

Glossary of Scots Words

Author's note: I swithered a long time before deciding to include a short glossary but on balance felt that it would benefit readers. Scots is a living language that is constantly re-inventing itself and I have tried to be true to this. I have not included words like *ma (my)* and *ain (own)* as I believe that if readers try to “hear” the voices as they read, then the meanings will be quite clear.

Readers who wish to extend their vocabulary of Scots should consider purchasing a copy of the excellent *Concise Scots Dictionary*, The Scottish National Dictionary Association, Polygon, 1985.

A

<i>abune</i>	above
<i>ahent</i>	behind
<i>aiblings</i>	perhaps
<i>airts</i>	parts, area
<i>ashet</i>	dish
<i>ava</i>	at all
<i>aye</i>	1) yes; 2) always

B

<i>bairn</i>	child
<i>bairned</i>	made pregnant
<i>baudrons, pussy-baudrons</i>	a cat
<i>birl</i>	spin
<i>big, biggit</i>	build, built
<i>bike</i>	wasp's nest
<i>billie</i>	young man
<i>ben</i>	through, into
<i>besom</i>	1) brush; 2) a woman
<i>bleezin</i>	blazing
<i>blether, a</i>	idle chatter
<i>blethers</i>	nonsense
<i>bocht, bochten</i>	bought
<i>bogey; the game's a</i>	it's all up, it won't work
<i>bothy</i>	cottage shared communally by unmarried farm-
labourers	
<i>braw</i>	excellent
<i>breeks</i>	trousers

C

<i>caa, caad</i>	knock, dig
<i>caller</i>	fresh
<i>canny</i>	careful; <i>cry canny</i> go carefully
<i>cantrips</i>	tricks, capers
<i>carlin</i>	old woman
<i>causey</i>	path, road
<i>chap</i>	to knock; in dominoes, when a player cannot take a
turn, he	<i>chaps</i> ; hence <i>at the chap</i> , sitting in the pub
<i>chiel</i>	person
<i>chiz</i>	pester, annoy
<i>clarty</i>	dirty
<i>cleik</i>	a metal bar shaped into a hook at one end
<i>clift</i>	cliff
<i>cludge, cludgie</i>	toilet
<i>coorse</i>	coarse, rude, uncouth
<i>cowp</i>	overturn
<i>cowpit her creel</i>	died
<i>couthy</i>	kind, gentle (of a person)
<i>crabbit</i>	short-tempered, irritable
<i>craitur</i>	person
<i>creel</i>	basket, lobster-pot
<i>crivvins</i>	mild exclamation of astonishment
<i>cuits</i>	ankles

D

<i>daunder</i>	wander
<i>deek</i>	look, squint
<i>deeve</i>	deafen, annoy
<i>deider</i>	dead person
<i>deoch an doris</i>	parting drink (Gael. door drink)
<i>dirl</i>	vibrate
<i>doo</i>	dove, pigeon
<i>dootna</i>	don't doubt
<i>dram</i>	drink (Gael)
<i>drookit</i>	soaked
<i>drouth, drouthy</i>	thirst, thirsty
<i>dunt</i>	knock, blow
<i>doolally</i>	weird, crazy
<i>dozent</i>	dimwitted, slow
<i>dunderheid</i>	idiot

E

<i>ettercap</i>	spider
<i>ettle, ettlin</i>	try, trying

F

<i>fankle</i>	tangle
<i>fash</i>	annoy
<i>feckle</i>	confuse
<i>feechie</i>	disgusting
<i>fegs</i>	exclamation suitable for use in polite company, similar
<i>to faith</i>	
<i>fell</i>	great
<i>fleet</i>	quick
<i>fleg</i>	fright
<i>forbye</i>	besides, as well as
<i>forgie</i>	forgive
<i>fou</i>	1) full; 2) drunk
<i>Frenchie, Frenchies</i>	condom (French Letter)
<i>fud</i>	vagina
<i>fung</i>	kick, wallop
<i>fushionless</i>	useless
<i>futret</i>	ferret

G

<i>gallus</i>	cocky and self-confident
<i>galluses</i>	braces, suspenders
<i>galoot</i>	oaf, clumsy idiot
<i>gar, gart</i>	make, made
<i>gaed</i>	went
<i>gey</i>	very
<i>gillie</i>	one who assists an angler (Gael. <i>gille</i> , a boy)
<i>gin</i>	if
<i>ging</i>	to go
<i>ginging</i>	going
<i>girn</i>	cry
<i>glakit</i>	stupid, distracted
<i>glimmer</i>	look
<i>glisk</i>	glance
<i>gowk</i>	idiot
<i>graft</i>	grave
<i>grippit</i>	mean
<i>guff</i>	1) smell; 2) nonsense
<i>gullie</i>	sailor's pocket-knife
<i>gutters</i>	mud and dirt
<i>gushet</i>	corner
<i>gyte</i>	crazy

H

<i>hackit</i>	ugly
<i>haddie</i>	haddock

<i>harns</i>	brains
<i>haunle</i>	handle
<i>hertie</i>	heartly, decent
<i>hirsle</i>	1) herself; 2) to move in a determined manner; 3) a herd (of cattle)
<i>hoch, hochs</i>	thigh, thighs
<i>hooer</i>	whore
<i>houghmagandie</i>	the act of sex
<i>hurl (of transport)</i>	to drive, give or take a lift (as in <i>A'll gie ye a hurl</i>)

<i>I</i>	
<i>ill-gitted</i>	of an evil disposition
<i>ingan</i>	onion
<i>ingle</i>	angle

<i>J</i>	
<i>jaffa</i>	Jehovah's Witness
<i>jalopy</i>	old car
<i>jalouse</i>	suppose, guess
<i>jannie</i>	janitor
<i>jeely</i>	jam (Eng.) jelly (Am.)
<i>jig, jiggin</i>	dance, dancing
<i>jile</i>	jail
<i>jonick</i>	nice, pleasant (of a person)
<i>jotter</i>	notebook; <i>gie ye yer jotters</i> , you're fired
<i>jouk</i>	duck, avoid

<i>K</i>	
<i>keech</i>	shit (Gael. <i>cac</i> , ordure.)
<i>ken</i>	know
<i>kip</i>	sleep
<i>kirk</i>	church
<i>kist</i>	chest, coffin
<i>klipe</i>	tell tales
<i>kybosh</i>	refusal (from <i>knock back</i> , often shortened to <i>KB</i> .)

<i>L</i>	
<i>lift</i>	sky
<i>limmer</i>	woman of dubious virtue
<i>loon</i>	boy
<i>low-flyer</i>	The Famous Grouse, a whisky
<i>lug</i>	ear
<i>lum</i>	chimney

M

<i>maun</i>	must
<i>maw</i>	seagull
<i>meelie</i>	melee
<i>merkat</i>	market
<i>grandminnie</i>	grandmother
<i>muckle</i>	big

N

<i>nab, nabbit</i>	catch, caught
<i>nip, nippy</i>	a half measure of alcohol
<i>nippit</i>	short, small
<i>neb</i>	nose

O

<i>ocht</i>	something, anything
<i>ower</i>	over, excessively

P

<i>partan</i>	crab
<i>perjinckit</i>	particular, fussy
<i>pitten-on</i>	dressed up
<i>plant, plantin</i>	to bury, burial
<i>puckle</i>	few, small number
<i>puggilt</i>	tired out
<i>puss</i>	face
<i>pynte</i>	point

Q

<i>quine</i>	girl
--------------	------

R

<i>rauch</i>	rough
<i>redd, to</i>	to tidy, to clean
<i>reek</i>	smoke

S

<i>sair fecht</i>	a real struggle
<i>scunner</i>	sicken, enervate
<i>sea-maw</i>	seagull
<i>shoogled</i>	shake violently
<i>shufti</i>	look
<i>sic</i>	such
<i>siccan</i>	such a
<i>siller</i>	silver, money
<i>skeeched</i>	to be addled with age or alcohol; <i>skeech</i> , person in this
condition	(<i>auld skeech</i>)

<i>skelly</i>	daft
<i>skids</i>	underpants
<i>sonsie</i>	fair, cheerful
<i>speir</i>	ask
<i>speirins</i>	questions
<i>spleet-new</i>	brand new
<i>stramash</i>	rough-house, fight
<i>smeddum</i>	gumption, determination and ability
<i>stappit</i>	jammed, stuck
<i>starns</i>	stars
<i>strand</i>	beach
<i>sup</i>	eat, drink
<i>swither, to</i>	to be unable to decide
<i>syne</i>	since

<i>T</i>	
<i>tapsalteerie</i>	upside-down
<i>tattie-dreel</i>	drill in potato field
<i>teuch</i>	tough
<i>teuchter</i>	ill-educated country-dweller
<i>thole</i>	suffer, bear
<i>thon, thonder</i>	that (over there.) Scots uses more degrees of separation
<i>than</i>	English; so <i>this, that, thon and thonder</i>
<i>thrapple</i>	throat
<i>thrawn</i>	ill-natured
<i>threip</i>	nag
<i>tint</i>	lost
<i>tither, the</i>	the other
<i>tod, toddie</i>	fox, fox-cub
<i>trachle</i>	trouble, bother, burden

<i>U</i>	
<i>unchancy</i>	unlucky

<i>W</i>	
<i>wad</i>	married
<i>wake</i>	a party held before, during or after a funeral
<i>wheen</i>	large number, amount
<i>wheesht (hud yer)</i>	be quiet
<i>whiles</i>	sometimes
<i>whitterick</i>	weasel; an incorrigibly wayward child
<i>wifey</i>	woman
<i>willies, the</i>	creeps
<i>wirsels</i>	ourselves
<i>wye's</i>	gentleman's undergarment. (From "y-front.")

Υ
youthie

young