



## Start Simple

Madainn mhath!

I hope your day is going well so far. ☺

This tip is about using your Gaelic - specifically about how to express complex ideas.

Expressing the ideas that are in your head can be challenging in Gaelic - especially if you're just starting out. Certain things can be challenging to talk about even in our native languages, let alone Gaelic!

If you find yourself stumbling or feeling frustrated while trying to describe things or ideas in complex ways, I recommend keeping three things in mind:

- 'Yet' - Your Gaelic may not be there yet. With practice and time, it will be.
- Use what you have: Use the Gaelic you have instead of worrying about the Gaelic you don't have
- Start simple. Any big concept can be broken down into small pieces. It doesn't have to be a big, dramatic monologue.

Some examples:

- Climbing mount Everest can just be glè chunnartach.
- Your favorite food can be blasta.
- The mountains near your home can be mòr agus brèagha.
- The weather can be blàth, fuar, tioram, or fliuch.
- A challenging day at work can just be doirbh.

In my eyes, fluency (smoothness) matters more than complexity. A conversation will stay alive and moving forward with straightforward, simple words. On the other hand, searching for impressive words/phrases every few seconds can stop a conversation quickly.

There's a Gaelic saying that came to my mind just now: 'Na can ach beagan ach can gu math e.' (Only say a little but say it well).

There's nothing wrong with speaking simply - native speakers do. Plus, we all need to start somewhere.

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



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

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more in Gaelic, use it more naturally, and help it reach future  
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