

## Pronunciation Guide

### Vowel Sounds

Short Vowels			Long Vowels		
	Gàidhlig Samples	Nearest English Imitation		Gàidhlig Samples	Nearest English Imitation
<b>a</b>	fad ball, bann § lagh ‡ adhbhar ‡ sabhal ‡ balla †	bat cow burn burn saw father	<b>a</b>	bàn	far
<b>e</b>	dheth teth baile †	set rate father	<b>e</b>	dè fèath	fame shed
<b>i</b>	sir tinn, till §	feet king	<b>i</b>	sìn	me
<b>o</b>	bog orra tonn, toll, tom§	bowl modest cow	<b>o</b>	òr bò	fawn bold
<b>u</b>	guth	full	<b>u</b>	ùr	poor

† these are indistinct obscure vowels as found in English

§ short vowels are nasalised before terminal **nn**, **ll** & **m**

‡ **bh**, **gh** and **dh** alter preceding short vowel sound

## Diphthongs

Based on Short Vowels			Based on Long Vowels		
	Gàidhlig Samples	Nearest English Imitation		Gàidhlig Samples	Nearest English Imitation
<b>ai</b>	tais tairbh -aidh (terminal)	bat hit see	<b>ai</b>	fàilte ‡ dàimh	far eye
			<b>ao</b>	daor	burn but longer, like French fleur
<b>ea</b>	* lean, beatha ** dealt, eala § ceann, geall	set <b>yak</b> <b>yowl</b> (ok so its not a real word)	<b>ea</b>	ceàrr	<b>yard</b>
<b>ei</b>	deich	rate	<b>ei</b>	cèile	fame
<b>eo</b>	deoch	yonder	<b>eo</b>	eòlas	<b>yawl</b>
<b>eu</b>	† feur ceum	seer fame	<b>eu</b>		
<b>ia</b>	ciall	seer	<b>ia</b>		
<b>io</b>	ciont iomlan	yucca sit	<b>io</b>	fior	seer
<b>iu</b>	diugh	yule	<b>iu</b>	iùl	<b>you</b>
<b>oi</b>	cois cloimh	modest boy	<b>oi</b>	tòisich clòimh	fawn cloister
<b>ua</b>	fuair	fluent	<b>ua</b>		
<b>ui</b>	sluig tuinn, tuill	full suing	<b>ui</b>	dùil	poor

‡ diphthong **ai** has this value only immediately before consonant groups **dh, mh & gh**

† predominant pronunciation

\*\* this sound (**yak**) is dominant or becoming so in nearly all other cases including where it precedes the consonant **l**

\* this sound (**set**) is only found preceding a single consonant (or its lenited equivalent)

§ short vowels are nasalised before terminal **nn & ll**

## Consonants

Broad Consonants			Slender Consonants		
<p>A, O, &amp; U have similar influences on consonants.</p> <p>Further Gàidhlig Samples indicate where the non-initial consonant is different</p>			<p>Two Gàidhlig Samples are given where E &amp; I have distinct influences on preceding consonants.</p> <p>Further Gàidhlig Samples indicate where the non-initial consonant is different Gàidhlig</p>		
	Gàidhlig Samples	Nearest English Imitation		Gàidhlig Samples	Nearest English Imitation
<b>b</b>	bàn obair	bar top	<b>b</b>	beò bith	beauty bee
<b>bh</b>	bhàn § sabhal	van saw	<b>bh</b>	bheò bhith	view via
<b>c</b>	cat bac	cot loch+k sound	<b>c</b>	ceò cìr taic	kew key like German I ch+k
<b>ch</b>	chat	loch as spoken by a Scot	<b>ch</b>	cheò chìr	like German I ch
<b>chd</b>	bochd	loch+k			
<b>d</b>	dà sad	door softer d but no real equivalent	<b>d</b>	deàrrs dith	jew jig
<b>dh</b>	dhà § adhbhar	guttural g but no real equivalent silent but af- fects preceding vowel	<b>dh †</b>	dheth	yes
<b>f</b>	fàn	fan	<b>f</b>	feàrr fion	few feel
<b>fh</b>	fhàn	silent	<b>fh</b>	fhìon	silent except in fhèin, fhathast and fhuair

	Gàidhlig Samples	Nearest English Imitation		Gàidhlig Samples	Nearest English Imitation
<b>g</b>	gon sgar, rag	got scar, rack	<b>g</b>	geàrr gin sgeul, gèig	ague give scale, tick
<b>gh</b>	<b>ghon</b>	guttural <b>g</b> but no equivalent	<b>gh †</b>	<b>ghin</b>	yes
<b>l †</b>	là	close to ball	<b>l †</b>	lìon	lure
<b>ll</b>	toll	weak <b>l</b> preceded by a nasal <b>ow</b> but no real equivalent	<b>ll</b>	till	million
<b>m</b>	mòr	mop	<b>m</b>	meall mìn	mew meal
<b>mh</b>	mhòr § samhradh	vole how	<b>mh</b>	mheall mhìn	view veal
<b>n †</b>	na	close to nap	<b>n †</b>	nigh	new
<b>nn</b>	tonn	weak <b>n</b> preceded by a nasal <b>ow</b> but no real equivalent	<b>nn</b>	tinn	pinion
<b>ng</b>	trang	longitude			
<b>p</b>	pos	pan	<b>p</b>	peann	pew
<b>ph</b>	phos	fan		pheann	few
<b>r †</b>	rag	trilled <b>r</b> but no real equivalent	<b>r †</b>	ris	soft <b>r</b> but no real equivalent
<b>s</b>	son	so	<b>s</b>	sìn	she
<b>sh</b>	shon	hoe	<b>sh</b>	sheall	hew
<b>t</b>	tum	toe	<b>t</b>	tìr	chew
<b>th</b>	thum	hoe	<b>th</b>	thìr	hew

† medial and terminal **dh** and **gh** preceded by a slender vowel can be regarded as silent  
 † **l**, **n** & **r** are not lenited in writing although they are subtle changes in their pronunciation in lenited positions in spoken Gàidhlig

§ **bh**, **dh**, **gh** & **mh** very often lose their consonant qualities when preceded by an unaccented **a** or **o**