

Gaelic and other Pronunciation Guide

Many thanks go to Sharron Gunn, an incredibly knowledgeable and skilled instructor for her great help and expertise in making this list possible. Sharron teaches a wonderful on-line Gaelic class and many other fantastic classes. Many of her classes are offered through Hearts through History Romance Writers (www.heartsthroughhistory.com)

Stress is usually on the first syllable

CH pronounced as in loch or Bach; not as in church

ch pronounced as in church Gaelic:

Amadan (plural: Amadain): fool (ah-mah-dan) (ah-mah-deen)

Bean-Shith: banshee; faerie woman or faerie wife; woman of the mound (ben-hee)

Birlinn: Scottish galley, varying in size from a few to many oars (bur-leen)

Brat: mantle (brat!)

Cailleach: old hag, nun, old woman, goddess in winter or death aspect (cah-lyaCH)

Copag: dock, a medicinal plant (co-pak)

Dia: God (jee-ah)

Dia dhuit: God be with you (literally: God to you) (jee-ah ghoot)

Each Uisge: Water horse (eh-aCH oosh-kuh)

Eilean: island (ay-lan)

Gille Mor: sword bearer (gil-lyuh more)

Glaistig: the gray slinking one, a female faerie -- can be beautiful or ugly; hag or she-goat; also called maighdean uaine (green maiden) (glash-jeek)

Gruagach: the glaiserig's male companion; 'hairy' ; in some dialects of Scottish Gaelic it means 'beautiful woman' (groo-uh-gaCH)

Iorram: a rowing song (ir-ram)

Leamhnach: a small yellow flower, known as tomentil or bloodroot (lev-naCH)

Lèine: shirt made of linen; 'saffron shirt' is lèine cròch

Luchd-tighe: chief's bodyguard; household men (luCHk tye-uh)

Machair: level or low land, a plain (maCH-ir)

Mo chridhe: my heart (mo CHree-yuh)

Muirteach: (Moor-tech)

Namhag: a small boat (nah-vak)

Nathrach: of a serpent nathair = serpent (nah-ir)

Samhain: the old Celtic festival falling before All Saints' Day (sah-veen)

Sgian dubh: dagger (skee-an doo)

Sìthichean: the fairies (shee-ee-CHyun)

Sìthean: a fairie hill (shee-an)

Uisge beatha: whisky (literally, the water of life) (oosh-kuh beh-ah)

ùruisg: Goblin; half goat half man; he was the Gaelic equivalent of a brownie (oo-rooshk)

Lowland Scots:

Bairn: child in the east of Scotland, north of England [behrn]

wean: child in the south west of Scotland [wayn]

Quaich: round saucer-like drinking cup-- see Gaelic Cuach [kwayCH]