

The Scottish English Podcast

E2 - The Magical Unicorn: Scotland's National Animal

Transcript Vocabulary and grammar so *= meaning used in the poor meaning.	ctures you should know. st if there is more than one useful phrases.
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Claire | Kilted English: [00:00:00]

My daughter, quite rightly, is <u>obsessed</u> with unicorns. She spends hours drawing or colouring them, imagining their magical abilities and their peaceful existence in <u>enchanted</u> forests

But did you know that the unicorn is Scotland's national animal? Yes, these mystical creatures are closely tied to the history and culture of my homeland. Let's find out how this came about.

Claire | Kilted English: Hello and welcome to the Scottish English podcast. Improve your English while learning all about Scotland's history, culture and accents.

Subscribe wherever you get your podcasts or on my YouTube channel so you don't miss out on any upcoming episodes.

In the description you'll find a transcript of this episode which contains key vocabulary that you should know.

I'm Claire from Kilted English I'm building a community of Upper Intermediate and Advanced English Language Learners to support [00:01:00] them as they prepare for the B2 First and the C1 Advanced

Obsess (verb)

/əbˈses/ -

 to completely fill your mind so that you cannot think of anything else, in a way that is not reasonable or normal

Enchanted (adjective)

/ɪnˈtʃɑːntɪd/

- placed under a spell*
- filled with great pleasure

Homeland (noun)

/ˈhəʊmlænd/

- the country where a person was born

Come about (phrasal verb)

- to happen

Peculiar (adjective) /pɪˈkjuːliə(r)/

- strange or unusual, especially in a way that is unpleasant or makes you worried
- peculiar (to somebody/something) belonging or relating to one particular place, situation, person, etc., and not to others*

Folklore (noun) /'fəʊklɔː(r)/

- the traditions and stories of a country or community

Depict (verb)

/dɪˈpɪkt/

- to show an image of somebody/something in a

- Be obsessed by someone/something
- Be obsessed with someone/something
- Obsess someone
- Obsess about something
- An enchanted kingdom
- Enchanted (to do something) She was enchanted to see him again after so long.
- Be enchanted with something

- Depict somebody/something (as

Cambridge English exams. If that sounds like you, drop me a comment and I'll let you know all about it. I created the Scottish English Podcast to help upper intermediate and advanced learners of English to find out about the history of my country, its culture and what life is like living there, all through my peculiar accent.

Unicorns in Scottish Folklore.
Unicorns have been part of Scottish folklore for centuries. They were often depicted as wild and untamable creatures, living in remote forests.

In Scottish tradition, unicorns were associated with purity, <u>virginity</u>, and innocence.

It was believed that only a virgin could capture a unicorn and that the unicorn's horn had magical properties.

For example, it was said that the unicorn's horn had healing powers. It was believed to be a cure for diseases and it was said that it could detect poison in food or drink with people believing that if [00:02:00] the poison touched the cup it would explode.

The Royal Unicorn.

The unicorn became a symbol of

picture*

- to describe something in words, or give an impression of something in words or with a picture

Tame (adjective)

/teim/

 (of animals, birds, etc.) not afraid of people, and used to living with them

Virginity (noun)

/vəˈdʒɪnəti/

 the state of being a virgin (someone who hasn't had sex)

Detect (verb)

/dɪˈtekt/

- to discover or notice something, especially something that is not easy to see, hear, etc.

Poison (noun)

/'nzizn/

- a substance that causes death or harm if it gets into the body*
- an idea, a feeling, etc. that is extremely harmful

Coat of arms (noun)

/ kəʊt əv ˈaːmz/

- a design or a shield that is a special symbol of a family, city or other organization

Motif (noun)

/məʊˈtiːf/

- a design or a pattern used as a decoration*

somebody/something)

 Depict somebody/something doing something

In the transcript, I use 'untamable' which is a negative form of the adjective 'tame', and has the meaning of not being able to be made tame.

- Detect something
- Detect a difference
- Detect changes

Idiom: what's your poison?

 (old-fashioned, informal, humorous) used to ask somebody what alcoholic drink they would like Scottish royalty in the Middle Ages. It was often depicted in <u>coats of arms</u>, flags and other official emblems.

The unicorn was also used as a motif in decorative arts, including tapestries and stained glass.

The unicorn's association with Scottish royalty can traced back to several factors.

One, purity and virginity. In medieval times, unicorns were believed to be pure and innocent creatures. This symbolism <u>resonated</u> with the idea of a pure and <u>virtuous</u> monarchy.

Two strength and power Unicorns were also seen as powerful and <u>majestic</u> creatures, representing the strength and authority of the Scottish monarchy. Three, <u>rarity</u> and uniqueness.

The unicorn's rarity and uniqueness made it a <u>fitting</u> symbol for a proud nation like Scotland.

Four, healing properties.

We know the [00:03:00] unicorn's horn was believed to have healing properties. This symbolized the monarchy's role in protecting the health and wellbeing of its people. These factors combine to make the unicorn a powerful and enduring

 a subject, an idea or a phrase that is repeated and developed in a work of literature or a piece of music

Tapestry (noun)

/ˈtæpəstri/

 a picture or pattern that is made by weaving coloured wool onto heavy cloth; the art of doing this

Stained glass

/ steInd 'glais/

 pieces of coloured glass that are put together to make windows showing pictures or special designs, especially in churches

Trace (verb)

/treis/

- to find or discover somebody/something by looking carefully for them/it
- to find the origin or cause of something*

Resonate (verb) / rezəneɪt/

- (of a voice, an instrument, etc.) to make a deep, clear sound that continues for a long time
- (of a place) to be filled with sound; to make a sound continue longer
- to remind somebody of something; to be similar to what somebody thinks or believes*
- to be full of a particular quality or feeling

Virtuous (adjective)

- Medieval tapestries
- Tapestry cushions

- To trace somebody/something (to someone)
- To trace something (back)

symbol of Scottish royalty.

As discussed, the unicorn's image can be found on many different emblems, which represents the strength, purity and rarity of the Scottish monarchy.

Unicorns in modern culture. Today, unicorns continue to be a popular symbol in Scottish culture and <u>further afield</u>. They are often featured in books, films and other forms of media. They've also become a popular theme in fashion and merchandise.

The enduring appeal of unicorns lies in their ability to spark our imagination and <u>ignite</u> our sense of <u>wonder</u>.

They represent a time when the world was filled with magic and mystery.

Unicorns are a reminder of the importance of hope, purity and innocence.

So, unicorns may be <u>mythical</u> creatures, but they have a deep connection to [00:04:00] Scotland's heritage.

They have been a part of Scottish folklore for centuries and continue to be a popular symbol in Scottish culture. Whether you believe in unicorns or not, there's no denying

/'v**3**:tʃuəs/

- behaving in a very good and moral way; showing high moral standards*
- claiming to behave better or have higher moral standards than other people

Monarchy (noun)

/ˈmɒnəki/

- a system of government by a king or a queen*
- a country that is ruled by a king or a queen

Majestic (adjective)

/məˈdʒestɪk/

- impressive because of size or beauty

Rarity (noun)

/ˈreərəti/

- a person or thing that is unusual and is therefore often valuable or interesting
- the quality of being rare*

Fitting (adjective)

/ˈfɪtɪŋ/

- suitable or right for the occasion

Enduring (adjective)

/ɪnˈdjʊərɪŋ/

- lasting for a long time

Further afield (idiom)

far away from home; to or in places that are not near

their enduring appeal.

Thanks for listening today. Don't forget to download the transcript from today's episode.

Please subscribe and share this podcast with your friends and family who may be interested in improving their English while learning all about Scotland.

Merchandise (noun)

/ˈmɜːtʃəndaɪs//ˈmɜːtʃəndaɪz/

- goods that are bought or sold; goods that are for sale in a shop
- things you can buy that are connected with or that advertise a particular event or organization*

Ignite (verb)

/ig'nait/

- to start to burn; to make something start to burn

Wonder (noun)

/ˈwʌndə(r)/

- a feeling of surprise and pleasure that you have when you see or experience something beautiful, unusual or unexpected*
- something that fills you with surprise and pleasure

Mythical (adjective)

/ˈmɪθɪkl/

- existing only in ancient myths
- that does not exist or is not true

Deny (verb)

- to say that something is not true*
- to refuse to admit or accept something
- to refuse to allow somebody to have something that they want or ask for
- (deny yourself) to refuse to let yourself have something that you would like to have, especially for moral or religious reasons

- A sense of wonder
- In wonder

- Deny wrongdoing
- vehemently/strenuously/c ategorically deny
- It can't be denied that...
- There's no denying (the fact) that...
- Deny doing something

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