

Scots Wikipedia Survey

This survey was promoted through the Scots Language Centre site, Scots Wikipedia, and Scots specific social media groups and channels.

Respondants Scots Skills

0	I am new to Scots	4
1	I understand a limited amount of Scots; learnt mainly from reading. I cannot write in Scots; or have never tried.	4
2	I understand a limited amount of Scots; learnt mainly from hearing people speak Scots. I cannot write in Scots; or have never tried.	8
3	I understand a limited amount of Scots; learnt mainly from reading. I can write using a limited amount of Scots.	9
4	I understand a limited amount of Scots; learnt mainly from hearing people speak Scots. I can write using a limited amount of Scots.	16
5	I know lots of Scots; learnt mainly from reading. I cannot write in Scots; or have never tried.	4
6	I know lots of Scots; learnt mainly from hearing people speak Scots. I cannot write in Scots; or have never tried.	17
7	I know lots of Scots; learnt mainly from reading. I can write in Scots, although I do not adhere to a particular style, dialect or standard.	6
8	I know lots of Scots; learnt mainly from hearing people speak Scots. I can write in Scots, although I do not adhere to a particular style, dialect or standard.	44
9	I know lots of Scots; learnt mainly from reading. I can write in Scots, and I adhere to a particular style, dialect or standard.	3
10	I know lots of Scots; learnt mainly from hearing people speak Scots. I can write in Scots, and I adhere to a particular style, dialect or standard.	31
11	Other	4
	Total	150

Other's responses

- Aa hail fae the Rhins ovGallowa, whilst aa'm no an expert jist first language bein lallans, no shair if onybody wud recognise fae ma scribevin whar aa I'm fae.
- Doric is the dialect I use and understand as I am from the North East Scotlanf
- Fluent native speaker from both listening and reading - I adhere to a standard even writing
- I am attempting to write Scots in fiction
- I am Irish and speak school level gaeilge.
- I know lots of Scots from hearing people speak and learning Burns and other poetry for old Scots. I write modern Scots phonetically mixed up with the old and don't know if it is standard or even correct.
- I know lots of Scots; learnt as a native speaker, hearing people speak and from reading. I write in Scots and I adhere to a particular style in the sense that I try to be consistent and intelligible while spanning different dialects and standards as I do so.
- I know lots of Scots; learnt mainly from hearing people speak Scots. I do not write in Scots; mainly due to lack of knowing how to spell Scots words.
- I often find I have words in my head that I don't know how to spell or constructions that seems a bit odd but feel right.
- I've also sung in Scots with the Scots Opera Project
- To be honest I don't even know anymore. I'm a writer who finds writing in a variety of Scottish dialects easier than writing in standard English. I thought what I wrote in was scots but some folk are saying not 'proper' scots. Funnily enough when I send my work out to english / American publishers they often say I'm not writing in 'proper' English.

105 know lots of Scots

17 cannot write, learned from hearing

4 cannot write, learned from reading

	learnt from hearing	learnt from reading
adhere to a style or dialect	31	6
don't adhere to a style or dialect	44	3

41 understand a limited amount

	learnt from hearing	learnt from reading
can't write	8	4
can write	16	9

Engagement with Scots Wikipedia

Existing Wikipedia contributors	7
I plan to become a wikipedia editor	14 (13 who say they know lots of Scots)
I do not plan to become a wikipedia contributor	113
Other	14

Other's responses

- Ah dinnae plan, an Ah dinnae no plan. Mibbies aye, mibbies naw.
- Hae thocht on it, but dinnae ken the stylistics o it.
- I am a Scots Language researcher and plan to contribute once I feel more comfortable with some standardised spelling and grammar rules.
- I am interested in finding out more before I make a decision on this question.
- I dinna use it
- I don't have any knowledge about this but open to learning more
- I have no plans but might consider and even with limited natural Scots could contribute to accuracy of *underlying*.
- I might become a Scots Wikipedia editor or contributor in the future.
- I plan to consult for reading and writing purposes
- I thought Scots Wikipedia had been exposed and discredited as the fabrication of an American teenager?
- I would not be confident enough in my written Scots to contribute
- I'm Scots n nae time fir wiki-thingy
- Interested in languages
- Keeping native languages alive is important to me.

Sources of Scots

Which sources of written Scots have you accessed, or do you have access to?

Modern Scots Literature	111
Older Scots Texts	96
Scots Wikipedia	47
Scots Language Centre	76
Scots on Social Media	127
Scots articles in Newspapers	63
Scots Radio	38
Other	14

- Academic texts and reviews of literature
- Alternative media (eg Bella Caledonia), children's books
- books and journals from older family, mostly written using dialects of Scots from rural Ayrshire and Lanarkshire
- Dictionaries and reference books. Occasional television programmes and films on YouTube or on TV.
- Dictionary of Scots Language (DSL)
- I speak and write in coastal Doric 'fan I can
- None, I just speak Lallans Scots, didn't know English until I was 9, from a rural village in Ayrshire
- Older Scots Literature
- Scots Language Society/Scots Leid Associe
- Scots websites, Scots letters
- Songs in Scots
- speaking Scots with my friends
- Talking wae pals n relations
- Works of Robert Burns

If you have written in Scots before, or were to attempt writing in Scots, which resources are/would be useful to you?

Scots Language Dictionaries (www.dsl.ac.uk)	88
The Concise Scots Dictionary	82
Scots Language Centre	67
Work from a published Scots Writer	58
The online Scots Dictionary (Scots-Online.org)	94
Stoory Duster	12
100 Key Scots words (Education Scotland)	19
Other	26

- a book/website for phrases, idioms, and collocations in Scots.
- a Scots Grammar by David Purves
- Asking friends who speak Scots.
- Doric
- Freens wha scribe in Scots
- I jist wricht it
- I just listen to the way folk around me talk
- I wid jist write fae ma ane Fife dialect, like.
- Inspiration, also appropriate context - for me, the Doric, my dialect, is mainly an oral tradition, and I certainly wouldn't want Scots enthusiasts to go down the Gaelic route which for me provides a salutary lesson in how not to go about promoting a minority language. I'm also very much against standardisation
- Local dialect website dictionaries
- Modren Scots Grammar by Christine Robinson
- my Scots Thesaurus
- Native Scots speakers on Scots Wikipedia
- Never written in Scots, wasn't taught how
- None of the above. I've always written in Doric 'fat appropriate
- Onythin, ah'm currently trying tae write a book that includes large amounts of Scots language/dialect

- Open University
- Other (please specify)
- Peer support of other Scots writers
- Scots manuals, primers, grammars, spelling recommendations
- Scottish Corpus of Texts and Speech (www.scottishcorpus.ac.uk)
- Scottish Poetry Library
- Shetland ForWirds
- The Concise English - Scots Dictionary
- The Essential Scots Dictionary;The Scots Thesaurus
- The Hamely tongue and other Ulster-Scots sources

In general, what support is required for people who wish to write in Scots?

Open-Ended Response

1 - I understand a limited amount of Scots; learnt mainly from reading. I cannot write in Scots; or have never tried.

- Classes maybe, grammar help. Practice possibilities.

2 - I understand a limited amount of Scots; learnt mainly from hearing people speak Scots. I cannot write in Scots; or have never tried.

- Mentoring, correction, feedback. Audio pieces matched with a written transcript (like the Gaelic Litir Bheag) to help go from speaking to writing.
- Spellings, definitions, pronunciation guide
- Classes would be good. On line or in person
- D/K
- Getting access to good information
- For people like myself, confidence building exercises with freely or easily available online courses to work through from beginner level to more advanced levels. I speak Scots but I've actually no idea how fluent I am and I have no confidence at all in my ability to write in Scots. I fear getting it wrong and helping to perpetrate the "it's just bad English." "it's slang" nonsense that detractors use to (wrongly) denounce the language.

3 - I understand a limited amount of Scots; learnt mainly from reading. I can write using a limited amount of Scots.

- Encouragement and acceptance, particularly in academia and the literary world, where (so-called) 'dialects' are still shunned in favour of Standard English
- More programmes designed at people of various stages of learning
- For Scots to be accepted more widely as a language. For Scots dialect and Scots language to be heard more widely on TV and Radio, and in film. For Scots to be used widely and encouraged in schools
- A balance - for best of both worlds - between a formal standard where required/wanted (for prestige/ease of communication/learning) and acceptance of freer/looser poetic and self-expressive Scots (to allow confidence without academic rigour and pedantry)
- Confidence tae lairn it and use their knowledge of the leid
- Supportive Scots writers' community - no humiliation if you get it wrong.
- Native Scots speakers on Scots Wikipedia

4 - I understand a limited amount of Scots; learnt mainly from hearing people speak Scots. I can write using a limited amount of Scots.

- I don't know. I don't come across that many books written in scots / Scottish dialects - sometimes you get dialogue but that's about it, rarely the full narrative
- ?? Sticking to a standardized way of spelling common words was problematic for me but not sure how that might be supported
- Accurate pronunciation guides (not based on equating pronunciation of words with words in English, as these are usually written for an English or American accent and so don't necessarily give the right pronunciation to everyone); good examples of words used in context
- Forums and other venues, more books (especially ebooks), educational books such as vocabulary builders, language courses, newspapers or sections in newspapers, blogs, etc etc etc.
- A style convention for spelling, or standard
- Greater feeling of community, possibly. Communicating with and reading work by writers who work in scots.
- Standardisation of spelling and grammar
- Access to translators/editors
- I'd appreciate differentiation between types of Scots (mine is the Doric of my grandfolks, which includes the Scots of fishing communities all the way to Shetland, plus some Gaelic). I'd like to build on my native Scots first, not unwittingly learn a homogenised version,p (which will invariably default to the Sou5/Glasgow).
- Something that we could speak the words into so we can get the spelling. I know oral Scots, less the way to write it
- Vocabulary, grammar, spelling, confidence
- A standard written form
- An online space to share ideas and work without being subject to abuse from politically motivated eejits.
- More acceptance of its legitimacy

5 - I know lots of Scots; learnt mainly from reading. I cannot write in Scots; or have never tried.

- A guide or grammar with specifications on correct Scots form as many people when attempting to write it just use words but completely ignore those two very important features.
- clear orthographic guidelines
- Some basic spelling rules or traditions for a standard or for dialects (or preferably both!), as I think people would be more confident and comfortable using it if they knew they could use a more universal form that would be more widely understood.
- workshops, online guidance

6 - I know lots of Scots; learnt mainly from hearing people speak Scots. I cannot write in Scots; or have never tried.

- I tend to think some sort of standardisation would help otherwise we all write in a different way which may not be mutually intelligible which makes it pointless writing in the first place. An updated dictionary would be good.
- More Scots to read
- I need a complete beginner's course for writing in Scots
- access to material so you know how to spell the words
- Encouragement to write in a way that doesn't give prestige to a particular style or aesthetic. A language doesn't need to have one singular standard, and neither do we need a strict orthography or lexical purism. It's simply not something that all languages deal with, but we're shrouded in standard language ideology and this idea that Scots needs to be artificially distanced from English.
- An online resource like duolingo
- More Scots texts to read/listen to
- To know that its not bad English, Ulster Scots is a language of its own.
- Maybe an online service to teach people who speak Scots how to spell the words. Usually if I'm reading something in Scots I try sound out the word anf then I get it
- Feedback maybe? I grew up in Aberdeen, I feel like I can write in doric but I lack actual confidence.
- Access to online courses would be good
- Help with spelling
- Encouragement not derision.
- Encouragement mainly. I was taught not to even try to write in Scots as it was just a vulgar slang, even though it was how we spoke outside the classroom. Any time I've tried to I can feel something at the back of my brain telling me off! Spelling is a problem too. It's hard to spell a word you've never or only rarely seen written.

7 - I know lots of Scots; learnt mainly from reading. I can write in Scots, although I do not adhere to a particular style, dialect or standard.

- Building confidence
- A widely accepted spelling convention and an acceptance of grammar that varies with dialects.
- Dictionary that gives examples of words in use (context).
- A group of like-minded people to whom a text can be submitted and discussed.
- Better signposting to guidance, advice and information.
- Spellchecker add on for main office applications, easy to access dictionary e.g. app

8 - I know lots of Scots; learnt mainly from hearing people speak Scots. I can write in Scots, although I do not adhere to a particular style, dialect or standard.

- Opperchan irises tae practice in everyday life, Penalising screivin in lallans or ither sorts n pairts
- There is virtually no linguistic support available (that I am aware of) beyond lexicon. How do we build sentences in Scots? How do we refer to time? Where are the patterns? Why has the research undertaken in Unis over the last 20 years not translated into support for Scots speakers? How do I write Scots that isn't just English with some words replaced? We need people to take the language seriously and not just as a cultural enhancement to English. We also need to see the language written more, in the media, in public places, in private places, everywhere.
- More literature and broadcast journalism
- Acceptance from the public that it's an actual language
- That it becomes more accepted to speak in Scots. Chicken and egg, I know. And that it be used in schools for more than just the once-a-year slot around Burns night.
- Access to translation online
- Comprehensive guidance
- Guidance on spelling
- Mair visibility.
- A thesaurus or more regional resources. Lots of people seem to like you to stick to one dialect but my Scots is quite mixed.
- A greater understanding of the dialects used in Scots & how they have an equally important part in Scots
- Resources for translation purposes or those that support finding the words you need.
- Wider inter recognition of different dialects & styles. Recognition of how Scots is a living language that in common with other languages adopts new words & concepts. Acceptance that too much effort to standardise can put folk off, and we should encourage writing the way we speak now as well as harking back to traditional texts.
- Good Scots-English dictionaries or translation websites.
- We maun see oor leid scrivit mair tae mak it the norm
- Readers, shelf space in bookshops, a book club?
- Better access to seeing the language. When is thought of as “ normal” it will be used more
- Barstools with backs & decent lumbar support.
- Opportunities: discussion; workshops; activities
- Start early in primary school

- Mibbie a need to find my style, but I'm often writing phonetically to convey how that word sounds over "correct" spelling
- Accepting audience which does not judge.
- Teaching in schools would help give a grounding
- Less denigration when we try
- Dinnae ken but the main barrier is autocorrect
- A standardised version that everybody can use should be taught in schools
- Lots of models. For kids (I'm a teacher of English and Scots), lots of resources to help them focus on why Scots is effective in context.
- Dinnea ken
- A centralised online portal to available resources.
- More encouragement.
- Online support
- Having their language treated equally in education
- Hearing and seeing it used more often. Especially on "official" sources such as news, health service, teachers etc
- More regional dictionaries. I find it hard to write in Scots because most of the dictionaries are different from the words I know from my area.
- Confidence that they won't be judged if it's not the same as how someone else writes it.
- Supportive online and in real life spaces where your work can be shared with a community of other speakers, writers and linguists.
- Aw o the above really. But even screivin this the blo### spell checker chainges ma words!!!
- Recognition as a language by government
- Raised awareness and language to be more valued from primary school onwards

9 - I know lots of Scots; learnt mainly from reading. I can write in Scots, and I adhere to a particular style, dialect or standard.

- Easy access to word alternatives and opportunities to publish either online or in print
- An English-Scots bilingual dictionary
- An agreed set of orthographical norms - not necessarily a single standard, but a narrowing of unnecessary variants. Guidance on neologisms. More exposure to the spoken language.

10 - I know lots of Scots; learnt mainly from hearing people speak Scots. I can write in Scots, and I adhere to a particular style, dialect or standard.

- On line courses, books written in Scots, teaching it in schools and encouragement to speak and write in Scots. To have this recognised as a language worldwide

- Language standardisation
- It wud be guide tae hae a wee "cheat-sheet" o a staunert wye o spellin common words. Bein a Doric loon I fin it easier tae stick tae conventions in spellin fae wir ain dialect - I fin contributin tae Wikipedia hard as a had tae screeve in aair soothren Scots
- English-Scots dictionaries with examples of usage and grammar/
- Encouragement and far less criticism of fowk that write spell or speak a bittie different te others. Too mony experts.
- Promoting it more in mainstream media
- Peer review and feedback
- A written standard orthography
- Spelling consistency checks, a good quality thesaurus, grammar help, encouragement forums, support which is quick and easy to use
- Mair confidence an teachin an ressourcs in an anent the leid
- A written standard, with room for regional variation
- A better dictionary that is sympathetic to the regional variance in the language
- Correct spelling, correct context for using certain words, what dialect words are used in, different spellings for different dialects
- Tae see hid yaised mair i the mainstream.
- Online English to Scots translators
- Just teaching new words, how to spell some that have just heard spoke and even more scots literature or translated to it
- Shuid stairt in skule. Ridiculous foo little is duin thare.
- Somwhaur tae use it withoutither fowlk harassin them an geein them grief
- Allow it in school. Do not chastise speakers of Scots
- recognition as a language. standardisation and a proper education on par with English from age 5 ideally.
- Knowledge of any spelling conventions
- A standard orthography that keeps main dialectical varieties (Fi, far, fan in #Doric) or the Thorn (þ) in Shetlantic etc (miþer = midder for mither etc)
- A thesaurus - English to Scots. (DSL is enough from Scots to Scots)
- Literary
- Absolutely none, other than encouragement; certainly not significant financial support from the State

- To hear it on Scottish television. To see it in Scottish newspapers. To see, hear and speak it online, social media etc.
- Langweej resources, general writin resources an publeeshin/performance opportunities

11 - Other

- Publishers/platforms/theatre that encourage the language.
- I've been thinking about doing the SQA, I think for written Scots It would help to see a map of styles showing where the different elements are used. to
- Guidance on a clear orthography, help with idiom and Scots expressions, consideration of how to communicate simply (perhaps a 'Plain Scots' model c.f. 'Plain English').
- For scots speakers mainly spelling- good solid dictionaries with grammatical examples

0 - I am new to Scots

- Teach them basics and offer them free access to library resources
- Comprehensive dictionaries, with dialectal variety taken to account

Thinking specifically about Scots Wikipedia, what support is required for people who wish to write in Scots?

1- I understand a limited amount of Scots; learnt mainly from reading. I cannot write in Scots; or have never tried.

- Guidelines that people can access, spell check?

2- I understand a limited amount of Scots; learnt mainly from hearing people speak Scots. I cannot write in Scots; or have never tried.

- Spellings, definitions, pronunciation guide
- No idea
- D/K
- As 5
- I'm not sure, but certainly, after the controversy, contributors should be more carefully chosen and given official tools (dictionary etc) to work from.

3 - I understand a limited amount of Scots; learnt mainly from reading. I can write using a limited amount of Scots.

- I probably wouldn't look at Wikipedia for something like this. I have heard negative things (was it on one of the Oor Vyce roundtables perhaps?)
- For it to be written and maintained by Scots speakers
- N/a
- Links to creative writing forum and groups. Examples of Scots literature and dictionaries. A Scots thesaurus
- A/ House style - see answer to 5/ - this might benefit from a house style standard New Scots (while not claiming it IS Scots). B/ be conscious that endeavour will be combination of Scots language and underlying content. So might be good to think about those separately. ie allow people to provide rough drafts with Scots editors establishing "authentic" Scots.
- I wouldn't feel confident enough to write for Scots Wikipedia myself but discussion/clarification about what actually constituted Scots, and why, would be helpful.
- Native Scots speakers on Scots Wikipedia

4 - I understand a limited amount of Scots; learnt mainly from hearing people speak Scots. I can write using a limited amount of Scots.

- List of scots authors writing in scots maybe
- Don't know. Never used it
- Good examples of words used in the right context
- A dinna uise it ower muckle.
- I dinnae ken about Scots Wikipedia, a higher profile? Mair pages?
- see above re Scots Wiki + we need to prioritise or categorise info according to source incl. geographical area and native speaker vs learner

- I dinnae ken
- No idea, sorry.
- Standard written form
- An online space where the discussion of the linguistic aspects of contributions could be discussed separately from content.
- Sorry didn't know there was such a thing

5 - I know lots of Scots; learnt mainly from reading. I cannot write in Scots; or have never tried.

- I would not recommend it be written until a physical "official" Encyclopaedia in Scots is made.
- easy access and accessibility to Scots language records and archives from the national library etc
- online guides

6 - I know lots of Scots; learnt mainly from hearing people speak Scots. I cannot write in Scots; or have never tried.

- Tutorials online, mentors, advisors
- I need more than just word translation. Help with the grammar and sentences structure and word order as well as that seems different.
- haven't looked at it
- A liberal policy that encompasses the entire Scots-SSE spectrum. If a Swedish person can read and suggest edits the Norwegian Bokmal Wikipedia, and vice versa, it should be possible for Scots too. "That's just an English sentence written with Scots pronunciation characteristics" is not a valid complaint; "English" Scots is still Scots; otherwise I as a Norwegian speaker am simply just speaking Danish, so the argument seems to suggest.
- Translation of what is written
- A stand alone Scots Wiki covering more (all) topics
- Specific examples of correct spelling..
- Maybe an autocorrect tool to correct your spelling. I'm not sure how though because there are so many different dialects
- Peer review
- Unsure
- Clear & concise information.

7 - I know lots of Scots; learnt mainly from reading. I can write in Scots, although I do not adhere to a particular style, dialect or standard.

- Resources
- How to manage words that have no Scots equivalent.

- proofreaders
- A style guide or discussion paper with examples of good articles or ones which are not so good/problematic.
- Pronunciation, easy categories, links

8 - I know lots of Scots; learnt mainly from hearing people speak Scots. I can write in Scots, although I do not adhere to a particular style, dialect or standard.

- Good examples and a supportive community
- N/A
- The encouragement of a body of academic work that provides references and supporting material.
- Editorial support?? Proofing
- Glossary. Important to try to establish consistency for such a mainstream tool
- Online dictionary
- N/A as I haven't used used/seen Scots Wikipedia...yet.
- A standard to work from that everyone can reach for, especially considering the Scots dialects and lack of spelling standards.
- I am not sure about support in particular, but it would be good if any contributions could be checked for accuracy.
- Same is ony leid folk dinnae ken.
- nae sure
- Only just found this!
- I'm not a regular reader of Scots Wikipedia, so my comments are based on impressions rather than hard evidence. For me, the Scots language is something I learned through speaking and listening, not through reading. So, I don't use it to access information but for creative writing. I wonder how accessible or relevant Scots Wikipedia is? I'm perfectly happy to be proved wrong, but I currently see it as a very niche market. Thinking specifically about support required, I'd hazard a guess that most folk would feel anxious and unconfident contributing content to Scots Wikipedia so, for me, that issue would need to be tackled first.
- Online access. Reading list. Social media group.
- The wiki needs nuked, with a restart focused on articles about Scottish things. Keep it small and of high quality.
- Not sure
- I have no knowledge of Scots Wikipedia and general do not trust Wikipedia as a source, preferring academic sources

- Dinnae ken
- don't know
- Don't know.
- Work book
- Higher profile. I'd never heard of it.
- Knowledge of its existence
- Online dictionaries, spell check etc
- Knowledge that it exists! Probably links to the various dictionaries etc
- Sed above.
- Scottish spellchecker!
- Links to Scots podcasts for authentic pronunciation

9 - **I know lots of Scots;** learnt mainly from reading. I can write in Scots, and I adhere to a particular style, dialect or standard.

- I'm not sure
- An orthographic dictionary
- As above, but with extra guidance on register and the creation/use of neologisms. An agreed set of principals that guide the creation of a formal register.

10 - **I know lots of Scots;** learnt mainly from hearing people speak Scots. I can write in Scots, and I adhere to a particular style, dialect or standard.

- On line courses, media support, nightclasses in language l
- Language standardisation and ensuring it is written by native speakers
- A clear guide on whitna spellin system tae uise. A spellchecker wid be guide an aa - an a status on pages saw readers can ken if the Scots his been checked or nae
- Usage, idioms, rules of syntax, feedback
- I dinna use Scots wiki
- Similar to above, greater access to written scots
- A style guide and peer review
- A written standard orthography
- training in Wikipedia editing, same as 5, input consistency
- The same, but knowledge o variants an aw
- Not sure
- Dialect specific support would be appreciated.
- Don't know

- As abune
- Couldnae say
- Real lessons and less american furrries with too much free time
- Ability tae scribe in Scots
- Access to phrases and vocabulary. Writers are particularly interested in idioms that are no longer used frequently and that could be revived.
- How words are used and put into sentences.
- I don't know, but suspect I'd prefer (with one or two exceptions) reference material in English rather than Scots
- Translator, audio with different dialects and meanings.
- Mawstly langweej resources

11 - Other

- Maybe a central hub that explains all the dialects and colloquialisms that exist.
- Question 7 would be useful to have email address as a link. Really not sure but I would like to see more promotion of the site, as I didn't know about it and only discovered it when searching for help.
- See 5 above.
- I don't use Scots Wikipedia

0 - I am new to Scots

- Time and effort
- Skilled translators and/or writers checking the sites