

Lesson 15:**Conversation 4:**

Interviewer: Cuin a bha sibh air saor-làithean?

Iain: Bha sinn air saor-làithean anns an Fhaoilleach.

Interviewer: Anns an Fhaoilleach, an robh e fuar?

Iain: (A' gàireachdainn) Cha robh idir, chaidh sinn dhan Ghrèig. Càit an robh sibh fhèin? (a' gàireachdainn means laughing) (Ghrèig = Greece)

Interviewer: Chaidh sinn a dh'Eirinn. An do chòrd a' Ghrèig ribh.

Iain: Chòrd, bha e teth agus grianach.

Interviewer: Càit an robh sibh a' fuireach?

Iain: Ciamar a chanas mi “ rented house”?

Interviewer: Taigh air mhàl ... Na biodh dragh ort! Cùm ort! An robh an taigh mòr?

Iain: Bha, bha còig rumannan ann, trì rumannan shìos an staidhre agus dà rùm-cadail shuas an staidhre.

Interviewer: Cha robh e ro mhòr, an robh?

Iain: Cha robh, bha mo mhac agus mo nighean ann cuideachd agus a' bhean agam. Dè a' Ghàidhlig a th' air “ four people”?

Interviewer: “ Ceathrar ”.

Iain: Tapadh leibh, bha ceathrar ann. 'S e taigh ùr snog a bh' ann. Bha rùm-suidhe, cidsin agus rùm-cadail shìos an staidhre.

Interviewer: Rùm gu leòr ma tha!

Iain: Canaibh a-rithist e! Gabhaibh air ur socair.

Interviewer: Rùm gu leòr ...

Iain: O, seadh, bha rùm gu leòr.

Points on Conversation 4.

Now let us have a look at some of the key elements of conversation 4.

Note 1: How to talk about holidays.

Bha sinn air saor-làithean. We were on holiday.

Note also that there are 2 Gaelic expressions for holiday(s) saor-làithean and làithean-saora.

To say when you were on holiday just add “anns an” then the (Month) after the above sentence
Eg Bha sinn air saor-làithean anns an Fhaoilleach. We were on holiday in January
(literally - We were on holiday in the January)

All the months are preceded with “the” ie “ an ” so under the Gaelic rules you would use “anns an”
Before the name of the month.

Learn the month that you were on holiday or when you will be on holiday next year.

Bidh mi air saor-làithean anns an Iuchar.

I will be on holiday in July. (note the “t-” dropped)

Bha mi air saor-làithean anns an Giblean an uiridh

I was on holiday in April last year.

For a full list of month names see lesson 5

Sometimes you will see and hear “anns an ” shortened to “ san ”

Bidh mi a’ dol dhan Mhòd san Dàmhair. I will be going to the Mod in October.

Note 2: How to say you went somewhere.

Chaidh mi dhan Ghrèig.

I went to Greece

Chaidh sinn dhan Fhraing.

We went to France.

Chaidh iad dhan Eadailt

They went to Italy

“dhan” means “to the ” and is used only if the country name is preceded by “the” or in Gaelic “an”.
If the country name begins with a vowel or does not have “the” in its name then you use “a dh’ ”
immediately before the country name.

Eg Chaidh mi a dh’Alba an uiridh.

I went to Scotland last year. (*galapa*)

Chaidh mi a dh’Ameireaga am-bliadhna.

I went to America this year (*gah-merika*)

Chaidh mi a dh’Èirinn anns an Fhaoilleach

I went to Ireland in January (*yae-reen*)

Bidh sinn a’ dol a Shasainn anns an Dùbhlachd

We will be going to England in December. (*hah-seen*)

Note 3: Words and phrases describing weather

Bha e blath / teth / fuar / fliuch / grianach an-diugh.

It was warm / hot / cold / wet / sunny today.

Alternate form:-

Tha an t-uisge ann

It is raining

Tha an t-sneachd ann

It is snowing

Bha e fliuch is fuar an-diugh It was wet and cold today.

Bha e fuar anns a’ mhadainn ach tha e mòran nas fheàrr an-drasta. It was cold in the morning but it is much better just now.

Note 4: To ask and say where you were staying

Càit an robh sibh a' fuireach? Where were you staying?.

Your response should start with :-

Bha mi a' fuireach (note that if the question is in the past tense (an robh) then your response should be in the past tense (bha)

Càit an robh thu a' fuireach aig a' Mhòd an uiridh? Where were you staying at the Mòd last year?

Bha mi a' fuireach anns an Taigh-Òsta Rìoghail I was staying at the Royal Hotel.

If the question is asking you where you will be staying it will be :-

Càit am bi sibh a' fuireach aig a' Mhòd ann am Pàislig? Where will you be staying at the Mod in Paisley?

Bidh sinn a' fuireach ann an taigh-òsda ann am Braehead We will be staying in a hotel in Braehead.

Note 5: Some descriptions of a house.

Bha còig rumannan ann. There were 5 rooms in it. (it had 5 rooms)

Rumannan is plural of rum and means rooms. Another Gaelic name for room is "seomar" similar to "chambre" in French or "chamber" in English.

When a room is upstairs you say "Tha trì rumannan **shuas** an staidhre." 3 rooms are **up** the stairs.

When a room is downstairs you say "Tha dà rum **shios** an staidhre" 2 rooms are **down** the stairs

Note that numbers of things after the number 2 will use the plural form.

Note 6: Another way of describing something.

'S e taigh ùr snog a bh' ann. It was a nice new house.

Note that the sentence starts with " 'S " and ends with " ann ". This form is used a great deal in Gaelic.

'S e boireannach coir a th' innte. She is a kind woman.

'S e dotair a th' ann. He is a doctor

'S tidsear a th' annam. I am a teacher

The last word is a prepositional pronoun based on the preposition "ann an" meaning "in" .

"ann" can also mean (in him) "innte" means "in her" and "annam" means "in me"

'S e bean-taighe a th'annam I am a housewife. (it is a housewife that is in me)

Note 7: To state the general size of something

Tha e **ro** mhòr. It is **too** big

Chan eil e **ro** bheag It isn't **too** small

When you use "**ro**" you must lenite the next consonant if you can..

Note 8: How to express an assurance that something is correct.

Seadh. This can be used to respond to a question and is like the English word "sure"

O seadh, bha rùm gu leòr. Oh sure there was plenty of room.

Note 9: Na biodh dragh ort. Means "don't concern yourself" or "don't worry about it"