

# The Genitive Case

Embrace it!

By Geoffrey Sammons

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Tapadh leibh!

# The Genitive Case

The Genitive Case can be a bit tricky at first because it factors in nearly every aspect of a noun: grammatical gender, number and the article. The concept isn't that difficult once you get the hang of it. We'll break you in slowly and you'll be an expert in no time.

## Part 1: The Genitive Case - When to use it

The Genitive Case is the possessive case. We use it in English in the following situations:

- 's - The dog's ear
- of - The ear of the dog

In Gaelic, there are other times you'd use the Genitive form of a noun, including:

- following the infinitive
- following the verbal noun (this is most grammatically correct, but falling out of use.)
- following compound prepositions
- when you see ( + gen. ) in your dictionary (possibly after simple prepositions that take the genitive instead of the dative).

Some languages, Latin, for example, were able to have much flexibility in word order because the **role** of the word in the sentence **was indicated by the spelling of the word**. English is very inflexible in regards to word order because it is the order of the words which is describing what role the word is playing - not the word's spelling. However, since there can be more than one noun in a sentence, as is our concern here, spelling change is one way we can show **case** - the roles nouns play in a sentence. A role could be a **subject** or **object**, for example.

**Gaelic**, while being inflexible about word order, **does modify the spelling of nouns to indicate case - especially when the definite article is present**. For review, Gaelic has four cases: nominative or dictionary form, vocative or address form, the dative or prepositional case, and finally, the genitive or possessive case. It should be noted that **the genitive is not the same as the possessive pronouns** ( mo, do, a, a, ar, ur, an/ am ) or **possession using the preposition aig** ( e.g. Tha cat agam ). **The Genitive, generally speaking, expresses a possessive relationship between two nouns in a sentence.**

## Eisimpleirean (Examples)

Here are some examples of the ways possession can be expressed in Gaelic. I'll break the examples down into three columns, verb | subject | predicate.

Possession using the preposition aig [at]:

Tha | cù | agam. [I have a dog. Literally, A dog is at me.]

Possession using a possessive pronoun:

Tha | mo chù | snog. [My dog is cute.]

Possession using the Genitive Case:

Tha | spòg a' choin | mòr. [The paw of the dog is big. The dog's paw is big.]

Before we go on to the spelling changes which indicate the Genitive Case, do you want to see a preview of where we're going? Sure you do!

cat, [cat] is a masculine noun.

ceann, [head] is a masculine noun.

ceann cait [a head of a cat (a cat's head)] Singular Indefinite Genitive Phrase

ceann a' chait [the head of the cat (the cat's head)] Singular Definite Genitive Phrase

cinn chat [heads of cats (cats' heads)] Plural Indefinite Genitive Phrase

cinn nan cat [the heads of the cats] Plural Definite Genitive Phrase

**I always recommend that people use "the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_" in English when they are learning about the Genitive in Gaelic because it most closely matches the way Gaelic phrases things.**

## Part 2: Spelling Changes to indicate the Genitive

Not including lenition, of course.

Masculine Nouns	Feminine Nouns
- slenderize (most common) Insert an 'i' after the last broad vowel	- slenderize, add an 'e' to the end (most common). If slender already, just add the 'e.'
- vowel shifts (slenderizing the hard way) a → ui o → ui eu → eoi ea → ei ea → i ia → ei io → i eo → iù don't worry, just know that they happen	- same vowel shifts as masculine nouns, and add an 'e' to the end.
	- if the dictionary form (nominative) ends in 'il' or 'ir,' remove the 'i' and add 'ach' or 'each' as appropriate don't worry, you know it when you see it. (Type 4, p. 87 in Scottish Gaelic in Twelve Weeks)

When we get a little further along you'll see that the genitive forms of some nouns look a little strange. When you have that feeling, remember this chart. Until that time, just accept, smile and nod. There are irregulars as well.

Let's move on to singular genitive phrases.

## Part 3: Singular Genitive Phrases

Typically, a genitive phrase has two nouns which are related to one another in a possessive relationship, like the kind you might see on *Oprah* or *Dr. Phil*. There might be a definite article, as well.

The basic format is:

*possessee* (owned noun) *definite article* (optional) *possessor* (owning noun)

### How the Singular Genitive Phrase Works

Possessee	Definite Article	Possessor
- use nominative form	- only 1 article is used and is in between the nouns Unlike English	- determines the grammatical gender of whole phrase It doesn't matter what gender the possessee is.
- can be singular or plural form Note that if this is plural, it has no bearing on whether the phrase is plural.	- not present if the phrase is indefinite	- whether the possessor is singular or plural determines whether the phrase is singular or plural
		- use the genitive form (except proper names)
		- Proper Names use the Vocative Case
		- lenites if the rules of the article say to

Now after all your experience with articles in the nominative and dative cases, you are one step ahead! Check out the rules for the genitive definite article:

## Singular Genitive Definite Article

Hopefully you recognize these:

Grammatical Gender	Initial Letter	Genitive Article	Example (nom) → (gen)
<b>Masculine</b> Same as Nominative Feminine and Dative	<b>b, c, g, m, p</b>	a' + lenition	am bòrd → a' bhùird
	<b>f</b>	an + lenition	am feasgar → an fheasgair
	<b>s + (l, n, r, vowel)</b>	an t-	an sneachd → an t-sneachd
	<b>any other</b>	an	an duine → an duine
<b>Feminine</b> Same as Nominative and Dative Plural	<b>vowel</b>	na h-	an uinneag → na h-uinneige
	<b>consonant</b>	na	an sgoil → na sgoile

Nothing new here. The genitive just uses recycled articles from the nominative and dative. How environmentally conscious!

Now to put it all together.

## Eisimpleirean - Genitive Singular

1. earball cait / tail of a cat (a cat's tail)
2. ceann ròin / head of a seal (a seal's head)
3. each Sheumais / Seumas' horse
4. barrall bròige / lace of a shoe (a shoe lace)
5. seòmair sgoile / room of a school (a school room)
6. ceann a' chait / the head of the cat (the cat's head)
7. leabhar a' ghille / the book of the boy (the boy's book)
8. bàta a' bhodaich / the boat of the old man (the old man's boat)
9. glas an dorais / the lock of the door (the door's lock)
10. falt na nighinne / the hair of the girl (the girl's hair)
11. dath na h-aide / the color of the hat (the hat's color)
12. taigh na muice / the house of the pig (the pig's house) (sty)
13. doras na bùtha / the door of the shop (the shop's door)
14. Tha earball a' chait donn. / The cat's tail is brown.
15. Tha ceann ròin deàlrach. / A seal's head is shiny.
16. A bheil each Anna tinn? / Is Ann's horse sick?
17. Nach eil falt na nighinne bàn? / Isn't the girl's hair fair?
18. Bha bàta a' bhodaich aig an tràigh. / The old man's boat was at the shore.
19. Tha doras na bùtha duinte. / The shop's door is closed.
20. Tha barrall bròige fada. / A shoe lace is long.

Now it's your turn. (Answers are at the back.)

## Exercises, Genitive Singular

Cuir Gàidhlig air:

- 1) the man of the town (use fear) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) the people of the town (use luchd) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) a town's people (use luchd) \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) the doors of the car \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) the doors of the houses \_\_\_\_\_
- 6) the room of the house \_\_\_\_\_
- 7) the color of the door \_\_\_\_\_
- 8) a boy's dog \_\_\_\_\_

- 9) the dog's tail \_\_\_\_\_
- 10) the dog's color \_\_\_\_\_
- 11) the dog's paws \_\_\_\_\_
- 12) the dogs' paws \_\_\_\_\_
- 13) a woman's son \_\_\_\_\_
- 14) the woman's son \_\_\_\_\_
- 15) the son's hat \_\_\_\_\_
- 16) the cat's ears \_\_\_\_\_
- 17) the cat's color \_\_\_\_\_
- 18) a cat's color \_\_\_\_\_
- 19) a cat's ear \_\_\_\_\_
- 20) a cat's paws \_\_\_\_\_

**Dèan ceart:**

- 1) Tha \_\_\_\_\_ (an càr, am boireannach) geal.
- 2) A bheil \_\_\_\_\_ (am bàrd, am baile) snog?
- 3) Cha robh \_\_\_\_\_ (a' mhuc, an gille) ro mhòr.
- 4) Cuin a bhitheas \_\_\_\_\_ (an làr, an taigh) glan?
- 5) Cò a bhitheas a' seinn \_\_\_\_\_ (an t-òran, am bàrd)?
- 6) Carson a tha \_\_\_\_\_ (a' bhròg, an gille) salach?
- 7) Nach robh \_\_\_\_\_ (an t-òran, am boireannach) uabhasach brònach?
- 8) Cha robh \_\_\_\_\_ (an dealbh, na cait) snog.
- 9) Bithidh \_\_\_\_\_ (na caoraich, am baile) a' cadal a-nochd.
- 10) Bha \_\_\_\_\_ (na glasan, an taigh) glaste.

- 11) Tha \_\_\_\_\_ (an spòg, cù) nas motha na \_\_\_\_\_ (an spòg, cat).
- 12) Tha \_\_\_\_\_ (na bùthan, am baile) dùinte.
- 13) Tha \_\_\_\_\_ (na casan, each) làidir.
- 14) Dùin \_\_\_\_\_ (na dorsan, an taigh)! Bithidh na tairbh a' ruith!
- 15) Tha \_\_\_\_\_ (am mullach, an taigh) glè àrd.

Now let's look at plural phrases.

## Part 4: Plural Genitive Phrases

### How the Plural Genitive Phrase Works

The genitive plural works similarly to the singular, but there are a few differences. I'll bold what's different.

Possessee	Definite Article	Possessor
- usually uses <b>the nominative form</b>	- only 1 article is used and is in between the nouns Unlike English	- determines the grammatical gender of whole phrase It doesn't matter what gender the possessee is.
- can be singular or plural form Note that if this is plural, it has no bearing on whether the phrase is plural.	- not present if the phrase is indefinite	- whether the possessor is singular or plural determines whether the phrase is singular or plural
	- if no article, <b>lenite the possessor.</b>	- uses the <b>nominative singular form</b> when noun's nominative plural is formed with a vowel change. (Type B, 68a, S.G. in 12 Weeks)  - uses the <b>nominative plural</b> when the noun's nominative plural is formed with a suffix (e.g. -an, -ean.) (Type A 68a) This may seem confusing, but remember that plural-ness is expressed by the plural article.
		- <b>Feminine nouns with a final vowel of "i" or ending in "il" or "ir" use the nominative plural.</b>

This is how we catch the spies.

## Plural Genitive Definite Article

This is new:

Grammatical Gender	Initial Letter	Genitive Article	Example (nom) → (gen)
Masculine or Feminine	m, b, f, p	nam	na bùird → nam bòrd
	all others	nan	na caoraich → nan caorach

Thoir an aire! NAM and NAN are used in other places, so don't confuse them. But then, you were used to "word reuse" with the  $6 \times 10^{23}$  uses for the letter 'a' in Gaelic. (If you are desperate to know where else nam/nan is used, it would be conditional 'if' and 'in my', nam, nad, na, na, nar, nur, nan/nam).

Now we will put this to use.

## Eisimpleirean - Genitive Plural

1. earbaill chat / cats' tails
2. earbaill nan cat / the cats' tails
3. òrain nan clann / the songs of the children
4. mìos nam pòg(an) / the month of the kisses (honeymoon)
5. adan nan duine / the hats of the men
6. seòmraichean nan sgoilean / the rooms of the schools
7. barraillean nan brògan / the laces of the shoes
8. glasan nan doras / the locks of the doors
9. làmhan nam poitean / the handles of the pots
10. casan nan cathraichean / the legs of the chairs
11. Tha earbaill nan cat dubh. / The tails of the cats are black.
12. Tha cinn nan ròn dealrach. / The heads of the seals are shiny.
13. A bheil làmhan nam poitean teth? / Are the pots' handles hot?
14. An robh leabhraichean nan gille ùr? / Were the boys' books new?
15. A bheil bùthan nam briogais fosgailte? Are the pants shops open?
16. A bheil car nan gillean ag obair? / Is the boys' car working?

## Part 5: Other Uses of the Genitive Form

### Simple prepositions

Simply, simple prepositions involve one word. Most prepositions invoke the dative case on nouns that follow them. However, we are going to examine three simple prepositions which invoke the genitive. They are: **thar** [across or over], **chun** [to or towards], **rè** [during].

**thar na h-aibhne** [across the river]; **thar an t-seòmair** [across the room]  
**chun na ceilidhe** [to the ceilidh]; **chun a' chaisteil** [to the castle]  
**rè na h-oidhche** / during the night; **rè a' chlas** [during the class]

There are others, but these will get you started and are useful.

### Compound prepositions

There are many compound prepositions. A compound preposition is a preposition which involves multiple words. We are going to examine a selection of compound prepositions. Please be prepared with your possessive pronouns and 'NAM-NADs' as well. If the compound preposition has a noun associated with it, the noun is in the genitive.

\* **Às aonais** [minus or without]

**Chaidh an croitear dhan mhonadh às aonais na caorach.** [The crofter went to the moor without the sheep.]

As a side note, we're going to discuss what to do with these compound prepositions if the noun associated with them is a pronoun. Here is a wee list:

às m' aonais	without me
às d' aonais	without you
às (a) aonais	without him (thoir an aire! the possessive pronoun may disappear!)
às a h-aonais	without her
às ar n-aonais	without us
às ur n-aonais	without you
às an aonais	without them

**Bithidh mi aig an taigh às an aonais.** [I will be at home without them.]

**\* Às dèidh [after]**

**Às dèidh na bracaiste, chaidh sinn dhan sgoil.** [After breakfast, we went to school.]

às mo dhèidh	after me
às do dhèidh	after you
às a dhèidh	after him
às a dèidh	after her
às ar dèidh	after us
às ur dèidh	after you
às an dèidh	after them

**Chaidh an athair às an dèidh.** [Their father left after them.]

**\* Air beulaibh [in front of, before]**

**Diluain, chadail an cù air beulaibh an taighe.** [Monday, the dog slept in front of the house.]

air mo bheulaibh	before me
air do bheulaibh	before you
air a bheulaibh	before him
air a beulaibh	before her
air ar beulaibh	before us
air ur beulaibh	before you
air am beulaibh	before them

**Bha mi a' coimhead airson mo speuclairean. Bha iad dìreach air mo bheulaibh.** [I was looking for my glasses. They were just in front of me.]

**\* Air cùlaibh [behind]**

**Dimàirt, chadail an cù air cùlaibh an taighe.** [Tuesday, the dog slept behind the house.]

air mo chùlaibh	behind me
air do chùlaibh	behind you
air a chùlaibh	behind him
air a cùlaibh	behind her
air ar cùlaibh	behind us
air ur cùlaibh	behind you
air an cùlaibh	behind them

**Na bi seasamh air mo chùlaibh!** [Don't be standing behind me!]

**\* Airson [for]**

**Dèan cupa tè airson na caorach.** [Make a cup of tea for the sheep.]

air mo shon	for me
air do shon	for you
air a shon	for him
air a son	for her
air ar son	for us
air ur son	for you
air an son	for them

**Dèan cupa tè air mo shon, ma 's e do thoil e.** [Make a cup of tea for me, please.]

**\* An aghaidh [against]**

**Na dèan e! Tha e an aghaidh an lagha! / Don't do it! It is against the law!**

Instead of using “mo, do..” for the pronouns, this uses “nam, nad... .”

nam aghaidh	against me
nad aghaidh	against you
n(a) aghaidh	against him
na h-aghaidh	against her
nar n-aghaidh	against us
nur n-aghaidh	against you
nan aghaidh	against them.

Anna: Cha toil leam e.

[I don't like it.]

Bob: Dè a tha agad n' aghaidh?

[What do you have against it?]

**A wee list of others**

air feadh, all over, during throughout  
air sgàth, for the sake of, because of, on account of  
air tàillibh, because of, on account of  
an àite, instead of, in place of  
os cionn, above  
ri taobh, beside,

**Sin agad e!**

**That's all we're going to explore for now. Chì mi a-rithist sibh.**

## Part 6: Na Faclan

ad (f) *hat*, an ad, na h-aide, na h-adan  
baile (m) *town*, am baile, na bailtean, baile, a' bhaile  
bàrd (m) *bard*, am bàrd, a' bhàird, na bàird  
biast (f) *beast*, a' bhiast, na beistean, beiste, na beiste  
boireannach (m) *woman*, am boireannach, na boireannaich, boireannaich, a' bhoireannaich  
briosgaid (f) *biscuit or cookie*, a' bhriosgaid, na briosgaidean, briosgaide, na briosgaide  
bròg (f) *shoe*, a' bhròg, na bròige, na brògan  
bùth (f) *shop*, a' bhùth, na bùthan, bùtha, na bùtha  
caora (f) *sheep*, a' chaora, na caoraich, caorach, na caorach, nan caorach  
càr (m) *car*, an càr, na càraichean, càir, a' chàir  
cas (f) *leg*, a' chas, na coise, na casan  
cat (m) *cat*, an cat, na cait, cait, a' chait  
clàrsach (f) *harp*, a' chlàrsach, na clàrsaichean, clàrsaiche, na clàrsaiche  
cluas (f) *ear*, a' chluas, na cluaise, na cluasan  
cluasag (f) *pillow*, a' chluasag, na cluasagan, clusaige, na clusaige  
coille (f) *forest*, a' choille, na coille, na coilltean  
craobh (f) *tree*, a' chraobh, na craoibhe, na craobhan  
cù (m) *dog*, an cù, na coin, coin, a' choin  
dath (m) *color*, an dath, an datha, na dathan  
dealbh (f) *picture*, an dealbh, na dealbhan, deilbhe, na deilbhe  
doras (m) *door*, an doras, na dorsan, dorais, an dorais,  
duilleag (f) *page or leaf*, an duilleag, na duilleige, na duilleagan  
duine (m) *man*, person, an duine, na daoine, duine, an duine  
each (m) *horse*, an t-each, an eich, na h-eich  
earball (m) *tail*, an t-earball, an earbaill, na h-earbaill  
faoileag (f) *seagull*, an fhaoileag, na faoileagan, faoileige, na faoileige  
flùr (m) *flower*, am flùr, na flùraichean, flùir, an fhlùir  
gille (m) *boy*, an gille, na gillean, gille, a' ghille  
glas (f) *lock*,  
iasg (m) *fish*, an t-iasg, na h-èisg, èisg, an èisg  
làr (m) *floor*, an làr, na làran, lair, an làir  
leabhar (m) *book*, an leabhar, an leabhair, na leabhraichean  
mac (m) *son*, am mac, a' mhic, na mic  
muc (f) *pig*, a' mhuc, na mucan, muic, na muic  
mullach (m) *roof or top*, am mullach, a' mhullaich, na mullaichean  
nighean (f) *daughter*, an nighean, na naigheanan, nighinne, na nighinne  
òran (m) *song*, an t-òran, na h-òrain, òrain, an òrain  
pòg (f) *kiss*, a' phòg, na pògan, pòige, na pòige  
rathad (m) *road*, an rathad, na rathaidean, rathaid, an rathaid  
sgoil (f) *school*, an sgoil, na sgoiltean, sgoile, na sgoile  
seòmair (m) *room*, an seòmair, na seòmraichean, seòmair, an t-seòmair  
spòg (f) *paw*, an spòg, na spòige, na spògan

taigh (m) *house*, an taigh, na taighean, taighe, an taighe  
ubhal (m) *apple*, an t-ubhal, na h-ubhlan, ubhail, na h-ubhail  
uinneag (f) *window*, an uinneag, na h-uinneagan, uinneige, na h-uinneige

## Part 7: Na Freagairtean

### Exercises, Genitive Singular

- 1) the man of the town [fear a' bhaile]
  - 2) the people of the town [luchd a' bhaile]
  - 3) a town's people [luchd baile]
  - 4) the doors of the car [dorsan a' chàir]
  - 5) the doors of the houses [dorsan nan taighean]
  - 6) the room of the house [seòmair an taighe]
  - 7) the color of the door [dath an dorais]
  - 8) a boy's dog [cù gille]
  - 9) the dog's tail [earball a' choin]
  - 10) the dog's color [dath a' choin]
  - 11) the dog's paws [spògan a' choin]
  - 12) the dogs' paws [spògan nan coin]
  - 13) a woman's son [mac boireannach]
  - 14) the woman's son [mac a' bhoireannaich]
  - 15) the son's hat [ad a' mhic]
  - 16) the cat's ears [cluasan a' chait]
  - 17) the cat's color [dath a' chait]
  - 18) a cat's color [dath cat]
  - 19) a cat's ear [cluas cat]
  - 20) a cat's paws [spògan cat]
- 
- 1) Tha càr a' bhoireannaich geal.
  - 2) A bheil bàrd a' bhaile snog?
  - 3) Cha robh muc a' ghille ro mhòr.
  - 4) Cuin a bhitheas làr an taighe glan?
  - 5) Cò a bhitheas a' seinn òran a' bhàird?
  - 6) Carson a tha bròg a' ghille salach?
  - 7) Nach robh òran a' bhoireannaich uabhasach brònach?
  - 8) Cha robh dealbh nan cat snog.
  - 9) Bithidh caoraich a' bhaile a' cadal a-nochd.
  - 10) Bha glasan an taighe glaste.
  - 11) Tha spòg cù nas motha na spòg cat.
  - 12) Tha bùthan a' bhaile dùinte.
  - 13) Tha casan each làidir.
  - 14) Dùin dorsan an taighe! Bithidh na tairbh a' ruith!
  - 15) Tha mullach an taighe glè àrd.

## Part 8: Sources and Further Reading

The Genitive tends to be avoided until it can't be any longer. I suspect that this is because the Genitive calls on skills that are more simply learned as one learns the Nominative, Vocative, and Dative. I had to teach myself the Genitive. In doing my research, I found that most of the books individually have incomplete discussions, but taken as a group, the situation improves.

The pages referenced here are just for the Genitive Case. There may be more information regarding the use of the Genitive in other locations, such as prepositions that require the Genitive Case. If anyone finds more references, please email them to me and I can add them to the list.

- Black, Ronald, Cothrom Ionnsachaidh, 1997, pp. 79-94. (*A discussion of declension of nouns which includes the genitive.*);
- Blacklaw, Bill, Bun-Chùrsa Gàidhlig, 1989, pp. 30-34, 47;
- Byrne, Michel, Gràmar na Gàidhlig, 2004, pp. 28, 31-38, 41;
- Caimbeul, Maoilios, Gràmar na Gàidhlig (Companion), 2005, pp. 13-24. (*A series of dialogs and exercises tied to units in Gràmar na Gàidhlig by Michel Byrne.*);
- Cànan, Speaking Our Language, 1993, pp. 118-119. (*A small discussion about the genitive from a grammar point of view. Further examples in the text in the style of the program (in other words, they're not necessarily labeled as 'the Genitive').*);
- Christie, Emma, Ceumannan 3, 2010, pp. 140-163, 234-235. (*mainly a discussion of genitives following compound prepositions*);
- Mackinnon, Roderick, Teach Yourself Gaelic, 1975, pp. 91-128. (*Probably the most complete, but with old spellings and very grammar-y.*);
- MacLaren, James, Beginner's Gaelic, 1999, pp. 59-79, 145-146. (*Old school grammar discussion of "Nouns," so you have to extract the relevant genitive part. This will make your brain explode. Also, old spellings. Only those wishing to become wizards should attempt this.*);
- MacNeill, Morag, Everyday Gaelic, 2006, pp 4-5.;
- Ó Maolalaigh, Roibeard and Iain MacAonghuis, Scottish Gaelic in Twelve Weeks, 2008, pp. 11, 84-91, 92-97, 108-109, 111. (*Formerly known as Scottish Gaelic in Three Months. Also very complete*);
- Robertson, Boyd and Iain Taylor, Complete Gaelic, 2010, pp. 114-116, 198-199, 230-231. (*Formerly known as Teach Yourself Gaelic.*);
- Spader, Katherine M. and Katie Graham, Colloquial Scottish Gaelic, 2001, pp. 129-130, 170-171, 174;
- Watson, Moray, Progressive Gaelic 2, 2012, pp. 95-97, 132, 139-141, 144-146;

## Cheat Sheet - Making the Genitive Case

	Possessee	Definite Article	Possessor		
<b>Singular Genitive</b>	- use Nominative form	- only 1 article is used and is in between the nouns	- determines the grammatical gender of whole phrase		
	- can be singular or plural form	- not present if the phrase is indefinite	- whether the possessor is singular or plural determines whether the phrase is singular or plural		
	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <b>Masculine Nouns</b>                      - slenderize (usually).                      - or apply vowel shifts:                      a → ui, o → ui, eu → eoi                      ea → ei, ea → i, ia → ei                      io → i, eo → iù.                 </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <b>Feminine Nouns</b>                      - slenderize, add 'e' to end.                      - vowel shifts, add 'e' to end.                      - if the Nominative ends in 'il' or 'ir,' remove the 'i' and add 'ach' or 'each' as appropriate.                 </td> </tr> </table> </div>		<b>Masculine Nouns</b> - slenderize (usually). - or apply vowel shifts: a → ui, o → ui, eu → eoi ea → ei, ea → i, ia → ei io → i, eo → iù.	<b>Feminine Nouns</b> - slenderize, add 'e' to end. - vowel shifts, add 'e' to end. - if the Nominative ends in 'il' or 'ir,' remove the 'i' and add 'ach' or 'each' as appropriate.	- use the Genitive form*
	<b>Masculine Nouns</b> - slenderize (usually). - or apply vowel shifts: a → ui, o → ui, eu → eoi ea → ei, ea → i, ia → ei io → i, eo → iù.	<b>Feminine Nouns</b> - slenderize, add 'e' to end. - vowel shifts, add 'e' to end. - if the Nominative ends in 'il' or 'ir,' remove the 'i' and add 'ach' or 'each' as appropriate.			
		- Proper Names use the Vocative Case			
		- lenites if the rules of the article say to			

	Gender	Initial Letter	Form of Article	Example
<b>Genitive Article</b>	Masculine, Singular	b, c, g, m, p	a' + lenition	a' bhùird
	Same rules as the Nominative Feminine & Dative case.	f	an + lenition	an fheasgair
		s + l, n, r, vowel	an + t -	an t-sneachd
		all others	an	an duine
	Feminine, Singular	consonant	na	na sgoile
	Same as Nominative Plural	vowel	na h-	na h-uinneige
All plurals	m, b, f, p	nam	nam bòrd	
	all others	nan	nan caorach	

	Possessee	Definite Article	Possessor
<b>Plural Genitive</b>	- usually uses the Nominative form	- only 1 article is used and is in between the nouns	- determines the grammatical gender of whole phrase
	- can be singular or plural form	- not present if the phrase is indefinite	- whether the possessor is singular or plural determines whether the phrase is singular or plural
		- if no article, lenite the possessor.	- uses the <b>Nominative singular</b> form when noun's Nominative plural is formed with a <b>vowel change</b> (e.g. slenderization).  - uses the <b>Nominative plural</b> when the noun's Nominative plural is formed with a <b>suffix</b> (e.g. -an, -ean.)
			- Feminine nouns with a final vowel of "i" or ending in "il" or "ir" use the Nominative plural.

\*Remember, these are guidelines. There are irregular Genitive forms and sometimes the word doesn't change at all, except for the use of the Genitive article.