

# SCOTTISH ACCENT

EE Varieties 2021/2022

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# SSE (STANDARD SCOTTISH ENGLISH)

- Distinctive vocabulary
- Result of the contact of Scots with Standard English
- Code-switching and style shifting is equally common in speakers

# HISTORY

King James VI of Scotland became King James I of England in 1603

⇒ Court moves to London

⇒ Court poets adapt language and style to the English market

⇒ Scots is eclipsed as a literary language (only English translation of the Bible was available)

In 1707, Scottish and English parliaments amalgamated, but church and educational and legal structures remained separate

⇒ Terminology remains distinct and separate

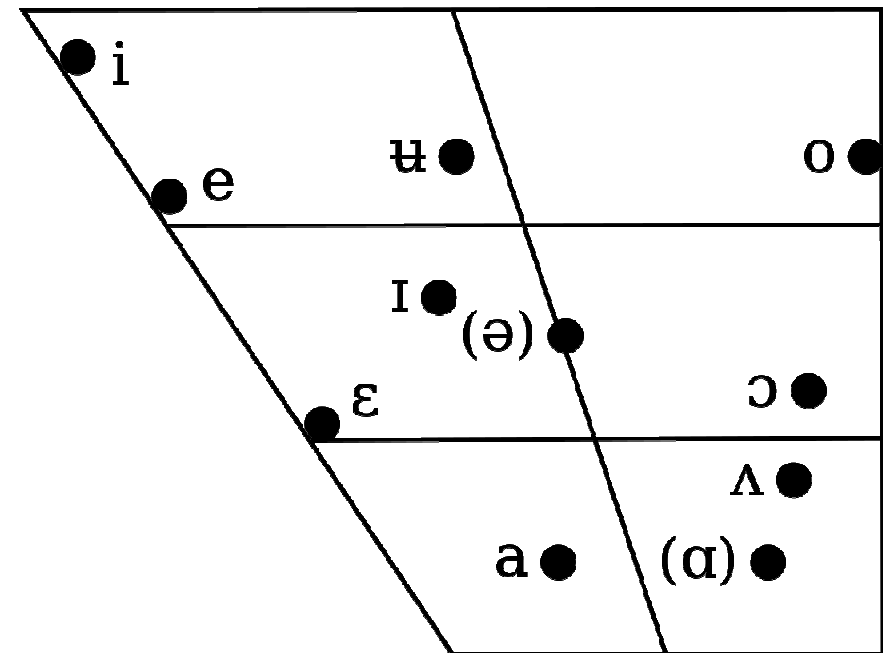
# PHONOLOGY

- **Mostly rhotic**

- /r/ may be postalveolar approximant [ɹ], alveolar tap [ɾ], or alveolar trill [r]
- /o/ and /ɔ/ before /r/ are contrasted (different pron. of *horse* and *hoarse*)
- /or/ and /ur/ are contrasted (*shore* x *sure*, *pour* x *poor*)
- /r/ before /l/ is strong: occurrence of epenthetic vowel (*girl*, *world* = 2 syllables)
- /w/ is present (*which*)
- /x/ is frequent in Scots and Gaelic borrowings (*loch*)
- /l/ is velarized to [ɫ]
- /p/, /t/ and /k/ may not be aspirated
- ending *-ed* may be realized as /t/ (*ended*)
- ending *-g* is dropped (*endin'*)
- glottal stop may be an allophone of /t/ after vowels

# VOWELS

- no /ʊ/, instead transferring Scots /u/ = [ɯ] or [ɯ] (*pull* & *pool* = homophones)
- no /æ/-/ɑː/ distinction (*bath*, *trap*, *laugh* & *palm* = same vowel)



# AITKEN'S LAW

Scottish Vowel Length Law = Aitken's Law (A.J. Aitken)

- Vowel length is conditioned by the target vowel's phonetic environment
- Vowels and diphthongs are short, except in these environments, where they are long:
  - Before /r/.
  - Before a voiced fricative (/v, z, ð, ʒ/).
  - Before a morpheme boundary.
  - In a word-final open syllable, save for the HAPPY vowel /e/ (or, in Geordie, /i/).

# HOW TO DO A SCOTTISH ACCENT IN UNDER 2 MINUTES



Matt Pocock

# SCOTTICISMS

*What a dreich weather! – What a lousy weather!*

*You'd better just caw canny. – Don't overdo it.*

*Just play the daft laddie. – Play stupid.*

*Cheers. – Thanks.*

*Ach, away ye go! – I don't believe you.*

*I'll come round (at) the back of eight. – I'll come round just after 8.*

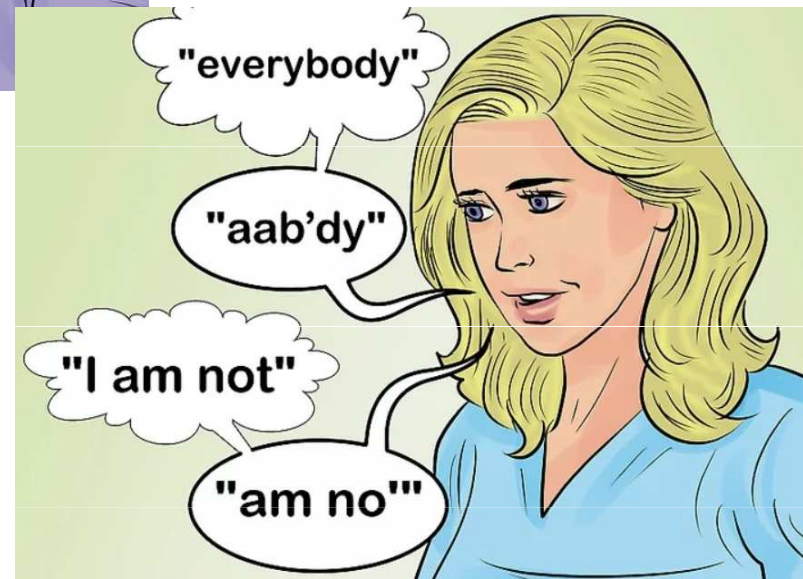
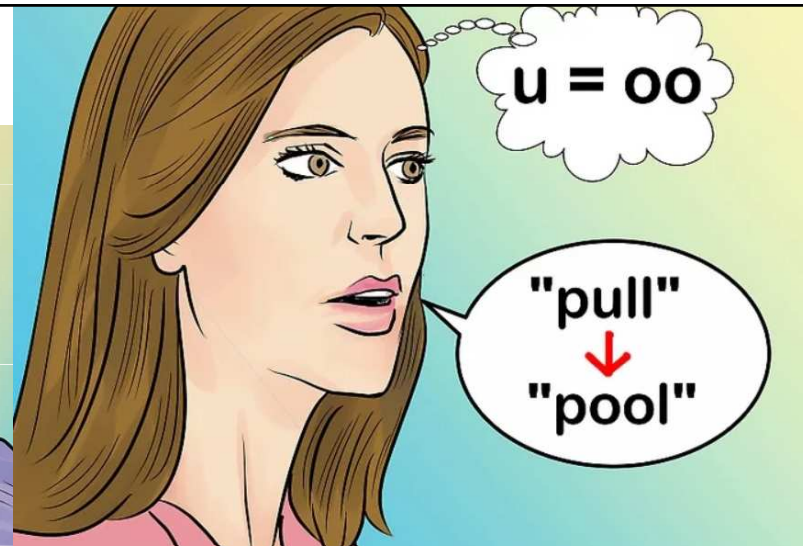
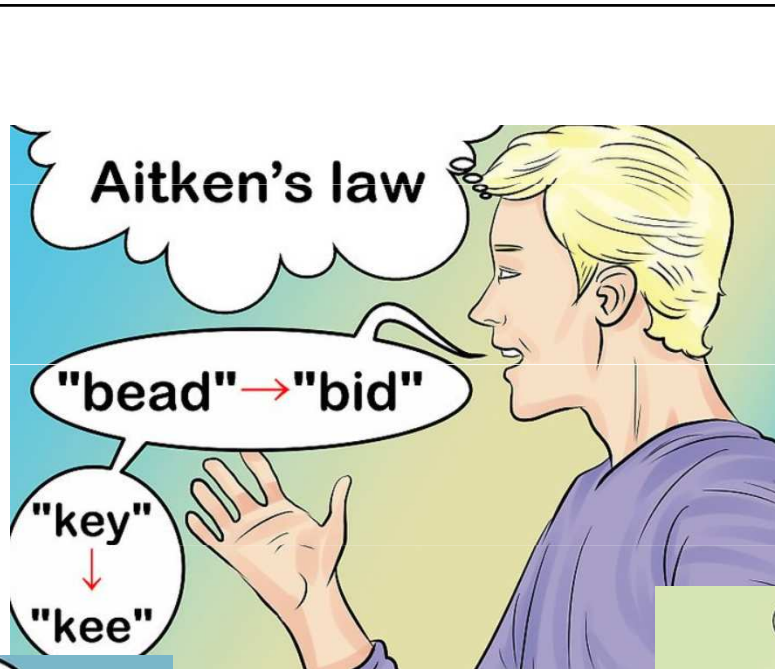
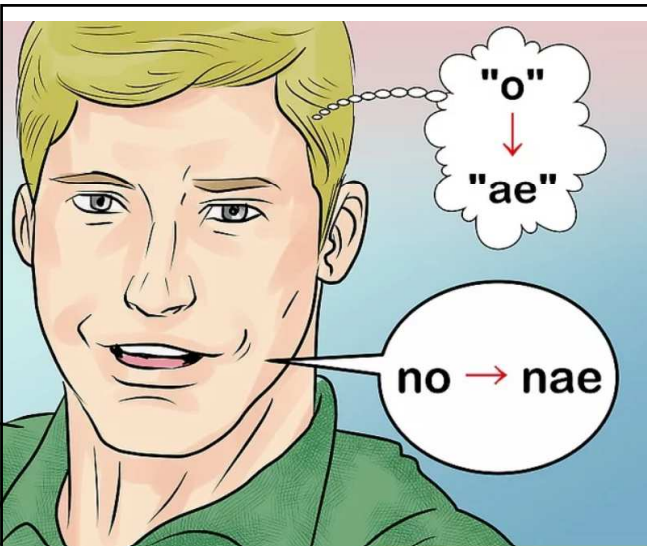
*Oan yer bike pal. – Go away.*

*Hello. – Awright ya?*

*Aye. – Yes.*

*Ah cannae dae tha. – I can't do that.*





# FAMOUS VOICES – BILLY BOYD



# ENGLISH VZ SCOTTISH TRANSLATIONS



WeeScottishLas  
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# ENGLISH TO SCOTTISH TRANSLATORS

## **Scottie Translator**

*Welcome tae the Scottie Translator from Scotland. Write yer wee bit English phrase in the kistie on the left an we'll chyngie it intae Scottie juist lik that! Nae havers nou!*

<http://www.whoohoo.co.uk/scottish-translator.asp>

(The website includes translators to other notable British accents as well.)

## **ScoTranslate**

<http://www.scotranslate.com/>

## **LingoJam**

<https://lingojam.com/EnglishtoScots>

**CHEERS FUR YER  
ATTENTION.**