

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 city and shire.

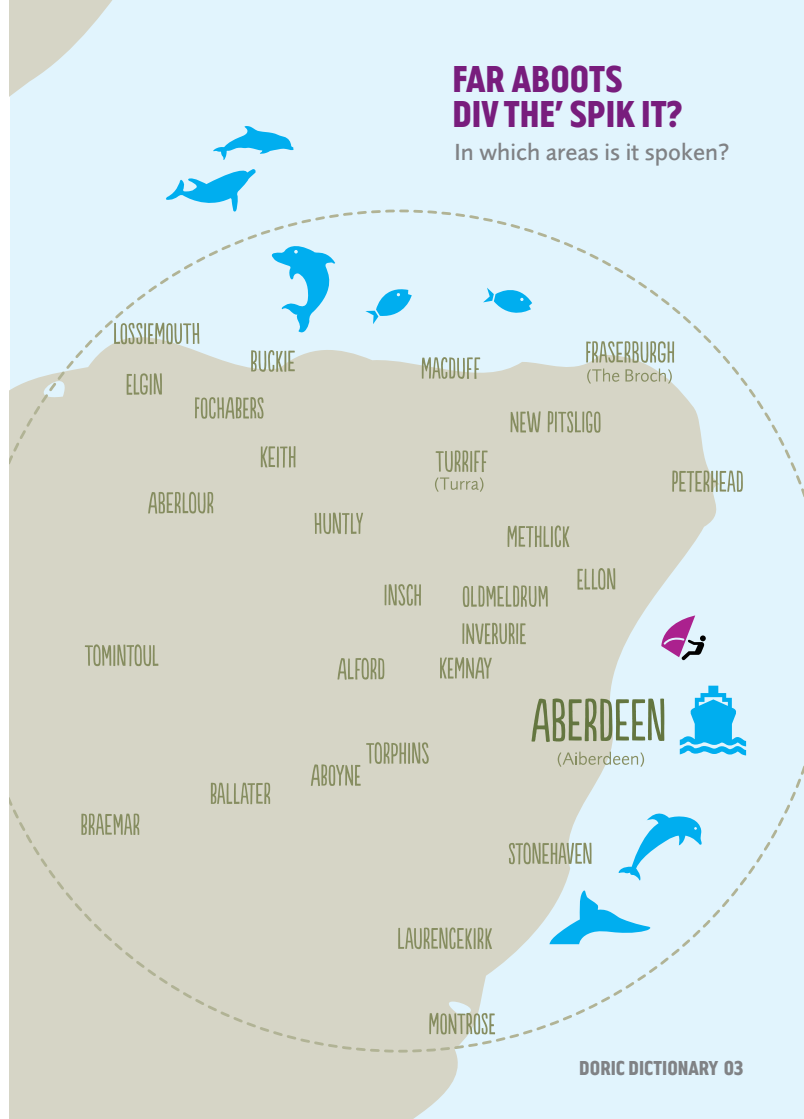
The term 'Doric' is thought to come from the Greek for 'rural' or 'rustic' perhaps due to its strong associations with the farming and fishing communities of the region.

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?



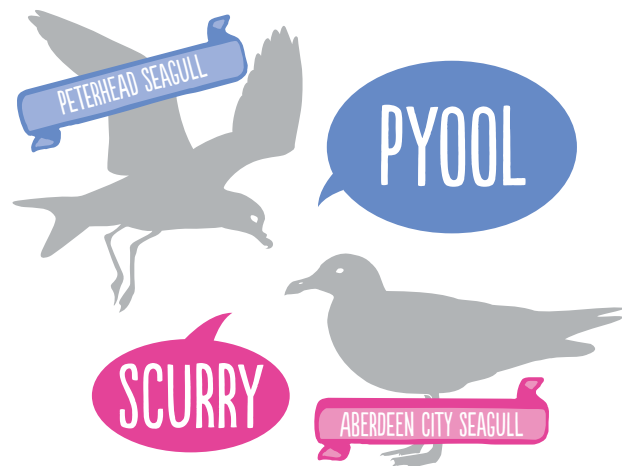
THE BASICS

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.



AYE	→	YES
AYE, AYE!	→	HELLO!
NAE	→	NO
I DA KEN	→	I DON'T KNOW
NAE BITHER	→	IT'S NO TROUBLE
DIV YE KEN?	→	DO YOU KNOW?

USING THE 'F' WORD

Try switching 'wh' with 'f'



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

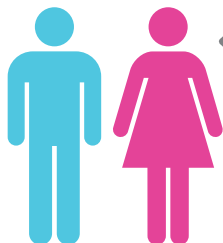
UP	Up	Down	DOON
GING IN	Go in	Go out	GING OOT
OWER	Over	Above	ABEEN
AROON	Around	About	ABOUT
AHEID	Ahead	Behind	AHIN
AFORE	Before	After	AFTER

PEOPLE

MANNIE

Man

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



WIFIE

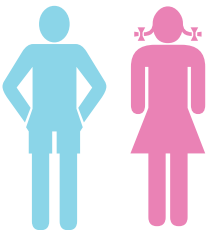
Woman

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?



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?



A rural dweller

Clype: To tell tales

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

Footer: Messing about

Quit footerin aboot!
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 about 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. We'll 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

ON YTIME I'DAY
WOULD BE NICE

I'day: today

Right
now

THE NOO

FIT YE DEEIN THIS
AFTERNEEN?

Afterneen:
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?

Wheesh: quiet

Hud yer wheesh!

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

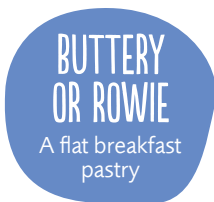


SCOOF IT!
Drink up!

NEEPS & TATTIES
Turnips and potatoes



A CAPPIE
Ice-cream cone



BUTTERY OR ROWIE

A flat breakfast pastry



HINGIN INGINS
Hanging onions



SPROUTS
Sprouts



GALSHIKS
Sweeties



BRAMMLE
Blackberry



A FUNCY PIECE

A cake or sweet treat

Cloutie: cloth

Gee at worktop a cloutie
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?



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**

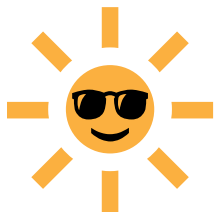
I'm not as green as I am
cabbage looking...

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



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



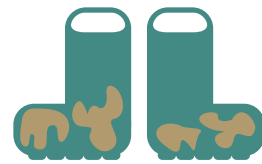
FEELS LIKE SNA

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

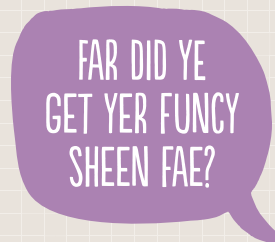
CLOTHING (CLAES)



What a nice hat



That's some outfit
you have on tonight



Where did you get your
fancy shoes from?



ANATOMY



THESE INGINS ARE
FAIR MAAKIN MY
EEN WAATER

These onions are really
making my eyes water

AT POKED ME RIGHT
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

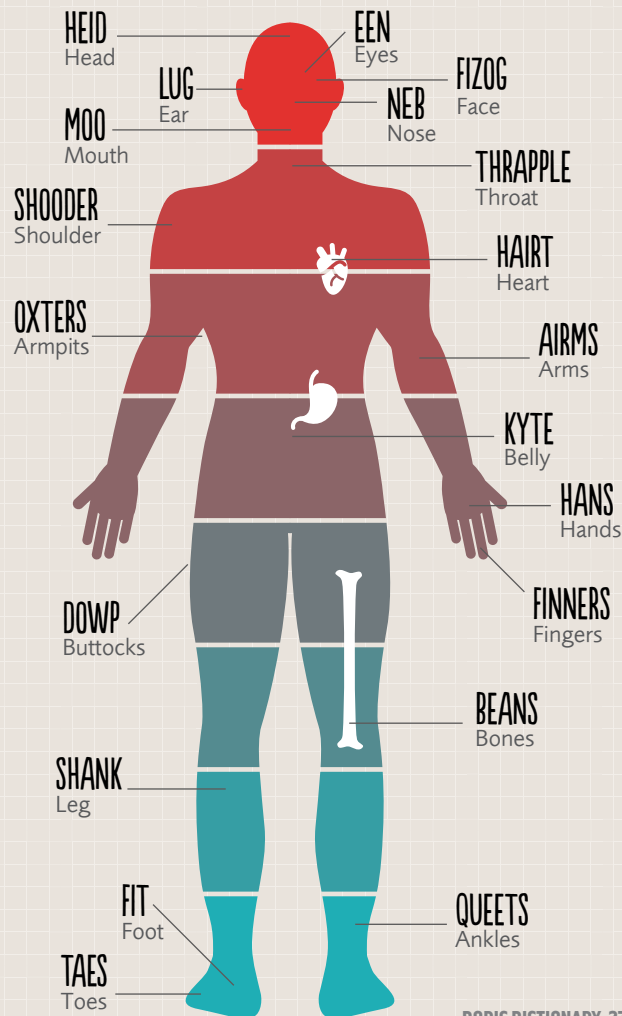


DOON IN THE MOO

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 hinging 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

Howk: To scratch, swipe

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

Dirl: To spin

He dirled her aboot
the dunce fleer
He spun her about
the dance floor

Lowp: to jump

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

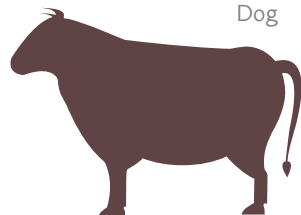
ANIMALS (CRAITERS)



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



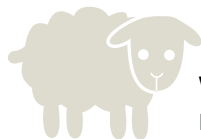
TOD
Fox



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

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

BIRDS



SCURRY/PYOOL/GOW
Seagull



COOSHIE DOO
Pigeon



SPUGGIE
Sparrow

INSECTS



FOGGY BUMMER
Bumble bee



WURREM
Worm



GOLLACH
Beetle



FLECH
Flea

OOLET
Owl



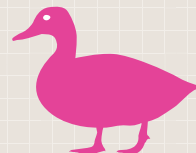
SWALLA
Swallow



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 and facebook.com/wespikdoric.

You can also visit the RGU website:

www.rgu.ac.uk/local-lingo

Whilst every effort has been made to ensure this dictionary is accurate, we cannot be held responsible for any inaccuracies in this document. Thanks to all our Facebook fans for their suggestions and contributions.

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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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