

APPENDIX 9

Declension of the Singular Article

Masculine Nouns

The dative and genitive definite nouns exhibit identical initial consonant changes and article changes from the nominative definite noun :

Nominative Article	Nominative Singular Definite Noun	Changes >>>	Dative Singular Definite Noun ‡	Genitive Singular Definite Noun
The article is an t- before nouns beginning with a vowel	an t-òran - the song	Nouns beginning with a vowel lose the t- from the definite article: an t- >> an	anns an òran - in the song	deireadh an òrain - the end of the song
The article is am before nouns beginning with b, f, m, or p	am bainne - the milk	Nouns beginning with b, f, m, p, c or g all lenite. The definite article changes from am/an to a' ‡ except for f where it remains an	anns a' bhainne - in the milk	uachdar a' bhainne - the top of the milk
	am feasgar - the evening		anns an fheasgar - in the evening	blàths an fheasgair - the warmth of the evening
	am monadh - the moor		air a' mhonadh - on the moor	fraoch a' mhonaidh - the heather of the moor
	am pàipear - the paper		anns a' phàipear - in the paper	dath a' phàipeir - the colour of the paper
The article is an before all other nouns	an càise - the cheese		anns a' chàise - in the cheese	blas a' chàise - the taste of the cheese
	an gille - the boy		air a' ghille - on the boy	màthair a' ghille - the mother of the boy
	an duine - the man		aig an duine - at the man	bean an duine - the wife of the man
	an leabhar - the book		anns an leabhar - in the house	còmhdach an leabhair - the cover of the book
	an nead - the nest		anns an nead	am broinn an nid - inside the nest
	an sgoilear - the pupil		ris an sgoilear - to the pupil	leabhar an sgoileir - the book of the pupil
	an smal - the stain		leis an smal - with the stain	dath an smail - the colour of the stain
	an speur - the sky		anns an speur - in the sky	dath an speura - the colour of the sky
	an taigh - the house	anns an taigh - in the house	mullach an taighe - the roof of the house	
	an slaod - the sledge	air an t-slaod - on the sledge	meud an t-slaoid - the size of the sledge	
	an sneachd - the snow	anns an t-sneachd - in the snow	fuachd an t-sneachda - the cold of the snow	
	an sreath - the row	anns an t-sreath	deireadh an t-sreatha - the end of the row	
an saoghal	anns an t-saoghal - in the world	deireadh an t-saoghail - the end of the world		

‡ the prepositions **bho, de, do/dha, fo, mu, ro,** and **tro** combine with the singular article so that **a'** effectively remains as **an**; giving **bhon, den/dhen, don/dhan, fon, mun, ron,** and **tron**.

Internal vowel changes associated with the genitive singular masculine noun are comprehensively covered in Lesson 34.

The dative singular masculine noun is comprehensively covered in Lesson 6.

The genitive plural masculine noun is comprehensively covered in Lesson 39.

Feminine Nouns

The dative definite nouns exhibit identical initial consonant changes and article changes as the nominative definite noun. The The genitive definite nouns exhibit no initial consonant change and the article is always **Na (Na h-** before a vowel):

Genitive Singular Definite Noun †	<<< Changes	Nominative & Dative Article	Nominative Singular Definite Noun	Dative Singular Definite Noun ‡ §
ceann na slaithe - the end of the rod	The genitive singular article is na (na h- before a vowel) for all nouns. There is no initial change before the nouns.	The article is an t- before nouns beginning with sl, sn, sr, or s+vowel	an t-slat - the rod	leis an t-slait - with the rod
rinn na snàthaid(e) - the point of the needle			an t-snàthad - the needle	air an t-snàthaid - on the needle
taobh na sràide - the side of the street			an t-sràid - the street	air an t-sràid - on the street
boladh na seòbhraich(e) - the fragrance of the primrose			an t-seòbhrach - the primrose	anns an t-seòbhraich - in the primrose
àirde na beinne - the height of the mountain		The article is a' before nouns beginning with b, f, m, p, c or g but an before nouns beginning with f . All these nouns are lenited.	a' bheinn - the mountain	air a' bheinn - on the mountain
mullach na cruache - the top of the stack			a' chruach - the stack	anns a' chruaich - in the stack
sgiath na faoileig(e) - the wing of the gull			an fhaoileag - the gull	ris an fhaoileig - to the gull
earball na gearra - the tail of the hare			a' gheàrr - the hare	air a' gheàrr - on the hare
fuachd na mòintich(e) - the cold of the moor		Nouns beginning with d, t, l, n, r, sg, sm, sp or st or a vowel show no initial change. The article is an before all these nouns.	a' mhòinteach - the moor	air a' mhòintich - on the moor
làmh na poite - the handle of the pot			a' phoit - the pot	anns a' phoit - in the pot
meadhan na dùthcha - the middle the country			an dùthaich - the country	air an dùthaich - in the country
cùl na làimhe - the back of the hand			an làmh - the hand	leis an làimh - by the hand
dreasa na nighinn(e) - the dress of the girl	an nighean - the girl		leis an nighinn - with the girl	
doras na sgoile - the door of the school	an sgoil - the school		anns an sgoil - in the school	
blas na smeura - the taste of the bramble	an smear - the bramble		anns an smear - in the bramble	
faobhar na speala - the edge of the scythe	an speal - the scythe		leis an speal - with the scythe	
fad na tranrsa - the length of the corridor	an tranrsa - the corridor		anns an tranrsa - in the corridor	
nead na h-eala - the nest of the swan	an eala - the swan		air an eala - on the swan	

‡ the prepositions **bho, de, do/dha, fo, mu, ro,** and **tro** combine with the singular article so that **a'** effectively remains as **an**; giving **bhon, den/dhen, don/dhan, fon, mun, ron,** and **tron**.

§ in the spoken language the feminine dative noun is often eroded to the nominative form.

† the terminal **e** of the feminine genitive noun is usually only associated with monosyllabic nouns. In the spoken language the genitive is invariably eroded to the dative form of the noun.

Internal vowel changes associated with the genitive singular feminine noun are comprehensively covered in Lesson 35 .

The dative singular feminine noun is comprehensively covered in Lesson 7.

The genitive plural feminine noun is comprehensively covered in Lesson 39.