



Scots language learning resources

Talking and Listening

Listening to language

Click on the 'Living Memory' section and listen to, 'Awa tae the Sea', the interview between Frieda Morrison and James George Addison. Both of these people are speaking in a specific dialect of Scots, called 'North East Scots' or 'Doric'. We can tell that they are speaking Doric by the vocabulary they are using.

Task:

Listen to the interview again, or look at the transcript.

1. From the interview, find some Doric vocabulary and write it in the table below.

North East Scots/Doric	English
	work
	know
	gale
	away
	father
	for
	fae
	girls

From Shore to Shore

SCOTS LANGUAGE LEARNING RESOURCES TALKING AND LISTENING



2. A language feature that is unique to Doric is the use of 'f-' at the beginning of a word instead of 'wh'. For example, the Doric word for 'who' is 'fa'. Find some other examples and write them in the table below.

North East Scots/Doric	English

3. Another language feature of Doric that is shared amongst other dialects of Scots is the use of the suffix -nae- where English words would have 'n't' or 'not'. For example, the Scots word for 'couldn't' is 'couldnae'. From the interview, can you find of another example of the suffix '-nae' being used in this way?

From Shore to Shore

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Talking about language

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Task:

In a small group, discuss the following:

1. Would you say that the people in this interview are:
 - a. Using a Scottish or North East accent?
 - b. Using a particular dialect, that is different from English?
 - c. Using a particular language, that is different from English?
 - d. All of the above?

Remember to give reasons for your answers.

2. Do you know any other Scots words? How do you know them and when would you use them?
3. According to research, Aberdeenshire; Orkney Islands; and Shetland Islands have the highest concentration of Scots speakers. Why do you think this might be?
4. Why do you think that the transcript of the interview is available in both Scots and English?

Extension Task

- The other interview, which is audio only, is with Archie Johnston of Cockenzie, east Lothian.
- Listen carefully to the language he uses. Can you find any words that tell us that he is a Scots speaker?