

LESSON 9

The Future Tense of the Verb TO BE

The **independent** form of the future tense of the verb to be is **Bidh** (or **Bithidh** for more emphatic usage) and the **dependent** is **Bi** (or **Bith** for more emphatic usage). As with the present and past tenses (Lesson 1 and Lesson 2) these are used with the dependent particles **Cha**, **Am** and **Nach** to provide the four forms of the verb:

Bidh - for positive statements

Bidh e fuar - I t will be cold

Bidh tu fuar † - You will be cold

Cha bhi - for negative statements *

Cha bhi e fuar - I t will not be cold

Am bi? - for asking a question (interrogative)

Am bi e fuar? - Will it be cold?

Nach bi? - for a negative question (negative interrogative)

Nach bi e fuar? - Will it not be cold?

* Note that **Cha** always lenites the following word if possible, thus **Cha bhi**.

† The second person singular becomes **tu** after the regular future tense ending **-idh**. This rule is often broken when using the short form of the verb **To Be**, so **Bidh thu** is often found.

Saying Yes and No

The pattern is the same for the present and past tenses. You need to use the positive or negative forms of the verb in the future tense:

Am bi thu a' dol dhan chèilidh? - Will you be going to the ceilidh?

Bidh - Yes

Cha bhi - No

Repeated Present and Continuous Future Tenses

The Future Tense of the verb **To Be** with a **present participle** conveys either a continuous future action or a repeated present action. The meaning is understood from the context:

Bidh mi ag èisteachd ris an rèidio feasgar - I will be listening to the radio in the evening

Bidh mi ag èisteachd ris an rèidio feasgar - I (usually) listen to the radio in the evening

Bidh mi ag èirigh aig seachd uairean - I will be getting up at seven o'clock

Bidh mi ag èirigh aig seachd uairean - I (habitually) get up at seven o'clock

NEW WORDS

Adjectives

gach - each

Nouns

Là na Sàbaid (m) - The Sabbath

meadhan-là (m) - mid-day

meadhan (m) - middle, mid

meadhan-oidhche (m) - midnight

Pronouns

thusa - emphatic form of thu -you

Verbs

èirich, èirigh - arise, get up

èist, èisteachd (ri) - listen (to)

EXERCISE 1 Translate into English

1. Bidh mi a' dol dhan chèilidh. Am bi thusa?
2. Cha bhi an cù a' fuireach anns an taigh
3. Nach bi iad a' seinn anns a' bhaile? Bidh
4. Am bi thu ag obair anns a' bhùth? Cha bhi
5. Bidh sinn a' dol a dh'iasgach air an loch
6. Cha bhi an gille a' dol dhan eaglais Là na Sàbaid

EXERCISE 2 Translate into Gàidhlig

1. I go to bed (to the bed) at midnight
2. I shall be staying at home on Sunday
3. We shall be buying that house
4. Do you go to the park every evening? Yes
5. He will not be playing at the ceilidh
6. Will they not be staying until the morning?

1. Bidh mi a' dol dhan leabaidh aig meadhan-oidhche
2. Bidh mi a' fuireach aig an taigh Là na Sàbaid
3. Bidh sinn a' ceannach an taigh sin
4. Am bi sibh a' dol dhan phàirc gach Feasgar? Bidh
5. Cha bhi e a' cluich aig a' chèilidh
6. Nach bi iad a' fuireach gus a' mhadainn?

LESSON 9 : ANSWERS 2

1. I'll be going to the ceilidh. Will you?
2. The dog won't be staying in the house
3. Won't they be singing in (the) town? Yes
4. Will you be working in the shop? No
5. We'll be going fishing on the loch
6. The boy won't be going to church on Sunday

LESSON 9 : ANSWERS 1