

## Question Words

Many question words are followed by 'a', which forces the following verb into the relative form. For the present and the past, there are no changes. But in the future, we are not so lucky.

### Cuin a - When

Cuin a **tha** sibh ag ithe? [When are you eating?]

Cuin a **bha** sibh ag ithe? [When were you eating?]

Cuin a **bhithreas** sibh ag ithe? [When will you be eating?] (NOTE use of the relative form of the future after the 'a')

### Carson a - Why

Carson a **tha** an cù aig an doras? [Why is the dog at the door?]

Carson a **bha** an cù aig an doras? [Why was the dog at the door?]

Carson a **bhithreas** an cù aig an doras? [Why will the dog be at the door?]

### Ciamar a - How

Ciamar a **tha** sibh? [How are you?]

Ciamar a **bha** sibh? [How were you?]

Ciamar a **bhithreas** sibh? [How will you be?]

Usually the 'a' disappears when the question word ends in a vowel. I have put it in these examples so you know that it is there in spirit, forcing the following the verb into the relative form, but it is generally not written or pronounced.

### Dè a - What

Dè [a] **tha** sibh a' dèanamh? [What are you doing?]

Dè [a] **bha** sibh a' dèanamh? [What were you doing?]

Dè [a] **bhithreas** sibh a' dèanamh? [What will you be doing?]

### Cò a - Who

Cò [a] **tha** aig an doras? [Who is at the door?]

Cò [a] **bha** aig an doras? [Who was at the door?]

Cò [a] **bhithreas** aig an doras? [Who will be at the door?]

Càite is always different because it wants the following verb to be in the dependent form. The dependent particle is usually left off of writing and pronunciation.

### Càite - Where

Càite [a] **bheil** an cell fòn agam? [Where is my cell phone?] (notice the use of bheil, not tha!)

Càite [an] **robh** an cell fòn agam? [Where was my cell phone?]

Càite [am] **bi** an cell fòn agam? [Where will my cell phone be?]

Cò is frequently used with other words to ask other kinds of questions.

Cò mheud - How many?

Cò mheud cù a **tha** agad? (use singular noun!)

Cò leis a tha ... - Whose is?

Cò aig a tha ... - Who has?

Cò ris a tha ... coltach - What does ... look like / What is ... like?

Cò às a tha ... - Where from? (Literally, From whom ... out of?)

Cò idir - whoever...