# Scots Language Award: History and Development

## Video 3: Identify contemporary Scots words and demonstrate the relationship between Scots and other languages

### Activity 1: Identify Scots words

Show that you can identify Scots words by listing some markers of Scots language. You should consider spelling and pronunciation. The first one has been done for you.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Marker (spelling or grammatical form) | Example 1 | Example 2 |
| **F instead of w** | **Fit (whit, what)** | **Fan (when)** |
|  |  |  |
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|  |  |  |

### Activity 2: Identify Scots words

Look at the table below, which demonstrates the origins of different place names, from the [Place-Names of Scotland](https://asls.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Placenames.pdf) resource from ASLS (Association of Scottish literary studies) based at Glasgow University.

A) Using your general knowledge or a map of Scotland, find a few places (towns, villages, cities or landmarks) that use at least one of the elements from the table below in the Celtic, Norse, or Scots columns.

B) Look up the **element** of the place name on the online Scots dictionary at [www.dsl.ac.uk](http://www.dsl.ac.uk) to see if you can find out exactly where the word came from.

### COMMON PLACE-NAME ELEMENTS

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| CELTIC (Pictish, Brittonic, Gaelic) | NORSE | SCOTS | MEANING |
| Avon, Abhainn, Aber, Inve | A, Ar | Ae or Flod | River or River mouth |
| Monad, Ben, Cnoc | Fell | Hyll, Cnoll | Mountain, Hill, Knoll |
| Strath, Glen | Dalr | Dale, Vale | Valley |
| Tros (Brittonic = across) | Gate | Paeth, Geat, Yett | Path, Gate, Way |
| Cardden, Pert, Coille | Sgagr, Vollr | Scaga, Shaw, Wald | Wood |

### Activity 3: Demonstrate the relationship between Scots and other languages

Complete the table below to show the relationship between Scots words and words from similar languages. Two rows have been left blank, for you to include your own examples. If you get stuck, look at our list of ‘Useful Links’ for some resources that will help you.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Scots | German | Norwegian | Dutch |
| oot |  |  |  |
|  |  | bra |  |
|  |  |  | reden |
|  |  |  | kijken |
|  | haus |  |  |
|  | kennen |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
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