

Cheau mee bunnys ooilley'n vee shoh chaie ayns yn Eeslynn, as mee jannoo coorse dy ynsagh shenn ghlare Loghlynnagh yn ellan. Shoh paart dy reddyng dynsee mee mychione y çheer:

1. Ta shiaght loghanyn snauee theayagh ayns Reykjavík as s'lhiack lesh mooinjer yn Eeslynn goll dy hoie ayns y phot çheh roish ny lurg yn obbyr as taggloo myr ta sleih ayns Mannin ny Sostyn goll dys y thie-lhionney. Ta ny loghanyn shoh ooilley çheu-mooie as ad er nyn jiow liorish ushtey veih geillyn çheh – my ta sniaghtey as stermyn ayn 'sy gheurey, wheesh shen share lesh ny Heeslynnee yn chooish!
2. Ta bee as jough costal ec y chooid sloo ghaa wheesh as t'ad ayns Mannin, eer my t'ou goll dys ny hard-vargaghyn bargane. Jeeagh magh son barganeyn 'oor vaynrey' ayns thieyn-bee as thieyn-oast. Ta lioaryn son y chooid smoo costal three keayrtyng smoo. Foddee oo geeck feeagh jeih punt as feed son lioar vog hanney da paitçhyn.
3. Son shen as ooilley, ta Eeslynnee prental, kionnaghey as lhaih ny smoo dy lioaryn y pheesh na ashoon erbee elley 'sy theihll. Ayns ny meeghyn roish y Nollick ta'n chooid smoo dy lioaryn currit magh as creckit ayns yn Jólabókaflóð, 'thooilley lioaryn y Nollick'. Ta sleih cur ny lioaryn shoh da y cheilley er Fastyr Laa yn Nollick as eisht goll dy lhie dy cheau yn oie lhaih ad.
4. Ta kiyt rouail dy chooilley voayl ayns Reykjavík myr dy beagh yn balley lhieu hene.
5. Ga dy vel yn çheer cha beg, t'eh jeeaghyn dy vel shiartanse dy filmyn ayns Eeslynnish çheet magh dagh blein. Ayns Bíó Paradís ayns mean Reykjavík foddee oo fakin filmyn Eeslynnish shenn as noa lesh fo-screeu Baarlagh car y touree.
6. My hee oo fillym ny cartoon Eeslynnagh, bee er dty hwoaie dy vel aittys ny Heeslynnee quaagh dy mie...
7. Cha vod oo cur shilley er yn Eeslynn gyn blashtyn er ny teaystaghyn cassit enmyssit *kleinur*. T'ad red beg creoi, cha vel ad ro villish as ta blass lemonagh, cannialagh orroo.

8. Er oyr ennagh ta Eeslynnee feer ghraihagh er sorçh dy vrishtag shocklaid casley rish Kit-Kat enmyssit Prince Polo, ta çheet voish y Pholynn. T'eh jeeaghyn dy re eeasteyrn Polynnagh hug lhieu ad gys y çheer 'sy toshiaght. Ta arraneyder enmyssit Prins Póló neesht.

9. Ta boayl er-lheh ec Vestmannaeyjar (Ellanyn deiney yn Neear) ayns cree ny Heeslynnee. She Gaeil ny Yernee va 'deiney yn neear', voish shilley Loghlynn, ga dy vel yn Eeslynn ny sodjey sheear na Nerin; va daa cheead slave Yernagh roie er-çhea gys ny hellanyn er nyn dayrtyn as currit dy baase ayns shen. 'Sy laa t'ayn jiu ta ard-ellan Vestmannaeyjar raahoil reesht voish yn eeastagh lurg yn vrooghtey-ailagh ayns 1973 hayrn tastey yn theihll as ren croo slieau noa er oirr y valley as goanluckey ymmodee thieyn fo creg as leoie.

10. Agh da Eeslynnee she *Pjóðhátíð* ('yn feailley ashoonagh') yn red s'cronnal bentyn da'n ellan. Ta ny thousaneyn dy leih voish y çheer vooar troailt dys yn ellan dy champal ayns shenn chrater son feailley-kiaullee yn chield jerrey-shiaghtin ayns Mee Luanistyn. Ta arrane er-lheh cummit son yn eailley dagh blein ta goit er yn oie s'jerree as yn sleih er nyn leedeil ayns singal liorish fer cronnal voish ny hellanyn va ry foddey ny oltey jeh ard-whaiyl ny çheerey, t'er ve erskyn cooishyn ec yn eailley rish ny jeihyn dy vleeantyn er-lhimmey jeh tammylt tra v'eh ayns y phryssoon son drogh-yannoo lesh argid! Ta çhentagyn jiargey er ny voaddey ooilley mygeayrt oirr yn chrater as çhenjean mooar ayns y vean.

I spent most of last month in Iceland, on a course to learn the ancient Norse tongue of the island. Here are some things I learnt about the country:

1. There are seven geothermally-heated public swimming pools in Reykjavík as Icelanders like to go after work and sit in the hot pot after work and chat like people here go to the pub. All these pools are outdoors and winter snow and storms don't put people off!
2. Food and drink cost at least twice what they do in the Isle of Man, even from the bargain supermarkets. Look out for 'happy hour' offers in restaurants and pubs. Books mostly cost three times more. You can pay the equivalent of £30 for a flimsy paperback children's book.
3. Nevertheless, Icelanders print, buy and read more books per capita than any other nation. In the months leading up to Christmas most books are published and sold in the *Jólabókaflóð*, 'the Christmas book flood'. People give these books to each other on Christmas Eve and then go to bed to spend the night reading them.
4. Cats wander everywhere in Reykjavík as if they owned the city.
5. Though the country is so small, several films in Icelandic are made each year. In Bíó Paradís in the centre of Reykjavík you can watch old and new Icelandic films with English subtitles all summer.
6. If you see an Icelandic film or cartoon, be warned that Icelandic humour is rather unique...
7. You can't visit Iceland without tasting the twisted doughnuts called *kleinur*. They are slightly hard, not too sweet and have a slight lemony, cinnamon flavour to them.
8. For some reason Icelanders are very fond of a kind of chocolate biscuit similar to Kit-Kat called Prince Polo, which is actually from Poland. It seems that Polish fishermen brought them originally. There is also an Icelandic singer called Prins Póló.

9. The Westman Islands (Vestmannaeyjar) have a special place in Icelanders' hearts. The 'westmen' were Gaels or Irish, from the 'west' from the point of view of Norwegians, although Iceland is further west than Ireland; two hundred Gaelic slaves who had fled to the islands were caught and massacred there. Today the main island is prosperous again from the fishing industry after the volcanic eruption of 1973 which attracted the world's attention and created a new mountain on the edge of the town and buried many houses under lava and ash.
10. But for Icelanders *Þjóðhátíð* ('the national festival') is the most significant thing about the islands. Thousands of people from the mainland travel to the island to camp in an old volcanic crater or this music festival over the first weekend of August. A new song is composed for the festival every year and the crowds are led in singing by a well-known local figure and former MP who has led proceedings for many decades, apart from a spell in prison for financial misdeeds! Red flares are lit around the crater rim with a huge bonfire in the middle