

Scottish Words

in *Kidnapped* by Robert Louis Stevenson

*Note: Some words below have multiple or differing definitions.
This printable shows what makes the most sense in the book's context.*

auld
old

aweel
well (expressing resignation)

aye
always

bairn
children

baith
both

bauchled
bungled, messed up

bee-skep
a type of wicker beehive

begowk
befool

Ben More
a Scottish mountain

bield
shelter, protection

birstle
to broil, toast, or scorch

blae
dark or gloomy

blunderbuss
a type of gun

boddle
copper coin

boss
hollow

bouman
tenant working landlord's property / also see *crofter*

brae
hill, hillside, slope

brawly
very fine, [doing] well

breeks
trousers, breeches

brogues
shoes

burgh / burgher
town / town citizen

burn
stream, small river, brook

ca' cannie
go easy, proceed cautiously

callant
child, boy

canting
hypocritical, self-righteous

carbonadoed
broiled, grilled

cartes
[playing] cards

cauld
cold

chield
young man

clachan
hamlet, small village

clappermaclaw
humorous or derogatory term for a scoundrel or rogue

coble
small boat

clour
blow (to the head)

collops
thick slice of meat

crofter
tenant working landlord's property / also see *bouman*

Cruachan!
rallying word of a clan

cutty
short (cut) smoke pipe

daffing
lighthearted, foolishness

deave
trouble, bother (verb)

deil
devil

deponed
testified under oath

dinnae
don't

dirk
long-bladed dagger

dirl
reverberate

Dod
God

doer
agent, lawyer

donnered
dull, stupid, unintelligent

doughty
brave, determined

dowiest
dullest, saddest

drammach
simple, uncooked mixture of raw oatmeal & cold water

driegh
dreary, bleak, dull, tedious

dub
muddy puddle

duff
thick, flour pudding

dunch
push, bump, blow

dunt
stroke [of bad luck]

dursn't
dare not

eldritch
strange, eerie

fash
bother, annoy, trouble

fashious
troublesome

flit
move [house]

forby / forbye
besides

Forth
a river in Scotland

fyle
foil

gaed
went

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gasps

gars

compels

gaoler

jailer

gibbet

post on which to
hang criminals

gibing

with great vigor
and enthusiasm

gillie

servant, attendant

girning in the tow

grimacing in the rope
(hanging)

gleg

brisk

gliff

look [like someone]

gomerai

foolish or simple-minded

guddling

catching fish by hand

Gude kens

God knows

gyte

mad

halesome

wholesome

hame

home

hang-dog

person looking miserable
or ashamed

heugh

steep crag, cliff, deep ravine

Hieland

Highlands (mountains)

howe

valley

intromission

Scottish law term re. meddling
with the affairs of another

Johnny Raw

an unsophisticated person
from the countryside

jouk

duck (as in, hide)

ken / well-kenned

know / well-known

kine

cows

kirk

church

kitchen

condiment, served with meal

kittle

puzzling, ticklish, perplexing

kyte

belly or stomach

laird

lord

lang tow

long rope

lee

lie (untruth)

lief

gladly

limmer

rascal or scoundrel

lug

ear

lynn

foot of a waterfall

mair

more

maun

must

maun dow

must do [with less]

mettle

courageous, spirited

muckle

large, great, much

muir

moor, heathland

nae

no or not

new-harled

freshly prepared, finished

nicht

night

ochone

alas (expressing regret)

orra

spare, extra

ower

too (as in, too much)

parritch

porridge

philabeg

a type of kilt

pibroch

music associated with
Scottish Highlands

pirlicue

a second sermon

pit

pitch

pit-mirk

dark as the pit

pitch-and-toss

tossing a coin (as in, all
up to chance)

plaek

small copper coin

plaid-neuk

a type of pocket

poke

bag

potato-bogle

scarecrow

pyat

magpie

pyke

poke or pick

rag-and-tatter

in a state of disrepair

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raxing
reaching

redd
tidied

rider
commercial traveller

risp
knock on door

rowpit
sold up

rowt
bellow, roar

sack
sweet wine

sae
so (as in, it's not so bad)

sair
sore, painful [time of it]

septs
clan

shanks
part of leg between
knee and ankle

siller
silver, metal money

slockens
moistens

sneck-draw
sly, crafty or deceitful person

sogers
soldiers

soople
cunning, astute

sough
report

soused
struck or hit with heavy blow

spark
bright, quick-witted, lively

speer
to ask, inquire, seek info.

sporran
pouch worn in front of a
kilt, serving as a pocket

stones
stones

sweir
unwilling, reluctant

taigle
entangle, impede, delay

tarry
thievish

tass
cup or drinking vessel

tenty
careful

thole
suffer, endure

tint his wits
lost his mind (as in,
made a bad decision)

tirls
knocking or tapping

tod
fox (sly)

trokings
dealings

troth
truth

twine
part (as in, to separate)

unco (1)
extremely

unco (2)
strange, odd, uncommon

wae
woe, sad

wame
belly, abdomen, or womb

wattle
intertwined twigs

whae
who

when
few

wheesht
hush, call for silence

wheesht, wheesht
hush, hush (shh)

whiles
times (as in, moments)

whilk
which

wyte
blame

Additional Words or Notes
