

S before or after a broad vowel in the same syllable, is sounded as in English. But, when immediately before or after a small vowel, it has the sound of *sh*. It has the same sound in *so* this, *sud* yonder, to be pronounced *sho*, *shud*. S in the beginning of words, when preceded by the article, with a *t* intervening, is silent: Thus, *an t-sùil* the eye is to be pronounced as if written *an tùil*. S has the same sound as in English in *is* is, *is* or *as* and.

*Sh* and *th* in the beginning of words have the sound of *h* alone. Thus, *a' bhean shona* the happy woman, *a' chainnt thlà* the smooth speech, are to be pronounced *a vean hona*, *a chainnt hlà*. *Th* after a long vowel, diphthong, or triphthong, is nearly silent; but, after a short vowel or diphthong, it has the force of a rapid aspiration, as in *crith* shaking, *ruith* or *ruidh* running.

The immutable consonants, *l*, *n*, *r*, when initials of words not connected with others in a sentence, have a soft double sound, to be learned only by the ear. But wherever the order of construction requires that the mutable consonants should be aspirated, the immutable lose their double sound, and are pronounced nearly as in English. Thus, the initial letters of the adjectives *mòr* great, and *luath* swift, when joined with feminine substantives in the nominative singular, must be sounded like *v* and *l* in English; as, *beinn mhòr* (*vòr*) a great mountain, *cos luath* a swift foot. But with masculine substantives they retain their primitive sound, as *fear mòr* a great man, *cù luath* (*lluath*) a swift dog.

When the consonants *l*, *n*, *r*, have their double sound in the middle or end of words, they are written double, as in *Gall* a foreigner, *fearr* better.