



Using Google Translate Well

Feasgar math!

I hope your week went well and that a nice weekend awaits you. ☐

Google Translate can be a powerful tool - and so quick to use!

I remember having a 'conversation' with a fellow in Vietnam about his tattoos using just the app. We passed his phone back and forth, each writing in our own language and showing the other the translation. It was quite amazing to be able to communicate together in that way. I was grateful because my Vietnamese was really rough!

Is Google Translate worth using to express yourself in Gaelic, though?

While it has come a long way over the years, Google Translate still has limitations. Testing it just now, I see the following:

- It only gets some genitives correct
- It doesn't know some common idiomatic phrases
- Sometimes it only knows part of a complex phrase rather than all of it
- It seems not to know some nuances behind words, ie: can vs may
- It translates some placenames in strange and silly ways (kinda funny)

Some of what it can do is surprisingly good. Some of it is surprisingly accurate. It still has limitations though.

My Recommendation

If you're going to use Google Translate, I recommend using it to translate from Gaelic to another language, ie: Gaelic to English. It can potentially help make things clear if you don't have access to a fluent or native speaker. Maybe.

If you let Google Translate speak for you, you might be learning incorrect language. Not only that, you will be missing another

opportunity to practice using the Gaelic you have right now. You'd be missing a chance to improve! No one wants that!

Thank you for reading! I'll send another learning tip soon.

Want more learning tips? See all my past tips [here](#)



Le gach deagh dhùrachd (with every good wish),
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more in Gaelic, use it more naturally, and help it reach future
generations

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