

# Scottish Language Dictionaries Word Collection

## Notes for oral collectors and informants

We want to collect information about current Scots.

Any information you can send us will be helpful; whether from your own language or that of family, friends, colleagues, or even overheard at a bus stop.

Any information sent to us will be entered into the National Word Collection Database and used as a first-hand resource for all our dictionaries.

Below is an example of the information we need. If the person who used the word or phrase is known to you, please tell us much as possible of the following:

<b>WORD:*</b>	the word you want to give us
<b>EXAMPLE:*</b>	what was actually said (in a sentence if possible)
<b>INFORMANT:</b>	the speaker's name
<b>AGE:</b>	use the decade of birth, e.g. 1930s, 1940s, 1960
<b>SEX:</b>	M for male, F for female
<b>EDUCATION:</b>	e.g. sch, FE, univ
<b>OCCUPATION:</b>	e.g. butcher, lawyer
<b>LOCATION*:</b>	where the speaker currently lives
<b>ORIGIN*:</b>	where brought up
<b>PARENTS:</b>	where parents were brought up (give mother first)
<b>MISC:</b>	any other information you might want to add
<b>DATE:</b>	year in which the information was used
<b>REPORTED BY:</b>	your own name

\*Only the word and quotation, plus location of use will appear in the final word collection, or any dictionaries. We determine location of use from either Location (e.g. if you have always lived in the same place) or Origin (e.g. if you remember the word from when you lived in another part of Scotland).

### Data Protection

Any personal information that we hold about you will be used in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998 and other applicable laws. We are the data controller under the Act and are responsible for processing this information. We need details of your address, email address and telephone number **only** so we can contact you. We use information about speakers only for our own records and research.

## Examples

Below is an example of a completed form for 'puggie' meaning fruit machine:

WORD	<i>puggies</i>	
EXAMPLE	<i>We played the puggies aw last night.</i>	
NAME	<i>Nick Cairns</i>	
SEX	<i>M</i>	
AGE	<i>70s</i>	
EDUCATION	<i>univ</i>	
OCCUPATION	<i>shop assistant</i>	
LOCATION	<i>Edinburgh</i>	
ORIGIN	<i>Edinburgh</i>	
PARENTS	<i>Edinburgh, Angus</i>	(= <u>mother</u> from Edinburgh, <u>father</u> from Dundee. Please use this order.)
DATE	<i>1999</i>	
REPORTED BY	<i>Pauline Cairns (mother)</i>	(Please give relationship of informant to speaker.)

The informant may be yourself. The following is the word 'beast', meaning head-louse, as used by Pauline Cairns:

WORD	<i>beast</i>	
EXAMPLE	<i>Ah dread ma bairns gettin beasts in their heids.</i>	
INFORMANT	<i>Pauline Cairns</i>	
AGE	<i>1950s</i>	
SEX	<i>F</i>	
EDUCATION	<i>FE</i>	
OCCUPATION	<i>Senior Editor</i>	
LOCATION	<i>Edinburgh</i>	
ORIGIN	<i>Edinburgh</i>	
PARENTS	<i>Midlothian, Edinburgh</i>	
DATE	<i>1993</i>	
REPORTED BY	<i>Pauline Cairns</i>	

## Examples (continued)

If the person you heard is unknown to you, please just send what you recall. A short note will do. Please date and sign this kind of entry with your name. For example, you overhear a woman speaking at a bus stop in Leith in 2003; the woman looks to be in her 60s. This is how you could fill in the form:

EXAMPLE	<i>Dae ye ken when the doctor's sittin'?</i>
AGE	<i>1930s</i>
SEX	<i>F</i>
LOCATION	<i>Edinburgh</i>
MISC	<i>overheard at bus-stop in Leith</i>
DATE	<i>2003</i> (date heard)
REPORTED BY	<i>Pauline Cairns</i>

When you hear something on television or radio, give as much information as you can. The following is an example of 'nippy sweetie' heard on Radio Scotland:

WORD	<i>nippy sweetie</i>
EXAMPLE	<i>I got the nippy sweetie look,</i>
INFORMANT	<i>?</i>
AGE	<i>1930s</i>
SEX	<i>F</i>
EDUCATION	<i>?</i>
OCCUPATION	<i>?</i>
LOCATION	<i>Gsw</i>
ORIGIN	<i>?</i>
PARENTS	<i>?</i>
MISC	<i>heard on Radio Scotland 11 Apr 1989</i>
DATE	<i>1989</i>
REPORTED BY	<i>Iseabail Macleod</i>

## SLD Informant Forms

The **SLD Word Collection: Informant Form** gives us background information on you. Please fill this in regardless of how few or many words you have to give us. You should always complete one copy of the Informant Form when you send us words.

The **SLD Word Collection: Oral Information Form I** and **II** forms are used to give us your words. You should have several copies of both Oral Information forms.

**Oral Information Form I** is intended for use when dealing with more than one informant, for example in a conversation between friends.

**Form II** is intended for use when one informant has given you several quotations; it will allow you to enter several examples without re-entering the informants details each time.

If you are using **Form II** to give us several words and phrases you know yourself, and you have given us your **Informant Form**, you don't need to fill in the informant details on each page. Please just fill your name in as the Informant, and then attach your Informant Form to the Form II pages.

You can use the example on the **Informant Form**, as well as the notes given above, to complete the Oral Information forms. Please feel free to photocopy the forms if you need more copies, or let us know and we can provide you with as many as you need.

Please contact:

Pauline Cairns Speitel  
Senior Editor  
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0131 650 4149

## SLD Word Collection: Informant Form

Please provide the following information about yourself (the **example** provides details of what is helpful for us in each category).

Your name:

Age:

Sex:

Education:

Occupation:

Location:

Origin:

Parents:

Misc:

Date:

Please provide the following information so that we can contact you:

Address:

Telephone:

Email:

### **Example:**

INFORMANT:	your name
AGE:	use the decade of your birth, e.g. 1930s, 1940s, 1950s,
SEX:	M for male, F for female
EDUCATION:	e.g. sch, FE, univ
OCCUPATION:	your occupation – if unemployed, indicate this too.
LOCATION:	where you live now
ORIGIN:	where you were brought up – if more than one location, list them in order
PARENTS:	where parents were brought up (please give mother first)
MISC:	any other information you want to add, e.g. where you heard the word you are giving us
DATE:	year in which the information was collected

Page number:

## **SLD Word Collection Oral Information Form I**

For use with different informants

**Word:**

**How it was used:**

INFORMANT:

AGE:

SEX:

EDUCATION:

OCCUPATION:

LOCATION:

ORIGIN:

PARENTS:

MISC:

DATE:

REPORTED BY:

**Word:**

**How it was used:**

INFORMANT:

AGE:

SEX:

EDUCATION:

OCCUPATION:

LOCATION:

ORIGIN:

PARENTS:

MISC:

DATE:

REPORTED BY:

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## **Oral Information Form II**

For use with one informant who has given several quotations.

INFORMANT:

AGE:

SEX:

EDUCATION:

OCCUPATION:

LOCATION:

ORIGIN:

PARENTS:

MISC:

DATE:

REPORTED BY:

**WORD:**

**EXAMPLE:**

**WORD:**

**EXAMPLE:**

**WORD:**

**EXAMPLE:**