



Destination: Scotland

Robert
Burns –
poet of the
people



Quiz: How Scottish
are you?

Free interactive
lesson link inside



PRASÓWKA

ADVANS LANGUAGE SCHOOL MAGAZINE





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From the Team

*This magazine is written in simple English so you can read real texts in the original language and enjoy them.
You don't have to understand every word and you don't have to rush.*

We don't want this to feel like a textbook. We want it to feel like something you read because you want to, not because you have to. When you read in English like this, your language grows naturally, without pressure.



The first issue of Prasówka takes us to Scotland...

We begin with Scotland because this time of year belongs to it. From the New Year celebrations called Hogmanay to the warm, poetic night of Robert Burns, Scotland teaches us how to welcome a new year with fire, music, words and heart. These traditions are not just parties; they are stories about people, memory and belonging. Scotland is also a perfect place to start because it connects nature, history and human voice. Mountains, sea, forests and old stones live next to poems, songs and strong traditions. It is a country that remembers where it comes from and is not afraid to show it.

Travel with us through this magical country, looking at it through students' eyes (and not only): through cities and quiet places, through photos and words, through the eyes of people who love it. This is not a guidebook. It is a feeling.

Read slowly. Read with curiosity. And take your time...

Prasówka

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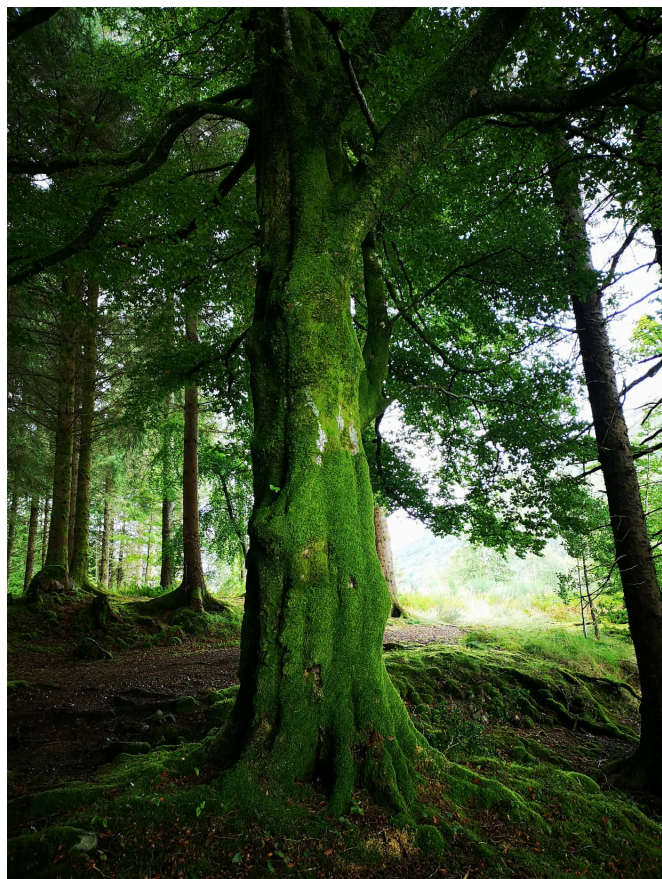




Aberdeen and beyond

BY AGNIESZKA SZYMAŃSKA (SÓWKI 11)

| PHOTOGRAPHY BY AGNIESZKA SZYMAŃSKA



Scotland is so beautiful that I only feel sad I cannot see all these wonderful places with my own eyes. Even through photos, you can feel how special this country is. Aberdeen itself may not seem very exciting at first, but it also has its quiet beauty. The most magical places are Edinburgh, where time seems to stand still, the Isle of Skye with its wild and breathtaking nature, and the many castles — some in ruins, some still full of life. There is also Balmoral, the royal home where Queen Elizabeth II passed away, and many small towns full of charm. Above all, there are the views: the sea, mountains, lakes, waterfalls, cliffs and forests, all full of old stories.

Aberdeen, where we live, is known as the Grey City because its old buildings are made from grey granite. It has an old university, beautiful parks, an old fishing area and a calm, strong character. It is also called the oil city, because many energy companies have their offices here.



Aberdeen is a city in the north of Scotland. It is near the sea and often windy. Many people call it the Grey City, because many old buildings are made from grey granite. When the sun shines, the stone can look silver.

Aberdeen is a working city. Many energy and oil companies have their offices here. That is why some people also call it the oil city. You can see modern buildings next to very old ones.

The city has two universities. One of them, the University of Aberdeen, is very old and beautiful. It has stone buildings, towers and quiet places to sit and think. Students from many countries come here to study.

Aberdeen is also close to nature. You can walk on long beaches by the sea, go to parks in the city, or travel a short way to forests, rivers and castles. It is a good place for people who like both city life and quiet places.

Aberdeen is not loud or busy like some big cities. It is calm, strong and a little quiet. If you give it time, it shows you its beauty.

Scotland? Never Enough!



Victoria Street in Edinburgh

BY PAOLA MROCZEK (TUTOR)
PHOTOGRAPHY BY PAOLA MROCZEK

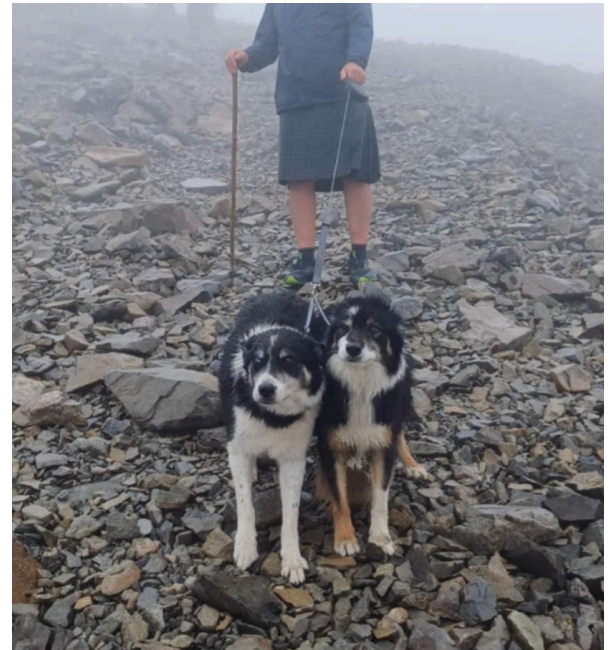
I have been to Scotland four times, and every time it takes my breath away. It is a wild and beautiful place, full of nature, amazing views, mountains, and wild animals.

The place I remember best is the capital city, Edinburgh. Its architecture feels dark and strong, but that is what makes it so beautiful. It is a city where everyone can find something they love. I followed the Harry Potter places, because I am a big fan, and it was an amazing experience. It helped me see the city in a magical way.

Climbing Ben Nevis, the highest mountain in the UK, is a real challenge, but the views are worth it. After that, you can enjoy traditional Scottish food like haggis and the fish soup called Cullen skink. They are warm, tasty, and perfect for cold days.

And of course, Scotland is the land of whisky. You can find it almost everywhere, and visiting distilleries is a dream for whisky lovers. The further north you go, the wilder it gets: more nature, more silence, and more real rest. But it also gets colder, so take a warm sweater — you will really need it.

This is how I remember Scotland...



This is what a Scottish adventure looks like.



Left: Ben Nevis, Edinburgh City; above: Greyfriars Bobby



Kurs podstaw “Od zera do bohatera” – nabór trwa!

START

3.02.26

17:30 UK / 18: 30 PL

**75 MINUT AKTYWNYCH ZAJĘĆ
NA ZOOMIE TYGODNIOWO**

Bez znaczenia, czy masz ochotę zacząć naukę
od podstaw, czy zakleić luki, które wciąż nie pozwalają
Ci pójść do przodu - ten kurs jest dla Ciebie!
Jesteś Sówką i nasz kogoś, kto mógłby skorzystać?

**Poleć i odbierz od nas zniżkę na kurs
z Native Speakerem!**

Chętny? Napisz: advansschool@gmail.com



Destination Spotlight: Scotland Is So Special

BY LUCY FERČAKOVÁ (SÓWKI 8)
PHOTOGRAPHY: LUCY FERČAKOVÁ

Most of my photos from Scotland are of mountains and water — but these are exactly the things that make this country so special. Here are my personal favourites. I visit these places often, and every time they still feel beautiful and new...

Dunnottar Castle is my favourite one in Scotland. It stands on high cliffs above the North Sea, near the town of Stonehaven in the north-east. Today you can see only ruins, but the oldest parts are from the 15th and 16th century. The views are spectacular. If you have never been there, I really recommend it — especially on a sunny day.





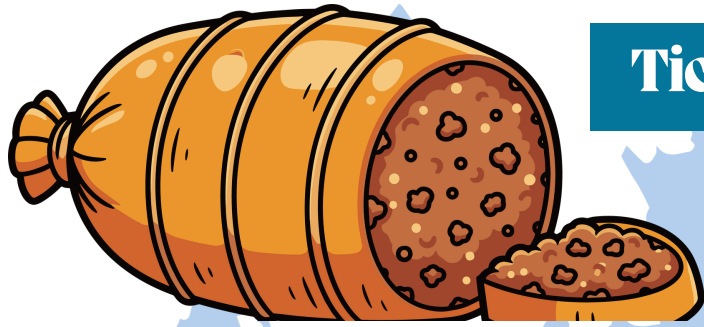
The Isle of Barra won my heart with its peace and wild beauty. There are no crowds and often no phone signal — a real break from everyday life. The water is blue and clear, and the beaches are quiet. The most amazing thing is that Barra has the only airport in the world where planes land on the beach, directly on the sand. It is a perfect place if you are looking for silence and nature.



Glen Etive and Glencoe are two of the most beautiful places in Scotland. You see wild mountains, waterfalls and a narrow road going deep into the valley. Glen Etive is calm and wide, full of space and peace. Glencoe is more dramatic, with strong shapes and powerful views. I go there very often; in every season it looks different and always beautiful. Some scenes from a James Bond film were also filmed in Glen Etive.



How Scottish are you?



Tick what sounds like you

- ☐ You think rain is “nice weather.”
- ☐ You don’t trust people who complain about wind.
- ☐ You can walk for hours and still say: “Just one more hill.”
- ☐ You like places with more sheep than people.
- ☐ You feel happy when the sky is grey.
- ☐ You think a warm sweater is more important than a nice jacket.
- ☐ You like stories about ghosts, castles and old stones.
- ☐ You don’t need wifi to feel okay.
- ☐ You think tea tastes better when it’s cold outside.

Results

0–3 ticks – You are more “sun and beach” than “mist and mountain.”

4–6 ticks – You could live in Scotland...Well, maybe.

7–10 ticks – Sorry, but you might already be Scottish inside!



Long Time Ago in Inverness...



BY MONI EVANS (TUTOR)
PHOTOGRAPHY BY MONI & PAUL EVANS

Many years ago, my husband Paul and I travelled to the Highlands and stayed in Inverness. We used that time to really feel the north of the country. We visited Loch Ness, quiet and mysterious, stretching dark and calm between the hills. We went to Glamis Castle, full of stories, shadows, and history. We also visited the Famous Grouse whisky distillery, where the smell of barley and wood, and the slow rhythm of making whisky, felt like stepping into a different time...



We fell in love with Scotland from the very beginning...



Few images are as strongly linked with Scotland as the sound of bagpipes and the sight of a man or woman wearing a tartan kilt. Together, they form a powerful symbol of Scottish identity, history, and pride.

The kilt began as practical clothing. In the cold, wet Highlands, people needed something warm, flexible, and easy to move in. Early Highlanders wore a large piece of woollen cloth called the *féileadh mòr*, or great kilt, which could be wrapped around the body and even used as a blanket at night. Over time, this evolved into the shorter, tailored kilt worn today. What makes each kilt special is its tartan. These patterned designs of coloured lines crossing each other are linked to clans, regions, or families, turning cloth into a kind of visual surname.

Wearing a kilt is not just tradition, it is a statement. It says: this is where I come from, this is who I belong to. Today, kilts are worn at weddings, festivals, Burns Night, Highland games, parades, and important family events. They mix pride with practicality and history with modern life.

Bagpipers carry the sound of Scotland. Long ago, pipes were used in war to lead soldiers into battle, keep their courage strong, and frighten the enemy. Later, they became essential at ceremonies, funerals, weddings, and celebrations. The sound of bagpipes is raw and emotional. It can lift hearts, make people cry, or make them stand straighter without even knowing why.

A bagpiper is more than a musician. Traditionally, pipers were respected members of clans, trained for years to master complex tunes and rhythms. Pipe music was passed from generation to generation, like a spoken history. Each tune told a story – of love, loss, victory, exile, and home.

When kilts and bagpipes come together, they create something larger than fashion or music. They become a moving memory of Scotland's past, still alive in the present. They remind people that culture is not kept in museum; it is worn, played, heard, and shared. And every time a bagpiper lifts the pipes and a kilt moves in the wind, Scotland speaks again.

Basic Scottish – so you don't get lost...

Hello / Hi – Hiya or Hullo
How are you? – How are ye?
I'm fine – Aye, I'm fine
Yes – Aye
No – Naw
Thank you – Ta or Thanks
Very good! – Brilliant!
Small – Wee
Child / children – Bairn / bairns
Friend – Pal or Mate
Girl / young woman – Lass
Boy / young man – Lad
Cold – Baltic
Busy – Pure busy
I'm tired – I'm knackered
I don't know – I dinnae ken
I can't – I cannae
Don't do it! – Dinnae dae it!

If you want to hear a real Scottish accent in everyday life, we recommend following Sean the Sheepman on Facebook. He talks mostly about his wonderful sheepdogs, his land and his daily life in Scotland; simply, honestly, and with a beautiful Scottish accent. (photo by Sean The Sheepman)

Click on the black logo below to go to Sean's page.



SEAN
THE SHEEPMAN



Burns Night: Neeps, Tatties, Haggis and Whisky

+ free lesson link

WITH IWONA KORPOWSKA (SÓWKI STEP BY STEP)

Every January 25th, people in Scotland, and far beyond, gather around tables filled with haggis, *neeps* (parsnips), and *tatties* (potatoes), raise a glass of whisky, and recite poetry written more than 200 years ago. This is Burns Night: a celebration of Robert Burns, Scotland's national poet, and one of the most loved writers in the English-speaking world.

Robert Burns was born on 25 January 1759 in Alloway, a small village in southwest Scotland. He came from a poor farming family and had little formal education, but he loved reading, language, and songs. From a young age, he wrote poetry in Scots and English, using everyday speech instead of stiff, formal language. He wrote about love, friendship, nature, freedom, injustice, and ordinary people's lives. His poems feel honest, warm, funny, and sometimes painfully real. Some of his most famous works include *Auld Lang Syne*, sung around the world on New Year's Eve, *To a Mouse*, about a farmer who accidentally destroys a mouse's home, *Tam o' Shanter*, a wild and spooky story, and *A Red, Red Rose*, one of the most beautiful love poems ever written.

Burns died young, in 1796, at just 37 years old. But his words never stopped travelling.

Burns Night is held on or around 25 January, the poet's birthday. It is not a sad memorial, it's loud, warm, musical, and full of life, just like Burns's writing.

To many English speakers, Scots can sound a bit like Silesian sounds to Polish speakers.

To give you a taste, our student Iwona Korpowska who speaks Silesian, recorded Burns' poem "The Laddies's Dear Sel" translated by Mirek Syniawa.

You can hear it in our free presentation.

[click here](#)

A traditional Burns Supper usually follows a simple but meaningful order: a welcome, the Selkirk Grace before eating, the dramatic arrival of the haggis (often with bagpipes), the famous “Address to a Haggis,” then eating haggis with neeps and tatties. After that come toasts, poems, songs, and lots of laughter. You don’t have to be Scottish to celebrate. Burns belongs to everyone who loves words, music, and human feeling.

In Scots, “neeps and tatties” simply means turnips and potato but the words show how Scots works as a living, everyday language. Neeps are turnips (from old Germanic/Scots roots) and tatties are potatoes (a Scots shortening of “tatties,” from “taters”) To an English speaker, these words sound familiar but slightly strange; close enough to guess, different enough to feel local. That’s exactly how Scots often feels: not foreign, not standard English either, but something in between, with its own music and history. So when people say “haggis, neeps and tatties,” they’re not just naming food, they’re speaking in the voice of place, tradition, and everyday Scottish life.

Today, Burns Night is celebrated in homes, schools, pubs, castles, and community halls. Some people wear kilts, some wear jeans. Some eat haggis, others eat vegetarian versions. What matters is not perfect tradition, it’s the spirit: sharing food, sharing words, sharing music, and remembering what connects us.

Burns once wrote that even the best plans can go wrong. But friendship, song, and kindness, those last. And that is what Burns Night truly celebrates.



Vegan in Edinburgh

BY MONIKA MOTYBEL (SÓWKI 9)

PHOTOGRAPHY: MONIKA MOTYBEL



I love Edinburgh. My husband and I are thinking about moving near this city one day. It feels like a place where life could be calm and happy. When we were there, we often ordered vegan ramen. Using the HappyCow app, you can easily find vegan places, which made travelling and eating very simple for me as a vegan.

What I also love is that you can go almost everywhere with your dog — on trains and even on buses. It makes travelling easy and friendly. We also climbed Arthur's Seat, the big hill in the middle of the city. I still have a photo from the first time we were there.

I love Edinburgh for its castle and for the Harry Potter feeling. I am a big fan, so the magic of this city is very close to my heart.

Programy i kursy w Advans – luty 2026

Od zera do bohatera

Start: 3.02.2026, wtorki

17:30 UK , Zoom

Kurs języka angielskiego na poziomie podstawowym i ponadpodstawowym.

Brytyjski angielski.



Bootcamp B1.1

Start: 5.02.2026, czwartki

19:00 UK , Zoom

Kurs powtórkowy, zawierający słówka, zwroty, idiomy oraz gramatykę z rozszerzonego poziomu B1. Polecany osobom, które chcą powtórzyć szkolny materiał, ale i wzbogacić słownictwo na poziomie średniozaawansowanym niższym.



Wstęp do brytyjskiej wymowy

Start: 6.02.2026, piątki

19:00 UK , Zoom

kurs zawierający podstawy dotyczące prawidłowej, brytyjskiej wymowy. 12 sesji.



Speaking Without Fear A1

Start: 12.02.2026, czwartki

18:00 UK , Zoom

Cykl czterech spotkań z Native Speakerem (Paul Evans) dla osób na poziomie podstawowym (A1), które odczuwają strach przed konwersacją w języku angielskim. Program ma za zadanie przełamywać barierę strachu i pomagać oswoić się z używaniem języka w mowie tak często, jak to tylko możliwe.

Rekrutacja trwa!



Prasówka

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