

# DORIC DICTIONARY

**A GUIDE TO THE DIALECT OF  
THE NORTH EAST OF SCOTLAND**



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# DIV YE KEN ONY DORIC?

Do you know any Doric?

## FIT LIKE?

Hello!

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# INTRODUCTION

## FIT'S THIS AA ABOUT EN?

What's this all about then?

**Doric is a Scottish dialect spoken in the North East of Scotland around Aberdeen and shire.**

The term 'Doric' is thought to come from the Greek for 'rural' or 'rustic' perhaps due to its strong associations with the farming and fishing communities of the region.

There is an extensive body of literature, poetry, ballads and songs from the North East.

In the Disney animation 'Brave', a character speaks Doric and there's a running joke that nobody can understand him. The voice actor was Kevin McKidd, a native of Elgin. Although Doric is the traditional dialect of the North East, don't worry, we do all speak English!

## FAR ABOUTS DIV THE' SPIK IT?

In which areas is it spoken?



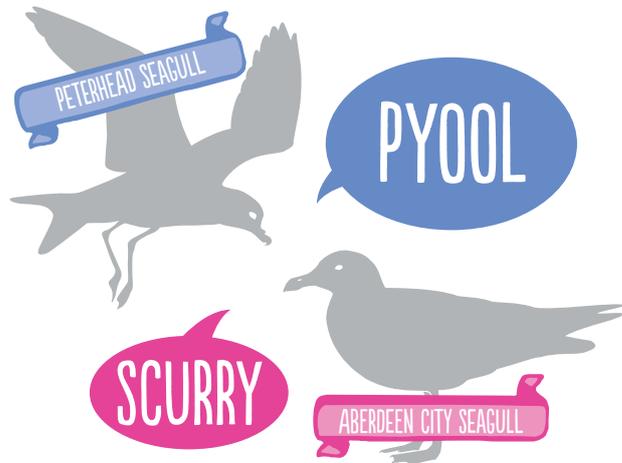
# THE BASICS

## SO FOO DIVYE SPIK I' DORIC?

So how do you speak Doric?

Doric words can differ from town to town. If you're from Peterhead, you might refer to a seagull as a 'pyool' but in Aberdeen, the same bird would be known as a 'scurry'. And in Buckie it's a 'gow'.

There are also many variations on the spellings of the words, due to differences of localised pronunciation and phonetics. The word 'Pyool' for instance could also be written as 'pule', 'pool' or 'pyewel' depending on which town you are from.



# USING THE 'F' WORD

Try switching 'wh' with 'f'

**FAR?** Where?

**FIT?** What?

**FAN?** When?

**FOO?** How?

**FIT WYE?** Why?

**FA?** Who?

**Basic phonology**  
'Wh' at the beginning of words is often realised as an 'f'.

**Far ye gaan?**  
Where are you going?



**Far div ye bide?**  
Where do you stay?

**Fit's at?**  
What's that?



**Fit like?**  
(What like?)  
How are you?

**Fan ye aff?**  
When are you going?



**Fan div ye yoke?**  
When do you start work?

**Foo mony?**  
How many?



**Foo's yer doos?**  
(How are your doves/pigeons?)  
How are you?

**Fa's at?**  
Who is that?



**Fa's roond is it?**  
Whose turn is it to buy the drinks?

**Fit wye nae?**  
Why not?



**Fit wye's at noo?**  
Why is that now?

## COLOURS

REID

Red

YALLA

Yellow

BLAE

Blue

FITE

White

BLAIK

Black

BROON

Brown

SILLER

Silver

SKYRIE

Gaudy/showy

## NUMBERS

MONY A MICKLE  
MAAKS A MUCKLE

Many small amounts  
together becomes  
a large amount

### Een: One

I'll hae at een, cheers  
I'll have that one, thanks

### Twa: Two

Twa craws sat upon a wa  
Two crows sat upon a wall

### Fower: Four

Atween fleers een an fower  
Between floors one and four

### Hillock: Lots

At's a fair hillock o' chips  
That's a lot of chips

### Foo muckle? How much?

Foo muckle is at?  
How much is that?

### Bourachie: A group/huddle

A bourachie o' bairns  
A bunch of kids

1 EEN  
2 TWA  
3 THREE  
4 FOWER  
5 FIVE  
6 SAX  
7 SEIVEN  
8 ECHT  
9 NINE  
10 TEN  
11 ELEEVEN  
12 TWA/DIZZEN

# OPPOSITES

MUCKLE	Big	Small	SMA
GYE BIG	Large	Little	WEE
AA	All	None	NEEN
AAWYE	Everywhere	Nowhere	NAEWYE
AATHIN	Everything	Nothing	NITHIN
AABODY	Everyone	Nobody	NAEBODY

# DIRECTIONS

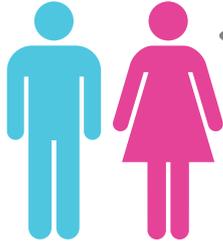
UP	Up	Down	DOON
GING IN	Go in	Go out	GING OOT
OWER	Over	Above	ABEEN
AROON	Around	About	ABOUT
AHEID	Ahead	Behind	AHIN
AFORE	Before	After	AIFTER

# PEOPLE

**MANNIE**

Man

Check at mannie's fisog!  
Look at that man's face!



**WIFIE**

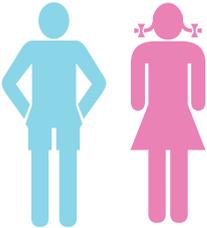
Woman

At wifie Fraser's a richt blether  
That Fraser woman talks a lot

**LOON**

Boy/son

Far's the loon i'day?  
Where is your son today?



**QUINE**

Girl/daughter

Fit a bonny wee quine  
What a pretty little girl

**GEETS**

Children

Fit a hillock o' geets  
What a lot of children



**BAIRNS**

Children

Foo many bairns are in i' playgrun?  
How many kids are in the playground?



**TOONSER**

Lives in the city



Boyfriend



Girlfriend

**Blaa: boast**

He's ayeways blaain  
about his new car  
He's always boasting  
about his new car

**Crabbit: Bad tempered**

He's affa crabbit i'day  
He's really grumpy today

**Claik: Gossip**

Funcy a fly cup and a claik?  
Fancy a sneaky cup of tea  
and a gossip?



**TEUCHTER**

A rural dweller

**Clype: To tell tales**

Dinna clype te mannie Broom  
Don't tell tales to Mr Brown

**Footer: Messing about**

Quit footerin about!  
Stop messing about!

**Grippy: Miserley**

He's affa grippy wi his sillar  
He's very miserly with  
his money

**Swaak: Agile**

He's a swaak loon  
He's an agile boy

**Swick: To cheat**

He' min, stop swickin in!  
Hey, stop jumping the queue!

**Sook: Sycophant**

She's a richt sook  
She's a right flatterer

## SMALL TALK

Aye, aye fit like en Jim? Are ye nae spikin? Foo's the wife an geets?

Hello, how are you Jim?  
Are you not speaking?  
How's the wife and kids?



Nae bad Mary – chavin awa. They're aa fine, cheers. Fit aboot yersel?

I'm not too bad Mary – doing okay. They're all fine, thanks. What about you?

I'm fair-tricket! Dod's just booked us a wee holiday so we're awa tae Tenerife!

I'm delighted! George has just booked a short holiday, so we're off to Tenerife!



Oh fit fine! At Dod's a fine chiel ye ken! Fan ye gaan awa?

How lovely! George is a nice fellow you know! When are you going away?

I' morn's morn – I'm nae packed so I'll need tae ging hame an maak a stairt.

Tomorrow morning – I'm not packed so I'll need to go home and make a start.



Aye, nae bithir. Well hae a rare time an mind an pack yer dookers!

No problem. Well have a great time and remember your swimming costume!

# FIT I DINNA KEN IS NAE WURTH KENNIN.

I am very knowledgeable  
and a know-it-all.

## TIME

ONYTIME I'DAY  
WOULD BE NICE

I'day: today

Right  
now

THE NOO

FIT YE DEEIN THIS  
AIFTERNEEN?

Aifterneen:  
afternoon

NEXT WIK

Next  
week

SEE YE THE  
MORN'S MORN

Tomorrow  
morning

## POSITIVE EMOTIONS



### **Bosie: hug**

Gie's a bosie!  
Give me a hug!

### **Fash: trouble**

Dinna fash yersel  
Don't trouble yourself

### **Tricket: Delighted**

I'm fair-tricket  
I'm delighted

### **Gawaaah!: Get away!**

Gawaaah! Yer kiddin!  
Get away! You're kidding me!

### **Bonny: beautiful**

Sheena is affa bonny  
Sheena is very pretty

### **Fine: good**

Affa fine butteries  
Very tasty pastries

### **Rare: great**

It's bin a rare nicht oot  
It's been a great night out

## NEGATIVE EMOTIONS



### **Scunnered: fed up**

I'm affa scunnered  
I'm really fed up

### **Greetin: crying**

Fit ye greetin fur?  
Why are you crying?

### **Wheesht: quiet**

Hud yer wheesht!  
Be quiet!

### **Spikin: speaking**

Are ye nae spikin?  
Are you not speaking to me?

### **Weel: well**

Am nae weel  
I'm not feeling well

### **Forfauchan: exhausted**

I'm affa forfauchan!  
I'm really exhausted!

### **Puggled: tired**

I'm fair puggled the day  
I'm really tired today

### **Neep: turnip**

Yer a neep  
You are an idiot

### **Gype: fool**

Fit a gype  
What a fool

### **Glaikit: senseless, stupid**

At loon's a bit glaikit  
That boy is a bit stupid

### **Bile: boil**

Awa an bile yer heid!  
Go away!

### **Mingin: not pleasant**

At baps are mingin  
Those rolls are not pleasant

### **Feart: scared**

Dinna be feart  
Don't be scared

### **Coorse: nasty**

She's a coorse besom\*  
She's a nasty woman  
(\*a besom is also a broomstick)

# SOCIALISING

COME AWA' BEN  
THE HOOSE

Welcome, come through

YE WINTIN' A  
FLY AN' A PIECE?

Would you like a cup of tea  
and something to eat?

TAAK A PEW/  
SIT YERSEL DOON

Take a seat/sit down

SO FIT HIV  
YE BIN UP TAE?

So what have you been up to?

AN FOOS YER  
MA 'N' DA?

And how are your mother  
and father?

AN FAR YE BIDIN  
THE NOO?

And where are you living at  
the moment?

YE GAAN OOT?  
INTAE TOON?

Are you heading out this  
evening? Into the city centre?

AYE, FAR AND FAN  
WILL I SEE YE?

Yes, where and when will  
we meet?

FUNCY A DUNCE/  
ARE YE DUNCIN?

Would you like to dance?

NO YER AARICHT  
I'M WABBIT!

No thanks, I'm exhausted!

FIT YE  
HAEIN?

What are having to drink?

I'LL HAE A PINT.  
CHEERS MIN!

I'll have a pint. Good health!

# EATING & DRINKING



**A FLY CUP**  
A cup of tea

**SPEEN**

Spoon



**SCOOF IT!**  
Drink up!

**NEEPS & TATTIES**  
Turnips and potatoes



**A CAPPIE**  
Ice-cream cone

**SPROOTS**  
Sprouts

**BUTTERY OR ROWIE**

A flat breakfast pastry



**HINGIN INGINS**  
Hanging onions



**GALSHIKS**  
Sweeties

**Cloutie: cloth**

Gee at worktop a dicht wi a cloutie  
Give that worktop a wipe with a cloth

**Messages: shopping**

I'm awa te dee my messages

**Chipper: chip shop**

Ye needin onything fae the chipper?



**BRAMMLE**  
Blackberry



**A FUNCY PIECE**

A cake or sweet treat



**Fine: tasty**

Affa fine butteries  
Very tasty pastries

**Sappy: juicy**

Is peach is affa sappy  
This peach is really juicy

**Aet: feed**

At wiz a gweed aet  
That was a nice meal



**Gads: yuk**

Gads min!  
Yuk!

**Bowfin': disgusting**

At soup's bowfin'  
That soup is disgusting

**Mingin': horrible**

At pie's mingin'  
That pie is horrible

**Fooshty: gone bad/rotten**

At bap's are fooshty  
Those rolls are mouldy

**Cowk: retch/feel sick**

At milks maakin' me cowk  
That milk is making me sick



**DORIC IDIOMS**

**AM NAE AS GREEN AS  
AM CUBBIGE LOOKIN**

I'm not as green as I am  
cabbage looking...  
I'm not as stupid as I look

**IT'S A SARE FECHT  
FIR HALF A LOAF**

It's a sore fight for a half loaf...  
It's hard to make ends meet

# THE WEATHER



IT'S GYE WAREM I'DAY  
It's very hot today



IT'S A BIT DREICH I'DAY  
It's a bit dull today



IT'S AYE DINGIN DOON  
It's a long spell of rain



FIT A BONNY GLOAMIN'  
What a pretty sunset



IT'S CAUL I'DAY  
It's cold today



HAP UP YER LUGS  
Cover up your ears



I'M DROOKIT  
I'm soaked



CA CANNY, OR  
YOU'LL GING SKITIN'  
Take care, it's a bit icy



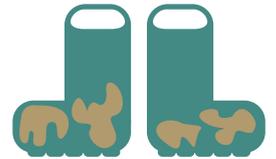
IT'S BLOWIN'  
A HOOLIE  
It's very windy



FEELS LIKE SNA  
Feels like it's going to snow



THE HAARS COMIN' IN  
There's a sea fog descending



MY BEETS ARE DUBBY  
My boots are muddy

# CLOTHING (CLAES)

**GLAESSES**  
Glasses

**GANZIE**  
Jumper

**BREEKS**  
Trousers

**GYMMIES**  
Plimsolls



**PUNTS/DRAWERS**  
Underwear

**BUG**  
Bag

**PINTS**  
Laces



**FIT A RARE  
BUNNET**

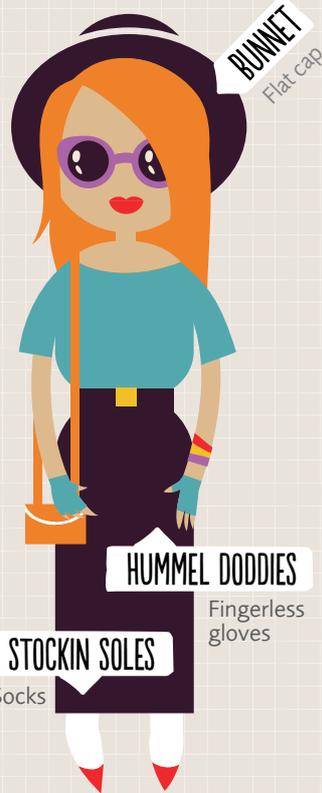
What a nice hat

**AT'S SOME  
RIG-OOT YE HIV  
ON THE NIGHT**

That's some outfit  
you have on tonight

**FAR DID YE  
GET YER FUNCY  
SHEEN FAE?**

Where did you get your  
fancy shoes from?



**BUNNET**  
Flat cap

**HUMMEL DODDIES**  
Fingerless  
gloves

**STOCKIN SOLES**  
Socks

**SHEEN/SHEE**  
Shoes/shoe

# ANATOMY



**THESE INGINS ARE FAIR MAAKIN MY EEN WAATER**

These onions are really making my eyes water

**AT POKED ME RICHT IN THE EE**

That poked me right in the eye



**MY QUEETS HIV SWAALT**

I've got swollen ankles

**FIT FIT FITS FIT FIT?**

Which foot fits which foot?

**I CANNA FEEL MY TAES**

I can't feel my toes



**HE'S AN AFFA KYTE ON HIM**

He has a big stomach on him



**KEEP YER LUGS WAARM**

Keep your ears warm

**STOP LUGGIN IN**

Stop eavesdropping



**HE KITTLED MA OXTERS**

He tickled my armpits



**SHE SKELPT HIS DOWP**

She slapped his bum



**I'VE AFFA SAIR BEANS I'DAY**

My bones are aching today

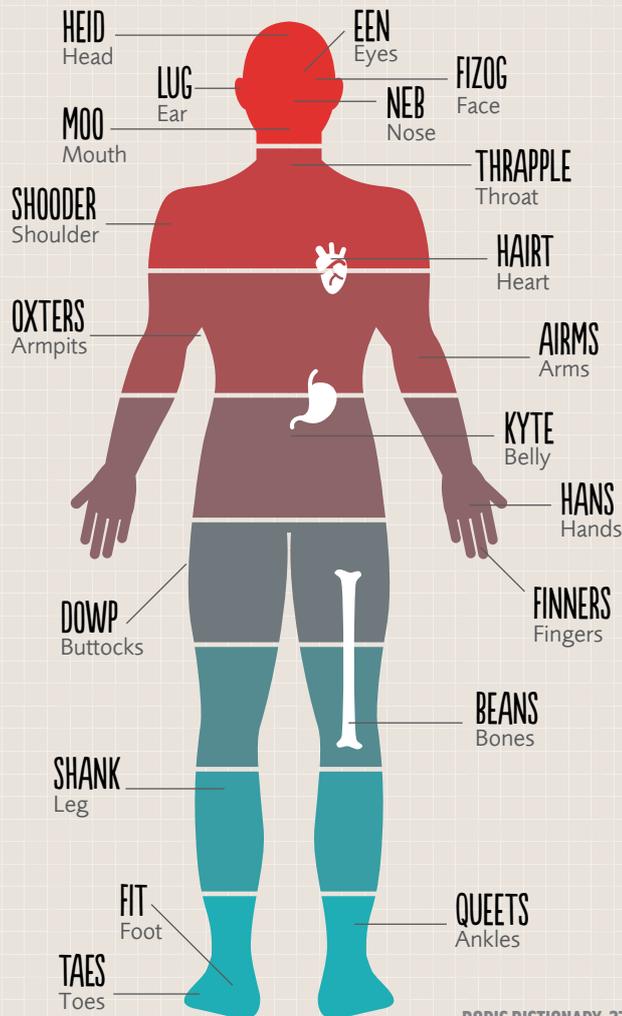


**DOON IN THE MOO**

Down in the mouth / sad

**HE SPIKS WI A BOOL IN HIS MOO**

He talks with a posh accent



YER LOOKIN  
AFFA PEELIE-  
WALLY.  
FIT'S A DEE?

You look a bit off colour.  
What's wrong with you?

# ACTIONS

**Div: To do**

Fit div yi dee for a bite o met?  
What do you do for a living?

**Ging: To go**

Ging up i' stairs  
Go up the stairs

**Gang: To go**

Ye may gang far and fare waur  
You may go a lot further and  
do a lot worse

**Hing: To hang**

Fit wye are ye hingin about?  
Why are you hanging about?

**Hud: To hold**

Shut yer een and hud on  
Shut your eyes and hold on

**Taak: To take**

Taak it hame wi ye  
Take it home with you

**Teen: Taken**

She's been teen te A&E  
She's been taken to  
Accident and Emergency

**Rug: To pull**

I'm ruggin it as hard as I can  
I'm pulling it as hard as I can

**Gaar: To cause, to make**

The reek o his taes gaared  
me bowk  
The stink of his toes made  
me be sick

**Hawk: To scratch, swipe**

He howked his ba ower  
the wa  
He swiped his ball over  
the wall

**Dirl: To spin**

He dirlt her about  
the dunce floor  
He spun her about  
the dance floor

**Lowp: to jump**

Awa an taak a lowp!  
Away and take a jump!

# ANIMALS (CRAITERS)

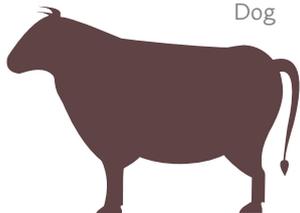
SANDY'S AN  
AFFA PEER CRAITER  
I feel sorry for Sandy



SHILT/SHILTIE  
Horse



DUG  
Dog



COO/BEAST  
Cow

**Sharn:** Cow dung

Yer beets are clarted in sharn  
Your boots are covered in  
cow dung



RUBBIT  
Rabbit



TOD  
Fox



KITTLEN  
Kitten



MOOSE  
Mouse



YOWE  
Ewe

**Knapdarlochs:** matted  
dung on the hind-quarters  
of cattle or sheep

Yer gimmer has knapdarlochs  
Your ewe with one lamb  
has matted dung on her wool

## BIRDS



SCURRY/PYOOL/GOW  
Seagull



COOSHIE DOO  
Pigeon



SPUGGIE  
Sparrow

## INSECTS



FOGGY BUMMER  
Bumble bee



WURREM  
Worm



GOLLACH  
Beetle



FLECH  
Flea

OOLET  
Owl



SWALLA  
Swallow



TARIK  
Arctic Tern



CRAW  
Crow



DEUK/JOOK  
Duck



BUBBLYJOCK  
Turkey



TAMMIE  
NORRIE  
Puffin



SCRATH  
Cormorant

# FURTHER STUDY

## WANT TE KEN MAIR?

Want to know more?

The best way to learn Doric is to visit Aberdeen and the North East of Scotland and listen to the locals speaking it, especially in the more rural areas.

Why not visit our riverside campus at Garthdee in Aberdeen and say 'Fit like!'

If you're keen to learn more, there are a wide range of websites and resources available online, including [www.doricdictionary.com](http://www.doricdictionary.com) and [facebook.com/wespikdoric](https://facebook.com/wespikdoric).

You can also visit the RGU website:

[www.rgu.ac.uk/local-lingo](http://www.rgu.ac.uk/local-lingo)

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LANG MAY  
YER LUM  
REEK WI  
OTHER  
FOLK'S COAL

Long may your chimney smoke  
with other people's coal

YE MAY GANG FAR  
& FARE WAUR

DINNA FASH  
YERSEL QUINE

AAL AGE DISNA  
COME ITSEL

ATS A SIGHT  
FOR SAIR EEN

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