How the Language Works

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ORTHOGRAPHY

In the Irish language, vowels are separated into two groups: slender (*caol*) and broad (*leathan*). The slender vowels are *i*, *e*; the broad vowels are *a, o, u.*

Caol le caol agus leathan le leathan (Slender with slender and broad with broad)
If, in spelling, a slender vowel comes before a consonant or a group of consonants, there should be a slender vowel after it as well. Similarly, **a**, **o**, **u** and **ae** before a consonant should be followed by a broad vowel. This rule is called "Caol le Caol agus leathan le leathan".

slender	*broad*
fe<u>i</u>cf<u>i</u>dh tú	**f<u>á</u>gf<u>a</u>idh mé**
<u>i</u>th<u>i</u>gí	**c<u>ú</u>r<u>a</u>m<u>a</u>ch**

THE ARTICLE

The singular definite article *the* in the nominative case is **an**. **An** retains this form preceding both feminine and masculine nouns. There is no indefinite article.

fear	*(a) man*
an fear	*the man*

Na is the plural form of **an** in all grammatical cases, with the exception of the genitive singular case which will be dealt with in due course. **Na** does not affect the following nouns, except those beginning in a vowel in which case a *h* precedes the noun:

na cailíní	*the girls*
na heitleáin	*the planes*

NOUNS

All nouns are either masculine or feminine, may be singular or plural and may assume different cases.

1. Nouns in the nominative singular beginning with a vowel
Masculine nouns preceded by the definite article are prefixed by **t-**; feminine nouns are unaffected.

Masculine	*Feminine*
óstán (*hotel*)	**aghaidh** (*face*)
an t-óstán (*the hotel*)	**an aghaidh** (*the face*)
ocras (*hunger*)	**ubh** (*egg*)
an t-ocras (*the hunger*)	**an ubh** (*the egg*)

2. Nouns in the nominative singular beginning with the consonants **d**, **h**, **l**, **n**, **r**, **t**, **sc-**, **sl-**, **sm-**, **sp-**, **st-**.
All such nouns irrespective of gender are unaffected when preceded by the definite article.

Masculine	*Feminine*
doras (*door*)	**lámh** (*hand*)
an doras (*the door*)	**an lámh** (*the hand*)
teach (*house*)	**reilig** (*graveyard*)
an teach (*the house*)	**an reilig** (*the graveyard*)
spórt (*sport*)	**scoil** (*school*)
an sport (*the sport*)	**an scoil** (*the school*)

3. Nouns in the nominative singular beginning with s, excepting those in §2 above.
Masculine nouns preceded by the definite article are unaffected, feminine nouns are aspirated.

Masculine	*Feminine*
sagart (priest)	súil (eye)
an sagart (the priest)	an tsúil (the eye)

4. Nouns in the nominative singular beginning with a consonant excepting those in §2 and §3 above.
Masculine nouns preceded by the definite article are unaffected; feminine nouns are aspirated.

Masculine	*Feminine*
fear (*man*)	**bean** (*woman*)
an fear (*the man*)	**an <u>bh</u>ean** (*the woman*)

Gender

The gender of a noun may frequently be deduced from its ending.

Masculine endings

- (a)ire	**iascaire** (*fisherman*)**, ailtire** (*architect*)
	{exceptions: **aire** (*care*)**, trócaire** (*mercy*)}
- án	**cosán** (*path*), **amhrán** (*song*)
- (e)acht*	**ceacht** (*lesson*), **fuacht** (*cold*)
	{exception: léacht}
- éad	**éad** (*jealousy*), **buicéad** (*bucket*)
- (e)adh	**geimhreadh** (*winter*), **samhradh** (*summer*)
- éal	**béal** (*mouth*), **scéal** (*story*)
- éar	**féar** (*grass*), **páipéar** (*paper*)
	{exceptions: **méar** (*finger*), **sméar** (*berry*)}
- éir**	**báicéir** (*baker*), **búistéir** (*butcher*)
- eoir	**múinteoir** (*teacher*), **feirmeoir** (*farmer*)
	{exceptions: **beoir** (*beer*), **deoir** (*drop*), **treoir** (*guidance*)}
- óir	**cúntóir** (*assistant*)
	{exceptions: **altóir** (*altar*), **éagóir** (*injustice*), **glóir** (*glory*),
	onóir (*honour*)}
- úir	**saighdiúir** (*soldier*), **dochtúir** (*doctor*)
- ste	**coiste** (*committee*), **páiste** (*child*)
	{exceptions: **aiste** (*essay*), **timpiste** (*accident*), **tubaiste**
	(*disaster*)}
- ún	**botún** (*mistake*), **príosún** (*prison*)
- úr	**casúr** (hammer), **pictiúr** (*picture*)
	{exceptions: **deirfiúr** (*sister*), **siúr** (*sister*)}

{* nouns with one syllable} {** when referring to jobs}

Feminine endings

- (a)íl	**feadaíl** (*whistling*)
- (e)áil	**sábháil** (*saving*)
- (e)ailt	**oscailt** (*opening*)
- (a)int	**tuiscint** (*understanding*) {exception: **sáirsint** (*sergeant*)}
- áint	**tiomáint** (*driving*)
- is/ís	**uirlis** (*instrument*)
- chan	**athbheochan** (*revival*) {exception: **meachán** (*weight*)}
- (a)irt	**scairt** (*call*)
- (e)acht**	**gluaiseacht** (*movement*)
	{exceptions: **bunreacht** (*constitution*), **comhlacht** (*company*)}
- (a)íocht**	**filíocht** (*poetry*)
- úil	**barúil** (*opinion*)
- úint	**canúint** (*dialect*)
- lann	**bialann** (*restaurant*)
	{exceptions: **anlann** (*sauce*), **salann** (*salt*)}
- eog/óg	**bábóg** (*doll*) {exception: **dallamullóg** (*deception*)}

{** nouns with more than one syllable}

Countries:	**An Astráil** (*Australia*), **An Fhrainc** (*France*), etc.		
Rivers:	**An Bhóinn** (*The Boyne*), **An tSionainn** (*The Shannon*)		
Languages:	**An Fhraincis** (*French*), **An Ghaeilge** (*Irish*)		
	{exception: **An Béarla** (*English*)}		

The Vocative Case

The vocative case is used when a person is being addressed. It may occasionally be used, particularly in poetry, to address plants, animals or inanimate objects.

Female nouns are aspirated in the vocative case; masculine nouns are both aspirated and slenderised.

Masculine		*Feminine*	
Séamas	**a <u>Shéamais</u>**	**Mairéad**	**a <u>Mh</u>airéad**
duine (*person*)	**a <u>dh</u>uine**	**mná** (*women*)	**a <u>mh</u>ná**
madadh (*dog*)	**a <u>mh</u>ada<u>idh</u>**	**máthair** (*mother*)	**a <u>mh</u>áthair**

The Genitive Case

A noun assumes the genitive case in the following instances:

- when a noun is the subject of possession:

Séamas	**máthair Shéamais** (*Séamas' mother*)
an bhean (*the woman*)	**teach na mná** (*the woman's house*)

- when a noun immediately follows a compound preposition:

an lá (*the day*)	**i lár an lae** (*in the middle of the day*)
an áit (*the place*)	**ar fud na háite** (*all over the place*)

- when a noun is the direct object of a verbal noun:

an tír (*the country*)	**ag taisteal na tíre** (*touring the country*)
airgead (*money*)	**ag saothrú airgid** (*earning money*)

- when a noun is the subject of indefinite quantity:

solas (*light*)	**tuilleadh solais** (*more light*)
am (*time*)	**go leor ama** (*plenty of time*)

- when a noun is the subject of the following prepositions:
chun (*to*), **cois** (*beside*), **timpeall** (*around*), **trasna** (*across*), **fearacht** (*like*):

an scoil (*the school*)	**chun na scoile** (*to the school*)
an pháirc (*the field*)	**trasna na páirce** (*across the field*)

The Article in the Genitive Case

The article **an** is always used in the nominative singular, regardless of gender. In the genitive case the feminine singular article is **na**.

an doras (*the door*)   **doras na scoile** (*the school door*)

Nouns in the Genitive Case

1. Nouns in the genitive singular beginning with a vowel
Masculine nouns lose the prefix **t-** of the nominative case. Feminine nouns are preceded by a **h**. Both assume various endings depending on declension.

	Masculine	*Feminine*
Nominative	**an t-arán**	**an aghaidh**
	(*the bread*)	(*the face*)
Genitive	**cruth an aráin**	**dath na haghaidhe**
	(*the shape of the bread*)	(*the colour of the face*)

2. Nouns in the genitive singular beginning with the consonants **d**, **h**, **l**, **n**, **r**, **t**, **sc-**, **sl-**, **sm-**, **sp-**, **st-**.

	Masculine	*Feminine*
Nominative	**an doras**	**an tine**
	(*the door*)	(*the fire*)
Genitive	**ag oscailt an dorais**	**ag lasadh na tine**
	(*opening the door*)	(*lighting the fire*)

3. Nouns in the genitive singular beginning with **s**, excepting **sc-**, **sl-**, **sm-**, **sp-**, **st-**.
When preceded by the definite article, such masculine nouns are preceded by **t**. Feminine nouns change towards the end.

	Masculine	*Feminine*
Nominative	**an siopa**	**an tsúil**
	(*the shop*)	(*the eye*)
Genitive	**doras an <u>t</u><u>s</u>iopa**	**dath na súile**
	(the shop's door)	(*the colour of the eye*)

4. Nouns in the genitive singular beginning with a consonant, excepting those in §2 and §3 above.
Masculine nouns preceded by the definite article are aspirated; feminine nouns lose the aspiration of the nominative case**.**

	Masculine	*Feminine*
Nominative	**an fear**	**an fhuinneog**

	(*the man*)	(*the window*)
Genitive	**obair an fhir**	**ag glanadh na fuinneoige**
	(*the man's work*)	(*cleaning the window*)

ADJECTIVES

The adjective assumes the gender, case and number of the associated noun or pronoun and in the majority of instances it follows that noun.

Masculine	*Feminine*
leabhar (*a book*)	**srón** (*a nose*)
leabhar maith (*a good book*)	**srón mhór** (*a big nose*)

Some exceptions to the above generalisation are as follows:

aimsir (*weather*)	**drochaimsir** (*bad weather*)
scéala (*news*)	**dea-scéala** (*good news*)
bean (*a woman*)	**seanbhean** (*an old woman*)

In describing nouns in the plural, adjectives must also be added in plural.

Most adjectives ending in a vowel remain unaffected by a plural noun:

tanaí (*thin*)	**daoine tanaí** (*thin people*)
simplí (*simple*)	**ceisteanna simplí** (*simple questions*)

{exceptions: **breá** (*fine*), which changes to **breátha** in the plural; and **te** (*hot*) which changes to teo in the plural}

Feminine nouns in the plural do **not** aspirate the following adjective(s):

oíche fhada (*a long night*)	**oícheanta fada** (*long nights*)

Masculine nouns ending in a slender consonant in the plural aspirate adjective(s) that follow them:

amhrán fada (*a long song*)	**amhráin fhada** (*long songs*)

In the case of adjectives with one syllable, an **a** is attached to the end of nouns ending in a broad consonant, and an **e** to those ending in a slender consonant:

mór (*big*)	**fadhbanna móra** (*big mouths*)
binn (*sweet*)	**guthanna binne** (*sweet voices*)

Adjectives ending in **–úil** in the singular end in **–úla** in the plural:

flaithiúil (*generous*)	**daoine flaithiúla** (*generous people*)

Adjectives ending in **–air** in the singular end in **–ra** in the plural:

ceist dheacair (*a difficult question*)	**ceisteanna deacra** (*difficult questions*)

COMPARATIVE AND SUPERLATIVE FORMS

The comparative and superlative forms of the adjective are the same. **Níos** precedes the adjective in the comparative form in the Present and Future Tenses; this becomes **ní ba** in the Past Tense and in the Conditional Mood. **Is** precedes the adjective in the superlative form in the Present and Future Tenses; this becomes **ba** in the Past Tense and in the Conditional Mood.

Comparative adjectives change form according to their endings in the nominative singular.

Adjectives of one syllable are often slenderised: an *i* and *e* surround the final consonant:

adjective	*comparative*	*superlative*
glic (*cunning*)	**níos glice** (*more cunning*)	**is glice** (*most cunning*)
deas (*nice*)	**níos deise** (*nicer*)	**is deise** (*nicest*)

Adjectives ending in **–úil** in the nominative singular end in **–úla**:

adjective	*comparative*	*superlative*
dathúil (*pretty*)	**níos dathúla**	**is dathúla**
bródúil (*proud*)	**níos bródúla**	**is bródúla**

Adjectives ending in **–air** in the nominative singular end in **–ra**:

adjective	*comparative*	*superlative*
socair (*settled*)	**níos socra**	**is socra**
deacair (*difficult*)	**níos deacra**	**is deacra**

Adjectives ending in **–each** in the nominative singular end in **–í**; adjectives ending in **-ach** in the nominative singular end in **–aí**:

adjective	*comparative*	*superlative*
uaigneach (*lonely*)	**níos uaigní**	**is uaigní**
cúramach (*careful*)	**níos cúramaí**	**is cúramaí**

The following is a number of the irregular comparative adjectives:

adjective	*comparative*	*superlative*
beag (*small*)	**níos lú**	**is lú**
fada (*long*)	**níos faide**	**is faide**
maith (*good*)	**níos fearr**	**is fearr**
mór (*big*)	**níos mó**	**is mó**
te (*hot*)	**níos teo**	**is teo**
breá (*fine*)	**níos breátha**	**is breátha**
furasta (*easy*)	**níos fusa**	**is fusa**

THE PREFIXES AN- **AND** RÓ

The prefix **an-** (*very*) aspirates the following noun beginning in a consonant, except those beginning in **d**, **h**, **l**, **n**, **r**, **t**, **s**, **sc-**, **sl-**, **sm-**, **sp-**, **st-**:

an-<u>mh</u>aith (*very good*)
an-<u>fh</u>ada (*very long*)
but
an-deas (*very nice*)

The prefix **ró** (*too*) aspirates the following noun beginning in a consonant, except those beginning in **h**, **l**, **n**, **r**, **sc-**, **sl-**, **sm-**, **sp-**, **st-**:

róshearbh (*too bitter*)
róthe (*too hot*)
but
ró-neata (*too neat*)

POSSESSIVE ADJECTIVES

	Consonant	*Vowel*
mo (*my*)	**mo mhac** (*my son*)	**m'athair** (*my father*)
do (*your*)	**do chat** (*your cat*)	**d'aird** (*your attention*)
a (*his*)	**a bhean** (*his wife*)	**a aghaidh** (*his face*)
a (*her*)	**a fear** (*her man*)	**a háilleacht** (*her beauty*)
ár (*our*)	**ár gceacht** (*our lesson*)	**ár n-eiteog** (*our kite*)
bhur (*your*)	**bhur dteach** (your house)	**bhur n-oifig** (*your office*)
a (*their*)	**a bhfonn** (*their tune*)	**a n-uaigh** (*their grave*)

EMPHATIC SUFFIXES

	Consonant	*Vowel*
mo (*my*)	**mo mhacsa**	**m'athairse**
do (*your*)	**do chatsa**	**d'airdse**
a (*his*)	**a bheansan**	**a aghaidhsean**
a (*her*)	**a fearse**	**a háilleachtsa**
ár (*our*)	**ár gceachtne**	**ár n-eiteogna**
bhur (*your*)	**bhur dteachsa**	**bhur n-oifigse**
a (*their*)	**a bhfonnsan**	**a n-uaighsean**

PRONOUNS

	pronoun	*emphatic form*
I, me	**mé**	**mise**
You	**tú**	**tusa**
he/it	***sé/é**	**seisean/eisean**
she/it	***sí/í**	**sise/ise**
we/us	**muid**	**muidne**
you	**sibh**	**sibhse**
they	***siad/iad**	**siadsan/iadsan**

*The forms **sé**, **sí** and **siad**, and their emphatic equivalent, are used when a pronoun is the subject immediately following a verb. In all other instances the forms **é**, **í**, **iad** and their emphatic equivalents are used.

THE CARDINAL NUMBERS

0	a náid	21	fiche a haon
1	a haon	22	fiche a dó
2	a dó	30	tríocha
3	a trí	35	tríocha a cúig
4	a ceathair	40	daichead/ceathracha
5	a cúig	46	daichead a sé
6	a sé	50	caoga/leathchéad
7	a seacht	57	caoga a seacht
8	a hocht	60	seasca
9	a naoi	69	seasca a naoi
10	a deich	70	seachtó
11	a haon déag	77	seachtó a seacht
12	a dó dhéag	80	ochtó
13	a trí déag	88	ochtó a hocht
14	a ceathair déag	90	nócha
15	a cúig déag	99	nócha a naoi
16	a sé déag	100	céad
17	a seacht déag	200	dhá chéad
18	a hocht déag	300	trí chéad
19	a naoi déag	1,000	míle
20	fiche		

NUMERICAL ADJECTIVES

1	capall (aon chapall amháin)	11	aon chapall déag
2	dhá chapall	12	dhá chapall déag
3	trí chapall	13	trí chapall déag
4	ceithre chapall	14	ceithre chapall déag
5	cúig chapall	15	cúig chapall déag
6	sé chapall	16	sé chapall déag
7	seacht gcapall	17	seacht gcapall déag
8	ocht gcapall	18	ocht gcapall déag
9	naoi gcapall	19	naoi gcapall déag
10	deich gcapall	20	fiche capall

The singular form of the noun is usually retained following numbers.

COUNTING IRREGULAR NOUNS

There are a number of exceptions: **ceann**, **bliain**, **fiche** and **uair**.

bliain (*year*)

bliain amháin	*one year*
dhá bhliain	*two years*
trí bliana	*three years*
ceithre bliana	*four years*
cúig bliana	*five years*
sé bliana	*six years*
seacht mbliana	*seven years*
ocht mbliana	*eight years*
naoi mbliana	*nine years*
deich mbliana	*ten years*
aon bhliain déag	*eleven years*

The same rules apply when counting 12-19 years

dhá bhliain déag	*twelve years*
trí bliana déag	*thirteen years*
seacht mbliana déag	*seventeen years*

uair (*hour* or *time*)

uair	*one hour*
dhá uair	*two hours*
trí huaire	*three hours*
ceithre huaire	*four hours*
cúig huaire	*five hours*
sé huaire	*six hours*
seacht n-uaire	*seven hours*
ocht n-uaire	*eight hours*
naoi n-uaire	*nine hours*

deich n-uaire   *ten hours*

PERSONAL NUMBERS

1	**duine** (**aon duine amháin**)	11	**aon duine dhéag**
2	**beirt**	12	**dáréag**
3	**triúr**	13	**trí dhuine dhéag**
4	**ceathrar**	14	**ceithre dhuine dhéag**
5	**cúigear**	15	**cúig dhuine dhéag**
6	**seisear**	16	**sé dhuine déag**
7	**seachtar**	17	**seacht nduine dhéag**
8	**ochtar**	18	**ocht nduine dhéag**
9	**naonúr**	19	**naoi nduine dhéag**
10	**deichniúr**	20	**fiche duine**

Nouns following the personal numbers are usually written in the genitive plural.

seisear iníonacha (*six daughters*)
seachtar mac (*seven sons*)
ceathrar deirfiúracha (*four sisters*)

Nouns beginning with a consonant are aspirated following **beirt**.

beirt <u>mhac</u> (*two sons*)
beirt <u>fhidléirí</u> (*two fiddlers*)

ORDINAL NUMBERS

1	**an chéad lá** (*the first day*)	11	**an t-aonú lá déag**
2	**an dara lá**	12	**an dara lá déag**
3	**an tríú lá**	13	**an tríú lá déag**
4	**an ceathrú lá**	14	**an ceathrú lá déag**
5	**an cúigiú lá**	15	**an cúigiú lá déag**
6	**an séú lá**	16	**an séú lá déag**
7	**an seachtú lá**	17	**an seachtú lá déag**
8	**an t-ochtú lá**	18	**an t-ochtú lá déag**
9	**an naoú lá**	19	**an naoú lá déag**
10	**an deichiú lá**	20	**an fichiú lá**

Nouns beginning with a consonant, except those beginning in **d**, **h**, **l**, **n**, **r**, **t**, **sc-**, **sl-**, **sm-**, **sp-**, **st-,** aspirate the noun following **an chéad.**

an chéad <u>fhear</u> (*the first man*)
but
an chéad duine (*the first person*)

Nouns beginning with a consonant are not affected by ordinal numbers **an dara** - **an deichiú**; nouns beginning with a vowel, however, are preceded by a <u>h</u>.

an dara bean (*the second woman*)
an tríú háit (*the third place*)
an séú hoíche (*the sixth night*)
an deichiú hiarracht (*the tenth attempt*)

THE VERB

The majority of verbs in Irish are regular.

Regular Verbs

Regular verbs are divided into two conjugations i.e. the first conjugation and the second conjugation.

Remember!: Caol le caol agus leathan le leathan

The Imperative Mood

The first conjugation:

	Broad	*Slender*
1 sg.	**bogaim**	**caillim**
2 sg.	**bog**	**caill**
3 sg.	**bogadh sé / sí**	**cailleadh sé / sí**
1 pl.	**bogaimis**	**caillimis**
2 pl.	**bogaigí**	**cailligí**
3pl.	**bogaidís**	**caillidís**
Passive	**bogtar**	**cailltear**

The second conjugation:

	Broad	*Slender*
1 sg.	**admhaím**	**bailím**
2 sg.	**admhaigh**	**bailigh**
3 sg.	**admhaíodh sé / sí**	**bailíodh sé / sí**
1 pl.	**admhaímis**	**bailímis**
2 pl.	**admhaígí**	**bailígí**
3pl.	**admhaídís**	**bailídís**
Passive	**admhaítear**	**bailítear**

The negative of the imperative is formed by placing **ná** before the verb. Verbs beginning with a consonant remain unaffected when preceded by **ná**; those beginning with a vowel are preceded by **h**.

Ná bog sin. (*Don't move that.*)
Ná hól an t-uisce. (*Don't drink the water.*)

The Present Tense

In the first conjugation the endings **–ann** or **–eann** are placed at the end of the imperative singular form of the verb.

	Broad	*Slender*
Imperative	**bog** (*move*)	**caill** (*lose*)
1 sg.	**bogaim**	**caillim**
2 sg.	**bogann tú**	**cailleann tú**
3 sg.	**bogann sé/ sí**	**cailleann sé/ sí**
1 pl.	**bogann muid / bogaimid**	**cailleann muid / ithimid**
2 pl.	**bogann sibh**	**cailleann sibh**
3pl.	**bogann siad**	**cailleann siad**

In the second conjugation the **–igh** contained in the imperative form of the verb is reduced to **í** and the ending **–onn** is added.

	Broad	*Slender*
Imperative	**admhaigh** (*admit*)	**bailigh** (*collect*)
1 sg.	**admhaím**	**bailím**
2 sg.	**admhaíonn tú**	**bailíonn tú**
3 sg.	**admhaíonn sé/sí**	**bailíonn sé/sí**
1 pl.	**admhaíonn muid**	**bailíonn muid**
2 pl.	**admhaíonn sibh**	**bailíonn sibh**
3pl.	**admhaíonn siad**	**bailíonn siad**

In the Present Tense a question is formed by placing **an** before the verb. **An** demands an eclipse on all verbs beginning with a consonant except those beginning in **l**, **n**, **r**, **t**, **sc-**, **sl-**, **sm-**, **sp-**, **st-**. Verbs beginning in a vowel remain unaffected.

An <u>mb</u>ogann tú as an teach sa samhradh? (*Do you move from the house in summer?*)
An <u>mb</u>ailíonn sé na páistí? (*Does he collect the children?*)
An ólann tú caife? (*Do you drink coffee?*)

Ní before the verb indicates a negative statement. **Ní** aspirates all verbs beginning with a consonant except those beginning in **l**, **n**, **r**, **t**, **sc-**, **sl-**, **sm-**, **sp-**, **st-**. Verbs beginning in a vowel remain unaffected.

Ní <u>bh</u>ogaim. (*I don't move.*)
Ní ólaim an oiread sin. (*I don't drink much.*)

There is no Irish equivalent of *yes*/*no*; when answering *yes* or *no*, the verb used in the question must be also used in the answer.

An gceannaíonn tú bróga ansin? (*Do you buy shoes there?*)
Ceannaím. / Ní cheannaím. (*Yes. / No.*)

The Future Tense

In first conjugation the endings **–faidh** or **–fidh** are placed after the imperative form of the verb.

	Broad	*Slender*
Imperative	**bog** (*move / leave*)	**caill** (*lose*)
1 sg.	**bogfaidh mé**	**caillfidh mé**
2 sg.	**bogfaidh tú**	**caillfidh tú**
3 sg.	**bogfaidh sé / sí**	**caillfidh sé / sí**
1 pl.	**bogfaidh muid / bogfaimid**	**caillfidh muid / caillfimid**
2 pl.	**bogfaidh sibh**	**caillfidh sibh**
3pl.	**bogfaidh siad**	**caillfidh siad**

In the second conjugation the **–aigh** contained in the imperative form of the verb is replaced by **–óidh** or **–eoidh**.

	Broad	*Slender*
Imperative	**admhaigh** (*admit*)	**bailigh** (*collect*)
1 sg.	**admhóidh mé**	**baileoidh mé**
2 sg.	**admhóidh tú**	**baileoidh tú**
3 sg.	**admhóidh sé / sí**	**baileoidh sé / sí**
1 pl.	**admhóidh muid / admhóimid**	**baileoidh muid / baileoimid**
2 pl.	**admhóidh sibh**	**baileoidh sibh**
3pl.	**admhóidh siad**	**baileoidh siad**

The format for asking a question in the Future Tense resembles that used in the Present Tense. The same rules apply.

> **An** + eclipse + verb (+ noun / pronoun).
> **Ní** + aspiration + verb (+ noun/ pronoun).

An mbogfaidh tú do rothar? (*Will you move your bicycle?*)
Ní bhogfaidh. (**No. / I will not.**)

An admhóidh siad go raibh siad mícheart? (*Will they admit they were wrong?*)
Ní admhóidh. (*No. / They will not.*)

The Past Tense

In the first conjugation the imperative form of verbs beginning with a consonant, with the exception of those beginning with **d**, **h**, **l**, **n**, **r**, **t**, **sc-**, **sl-**, **sm-**, **sp-**, **st-**, are aspirated; verbs beginning with a vowel are preceded by **d'**; verbs beginning in **f-** are both aspirated and preceded by **d'**.

The first conjugation:

	Broad	*Slender*
Imperative	**bog** (*move*)	**caill** (*lose*)

1 sg.	**bhog mé**	**chaill mé**
2 sg.	**bhog tú**	**chaill tú**
3 sg.	**bhog sé / sí**	**chaill sé / sí**
1 pl.	**bhogamar / bhog muid**	**chailleamar / chaill muid**
2 pl.	**bhog sibh**	**chaill sibh**
3pl.	**bhog siad**	**chaill siad**

The second conjugation follows the same rules as those used in the first conjugation in the Past Tense.

	Broad	*Slender*
Imperative	**admhaigh** (*admit*)	fiafraigh (*ask*)
1 sg.	**d'admhaigh mé**	**d'fhiafraigh mé**
2 sg.	**d'admhaigh tú**	**d'fhiafraigh tú**
3 sg.	**d'admhaigh sé / sí**	**d'fhiafraigh sé / sí**
1 pl.	**d'admhaigh muid**	**d'fhiafraigh muid**
2 pl.	**d'admhaigh sibh**	**d'fhiafraigh sibh**
3pl.	**d'admhaigh siad**	**d'fhiafraigh siad**

In the Past Tense a question is formed by inserting **ar** before the verb. **Ar** demands that all following verbs beginning with a consonant be aspirated, except those beginning in **d**, **h**, **l**, **n**, **r**, **t**, **sc-**, **sl-**, **sm-**, **sp-**, **st-**. Verbs beginning in a vowel remain unaffected.

Ar bhog tú do rothar? (*Did you move your bicycle?*)
Ar fhiafraigh tú de cá raibh sé? (*Did you ask him where he was?*)
Ar ól siad an caife? (*Did they drink the coffee?*)

Níor before the verb indicates a negative statement. **Níor** aspirates all verbs beginning with a consonant except those beginning in **d**, **h**, **l**, **n**, **r**, **t**, **sc-**, **sl-**, **sm-**, **sp-**, **st-**. Verbs beginning in a vowel remain unaffected.

Ar bhog tú do rothar? (*Did you move your bicycle?*)
Bhog. / Níor bhog. (*Yes. / No.*)

Ar ól siad an caife? (*Did they drink they coffee?*)
D'ól. / Níor ól. (*Yes. / No.*)

Ar fhiafraigh tú de cá raibh sé? (*Did you ask him where he was?*)
D'fhiafraigh. / Níor fhiafraigh. (Yes / No.)

Irregular Verbs

Imperative	*Present Tense*	*Future Tense*	*Past Tense*
Abair (*Say*)	**Deirim**	**Déarfaidh mé**	**Dúirt mé**
	An ndeir tú?	**An ndéarfaidh tú?**	**An ndúirt tú?**
	Deirim / Ní deirim	**Déarfaidh / Ní déarfaidh**	**Dúirt / Ní dúirt**

Imperative	*Present Tense*	*Future Tense*	*Past Tense*
Clois (*Hear*)	**Cloisim**	**Cloisfidh mé**	**Chulala mé**
	An gcloiseann tú?	**An gcloisfidh tú?**	**Ar chuala tú?**
	Cloisim / Ní chloisim	**Cloisfidh / Ní chloisfidh**	**Chuala / Níor chuala**

Imperative	*Present Tense*	*Future Tense*	*Past Tense*
Déan (*Do*)	**Déanaim**	**Déanfaidh mé**	**Rinne mé**
	An ndéanann tú?	**An ndéanfaidh tú?**	**An ndearna tú?**
	Déanaim / Ní dhéanaim	**Déanfaidh / Ní dhéanfaidh**	**Rinne / Ní dhearna**

Imperative	*Present Tense*	*Future Tense*	*Past Tense*
Faigh (*Get*)	**Faighim**	**Gheobhaidh mé**	**Fuair mé**
	An bhfaigheann tú?	**An bhfaighidh tú?**	**An bhfuair tú?**
	Faighim / Ní fhaighim	**Gheobhaidh / Ní bhfaighidh**	**Fuair/Ní bhfuair**

Imperative	*Present Tense*	*Future Tense*	*Past Tense*
Feic (*See*)	**Feicim**	**Feicfidh mé**	**Chonaic mé**
	An bhfeiceann tú?	**An bhfeicfidh tú?**	**An bhfaca tú?**
	Feicim / Ní fheicim	**Feicfidh / Ní fheicfidh**	**Chonaic / Ní fhaca**

Imperative	*Present Tense*	*Future Tense*	*Past Tense*
Ith (*Eat*)	**Ithim**	**Íosfaidh mé**	**D'ith mé**
	An itheann tú?	**An íosfaidh tú?**	**Ar ith tú?**
	Ithim / Ní ithim	**Íosfaidh / Ní íosfaidh**	**D'ith / Níor ith**

Imperative	*Present Tense*	*Future Tense*	*Past Tense*
Tabhair (*Give*)	**Tugaim**	**Tabharfaidh mé**	**Thug mé**
	An dtugann tú?	**An dtabharfaidh tú?**	**Ar thug tú?**
	Tugaim / Ní thugaim	**Tabharfaidh / Ní thabharfaidh**	**Thug / Níor thug**

Imperative	*Present Tense*	*Future Tense*	*Past Tense*
Tar (*Come*)	**Tagaim**	**Tiocfaidh mé**	**Tháinig mé**
	An dtagann tú?	**An dtiocfaidh tú?**	**Ar tháinig tú?**
	Tagaim / Ní thagaim	**Tiocfaidh / Ní thiocrfaidh**	**Tháinig / Níor tháinig**

Imperative	*Present Tense*	*Future Tense*	*Past Tense*
Téigh (*Go*)	**Téim**	**Rachaidh mé**	**Chuaigh mé**
	An dtéann tú?	**An rachaidh tú?**	**An ndeachaigh tú?**
	Téim / Ní théim	**Rachaidh / Ní rachaidh**	**Chuaigh / Ní dheachaigh**

Imperative	*Present Tense*	*Future Tense*	*Past Tense*
Bí (*Be*)	**Tá mé / Táim**	**Beidh mé**	**Bhí mé**
	An bhfuil tú?	**An mbeidh tú?**	**An raibh tú?**
	Tá mé / Níl mé	**Beidh / Ní bheidh**	**Bhí / Ní raibh**

The verb bí (*be*)
The verb *to be* in Irish is unique in that it has two distinct forms in the Present Tense: the
Present Indicative and the Present Habitual.

	Present Indicative	*Present Habitual*
1st sg.	**tá mé (táim)**	**bíonn mé (bím)**
2nd sg.	**tá tú**	**bíonn tú**
3rd sg. masc.	**tá sé**	**bíonn sé**
3rd sg. fem.	**tá sí**	**bíonn sí**
1st pl.	**tá muid**	**bíonn muid**
2nd pl.	**tá sibh**	**bíonn sibh**
3rd pl.	**tá said**	**bíonn siad**

Dependent forms of the verb following **go** and **nach** are as follows:

	Positive	*Negative*
Present Indicative	**go bhfuil**	**nach bhfuil**
Present Habitual	**go mbíonn**	**nach mbíonn**
Past Indicative	**go raibh**	**nach raibh**
Future Indicative	**go mbeidh**	**nach mbeidh**

THE COPULA

The copula is frequently used in conjunction with nouns / pronouns:

Is mise Áine. Is altra mé. (*I'm Áine, I'm a nurse.*)

in discussing possession:

Is liomsa an mála. (*The bag is mine.*)

in comparing nouns:

Is áille Máirín ná Aisling. (*Máirín is prettier than Aisling.*)

in describing feelings:

Is maith liom fíon dearg. (*I like red wine.*)
Is fuath liom an tobac. (*I hate tobacco.*)

A question is formed in the Present and Future Tenses by replacing **is** with **an**.
Ní preceding the noun / pronoun indicates a negative statement.

An maith leat fíon dearg? (*Do you like red wine?*)
Is maith / Ní maith. (*Yes / No.*)

An fuath leis peil? (*Does he hate football?*)
Is fuath / Ní fuath. (*Yes / No.*)

An múinteoir í Áine? (*Is Áine a teacher?*)
Ní <u>hea</u>, is altra í. (*No. she's a nurse.*)

The Past Tense

The copula acts similarly in the Past Tense and Conditional Mood.
Ba replaces **is**. **Ba** aspirates following nouns beginning in consonants, with the exception of **l**, **n**, r, **t**, **sc-**, **sl-**, **sm-**, **sp-**, **st-**. It is abbreviated to **b'** when preceding nouns begin in a vowel and both abbreviates and aspirates nouns beginning in **f**.

Ba mhúinteoir í Áine. (*Áine was a teacher.*)
Ba mhaith leis peil. (*He liked football.*)
B'fhuath leat uisce beatha. (*You hated whiskey.*)

PREPOSITIONS

There are two groups of prepositions
1. simple prepositions
2. compound prepositions

Simple Prepositions
Nouns following **ag**, **as**, **chuig**, remain unchanged.
Nouns following **do**, **de**, **fá**, **faoi**, **ar**, **ó** are aspirated.
Nouns beginning with a vowel and following **le**, **go** are preceded by a **h**
Nouns following **i** are eclipsed.

Compound prepositions
Nouns following compound prepositions (e.g. **ar feadh**, **ar son**, **os comhair**) assume the genitive case.

Prepositions with the Singular Article

When joined to the definite article, a number of prepositions change form. This is usually for pronunciation reasons.

do + an > don (*to / for the*)
i + an   > sa (*in the*)[1]
i + an   > san (*in the*)[2]
le + an > leis an (*with the*)
ó + an   ón (*from the*)

[1] When preceding a noun beginning with a consonant
[2] When preceding a noun beginning with a vowel

Prepositions eclipse (or aspirate in the case of Ulster Irish) following nouns beginning with a consonant, with the exception of those beginning with **d**, **h**, **l**, **n**, **r**, **t**, **sc-**, **sl-**, **sm-**, **sp-**, **st-**.

ag an bhfuinneog (Ulster: **ag an fhuinneog**) (*at the window*)
leis an bpáiste (Ulster: **leis an bpáiste**) (*with the child*)
but
ón scoil (*from the school*)

Nouns that follow **don**, **den** and **sa** are aspirated:

don bhean (*for the woman*)
sa bhaile (*at home*)

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[1] When preceding a noun beginning with a consonant
[2] When preceding a noun beginning with a vowel

Feminine nouns beginning with a vowel and used in conjunction with a preposition and the definite article remain unaffected; masculine nouns lose the **t-**:

an <u>t</u>-arán (*the bread*) **ar an arán** (*on the bread*)
an ógbhean (*the young woman*) **leis an ógbhean** (*with the young woman*)

Prespositions with the Plural Article

With the exception of **i** and **le**, prepositions remain in their original form when used in conjunction with the plural article.

i + na > sna (*in the*)
le + na > leis na (*with the*)

The plural article **na** does not aspirate following nouns but does demand a **h** in front of nouns beginning with a vowel.

ar na fir (*on the men*)
leis na hairí (*with the ministers*)

PREPOSITIONAL PRONOUNS

	1st sg. mé	2nd sg. tú	3rd sg. masc. sé	3rd sg. fem. sí	1st pl. muid	2nd pl. sibh	3rd pl. siad
ag (*at*)	agam	agat	aige	aici	againn	agaibh	acu
ar (*on*)	orm	ort	air	uirthi	orainn	oraibh	orthu
as (*from*)	asam	asat	as	aisti	astainn	asaibh	astu
chuig (*to*)	chugam	chugat	chuige	chuici	chugainn	chugaibh	chucu
do (*to / for*)	domh	duit	dó	dí	dúinn	daoibh	dóibh
le (*with*)	liom	leat	leis	léi	linn	libh	leo
ó (*from*)	uaim	uait	uaidh	uaithi	uainn	uaibh	uathu