



Scottish English

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Scotland

Scotland is a country that is part of the United Kingdom.

Largest cities or towns in Scotland:

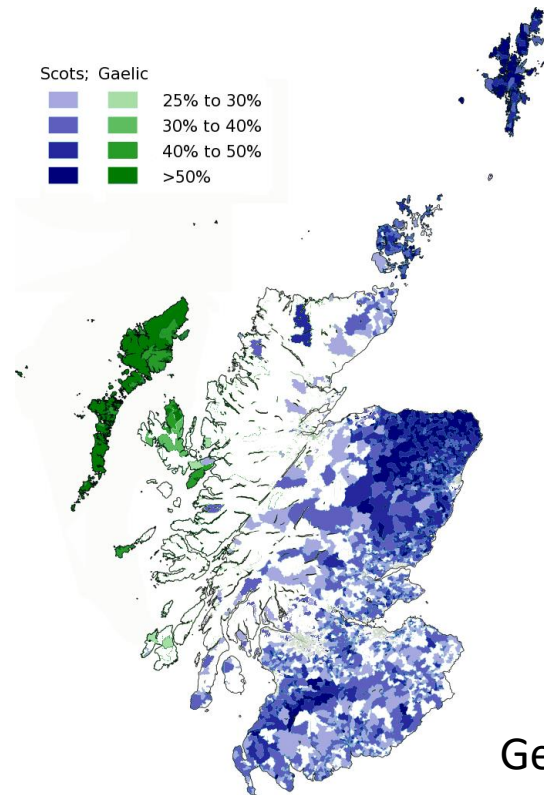
- Glasgow
- Edinburgh
- Aberdeen
- Dundee



Languages of Scotland

- The languages of Scotland are the languages spoken or once spoken in Scotland. Each of the numerous languages spoken in Scotland during its recorded linguistic history falls into either the Germanic or Celtic language families. The classification of the Pictish language was once controversial, but it is now generally considered a Celtic language. Today, the main language spoken in Scotland is English, while Scots and Scottish Gaelic are minority languages. The dialect of English spoken in Scotland is referred to as Scottish English.

Statistics



| | |
|----------|--|
| Main | English (98.6%) |
| Minority | Scots (30.1%), Scottish Gaelic (1.1%) |
| Foreign | Polish (1.1%), Urdu (0.5%), Chinese (0.5%), Punjabi (0.5%) |

Geographic distribution of Scots and Gaelic speakers in Scotland

Scottish English

Scottish English is the set of varieties of the English language spoken in Scotland. The transregional, standardised variety is called Scottish Standard English or Standard Scottish English (SSE). Scottish Standard English may be defined as "the characteristic speech of the professional class [in Scotland] and the accepted norm in schools". IETF language tag for "Scottish Standard English" is en-scotland.

Differences

- In addition to distinct pronunciation, grammar and expressions, Scottish English has distinctive vocabulary, particularly pertaining to Scottish institutions such as the Church of Scotland, local government and the education and legal systems.
- Scottish Standard English is at one end of a bipolar linguistic continuum, with focused broad Scots at the other. Scottish English may be influenced to varying degrees by Scots. Many Scots speakers separate Scots and Scottish English as different registers depending on social circumstances. Some speakers code switch clearly from one to the other while others style shift in a less predictable and more fluctuating manner. Generally there is a shift to Scottish English in formal situations or with individuals of a higher social status.



Time for some examples

Scotticisms

- Scotticisms are idioms or expressions that are characteristic of Scots, especially when used in English. They are more likely to occur in spoken than written language.
- The use of Scottish English, as well as of Scots and of Gaelic in Scotland, were documented over the 20th century by the Linguistic Survey of Scotland at the University of Edinburgh.

Scottish
English

British
English

Whaur dae ye bide?

Possible answer: "I bide in Fife"



"Where do you live?"

„I live in Fife“

Scottish
English

British
English

It's a fair way tae Skye from here



It's a good distance to Skye from here

Scottish
English

British
English

I'm gaun for the messages



I'm going to shop for groceries.

Scottish
English

British
English

It's a sair fecht



It's a real struggle/It's hard going.

Scottish
English

British
English

What a dreich day!



What a dull, miserable, overcast day
(of weather)

Scottish
English

British
English

I'm feeling quite drouthy



I'm feeling quite thirsty

Scottish
English

British
English

Ach, away ye go!

stock phrase



Oh, I don't believe you

Scottish
English

British
English

He's a right sweetie-wife



He likes a good gossip

Scottish
English

British
English

Just play the daft laddie



Act ingenuously/feign ignorance

Scottish
English

British
English

That's me doon the road.

//ðæts mi dʌn ðə roʊd//

Notice the /ʌ/ pronunciation of down.



I'm off

Scottish
English

British
English

He doesnae underston me.

//hi 'dʌzne ʊnɚ'stɒn mi://

Notice the pronunciation of what would be doesn't in Standard English: /'dʌzne/



He doesn't understand me.

Scottish
English

British
English

The weins wouldnae stop greetin'

//ðə weɪnz 'wʊdnə stɒp 'gri:tən//

The negative ending in wouldnae is the same as doesnae in the last example. This is characteristic of Scottish English.



The children would not stop crying.

Scottish
English

British
English

Do you ken Angus - I'm scunner wi' I'im

//də jə ken 'æŋgəs/ am 'skʌnər wi ɪm//

Notice the shortening of wi /wi/. A word similar to scunner is found in Northern Ireland.



Do you know Angus? I'm angry with him.

Scottish
English

British
English

Ay, I'll gee you a run in the car.

//ai/ɹil gi: jə ə rʌn ɪn ðə kɑ:r//

Ay, meaning yes is also found in the North of England. Notice the shortened ending of gi = give.



Yes, I will give you a lift in the car.

Scottish
English

British
English

Oh, he's a bonny wee bairn.

//o/hiz ə 'bɒni wi: bɜrn//

The word bonny and bairn are also found in Newcastle.



He's a lovely, little child.

Lexical

| Scottish English | British English |
|-----------------------------|--|
| <i>wee</i> | small |
| <i>wean</i> or <i>bairn</i> | child |
| <i>muckle</i> | big |
| <i>bonnie</i> | pretty, attractive, (or good looking, handsome, as in the case of Bonnie Prince Charlie) |
| <i>braw</i> | <i>braw</i> |
| <i>pinkie</i> | little finger |
| <i>snib</i> | bolt |

Examples of culturally specific items

- **Hogmanay** - is the Scots word for the last day of the old year and is synonymous with the celebration of the New Year in the Scottish manne
- **Haggis** - is a savoury pudding containing sheep's pluck (heart, liver, and lungs), minced with onion, oatmeal, suet, spices, and salt, mixed with stock, and cooked while traditionally encased in the animal's stomach though now often in an artificial casing instead.
- **Bothy** - is a basic shelter, usually left unlocked and available for anyone to use free of charge. It was also a term for basic accommodation, usually for gardeners or other workers on an estate

Examples of culturally specific items

- **Scone** (/skɒn/ or /skoʊn/) is a baked good, usually made of either wheat or oatmeal with baking powder as a leavening agent, and baked on sheet pans.
- **Tablet** is a medium-hard, sugary confection from Scotland. Tablet is usually made from sugar, condensed milk, and butter, which is boiled to a soft-ball stage and allowed to crystallise. It is often flavoured with vanilla or whisky, and sometimes has nut pieces in it.



Tablet



Scone



Bothy



Haggis

Examples of culturally specific items

Grammatical

The progressive verb forms are used rather more frequently than in other varieties of standard English, for example with some stative verbs (*I'm wanting a drink*). The future progressive frequently implies an assumption (*You'll be coming from Glasgow?*).

In some areas perfect aspect of a verb is indicated using "be" as auxiliary with the preposition "after" and the present participle: for example "He is after going" instead of "He has gone" (this construction is borrowed from Scottish Gaelic).

The definite article tends to be used more frequently in phrases such as *I've got the cold/the flu, he's at the school, I'm away to the kirk*.

Speakers often use prepositions differently. The compound preposition *off of* is often used (*Take that off of the table*). Scots commonly say *I was waiting on you* (meaning "waiting for you"), which means something quite different in Standard English.

Grammatical

In colloquial speech *shall* and *ought* are scarce, *must* is marginal for obligation and *may* is rare. Here are other syntactical structures:

- *What age are you?* for "How old are you?"
- *My hair is needing washed* or *My hair needs washed* for "My hair needs washing" or "My hair needs to be washed".
- *I'm just after telling you* for "I've just told you".
- *Amn't I invited?* for *Am I not invited?*

Note that in Scottish English, the first person declarative *I amn't invited* and interrogative *Amn't I invited?* are both possible.

Bibliography

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Thank you for your
attention