

## LESSON 12

### The Verb TO HAVE

The title is a bit of an anomaly since there is no verb TO HAVE in Gàidhlig. Instead the verb **To Be** is used in association with the preposition **aig**:

Tha cù aig an duine - The man has a dog Literally: There is a dog at the man

You cannot use **aig + mi** to mean I HAVE. Instead a special fused form called the **prepositional pronoun** must be used when any pronoun follows a simple preposition:

agam - at me	againn - at us
agad - at you	agaibh - at you
aige - at him	aca - at them
aice - at her	

Some examples will help illustrate these:

Tha cù agam - I have a dog

Bha leabhar aige - He had a book

Bidh taigh ùr againn - We'll have a new house

Chan eil biadh aca - They don't have any food

An robh gàrradh agaibh? - Did you have a garden?

Tha càt aice - She has a cat

Nach eil peann agad?- Do you not have a pen?

The prepositional pronouns also have emphatic forms ‡. You simply add the following suffices shown in bold:

Prepositional Pronoun	Suffix	Examples
agam	<b>sa</b>	Tha cù agam <b>sa</b> - <b>I</b> have a dog
agad	<b>sa</b>	Nach eil peann agad <b>sa</b> ?- Do <b>you</b> not have a pen?
aige	<b>san</b>	Bha leabhar aige <b>san</b> - <b>He</b> had a book
aice	<b>se</b>	Tha càt aice <b>se</b> - <b>She</b> has a cat
againn	<b>ne</b>	The taigh ùr again <b>ne</b> - <b>We</b> have a new house
agaibh	<b>se</b>	A bheil gàrradh agaibh <b>se</b> ? - Do <b>you</b> have a garden?
aca	<b>san</b>	Chan eil biadh ac <b>asan</b> - <b>They</b> don't have any food

‡ Gàidhlig unlike English does not normally indicate stress or emphasis by lengthening or changing the pitch of words. Luckily the emphatic endings are the same for all other prepositional pronouns you have still to meet.

A common expression using **aig**:

Tha fios agam air - I know (a fact) about Literally: I have knowledge on

A bheil fios agad air an tubaist? - Do you know about the accident?

Tha fios aig a h-uile duine air a sin - Everyone knows that

Tha preposition **aig** can be used with a definite noun to give a genitive meaning:

Tha a' chathair aig a' bhalach cofhartail - The boy's chair is comfortable

Seo am peann agam - Here's my pen

Tha na taighean aca mòr - Their houses are big

Tha am biadh aig na cearcan grod - The chicken food is rotten

## NEW WORDS

### Adjectives

grod - rotten, grotty

### Nouns

biadh (m) - food

ceann (m) - head

fios (m) - knowledge

pian (m) - pain

uisge (m) - water

Beurla (f) - English language

freagairt (f) - answer

obair (f) - work, job

botal (m) - bottle

copan (m) - cup

gàrradh (m) - garden

saor-là (m) - holiday

ceist (f) - question

seacaid (f) - jacket

## EXERCISE 1 Translate into English

1. Tha taigh ùr agamsa
2. Bha oidhche mhath againn aig a' chèilidh
3. Cha robh gàrradh aig an fhear
4. Nach robh còta aig a' chaillich? Bha
5. Chan eil Beurla aca, ach tha Gàidhlig mhath aca
6. Chan eil uisge ann anns a' bhotal aige ach tha anns a' bhotal agamsa
7. Bidh obair ùr agam anns an taigh-òsta
8. Bhiodh fear ùr aig a' chaora anns an achadh siud
9. Bha mi anns a' bhùth aig Anna an-dè
10. Cha bhiodh sinn a' dol a-mach anns a' bhàta ùr againn

## EXERCISE 2 Translate into Gàidhlig

1. There is fresh (ùr) milk in my cup
2. Didn't he have a jacket? Yes
3. Did you have a good holiday in Stornoway? Yes
4. Isn't there an empty room in your hotel? No
5. I have a bad pain in the head
6. He has a new job now
7. **They** don't have Gàidhlig
8. **I** have (some) bread and cheese in the cupboard
9. I know the answer to that question

- LESSON 12: ANSWERS 2**
1. Tha bainne ùr anns a' chopan agam
  2. Nach robh seacaid aige? Bha
  3. An robh saor-là math agabh ann an Steòrnabhagh?
  4. Nach eil rùm falamh ann anns an taigh-òsta agabh?  
Chan eil
  5. Tha pian dona agam anns a' cheann
  6. Tha obair ùr aige a-nis
  7. Chan eil Gàidhlig acasan
  8. Tha aran agus càise agamsa anns a' phreas
  9. Tha fios agam air an fhreagairt den cheist sin

- LESSON 12: ANSWERS 1**
1. I have a new house
  2. We had a good night at the ceilidh
  3. The man didn't have a garden
  4. Didn't the old woman have a coat? Yes
  5. They don't have (any) English, but they have good Gàidhlig
  6. There isn't any water in his bottle but there is in **my** bottle
  7. I'll have a new job in the hotel
  8. The sheep would have fresh grass in that field
  9. I was in Anna's shop yesterday
  10. We wouldn't be going out in our new boat