**First Meenister maun get Act thegither fir Scots leid**

***by Alistair Heather.***

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We, the spikkers, screivers an readers o Scots in the modren age, hae pit the leid in a guid place. Scots has aye been pairt o fitba coverage an patter, but noo thenks tae a wee airmy o screivers an readers an users, its acceptit an widespreid in aahin fae online political rammies, mercatin campaigns an social media phenomena sic as memes an Scottish Twitter. It has tane its richtfu place at the hert o oor folk culture, the folk culture o modren Scotland.

Whit’s mair, official Scotland has tane tent o the leid. The National hus furthset Scots airticles fir ages noo. Bella Caledonia the political blog does the same. A few zoomers sprauchlin glaikitly aboot the comments section ablow aside, sic airticles as we’ve pit oot hae been read by tens o thoosans o fowk, inspirin mony tae tak their mithir tongue oot the hoose fir the first time in years, or tae use Scots on social media, or just tae use it mair when bletherin wi their pals. Folk culture seein itsel reflectit in kenspeckle publications gies it the smeddum tae gang forrit wi mair vigour.

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**Activity: Scots Language Award – Level 5**

*Hints for learners:*

* *‘furthset’ is a Scots word. In this context, it means ‘publish’.*
* *‘sprauchlin’ is a Scots word. It means ‘clambering, moving clumsily’.*
* *‘kenspeckle’ is a Scots word. It means ‘familiar’.*
* *‘smeddum’ is a Scots word. In this context, it means ‘strength’.*

**Activity 1**

Complete this task to demonstrate your understanding of the language used in this article.

Create your own Scots Glossary:

* Using the above section from Alistair Heather’s newspaper column, ‘First Meenister maun get Act thegither fir Scots leid’, create a glossary of the Scots words used.
* The English words are already in the glossary for you.
* You have to type in the Scots words.
* Remember that you must spell the Scots word exactly the same way as it appears in the article.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| English word | Scots word |
| speakers | spikkers |
| writers | screivers |
| everything | aahin |
| stupidly | glaikitly |
| below | ablow |
| many | mony |
| mither | mother |
| house | hoose |
| talking | bletherin |
| go | gang |

**Activity 2**

Answer the following questions to demonstrate your understanding of this article:

1. The writer acknowledges that the use of Scots has always been accepted in:
2. Weather forecasts.
3. Football commentary.
4. Texting.
5. Literature.
6. The writer also acknowledges that the use of Scots has become more widespread. According to the writer, Scots is now frequently used in (select all that apply):
7. Marketing campaigns.
8. Newspapers.
9. Nursery rhymes.
10. Political manifestos.
11. Memes.
12. Political argument and debate.
13. What is the reaction to the articles, written in scots, in publications such as *The National* and *Bella Caledonia*? Select all that apply.
14. They are largely ignored.
15. They are no longer published.
16. They are widely read.
17. They are criticised by the majority of people.
18. They are accepted by everyone.
19. They are criticised by a minority of people.
20. According to the writer, what is the effect of the inclusion of Scots in these publications?
21. It damages the language.
22. It strengthens and promotes the language.
23. It narrows the readership of the publication.
24. It increases the readership of the publication.

**Activity 3:**

Answer these questions to demonstrate your understanding of purpose and audience:

1. What is the main purpose of this text? Select two of the following statements:

To suggest that the use of Scots is only suitable for sports programmes.

To inform people about the increase in the use of Scots.

To criticise those who use languages other than Scots.

To provoke thought about the use of Scots in speaking and writing.

1. Which audience is this text suitable for? Select all audiences that are suitable:

Scots speakers who wish to see an increase in the use of the language.

Teachers who are interested in book recommendations.

Football fans who are interested in the history of sports commentary.

People who are interested in the indigenous languages of Scotland.