

# **An Litir Bheag**

## **le Ruairidh MacIlleathain**

An Litir Bheag is a shortened and simplified version of Ruairidh's Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh (also available on the BBC website), designed for those who are at an earlier stage of learning Gaelic. The topic each week is the same as Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh so that, once the Litir Bheag is mastered, a student of the language might wish to try the full Litir. This is Litir Bheag 69 (which corresponds to Litir 373). Ruairidh can be contacted at [roddy.maclean@bbc.co.uk](mailto:roddy.maclean@bbc.co.uk).

Tha mi fhathast a' coimhead air an t-seann leabhar *Gràmar Dùbailt: Beurla is Gàidhlig* le Iain Foirbeis, Maighstir-sgoile Chille Chuimein. Tha e ag innse dhuinn riaghailt inntinneach mu ghràmar ann an Gàidhlig. Tha e co-cheangailte ris an fhacal *eadar*. Canaidh sinn rudan mar *eadar am beul 's an gogan* – *between the mouth and the dish*. Eadar am beul 's an gogan. Canaidh sinn *eadar fear is bean* – *between man and wife*. Eadar fear is bean.

Ach nuair a tha *eadar* a' ciallachadh *both*, tha e ag adhbharachadh sèimheachadh – no *lenition*. Seo dà eisimpleir bhon leabhar: *eadar ghillean agus chaileagan* (*both lads and lasses*). Chan e eadar gillean is caileagan. Eadar ghillean agus chaileagan. Agus *eadar bheag is mhòr* – *both great and small*. Eadar bheag is mhòr.

Tha an riaghailt seo ann am faclair Dwelly cuideachd. Seo na th' aig Dwelly: *when signifying both, [eadar] does not admit the article between itself and the noun; but aspirates [or lenites] both its nouns*. Agus tha Dwelly a' toirt dhuinn trì eisimpleirean: *eadar bheag agus mhòr* (*both great and small*), *eadar cheann is chasan* (*both head and feet*) agus *eadar mhath is olc* (*both good and bad*).

Dè tha na faclairean ùra ag ràdh? A bheil iadsan ag aontachadh mun riaghailt seo? Uill, tha am faclair *Teach Yourself* le Boyd Robasdan is Iain MacDhòmhnaill a' toirt na h-eisimpleir *eadar bheag is mhòr* airson *both large and small*. Agus anns an fhaclair *The Essential Gaelic-English Dictionary* le Aonghas MacBhàtair, tha seo: *thàinig iad, eadar bheag is mhòr* – *they came, both small and great*; agus *tha e eadar beag agus mòr* – *he is between small and big/neither small nor big*. Mar sin, tha an riaghailt sin fhathast ann am bith.

Agus seo eisimpleir eile de shèimheachadh. Chan ann le eadar, ach le *air*. Tha Foirbeis ag innse seo dhuinn: *air sometimes aspirates its noun – mar eisimpleir air thalamh* (*on earth*). Dè air thalamh a tha a' dol? (*what on earth is happening?*) Agus canaidh daoine *air mhàl* airson *for rent*, seach *air màl*. Fhuair mi an taigh air mhàl airson seachdain – *I rented the house for a week*. Agus a' bruidhinn air “seachdain” – bidh mi air ais le Litir Bheag eile an ceann seachdain.

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**Faclan is abairtean:** tha mi fhathast a' coimhead air: *I'm still looking at*; Iain Foirbeis: *John Forbes*; Cille Chuimein: *Fort Augustus*; tha e ag innse dhuinn riaghailt inntinneach: *he tells us an interesting rule*; co-cheangailte ris an fhacal: *connected to the word*; tha e ag adhbharachadh sèimheachadh: *it causes lenition*; seo dà eisimpleir: *here are two examples*; a' toirt dhuinn trì eisimpleirean: *gives us three examples*; dè tha na faclairan ùra ag ràdh?: *what do the modern dictionaries say?*; a bheil iadsan ag aontachadh?: *do they [emphatic] agree?*; tha an riaghailt sin fhathast ann am bith: *that rule still exists*; chan ann le eadar: *not with eadar*; seach: *rather than*; a' bruidhinn air "seachdain": *speaking of "week"*; bidh mi air ais le Litir Bheag eile an ceann seachdain: *I'll be back with another Litir Bheag in a week's time*.

ends