



Scotland's Census

Shaping our future

A' dealbhadh ar n-àm ri teachd



Scots Language Centre

Scots language in Scotland's Census 2022





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What is the census? ▶

- The census happens every 10 years.
- The Government and other organisations need census data to make important decisions.

Census facts ▶

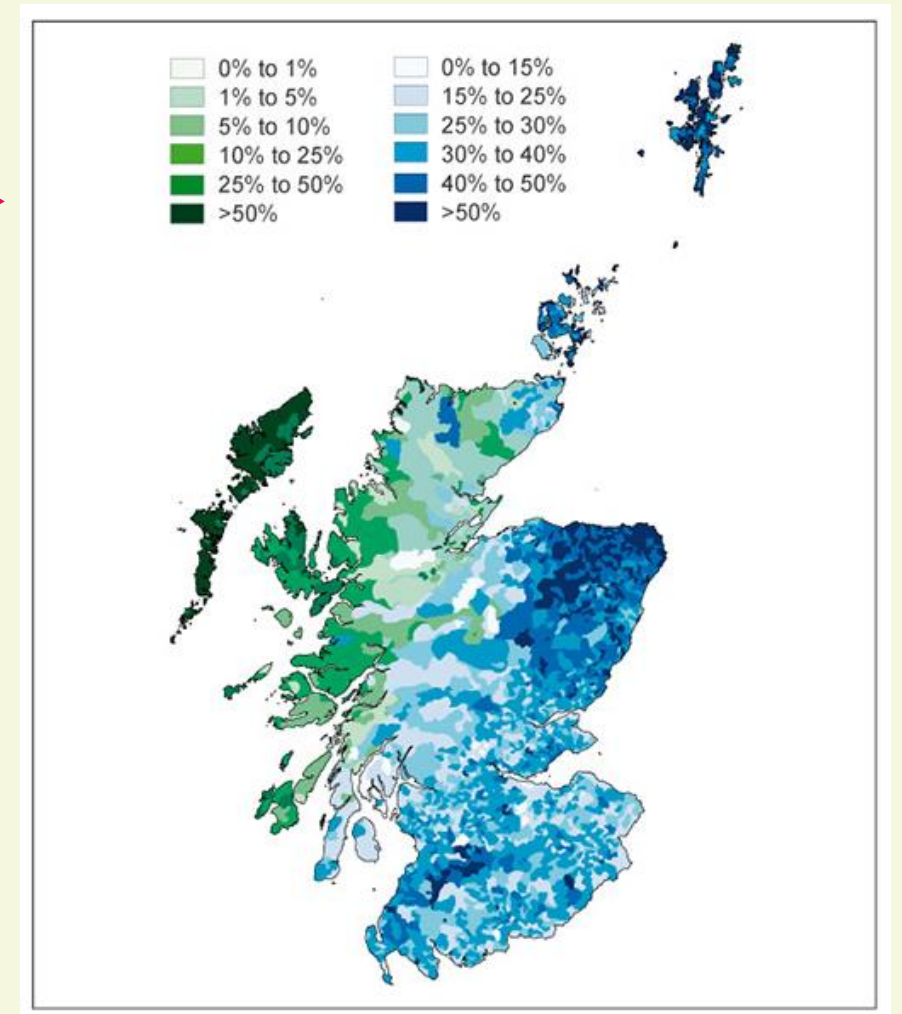


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- The first official Government census was in 1801.
- There was no census in 1941 because of World War II.
- The population of Scotland in 1801 was around 1.6 million. It's now about 5.4 million!
- Everyone in Scotland answers the same questions.

Scots Census facts ▶

- In the 2011 census, 1.2 million people said that they could read, write and speak Scots
- Another 420,000 people said that they had some skills in Scots, for example some said that they could speak Scots but not read it.
- Just over 30% of people in Scotland can speak Scots.
- The Shetland Islands, Aberdeenshire, Moray and Orkney Islands had the highest proportions of Scots speakers at home.



This map shows the concentration of Scots speakers around the country.

Scots Dialects ▶

- A dialect is a particular form of a language from a region of the country
- Watch the dialect video from the area closest to where you live. Do you use any of the words featured in the video?

Scots Dialects ▶

- Borders



- North East



- Shetland



- Orkney



- West Central



Class survey ▶

How many people in the class can:

Understand (spoken) Scots?

You can listen to [the dialect videos](#) to help you decide. If you can understand the words you hear, it might be that you can [understand spoken Scots](#).



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Class survey ▶

How many people in the class can:

Speak Scots?

Can you have a conversation with someone, using Scots? When someone uses Scots words with you, do you use Scots words too?

If so, it might be that you can **Speak Scots.**



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Class survey ▶



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How many people in the class can:

| | |
|--------|--------|
| bide | dunt |
| birl | fleg |
| blaw | footer |
| big | gaun |
| cannae | girn |
| chap | greet |
| chant | haud |
| clap | hiv |
| courie | howk |
| dae | keenie |
| doot | mak |
| dreep | mind |
| | skelp |

Read Scots?

Can you read and understand some (or all) of the words on the left? If so, it might be that you can [read Scots](#).

You can see more [lists of Scots vocabulary](#), or play some [vocabulary games](#), to help you decide.



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Class survey ▶

How many people in the class can:

Write Scots?

- Could you write a story in Scots?
- Could you translate some text from another language, like English, into Scots?
- Could you write down the Scots conversation that you've had with a friend?

If you can do one or more of these things, it might be that you can **write Scots**.

Wance upon a time, there was a wee lassie cried Ríd Rídín Hood.

She was awfy fond o her auld granny, wha lived oan her ain in a wee cottage.

Yín day, Ríd Rídín Hood was loupín through the forest oan the wey tae her granny's, when she stopped tae pick some flooers...



Class survey ▶



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How many people in the class think that **Scots is their main language?**

- Do you use Scots:
 - at home?
 - at school?
 - with your friends and family?

If so, it might be that **Scots is your main language.**

Which other languages do people in your class use?

- **Scottish Gaelic?**
- **BSL?**
- **Polish?**
- **Urdu?**
- **Punjabi languages?**
- **Chinese languages?**
- **French?**



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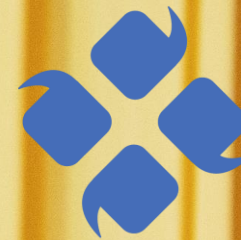
Useful links



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<https://www.scotslanguage.com/>

<https://www.scotslanguage.com/learning>

<https://education.gov.scot/improvement/learning-resources/>

<http://www.scotsinschools.co.uk/>

<https://dsl.ac.uk/>

<https://digital.nls.uk/oor-wullie/>

<https://www.scotlandscensus.gov.uk/>