Clasaichean 2025/26 - Levels

Fàilte! Seo agaibh beagan fiosrachaidh mu dheidhinn na clasaichean againn agus na diofar ìrean.

Ceòlas classes focus on speaking and listening, and natural Gaelic as spoken in the islands, with some work on grammar, reading and writing. We hope that you will take part in our online classes and also come to Uist and join our Summer School and Gaelic immersion courses to put your learning into practice in our community.

We have pinned our Gaelic class levels to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) and Speak Gaelic levels.

Ceòlas tutors will make use of some Speak Gaelic materials as a loose guide. We hope that this will make it easier for participants to revise, look at what language might be coming up in future classes, and catch up in the event of a missed class. We do not pin all learning to a set syllabus to allow for conversation and learning natural Gaelic as you go, and allowing the tutor to tailor materials to the group.

The table below shows our levels and what Speak Gaelic units roughly correspond to that level. Level descriptors can be found at the end of this document.

Please look carefully at the levels for the classes and choose the right current level for you, even if this is a different level to what you have previously taken.

Ceòlas Class Level	**CEFR/Speak Gaelic Level**	**Units of Speak Gaelic**
Beginner	A1	A1 1-13
Post-Beginner	A2	A2 1-13
Lower Intermediate	B1 (first half)	B1 1-13
Upper Intermediate	B1 (second half)	B1 14-26
Advanced	B2	B2 1-13
Misneachd gu Fileantas	C1 (not currently on Speak Gaelic - tutor will use own materials)	N/A

Not everything in every Speak Gaelic unit will be covered in class, which will focus on speaking and listening, and natural Gaelic as spoken in the islands, using Speak Gaelic as a loose guide. We also give tutors freedom in using other resources they enjoy as well.

Speak Gaelic materials are available for free on their website for you to download here: https://speakgaelic.scot/classroom-materials/

A physical book of the Speak Gaelic materials, should you prefer to use this, can be purchased from Comhairle nan Leabhraichean / The Gaelic Books Council here: https://www.gaelicbooks.org/product-category/non-fiction/gaelic-learning

Clasaichean 2025/26 - Levels

Progression

See below for estimates on the number of study hours required to complete each level of CEFR:

Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR)

LEVEL	Can be reached through ...hours of study	Total of study hours
A1	90 to 100	90 to 100
A2	+ 90 to 100	180 to 200
B1	+ 150 to 200	350 to 400
B2	+ 150 to 200	500 to 600
C1	+ 250 to 300	750 to 1000
C2		

Source: Speak Gaelic

Bear in mind that the scales in the CEFR are not exhaustive - they cannot cover every possible context of language use and do not attempt to do so.

A year in our Ceòlas online classes for 2025-26 gives 36 hours of class time if fully attended. If you combine this with at least one or two hours of your own study per week, and then attend our summer school or other immersion opportunities in summer 2026, you will be well on your way to advancing with your Gaelic skills throughout the year.

Please remember these are estimates, and different learners will make progress at different rates.

Clasaichean 2025/26 - Levels

Beginners

Speak Gaelic Level A1 - Units 1 to 13

- May have never encountered any Gaelic whatsoever
- May have some simple vocabulary and may have started using Duolingo App
- May have a limited understanding of basic sentence structure
- Focus on vocabulary, sentences and pronunciation to get students started

What you will learn:

- Basic greetings, giving information about yourself such as your name, where you live and asking this of others
- Vocative case (A Chaluim, A Mhàiri)
- Basic sentence structure in present and past tense
- How to discuss the weather, pets and family
- How to say you have something (agam/agad)
- Numbers 1-10
- How to tell the time
- Hobbies/ how to say what you are doing
- Basic sentences using ’S e
- Likes and dislikes
- Basic pronunciation

Speak Gaelic Levels and Scales for further info:
https://speakgaelic.scot/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/SG-CEFR-Scale.pdf

Speak Gaelic topics for Beginners Level A1 (Used as a guide - not everything will be covered in classes)

1. New Friends / Caraidean Ùra
2. Places / Àitichean
3. An Aimsir (in Uist An t-Sìde!) / The Weather
4. Teaghlach / Family
5. Dachaigh / Home
6. Tìde / Time
7. Obair / Work
8. Tìde Dheth / Time Off
9. Biadh & Deoch / Food & Drink
10. Ceannachd / Shopping
11. Latha gu Latha / Day to Day
12. Coltas Dhaoine / Describing People
13. Peataichean / Pets

Clasaichean 2025/26 - Levels

Post-Beginners

Speak Gaelic Level A2 - Units 1-13

- I can understand and use familiar everyday expressions and basic phrases
- I can introduce myself and can ask and answer questions about personal details such as where I live, people I know and things they have
- I can understand familiar names, words and very simple sentences, for example on notices and posters or in catalogues
- I can interact in a simple way provided the other person talks slowly and clearly and is prepared to help

What you will learn, as well as a review/expansion of beginner topics:

- Basic future tense
- Regular verbs in past and future tense
- How to describe what is around you and your local area
- Giving information about your job/previous jobs
- Elaborate on likes and dislikes with I prefer and favourites
- Language around shopping
- Verbal nouns
- Parts of the body and health
- Expressing wants and needs
- Nouns and nominative case
- Furthering your conversation and ability to engage in short social exchanges

Speak Gaelic Levels and Scales for further info:
https://speakgaelic.scot/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/SG-CEFR-Scale.pdf

Speak Gaelic topics for Post-Beginners Level A2: (Used as a guide - not everything will be covered in classes)

1. Càirdeas / Friendship
2. Air Feadh an t-Saoghail / Around the World
3. Ràithean / Seasons
4. Daoine & Dàimhean / People & Relationships
5. Aig an Taigh / At the House (At Home)
6. Planaichean / Plans
7. An t-Àite-Obrach / The Workplace
8. Cur-Seachadan / Hobbies
9. Air Splaoid / Out and About
10. Anns a' Bhaile / In the Town
11. Conaltradh / Communication
12. Sgilean Dhaoine / People's Skills
13. Nàdar / Nature

Clasaichean 2025/26 - Levels

Lower Intermediate

Speak Gaelic Level B1 - Units 1-13

- I can understand and use familiar everyday expressions and very basic phrases
- I can introduce myself and can ask and answer questions about personal details such as where I live, people I know and things they have
- I can understand familiar names, words and simple sentences, for example on notices and posters or in catalogues
- I can interact provided the other person talks slowly and clearly and is prepared to help

What you will learn, as well as a review of previous learning:

- Describing using a wider range of adjectives
- Expressing opinion
- Expanding on the past and future tenses
- Expanding on regular verbs
- Introducing irregular verbs
- Modal structures I can/I may/I need (feumaidh mi….'s urrainn dhomh…..am faod mi….)
- Introducing dative and genitive case
- Conversation skills
- Idioms
- Wider reading to build confidence and fluency

Speak Gaelic Levels and Scales for further info:
https://speakgaelic.scot/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/SG-CEFR-Scale.pdf

Speak Gaelic Topics for Lower Intermediate Level B1: (Used as a guide - not everything will be covered in classes)

1. Ionnsachadh / Learning
2. Còmhdhail / Transport
3. Àrainneachd / Environment
4. A' Bhodhaig / The Body
5. Taigheadas / Housing
6. Faireachdainn / Feelings
7. Gnòthachas / Business
8. Spòrs / Sports
9. Còcaireachd / Cooking
10. A' Ghalltachd / The Lowlands
11. Naidheachdan / News
12. Slàinte is Sunnd / Health & Wellbeing
13. Cuirmean Mòra / Big Occasions

Clasaichean 2025/26 - Levels

Upper Intermediate

Speak Gaelic Level B1 - Units 14-26

- I can understand sentences and frequently used expressions related to areas of most immediate relevance (e.g very basic personal and family information, shopping, local geography, employment)
- I can describe aspects of my background, immediate environment and matters in areas of immediate need
- I can read simple texts. I can find specific predictable information in simple everyday material such as advertisements, prospectuses, menus and timetables
- I can communicate more confidently in simple and routine tasks requiring a simple and direct exchange of information on familiar and routine matters
- I can pick up some information from radio and TV programmes

What you will learn, as well as a review of previous learning:

- 'S ann structures
- Revision and fluency in past/future tense with irregular and regular verbs
- Conditional - bhiodh
- Dè/Càit/Cuin with verbs
- Consolidation and expanding on prepositional pronouns - orm/ort/air/oirre etc
- Paraphrasing what someone else has said
- Pronunciation
- Speaking about current events and topics of interest
- Linking phrases and words
- Consolidation of cases - particularly genitive and dative

Speak Gaelic Levels and Scales for further info:
https://speakgaelic.scot/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/SG-CEFR-Scale.pdf

Speak Gaelic Topics for Upper Intermediate Level B1: (Used as a guide - not everything will be covered in classes)

14. Nàbaidhean / Neighbours
15. Siubhal / Travel
16. Creideamh / Belief
17. A' Ghàidhealtachd / The Highlands
18. Teicneòlas / Technology
19. Fasan / Fashion
20. Na h-Eileanan / The Islands
21. Ealain / Art
22. Alba Nuadh / Nova Scotia
23. Miannan / Desires
24. Eachdraidh / History
25. So-sheasmhachd / Sustainability
26. Dualchas / Culture

Clasaichean 2025/26 - Levels

Advanced

Speak Gaelic Level B2 - Units 1-13

- I can understand the main points of clear standard speech on familiar matters regularly encountered in daily life such as in work, school, leisure etc.
- I can understand the main point of many radio or TV programmes on current affairs or topics of personal or professional interest when the delivery is relatively slow and clear.
- I can deal with most situations likely to arise whilst travelling in an area where the language is spoken
- I can describe experiences and events, dreams, hopes and ambitions and briefly give reasons and explanations for opinions and plans

What you will learn, as well as a review of previous learning:

- Pronunciation / blas
- Orally summarising texts or what someone says
- Conversation about a range of topics to increase vocabulary
- Review of and fluency in grammar structures e.g. cases, tenses
- Plenty speaking practise to increase confidence
- Focused reading and writing
- Giving clear and detailed descriptions of a wide range of subjects including people, places, events etc
- Uist heritage and traditions - e.g. poetry, songs, stories

Speak Gaelic Levels and Scales for further info:
https://speakgaelic.scot/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/SG-CEFR-Scale.pdf

Speak Gaelic Topics for Advanced Level B2: (Used as a guide - not everything will be covered in classes)

1. Foghlam / Education
2. Turasachd / Tourism
3. Àiteachas / Farming
4. Sòisealtas / Society
5. Bailtean-Mòra / Cities
6. Co-fhaireachdainn / Sympathy
7. Fastadh / Employment
8. Eacarsaich / Exercise
9. Aoigheachd / Hospitality
10. Ionmhas / Finance
11. Poilitigs / Politics
12. Leigheas / Medicine
13. Fèisean / Festivals

Clasaichean 2025/26 - Levels

Misneachd ann am Fileantas - Confidence in Fluency

Speak Gaelic/CEFR Level C1

This class is for fluent level speakers - or those who were fluent at one time and returning to Gaelic - who wish to increase their confidence and natural idiom as well as conversation in a range of topics with the support of an experienced tutor.

This class is particularly useful for former GME students who wish to revisit and develop their Gaelic skills.

- You will discuss a variety of topics in order to develop conversation skills
- Local Uist language, knowledge and culture will feature
- You will develop conversation skills and fluency in subjects which interest the student group
- Use your Gaelic with others at a similar level
- Boost other skills such as reading, writing and listening
- Gain confidence

Cànan is Seinn - Language and Song

Advanced Level

This class is for advanced level speakers and will feature a mix of Gaelic singing and language teaching, particularly relating to the songs. The class will be conducted in Gaelic as far as possible and is suitable for those with an interest in Gaelic song. Participants will sing with microphones on mute so it will be like you are singing with only the tutor, and there will be opportunity for Gaelic conversation and language discussion as well.

- Learn a variety of Gaelic songs
- Use your Gaelic and pick up new aspects of language through the songs
- Guided by an experienced song and language tutor to support
- Gain confidence