

LESSON 41

More Conjunctions

You have already met three distinct groups of conjunctions and their usage in Lesson 23. Group 3 is revisited in this lesson and a fourth group is introduced.

Group 3

This group also includes a number of idiomatic conjunctions:

air cho .. 's - no matter how ..

leis cho .. 's - being so .. as

ge b' e cho .. 's - no matter how ..

Remember Group 3 conjunctions are all followed by the relative clause. For the tenses of the verb TO BE these are:

Present

a tha

nach eil

Past

a bha

nach robh

Future

a bhios

nach bi

Conditional

a bhithinn/a bhiodh

nach bithinn/nach biodh

‡ You have met the relative clause for other verbs in Lesson 19, Lesson 24, Lesson 25, Lesson 26, Lesson 26, Lesson 29 and Lesson 30.

Example Uses

Air cho còir 's a bhios e, cha toir e an càr aige air iasad dhut/Ge b' e cho còir 's a bhios e, cha toir e an càr aige air iasad dhut - No matter how generous he is, he'll not lend you his car

Air cho soilleir 's a tha a' ghrian a' deàrrsadh, tha e fhathast fuar a-muigh/Ge b' e cho soilleir 's a tha a' ghrian a' deàrrsadh, tha e fhathast fuar a-muigh - No matter how brightly the sun is shining, it's still cold outside

Cha bhi mi a' dol gun dannsadh leis cho sgìth 's a tha mi - I'll not be going to the dance being as I'm so tired (lit: I'll not be going to the dance being so tired as I am)

Tha e blàth a-muigh leis cho soilleir 's a tha a' ghrian a' deàrrsadh - It's warm outside being as the sun is shining so brightly (lit: It's warm outside being so brightly as the sun is shining)

Group 4

A number of common ones can all be translated as **because** and all are more or less interchangeable:

a chionn 's - lit. since

airson 's - lit. for

leis - lit. with

air sgàth 's - lit. for the sake

do bhrìgh 's - lit. for (the) reason

ri linn 's - lit. due to, since

The terminal **'s** is optional in all cases but is becoming increasingly common in everyday speech and writing.

The ones most commonly used in everyday speech are: **a chionn 's**, **air sgàth 's** and **airson 's**.

Some others fall into this group:

air chor 's - on condition, so that

air eagal 's - for fear, lest

cho .. 's - so .. that

mar ‡ - as if

‡ as distinct from its meaning in Lesson 23 Group 2

Group 4 conjunctions are all followed by the dependent clause. For the tenses of the verb TO BE these are:

Present

gu bheil

nach eil

Past

gun robh

nach robh

Future

gum bi

nach bi

Conditional

gum bithinn/gum biodh

nach bithinn/nach biodh

‡ You have met the dependent clause for other verbs in Lesson 19, Lesson 24, Lesson 25, Lesson 26, Lesson 26, Lesson 29 and Lesson 30.

Example Uses

Fhuair e peanas airson 's gun robh e mì-mhodhail ris an tidsear - He got a punishment because he was rude to the teacher

Cha bhi mi ann aig a' chèilidh a chionn 's nach eil dad freagarrach agam ri chur orm - I'll not be at the ceilidh since I don't have anything suitable to put on

Feumaidh mi mo chòta a chur dhìom air sgàth 's gu bheil e cho teth an seo - I'll need to take off my coat because it's so hot in here

Tha mi a' dol tràth dha mo leabaidh leis gu bheil mi cho sgìth - I'm going to bed early because I am so tired

Ri linn 's gum bi e blàth brèagha a-màireach, gabhaidh sinn cuirm-chnuic air an tràigh - Since it will be nice and warm tomorrow we will have a picnic on the beach

Faodaidh tu a dhol ann air chor 's gum bi thu modhail - You may go there so long as you are polite

Chaidh iad am falach air eagal 's gun glacadh an t-uilebheist iad - They hid for fear that the monster would catch them

Sheas e mar gun robh na cheannard - He stood as if he was the chief

Bha an duine cho trom 's gun do thuit e tron deigh - The man was so heavy that he fell through the ice

Idiomatic Uses of ach

In this situation the conjunction is followed by the interrogative of the verb. The mood created is subjunctive; expressing anticipation, condition or possibility:

Dh'fhàg mi an doras fosgailte ach an cluinninn an còmhradh aca - I left the door open so that I might (could) hear their conversation

Gluaisidh mi a' chathair ach am faigh thu mòran rùm - I'll move the chair so that you may get more room

Sheas e eadar a' chlann is an cù ach am biodh iad sàbhailte - He stood between the children and the dog so that they might (would) be safe

Idiomatic Uses of agus

In this situation the conjunction has no direct verb and pronouns are emphatic. The mood is one of contrast. **Agus** can be contracted to **is** or even **'s**:

Bha mi a-muigh anns an uisge; agus mise gun chòta orm - I was out in the rain with no coat on

Tha mo bhean a' cluiche goilf; agus mise a-staigh a' deasachadh na dinnearach - My wife is playing golf, meanwhile I'm indoors preparing the dinner

Bha cù a' comhartaich; is mise a' feuchainn ri tuiteam nam chadal - There was a dog barking, meanwhile I was trying to fall sleep

NEW WORDS

Adjectives

cruaidh - hard

freagarrach - suitable

modhail - polite

deiseil (de) - finished (with)

mì-mhodhail - rude

soilleir - bright

Adverbs

air iasad - on loan

thall thairis - abroad, overseas

Conjunctions

ach - so (subjectively)

agus - with, meanwhile

air chor 's - on (the) condition, so that

air sgàth 's - because

airson 's - for, because

ge b' e cho .. 's - no matter how ..

ri linn - due to, because

a chionn 's - since, because

air cho .. 's - no matter how ..

air eagal 's - for fear, lest

cho .. 's - as .. as

do bhrìgh 's - because

leis cho .. 's - seeing as .. so

Nouns

cùirtair, cùrtair (m) - curtain

nàbaidh (m) - neighbour

soitheach (m) - dish, vessel

uilebheist (m) - monster

deigh (f) - ice

gaoth (f) - wind

lèine (f) - shirt

fuaradair (m) - refrigerator

peanas (m) - punishment, penalty

teas (m) - heat

cuirm-chnuic (f) - picnic

dreasa (f) - dress

iris (f) - magazine

mìotag (f) - glove

Verbs

càraich, càradh - repair, mend

cuir dheth, cur dheth - turn off (light, radio etc)

deàrrs, deàrrsadh - shine

cuir air, cur air - turn on (light, radio etc)

fuiling, fulang - suffer

rach am falach, dol am falach - hide, go into hiding (intransitive verb)

sèid, sèideadh - blow, swell

thoir air iasad (do), toirt air iasad (do) - lend (to)

Verbal Phrases

cuir air, cur air - put on (clothes)

cuir orm/ort etc, cur orm/ort etc e.g.

Chuir mi orm lèine ghlan - I put on a clean shirt

Chuir mi dhith an ad - I took off her hat. lit: I took off her the hat

cuir de, cur de - take off (clothes)

cuir dhìom/dhìot etc, cur dhìom/dhìot etc e.g.

Chuir mi dhìom mo chòta - I took off my coat

Chuir mo mhàthair orm na miotagan - My mother put on my gloves. lit: My mother put gloves on me

tha an t-eagal orm/ort etc (ro) - I am/you are etc afraid (of), and often without article: tha eagal orm/ort etc

tha fallas orm/ort etc - I am/you are etc sweating

EXERCISE 1 Translate into English

1. Cha tèid mi dhan chèilidh air sgàth 's nach eil dreasa agam
2. B' fheàrr leam fulang a chionn 's gu bheil an t-eagal orm ron fhiaclair
3. Do bhrìgh 's gun robh i ann anmoch a-raoir, tha i fhathast na leabaidh
4. Bidh iad a' dol thall thairis a chionn 's gur toil leotha an teas
5. Thuit e na chadal ri linn 's gun robh e sgìth dhen chòmhradh
6. Dh'fhosgail mi an cùirtear air chor 's gum faicinn mo nàbaidh a' tighinn
7. Thug mi mìlseag dhì air chor 's gum biodh i math
8. Air eagal 's gun cailleadh e airgead, chàraich a mhàthair an toll am pòcaid a bhriogais
9. Thug mi an iris do mo charaid airson 's gun robh mi deiseil dheth
10. Bidh mi ag èirigh tràth a-màireach ri linn 's gum feum mi trèan a ghlacadh aig sia uairean
11. Dh'innis e an sgeul mar gur e an fhìrinn a bha innte
12. Rinn mo mhac na soithichean air eagal 's nach fhaigheadh e airgead-pòcaid

EXERCISE 2 Translate into Gàidhlig each of the following using (a) a chionn, (b) air sgàth and (c) airson:

1. I would like my dinner now because I am very hungry
2. She keeps the curtains closed because she doesn't like the view
3. We had to lock the door because the wind was blowing strongly
4. They were sweating because they were working so hard
5. I will leave on the light because you are afraid of the dark
6. The milk was sour because she didn't put it back in the refrigerator

EXERCISE 3 Translate into English

1. Ge b' e cho trom 's a bhios an t-uisge, thèid sinn gu muir
2. Coisichidh sinn dhachaigh leis cho brèagha 's a tha am feasgar

3. Thèid mi dhan choinneimh ach am faigh mi cothrom bruidhinn
4. Tha a' Ghàidhlig aig mo bhean is a' chlann, agus seo mise gun fhacal agam dhith
5. Air cho cruaidh 's a bhios an obair, bidh i daonnan toilichte
6. Bha an t-uisge cho teth 's gun do loisg mi mo làmh

1. No matter how heavy the rain, we will go to sea
2. We will walk home being as the evening is so fine
3. I will go to the meeting that I may get a chance to talk
4. My wife and children have Gaidhlig, meanwhile here am I without a word of it
5. No matter how hard the work, she is always happy
6. The water was so hot that I burnt my hand

LESSON 41: ANSWERS 3

- 3a. Dh'fheumadh sinn an doras a ghlasadh a chionn 's gun robh a' ghaoth a' seideadh gu làidir
- 3b. Dh'fheumadh sinn an doras a ghlasadh air sgàth 's gun robh a' ghaoth a' seideadh gu làidir
- 3c. Dh'fheumadh sinn an doras a ghlasadh airson 's gun robh a' ghaoth a' seideadh gu làidir
- 4a. Bha fallas orra a chionn 's gun robh iad ag obair cho cruaidh
- 4b. Bha fallas orra air sgàth 's gun robh iad ag obair cho cruaidh
- 4c. Bha fallas orra airson 's gun robh iad ag obair cho cruaidh
- 5a. Fagaidh mi air an solas a chionn 's gum bi eagal ort ron dorchadas
- 5b. Fagaidh mi air an solas air sgàth 's gum bi eagal ort ron dorchadas
- 5c. Fagaidh mi air an solas airson 's gum bi eagal ort ron dorchadas
- 6a. Bha am baine goirt a chionn 's nach do chuir i air ais anns an fhuaradair e
- 6b. Bha am baine goirt air sgàth 's nach do chuir i air ais anns an fhuaradair e
- 6c. Bha am baine goirt airson 's nach do chuir i air ais anns an fhuaradair e

LESSON 41: ANSWERS 2

1. I'll not go to the ceilidh because I don't have a dress
2. I'd rather suffer because I'm very afraid of the dentist
3. Because she was late in last night, she is still in her bed
4. They'll be going abroad because they like heat
5. He fell asleep because he was tired of the conversation
6. I opened the curtain so that I could (would) see my neighbour coming
7. I gave her a sweet on the condition that she would be good
8. For fear that he would lose his money, his mother mended the hole in his trouser pocket
9. I gave my friend the magazine because I was finished with it
10. I will be getting up early tomorrow since I need to catch a train at six o'clock
11. He related the story as if it were the truth
12. My son did the dishes for fear that he wouldn't get his pocket money

- 1a. Bu toil leam mo dhinnear a-nis a chionn 's gu bheil an t-acras orm
- 1b. Bu toil leam mo dhinnear a-nis air sgàth 's gu bheil an t-acras orm
- 1c. Bu toil leam mo dhinnear a-nis airson 's gu bheil an t-acras orm
- 2a. Cumaidh i na cuirtearan duinte a chionn 's nach toil leatha an sealladh
- 2b. Cumaidh i na cuirtearan duinte air sgàth 's nach toil leatha an sealladh
- 2c. Cumaidh i na cuirtearan duinte airson 's nach toil leatha an sealladh