



## Using Am Faclair Beag Better (1)

Feasgar math!

I hope your weekend is a good one. ☹️ It's rainy here in Maine; a great day to work by the fire.

There are a number of Gaelic dictionaries available these days and they each have their own style and presentation.

If we don't understand how our dictionary is organized, though, we can misunderstand valuable information in it. This can lead to creating bad habits that can be difficult to undo in the future.

It's important that you get the most from your Gaelic dictionary. This learning tip will help you avoid missing an important part of Am Faclair Beag, the popular, powerful online dictionary.

When we look up a word in Am Faclair Beag, we get a lot of information, including what looks like a 7. What does it mean? Why is there a 7 in there?

Toraidhean an Fhaclair Bhig	Toraidhean Dwelly
<p><a href="#">iasg</a> /iəsɡ/ </p> <p><i>fir. gin. 7 iol. èisg</i> </p> <p>1 fish 2 (with the article: <i>na h-èisg</i>)</p> <p>Pisces (  )</p>	<p><a href="#">iasg</a> </p> <p>-èisg, -an, <i>sm</i> Fish. Iasg dubh, <i>salmon on its return from the sea</i>; iasg air chladh, </p> <p>...<a href="#">an còrr</a></p>

This 7 is a medieval sign for 'and,' which is just like how English uses & to mean 'and.'

What this 7 is telling us is that the genitive (gin.) and plural (iol.) of iasg are the same. They're both èisg.

gin 7 iol. èisg = genitive **and** plural (are) èisg

### Important Note

This 7 is just part of the style of Am Faclair Beag. We would not use it when writing in Gaelic - unless we're copying a medieval manuscript!

Knowing this will help you avoid bad habits with your Gaelic and make it more accurate and more impressive.

Thanks for reading and take care!



Le gach deagh dhùrachd (with every good wish),

Jason Bond Gaelic teacher

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