DIV YE KEN ONY DORIC?

Do you know any Doric?
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!
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.
Basic phonology

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

Try switching 'wh' with 'f'

FAR? Where?

FIT? What?

FAN? When?

FOO? How?

FIT WYE? Why?

FA? Who?

Far ye gaan? Where are you going?

Fit’s at? What’s that?

Fan ye aff? When are you going?

Foo mony? How many?

Fa’s at? Who is that?

Fit wye nae? Why not?

Far div ye bide? Where do you stay?

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

Fan div ye yoke? When do you start work?

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

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

Fit wye’s at noo? Why is that now?
**NUMBERS**

**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

**COLOURS**

- **REID** Red
- **YALLA** Yellow
- **BLAE** Blue
- **FITE** White
- **BLAIK** Black
- **BROON** Brown
- **SILLER** Silver
- **SKYRIE** Gaudy/showy

**MONY A MICKLE MAAKS A MUCKLE**
Many small amounts together becomes a large amount
**Bairns**

Fit a hillock o' geets
What a lot of children

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

**Doric Dictionary 13**

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

**Toonser**

Lives in the city

**Teuchter**

A rural dweller

**Clype**

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

**Footer**

Messing about
Quit footerin aboot!
Stop messing about!

**Grippie**

Miserley
He's affa gippy 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

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**People**

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Look at that man's face!

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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!

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.

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!

Tomorrow morning – I’m not packed so I’ll need to go home and make a start.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>TIME</strong></th>
<th><strong>POSITIVE EMOTIONS</strong></th>
<th><strong>NEGATIVE EMOTIONS</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **ONYTIME I’DAY WOULD BE NICE** | Bosie: hug  
Gie’s a bosie!  
Give me a hug! | Scunnered: fed up  
I’m affa scunnered  
I’m really fed up |
| **THE NOO** | Fash: trouble  
Dinna fash yersel  
Don’t trouble yourself | Neep: turnip  
Yer a neep  
You are an idiot |
| **FIT YE DEEIN THIS AIFTERNEEN?** | Tricket: Delighted  
I’m fair-tricket  
I’m delighted | Greetin: crying  
Fit ye greetin fur?  
Why are you crying? |
| **NEXT WIK** | Gawaaah!: Get away!  
Gawaaah! Yer kiddin!  
Get away! You’re kidding me! | Wheesht: quiet  
Hud yer wheesht!  
Be quiet! |
| **SEE YE THE MORN’S MORN** | Bonny: beautiful  
Sheena is affa bonny  
Sheena is very pretty | Spikin: speaking  
Are ye nae spikin?  
Are you not speaking to me? |
| **Right now** | Fine: good  
Affa fine butteries  
Very tasty pastries | Weel: well  
Am nae weel  
I’m not feeling well |
| **Aifterneen: afternoon** | Rare: great  
It’s bin a rare nicht oot  
It’s been a great night out | Forfauchan: exhausted  
I’m affa forfauchan!  
I’m really exhausted! |
| **Next week** | | Mingin: not pleasant  
At baps are mingin  
Those rolls are not pleasant |
| **Tomorrow morning** | | Feart: scared  
Dinna be feart  
Don’t be scared |
| | | Coarse: nasty  
She’s a coarse besom*  
She’s a nasty woman  
(*a besom is also a broomstick) |
Welcome, come through
Would you like a cup of tea and something to eat?
Take a seat/sit down
So what have you been up to?
And how are your mother and father?
And where are you living at the moment?
Are you heading out this evening? Into the city centre?
Would you like to dance?
No thanks, I'm exhausted!
What are having to drink?
I'll have a pint. Good health!

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EATING & DRINKING

**A FLY CUP**
A cup of tea

**SPOOF IT!**
Drink up!

**SPEEN**
Spoon

**BUTTERY OR ROWIE**
A flat breakfast pastry

**NEEPS & TATTIES**
Turnips and potatoes

**A CAPPIE**
Ice-cream cone

**GINGININGS**
Hanging onions

**SROOTS**
Sprouts

**GALSHIKS**
Sweeties

**BRAMMLE**
Blackberry

**A FUNCHY PIECE**
A cake or sweet treat

**AM NAE AS GREEN AS AM CUBBIE 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

**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

**Clootie:** cloth
**Gee at worktop a dicht wi a clootie**
Give that worktop a wipe with a cloth

**Messages:** shopping
**I’m awa te dee my messages**

**Chipper:** chip shop
**Ye needin anything fae the chipper?**

**BRAMMLE**
Blackberry

**DORIC IDIOMs**

- **BRAMMLE**
  - Blackberry

- **SPROOTS**
  - Sprouts

- **GINGININGS**
  - Hanging onions

- **SROOTS**
  - Sprouts

- **GALSHIKS**
  - Sweeties
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

DORIC DICTIONARY 23
What a nice hat

That’s some outfit you have on tonight

Where did you get your fancy shoes from?

At’s some rig-oot ye hiv on the night

Fit a rare bunnet

Far did ye get yer funcy sheen fae?
ANATOMY

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 KITTED MA OXTERS
He tickled my armpits

SHE SKELOPT 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

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

**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 aboot?
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)

**SANDY’S AN AFFA PEER CRAITER**
I feel sorry for Sandy

- **SHILT/SHILTIIE**
  Horse

- **RUBBIT**
  Rabbit

- **DUG**
  Dog

- **KITTLEN**
  Kitten

- **TOD**
  Fox

- **MOOSE**
  Mouse

- **YOWE**
  Ewe

- **COO/BEAST**
  Cow

  Sharn: Cow dung

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

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

**BIRDS**

- **OOLET**
  Owl

- **SWALLA**
  Swallow

- **SCURRY/PYOOL/GOW**
  Seagull

- **TARIK**
  Arctic Tern

- **COOSSHIE DOO**
  Pigeon

- **CRAW**
  Crow

- **DEUK/JOOK**
  Duck

- **TARIK**
  Arctic Tern

- **SPUGGIE**
  Sparrow

- **BUBBLYJOCK**
  Turkey

- **TAMMIE NORRIE**
  Puffin

- **SCRATH**
  Cormorant

**INSECTS**

- **FOGGY BUMMER**
  Bumble bee

- **WURREM**
  Worm

- **GOLLACH**
  Beetle

- **FLECH**
  Flea
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

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