

LOVE SCOTLAND

Hogmanay & Burns Night Pack

15 lines for the Scottish New Year and Burns Night, with Auld Lang Syne in full and a few facts about first-footing and Burns Night. Each line has its English meaning and a link to where it comes from.

This pack is shorter than an earlier version. We rebuilt it in October 2026 and kept only what we could check against named published sources. We do not print pronunciation guides.

№ 01 · HOGMANAY

A gude New-year to ane and a',
And mony may ye see.

A good New Year to one and all, and many may you see.

— Scots New Year song (1865 broadside). Source: [National Library of Scotland](#)

№ 02 · NEW YEAR

A Guid New Year

Happy New Year.

— Scots greeting. Source: [Scots Language Centre, page 282](#) · [Scots Language Centre, page 1661](#)

№ 03 · NEW YEAR

Bliadhna mhath ùr

Happy New Year.

— Scottish Gaelic. Source: [Omniglot](#) · [gaelicgrammar.org](#)

№ 04 · WELL WISHES

Lang may yer lum reek!

Long may your chimney smoke: a wish for a warm home and plenty.

— Scots saying. Source: [Dictionaries of the Scots Language](#)

№ 05 · NEW YEAR WISH

May the best ye've ever seen
be the worst ye'll ever see.
May the moose ne'er leave yer girnall
wi' a tear-drap in its ee.

A girnall is a grain store: may a mouse never leave yours with a tear in its eye, because it was always full.

— Scottish wish. Source: [Scots Language Centre, page 6464](#)

№ 06 · TOAST

Here's tae us; wha's like us?
Gey few, and they're a' deid.

Here's to us; who's like us? Rather few, and they're all dead.

— Scots toast. Source: [Dictionaries of the Scots Language](#)

№ 07 · THANK YOU

Here's to the friends we can trust
when the storms of adversity blaw;
may they live in our song and be nearest our hearts,
nor depart like the year that's awa'.

— Scottish Toasts (1908). Source: [Project Gutenberg](#)

№ 08 · AULD LANG SYNE

Should auld acquaintance be forgot,
And never brought to mind?
Should auld acquaintance be forgot,
And auld lang syne!
For auld lang syne, my dear,
For auld lang syne,
We'll tak a cup o' kindness yet,
For auld lang syne.

Auld lang syne = old long since: for the sake of old times.

— Robert Burns, Auld Lang Syne. Source: [Burns](#), [Project Gutenberg](#) · [Wikisource](#)

№ 09 · GRACE

Some hae meat an canna eat,
And some wad eat that want it;
But we hae meat, and we can eat,
And sae the Lord be thankit.

— The Selkirk Grace. Source: [Wikipedia](#), [Selkirk Grace](#) · [Wikipedia](#), [Burns supper](#)

№ 10 · BURNS NIGHT

Fair fa' your honest, sonsie face,
Great chieftain o' the puddin-race!

Good luck to your honest, jolly face, great chieftain of the pudding-race!

— Robert Burns, Address to a Haggis. Source: [Burns, Project Gutenberg](#) · [Wikisource](#)

№ 11 · BURNS NIGHT

The best-laid schemes o' mice an' men
Gang aft agley.

The best-laid plans of mice and men often go wrong.

— Robert Burns, To a Mouse. Source: [Burns, Project Gutenberg](#) · [Wikipedia, To a Mouse](#)

№ 12 · BURNS NIGHT

O wad some Power the giftie gie us
To see oursels as ithers see us!

— Robert Burns, To a Louse. Source: [Burns, Project Gutenberg](#) · [Wikipedia, To a Louse](#)

№ 13 · BURNS NIGHT

O my Luve's like a red, red rose,
That's newly sprung in June:
O my Luve's like the melodie,
That's sweetly play'd in tune.

— Robert Burns, A Red, Red Rose. Source: [Burns, Project Gutenberg](#)

№ 14 · BURNS NIGHT

And fare-thee-weel, my only Luve!
And fare-thee-weel, a while!
And I will come again, my Luve,
Tho' 'twere ten thousand mile!

— Robert Burns, A Red, Red Rose. Source: [Burns, Project Gutenberg](#)

John Anderson, my jo, John,
We clamb the hill thegither;
And mony a cantie day, John,
We've had wi' ane anither:

A jo is a sweetheart.

— Robert Burns, John Anderson, My Jo. Source: [Burns, Project Gutenberg](#)

First-footing

At Hogmanay, the first person to cross your threshold after midnight is said to set the luck for the rest of the year. Coal, shortbread and whisky are symbolic gifts for the first-footer to bring, and black bun, a rich fruit cake, is another. A tall, dark-haired man is the usual choice for first-foot, though nobody will mind if it is you.

Sources: [Wikipedia, Hogmanay](#) · [Scotland.org, Hogmanay](#)

Burns Night

Burns Night is held on 25 January, the birthday of Robert Burns, who was born in 1759. The first Burns supper was held in 1801. The meal is haggis, neeps (mashed swede) and tatties (mashed potatoes), often with a dram. The Selkirk Grace is said before the meal, and the Address to a Haggis is recited when the haggis is brought in.

Sources: [Scotland.org, Burns Night](#) · [Wikipedia, Burns supper](#) · [Wikipedia, Selkirk Grace](#) · [Wikipedia, Address to a Haggis](#)

Sources

Every line and every claim in this pack with the pages it was checked against. Tap a link, or type it into a browser.

01 A gude New-year to ane and a',

Scots New Year song (1865 broadside)

<https://digital.nls.uk/broadsides/broadside.cfm/id/16033>

02 A Guid New Year

Scots greeting

<https://www.scotslanguage.com/articles/node/id/282>

<https://www.scotslanguage.com/articles/view/id/1661>

03 Bliadhna mhath ùr

Scottish Gaelic

<https://omniglot.com/language/phrases/gaelic.php>

https://gaelicgrammar.org/~gaelic/mediawiki/index.php/Idiomatic_Pleasantries

<https://www.gaelicbooks.org/explore-the-shop/gifts/cards/merry-christmas-and-happy-new-year-presents?lang=en>

04 Lang may yer lum reek!

Scots saying

<https://dsl.ac.uk/entry/snd00075993>

05 May the best ye've ever seen

Scottish wish

<https://www.scotslanguage.com/articles/view/id/6464>

06 Here's tae us; wha's like us?

Scots toast

<https://dsl.ac.uk/heres-tae-us>

07 Here's to the friends we can trust

Scottish Toasts (1908)

<https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/76945>

08 Should auld acquaintance be forgot,

Robert Burns, Auld Lang Syne

<https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/1279>

https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/The_Poetical_Works_of_Robert_Burns/Auld_Lang_Syne

09 Some hae meat an canna eat,

The Selkirk Grace

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Selkirk_Grace

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Burns_supper

10 Fair fa' your honest, sonsie face,

Robert Burns, Address to a Haggis

<https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/1279>

https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/The_Poetical_Works_of_Robert_Burns/To_a_Haggis

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Address_to_a_Haggis

11 The best-laid schemes o' mice an' men

Robert Burns, To a Mouse

<https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/1279>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/To_a_Mouse

12 O wad some Power the giftie gie us

Robert Burns, To a Louse

<https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/1279>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/To_a_Louse

13 O my Luve's like a red, red rose,

Robert Burns, A Red, Red Rose

<https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/1279>

14 And fare-thee-weel, my only Luve!

Robert Burns, A Red, Red Rose

<https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/1279>

15 John Anderson, my jo, John,

Robert Burns, John Anderson, My Jo

<https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/1279>

First-footing

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hogmanay>

<https://www.scotland.org/events/hogmanay>

Burns Night

<https://www.scotland.org/events/burns-night>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Burns_supper

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Selkirk_Grace

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Address_to_a_Haggis

Send one today

A line means most when someone receives it.

We turn any of these into a free Scottish card you can email in a minute.

Send a free Scottish card →

Copy these lines on the web: message.lovetovisitscotland.com/lines

Burns texts and the 1908 Scottish Toasts are in the public domain.