

Regular Verbs in the Past Tense

To put a regular verb in the past tense, lenite the imperative form. The “positive statement” form is the independent form. The “negative statement”, “positive question”, and “negative question” forms are the dependent forms and take “do” in the middle. You may be wondering why “do” appears. For unlenitable verbs, “do” is the only marker for the past tense we have.

We must take into consideration the initial letter of the verb when putting a verb into the past tense. The first four have been done for you to provide examples of the four categories of initial letters you will encounter (lenitable consonants, f+vowels, vowels and unlenitable consonants).

Remember: l,n,r, sg, sm, sp, & st don’t lenite.

Following the patterns established in the examples, fill out the rest of the table. I always recommend people learn both the imperative and the verbal noun when they learn a new verb, so I’m giving both of them to you here. Remember, I’m giving you the verbal noun for the purpose of learning them, but you don’t use them to fill out this table.

Imperative Verbal Noun	Positive Statement	Negative Statement	Positive Question	Negative Question
Bris! (break!) a’ bristeadh	Bh̄ris.	Cha <u>do</u> bh̄ris.	An <u>do</u> bh̄ris?	Nach <u>do</u> bh̄ris?
Fàs! (grow!) a’ fàs	Dh’fh̄às.	Cha <u>do</u> dh’fh̄às.	An <u>do</u> dh’fh̄às?	Nach <u>do</u> dh’fh̄às?
Èigh! (shout!) ag èigheach	Dh’èigh.	Cha <u>do</u> dh’èigh.	An <u>do</u> dh’èigh?	Nach <u>do</u> dh’èigh?
Sguir! (stop!) a’ sguir	Sguir.	Cha <u>do</u> sguir.	An <u>do</u> sguir?	Nach <u>do</u> sguir?
Bruidhinn! (speak!) a’ bruidhinn +ri				
Caidil! (sleep!) a’ cadal				
Cluich! (play!) a’ cluich(e)				
Coimhid! (look!) a’ coimhead + air				
Coisich! (walk!) a’ coiseachd				
Cuir! (put!) a’ cur				

Imperative Verbal Noun	Positive Statement	Negative Statement	Positive Question	Negative Question
Danns! (dance!) a' dannsadh				
Dùin! (close!) a' dùnadh				
Èist! (listen!) ag èisteachd + ri				
Falbh! (leave!) a' falbh				
Fosgail! (open!) a' fosgladh				
Freagair! (answer!) a' freagairt (Thoir an aire!)				
Gabh! (take!) a' gabhail				
Glan! (clean!) a' glanadh				
Ith! (eat!) ag ithe				
Ionnsaich! (learn!) ag ionnsachadh				
Leugh! (read!) a' leughadh				
Leum! (jump!) a' leum(adh)				
Obair! (work!) ag obair				
Òl! (drink!) ag òl				
Pòg! (kiss!) a' pògadh				
Ruith! (run!) a' ruith				
Seall! (look!) a' sealltainn				

Imperative Verbal Noun	Positive Statement	Negative Statement	Positive Question	Negative Question
Seas! (stand!) a' seasamh				
Seinn! (sing!) a' seinn				
Sgrìobh! (write!) a' sgrìobhadh				
Stad! (stop!) a' stad(adh)				
Streap! (climb!) a' streap				
Teagaisg! (teach!) a' teagasg				

For more information, you can check out these sources if you have access to them.

Scottish Gaelic in Twelve Weeks, Aonad 48, pp. 72-73; Aonad 51, p. 75.

Ceumannan 2, Modal 3, Aonad 1, pp. 128-161.

Taic - Lesson 24

Scottish Gaelic by Muriel Fisher, Sections 8 & 9, pp. 20-24.

Freagairtean (Answers)

Imperative	Positive	Negative	Positive Question	Negative Question
Bruidhinn!	Bhruidhinn.	Cha do bhruidhinn.	An do bhruidhinn?	Nach do bhruidhinn?
Caidil!	Chaidil.	Cha do chaidil.	An do chaidil?	Nach do chaidil?
Cluich!	Chluich.	Cha do chluich.	An do chluich?	Nach do chluich?
Coimhid!	Choimhid.	Cha do choimhid.	An do choimhid?	Nach do choimhid?
Coisich!	Choisich.	Cha do choisich.	An do choisich?	Nach do choisich?
Cuir!	Chuir.	Cha do chuir.	An do chuir?	Nach do chuir?
Danns!	Dhanns.	Cha do dhanns.	An do dhanns?	Nach do dhanns?
Dùin!	Dhùin.	Cha do dhùin.	An do dhùin?	Nach do dhùin?
Èist!	Dh'èist.	Cha do dh'èist.	An do dh'èist?	Nach do dh'èist?
Falbh!	Dh'fhalbh.	Cha do dh'fhalbh.	An do dh'fhalbh?	Nach do dh'fhalbh?
Fosgail!	Dh'fhosgail.	Cha do dh'fhosgail.	An do dh'fhosgail?	Nach do dh'fhosgail?
Freagar!	Fhreagar.	Cha do fhreagar.	An do fhreagar.	Nach do fhreagar.
Gabh!	Ghabh.	Cha do ghabh.	An do ghabh?	Nach do ghabh?
Glan!	Ghlan.	Cha do ghlan.	An do ghlan?	Nach do ghlan?
Ith!	Dh'ith.	Cha do dh'ith.	An do dh'ith?	Nach do dh'ith?
Ionnsaich!	Dh'ionnsaich.	Cha do dh'ionnsaich.	An do dh'ionnsaich?	Nach do dh'ionnsaich?
Leugh!	Leugh.	Cha do leugh.	An do leugh?	Nach do leugh?
Leum!	Leum.	Cha do leum.	An do leum?	Nach do leum?
Obair!	Dh'obair.	Cha do dh'obair.	An do dh'obair?	Nach do dh'obair?
Òl!	Dh'òl.	Cha do dh'òl.	An do dh'òl?	Nach do dh'òl?
Pòg!	Phòg.	Cha do phòg.	An do phòg?	Nach do phòg?
Ruith!	Ruith.	Cha do ruith.	An do ruith?	Nach do ruith?
Seall!	Sheall.	Cha do sheall.	An do sheall?	Nach do sheall?
Seas!	Sheas.	Cha do sheas.	An do sheas?	Nach do sheas?
Seinn!	Sheinn.	Cha do sheinn.	An do sheinn?	Nach do sheinn?
Sgrìobh!	Sgrìobh.	Cha do sgrìobh.	An do sgrìobh?	Nach do sgrìobh?
Stad!	Stad.	Cha do stad.	An do stad?	Nach do stad?
Streap!	Streap.	Cha do streap.	An do streap?	Nach do streap?
Teagaisg!	Theagaisg.	Cha do theagaisg.	An do theagaisg?	Nach do theagaisg?