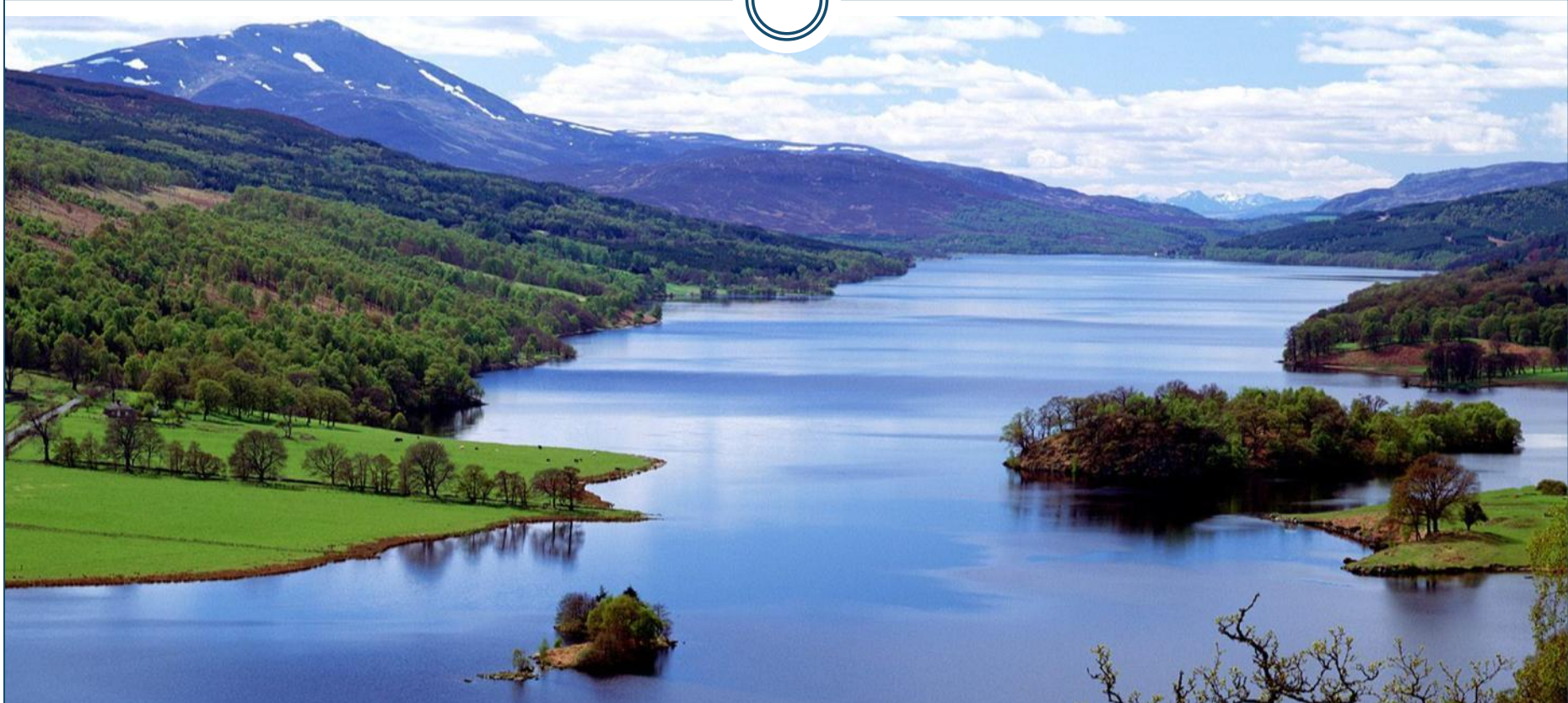


Scottish English



What is Scottish English?



- **Scottish English** refers to the varieties of English spoken in Scotland.
- The formal variety is called Standard Scottish English, SSE.
- It has distinctive vocabulary, particularly pertaining to Scottish institutions such as the Church of Scotland, local government and the education and legal systems.

History



- During **Reformation** (16th century) religious texts printed in English were widely distributed in Scotland in order to spread Protestant doctrine.
- Scottish English results from language contact between Scots and the Standard English of England after the 17th century.





History



- 1603 - King James VI of Scotland became James I of England and moved his court to London.
- The poets of the court therefore moved south and “began adapting the language and style of their verse to the tastes of the English market”

Phonology: vowels



- Scottish English lacks about 5 (!) English vowels
- Scottish speakers don't use a **schwa** sound: the sound in *'the'* is the same as the sound in *'bit'*.
- *'bird'* and *'heard'* are not homophones (the vowel in *'heard'* is the same as the vowel in *'bet'* and the vowel in *'bird'* can be the same as the vowel in *'but'* or *'bit'* depending on the accent and gender of the speaker.
- No difference between front and back **'a'** sounds.

Phonology: consonants



- Scottish English is a **rhotic** accent, meaning /r/ is pronounced in the syllable coda.
- There is a distinction between /w/ and /wh/ in word pairs such as **witch** and **which**.
- The phoneme /x/ is common in names => Some Scottish speakers use it in words of Greek origin as well, such as **technical**,

patriarch

Listen to a middle-class Renfrewshire accent:

<http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/b/b3/RenfrewshireAccent.ogg>

Vocabulary



- Lexical items from Scots: outwith, meaning "outside of"; wee=small); pinkie=little finger and janitor=caretaker (pinkie and janitor are also standard in American English).
- Culturally specific items: caber, haggis, teuchter, ned and landward for rural; It's your shot for "It's your turn".
- "How?"="Why?". "Why not?"="How no?".
- Legal and administrative vocabulary inherited from Scots[21] e.g. depute /dɛpjut/ for deputy, proven /provən/ for proved (standard in American English).

Glasgow Patter



- **Glasgow Patter** is a dialect spoken in and around Glasgow, Scotland. Typically Glaswegian:
- Boost - move away (*ah pure boostit oota ther pronto*)
- Wheesht! - Shut up, be quiet
- Maw & Paw - Mum and Dad
- Messages - Shopping (*I'm awa fur ma messages*)
- Shoot the craw - Leave in a hurry, e.g. drivers who race to beat the red light (*look at that numpty shootin the craw*)

Grammar



- The progressive verb forms are used rather more frequently than in other varieties of standard English (*I'm wanting a drink*)
- Speakers often use prepositions differently: the compound preposition *off of* (*Take that **off of** the table*) or *I was waiting on you* instead of "waiting for you")
- In colloquial speech *shall* and *ought* are wanting, *must* is marginal for obligation and *may* is rare.

Scotticisms



- **Scotticisms** are idioms or expressions that are characteristic of spoken Scottish English:
- *She learnt him some manners* = "She taught him some manners."
- *Whaur dae ye bide?* = "Where do you live?"
- *Caw canny* = "Go easy"
- *Awrite!* = "Hi!"
- *A'm tint* = "I'm lost"

Lexical Scotticisms



- Scottish English has inherited a number of lexical items from Scots, which are comparatively rare in other forms of standard English:

pinkie - little finger

janitor - school

caretaker

outwith - outside of

kirk - church

laddie /lassie -a young

boy /young girl

wee - small

bairn - child

bonnie - pretty

braw - fine

muckle - big

spail - splinter

Why not - How no?

Grammatical Scotticisms



- *What age are you?* for "How old are you?"
- *My hair is needing washed* or *My hair needs washed* for "My hair needs washing" or "My hair needs to be washed".
- *I'm just after telling you* for "I've just told you".
- *Amn't I invited?* for *Am I not invited?*
- *He's at the school.* for *He's at school.*
- *I'm wanting a drink.* for *I want some drink.*

Scottish sayings



- *We're a' Jock Tamson's bairns.*

(bairn = child)

Translation: We are all equal in the eyes of God. Or Jock Tamson.

- *Don't be a wee clipe.*

Translation: Don't be a tattle-tale.

- *Whit's fur ye'll no go past ye.*

Translation: Que sera sera. What ever will be, will be. The future's not ours to see.

Scottish sayings



- *You're all bum and parsley.*

Translation: You're mouth and trousers. You're a blowhard.

- *Keep the heid.*

Translation: Don't lose your head.

- *It's a lang road that's no goat a turnin.'*
(*goat = got*)

Translation: Don't lose heart in dark times, things can't keep going in the same direction forever.

Scots language and Scottish English



Scots language is close to English, but it isn't English, and also it can't be confused with Scottish English. The name Scots is the national name for Scottish dialects sometimes also known as 'Doric', 'Lallans' and 'Scotch'. Taken altogether, Scottish dialects are known collectively as the Scots language. Scots is one of three native languages spoken in Scotland today, the other two being *Scottish English* and Scottish Gaelic.

Listen to the Scottish accent



Listen to the Scottish accent

