

mòd  
an  
Òbain  
2024



# Gaelic business phrasebank

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# context

The Royal National Mòd returns to its hometown of Oban in October 2024.

The local organising committee wants to support Oban businesses and organisations that want to engage with Gaelic, and one of the best ways to showcase this valuable cultural asset is through increased visibility.

Bi-lingual signage, Gaelic language decor, language awareness and having a basic Gaelic ability are some really easy ways to make a huge difference to the perceived status of the language.

Together, such efforts can contribute to ensuring a lasting cultural legacy for the town's historic language and ensures an enriched experience for locals and visitors alike for years to come.

We've prepared a phrase-bank and resource directory for anything and everything related to Gaelic, free for you to use however you please.



# signage

Attention should be paid to accents (à,è,ì,ò,ù). Gaelic accents **always** slope downwards from left to right, **never** the other way (á,é,í,ó,ú).

Gaelic	English
Fàilte	Welcome
Fàilte gu...	Welcome to...
Fàilte don Òban	Welcome to Oban
Taighean-Beaga	Toilets/Restrooms
Fir	Gents
Mnathan	Ladies
A-mach	Exit
Uairean Fosglaidh	Opening Hours
Fosgailte	Open
Dùinte	Closed
Diluain	Monday
Dimàirt	Tuesday
Diciadain	Wednesday
Diardaoin	Thursday
Dihaoine	Friday

find recordings of all of these phrases on our website:



Did we miss anything? Contact us and we will be more than happy to provide any other translations or clarifications! [modanobain@gmail.com](mailto:modanobain@gmail.com)

Gaelic	English
Disathairne	Saturday
Didòmhnaich	Sunday
Feasgar	Afternoon/Evening
Oidhche	Evening/Night
Madainn	Morning
Biadh	Food
Deoch	Drink (alcoholic)
Dìnnear	Dinner
Bracaist	Breakfast
Leabaidh is Lite	Bed & Breakfast
Seòmraichean	Rooms
Taigh-Òsta	Hotel
Taigh-seinnse	Pub
Taigh-bidh	Restaurant
Cafaidh	Café

# idioms, sayings & proverbs

A selection of Gaelic phrases and sayings, many of which are local to Oban and Argyll, and some which are ubiquitous.

Gaelic	English
Òbanach	Obanite/An Oban Person
San Òban, dèan mar na h-Òbanaich!	In Rome, do as the Romans do! (lit. When in Oban, do as the Obanites do!)
Air aghaidh!	Forwards/Progress/Onwards!(the town motto)
Thig crìoch air an t-saoghal ach mairidh gaol is ceòl	Though the world may end, love and music shall endure
Mairidh gaol is ceòl	Love and music shall endure
Deoch an dorais	One for the road (lit. a door dram)
Ar cànan 's ar ceòl	Our language and our music
Slàinte mhath!	Cheers! (lit. good health)
Uisge-beatha	Whisky (lit. water of life)
Tè bheag	A small dram
Tè mhòr	A large dram
Tìr nam beann, nan gleann is nan gaisgeach	Land of hills, glens and heroes
Am fear nach gabh stiùir air a' choire bhrochain, cha dèan e stiùir air a' Choire Bhreacain	He that cannot even control a bowl of porridge would have no hope in the Corryvreckan

# pleasantries

A selection of Gaelic greetings and common phrases of exchange which may be used in a number of situations. A handy tip to remember is that in Gaelic, the emphasis is **ALWAYS** on the first syllable: **fàilte**, **not** fàilte!

Gaelic	English Phonetic Pronunciation	English
Fàilte	Fal-chuh	Welcome
Madainn mhath	Mattin va	Good morning
Feasgar math	Fess-gur ma	Good afternoon/evening
Oidhche mhath	Oy-ka va	Good night
Ciamar a tha thu?	Kimmer a ha ooh?	How are you?
Tha gu math	Ha goo ma	Well (as an answer to 'how are you?')
Ciamar a tha thu fhèin?	Kimmer a ha ooh hane?	How are you yourself?
Taing	Tang	Thanks
Tapadh leat / Tapadh leibh	Tapa lat / Tapa lyve	Thank you / Thank you (polite, or plural)
Tìoraidh an-dràsta	Cheerie an drasta	Bye for now!
Tìors!	Cheers	Cheers (as in goodbye)
An gabh thu deoch? / An gabh sibh deoch?	An gav ooh joch? / An gav shiv joch?	Will you take a drink? / Will you (polite/plural) take a drink?
Gabhaidh! / Cha ghabh	Guy / ha gav	I will! / I won't

# further resources

## **Faclair.com**

This online dictionary is very good for finding more archaic sayings around general topics, particularly the results on the right hand side. Try putting in any random word – there will be something of interest to find!

## **LearnGaelic.scot/dictionary**

This dictionary is very useful as it features sound files for every entry, so you can practise your pronunciation.

## **BBC ALBA & BBC Radio nan Gàidheal**

The Gaelic programming across TV and Radio is of a supremely high quality, with programmes covering subjects of all manners; Documentaries, travel programmes, fly on the wall, comedies, current affairs, live music and more.

## **Duolingo (available as an App)**

Gaelic Duolingo is the best place to start your Gaelic learning journey. It feels very much like a game rather than a lesson, is non committal and will have you actually speaking parts of the language sooner than you'll realise.

## **SpeakGaelic.scot**

SpeakGaelic is a multimedia learning resource. It provides the same course content across a website, radio programmes, social media, podcasts, TV programmes and published books. It's a great place to start learning Gaelic.

