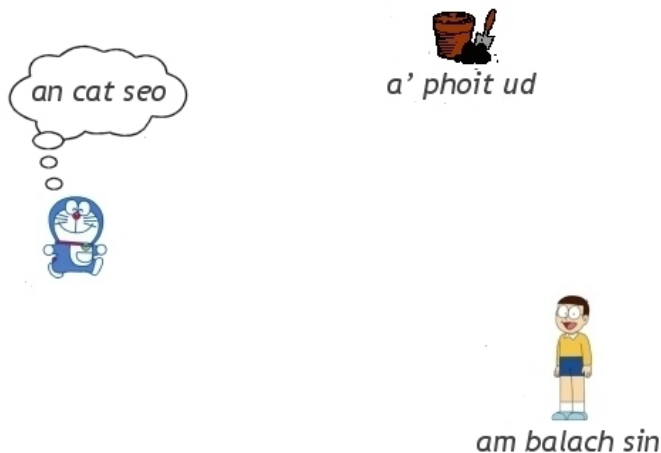
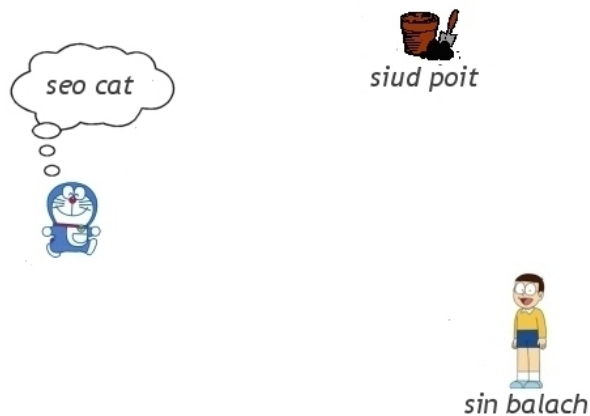


## Demonstratives or An cat ud thall

Soo ... now we've done the more difficult adverbs, we can move on to the demonstratives. Again Gaelic has the three way split between close to speaker (proximal), close to addressee (medial) and long way from either (distal). Again, Doraemon is here to illustrate:



You simply add **seo** [ʃɔ], **sin** [ʃin] and **ud** [əʊ] to whichever noun you wish to (which is why linguists call them enclitics - they can't go on their own and have to latch on to a noun). Note that the distinction between immediate and fuzzy location (cf **an-sin** vs **thall**) largely does not enter this arena. The one thing you can do however is to add **thall** to **ud** to give the meaning of "that thing over there" e.f. **a' phoit ud thall**. You can't do that with **sin**, neither can you add **a-bhos** to **seo**. So where does **siud** come into it you might ask? Good question. It comes into play when you build sentences which are seemingly missing a verb, such as **seo mo mhàthair**, which gets translated into English 'this is my mother'.



It's, as you will all know, the easiest way of building a declarative sentence about existence in Gaelic without getting into hot water about choice of verbs etc. I suspect the **s-** in **siud** [ʃəʊ] is simply an analogy to **seo** and **sin** (i.e. trying to make **ud** fit in with **seo** and **sin**) - but it might just be the verb **is** itself ... I'll try to find out so watch this space, but at any rate, that is how you use **siud**: in a declarative sentence about existence 'that's a pot', 'this is a cat', 'this is a boy' etc. This, incidentally also works with definite nouns e.g. **seo an cat** 'this is the cat'. Just in case you were wondering.