# Scots Language Award: History and Development

## Video 4: Describing and Identifying Features of Scots

### Activity 1: Describe linguistic features of Scots

List some markers and examples of Scots grammar. You can use some of the features that are explained in the video, but make sure that your examples are different.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Marker (spelling or grammatical form) | Example 1 | Example 2 |
| Negative form of a verb | dinnae | wouldnae |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |

### Activity 2: Identify examples of linguistic features of Scots

Look at the following sentences. Pick out the sentences that use Scots grammar and identify the feature that marks it as Scots.

1a) I’ve got the cold.

1b) I’ve got a cold.

2a) The baby’s babblin away there.

2b) The baby’s babbling away there.

3a) Do you like chocolate? How no?

3b) Do you like chocolate? Why not?

4a) That chocolate bar’s melted.

4b) That chocolate bar’s meltit.

### Activity 3: Describe *and* identify examples of linguistic features of Scots

A) Look up the [Scots Corpus](https://www.scottishcorpus.ac.uk/) to find and note examples of usage of the following words. The examples can be spoken or written:

* willnae
* dinna
* the toon

B) Now look up another word or phrase that exemplifies (demonstrates) a particular grammatical feature of Scots. Note down the feature and at least two examples of words that use this feature. It might be useful to write down the word or phrase as it is used in context – the way it has been used in the sentence.

If possible, do this twice so that you can show that you have a solid understanding of the linguistic features of Scots.

It might be helpful to consider where in the country it has been used, which you may be able to find out if you look up the word using the online Scots dictionary at [www.dsl.ac.uk](http://www.dsl.ac.uk).

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Marker (spelling or grammatical form) | Example 1 | Example 2 | Words or phrases used in context  | Dialect the words or phrases are from / where the words or phrases are used |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |

### Extension Task

Translate the following script, which has been written in English, into Scots. Remember to consider grammar as well as vocabulary:

*SCOTT paces, mumbling to himself.*

STEVE: Scott, are you okay?

SCOTT LANG: What? Yes.

*He turns to STEVE and NATASHA.*

SCOTT LANG: Have either of you guys ever studied quantum physics?

NATASHA: Only to make conversation.

*Steve glances at her. She shrugs.*

SCOTT LANG: Well, five years ago, just before this Thanos guy -- I went into a place called the Quantum Realm. It’s like its own microscopic universe. You can only get there if you’re incredibly small. Hope, she’s my -- she was supposed to pull me out. But then Thanos happened. And I was stuck in there.

NATASHA: I’m sorry. It must’ve been a long five years.

SCOTT LANG: Okay, but that’s the thing. It wasn’t. For me, it was only five hours. The rules in the Quantum Realm aren’t like out here. They’re completely unpredictable. Is anybody gonna eat that sandwich?

STEVE: Scott, what are you talking about?

SCOTT LANG: Time works differently in the Quantum Realm.

*Steve and Natasha share a look.*

SCOTT LANG: Problem is, right now, it’s chaos, there’s no way to navigate it. But what if we could figure out a way to enter the Quantum Realm at a certain point in time -- and come out in another. Like, before Thanos --

STEVE: Wait -- wait. Scott. Are you talking about a time machine?

SCOTT LANG: No, not a machine. More like a -- Yeah, like a time machine. I know it sounds crazy...

NATASHA: Scott, I get emails from a raccoon. Nothing’s crazy anymore.

SCOTT LANG: So, who do we talk to about this?