

Scots language and culture teacher CPD

Unit 7, Appendix 2

Dialect variation – using the forms listed below, you are representing a particular dialect of Scots

Scots Dialect	Pronunciation variation from other Scots dialects	Examples of words with Scots dialect variation
Insular	th → t	think → tink
	th → d	thee → dee
North East	wh → f	whit → fit
Lothians	-a → -ae	Glesga → Glesgae
West Central	ai → eh	fairm → ferm
Tayside	ay → eh	aye → eh
Borders	oo → ow	you → yow
	ee → ey	me → mey

The Scots words that are traditionally spelled <ui> vary across dialects accounting for much of the distinctiveness in dialects. In the Northern Isles, parts of Angus and West Dunbartonshire these words maintain a distinctive vowel sound. (This is spelled with the umlaut in Insular dialects, 'ö'). In other dialects it has been replaced with other sounds in the dialects.

	muin	puir	nuik
Insular -	mön	pür	nyook
North East –	meen	peer/pear	nyook
Central, Southern, & Ulster Scots	min	paer	nyuk

In the North east words traditionally spelt <ui> that are preceded by a **k** or **g** sound tend to have acquired a **w** sound, for example in *scuil*, *skweel*, and *guid*, *gweed*.

Some dialect retain pronunciation of <ch> in words like *bricht* and *nicht*, in others these are silent, like <gh> in the English words bright and night. However, in uniquely Scots words and in place names these are often pronounced.