

The Scottish English Podcast

E1 - Bagpipes

Transcript	Vocabulary and grammar structures you should know.	Collocations, idioms and other useful phrases.
<p>Claire: [00:00:00] They are <u>unmistakable</u>, the distinctive and loud sound of the drone of the bagpipes. These days they are <u>synonymous</u> with Scotland. But what is the history of Scotland's national instrument? And what is their cultural importance in modern Scotland?</p> <p>Claire: Hello and welcome to the Scottish English Podcast. Improve your English while learning about Scottish culture, history, and accents. Subscribe wherever you get your podcasts or follow me on YouTube so you don't miss out on any of the upcoming episodes. In the description you'll find a link to</p>	<p>Unmistakable (adjective) / ʌnmɪˈsteɪkəbl/ - that cannot be mistaken for somebody/something else</p>	<p>Verb: be unmistakable</p> <p>Adverb: quite unmistakable</p>
	<p>Synonymous (adjective) /sɪˈnɒnɪməs/ -</p>	<p>Verbs: be/seem/become synonymous</p>

<p>download the transcript of this episode along with some key vocabulary.</p> <p>Hi, I'm Claire. I'm from Kilted English, where I help upper intermediate and advanced English speakers to prepare for their B2 First and C1 [00:01:00] Advanced Cambridge English exams. I created the Scottish English podcast to help learners of English to find out about the history of my country, its culture and what life is like living there, all through my <u>peculiar</u> accent.</p>	<p>(of words or expressions) having the same, or nearly the same, meaning</p> <p>Synonymous (with something) - so closely connected with something that the two things appear to be the same</p>	<p>Adverbs: exactly/almost/largely synonymous</p> <p>Preposition: Synonymous with</p>
<p>So, let's get into the story of bagpipes.</p> <p><u>Not unique to Scotland</u>, bagpipes have been found in cultures all around the world. particularly in the Celtic regions of Europe, for example Scotland, Ireland, Cornwall, Brittany in France, and Galicia in Spain.</p> <p>All these places have their own styles and sounds of bagpipes, but the most well known</p>	<p>Peculiar (adjective) /pɪˈkjuːliə(r)/</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - strange or unusual, especially in a way that is unpleasant or makes you worried - (the meaning in the podcast episode) peculiar (to somebody/something) belonging or relating to one particular place, situation, person, etc., and not to others 	

<p>and most closely connected to Scotland are the Highland bagpipes. These consist of a bag where air <u>is blown into</u>, the drones, which give the bagpipes their unique, distinctive background sound and the chanter part of the instrument which provides the melody of the tune <u>being played</u>.</p> <p>What is the historical importance of the bagpipes?</p> <p>Once described as <u>an [00:02:00] instrument of warfare</u>, the bagpipes were extremely important for the Scottish military. Every Highland <u>regiment</u> had its own set of bagpipes and they were used to march the armies into many great battles.</p> <p><u>It is said the sound of the drones gave the troops courage and strength before and during battle.</u></p>	<p>'Not unique to...' - here this inverted phrase is used to start the sentence, to add interest and additional information.</p>	
	<p>Is blown into</p> <p>Being played</p> <p>Both these phrases are used in the passive structure because we know that the agent (or the person doing the action) is the piper, who we don't need to refer to repeatedly.</p>	
	<p>An instrument of warfare - something that is used by somebody in order to achieve something (formal)</p>	<p>Verbs: Regard/see/view someone or something as + instrument</p> <p>Alternative preposition: Instrument for something</p>

<p>Claire: The playing of the bagpipes was <u>banned</u> by the British government in 1745 after the Jacobite uprising.</p> <p>One piper was even <u>put to death for treason</u> in 1746.</p> <p>The ban was removed in 1785 and the popularity of bagpipes has risen and risen since then.</p> <p>How are bagpipes used in popular culture?</p> <p>In modern Scottish culture you will hear bagpipes played at many different ceremonies. For example, Ceilidhs, which is a Scottish dance party, Weddings, Especially when announcing the bride's entrance.</p> <p>Or they can be used to announce the arrival of the new couple into the reception so that they are ready to [00:03:00] party.</p>	<p>regiment (noun) /'redʒɪmənt/</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a large group of soldiers that is commanded by a colonel 	
	<p><u>It is said...</u> The impersonal 'It' is used here to create distance between the people who said this - they are not so important.</p>	
	<p>Ban (verb) /bæn/</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to decide or say officially that something is not allowed - [usually passive] to order somebody not to do something, go somewhere, etc., especially officially 	<p>Ban something</p> <p>Ban something from something (a campaign to ban cigarettes from cafes and bars)</p> <p>Be banned from (doing) something (she was banned from the bar. She</p>

<p>Bigger pipe bands, which include pipers and drummers, make an impressive addition to cultural events, like the Highland Games, Burns Night, and official sporting events like rugby or football.</p> <p>Including a piper or a pipe band in any event serves as a reminder of Scotland's history and its people.</p> <p>The sound definitely brings a sense of pride and connection to Scotland.</p> <p>While the bagpipes are a connection to the history and heritage of Scotland, they are not <u>strictly</u> for playing traditional music.</p> <p>They have <u>featured</u> in lots of musical genres, with artists like AC DC, Kate Bush, The White Stripes, Korn, Biffy Clyro and U2 all having songs with bagpipes in them.</p>		has been banned from driving for 3 years)
	Put (someone) to death (idiom) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to kill somebody as a punishment 	Preposition: Put to death for something
	Treason (noun) /'tri:zn/ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the crime of doing something that could cause danger to your country, such as helping its enemies during a war 	Adjective: high treason Preposition: treason against Phrase: an act of treason
	strictly (adverb) /'striktli/ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - used to emphasize that something happens or must happen in all circumstances 	Idiom: 'strictly speaking' <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - if you are using words or rules in their exact or correct sense

<p>Bands like Red Hot Chili Pipers even specialise in using bagpipes in their music.</p> <p>They also <u>cover</u> many famous tunes by other artists. Check them out on YouTube, you won't be disappointed.</p> <p>So, bagpipes, a historic instrument [00:04:00] with strong cultural significance today. They might be loud, but there's a lot going on behind that drone.</p> <p>Thanks for listening today. Don't forget to download the transcript from today's episode.</p> <p>Please subscribe and share this podcast with your friends and family who may be studying English and want to learn more about all things Scotland.</p>	<p>Feature (verb) / 'fi:tʃə(r)/</p> <p>(The meaning in this podcast): to have an important part in something</p> <p>Cover (verb) / 'kʌvə(r)/</p> <p>to record a new version of a song that was originally recorded by another band or singer</p>	<p>Prepositions: feature in something/ feature on something</p>
--	--	---

Subscribe to the Kilted English YouTube channel to get all the upcoming episodes of the Scottish English Podcast. Follow us on Instagram too!

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@KiltedEnglish>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/kiltedenglish1/>