

**Lesson 13:****Conversation 2:**

Interviewer: Tha sibh a' fuireach ann an Inbhir Nis. A bheil sibh a' fuireach anns a' bhaile no a bheil sibh a' fuireach faisg air a' bhaile?

Iain: Tha mi a' fuireach anns a' bhaile air Sràid Choinnich. A bheil sibh a' fuireach ann am Partaig? ( Sraid Choinnich is Kenneth Street )

Interviewer: Tha , faisg air Rathad Bhyres. Is caomh leam Partaig. An caomh leibh Inbhir Nis? ( Byers Road)

Iain: 'S caomh l'.

Interviewer: A bheil sibh a' **falbh** air an trèan a dh'Inbhir Nis? ( a' falbh = going or leaving )

Iain: Chan eil, tha mi a' dol air a' bhus.

Interviewer: Cuin a tha am bus a' falbh?

Iain: Aig trì **uairean**. ( use plural of "uair" ie "uairean" after 2 o'clock)

Interviewer: Glè mhath, agus a bheil sibh ag ionnsachadh Gàidhlig?

Iain: Tha , tha **beagan** Gàidhlig agam. ( beagan means " a little"

Interviewer: Tha sibh a' tuigsinn beagan?

Iain: Tha, tha mi a' tuigsinn beagan.

Interviewer: Dè an obair a th' agaibh?

Iain: 'S e nurs a th' annam. Dè an obair a th' agaibh fhèin?

Interviewer: Chan eil mi ag obair, tha mi air m' obair a leigeil dhiom. Càit a bheil thu ag obair an-dràsta?

Iain: Anns an **Ràthaig Mhòir**. 'S e nurs a th' annam anns an Ràthaig Mhòir. ( Raigmore Hospital)

Interviewer: Glè mhath. A bheil sibh ag iarraidh cofaidh eile?

Iain: Chan eil, tapadh leibh.

Interviewer: An do chòrd an cofaidh ribh?

Iain: Chòrd, tha e math. O dè an uair a tha e?

Interviewer: Tha e **timcheall air** ceithir uairean. ( timcheall air = round about )

Iain: Tha mi a' seinn aig cairteal an-dèidh ceithir.

Interviewer: O, glè mhath. **'S fheàrr dhuibh falbh** ma tha. Rinn thu glè mhath. ( you had better go )

Iain: Tha mi duillich, chan eil mi a' tuigsinn.

Interviewer: You had better go! You did very well.

Iain: Tapadh leibh.

**Points on Conversation 2.**

Now let us have a look at some of the key elements of conversation 2.

**Note 1:** When we see something like the following written down eg “a’ falbh” which means “going”, this combination of the preposition “aig” = “at” and “falbh” = “go” is known as a verbal noun. It literally means “at going”.

You will also see eg “ag iarraidh” = “wanting”. Think of the “a’ ” or “ag ” as meaning “...ing” in English

If the verb starts with a consonant you use “ a’ ” eg “a’ falbh ”. However if the verb starts with vowel then you use “ ag ”

Some examples:

Tha mi <b>a’</b> dol.	I am going.
A bheil thu <b>ag</b> iarraidh?	Do you want. (literally Are you wanting)
Bidh mi <b>a’</b> falbh.	I will be going.
Tha mi <b>ag</b> ionnsachadh Gàidhlig.	I am learning Gaelic.
Bha mi <b>a’</b> fuireach air an Eilean Sgitheanach.	I lived on the Island of Skye ( I was living on Skye)
Chan eil mi <b>a’</b> tuigsinn.	I don’t understand ( I am not understanding)

**Note 2:** When to use “**ann an**” or “**anns an**” mean “**in**” or “**in the**” respectively.

When you use “ ann an ” you are saying “in ” or “ in a ” as there is no word in Gaelic for the English “ a ” known grammatically as the indefinite article. ( The definite article is simply the English word “ the ”.)

Therefore you need to know if you mean to say, “in” or perhaps “in a” in which case you would use “ann an” or if you mean to say, “in the” then you use, “anns an”.

When you want to use “in the” then there is another complication in that sometimes you use “ anns an ” and sometimes “anns a’ ”.

The “anns an” when followed by a noun which starts with a vowel maintains the full “anns an ” but if the noun begins with a consonant then the “anns an” changes to “anns a’ ” and the noun gets lenited.

Note also that any nouns beginning with the letter “f” also get “anns an” however the “f” gets lenited eg “fh.....”

Eg anns a’ bhaile	In the town.
anns an eaglais	In the church
anns a’ Ghàidhlig	In the Gaelic
anns an fharpais	In the competition
ann am baile	In a town
ann an Ospadal	in a hospital
ann an taigh	in a house
ann am farpais	in a competition

Some nouns always have “the” assumed before the noun eg some countries and towns have “the” in their Gaelic name.

Eg anns a’ Ghearasdan	In Fort William
anns an Fhraing	In France
anns an Eilean Sgitheanach.	In the Island of Skye

Note also that if the noun begins with the letters “b”, “f”, “m” or “p” then “ann an” changes to “ ann am”

Eg ann am baile	In a town
ann am Port Rìgh	In Portree.

**Note 3:** Using the term “faisg air” meaning “near to” or “close by”.

This term is used if you wish to identify eg that you stay near a place.

Eg Tha mi a’ fuireach faisg air Port Rìgh. I live near Portree  
Tha an taigh agam faisg air a’ bhaile. I have a house near the town.

**Note 4:** Another word for “like”

It is important to note that there are 2 methods of saying like or dislike as different Gaels may use different forms.

Some areas use “Is caomh leam” - I like instead of “Is toil leam”  
The positive response to the question “an caomh leibh” - “Do you like”, is ‘s caomh l’ pronounced *Skill* .  
The negative response would be “cha chaomh l’ ” “*cha chill*” I don’t like.

**Note 5:** How to say you enjoyed something .

“Chòrd” is used to say you enjoyed or did not enjoy something.

Eg An do chòrd e riut? Did you enjoy it.

Think of “an do” as “did you”.

Notice the word order here is not as you would expect in English.

An do chòrd e riut?  
Did enjoy it with you? ( did you enjoy it?)

The more formal or plural form would be “An do chòrd e ribh?” Did you enjoy it?  
Replies in the affirmative would be simply “Chòrd, chòrd e rium” Yes, I enjoyed it.  
Or in the negative form, Cha do chòrd, cha do chòrd e rium. No, I didn’t enjoy it.  
Note that “rium” means literally “with me” and comes at the end of the sentence.

**Note 6:** The use of “’s fheàrr dhuibh” “You had better”

We came across “ ‘S fheàrr ” before as in “ ’s fheàrr leam “ = I prefer. Eg ‘S fheàrr leam cofaidh.  
However it can also be used in the sense of “you had better” eg “ ’s fheàrr dhuibh ” = “you had better” or the less formal “ ’S fheàrr dhut” = you had better.

Eg ‘S fheàrr dhuibh falbh ma tha. You had better go then .

“Ma tha ” = “then” is a useful phrase to know as it can also be used as “OK ma tha” alright then when you want to initiate something eg “OK ma tha, siuthad ort” OK then, on you go.

**Note 7:** How to say you are going **to** somewhere.

There are a number of ways to do this. Most common is using “ a ” eg Tha mi a’ dol a Ghlaschu. Note that Glaschu gets lenited when you say you are going “**to**” somewhere. If you said Tha mi a’ dol à Glaschu. The “ à ” with a grave lets you know that this means “ from ” and if it means “**from**” then you don’t lenite the place name.

If the placename begins with a vowel then you use the form “ dh’ ” immediately in front of the vowel eg “a dh’Inbhir Nis”, but if the placename starts with a consonant then use eg “Tha mi a’ dol a Ghlaschu ”.  
Other examples : Bidh mi a’ dol a Phort Rìgh a-maireach. = I will be going to Portree tomorrow.