

A hundred key Caithness/Kaitness words

- The listed Caithness words, phrases, and grammatical features can be enlarged, printed, and placed in windows or other locations round the school. Learners can work in threes to find and record as many as possible.
- Learners can use the online Dictionary of the Scots Language <http://www.dsl.ac.uk/> or the following vocabulary sheets to find definitions. (Words generally need to be heard or said at least seven times before they will enter the learners' vocabulary.)

Verbs (action words) in Caithness Scots	Verbs (action words) in English
antle	to harp on, to nag
bird	to whirl, revolve
box	(of an animal) to butt with the head
clype	to scratch
cown	to cry, weep
dicht	to wipe quickly
gant	to stutter
hirple	to hobble
nyirl	to complain in a whining voice
pech	to pant
peep	to cry, weep
rive	to pull roughly, or tear
scon	to flatten
skirl	to scream or screech
skook	to sneak with head and shoulders down
slock	to put out, extinguish a flame
sneeter	to snigger
swick	to cheat or swindle
teem	to pour
teet	to peep
twite	to whittle (of wood)

Prepositions in Caithness Scots	Prepositions in English
abeen	above
ablow	below
ben	through (to the other room)
forment	situated in front of (eg. <i>She's forment the hoose, look!</i>)
til	to (e.g. <i>Bring your order up til ae counter, please</i>)

Adjectives (describing words) in Caithness Scots	Adjectives (describing words) in English
drookid	(of a person) soaked
foosum	filthy
Good-	in-law, e.g. <i>Good-mither</i> or <i>good-brither</i> etc.
marakless	of a person, gormless or careless
nippid	of clothing, on the tight/small side
peedie	little, small

swack	lithe
sweer	loath to do something
trig	neat, trim

Nouns (naming words) in Caithness Scots	Nouns (naming words) in English
aikle	a molar tooth
ailiss	fierce fire
airt	direction (especially of the wind)
aumrie	cupboard
bere	the old variety of barley (pronounced <i>bare</i>)
besom	sweeping brush
bink	bench, work-top
birss	hackles, as in <i>get your birss up</i>
bisom	unpleasant woman
blackjock	blackbird
blin-drift	snow so heavy & powdery you can't see
blockie	a young cod
bool	a big stone
boorach	shambles
bowg	stomach
by-name	nickname
chantie po	chamber pot
clapshot	mix of cooked tatties an neeps
drocht	good drying wind
dordie-lochran	lizard (this word has gone out of use)
flech	flea
gaapus	loud-mouthed person
gandy-goes	nonsense, mischief
gluff	a sudden fright
gowk	fool, idiot
gowpen	two hands cupped (a measurement)
grice	piglet
grushen	fringe (of hair)
gushel	a messy person, especially with liquid
gutters	mud
goe, geo	steep, narrow inlet of the sea, e.g. <i>Whaligoe, Papigoe, Staxigoe</i> . Pronounced with a 'hard' G, as in <i>goose</i> .
hallan	flagstone partition between animals' stalls
Kaitness	Older, original pronunciation of <i>Caithness</i>
keich	dung, turd
kirn	churn (also a verb, to churn)
kist	chest, box
moniment	rascal
neep	turnip
nether	a snake, an adder
oo	loose sheep's wool
oxter	underarm
park	field
partan	the edible crab/brown crab (a loan-word from Gaelic)

peepag	whistle made of grass or corn stalk
pirn	reel (of thread)
purr	thorn
quoy	a heifer
raivel	muddle
rillins	in ragged strips
roup	farm sale
scarf	cormorant
scorrie-scoot	gull droppings
scroo	stack of hay or straw
sharn	cows' dung
shither	folk, the people of an area
shochad	lapwing
simmon	rope made of hay or straw
skibbie-lickie	tag
skifter	a light covering of snow
skint	a wee drop of liquid
sneck	latch
soorag	sorrel
sprowg	sparrow
wurshid	wool, yarn

Adverbs in Caithness Scots	Adverbs in English
heels-abeen	head-over-heels

Exclamations	
Toch-toch!	a call to cattle to come

Some features of Caithness grammar/speech
The definite article 'the' in Caithness Scots is 'ae'. For example: <i>Ae Scrabster Harbour's busy ae day.</i>
Negative forms of verbs are created by adding 'na' at end – 'canna', 'mustna' etc.
Caithness Scots uses older, short vowel sounds in words like 'hoose', 'moose' and 'ku' (like Norwegian) instead of 'house', 'mouse' and 'cow' (like English).