

Comparison of Scottish and Irish Gaelic

English	Gàidhlig (Scot)	Gaeilge (Irish)
I am	Tha mi	Tá mé
You are	Tha thu	Tá tú
He (or it) is	Tha e	Tá sé
She (or it) is	Tha i	Tá sí
We are	Tha sinn	Tá muid (or Táimid) (or Tá sinn)
You are	Tha sibh	Tá sibh
They are	Tha iad	Tá siad
I am not	Chan eil mi	Níl mé
Are you?	A' bheil thu?	An bhfuil tú?
Aren't you?	Nach eil thu?	Nach bhfuil tú?
I am (habitual)	Bidh mi	Bím
You are (hab.)	Bidh thu	Bíonn tú
I will be	Bidh mi	Beidh mé
I won't be	Cha bhi mi	Ní bheidh mé
Will you be?	Am bi thu?	An mbeidh tú?
Won't you be?	Nach bi thu?	Nach mbeidh tú?
I was	Bha mi	Bhí mé
I was not	Cha robh mi	Ní raibh mé
Were you?	An robh thu?	An raibh tú?
Weren't you?	Nach robh thu?	Nach raibh tú?
I would be	Bhithinn	Bheinn
You would be	Bhiodh tu	Bheadh tú
I am drinking	Tha mi ag òl	Tá mé ag ól
I drink (hab.)	Bidh mi ag òl	Ólaim
He drinks (hab.)	Bidh e ag òl	Ólann sé
I am going	Tha mi ag dol	Tá mé ag dul
I go (hab.)	Bidh mi a' dol	Téim
You go (hab.)	Bidh thu a' dol	Téann tú

Eclipsis:

Impossible looking combinations of consonants at the beginning of Irish Gaelic words (**mb**, **gc**, **nd**, **bhf**, **ng**, **bp**, **dt**) strike terror in Scottish Gaelic speakers, but they are really very simple. They just mean that the preceding word historically used to end in an **n** or **m**, which often survives in the Scottish Gaelic spelling, but in Irish Gaelic only survives as a modified pronunciation of the first letter of the following word. To get at the basic dictionary headword, just strip off the initial consonant. e.g.:

Latha nam paistean	Lá na bpáistí (<i>look up "páiste"</i>)
Tha fhios agam gum bi e ann.	Tá fhios agam gu mbeidh sé ann.
Pairc nan caoraich	Páirc na gcaorach (<i>look up "caorach"</i>)
nam biodh airgead agam	dá mbeadh airgead agam

The spelling revision in Irish Gaelic about 40 years ago did away with a lot of letters in the middle or at the ends of words which were no longer pronounced. They may or may not be still pronounced in Scottish Gaelic. e.g.:

saoghal	saol
ceartachadh	ceartú

If you can't find an Irish Gaelic word in a Scottish Gaelic dictionary, try changing unvoiced consonants (**c p t**) to the corresponding voiced consonant **g b d** (which may actually be pronounced unvoiced in Scottish Gaelic too), and try changing unstressed **a** or **o** to **u**. e.g.:

sgian	scian	agad	agat
sgoil	scoil	comunn	comann
uisge	uisce	gu	go

**For extensive lessons in speaking Gaelic, see
<http://www.irishpage.com/irishpeople/index.htm>**

- Blessings -

Go raibh tú daibhir i mí-áidh
Agus saibhir i mbeannachtaí
Go mall ag déanamh namhaid, go luath a déanamh carad,
Ach saibhir nó daibhir, go mall nó go luath,
Nach raibh ach áthas agat
Ón lá seo amach.

May you be poor in misfortune,
Rich in blessings,
Slow to make enemies,
quick to make friends,
But rich or poor, quick or slow,
May you know nothing but happiness
From this day forward.

Mallachtaí - Celtic Curses

- Go n-ithe an cat thú is go n-ithe an diabhal an cat. "go knee-huh on cat is go knee-huh on divel on cat"
May the cat eat you, and may the devil eat the cat.
- Titim gan éirí ort. "tit-him gahn ort"
May you fall without rising.
- Imeacht gan teacht ort. "im-ucht-gahn cha-kt"
May you leave without returning.
- Póg mo thóin. "powg uh muh hone"
Kiss my butt!
- Trasna ort féin. "traz nu ort fayne"
Go... yourself!
- Dóite agus loisceadh ort. "doch-uh ah-gus lus-kh\uh or-t"
Burning and scorching on you.
- Plá ar do theach. "p-law air duh hock"
A plague on your house.
- Go mbeadh cosa gloine fút agus go mbrise an ghloine "go my cuss-uh glin-uh foo-t ah-gus go mrishta un glin-uh"
May you have glass legs and may the glass break