**Ulster Scots Pronunciation**

**1.*tha* – the Definite Article before a noun:**

e.g. *tha* *brig*  
Pronounced ‘tha’ rather than ‘the’  
In Ulster-Scots today, the definite article ‘the’ is spelt *tha*, not just because it sounds slightly different, but to avoid confusion with the following:

* (a) ‘Tonight’, ‘today’, ‘tomorrow’ and ‘together’ are *thenicht, theday, themorra* and *thegither*. Here ‘the-’ is an abbrevation of ‘this’ – for example, ‘this night’, and so ‘this year’ also becomes *the yeir.*
* (b) ‘They’, the personal pronoun, is *the* or *the’* in Ulster-Scots. Most writers include an apostrophe (*the’*) to avoid confusion with the definite article. Therefore, a sentence like ‘they were all at the dance tonight’ becomes:  
    
  *The’ wur aa at tha daunce thenicht.*

**2. Using the *tha* where it isn’t used in English:**

*tha* is used in front of numbers – *Tha twa o thaim cum in lukkin jist tha yin apiece* (‘Two of them came in looking for only one each’)  
It is also used:

* with places (*John Wricht comes fae tha Dee in tha coontie Doon*)
* with occupations and institutions (*He’s startit tha schuil fur tae lairn tha bricklayin*)
* with sports and illnesses (*He’s gien up tha fitbaa fae he taen tha maisles*)

**3. *tha* used instead of personal pronouns (your, his, etc.):**

* Is tha wife cumin tae?
* Tha wee fella cum aff tha bike.
* A brok tha airm in twa places.

**4. *tha* used instead of ‘how’, ‘what’, etc.:**

* A niver knowed tha age he wus
* D’ye see tha quïck thaim cloods shïftit?
* Luk tha lenth his airms is.

**Spelling & Pronunciation**

**1. Ts and Ds, followed by an R (makes a THE or DHE sound)**

* water - wattèr (sounds like WAATTHER)
* shoulder - shoodèr (SHOODTHER)
* projector - projectèr
* ladder - leddèr (LEATHER)
* after - eftèr (EFTHER)

**Also, NNs followed by an R** (makes an –NTHE– sound)

* dannèr
* wannèr
* genèral

**2. Ts followed by an L (makes a glottal stop)**

e.g. metal, nettle, bottle (T is sounded with a cough, like BAW – ’KLE)

Verbs in the future tense are either:  
*A’m fur paintin tha hoose themorra* (I’m going to paint…), or  
*A’ll be paintin tha hoose themorra*.

-http://www.bbc.co.uk/ulsterscots/learn/lesson/9