

Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh

le Ruairidh MacIlleathain

A special programme, in the form of a “letter”, designed for Gaelic learners who already have some knowledge of the language. A short vocabulary and comments on points of grammar and figures of speech are included with the text. If you have comments, Ruairidh can be contacted at rodny.macleon@bbc.co.uk. This is Litir 611. Note that there is also a simplified version called An Litir Bheag which is likewise available on the BBC website. Litir Bheag 307 corresponds to Litir 611.

Tha coileach air na tuinn. Bha smùid na mara ga mo dhalladh. Chaidh e às an rathad, 's e ri creagach. Trì abairtean co-cheangailte ris a' mhuir. A bheil sibh gan tuigsinn? Canaidh mi a-rithist iad. Tha coileach air na tuinn. Bha smùid na mara ga mo dhalladh. Chaidh e às an rathad, 's e ri creagach.

Tha coileach air na tuinn. Tha sin a' ciallachadh there's foam breaking on top of the waves. Far a bheil “eich bhàna” ann am Beurla, tha coilich againn ann an Gàidhlig. Bha smùid na mara ga mo dhalladh. The sea spray kept me blinded. Bidh sibh eòlach air an fhacal smùid, tha mi cinnteach. Tha e cuideachd a' ciallachadh smoke no the blow of a whale. Agus, an gnàthas-cainnt eile – chaidh e às an rathad, 's e ri creagach – he was drowned while fishing on the rocks.

Tha na trì abairtean seo air an aon duilleig ann an leabhar beag grinn a thàinig a-mach o chionn ghoirid – “Gnàthasan-Cainnt”. Tha an t-uabhas ghnàthasan-cainnt anns an leabhar. Bha iad air an cruinneachadh le Dòmhnall Greumach bho dhaoine à Leòdhas, Na Hearadh, Uibhist a Tuath agus Beàrnaraigh. Chan e seann rudan a th' annta nach can daoine an-diugh. Tha iad fhathast air bilean an t-sluaigh.

Tha ceithir rudan aig na daoine as fheàrr a bhruidhneas Gàidhlig. Tha deagh ghràmar aca – eadhon nach d' fhuair iad leasan gràmair riamh! Tha deagh bhlas aca. Tha briathrachas mòr aca. Agus tha a' Ghàidhlig aca làn ghnàthasan-cainnt. Tha e follaiseach gu bheil iad a' smaoinichadh anns a' chànan.

Am measg nan dùbhlán a tha ro luchd-ionnsachaidh, tha a bhith a' dèanamh an cuid Gàidhlig gnàthasach. Agus, dhaibhsan a tha faisg air fileantachd, bidh an leabhar ùr seo gu math feumail. Mar eisimpleir, seo cuid de na gnàthasan-cainnt a chruinnich Dòmhnall agus a chuir e fon tìotal “Nàdar an Duine”. A bheil sibh a' tuigsinn dè tha iad a' ciallachadh?

Tha e siud a' fàgail snàithlean fad' an droch thàilleir. He is leaving there the long thread of the tailor. Tha e siud a' fàgail snàithlean fad' an droch thàilleir. Seo an t-eadar-theangachadh: he's not a very neat tradesman.

'S iomadh carraig ris an do shuath am fear sin. It's many a rock on which that man rubbed. 'S iomadh carraig ris an do shuath am fear sin. Agus an t-eadar-theangachadh: that one's had a few setbacks in his life.

Tha i cho faoin ri na h-uisèagan. She's as silly as the larks. Tha i cho faoin ri na h-uisèagan. An t-eadar-theangachadh: she's completely bonkers! Agus boireannach de sheòrsa eile – thàinig i à nead ghlan (she came from a clean nest). Thàinig i à nead ghlan. An t-eadar-theangachadh: she came from a respected family.

'S e fìor dheagh leabhar a th' ann a chuireas snas air cainnt dhaoine. Ach feumaidh mi ràdh gun robh aon ghnàthas-cainnt aig Dòmhnall còir a chuir dragh orm. Agus seo e – *an rud nach ith na coin, thoir do Ruairidh e (give it to the glutton)*. Carson a thagh e Ruairidh?! Ach tha e ag ràdh, ceart gu leòr, gum bithear a' cleachdadh diofar ainmean ann an diofar àiteachan. Canaidh mise – *an rud nach ith na coin, thoir do dh'Uilleam e*. Agus, mas e Uilleam a th' oirbh fhèin mar ainm, nach gabh sibh mo leisgeul!

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Faclan na Litreach: eich bhàna: *white horses*; deagh bhlàs: *a good "blas" (accent, pronunciation, manner of speaking)*; briathrachas: *vocabulary*; Uilleam: *William*.

Abairtean na Litreach: Trì abairtean co-cheangailte ris a' mhuir: *three sayings connected to the sea*; a bheil sibh gan tuigsinn?: *do you understand them?*; air an aon duilleig: *on the same page*; leabhar beag grinn: *a nice wee book*; bha iad air an cruinneachadh le Dòmhnall Greumach: *they were collected by Donald Graham*; Leòdhas, Na Hearadh, Uibhist a Tuath agus Beàrnaraigh: *Lewis, Harris, North Uist and Berneray*; chan e seann rudan a th' annta nach can daoine an-diugh: *they're not old things that people don't say today*; fhathast air bilean an t-sluaigh: *still on people's lips*; na daoine as fheàrr a bhruidhneas Gàidhlig: *the best Gaelic-speakers*; eadhon nach d' fhuair iad leasan gràmair riamh: *even though they didn't ever have a grammar lesson*; am measg nan dùbhlàn a tha ro luchd-ionnsachaidh: *among the challenges that face [are ahead of] learners*; tha a bhith a' dèanamh an cuid Gàidhlig gnàthasach: *is to make their Gaelic idiomatic*; dhaibhsan a tha faisg air fileantachd: *for those who are close to fluency*; a chuireas snas air cainnt dhaoine: *which will add elegance to people's speech*; a chuir dragh orm: *which upset me*; gum bithear a' cleachdadh diofar ainmean ann an diofar àiteachan: *that different names will be used in different places*; canaidh mise: *I'll say*; mas e Uilleam a th' oirbh fhèin mar ainm: *if your own name is William*; nach gabh sibh mo leisgeul: *please [won't you] excuse me*.

Gnàthasan-cainnt na Litreach: Tha coileach air na tuinn: *there's foam breaking on top of the waves*. Bha smùid na mara ga mo dhalladh: *the sea spray kept me blinded*. Chaidh e às an rathad, 's e ri creagach: *he was drowned while fishing on the rocks*. Tha e siud a' fàgail snàithlean fad' an droch thàilleir: *he's not a very neat tradesman*. 'S iomadh carraig ris an do shuath am fear sin: *that one's had a few setbacks in his life*; Tha i cho faoin ri na h-uisgeagan: *she's completely bonkers*. Thàinig i à nead ghlan: *she came from a respected family*; An rud nach ith na coin, thoir do Ruairidh e: *give it to the glutton*.

Tha "Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh" air a maoinachadh le MG ALBA