

The Stone of Destiny – Myth or Reality?

The Sacred Stone of Scottish Kings | E11 The Scottish English Podcast

<i>Transcript</i>	<i>Vocabulary and grammar structures you should know. *= meaning used in the podcast if there is more than one meaning.</i>	<i>Collocations, idioms and other useful phrases.</i>
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Claire | Kilted English:

For centuries Scotland has been a land of mystery and legend. Its castles, landscapes and tradition are steeped in history. And few objects are as iconic as the Stone of Destiny.

But what is it? A powerful relic of Scotland's monarchy, a symbol of national pride or something more mysterious. Let's find out.

Hello and welcome to the Scottish English Podcast, the show where you can improve your English while learning about Scotland's history, culture, and of course, our famous accents.

I'm Claire, and today we are diving into one of Scotland's most fascinating treasures, the Stone of Destiny.

But before I get started, remember, you can download the free transcript of this episode, which contains definitions as well as collocations and idiomatic phrases for some of the more challenging words.

To be steeped in (idiom)

- (*formal*) to have a lot of a particular quality

Iconic (adjective)

/aɪˈkɒnɪk/

- being a famous person or thing that people admire and see as a symbol of a particular idea, way of life, etc.

Relic (noun)

/ˈreɪlɪk/

- **relic (of/from something)** an object, a tradition, a system, etc. that has survived from the past*
- a part of the body or clothing of a holy person, or something that they owned, that is kept after their death and respected as a religious object

Monarchy (noun)

/ˈmɒnəki/

- a system of government by a king or a

- A strong monarchy
- A weak monarchy
- To establish the monarchy

<p>And also do subscribe and hit that notification bell so you know when the next episode of the Scottish English Podcast comes out.</p> <p>The Stone of Destiny has played a <u>crucial</u> role in Scottish <u>coronations</u> for centuries, but its <u>origins</u> remain <u>shrouded in</u> mystery. Is it the real stone or could the original have been lost to history?</p> <p>Let's explore the legend, the history and the <u>controversy</u> surrounding the Stone of Destiny.</p> <p>The origins of the Stone of Destiny.</p> <p>The Stone of Destiny, sometimes called the Stone of Scone - not scon, not scoan, Scone - has been connected to Scottish kingship for over a thousand years.</p> <p>According to legend, the stone was used in the coronations of Scottish monarchs at Scone Abbey near Perth. But its origins are even more mysterious.</p> <p>Some stories say that it was brought from Ireland or even the Biblical Holy Land. Others believe it</p>	<p>queen*</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a country that is ruled by a king or a queen <p>Crucial (adjective) /'kru:ʃl/</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - extremely important, because it will affect other things <p>Coronation (noun) /ˌkɒrəˈneɪʃn/</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a ceremony at which a crown is formally placed on the head of a new king or queen and they officially become king or queen <p>Origin (noun) /'ɒrɪdʒɪn/</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the point from which something starts; the cause of something <p>Shroud (verb) /fraʊd/</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - shroud something in something to cover or hide something - shroud something in something to hide 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To have a monarchy - Play a crucial role in sth - A crucial step - Of critical importance - The origin of something <p>(Usually passive)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To be shrouded in mystery
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<p>has always been part of Scotland's ancient traditions.</p> <p>One popular legend suggests that the stone was originally Jacob's pillow stone brought from the Middle East to Ireland, then to Scotland.</p> <p>Another theory claims that it was part of an ancient royal tradition of either the Picts, a group of people who lived in the <u>majority</u> of the northern parts of the country, or Dal Riada, a Gaelic-speaking kingdom, which <u>encompassed</u> the western side of Scotland and the northern part of Ireland.</p> <p>While no one knows for certain, the stone became the <u>centrepiece</u> of Scottish coronations for centuries reinforcing its significance in the nation's identity.</p> <p>The stone's <u>theft</u> by Edward the first</p> <p>In 1296, Scotland's connection to the stone was <u>abruptly</u> broken.</p>	<p>information or keep it secret and mysterious*</p> <p>Controversy (noun) / 'kɒntrəvɜːsi/, /kən 'trɒvəsi/</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - public discussion and argument about something that many people strongly disagree about, think is bad, or are shocked by <p>Majority (noun) /mə 'dʒɒrəti/</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the largest part of a group of people or things <p>Encompass (verb) /ɪn 'kʌmpəs/</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - encompass something to include a large number or range of things* - encompass something to surround or cover something completely <p>Centrepiece (noun) / 'sentəpiːs/</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the most important item* - a decoration for the centre of a table 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To cause controversy - A bitter controversy about/over - Amid controversy - A matter/source/subject of controversy - The vast majority - The majority of somebody/something - To be in a/the majority
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<p>Westminster Abbey on Christmas Day and stole the stone. They <u>smuggled</u> it back to Scotland, and for months, its <u>whereabouts</u> were unknown.</p> <p>Eventually it was found at Arbroath Abbey and returned to Westminster. But the daring act of reclaiming the stone <u>reignited</u> Scottish national pride.</p> <p>The return to Scotland and modern use</p> <p>In 1996, after centuries of being in England, the British government finally agreed to let the Stone of Destiny return to Scotland.</p> <p>It was placed in Edinburgh Castle where it remains today, except for when it travels to London for coronations.</p> <p>In 2023, the stone was once again transported to Westminster Abbey for the coronation of King Charles III, continuing its long and complicated role in British monarchy.</p>	<p>Heist (noun) /haɪst/ - an act of stealing something valuable from a shop or bank</p> <p>Crown (verb) /kraʊn/ - to put a crown on the head of a new king or queen as a sign of royal power in a ceremony at which they officially become king or queen</p> <p>Resent (verb) /rɪˈzɛnt/ - to feel bitter or angry about something, especially because you feel it is unfair</p> <p>Remarkable (adjective) /rɪˈmɑ:kəbl/ - unusual or surprising in a way that causes people to take notice</p> <p>Smuggle (verb) /ˈsmʌɡl/ - smuggle something/somebody to take, send or bring goods or people secretly</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Be crowned - Be crowned + noun - Resent something/somebody - Resent doing something - Resent somebody doing something - Remarkable for - Remarkable that - Illegally smuggle - Try to smuggle - Manage to smuggle
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<p>So is the Stone of Destiny truly the ancient relic that Scottish Kings once sat upon or was the real one lost long ago?</p> <p>No one knows for certain, but one thing is clear: the stone, whether real or symbolic, remains a powerful <u>emblem</u> of Scotland's identity and history.</p> <p>That's all for today's episode of the Scottish English Podcast. If you enjoyed the show, be sure to subscribe and leave a comment. And if you want to keep improving your English, check out the free transcript in the show notes. See you later.</p>	<p>and illegally into or out of a country, etc.</p> <p>Whereabouts (noun) / 'weərəbaʊts/ - the place where somebody/something is</p> <p>Reignite (verb) / ,ri:ɪg 'naɪt/ - to start burning again; to make something start burning again</p> <p>Emblem (noun) / 'embləm/ - emblem (of something) a design or picture that represents a country or an organization - emblem (of something) something that represents a perfect example or a principle*</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Current whereabouts - Unknown whereabouts
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