

Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh

le Ruairidh MacIlleathain

An Gàidheal – Tòimhseachain

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 1,060. Note that there is also a simplified version called An Litir Bheag which is likewise available on the BBC website. Litir Bheag 756 corresponds to Litir 1,060.

Halò a-rithist, a chàirdean. An toigh leibh tòimhseachain? Fhuair mi lorg air feadhainn an latha eile ann an seann phàipear-naidheachd a chaidh fhoillseachadh anns an naoidheamh linn deug – An Gàidheal. Gabhaidh e leughadh air an eadar-lìon.

An toiseach, dà thòimhseachan a tha a’ cleas leis an fhacal ‘fada’. Seo agaibh a’ chiad fhear: Carson a tha leabaidh an t-slaodair ro ghoirid air a shon? A bheil sibh a’ tuigsinn *slaodair*? Cuideigin a tha leisg is slaodach. Carson a tha leabaidh an t-slaodair ro ghoirid air a shon? A chionn ’s gu bheil e ro fhada innte. Bùm bùm, mar a thuir am fear eile. *Because he is too long in it.* A chionn ’s gu bheil e ro fhada innte.

Seo agaibh tòimhseachan eile anns an aon iris dhen Ghàidheal: Cò an sluagh as leisge, agus carson? Cò an sluagh as leisge, agus carson? ’S e am fuasgladh – An fheadhainn as àirde, oir bidh iad nas fhaide anns a’ leabaidh na càch!

Bha na seann Ghàidheil riamh measail air tòimhseachain, agus bhiodh e math a leithid a chumail a dol anns an latha a th’ ann. Seo agaibh fear eile: Carson a tha muc anns an t-seòmar coltach ri taigh na theine? Carson a tha muc anns an t-seòmar coltach ri taigh na theine? Mar as luaithe a chuireas tu às i, ’s ann as fheàrr. *The quicker you put it out, the better.* Mar as luaithe a chuireas tu às i, ’s ann as fheàrr.

Agus fear eile. Bha m’ athair nach maireann na fhiacail. Mar sin, tha am fear seo a’ còrdadh rium. Carson a tha fiacail a chaidh a tharraing coltach ri nì a chaidh air dìochuimhne? Carson a tha fiacail a chaidh a tharraing coltach ri nì a chaidh air dìochuimhne? ’S e am fuasgladh – dh’fhalbh e às a’ cheann!

Agus aon fhear eile. ’S dòcha nach bi seo cho furasta dhuibh, ach smaoinichibh air cumadh a’ bhuntàta. Carson a tha deòir coltach ri buntàta? Carson a tha deòir coltach ri buntàta? Tha iad a’ fàs às an t-sùil. Tha iad a’ fàs às an t-sùil. Nì sin an gnothach airson tòimhseachain an-dràsta, nach dèan?

Tha mi airson abairt no dhà innse dhuibh, a nochdas anns an aon iris dhen Ghàidheal. Tha tòrr firinn anns na h-abairtean seo, agus tha iad brìghmhor. Seo agaibh tè: Is fheàrr teine beag a gharas, na teine mòr a loisgeas. *A small fire that warms a person is better than a big fire that burns them.* Is fheàrr teine beag a gharas, na teine mòr a loisgeas.

Seo feadhainn eile: **Is fheàrr fuine thana na bhith gun aran idir.** *It’s better to have a thin baking than to be without bread.* Is fheàrr fuine thana na bhith gun aran idir.

Is duilich bùrn glan a thoirt à tobar salach. *It’s hard to draw clean water from a dirty well.* Is duilich bùrn glan a thoirt à tobar salach.

Is beag a th' eadar do ghal 's do ghàire. *Little separates tears from laughter.* Is beag a th' eadar do ghal 's do ghàire.

Agus seo agaibh smuain a tha a cheart cho fìor an-diugh 's a bha i riamh: **Is beò duine an dèidh a shàrach', ach cha bheò e an dèidh a nàrach'.**

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Faclan na Litreach: tòimhseachain: *riddles*; measail air: *keen on*; fuasgladh: *solution*; brìghmhor: *pithy*.

Abairtean na Litreach: a tha a' cleas leis an fhacal X: *that play with the word X*; carson a tha leabaidh an t-slaodair ro ghoirid air a shon?: *why is the lazy man's bed too short for him?*; cò an sluagh as leisge, agus carson?: *who are the laziest people, and why?*; an fheadhainn as àirde, oir bidh iad nas fhaide anns a' leabaidh na càch: *the tallest people, because they are longer in bed than anybody else*; bhiodh e math a leithid a chumail a dol anns an latha a th' ann: *it would be good to keep the like going in today's world*; carson a tha muc anns an t-seòmar coltach ri taigh na theine?: *why is a pig in the room like a house on fire?*; bha m' athair nach maireann na fhiacclair: *my late father was a dentist*; carson a tha fiacail a chaidh a tharraing coltach ri nì a chaidh air dìochuimhne?: *why is a tooth that has been extracted like something that has been forgotten*; dh'fhalbh e às a' cheann: *it [has] left the head*; 's dòcha nach bi seo cho furasta dhuibh: *perhaps this won't be so easy for you*; smaoinichibh air cumadh a' bhuntàta: *think of the form of a potato*; carson a tha deòir coltach ri buntàta?: *why area tears like a potato [potatoes]?*; tha iad a' fàs às an t-sùil: *they grow from the eye*; nì sin an gnothach: *that'll do*; tha mi airson abairt no dhà innse dhuibh: *I want to tell you a couple of phrases*; a nochdas anns an aon iris: *that appear in the same edition*.

Puing-chànain na Litreach: **Is fheàrr** fuine thana na bhith gun aran idir: ***it's better to have a thin baking than to be without bread.*** Starting a statement with '*Is fheàrr*' is a neat way of making a pithy statement – why not try and create a few or your own, starting with '*Is fheàrr*'? Is fheàrr beagan Gàidhlig na bhith gun Gàidhlig idir!

Seanfhacal na Litreach: **Is beò duine an dèidh a shàrach', ach cha bheò e an dèidh a nàrach':** *a man survives harassment but does not survive shaming.*

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