

A hunder key Orkney words

- The listed Orkney words, phrases, and grammatical features can be enlarged, printed, and placed in windows or other locations round the school. Learners can work in threes to find and record as many as possible.
- Learners can use the Orkney Dictionary, online Dictionary of the Scots Language (<http://www.dsl.ac.uk/>) or the following vocabulary sheets to find definitions. (Words generally need to be heard or said at least seven times before they will enter the learners' vocabulary.)

Verbs (action words) in Orcadian	Verbs (action words) in English
canna	can't
mak	make
ken	know
hiv	have
mind on	remember
dae	do
gaan	going
haad	hold
skrek	screech
pleep	whine or complain

Prepositions in Orcadian	Prepositions in English
oot	out
eftir	after
tae	to
fae	from
ahint	behind
afore	before
ower	over
atween	between

Adjectives (describing words) in Orcadian	Adjectives (describing words) in English
stoorie	dusty
unkan	strange, unfamiliar
peedie	small
gyte	crazy
guffan	stinking
owld	old
feart	afraid
daft	foolish, stupid
fantoosh	fancy, elaborate
reid	red
muckle	big
mad	angry

Nouns (naming words) in Orcadian	Nouns (naming words) in English
claes	clothes
freend	friend

the day	today
watter	water
hoose	house
heid	head
lass	girl
tatties	potatoes
neeps	turnips
kye	cattle
gluff	fright

Pronouns (short words that replace nouns) in Orcadian	Pronouns (short words that replace nouns) in English
wur	our
ye	you
me	my
Thu/thee	you

Numbers in Orcadian	Numbers in English
wan <i>or</i> ane	one
twà	two
sivven	seven
hunder	hundred

Adverbs in Orcadian	Adverbs in English
noo	now
gey	very
but	towards the kitchen
ben	towards the living-room
doon	down

Exclamations	
Beuy, beuy!	exclamation of surprise

Some features of Orcadian grammar and speech
Negative forms of verbs are created by adding 'na' at end – 'canna', 'mustna' etc.
Present participles end in 'an' or 'in' - never 'ing' : 'landin', 'scramblan', 'surfan the internet'.
Orcadian/Scots uses older, short vowel sounds in words like 'hoose', 'moose' and 'ku' (like Norwegian) instead of 'house', 'mouse' and 'cow' (like English).
In Orcadian, the plural of 'year' is 'year', not 'years'. E.g. 'sivven year ago'.