



Scottish English

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Scottish Gaelic

- an ethnic Celtic language
- slight revival (a renewed sense of national identity and recent positive legislation)
- not a compulsory subject in the vast majority of schools
- remains a community language in some parts of Scotland (notably in the Hebrides)

Standard Scottish English

- since 1707 Standard English = the language of religion, education and government (the socially prestigious form adopted by the aspiring middle classes)
- a variety of local accents.
- RP – a negligible presence in Scotland
- Scots = a dialect descended from Old English has maintained a strong presence (especially in rural communities)
- The most archaic forms of SE have not gone through The Great Vowel Shift

Rhoticity

- the vast majority of speakers in Scotland are **rhotic**
- **Scottish** ‘r’ = [ɾ] (alveolar tap) / [r] (alveolar trill)

	Scottish	RP
th <u>ree</u>	[θɾi:]	[θɹi:]
ca <u>r</u>	[kɑ:r]	[kɑ:]

Different set of Vowels

- Almost complete absence of /ə/
 - substituted with another vowel
- Monophthongization

RP	Scottish
[gəʊ]	[go:]
- the lack of vowel length contrasts
 - no distinction between /ʊ/ and /u/
 - these vowels are merged in Scottish English
 - FOOT and GOOSE

Different set of Vowels

- the retention of historical vowel contrasts before /r/ in words of the NURSE set (*purposes* with /ʌr/ but *perfect* with /ɛr/)
- The vowels of NORTH and FORCE are distinct (horse, force), but not those of LOT and THOUGHT (horrible, awesome).

Aitken's Law

- Some vowels are realised as long when they precede /l/ and /r/.
 - FULL and FOOL

Consonants

- /hw/ in when and wheel (no "Glide Cluster Reduction")
- velar fricative [x]
 - dicht ('clothed'), slicht, bricht, sicht (= English dight, slight, bright, sight).
- glottal stops

Valuable pages and sources

- Basic Phrases in Scottish English
http://www.linguanaut.com/english_scots.htm
- English – Scottish Translator
<http://www.scotranslate.com>
- General inter-accent translator tool
<http://www.whoohoo.co.uk>

Videos

- Karen Gillan Interview (Craig Fergusson)
 - <http://youtu.be/QAX9jTOXswQ?t=1m30s>
- Edwin Morgan
 - <http://youtu.be/cgeGIRzQD40?t=10m6s>
- Elevator
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e-u9XWmRbyc>

Sources

- <http://www.bl.uk/learning/langlit/sounds/find-out-more/scotland/>
- https://www.uni-due.de/SVE/VARS_Scotland.htm
- <http://www.phon.ucl.ac.uk/home/wells/accentsanddialects/>

