

Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh

le Ruairidh MacIlleathain

‘Ciamar a tha thu?’

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 1,142. Note that there is also a simplified version called An Litir Bheag which is likewise available on the BBC website. Litir Bheag 838 corresponds to Litir 1,142.

Tha cuimhne agam nuair a bha mi ann an Èirinn o chionn fhada, agus a’ togail beagan Gaeilge. Bha e follaiseach gu leòr cò às a bha cuideigin a rèir mar a chanadh iad ‘Ciamar a tha thu?’ ann an Gàidhlig na h-Èireann. Bidh Ultaich anns a’ cheann a tuath ag ràdh ‘Cad é mar atá tú?’ Ann am Mumhan anns a’ cheann a deas, canaidh daoine, ‘Conas atá tú?’ Agus bidh muinntir Chonnacht ag ràdh, ‘Cén chaoi a bhfuil tú?’ Tha fhios gu bheil dòighean eile ann a bharrachd air sin, ach sin na trì as cumanta.

Airson gnothaichean a dhèanamh furasta do luchd-ionnsachaidh, bidh sinn ag innse dhaibh gum bi a h-uile duine ann an Alba ag ràdh, ‘Ciamar a tha thu?’ Uill, leis an fhìrinn innse, chan e sin an dealbh gu lèir. Tuigidh a h-uile duine ‘Ciamar a tha thu?’ ach **cluinnear rudan eile** cuideachd.

Ann am pàirtean de thìr-mòr, leithid Dùthaich MhicAoidh agus Ros an Iar, canaidh daoine uaireannan ‘Cionnas a tha thu?’ *Cionnas a tha thu.* Tha e a’ ciallachadh an aon rud ri *Ciamar a tha thu?* Agus cluinnear seo ann an cuid de dh’àiteachan – ‘Dè mar a tha thu?’ *Dè mar a tha thu?*

Bidh daoine a’ freagairt na ceist le ‘Tha gu math’ no ‘Tha gu math, taing’ no ‘Glè mhath, tapadh leat’, no rudeigin dhen t-seòrsa sin. Cuideachd, bidh daoine a’ freagairt le ‘Chan eil adhbhar a bhith [a’] gearain’. *There’s no reason to complain.* Chan eil adhbhar a bhith gearain. Agus gu tric cluinnear ‘Chan eil guth ri ràdh’. *There’s nothing to be said* i.e. ‘tha mi ceart gu leòr’. Chan eil guth ri ràdh.

A bheil dòighean eile ann airson faighneachd de chuideigin mar a tha iad, seach a bhith a’ cur na ceist – ‘Ciamar no cionnas no dè mar a tha thu?’ Uill, tha – gu leòr dhiubh. Anns an Litir seo, tha mi a’ dol a dh’innse dhuibh dòighean airson còmhraidh a thòiseachadh le abairtean eile seach ‘Ciamar a tha thu?’ Bidh mi a’ toirt sùil a-mhàin air abairtean co-cheangailte ris an dàrna pearsa singilte – *thu seach sibh.* Airson gach ceist, innsidh mi dhuibh freagairt a bhiodh freagarrach. Agus bheir mi eadar-theangachadh dìreach dhuibh.

Dè do chor? Tha sin cumanta gu leòr. *What’s your condition?* Dè do chor? Cor math, tapadh leat. Cor math dha-rìribh.

Dè do thrum? *What’s your trim?* Dè do thrum? Chan eil adhbhar a bhith gearain.

Dè do bheò? *What’s your living?* Dè do bheò? No Dè am beò a th’ ort? Math gu leòr, tapadh leat.

Dè an saod a th' ort? *What's your condition?* Dè an saod a th' ort? Chan eil sin cho cumanta san latha an-diugh. Cuideachd, Dè an sunnd a th' ort? *What's your state of humour?* Dè an sunnd a th' ort? Math gu leòr, tapadh leat. No dè fonn a th' ort? *What's your state of mind?* Dè fonn a th' ort? Math gu leòr, tapadh leat. Chan eil adhbhar a bhith gearain.

Uaireannan, bidh feadhainn dìreach ag ràdh, 'Ciamar a tha an duine?' no 'A bheil thu ann an sunnd?' no eadhon 'Dè tha dol?' Tha am fear mu dheireadh a' ciallachadh '*what's doing?*' Dè tha dol? Gu tric, bithear a' freagairt sin le 'Chan eil mòran'. *Not much.* Chan eil mòran.

A bheil sibh fhèin ann am fonn math an-diugh? Tha mi an dòchas gu bheil!

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Faclan na Litreach: Ultaich: *Ulster folk*; Mumhan: *Munster*; muinntir Chonnacht: *the people of Connaught*; cumanta: *common*; dealbh: *picture*; gu lèir: *entire*.

Abairtean na Litreach: nuair a bha mi ann an Èirinn o chionn fhada: *when I was in Ireland a long time ago*; a' togail beagan Gaeilge: *picking up a bit of Irish Gaelic*; follaiseach gu leòr cò às a bha cuideigin a rèir mar a chanadh iad: *pretty obvious where somebody was from according to how they would say*; airson gnothaichean a dhèanamh furasta do luchd-ionnsachaidh: *to make matters easy for learners*; ann am pàirtean de thìr-mòr, leithid Dùthaich MhicAoidh agus Ros an Iar: *in parts of the mainland, such as the Mackay Country (North Sutherland) and Wester Ross*; chan eil adhbhar a bhith gearain: *there's no reason to complain (i.e. I'm fine)*; gu tric cluinnear 'Chan eil guth ri ràdh': *often 'fine, nothing to say' is heard*; a bheil dòighean eile ann airson faighneachd de chuideigin mar a tha iad: *are there other ways of asking somebody how they are*, seach a bhith a' cur na ceist: *rather than posing the question*; a' toirt sùil a-mhàin air abairtean co-cheangailte ris an dàrna pearsa singilte: *only looking at phrases connected to the second person singular*; math gu leòr, tapadh leat: *fine thanks*; ciamar a tha an duine?: *how is the man i.e. how are you? [a phrase often used between males who know each other well]*; gu tric, bithear a' freagairt sin le: *often that is replied to with*; a bheil sibh fhèin ann am fonn math an-diugh?: *are you on good form today?*

Puing-chànain na Litreach: *Look through the alternative ways of starting a conversation other than 'Ciamar a tha thu?' and practice a couple of them when you next have an opportunity. Also listen carefully to what native speakers say and copy them. You'll find lots of good ways to initiate conversation and your speech will sound more natural if it is not too 'formulaic'.*

Gnàthas-cainnt na Litreach: *cluinnear rudan eile cuideachd: other things are [will be] heard also.*

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