550 SCOTS PHRASES
YE JIST CANNA DAE WI’OOT

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WE ARE AW LAIRNERS
550 Scots phrases ye jist canna dae wi’oot

This collection of Scots phrases from scotslanguage.info, a searchable archive of Scots news and articles from the press and social media, going back to 2012.

I gathered the phrases around 2014 from a variety of sources. An update with ‘new’ Scots phrases from the internet was long overdue, and this edition was inspired by ‘Gies A Scots Phrase Day’ in June 2021.

The booklet accompanies the Scots Learners’ Grammar, a brief overview of the main features of Scots syntax and How the Scots Language Works, an introduction to the modern language.

Whit aboot the spellin? I try to use the common, mostly non-dialectical Scots spellings and vocabulary that have emerged over the last 20 years. There remains no ‘official’ standard in Scots, but convergence in the orthography of published prose since the turn of the century has made developing general learning materials like these much easier. On my desk (and desk-top) are The Concise English-Scots Dictionary (1993), The Essential Scots Dictionary (1996 as The Scots School Dictionary), the Luath Scots Language Learner (2002), the substantial modern Scots writings from the Scots Language Centre [https://www.scotslanguage.com/] and the ever-reliable Online Scots Dictionary [https://www.scots-online.org/dictionary/].

The spellins A uised in 2014 are no aye the anes A’duise the day, but A doot they’ll dae fur noo.

Clive P L Young, March 2022
Ach! That's rale boggin! Ach, we'll hae tae dae it noo Oh, that's really dirty. Oh well, we have to do it now
Dinna act the bairn Don't be childish
Dinna act it wi me Don't push your luck
Whit's adae? What is going in?
A got it aff ma brither I got it from my brother.
Are yoose for (the) aff? Are you going?
C'mo(a)n, git aff! Legendary phrase of Glasgow bus conductors ('clippies')
The weather's aff an on the day The weather is changeable today
A wis fair (black) affrontit! I was quite (extremely) embarassed
A'm ages wi him I'm the same age as him.
His plans went agley frae the ootset His plans went wrong from the beginning
Whit ails ye? What's the matter with you?
Whit ails ye at gaun oot What objection do you have to o going out?
Towerists frae aw the airts Tourists from all over
An him a meenister an aw It is especially disappointing/surprising as he is a churchman
A'm no weil aquent wi him I don't know him well
Tell yer maw a wis askin efter hir Tell your mother I was asking how she was.
She's aye at her bairns She's always scolding her children
Whit are ye (ettlin) at? What do you mean?
A'll hae a cup o tea atweenhauns I'll have a cup of tea in the meantime
Yer at yer auntie's (hoose) Tuck in!
Annie's no here, she's awa Annie has just left
Awa (ye go)! Expression of surprise
Awa an bile yer heid! Clear off!
Come awa in/ben Come in
Come awa, Scotlann! / 'Mon the Scots! Go Scotland!
That ye awa hame? Are you going home?
The tellie's awa (wi't) The TV is done for
Awa oot an get some mulk Go out and get some milk
Awa wi ye! Expression of disbelief
He is the awfie'est cuik He is the worst cook
He's comin the morn, ay? He's coming tomorrow, isn't he?
Ay, ay! Hello!
The ba(w)'s on the slates The sh't has hit the fan
Thon bus misst me by a ba(w) hair That bus missed me by a hairsbreadth
A'll see ye the back o fower I'll see you shortly after four.
Awthing here is backside foremaist Everything here is back to front
He bairned her He made her pregnant
Ya bandit! Expression of delight
He tint the hail bang-shoot He lost the lot
That's barrie That's fantastic (Edinburgh)
That bates / dings / cowes aw That beats everything
Nae ba(a)ther! (ʽborra' in Glasgow) You're welcome! (after being thanked)
Ya beautie! Expression of delight
Wha belongs tae this jaicket? Whose is this jacket?
Whaur dae ye belang tae? Where are you from?
It's ma bell It's my round
Awa ben an get ma Sunday Post Go to the other room to get my Sunday Post
Come ben the hoose Come on in
He wis oot on the bevvie aw nicht He was out drinking all night.
A canna bide that countra music I can't stand country music.
On yer bike! Expression of disbelief
He's git his birse up noo He's annoyed now
A canna get oot o the bit I can't make any progress, I'm stuck
When it comes tae the bit, we'll be fine When it comes to the crucial point, we'll be fine
She was aye bitin his lug She was always flattering him
It's as black as the Earl o Hell's weskit doon here It's pitch black down here
It's no ma blame It's not my fault
Ye needna be sae Blake Don't be shy
It's aa jist bletheration. It's only foolish talk.
A didna get a blink o sleep I didn't get a wink of sleep
She wis awa in a blink. She left in an instant.
It’d gie ye the (dry) boak. It’s (very) disgusting.
Thon eedjit gies me the dry boak. That idiot makes me really sick.
The gemm’s a bogie. The game/plan has to be abandoned.
She haes abool in her mooth. She talks in an affected manner.
Gie’s a bosie. Give me a kiss.
His wark’s gane doon the brae. His work has declined.
It’s as braid as it’s lang. It makes no difference either way.
It’s a braw bricht moonlit nicht the nicht. The only Scots phrase many have heard of.
He got the bree o the blame. He got the brunt of the blame.
A’ m gonna breenge up the shoaps the morra. I’m going for a trip to the town centre tomorrow.
Gie’s a brek. Give me a chance.
The jannie is in wi the bricks. The janitor has been here for ever.
Awa an hae a wee bubble tae yersel. Go have a little cry.
Stick bubblie! Don’t be sulky!
He taks a guid bucket. He drinks a lot.
We drank a bucket at Hogmanay. We drank a large amount on New Year’s Eve.
Gang / gae Buckie / Banff / Freuchie / etc! Go to hell!
The barn nivver lat bug. The child gave no indication.
It’s aye a hunger or a burst around here. It’s always feast or famine around here.
This is awfie fykie, but. This is very tricky, isn’t it?
D’ye think ma heid buttons up the back? Do you think I am naive?
A’ll pit a bittie by fur ye. I’ll put some aside for you.
Och that’s the hoaliday by then. Well, that’s the holiday finished.
A’ll gie it a bye. I’ll give it a miss.
A’m no sae green as A’m cabbitch-luikin. I’m not so daft as I look.
There wis a richt cairrie-on at the cairrie-oot. There was trouble at the off-licence/takeaway.
She’ll hae a canarie when she fins oot. She’ll be very angry when she finds out.
Is the cat deid? Remark about a person’s too-short trousers (i.e. half mast).
Caw awa! Go ahead!
Caw cannie! Take care!
Thon decesion cawed the legs fae unner me. That decision knocked the legs from under me.
Cheek on ye! You cheeky so and so.
A dinna want a cheep oot o ye. I don’t want you to say anything.
Gie’s a cheeper. Give me a kiss.
Cheerio/bye the noo. Bye!
Whid did ye get fur yer Christmas? What did you get as a Christmas present?
A’ll chum ye alang tae the schuil. I’ll accompany you to the school.
Ach weel, back tae auld claes an parritch. You are mistaken.
A’ ve no jist come up the Clyde on a bike/banana boat. I’m not stupid.
Come awa, lassie! Come on girl!
The boss haes a guid conceit o hissel. The boss thinks highly of himself.
Dinna ye conter / speak back tae yer faither. Don’t contradict your father.
Caw cannie! Go on like that and you are in trouble.
Gie’s a cry if ye’re wantin oniething. Give me a shout if you want anything.
Can ye cry in on the wey back? Can you look in on the way back?
Dinna lat dab ye ken. Don’t let them know you know.
That's the verra dab That's just the thing
The bairn's daft on the fitba The child is crazy about football
Sure as daith he'll be here the morn He'll absolutely certainly be here tomorrow
Nae danger! No way I'm doing that
A'm awa fur a wee daun(d)er I'm going for a short walk
A daurna dae't I daren't do it
A've no jist come doon the Dee on a digestive I'm not stupid
Drap deid! Drop dead!
A'm deid certs I'm absolutely certain
Dinna dae yer dinger Don't get angry.
A wytit an oor, bit she gaed me a dizzie / dingie I waited an hour but she stood me up.
It's no wirth a docken. It's worthless.
She wis up tae high doh wi the waddin She was very excited due to the wedding
Ma wee doo term of endearment
A'm awa tae the leesure centre fur a dook I’m going to the leesure centre for a swim
He belongs tae Haack an has a hoose doon–by an aw He comes from Hawick and has a house there too
Ma ma’s no bin ower the door in weeks My mother hasn’t been out of the house in weeks
Tak the door wi ye Shut the door as you go
Foos yer doos? Legendary North East greeting; 'Ay peckin' is the answer
A doot it's gaun tae snaw. I think it is going to snow.
A doot ye'll no ken him I expect you don't know him
A doot. I suppose so
A hae ma doots I’m doubtful.
A'm dottin oot fur a while I'm going out for a while
A'm jist dottin roon tae ma maw's I’m just nipping round to my mother’s.
Thae auld breeks are aw dowp and pooches. Those old trousers have lost their shape.
Ye'll tak a dram Let's have a drink
The nichts is fair drawin in The nights are getting shorter
A canna mak up ma mind, A'll jist draw straes I can't make up my mind, I'll just draw lots
Aftimes ye jist hae tae dree yer weird. Sometimes you just have to get on with it.
Ye jist hae to dree yer weird You just have to endure your fate
A doot we're up the wrang dreel here I think we're heading in the wrong direction here
It's a gey sair
nicht the nicht The weather is very unpleasant tonight
A've a drouth on me I’m thirsty
Ilka dug haes thir day Everyone has a chance
A cud eat a scabbie dug / scabbie heidit wean I could eat a horse
A'm duin / throu I’m finished
Thon bairn's aye awa in a dwam That kid is always daydreaming
It went like snaw aff a dyke. It disappeared quickly.
A'm no rinnin eerants, A'm no the message boy I'm not going on errands, I'm not the errand boy
A'll see ye efter. I'll see you later
A cudna be ersed gaun I couldn't be bothered going (vulgar)
A wis ettlin tae gang I was intending to go
Fa(w) tae, fowks! Eat up, people!
He naur aet the face aff me He gave me a terrible row
It's a fack It's true
Whaur ye fae? Where are you from?
A cud fair gang anither roon o toast I'd really like another slice of toast
Fairfaw (in a letter) Best wishes
He'll get his fairins in the end. He'll gey his just deserts in the end.
A kent his faither 'I knew his father’ said ironically of a presumptuous person
A canna be fash. I can't be bothered.
Dinna fash me wi thon Don’t bother me with that
Dinna fash yersel Don't worry/trouble yourself.
A cud see him faur eneugh I wish he’d just disappear
He'd fecht wi his finger ens / ain taes He's really quarrelsome
It's a sair fecht Such is life.
It's a gey sair fecht fur hauf a loaf It's not worth the effort
He dindna win but is a bonnie fechter onieways He didn't win but is very determined anyway
Nae ferlie! No wonder!
Ye ken fine (weel) You know very well
He'd a face like fizz. He looked angry
Dinna throw a flakie. Don't have a tantrum
We shud lat that flee stick tae the wa(w) We should drop the subject
Ye gied me a richt fleg You gave me a real fright
She gied him the fling She split up with him
Hoo aboot a fly hauf? Would you like a quick drink?
Is hir man tae the fore? Is her husband alive?
Dinna fret Don't worry
A'm fur gaun tae the picters I fancy going to the cinema
An awfie man fur the drink He likes to drink.
Ar ye fur aninithair hauf? Do you want another half pint?
Whit(‘r) ye fur? What would you like to drink?
Fur coat an nae knickers just for show, superficial
Whit's fur ye winna gang by ye What's meant to happen will happen
Furryboots (fur aboots) are ye fae? Mock Aberdonian expression
Gads! God!
Ye hae tae gae yer ain gate You have to follow your own opinions
Dinna gae on aboot it Don't make such a fuss
She's gantin fur it. She's eager for it (vulgar)
It'd gar ye greet. It would make you cry.
He aye gaes his ain gate He always goes his own way.
Hoo's it gaun? How are you?
A gaun fit's aye gettin The most active do the best.
She canna be gaun wi yon ned. She can't be going out with that yob.
Gaun yersel! Go for it! (cry of encouragement)
Gaunie no dae that! Don't do that!
Guanie come the morn Can you come tomorrow
Dinna gee yer ginger! Don't stir yourself / bother about it
Shut yer geggie! Shut your mouth!
That's the gemme! That's how to do it!
A'll get ye alang tae the schuil. I'll accompany you to the school
A didna get (tae gae) aifter aw. I wasn't able to go after all.
Gie's a fish supper Give me/us fish and chips
A'll gae, gin ye like I'll go if you like
The bairn's no awfie gleg on the uptak The child is not very quick at understanding.
Goad kens! Goodness knows!
Gonnae gie's a poond? Can you give me a pound?
Gonnae no say that? Can you not say that?
Oh, ma heid's gowpin. My head's throbbing.
A canna gree wi ye thare. I can't agree with you there
Ach we'll bear the gree ae year. Oh we'll win one year.
Jist hae a wee greet. Just have a little cry,
A gaed there a gret dale I went there often
It'd gar ye grue. It sends shivers down your spine.
Whit a guff! What a bad smell!
A telt ye he'd gang gyte. I told you he'd go mad.
The world's gane gyte the day The world's gone crazy today
A dinna hae the Gaelic. I don't speak Gaelic.
It didna mak a haet o difference efter aa. It didn't make a whit of difference after all.
She aye gaes hail-heidit aboot her wark She always goes about her work enthusiastically
Can ye no pit the haims on thae bairns? Can you not control those children?
A nivver haird tell o't I've never heard of it
Dinna gae me onie mair o yer haivers. Don't tell me any more nonsense
Yon's a fine ham-a-haddie That's a tall (shaggy dog) story
Ye'll hae tae hap up wi thae cauld. You'll have to wrap up due to the cold
It's cauld oot, mak siccar ye're weel hapit
It's cold out, make sure you are well wrapped up
Haste ye back Come again soon
A canna see it haudin up the day I doubt the weather will keep today
A dinna haud wi aw thon I don't agree with all that
A'd haud wide o thon stushie I'd keep clear of that problem
Haud on, thon's no richt Stop, that's not correct
It's aye guid tae haud in wi the boss It's always good to curry favour with the boss
See's a haud o yer phone Hand over your phone
He'll no dae it if ye dinna haud / deave at him He won't do it if you don't nag him
He's gaun aroon like a hauf shut knife He looks depressed
Are ye wantin tae gae haufers wi t he puddin? Do you want to share the dessert?
A gien haun's aye gettin Giving brings returns
A'll tak ma haun aff yer face if ye dae it agane. I'll slap you if you do it again.
Gaun(t)ae gie's a haun? Can you lend a hand?
It didna come tae haun It didn't occur to me
Haw,pal! Hey, you there
Thon fish supper wis the haws (vul) That fish and chips was excellent
It'll no set the heather on fire It won't have much impact
Ye'r awfie heather heidit the day You're having a bad hair day
He kens hee-haw aboot hee-haw The knows nothing about anything
He'll get his heid in his hauns tae play wi. He'll get into big trouble.
Keep the heid! Relax!
Can a speak tae the heid bummer? Can I speak to the person in charge?
Hell mend ye! To hell with you!
Gettin mairrit fair pit the hems on him Getting married put a stop to his high jinks
Hullo therr, Hen / Jim(mie) Informal way of addressing women and men respectively
Here's tae ye/yersel! Cheers! (toast)
A'm hert roastit wi youse I'm fed up with you lot
Ye need a stoot hert for a stey brae You need to be stong to meet the challange
Fowk get ower het up ower the fitba People get too excited about football
Heuch! A spontaneous yell of encouragement e.g. At ceilidhs
The high heid yins here cudna run a menadge The management here are very disorganised
It's aw on the hing It's all hanging in the balance
A'm feelin a bit hingie the day I'm feeling under the weather today
At the hinner en it's guid fur awbodie In the long run it is good for everyone
The jiner can sort the cludgie as a homer. The joiner can fix the toilet as a job in his own time
Hoo are ye (daein / gettin on), awricht? How are you? OK?
Hoo no? Why not?
A've hid a hoor / bastart o a day I've had a very bad day indeed (vulgar)
Hoots, mon! Expression of disbelief
Ach, ye'r no in the huff agane. Oh, you're not in a huff again
Ye kannae say jist whit comes up yer humph. You can't say things without thinking.
It's aither a hunger or a burst roon here It's either feast of famine here
A'v telt ye a hunner time awreadie I've already told you many times
Cud ye gie's a hurl hame? Can you give me a lift home?
Ye can tak yer hurrie You can take your time
Draw tae/inby Pull you chair in
Come inbye Come in
Jeezo! Crikey!
He tint the hail jing-bang He lost the lot
Jings! Well I never!
Jist that! Quite so!
A'm jist efter gettin here masel I've just got here myself
A cud jest huv gone hame I felt like going home
We're aw Jock Tamson's Bairns We're all the same.
They foond he was at it an he got his jotters. They found he was up to no good and he was sacked.
Ther some joukerie-pawk(e)rie gaun on
There's some trickery going on

Its jist cauld kail het again. It's just the same old story

Keech! Crap!

Keek! Peekaboo! (said to babies)

A’m keen o readin I'm fond of reading

Hoo's he keepin? How is he?

A’m fair scunnert wi’t, ken? I'm fed up with it, you know what I mean?

Fine A ken whit’s gaun on I know well what's going on

It’s no whit ye ken, it's wha ye ken It's not what you know, its who you know

She’s a guid boss, kinnawey A she's a good boss, in a way

Come an jine the bodie o the kirk Come and join the main group

Mak a kirk or a mill o’t The choice is yours

Ye’d think she wis Lady Muck (fae Clabber Castle) She puts on airs and graces

Thon lairnt him a lesson That taught him a lesson

He's gien it laldie He's really going for it

Ye’ll get laldie when ye get hame You'll be in trouble when you get home

A like a lang lie at the weeken I like to sleep late at the weekend

It's nae loss whit a freen gets A popular phrase

A nivver lat on A haird him I never showed I heard him

Tae be leal, A dinna ken. To be honest, I don't know.

A doot he kicks wi his left fit I suspect he is a Catholic.

Dinna lat thaim tak a/the len o ye Don't let them take advantage of you

A’ll see ye the length o the shoaps. I'll accompany you as far as the shops

A’m that jiggert a cudna walk the length o masel I'm so tired I couldn't lift a leg

A dinna like. I'm feeling shy.

He cairriet on decent-like He behaved decently

His nemm wis Davie, o the like o that His name was Davy, or something like that

Whit am A like! Silly me!

Whit like? How are you?

Whit like's his seester? What's his sister like?

Whit's he like, eh? Isn't he a character

Likeasay, she 's a bit o a stoirer She's very good looking, know what I mean?

She sings like a lintie She sings sweetly.

Dinna lippen thae fowk Don't trust those people

He lowped the dyke and jined the Hibees. He changed allegiances and joined Hibernian F.C.

Ma feet is lowpin / sair My feet hurt

The shoaps is lowpin the day The shops are crawling with people today

A lowse at the back o five I finish work about quarter past five

The boss gied me a richt lugfu The boss gave me a real telling off

She didna luik the road he was on She ignored him completely

Lang may yer lu mreek! Cheers! (toast)

Whar there's reek, there's heat No smoke without fire

Did ye no get a lumber at the pairtie? Did you not get a pick-up at the party?

Ma da took a maddie whan he foon oot My father went crazy when he found out

A canna mak a better o't, ye ken I can't improve on it you know

Ye hae tae gie the tea time tae mask Be patient

Thon singin’s maukit The singing is very bad

A maunna keep ye I mustn't keep you

Yer maw cares Who cares?

Shut it or A’ll melt ye Be quiet or I'll hit you.

She cudna run a menadge She has poor organisational skills.

Och, hell mend ye then Oh, you'll end up getting what you deserve.

Michtie me! Heavens above!

Mony a mickle maks a muckle Every little helps

It's like Annicker's midden It's a shambles/mess.

Dinna droon the miller Don't put too much water in the whisky

His' heid's fou o mince He is full of nonsense

Ma heid’s mince the day I’m just not with it today
Thon fair sickened his mince / pit his gas on a peep. That knocked the wind out of his sails.

Thon mince is mince. That mince is not very good.

A canna mind (o’t) I don’t remember.
A canna mind o(n) his nemm I don’t remember his name.

A mind o him fine I remember him well.

Mind an gie’s a caa. Remember to call me.
Mind yersel! Watch out!

Thon minds me o the hoalidays. That reminds me of my holiday.

Ye aye hae tae keep mind o’t. You always have to bear it in mind.

Och ye misst yersel at the pairtie. You should have been at the party.
A did it in a mistak. I did it by mistake.

Hullo, mon! Hello mate!
Are ye gaun the morn’s morn or the morn’s nicht? Are you going tomorrow morning or tomorrow night?

Stop yer mumpin, it’s no sae ba(u)d. Stop complaining, it’s not so bad.

The ludger’s gane, done a munelicht flit(tin)/munelichtie. The loger has left in secret without paying.

The haggis is nae bad. The haggis is quite good.

Girnin disna get ye naegait. Complaining doesn’t get you anywhere.
Jist hae a wee neb at this. Just have a little look at this.

A wis needin ma wark. I wanted to get to work.

The wa needs pentit. The wall needs painting.

Ye widna need tae be gaun by tren. Just as well you’re not going by train.

Ye cudna hit a byre door wi a neep. You are a bad shot (lit ‘hit a barn door with a turnip’).

The boss is aye nippin ma heid. The boss is always nagging me.

Thon nip/nips ma heid. That does my head in.

Are ye nivver oot o yer bed yet? Are you not out of bed yet?

Have ye no? Haven’t you?
He’s affie no weel. He’s not very well.
She’s wee-er nor me. She’s smaller than me.
He tuik a notion tae the chippie lassie. He took a fancy to the girl in the chip shop.

Gaun dae’s a wee obleegement. Can you do me a small favour?

Och! general purpose expression.

Och aye the noo! English phrase mocking Scots speech.

Ochone! expression of sorrow.

A dinna see onie / muckle odds I don’t see any difference.

A’m (fur the) offski I’m going away.

That’s the heidie shoutin on ye. The headmaster is calling you.

Wyte on me! Wait for me!

Aw ae oo. Often-quoted near nonsense phrase ‘all one wool’.

Ooya(bas)! Ouch!

It’s like Paddy’s Mairket here. It’s very untidy.
A’v bin knockin ma pan in aw day. I’ve been working hard all day.

The jannie is on the panel the day. The janitor is off work today.

A’m no parteeclar I have no preference.

Dinna gie me aw that patter. Don’t try to sweet-talk me.

The accountant wis pauchlin the buiks. The accountant was cooking the books.

Can ye no bide at peace a meenit? Can’t you be quiet a moment?

Just gie me peace the noo. Just leave me alone just now.

A wis fair pechin efter gaun up the stair. I was really puffing after going up the stairs.

He’s a guid lad, but he canna pee faur. He’s a good chap within his limits.

Thin baloon’s needin his gas pit at a peep. That bighead needs putting down a peg.

A’m perished wi’ the cauld. I’m freezing.

Dinna hing the pettit lip (wi me). Don’t be sulky!

Thon pit oot his pipe. That put im in his place.
Whit a piscer! What a disaster!

That pit him fae daein it. That stopped him doing it.

Ye’ll nivver dae it, ye’r jist playin yersel. You’ll never do it, you’re just wasting your time.

He’s jist bin plowterin/scutterin about aw day. He’s just been pottering around all day.
A got it in a praisent. I got it as a present.
That'll be the price o ye. You'll get what you deserve.
A'v niver seed him in ma puff I've never seen him in my life
Come ower, A'm on ma puff here Come over, I'm on my own here
Dinna tak a puggie / loss yer puggie. Don't lose your temper.
He's as fu as a puggie He's as drunk as a skunk
Pey puggie-nuts an ye get puggies Pay peanuts and you get monkeys
A cudna get quat o thaim I couldn't get rid of them
She aets like Rab Ha. She has a big appetite.
Awa an raffle yersel / yer grannie! Clear off!
A'm jist in here oot the ren Ironic phrase when caught doin something illicit
It's rainin auld wives and pike staves Its raining cats and dogs
We'r a'w oot on the ran-dan We're all out on a pub crawl/having a good time
Rare day the day Lovely day today
A'm scunnert reddin up efter youse I'm fed up tidying up after you lot
Will ye no huv a wee refreshment? Would you like a small alcoholic drink?
Am A richt, or am A wrang? I'm right, aren't I?
Ay, right Expression of disbelief (actually a negative)
It's aa richt It's OK
A got a richt riddie/beamer when I wis fun oot I was really embarrassed when I was found out
A've bin aw roon the hooses luikin fur ye I've been looking for you everywhere
Get it roond ye! Take that!
We've bin rummled We've been found out
Thon lad's saft in the heid. That bloke is stupid.
A'm richt sair aff the noo I'm very hard up at the moment
Dinna be sae sair on the wee laddie Don't be so harsh with the boy
Fur onie sake! For goodness sake!
It's like Sauchiehall Street in here It's very busy here
It's sixes an saxes tae me Its six or half-a-dozen to me
Wha stole yer scone? Why are you looking so downcast?
She disna hae a scoobie She hasn't a clue
A doot A'll scoosch thae exams I think I'll pass those exams easily
A took a scunner tae whuskie aifter Hogmanay. I had an aversion to whisky after New Year.
Wid thae no scunner ye! That's the limit!
See ma mither? See blether? My mother talks a lot
See me thon spuin. Give me that spoon.
See if we canna mak it, wid she girn? Supposing we can't make it, would she complain?
She canna see past the new laddie She's a bit obsessed with the new boy
A'll no seek I won't try
A'm no seekin tae gang I don't want to go
A'v seen masel waitin a oor for that man I've had to wait sometimes an hour for that man
Ye want tae seen it You should have seen it
Are ye fur a sesh efter wark? Do you want to go drinking after work?
A shair's ocht / daith As sure as anything
He kens the richt side o a shillin He knows about money
His jaiket is on a shooglie peg His position (usually at work) is precarious
Mak siccar he kens Make sure he knows
Thon report fair sickened his mince. The report spoilt it for him.
A like a pokey hat on a simmer's day I like an ice cream on a summer day
Thon exam wis a skoosh That exam was very easy.
A'v tae be up at the skreech o day the morn's morn I've to be up at the crack of dawn tomorrow
A'v git the smit/cauld I have an infection / cold
They've git the smit They are in love
Eneuch o yer snash, you! Enough of your cheek, you
Can ye lave the door on the snib when ye gang oot Can you leave the door unlatched when you go out
**He’s a ee(d)jit, so he is** (tag used here for emphasis)

**The wean’s a sodjer, skint his knee an didna greet** The child is tough, grazed his knee and didn’t cry

**There’s aye a somethin** There are always problems

**It’s aye guid tae sook in wi the boss** It’s always good to curry favour with the boss

**A’m no feart! Ye are sot!** I’m not frightened! You are so! (children’s talk)

**Jist keep a calm souch** Just keep calm

**Tell yer maw a wis speirin fur hir** Tell your mother I was asking how she was.

**There an awfie rammie doon the stair** There’s a terrible commotion downstairs

**Yer bangin yer heid agin a stane dyke wi him** Your banging your head off a brick wall with him

**It’s jist siller doon the stank** It’s just money down the drain

**The projeck went doon the stank.** The project was a disaster

**A’m stappit/fu (as a wulk)** I’m full up

**Will he staun guid for ye?** Will he guarantee you / back you up?

**Her new man wis the talk o the steamie.** People were gossiping about her new man

**A feel like a richt stookie here.** I feel out of place here.

**Whit are ye staunin like a stookie fur?** Why are you not doing anything?

**He’s lyin aroond the hoose like a store dug** He’s very lazy

**A seen him stottin aboot the toon** I saw him wandering about the town

**Ye suit the kilt** The kilt suits you

**Gaunie gie’s a swatch at yer i-Phone** Can you let me have a quick look at your i-Phone

**Ye shud tak a swatch fae yer freend** You should follow the example of your friend

**They mak ye wark fur sweeties here** They make you work for little money here

**He wis sweirt tae pairt w’it** He was reluctant to part with it

**A’ll gie it a (boady-)swerve** I’ll give it a miss.

**A’m swithein aboot gaun oot** I can’t decide to go out or not

**Dinna swither (about it), jist dae it** Don’t hesitate (about it), just do it

**Auld lang syne** Days of long ago (from the Burns song)

**A’ve no seen her syne Hogmanay** I’ve not seen her since New Year’s eve

**She’s a gleg lassie, an bonnie tae** She’s a clever girl, and also good-looking

**A’m richt taen up wi this job** I’m very absorbed in this job

**The bairn’s fair taen on wi the new teacher** The child is very taken with the new teacher.

**A wee tait/bittie** A little bit

**Tak tent!** Watch out!

**Ye maun tak tent o whit ye wish fur** Be careful of what you wish for

**Come in, ye’ll have had yer tea** Ironic (Edinburgh?) expression to an unwanted visitor

**A’ll no tell ye agane** For the final time

**She wudna tak a tellin** She wouldn’t be warned

**Telt ye! I told you so!**

**It wis a rerr terr** It was really entertaining

**Is that you? Have you finished?**

**That’s me aa set I’m ready**

**That’s you then** There you are (handing over something)

**It’s aicht oor frae yokin time tae lowsin time** It’s eight hours from the time to start work and the time to finish

**Whit time’s it? What is the time?**

**Me an ma brither gae tae the but an ben time aboot** My brother and I take turns going to the cottage

**She’s a tongue that wud clip cloots** She has a sharp tongue

**Ye’ve git a (guid Scots) tongue in yer hied** You can ask about/for it yourself
Get tore in! Get stuck in!
She’s a richt torn / soor / greetin face the day
She’s bad tempered today
Ye hae tae lat the towe gae wi the bucket You have to accept your losses
It wis an awfie trauchle gaun intae the toon wi the bairns It was exhausting going into the town with the kids
He disna hae his tribbles tae fin He isn’t short of troubles
Her face wis trippin her She looked very sad
A’ll hae nae mair troke wi him I’ll have no more to do with him
A hae a sair tuith I have toothache
She wis aye gleg in the uptak She was always quick to understand
We’ll ken verra like the morn We’ll probably know tomorrow
A’m richt vext tae hear that I’m very sorry to hear that
A’v had a wamefu o thae folk I’ve had enough of those people
A doot the dug’s wantin oot I think the dog needs to go out
A’m no wantin oniethin I don’t want anything
Ye’r wastin the bairn wa aa thae sweeties You’re spoiling the child with all those sweets
Yer heid’s wastit You are being stupid.
That gars yer teeth watter That makes your mouth water
Can we no haud a wee? Can’t we wait a minute?
In the nemm o the wee man! What the Devil!
A’ll be wi ye in a wee meenit I’ll be with you shortly
Hullo, wee yin! Said to a child
A’m no weel the day I'm feeling unwell today
It’s weel seen ye’ve done this afore Its obvious you’ve done this before
That’s no ma wey o daein That’s not how I do things
By ma wey o’t In my opinion
That’s no the richt wey o’t That’s not the true version
That’s no the wey o’t noo That’s not what happens now
There’s no ither wey o’t There’s no alternative
Ye canna whack it You can’t beat it
He’s bin here fur a wheen o years He’s been here for a long time
Haud yer wheesht / mooth! Be quiet!
Wheesht! Shhh!
That’s no wice. That’s crazy.
A cudna win / git awa I couldn’t get away
Is the twa o thaim winchin / gaun oot? Are they courting?
D’ye wish anither? Would you like another one?
Hae a word wi yersel! You can’t be serious
Naither wunner! No wonder!
Och, it’s yersel! I wasn’t expecting you
See yon yin, he’s a numptie That person over there is an idiot
We didna get back tae yon time We didn’t get back till late
Yours aye (on a letter) Yours sincerely