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4.1 An tiny bit of linguistic housekeeping

Front		Back
i e ɛ	a	ɔ o u ɤ ɯ
iː eː ɛː		aː ɔː oː uː ɤː ɯː

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4.2 The diphthongs and Why less is more

ia	iə	uə	au	ɔu	ɤi	ɯi	ai	ei

✎ **Exercise 84.**

ia	iav	ian	iam
iə	iəv	iən	iəm
uə	uəv	uən	uəm
ɤi	ɤiv	ɤin	ɤim
ɯi	ɯiv	ɯin	ɯim
au	auv	aun	aum
ɔu	ɔuv	ɔun	ɔum
ai	aiv	ain	aim
ei	eiv	ein	eim

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4.3 Hiatus or How to yawn in Gaelic

✎ **Exercise 85.**

ma.ə	pu.ə	a.ɪ
mo.ə	ni.ə	fo.ə
a.ə	ɯ.ə	Lʲi.ɪ

Blas na Gàidhlig - The Sounds

Vowel/Diphthong		Hiatus	
bidh [bi:]	will be	bithidh [bi.ɪ]	will be
binn [bi:Nʲ]	sweet	bithinn [bi.ɪNʲ]	I would be
bruach [bruəx]	riverbank	bruthach [bru.əx]	slope
eòin [jɔ:Nʲ]	birds	Eoghainn [jɔ.ɪNʲ]	Ewen (gen.)
fiach [fiəx]	debt	fitheach [fi.əx]	raven
thuirt [huRʃdʲ]	said	thubhairt [hu.əRʃdʲ]	said
tinn [tʲi:Nʲ]	ill	tighinn [tʲi.ɪNʲ]	coming

piuthar [pju.ər]	bhathar [va.ər]	motha [mo.ə]
fhathast [ha.əsd]	dùthaich [du:.ɪç]	siuthad [ʃu.əd]

athair [ahərʲ]	màthair [ma:hərʲ]	gathan [gahan]
nathair [Nahɪrʲ]	cathair [kahɪrʲ]	bothan [bɔhan]

bodhar [bo.ər]	ogha [o.ə]	gobha [go.ə]
odhar [o.ər]	comhairle [kõ.əRlə]	leabhar [Lʲɔ.ər]

aghaidhean	taghaidhean	spreadhaidhean
[ɣ.ijən]	[tɣ.ɪjən]	[sbrʲɛ.ɪjən]

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4.4 Nasal vowels

After **m-**, **mh-**, **n-**		
màthair [mã:hərʲ]	**mh**ill [vĩ:Lʲ]	**n**aoidh [Nũj]
Before **-m**, **-mh**, **-n**, **-nn**, **-ng**		
a**m** [ãũm]	tà**mh** [tã:v]	ao**n** [ũ:n]
fài**nn**e [fã:Nʲə]	cea**nn** [kʲãũN]	bei**ng** [bẽĩŋʲgʲ]
Near Disappeared Nasal		
A**mh**laidh [ãũLɪ]	i**nn**se [ĩ:ʃə]	cò**mh**nard [kõ:nəRd]

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4.5 Lenition

[ə maxg]	her son	⇔	[ə vaxg]	his son
[buəl ɛ]	hit him!	⇔	[vuəl ɛ]	he hit
[na Lʲebɪ]	in her bed	⇔	[na lebɪ]	in his bed
[ga ka:Nʲəɣ]	criticising her	⇔	[ga xa:Nʲəɣ]	criticising him

Blas na Gàidhlig - The Sounds

Unlenited Sound	Lenited Sound	Example	
b	v	**b**La:	⇒ gle: **v**La:
bj	vj	**bj**ɔ:	⇒ gle: **vj**ɔ:
p	f	**p**aldʲ	⇒ gle: **f**aldʲ
pj	fj	**pj**aLagəx	⇒ gle: **fj**aLagəx
m	v	**m**o:r	⇒ gle: **v**o:r
mj	vj	**mj**auLdə	⇒ gle: **vj**auLdə
f	-	**f**uər	⇒ gle: uər
fj	j	**fj**u:N	⇒ gle: **j**u:N
d	ɣ	**d**ɔnə	⇒ gle: **ɣ**ɔnə
dʲ	ʝ	**dʲ**ɛrɛg	⇒ gle: **ʝ**ɛrɛg
t	h	**t**anə	⇒ gle: **h**anə
tʲ	h	**tʲ**i:Nʲ	⇒ gle: **h**i:Nʲ
	hj	**tʲ**auN	⇒ gle: **hj**auN
g	ɣ	**g**ɔrɔm	⇒ gle: **ɣ**ɔrɔm
gʲ	ʝ	**gʲ**iar	⇒ gle: **ʝ**iar
k	x	**k**as	⇒ gle: **x**as
kʲ	ç	**kʲ**a:R	⇒ gle: **ç**a:R
Lʲ	l	**Lʲ**eʃgʲ	⇒ gle: **l**eʃgʲ
N	n	**N**ɯ:v	⇒ gle: **n**ɯ:v
Nʲ	n	**Nʲ**iaLəx	⇒ gle: **n**iaLəx
R	r	**R**ag	⇒ gle: **r**ag
s	h	**s**ũ:Ndəx	⇒ gle: **h**ũ:Ndəx
ʃ	h	**ʃ**ɛrɛv	⇒ gle: **h**ɛrɛv
	hj	**ʃ**ɔ:Ldə	⇒ gle: **hj**ɔ:Ldə

Slender Consonant + Front Vowel		Slender Consonant + Back Vowel	
tinn [tʲiːNʲ]	glé thinn [**h**iːNʲ]	teann [tʲauN]	glé theann [**hj**auN]
teth [tʲe]	glé theth [**h**e]	tiugh [tʲu]	glé thiugh [**hj**u]
tearc [tʲɛrg]	glé thearc [**h**ɛrg]	teòma [tʲɔːmə]	glé theòma [**hj**ɔːmə]
sìn [ʃiːn]	shìn [**h**iːn]	seall [ʃauL]	sheall [**hj**auL]
seas [ʃes]	sheas [**h**es]	siùil [ʃuːl]	shiùil [**hj**uːl]
sèimh [ʃɛːv]	glé shèimh [**h**ɛːv]	seòl [ʃɔːL]	sheòl [**hj**ɔːL]

✎ Exercise 86.

01 mə xas ⇒ kas	06	11	16
02	07	12	17
03	08	13	18
04	09	14	19
05	10	15	20

✎ Exercise 87.

	Lenited ⇒ Past	Unlenited ⇒ Order
01		
02		
03		
04		
05		
06		
07		
08		
09		
10		
11		
12		
13		
14		
15		
16		
17		
18		

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4.5.1 Single lenition and jumping lenition

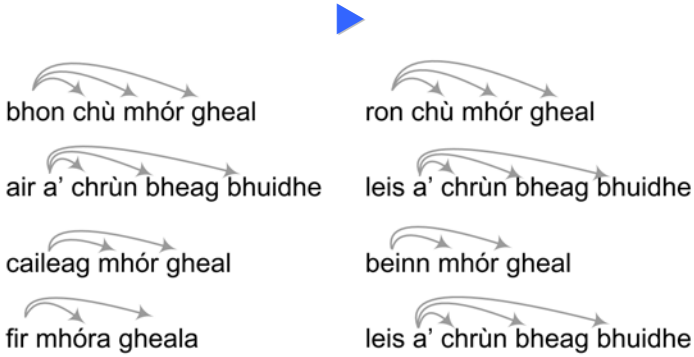
théid [he:dʲ]	chì [çi:]	gheibh [j̊ev]
nì [ni:]	shuas [huəs]	shìos [hiəs]
fhathast [ha.əsd]	thugam [hugəm]	thalla [haLə]
Bhaltos [vaLdəs]	dhachaidh [ɣaxɪ]	fhéin [he:n]

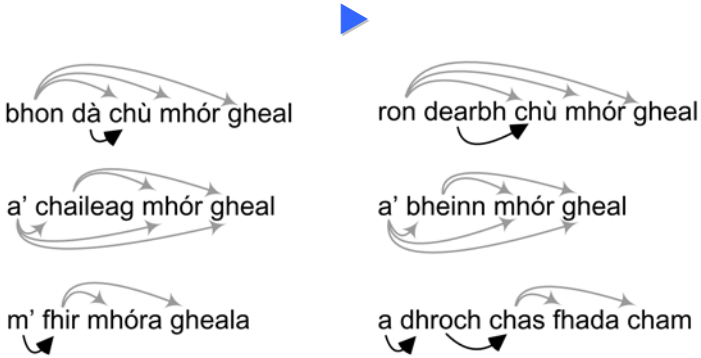
glé [gle:] ⇒ glé mhath [gle: vah] dà [da:] ⇒ dà chù [da: xu:] mo [mə] ⇒ mo thaigh [mə hɤj] do [də] ⇒ cha do dhùin [xa də ɣu:N^{j}]	lenition caused by word
dhùin [ɣu:N^{j}] caileag mhór [kalag vo:r] móran thaighean [mo:ran hɛhən]	lenition caused by grammatical context

Single Lenition (which only affects the next word)	
▪ possessives and all derived forms	
mo, do, a	mo **ch**at beag geal, a **th**aigh mór
'gam, 'gad, 'ga	'gam **bh**ualadh, 'gad **fh**aicinn
'nam, 'nad, 'na	'nam **sh**easamh, 'nad **dh**ùisg
'am, 'ad	'am **dh**éidh, 'ad **bh**alach
▪ certain prepositions	
a, bho, de, do, fo, mu, ro, tro	bho **ch**at beag geal
air	air **bh**ior mór, air **mh**àl mór
ar	ar **fh**ichead
▪ certain words	
aon, dà, a' chiad	dà **bh**òrd beag buidhe
glé, ro, gun, chan, bu	gun **bh**òrd beag buidhe
	bu **bh**òrd beag buidhe
▪ certain prefixes	
deagh, droch, dearbh, prìomh,	deagh **bh**òrd beag buidhe
mór, beò, ath, leth, àrd, so-,	leth **bh**òrd beag buidhe
do, mì-, co-, sìor-, ioma-,	sìor **fh**às mór
seann, ban-, etc	seann **bh**òrd beag buidhe

▪ the infinitive particle *a*	bu toil leam cat a **bh**ualadh
▪ the relative particle *a*	a **bh**uaileas, a **dh**ùineas
▪ past tense and conditional	
with *do* dropped	**bh**uail, **dh**ùin, **sh**einn
with *do/dh'/do dh'/na*	cha do **bh**uail, dh'**fh**àg, na **sh**einn
conditional	**bh**uailinn, **dh**ùininn, **sh**einneadh
▪ comparative & superlative with **f-**	
as & nas	as **fh**aisge, nas **fh**aisge
▪ noun/noun determiner plus an indefinite plural noun	
common nouns	prìs **th**aighean beaga buidhe
móran, beagan, cus, torr…	móran **th**aighean beaga buidhe
Jumping Lenition (affects all words in a group)	
▪ vocative	
a	a **Dh**òmhnaill **mh**óir **bh**òidhich
▪ feminine nominative and prepositional nouns	
	caileag **mh**ór **bh**òidheach
▪ the nominative definite article with a feminine noun	
a'	a' **ch**aileag **mh**ór **bh**òidheach
▪ the definite article after a preposition irrespective of gender	
bhon a'	bhon a' **bh**òrd **bh**eag **bh**uidhe
bhon a'	bhon a' **ch**aileag **mh**ór **bh**òidheach
▪ the genitive defininite article with a masculine noun	
noun + *a'*	dath a' **bh**ùird **bh**ig **bh**uidhe
▪ slenderisation of a masculine noun	
noun + masculine noun	dath bùird **bh**ig **bh**uidhe

dà chù mór geal
do chù mór geal
bho chù mór geal
aon chù mór geal
droch chù mór geal
’nad chù mór geal
cha bhuail mi
cha do bhuail mi
nas fhearr buileach
móran chasan fada


bhon chù mhór gheal
ron chù mhór gheal
air a’ chrùn bheag bhuidhe
leis a’ chrùn bheag bhuidhe
caileag mhór gheal
beinn mhór gheal
fir mhóra gheala
leis a’ chrùn bheag bhuidhe


bhon dà chù mhór gheal
ron dearbh chù mhór gheal
a’ chaileag mhór gheal
a’ bheinn mhór gheal
m’ fhir mhóra gheala
a dhroch chas fhada cham