fosgailte - He says that the window would be kept open

Tha e ag ràdh nach fhaodar am biadh ithe - He says that the food may not be eaten

### The Relative Verb

The same rules apply as the active voice.

Some examples are given below:

I s tusa a chunnacas a' briseadh na h-uinneig - I t's you who was seen breaking the window

I s iadsan a dh'fhàgadh air ais - I t's they who were left behind

Seo an cù nach cuirear gu bàs - This is the dog that will not be put to death

Agus seo an leabhar a dh'fheumar a leughadh - And here's the book that must be read

### With Interrogative Pronouns

The same rules apply as the active voice.

Some examples are given below:

Dè sgrìobhadh anns an litir? - What was written in the letter?

Cò chunnacas còmhla riut - Who was seen by you?

Carson nach do dhùineadh an doras? - Why was the door not close?

Ciamar a rinneadh sin? - How was that done?

Cuin a dh'fhàgadh nan aonar iad? - When were they left alone?

Càit an òlar Sake? - Where is (habitual) Sake drunk?

### With Conjunctions

The same rules apply as the active voice.

Some examples are given below:

Ruith an cù a-staigh mus do dhùineadh an doras - The dog ran in before the door was closed

Chan eil fhios agam far am faighte àite na b' fheàrr - I don't know where a better place could (would) be found

Na gluais gus an sèidear an fheadag - Don't move until the whistle is blown

Mura dùinear an uinneag thig cuileagan a-staigh - If the window is not closed flies will get in

### Saying Yes and No

The pattern is the same as the active. You need to use the positive or negative forms of the verb:

An do chuireadh litir thugad?- Was a letter sent to you? Chuireadh - Yes Cha do chuireadh - No

An togar le Gàidhlig iad? - Will they be raised with Gàidhlig? Togar - Yes Cha togar - No

### Verbs requiring Prepositions

Prepositions and prepositional pronouns are used with the verb in the same way as the active mood:

Dh' iarradh air Calum a dhol dhachaigh - Calum was asked to go home

Dh' iarradh orm a dhol dhachaigh - I was asked to go home

Bhruidhneadh gu mì-mhodhail ris \* - He was spoken to rudely

I nnsear an sgeul dha na h-uile \* - The story will be told to everyone

Bheirte iuchair an taighe dha \* - He would be given the house key

Cuirear fios a-màireach thuca \* - They will be sent word (information) tomorrow

\* Pronouns and prepositional pronouns are usually placed at the end of a passive clause.

### NEW WORDS

#### Adjectives

ealanta - talented

doirbh - difficult

neònach - strange

dà-chànanach - bilingual

fallain - healthy

ùrar - fresh = new

#### Adverbial Phrases

le bhith - by, with, by means of

#### Nouns

bàs (m) - death

ceapaire (m) - sandwich

gèama (m) - game

mèirleach (m) - thief

cruach (f) - stack

cuileag (f) - fly

dreuchd (f) - post, career

linn (f) - century

mil (f) - honey

oifis (f) - office

sgeir (f) - skerry, reef

cathraiche (m) - chairperson

co-là-breith (m) - birthday

manach (m) - monk

taobh (m) - side

cuideachd (f) - company

dachaigh (f) - home

iuchair (f) - key

mèinn (f) - mine

milsean (m) - sweet, dessert

sanas (m) - sign, advertisement, clue

sgioaba (m & f) - crew

## Verbs

bleoghainn, bleoghann - milk  
clòbhuail, clòbhualadh - print  
goid, goid - steal  
meudaich, meudachadh - increase  
mìlsich, mìlseachadh - sweeten  
tarraing, tarraing - draw, pull  
ceadaich, ceadachadh - permit, license

caill, call - lose  
fuadaich, fuadachadh - exile, banish  
meall, mealladh - deceive, cheat  
treabh, treabhadh - plough  
spealg, spealgadh - shatter, splinter  
suidhich, suidheachadh - situate

## EXERCISE 1 Translate into English

1. Thuirt an cathraiche gun cùmar a' choinneamh aig seachd uairean
2. Rugadh agus thogadh mi ann an Steòrnabhagh
3. Bhleoghainnte an crodh dà thuras gach là
4. Gheàrradh am feur agus thogadh na cruachan leis an tuathanach
5. Fàgar an cù na aonar fad an là gun chuideachd
6. Cha do bhruidhneadh Gàidhlig riutha nuair a bha iad òg
7. Cuirear dhan leabaidh thu mura bi thu modhail
8. Chualas fuaim neònach taobh a-muigh
9. Glacar deagh bhric anns an abhainn sin
10. Clòbhuailear na leabhraichean ann an Dùn Èideann
11. Dh'iarradh orm a dhol gu taigh mo sheanmhar
12. Chìthear iad anns a' phàirc aig gach meadhan-là
13. Nach do sgrìobhadh an seann leabhar sin le manaich
14. Caillear mòran obraichean le bhith a' dùnadh na mèinne
15. Dh'fheumte sanas soilleir a chur air a' bhalla
16. Cò chuireadh taobh a-muigh an dorais?
17. Thuirt e gum meallte thall thairis iad
18. Càit an suidhichear an oifis ùr?
19. Nithear ceapairean ùrar an seo gach là
20. Cha cheadaichear biadh no deoch anns an talla
21. Bhathas a' treabhadh le eich anns an linn 's a chaidh
22. Thathas ag iarraidh neach dà-chànanach airson na dreuchd ùire

## EXERCISE 2 Translate into Gàidhlig

1. The thief was caught and put in prison
2. Many people were banished from their homes in the highlands
3. Dinner was made and eaten in less than an hour
4. The people were deceived when the taxes were increased
5. The baby would be given a new toy on her birthday
6. A beautiful healthy daughter was born to her
7. Poverty is seen throughout Africa
8. The top of the mountain was reached by means of (trè) the difficult route
9. They were seen stealing in the shop
10. What was written in the letter you got from your sister?

11. Why was the food returned to the shop?
12. The game will be played in the water
13. Cheese will not be found on the moon, but dry rocks will
14. Neither the doors nor the windows were locked
15. The stories will be translated from Gàidhlig to English
16. The entire crew were lost at sea when their ship went down
17. Why could (would) the car not be moved?
18. These are the men who were found safe and well after the ship was shattered on the reef by the storm
19. The dessert will be sweetened with honey
20. The light were put on when the curtains were drawn closed

## LESSON 51: ANSWERS 2

1. Ghìacach am mèirleach agus chuireadh ann am prìosan e
2. Dh'fhuadaicheadh mòran daoine às na dachaiùghèan aca air a' Ghàidhealtachd
3. Rìinneadh is dh'itheadh dìnnear ann an na bu lùgha na lethuair a thide
4. Mhealladh na daoine nuair a mheudaicheadh na cìsean
5. Bheirte dèidag ùr dhan leanabh air a co-la-breith
6. Rugadh nìghèan bhòidheach fhallain dhì
7. Chitheadh bochdainn air feadh Afraga
8. Ràinigeadh mùlach na beinne trè na sìlìghe doirbhe
9. Chumacas iad a' goid anns a' bhùth
10. De sgrìobhadh anns an litir a fhuair thu cho do phìuthar?
11. Carson a thillleadh am biadh dhan bhùth?
12. Cluicheadh an gèama anns an uisge
13. Chan fhaigheadh càise air a' ghealach, ach gheibheadh creagan tìoram ann
14. Cha do ghlaicheadh na dorsan no na h-uinneagan
15. Eadar-theangaicheadh na sgeòil bho Ghàidhlig gu Beurla
16. Chaillleadh an sgioba air fad nuair a chaidh an long aca foda
17. Carson nach gluaisde an càr?
18. Seo na daoine a lorgadh math sàbhailte nuair a spealgadh an long air an sgeir leis an stòrm
19. Mìisicheadh am mìsean le mìl
20. Chuireadh na solais air nuair a tharraingeadh na cuirtèaran Dùinte

## LESSON 51: ANSWERS 1

1. The chairman said that the meeting will be held at seven o'clock
2. I was born and raised in Stornoway
3. The cattle were (habitual past) milked twice daily
4. The grass was cut and the stacks built by the farmer
5. The dog will be left alone all day without company
6. Gàidhlig wasn't spoken to them when they were young
7. You'll be put to bed unless you're polite
8. A strange noise was heard outside
9. Good trout are caught in that river
10. The books will be printed in Edinburgh
11. I was asked to go to my grandmother's house
12. They are seen in the park every midday
13. Wasn't that old book written by monks?
14. Many jobs will be lost by closing the mine
15. A clear sign would need to be put on the wall
16. Who was put outside the door?
17. He said that they would be cheated abroad
18. Where will the new office be situated?
19. Fresh sandwiches are made here daily
20. Food and drink is not permitted in the hall
21. Ploughing was done by horses last century
22. A bilingual person is required for the new post