Abair! Speak! By Douglas McLean

Here are a few useful phrases to get you started. Remember that the verb comes first in Gaelic and that the phrasing of sentences can be different as well. A great example is how to say "I love you" in Gaelic. "Tha gradh agam ort." It means literally "A love at me is on you." It's pronounced: Ha grahg akum orsht. Remember also that I am an engineer and not a linguist. My poor phonetic pronounciations may not be entirely accurate but it's pretty darn close. Please refer to a Gaelic training course or a native speaker for accuracy. The whole point is to get you to speak the language. The emphasis will almost always be on the first syllable.

English	Scottish Gaelic	Pronounciation
How are you?	Ciamar a tha thu? (singular)	kimmer ah ha oo?
How are you?	Ciamar a tha sibh? (formal/plural)	kimmer ah ha shiv
I'm well	Tha mi gu math	ha mee goo mah
I am hungry	Tha an t-acras orm	ha un takrus orum
I am thirsty	Tha am pathadh orm	ha um pahugh orum
I hope so	Tha mi an dòchas gum bi	ha mi un doe-kus gum bee
I hope it'll be good	Tha mi an dòchas gum bi e math	ha mee un doe-kus gum bee ay mah
I will be busy tomorrow	Bidh mi trang am màireach	bee mee trang um mahrek
I'll have an orange juice	Gabhaidh mi sùgh-orainds	gavee mee soo ore-runds
I'll make a cup of tea	Nì mi cupa tì	nee mee coopah tee
I'm James	Is mise Seumas	iss mishah shaymus
I'm learning Gaelic	Tha mi ag ionnsachadh Gàidhlig	ha mee eeyoensakagh gah-lik
It is warm	Tha e blàth	ha ay blah
It sure is	'S e, gu dearbh	shay goo jeeruv
It's cold	Tha e fuar	ha ay foo-are
It's Monday today	'S e Diluain a th' ann an diugh	shay juh loo-un uh hown un joo
It's a nice day	'S e làtha math a th' ann	shay lah mah a hown
I'm married	Tha mi pòsda	ha mee poes-da
It's a cold day	'S e làtha fuar a th'ann	shay lah foo-are uh hown
It's wet	Tha i fluich	ha ee flook
It's fine	Tha i brèagha	ha ee bree-uh
It's raining	Tha an t-uisge ann	ha un toosh-ka ow-un
I was on the internet	Bha mi air an eadar-lìon	va mee air un ayter leeohn
not much	chan eil mòran	hahn-yell more-un
not yet	chan eil fhathast	hahn-yell ha-hast
please	ma 's e ur toil e	mahs ay ur toil ay
sit at the table	suidh aig a' bhòrd	sooee egg uh vorst
sit down	suidh sìos	sooee shohs
thank you	tapadh leat	tahpuh laht
thank you	tapadh leibh (formal/plural)	tahpuh leev
that's right	tha sin ceart	ha shin kayrst
that's good	is math sin	iss mah shin
what's doing with you?	dè tha a' dol agad?	jay ha uh dole akat

And… the most important phase when you've spent too much time in the Beer Garden:

where is the toilet?	càite a bheil an taigh beag?	catch a vale un tie bek

Le deagh dhùrachd,
(With best wishes)

Douglas McLean
Dùbhghlas Òg Mac 'Illeathainn