

Relative Forms

In this packet, we look at the relative form of verbs. Included is how to form it with regular verbs, a discussion of the relative forms of irregular verbs and when the use of the relative form is required. Exercises focus on the use of the relative future.

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Blàthachadh Suas

Tha na freagairtean air na duilleagan air cùlaibh an leasan.

Dè a tha am facal airson... ... anns a' Ghàidhlig, ma 's e ur toil e?

- 1) Eat! eating _____
- 2) Drink! drinking _____
- 3) Run! running _____
- 4) Write! writing _____
- 5) Kiss! kissing _____
- 6) Close! closing _____
- 7) Open! opening _____
- 8) Answer! answering _____
- 9) Grow! growing _____
- 10) Jump! jumping _____

Dè a tha seo a' ciallachadh? Eadar-theangaich!

- 11) Hai! Ciamar a tha sibh? Tha mi dà bhliadhna air fhichead a dh'aois.

- 12) Dè an uair a tha e? Obh obh! Feumaidh mi falbh. Tha mi fadalach airson clas!

- 13) Rinn mi aran a-raoir. Cha robh e math. Chan e bèicear (no fuineadair) math a th' annam!

- 14) Dè do bheachd mu dhèidhinn blàthachadh na cruinne?

- 15) 'S e an geamhradh a th' anns a' ràithe seo. A bheil sneachd no reòthadh ann?

- 16) Am bi thu a' dol gu Hawaii airson làithean-saora? Cha bhi. Bithidh mi a' dol gu Tahiti.

- 17) An do chòrd an clas Gàidhlig riut san t-Samhain? Chòrd!

18) Cò ris a bha an t-each Secretariat coltach? Bha e mòr, luath agus bha falt ruadh no donn air. Tha e marbh an-dràsta.

19) Cuin a tha am pòst a' tighinn? Tha mi an dòchas nach bi dìreach post-truilleis ann.

20) Fhàg mi leam fhìn. Tha mi nam chadail. Tha mi uabhasach sgìth.

A-nis, ma tha àm ann, eadar-theangaich na ceistean seo, freagair iad, agus inns do a' chlas freagairt no dhà. Cuir breug orra, mas toil leibh.

21) What is your age?

22) Where were you born and raised?

23) What is your job?

24) What is the weather like today?

25) Do you have any pets?

An Leasan

Verbs. Aren't they just delightful? They allow us to communicate all kinds of things - like actions, our states of being, and define who people are and what things are.

Eisimpleirean:

Tha mi ag obair.

Tha mi fuar.

'**S** e tidsear a **th'** annam.

'**S** e leabhar a **th'** ann.

Verbs provide insight into when events occurred (with the help of adverbs of time) by having tense.

Eisimpleirean:

Bha mi ag obair an-dè.

Bithidh mi fuar a-màireach.

B' e tidsear a **bh'** annam. Now-a-days: '**S** e tidsear a **bh'** annam.

'**S** e tidsear a **bhitheas** annam.

B' e leabhar a **bh'** ann. Now-a-days: '**S** e leabhar a **bh'** ann.

Verbs have ‘mood’ - for example imperatives (command) and conditional forms.

Eisimpleirean:

Ith do bhiadh!

Sguir mèananaich!

Dùin an doras!

Dh’ithinn mi iasg, ma tha iasg agam.

Ruithinn dhan sgoil, ma tha an sgoil fosgailte an-diugh.

Dh’obairinn an-diugh, mur e Didòmhnaich a tha ann.

Frequently, verbs change their spellings, lenite, or append suffixes and/or prefixes to express these changes (sometimes more than one of these things happen!). Usually certain forms of a verb are required to be used in specific circumstances. This lesson is about the relative form of the verb - how we make it and when we use it.

The Relative Form

I. What is the relative form of a verb?

The relative form of the verb is a special form that is used in certain circumstances. Remember how Gaelic is a verb initial language? Well, sometimes the verb ISN'T the first word in the sentence (like after question words). Frequently, but not always, when the verb is not the first word in a sentence, it's an opportunity to use the relative form.

II. How do we make the relative form of a verb?

Let's review our verb forms using our old friend, ‘bi’.

Present (Relative Form)	Past (Relative Form)	Future (Relative Form)
Tha (Tha)	Bha (Bha)	Bithidh/Bidh (bhitheas/ bhios)
Chan eil	Cha robh	Cha bhi
A bheil	An robh	Am bi
Nach eil	Nach robh	Nach bi

I have put the relative form of all three tenses in parenthesis. There are no dependent forms of the relative. You probably didn't pick up on this before, but the ‘tha’ and ‘bha’ forms of ‘bi’ also function as the relative forms for those tenses when

the relative form is called for! They don't require any special attention, so we don't make a big deal about it. The future tense, however, doesn't use 'bithidh' for the relative form. So we have to learn a special form of the future tense - frequently called 'the relative future.'

A. Forming the Relative Future

Most verbs have a form of the relative future, not just 'bi.' The basic rule to form the relative future, is to take the imperative, lenite it (use dh' in front of vowels and 'f'+vowels), and add -eas or -as depending on the last vowel.

1. Regular Verbs

Examples:

Obair! → dh'obaireas (some use Obraich! → dh'obraicheas)

Pòg! → phògas

Fàg! → dh'fhàgas

Sguir! → sguireas

2. Irregular Verbs

Yes, some irregular verbs have relative futures as well.

a. The other verb 'to be' - 'is'

As you might expect, 'is' - being defective and decaying, has to change forms:

Is → as

Bu → a bu

Examples: (using the 'prefer' idiom with 'is', following the pattern above)

Is fheàrr leat tì. \ You prefer tea.

Dè as fheàrr leat? \ What do you prefer? (Notice how 'is' became 'as' after the question word?)

Dè nach fheàrr leat? \ What wouldn't you prefer? (Negative using 'nach' after a question word.)

B' fheàrr leat tì. \ You would prefer tea.

Dè (a) b' fheàrr leat? \ What would you prefer? (The 'a' is in parenthesis because 'dè' ends in a vowel (two vowel problem) and 'bu' is shortened to "b'" because of the silent 'fh' + vowel following it, but it is trying desperately to follow the pattern.)

b. Other Irregular Verbs

Irregular verbs which are regular in the Future, form the Relative Future regularly. Yes, 3 irregular verbs behave somewhat regularly in the future tense. Those that don't (have a blank in the relative future column) just use the regular future forms where a relative form is called for.

Imperative	Future	Relative Future
Abair	Their Chan abair	
Beir	Beiridh Cha bheir	bheireas
Cluinn	Cluinnidh Cha chluinn	chluinneas
Dean	Ni Cha dean	
Faic	Chi Chan fhaic	
Faigh	Gheibh Chan fhaigh	
Rach	Thèid Cha tèid	
Ruig	Ruigidh Cha ruig	ruigeas
Thig	Thig Cha tig	
Thoir	Bheir Cha toir	

III. When do we use the relative form of the verb?

A. Question Words

Hopefully you learned that question words take the relative future and not the regular future, except one-the one that is always different.

Cò Dè Ciamar Carson Cuin	a tha a bha a bhitheas (no bithidh!) a bhitheadh
Càite	bheil robh am bi am bitheadh

Examples:

1. Cò (a) tha aig an doras? \ Who is at the door.
2. Cò (a) bha aig an doras? \ Who was at the door.
3. Cò (a) bhitheas aig an doras? \ Who will be at the door. (Not bithidh!)

B. Conjunctions (Subordinate)

Conjunctions are used to link clauses.

Quick review: What are clauses? Basically, they are parts of sentences, usually stuck together with conjunctions. There are different types of clauses.

Tha mi sgìth **agus** tha mi tinn. \ I am tired **and** I am sick.

In that example two independent clauses are stuck together with an 'and.' We know that they are independent clauses because they could each stand alone as complete sentences and they both use 'tha' - the independent form of the verb 'bi.'

Tha mi sgìth **airson** gun robh mi ag obair. \ I am tired **because** I was working.

In this example, there are still two clauses, but one is independent and one is dependent. The independent clause begins with 'tha' (an independent form of 'bi') and the dependent clause begins with 'gun robh' (a dependent form of 'bi').

Now on to some other conjunctions which require the relative form.

Conjunction	Acceptable forms to follow the conjunction
ma - if mar - as nuair - when ged - although on - since	a tha a bha a bhitheas (not bithidh) a bhitheadh* *not used with ma
far - where <i>far uses dependent forms, so no relative future</i>	a bheil an robh am bi am bitheadh
mun/mum - before <i>mun/mum uses dependent forms, so no relative future.</i>	bheil robh bi bitheadh

Note: To negate, use nach eil, nach robh, nach bi, and nach bitheadh - except 'ma', which of course is replaced (when negative) with 'mur' (See the 'if' handout).

Note eile: This chart only shows acceptable forms of 'bi' (for simplicity) but the equivalent forms of other verbs are acceptable as well.

Examples:

4. Ma **dh'**fhosglas mi an doras, bithidh mi fuar! \ If I open the door, I will be cold! (uses relative future form)
5. Sin mar a **bhitheas** tu ag òl uisge beatha! \ That's how you drink whiskey! (uses relative future form)
6. Nuair a **bhitheas** sinn aig an taigh, ithidh sinn càic. \ When we (will be) are at home, we will eat cake. (uses relative future form)
7. Ged a **tha** mi tinn, tha mi toilichte. \ Although I am sick, I am happy. (uses the relative form of the present tense)

C. Relative Pronouns

A) a - who, whom, which, that (positive). In this case, the relative pronoun links a relative clause to the noun it describes, like an adjective. (Note: 'a' becomes 'an' after prepositions (am before m, b, f, p) and takes the dependent form. Sorry.)

Examples:

8. Seo a' chaora a bha fon a' chraobh. \ This is the sheep **that** was under the tree.

9. Bithidh am boireannach a tha ag ithe iasg a' dol dhan a' chèilidh. \ The woman **who** is eating fish will be going to the ceilidh.
10. Sin an càr a bha briste. \ That's the car **which** was broken.
11. An e seo an càr anns **an** robh a' mhuc? \ Is this the car in **which** the pig was?

B) na - in this case the relative pronoun doesn't link a relative clause to a noun, it replaces the noun.

Examples:

12. Dh'ith e **na** bha aige. \ He ate **all that** he had.
13. Cuir **na** lorg thu anns a' chàr. \ Put **what** you found in the car.

C) nach - negative version of 'a'

Examples:

14. Seo a' caora **nach** robh anns a' chrò a-raoir. \ This is the sheep **which** was **not** in the pen last night.
15. Bha a' chèilidh fada agus cha robh duine sam bith **nach** robh sgìth. \ The ceilidh was long and there was not anyone **who** was **not** tired.

Exercises

Forming the Relative Future

Use the following imperatives to create the relative future forms of these regular verbs.

Imperative	Relative Future	Imperative	Relative Future
Bris!	bhriseas	Caidil!	
Cluich!		Coisich!	
Danns!		Dùin!	
Gabh!		Glan!	
Pòg!		Seinn!	
Fàs!	dh'fhàsas	Falbh!	
Fosgail!		Freagar! (thoir an aire!)	
Èigh!	dh'èigheas	Èist!	
Ith!		Ionnsaich!	
Obair!		Òl!	
Sguir!	sguireas	Leugh!	
Leum!		Ruith!	
Sgrìobh!		Streap!	

1) What five irregular verbs have relative forms?

Question Words and the Relative Future

Translate the following:

2) When will the man of the house dance?

3) Who will be at the shop?

4) What will we eat?

5) Why will we drink whisky?

6) How will we write the book?

7) Ciamar a dh'ionnsaicheas e?

8) Cò a choisicheas dhan sgoil?

9) Dè ghabhas sibh airson dinnear?

10) Cuin a sgrìobhas tu an litir?

11) Carson a streapas tu a' bheinn?

Conjunctions and the Relative Future

12) Ma bhitheas an t-acras ort, ithidh sinn.

13) Am bi thu a' dannsadh mar a leughas mi an leabhar?

14) Òlaidh sinn nuair a ruigeas sinn aig an taigh-seinnse.

15) Ged a bhitheas an latha fuar, cluichidh sinn camanachd a-muigh.

16) On a dh'itheas sinn, bithidh sinn làn.

17) Sgrìobhaidh mi aithisg airson clas, ged nach leughas mi an leabhar fhathast.

18) Ma dh'fhàsas na pòran, ithidh sinn anns a' gheamhradh.

19) Nuair a bhitheas mi a' cadal, 's ann sàmhach a chòrdas rium.

20) Mar a dh'itheas mi mo dhìnnear, inns dhomh mu dhèidhinn an latha agad.

21) Leughaidh mi leabhar mòr, on a bhitheas sinn air làithean-saora.

Na Freagairtean

Blàthachadh Suas

- 1) Ith! ag ithe
- 2) Ò! ag òl
- 3) Ruith! a' ruith
- 4) Sgrìobh! a' sgrìobhadh
- 5) Pòg! a' pògadh
- 6) Dùin! a' dùnadh
- 7) Fosgail! a' fosgladh
- 8) Freagar! a' freagarrach
- 9) Fàs! a' fàs
- 10) Leum! a' leum
- 11) Hi! How are you? I am forty years of age.
- 12) What time is it? Oh dear! I must leave! I am late for class!
- 13) I made bread last night. It was not good. I am not a good baker!
- 14) What is your opinion about global warming?
- 15) *Literally* It is winter which is in this season. Is snow or frost in it?
- 16) Will you be going to Hawaii for holiday (vacation)? No. I will be going to Tahiti.
- 17) Did you enjoy (like) the Gaelic class in November? Yes!
- 18) What did the horse Secretariat look like? He was big, fast and had red(ish) or brown hair. He is dead now.
- 19) When is the post (mail) coming? I am hoping that it is not just junk mail.
- 20) Leave me alone. I am sleeping. I am terribly tired.
- 21) Dè an aois a tha sibh? Answer should take the format of: 'Tha mi naoi bliadhna deug.' with the word 'bliadhna' being between the number words if the number is expressed using more than one word.
- 22) Càite an do rugadh 's thogadh sibh? Rugadh 's thogadh mi ann an/ann am/ anns a'... .
- 23) Dè an obair a tha agaibh? 'S e _____ a th' annam. OR Tha mi nam _____ .
- 24) Dè seòrsa sìde a th' ann an-diugh?
Tha i fuar.
Tha i blàth.
Tha i teth.
Tha mòran gaoth ann.
Tha i gaothach.
Tha sneachd ann.
Tha i sneachdach. Tha i sneachdail.
Tha an t-uisge ann.
Tha i fliuch an-diugh.
Tha i frasach.
Tha i sìleach.
etc.

25) A bheil peata agaibh?

Tha cù agam.
 Tha cat agam.
 Tha nathair agam.
 Tha òr-iasg agam.
 etc.

Exercises

Imperative	Relative Future	Imperative	Relative Future
Bris!	bhriseas	Caidil!	chaidileas
Cluich!	chluicheas	Coisich!	choisicheas
Danns!	Dhannsas	Dùin!	dhùineas
Gabh!	ghabhas	Glan!	ghlanas
Pòg!	phògas	Seinn!	sheinneas
Fàs!	dh'fhàsas	Falbh!	dh'fhalbhas
Fosgail!	dh'fhosgaileas	Freagar! (thoir an aire!)	fhreagaras
Èigh!	dh'èigheas	Èist!	dh'èisteas
Ith!	dh'itheas	Ionnsaich!	dh'ionnsaicheas
Obair!	dh'obaireas	Òl!	dh'òlas
Sguir!	squireas	Leugh!	leughas
Leum!	leumas	Ruith!	ruitheas
Sgrìobh!	sgrìobheas	Streap!	streapas

- 1) Bi (bhitheas), Is (as / a bu), beir (bheireas), cluinn (chluinneas), ruig (ruigeas).
- 2) Cuin a dhannsas fear an taighe?
- 3) Cò a bhitheas aig a' bhùth?
- 4) Dè dh'itheas sinn?
- 5) Carson a dh'òlas sinn uisge beatha?
- 6) Ciamar a sgrìobhas sinn an leabhar?
- 7) How will he learn?
- 8) Who will walk to the school?
- 9) What will you take (have) for dinner?

- 10) When will you write the letter?
- 11) Why will you climb the mountain?
- 12) If you will be hungry, we will eat.
- 13) Will you be dancing as I [will] read the book?
- 14) We will drink when we [will] arrive at the pub.
- 15) Although the day will be cold, we will play shinty outside.
- 16) Since we will eat, we will be full.
- 17) I will write a report for class, although I will not [have] read the book yet.
- 18) If the seeds/crops will grow, we will eat in the winter.
- 19) When I will be sleeping (when I sleep), it is quiet that I will enjoy (I enjoy quiet).
- 20) As I [will] eat my dinner, tell to me about your day.
- 21) I will read a big book since we will be on holiday.

Sources & Further Reading

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