

Speaking Celtic

Here are some Celtic words and phrases that you may like to use

You can say some as they look. Some words are pronounced differently from how they look – use the words in brackets to help you pronounce them.

English	Celtic
small	beg
large	mooar
soft or moist	bog
near	faggys (fargus)
far	foddey (For the)
rough	garroo
short	glare (gayair)
good	mie (my)
bad	olk
thick	chiu (chew)
thin	thanney (tanya)
young	aeg
old	shen
slow or poor	moal
white or bright	gial (gale)
Good morning	moghrey mie (morra my)
Good afternoon	fastyr mie (faster my)
How are you?	cre'naght ta shui (kren act ta shoo)

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Age range

- You may wish to try some of the words in the list with years 3/4 (SP4/5) but omit the phrases.
- You may wish to use the whole sheet in years 5/6 (SP6/7).

Resources

A copy of the worksheet, Celtic outfits made at home (optional). See also activity **3B**.

Using the worksheet

These words are taken from Manx. Celtic words and phrases are very difficult to pronounce correctly so for the words in the list let the students simply say them as they may in English. This will at least give them a small hint of how Celtic is different from English. A hint at how the phrases are pronounced is given but only by instruction from someone who can speak the language can the correct pronunciations be made. Again the use of the phrases is just to give a hint of how the Celts spoke.

Younger students

If you are planning any role play about Celtic life, perhaps based on Arthur the farmer, you may like the children to dress up as Celts. They could use the words in the list to describe objects around them.

Outcomes

The students:

- Know that the Celtic language is very different from English.
- Use simple Celtic words to communicate.

Older students

The students could use the phrases to role play a meeting between two Celts where each bid the other good morning or afternoon and asks the other how they are. The reply could be simply "good" or "bad" from the list. This exercise is simply to illustrate how Celtic is different from English. You may like some students to use these

words with the activity **3B** 'Speaking Latin'. They could plan and perform a short play showing Celts meeting Romans and trying to communicate by referring to objects.

Outcomes

The students:

- Know that the Celtic language is very different from English.
- Use simple Celtic words and phrases to communicate.