

Numbers and Nouns

If you read through the “Sources and Further Readings” at the end of this sheet, you will find that not all the examples in the books produce the same exact patterns among themselves on this topic. We will have to accept that there are some slight variations and not be too worried about it.

There are, however, several rules to which we must adhere:

- **aon** causes lenition, except d & t
- **dhà** causes lenition, including d & t, and is **dà** before nouns; some people use the dative form - (where feminine nouns slenderize), or some words use this form as a holdover from the past; adjectives directly modifying nouns after **dà** lenite too, regardless of the noun’s gender
- **trì** to **naoi** take the plural form, except when they don’t (e.g. bliadhna, latha, oidhche, sgillinn)
- nouns go between number-words when the number is a compound, except in mathematical calculations where number phrases are not split
- **deug** lenites like an adjective (e.g. after feminine nouns), except in the phrase for “11 o’ clock”
- the words for multiples of **10** (e.g. 20, 30, 40, etc.) take singular nouns, except the number 10 itself; the word “**dusan**” (dozen) also takes the singular form.
- The question, “Cò mhead,” (how many) uses the singular form

In books, look for topics like “age”, anything having to do with money, “Cò mhead,” “telling time,” and the like for other examples.

0 neoni - we don’t use zero in this way. We might say, “Chan eil cù agam idir,” (I don’t have a dog at all) or “Tha mi gun chù,” (I am without a dog) or “Tha cù a dhith orm,” (I am lacking a dog).

- 1 aon chù
- 2 dà chù
- 3 trì coin
- ~
- 9 naoi coin
- 10 deich coin
- ~
- 11 aon chù deug
- 12 dà chù dheug
- 13 trì coin deug
- ~
- 19 naoi coin deug

Vigesimal (Traditional)
This column works for most things.

Vigesimal (Traditional)
An alternate way of doing things. (Variation: you might also see a pattern like “trì cù fichead” in the twenties - do not panic!)

Decimal system used in schools now. (Alas, some books use plural nouns at the end and others singular after numbers with 1-9.)

- 20 fichead cù
- 21 fichead cù ’s a h-aon
- 22 fichead cù ’s a dhà
- 23 fichead cù ’s a trì
- ~
- 29 fichead cù ’s a naoi

- fichead cù
- (aon) c(h)ù air fhichead
- dà chù air fhichead
- trì coin air fhichead
- ~
- naoi coin air fhichead

- fichead cù
- fichead ’s a h-aon cù
- fichead ’s a dhà cù
- fichead ’s a trì cù
- ~
- fichead ’s a naoi cù

30	fichead cù 's a deich	deich coin air fhichead	trithead cù
31	fichead cù 's a h-aon deug	aon chù d(h)eug air fhichead	trithead 's a h-aon cù
32	fichead cù 's a dhà dheug	dà chù dheug air fhichead	trithead 's a dhà cù
33	fichead cù 's a trì deug	trì coin deug air fhichead	trithead 's a trì cù
~			
39	fichead cù 's a naoi deug	naoi coin deug air fhichead	trithead 's a naoi cù
40	dà fhichead cù	dà fhichead cù	ceathrad cù
41	dà fhichead cù 's a h-aon	cù air dà fhichead	ceathrad 's a h-aon cù
42	dà fhichead cù 's a dhà	dà chu air dà fhichead	ceathrad 's a dhà cù
43	dà fhichead cù 's a trì	trì coin air dà fhichead	ceathrad 's a trì cù
~			
49	dà fhichead cù 's a naoi	naoi coin air dà fhichead	ceathrad 's a naoi cù
		<i>Most speakers stop using the middle column at this point. I am continuing on because when it comes to learning ordinal numbers, I think this pattern works the best so you might want to become familiar with it now.</i>	<i>(Variation: you may put the noun, between the numbers, which would mean they would always be the singular form)</i>
50	leth-cheud cù	deich coin air dà fhichead	caogad cù
51	leth-cheud cù 's a h-aon	aon chù d(h)eug air dà fhichead	caogad 's a h-aon cù
52	leth-cheud cù 's a dhà	dà chù dheug air dà fhichead	caogad 's a dhà cù
53	leth-cheud cù 's a trì	trì coin deug air dà fhichead	caogad 's a trì cù
~			
59	lethcheud cù 's a naoi	naoi coin deug air dà fhichead	caogad 's a naoi cù
60	trì fichead cù	trì fichead cù	seasgad cù
61	trì fichead cù 's a h-aon	cù air trì fichead	seasgad 's a h-aon cù
62	trì fichead cù 's a dhà	dà chù air trì fichead	seasgad 's a dhà cù
63	trì fichead cù 's a trì	trì coin air trì fichead	seasgad 's a trì cù
~			
69	trì fichead cù 's a naoi	naoi coin air trì fichead	seasgad 's a naoi cù
70	trì fichead cù 's a deich	deich coin air trì fichead	seachdad cù
71	trì fichead cù 's a h-aon deug	aon chù d(h)eug air trì fichead	seachdad 's a h-aon cù
72	trì fichead cù 's a dhà dheug	dà chù dheug air trì fichead	seachdad 's a dhà cù
73	trì fichead cù 's a trì deug	trì coin deug air trì fichead	seachdad 's a trì cù
~			
79	trì fichead cù 's a naoi deug	naoi coin deug air trì fichead	seachdad 's a naoi cù
80	ceithir fichead cù	ceithir fichead cù	ochdad cù
81	ceithir fichead cù 's a h-aon	cù air ceithir fichead	ochdad 's a h-aon cù
82	ceithir fichead cù 's a dhà	dà chù air ceithir fichead	ochdad 's a dhà cù
83	ceithir fichead cù 's a trì	trì coin air ceithir fichead	ochdad 's a trì cù
~			
89	ceithir fichead cù 's a naoi	naoi coin air ceithir fichead	ochdad 's a naoi cù
90	ceithir fichead cù 's a deich	deich coin air ceithir fichead	naochad cù
91	ceithir fichead cù 's a h-aon deug	aon chù deug air ceithir fichead	naochad 's a h-aon cù
92	ceithir fichead cù 's a dhà dheug	dà chù dheug air ceithir fichead	naochad 's a dhà cù
93	ceithir fichead cù 's a trì deug	trì coin deug air ceithir fichead	naochad 's a trì cù

- ~
99 ceithir fichead cù 's a naoi deug naoi coin deug air ceithir fichead naochad 's a naoi coin
100 ceud cù
101 ceud 's a h-aon chù
102 ceud 's a dhà chù
103 ceud 's a trì coin
~
109 ceud 's a naoi coin

Sources and Further Reading

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