

Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh

le Ruairidh MacIlleathain

Seinn na Pìoba

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.maclea@bbc.co.uk. This is Litir 897. Note that there is also a simplified version called An Litir Bheag which is likewise available on the BBC website. Litir Bheag 593 corresponds to Litir 897.

O chionn beagan seachdainean, chunnaic mi film air an robh ‘*Colours of the Alphabet*’. Bha e mu dheidhinn foghlam sgoile ann an Zambia agus mar a bhios gu leòr de chloinn a’ faighinn an cuid foghlaim tro chànan nach tuig iad aig an toiseach. Bha mòran de na sgoilearan à dachannan anns an robh Soli ga bruidhinn. Ach bha dà chànan air an cleachdadh san sgoil – Njyanja agus a’ Bheurla Shasannach.

Thuirt fear de na tidsearan aig an robh Soli mar chànan dachaigh nach robh Soli freagarrach, co-dhiù aig ìre na h-àrd-sgoile, oir cha robh faclan aca airson leithid ‘*fallopian tube*’.

Bha mi a’ meòrachadh air suidheachadh na Gàidhlig. A bheil facal againn fhìn airson ‘*fallopian tube*’? Uill, tha. A bheil e agaibh? *Pìob-uirge*. Gu litreachail, ‘egg tube’. *Pìob-uirge*. Tha e a’ dèanamh ciall, nach eil? **Gheibhear e** an dà chuid anns an Fhaclair Bheag no anns an t-Seotal – a tha le chèile rim faighinn air an eadar-lìon.

Dè mu dheidhinn ‘*oviduct*’ ma-thà? Dè a’ Ghàidhlig a th’ air sin? Uill, an aon rud – *pìob-uirge*. Canaidh sinn ‘*fallopian tube*’ airson *oviduct* ann am mamailean.

Tha pìob a’ nochdadh ann am pàirtean eile dhen bhodhaig. Mar eisimpleir – a’ *phìob-sgòrnain* – sin a’ Ghàidhlig air *trachea* no *windpipe*. *Pìob-sgòrnain*. *Pìob-dheas* – ‘*the right bronchus*’. Agus a’ *phìob-chlì* – *the left bronchus*.

Bidh dotairean is nursaichean a’ cur *pìob-fhuail* gu feum. Tha fual a’ ciallachadh ‘urine’. Tha pìob-fhuail a’ ciallachadh ‘*catheter*’.

Bha MacIlleBhàin dhen bheachd gun tàinig am facal *pìob* bhon Laidinn. Tha e a’ coimhead coltach gun robh e co-cheangailte ri fuaim a dhèanadh ionnsramaid-chiùil. Mar sin, tha e nàdarrach ‘pìob’ a ghabhail air ionnsramaid, leithid *pìob-mhòr nan Gàidheal* – *the great Highland pipes*. Bidh sibh mothachail gu bheil e singilte – agus boireanta – ann an Gàidhlig. A’ *phìob-mhòr*.

Tha a’ *phìob-bheag* ann cuideachd – *the small pipes*. Tha diofar sheòrsaichean dhiubh ann. Agus ’s fhìor thoigh leam a’ *phìob-uilinn* aig na h-Èireannaich. Sin na ‘*elbow pipes*’ no ‘*uil(l)eann pipes*’. Tha a’ mhala air a chur a dh’at le gluasad na h-uilinn agus ’s e sin as coireach ri a h-ainm.

Ciamar a chanas sinn ri cuideigin ann an Gàidhlig, ‘*Do you play the bagpipes?*’ Dh’fhaodadh tu a ràdh: Am bi thu a’ cluich na pìoba? Ach, leis an fhìrinn innse, bhiodh sin car mì-nàdarrach. Tha e nas nàdarraiche a ràdh, ‘Am bi thu a’ seinn na pìoba?’ Seadh, tha *seinn* a’ ciallachadh ‘*play an instrument*’. Anns an t-seann Ghàidhlig, b’ e sin prìomh chiall an fhacail. Ann an Gàidhlig na h-Èireann, cleachdaidh iad *seinn* anns an dòigh sin fhathast.

Cleachdaidh, is sinne ann an Alba fhathast. Bha mi ag èisteachd ri fear an latha eile a' bruidhinn mu chuideigin a bha 'a' seinn na fìdhle'. Agus seo agaibh seanfhacal mu 'seinn' agus 'pìob': **Bheireadh tu cho fada a' gleusadh do phìob 's a bheireadh fear eile a' seinn port** 'you'd take as long to tune your pipe as another man would to play a tune'. Tha e a' seasamh airson 'you're nothing but hot air – all talk and no action'. Bheireadh tu cho fada a' gleusadh do phìob 's a bheireadh fear eile a' seinn port.

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Faclan na Litreach: a' meòrachadh air: *contemplating*; pìob-uirghe: *fallopian tube, oviduct*; mamailean: *mammals*; pìob-sgòrnain: *trachea*; car mì-nadarrach: *somewhat unnatural*.

Abairtean na Litreach: mar a bhios gu leòr de chloinn a' faighinn an cuid foghlaim: *how many children receive their education*; tro chànan nach tuig iad aig an toiseach: *through a language they don't understand to begin with*; à dachannan anns an robh Soli ga bruidhinn: *from homes in which Soli is spoken*; co-dhiù aig ìre na h-àrd-sgoile: *at least at the level of the high school*; a tha le chèile rim faighinn air an eadar-lìon: *which are both to be found on the internet*; an aon rud: *the same thing*; ann am pàirtean eile dhen bhodhaig: *in other parts of the body*; bidh dotairean is nursaichean a' cur pìob-fhuail gu feum: *doctors and nurses use a catheter*; fuaim a dhèanadh ionnsramaid-chiùil: *the noise a musical instrument would make*; bidh sibh mothachail: *you will be aware*; ged a tha sinn ga dhèanamh iolra ann am Beurla: *although we make it plural in English*; tha a' mhala air a chur a dh'at le gluasad na h-uilinn: *the bag is inflated by movement of the elbow*; 's e sin as coireach ri a h-ainm: *that's responsible for its [fem] name*; am bi thu a' seinn na pìoba?: *do you play the bagpipes?*; prìomh chiall an fhacail: *the primary meaning of the word*; bha mi ag èisteachd ri fear an latha eile: *I was listening to a guy the other day*; a' seinn na fìdhle: *playing the fiddle*.

Puing-chànain na Litreach: Gheibhear e an dà chuid anns an Fhaclair Bheag no anns an t-Seotal: **it will be obtained** ie found in the *Faclair Beag* or *An Seotal*. The passive future form is obtained by adding a terminal (e)ar to the root of the verb. This would give us *faighear* in this case. However *faigh* 'get' is one of the ten irregular verbs and it behaves irregularly. Thus *gheibh* is used as the root here while *faigh* is used for the interrogative or negative form ie *am faighear e* 'will it be got?' and *chan fhaighear e* 'it will not be got'. I hope you use *Am Faclair Beag* (www.faclair.info) and *An Seotal* (www.anseotal.org.uk). If not, look them up today – they are very useful.

Seanfhacal na Litreach: Bheireadh tu cho fada a' gleusadh do phìob 's a bheireadh fear eile a' seinn port: 'you're all talk and no action'.

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