Ulster Scots

Recommended Text:

Robinson, Philip, S., Ulster-Scots: A Grammar of the Traditional Written and Spoken Language, ISBN-10: 1905281080.

Learn Online:

http://www.bbc.co.uk/ulsterscots/learn/1

Lesson 1 Meeting and Greeting

Read the following brief dialogue, showing people greeting each other:

Bob:

Mornin, Fiona

Fiona:

Guid to see ye, Bob

Jack:

Hi ye, Sarah

Sarah:

Fair faa ye tae Ulster!

* ‘Mornin’ means ‘good morning’
* ‘Evenin’ means ‘good evening’
* ‘Guid nicht’ means ‘good night’

In order to give your address or telephone number, you need to be able to count in Ulster-Scots:

1

yin or ane[\*](http://www.bbc.co.uk/ulsterscots/learn/lesson/1%22%20%5Cl%20%22one-note)

2

twa

3

thrie

4

fower (Co. Down – fivver)

5

five

6

six or sax

7

seiven

8

echt

9

nine

10

ten

11

leiven

12

twal

13

thurteen

14

fowerteen

15

fifteen

16

saxteen

17

seiventeen

18

echteen

19

nineteen

20

twuntie

30

thurtie

40

foartie

50

faftie

60

saxtie

70

seiventie

80

echtie

90

ninetie

100

a hunner

\* One is the only numeral which has two completely different forms. When it is being used as a noun it is ‘yin’ or ‘ane’ but there is an older literary usage of ‘ae’ or ‘yae’ when it is being used as an adjective - eg Burns’ song “Ae fond kiss”.

Read the following dialogues:

Mary:

Whaur dae ye leeve?

Anne:

A leeve at saxteen Newtown Brae. Whaur dae ye leeve?

Mary:

Twuntie-yin Rid Brae.

*This means*

Mary:

Where do you live?

Anne:

I live at sixteen Newtown Brae. Where do you live?

Mary:

Twenty-one Red Brae.

Here are some more dialogues to read:

Michelle:

Guid tae see ye, Doreen. Whit wye ur ye?

Doreen:

A’m brave an guid the day.

*This means:*

Michelle:

Good to see you, Doreen. How are you?

Doreen:

I’m fine - or I’m not so bad today.

Andrew:

Hello, Mike. Guid to see ye. Hoo’s it gaun?

Mike:

Ach A’m bravely. An yersel?

Andrew:

A’m rightly.

*This means:*

Andrew:

Hello. Mike. Good to see you. How are you - or how are things with you?

Mike:

I’m not so bad. How are you?

Andrew:

I’m fine.

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When we finish our conversation, of course we need to say goodbye.

There are several ways to do this. If is it evening we might say ‘Guid nicht’; or at any time of day we could say ‘Sae lang noo’. ‘Tak tent’, meaning ‘take care’, is another way of taking your leave. A more archaic and literary leave-taking is to use ‘Sonse faa ye’.

Michelle:

Sae lang noo, Doreen.

Doreen:

Guid nicht, Michelle. Tak tent noo.

*This means:*

Michelle:

So long now, Doreen.

Doreen:

Good night, Michelle. Take care now.

Sam:

A’m aff tae the shaps. Tak tent, Mike.

Mike:

Sae lang noo, Sam. Be seein ye.

*This means:*

Sam:

I’m off to the shops. Take care Mike.

Mike:

So long, Sam - or cheerio, Sam. Be seeing you.

Answers to Addresses:

1. twuntie Tha Loanen
2. leiven Bradshaa’s Brae
3. echt Ardnavilly Road

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