



It's More than Words

Madainn mhath!

I hope your morning is a pleasant one. ☺

This learning tip is about the bigger picture when acquiring a language.

Languages can be different from other kinds of learning. We're gaining much more than just pieces of language. When we acquire Gaelic, we're also gaining cultural and psychological perspectives. There's a whole world, a whole culture, a long history inside of the words and phrases. We're taking those in too - whether we know it or not.

Perhaps this is one reason why the road to Being Conversational in Gaelic feels so long.

When starting our Gaelic journey, most of us start off right at the beginning with no helper language to give us a head-start. We start at the very beginning and the words, patterns, and sounds are often tricky and confusing.

What if the cultural, historical, and psychological aspects of Gaelic are also tricky and confusing to our minds? What if we need extra time to process and acquire these too?

It's worth considering. Most of us are learning the mindset and expression of a culture that's quite different from anything we've ever experienced. That will certainly take time to acquire - in addition to all the lenition!

How to Remember 'It's More Than Words'

1. Reflect on how much more your mind is processing than just pieces of language.
2. Whenever you feel frustrated, remember #1 and be kind to yourself. You're doing great!

3. Whenever you feel accomplished with your Gaelic, remember #1 and celebrate your skill! You're doing great!

Give it a try and let me know how it goes for you.☐

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Le gach deagh dhùrachd (with every good wish),
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Gaelic with Jason

Immersive conversational lessons that make it easy to think
more in Gaelic, use it more naturally, and help it reach future
generations

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