

Scots Warks

Uphaud an guidance for screivars

Set ower in Scots bi Dauvit Horsbroch

Contents

Quick Start Guide.....	4
Whit wey write in Scots?	4
Innin	6
Airticle an Biggin o't.....	9
Owerview.....	9
Weel seen kenspeckles.....	9
Writin an explanator text in Scots	12
Spelling	15
Alphabee.....	17
Graphemes	18
Wheesht Letters	18
Eye Dialects.....	19
Owersettins	20
Gremmar	21
Innin.....	21
Verbs.....	21
Nouns.....	26
Pronouns.....	28
Determiners.....	30
Words for speirin	31
Dooble modals.....	31
The Norland Subject rule.....	32
Apostrophes	32
Pirlicue	33
Eedioms	34
Haud me back.....	34
Slee Scotticisms	38
Editin.....	40
Reglar rules an Rationale.....	40
Transcrption o spoken langage (Used alang wi anither method)	41
Spelling	43
Vizzy o a Case: Editin Scots Wikipedia	47
Advice anent Editing.....	49
References	50
Online Dictionars	50

Prent Dictionars.....	51
Historical Thesaurus	51
Online coorses	52
Videos	52
Guides tae the Scots Leid	53
Centre for the Scots Leid	53
Scots Leid Associe	54
Warks Consultit	54
Eik 1: Recommendit reading.....	57
Eik 2: Common spelling conventions.....	62
Eik 3: Dialect sindriness in Scots screivings	64

Quick Start Guide

Whit wey write in Scots?

We write for mony reasons – for tae keep tentie o oor geir, tae plan gain the messages, tae reflect on oor lifes, tae help wi oor memory, tae share the words o sangs, poyems an plays, or aiblins for tae tak a haun in the airt o leetratur.

We dae this in the wrutten langage o ony leid we nicht tak a notion for. For ower seven hunner year Scots speakers haes wrutten in Scots.

In this guide we gae ower mony o the subjects adult speakers comes up agin whan stertin tae write Scots for the first time, an in parteeclear whan settin oot tae write in the style o an encyclopaedia. Thon's whan yer bit screive pits ower information, rather nor ettlin at airtistic ideas an styles.

If ye'r wuid tae get stertit, we've pitten thegither the maist necessar guidance on thir first puckle o pages – but, if ye'r intrestit in betterin yer can tae write in Scots, we wad threap that ye haud gain wi the hail guide.

If ye follae only the maist necessar advice

1. READ. The best wey tae learn hoo tae write is tae read as muckle o sindry Scots as ye can. See '[Recommended reading](#)'.
2. LIPPEN TIL YERSEL. Oor [introduction](#), wrutten bi Susi Briggs, is aw aboot hoo Scots speakers shuid tak hert in whit thay awready ken. Lippen on whit ye ken aboot Scots.
3. CONSEEDER YER ETTLE. Morna Young haes wrutten the sheed anent [article and structure](#), explainin hoo tae write an explanator text. Think aboot whit ye'r writin for an whit fowk it's airtit at.
4. HAE REFERENCES. Use wrutten references – texts, or a dictionar – for tae help ye spell Scots words. Oor [spelling](#) sheed, wrutten bi Martin Travers, shaws that ye'll aye can find an instance o the Scots word wrutten doun.
5. SAY IT OOT ALOOD. Whan ye've wrutten or edit some Scots, read it alood. Is that hoo ye wad say it? Oor [grammar](#) sheed, bi Laura Green, looks at the rules that Scots speakes uses in speech an hoo this wirks wi the wrutten word.
6. THINK ABOOT HOO YE PIT IT. Oor sheed on [Idioms](#), wrutten bi Christie Williamson, haes intil't instances o Scots that haes different meanings fae thair leeteral owersettins. Can the information be pit richt intae Scots direct like? Are the a better, or mair natural wey for tae pit ower yer pynt? See [Covert Scotticisms](#) bi Antoni Uri forby.
7. CHECK YER BIT SCREIVE. Read yer bit screive for errors. Emma Grae haes wrutten oor sheed anent [editing](#), that haes guidance for checkin that yer spelling is reglar applied an that yer bit screive follaes a rationale.
8. READ SOME MAIR. Read as muckle Scots as ye can. Oor [References](#) sheed, pit thegither bi Antonia Uri, haes intil't recommends for uissfae resources an texts.
9. MIND THE DIALECTS. Whan ye use vocabular or spellings belangin a parteeclear dialect, it shuid be a conscious ettle, an ye shuid haud til't aince stertit.

Innin

bi Susi Briggs

In the [census of 2011](#), a question anent Scots wis comeprehendit for the first time an about 30% o the Scots nation reportit that thay cuid speak Scots. For the first time in recordit history, ower 1.5 million Scots speakers haed the can for tae shaw thay hae thair ain leid. The nummer micht weel be mair acause the'r a want o ken o Scots as a leid an no jist a tuin or corruptit Soothron.

Gauin bi data fae the same census, ower 300 thousand Scots speakers haes reportit that thay daena write in Scots. It is hard tae reckon jist hoo faur the problem o Scots leeteracy gaes amang Scots speakers. Causay clash fae amang thaim that haes tried, sic as volunteers takkin throu hauns wi or editin Scots Wikipedia, gars us think that the nummers o Scots speakers that feels thay can write in thair ain leid is laich.

Scots is seen ower affen as jist a spoken leid, an syne that it isna a cheil a body can be lettert in. Hooanever, whan ye think on it, aw leids is spoken anes but for sign langage. Ye can be lettert in ithir leids fae Spanish tae Swahaili. Sae whit wey div we think differently aboot Scots in compare wi aw ithir leids that we micht cuid learn the letters o?

Ye micht be wunnerin whit wey this style guide haes been wrutten throu Soothron an no Scots? Weel, this is acause the'r better ingait tae read an unnerstaun throu Soothron for the want o leeteracy throu Scots. The'r mony reasons as tae whit wey Scots speakers fechts tae read in the leid that thay speak.

Doun mony grees in Scotland fowk wis neither formal educate or steert tae write in thair ain leid. Scots speakers haes only ever been educate tae read an write in formal Soothron. Oor gremmar an spelling is that thirlt tae hoo the Soothron leid wirks that tae write in oor Scots leid can feel fause an pretendit. The'r a real fear o lookin stupit if we get it wrang. It daesna help that whan typin in Scots the 'helpfae' spell checker gars us doot oorsels bi drawin angry rid lines unner ilka word that is a kenspeckle Scots spelling. On tap o this, the'r the dreid that we micht seem tae be pittin it on in oor screivings. We can only rid oorsels o this chancer syndrome wi writin throu oor ain leid as affen as we can.

Oor leid haes affen been defamed bi afftaks o oorsels throu the media, as Scots speakers. An affa Scots speakers haes skeel o narra-nebbit treatment in ilkaday settings. Thair langage an wey o speakin, that's affen presentit throu the estaiblisht media as a slang gibble-gabble, eiks tae the sair an dreich stereotype. Mony Scots speakers peyed tae hae elocution clesses for tae dicht awa thair dialects an tuins sae that thay cuid follae a guid career. It wis the ordnar thing tae dae acause o oot an oot narra-nebbitness.

Even drap-doun langage choices on wabsteids an online forms wants ony wale for the Scots leid. Computer systems haes the can tae ken an comprehend Scots as ane o the sma leids. Scots daes exist in the system an haes done sae for a guid whilie. The reason that it isna affen offert is acause

the companies thairsels chooses if Scots is comprehendit or no in thair drap-doun menus. The choice tae keep this leid aff haes a direct affcome for thaim that maks deegital materials in Scots.

Is it ony winner that a great muckle nummer o Scots speakers wants leeteracy in thair ain leid? The narra-nebbitness that surroonds the Scots leid can only be dealt wi bi makkin shair that oor leid an oor voices is veesible, heard, wrutten, an read as muckle as possible. Sma things like keepin Scots aff a drap-doun menu raises the question: is oor leid habile an real?

Scots langage *is* habile an real. The shuidna be ony mair debate about it. The growin nummer o Scots versities an colleges offerin courses on the Scots leid plenishes us wi evidence for the hability o Scots. In scuils braid Scotland, mony primar an secondar scuils haes education anent Scots in thair curriculum. Mony Scots speakers awready writes in Scots throu social media an in personal messages tae freends an faimly. A wheen uses Scots for tae mak twa-wey crack in thair screivings or for descriptive text in plays, poyems, an prose.

Hooanever, the'r a want o self-can in mony o us tae write formal like for airticles. The factual nature o airticle writing itsel can be dauntin enouch athoot haein tae decode Scots spelling an gremmar forby.

Scots haes nae staundart mak, a cheil that haes been debatit for mony tens o year amang the community o the Scots leid. We div hae weel kent spellings that's favoured an pattrens o gremmar an syntax that belongs us alane. This guide shuid help ye in yer veage throu thir differs.

Oor advice is tae listen tae yer ain Scots voice. Hoo daes it soond whan ye say a phrase or sentence? Owersettin direct like, word for word, fae Soothron tae Scots rarely wirks acause Scots gremmar is sindert fae the Soothron. Sae, tak time tae look at the hail paragraph ye'r wantin tae owerset an fae thare, dae it pairt bi pairt.

Write it doun as ye say it. That is the first step taewards wirtin crouse like. Ye micht hae a parteeclar dialect kenspeckle tae whaur ye belang. Ye micht no hae a parteeclar dialect ava. Baith is mair nor acceptable for tae express in yer screivings. The brawnness o ony leid is aw the sindriness forby the swatches that exists athin it. Tae evite confoondin the reader, it is important tae haud constant in hoo ye set oot the dialect in yer bit screive.

It is warth takkin tent tho, that if ye are writin for a parteeclar publisher or wirkin jyntly wi ithers that ye micht hae tae haud til a gree o staundart practice. For an instance, tae set furth airticles in Scots for Wikipedia, the'r an expectit staundart. Thir parteeclars is made clear for airticle screivars wantin tae contribute.

Hooanever, ye shuidna lat ony staundart practice pit ye aff. Clear staundarts can be a rare help til a screivar an gey necessar for ony publishers pittin oot jyntly wrutten wark.

Ilk screivar haein a haun in this style guide can share thair ain ane-aff story on hoo thay cam tae write in Scots airtfae or formal like, whither bi gait o poyetry, drama, journalism, or academia. The maist common weys o learnin wis throu uphaud fae peers, vizzly o the wark o ithers, an readin Scots in airticles an knacky warks. Lare never devals an ner shuid it.

This style guide haes been makkit wi Scots-speakin screivars that's fund thair ain weys intae Scots leeteracy. Thay owercome thair chancer syndrome for tae write in Scots crouse like. This style guide is jist that – a guide tae help ye answer ony questions ye micht be askin yersel as ye mak yer ain journey intae writin in Scots. The style guide haes been wrutten in Soothron for swacker ingait as maist Scots speakers is lettert throu Soothron. No aw Scots speakers is lettert in Scots. Whan we learn tae read an write in ony leid, the patter buskin the gremmar an spelling can whiles dauntin but please bear the gree. Ye will ken faur mair about yer Scots langage throu instinct nor ye will seein it aw wrutten doun brukken up intae sheeds.

We mair nor hae the can o learnin the letters an kenspeckles o gremmar throu ither leids an hiv done for hunners o year, whither Soothron, Frainch, German an even Latin. We hae a muckle can for lare. Scots leeteracy haes maistly been self-learnt acause Scots wisna walcome as pairt o formal education tae grees o fowk bygane. It haes never haen the stauning it shuid acause we've been learnt tae creenge at oor words an saws, but sell it nae bother tae tourists on cairry bags an tea cloots. Tae inbring ordnar Scots leeteracy tae scuils is a byous cheil. Tae teach it alang wi the leeteracies o ither leids shaws hability an comprehension that wisna allowed afore. This comprehension isna tae the guid o Scots speakers alane but for awbody ither lookin in tae see that Scots langage is as habile an bonnie as ony ither leid on this braw birlin planet.

Airticle an Biggin o't

bi Morna Young

Owerview

An explanator text, or explanation, is a parteelcar kind o nocht-fiction screiving maist affen used in newspaper, magazine or wabsteid airticles. It ettles at helpin the reader unnerstaun a process, hoo a cheil wirks, or hoo parteeclar throupit is cairried oot. Writin a successfae explanator airticle wants a rowth o material intil't an an unnerstaunin o technique. The ambeetion wi ony explanator text is tae expound the idea, concept or subject a clear, cutty an objective gait.

Maist publishers will hae thair ain 'in hoose' style that sets oot an hauds til a preferred langage, ootset, an formatting. For ae instance, Wikipedia's *Manual of Style* (MoS) offers the follaein innin:

MoS presents Wikipedia's house style to assist its volunteer editors write and maintain articles with precise and consistent language, layout, and formatting. Since using plain English makes the encyclopaedia easier and more intuitive to read, editors should avoid ambiguity, jargon, and vague or unnecessarily complex wording.

While Scots is maistly grundit on the spoken leid, the'r a lang history o knacky screivings (prose, poyems, plays). Explanator texts, hooanever, is less common. The ettle o this sheed is tae help airt screivars throu the process.

Weel seen kenspeckles

For ordnar, explanator texts tends tae comprehend the follaein weel seen kenspeckles:

- Biggit wi a stert, middle an end
- Sub-heidings tae sindry sheeds
- Educational an objective airtans
- Wrutten in the present tense
- Uses the third-body active voice, inidcative
- Formal tae-the-pynt langage
- Technical vocabular
- References for tae uphaud factual pynts

Biggit wi a stert, middle an end

Explanator texts shuid be biggit this gait:

Innin: for tae gie an oweriew o the subject, ootline the heids o the airticle an haud the intress o the reader

Middle: for tae make clear, objective pynts anent the subject

Pirlicue: for tae draw thegither the pynts made

Sub-heidings tae sindry sheeds

Sub-heidings an sheeds airts the reader throu the text, tae mak shair that the information is grouped richtly. This maks readin easier on the een an can airt readers throu parteeclar sub-sheeds belangin the ower-aw narrative.

Educational an objective airtans

Writin objective like means that evidence an statements can be pit tae the pruif. The writer maun bide neutral bi drawin on facts, feegurs an speirings that can be referenced. This presents unbiased information allouin a body tae wirk oot thair ain opeenion. For ordnar, text an paragraphs shuid be edit tae mak shair that jist the pyntit, factual information bides. Evitin taiglesome text maks for better readin.

For an instance:

In the 2011 Scottish census, over 1.5 million people in Scotland reported being able to speak Scots.

Wrutten in the present tense

Writin in the present tense is used tae describe an action gauin on the noo, tae report fact, an tae present information that is aye true.

For an instance:

Michael is reading this style guide.

Uses the third-person active voice, indicative

Writin in the third-person means that the (grammatical) subject is the body or cheil that is unner discussion. The third-person is: He, She, It or Thay. It isna: A or you.

For an instance

Writing in the third person secures a focus on facts and evidence instead of personal opinion.

Usin the **active voice** means that the subject o a sentence cairries oot the verb's action, follaein a clear subject +verb+object mak. This gars the reader tak tent maist directly tae wha or whit is in hauns wi the action. This differs fae the passive voice whaur the subject is actit on bi the verb.

For an instance

Active: *Millions of tourists visit Edinburgh every year.*

Passive: *Edinburgh is visited by millions of tourists every year.*

The **indicative mood** is a verb that lippens on makkin a statement o fact or askin a question. This maks shair that the body o ilk statement is patently true an canna be read the wrang wey.

For an instance

Edinburgh is the capital of Scotland.

Formal, parteeclear langage

Parteeclear, formal langage maks shair that the text is clear an easy tae read. It shuidna use contractions.

Adjectives is rarely used athin an explorator text acause thay arna objective. Ae screivar micht describe a city as 'bonnie' but sic a statement springs oot thair personal likes. Dootfae descriptors sic as 'mony', 'affen', 'significant' shuid be evitit as thir terms is vague an relative. 'A wee while syne' micht read as twa month tae ane reader, but as twa year til anither. Bi statin the time pyntitly, a reader will get the factual information wantit for them tae mak thair ain relative ootcome.

Whan writin in Scots langage, it is uissfae tae conseeder words that can help set oot text an bigg sentences a patently formal gait. For an instance, associatin words sic as *hoover* an *mairower* can help tae uphaud a formal langage.

Technical vocabular

The parteeclar langage used will lippen on the ettle, tairget audience an subject in haun. For an instance, an airticle anent Scots langage cuid be expectit tae hae historical context, geographic spreid an instances o leetratur intil't.

Technical words that haesna awready an acceptit Scots spelling shuidna be unnecessar owerset in the ettle tae differ fae Soothron. The ettle ahin writin an airticle is tae impairt the information as simple an as direct as possible. Upmakkin new, unkent or unco 'owersettins' will jist pit the reader in a swither.

For an instance, sheddin the word 'microwave' an owersettin 'micro' an 'wave' intae Scots micht gie ye the term 'totey-rote': *totey* bein an adjective used for tae describe onything sma, an *rote* bein a word for a screed o swaws. Hooanever, this is tentless tae the fact that the word 'micro' is here a scientific term, used for a cutty wavelength, or that the term 'microwave', or 'microwave oven', cam intae Scots speakers' wordstock as jist that. As this instance shaws, some vocabular that is jaloused Soothron is in fact sprung fae ither leids, sic as the case here, wi 'micro' springin fae the Greek word 'mikros'.

References for tae uphaud factual pynts

Referencin gies evidence for tae uphaud threaps an factual claims.

Writin an explanator text in Scots

Langage

Airtcles wrutten in the Scots leid shuid ettle at clear an plain Scots. The'r sindry bauld, bonnie an strang words intae the leid but screivars shuid mak shair that thay wale vocabular that gies the clear meaning. It is an ordnar rule o journalism tae evite unnecessar 'fancy' words an, instead, use ither evendoun words. This keeps us richt as tae the message o the airticle. It is aye important tae keep in mind that explanator texts is about pittin ower information as plain a gait as possible. Usin clear an plain Scots daesna gae agin the uiss o dialects but, raither, the screivar shuid ettle at ae staundart gait raither nor mellin an matchin. Haudin reglar is key. If the'r twa richt weys tae spell a word, bide wi ane athin yer document. For an instance, if the Doric/Northeast *fit* (meanin 'whit') is waled than it wad be expectit that this bides the staundart term the length o the airticle.

Nummerin

The expectit nummerin system for explanator texts is that ane tae ten shuid be wrutten in full but nummers efter 10 shuid be wrutten as actual nummers. Hooanever, this can differ whan usin Scots, wi screivars steert tae use full spelling. For an instance, a *hunner* instead o 100 or *twinty* instead o 20. Whan writin the age o a body, it is uissfae tae use *year-auld* raither nor eikin a nummer in brackets. For an instance, Andrew Surname (*twinty-fower-year-auld*).

Names

It is wicelike tae write a body's name in thair gien spelling raither nor owersettin it tae Scots. For an instance, gin a body's cryed David, daena change it tae the Scots version *Dauvit*. For place-names, it is recommendit that words in common uiss (*Glesga* or *The Broch*) shuid be kenspeckle wi the Soothron spelling relegate tae brackets ahin.

For an instance

Glesga (Glasgow)

Aiberdeen (Aberdeen)

The Broch (Fraserburgh)

Hooanever, it is wicelike tae caw cannie whan thinkin about owersettin place-names that haesna an establisht Scots name. For an instance, Mothwerwell cuid be pit ower direct like as *Mitherweel*, that isna in common uiss.

Owersettin

It can lea fowk in a swither ower langage whan a screivar taks in haun tae owerset in Scots word bi word, instead o thinkin about hoo a sentence is biggit. Please see the [Grammar](#) an [Idioms](#) sheeds for mair information.

Editin an pruifin hoo reglar the text is

Aw airticles shuid be pruif-read an spell checkit afore settin furth. Coffin a douce dictionar o Scots tae yersel is uissfae for pruifin while at the same time airtin a body tae the sindry acceptit spellings. Ideas for dictionars is gien in the [References](#) sheed.

In the first instance, wrutten airticles is best checkit throu speakin aloud. If a word or sentence jist daesna come ower natural, than it likely wants mair wark. Hooanever, wirkin this gait alane winna neccesar keep a body richt. Ae gait proponed for checkin constancy is tae mak an alph alphabee leet o Scots words used aw throu the airticle. **This will keep a body tentie o ony driftin awa fae the chosen spelling.** For an airticle o about 1,000 words, this process wad for ordnar last about hauf an houer. Mair ideas for pruifin is gien in the [Consistency and Rationale](#) sheed.

Code o Practice

Pyntitness

Screivars maun evite giein wrang, sleekit or mislearit information. Ony plainly wrang pynt, sleekit statement or mislearit heid maun be richtified wi due regaird. Makkin shair that richt, orderly referencing is gien shuid help screivars fact check material afore settin furth.

Cawin cannie

Screivars shuid ettle at discretion whan conseederin kittlesome subjects in parteeclar. In the case o Scots langage, this micht mean usin a staundart Soothron word tae evite shock, grief or narra-nebbitness. For an instance, offeecial terms – sic as thaim that describes sindry criminal haunling – shuidna be owerset sae's tae mak shair that the'r a necessear level o canniness.

Narra-nebbitness

Screivars shuid evite ony narra or dountakkin references til a body's race, colour, releegion, sex, gener identity, sexual airtans, cless or til ony physical or mental illness or no-cannin.

For tae tak a swatch o the *Independent Press Standards organisation (IPSO) Code of Practice* for mair parteeclars, please clap on: <https://www.ipso.co.uk/editors-code-of-practice/>

Spelling

bi Martin Travers

Scots an Soothron is near sib but sindert leids. Scots isna a corruptit dialect o Staundart Soothron an sae Scots spelling isna a corruption o Staundart Soothron spelling. Dugs an tods is near sib – but ye wadna cry a tod a manky tike or the ither wey about. Scots is a ane-aff leid. The same wey that the tod is a ane-aff speshie.

Whit wey act the vandal whan ye can be a guardian?

If ye love ony leid ye want tae treat it wi respect. The best wey tae respect a leid is tae try yer best tae haud tae the rules o thon leid. This is whiles easier said nor done as leids is quirkie an full o conter-gaits.

If ye want tae write in Scots succesfae like, ane o the things ye'll want tae tak tent o is spelling. Maisterin spelling is ane o the fouterie pairts o Scots an can lea ye a bittie confoondit. In especial whan Scots is enriched throu haein ten kenspeckle dialects that aw haes thair ain spellings an soonds for parteeclear words.

It is warth keepin in mind that aw ten sindry dialect regions o Scots haes mair in common wi ane anither nor thay hae differs. Thir differs shuid be celebrate as thay gie the tapestry o the leid its ain identity an colour.

We are sonsie in haein byous an strang instances o screivings in the Scots leid that gaes back ower 700 year. It is fae this substantious body o wark that we draw maist o oor Scots spelling.

Early Scottish literature in Inglis, such as Barbour's *Brus* (c.1375), Wyntoun's *Kronykil* (c.1420) and Blind Harry's *Wallace* (c.1478) may more accurately be described as early northern Middle English: Scholars of Scots refer to the language of the period as Early Scots. By the end of the fifteenth century the Inglis of Scotland had become a national language and was being called *Scottis* to distinguish it from the language of England; although *Scottis* had also previously been used to refer to Scottish Gaelic. The following period in the development of *Scottis*, known as *Middle Scots*, brought forth an abundance of literature based around the Royal Court in Edinburgh and the University of St. Andrews. Masterpieces by writers such as Henrysoun (1450-c.1505), Dunbar (c.1460- c.1530), Douglas (1476- 1522), and Lyndsay (c.1486-1555) saw the introduction of a great many French and Latin words into Scots. At the same time, the spellings employed by those writers indicated many pronunciation changes, probably owing to natural developments in the language. English writers and literature also exerted some influence the spelling of Scots.

Eagle, Andy, *Modern Scots*

Oor wab o byous Scots dialects haes been hotly debate fae the 1920s bi academics that haes attemptit tae define an categorise the threids. Academics haes suggestit an-aw weys tae set oot staundart spelling an gremmar for the leid. Nane o thir ploys haes been taen on – offeecial or unofeecial like.

Scots in aw its dialects haes won ower as a spoken leid, learnt in social settings, whaur spelling daesna maiter. Tak this along wi Staundart Soothron bein taucht tae hamelt speakers o Scots fae thair first day in the scuil – an expectit tae be thair ae wrutten langage fae thon day onwards – an it isna muckle wunner that spelling words richtly bi ae gait in Scots can be fickle – even for thaim that’s versant in speech.

It is warth takkin tent that awmaist aw speakers o Scots is speakers o twa leids wi mony versant in sindry leeteracies an dialects. This ken o mair nor ane leid nicht, hooanever, lead til a guddle whan spellin oot Scots.

The maist important rule for spelling in Scots is that ye shuid never guess hoo tae spell a word in Scots ahooot checkin syne tae see whither the spelling is richt. Bi ‘richt’ we mean that the spelling exists awready in ane o the publisht Scots dictionars or can be shawn tae be a regional mak o the word that’s ordnar acceptit.

Ilka word that ye will ever want tae write doun in Scots haes been wrutten doun afore. Ye shuid aye ettle tae use ane o the ordnar acceptit spellings o the word ye want tae use. Writin in Scots isna aboot re-makkin the wheel – it is aboot helpin tae keep the tradeetional maks o the leid in life.

A sentence in Scots that’s spellt the richt gait is a bonnie cheil sae please bear the gree an aye check yer spelling. This isna a sign o failure – it is a sign o respect for the leid.

TIP: Never tak a guid conceit o yersel whan writin in Scots. Even if ye’ve checkit the spelling o a word in the past this daesna mean that ye’ll mind the richt spelling the neist time ye use it. Even if ye feel crouse aboot kennin a spelling, aye tak a puckle seconds tae check it again.

Technology is the Scots screivar’s freend – online Scots dictionars is free tae use an a when haes the can for Scots tae Soothron an Soothron tae Scots owersettin.

See the [References](#) sheet for recommends anent Scots dictionars. Ye might raither use a prent dictionar whan checkin yer spelling. This will wirk jist as weel as a deegital ane.

It can be uissfae tae cross check parteclar words in twa dictionars for tae win at a better unnerstaunin o the meaning an history ahin a word an whither it is the richt word tae use in the sentence ye'r biggin. For an instance, if ye use the Online Scots Dictionar for tae find a word, syne ye cuid check it in the Dictionar o the Scots Leid (DSL) for sindry spellings an dialects, furdur defineetions an read the quotes it haes tae get a better ken o its uiss.

TIP: Whan usin ane o the online Scots owersettars it is whiles easier an quicker tae owerset the word ye want tae check fae Soothron tae Scots raither nor howpin that yer ain Scots spelling o the word is richt tae stert wi.

Alphabee

Like that mony ither leids the braid warld we use the Latin alphabee whan writin in Scots. This means that in a puckle instances the wruten mak o a Scots word can only be a bittie like its spoken cheil.

For ae instance, mony leids, Scots comprehendit (but no Staundart Soothron) haes a 'thrapple-clearin' soond that we hear clearly in the word 'loch'. The'r naething in the spelling o *loch* tae tell us that the 'ch' soond wants tae come fae the back o the craig.

The Scots alphabet now consists of the same letters as the Standard English alphabet, but in Older and Middle Scots the additional letters <þ> (thorn) equivalent to the modern <th>, /ð/ (eth) as in the, however, not necessarily differentiated consistently. In addition there was also <ȝ> (yogh) representing a sound similar to the <gn> /ŋ/ in the French Bretagne and <y> /j/ as in the modern word year. Those are of course now obsolete. (Yogh still occurs as <z> in many words and may be realised as /j/ as in capercailzie and /ŋj/ or /ŋ/ as in senzie and Menzies.)

Eagle, Andy, *Modern Scots*

Graphemes

A grapheme is a letter or a nummer o letters that represents a soond:

Some words which only have a slightly different pronunciation in Scots than in Scottish Standard English (usually the vowel sound), generally have the same spelling as in Standard English. Do not assume that because a word is spelled the same as in Standard English it is pronounced as such.

The Online Scots Dictionary — Spelling Guide

Twa guid instances o words in Scots an Staundart Soothron that means the same, is spellt the same, but soonds gey different whan spoken aloud is 'wash' an 'want'. In Scots 'wash' is soondit 'wahsh' an 'want' is soondit 'wahnt'.

Anither instance o a grapheme parteclar tae Scots can be heard whan we soond the letter 'o' as 'oa'. This can be fund in mony commonly used words comprehendin 'shop', 'got' an 'on'.

It is warth keepin in mind whan writin in Scots that oor alphabee jist haes 21 consonant letters tae staun for 26 consonant soonds in common uiss, an 5+1 vowel letters (a, e, i, o, u + the 'y' soond fund in Scots words sic as 'chynge' and words in Staundart Soothron like 'sunny') for tae represent about 16 vowel soonds.

Wheesht Letters

Some letters in Scots words micht no be soondit whan spoken aloud. Aw the same it is important an richt that ye comprehend thir letters whan writin the words doun.

For an instance:

Wad ye gae roond tae yer brither's an gie him a haund tae git thon glaikit cat oot thon tree? The soonds comin oot o hit coud wauk up the deid!

Micht in fact soond like:

'd ye gae roon tae yer brither's an gie'im a haun tae git thon glaikit cat oot thon tree? The soons comin oot o't coud wauk up the deid!

It is warth takkin tent an-aw that the 'ch' letters in parteclar words like *nicht* an *licht* can be soondit like *loch* an *dreich*, or conseedert wheesht anes as wi the 'gh' in the equate Soothron spellings ('light' an 'night').

In Many dialects the terminal <d> of <nd> and <ld> is usually silent but is often pronounced in the derived forms (especially past tenses) of many words. In order to achieve orthographic consistency such words are spelled with the <nd>, e.g. haund and soond, and haundit and soondit. Entries in dictionaries often include the terminal <d> in brackets, e.g. haun(d), soon(d), sen(d).

The Online Scots Dictionary — Spelling Guide

Eye Dialects

Daena use Eye Dialect whan writin formal like in Scots. Eye Dialect is the uiss o words that is misspellt deliberate like but soondit richt. The term Eye Dialect wis first used wi George Philip Krapp in *The English Language in America* (1925).

It affen refers tae:

- wrutten twa-vey speech that uses unstaundart spelling for tae shaw that a speaker's ordnar uiss o langage isna staundart but dialectal, or
- A set o sic unstaundart spellings, used thegither for tae shaw a pattren o parteeclar speech.

For an instance:

Head = Staundart Soothron

Heid = Scots

Heed = Eye Dialect

An tae complicate things even mair, usin Eye Dialect whiles means that the spelling can be the same as ither words in Staundart Soothron wi meanings that's awthegither different.

For an instance:

Heed = Staundart Soothron for tae tak tent tae something

Eye Dialect spellings is aye soondit the same gait as the ordnar acceptit spellings for the words.

A whien screivars chooses tae write thair wark in Eye Dialect deliberate like for dramatic effect or for tae steer up an atmosphere or feel.

For an instance:

Scots poyet, screivar an critic Tom Leonard chose tae spell 'is' as 'iz' an widnae as 'widny'. The spelling 'is' an widnae is establisht Scots spellings an 'iz' an 'windy' isna.

Owersettins

It is warth takkin tent that a word-for-word owersettin fae Staundart Soothron tae Scots micht no look richt or seem the Real Mackay – that 's acause it likely isna. An owersettin liftit stracht will jist be Scots words set in sentences that gaes wi the rules o Staundart Soothron gremmar. Ye'll want tae gae wi the rules o Scots gremmar whan owersettin for tae pit Staundart Soothron ower in Scots successfae like. Please tak a swatch o oor sheed on [Grammar](#) for mair parteclars.

Gremmar

bi Laura Green

Innin

A leid is mair nor its vocabular – it taks gremmar for tae wirk. Acause Scots grew alangside Soothron, the'r mony instances o gremmar in modren Scots saelike the gremmar o modren Soothron. Baith haes influences fae the auld leid o the Angles an Middle Inglis, but Scots haes keepit kenspeckles fae Auld Norn gremmar, a leid that's the forebear o North Germanic leids sic as Dens an Norn.

Whan writin in Scots, it isna eneuch tae jist use the vocabular. Screivars maun tak tent tae the gremmar an-aw, as usin Scots vocabular wi gremmar that is used in Soothron, untentie o the differs we find in Scots gremmar, can mak the bit screivings look orra awthegither. This sheed o the Style guide will expoond a puckle important kenspeckles o Scots gremmar, an vizzy some heids that differs fae Soothron gremmar. See the [References](#) sheed for mair reading.

Verbs

Maist Scots speakers uses verbs a systematic gait, even if thay arna ware o daein it.

For instances, thay micht:

- use the heid word o a verb (A **fecht**)
- eik an –s for tae mak a third-person singular tense o the verb (He **fechts**)
- eik the suffix –ed, -it or –t for tae mak the past tense (A **dichted**/A **dichtit**); awtho the'r some exceptions (She **gret** an **focht** fir me afore a left)
- eik the suffix –in for tae mak the present pairticipple (**She's greetin** an **fechtin** awfy much)
- eik the suffix –ed, -it, -t or –en for tae mak the past pairticipple (A **wid hae pittin** it awa)

Heid word	Third-person Singular present	Past tense	Present pairticiple	Past pairticiple
affront	affronts	affrontit	affrontin	affrontit
dicht	dichts	dichtit	dichtin	dichtit
ettle	ettles	ettled	ettlin	ettled
gie	gies	gied	giein	gien
bide	bides	bade	bidin	bade
greet	greet	gret	greetin	grutten
fecht	fechts	focht	fechtin	focht/fochten
fin	fins	fun	finnin	fun
pit	pits	pit	pittin	pitten

Usin 'present pairticiple' an 'past pairticiple'

Present pairticiple

The present pairticiple mak o a verb, used for tae describe an action that is ongauin, is makkit wi eikin the suffix –in. It is aye accompanied wi a mak o the auxiliar verb 'be' (be, am, is, are, wis, war, bein, been).

For an instance *A wis **daunnerin** about afore **eatin** ma piece.*

The'r exceptions tae this – whiles the present pairticiple is makkit bi eikin –n tae the verb.

For an instance: *The driver kens A'm **gaun**.*

Past Participle

The past participle is used for tae describe an action that is complete. It is aye accompanied bi a mak o the auxiliar verb 'hae' (haes, haein, haed).

Maist o the time, it is makkit bi eikin –it or –t tae the end o the verb.

For an instance: *A'd **wantit** tae walk hame but A'v **endit** up gettin the bus.*

The –it is ordnar whan the verb ends wi p, b, t, d, or g.

For an instance: *A'v **stottit** doon the road.*

The –t ending is ordnar whan the verb ends wi f, s, sh, n, n, r, l an ch.

For an instance: *A'd **footert** about wi ma purse afore gettin oan the bus.*

The'r exceptions tho:

- Some verbs is gien the ending –ed or –d, for an instance, *A'v **sklimmed** doon fae ma tree hoose fir tae gae tae the bus stap while it was still dry.*
- Some verbs is gien an –en ending, for an instance, *A'd **taen** ma chyngie an sat near the back.*
- The past tense o some (strang) verbs is makkit bi chengin the vowel athin the verb, for an instance, *A'v **focht** wi the clasp oan ma handbag an A'v **flung** ma purse back intae it.*

Usin the 'Infinitive mak'

The infinitive mak o the verb is maistly used as a compliment tae the main verb. The verb aye bides as the heid word, regairdless o the tense o the sentence, an the word *tae* gaes afore hit. Some speakers o Scots uses *fir tae* afore the root-mak o the verb.

*A need **tae rin** fir the bus*

*Efter this A'm gaun **tae rin** fir the bus*

*A'm wantin **fir tae rin** fir the bus*

*A'd wantit **fir tae rin** fir the bus*

Usin 'Narrative present tense'

Kenspeckle tae Scots screivings is the uiss o the third-person singular version o the verb, even whan recoontin something that haes happent in the past. Some fowk caws this narrative present tense (an is the same mak as the third-person singular, -s).

For an instance: say

Heid word	Past pairticipple	Narrative present tense
say	said	says

Usin Soothron gremmar an Scots vocabular, the author micht write: *He **said** tae me that thon bus was roon the corner.*

But usin Scots gremmar an Scots vocabular, the author micht write: *He **says** tae me that thon bus was roon the corner.*

Here a when ithar instances:

Heid word	Past pairticipple	Narrative present tense
gang	gaed	gangs
gie	gied	gies
rin	ran	rins
lauch	lauched/laucht	lauchs
skite	skitit	skites

TIP: Tak tent that the verb 'seen' can be used instead o 'saw' in Scots. In Scots, screivars daesna hae tae use anither verb (sic as hae/hiv/have) for tae uphaud the word 'seen'.

For an instance:

- A **seen** the film yesterday daesna adhere tae the acceptit staundarts o gremmar in Soothron.
- A **saw** the film yesterday or A **had seen** the film yesterday wad be deemed richt gremmar in Soothron.
- In Scots, the sentences, A **seen** the film yestreen and A **saw** the film yestreen is baith acceptit in terms o gremmar.

The verb 'haes' can be used as the main verb shawin possession, as agin the phrase 'haes got'. For an instance:

- *She's a wean oan the way*
- *He's a richt temper when he gets startit*

Thaim that writes in Soothron might be mair like tae use 'has got'. For an instance:

- She **has got** a baby on the way
- He **has got** a right temper when he gets started

Usin adverbs

In Scots, it is common tae evite the -ly ending for adverbs (for an instance, *quickly, loudly, excitedly*) whan the adverb haes been makkit fae an adjective.

For an instance:

- *He blethered so **quickly** A couldnae hear him* uses Soothron gremmar.
- *He blethered that **quick** A couldnae hear him* uses Scots gremmar, as the -ly ending isna applied, as it wad be in Soothron.

Nouns

Usin plurals

For tae mak maist nouns plural in Scots, eik –s, or –es if the word ends in –s awready.

For an instance *Did ye mind yer **pieces** for schuil?*

Tak tent that nouns that end in –f, for ae instance ‘leaf’, is turnt tae plural bi eikin –s (unlike Soothron whaur the –ves ending is eikit).

For an instance: *The **leafs** aw fell aff thae trees.*

Noun	Plural
bairn	bairns
fitbaw	fitbaws
cross	crosses
haggis	haggises
elf	elfs
leaf	leafs

Irregular nouns daesna follaes the –s rule. For some irregular nouns, screivars can mak them plural bi eikin –n.

For an instance *Yer schuil **shune** are ower there.*

Irregular Noun	Plural
coo	kye
eye	een
fit	feet
wummin	weemin

TIP: It is acceptit that a when nouns that wad be made plural in Soothron bides singular. For an instance:

- *Yer buiks are up the **stair***
- *He gied me twa hunner **poun***

This is acause Scots speakers whiles treats ‘coont nouns’, thae nouns that can be precredit wi a nummer an made plural (1 coin/2 coins; 1 stair/2 stairs) the same wey that thay wad treat –‘mass nouns’, thae nouns that daesna chenge despite size (land; coffee, air).

Pronouns

Usin demonstrative pronouns

As weel as usin the words 'this' an 'that', that's shared wi Soothron, Scots uses *thon* an *yon* forby. If 'this' is the object nearest the speaker, an 'that' is the object a bittie furdur awa, than *thon* is even furdur awa an *yon* is furdest.

For an instance:

- ***This*** bus gangs tae Broughty Ferry, and ***that*** yin gangs tae Dundee... ***thon*** bus ahint it gangs tae Coupar Angus an ***yon*** bus ower the brae gangs tae Alyth.

Thae is affen used as a demonstrative pronoun whan speakin about mair nor ae cheil, insteid o the Soothron 'those'.

For an instance:

- ***Thae*** buses are aye late, except when ye're rinnin late yersel.

Usin the second-person

For example: *You* an *ye* is used for the second-person. *Ye* is gey common. For an instance

- *Did **ye** see thon driver? **Ye** wid ken him.*

Du, *dee* an *dy* is used in Shetland dialect, saelike 'thou', 'thee' an 'thy' in Soothron. Thair uiss lippens on wha it is a body is speakin tae:

- *Du* is used like the Soothron 'thou', meanin 'you', whan addressin a body that ye ken weel; an are on equal staunin wi (for an instance, *Is du needin some denner?*)
- *Dee* is used like the Soothron 'thee', tae mean you, whan the word is the object o a sentence (for an instance, *I gied da denner tae dee*).
- *Dy* is used sae like the Soothron 'thy', tae mean 'your' (for an instance, *Dy denner's yundroo, sees du?*)

'You' is used bi Shetland speakers forby, but it wad for ordnar be used in formal settings an/or whan the body bein addresst haes authority ower the speaker.

Possessive pronouns

'Your' an yer is baith used. For an instance:

- *There yer bus comin*

Scots uses 'her', 'his' an oor' as Soothron daes:

Youse/you an *yeeze* is used an-aw for tae address mair nor ae body, insteid o Soothron 'you all'.

TIP: in some dialects o Scots, ye isna used for ordnar in the evendoun sense. For an instance:

- *How come A managed tae catch thon bus an **ye** never?*

wad be less common nor:

- *How come A managed tae catch thon bus an **you** never?*

In same like fashion, in some dialects, yer isna the ordnar emphatic. For an instance:

- *Did ye get **yer** pieces?* is acceptable; but is acceptit; but
- *A've got ma pieces, hiv ye got **yers**?*

wad be less common nor

- *...hiv you got **yours**?*

Something tae tak tent o is that Scots uses possessive pronouns whiles whaur speakers o ither leids wad lea them oot.

For an instance:

- *Is she missin **her** schuil noo that she's oan holiday?;*
- *Did he get that for **his** Christmas?;*
- *Does he want thon tatties for **his** dinner?*

TIP: In Scots, the possessive pronoun 'mine' affen haes an '-s' eikit for tae mak it saelike the pronouns 'hers', 'his' an 'yours'.

For an instance:

- *They're no your pieces – they're mines.*

Sae 'mines', wi the same meaning as the Soothron 'mine' isna oot the ordnar in Scots speech an screivings.

Determiners

Usin the definite airticle

Scots affen uses the definite airticle (the) in instances whaur ither leids, sic as Soothron, wad lea hit oot.

For an instance:

- *A've got **the** flu;*
- *He's away tae make **the** dinner.*

Mairatower, Scots affen eiks 'the' tae place-names, for an instance:

- *The Gorbals (Gorbals, Glesca);*
- *The Auld Toon (The Old Town, Embra);*
- *The Bannockburn (Bannockburn);*
- *The Briggs (Bishopbriggs);*
- *The Cairn (Cairnryan);*
- *The Haen (East Haven).*

Words for speirin

An interrogative word is used for tae speir, or 'interrogate'. Instances o interrogative words is:

Scots	Soothron
wha/fa	who
when/whan/fin	when
whit/fit	what
whaur/far	where
how/hou/foe	why

Tak tent that in Scots, 'how' is for ordnar used instead o the Soothron 'why'.

For an instance '**How** did ye end up walkin hame?' is speirin a body whit wey thay chose tae walk, an no anent the process o walkin itsel.

Dooble modals

A modal verb is a verb that expresses that ye maun dae something or that ye cuid dae something. In actual fact, the words *maun* an *can* is modal verbs, along wi ither words sic as shall, will, micht, shuid an wad. Thir words affects the meaning o the verb that follaes.

For an instance: in Soothron a body micht say 'I **might** miss the bus'. In that sentence, the word 'might' is the modal verb an the word 'miss' is the verb.

Some Scots speakers, in parteeclar Scots speakers belangin the Scots Borders, uses whit is kent as dooble modals. That means that thay use twa modal verbs in ae sentence.

For an instance:

- *A **micht can** catch thon bus there.*
- *A'll **no can** catch this yin, A'll hae tae wait.*
- *The driver **will no can** see me.*

The Norland Subject rule

The subject o a sentence is the body or cheil 'daein the verb', e.g. in the sentence 'The bus is running late', the word 'bus' is the subject.

In Soothron, the auxiliari verb 'is' chenged whan the subject becomes plural. For an instance, in the sentence abuin, the word 'is' wad hae tae chenge til 'are' if the war mair nor ae bus:

- *The bus **is** running late.*
- *The buses **are** running late.*

Hooanever, the Norland Subject Rule is a term used for tae describe the gremmar that some Scots speakers uses whan the verb bides the same even tho the subject is plural. In the instance abuin, this wad mean that the Scots speaker wad say, 'The buses is late.'

For an instance:

- *Thae buses **is** awfy noisy;*
- *Thon bairns **is** needin thir denner;*
- *Thae buiks **is** gey interestin.*

Apostrophes

Some aulder Scots texts, sic as the warks o makars sic as Rabbie Burns an Robert Fergusson, micht haes apostrophes in aboot the Scots vocabular. For an instance:

Ye see yon birkie ca'd a lord,
Wha struts, an' stares, an' a' that,
Tho' hundreds worship at his word,
He's but a coof for a' that.

Burns, Robert, *A Man's a Man for a' That*

Thir apostrophes wis for ordnar used in publishing for tae mark whaur a letter/s wad'a been wantin haed the poyem been wruten in the Soothron. Hooanever, this practice haes earnt the teename the 'apologetic apostrophe' throu modern Scots screivars scunnerin at it uiss. In actual fact, mony Scots speakers an screivars hauds the opeenion that the uiss o the 'apologetic apostrophe' maks oot that Scots vocabular athin a bit screive is, at best, subject tae modrifcation for tae please thaim that haesna Scots an, at its warst, infers that Scots is a lesser tongue til its sister leid, Soothron, an sae the screivar shuid 'apologise' for usin hit.

Compare the Burns text (abuin) tae this wale oot o Janet Paisley's poyem, 'Gled Stanes', whaur the only apostrophe comprehendit is athin a contraction (they had/they'd):

thur is nae stane whaur the gled soars,
nae gled whaur the stanes staun

nor it thair cobbled feet, nae king
tae reign ees braid high street

whaur nowt but smirr croons a castlehill
nae burnin weemin wish they'd droned

Paisley, Jane, *Gled Stanes*

Pirlicue

The'r coontless references tae haun for a body tae gain a better unnerstaunin o Scots gremmar, but we maun keep in mind that leids leeves an breathes – that thay chenge – an sae whiles the 'rules' o gremmar for a leid shifts ower time. Anither pynt tae mind o is that maist fowk speaks, reads an writes in thair ain leid perfit weel athoot haein ony lang-heidit knowledge o thair leid's system o gremmar, an this daesna lea them wi ony doundrag. Scots speakers is nae different. The ordnar body that wad use a dooble modal, gin ye pyntit this oot tae thaim, nicht tell ye that thay'll 'Micht can yaise double modals' as thay nicht no ken what yer's speakin about, despite usin this quirkie variant o gremmar perfit weel.

A guid rule o thoom, if ye'r a speaker o Scots an ye'r writin in Scots or pittin something ower intae Scots fae anither leid, is tae read yer Scots sentence or sentences aloud. Daes it soond like something ye wad say? Or daes it soond a bittie different? If it daes, chances is that the bittie differences isna in the vocabular – it's in the gremmar.

E idioms

bi Christie Williamson

Haud me back

Innin

In Februar 2018, A haed a byordnar lifetime jaunt. A'd been inveetit tae the yearly World Fest o Poyetry in Granada, Nicaragua held at the same time wi haunling in a New York City hotel. A'd never been ower the Muckle Dub afore, never afore been somewey hot. As a young Shetland laddie, gainin somewey hot meant Aiberdeen on oor simmer holidays.

On the day afore the skailin o the fest we, bein ower 100 poyets fae aw continent an ower echty kintras, got taen bi boat til a resort on 'Las Isletas' in the Loch o Nicaragua. A fund masel daunerin fae buird tae buird throu a spell whan representars o the fest at ilk buird wis giein oot a prepared message.

Sittin doun, A caught the tail end o this fae an owersettar an interpretator that haed been weel in haun settin the meanings o Soothron an Spanish atween ane anither. As she said. 'We hope you come back to Granada,' the words, 'Haud me back' won oot ma mooth.

In coorse, this wisna an aefauld request tae be held back. In Staundart Soothron, A'd wad'a said 'Yes, please, or 'I'd really like that'. Efter haein speant near on twinty year leevin an wirkin in Glesca, this eediom haed firmly lugged in ma inner mind, an noo the inner minds o thae poyets an-aw that's shadit buird A haed shared in Middle Americae.

E idioms

The Cambridge Dictionar defines an eediom as a 'group of words in a fixed order that have a particular meaning that is different from the meanings of each word on its own'. Bi thair verra nature, eedioms haes the swackest o aw functions in ony leid. This piece daesna ettle at or claim tae tak in aw o the eediotic langage used throu Scots the day. Raither, it seeks tae gie a pree o a when Scots eedioms, an ettles tae steer Scots screivars in celebration o some o the richest pairts o oor leid as gien voice throu the langage o eedioms.

If the'r a brainch o screivings least like tae yield eediotic langage, it micht weel be expositor prose. Nanetheless, it is easier said nor done tae mak a text that's awthegither free o eediotic uiss. In ma wee minding abuin A 'catch the tail end' o the talk fae the organisers. Airticles aboot fowk micht

quote things thay'r kent for haein said, or things that ithers is kent for sayin anent thaim. Whan thir gliffs o oral langage is felt the likeliheid o meetin in wi eedioms is faur mair likely. Whaurever it comes fae, eediomatic langage lends that important spice til a piece, parteclar whaur it is scant or no expectit. An it haes about it a byordnar pyntitness.

Eediom	Meaning in Soothron
Haud me back	My instinct draws me forwards to your proposal
Pit his gas at a peep	To refute and silence an emphatic assertion. Literally to turn the gas right down.
A'm no as green as a'm cabbage lookin	Don't underestimate my experience
D'ye hink ma heid buttons up the back?	Do you take me for a fool?
Awa an bile yer heid	Begone with your insults
Had de/Haud yer wheesht!	Be quiet!
Haes da cat got de tongue?	Do you retain the power of speech?
A'm hed a cat's lick	I have washed quickly at the sink
Makk a lang airm	The food on the table is for you - take it!
He's no backward in comin forward	He has the confidence to speak up when required
Shø haes a cloot clippin tongue	Her manner of speech is painfully sharp
Boys o Bressa	A Shetlandic exclamation - possibly a minced oath
Wasters come tae want	Take what's there for you before it's gone
Dir nae föl laek a aald föl	One's maturity is not currently enhancing the precision of one's thought
Coat's oan a shoogly peg	Your continued tenure is questionable
Dinnae let the door skelp yer erse on the wye oot	A hasty departure is advised
Cannae dae right fur daein wrang	Nothing is going your way
Wire in/Get tore in/Fill yer buits	There's plenty to eat
Wir bellies is tinkin wir trots haes bön cut	The promised hospitality is taking longer than one would expect.

Eediom	Meaning in Soothron
Yer a lang time deid	Literally, you're a long time dead. An exhortation to live life to the full and take opportunities.
Whit's fur ye'll no gie by ye	Things that are meant to will work out and things that don't weren't meant to.
Ne'er cast a cloot til Mey's oot	Once the May trees are in flower, it is safe to wear less protective clothing - until such time anything less than full winter attire cannot be advised.
Aff ma back ya humph	Progress towards our shared goal benefits more from your absence than your continued presence.
See yersel richt	Do not be so generous with your time or money as to leave yourself short.
Hit's a lang sair fecht	The expectations one is required to meet are prolonged and onerous.

Pattrens o speech

Ony leid haes weel kent pattrens o speech, an Scots is nae different. As weel as the eediotic phenomena descrived abuin, it's warth takkin a bittie time an-aw tae conseeder that weys o sayin things gies screivings in Scots a ring o truth. If A say 'A'll be hom at da back o six', this maks perfit sense in Scots. It isna aw eediotic, but wad soond orra in Soothron an wad be less like tae be unnerstood nor 'sometime after six'.

lther instances comprehends *aff* for 'from' (*A goat a contract aff ma publisher the ithir day*); needs for 'needs to be' (*Mi tawties needs liftin syne dey dunna rot l da grund*) an as abuin *A young Shaetlan boy*, bein a young boy fae Shetland.

Incorporatin thir pattrens o Scots in aboot yer screiving can affen want a bit o unlearning. In Soothron, backit wi hunners o year o state uphaud for education, sic pattrens o speech can get brandit no richt. In Scots, thay'r nae sic a cheil. Thay are jist phemomena fae ilkaday langage – in life in the mooths an lugs o her speakers an on the pages o her readers an screivars.

Pirlicue

Neither leet abuin is the hinmaist word – thay jist shaw the sindry weys that Scots as a wrutten and spoken leid haes inti't the resources a Scots screivar can use for tae enrich, kittle an improve the texts we mak.

Stoushies in 2020 ower the heid o Scots Wikipedia cam at the same time as the heighest nummers for Scots speaking ever recordit. Ower 1.5 million fowk can only hae a when o stories tae be tellt. As a rare reader o Scots, A relish the prospects o mair an mair rich eediom-rich texts bein makkit in the years aheid. The'r that muckle tae learn an celebrate aboot oor leid, oor culture an oor fowk. Haud me back.

Slee Scotticisms

bi Antonia Uri

A Scotticism is a word, saw or eediom that's associate wi the langage spoken in Scotland, bi fowk that identifies as Scots. Dauvit Hume wis a Scots Enlichtenment philosophar an essayist, amang ither cheils. Hume wis thochtie that Soothron speakers nicht hae easy ingait til his wark, an didna want stintit the unnerstaunin o Scots fowk jist. Sae in 1752 he makkit an set furth ane o the first leets o Scotticisms contrastit wi Soothron marras. It comprehendit, for an instance, *learn* as a Scotticism o 'teach', an *anent* as a Scotticism o 'with regard to'.

The'r twa kinds o Scotticisms that can be categorised as 'weel seen' an 'slee'. Weel seen anes is the kind o words an saws affen used tae portray Scots in comedy. Thay nichtna aye be used bi Scots speakers (or screivars) in ilkaday life, but instead the ettle ahin them is tae steer up parody.

Tak the cairtoon character *Groundskeeper Willie*, for ae instance. The Scots that he speaks in 'The Simpsons' is that orra an haes intil't that mony weel seen Scotticisms that is wis debatit aw gait for years whit his oreeginal wis, an he wis claimed bi a nummer o Scots regions. Glesca City Council war the first tae conseeder Willie thairs, afore a forespeaker for Aiberdeen Fitba Club cam oot an argufied him belangin the granite city. At the hinnerend, the debate wis sattled in ane o the pairts braidcast—Willie wis an island man, fae Orkney aw along. But whit wis the swither aboot? In coorse, maist Scots speakers will ken that Glesca Scots is gey different fae North East Scots an hit's gey different til Orcadian Scots. Willie daesna speak ony o thir dialects in parteeclar, but instead, throu the uiss o weel seen Scotticisms, gies is the parody o a Scotsman. The Scotticisms used wi Willie plenishes ae instance o hoo the sindriness o the Scots leid an Scots fowk can affen be miskent bi, an ower simplified for, a warld audience.

Slee Scotticisms, on the ither haun, is in ordnar uiss in ilkaday Scots (an Soothron throu a Scots tuin), whiles athoot the speaker even tentie o the kenspeckle Scots vocabular. Thir words an saws is perfit habile an shuid be comprehendit in ony bit screive in Scots whan it is richt like for them tae be used. Some Scots speakers nicht even be surprised tae find that thay've been usin some o thir terms thair hail lifes athoot kennin it wisna Soothron! Nanetheless, jist drappin them intae sentences, athoot keepin tae the Scots gremmar rules or haudin tae Scots vocabular, daesna bigg richt Scots.

Instances o slee Scotticisms

Scots	Soothron
Are ye wantin/needin...	Do you want/need?
flit	to move to a new house
I'm nae carin	I don't care
I'm past carin	I don't care anymore
messages	shopping, errands
outwith	outside, beyond
shan	bad, disappointing
shoogly	wobbly
shot(tie)	turn
skelp	slap, smack
skite	slip, slide
squint	askew
wee	small

N.B. This leet daesna comprehend aw, but is intendit for tae gie the reader a pree o whit is conseedert tae be a slee Scotticism.

Editin

bi Emma Grae

Reglar rules an Rationale

Scots haes a nummer o regional differs athort the tradeetional dialects, an weys o wirkin ower an abuin dialect uiss, grundit on tradeetional spelling, gremmar an eedimatic uiss, but whitever ane ye choose tae write yer nocht-fiction airticles in, it maun hae reglar rules an hae a clear rationale ahin it.

Ye cuid, for an instance, writer yer airticles in a Burns style, or wi a strang regional dialect for the foonds o yer wark – sic as Wastland Scots.

Scots speakers haes been learnt tae write in Soothron, no Scots, an that's whit wey it's ower easy tae fae intae Soothron, disordert Scots or use the conventions o Soothron screivings for tae write Scots words (e.g. bi wirtin *couldny* raither nor a tradeetional Scots mak like *couldnae* or *couldna*).

At this pynt, it's warth takkin tent that while ye can eik Scots words tae yer word processor dictionars, thay willna flag 'Soothron slips', as that is thair defaut langage. Sae this is uissfae tae jist an extent – tho it can help wi keepin ye richt.

If *couldna*, for ae instance, is in yer dictionar, the word *couldny* wad be unnerlined tae keep ye tentie.

Tradeetinal word processors like Microsoft Word wirks bi unnerlinin 'mispellt' words in rid an mishanters o gremmar in green. Hooanever, it is warth takkin tent that this isna a gait a body can lippen on for checkin hoo pyntit yer bit screive is, even in Soothron, as some words micht be spelt richt but michtna be pairt o yer computer's dictionar an the Gremmar-can willna necessar flag up aw mishanters.

Ae wey tae use a word processor whan writin Scots airticles is tae turn aff the choice for spell check in Soothron (this can be fund unner 'preferences' or 'settings' gauin bi whit device ye hae), or tae eik Scots words tae yer establisht dictionar, sae if ye misspell them or write them wi the conventions in Soothron, this will gar ye tak tent.

For tae eik a word til a custom dictionar, jist richt clap an wale 'Add to Dictionary'.

A propone the uiss o *Grammarly*, that, even in Scots, will flag the repeteetion o words an ither general mishanters, tho hit, like yer staundart word processor dictionar, will flag Scots spellings as bein wrang.

Hooanever, it is warth takkin tent that whan ye'r writin in Scots, some o *Grammarly's* kenspeckles like spell check winna be uissfae an present ye wi mony errors even whan ye'r writin in richt Scots. Insteid, ye maun hing in for tae get the uiss o its haundy kenspeckles, sic as flaggin the repeteetion o words.

We propone coffin a douce Scots dictionary (see references) sae that ye can check the spellings o words that ye arena weel acquaint wi. Thir will gie ye the sindry acceptit spellings forby, giein ye the chance tae wale the ane maist suitit tae yer dialect. Anither choice is tae use an online Scots dictionar sic as the DSL that gies sindry spellings o Scots words. Scots Online, on the ither haun, jist gies ae spelling an will likely gae conter tae yer voice gin writin throu a regional dialect.

Transcription o spoken langage (Used alang wi anither method)

Ilka nocht-fiction airticle wrutten in Scots can best be checkit throu its screivar speakin it aloud efterward. If something daesna read like hamelt Scots, chances is that it isna, an it wants chenged, for we hae maistly hae skeel o Scots as a spoken leid.

Hooanever, gauin this gait alane winna necessar keep us richt.

Ae instance ablow shaws the differences atween owersettin a paragraph o Soothron word-bi-word intae Scots an the difference that readin the owersettin aloud can mak.

Scots is an eedimatic leid, an owersettin it word-bi-word risks ye passin ower muckle o whit maks it kenspeckle.

Soothron

Gran walked to the bus stop, carrying two bags of shopping. She was tired, and it was raining. All she wanted was to sit by her fireplace and watch *Homes Under the Hammer*, but she was still a good half an hour away from her home.

Owersettin word-bi-word

Granny walked tae the bus stoap carryin twa bags o messages. She wis tired, and it wis rainin. Aw she wanted wis tae sit by hur fireplace and watch 'Homes Under the Hammer', but she wis still a guid hauf an hour away fae hur hame.

Scots read aloud

Granny walked tae the bus stoap wi twa bags o messages. She wis scunnered, and it wis a richt dreich day. Aw she wanted was tae work oan hur fireplace tartan while watchin 'Homes Under the Hammer', but she wis still a fair bit away fae gettin hame.

As ye can see, the eedomatic nature o Scots is something that canna be won at throu word-bi-word owersettins. In short, the magic o Scots as a spoken leid can only be won at fully whan it is read aloud an no jist owerset fae the Soothron word-bi-word.

Ablow the'r three weys proponed for keepin yer Scots richt while writin yer airticles.

Writin, like ony skeel, is something fesht on throu time, an as ye come mair accustomed tae writin in Scots, ye will improve whit ane wirks best for you.

It is recommendit that ye tak the swatch o aw thir gaits an syne speak til ither Scots screivars an speir whit thay thairsels daes.

Spelling

The maist taiglesome, but effective rationale

The best wey tae check hoo constant yer bit screive is, is tae gae throu yer airticle's Scots word bi Scots word, an mak a leet. Syne ye can search yer document for words that daesna adhere tae yer chosen spellings as ye gae along.

This is a taiglesome process, but for an airticle o about 1,000 word, it will for ordnar tak mair nor hauf an houer. This can be done wi a custom dictionar bi eikin yer preferred Scots spellings.

For ordnar, the maist quirkie pairt is checkin hoo constant the spellings o the first page is. Syne, the feck o words will'a been checkit, makkin the lave o the document no ower hard tae gae ben, sae this shuidna pit onybody aff writin langer airticles.

A leet sic as this wad allou ye tae use the can for find/replace wi the Soothron cognates an compare the uiss o vocabular ower baith airticles.

Airticle Ane	Airticle Twa
about - about	about - about
	do - dae
for - fur	
	from -fae
her - hur	her - hur
herself - hursel	herself - hursel
himself - himsel	himself - himself
I - Ah	I - Ah
my - ma	my - ma
myself - masel	myself - masel
of - o	of - o
off - aff	
on - oan	on - oan
onto - oantae	onto - onto
out - oot (but not wi'oot or shout)	out - oot (but not without or shout)
was - wis	was - wis
wasn't - wasnae	wasn't - wasnae
with - wi	

Anither Gait: Trackit Vocabular

If gauin ben yer document this faur in the detail jist canna be done for want o time, anither wey o checkin yer Scots is for tae mak a leet o aw the Scot words ye use in a document, an syne mark them oot as an when thay kythe in yer airticle.

This will gie ye a ready-made guide tae whit words ye'r usin as ye write, parteeclear if ye are leal til a regional dialect.

For a 1,000 word airticle, this gait, ane that patently wants preparation aforehaun, will tak about twinty meenits.

About	Belchin	Cannae	Dancin	E'er	Guid	Hame
Aff	Broon	Callt	Dae	Efter	Gane	Haun
Ah	Bucklin	Comin	Daein	Everythin	Gie	Haunded
Ah'd	Burd	Couldnae	Didnae	Everywan	Gonnae	Heid
Ah've			Doacter	Eyebroos	Gret	Hoo
Alang			Doonstair		Groond	Hoor
Anythin			Drippin			Hud

Heid words

While haudin evendoun reglar only exists in an ideal warld, whiles ye will only hae tae check the heid words – that is, thaim that's used maist affen. Thir words is the key anes that maks up ony leid, an we've pitten thegither the follaein leet tae mak shair yer Scots hauds leal as can be.

It is warth takkin tent an-aw that when ye are checkin the heid words athin yer bit screive, it can be uissfae tae redd them bi hoo affen used, as this will yield mair results nor daein it gauin bi the alphabee.

Ah/A (I)	Aff (Off)	Cannae (Can't)	Dae (Do)	Gien (Given)
Gaun (Going)	Fur (For)	Fae (From)	Hud (Had)	Huv (Have)
Hur (Her)	Nae (Not)	Naw (No)	O (Of)	Oot (Out)
Tae (To)	Wi (With)	Whit (What)	Wis (Was)	Wur (Were)

100 Common Words

Hooanever, if ye hae the time tae check mair nor jist the heid words in yer Scots an want a guide tae whit words is like tae be used affen, thir anes is the 100 maist common Scots words.

Infinitives in Scots haes a different mak, as ye will see in this table. In Soothron, the infinitive mak o a verb uses 'to' e.g. *to err (is human)*. Hooanever, in Scots this micht hae the mak *for tae* e.g. *for tae err (is human)*.

A/Ah (I)	Acause (Because)	Aff (Off)	An (And)	Ane / ae een, yin, wan (One)	Aw (All)	Auld (Old)	Bairn, wean, cheil (Child)	Bane (Bone)	Bluid (Blood)
Breist (Breast)	Burd (Bird)	Burn, watter (River)	Cannae (Cannot)	Cauld (Cold)	Clood (Cloud)	Dae (Do)	Dug (Dog)	Ee (Eye)	Fae (From)
Faither (Father)	Faur (Far)	Fir tae blaw (To blow)	Fir tae birl (To turn [Intransitive])	Fir tae boak (To vomit)	Fir tae coont (To count)	Fir tae dee (To die)	Fir tae dicht (To wipe)	Fir tae gie (To give)	Fir tae grogger (To spit)
Fir tae faw (To fall)	Fir tae fecht (To fight)	Fir tae be feart (To be scared)	Fir tae flee (To fly)	Fir tae haud (To hold)	Fir tae hink (To hink)	Fir tae lauch (To laugh)	Fir tae lig (To lie [as in a bed])	Fir tae ken, knaw (To know)	Fir tae kull (To kill)

Fir tae scrit (To scratch)	Fir tae sinner (To split)	Fir tae sook (To suck)	Fir tae staun (To stand)	Fir tae swoon (To swim)	Fir tae sweel (To swell)	Fit (Foot)	Floer (Flower)	Foostie (Rotten)	Fower (Four)
Fur (For)	Gie (Give)	Gien (Given)	Giein (Giving)	Guid (Good)	Guidman (Husband)	Hairt (Heart)	Haun (Hand)	Heid (Head)	Hou (How)
Hud (Had)	Hur (Her)	Huv (Have)	Ither (Other)	Iss (This)	Maet (Meat)	Mauki, Manky (Dirty)	Muckle (Big)	Mither (Mother)	Moontain (Mountain)
Nae (Not)	Naw (No)	Narra (Narrow)	Nemm (Name)	Nicht (Night)	O (Of)	Oot (Out)	Shaip (Sharp)	Richt (Right, correct)	Rid, Ried (Red)
Smith (Smooth)	Strecht (Straight)	Tae (To)	Thrie (Three)	Twa (Two)	Wee, sma (Small)	Weet (Wet)	Wha (Who)	Whaur (Where)	Wi (With)
Wids (Woods)	Wis (Was)	Whit (What)	Whan (When)	What (Where)	Wumman (Woman)	Wur (Were)	Ye (You)	Yees (Yous)	Yilla (Yellow)

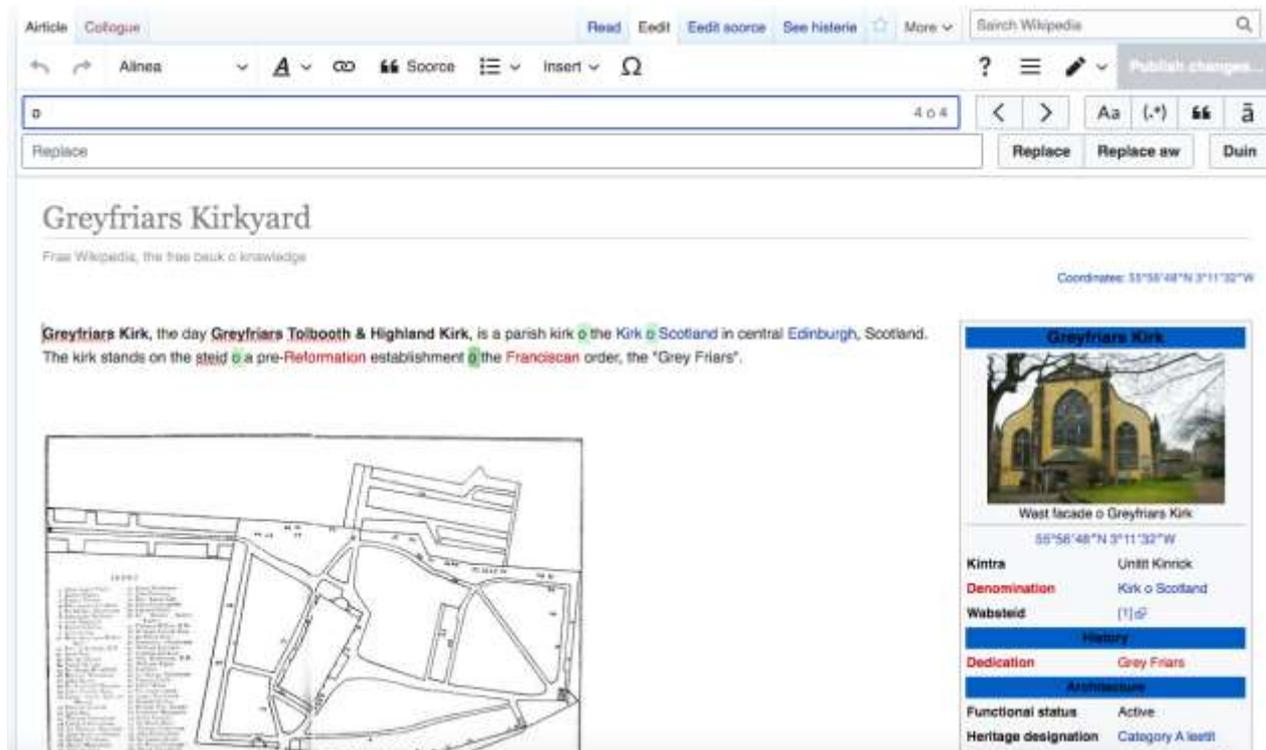
Vizy o a Case: Editin Scots Wikipedia

The Scots Wikipedia as it stauns the noo is a muckle, can-edit, community wrutten resource, an it can be temptin tae edit airticles as fund on the wabsteid whan ye'r no in hauns wi editin new material.

Hooanever, if ye dae dae this, it is important tae ken that a search o whit's in an airticle on Wikipedia micht no shaw up ilka instance o a gien word (i.e. *flair*) in an airticle. This is whit wey it's important tae edit infoboxes an ither pairts o the page forby, acause, as it stauns the noo, the'r mony raivelt hesps athin thir elements as Scots Wikipedia is unner biggin yet an bein owerset.

Wikipedia infoboxes gies information at a keek anent the subject o a page, but as thay arna pairt o the page that kythes richt awa whan the 'edit' choice is waled, thay micht'a been passt ower an/or forgot about.

In the instance ablow, searchin for a word on a page (in this instance the Scots 'o') daesna



The screenshot shows the Scots Wikipedia page for Greyfriars Kirkyard. The page title is "Greyfriars Kirkyard" and the subtitle is "Free Wikipedia, the free baik o' knowledge". The main text reads: "Greyfriars Kirk, the day Greyfriars Tolbooth & Highland Kirk, is a parish kirk o the Kirk o Scotland in central Edinburgh, Scotland. The kirk stands on the steid o a pre-Reformation establishment o the Franciscan order, the 'Grey Friars'." Below the text is a map of the kirkyard. On the right side, there is an infobox for "Greyfriars Kirk" with a photograph of the west facade. The infobox contains the following information:

Kintra	Unitit Kinrick
Denomination	Kirk o Scotland
Wabsteid	(1)
History	
Dedication	Grey Friars
Architecture	
Functional status	Active
Heritage designation	Category A listed

At the top of the page, there is a search bar with the text "Search Wikipedia" and a search icon. Below the search bar, there are several buttons: "Replace", "Replace aw", and "Duin".

mark the word in the infobox an-aw.

In some instances, page attributes sic as infoboxes isna even wrutten in Scots!

Throu the first Wikipedia editathon, ae gait taen wis tae cross-reference words speakers wisna shair o throu the uiss o the [Dictionary of the Scots Language](#) (DSL).

Whan ye'r editin airticles, if ye canna find a word in the dictionar an arna shair if hits even Scots, jist tak it oot or rewirk the sentence tae tak in Scots words that ye can lippen on.

As Scots is an oral leid, ae problem that speakers affen faces is eediom: ye might be shair that a saw sic as 'yer a lang time deid' is Scots, but canna find it in the DSL. If this is the case, it is recommendit that ye jist speir at anither Scots speaker whither thay've heard the saw afore.

Anither maiter that cam oot the editathon wis regional quirks. If ye'r a Scots speaker an editin airticles about yer hame toun an areas roondabout, if something daesna *soond* richt, it likely isna. A guid instance o this is the 'Wast Coast o Scotland'. While 'Wast' is used bi some Scots speakers, as somebody that wis reared up in the Wastland, A never heard it descrived this gait an stuck tae this whan editin.

Regairdless o whit ye meet in wi while editin, it is warth takkin tent that Wikipedia is a resource vizzied bi peers, an syne, if ye edit something a gait that daesna wirk for ither Scots speakers, thay will aye hae a shot at pittin ye richt.

Wikipedia haes functions for talk that allous this feedback tae be gien tae ye whan ye log on tae the wabsteid, an if ye'r wirkin throu an editathon, ye'r mair nor like tae receive this feedback in real time.

Advice anent Editing

Readin aloud

Regairdless o whither ye are writin in Scots or Soothron, it is aye a guid idea tae read yer wark oot. This will help ye spot sentences that is ower wordy, or jist places whaur mair punctuation is wantit.

Line-bi-line checks

Gauin ben yer bit screive wi a fine teeth kaim bi lookin cannily at ilka line will help ye spot an affa toatie cheils – like the oweruiss o saws, or repetetion o words.

Cross-referencing

If ye jalouse ava that ye'r no usin an eediom or saw jist richt, it is never a bad idea tae cross-reference this wi a dictionar. For a lang time, A wrangly wate 'having a nanny rooney' whan, in actual fact, the richt Scots wis 'Annie Rooney'.

Daena be feart tae ask for help: We are aw human, an we aw hae slaps in oor ken. If the'r something ye arna shair about, the'r an affa Scots leid resources tae haun on social media – sic as the [Scots Language Forum](#) on Facebook – whaur fowk will be gled tae help answer yer questions. If it is possible, share yer wark wi ither Scots screivars an-aw. The nummer o fowk writin in Scots is growin an mony is blithe tae crack about writin in the leid.

Step awa

Last, but bi nae means least, if ye are warmlin wi a parteeclar bit screive, it can be a guid idea tae hae a brek fae it. Affen, ye will come back wi new een an insicht that will help ye win at yer ettle.

References

Pit thegither bi Antonia Uri

Online Dictionars

The twa online dictionars recommendit is 'The Online Scots Dictionary' an the 'Dictionary of the Scots Language'.

The 'Online Scots Dictionary' plenishes owersettins fae Soothron tae Scots an Scots tae Soothron. It daesna aye shaw whit dialect a word belongs an this shuid be cross-checkit if ye are writin in a parteclar dialect. It daes for ordnar allou users tae search for aesome words, no saws.

The 'Dictionary of the Scots Language' will affen shaw dialect sindriness. Thir words is shawn bi abbreviates sic as 'Sh' (Shetland), 'Ork' (Orkney) an 'Uls' (Ulster). It will plenish instances o texts an-aw whaur the word searched for haes been used.

Baith resources is free tae use.

Reading proponed

Scots Online, 2020. *The Online Scots Dictionary*. [Online].

Fae here: <https://www.scots-online.org>

Scottish Language Dictionaries Ltd, 2020. *Dictionary of the Scots Language*. [Online].

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

Prent Dictionars

For onybody that wants tae write in Scots, the DSL (*Dictionary of the Scots Language*) plenishes a fouth o rich resources. The ‘concise Scots Dictionary (CSD), for an instance, is an affa uissfae tool for thaim that’s wantin tae write in ony Scots dialect, or deed, nae parteeclar dialect ava. The DSL offers a twa-leid ‘Concise English-Scots Dictionary’ that might be helpfae for onybody that writes in Scots, nae maiter whit can thay hae. The *Scots Dictionary for Schools* app is grundit on the text o the Dictionars o the *Scots Language’s* publication, the ‘[Essential Scots Dictionary](#)’. The latest (second) ootgie wis ootset on 25 Januar 2021 an haes intil’t soondin guides.

Thaim that desires tae learn mair anent, or become mair skeely in writin in a parteeclar Scots dialect, haes the choice o coffin a dictionar that’s richt for thair chosen dialect.

Reading proponed

Concise English-Scots Dictionary, 2001. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press.

Concise Scots Dictionary, 2017. 2^a edition. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press.

Christie, A. and Christie, A., 2014. *Shetland Words: A dictionary of the Shetland dialect*. 2^a edition. Lerwick: The Shetland Times Ltd.

Kynoch, D., 2019. *A Doric Dictionary*. Edinburgh: Luath Press.

Historical Thesaurus

Academic speirars at the Versity o Glesca haes pit thegither the ‘Historical Thesaurus of Scots’, kent forby as the HTS. As ony screivar, o ony leid, will ken, a thesaurus is a uissfae tool whan biggin a bit text o ony kind. The HTS haes intil’t langage fund in the auldest kent registers o Scots richt up tae the Scots used the day makkin it uissfae whan ettlin tae braiden yer Scots vocabular. Ye can get ingait tae the HTS online, an users can either dae a thesaurus search or tak a swatch o the categories (brukken intae adjectives, adverbs, interjections, nouns, saws, verbs an reflexive verbs).

Reading proponed

University of Glasgow, 2015. *Historical Thesaurus of Scots*. [Online].

Fae here: <https://scotsthesaurus.org>

Online courses

For thaim that's lookin for a mair set-oot wey o learnin Scots, The Open Varsity plenishes twa free courses that, atween them, covers jist about awthing a learner cuid want tae ken anent the leid. If ye want tae gain howe unnerstaunin fae a parteeclar area (gremmar or the history o the leid, for instances) ye can wale the modules that ye wad like tae focus on an gie a bye tae the ither anes that ye hae nae intress in.

Reading proponed

The Open University, 2019. *Scots language and culture - part 1*. [Online]. Edinburgh: The Open University.

Fae here: <https://www.open.edu/openlearncreate/course/view.php?id=2705>

The Open University, 2020. *Scots language and culture - part 2*. [Online]. Edinburgh: The Open University. Fae here:

<https://www.open.edu/openlearncreate/course/view.php?id=4190#tabs-2>

Videos

A whien fowk wad raither learn throu watchin an listenin nor jist readin. This fouthie gaithery o videos is jist richt for thaim that wants tae improve thair wrutten or spoken Scots.

Aince again, the videos is free tae watch an easy ingait throu YouTube. Ilk video is aboot an houer lang an taks in a different pairt o the Scots leid.

Reading proponed

Dempster, M., 2020. *Scots Language an Accent*. [Online]. 23 August.

Fae here:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLmk3hiyUEgWI7Qa9pBGN3r94ahQiSXJ2U>

Guides tae the Scots Leid

Dempster, M., 2020. *Mind yer language? Scots – language and accent*. [Online].

Text: <https://independent.academia.edu/DempsterM>

Videos: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLmk3hiyUEgWI7Qa9pBGN3r94ahQiSXJ2U>

Mak Forrit, 2020. *How to read Scots: A brief introductory guide (written in English)*. [Online].

Edinburgh: Mak Forrit.

Fae here: <https://www.makforrit.scot/scots/read-scots/>

Mak Forrit, 2020. *Mak Forrit Style Sheet*. [Online]. Edinburgh: Mak Forrit:

Fae here: <https://www.makforrit.scot/scots/stylesheet/>

Centre for the Scots Leid

An tae end, the Centre for the Scots Leid offers a fouth o resources for ony Scots speaker an/or screivar.

For an instance, the wabsteid haes intil't a page gien ower tae the Scots owersettins o place-names in Scotland forby common place-name elements (sic as brae meanin 'hillside' or burn meanin 'stream'). This resource cuid prove affa uissfae whan writin factual texts anent Scotland.

Reading proponed

Scots Language Centre, 2020. *Centre for the Scots Leid - Hame*. [Online]. Perth: Scots Language Centre.

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

Scots Language Centre, 2020. *Guide to a map of Scotland in Scots*. [Online]. Perth: Scots Language Centre.

Fae here:

https://d3lmsxlb5aor5x.cloudfront.net/library/document/Map_of_Scotland_in_Scots-Guide_and_gazetteer.pdf

Scots Leid Associe

Jynin the Scots Leid Associe is recommendit for onybody that's an intress in readin mair Scots leetratur o aw kin kinds. Ane o the best weys tae learn a wrutten leid is tae steep yer harns in its leetratur. Memmership o the Scots leid Associe is £20 a year for onybody that bides in the Unitit Kinrik. For the price o this ye'll be sent the quarterly ootgie o 'Lallans' – the Scots Journal o Airts an Letters. Ilka ootgie o Lallans haes intil't sindry wark in Scots, fae poyems tae cutty stories an mair. The Scots Leid Associe haes an-aw a yearly competeetion for screivings in Scots cryed 'Sangshaw'. Onybody can pit in for it – it is a rare inlat for tae shaw aff whit ye've learnt on yer journey tae leeteracy in Scots!

Reading proponed

Scots Language Society, 2020. Lallans – the Scots Language Society – Hame. [Online].

Arbroath: Scots Language Society.

Fae here: <https://www.lallans.co.uk/index.php>

Warks Consultit

Cameron, G., 2009. *Don't be silly... He's our Willie*. [Online]. Glasgow: The Scottish Sun.

Fae here: <https://www.thescottishsun.co.uk/archives/news/23263/don%C2%92t-be-silly-he%C2%92s-our-willie/>

Concise Scots Dictionary, 2017. 2nd edition. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press.

Corbett, C., 2009. *Understanding Grammar in Scotland Today*. Glasgow: Association for Scottish Literary Studies.

Dempster, M., 2020. *Mind yer language? Scots – language and accent*. [Online].

Text: <https://independent.academia.edu/DempsterM>

Videos: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLmk3hiyUEgWI7Qa9pBGN3r94ahQiSXJ2U>

Eagle, Andy, 2020. *An Introduction to Modern Scots*

Fae here: <https://www.scots-online.org/articles/contents/ModernScots.pdf>

Education Scotland, 2018. *Features of Scots*. [Online]. Edinburgh: Education Scotland.

Fae here: <https://education.gov.scot/improvement/learning-resources/features-of-scots/>

IPSO (Independent Press Standards Organisation), 2019. Editors' Code of Practice. [Online]. London: IPSO.

Fae here: <https://www.ipso.co.uk/editors-code-of-practice/>

Johnson, J. and Wild, K., 2019. *Fantoosh sitooteries and more: new Scottish entries in the March 2019 update*. [Online]. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Fae here: <https://public.oed.com/blog/new-scottish-entries-in-the-oed/>

National Library of Scotland, 2019. *Scotticisms*. [Online]. Edinburgh: National Library of Scotland.

Fae here: <https://digital.nls.uk/learning/scottish-enlightenment/source/a-list-of-scotticisms-by-david-hume-published-in-the-scots-magazine-1760-first-printed-in-1752/>

Scots Language Centre, 2020. *Fit Like Is't?* [Online]. Perth: Scots Language Centre.

Fae here: https://www.scotslanguage.com/The_Doric_uid72/Fit_Like_Is%27t%3F

Scots Language Centre, 2020. The Main Dialects of Scots. [Online] Perth: Scots Language Centre.

Fae here: <https://www.scotslanguage.com/articles/node/id/69/type/reference>

The Open University, 2020. *Unit 17: Grammar* [Online]. Edinburgh: The Open University.

Fae here: <https://www.open.edu/openlearncreate/mod/oucontent/view.php?id=147479>

The Scottish Corpus of Texts & Speech. 2021 [Online]. Glasgow: University of Glasgow.

Fae here: <http://www.scottishcorpus.ac.uk>.

Selfe, David W, "A ferlie he spied wi' his e'e": Examining the Apologetic Apostrophe.

Fae here: <https://www.epicureancure.com/302/a-ferlie-he-spied-wi-his-ee-a-brief-examination-of-the-apologetic-apostrophe/>

Shetland For Wirds, 2020. *Grammar*. [Online]. Lerwick: Shetland For Wirds.

Fae here: <https://www.shetlanddialect.org.uk/grammar>

Scots Online, 2019. *Spelling Guide*. [Online]. Scots Online.

Fae here: https://www.scots-online.org/dictionary/spelling_guide.php

Scots Syntax Atlas, 2020. *Welcome*. [Online]. Scots Syntax Atlas.

Fae here: <https://scotssyntaxatlas.ac.uk>

Wikipedia: Eye Dialect, 2020. [Online]. Wikipedia.

Fae here: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eye_dialect

Wikipedia: Manual of Style, 2020. [Online]. Wikipedia.

Fae here: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Manual_of_Style

Eik 1: Recommendit reading

Susi Briggs – Recommendit Reading

As a body that maks Scots writin, A can fair recommend readin onything in Scots that speaks tae ye. This is the best wey tae learn Scots leeteracy as ye will unnerstaun the full meaning ahin the text. Please daena jist gae for learnin whit words means but find wrutten wark an-aw that kittles an gars ye think.

Whan A first stertit tae write in Scots, A chose tae deek intae clessic bairns' leeteratur sic as *The Hoose at Pooh's Neuk* owerset bi James Robertson an *The Eejits* owerset bi Matthew Fitt. As A wis acquaint wi the stories tae stert wi in Soothron it meant that the wrutten Scots wis faur easier tae uptak an mind athoot raxin doun a Scots dictionar ilka five meenits. Modren picture buik owersettings is jist richt as thay are cutty an weel kent.

Mair recent like A've enjoyed *Callum and The Mountain* bi Alan MacClure, whaur the Scots leid gaes alang natural amang the Soothron text. Scots langage is kenspeckle an natural tae the landscape an humours o the characters as weel as thair twa-wey crack wi ane anither. A love the buiks bi Ross Sayers forby. In the buiks *Sonny and Me* an *Daisy on the Outer Line* the uiss o Scots is weel seen, an the settings an characters gaes thegither wi modren times. A enjoy gauin back tae the stories in the buik *A Tongue in Yer Heid* edit wi James Robertson. The stories bi sindry Scots screivars covers sindry dialects an styles that A find draws us in.

Matt McGinn, The Corries, Hamish Henderson an Violet Jacob tae name a puckle musicians an poyets A adore. Scots is a musical leid an A trew that ony leid is affen best felt an unnerstood in poyem an sang. Ma favourite poyem is *The Flytin o Life and Death* bi Hamish Henderson.

A wad threap nae end tae learn the roots an auld fernyears o the leid an this is happit in buiks like *Why Scots Matters* bi Derrick McClure an *The Mither Tongue* bi Billy Kay. Finnin the roots o Scots langage is important an it is warth keepin in mind hoo we tint oor wey in order for tae mak shair that we hain an fesh on oor Scots langage an leeteracy better.

Morna Young: Necessar Scots Reading

Mary Queen of Scots Got Her Head Chopped Off by Liz Lochhead bi Liz Lochhead

Sunset Song by Lewis Grassic Gibbon bi Lewis Grassic Gibbon

Kintra: Scotland. Whit like is it?

Like mony ither students in Scotland, A read Liz Lochhead's *Mary Queen of Scots Got Her head Chopped Off* while A wis in the scuil. A mind the simmer o excitement whan A haed skeel o Corbie's openin speech descrivin Scotland wi sic bonnie, richly layert Scots langage. The Scotland here wisna jist 'bonnie', it wis awthing fae "a bricht bere meadow" til "a field o' stanes". For a younker reared up speakin North East Scots, seein thir words fair oot on the page gart me ferlie. A'd read mony Scots poyems an sangs afore this – an performed them at oor byous Moray Music Fest – but finnin Scots for twa-vey crack opent endless, new possibilities. Thir wis words that demandit tae be pree'd an read aloud.

As a North East quine, A winna forget either ma first readin o Lewis Grassic Gibbon's *Sunset Song* an its wab o Doric. Chris Guthrie wis the heroine A didna ken A needit an the repeatit reference tae the "two Chrisses" that "fought for her heart and tormented her" struck a strang cord wi us, an haes done sae intae ma adult life. It bides ane o ma favourite novels o aw time an is ane A gae back tae time an time again. Like an auld freend, it brings us comfort tae reveesit the Mearns for, despite the rauchness o the lifes leaved, it is at the hinnerend a story about tholin.

A wad strangly recommend forby, anything bi Anne Donovan, but in parteclar *Buddha Da* that A fund baith hilarious an affa touchin. A'v aye loved comedy that's rootit in the swaws o emotion an this hut the verra spot.

Martin Travers: Necessar Scots Reading

Linmill Stories by Robert McLellan bi Robert McLellan

A puckle year syne, A wis wis daein a bittie speir-oot for ma play Annville. It is an adaption o the Canadian author an airtist Heather Spears' novel *The Flourish*. This true story comes til a heid wi a dooble murder an self-killing in 1883 in Kirkfieldbank by Lanrik. Fae the stert A kent A wantit my tak on the story tae be in the real Clydeside Scots.

A contactit Donald Smith at the Storytelling Centre for Scotland in Embra anent whaur best tae find instances o late 18t century or early 20t century Lanrikshire Scots.

Whit he proponed actually chenged ma life as a screivar o the lettert airt. He said A shuid read Robert McLellan's *Linmill Stories*.

Like maist fowk takkin on wrutten Scots for the first time, A haed a sair fecht wi readin the buik tae stert wi until A fund recordings o fower o the stories McLellan hisel haed made for the BBC in the 1960s.

Readin an hearin stories at the same time did something tae ma harns. A cuid mak the link atween spoken an wrutten Scots. It wis like a door openin up an takkin us intil a new warld that fair kittled us.

A haed never read a funnier an mair hertfelt gathery o stories nor Robert Maclellan's *Linmill Stories*. Pairt *Tom Sawyer* an pairt *Oor Wullie*, it is a national treasure that captures the Strathclyde at the stert o the 20t century an it landward characters brawly an for aye.

THE NOVEL: <https://canongate.co.uk/books/232-linmill-stories/>

THE RECORDINGS: <https://www.lallans.co.uk/index.php/19-scots-language/161-sscd-050>

Laura Green – Whit tae read?

As a teacher o Soothron wirkin ootwi the scuils, A maun recommend Anne Donovan's gairthery o cutty stories, *Hieroglyphics*. The story itsel, *Hieroglyphics*, is aboot a wee lassie that warsles wi leeteracy in the scuil. Nanetheless, she is taen-like wi stories, an shaws oot her connection wi drawin wee eemages – like hieroglyphics – insteid o writin words.

Ither favourites in the gairthery comprehends *A Chitterin Bite*, whaur Donovan's description o eatin hot maet efter a jaunt tae the sooming baths taks us richt back tae ma scuil days (oor sooming baths hameboot wis by the chipper!) an *Loast*, a story aboot an eildit wumman, lanesome in the routine o her dreich life.

Sae – stories that pits us in mind o teachin, stories that caws furth mindings fae bairnheid, stories that speaks til's as a wumman. That's whit wey writin in Scots, an haein ingait tae writin in Scots, is that important – the sibness. Whit cuid be mair sib til's nor the texts that's wrutten in the leid o yer mither, yer pairtner, yer community, an yersel?

Christie Williamson – A Scots reader

As a Scots screivar, A dwell in twa substrata o the lettert tradeetion - a poyet, an a Shetlander.

In mony weys A stertit ma vaige throu writin as a Shetlander first. A've been sonsie eneuch tae inherit an be pairt o a rich lettert tradeetion in Shetland. Key texts here comprehends John J Graham's 'Shadowed Valley', a novel narrate throu Soothron wi twa-wey crack in Shetland an 'Shroomal', Robert Alan Jamieson's first gairthery o poyems that reenges hoo 'da dialect' an staundart Soothron mells ane wi the ither. Ither screivars A keep comin back tae comprehends Christine De Luca, Stella Sutherland, Vagaland an William J Tait.

As a poyet, the wark o the Scots Renaissance gies us a muckle heize, an a heich watter mark that a body ettles at in thair ain screivings. As weel as Sydney Goodsire Smith an Robert Garrioch, the'r jist nae gettin by the biggar o't, Hugh MacDiarmid – a bauld veesonar an a modrenist makar an richtly namely in this warld.

Antonia Uri – Whit div ye read?

A'm daft for Scots poyetry an enjoy readin the quarterly ootgie o *Lallans*, wark set furth bi *The Poet's Republic* an, in coorse, the warks o oor national treasure Rabbie Burns. For nocht-fiction an airticles in Scots, ma first rax-douns is *Mak Forrit* an *Bella Caledonia*.

Emma Grae - Necessar Scots Reading

As a Scots novelist, ma earliest innin tae writin anent Scotland an words an saws belangin parteeclar airts wis throu Lillian Beckwith's buiks. Set in the Hebrides, Beckwith's buiks fair opent ma een tae the virr an kenspeckles that belongs sindert Scots communities. A when favourites is *The Sea for Breakfast* an *The Loud Halo*. But wi regaird tae Scots in parteeclar, a maun-read is Billy Kay's *Scots: The Mither Tongue*, that gaes ower the story o the Scots leid, an syne Michael Munro's *The Complete Patter*, a rare an uissfae wark for thaim ettlin tae write lee-wark in the leid.

Dr Michael Dempster – Whit div ye read?

Aiblins it's tae be expectit fae the Director o the Centre for the Scots Leid, but A wad recommend takkin a swatch o the riches o Scots resources bi gait o www.scotslanguage.com. The Centre haes a fouth o free heich quality Scots screivings fae aw the airts wrutten bi a braid reenge o speakers o aw dialects an fae aw throu its 700 year leetratur gathert ower the bygone years, an new material gaes up regular like. As it haes been for coontless ithers, the centre wis the first online resource that gied me ingait tae screivings in ma ain first leid. This wis lang afiore A even conseedert takkin a haun in writin Scots.

Forby the wabsteid o the Centre for the Scots Leid A wad fair recommend readin the Scots Leid Associe's journal *Lallans*. Wi memmership o the Associe ye receive three ootgies o *Lallans* a year lippin wi the wealth o Scots poyetry, prose, drama, an even comics. In aboot the'r a braid reenge o screivars shawin aw kin kind o Scots screivings. <https://lallans.co.uk/>.

Eik 2: Common spelling conventions

bi Dr Michael Dempster

Spoken leids is made up o soonds. Baith Scots an Soothron spoken throu a Scots tuin uses the same ordnar soonds. Mony leids that uses the Latin alphabee haes whit is kent as a howe orthography, that means that the'r no a ane-tae-ane correspondence atween the soonds o the leid an hoo it is representit in a wrutten mak.

In Scots tuins we hae 26 ordnar consonant soonds an 16 ordnar stresst vowel soonds. In Soothron tuins the'r less consonant soonds an mair vowel soonds. The Latin alphabee haes jist 21 consonant letters an 5 vowel letters. Sae in baith Scots an Soothron we canna hae a ane-tae-ane correspondence atween the soonds o the leid an ae letter tae represent thir soonds.

Insteid we hae tradeetional spelling systems wi sindry different weys tae represent soonds. Here the maist common spellings o the consonant soonds:

The maist common consonant spelling conventions in Scots an Soothron (bi soond)		
Dempster's shorthaun	Instances o words	IPA spelling
p	pen , happy and top	p
b	bed , rubber and web	b
t	tale , later , letter , receipt and hat	t
d	drum , ado , ladder , odd and clad	d
k	kid , ink , cat , act , back , queen and exam	k
g	ghost , get , begin , beggar , and leg	g
m	map , vamp , humming and jam	m
n	nag , band , spanner and can	n
ng	singer , bring , linger and brink	ŋ
f	fish , raft , baffle , half , chaff , roughage , cough , photo , graphite and graph	f
v	van , pave , Slav and of	v
th	think , without and bath	θ
dh	these , mother and bathe	ð
s	slide , gasp , messy , gas , guess , exit , city and lace	s
z	zoom , faze , guzzle , buzz , viz , phase and does	z
sh	shine , washing , lash , sugar , session and emotion	ʃ
j	measure , beige , equation and azure	ʒ
h	hot , Birmingham and whole	h
ch	loch , haugh	x
wh	which , white	ʍ
w	wink , quick and aqua	w
y	yes , alliance .	j
l	like , balance , telling , bell and fool	l
r	rap , bard , harrumph and star	r/r
tsh	chin , batches , nature and teach	tʃ
dj	gin , joke , Django and judge	dʒ

Scots an Soothron, along wi maist leids that uses the Latin alphabee, shares maist o the spelling conventions shawn abuin. The tradeetional spellings o vowel soonds changes gain bi leid, as the soonds used in thae leids changes mair nor the consonants.

The tradeetional spellings o Soothron springs oot a mak o Middle Inglis.

The maist common vowel spelling conventions in Soothron (set oot bi soonds o Scots tuins)		
Dempster's shorthaun	Instances	IPA spelling
i	<i>sit, bit, give, with, since</i> and <i>fish</i>	ɪ
uh	<i>above</i> and <i>runner</i> or any vowel	ə
u	<i>tonne, fun, just, young</i> and <i>world</i>	ʌ
ee	<i>be, feed,</i> and <i>beat</i>	i
ae	<i>late, wear, game, where, make, gain,</i> and <i>way</i>	e
eh	<i>bed, head, chest, were</i> and <i>said</i>	ɛ
ah	<i>bat, hang, had, yard, farm, aunt</i> and <i>half</i>	ɑ
oo	<i>cool, foot, pull, do, Luke</i> and <i>loose</i>	ʊ
oa	<i>coat, both, old, bowl, soul</i> and <i>told</i>	o
aw or aa	<i>talk, what, dog, from, got, naught, saw</i> and <i>off</i>	ɔ
awy	<i>boy, toy, voice</i> and <i>boil</i>	ɔi
ow	<i>how, pound</i> and <i>down</i>	ʌʊ
yoo	<i>new, few</i> and <i>tube</i>	jʊ
ay	<i>shy, die, live, by, my</i> and <i>I</i>	ae
iy	<i>mice, blind, fight</i> and <i>find</i>	ɛi

The tradeetional spellings o Scots wis brocht thegither for tae shaw the soonds o Scots tuins.

The maist common vowel spelling conventions in Scots (set oot bi soonds o Scots tuins)		
Dempster's shorthaun	Instances	IPA spelling
i	<i>pit, guid, an the</i>	ɪ
uh	<i>afore</i> an <i>scunner</i> or any vowel	ə
u	<i>tonne, fun, full, haes, an young</i>	ʌ
ee	<i>be, scheme, feed, heid, grieve, guid, feart,</i> an <i>deave</i>	i
ae	<i>nae, claethe, day, grey, maist, lave, an wi</i>	e
eh	<i>bed, merse, fairm, an heard</i>	ɛ
ah	<i>tap, an dance</i>	ɑ
oo	<i>coo, hoose, an dour</i>	ʊ
oa	<i>tho, shop, brose, horse, an board</i>	o
aw or aa	<i>haar, haun, cause, faw, an twa</i>	ɔ or ɑ
ui	<i>guid, uise, buke, an neuk</i>	ø
awy or oay	<i>boy, toy, vyce</i> an <i>noise</i>	ɔi or oi
ow	<i>stow, an clout</i>	ʌʊ
yoo	<i>new, few, neuk, muir</i> an <i>tube</i>	jʊ
ay	<i>shy, buy, rive, die, guise, by,</i> an <i>I</i>	ae
iy	<i>pey, while, blind, fyle,</i> an <i>find</i>	ɛi

Eik 3: Dialect sindriness in Scots screivings

The dialects o Scots haes a lairge amoont o vocabular, gremmar, an eediom in common. The spoken gait o Scots can chenge fae village tae village, even along the same street. Thir soond chenges atween dialects o Scots is affen regular an follaes parteclar tendencies in hoo the soonds chenges compared wi ither dialects o Scots. Thir soond chenges tends tae accoont for the greatest spelling chenges athort the dialects o Scots. A when can be fund in the table ablow.

Scots Dialect	Chenge in wey soondit fae ither Scots dialects	Instances o words wi Scots dialect chenges
Insular	th → t	think → tink
	th → d	thee → dee
North East	wh → f	whit → fit
Northern	ay → eh	aye → eh
East Central	-a → -ae	Glesga → Glesgae
West Central	ai → eh	fairm → ferm
Southern	ow → oa	howk → hoak
Borders	oo → ow	you → yow
	ee → ey	me → mey

The Scots words that is bi tradeetion spellt <ui> chenges athort dialects accoontin for muckle o the kenspeckle weys that the dialects is soondit. In the Norland isles, pairs o Angus an Wast Dunbartonshire thir words keeps a kenspeckle vowel soond. (This is spellt wi the umlaut in Island dialects, 'ö'). In ither dialects its place haes been taen wi ither soonds used in thae dialects.

	muin	puir	nuik
Insular -	mön	pür	nyook
North East –	meen	peer/pear	nyook
Central, Southern, & Ulster Scots	min	paer	nyuk

In the North East words spellt tradeetional like as <ui> that haes a **k** or **g** soond gauin afore them tends tae hae a **w** soond noo jyned, for an instance as in scuil, that can become skweel, an guid, that can become gweed.