

**MASCULINE****BPMF DNTLR (plural with suffix)**

N	clachan beag	clachanan beaga
G	maor clachain bhig	maor chlachanan beaga
D	air clachan beag	air clachanan beaga
N	an clachan beag	na clachanan beaga
G	maor a' chlachain bhig	maor nan clachanan beaga
D	air a' chlachan bheag	air na clachanan beaga
V	a chlachain bhig!	a chlachan beaga!

**BPMF DNTLR (plural with slenderisation)**

N	balach beag	balaich bheaga
G	taigh balaich bhig	taigh bhalach beaga
D	air balach beag	air balaich bheaga
N	am balach beag	na balaich bheaga
G	taigh a' bhalaich bhig	taigh nam balach beaga
D	air a' bhalach bheag	air na balaich bheaga
V	a bhalaich bhig!	a bhalachaibh beaga!

**AOUIE**

N	each beag	eich bheaga
G	dath eich bhig	dath each beaga
D	air each beag	air eich bheaga
N	an t-each beag	na h-eich bheaga
G	dath an eich bhig	dath nan each beaga
D	air an each bheag	air na h-eich bheaga
V	a eich bhig!	a eichibh beaga!

**S**

N	saor beag	saoir bheaga
G	taigh saoir bhig	taigh shaor beaga
D	air saor beag	air saoir bheaga
N	an saor beag	na saoir bheaga
G	taigh an t-saoir bhig	taigh nan saor beaga
D	air an t-saor bheag	air na saoir bheaga
V	a shaoir bhig!	a shaoraibh beaga!

**Close-Compound Noun**

N	crann-feàrna beag	croinn-fheàrna bheaga
G	sgàil croinn-feàrna bhig	sgàil chrann-feàrna beaga
D	air crann-feàrna beag	air croinn-fheàrna bheaga
N	an crann-feàrna beag	croinn-fheàrna bheaga
G	sgàil a' chroinn-feàrna bhig	sgàil nan crann-feàrna beaga
D	air a' chrann-fheàrna bheag	air na croinn-fheàrna bheaga
V	a chroinn-fheàrna bhig!	a chrannaibh-feàrna beaga!

**Personal Name**

N	Pàdraig Bàn MacDhòmhnaill
G	taigh Phàdraig Bhàn MhicDhòmhnaill
D	air Pàdraig Bàn MacDhòmhnaill
V	a Phàdraig Bhàn MhicDhòmhnaill

**Placename**

N	Tarabost	An t-Òban
G	muintir Tharabost	Muintir an Òbain
D	ann an Tarabost	anns an Òban
V	a Tharabost!	a Òbain!

**FEMININE****BPMF DNTLR**

N	caileag bheag	caileagan beaga
G	taigh caileige bige	taigh chaileagan beaga
D	air caileig bhig	air caileagan beaga
N	a' chaileag bheag	na caileagan beaga
G	taigh na caileige bige	taigh nan caileagan beaga
D	air a' chaileig bhig	air na caileagan beaga
V	a chaileag bheag!	a chaileagan beaga!

**AOUIE**

N	oiteag bheag	oiteagan beaga
G	blàths oiteig bige	blàths oiteagan beaga
D	air oiteig bhig	air oiteagan beaga
N	an oiteag bheag	na h-oiteagan beaga
G	blàths na h-oiteig bige	blàths nan oiteagan beaga
D	air an oiteig bhig	air na h-oiteagan beaga
V	a oiteag bheag!	a oiteagan beaga!

**S**

N	sùil bheag	sùilean beaga
G	dath sùla bige	dath shùilean beaga
D	air sùil bhig	air sùilean beaga
N	an t-sùil bheag	na sùilean beaga
G	dath na sùla bige	dath nan sùilean beaga
D	air an t-sùil bhig	air na sùilean beaga
V	a shùil bheag!	a shùla beaga!

**Close-Compound Noun**

N	cearc-fhraoich bheag	cearcan-fraoich beaga
G	àl circe-fraoich bige	àl chearcan-fraoich beaga
D	air circ-fraoich bhig	air cearcan-fraoich beaga
N	a' chearc-fhraoich bheag	na cearcan-fraoich beaga
G	àl na circe-fraoich bige	àl nan cearcan-fraoich beaga
D	air a' chirc-fraoich bhig	air na cearcan-fraoich beaga
V	a chearc-fhraoich bheag!	a chearcan-fraoich beaga!

**Personal Name**

N	Mórag Mhór NicDhòmhnaill
G	taigh Móraig Móire NicDhòmhnaill
D	air Móraig Mhóir NicDhòmhnaill
V	a Mhórag Mhór NicDhòmhnaill

**Placename**

N	Glaschu	Sròn Mhór
G	Muintir Ghlaschu	muintir Sròine Móire
D	ann an Glaschu	ann an Sròin Mhóir
V	a Ghlaschu!	a Shròn Mhór!

## RULES FOR MASCULINE NOUNS

1. The Dental Rule. The article is **an**, but before all consonants that should be lenited (except **fh** where it remains **an**) this is reduced to **a'**. But lenition is blocked when two sounds made at the same place of articulation come together. Because **an** ends in a dental sound, **an** never lenites dental sounds. These sounds are easily remembered as they all occur in the word DENTALS.
2. In front of the labials **b, p, f, m** (sounds made at the lips) the definite article **an** assimilates to **am** and **nan** to **nam**.
3. One-syllable adjectives add **-a** in the plural, **-e** if they end in a slender consonant e.g. **glic > glice**
4. Gaelic has a rule that states that in any given definite noun phrase, the definite article may only occur once and in front of the last noun. This means that unlike English, where <the house of the small boy> is grammatical, you may only get **an** in front of **balaich** in Gaelic. As a result, you cannot distinguish <a house of the small boy> and <the house of the small boy> in Gaelic and have to rely on context to determine whether the first noun is definite or indefinite.
5. The definite article is **an t-** before vowels. Commonly this is described as the article prefixing **t-** to nouns beginning with a vowel, but this **t-** is actually part of the definite article.
6. The definite article is **na h-** before plural nouns beginning with vowels. Commonly this is described as the article prefixing **h-** to nouns beginning with a vowel, but this **h-** is actually part of the definite article.
7. Before vowels, the **a** of the vocative is not pronounced, but should be written
8. The definite article is **an t-** before **s-**. Commonly this is described as the article prefixing **t-** to nouns beginning with a vowel, but this **t-** is actually part of the definite article. The **s-** is eclipsed by this **t**, i.e. the two words are pronounced as if the **s-** wasn't there at all, so **air an t-saor** is pronounced as /ɛɾʲ ən t̪uːr/. This happens in all cases except before **sp/sg/sd** - the easiest way to remember this however is to say that it happens in all cases where the resulting word is "pronouncable" and \*tp/tg/td are not possible in Gaelic.
9. In compound nouns the second noun is in the genitive and undergoes lenition after the article when appropriate and after masculine nouns which have slenderised for plural. The first noun is regularly declined. If the second noun is in the plural, it is always lenited.
10. With masculine nouns, generally you lenite adjectives whenever the noun slenderises.
11. If you get a double name like **Pàdraig Murchadh**, both of them slenderise and lenite in the vocative e.g. **a Phàdraig Mhurchaidh!**

## RULES FOR FEMININE NOUNS

1. The Dental Rule. The article is **an**, but before all consonants that should be lenited (except **fh** where it remains **an**) this is reduced to **a'**. But lenition is blocked when two sounds made at the same place of articulation come together. Because **an** ends in a dental sound, **an** never lenites dental sounds. These sounds are easily remembered as they all occur in the word DENTALS.
2. In front of the labials **b, p, f, m** (sounds made at the lips) the definite article **nan** assimilates to **nam**.
3. One-syllable adjectives add **-a** in the plural, **-e** if they end in a slender consonant e.g. **glic > glice**
4. Gaelic has a rule that states that in any given definite noun phrase, the definite article may only occur once and in front of the last noun. This means that unlike English, where <the house of the small girl> is grammatical, you may only get **na** in front of **caileige** in Gaelic. As a result, you cannot distinguish <a house of the small girl> and <the house of the small girl> in Gaelic and have to rely on context to determine whether the first noun is definite or indefinite.
5. The definite article is **na h-** before nouns in the genitive singular and plural of nouns beginning with a vowel. Commonly this is described as the article prefixing **h-** to nouns beginning with a vowel, but this **h-** is actually part of the definite article.
6. Before vowels, the **a** of the vocative is not pronounced, but should be written
7. The definite article is **an t-** before **s-**. Commonly this is described as the article prefixing **t-** to nouns beginning with a vowel, but this **t-** is actually part of the definite article. The **s-** is eclipsed by this **t**, i.e. the two words are pronounced as if the **s-** wasn't there at all, so **air an t-sùil** is pronounced as /ɛɾʲ ən t̪uːl/. This happens in all cases except before **sp/sg/sd** - the easiest way to remember this however is to say that it happens in all cases where the resulting word is "pronouncable" and \*tp/tg/td are not possible in Gaelic.
8. Most feminine nouns slenderise their final consonant and add **-e**. However, this is by no means a reliable rule and care must be taken that the correct genitive is learnt and used as there are a lot of exceptions to this rule e.g. **màthair > màthar, cathair > cathrach**.
9. If you get a double name like **Màiri Cèit**, you only lenite the first one in the vocative e.g. **a Mhàiri Cèit!**