

Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh

le Ruairidh MacIlleathain

Gàire agus Fiamh-ghàire

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 834. Note that there is also a simplified version called An Litir Bheag which is likewise available on the BBC website. Litir Bheag 530 corresponds to Litir 834.

Dè a’ Ghàidhlig air *smile*? Ciamar a chanas sinn *she was smiling*? An cleachdadh sibh fhèin *gàire*? Bha i a’ *dèanamh gàire*? Uill, ’s dòcha gu bheil sin a’ ciallachadh *she was laughing*. An canadh tu gu bheil am Mona Lisa aig Leonardo da Vinci a’ *dèanamh gàire*? Cha chreid mi gun canadh.

Bha mi fortanach gu leòr a dhol don Louvre ann am Paris turas. Cha robh e cus ro thrang. Uill, bha sin fìor gus an do ràinig sinn am Mona Lisa! Bha an seòmar sin loma-làn daoine agus thug e ùine mhòr fhaighinn faisg gu leòr air an dealbh airson gnùis a’ bhoireannaich fhaicinn. Agus dè an tuairisgeul a dhèanainn dhith?

’S iomadh facal a th’ againn airson *smile* ann an Gàidhlig – mar eisimpleir fiamh-ghàire, faite-gàire agus snodha-gàire. Cuideachd, tha mìog, snodha, leamh-ghàire, niamh-ghàire, plionas agus braoisg ann. ’S dòcha gur e *fiamh-ghàire* a chanadh tu a th’ air aodann a’ Mhona Lisa. Ach, leis an fhìrinn innse, nuair a bha mi a’ coimhead air an dealbh, cha robh mi buileach cinnteach an robh i a’ *dèanamh gàire* de sheòrsa sam bith!

Tha an diofar eadar *gàire* agus, can, *fiamh-ghàire*, gu litreachail ‘*the hint of a laugh*’ agus faite-gàire, gu litreachail ‘*a shy or timid laugh*’ nam cheann an-dràsta oir chunnaic mi dealbh ainmeil eile o chionn ghoirid.

Bha mi ann an Cruinneachadh Uallais ann am meadhan Lunnainn. ’S e seann taigh mòr a th’ ann a tha a làn dealbhan is àirneis is buill-airm a tha iongantach fhèin prìseil. Bhuineadh cuid dhen stuth do Mharie Antoinette, banrigh na Frainge aig àm an ar-a-mach. Chaill i a ceann air a’ ghuillotine ann am Paris agus thàinig mòran dhen stuth aice air a’ mhargaidh an dèidh sin.

’S dòcha gur e an dealbh as ainmeile anns a’ chruinneachadh fear leis an Dùitseach Frans Hals a chaidh a dhèanamh ann an sia ceud deug, fichead ’s a ceithir (1624). ’S e an tiotal a th’ air *The Laughing Cavalier*. Cleas a’ Mhona Lisa, thog mi ceist sa mhionaid mu a ghnùis. Chan e lachanaich no *gàire* mhòr a tha e a’ *dèanamh* ach fiamh-ghàire de sheòrs’ air choreigin. ’S e *The Smiling* no *The Smirking Cavalier* a bu chòir a bhith air, chanainn, seach *The Laughing Cavalier*. Tha a stais, a tha a’ dol an-àirde aig gach ceann, a’ toirt a’ chreidsinn gu bheil cumadh a bheòil ann an cumadh fiamh-ghàire barrachd na bhitheadh e às aonais stais. Ach feumaidh mi aideachadh gu bheil nàdar de dh’fhiamh-ghàire na shùilean cuideachd.

Chan eil fios le cinnt cò e am fear anns an dealbh. Ach chanainn gun robh e beartach. Tha a chuid aodaich, a th’ air a dhèanamh de shìoda, dìreach àlainn. Anns an dòigh sin, tha an dealbh nas tarraingiche na ’m Mona Lisa. Ach tha aon rud sa

chumantas eadar an dà dhealbh. Co-dhiù tha na cuspairean ri fiamh-ghàire gus nach eil, tha na sùilean aca a' coimhead gu dìreach air an neach-amhairc eadhon nuair a ghluaiseas e bho thaobh gu taobh, no suas is sìos. Tha iad le chèile nan sàr-dhealbhan le sàr-dhealbhadairean.

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Faclan na Litreach: plionas: *smirk*; braoisg: *contented smile*; tarraingeach: *attractive*; Cruinneachadh Uallais: *The Wallace Collection*; stais: *moustache*; beartach: *wealthy*.

Abairtean na Litreach: An canadh tu gu bheil am Mona Lisa a' dèanamh gàire?: *would you say that the Mona Lisa is laughing/smiling?*; cha chreid mi gun canadh: *I don't think so*; cha robh e cus ro thrang: *it wasn't too busy*; faisg gu leòr airson gnùis a' bhoireannaich fhaicinn: *close enough to see the face of the woman*; dè an tuairisgeul a dhèanainn dhith?: *what description would I give of her?*; buileach cinnteach an robh i a' dèanamh gàire de sheòrsa sam bith: *entirely sure that she was making any sort of a smile*; làn dealbhan is àirneis is buill-airm a tha iongantach fhèin prìseil: *full of paintings and furniture and weaponry that is amazingly valuable*; bhuineadh cuid dhen stuth do X: *some of the stuff belonged to X*; banrigh na Frainge aig àm an ar-a-mach: *the Queen of France at the time of the Revolution*; thog mi ceist sa mhionaid mu a ghnùis: *I immediately raised a question about his expression*; fiamh-ghàire de sheòrs' air choreigin: *a smile of some sort or other*; a' dol an-àirde aig gach ceann: *going up at each end*; gu bheil cumadh a bheòil ann an cumadh fiamh-ghàire barrachd na bhitheadh e às aonais stais: *that the shape of his mouth is in the form of a smile more than it would be without a moustache*; gu bheil nàdar de dh'fhiamh-ghàire na shùilean: *that there is something of a smile in his eyes*; tha a chuid aodaich, a th' air a dhèanamh de shìoda, dìreach àlainn: *his clothes, which are made of silk, are very beautiful*; tha na sùilean aca a' coimhead gu dìreach air an neach-amhairc: *their eyes look directly at the observer*.

Puing-chànain na Litreach: **Gàire** is sometimes used for 'smile' when it really means 'laugh'. Lachan, lachanaich (borrowed into Gaelic from Scots) is unequivocal – it's a proper laugh, with noise and can be extended in duration. Gàire is more subtle and can be combined with many other words to make a range of compound nouns. Lachan-gàire is a noisy laugh; craos-ghàire is a hearty, noisy laugh with wide-open mouth; gàire-fanaid is a scornful laugh. But gàire compounds can also mean slight smiles, without any laugh eg fiamh-ghàire, snodha-gàire, faite-gàire.

Gnàthas-cainnt na Litreach: Cleas a' Mhona Lisa: *like the Mona Lisa*.

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