

Scotland's Cities: Perth

The Scottish English Podcast – Episode 25



LANGUAGE LEARNING

*Transcript & Upper-intermediate and Advanced
Vocabulary Guide*

Below is the transcript with all selected B2, C1, and above vocabulary and phrases in **bold**. After the transcript, you'll find a table with definitions, British English pronunciation, and useful collocations/idioms for each highlighted word or phrase.

Transcript: Scotland's Cities: Perth

There's a city where **ancient** kings were **crowned**, where the River Tay winds past grand palaces and **medieval** churches, and where every street echoes with stories of Scotland's past.

This is Perth, known as the Fair City. It may be compact, but its influence on Scotland's history and culture is **immense**. From **prehistoric** settlements to royal ceremonies and modern cultural revival, Perth stands as a gateway to the nation's **heritage**.

Welcome to the Scottish English Podcast where you can learn about Scotland's history and culture all while improving your English.

I'm Claire, and today we are exploring Perth, Scotland's Royal City. We will be **delving into** its royal roots, **dramatic** events, and the new cultural treasures that make it a must-visit destination.

A city shaped by centuries.

Perth's story begins thousands of years ago. **Archaeological** evidence shows that Mesolithic people settled here over 8,000 years ago, and neolithic standing stones still dot the landscape today.

The city's name comes from a Pictish word, meaning 'wood' or 'thicket'. This hints at its **ancient** roots as a Pictish **settlement** on a raised mound in the River Tay, a spot chosen for safety from flooding.

By the Middle Ages, Perth had become one of Scotland's most important cities. Its **strategic** position near Scone, the main royal centre of the Kingdom of Alba, made it the

effective capital of Scotland from the ninth century to 1437.

Here, the royal court gathered and Perth **flourished** as a trading burgh. It exchanged goods with France, the Low Countries, and the Baltic region. Craftsman's guilds, such as the Hammermen and Glovers, shaped the city's economy and culture.

The crowning place of kings

Just outside Perth stands Scone Palace, one of the most **iconic** royal sites in Scotland. For centuries, Scottish Kings including Robert the Bruce, were **crowned** here upon the legendary Stone of Destiny. This **ancient** symbol of monarchy has recently returned to Perthshire, after 700 years, and it takes pride of place in the newly transformed Perth Museum. Exploring Scone Palace's grand rooms, and beautiful gardens, it's easy to imagine the pageantry of coronations past and the **pivotal** role that Perth played in shaping the Scottish nation.

Turbulent times, and transformation

Perth's history is marked by drama and **upheaval**. The city was a focal point during the Scottish Reformation. In 1559, John Knox's **fiery** sermon in St. John's Kirk inspired the town's people to **ransack** the city's monasteries, making Perth a centre of religious change in Scotland. The Jacobite uprisings swept through Perth three times in 1689, in 1715, and in 1745 highlighting its **strategic** importance.

King James I was murdered in Perth in 1437, a shocking event that ended the city's time as capital and led to the royal court's move to Edinburgh.

Yet Perth continued to thrive, becoming a centre for industry, education and trade. The founding of Perth Academy in 1760 and the arrival of the railways in the 19th century brought new prosperity.

Cultural **renaissance**

Today Perth is experiencing a cultural revival. The new Perth Museum, housed in a beautifully restored Edwardian Building, offers a world class collection that tells a story of Perth and Scotland from the Stone of Destiny to contemporary art.

The Black Watch Castle and Museum celebrates Scotland's oldest highland regiment while St. John's Kirk remains a link to the city's **medieval** past.

Nature and Leisure in Perth

Perth's Natural beauty is as impressive as its history. The North and South Inch parks, once islands in the River Tay, offer green spaces for relaxation and recreation. And Kinnoull Hill Woodland Park provides **panoramic** views over the city and the river. And that river, the River Tay, is actually Scotland's longest river and it remains central to Perth's identity and appeal.

From ancient coronations to modern cultural treasures, Perth's story is **woven into** the fabric of Scotland itself.

Whether you're exploring royal palaces, wandering through riverside parks, or **delving into** centuries-old museums, the Fair City offers a journey through time and tradition.

Thanks for joining me today on the Scottish English Podcast. Do subscribe so that you can join me on next week's episode where we are going to another Scottish City: Stirling. That's next time on the Scottish English Podcast. See you then.

Vocabulary Table

Word/Phrase	Definition	Pronunciation (BrE)	Useful Collocations / Idiomatic Phrases
ancient	Very old; from a long time ago	/ˈeɪnfənt/	ancient ruins, ancient tradition, ancient roots
crowned	Made someone king or queen in a formal ceremony	/kraʊnd/	crowned king, crowned with glory, crowned champion
medieval	Relating to the Middle Ages	/ˌmediːvəl/	medieval church, medieval times, medieval architecture

immense	Extremely large or great	/ɪ'mens/	immense influence, immense value, immense pressure
prehistoric	Relating to the time before written history	/ˌpriːhɪ'stɔːk/	prehistoric settlement, prehistoric art, prehistoric era
heritage	Traditions, achievements, beliefs, etc. that are part of the history of a group or nation	/'herɪtɪdʒ/	cultural heritage, national heritage, world heritage site
delving into	Investigating or researching deeply	/'delvɪŋ 'ɪntuː/	delving into history, delving into details
dramatic	Sudden, noticeable, and often exciting	/drə'mætɪk/	dramatic change, dramatic event, dramatic effect
archaeological	Related to the study of ancient societies by examining remains	/ˌɑːkiə'lɒdʒɪkəl/	archaeological evidence, archaeological site, dig
settlement	A place where people establish a community	/'setlmənt/	ancient settlement, rural settlement, permanent settlement
strategic	Carefully planned to achieve a specific goal	/strə'tiːdʒɪk/	strategic position, strategic importance, strategic plan

flourishing	Developing rapidly and successfully	/ˈflʌrɪʃɪŋ/	flourishing business, flourishing city, flourishing trade
iconic	Widely recognized and well-established	/aɪˈkɒnɪk/	iconic landmark, iconic figure, iconic site
pivotal	Very important because other things depend on it	/ˈpɪvətəl/	pivotal role, pivotal moment, pivotal decision
upheaval	A sudden, major change causing trouble or confusion	/ʌpˈhi:vəl/	political upheaval, social upheaval, economic upheaval
fiery	Showing strong emotion, especially anger or passion	/ˈfaɪəri/	fiery speech, fiery debate, fiery temperament
ransack	To search a place and cause damage or disorder	/ˈrænsæk/	ransack a house, ransack the city, ransack the room
renaissance	A revival of art, literature, or learning	/ˈrɪˈneɪsəns/	cultural renaissance, artistic renaissance, renaissance period
panoramic	With a wide, unobstructed view	/ˌpænəˈræmɪk/	panoramic view, panoramic photo, panoramic landscape
woven into	Closely connected or integrated as part of something	/ˈwʊvən ˈɪntuː/	woven into fabric, woven into history, woven into culture

