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Introduction

These activities were developed by the Scots Language Centre (www.scotslanguage.com), with help and guidance from [Education Scotland](#) and the [Robert Burns Birthplace Museum](#). Some activities have been developed from materials formerly in the 'Sculwab' which was a website ran by [Dictionaries of the Scots Language](#).

They were tested by Primary and Secondary learners and practitioners in Glasgow, Dundee and West Lothian.

Policy

In accordance with Education Scotland's Scots Language guidance, outlined in [CfE Briefing 17 – Curriculum for Excellence: Scots Language](#), these activities are designed to allow learners to:

- experience Scots as part of normal curricular provision
- use Scots to develop and apply their knowledge and understanding of language
- read and listen to Scots to develop their analytical and evaluative skills
- experience a wide range of Scots texts

Curriculum

These activities are designed to support the teaching and learning of:

- CfE Literacy and English
- CfE Modern Languages
- SQA National 4, National 5 and Higher English
- SQA Scots Language Award at levels 3, 4, 5 and 6.

Teacher's Notes

Games and activities have downloadable Teacher's Notes, featuring details of the relevant Experiences and Outcomes/Learning Outcomes for each activity as well as some suggested follow on activities.



Games and Activities

1. Sentence builder

This game is designed to help learners identify parts of speech and encourage writing in Scots.

Learners should select the red buttons to change the word, or select the blue button to create a random sentence.

2. Pop – beginners

Children must click on the balloon with the Scots word that matches the English word below.

If using a PC, children can click on the balloons to 'pop' them. If using a touch screen device, children can touch the balloons to 'pop' them. The balloons do not move in this version to make the activity more manageable for learners.

1. Pop

Children must click on the balloon with the Scots word that matches the English word below.

If using a PC, children can click on the balloons to 'pop' them. If using a touch screen device, children can touch the balloons to 'pop' them. The levels increase in difficulty in terms of the vocabulary used and the speed of the balloons.

This activity is suitable for learners working within CfE levels 1 and 2; allowing children to demonstrate their ability to decode unknown words and use reading strategies to help make the meaning clear.

This can be used to assess the learner's understanding of Scots vocabulary. The vocabulary used can be found in Education Scotland's resource '[100 Key Words in Scots](#)'.



2. Pop German / Pop French

These games are designed to support the teaching of German and French, as well as Scots, in schools that are delivering these languages as part of 1+2 languages provision.

If using a PC, children can click on the balloons to 'pop' them. If using a touch screen device, children can touch the balloons to 'pop' them. The levels increase in difficulty in terms of the vocabulary used and the speed of the balloons.

3. Morag's Croft

Children must listen to the audio instructions, asking the learner to select each animal, and then demonstrate their understanding of Scots by selecting the correct animal.

If using a PC, children can click the mouse to select the correct animal. If using a touch screen device, children can touch the screen select the correct animal.

This activity is suitable for learners in an early years' setting and learners working within early level and level 1; allowing children to demonstrate their ability to listen for information and respond to it as well as their knowledge of Scots vocabulary.



4. Wee Hoose

Children should listen to the audio instructions and select the relevant feature within the interior of the house

If using a PC, children can click the features. If using a touch screen device, children can touch the features.

This activity is suitable for learners in an early years' setting and primary school, within early level and levels 1 and 2. This activity allows children to learn various Scots vocabulary for household objects.

5. Make a Face

Children must listen to the audio instructions and place features on the face, then add colour.

If using a PC, children can click and drag to place the features on the face/apply the colours to the features. If using a touch screen device, children can drag the features or touch the feature and then touch the face/touch the paintbrush and then touch the relevant feature.

This activity is suitable for learners in an early years' setting and learners working within CfE early level and level 1; allowing children to demonstrate their ability to listen for information and respond to it as well as demonstrate their understanding of Scots vocabulary.



6. Grand Plans

Children must listen to the audio instructions and place features on the house/garden, then add colour.

If using a PC, children can click and drag to place the features on the background/apply the colours to the features. If using a touch screen device, children can drag the features or touch the feature and then touch the backdrop/touch the paintbrush and then touch the relevant feature.

This activity is suitable for learners in an early years' setting and learners working within CfE early level and level 1; allowing children to demonstrate their ability to listen for information and respond to it as well as their ability to retain information and work out the meaning of a word according to context clues.

7. Word search

Children must find the words (in the list) on the grid.

If using a PC, children can click and drag from the beginning to the end of the word. If using a touch screen device, children can touch the letters and drag from the beginning to the end of the word. Words can be vertical, horizontal or diagonal. Children can click on the word in the list to see its definition.

This activity is suitable for learners working within CfE levels 1, 2, 3 and 4; allowing learners to demonstrate their ability to use strategies to determine the meaning of unfamiliar words.

This may also be suitable for some learners in the Senior Phase.



8. Crossword

Children must read the clues and type the Scots words in the spaces.

If using a PC, children can click on the boxes and type in each letter using the keyboard. If using a tablet, children can touch the box and use the touchscreen keyboard to type in the letters.

The words in the North East Scots, Orkney Scots, Shetland Scots, Borders Scots and Galloway Scots crosswords are all from Education Scotland's '100 Key words in Scots' resource on the National Improvement Hub. This resource provides lists of key words in varieties of Scots from across the country. The answers to the crosswords can be downloaded (below).

This activity is suitable for learners working within CfE levels 1, 2, 3 and 4; allowing learners to demonstrate their understanding of Scots vocabulary. This may also be suitable for some learners in the Senior Phase.

9. Pairs

Children must find a pair by matching the Scots word to the picture.

If using a PC, children can click on the cards to turn them over and match them. If using a touch screen device, children can touch the cards to turn them over and match them.

This activity is suitable for learners working within CfE levels 2 and 3; allowing them to explore features of spoken language, use context clues to read unfamiliar words and employ reading strategies to understand texts.



Reading Activities

1. Shetlan

Children must read or listen to the poem 'Shetlan' and then answer the questions.

If using a PC, children and young people can click on the correct answers. If using a touch screen device, children and young people can touch the correct answers. This reading activity is designed so that the child only be able to progress after finding the correct answer to each question.

This activity is suitable for learners working within CfE levels 2, 3 and 4; allowing learners to demonstrate their ability to use reading strategies to determine the meaning of unfamiliar words. This may also be suitable for some learners in the Senior Phase.

2. Tam O'Shanter

Children must read or listen to the poem 'Tam O'Shanter' and then answer the questions.

If using a PC, children and young people can click on the correct answers. If using a touch screen device, children and young people can touch the correct answers. This reading activity is designed so that the child only be able to progress after finding the correct answer to each question.

This activity is suitable for learners working within CfE levels 2, 3 and 4; allowing learners to demonstrate their ability to use reading strategies to determine the meaning of unfamiliar words. This may also be suitable for some learners in the Senior Phase.



3. Spellin oot thorny kinch fir language thought police

Learners must read or listen to the excerpt and answer the questions.

Answering the questions involves typing into boxes and selecting the correct answer in some multiple-choice questions.

This activity is suitable for learners working towards the Scots Language Award at level 4, allowing them to demonstrate their understanding of a **straightforward** text in Scots.

4. First Meenister maun get Act thegither fir Scots leid

Learners must read or listen to the excerpt and answer the questions.

Answering the questions involves typing into boxes and selecting the correct answer in some multiple-choice questions.

This activity is suitable for learners working towards the Scots Language Award at level 5, allowing them to demonstrate their understanding of a **detailed** text in Scots.

5. Shift yersel owre, Rabbie

Learners must read or listen to the excerpt and answer the questions.

Answering the questions involves typing into boxes and selecting the correct answer in some multiple-choice questions.

This activity is suitable for learners working towards the Scots Language Award at level 6, allowing them to demonstrate their understanding of a **detailed and complex** text in Scots.



6. Tally's Blood

Learners must read or listen to the excerpt and answer the questions by selecting the correct answer.

This activity is suitable for learners studying 'Tally's Blood' as their set text for national 5 English. The final (offline) activity is an example of the '8 mark' question in the National 5 English Critical Reading exam.

Learners working towards the Scots Language Award at level 5 may also find this activity useful in demonstrating their understanding of a **detailed** text.

7. Holy Willie's Prayer

Learners must read or listen to the excerpt and answer the questions by selecting the correct answer.

This activity is suitable for learners studying Burns Poetry as their set text for Higher English. The final (offline) activity is an example of the '10 mark' question in the Higher English Critical Reading exam.

Learners working towards the Scots Language Award at level 6 may also find this activity useful in demonstrating their understanding of a **detailed and complex** text.



8. Hieroglyphics

Learners must read or listen to the excerpt and answer the questions by selecting the correct answer.

This activity is suitable for learners studying 'Hieroglyphics' as their set text for National 5 English, helping to consolidate their skills in critical reading.

Learners working towards the Scots Language Award at level 5 may also find this activity useful in demonstrating their understanding of a **detailed** text. The downloadable worksheet also has stimuli for Outcome 2 (Create and produce detailed communication in Scots for a specific purpose and audience) of the Scots Language Award.

9. Mary, Queen of Scots

Learners must read or listen to the excerpt and answer the questions by selecting the correct answer.

This activity is suitable for learners who wish to consolidate their skills in reading for understanding, analysis and evaluation, as part of their work in National 5 or Higher English.

Learners working towards the Scots Language Award at level 6 may also find this activity useful in demonstrating their understanding of a **detailed and complex** text. The downloadable worksheet also has stimuli for Outcome 2 (Create and produce detailed and complex communication in Scots for a specific purpose and audience) of the Scots Language Award.



10. Bairnsang

Learners must read or listen to the excerpt and answer the questions by selecting the correct answer.

This activity is suitable for learners who wish to consolidate their skills in critical reading, as part of their work in National 5 or Higher English.

Learners working towards the Scots Language Award at level 6 may also find this activity useful in demonstrating their understanding of a **detailed and complex** text. The downloadable worksheet also has stimuli for Outcome 2 (Create and produce detailed and complex communication in Scots for a specific purpose and audience) of the Scots Language Award.



Useful links

The Scots Language Centre's [Education page](#):

- [CLPL and CPD Resources for Teachers](#)
- [Scotland's songs](#)
- [Teaching resources for CfE \(Early and First Level\)](#)
- [Teaching resources for CfE Levels Two and Three](#)
- [Teaching resources for Learners in the Senior Phase](#)

National Library of Scotland's [Oor Wullie guide tae Scots language](#)'

National Library of Scotland's [Wee Windaes](#)

[Scots in schools](#)

Scots Language Dictionaries' online [Dictionary of the Scots Language](#)

Scots language resources from [Education Scotland](#)