

**Lesson 8:****Too ask if you know someone:**

A bheil thu eòlach air Iain Blàr? *A vale oo yaw-lach air eean blahr* Do you know Iain Blair?

Note: the above question is more in the sense of “are you familiar with?” Another form of this question is “An aithne dhut/dhuibh Iain Blàr?” Do you know Iain Blair.

Reply: Tha , tha mi eòlach air. Tha e ag ionnsachadh Gàidhlig . Yes I know him. He is learning Gaelic  
Or Chan eil , chan eil mi eòlach air idir. No, I don’t know him at all.

A bheil sibh eòlach air Mairi Rankine. Do you know Mary Rankine?

Chan eil, chan eil mi eòlach oirre ach tha mi eòlach air an duine aice.  
No , I don’t know her but I know her husband.

Note the use of prepositional pronouns eg “air” meaning “on him” and “oirre” – “on her”. In Gaelic you say you have or have no knowledge “on” someone. Hence the prepositional pronoun. “oirre” made up of “air” meaning “on” and “i” meaning “her” whereas “air” can also mean “on him”.

Tha cuimhne agam oirre. *hah kun-yi akam aw-ri* I remember her

**To ask what someone is like (in appearance and manner)**

Cò ris a tha i coltach? *Koe reesh a hah ee kawl-tach* What is she like?  
Cò ris a tha e coltach? *Koe reesh a hah eh kawl-tach* What is he like?

Reply: Tha i àrd agus bòidheach. *Hah ee ard ah-gus boy-yuch* She is tall and beautiful

Tha falt donn oirre agus sùilean gorma aice. *Hah fahlt dah-oon aw-ri ah-gus soolin gawrama ech-ki*  
She has brown hair and she has blue eyes

Note when describing eyes you use the prepositional pronoun based on “aig” but use the prepositional pronoun based on “air” for all other descriptions.

‘S e boireannach bòidheach a th’ innte. *Sheh baw-ranach boy-yuch a heen-chi* she is a beautiful woman.

Note: just to confuse things the Gaelic word for woman ( boireannach) is actually masculine, therefore when you describe a woman you do not lenite the adjective as you would do for other feminine nouns.

If you are discussing a male you would use “ann” at the end of the phrase which really means “in him”. If you are discussing a female you would use “innte” at the end of the phrase which means “in her” Remember that adjectives describing a female noun lenite but adjectives describing a masculine noun do not lenite. ( Calum ban ---- Mairi bhan )

When deciding whether the adjective should lenite or not you find out if the noun is masculine or feminine , not if the description pertains to a male or female ie it is the noun that counts eg Falt is masculine so does not lenite even if the person we are talking about is female.

## Examples:

'S e duine coir a th' ann. He is a kind man

'S e caileag choir a th'innte She is a kind girl.

'S e duine gasta a th' ann. He is a fine man.

'S e caileag ghasta a th'innte She is a fine girl

Tha falt dubh air He has black hair

Tha falt dubh oirre She has black hair.

But

'S e boireannach coir a th'innte. She is a beautiful woman. ( boireannach is a masculine noun even though it means " woman" therefore the adjectives do not lenite)

**If you are not too familiar with someone you say:**

Chan eil mi ro eòlach air/oirre. I am not very familiar with him/her ( I don't know him/her too well)

**To say where you were born and brought up:**

Rugadh mi anns an Eilean Sgitheanach. I was born on/in the Island of Skye.

Thogadh mi ann an Glaschu. I was raised in Glasgow.

Rugadh is thogadh mi anns a' Ghearasdan. I was born and raised in Fort William.

Rugadh Floraidh Nic Dhòmhnail ann an Uibhist a Deas. Flora MacDonald was born in South Uist.

**To ask where someone was born:**

Càit an do rugadh sibh/thu? *Catch an daw roo-kig shiv/oo* Where were you born?

Rugadh agus thogadh mi ann am Barraigh ach tha mi a' fuireach ann an Inbhir Nis.

I was born and raised in Barra but I live in Inverness.

**To describe a place:**

'S e àite snog a th' ann am Barraigh. *Sheh ah-chi snawk a hah-oon ahm bar-eye.*

Barra is a nice place . ( literally - It is a nice place that is in Barra)

'S e àite grod a th'ann am Port Ghlaschu. Port Glasgow is a horrible place. ( Note that you use the version of the word for in ( ann am ) if the next consonant starts with b,m,f or p.

**To ask when you left a place:**

Cuin a dh'fhag sibh Barraigh? *coo-in a gack shiv bar-eye* When did you leave Barra?

Dh'fhag mi coig bliadhna air ais. *Gack mee koe-ick blee-una air ash.* I left 5 years ago.

"air ais " means ago or back

**Prepositional Pronouns table for " ann"**

annam in me

annainn in us

annad in you

annaibh in you ( pl)

ann in him

annta in them

innte in her