

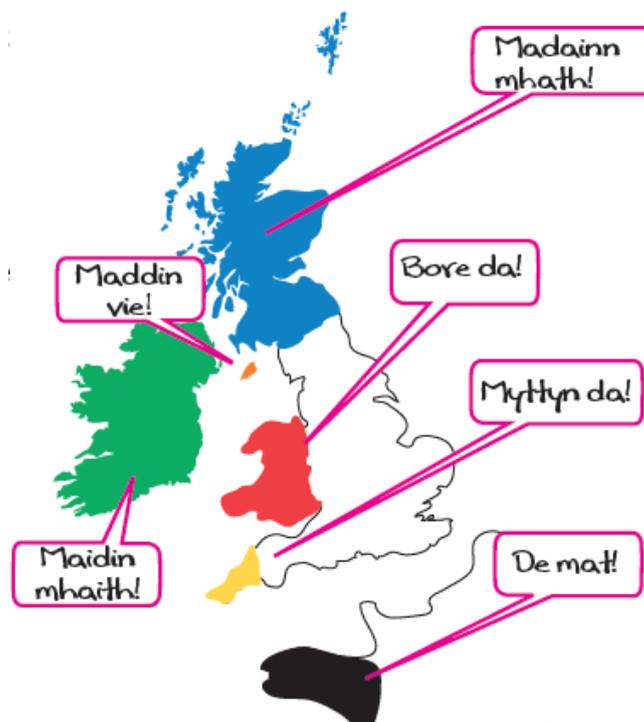
International Year of the Indigenous Language

Na Sia Dùthchannan Ceilteach
Achd na Gàidhlig (Alba) 2005
Ag ionnsachadh cànan eile

Na Sia Dùthchannan Ceilteach

The six Celtic Nations Cultar

Possibly, the words Celtic and Six Nations might first of all make you think of football and rugby! But the Celtic Nations are the six nations, or parts of nations, where Celtic (pronounced with a k) languages are spoken. Gaelic has five sister languages in these Celtic regions and they are amongst the oldest languages in Europe. These languages are very closely related to each other and you can see some similarities in the phrases shown on the map. Celtic languages can be divided into two groups or families: Goidelic (sometimes called *Q Celtic*) and Brythonic (sometimes called *P Celtic*).



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Goidelic/Q Celtic		Brythonic/P Celtic	
Nàisean/Nation	Cànan/Language	Nàisean/Nation	Cànan/Language
 Alba Scotland	Gàidhlig/ Scottish Gaelic	 A' Chuimrigh Wales	Cuimris/ Welsh
 Èirinn Ireland	Gàidhlig na h-Èireann/ Irish Gaelic	 A' Chòrn Cornwall	Còrnais/ Cornish
 Eilean Mhanainn The Isle of Man	Gàidhlig Mhanainneach/ Manx Gaelic	 A' Bhreatainn Bheag Brittany	Breatannais/ Breton

You will probably have noticed from the phrases on the map that there are some obvious similarities between the languages within each group. It is not uncommon for **Gaeilge** speakers in Ireland and **Gàidhlig** speakers in Scotland to be able to have a conversation using their own languages and to understand each other quite well!

Ps is Qs!

Why are the languages often divided into two groups known as *P* and *Q*? In group *P*, many words beginning with the letter *p* are similar to those in group *Q*, but the *Q* Celtic words begin with the letter *c* instead.

Mar eisimpleir:

Q

ceann (Gaelic for head)
còig (Gaelic for five)

P

pen (in Breton, Cornish and Welsh)
pump (in Welsh)

Na Ceiltich

Cò iad?

The Celts were groups or tribes of people who originally lived on mainland Europe. Over two thousand years ago they invaded and settled in Britain, bringing their languages with them. They were known as a ferocious bunch and the word Celt actually comes from the Greek word *Keltoi* meaning barbarian! Around the first century BC the Greek historian Diodorus described the Celts like this:

Their aspect is terrifying. They are very tall in stature, with rippling muscles under clear white skin. Their hair is blonde, but not naturally so: they bleach it, to this day, artificially, washing it in lime and combing it back from their foreheads. They look like wood-demons, their hair thick and shaggy like a horse's mane.... The way they dress is astonishing: they wear brightly coloured and embroidered shirts, with trousers called bracae and cloaks fastened at the shoulder with a brooch, heavy in winter, light in summer. These cloaks are striped or checkered in design, with the separate checks close together and in various colours.

Na Cànanan Ceilteach an-diugh

Gàidhlig na h-Alba

Fiosrachadh is figearan:

Information and figures

Gaelic was once spoken all over Scotland – from the Butt of Lewis to way down in the Borders. In 1881, 250,000 people spoke Gaelic as their first language out of a population of 3.7 million. However, in the Census of 2011, it was estimated that there were only around 60,000 Gaelic speakers out of a population of five million. Gaelic is still most commonly spoken in the Highlands and Western Isles but there are large pockets of Gaelic speakers in the cities. There are nearly 6,000 Gaelic speakers in Glasgow now, the second largest grouping in the whole of Scotland.

Foghlam:

Education

Over the past few decades, much has been done to increase the numbers of Gaelic speakers. The setting up of Gaelic-medium primary units has been a lifeline for

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Gaelic and the numbers of children educated in Gaelic has risen from only a handful in the 1980s to around 3,000 today! More than 4,000 pupils study Gaelic at high schools across the country – and you are one of them! So far, there are six dedicated Gaelic schools in Scotland with more expected to open in the future.

An t-àm ri teachd:

The future

The future for Gaelic looks very hopeful. As a result of the **Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005**, Gaelic is recognised as an official language of Scotland, commanding equal respect with English. The launch of the new Gaelic digital channel **BBC Alba** in 2008 shows that demand and interest in Gaelic is ever increasing.

Gaeilge/Gàidhlig na h-Èireann

Fiosrachadh is figearan:

Irish Gaelic (or Gaeilge) is probably one of the healthiest Celtic languages today. It is the native language of more than 538,000 people and it is the official first language of Ireland. Furthermore, figures in 2006 showed that around 1.8 million people can speak Gaeilge to some degree of fluency. Ireland has had its own Gaeilge TV channel (TG4) for more than twenty years now.

Foghlam:

Ireland, like Scotland, has its own Gaelic-medium schools called **gaelscoileanna** and it is fairly common for children to complete their entire education from nursery right up to high school entirely through the medium of Gaeilge. There are far more **gaelscoileanna** in Ireland than there are Gaelic-medium schools in Scotland, but Irish-medium education has been running for over a hundred years! There are around 368 primary and secondary schools with around 35,500 pupils in total but that number is rising all the time. Everyone schooled in Ireland has to take Gaeilge as a subject. If you want to be a primary teacher in Ireland then you must pass a fluency test in Gaeilge. Similarly, if you want to go to The National University of Ireland or to be in the **Gardai** (the Irish Police), you must have passed your school leavers' exam in Gaeilge. Police trainees are also given lessons in the language during their two years of training.

An t-àm ri teachd:

Gaeilge is going from strength to strength in Ireland. The Irish government has recognised it as Ireland's first official language - ahead of English - and it is always looking for ways to promote and encourage the use of Gaeilge. In 2008, the Irish government carried out a national survey asking people for their suggestions on how best to increase the Irish language in areas such as education, media and government.

Gaelgagh/Gàidhlig Mhanainneach

Fiosrachadh is figearan:

At one point all people living in the Isle of Man spoke Manx. **Gàidhlig Mhanainneach** almost died out completely after World War Two. It's said that the last native speaker of Manx was Ned Maddrell, who died in the 1970s but now Manx is enjoying a revival and it is spoken by several hundred of the population of 75,000. Children are taught Manx in playgroups and it is used at some public functions.

Foghlam:

In 2001, **Bunscoil Ghaelgagh** - the first Manx-medium primary school opened in St John's in the Isle of Man. It is the only school in the world where children are taught their lessons solely in Manx.

Children can then go on to attend the Queen Elizabeth II High School where they can study Manx as a subject until fourth year.

An t-àm ri teachd:

The Isle of Man has its own independent government and so it is able to make its own laws and rules. Because the vast majority of Manx people are very proud of Gaelic and their culture, this goes a long way to help preserve the language. The Tynwald (Manx Government) is doing everything it can support the language and this bodes very well indeed for the future of Manx Gaelic.

Cymraeg/Cuimris

Fiosrachadh is figearan:

The Welsh language, **Cuimris** is closely related to Cornish and Breton. Welsh was spoken by almost everybody in Wales at the end of the nineteenth century.

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The figure now is almost 600,000 but numbers are rising all the time. A fifth of the population of Wales speak Welsh, and a third of its people understand it.

Foghlam:

Like Scotland and Ireland, Wales has many Welsh-medium schools and all school pupils up to the age of sixteen must take Welsh lessons. Welsh-medium schools are now so popular that some pupils are being turned away because they are too full. Some English-medium schools are now half empty and may have to close. In Cardiff, the capital of Wales, there are plans to close two English schools and open up two new Welsh schools instead to meet the demand. In 2006, there were 53,000 Welsh-medium pupils in about 450 primary schools and roughly 49,000 pupils in 53 Welsh-speaking secondary schools. The Welsh seem to have worked out a very successful programme for saving their language.

An t-àm ri teachd:

The Welsh Assembly is keen to promote and encourage Welsh. There are four all Welsh TV channels - the children's TV programme, *Fireman Sam* was first broadcast in Welsh and all kinds of musicians, including pop bands, record in Welsh. There is a real buzz at the moment and even people who can't speak Welsh are very proud to be a part of the language movement.

Kerrawek/Còrnais

Còrnais died out as a spoken language in the eighteenth century. Now, thanks to some Cornish enthusiasts, the language has been brought back from the brink of extinction. It is estimated that there are about 500 fluent speakers at the moment, but over 3,000 people have varying degrees of fluency and understanding. At the moment, Cornish has no legal status in the UK but it is now recognised by the Government as a minority language.

Brezhoneg/Breatannais

Fiosrachadh is Figearan:

Breatannais is spoken by the people of Brittany in northern France. However, it is very closely related to Cornish and Welsh. In around 600 AD, Britain was invaded by pagan tribes from Germany, called the Saxons. When the Saxons invaded southern England some of the natives fled to Europe. They landed in north-west France, where their Celtic

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heritage and language still have an influence on local culture and daily life.

In 1914, roughly 90% of the population of Brittany spoke Breton. Sadly, that figure has fallen to around 20%. Despite efforts by the people of Brittany to help save their native language, the French government encourages the use of French instead. As a result, the number of Breton speakers has been falling steadily and 75% of Breton speakers are now over the age of 65.

Foghlam:

However, there is good news. In 1977 the first Breton-medium school was opened and a Breton high school opened in 1994. Although the French government pays for some of the teachers in these schools, money is always a problem and parents have to work very hard to raise money to keep these schools going. Today there are some 8,170 children in Breton-medium education - a very positive sign for the future of the language.

An t-àm ri teachd:

In 2003 and 2004, thousands of Bretons took to the streets to protest against the government's lack of support for their language. However, they realised that demonstrations were not going to be enough to save the language and they are now actively campaigning to secure some kind of fair treatment for the language and culture of north-west France.

Cànanan Ceilteach

Leugh na h-earrannan. Lìon na beàrnan.

Fill the blanks to complete the summary.

There are ___ Celtic Nations and each one has its own _____ and culture. The Celtic Nations are Scotland, Ireland, _____, _____, _____ and _____. The Celtic languages can be split into ___ groups: Goidelic and _____. These are sometimes called ___-Celtic and P-Celtic. The Q-Celtic languages are _____, _____ and _____. The P-Celtic languages are _____, _____ and _____.

The Celtic people originally came from _____ and invaded the British Isles more than _____ years ago. The word Celt comes from the _____ word *Keltoi*, meaning _____ and history tells us that the Celts were a _____ race of people. One historian at the time described the Celts as being very _____ with _____ muscles and clear white _____. He says that they had thick, shaggy _____ that they _____ blonde with lime. They wore checked _____ that fastened with a _____ at the shoulder, brightly coloured _____ and _____ called *bracae*.

Ceiltich air feadh an t-saoghail

There are Scottish and Irish Gaelic speakers scattered all over the world now from as far south as Australia and New Zealand to as far north as Canada. This has been due to large numbers of people emigrating – some by choice, but most by force and economic change. Great waves of emigration to the New World began hundreds of years ago and it was once said that Scotland's greatest exports were her people and her language. Both Scotland and Ireland lost millions of people when both countries suffered some desperately hard times beginning around 1725. Until as late as the 1950s, a combination of clearances, poverty, war, famine and disease meant that the Gaels were left with little choice but to leave their homelands in the hope of finding a better life overseas. Even today, Scottish Gaelic can be heard in some parts of America and there is also a Scottish Gaelic community in Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia, Canada with about 1,000 Gaelic speakers. There are many Irish-American communities in the United States and one of the largest is in New York. In the year 2000, it was estimated that 26,000 people in America spoke Gaeilge at home.

In 1865, 153 Welsh speakers started a Welsh colony in Patagonia, South America. They thought that Welsh was in danger of dying out and they wanted to set up a *little Wales* away from the damaging influences of English. Now, the number of Welsh-speaking people in Patagonia is around 1,500! What a good move!

Ceiltich air feadh an t-saoghail

Leugh am fiosrachadh a-rithist. Freagair na ceistean.

Read the information again. Answer the questions.

1. Apart from in Scotland and Ireland, where else are you likely to find speakers of Gaelic and Gaeilge?
2. Explain why you are likely to find Gaelic and Gaeilge speakers in these places.
3. Where and why are there a large number of Welsh speakers outside of Wales?
4. In what way could this scheme be described as a success?

Faigh fios

- Tagh fear de na Nàiseanan Ceilteach.
- Ann am buidheann, dèan rannsachadh air.
- Cuir faidhle-fiosrachaidh ri chèile.
- Bruidhinn ris a' chlas mun fhiosrachadh.

In a group, choose one of the Celtic Nations to research. Find out as much as you can and make up a fact file/tourist information brochure about it. Include pictures as well as text. You may produce your brochure/fact file in English.

When you are finished, your group should present the information to the class and tell the class what you found out. You may do this in English.

You might like to make a class display of everyone's work on the Celtic Nations.

Dè nì sinn?

You should do your research either on the internet or in the library. You may also use information from this book. If you know anyone from the nation you are researching you could interview him/her. If you have enough time, you could e-mail a school in the nation you are studying to find out information from the pupils there.

However you carry out your research, it would be a good idea to decide what you want to find out first and allocate a topic to each group member.

There are so many things you can find out about. Here are some topics you might want to include in your fact file/brochure and presentation:

- **Language facts and figures**
- **Mini phrase book**
- **Education**
- **National flag/emblem**
- **Traditional culture (music, dance, art, customs, festivals, folklore)**
- **Traditional food**
- **Traditional dress**
- **Things to see and do**
- **Pictures of the place and people**
- **Sound files of traditional music**
- **Downloaded video clips**

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Achd na Gàidhlig (Alba) 2005

In 2003, the hundredth annual Royal National Mod was celebrated in Oban. The Rt. Hon Jack McConnell was Scotland's First Minister at the time and he made a special speech at the opening ceremony. In his speech he talked about the importance of Gaelic to Scotland and about the Scottish Executive's (now the Scottish Government) plans for a Gaelic Language Act.

The Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act or **Achd na Gàidhlig (Alba) 2005** is the first piece of legislation in history to give formal recognition in law to the Gaelic language. It aims to secure Gaelic as an official language of Scotland, commanding "equal respect" with English. The last parliamentary Act that made reference to Gaelic was in the year 1616 when an Act of Parliament for education ruled that Gaelic should be 'abolishit and removit' from Scotland.

We have come a long way since then! Here is a little of what Scotland's then First Minister had to say: "There should be no doubt about the status of Gaelic as a language of Scotland. It is a unique and valuable part of our culture and heritage. Sorley MacLean said, 'If Gaelic dies, Scotland will lose something of inexpressible worth, and the Gaels will lose almost everything'. Gaelic is about more than our past and our place names. Gaelic is not only a living language, it is the gateway to enter into a culture both ancient and modern - a culture with a unique set of values and beliefs celebrated through oral traditions, through music, song, dance, poetry and literature... The Scottish Executive is committed to enabling the Gaelic language not only to survive, but to thrive into the future... and tonight I want to emphasise my support for a thriving Gaelic language contributing to the economy, culture and communities of Scotland.

It should be passed on to our children, spoken in our homes and communities. You should be proud of it and all it represents. I wish you well for the hundredth Royal National Mod here in Oban, and I hope that today will go down in history as a special moment for us all. **Suas leis a' Ghàidhlig!**"

(The Rt. Hon Jack McConnell, Royal National Mod, Oban 2003)

Faigh fios

Find out a little bit more about the **Achd na Gàidhlig (Alba) 2005**.

Find examples of what it has done for Gaelic.

Beagan eachdraidh

We don't have to go as far back as 1616 (when an Act of Parliament for education ruled that Gaelic should be abolished and removed from Scotland) to find negative attitudes towards Gaelic. Even your parents and grandparents might remember when it was frowned upon to speak Gaelic in school. It was common for children to be physically punished by teachers for speaking Gaelic and they had some particularly nasty ways of doing this! However, experiences like this were not only common in Scotland. The Welsh and Irish languages also suffered. They were viewed by some with the same distaste and were strongly discouraged.

In Wales, some teachers used the *Welsh Not* to punish children for speaking Welsh and it was a very cruel method indeed.

Find out:

What was a *Welsh Not* made from?

How was it used as a punishment?

Was this a fair punishment?

Why do you think people were discouraged from speaking their own languages in school and in the playground when they were still speaking the language at home?

Have a class discussion about your research.

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Ag ionnsachadh cànan eile

Leugh an artaigil. Freagair na ceistean.

Read the article and answer the questions.

Is mise Eàirdsidh Mac an Tòisich. Tha mi còig bliadhn' air fhichead agus 's ann à Cille Mheàrnaig a tha mi. An-uiridh, chuir mi seachad sia mìosan a' teagasg Beurla ann an Hokkaido - eilean mòr far cost a tuath Iapan.

Rinn mi ceum ann an Saidhceòlas aig oithigh Obar Dheathain, ach nuair a dh'fhàg mi cha robh mi cinnteach dè bha mi ag iarraidh a dhèanamh. Bha ùidh agam riamh ann an cànan agus, nuair a chunnaic mi sanas air-loidhne airson teagasg Beurla thall thairis, chuir mi romham m' ainm a chur a-steach air a shon.

Fhuair mi àite air cùrsa TEFL ann an Obar Dheathain far an do chuir mi seachad dà latha slàn air cùrsa agus an uair sin mu cheithir mìosan ag obair air modalan a' chùrsa air-loidhne. Nuair a fhuair mi an teisteanas TEFL agam, chuir mi romham gun robh mi ag iarraidh a dhol a dh'obair a dh'Iapan air sgàth 's gun robh mi airson a bhith ann an àite far am biodh an cultar gu tur eadardhealaichte.

Chuir mi a-steach airson corra obair agus cha robh mi fada a' feitheamh idir. Fhuair mi agallamh air ceangal-bhidio air-loidhne agus ann an cola-deug eile bha mi air plèana!

Fhuair mi obair ann an sgoil-cànan ann an Sapporo - am baile as motha air cost an iar dheas Eilean Hokkaido. 'S e baile gu math trang a th' ann agus tha faisg air dà mhillean neach a' fuireach agus ag obair ann.

Nuair a ràinig mi Iapan an toiseach, dh'fhuirich mi còmhla ri teaghlach, ach às dèidh mìos, fhuair mi àite còmhla ri dithis thidsear eile faisg air an sgoil cànan.

Anns an sgoil bha a' chlann eadar trì agus sia bliadhn' deug a dh'aois. Bha mise a' teagasg an fheadhainn a bu shine. Bhithinn a' tòiseachadh aig ochd uairean anns a' mhadainn agus uaireannan cha bhithinn deiseil gu mu chòig feasgar. Corra uair, bhithinn a' teagasg clasaichean oidhche do dh'inbhich cuideachd. 'S e obair chruaidh a bh' ann, ach chòrd e rium gu mòr agus bha an t-airgead math. Bha na sgoilearan uile cho modhail agus laghach. Bhiodh iad ag obair cho cruaidh oir ann an cultar Iapan, tha ionnsachadh Beurla cudromach.

A bharrachd air Beurla, bha cuid den chloinn ag ionnsachadh Ainu - cànan nan tùsanach anns na h-eileannan seo. 'S e mion-chànan a tha seo a tha ga bruidhinn fhathast le cuid de mhuinntir nan eilean. A rèir fhigearan, tha mu 24,000 Ainu ann an Hokkaido ged a chanadh

an Riaghaltas gu bheil fada nas lugha na sin ann. Coltach ris a' Ghàidhlig againne, agus tòrr de mhion-chànain eile, bha Ainu ann an cunnart a dhol à bith ach a-nise tha iomairtean ann airson a h-ath-bheothachadh. Gu mì-fhortanach ge-tà, chan eil Ainu idir cho fallain ris a' Ghàidhlig oir chan eil gu leòr taic ann bho riaghaltas lapan airson an cànan agus an cultar a chumail beò. Thug suidheachadh nan Ainu orm smaoinichadh air mar a tha cùisean ann an Alba agus cho fortanach 's a tha sinne gu bheil a' Ghàidhlig a' dol bho neart gu neart.

Nuair a bha mise anns an sgoil ann an Cille Mheàrnaig, chaidh mi tro foghlam tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig agus chanainn gun do chuidich sin gu mòr mi le bhith a' teagasg na Beurla ann an lapan. Bha tuigse na b' fheàrr agam air cuid de na duilgheadasan a tha aig daoine an uair a tha iad ag ionnsachadh cànan. Cuideachd, bha co-fhaireachdainn agam ris na h-Ainu agus an t-strì a tha aca gus an cànan agus an cultar aca a chumail beò.

Saoilidh mi gu bheil ionnsachadh cànan eile cho cudromach agus gum bu chòir dhan a h-uile duine a dhèanamh ma bhios an cothrom aca. Thathar ag ràdh gu bheil e nas fhasa do dhaoine cànan eile ionnsachadh nuair a tha iad dà-chànanach mar-thà. Bhithinn ag aontachadh le sin oir cha d' fhuair mi ro dhoirbh e lapanais agus beagan Ainu a thogail idir! Chuir seo iongnadh mòr orm oir, an toiseach, cha robh mi a' smaoinichadh gun dèanainn a' chùis idir!

Tha luchd-saidheans ag innse dhuinn gu bheil tòrr bhuannachdan cognatach an lùib dàchànanas.

A rèir rannsachaidh, tha cuimhne nas fheàrr aig daoine a tha dà-chànanach agus chan eil thu cho buailteach Alzheimers a bhith ort nuair a tha thu nas sine. A bharrachd air na buannachdan cognatach, ma bhios cànan eile agad, bidh e a' fosgladh dhorsan dhut ann an iomadach dòigh.

Tha an saoghal agam fhèin air fàs air sgàth na dh'ionnsaich mi ann an lapan. Tha mi an dùil beagan a bharrachd siùbhail a dhèanamh agus Beurla a theagasg ann an diofar dhùthchannan.

Chòrdadh e rium Na h-Innseachan, Afraga agus an Ruis fhaicinn. Tha teagasg air còrdadh rium cho mòr 's gu bheil mi air a chur romham trèanadh a bhith nam thidsear Gàidhlig an uair a thilleas mi dhachaigh a dh'Alba.

Tha cuimhn' agam uair a bhith a' leughadh an àiteigin rudeigin a thuirt am feallsanaiche ainmeil, Ludwig Wittgenstein mu dheidhinn cànan. Thuirt e, " 'S e crìochan mo chànain, crìochan mo shaoghail" agus na mo bheachd-sa, tha sin cho fìor 's a ghabhas.

Ceistean

1. What was Archie doing in Japan last year?
2. Where was he located? Give a detailed answer.
3. What was involved in his most recent qualification?
4. Why does Archie say he chose to work in Japan?
5. What information is given about Sapporo?
6. What age group was Archie teaching?
7. Give details of Archie's typical working day.
8. Archie talks in detail about Ainu. According to the information given, how is Ainu similar to Gaelic?
9. What, according to Archie, is unfortunate?
10. According to Archie how has Gaelic helped him to be a better English teacher?
11.
 - a. What does Archie say surprised him?
 - b. What could be the reason for this?
12. According to scientific research, there are many cognitive benefits to bilingualism. Mention one of them.
13. Apart from cognitive benefits, how else could bilingualism be beneficial?
14. What are Archie's future plans?
15. Consider Ludwig Wittgenstein's philosophy on language. Do you agree? Can you apply this in any way to your own life?
16. Translate the underlined text in paragraph 2.