

To Have Something in Gaelic

There are three ways of showing possession in Gaelic: using the preposition 'aig,' using a possessive pronoun (my, your, his, her, etc.), and the Genitive Case.

Gaelic has no verb 'to have.' Instead, we say that if you have something, it is 'at' you.

Mar Eisimpleir [for example]:

Tha leabhar aig Seumas.	[James has a book. (Literally, a book is at James.)]
Tha càr aig Màiri.	[Mary has a car. (A car is at Mary.)]
Nach eil taigh aig Anna?	[Doesn't Ann have a house? (Isn't a house at Ann?)]
A bheil na mucan aig Iain?	[Does John have the pigs? (Are the pigs at John?)]
Chan eil brògan aig an gille.	[The boy doesn't have shoes. (Shoes aren't at the boy.)]

In Gaelic, you cannot follow prepositions (like 'at') with a pronoun. We must use a prepositional pronoun instead. With 'aig' we use the following:

aig	+	pronoun	=	prepositional pronoun	English translation
aig	+	mi	=	agam	at me
aig	+	thu	=	agad	at you
aig	+	e	=	aige	at him
aig	+	i	=	aice	at her
aig	+	sinn	=	againn	at us
aig	+	sibh	=	agaibh	at you
aig	+	iad	=	aca	at them

Mar Eisimpleir

Tha sgian agam.	[I have a knife. (A knife is at me.)]
A bheil caora agad?	[Do you have a sheep? (Are sheep at you?)]
Nach eil Gàidhlig aige?	[Doesn't he have Gaelic? (Isn't Gaelic at him?)]
Chan eil na clàrsaichean aice.	[She doesn't have the harps. (The harps are not at her.)]
Tha cù snog againn.	[We have a nice dog. (A nice dog is at us.)]
Chan eil iasg brèagha agaibh.	[You don't have a beautiful fish. (A beautiful fish is not at you.)]
A bheil bòrd aca?	[Do they have a table? (Is a table at them?)]
Nach eil ubhal agam.	[Don't I have an apple? (Isn't an apple at me?)]

Now you have a try! Choose something from each of the three required columns to make a sentence. Add an adjective when you have the hang of it! The object column has two forms: the indefinite noun ('a' something) and the definite noun ('the' something). We'll talk more about articles and nouns in another class.

Bi (required) (to be)	Object: (required) (the thing being possessed)	Adjective (optional)	Subject (required) (Form of Aig)
Masculine Nouns			
Tha	cù, an cù	[dog]	math [good] agam
Chan eil	cat, an cat	[cat]	dona [bad] agad
A bheil ?	càr, an car	[car]	mòr [big] aige
Nach eil ?	duine, an duine.	[man, husband]	snog [cute, nice] aice
	taigh, an taigh	[house]	brèagha [beautiful] againn
	balach, am balach	[boy]	toilichte [happy] agaibh
	caisteal, an caisteal	[castle]	beag [small] aca
	ubhal, an t-ubhal	[apple]	blasta [tasty] aig Màiri
	leabhar, an leabhar	[book]	brònach [sad] aig a' chù
	iasg, an t-iasg	[fish]	reamhar [fat] aig Calum
Feminine Nouns			
Tha	caileag, a' chaileag	[girl]	mhath agam
Chan eil	muc, a' mhuc	[pig]	dhona agad
A bheil ?	brògan, na brògan	[shoes]	mhòr aige
Nach eil ?	caora, a' chaora	[sheep]	shnog aice
	clàrsach, a' chlàrsach	[harp]	bhrèagha againn
	deoch, an deoch	[drink]	thoilichte agaibh
	craobh, a' chraobh	[tree]	bheag aca
	ad, an ad	[hat]	bhlasta aig Màiri
	cèic, a' chèic	[cake]	bhrònach aig an cù
	sgian, an sgian	[knife]	reamhar aig Calum