

Simple is Often Better

Feasgar math!

I hope your day has been a good one. It's been sunny over here - very pleasant.

One thing I've noticed is that in everyday conversation, in any language, simple phrases have a lot of benefits:

- They allow room for others to share.
- They can allow a conversation to flow better and be more enjoyable.
- They can be easier to remember and use confidently.
- They are easier to connect with and understand

When I chat informally with native Gaelic speakers, sometimes a "glè mhòr" or a "Chan eil cho mòr" is all one of us needs to keep the conversation flowing.

Sometimes learners want to leave simpler phrases behind, wanting bigger, more complicated ones. Perhaps these seem more prestigious, more impressive. They can be, I'm sure, but do native speakers use them all the time? Some might, but probably less than you think. In my experience, informal, everyday conversation is usually more about clarity and sharing information. We don't necessarily need big, complex phrases to do that.

My advice is to keep broadening your vocabulary while not forgetting about the simpler expressions. In my eyes, it's better to keep the conversation flowing and simple phrases do that very well.

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

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