

Buntús na Gaeilge

Irish for Adult Learners

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Adapted for use with Connacht Irish by Natasha Sumner

Textbook for Celtic 132: Introduction to Modern Irish

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[for class use and private circulation only]

SOME WORDS AND PHRASES FREQUENTLY USED IN CLASS

Here are a few idioms you will encounter in class:

maidin mhaith	good morning
Dia daoibh	hello everybody
le chéile	all together
anois	now
arís	again
cuir Gaeilge / Béarla air	translate into Irish / English
le do thoil / más é do thoil é ^C	please
go raibh maith agat	thank you
go n-éirí an t-ádh leat ^C	good luck

I don't quite follow...

Gabh mo leithscéal	Excuse me
An dtuigeann tú?	Do you (sg) understand?
An dtuigeann sibh?	Do you (pl) understand?
Tuigim	I understand
Ní thuigim	I don't understand
Ní thuigim focal	I don't understand a word
Abair arís é, le do thoil	Say that again, please
Céard é sin i nGaeilge / as Gaeilge?	What does that mean in Irish?
Céard é sin i mBéarla / as Béarla?	What does that mean in English?
Céard é an Ghaeilge atá ar sin?	How do you say that in Irish?
Abair i mBéarla / as Béarla é	Say it in English

Well done!

Your teacher will lavish praise on you. Here are some of the things you may hear, or see written underneath your homework:

maith thú / sibh	well done
go maith	good
go hiontach	wonderful
an-mhaith (ar fad)	very good (entirely)
togha ^C	great
ar fheabhas	excellent
thar barr	super

Buntús na Gaeilge

Cuid a hAon

*I d'óige oscail do mheabhair
is bailigh an fhoghlaim leat.*

‘Open your mind while you are young
and gather learning as you go.’

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RÉAMHRÁ / PREFACE

The Irish Language

Irish is used as a community language in the west of Ireland and as a minority language throughout Ireland. It is the first official language of the Republic of Ireland,¹ and is taught in the primary and secondary school system. In the 2011 census 1.77 million people in the Republic of Ireland (41% of the population) were returned as Irish speakers, although only 77,185 said they use the language on a daily basis outside the education system.² In Northern Ireland, Irish has enjoyed increased demographic and political backing in recent decades, and has been a recognized regional language under the European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages since 2001.³ In the 2011 census, 184,898 people in the North (11% of the population) were returned as having some ability to speak the language.⁴ Irish is the primary community language in the so-called *Gaeltacht* areas, located chiefly in the western counties of Cork, Kerry, Galway, Mayo, and Donegal, where an average of 68.5% of residents are Irish speakers (*This is Ireland* 2012). There are significant numbers of native speakers living in urban areas, either migrants from *Gaeltacht* areas or those brought up in Irish-speaking households.

Irish is a Celtic language, part of the Indo-European family of languages. It is closely related to Scottish Gaelic, spoken today mainly on the Western Isles of Scotland, and to Manx, the language of the Isle of Man that only recently ceased to be a spoken language. Its relationship to the other two surviving branches of Celtic, Welsh and Breton, and to Cornish, which is spoken as a revived language, is more distant, though all Celtic languages share certain syntactic, phonological, and grammatical features, as well as a common inherited vocabulary. Like other Celtic languages, Irish is a VSO (Verb-Subject-Object) language, possesses conjugated prepositions and boasts a complex system of initial mutations.

About this Book

This textbook, developed specifically for the year-long Modern Irish course at Harvard University, is intended for beginners with no previous exposure to the language. Its title, *Buntús na Gaeilge* ‘the basics of Irish’, is programmatic. It aims to give complete beginners a grasp of the operative principles of grammar and syntax and provide them with the essentials of lexis and idiom to achieve basic fluency within the year.

This textbook was developed to fill a recognized gap in the teaching materials for complete beginners in third-level education. Most people in the Republic of Ireland, and many in the North of Ireland, are introduced to the language during primary or secondary education, and there is a wealth of textbooks, many of them modern and attractive, for school children. The

¹ Article 8.1 of the Constitution of Ireland (1937) states that ‘the Irish language as the national language is the first official language’; 8.2 adds ‘the English language is recognized as a second official language’. The Irish language, as of January 2007, has been recognized as one of the working languages of the European Union.

² Central Statistics Office, *This is Ireland: Highlights from Census 2011, Part 1* (Dublin 2012).

³ See Northern Ireland Department for Communities, ‘European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages’, available online at <https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/articles/european-charter-regional-and-minority-languages>.

⁴ That many of these were small children in the Irish-medium primary school system is evidenced by the much lower number (64,847) returned as being able to read and write, as well as speak, Irish. See Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency, Census 2011, ‘Knowledge of Irish: KS209NI’, available online at <http://www.ninis2.nisra.gov.uk/public/Theme.aspx>. Cf. Helen and Máirtín Ó Murchú, *Irish: Facing the Future*, (Dublin 1999).

market for adult learners – particularly complete beginners – has not been as well provided for. The need to improve teaching materials for adult learners is increasingly recognized, reflecting a revival of interest in the language on both sides of the border, and the realization that many of those exposed to Irish at school have not achieved fluency in the language. Replacing the virtual monopoly of the classic *Buntús Cainte* (1967), experienced educators have in recent years added substantially to the materials available.⁵ Most adult learner textbooks are designed for what we may think of as the part-time learner, typically within the setting of an evening class, and for all their laudable emphasis on colloquial, conversational Irish, they are not suitable for students in full-time third-level education.⁶ *Buntús na Gaeilge* addresses the needs of intensive language instruction in an academic environment. The target audience are university students, and the choice of milieu and subject matter, as well as the pace and style of instruction, is geared towards this audience.

The *Caighdeán* and the Regional Dialects

Modern Irish is closely based on the three living regional dialects – Munster, Connacht, and Ulster – which, at least in principle, enjoy equal status and support. It represents the victory, in the early years of the language revival, of the proponents of the modern vernacular (*caint na ndaoine* ‘the language of the people’) over those who advocated a return to the highly standardized idiom of Classical literature practiced by the educated elite until the seventeenth century. Unchecked by any literary standard, regionalism flourished in the centuries before the establishment of an independent Irish state. With the shrinking of the *Gaeltacht* areas, the added problem of increasing geographical isolation of the dialects from each other arose.

When Irish became a literary, high-register language once again after independence, the three main regional dialects, Munster, Connacht, and Ulster Irish, were, at least theoretically, put on an equal footing.⁷ Munster Irish held a preeminent position during the formative years of the language revival, even though today it is the dialect with by far the fewest native speakers. Connacht Irish, too, had considerable cachet, since it was the native dialect of the father of modern Irish literature, Pádraic Ó Conaire, and the dialect adopted by such influential political and literary figures as Patrick Pearse. Ulster Irish, represented in the Republic of Ireland by speakers of a single county, Donegal, had for obvious reasons a lower profile in the Irish-language establishment. While the differences between the three regional dialects are relatively minor on the level of grammar and syntax, pronunciation differs markedly between them. The recommendations of *An Caighdeán Oifigiúil* (1945, revised 2016), which form the basis of

⁵ See e.g. Éamonn Ó Dónaill, *Now You're Talking / Irish on Your Own* (Dublin 1995), *Abair Leat!* (Belfast 1996), and *Gaeilge gan Stró* (Dublin 2010, 2011); Ristead Mac Gabhann, *Cúrsa Ciosamhairc Gaeilge* (Belfast 1991) and *Tús Maith* (Belfast 2002); Diarmuid Ó Sé and Joseph Sheils, *Teach Yourself Irish* (London and New York 1993); and Thomas Ihde, Máire Ní Neachtain, Roslyn Blyn-LaDrew, and John Gillen, *Colloquial Irish* (New York 2008).

⁶ A notable exception is Mícheál Ó Siadhail's *Learning Irish*, an excellent introduction to Connemara Irish. Its admirable allegiance to the regional dialect in terms of grammar, syntax, lexis and even orthography makes it difficult to use for teachers of any other variety of Irish.

⁷ The courageous if problematic guideline of *An Caighdeán Oifigiúil* suggests ‘as far as possible to avoid any form or rule for which there isn't sound support in the living language of the *Gaeltacht*’ and ‘to choose those forms whose use is most widespread in the *Gaeltacht*’ (*chomh fada agus ab fhéidir sin gan glacadh le foirm ná riail nach bhfuil údarás maith di i mbeocheanga na Gaeltachta; rogha a dhéanamh de na leaganacha is forleithne atá in úsáid sa Ghaeltacht*, quoted from *Gramadach na Gaeilge: An Caighdeán Oifigiúil*, 2016, xxii; my translation).

Modern Standard Irish, aim to define operative principles of grammar, and to establish a standard orthography rather than pronunciation.

For the learner, an introduction to a consistent regional dialect was thought to be desirable. The authors originally based the course on Ulster Irish.⁸ In the 2011/2012 academic year the text was adapted for use with Connacht Irish. Connacht Irish has never presented a more viable didactic choice than today. The Galway Gaeltacht, located in the Connemara region of Connacht, is currently the largest Gaeltacht in Ireland. What is more, Connacht Irish is very clearly the dialect best represented among native Irish speakers in the Boston area. There is much literature written in the dialect, most notably by Pádraic Ó Conaire and Máirtín Ó Cadhain, and an increasing number of folklore publications collected in Connemara and the Aran Islands.⁹ The National University of Ireland, Galway provides learners with the chance to build on their course work and increase their fluency by offering one-, two-, and four-week immersion language courses every summer in Carraroe, Connemara.

A number of strategies have been adopted to make the book as compatible as possible with other varieties of Irish:

- All forms *not* in general currency outside Connacht are clearly marked as Connacht forms by a superscript ^C.
- The dialect appendix lists the Connacht dialect features for each chapter and provides their regional (Ulster or Munster) equivalents.

Buntús na Gaeilge: Structure and Content

This book aims to balance the needs for conversational and grammatical competence. The textbook emphasizes students' active participation in the learning process: the aim is to generate speakers of Irish, and the pace and structure of the textbook are designed to encourage active rather than passive knowledge of the language; it is one thing to understand a grammar rule, quite another thing to be able to generate it in natural speech. Many of the drills, games and exercises are designed to improve oral competence. A crucial element in transforming language learners into language speakers is to provide a relaxed and enjoyable environment where it is safe to make mistakes, and where the learning process itself becomes fun. An element of playfulness in the classroom is hugely beneficial, and may be fostered not only by various interactive games and exercises, but also by the introduction of traditional songs and rhymes. Every Irish learner remembers such items of traditional lore from their introduction to the language. Such items not only serve to introduce students to Gaelic tradition; they are also fun, and are a proven aid to learners by implanting memorable words, idioms, and syntactic patterns in the student's mind. I have attempted to harness this resource and integrate it as closely as possible by selecting items that reflect the grammar and vocabulary introduced in the corresponding chapter. The fact that children's lore, including counting rhymes, songs and riddles, is well represented in the textbook is not coincidental; it reflects the learner's gradually expanding vocabulary, and aims to infuse a sense of playfulness conducive to the learning process.

Each lesson contains:

⁸ The book's original Ulster Irish incarnation can be accessed online at <http://www.people.fas.harvard.edu/~hillers/>.

⁹ For a small sample of literature in, or about, Connacht Irish, see Appendix 1: Cúrsaí Canúna.

- an alphabetized vocabulary list (*foclóir*)
- a dialogue or situational sketch (*comhrá*)
- a discussion of grammar (*an ceacht gramadaí*), illustrated with model sentences
- exercises (*ceachtanna le déanamh*) to practice the new vocabulary, idioms, and grammar, including both oral exercises designed for classroom use, and exercises specifically designed as homework (*obair bhaile*)
- a sample of traditional songs and sayings from Gaelic literature and folk culture (*teanga is cultúr*).

In addition, revision exercises encourage students to review the material periodically (*Súil Siar: Revision*). A dialect appendix (Appendix 1: *Cúrsaí Canúna*) lists Connacht forms and their equivalents in other dialects, and discusses Connacht features of grammar and syntax. A second appendix (Appendix 2: *Phonetic Exercises*) introduces students to the phonology of Connacht Irish. A third appendix (Appendix 3: *Paradigms and Reference*) gathers together some of the paradigms introduced in the lessons and serves as a helpful point of reference. The Irish-English and English-Irish glossaries (*Foclóir Gaeilge-Bearla* and *Béarla-Gaeilge*) contain all words used in the lessons. Finally, three separate indices, including a grammar index and a subject index, help students navigate the book.

Foclóir (Vocabulary)

The glossary lists alphabetically all new words to be learnt in each new chapter. Connacht dialect words or idioms are marked by a superscript ^C.

Comhrá (Conversation)

Our goal was to generate reasonably natural conversation incorporating the new material presented in each lesson. The imaginary characters featured in the dialogues tend to be modelled on our target audience of university students. The students' urban and academic environment is reflected in the vocabulary, hopefully enabling them to express their own concerns and activities. At the same time, we have attempted to represent the more traditional lifestyles of the *Gaeltacht* as well, resulting in an uneasy but realistic compromise in which the computer and the cell phone coexist with farmyard terminology.

An Ceacht Gramadaí (Grammar)

Our aim was to create a graded grammar of the language, paced fast enough to allow us to cover all the essential components of the language within the compass of the course, but slow enough to allow a gradual process of assimilation, enabling students to master one feature before being confronted with the next.

The teaching of abstract grammar has become somewhat unfashionable in recent years. It is obviously not a prerequisite for successful language acquisition: the world's most successful group of language learners are infants who succeed splendidly without the crutch of abstract grammar, and indeed without any literacy skills. However, for our target audience of university students, any textbook that eschews an analysis of the underlying rules governing the language was found to be limiting and frustrating. No specialized knowledge of linguistic terminology is required, although an awareness of basic grammatical principles is assumed among the target audience, almost all of whom have studied another foreign language previously.

Ceachtanna le Déanamh (Practice Exercises)

These include both exercises for classroom use and for written homework assignments. Classroom exercises include drills, games, and partner work. Homework exercises always include a translation into Irish. Many of the classroom exercises are also suitable as homework assignments.

Teanga is Cultúr (Language and Culture)

The traditional rhymes, songs and proverbs featured in *Teanga is Cultúr* have been assembled from a wide range of sources. I am particularly indebted to two collections of children's lore, Nicholas Williams' comprehensive collection *Cniogaide Cnagaide* (cited as CC), and Roibeard Ó Cathasaigh's delightful collection *Rabhlaí Rabhlaí* (RR), which is accompanied by a CD. Another book quoted repeatedly is *Leabhar Sheáin Uí Chonaill* (LSIC, ed. S. Ó Duilearga), available in translation as *Seán Ó Conaill's Book* (SOCB). Traditional songs and proverbs are not generally attributed, although some attractive collections have been listed in the bibliography; most items are ubiquitously found in the oral and the printed record. I have taken certain didactic liberties with the traditional materials, simplifying and occasionally modifying dialect forms. Unless otherwise noted, all translations are provided by the author.¹⁰ I have occasionally provided notes about Irish festivals and seasonal customs, Irish naming practices etc, to introduce American students to aspects of traditional Gaelic culture.

Súil Siar (Revision)

At appropriate intervals, students are invited to revise the material mastered in the previous lessons. Students will find revision exercises as well as a checklist of items they should be able to produce.

Foclóir Béarla-Gaeilge agus Gaeilge-Béarla (English-Irish and Irish-English Glossary)

The glossary lists all vocabulary items learned in individual lessons. The English-Irish glossary contains much additional material. A modern text book should carry the message that Irish is a living language, able to cope with technological advances and societal changes; and a conscious attempt has been made to supply words not readily found in standard dictionaries - words such as 'CD,' 'internet,' 'condom' and 'divorce.'

Gearrliosta Briathra (Select List of Verbs)

This lists the more important verbs with their principal parts (stem; 1 sg pres; verbal noun).

¹⁰ Copyright permission for printed materials will be sought each time this textbook is made available to students.

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Natasha Sumner

1

CEAHT A HAON

FOCLÓIR¹¹

Baile Átha Cliath [blakl'ia]	Dublin
bean (f)	woman
Béarla (m)	English
bord ^C (m)	table
bosca bruscair	waste paper basket
buachaill (m), pl: buachaillí	boy, lad
cailc (f)	chalk
cailín (m), pl: cailíní	girl
cathaoir (f)	chair
clár dubh (m)	blackboard
cóipleabhar (m)	notebook
deasc (f)	desk
doras (m)	door
Éireannach (m), pl: Éireannaigh	Irish (adj); Irish person
fear (m)	man
fuinneog (f)	window
Gaeilge (f)	Irish language
gasúr (m)	child ^C , small boy
glantóir (m)	chalk/white board brush
leabhar (m)	book
mac léinn (m), pl: mic léinn	student
maidin (f)	morning
mála (m)	bag
múinteoir (m), pl: múinteoirí	teacher
Meiriceánach (m), pl: Meiriceánaigh	American (adj); American person
oíche (f)	night
páipéar (m)	paper
páiste (m)	child
peann (m)	pen
peann luaidhe (m)	pencil
rang (m)	class
an rang Gaeilge (m)	the Irish class
scoil (f)	school
seomra (m)	room
seomra scoile (m)	schoolroom

¹¹ (f) feminine gender; (m) masculine gender; ^C Connacht Irish dialect form (see dialect appendix for standard form).

ard
beag
cinnte
cliste
deas
maith
mór
nua
suimiúil

ach
agus (*also is*)
beannachtaí (pl of beannacht, f)
ceart go leor
Dia duit
Dia is Muire duit
freisin
seo
sin
slán

is (verb)
is (conj.)

cé
céard^C

ag
as

mé, *emphatic* mise
thú, *emphatic* thusa^C
é, *emphatic* eisean
í, *emphatic* ise
muid, *emphatic* muidne
sibh, *emphatic* sibhse
iad, *emphatic* iadsan

tall
small
certain, certainly
clever, smart
nice
good
big
new
interesting

but
and
greetings
indeed, right enough
Hello ('God to you')
Hello (responsive; 'God and Mary to you')
also
this
that
goodbye

is (copula verb 'to be')
and

who?
what?

at, by
from

I/me
you (sg)
he/him
she/her
we/us
you (pl)
they/them

COMHRÁ

I. *Seán and Máire introduce themselves.*

- Máire: Dia duit.
Seán: Dia is Muire duit.
Máire: Is mise Máire. Cé thusa?
Seán: Is mise Seán.
Máire: Cé as thú?
Seán: Is as Gaillimh mé. Agus tú féin?
Máire: Is as Baile Átha Cliath mé.

II. *Nóra is waiting with her baby carriage at the bus stop. A young man joins her.*

- Níall: Dia duit.
Nóra: Dia is Muire duit.
Níall: An cailín é?
Nóra: Ní hea. Is buachaill é. Seo é Brian.
Níall: Is buachaill breá é.
Nóra: Is páiste maith é ceart go leor.

III. *Máire, the Irish teacher, comes to the classroom early, where she finds a young woman reading a book:*

- Máire: Is leabhar maith é sin, nach ea?
Aisling: Sea, cinnte.
Máire: An mac léinn nua thú?
Aisling: Sea. Is mise Aisling. Cé thusa? An mac léinn thusa?
Máire: Ní hea. Is múinteoir mé. Is mise Máire. Cé as thú, a Aisling?
Aisling: Is as Bostún mé. Agus tú féin? An Éireannach thú?
Máire: Sea. Is as Baile Átha Cliath mé.

AN CEACHT GRAMADAÍ

§1. Forainmneacha Pearsanta (Personal Pronouns)

- There are two sets of personal pronouns in Irish. One set is used only with the conjugated verb ('dependent pronouns': see Ceacht 4); the other set is used if a pronoun, whether a subject or an object pronoun, is used independently.¹²

Independent Pronouns		
Regular		Emphatic
mé	<i>I</i> (also: <i>me</i>)	mise
thú ^C	<i>you</i> (sg.)	thusa ^C
é	<i>he</i> (also: <i>him</i>)	eisean
í	<i>she</i> (also: <i>her</i>)	ise
muid	<i>we</i> (also: <i>us</i>)	muidne
sibh	<i>you</i> (pl.)	sibhse
iad	<i>they</i> (also: <i>them</i>)	iadsan

§1.2 Féin

- The word *féin* 'self' can also be used to emphasize a pronoun:

mé féin	muid féin
thú féin	sibh féin
é féin	iad féin
í féin	

§2. The Demonstrative Pronouns *seo* and *sin*

- The demonstrative pronouns *seo* 'this' and *sin* 'that' can be combined with a noun or pronoun to form a complete sentence:

Seo é peann.	This is a pen.
Sin é leabhar.	That is a book.
Sin é!	That's it, that's right.
Céard é seo? Seo é peann.	What is this? This is a pen.

- Seo* can also mean 'here', and *sin* 'there' (as reflected in the words *anseo* 'here', and *ansin* 'there'):

Seo í.	Here she is.
Seo é Seán.	Here comes Seán.

¹² In the Connacht dialect, *thú/thusa* is used in copula constructions rather than the standard form, *tú/tusa*.

Nach Éireannach thú? Ní hea. Aren't you Irish? No, I'm not.
 An peann é sin? Ní hea. Is peann luaidhe é. Is that a pen? No, it's a pencil.

- Instead of answering in a complete clause, one may use the conjunction *ach* 'but':

An peann é sin? Ní hea ach peann luaidhe. Is that a pen? No, it's a pencil.
 Nach dochtúir thú? Ní hea ach mac léinn. Aren't you a doctor? No, I'm a student.

§4. Ainmfhocal agus Aidiacht (Masculine Noun and Adjective)

- Most adjectives in Irish follow the nouns they modify. Thus 'a good book' is expressed as *leabhar maith*:

Is leabhar é seo. This is a book.
 Is leabhar maith é seo. This is a good book.

§5. Beannachtaí (Greetings and Introductions)

§5.1. Saying hello

Dia duit (daoibh *if to more than one person*) Hello (i.e. God to you)
 Dia is Muire duit/daoibh Hello (in response) (i.e. God and Mary to you)
 Maidin mhaith / Dia duit ar maidin Good morning

§5.2. Introducing yourself

Is mise Máire. I am Mary.
 Cé thusa? Who are you?

§5.3. Asking where someone's from

Cé as thú? Where are you from?
 Is as Baile Átha Cliath mé. I am from Dublin.

Gaillimh	Galway
An Spidéal	Spiddal
Ros Muc	Rosmuck
Carna	Carna
Conamara	Connemara
Meiriceá	America (USA)
Bostún	Boston
Nua Eabhrac	New York

§5.4. Saying goodbye

Slán (< *go dté tú slán*) Goodbye (literally 'may you go safely')
 Oíche mhaith Good night

CEACHTANNA LE DÉANAMH

1. Look around the classroom. Ask each other the question *céard é sin/seo?* pointing at the objects you know, and make up an answer using *sin/seo*:

Céard é sin? Sin é peann. What is that? That's a pen.

2. Read the following sentences, and identify their subjects and predicates:

Is Éireannach mé.	I am an Irish person.
Is mac léinn thú.	You are a student.
Is múinteoir í.	She is a teacher.
Is leabhar é.	It is a book.
Is mic léinn muid.	We are students.
Is Meiriceánaigh sibh.	You (pl) are Americans.
Is Éireannaigh iad.	They are Irish people.

3. a) Translate:

1. I am a student.
2. She is a girl.
3. He is a teacher.
4. She is an Irish person.
5. It is a bag.
6. We are students.
7. They are teachers.
8. You (pl) are girls.
9. I am an American.
10. It is a book.

- b) Now, convert these sentences into:

1. Negative statements, e.g. I am not a student.
2. Questions, e.g. Am I a student?
3. Negative questions, e.g. Am I not a student?

The first sentence has been done for you:

I am a student.	Is mac léinn mé.
Negative:	Ní mac léinn mé.
Question:	An mac léinn mé?
Negative Question:	Nach mac léinn mé?

4. Look around the classroom again. Pointing at objects and asking each other *céard é sin/seo?*, now use the construction *is peann é* etc. in the answer. Respond with another question (a very Irish strategy!) using *nach*, then answer first in the affirmative, then in the negative:

A: Céard é sin? What is that?
 B: Is peann é. It is a pen.
 A: Nach peann luaidhe é? Is it not a pencil?
 B: Sea. Yes (i.e. it is a pencil rather than a pen).
 Ní hea ach peann. No, it's a pen.
 or: Ní hea. Is peann é.

5. Cluiche Cainte ('Oral Game'): Postanna ('Jobs')

Each student is given a card with his or her 'profession', and with the profession of a person they have to search for. Students ascertain their partner as quickly as possible by asking everyone in class whether theirs is the right profession:

A: An múinteoir thú?
 B: Ní hea. Is mac léinn mé. Agus tú féin?
 A: Is banaltra mise.
 A (trying again): An múinteoir thú?
 C (delighted): Sea. An banaltra thusa?
 A (delighted): Sea cinnte!

Postanna (Professions)	
banaltra (f)	nurse
cócaire (m)	cook
léachtóir (m)	lecturer
ceoltóir (m)	musician
píobaire (m)	piper
feirmeoir (m)	farmer
dochtúir (m)	doctor
rúnaí (m)	secretary (administrator)
freastalaí (m)	waiter/waitress
file (m)	poet

6. Add adjectives to the following sentences:

1. An peann é sin?
2. An mac léinn í?
3. Is fear é.
4. Nach leabhar é seo?
5. Ní múinteoir mé.

7. Cuir Gaeilge air ('Translate into Irish'):

1. He is a little boy.
2. Are you a good student?
3. Isn't she a good teacher?
4. This is not a big book.
5. She is a tall girl.

8. Have a short introductory conversation with one of your classmates. Introduce yourself, and ask who s/he is and where s/he is from. Then introduce your classmate to the rest of the class. Here is an example:

a) Interview:

C: Dia duit. Is mise Caitlín. Cé thusa?

S: Is mise Seán.

C: Cé as thú?

S: Is as Nua Eabhrac mé. Agus tú féin?

C: Is as California mé. An mac léinn thú?

S: Sea. Agus tusa?

C: Mise freisin.

b) Presentation:

C: Seo é Seán. Is mac léinn é. Is as Nua Eabhrac é.

S: Seo í Caitlín. Is as California í. Is mac léinn í chomh maith.

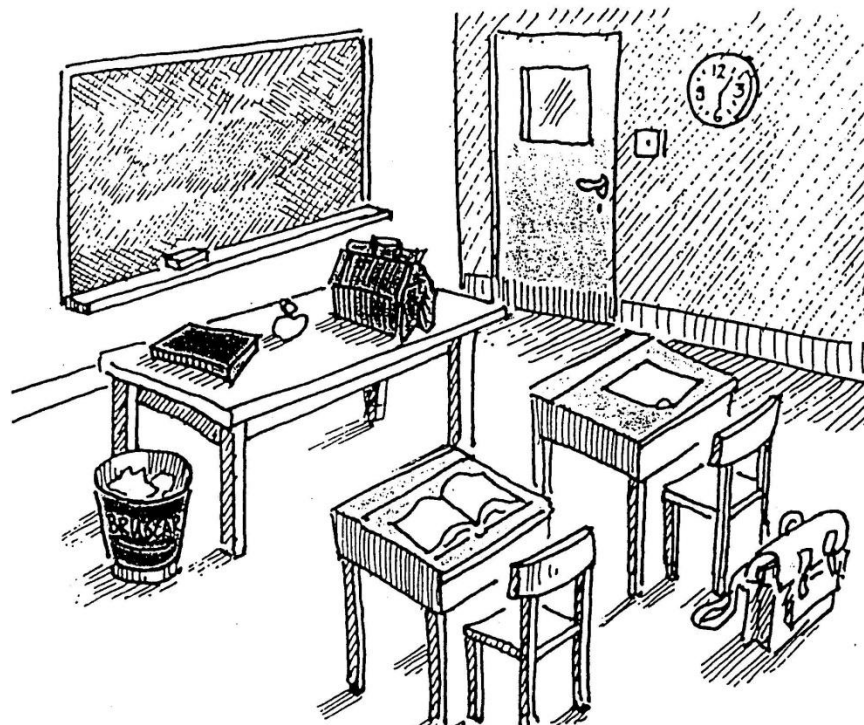
Obair Bhaile

1. Write a conversation in which two students meet for the first time.

2. Cuir Gaeilge air:

1. It is an interesting book.
2. She is a good teacher.
3. We are from Galway.
4. Is he a good student?
5. He is a nice man.
6. She's a smart girl.
7. This is a good class.
8. Are you (pl) students? No.
9. Aren't they from Dublin?
10. This is not a new book.

3. Write ten sentences identifying objects in your picture of a classroom, using the construction *is cailc í* or *seo/sin í cailc*.



TEANGA IS CULTÚR

Ráiteachas (Saying)

Mise agus tusa agus eireaball na muice.

You and I and the pig's tail.
(i.e. all and sundry)

Greetings

The traditional greeting *Dia duit* 'God to you' and its responsive *Dia is Muire duit* 'God and Mary to you' (short for *Go mbeannaí Dia ... duit* 'May God ... bless you'), has gone somewhat out of fashion in recent years, being rarely used by younger native speakers who increasingly use *haileó* 'hallo'. It is however still widely used, especially by the older generation. Instead of a formal greeting it is also very common to ask the person you meet how s/he is (see Ceacht 4) or to exchange a comment about the weather (see Ceacht 5).

Loanwords

Throughout its long history, Irish has borrowed freely from other languages, and loanwords provide us with a revealing cross section of Irish cultural history.

The earliest stratum of major borrowing is from Latin. Christianity was introduced to Ireland in the early fifth century, and apparently received enthusiastically, or at least without the prolonged hostility it received in other parts of pagan northern Europe. Along with the new religion came literacy and a new educational system reflected in the Irish educational vocabulary:

scoil	< schola ‘school’
cathaoir	< cathedra ‘chair’
caíl	< calx ‘chalk, pebble’
peann	< penna ‘feather, quill’
leabhar	< liber ‘book’
léann	< legendum ‘learning’ (as in <i>mac léinn</i> ‘son of learning, student’)
léacht	< lectio ‘lecture’ (cf. also <i>leachtóir</i> ‘lecturer’ [B&I] / ‘professor’ [US]).

Between the ninth and the eleventh century, the Vikings had a significant presence in Ireland (‘they came to raid and stayed to trade’). Linguistic borrowings are mainly in the areas of ship building and trading, one of the trade imports being *beoir* ‘beer’ (from Old Norse *bjórr*). Like English, Irish borrowed the word for window from the Vikings:

fuinneog	< vind auga ‘wind eye’
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The Anglo-Norman invasion of Ireland in 1169 introduced not only Norman French, spoken by the nobility, but also English, spoken by many of the mercenaries and subordinates. Irish borrowed heavily from Norman French, including sophisticated architectural terms, and terms describing luxury goods:

seomra	< Fr. chambre ‘room’
tábla ¹⁴	< Fr. table ‘table’
lampa	< Fr. lampe ‘lamp’
páipéar	< Middle Engl. ‘paper’

The encroachment of English was not a gradual and inexorable process; in the centuries after the invasion, Irish recovered much of the ground it had lost during the invasion. No concerted effort to repress the Irish language was made before the fourteenth century, and the repressive measures introduced with greater or lesser success in the succeeding centuries had little impact on the spoken language of the common people, being primarily directed against the native aristocracy. It was not until the broad-based educational measures of the nineteenth century, such as the introduction of an English-medium national school system in 1831, that English made rapid inroads on the vernacular. The volume of borrowing from English is massive and the process is ongoing. One example will suffice:

bosca (as in *bosca bruscair*) < box.

¹⁴ The word *tábla* is only used in Ulster; Connacht and Munster dialects use *bord*.

2 CEAHT A DÓ

FOCLÓIR

ainmhí (m), pl ainmhithe (3)	animal
amhrán (m)	song
arán (m)	bread
bainne (m)	milk
bia (m)	food
bó (f)	cow
caife (m)	coffee
caora (f), pl caoraigh (3)	sheep
capall (m)	horse
cat (m)	cat
cearc (f)	chicken
ceol (m)	music
císte (m)	cake
cúrsa, pl cúrsaí (m)	course
dinnéar (m)	dinner
éan (m)	bird
feirm (f) ¹⁵	farm
feoil (f)	meat
fíon (m)	wine
fuath (m)	hate
glasraí (m pl)	vegetables
lá (m)	day
léachtóir (m)	lecturer (B&I); professor (US)
mada ^C (m)	dog
milseán (m), pl: milseáin	candy (sweets)
muc (f)	pig
obair (f)	work
ollscoil (f)	university
fataí ^C rósta (m pl)	roast potatoes
rinne (m)	dance
rud (m)	thing
sráid (f)	street
staidéar (m)	studying
tae (m)	tea
uachtar reoite (m)	ice cream
uisce (m)	water

¹⁵ *Feilm* is an acceptable alternate form for *feirm* in Connacht Irish.

ard
bán
breá
bunchéimeach
cliste
dubh
eile
fionn
iarchéimeach
Indiach
Iodálach
lag
láidir
maith
 fearr (comparative of maith)
marbh
óg
rua
tanaí

anseo
ceart go leor
chomh maith
cosúil le
gach
gan
le
mar sin
nó
ná
ná
sa mbaile^C

is breá liom
is cuma liom
is cuimhin liom
ní miste liom

cé acu

tall
white
lovely
undergraduate
intelligent
black
other
blond
graduate (US); postgraduate (IRL)
Indian (noun or adjective)
Italian (noun or adjective)
weak
strong
good
better
dead
young
red-haired
thin

here
right enough, alright
as well
like
every
without
with
therefore, then
or
or/nor
than
at home

I like/love
I don't mind / I don't care
I remember
I don't mind

which one

COMHRÁ

Liam and Síle are planning to have their friends Pádraigín and Donncha over for dinner:

Liam: An maith leat bia Iodálach? Nó an fearr leat feoil agus fataí rósta?

Síle: Is cuma liomsa, ach ní maith le Pádraigín bia Iodálach.

Liam: Is fuath léi pasta, ceart go leor. Feoil is fataí mar sin, agus glasraí chomh maith. Cé acu is fearr leat, fíon bán nó fíon dearg?

Síle: Fíon dearg. An maith le Donncha uachtar reoite?

Liam: Ní cuimhin liom, ach is maith leis císte agus milseáin eile, cinnte. Agus is breá liomsa uachtar reoite.

Síle: Is breá liomsa freisin é.... An maith leat an ollscoil, a Liam?

Liam: Is maith. Is fearr liom an bia sa mbaile, ach is maith liom gach rud eile anseo. Is breá liom mo chúrsaí.

AN CEACHT GRAMADAÍ

§1. An tAlt (The Article)

- There is no indefinite article in Irish. To say ‘a book’, we simply say *leabhar*; ‘a good book’ is *leabhar maith*.

- The definite article, feminine and masculine, is *an* (*na* in the plural):

leabhar	a book
an leabhar	the book

- The definite article can affect the first letter of the noun it modifies. This phenomenon, called initial mutation, occurs in a wide variety of contexts, and is typical of all Celtic languages. The most common mutation is the *séimhiú* ‘lenition.’ This mutation (sometimes also called ‘aspiration’) is realized in a majority of the consonants involved as fricativization:

Séimhiú (Lenition)

Lenition affects the voiced plosives ‘b’ ‘d’ ‘g’, the unvoiced plosives ‘p’ ‘t’ ‘c’, the labial ‘m’, and the fricatives ‘f’ and ‘s’. It is marked by inserting ‘h’ after those letters:

b hean	p heann	m hac léinn
d horas	t each	f huinneog
g hasúr	c heann	s hráid

Lenition can also affect the pronunciation of the liquids ‘l’ and ‘n’, but this is not represented in writing. Lenition does not affect vowels or the consonants / consonant clusters r, h, sc, sp, st, sm.

§1.1. The definite article causes lenition of feminine nouns:

bean	a woman
an b hean	the woman
fuinneog	a window
an f huinneog	the window

- If a feminine noun begins with a vowel, there is no change, since vowels cannot be lenited:

an obair	the work
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- If a feminine noun begins with an ‘s’ (including ‘sr’ ‘sn’ or ‘sl’ but NOT ‘sc’ ‘sp’ ‘st’ ‘sm’), the article will prefix a ‘t’:

sráid	a street
an t sráid	the street

§1.2. The article causes no change to a masculine noun beginning with a consonant:

an fear	the man
an cailín	the girl

- but it will prefix a ‘t-’¹⁶ to masculine nouns beginning with a vowel:

an t -éan	the bird
an t -uisce	the water

§2. An tAinmfhocal agus an Aidiacht (Noun and Adjective)

§2.1. Adjectives following a feminine noun receive *séimhiú*, whether or not the article is present:

maidin m haith	Good morning!
an m haidin m haith	the good morning
sráid m hór f hada	a big long street
an t sráid m hór f hada	the big long street

§2.2. Prevention of Lenition

- Lenition is frequently prevented in a variety of grammatical and semantic contexts where a word ending in ‘n’ (or, less commonly, in ‘d’) precedes a word beginning in a ‘d,’ ‘t’ or ‘s’ (‘homorganic’ or ‘dental rule’). For this reason, lenition of the feminine noun may be prevented: the definite article does not lenite a feminine noun if it starts with ‘d’ or ‘t’; if it

¹⁶ Irish orthography uses the hyphen as sparingly as possible; the hyphen is only used if prefixing a letter might otherwise give rise to ambiguity. For instance, a prefixed ‘h’ needs no hyphen, since ‘h’ is not a normal letter in the Irish alphabet; similarly the combination ‘ts’ is unambiguous, since this combination does not normally occur at the beginning of unmutated words. If ‘t’ is prefixed to a vowel, on the other hand, it needs to be hyphenated to disambiguate (*an t-teach* ‘the stallion’ versus *an teach* ‘the house’), except when the noun is capitalized (*an tÉireannach* ‘the Irish person’).

starts with an ‘s’, the feminine article prefixes a ‘t’ instead. (Lenition is not generally prevented, however, if an adjective beginning with a ‘d,’ ‘t’ or ‘s’ follows a feminine noun that ends in ‘n’.)

Dental Rule

Lenition is usually prevented when homorganic consonants, i.e. consonants that are produced in the same area of the mouth, come together. Thus the dental plosives ‘d’ and ‘t’ and the fricative ‘s’ are not lenited after the nasal ‘n’ (Ó Siadhail 1989, 6.2.1(v)):

an Dáil	assembly; the <i>Dáil</i> (Irish legislature)
sean teach	an old house
gan dabht	without a doubt

But:

bean dheas	a nice woman
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- Note that this is a descriptive rather than a prescriptive rule, and there is considerable variety of usage even within one dialect. Non-lenition is best regarded as a strong tendency; lenited and non-lenited forms co-exist in all dialects. Ó Siadhail points out that an attributive adjective is more likely to be lenited than a noun (1989, 6.2.1(v)2).

§2.3. Adjectives following a masculine noun remain unchanged:

an fear maith	the good man
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§2.4. Usinig demonstratives with nouns

- The article is used when the demonstratives *seo* ‘this’ and *sin* ‘that’ modify nouns:

an fear sin	that man
an fear maith seo	this good man
an bhean sin	that woman
an bhean mhaith seo	this good woman

§3. Forainmneacha Réamhfhoclacha: An Réamhfhocail *le* (Prepositional Pronouns: the Preposition *le* ‘with’)

- One of the characteristic features of all Celtic languages is their use of so-called ‘prepositional pronouns.’ Prepositional pronouns are, in effect, conjugated prepositions, incorporating in one word a pronoun and a preposition: English ‘with me’ is expressed in a single word *liom*.

§3.1. Here is the conjugated paradigm of the preposition *le* ‘with’:

LE ‘with’			
liom	<i>with me</i>	linn	<i>with us</i>
leat	<i>with you (sg)</i>	libh	<i>with you (pl)</i>
leis	<i>with him</i>	leo	<i>with them</i>
léi	<i>with her</i>		
<p>Like the personal pronoun, the prepositional pronoun also has emphatic forms, with similar endings:</p>			
liomsa		linne	
leatsa		libhse	
leis-sean		leosan	
léise			

§3.2. *Liom Féin*

- If the prepositional pronoun *liom* (etc) is followed by the word *féin* ‘self,’ it has the meaning of ‘by myself,’ ‘alone’:

Mise liom féin

I alone, by myself.

§3.3. Prefixing ‘h’

- *Le* does not cause mutation of a following consonant, but will prefix ‘h’ to a word beginning with a vowel:

Is maith le hÁine fíon dearg.

Áine likes red wine.

Prefixing ‘h’	
<p>Little words ending in a vowel that neither lenite nor eclipse (see Ceacht 3), prefix ‘h’ to words beginning with a vowel:</p>	
le hÁine	with Áine
a hathair	her father
go hálainn	beautiful

§4. Copula Sentences With *le*

§4.1 Ownership

- *Le* can also be used with the copula to express ownership. The emphatic paradigm of the prepositional pronoun is typically used:

Is liomsa é.	It is mine.
An leatsa é seo?	Is this yours?
Is cara liom í.	She is a friend of mine.

§4.2 Other Idioms with *le*

- *Le* is also used with adjectives in copula sentences to form a number of expressions, mostly to do with likes and dislikes:

Is maith liom tae.	I like tea.
Is fearr liom caife.	I prefer coffee.
Is fuath le Seán é.	Seán hates it.
Is breá linn é.	We love it.
Is cuma liom.	It is all the same to me, I don't care. ¹⁷
An miste leat?	Do you mind?
Ní miste liom.	I don't mind. / I don't care. ¹⁸
Is cuimhin liom é.	I remember him.

§4.2.1. Questions and negative statements

- These sentences can be converted into questions or negative statements by using the interrogative and negative forms of the copula:

An maith leat tae?	Do you like tea?
Ní maith léi é seo.	She doesn't like this.
Nach maith leat do dhinnéar?	Don't you like your dinner?

§4.2.2. The answer to a question will include the copula and the adjective/predicate:

An maith leat Bostún?	Do you like Boston?
Is maith. / Ní maith.	I do. / I don't.
An leatsa é?	Is liom. / Ní liom.

§4.2.3. The conjunctions *nó* and *ná*

- The conjunction *nó* 'or' cannot be used with a negative verb. Use *ná* 'or / nor' with a negative verb:

¹⁷ Normally used when two options are equally agreeable: '*An fearr leat tae nó caife?*' '*Is cuma liom.*' 'Do you prefer tea or coffee?' 'I don't mind'. When followed by the preposition *faoi*^L 'about' it means 'I don't care for...': '*Is cuma liom faoi fhilíocht*' 'I don't care for poetry', and '*Is róchuma liom faoi Dhónall Trump*' 'I can't stand Donald Trump.'

¹⁸ More often than not used in the negative rather than the affirmative.

An maith leat tae nó caife?
Ní maith liom tae ná caife.

Do you like tea or coffee?
I don't like tea or coffee. / I like neither tea nor coffee.

- The conjunction *ná* 'than' is used to compare two things:

Is fearr liom tae ná caife.

I like tea better than coffee. / I prefer tea to coffee.

§4.2.4. Using *cé acu* to ask about a preference

Cé acu is fearr leat, císte nó uachtar reoite?

Which do you prefer, cake or ice cream?

Is maith liom císte ach is fearr liom uachtar reoite.

I like cake but I prefer ice cream.

Is fearr liom císte ná uachtar reoite.

I prefer cake to ice cream.

§5. The Preposition *gan* 'without'

- The preposition *gan* 'without' causes *séimhiú*:

gan bhróg

without a shoe

gan mhaith

useless, without benefit

- However, if the noun it modifies begins with a d, t, s (or f) there is no *séimhiú*, since d/t/s resist lenition after 'n' (see §2.2):

gan dabht

without a doubt.

- In addition, personal names are not lenited, nor is a noun lenited if it is modified:

gan Mícheál

without Michael

gan cuidiú ar bith

without any help.

CEACHTANNA LE DÉANAMH

1. Write out the following nouns with the article: arán, bean, cailc, doras, fuinneog, leabhar, scoil, obair, cathaoir, páipéar, bord, sráid, éan.

2. a) Incorporate adjectives into the following classification sentences:

is capall é > *is capall maith é*

is muc í

is cat é

is peann é

is cailc í

is bean í sin

- b) Now turn these into questions and provide answers:

is capall maith é > *an capall maith é? Sea / Ní hea*

3. Cluiche: Fiche Ceist

Play the game of ‘20 Questions’ with your partner. Use words such as *beag, mór, maith, deas, cliste, ciúin, láidir, lag*:

- | | |
|---------------------|------------|
| A: An ainmhí é? | B: Sea. |
| A: An ainmhí mór é? | B: Ní hea. |
| A: An mada é? | B: Ní hea. |
| A: An cat é? | B: Sea! |

4. Cuir Gaeilge air:

1. We don't like American food.
2. Do you (pl) like music? Yes.
3. She likes tea, but she prefers coffee.
4. It is not yours, it is Bríd's.
5. I love strong tea.
6. Does she like the university?
7. They hate the food here, but they love the weather.
8. Don't you remember that song?
9. Is that coffee yours?
10. We remember that morning.

5. Suirbhé Beag: An maith leat ...?

Find out from your partner how they feel about some of the items listed below. Then represent their opinions to the class.

caife dubh	Peil Mheiriceánach (‘American Football’)
cócaireacht (‘cooking’)	bia Indiach
Bostún	Leabharlann Widener (‘Widener Library’)
Starbucks	an aimsir i Massachusetts (‘the weather in Mass.’)
Madonna	uisce fuar
Éire	ceol tíre (‘Country & Western music’)
Daidí na Nollag (‘Father Christmas’)	oinniúin (‘onions’)

6. Cé acu is fearr leat?

Ask your partner which of the options below they prefer:

- peil / snámh (‘soccer / swimming’)
- cócaireacht / rince (‘cooking / dancing’)
- Éire / Meiriceá
- tae / caife
- caife bán / caife dubh
- mada / capall
- fíon bán / fíon dearg
- an amharclann / an phictiúrlann (‘the theatre / the cinema’)

Bostún / Nua Eabhrac ('Boston / New York')
císte / uachtar reoite ('cake / ice cream')
bia Iodálach / bia Indiach ('Italian food / Indian food')
an Ghaeilge / Béarla

Sampla: 'Cé acu is fearr leat, peil nó snámh?' - 'Is maith liom peil ach is fearr liom snámh.'
/ Is fearr liom peil ná snámh.'

Obair Bhaile

1. Label as many of the items in the farmyard picture below as you can in Irish. Make use of the definite article and appropriate adjectives.



2. a) Cuir Béarla air (translate into English):



Seo é Niall Ó Dónaill. Is mac léinn ag Ollscoil Harvard é. Is as Nua Eabhrac é. Is Meiriceánach é, ach is as Éirinn a athair ('his father'). Ní maith leis Bostún; is fearr leis Nua Eabhrac. Is maith leis cócaireacht agus rince. Ní maith leis staidéar ach is breá leis an Ghaeilge agus Béarla. Is maith leis an múinteoir Béarla, ach is fearr leis an múinteoir Gaeilge!



Seo í Leah Miller. Is as Sasana í. Is léachtóir í ag Ollscoil Bhostún. Is maith léi Bostún, agus is maith léi an ollscoil. Is breá léi leabhair. Is fuath léi Sasana; is fearr léi Meiriceá. Is maith léi rince agus caife láidir.

b) Write blurbs about two of the following:

Susan Boyle (Albanach / as an Albain)

Enrico de Gamba (Spáinneach / as an Spáinn)

Count Dracula (Rúmáineach / as an Rómáin)

Giuseppe Verdi (Iodálach / as an Iodáil)

Máirín Ní Ghallchóir (as Conamara / Éireannach / as Éirinn)

3. Make up an identity card about yourself. (Only reveal things which you don't mind sharing with the class!)

Example:

Is mise Aisling. Is mac léinn bunchéimeach ag Ollscoil Harvard mé. Is Éireannach mé; is as Baile Átha Cliath mé. Is cailín ard tanaí mé, agus is duine ciúin mé. Is maith liom bia Iodálach ach is fearr liom bia Indiach. Ní maith liom sport. Is breá liom Meiriceá ach is fuath liom George Bush. Is maith liom mo chúrsaí. Is breá liom an Ghaeilge.

4. Cuir Gaeilge air seo:

1. I like this new hat.
2. She likes tea, but she prefers coffee.
3. They hate American food.
4. We love the weather here.
5. That good horse is mine.
6. Do you like this university? Yes.
7. Máire doesn't like the cake, but she loves the ice cream.
8. Do you (pl) like the book? No.
9. Is this pen yours?
10. Does he remember the song?

TEANGA IS CULTÚR

Seanfhocail ('Proverbs')

Marbh le tae, agus marbh gan é. Damned if you do, and damned if you don't.
Is fearr Gaeilge bhriste ná Béarla cliste. Broken Irish is better than clever English.

Rann ('Rhyme')

Is maith liom bainne I like milk
Is maith liom tae I like tea
Is maith liom codladh I like sleep
Ag deireadh an lae. at the end of the day.
(CC #333)

Amhrán: Nóra Bheag ('Song: Little Nóra')

Is maith le Nóra fataí rósta Nóra likes roasted potatoes
Is maith le Nóra im leo Nóra likes butter with them
Is maith le Nóra pis agus pónaire Nóra likes peas and beans
Is bainne na bó san oíche. And cow's milk at night.
(CC #204a)

Seanfhocail Eile ('More Proverbs')

The copula is often used to emphasize. If one wants to stress a certain quality in a person or object, one moves the adjective to the front, directly following the copula; *is fear maith é* becomes *is maith an fear é*. This construction is very common in traditional idioms and proverbs:

Is maith an t-anlann an t-ocras. Hunger is a good sauce.
Is trom an t-ualach aineolas. Ignorance is a heavy burden.
Is trom cearc i bhfad. Even a hen is heavy when carried far.
Is mór an rud grá nó eagla. Love or fear will move mountains.
Is buaine clú ná saol. Fame is more lasting than life.

3

CEAHT A TRÍ

FOCLÓIR

ainm (m)	name
athair (m)	father
béal (m)	mouth
bean chéile (f)	wife
bolg (m)	stomach
bóthar (m)	road
bríste (m)	trousers
cara (m)	friend
ceann (m)	head
ceoltóir (m)	musician
clann (f)	children
cluas (f)	ear
cos (f)	foot
croí (m)	heart
dath (m), pl dathanna	color
deartháir (m)	brother
deirfiúr (f)	sister
dlíodóir (m)	lawyer
dochtúir (m)	doctor
duine (m)	person
fear céile (m)	husband
feirmeoir (m) ¹⁹	farmer
geansaí (m)	sweater (US) / jumper (B&I)
glúin (f)	knee
gruaig (f)	hair
hata (m)	hat
iníon (f)	daughter
lámh (f)	hand
leanbh (m)	child
mac (m)	son
máthair (f)	mother
post (m)	job
scéal (m)	story
srón (f)	nose
stábla (m)	stable
súil (f)	eye
teach (m)	house

¹⁹ *Feilméara* is an acceptable alternate form for *feirmeoir* in Connacht Irish

teaghlach (m)	family
tuismitheoir (m), pl: tuismitheoirí	parent
álainn	beautiful
bocht	poor
buí (m. noun and adj)	yellow
cailiúil	famous
dearg (m. noun and adj)	red
donn (m. noun and adj)	brown
dorcha	dark
droch- (prefix)	bad
glas (m. noun and adj)	green (as in vegetation); also grey/blue
gorm (m. noun and adj)	blue
liath (m. noun and adj)	grey, grey-haired
saibhir	wealthy
sean	old
uaine (f. noun and adj)	green (as in garments etc.)
is trua é, is trua é sin	it's a pity, that's a pity

COMHRÁ

Liam and Síle are looking at photographs from home:

Síle: Seo iad mo thuismitheoirí. Is filméaraí iad, agus is é seo ár dteach. Sin é m'athair, agus sin í mo mháthair, agus is í sin mo dheirfiúr. Bheul, sin íad a lámh agus a cos!

Liam: An é sin do dheartháir?

Síle: Is é.

Liam: An mac léinn é freisin?

Síle: Ní hea. Is ceoltóir é.

Liam: Agus do dheirfiúr?

Síle: Is dochtúir í. Seo í lena²⁰ fear céile. Is fear deas é. Agus seo í a gclann: Séamas agus Caitlín agus Cormac. Is é Séamas an duine is sine²¹, agus is é Cormac an leanbh.

Liam: Agus céard é sin?

Síle: Sin é an stábla. Agus seo iad ár n-anmhaithe: bó, agus caoirigh, agus seo é Tiarnán, ár mada.

Liam: Is mada álainn é. Cé leis é? An leatsa é?

Síle: Is liom. Is é mo mhada féin é. Is breá liom Tiarnán.

²⁰ *Lena* < prep *le* 'with' + 3sg f poss pron *a* 'her'.

²¹ *Sine* is the superlative form of *sean* 'old'; *an duine is sine* 'the oldest person'.

AN CEACHT GRAMADAÍ

§1. Possessive Pronouns

mo / m'	my	ár	our
do / d'	your (sg)	bhur	your (pl)
a	his	a	their
a	her		

- The possessive pronoun causes three distinct types of mutation to the noun it modifies:

§1.1 *Séimhiú* (Lenition)

- The first and second singular and the third singular masculine possessive pronouns cause *séimhiú*.

mo theach	my house
do theach	your house
a theach	his house

- Note that *mo* and *do* are reduced to *m'* and *d'* before vowels and fh+vowel.

m'athair	my father
d'fhear céile	your husband

§1.2 Prefixing 'h'

- The third singular feminine possessive pronoun does not cause *séimhiú*, but will prefix h to a noun beginning with a vowel (see Ceacht 2):

a teach	her house
a hiníon	her daughter

§1.3 *Urú* (Eclipsis)

- The plural possessive pronouns all cause a mutation called *urú* 'eclipsis'.

Urú ('Eclipsis')

Eclipsis (*urú*) affects essentially the same set of letters as lenition (*séimhiú*), except that the letters 'm' and 's' are not affected. The term eclipsis refers to the sound of a letter being 'eclipsed' by a prefixed letter. Phonologically, eclipsis covers two mechanisms:

1) The voiced plosives 'b' 'd' 'g', and all vowels, are nasalized to the point of being eclipsed by nasals:

ár mbean [m]	ár ngasúr [ng/n]
ár ndochtúir [n]	ár n-athair [n]

2) The unvoiced plosives 'p' 't' 'c' and the fricative 'f' are voiced:

ár bpeann [b]	ár gceann [g]
ár dteach [d]	ár bhfuinneog [w/v]

- Some examples:

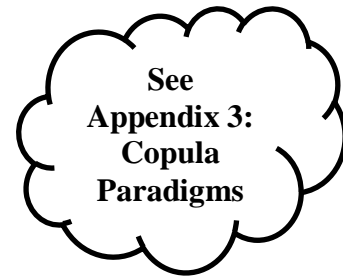
<i>mother</i>	<i>father</i>	<i>problem</i>
mo mháthair	m'athair	m'fhadhb
do mháthair	d'athair	d'fhadhb
a mháthair	a athair	a fhabhb
a máthair	a hathair	a fadhb
ár máthair	ár n-athair	ár bhfadhb
bhur máthair	bhur n-athair	bhur bhfadhb
a máthair	a n-athair	a bhfadhb

- Note that the only distinction between the third person possessive pronouns 'her' 'his' 'their' is in their effect upon the following word:

a teach	her house
a t each	his house
a d each	their house

§1.4. Possessive Pronoun + *féin*

- Féin* after the possessive pronoun means 'own':
mo theach féin my own house



§2. An Chopail (The Copula): Identification Sentences

- So far we have looked at copula sentences that *classify* nouns ('classification sentences'):
Is mac léinn í She is a student (she belongs to the class of persons called students)

- In the classification sentence, the predicate directly follows the copula, and the pronoun is in final position. The predicate in this type of sentence is always *indefinite*.

If we want to *identify* a thing or person, the structure is different: the copula is followed by the pronoun, and the noun is *definite* (i.e. it is preceded by the article, a possessive pronoun, or it is a personal name or place name).

§2.1. The Emphatic Pronoun

- The emphatic pronoun rather than the simple pronoun is commonly used:

Is eisean an múinteoir.	He is the teacher.
An ise an rúnáí? Ní hí ach an léachtóir.	Is she the secretary? No, the lecturer.
An tusa Seán? ²²	Are you Seán? ²³
Is mise Áine.	I am Áine.

²² Because of the Dental Rule, *tú/tusa* follow *an*, rather than *thú/thusa*. Cf. *Is tú* (§2.3).

²³ But note if the emphasis is on the predicate rather than the subject pronoun, the simple rather than the emphatic pronoun may be used: *An tú Seán?* 'Are you Seán?'

§2.2. The Third Person Copula Sentence

- The treatment of the third person (he, she, they) identification sentence offers further complexity.

§2.2.1. With the demonstrative pronoun *sin /seo*:

Is í sin an múinteoir.	An í sin an múinteoir?
Is é seo an peann.	An é seo an peann?
Is é sin m'athair.	An é sin m'athair?

§2.2.2. Simple Structure: *Seo é an peann*

- In the affirmative only, a simple structure can be used which dispenses with the copula:

Sin é an múinteoir.	That is the teacher.
Seo é an peann.	This is the pen.
Sin é m'athair.	That's my father.

§2.2.3. 'Echoing' Pronoun

- In the absence of an emphatic or demonstrative pronoun, an identification sentence in the third person has an additional 'echoing' pronoun:

Is é an múinteoir é.	He is the teacher.
Is í an léachtóir í.	She is the lecturer.
Is iad mo thuismitheoirí iad.	They are my parents.

§2.2.4. 'Proleptic' Pronoun

- If the subject is a proper noun (e.g. a name), the syntax is different: instead of an 'echoing' pronoun at the end of the sentence, we have a 'proleptic' pronoun at the beginning, i.e. a pronoun that anticipates the proper noun:

Is é Séamas an múinteoir.	Séamas is the teacher.
Is í Síle an léachtóir.	Síle is the lecturer.
Is iad Áine agus Aoife mo dheirfiúracha.	Áine and Aoife are my sisters.

- Note that the proleptic pronoun also occurs with proper nouns in classification sentences:

Is dochtúir é Séamas.	Séamas is a doctor.
-----------------------	---------------------

§2.3. Responses

- The responsive always echoes the pronoun used in the question. The simple, non-emphatic pronoun is used even if the emphatic is used in the question:

An tusa an rúnáí?	Is mé. / Ní mé.	Are you the secretary? Yes. / No.
An mise an léachtóir?	Is tú. / Ní thú.	Am I the lecturer? Yes. / No.
An eisean an gadaí?	Is é. / Ní hé.	Is he the thief? Yes. / No.
An í Síle an múinteoir?	Is í. / Ní hí.	Is Síle the teacher? Yes. / No.
An sibhse a thuismitheoirí?	Is muid. / Ní muid.	Are you her parents? Yes. / No.

An muidinne na ceoltóirí? Is sibh. / Ní sibh. Are we the musicians? Yes. / No.
 An iadsan na mic léinn? Is iad. / Ní hiad. Are they the students? Yes. / No.

§3. The Prefixed Adjectives *sean-* and *droch-*

- *Droch-* ‘bad’ and, when used attributively, *sean* ‘old’ are prefixed to the noun they modify and lenite it:

sean**b**hean an old woman
 droch**m**húinteoir a bad teacher
 droch**s**céal bad news

- Since it ends in ‘n’, *sean* does not lenite ‘d’ ‘t’ or ‘s’ (see Ceacht 2, §2 ‘Dental Rule’):

seanteach an old house.

§4. Na Dathanna (Colors)

- Colors can be used as nouns or adjectives. With the exception of *uaine*, all colors are masculine. If used as nouns, they often take the definite article:

Is maith liom *An Dearg is an Dubh* le Stendhal. I like Stendhal’s *Le rouge et le noir*.

Na Dathanna (Colors)			
bán	<i>white</i>	dubh	<i>black</i>
bándearg	<i>pink</i>	flannbhuí	<i>orange</i>
buí	<i>yellow</i>	glas	<i>green (natural)</i>
corcra	<i>purple</i>	gorm	<i>blue</i>
dearg	<i>red</i>	liath	<i>grey</i>
donn	<i>brown</i>	uaine	<i>green (fabrics et al.)</i>

CEACHTANNA LE DÉANAMH

1. Translate the following phrases, and then write out the full paradigm for each:
 1. my house (your house, his house, her house, our house, your house, their house)
 2. their sister
 3. our father
 4. his horse
 5. her foot
 6. his eye
 7. my ear
 8. their parents
 9. her name
 10. our dog

2. Cuir Gaeilge air:

1. My head; the head.
2. My eye; the eye.
3. My window; the window.
4. My nose; the nose.
5. My bread; the bread.

3. a) Translate and simplify the following sentences, according to the model:

Is é sin an múinteoir. 'That is the teacher.' > *Sin é an múinteoir.*

1. Is í seo m'íníon.
2. Is é seo ár dteach nua.
3. Is í seo mo lámh.
4. Is é sin a múinteoir.
5. Is í seo a máthair.

b) Now use the complex structure: *Sin é an dochtúir.* > *Is é sin an dochtúir.*

1. Seo é m'fhear céile.
2. Sin é a hathair.
3. Sin é an mada maith cliste.
4. Seo é an ceoltóir cailiúil.
5. Sin é a theach.

4. Cluiche Cainte: Cé mise?

Each student is given an animal identity and has to impersonate that animal by gesture or sound; the others have to guess.

Mac léinn A ('Student A'): *Cé mise?*

An rang ('the class'): *An tusa an bhó?*

Mac léinn A: *Is mé / Ní mé.*

5. Change the following classification sentences to identification sentences, according to the model:

An leabhar é sin? -> An é sin an leabhar?

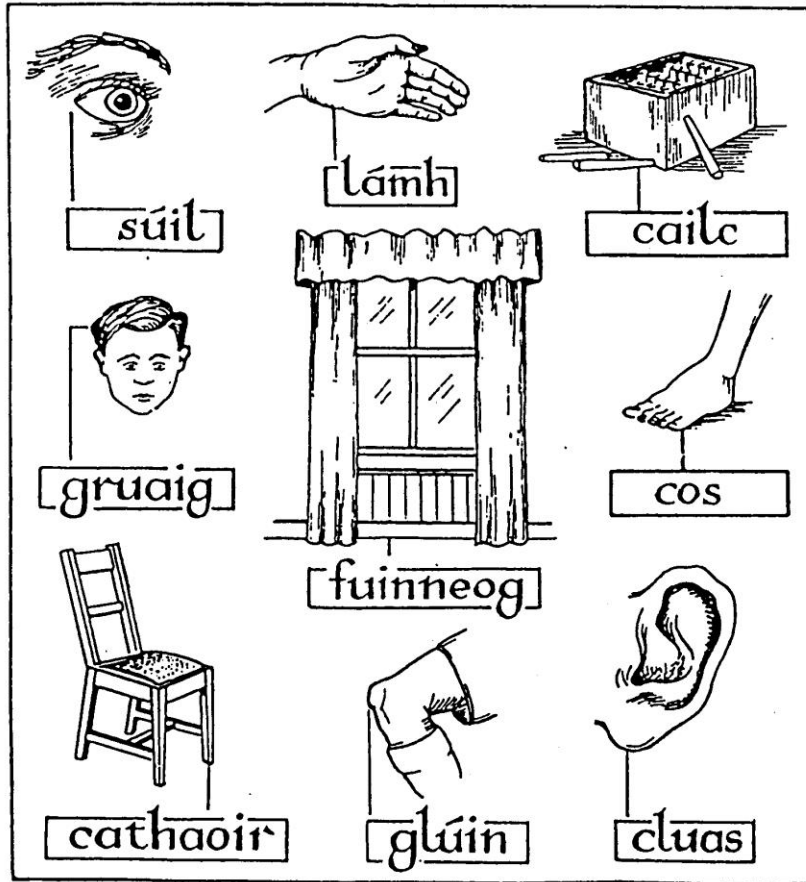
1. An bó í seo?
2. An múinteoir thú?
3. An mac léinn nua thú?
4. Is éan beag é sin.
5. Is cara maith í.
6. Is bean í.
7. Is Meiriceánach é.
8. Is leabhar mór suimiúil é.
9. An ceoltóir thú?
10. Nach máthair mhaith í sin?

6. Cluiche Cainte: Seo é mo theaghlach ‘This is my family’
Pretend the other students are all members of your family whom you are introducing to someone. Identify them each by name and state your relationship. If you like, you can also show off their profession!
7. Cuir Gaeilge air:
A bad story; an old woman; an old man; an old house; a bad house; a bad mother; grandfather (literally ‘old father’); grandmother (literally ‘old mother’).
8. Incorporate a prefixed adjective into the following sentences:
is capall é > is seanchapall é
1. is muc í
 2. is cat é
 3. is peann é
 4. is cailc í
 5. is bean í sin.
9. Add color terms of your choice to the following sentences, and translate:
1. An peann é sin?
 2. Is maith liom cailc.
 3. Is geansaí é.
 4. Nach leabhar é seo?
 5. Is liomsa an capall.

Obair Bhaile

1. Write a paragraph on your color preferences, and your preferred choice of colors in clothes.
Example: *Is maith liom an dearg agus an buí, agus is breá liom corcra chomh maith. Ní miste liom an gorm ach is fuath liom an donn agus an dubh. Ní maith liom dathanna dorcha. Is maith liom bríste corcra agus geansaí bándearg, agus is breá liom hata dearg leis!*
2. Cuir Gaeilge air:
1. He is not my brother.
 2. I am your mother.
 3. Her father is the professor.
 4. Do you remember her name? I do. She is an old friend of mine (*liom*; see #2, §3.1).
 5. He doesn’t like his new job.
 6. That man is their father.
 7. Do you own this old dog? Yes. He is a smart dog.
 8. Cáit is not my sister; she’s my mother!
 9. They love the new house; I prefer the old house.
 10. Their son is a doctor.

3. Make up noun phrases (consisting of the definite article, noun, and adjective) for each of the pictures below:



TEANGA IS CULTÚR

Amhrán: Bean Pháidín

Is é an trua ghéar nach mise, nach mise
Is é an trua ghéar nach mise bean Pháidín.
Is é an trua ghéar nach mise, nach mise,
Is an bhean atá aige bheith caillte.

Go mbristear do chosa, do chosa
Go mbristear do chosa, a bhean Pháidín
Go mbristear do chosa, do chosa
Go mbristear do chosa is do chnámha.

It's a great pity that I'm not, I'm not
It's a great pity that I'm not Páidín's wife.
It's a great pity I'm not, I'm not –
and that his wife isn't dead!

May you break your legs, your legs,
May you break your legs, wife of Páidín.
May you break your legs, your legs,
May you break your legs and your bones.

Seanfhocail

Is fearr rith maith ná drochsheasamh.

Drochubh, drochéan.

A good run is better than a bad stand.

You'll get a bad bird from a bad egg.

Rann

Na cait a bhí ag Fionn Mac Cumhail:
Seangchat, Seanchat
Ramharchat, Marbhchat
Síchat, Dúchat,
Liathchat, Fiachat
Piscín bliana agus meathlóir.

These are the cats of Fionn Mac Cumhail:
Lean Cat, Old Cat
Fat Cat, Dead Cat
Fairy Cat, Evil Cat
Grey Cat, Wild Cat
Year-Old Kitten and Coward.

SÚIL SIAR (REVISION): CEACHT 1 - CEACHT 3

Can you say the following things? If you can't, or you're not quite sure, go back to the lesson and paragraph indicated after each item:

- say 'I / you / he / she / we / you / they' (§1.1)
- say 'this is a book' (§1.2)
- say 'it is a book' (§1.3)
- say 'it is a good book' (§1.4)
- say that you are a student, that Liam is a teacher, and that Nóra is a good poet (§1.3)
- say who you are, know how to greet someone; wish them good-bye (§1.5)
- say 'the woman / the window / the chalk / the bread' (§2.1)
- say 'the good woman / the nice woman' (§2.2)
- say 'with me / you / him / her / us / you / them' (§2.3)
- say 'I like / hate / love Irish' (§2.3)
- say 'without a pen / a doubt' (§2.4)
- say 'my / your / his / her / our / your / their house' (§3.1)
- say 'Máire is the teacher'; 'It is the pen' (§3.2)
- say 'an old woman'; 'an old house'; 'a bad man' (§3.3)
- say 'it is a red / green / blue / yellow / pink / orange / brown sweater' (§3.4)

Revision Exercises

You should by now be able to translate the following sentences:

1. Is he a student? No, he is the teacher.
2. Is that your sister? Yes.
3. Is she a lecturer? Yes. She is a good lecturer.
4. Is that her name? It is a beautiful name.
5. That horse belongs to Máirín. It's a strong horse.
6. Séamas is my Irish teacher. He is a famous (*cailiúil*) poet.
7. These are our parents. They are from Carna.
8. It's a little old house, but it's her own house, and she loves it.
9. Is this my dinner? I don't like it. It is bad food.
10. Are you the poet? No. I am a musician.

4

CEAHT A CEATHAIR

FOCLÓIR

áthas (m)	happiness
brón (m)	sorrow
bronntanas (m)	present
cóta (m)	coat
deifir (f)	hurry
díomá (f)	disappointment
eagla (f)	fear
fearg (f)	anger
an Fhrainc (f)	France
imní (f)	anxiety, worry
iontas (m)	surprise, wonder
náire (f)	shame
ocras (m)	hunger
Páras	Paris
píosa (m)	a piece
spéirbhean (f)	dream woman
tart (m)	thirst
tinneas cinn (m)	headache
tinneas fiacaile (m)	toothache
trua (f)	pity
tuirse (f)	fatigue, tiredness
briste	broken
cairdiúil	friendly
ciúin	quiet
críochnaithe	finished
dathúil	handsome, beautiful
deacair	difficult
déanta	done
dúnta	closed
fada	long
fuair	cold
gearr	short
gléasta	dressed
iontach	wonderful
olc	bad
oscailte	open
ramhar	fat
sásta	content

sona	happy
te	hot
tinn ^C	sore, sick
tuirseach	tired
a (before a person's name etc)	vocative marker
an ceann seo (m)	this one
anseo	here
ansin	there
ar fad	altogether, very
ar chor ar bith	at all
bhuel!	well!
go raibh maith agat	thank you
inniu	today
thall ansin	over there

COMHRÁ

Aisling is having something to eat in the student cafeteria. Síle joins her.

Síle: Cén chaoi a bhfuil tú, a Aisling?

Aisling: Tá mé go maith. Agus tú féin?

Síle: Tá mé ceart go leor.

Aisling: Níl cuma rómhaith ort – an bhfuil aon rud cearr leat?

Síle: Tá slaghdán orm, agus tá mé beagán tuirseach, ach níl mé go dona. – Tá tusa gléasta go deas inniu. Is maith liom an geansaí atá ort - tá sé go hálainn.

Aisling: Go raibh maith agat. Is bronntanas ó mo dheirfiúr é. Is as Páras é – tá sí sa bhFrainc²⁴ i mbliana.

Síle: Oh là là, très chic. Tá sé an-deas ar fad.

Aisling: An maith leat císte? Tá an ceann seo fíormhaith. Seo píosa beag duit.

Síle: Sin é píosa mór – go raibh maith agat. Tá ocras mór orm. Hmm. Tá sé an-bhlasta ceart go leor.

Aisling: Nach bhfuil?

Síle: A Aisling, cé hé an buachaill thall ansin? An é sin an mac léinn nua?

Aisling: Is é.

Síle: Cén t-ainm atá air?

²⁴ *sa* 'in the'; *sa bhFrainc* 'in France' < *i* + *an Fhrainc*. You will learn how to use *sa* in Ceacht a Sé / Lesson Six.

Aisling: Seán atá air. Is as Gaillimh é.

Síle: Tá sé an-dathúil, nach bhfuil?

Aisling: Níl sé go dona ar chor ar bith. Ach tá brón orm - níl an t-ádh ort. Seo í a spéirbhean thall ansin. Áine atá uirthi.

Síle: Ah bhuel. Nach mór an trua sin.

AN CEACHT GRAMADAÍ

Dependent Pronouns		
Regular		Emphatic
mé	<i>I</i>	mise
tú	<i>you (sg.)</i>	tusa
sé	<i>he</i>	eisean
sí	<i>she</i>	ise
muid	<i>we</i>	muidne
sibh	<i>you</i>	sibhse
siad	<i>they</i>	iadsan

§1. The Substantive Verb and the Dependent Pronoun

- As we have seen, the copula is used to classify ('it is a house') or to identify the subject ('it is *the* house'). The substantive verb *tá*, on the other hand, is used to *describe* the subject:

Tá an teach mór

The house is big.

§1.1. *Tá* and the Dependent Pronoun

- The set of pronouns used with *tá* **and any conjugated verb** (hence 'dependent pronouns') differs slightly from the set we have learned so far, having *sé*, *sí* and *siad* in the third person singular and plural instead of *é*, *í* and *iad* and *tú* in the second person singular instead of *thú*. Note that the form of the verb is the same for all persons:

tá mé	<i>I am</i>	tá muid	<i>we are</i>
tá tú	<i>you are</i>	tá sibh	<i>you are</i>
tá sé	<i>he is</i>	tá siad	<i>they are</i>
tá sí	<i>she is</i>		

- The relative form of *tá*, which is used in many questions, is *atá*:

Cén t-ainm atá ort?

What's your name?

Céard atá cearr leat?

What's wrong with you?

§1.2. The Dependent Forms of the Substantive Verb

- The substantive verb has distinct forms used with the negative and interrogative forms of the verb. These we call the dependent forms.

Negative:	níl
Interrogative:	an bhfuil?
Neg. interrogative:	nach bhfuil?
Where is:	cá bhfuil?

Interrogative		Negative	
an bhfuil mé?	<i>am I?</i>	níl mé	<i>I am not</i>
an bhfuil tú?	<i>are you?</i>	níl tú	<i>you are not</i>
an bhfuil sé?	<i>is he?</i>	níl sé	<i>he is not</i>
an bhfuil sí?	<i>is she?</i>	níl sí	<i>she is not</i>
an bhfuil muid?	<i>are we?</i>	níl muid	<i>we are not</i>
an bhfuil sibh?	<i>are you?</i>	níl sibh	<i>you are not</i>
an bhfuil siad?	<i>are they?</i>	níl siad	<i>they are not</i>

Níl mé tuirseach.

An bhfuil an obair críochnaithe?

Nach bhfuil an fhuinneog briste?

Cá bhfuil mo leabhar?

I am not tired.

Is the work finished?

Isn't the window broken?

Where is my book?

§1.3. 'Yes' and 'No' with the Substantive Verb

- As we have already learned, there is no word for yes or for no in Irish. Instead we respond with a form of the verb used in the question. Thus, a yes or no response to a question using the substantive verb will be *tá* or *níl*.

An bhfuil tú fuar?

Tá, tá mé fuar.

Níl, tá mé te.

Are you cold?

Yes, I am cold.

No, I am hot.

An bhfuil an chaora sin ramhar?

Níl, níl sí ramhar. Tá sí tanaí.

Is that sheep fat?

No, it is not fat. It is thin.

§1.4. The Predicative Adjective

- Note that there is no mutation of the adjective in this context, whether it describes a masculine or feminine noun. Here, the adjective is not part of the noun phrase, but functions as its predicate:

Tá an fear mór.

Tá an bhean mór.

The man is tall.

The woman is tall.

- Compare the attributive adjective, where the adjective changes according to the gender and number of the noun it describes (Ceacht 2):

an fear mór	the tall man
an bhean mhór	the tall woman.

§2. The Preposition *ar*

§2.1. The preposition *ar* lenites the following noun

ar Mháire	on Mary
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- The preposition *ar* is used in many idiomatic expressions. Clothing and some other aspects of someone's appearance, including physical and even intellectual features, are conceptualized as being 'on' a person:

Tá hata ar Mháire.	Máire is wearing a hat.
Tá gruaig dhubh ar Shéamas.	Séamas has black hair.
Tá an t-ádhdh ar Sheán.	Seán is in luck.
Tá ceann maith ar Aisling.	Aisling has a good head on her. (i.e. Aisling is clever.)

AR `on'		
<i>regular</i>		<i>emphatic</i>
orm	<i>on me</i>	ormsa
ort	<i>on you</i>	ortsa
air	<i>on him</i>	airsean
uirthi	<i>on her</i>	uirthise
orainn	<i>on us</i>	orainne
oraibh	<i>on you</i>	oraibhse
orthu	<i>on them</i>	orthusan

- The same construction is used to express a variety of feelings, states of being and physical conditions, particularly of the unpleasant sort, such as diseases:

<i>Tá ... orm: Idioms</i>	
Tá fearg orm.	I am angry.
Tá brón orm.	I am sorry/sad.
Tá eagla orm.	I am afraid.
Tá inní orm.	I am worried/anxious.
Tá náire orm.	I am ashamed.
Tá deifir orm.	I am in a hurry.
Tá áthas orm.	I am glad/happy.

Tá díomá orm.	I am disappointed.
Tá tart orm.	I am thirsty.
Tá ocras orm.	I am hungry.
Tá tuirse orm.	I am tired.
Tá tinneas cinn orm.	I have a headache.
Tá slaghdán orm.	I have a cold.

- If you want to say that you are *very* angry etc., you add *mór* after the noun:

Tá fearg mhór orm.	I am very angry.
Tá brón mór orm.	I am very sorry.

- Note, however, that ‘ar’ does not lenite the possessive pronoun.

Tá áthas ar mo mhúinteoir.	My teacher is happy.
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§3. The Intensifying Prefixes *an-*, *fíor-*, and *ró-*

- The intensifiers *an-* ‘very’, *fíor-* ‘truly, really’ and *ró-* ‘too, excessively’ are prefixed to adjectives (and occasionally to nouns), leniting the word they modify (*an-* is always followed by a hyphen; *fíor* and *ró* only if homorganic letters need to be separated, e.g. *fíor-réasunta*; *ró-olc*):

an-sásta	very satisfied
an-mhaith	very good
fíormhaith	truly good, really good
rófhuar	too cold

- Occasionally they are also prefixed to a noun, particularly in the case of *an-*:

Tá an-ocras orm.	I am very hungry.
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- Because this does not work with all nouns, stick to this example for now!
- Be careful not to confuse *an-* (intensifying prefix) with *an* (definite article).

§4. The Particle *go*: *Tá mé go maith*

- The following common adjectives are usually preceded by the particle *go* when used predicatively;²⁵ note that the particle *go* prefixes *h* to words beginning with a vowel (see ‘Prefixing h’, Ceacht 3):

go hálainn (‘beautiful’)	go maith (‘good’, ‘well’)
go haoibhinn (‘pleasant’)	go hiontach (‘wonderful’)
go breá (‘lovely’)	go deas (‘nice’)
go dona (‘bad’)	go holc (‘awful’)

²⁵ The use of the particle *go* is optional in this context in Ulster Irish; elsewhere in Ireland it is obligatory. This use of *go* seems to be an (agrammatical) extension of the normal function of *go*, namely to turn an adjective into an adverb: *Tá sé ag tiomáint go dona* ‘he is driving badly.’

Tá mé go maith. I am well.
Tá an aimsir go hálainn inniu. The weather is beautiful today.

- *Go* is not used if the adjective is qualified by the prefixed intensifiers *fíor-* and *ró-*:

Tá sí fíormhaith. She is really good.

- *Go* is, however, used if the adjective is qualified by *an-*:

Tá mé go han-mhaith. I am very well.

§5. Conversational Idioms

§5.1. *Cén chaoi a bhfuil tú?* ‘How are you?’

- The question *Cén chaoi a bhfuil tú?* meaning ‘How are you?’ may function as an introductory greeting instead of *Dia duit*, *Haileó* etc. Some possible responses include:

Tá mé go maith. / Go maith.	I am well.
Tá mé go hiontach.	I am doing great/wonderful.
Tá mé go breá.	I am fine.
Níl mé go dona.	I’m not doing badly.
Tá mé ceart go leor.	I’m all right.
Tá mé go dona.	I am doing badly/not well.

- The following interchange might start any conversation:

Cén chaoi a bhfuil tú?	How are you?
Go maith. Agus tú féin?	Well. And you?
Tá mé go breá.	I’m fine.

§5.2. *Céard atá cearr leat?* ‘What’s wrong with you?’

- If the response to *Cén chaoi a bhfuil tú?* is less than cheerful, you can follow up by asking:

An bhfuil aon rud cearr leat?	Is anything wrong with you?
Céard atá cearr leat?	What’s wrong with you?
Céard atá ort?	What’s wrong with you?

- You might hear the following answer:

Tá mé tinn.	I am sick.
Tá mé tuirseach.	I am tired.
Tá tuirse orm.	I feel fatigued / tired.
Tá slaghdán orm.	I have a cold.
Tá tinneas cinn orm.	I have a headache.
Tá tinneas fiacaile orm.	I have a toothache.

- You can use the same construction for other illnesses, e.g. *fiabhras* (‘fever’), *ailse* (‘cancer’), *an fliú* (‘the ‘flu’), and *tinneas goile* (‘stomach ache’).

4. Intensify the following adjectives, according to the model: *Maith* > *an-mhaith* > *fíormhaith* > *rómhaith*

1. fuar
2. te
3. láidir
4. ciúin
5. blasta

5. Obair Bheirte: Cén chaoi a bhfuil tú?

Pair up with another student. Pretend you're meeting in the street, and talk about how terribly ill you both feel. Then have another round, but this time you both feel fabulous. If you like, the weather may reflect your current mood.

6. Cluiche Cainte: *Cé hé / hí?*

Describe one of the students in your class; your classmates must guess who it is you are describing.

Tusa: *Tá sí ard tanaí agus tá sí an-chiúin. Tá geansaí gorm uirthi, agus bríste dubh. Tá gruaig rua uirthi. Tá sí an-chairdiúil.*

An rang: *An í sin Máire? / Is í Máire í.*

Tusa: *Is í / Ní hí.*

Obair Bhaile

1. Cuir Gaeilge air:

1. Séamas has a headache today; he has a cold and is very tired.
2. She isn't looking too well; is she alright?
3. It's very cold. Is the door open?
4. Is the big window broken?
5. Their father is very sick; he has cancer.
6. He's wearing a black coat and a red hat.
7. Isn't the brown bread very good?
8. That interesting work is finished.
9. Aren't they ashamed?
10. Are you (pl) in a hurry? No, but we're very tired.

2. Write a paragraph about your *spéirbhean* / *spéirfhear*, the woman or man of your dreams. Strict adherence to the truth is not necessary in this exercise.

TEANGA IS CULTÚR

Amhrán: Téir Abhaile ‘Riú’ (Ulster Dialect)

1. Téir^U abhaile ‘riú^U, téir abhaile ‘riú
Téir abhaile ‘riú, a Mhary,
Téir abhaile ‘riú, is fan sa bhaile^U
Mar tá do mhargadh déanta.

Curfá:

Níl mo mhargadh, tá do mhargadh
Níl mo mhargadh déanta
Tá do mhargadh, níl mo mhargadh,
Tá do mhargadh déanta.

2. Is cuma cé dhein^U é nó nach dhein
Is cuma cé dhein é, a Mhary
Is cuma cé dhein é nó nach dhein
Mar tá do mhargadh déanta.

3. Pós an píobaire, pós an píobaire
Pós an píobaire, a Mhary
Pós an píobaire i dtús na hoíche
Agus beidh sé agat ar maidin.

1. Go home, go home
Go home, Mary,
Go home and stay home
Because your match is made.

Refrain:

My match is NOT made – Yes it is –
My match is NOT made.
Your match is made – No it isn’t –
Your match is made.

2. It doesn’t matter who made it or who didn’t
It doesn’t matter who made it, Mary
It doesn’t matter who made it or who didn’t
For your match is made.

3. Marry the piper, marry the piper
Marry the piper, Mary
Marry the piper in the evening
and he’ll be with you in the morning

Tomhas (‘Riddle’)

Níl sé amuigh ort
Níl sé istigh ort,
Tá sé ort
Is ní trom é.
(CC #445)

It’s not on your outside
It’s not inside you
It’s on you
And it’s no weight to you.

Dhá Rann (‘Two Rhymes’)

Tá capall is cairt ag Seán Ó hAirt;
Tá bó agus lao ag Seán Ó Sé;
Tá peata uain ag Seán Ó Cluain;
Is sin é an fáth nach bhfuil orthu buairt.
(RR 17)

Seán Ó hAirt has a horse and cart;
Seán Ó Sé has a cow and a calf;
Seán Ó Cluain has a pet sheep;
And that’s why they’re so happy.

Tá an Deisceart go hálainn
Tá an Tuaisceart go breá
Tá an t-Oirthear go séimh
Is tá an tIarthar thar barr.
(CC #285)

The South is beautiful
The North is fine
The East is pleasant
And the West is the best.

5

CEAHT A CÚIG

FOCLÓIR

ag caint (le)	talking (to)
ag canadh	singing
ag cócaireacht	cooking
ag cur báistí	raining
ag cur sneachta	snowing
ag damhsa	dancing
ag déanamh	doing
ag dul / ag goil ^C	going
ag éisteacht (le)	listening (to)
ag éirí	rising, getting up, becoming
ag fanacht (le)	waiting (for); staying
ag breathnú (ar) ^C	looking, watching
ag breathnú ar an teilifís	watching TV
ag foghlaim	learning
ag gáire	laughing
ag ithe	eating
ag labhairt (le)	speaking
ag léamh	reading
ag obair	working
ag ól	drinking
ag rá	saying
ag rince	dancing
ag rith	running
ag scríobh	writing
ag siúl	walking
ag snámh	swimming
ag soilsiú	shining
ag staidéar	studying
ag teacht	coming
ag tiomáint	driving
airgead (m)	money
Béarla (m)	English (language)
Breatnais (f)	Welsh (language)
Briotáinis (f)	Breton (language)
carr (m)	car
codladh (m)	sleep
cónaí (m)	dwelling, living place
dúiseacht (f)	waking state
an Eilvéis (f)	Switzerland

fios (m)	knowledge
Fraincis (f)	French (language)
Gaeilge na hAlban (f)	Scottish Gaelic (language)
gealach (f)	moon
Gearmáinis (f)	German (language)
grian (f)	sun
Iodáilis (f)	Italian
luí (m)	lying, reclining
seasamh (m)	standing
Sínis (f)	Chinese (language)
Spáinnis (f)	Spanish (language)
suí (m)	sitting
tost (m)	silence
báite	drowned
fliuch	wet
grianmhar	sunny
scamallach	cloudy
tirim	dry
anois	now
arís	again
buíochas le Dia!	thank God!
duit	to you (sg)
go fóill	yet, still
inniu	today

COMHRÁ

Síle has a piece of gossip for Aisling about their friend Pádraigín.

Síle: A Aisling, tá scéal agam duit. Tá buachaill ag Pádraigín!

Aisling: An bhfuil anois? An bhfuil sé deas? Cén chuma atá air?

Síle: Tá sé an-dathúil. Tá sé ard tanaí. Tá súile gorma aige agus tá gruaig dhubh air. Tá sé an-chliste chomh maith.

Aisling: Cé as é?

Síle: Is as an Eilvéis é, agus tá Fraincis agus Gearmáinis líofa aige.

Aisling: An bhfuil Gaeilge aige go fóill?

Síle: Níl mórán, ach tá sé ag foghlaim.

Aisling: Cén t-ainm atá air?

Síle: Henri atá air.

Aisling: An bhfuil a fhios agat cá bhfuil sé ag fanacht?

Síle: Tá sé ina chónaí i mBaile Átha Cliath. Tá sé ag staidéar ag an ollscoil.

§1.3. Possessions: How to Express Capitalist Notions

- There is no verb ‘to have’ in Irish. Two constructions serve to express the notion of possession. One we know already:

Is liomsa an peann.	The pen is mine.
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- The more usual (‘unmarked’) way to express possession uses the preposition *ag*:

Tá airgead agam.	I have money.
An bhfuil carr agat?	Do you have a car?
- The Irish for ‘thank you’ is really a blessing, ‘May there be good at you’; it is often used with a numeric hyperbole:

Go raibh míle maith agat!	A thousand thanks!
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- The negative *níl*, combined with *ach* ‘but’, expresses the notion ‘only’:

Níl ach leabhar amháin agam.	I have only one book.
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§1.4. Possession of Knowledge / Abilities

- The same idiom *tá ... agam* is also used to express possession of knowledge – including knowledge of a language – and ability:

Níl a fhios agam cé as é.	I don’t know where he is from.
Tá aithne agam ar Sheán.	I know Seán. (i.e. I am acquainted with Seán.)
An bhfuil Gaeilge agat?	Do you know/speak Irish?
Níl Fraincis ar bith ag Seán.	Seán doesn’t know/speak any French.
An bhfuil tiomáint aige?	Can he drive?
Tá ceol aici.	She can sing.

§2. The Preposition *i* and the Use of *ann*

- Like other prepositions, *i* ‘in’ has a full conjugated paradigm (see Ceacht 7), but for now we are only concerned with the third person singular *ann*. Although formally masculine, it is best thought of as a neuter, impersonal ‘in it’, which may in some contexts be translated as ‘there’, in others not translated at all:

An bhfuil mórán daoine ann?	Are there many people?
Níl duine ar bith ann.	There’s no one there.
Tá lá deas ann.	It’s a nice day.
Níl ann ach báisteach.	It’s only a shower.

§3. Stative Expressions I

- With a limited set of expressions (seven in all), the preposition *i* is used in combination with the possessive pronoun to express states of being. Note that the possessive pronoun mutates the following verbal noun:

Tá sí ina suí.

She is sitting ('She is in her sitting').

Tá mé i mo chónaí anseo.

I live here.

Tá tú i do shuí.

You are up (sitting).

Tá sé ina thost.

He is silent.

Tá sí ina codladh.

She is sleeping.

Tá muid inár seasamh.

We are standing.

Tá sibh in bhur ndúiseacht.

You are awake.

Tá siad ina luí.

They are in bed (lying down).

§4. An Aimsir (The Weather)

- The weather is an inexhaustible source of conversation in Ireland; as the proverb has it, *is maith an scéalaí an aimsir* 'the weather is a good conversationalist'. When meeting someone in the street, Irish speakers frequently pass a comment on the weather as well as, or indeed instead of, a formal greeting:

'Tá lá breá ann inniu.'

'Nice day today.'

'Tá cinnte, buíochas le Dia.'

'It is indeed, thank God.'

- Essential weather expressions:*

Tá lá deas ann inniu

It's a nice day today

Tá drochlá ann

It's a bad day

Tá an aimsir ...

The weather is ...

go maith

good

go hálainn / go breá

beautiful / fine

go haoibhinn / go deas

pleasant / nice

go dona / go holc

bad / ditto

Tá sé te / fuar

It is hot / cold

Tá sé fliuch / tirim

It is wet / dry

Tá sé grianmhar / scamallach

It is sunny / cloudy

Tá sé ag cur báistí / Tá sé ag cur

It is raining

Tá mé fliuch báite

I am drenched

Tá sé ag cur sneachta

It is snowing

Tá an ghrian ag soilsiú.

The sun is shining.

§5. An Foirfe (The Perfect Tense)

- The perfect tense in Irish is a composite tense, made up of the substantive verb *tá* and a past participle of the verb. The past participle is often used simply as an adjective, both predicatively (*tá an fhuinneog briste*) and attributively (*an fhuinneog bhriste*). But the past participle always implies a past activity: the window is now broken because someone broke it in the past. The agent of the activity is indicated by the pronoun *ag*:

Tá an obair déanta agam.	I have done the work.
An bhfuil do dhinnéar ite agat?	Have you eaten your dinner?
Tá a hata caillte ag Seán.	Seán has lost his hat.
An bhfuil an litir léite agat? Níl go fóill.	Have you read the letter? Not yet.

- The past participle is generally formed by adding *-te* / *-the* to a slender stem and *-ta* / *-tha* to a broad stem. There are rules governing which particular form of ending a verb will take, but it may be easiest just to learn the most common participles:

báite	drowned, drenched
briste	broken
caillte	lost
caite	spent, consumed, worn out
críochnaithe	finished
curtha	put
déanta	done, made
dóite	burned
dúnta	closed
glanta	cleaned
ite	eaten
léite	read
millte	spoilt
nite	washed
ólta	drunk ²⁷
scríofa	written
stróicthe	torn

²⁷ While in English, ‘drunk’ is both the past participle of ‘drink’ and an adjective meaning ‘inebriated’, in Irish these are different words. *Ólta* does NOT mean ‘inebriated’. ‘He is drunk’ is expressed in this way: *Tá sé ar meisce*.

CEACHTANNA LE DEANAMH

1. Cuir Gaeilge air:

1. Séamas is running.
2. The teacher is laughing.
3. Are you (pl) driving?
4. He is not eating.
5. We are not listening to you (sg).

2. Cuir Gaeilge air:

1. She has a book.
2. We have a cat.
3. Do you (pl) have money?
4. They don't have a house.
5. Does he have a car?
6. Can you (sg) sing? (literally: Do you have music?)
7. I speak French. (literally: I have French.)
8. I can't drive. (literally: I don't have driving.)
9. Do you have time?
10. I don't know.

3. Cluiche Cainte: Cé hé an gadaí?

'An bhfuil a fhios agat cé hé an gadaí?' Everyone has 5 minutes to describe one person in class to the *bleachtair*, the detective.

4. Cuir Gaeilge air:

1. It's a good day.
2. There are people there.
3. There is a book there now.
4. It's a bad day.

5. Cuir Gaeilge air:

1. The little child is asleep.
2. We live here.
3. They are not awake.
4. Are you (pl) up (i.e. standing)?
5. Their father is silent.
6. She is sitting.
7. He lives there now.
8. Máirín is still in bed (i.e. lying).
9. Is she still asleep?
10. We are lying down (i.e. in bed).

6. Chain Drill

Tá mé i mo sheasamh - sí - muid - codladh - tusa - sibhse - tost - Seán - suí - a bhean chéile - mé - sise.

7. Cluiche: Tá mé i mo chodladh...

Students adopt stative positions; the teacher asks questions about their own, or other students' position, which students must answer truthfully.

8. Cuir Gaeilge air;

1. Have you (sg) finished the homework? Yes.
2. Has he broken the window again?
3. I haven't eaten my dinner yet.
4. They have drunk the coffee.
5. She has read the book.

Obair Bhaile

1. Cuir Gaeilge air:

1. Do you speak Irish? Yes.
2. She speaks good German.
3. I have a sister.
4. Do you (pl) have a car? No.
5. Do they have time? No; they're in a hurry.
6. Are you (pl) working?
7. The sun is shining.
8. They are not coming with us.
9. That red-haired woman is looking at (on) us.

2. Cén chaoi a bhfuil an aimsir inniu? Write a paragraph about the weather today. How does it compare to the kind of weather you like?

TEANGA IS CULTÚR

Seanfhocail ('Proverbs')

Is binn béal ina thost.

A silent mouth is sweet.

Is maith an scéalaí an aimsir.

The weather is a good conversationalist.

Casfhocal ('Tongue Twister')

Tá sicín ina seasamh sa sneachta lá seaca.

A chicken is standing in the snow one frosty day.

Amhrán: Tá Mé i Mo Shuí

Tá mé i mo shuí ó d'éirigh an ghealach aréir
Ag cur tine síos gan scíth, is á fadú go géar;
Tá bunadh an tí ina luí is tá mise liom féin;
Tá na coiligh ag glaoch is an saol ina gcodladh
ach mé.

I am up since the moon rose last night
Lighting a fire and setting it ablaze
The household is asleep and I am alone;
The cocks are crowing and everyone's asleep
but me.

Amhrán: Níl Sé ina Lá (I)

Níl sé ina lá, níl, a ghrá
Níl sé ina lá, is ní bheidh go maidin
Níl sé ina lá, is ní bheidh go fóill
Solas ard atá sa ngealaigh.

It's not day yet, love
It's not day yet and won't be till morning
It's not day yet, love
The moon is shining brightly.

6

CEAHT A SÉ

FOCLÓIR

ag ceannach	buying
ag cloisteáil	hearing
ag díol	selling
ag fáil	getting
ag feiceáil	seeing
ag glanadh	cleaning
ag siopadóireacht	shopping
ag staidéar	studying
ag tabhairt	giving
aithne (f)	acquaintance, knowledge of person
amharclann (f)	theatre
bialann (f)	restaurant
caife (m)	café / coffee
cathair (f)	city
ceantar (m)	area
cóisir (f)	party
cúrsaí (<i>pl of cúrsa 'course'</i>)	matters, things
duine (m)	person
an t-earrach (m)	the spring
eolas (m)	knowledge (of a place)
farraige (f)	sea
fómhar (m)	fall
geimhreadh (m)	winter
grá (m)	love
leaba (f)	bed
léacht (f)	lecture
leabharlann (f)	library
meas (m)	respect
oifig (f)	office
ollmhargadh (m)	supermarket
pictiúrlann (f)	cinema
samhradh (m)	summer
séasúr (m)	season
siopa (m)	shop
teach tábhairne (m)	pub

CEACHT A SÉ / LESSON SIX

leadránach	boring
pacáilte	packed
plódaithe	crowded
tinn tuirseach	sick and tired
amárach	tomorrow
an tseachtain seo caite	last week
anocht	tonight
anuraidh	last year
aréir; arú aréir	last night; the night before last
ar fad	complete(ly), entire(ly)
Cén fath?	why?
chuile ^C (< gach uile)	every
cuid mhór	a lot, much
faoin tuath	in the country side
inné	yesterday
le chéile	together

COMHRÁ

Liam and Aisling meet in front of the library.

- Aisling: Maidin mhaith, a Liam. Cén chaoi a bhfuil cúrsaí?
- Liam: Níl siad go dona. Cén fath nach raibh tú ag an gcóisir aréir?
- Aisling: Bhí mé ag obair sa mbialann. An raibh cuid mhór daoine ann?
- Liam: Bhí. Bhí an áit pacáilte plódaithe. Bhí ceol maith ann, agus bhí chuile duine ag damhsa.
- Aisling: An raibh Henri agus Pádraigín ann?
- Liam: Bhí! Bhí siad ag damhsa le chéile an oíche ar fad.
- Aisling: Nach breá an rud é an grá! Cén fath nach raibh tú sa rang inniu?
- Liam: Bhí an-tuirse orm! Agus tá mé tinn tuirseach leis an gcúrsa sin. An tseachtain seo caite bhí mé i mo chodladh sa léacht – bhí sé chomh leadránach sin. Cén chaoi a raibh sé inniu?
- Aisling: Ní raibh sé chomh dona sin. Bhí sé ceart go leor.

AN CEACHT GRAMADAÍ

§1. The Past Tense of the Substantive Verb

- In the past tense, *tá* becomes *bhí*, *níl* becomes *ní raibh*:

bhí mé	<i>I was</i>	ní raibh mé	<i>I wasn't</i>
bhí tú	<i>you were</i>	ní raibh tú	<i>you weren't</i>
bhí sé	<i>he was</i>	ní raibh sé	<i>he wasn't</i>
bhí sí	<i>she was</i>	ní raibh sí	<i>she wasn't</i>
bhí muid	<i>we were</i>	ní raibh muid	<i>we weren't</i>
bhí sibh	<i>you were</i>	ní raibh sibh	<i>you weren't</i>
bhí siad	<i>they were</i>	ní raibh siad	<i>they weren't</i>

- The dependent form is *raibh*:

Negative:	ní raibh.
Interrogative:	an raibh?
Neg. interrogative:	nach raibh?
Where was?	cá raibh?

§2. An Tuiseal Tabharthach (The Dative or Prepositional Case)

§2.1. An tAinmfhocal (Nouns)

- In Modern Irish, the noun in the dative case generally has the same form as in the nominative. Only a handful of nouns have a separate dative form; these include the word Ireland, and the words for ‘hand’ and ‘foot’:

Éire	Ireland	<i>BUT</i>	in Éirinn	in Ireland
cos	foot		cos ar chois	step by step
lámh	hand/arm		lámh ar láimh	hand in hand

- Distinct dative forms are common in literature, and also survive in certain idioms, such as *sa ló*^U ‘during the day’ (from *lá* ‘day’)²⁸ and petrified expressions.

Except in such expressions as *um Nollag*^U ‘at Christmas time’ (from *am* ‘time’),²⁹ *cois farraige*³⁰ / *cois tine* ‘by the seaside / by the fireside’ (from *cos* ‘foot’), and in *Dé Luain, Dé Máirt* etc ‘on Monday, on Tuesday’, nouns in the dative case are preceded by a preposition, and it is therefore also referred to as the ‘Prepositional Case.’

²⁸ *Sa lá* is used in Connacht rather than *sa ló*.

²⁹ This expression is more commonly used in Ulster. In Connacht, you will hear *faoi Nollaig*.

³⁰ Not to be confused with *Cois Fharraige*, which is the region of Connemara on the coast between Galway and Ros a' Mhíl.

§2.2 An Réamhfhocal (Prepositions)

- Prepositions ending in a consonant generally cause no mutation to the following noun:

ag ‘by, at’	ag bean
as ‘out, from’	as teach

- The preposition *ar*, and most prepositions ending in a vowel, cause *séimhiú*:

do ‘to, for’ (d’ + vowel)	do bhean / d’fhear
de ‘from, off, of’ (d’ + vowel)	de bhord / d’fhéar
ar ‘on’	ar theach
faoi ‘under’	faoi bhord
ó ‘from’	ó theach

- The prepositions *i* ‘in’ and *le* ‘with’ are exceptional. *I* causes *urú* and becomes *in* before vowels. *Le* does not lenite indefinite nouns, but prefixes h to words beginning with a vowel:

<i>i</i> ‘in’	<i>i</i> mBostún; <i>in</i> áit
<i>le</i> ‘with’	<i>le</i> huisce

§2.3. Preposition and the Singular Definite Article

- The initial consonants of nouns after most prepositions plus the article take *urú*:

Tá Gaeilge mhaith ag an gcailín sin.	That girl has good Irish.
Tá tinneas cinn ar an mbuachaill.	The boy has a headache.

- Some prepositions ending in a vowel combine with the article:

ó + an > ón
 faoi + an > faoin
 de + an > den
 do + an > don

Tá sé ag teacht ón gcathair anocht.	He is coming from the city tonight.
Tá an mada faoin mbord.	The dog is under the table.

- The initial consonants of nouns after *don* and *den* take *séimhiú*:

Tá an leabhar ag titim den bhord.	The book is falling off of the table.
Tá bronntanas agam don pháiste.	I have a present for the child.

- The preposition *i* becomes *sa* when joined to the article and takes *urú*.^{C 31} *Sa* becomes *san* before vowels and causes no initial mutation: **i + an > sa/san**

Ta bia sa gcuisneoir.	There’s food in the refrigerator.
Ta an spéirbhean san oifig.	The dream woman is in the office.

³¹ In standard written Irish and all other dialects, *sa* takes *séimhiú*.

- The preposition *le* becomes *leis* before the article and takes urú:

le + an > leis an

Is maith leis an bhfear ceol.

The man likes music.

- Nouns beginning with a ‘d’ ‘t’ or ‘s’ are never lenited or eclipsed after the definite article (‘Dental Rule’, Ceacht 2):

ag an doras

at the door

ón teach

from the house

sa teach

in the house

don seomra

to the room

§2.4. Prepositions and the Plural Definite Article

- If a preposition is followed by the plural definite *na*, there is no mutation of the following noun:

do na buachaillí

for the boys

do + na > do na

ag + na > ag na

de + na > de na

ar + na > ar na

le + na > leis na

i + na > sna

§3. Sa Teach (In the House)

teach (m), sa teach

house

árasán (m), san árasán

flat (UK/IRL) / apartment (US)

seomra (m), sa seomra

room

urlár (m), ar an urlár

floor

leaba (f), sa leaba

bed

an chistin (f), sa gcistin

the kitchen

an seomra suí /suite

the sitting room

an seomra codlata /leapa

the bedroom

an seomra folctha

the bathroom

an leithreas (m), sa leithreas

the toilet

an halla (m), sa halla

the hall

an staighre (m), ar an staighre

the stairs

an gairdín (m), sa ngairdín

the garden

§4. Idioms Using Two Prepositions

- Certain idiomatic constructions use more than one preposition:

Tá grá aici ar an gcailín sin.

She loves that girl.

Níl meas acu ar an múinteoir.

They have no respect for the teacher.

Three Kinds of Knowledge

Irish distinguishes between three kinds of knowledge: knowledge of a fact (*fios*), of a person (*aithne*), and of a place (*eolas*). Note the use of the preposition *ar* with *aithne* and *eolas* but not with *fios*:

Tá a fhios agam sin.	I know that (fact).
Tá aithne agam ar Chaitlín.	I know Caitlín.
Tá eolas agam ar an gcathair.	I know the city.

CEACHTANNA LE DÉANAMH

1. Translate the following sentences; then put them into the past tense:

1. Isn't the weather beautiful? Yes.
2. Are you hungry? No, but I'm thirsty.
3. They have a big house.
4. The little boy is sick, and his mother is worried.
5. We are happy. Are you (pl) happy?
6. That tall man is not listening to us.
7. Is Séamas waiting for you (sg)?
8. That book is very interesting.
9. Are you (sg) asleep? No.
10. I know that woman.

2. Obair Bheirte: Cá raibh tú aréir?

Pair up with another student and ask each other where you were yesterday (last night, last weekend), and what you were doing. Here are some possible responses:

sa mbaile	at home
sa mbialann	in the restaurant
sa teach tábhairne	in the pub
sa leabharlann	in the library
sa gcaife	in the café
sa bpictiúrlann	at the cinema
san amharclann	in the theatre
sa leaba	in bed
ar scoil	at school
ar an trá	on the beach
faoin tuath	in the countryside

3. Cuir Gaeilge air:

- a) 1. at a door
2. on a chair
3. from a teacher
4. to a woman
5. out of a house
6. in a house
7. out of a town
8. in a tree
9. with a man
10. under a table.

- b) 1. at the woman
2. on the tree
3. on the door
4. with the teacher
5. at the girl
6. at the house
7. at the window
8. at the door
9. on the chair
10. on the table.

- c) 1. on the teachers
2. at the girls
3. with the boys
4. to the teachers
5. from the students
6. by the fire
7. by the seaside

4. Cluiche: Cá bhfuil sé?

One person is blindfolded; an object is ‘hidden’ and the person has to ask questions to ascertain where it is. The others may help by saying *Tá sin te / fuar* ‘you’re hot / cold’.

5. Cluiche Cainte: An Dúnmharú (‘The Murder’)

The detective (*an bleachtair*) has to find out who committed the murder by interviewing all participants about their alibi. Students pick slips with their identity and alibi; one (the ‘murderer’) has been given a false alibi:

bleachtair: Cé thusa? (‘Who are you?’)

tusa:

bleachtair: Cá raibh tú nuair a tharla an dúnmharú? (‘Where were you when the murder happened?’)

tusa:

bleachtair: Céard a bhí tú a dhéanamh? (‘What were you doing?’)

6. Cuir Gaeilge air:
 1. She knows him.
 2. He knows her.
 3. I don't know Paris.
 4. Seán is fond of her.
 5. She has no respect for him.

7. Read the poem 'Fear an Phoist' in Teanga is Cultúr and answer the following questions:
 1. Cé atá sa mbaile?
 2. Cá bhfuil Mamaí?
 3. Cá bhfuil an teilifís?
 4. Cá bhfuil fear an phoist?
 5. Cá bhfuil Mamaí agus fear an phoist ag dul anois?
 6. Cá bhfuil a mbróga?
 7. Cá bhfuil Dadaí?
 8. Cá bhfuil Mamaí anois? Agus fear an phoist?

Obair Bhaile

1. Draw a floorplan of your apartment, labelling the rooms. Try to furnish the apartment.

2. Cuir Gaeilge air:
 1. We were shopping in the city last week.
 2. They were in Italy in the summer.
 3. Were you at the party last night? Yes.
 4. Was the teacher angry? No.
 5. Why wasn't she swimming yesterday? Did she have a cold?
 6. Seán was studying in the library yesterday.
 7. What were you doing yesterday?
 8. We are from Germany, we lived in France last year, and we live in Dublin now.
 9. Do you know Seán? Yes.
 10. The student had respect for the lecturer.

TEANGA IS CULTÚR

Amhrán: Nóra Bheag (II)

‘A Nóra bheag, cá raibh tú aréir?’
Is é dúirt mo Mhamá liomsa
‘I gcúl an tí ag tobar an uisce
Ag foghlaim coiscéim damhsa.’

Curfá:
Agus iomba Nóra Nóra Nóra
Agus iomba is tú mo ghrá geal,
Gus iomba Nóra is tú mo stóirín
Tá mise dúnta i ngrá leat.

Is maith le Nóra pis agus pónaire
Is maith le Nóra brandy
Is maith le Nóra fataí rósta
Is itheann Nóra an t-im leo.

‘A Nóra bheag, cá raibh tú aréir?’
‘Bhí mé i gcúl an gharraí.’
‘Cé bhí agat féin ansin?’
‘An píobaire beag is a mhálaí.’

‘Little Nóra where were you last night?’
My mother asked me.
‘At the back of the house, by the well
Learning a new dance step.’

Refrain:
And iomba Nóra Nóra Nóra
And iomba you are my fair love
And iomba Nóra you are my darling
I’m locked in love with you.

Nóra likes peas and beans
Nóra likes brandy
Nóra likes roast potatoes
And she eats butter with them.

‘Little Nóra where were you last night?’
‘I was at the back of the garden’
‘Who was there with you?’
‘The little piper and his pipes.’

Casfhocail ‘Tongue Twisters’

Bhí náire ar Mháire
mar bhí sí ag gáire
ag faire i nDoire.

Bhí banjo ag Joe
agus bhí banjo ag bean Joe.
B’fhearr Joe ar an mbanjo
Ná bean Joe ar an mbanjo go deo.

Máire was ashamed
because she was laughing
at a wake in Derry.

Joe had a banjo
and Joe’s wife had a banjo too.
Joe played far better on the banjo
than Joe’s wife ever did.

Fear an Phoist
Tadhg Mac Dhonnagáin³²

Tá Mamaí sa chistin, tá Mamaí sa chistin
Tá Mamaí ag déanamh an dinnéir
Níl Daidí sa bhaile
Níl Daidí sa bhaile
Tá Mamaí sa chistin léi fein.

Tá Mamaí sa seomra suite,
Tá Mamaí sa seomra suite
Tá Mamaí ag féachaint ar an teilifís
Tá duine éigin ag an doras
Cnag cnag cnag a haon a dó a trí.

Anois tá Mamaí sa halla,
Anois tá Mamaí sa halla,
Osclaíonn sí an doras go mall
Tá fear an phoist ag an doras
Fear an phoist ag an doras
'Fáilte' arsa Mamaí 'tar isteach.'

Tá Mamaí sa seomra leapan
Tá Mamaí sa seomra leapan
Tá fear an phoist ann chomh maith
Bróg bróg eile a haon a dó
Bróg bróg eile a haon a dó
Ag titim ar an urlár.

Tá Daidí ar an staighre
Tá fear an phoist sa chófra
Tá Mamaí istigh faoin leaba
Ag éisteacht
Beidh báisteach ann amárach
Báisteach ann amárach
Arsa an fear ar an teilifís
Sa seomra suite.

fear an phoist 'the postman'; *ag déanamh an dinnéir* 'making dinner' (*dinnéir* = genitive case of *dinnéar*); *léi féin* 'by herself'; *duine éigin* 'someone'; *cnag* 'knock'; *osclaíonn sí* 'she opens'; *go mall* 'slowly'; *fáilte* 'welcome'; *arsa* 'says, said'; *tar isteach* 'come in'; *ag titim* 'falling'; *cófra* 'hot press' (i.e. closet); *beidh* future tense of *tá*; *báisteach* 'rain shower.'

³² From Tadhg Mac Dhonnagáin's CD *Imíonn an tAm* (2004); for lyrics and translation see www.futafata.com. Compare Mac Dhonnagáin's standard usage of *sa* + *séimhiú* with the Connacht dialectal usage taught in this lesson.

7

CEAHT A SEACT

FOCLÓIR

ag cur	putting
ag dul a chodladh	going to bed (sleep)
ag fágáil	leaving something behind
ag imeacht	leaving i.e. going away
ag súil	hoping
ag súil go mór le	looking forward to
ag taisteal	travelling
aintín (f)	aunt
aisteoir (m)	actor
bainisteoir (m)	manager
banaltra (f)	nurse
bláth (m)	flower
carraig (f)	rock
cócaire (m)	cook
crann (m)	tree
cruinniú (m)	meeting
dochtúir (m)	doctor
duine fásta (m), pl daoine fásta	adult, grown-up
féar (m)	grass
freastálaí (m)	attendant, waiter
gaineamh (m)	sand
litir (f)	letter
rúnaí (m)	secretary
scríbhneoir (m)	writer
slí bheatha (f)	profession
sliabh (m)	mountain, hill
spéir (f)	sky
tiománaí (m)	driver
trá (f)	beach
buartha	worried
céanna	same
geal	bright
gnóthach	busy
grianmhar	sunny
saor	free

amárach	tomorrow
an bhliain seo chugainn	next year
an mhí seo chugainn	next month
an tseachtain seo chugainn	next week
anocht	tonight
ar ball	soon
ar dtús	first
arís	again
gan mhoill	soon
go dtí	to (place)
go luath	early
in aice le	near
ina dhiadh sin	after that
níos déanaí / níos moille	later
oíche Shathairn	Saturday night
tigh (<i>old dative of teach</i>)	in the house of; cf. French <i>chez</i>

Oíche Shamhna

Oíche Shamhna (f)	Halloween
bairín breac (m)	barmbrack (fruit loaf)
bandraoi (f)	witch
bréagéadaí	fancy dress, costume
cnó (m), pl cnónna	nut, nuts
cluiche (m)	game
cluiche na bhfochupán	saucer game
culaith (f)	dress, outfit
púicín (m)	blindfold
na síoga; na daoine maithe/beaga/uaisle	the fairies
taibhse (m), pl taibhsí	ghost
úll (m), pl úlla	apple

COMHRÁ

Liam and Aisling discuss plans for Halloween and for next summer; Liam is studying a job offer in Holland.

Liam: An mbeidh sibh ag dul amach oíche Shathairn?

Aisling: Beidh cinnte. Beidh cóisir Oíche Shamhna tigh Henri. Tá mé ag súil go mór leis. Beidh chuile duine gléasta suas.

Liam: An mbeidh tú ag cur bréagéadaí ort féin?

Aisling: Beidh. Beidh mé i mo bhandraoi. Tá culaith dheas agam. An mbeidh sibhse ag dul áit ar bith?

- Liam: Beidh muid ag dul go dtí an teach tábhairne ar dtús. Níl mé cinnte cá mbeidh muid ag dul ina dhiaidh sin. Beidh mé ag dul a chodladh go luath; beidh mé ag obair sa mbialann arís Dé Domhnaigh.
- Aisling: Cén litir é seo, a Liam?
- Liam: Seo litir as an Ísiltír. Beidh mé ag obair in Amsterdam i mbliana.
- Aisling: Céard a bheidh tú a dhéanamh?³³
- Liam: Beidh mé i mo mhúinteoir ar chúrsa do dhaoine atá ag foghlaim Béarla.
- Aisling: An mbeidh tú ag taisteal?
- Liam: Beidh. Beidh mé féin agus cúpla cara ag taisteal san Eoraip ina dhiaidh sin.
- Aisling: Cá mbeidh sibh ag dul?
- Liam: Beidh muid ag fanacht sa bhFrainc cúpla seachtain, agus beidh seachtain san Iodáil againn, seachtain eile sa Spáinn, agus cúpla lá san Eilvéis ina dhiaidh sin. – Céard a bheidh tusa a dhéanamh sa samhradh? An mbeidh tú ag fanacht anseo?
- Aisling: Ní bheidh. Beidh mé ag dul go Conamara. Beidh mé ag fanacht ag teach m’aintín. Tá sí ina cónaí cois farraige. Beidh mé i mo luí ar an trá, ag léamh agus ag éisteacht leis an bhfarraige!

AN CEACHT GRAMADAÍ

§1. The Future Tense of the Substantive Verb

- *Tá* becomes *beidh* in the future tense:

Beidh mé ann amárach. I’ll be there tomorrow.

The Substantive Verb: Future Tense

beidh mé	<i>I will be</i>	beidh muid	<i>we will be</i>
beidh tú	<i>you will be</i>	beidh sibh	<i>you will be</i>
beidh sé	<i>he will be</i>	beidh siad	<i>they will be</i>
beidh sí	<i>she will be</i>		

Negative: ní bheidh
Neg. interrogative: nach mbeidh?

Interrogative: an mbeidh?
Where: cá mbeidh?

³³ Recall from Ceacht a Cúig that the question “*Céard atá / a bhí / a bheidh tú a dhéanamh*” is different from other progressive phrases we have learned.

Ní bheidh mé anseo Dé Luain.
 Bhí an Mháirt fliuch.
 Bhí sé an-fhliuch Dé Máirt.

I won't be here on Monday.
 Tuesday was wet.
 It was very wet on Tuesday.

An tSeachtain

an Luan	<i>Monday</i>	Dé Luain	Oíche Luain
an Mháirt	<i>Tuesday</i>	Dé Máirt	Oíche Mháirt
an Chéadaoin	<i>Wednesday</i>	Dé Céadaoin	Oíche Chéadaoin
an Déardaoin	<i>Thursday</i>	Déardaoin	Oíche Dhéardaoin
an Aoine	<i>Friday</i>	Dé hAoine	Oíche Aoine
an Satharn	<i>Saturday</i>	Dé Sathairn	Oíche Shathairn
an Domhnach	<i>Sunday</i>	Dé Domhnaigh	Oíche Dhomhnaigh

Cén lá atá ann inniu?
 Cén uair a bheidh tú ann?
 Cén lá a bheidh tú ann?
 ag an deireadh seachtaine
 maidin inniu
 maidin amárach
 maidin inné
 maidin Dé Máirt
 tráthnóna Dé hAoine

What day is today?
 When will you be there?
 What day will you be there?
 on the weekend
 this morning
 tomorrow morning
 yesterday morning
 Tuesday morning
 Friday afternoon

CEAHTANNA LE DÉANAMH

1. Put the translation sentences from Ceacht 6, Ceachtanna #1, into the future tense:

1. *Nach mbeidh an aimsir go hálainn? Beidh.*

2. Obair Bheirte

Céard a bheidh tú a dhéanamh nuair a bheidh tú críochnaithe leis an ollscoil? Interview your partner, then report to the class.

Here are some possible responses:

Beidh mé i mo mhúinteoir.
 Beidh mé i mo mhac léinn iarchéimeach
 Beidh mé i mo léachtóir
 Beidh mé i mo cheoltóir
 Beidh mé i mo dhochtúir etc.

3. Chain Drill

Beidh Síle ina dochtúir - Seán - mise - banaltra - ní bheidh - Siobhán - an mbeidh - mac léinn - muid - múinteoirí - dlíodóirí - aisteoirí.

4. Cuir Gaeilge air:

a) Use stative expressions.

1. She is a doctor.
2. He is not a musician.
3. Are you a teacher? Yes.
4. I am an actor.
5. His mother is a lecturer.

b) Use the paraphrastic construction with *ionam* etc popular in Donegal.

5. Obair Bheirte: Cá mbeidh tú Dé Luain?

Céard a bheidh tú a dhéanamh an tseachtain seo chugainn? Ask your partner about his/her week and say what you'll be doing each day: Dé Luain, beidh mé....

6. Count Dracula & Co

Make up a blurb about one of the following individuals, stating where they're from, where they live now, what languages they speak. Say something about their likes and dislikes, too:

Count Dracula (Rúmáineach / as an Rúmáin / Rúmáinis): *Seo é Count Dracula. Is as an Rúmáin é. Tá sé ina chónaí i seanchaisleán sa Rúmáin, in aice le Bucarest. Tá Rúmáinis líofa aige. Is duine deas cairdiúil é, ach ní maith leis uisce ná bainne. Is fearr leis fuil.*

Niall Ó Dónaill (Meiriceánach / i Meiriceá / Béarla)

Leah Müller (Gearmánach / as an nGearmáin / Gearmáinis agus Béarla)

Pierre Victoire (Francach / as an bhFrainc / Francis)

Giuseppe Verdi (Iodálach / as an Iodáil / Iodáilis)

Máirín Ní Ghallchóir (as an nGaeltacht / Éireannach / as Éirinn / Gaeilge agus Béarla)

Obair Bhaile

1. Cuir Gaeilge air:

1. Will you be there tomorrow? Yes.
2. I'm sorry, but I won't be free on Tuesday. I will have time next week.
3. We were working last night, and we'll be working again tonight.
4. Don't you have a hat on? You'll have a cold tomorrow.
5. They aren't hungry now, but they'll be very hungry later.
6. They'll know next week.
7. Will Séamas be there on Monday? No; he'll be studying.
8. They won't be working; they'll be eating and drinking.
9. Won't he be disappointed?
10. Will she be worried?

2. Cuir Gaeilge air:

1. Sunday will be wet, but I don't care. I will be in Mexico!
2. Will you (sg) be here on Sunday?
3. The shop will be too crowded on Saturday.
4. Today is Saturday, and I'm not working. I love Saturday.
5. We will have a meeting on Wednesday. Will they be there? No.
6. I'll be studying on Friday.
7. She's leaving on Monday.
8. There will be a class on Thursday.
9. They won't be here on Tuesday.
10. Friday will be bright and sunny.

TEANGA IS CULTÚR

An tSeachtain (The Week)

The seven-day week was introduced to Ireland by the Christian missionaries. The words for the days of the week reflect this origin; some are borrowed from the Imperial Roman calendar (with correspondences in all Romance languages), some reflect Christian practice.

The calendar of Republican Rome did not recognize a seven-day week. However, like elsewhere in the ancient world, the phases of the moon were observed in Roman tradition, and each day was believed to be under the control of one of the planets. When Emperor Constantine in the year 321 introduced the Judeo-Christian week as a calendar unit as part of his effort to make Christianity the state religion, the Latin names of the week days reflected this astrological identification:

Latin		French	Irish	
dies solis or	<i>sun</i>			
dies dominicus	<i>the Lord</i>	dimanche	an Domhnach	<i>Sunday</i>
dies lunae	<i>moon</i>	lundi	an Luan	<i>Monday</i>
dies Martis	<i>Mars</i>	mardi	an Mháirt	<i>Tuesday</i>
dies Mercurii	<i>Mercury</i>	mercredi	an Chéadaoin	<i>Wednesday</i>
dies Jovis	<i>Jupiter</i>	jeudi	an Déardaoin	<i>Thursday</i>
dies Veneris	<i>Venus</i>	vendredi	an Aoine	<i>Friday</i>
dies Saturni	<i>Saturday</i>	samedi	an Satharn	<i>Saturday</i>

Christians preferred using the term 'the Lord's day' (*dies dominicus*) for Sunday, and Irish *Domhnach* is derived from *dominicus* just as French *dimanche*, Spanish *domingo* and Italian *domenica*.

Wednesday through Friday, finally, reflect Christian practice of having a pattern of weekly fasting in commemoration of the events of Holy Week. Friday, the day of Christ's death, is the main fast, Wednesday is a semi-fast:

an Chéadaoin	'the first fast'
an Déardaoin	'day between the fasts' (< dia idir aoine)
an Aoine	'the fast'.

Rann

Dónall ar meisce
a bhean ag ól uisce
is na páistí ag caoineadh
ó Luan go Luan.

Dónall on the drink
his wife drinks water
and the children crying
day in day out.

Rann: An tSeachtain

Inniu an Domhnach
Beidh muid ag foghlaim.

Today is Sunday
We'll be learning.

Inniu an Luan
Beidh muid ciúin.

Today is Monday
We'll be quiet.

Inniu an Mháirt
beidh muid i bpáirt.

Today is Tuesday
We'll be friends.

Inniu an Chéadaoin
Beidh muid ag ól dí.

Today is Wednesday
We'll be having a drink.

Inniu an Déardaoin
Beidh muid dímhaoín.

Today is Thursday
We'll be poor.

Inniu an Aoine
Beidh muid ag caoineadh.

Today is Friday
We'll be weeping.

Inniu an Satharn
beidh muid ag achrann:
Céard a bheidh eadrainn?
Cat agus mada.
(CC #232)

Today is Saturday
We'll be fighting:
What will come between us?
A cat and a dog.

Samhain (Halloween) and the Celtic Year

Samhain, on the first of November, is one of four native Gaelic festivals. Spaced at three-month intervals, the four festivals divide the year into even quarters corresponding to the Irish seasons. Gaelic society being fundamentally pastoralist, the year was divided into a summer half, when out-door grazing was possible, and a winter half, when cattle needed supplementary feeding. *Bealtaine*, on the first of May, marks the beginning of summer, *Samhain* marks its end (it appears to be derived from the word for summer, *sam* in Old Irish, cf. Modern Irish *samhradh*). This primary division of the year is intersected by two agricultural festivals: St Brigid's Day (Feb. 1) marks the beginning of the agricultural year, and *Lúnasa* (Aug. 1), a harvest festival, marks its ending. It is worth noting that of the four festivals, only St Brigid's Day has been given an overt Christian name and significance; in medieval literature it is also referred to as *Imbolc*. All four festivals are marked by a wealth of traditional ritual practice. Kevin Danaher has pointed out that all four share certain features not present in other festivals, such as more or less unruly processions in disguise by the younger folk, and a wealth of propitiatory ritual intended to protect the community from the encroachment of the otherworld (Danaher 1977).

Another division of the year into quarters under the auspices of Christianity is marked by four festivals important in the Christian calendar, St John's Eve (June 23), Michaelmas (Sept. 29), Christmas (Dec. 25), and St Patrick's Day (March 17). Two rhymes from the repertoire of the co. Kerry storyteller Seán Ó Conaill from County Kerry speaks of the native divisions as 'true' (*fírinneach*), the Christian divisions as 'crooked' (*cam*), presumably referring to the fact that the native festivals were spaced at exact intervals, while the Christian ones are approximate:

Ráithí Fírinneacha na Bliana (The True Quarters of the Year)

Ráithe ó Lúnasa go Samhain	A quarter from Lúnasa to Samhain
Ráithe ó Shamhain go Lá 'le [=Fhéile] Bríde	A quarter from Samhain to St Brigid's Day
Ráithe ó Lá 'le Bríde go Bealtaine	A quarter from St Brigid's Day to Bealtaine
Ráithe ó Bhealtaine go Lúnasa.	A quarter from Bealtaine to Lúnasa.

Ráithí Cama na Bliana (The Crooked Quarters of the Year)

Ráithe ó Lá 'le Shan Seáin go Lá 'le Míchíl	A quarter from St John's to Michaelmas
Ráithe ó Lá 'le Míchíl go Nollaig	A quarter from Michaelmas to Christmas
Ráithe ó Nollaig go Lá 'le Pádraig	A quarter from Christmas to St Patrick's
Ráithe ó Lá 'le Pádraig go Lá 'le Shan Seáin	A quarter from St Patrick's to St John's.

[SOCB, 353]

Oíche Shamhna

All fruit and produce had to be stored by Samhain; fruit left after that, even if it was still edible, was considered to be ‘touched’ and unfit for human consumption. As we might expect with an end-of-summer festival, the special fruits associated with the festival are apples and nuts; other fruit have made an appearance in recent times, but all the traditional games involve the native fruits (Danaher 1977, 123): Children, hands tied on their backs, dunk for apples swimming in a basin of water, or try to grab the apples from the two ends of a spinning cross-piece of wood, which had burning candles attached to the other bar.

Like all Irish calendar festivals, the festival begins on the eve, *Oíche Shamhna* ‘the night of Samhain’. On Oíche Shamhna the walls between this world and the other world are permeable. The inhabitants of the otherworld, referred to euphemistically as ‘the good people’, ‘the little people’, or even ‘the gentry’ (*na daoine maithe; na daoine beaga; na daoine uaisle*) were thought to roam about. The dead were thought to visit the homes they used to inhabit, and chairs were set for them by the fire (Ó Grianna 1976, 33). Since *Samhain* is the quintessential liminal festival, marking the beginning of the new, darker half of the year, and allowing access to things normally hidden, many practices of divining the future are associated with it. Young unmarried women and to some extent men would attempt to ascertain the name of their future partner. A head of cabbage was hung up over the door: the first person to enter was the one you were destined to marry (Ó Grianna, 33). If you had a sweetheart already, you would place two nuts near the fire and name them after your lover and yourself: if they jumped in the same direction, all was well, if they did not, the match was not to be. Other divination games included *cluiche na bhfochupán* (‘the game of saucers’): a blindfolded person, usually a girl, had to choose one of a number of saucers: if she chose the one containing water, it meant emigration; the ring meant marriage in the coming year; the coin meant wealth, and the earth meant early death. A ring and similar tokens of the future were also baked into the *bairín breac*, anglicised as ‘Barmbrack’, a sweet loaf eaten during the festival.

Given the ubiquitous presence of the unseen on Halloween, the practice of going from house to house would appear audacious, and most family traditions took place indoors. However, to unruly members of the community, especially adolescent boys and young men, this might have been a welcome opportunity to make mischief, and there is some evidence that in some areas young men did go around in disguise, playing pranks and extorting sweets or money, reciting rhymes such as this one:

Rann: Anocht Oíche Shamhna

Ahem! Ahem!
Anocht Oíche Shamhna!
Cuir muc inár measc!
Foiligh do phónaire, a bhean an tí
Is ná foiligh mo chuidse aráin ná dí
Finíní, fáiníní! Íochtarán, uachtarán!
Itheadh na caoirigh na copóga
Agus ithimis an gráinseachán.
Hurrah! Seo, a mháistreás,
Cuardaigh do phóca
Agus tabhair rud éigin do na buachaillí
Agus scaoil chun siúil iad
Nó buail mé féin idir an dá shúil
Le píosa leathchorónach.
(CC #257)

Ahem! Ahem!
Tonight is Halloween!
Put a pig before us!
Hide your beans, Woman of the House,
But not my share of bread or drink;
Fíníní [Fenians], fáiníní! Servant, master!
Let the sheep eat dock leaves
And let us eat frumenty.
Hurrah! Now, Mistress,
Search your pockets
Give something to the lads
And let them go
Or hit me between my eyes
With a half crown coin!

SÚIL SIAR (REVISION): CEAHT 4 - CEAHT 7

Can you say the following things? If you can't, or you're not quite sure, go back to the lesson and paragraph indicated after each item:

- say 'I am (not) / I was (not) / I will (not) be' (§4.1; §6.1; §7.1)
- say 'on me, on you, on him, on her, on us, on you, on them' (§4.2)
- say that you are very angry (§4.2)
- say that the house is very big (two options in Donegal); really big; too big (§4.3)
- say that Áine is beautiful (§4.4)
- say 'How are you; what is your name; what does he look like?' (§4.5)
- say 'I am (not) working' (§5.1)
- say 'at me, at you, at him, at her, at us, at you, at them' (§5.1)
- say 'I have no money; I speak Irish; I can swim' (§5.1)
- say 'I am asleep; he is standing; she is asleep; they are sitting down' (§5.2)
- say that the weather is beautiful / bad; say that it's a nice day (§5.3)
- say that you have broken the window and have not yet written the letter (§5.4)
- say that the book is on a chair / on the chair/ on a table / under the table / in the library / in the house (§6.2)
- say where you were last night (§6.3)
- say what kind of rooms there are in your house (§6.4)
- say that you will be a teacher / postgraduate student / actor (§7.2&3)
- say 'in me, in you, in him, in her, in us, in you, in them' (§7.3)
- say where you went on holidays last summer (§7.4)
- say 'today is Monday /Tuesday / Wednesday' etc; say that you will be in school on Monday, Tuesday etc (§7.5)

Revision Exercises

1. Cuir Gaeilge air:

1. The man does not have a house.
2. The woman is wearing a hat.
3. The girl has a headache.
4. The student had a car.
5. The book is on the table.
6. Do they speak Spanish? No, but they speak Italian and Greek.
7. We don't have money, but we don't care.
8. She has long blonde hair and brown eyes.
9. Síle was dancing, and Nuala was reading.
10. I am not tired, I am hungry!

2. Transpose the following sentences into the past and future tense. The first sentence is done for you:

An bhfuil tú ceart go leor? Tá. ‘Are you all right? Yes.’ / *An raibh tú ceart go leor? Bhí.* / *An mbeidh tú ceart go leor? Beidh.*

1. *An bhfuil tú ceart go leor? Tá.*
2. *Níl fearg ar a mháthair.*
3. *Tá an páiste ina chodladh.*
4. *An mbeidh tú sa mbaile? Beidh.*
5. *Ní bheidh mé tuirseach.*
6. *Beidh muid ag léamh.*
7. *Bhí sé ag cócaireacht.*
8. *Ní raibh bia ar bith sa gcuisneoir.*
9. *An raibh an múinteoir sásta leis an obair? Bhí.*
10. *Tá áthas ar an gcailín.*

8

CEAHT A HOHT

FOCLÓIR

abair ³⁵	say
bain	take; extract
bain de	take off (clothes)
bí	be
bris	break
breathnaigh (ar)	look (at); watch
ceannaigh	buy
cuir	put
cuir ar	put on (clothes)
déan	do
déan deifir	hurry up
dún	close
éist	listen
faigh	get
fan	wait
foghlaim	learn
glac	take, accept
glan	clean
goile ^C	come here
ith	eat
labhair	speak
léigh	read
lig do scíth	relax
ól	drink
oscail	open
rith	run
scríobh	write
siúl	walk
stad	stop
suigh	sit
tabhair	give
tar	come
téigh	go

³⁵ All verbs are listed in the 2 sg imperative, the so-called ‘dictionary form.’

CEACHT A HOCHT / LESSON EIGHT

cuisneoir (m)	fridge
obair (f), gen. na hoibre	work
rud (m)	thing
stiúrthóir (m)	director, boss
uair (f)	hour, time
amach	out
cantalach	grumpy
cúpla	a couple, a few
cúpla uair	a few times
isteach	in
reasúnta	reasonable
uasal	noble
de (díom, díot, de, di, dínn, díbh, díobh)	from (from me, from you ...)
do (dom, duit, dó, di, dúinn, daoibh, dóibh)	to, for
fáilte romhat/romhaibh!	welcome; you (sg/pl) are welcome
go raibh maith agat/agaibh	thank you (sg/pl)
i gceann tamaill	in a little while
a lán oibre	a lot of work
le do thoil / le bhur dtoil	please (sg/pl)
más é do thoil é / más é bhur dtoil é ^C	please (sg/pl)
mar a deir siad	as they say
ná	do not
ná bí buartha	don't worry
ná habair é	don't mention it; you're welcome
síos	down
suas	up

COMHRÁ

Síle comes home exhausted from her first day of work temping as a secretary; Pádraigín pampers her.

Síle: Dia duit, a Phádraigín.

Pádraigín: Dia is Muire duit! Goile, a Shíle. Tá mise sa gcistin. —An bhfuil sé ag cur? Bain díot do chóta—tá sé fliuch báite. Cén chaoi a bhfuil tú, a chroí? Tá tú ag breathnú tuirseach.

Síle: Tá mé beagán tuirseach ceart go leor.

Pádraigín: Suigh síos anseo agus lig do scíth. Seo duit cupán tae.

Síle: Go raibh míle maith agat.

Pádraigín: Ná habair é. An bhfuil ocras ort? Ta bia sa gcuisneoir. Glac rud éigin le n-ithe!³⁶

Síle: Tá mé ceart go leor, go raibh maith agat. Beidh mé ag ithe i gceann tamaill.

Pádraigín: Bhuel, a chailín, cén chaoi a bhfuil do phost nua ag dul?

Síle: Tá sé ceart go leor. Tá a lán oibre le déanamh agam. Tá mo stiúrthóir beagán cantalach. “Déan é seo! Déan é siúd! Oscail an fhuinneog! Faigh cupán caife dom! Breathnaigh ar an urlár: tá sé an-salach. Glan anois é! Agus ná bí ag caint ar an teileafón!” Ach ní bheidh mé ann ach cúpla uair sa tseachtain, agus tá sé maith go leor.

Pádraigín: An bhfuil an t-airgead go maith?

Síle: Tá. Tá sé an-réasúnta.

Pádraigín: Ah bhuel. ‘Is é an bia capall na hoibre,’ mar a deir siad.

AN CEACHT GRAMADAÍ

§1. An Modh Ordaitheach (The Imperative)

- The imperative is used with close friends and family members, and when giving directions (more polite commands or requests are expressed by the conditional).
- The second person singular imperative has the same form as the verbal stem. This is the so-called ‘dictionary form’, i.e. the form under which any given verb will be listed in a dictionary, because it is identical with the stem of the verb:

Glan an t-urlár!	Clean the floor!
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- For the second person plural, the ending *-(a)igí* is normally (see below for minor modifications) added to the stem:

Cuirigí na leabhair ar an mbord!	Put the books on the table!
Déanaigí an obair bhaile!	Do the homework!

- The negative particle is *ná*, which causes no mutation, but prefixes ‘h’ to a vowel:

Ná brisigí an fhuinneog!	Don’t break the window (pl)!
Ná habair é!	Don’t mention it (sg)!

³⁶ The preposition *le*, followed by a verbal noun, is used to express purpose or necessity. In Connacht this usage of *le* prefixes ‘n-’ to vowels.

§1.1 First Conjugation Verbs

- There are two two conjugations of verbs in Irish; the first conjugation is comprised mostly of monosyllabic stems (i.e. the so-called dictionary form has one syllable only), but also has some verbs with a polysyllabic stem (more than one syllable). The second conjugation contains only polysyllabic verbs. The difference between the two conjugations is not very marked in the case of the imperative, but for future reference it is as well to discuss and learn the verbs according to the conjugation they belong to.

§1.1A. Monosyllabic Verb Stems

- To form the second person plural imperative, first-conjugation verbs add **-igí** to stems which end in a slender vowel (e.g. *cuir*), and **-aigí** to stems which end in a broad vowel (e.g. *fan*). **The verbs in the lists below should be treated as vocabulary items and mastered.**

- Verbs ending in a slender consonant:

bain	bainigí	ag baint	<i>take; extract</i>
bris	brisigí	ag briseadh	<i>break</i>
cuir	cuirigí	ag cur	<i>put</i>
éist	éistigí	ag éisteacht	<i>listen</i>
múin	múinigí	ag múineadh	<i>teach</i>
rith	rithigí	ag rith	<i>run</i>
siúil	siúiligí	ag siúl	<i>walk</i>
tit	titigí	ag titim	<i>fall</i>
tuig	tuigigí	ag tuiscint	<i>understand</i>
goile ^C	goiligí	[-]	<i>come here</i> ³⁷

- Verbs ending in a broad consonant:

dún	dúnaigí	ag dúnadh	<i>close</i>
fan (le)	fanaigí	ag fanacht	<i>wait (for); stay</i>
féach (ar)	féachaigí	ag féachaint	<i>look (at)</i>
gabh	gabhaigí	ag gabháil	<i>go</i>
gearr	gearraigí	ag gearradh	<i>cut</i>
glan	glanaigí	ag glanadh	<i>clean</i>
iarr (ar)	iarraigí (ar)	ag iarraidh	<i>ask (for); want</i>
ól	ólaigí	ag ól	<i>drink</i>
póg	pógaigí	ag pógadh	<i>kiss</i>
pós	pósaigí	ag pósadh	<i>marry</i>
seas	seasaigí	ag seasamh	<i>stand</i>
scríobh	scríobhaigí	ag scríobh	<i>write</i>
scuab	scuabaigí	ag scuabadh	<i>sweep</i>
stad	stadaigí	ag stad	<i>stop</i>
tóg	tógaigí	ag tógáil	<i>lift, take</i>

³⁷ This is not really a verb at all, but a contraction of *gabh i leith*. The plural form *goiligí* is thus historically spurious, but demonstrates the creative process at work in a living language.

▪ Monosyllabic Stems in *-igh*

Monosyllabic verb stems ending in *-igh* used to add *-igí* just like the verbs above, but the spelling reform of the mid-twentieth century simplified the spelling *-ighigí* [pronounced i:gi] to *-ígí*:

luigh	luígí	ag luí	<i>lie (down)</i>
nigh	nígí	ag ní	<i>wash</i>
suigh	suígí	ag suí	<i>sit</i>

As usual with spelling reforms there were some hitches. In some cases the **-ighi-** became reduced to simple **i** rather than **í**, in order to prevent a proliferation of length marks:

léigh	léigí	ag léamh	<i>read</i>
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§1.1B. Polysyllabic Verb Stems

- Most slender polysyllabic first-conjugation verbs are depalatalized (made broad) to add the plural ending:

sábháil	sábhálaigí	ag sábháil	<i>save</i>
taispeáin (do)	taispeánaigí	ag taispeáint	<i>show (to)</i>
vótáil	vótálaigí	ag vótáil	<i>vote</i>

- Some slender stems, however, are not depalatalized:

tiomáin	tiomáinigí	ag tiomáint	<i>drive</i>
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- There are also a few verbal stems which are broad; this example is an Ulster verb form:

teagasc ^U	teagascaigí	ag teagasc	<i>teach</i>
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§1.2. Second Conjugation Verbs

§1.2A. Polysyllabic Stems in *-igh*

- By far the largest group of verbs in the second conjugation end in *-(a)igh*. Before the spelling reform, these used to add *-igí* to the stem to form the imperative plural, but, as with the first-declension verbs in *-igh*, the spelling *-ighigí* was reduced to *-ígí*:

deisigh *formerly deisighigí* > *now deisígí*

- Verbs ending in *igh*:

bailigh	bailígí	ag bailiú	<i>gather; collect</i>
deisigh	deisígí	ag deisiú	<i>mend</i>
dúisigh	dúisígí	ag dúiseacht	<i>wake up</i>
éirigh	éirígí	ag éirí	<i>get up</i>
imigh	imígí	ag imeacht	<i>leave</i>

- Verbs ending in *igh*:

ceannaigh	ceannaígí	ag ceannach	<i>buy</i>
críochnaigh	críochnaígí	ag críochnú	<i>finish</i>

§1.2B. Syncopated Stems

- Disyllabic verbs ending in a consonant (rather than *-igh*) add the plural imperative ending to the stem, resulting in a multisyllabic verb form. There is a tendency in Irish to ‘syncopate’ such forms by dropping an internal vowel or vowels:

imir	imrígí	ag imirt	<i>play</i>
inis (do)	insígí	ag insint	<i>tell</i>
labhair (le)	labhraígí	ag labhairt	<i>speak (with/to)</i>
oscail	osclaígí	ag oscailt	<i>open</i>

§1.2C. Stems That Resist Syncopation

- Not all second-declension verbs are amenable to syncopation; syncope is not an option when the vowel in question is long, or in cases where the loss of a vowel would lead to unpronounceable consonant clustering. In such cases the plural imperative ending is simply added to the stem:

foghlaim	foghlaimígí	ag foghlaim	<i>learn</i>
tarraing	tarraingígí	ag tarraingt	<i>pull</i>

§1.3. Irregular Verbs

- There is a small group of verbs that do not conform to either of the two conjugations in all of their forms. These eleven verbs are called ‘irregular.’ The formation of the imperative is not irregular in all irregular verbs, but with a few of the irregular verbs, different parts of the verb, such as the singular and the plural imperative (as well as, in some cases, the verbal noun) are derived from different (‘suppletive’) roots.

bí	bígí	[bheith] ³⁸	<i>be</i>
feic	feicígí	ag feiceáil	<i>see</i>
clois	cloisígí	ag cloisteáil	<i>hear</i>
déan	déanaígí	ag déanamh	<i>do</i>
téigh	téigí	ag dul	<i>go</i>
faigh	faighígí	ag fáil	<i>get</i>
abair	abraígí	ag rá	<i>say</i>
tabhair	tugaígí	ag tabhairt	<i>give</i>
tar	tagaígí	ag teacht	<i>come</i>
beir (ar)	beirígí (ar)	ag breith (ar)	<i>catch</i>
ith	ithígí	ag ithe	<i>eat</i>

³⁸ NB The verbal noun of the substantive verb, *bheith*, is not, for obvious reasons, used in a compound tense with *tá*, and is never preceded by *ag*.

§2. An Tuiseal Gairmeach (The Vocative Case)

- The vocative case is used when addressing a person, and is preceded by the vocative particle *a*, which causes *séimhiú*:

Síle	<i>Sheila</i>	a Shíle
cara	<i>friend</i>	a chara
Donncha	<i>Donncha</i>	a Dhonncha

- Men's names and other masculine nouns ending in a broad consonant (i.e. belonging to the first declension) have this consonant palatalized in the vocative:

Seán	<i>John</i>	a Sheáin
Séamas	<i>James</i>	a Shéamais
amadán	<i>fool</i>	a amadáin
mac	<i>son</i>	a mhic

- Note that *ea* palatalizes as *i*, while *éa* palatalizes as *éi*:

fear	<i>man</i>	a fhir
éan	<i>bird</i>	a éin

- NB - A couple of men's names ending in a broad consonant are NOT inflected:

Liam	<i>William</i>	a Liam
Proinsias	<i>Francis</i>	a Phroinsias

§2.1. Terms of Endearment

- Terms of endearment are used in a wide range of contexts in Irish. Aside from their use in romantic situations, they are commonly used by adults talking to children; women of any age group use them frequently when addressing each other. Men tend to use them rather less among themselves; *a mhac*^C ('sonny, dude') is used affectionately between men. Terms of endearment are not usually palatalized, even if, like *stór*, *rún* or *leanbh*, they belong to the first declension:

a stór	treasure
a rún	darling (literally 'desire') ³⁹
a leanbh	child
a chroí	heart
a ghrá	love
a chuid	treasure (literally 'share')
a thaisce	treasure
a chuisle	darling (literally 'vein', 'pulse')
a mhuirín	darling

- Note that terms of endearment are not palatalized in the vocative, even if they end in a broad consonant (*stór*; *rún*; *leanbh*).

³⁹ The primary meaning of the noun *rún* is 'secret'; you may encounter this meaning elsewhere.

- In romantic contexts the endearments may become more elaborate:

a ghrá ghil mo chroí	bright love of my heart
a mhíle grá	my thousand love
a stór mo chroí	treasure of my heart

- Imperatives are frequently accompanied by terms of endearment in the vocative case:

Oscail an doras, a stór!	Open the door, darling!
Ith do dhinnéar, a thaisce!	Eat your dinner, pet!

§2.2. An Aidiacht (Adjectives)

- An adjective following a noun or personal name in the vocative singular is also lenited; an adjective following a masculine first-declension noun or personal name is both lenited and palatalized:

cara dil	a chara dhil
Síle Bheag	a Shíle Bheag
Seán Mór	a Shéain Mhóir

§2.3. Writing a Letter

- How to Open a Letter:

A dhuine uasail / pl. A dhaoine uaisle	Dear Sir(s)
A bhean uasal / pl. A mhná uaisle	Dear Madam(s)
A chara / pl. A chairde	Friend(s) (Dear Sir / To Whom it May Concern)
A chara liom	Dear friend
A sheanchara dhil	Dear old friend
A Dhaid, a Dhaidí	Dad, Daddy
A Mham, a Mhamaí	Mom, Mommy
A Sheáin dhil	Dear Seán
A Sheáin, a chara	Dear Seán
A Mháire dhil	Dear Máire
A Róisín, a stór	Darling Róisín

- How to Close a Letter:

Tabhair aire duit féin	Take care
Slán agus beannacht	Best wishes ('good-bye and a blessing')
Beir bua (agus beannacht)	Be well / best wishes ('gain victory')
Is mise le meas	I remain respectfully
Le grá ó Bhríd	With love from Bríd
Grá mór	Much love
Póg is barróg	A kiss and a hug

§3. Na Réamhfhocail ‘do’ agus ‘de’ agus a bhForainmneacha Réamhfhoclacha
(The Prepositions *do* and *de*)

DO ‘to, for’		DE ‘from, of’	
dom	<i>to me</i>	díom	<i>from me</i>
duit	<i>to you</i>	díot	<i>from you</i>
dó	<i>to him</i>	de	<i>from him</i>
di	<i>to her</i>	di	<i>from her</i>
dúinn	<i>to us</i>	dínn	<i>from us</i>
daoibh	<i>to you</i>	díbh	<i>from you</i>
dóibh	<i>to them</i>	díobh	<i>from them</i>

Tabhair bláth dom.
Taispeánaigí é dúinn.
Inis an scéal di.

Give me a flower.
Show (pl.) it to us.
Tell her the story.

§3.1. Dressing and undressing: ‘Cuir ar’ (put on) and ‘Bain de’ (take off)

- In these expressions the preposition must take an object.

Bain an hata díot.
Cuir cóta ort.
Bain a chóta de.

Take off the hat. (Literally: Take the hat off *you*.)
Put on a coat. (Literally: Put a coat on *you*.)
Take his coat off (him).

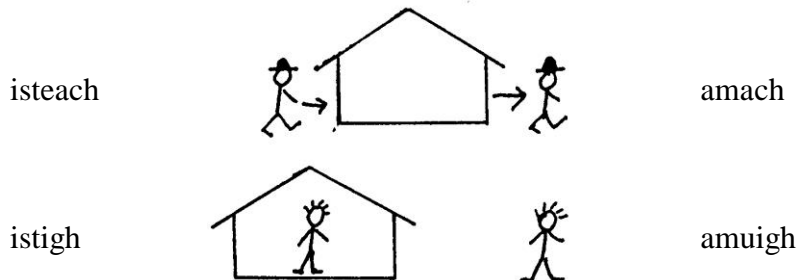
§4. In and Out, Up and Down: Aspect and Direction

§4.1. In and Out

- Irish distinguishes between *going* in/out (direction) and *being* in/out (position):

Gabh isteach agus fan istigh!
Gabh amach agus fan amuigh!

Go in and stay inside!
Go out and stay outside!



§4.1.1. Going home and being home

- Note also the distinction between ‘going home’ and ‘being home:’
abhaile ‘homewards’ sa mbaile ‘at home’

§4.2. Up and Down

suas	↗	thuas	↘	anuas	síos	↘	thíos	↗	aníos
------	---	-------	---	-------	------	---	-------	---	-------

éirigh suas!	get up
dúisigh suas!	wake up
an braon anuas	the rain ('the drop from above')
seas suas!	stand up
suigh síos!	sit down
suas an staighre	up the stairs
síos an bóthar	down the road
suas an tsráid	up the street

CEACHTANNA LE DEANAMH

1. Cuir Gaeilge air seo:

1. Dear John
2. Dear Dad
3. O friend
4. O friends
5. O big fool
6. Dear Mum
7. Ladies and gentlemen
8. O son / hey dude
9. O noble teacher
10. Dear friend

2. You are addressing the following people (by the Irish forms of their names; see pp. 90-91):
John, Bridget, James, Kevin, Brian, George, Christopher, Kate, Paul, Patrick.

3. Litir do do spéirbhean / spéirfhear

You like someone a LOT. Write him/her a letter, making good use of your terms of endearments!

4. Translate the following sentences, using first the 2sg then the 2pl imperative:

1. Listen to him!
2. Call me (put a call on me) tomorrow. I'll be at home in the evening.
3. Don't leave now. It's too early.
4. Don't eat that!
5. Don't worry (don't be worried).
6. Watch them!
7. Give me the cup, please.

8. Do the homework.
9. Come with me.
10. Don't say that.

5. Cuir Gaeilge air:

1. Get up, Seán, and come down.
2. Go out, Síle, and don't come in!
3. Come in and sit down.
4. Don't go outside today.
5. The water was coming down on us.
6. I was going up the stairs.
7. Is Aisling in? No, she's not home. She's outside.
8. Are you coming home?
9. Go home and stay home!
10. Are you upstairs? Come down!

TEANGA IS CULTÚR

Rann

I d'óige, oscail do mheabhair,
Is bailigh an fhoghlaim leat.

In your youth open your mind
and gather learning as you go.

Rainn do Pháistí

Buail ar an doras
Is féach isteach
Ardaigh an laiste
Agus siúil isteach
Suigh ar an stól
Agus bí ag ól
Cén chaoi a bhfuil tú ar maidin?
(CC #1)

Knock on the door
And look inside
Lift the latch
And walk inside
Sit on the stool
And have a drink:
How are you doing this morning?

Dhá éinín bheaga thuas ar an gcrann,
Sin é Peadar, sin é Pól.
Imigh uaim a Pheadair
Imigh uaim a Phóil.
Tar ar ais a Pheadair
Tar ar ais a Phóil!
(CC #6b)

Two little birds up on the tree
That is Peadar, that is Pól.
Go away, Peadar
Go away, Pól
Come again Peadar
Come again Pól.

Inis scéal,
Cum bréag
Nó bí amuigh!
(CC #338)

Tell a story,
Make up a lie,
Or you're out!

Aon, dó, trí,
Fathach mór buí.
Rith isteach, rith amach,
Rith anonn is rith anall
Nó rith isteach i bpoll -
Tá an fathach ar do thí:
Amach leat, amach leat!
(RR 27; *cluiche folach bíog*)

One, two, three
A big ugly giant.
Run inside, run outside
Run over there and back again
Or run into a hole -
The giant's going to get you:
Out with you! Out with you!
(*game of hide and seek*)

Amhrán do Leanbh

Caithimid suas is suas é
Caithimid suas an páiste
Caithimid suas is suas é
Is tiocfaidh sé anuas amárach.

Let's throw him up and up
Let's throw the child up
Let's throw him up and up
And he'll come down tomorrow.

Amhrán: Éirigh Suas a Stóirín

Éirigh suas, a stóirín,
mura bhfuil tú i do shuí
Osgail an doras,
agus lig mise chun tí.
Tá buidéal i m'aise
a bhéarfais deoch do mhnaoi an tí
Is tá súil agam
nach ndiúltíonn tú mé fá d'iníon.

Get up my darling
if you're not still up.
Open the door
and let me into the house.
I have a bottle for the housewife
to pour her a drink:
And I hope you won't refuse me
your daughter in marriage.

Seanfhocail

Ceart dom, ceart duit!

What's right for the gander is right for the goose.

Ná déan nós is ná bris nós!

Don't make a custom and don't break a custom.

Is é an bia capall na hoibre.

Food is a good workhorse.

Níl uasal ná híseal
ach suas seal is síos seal.

There is no such thing as high and low,
only up for a while, and down for a while.

Traditional Irish First Names

Some Irish names have become very popular in the entire English-speaking world: Brendan (Breandán), Kevin (Caoimhín), Bridget (Bríd), Kathleen (Caitlín), Moira (Máire), Maureen (Máirín), Nóra, and, more recently, Liam and Seán. In the case of names such as Brian, Neil / Neal (US), Kevin, and Sheila, most people may not even be aware that the name is originally Irish.

Many traditional names are attested already in the earliest written records (from the seventh century onwards) and appear to be native. These include, for women: Áine, Ailbhe, Bríd, Eithne, Gráinne, Síle, Sorcha, Úna; and for men: Conn, Fearghal, Fearghus, Oscar, Art, Cormac, Éamonn, Eoghan, Tadhg, Dónall, Rónán, Oisín, Ruairí and Caoimhín.

Irish naming practices did not change significantly during the first centuries of Christianization, though Latinized names and Irish names reflecting religious practice make an appearance in the written sources, especially for churchmen: Colmcille ‘the dove of the church’; Máel Muire ‘devotee (tonsured one) of St Mary.’ The name of the Virgin Mary, *Muire*, was borrowed early, but there is no indication that it was used as a girl’s name.

As elsewhere in Europe, naming practices changed drastically with the church reforms of the twelfth century. The custom of naming children after popular Christian saints brought about the spread of a more or less uniform set of names throughout Europe. Many of the most common Irish names were introduced to Ireland at this juncture. Some of the most common saints’ names for women are:

Cáit	Kate	(a Cháit)
Caitlín	Kathleen	(a Chaitlín)
Éilís	Elizabeth	(a Éilís)
Bairbre	Barbara	(a Bhairbre)
Máire	Mary	(a Mháire)
Nóra	Honora	(a Nóra)

Some common Christian names for men are:

Peadar	Peter	(a Pheadair)
Pól	Paul	(a Phóil)
Mícheál	Michael	(a Mhícheáil) ⁴⁰
Labhrás	Laurence	(a Labhrais)
Liam	William	(a Liam)
Proinsias	Francis	(a Phroinsias)
Críostóir	Christopher	(a Chríostóir)
Pádraig	Patrick	(a Phádraig)
Seoirse	George	(a Sheoirse)
Muiris	Maurice	(a Mhuiris)

⁴⁰ In Munster, the vocative of *Mícheál* is *a Mhíchíl*.

Since the Celtic Revival around the turn of the nineteenth century, the names of Irish heroes and heroines from the medieval sagas started to become fashionable among English speakers. Names such as Maeve (Méabh), Connor (Conchobhor), Emer, Niamh and Fergus from the Ulster cycle of tales, Fionn, Oisín, Dermot (Diarmuid) and Gráinne from the Fenian cycle, and Cormac from the historical cycle, which had become rare after the medieval period, became popular again. The name *Emer* is a case in point: It is usually pronounced [i:mer] today, whereas in Old Irish it was pronounced [ɛver]. Another modernism is the name *Aisling*; the word, meaning ‘dream,’ only became popular as a name for a woman in the twentieth century.⁴¹

Girls’ names based on Irish place names, such as Erin (Ireland), Shannon (the river), and Tara (the seat of the Irish high kings in Irish myth), may first have gained currency among Irish Americans as a symbol of identification with their ethnic homeland; of these, only Tara is occasionally used in Ireland.

⁴¹ In the earliest literature an *aisling* refers to a dream vision of a beautiful woman; in seventeenth-century political *aisling* poetry, the woman in the vision was typically a personification of Ireland. These personifications (Dark Rosaleen, Kathleen Ni Hoolihan etc) had a great appeal to the cultural nationalist imagination.

9

CEAHT A NAOI

FOCLÓIR

ag bualadh le X	meeting X
ag moladh	praising
ag réiteach le chéile	getting on with each other
ag troid	fighting
aintín (f)	aunt
an iomarca ^C (f)	too much
an Lá Altaithe (m)	Thanksgiving Day
árasán (m)	apartment
athair mór, seanathair (m)	grandfather
bean chéile (f)	wife
beirt (f)	two people
an bheirt acu	the two of them
bricfeasta (m)	breakfast
buidéal (m)	bottle
bus (m)	bus
carr (m)	car
ceolchoirm (f)	concert
clann (f)	children, offspring
col ceathar (m)	cousin
colscaradh (m)	divorce
dea-scéal (m)	good news ⁴²
dráma (m)	drama
drochscéal (m)	bad news
droch-chuideachta (f)	bad company
eitleán (m)	plane
fear céile (m)	husband
fírinne (f)	truth
glasraí (m, pl)	vegetables
glaoch (m)	(phone) call
gloine (f)	glass
iarsmalann, (f); pl iarsmalanna	museum
máthair mhór (f); seanmháthair (f)	grandmother
milseog (f)	dessert
muintir	family
neacht (f)	niece
nia (m)	nephew

⁴² The forms *dea-scéala* and *drochscéala* are also used; *scéala* functions as a collective noun with the meaning ‘news, tidings, message.’

óstán (m)	hotel
pióg phuimcín (f)	pumpkin pie
teaghlach, comhluadar ^C (m)	household, family
toirtín úll (m)	apple tart
traein (f)	train
turcaí (m)	turkey
uimhir (f)	number
uncail (m)	uncle
blasta	tasty
colscartha	divorced
dall	blind
daor	expensive
galánta	nice, fine
pósta	married
róbhruite	overcooked
scartha	separated
singil	single
sona sásta	very happy
uilig ^C	all
ar ais	back
ar dtús	at first, in the beginning
ar ndóigh	of course
bain sult as!	enjoy!
cén áit a ndeachaigh tú?	where did you go?
céard a tharla?	what happened?
chuig	to
cuir glaoch ar X	call X (on the phone)
déan dearmad ar X	forget X
go bhfóire Dia ar X	may God have mercy on X
i m'aonar (i d'aonar, ina aonar etc.)	by myself (by yourself, by himself etc.)
le cúpla bliain anuas	for a couple of years
mar sin	so, thus
mar de ghnáth	as usual
nuair a	when
aon, amháin	one
dó, dhá	two
trí	three
ceathair, ceithre	four
cúig	five
sé	six
seacht	seven
ocht	eight
naoi	nine
deich	ten

COMHRÁ

Sara and Seán, who are studying Irish in Boston, are discussing their respective Thanksgiving experiences.

- Sara: Dia duit a Sheáin. Cén chaoi a bhfuil tú?
- Seán: Tá mé go breá, go raibh maith agat. Cá raibh tú ag an deireadh seachtaine? Chuir mé glaoch ort cúpla uair.
- Sara: Chuaigh mé abhaile go Nua Eabhrac don Lá Altaithe.
- Seán: Cén chaoi a raibh sé?
- Sara: Bhí sé go hiontach. Bhí sé an-deas chuile duine a fheiceáil.
- Seán: Cé a bhí ann?
- Sara: Bhí mo mhuintir uilig ann: m'athair agus mo mháthair, mo dheartháir agus a bhean chéile, agus a gclann: tá beirt nia agam agus neacht.
- Seán: An raibh do dheirfiúr Máire ann chomh maith?
- Sara: Bhí. Bhí Máire ann lena fear céile.
- Seán: An bhfuil sí pósta? Ní raibh a fhios agam sin.
- Sara: Tá, le cúpla bliain anuas, go bhfoire Dia uirthi!
- Seán: Cén fáth? Céard atá cearr?
- Sara: Níl siad ag réiteach rómhaith le chéile. Bhí siad ag troid an oíche ar fad, agus mise i mo shuí ag an mbord idir an bheirt. Bhí sé uafásach. – Agus tú féin? An ndeachaigh tú abhaile?
- Seán: Chuaigh. Tháinig mé ar ais díreach inniu.
- Sara: Ar bhain tú sult as?
- Seán: Bhain; bhí sé togha. Bhí chuile duine tigh mo sheanmháthar mar de ghnáth. Ach ní mé cinnte go⁴³ mbeidh muid ag dul ann arís.
- Sara: Cén fáth?
- Seán: Tá mo sheanmháthair ag éirí sean, agus tá sí beagán dall. Is cócaire réasúnta í, ach ní raibh an bia ródheas an t-am seo. An bhean bhocht! Bhí an turcaí dóite go dona, bhí na glasraí róbhruite, agus ní raibh na fataí rósta go leor. Bhí chuile duine ag rá go raibh an bia go galánta ar ndóigh! Bhí milseog dheas againn, buíochas le Dia; rinne mo mháthair toirtín úll a bhí fíorbhlasta, agus cheannaigh mo dheartháir uachtar reoite.
- Sara: Fuair tusa an drochbhia agus mise an droch-chuideachta mar sin.
- Seán: Fuair. Níl mé cinnte cé acu is fearr.

⁴³ In this usage, *go* means 'that'. You will learn about indirect statements next semester.

Comhrá Breise

Pádraigín: Cá raibh tú, a Aisling?

Aisling: Bhí mé ar laethanta saoire.

Padraigín: Cén áit a ndeachaigh tú?

Aisling: Chuaigh mé go dtí an Fhrainc. Bhí mé i bPáras ar feadh cúpla seachtain. Bhí sé go hiontach.

Pádraigín: An ndeachaigh tú i d'aonar?

Aisling: Ní dheachaigh. Tháinig mo chara Áine liom.

Pádraigín: Céard a rinne sibh i bPáras?

Aisling: Ní dhearna muid mórán. Chuaigh muid go dtí an Louvre agus iarsmalanna eile ar ndóigh, agus d'ith muid bia galánta.

Pádraigín: An bhfaca sibh an Túr Eiffel?

Aisling: Chonaic cinnte.

Pádraigín: An bhfuair sibh óstán réasúnta? Nach raibh sé daor?

Aisling: Ní raibh. Ní bhfuair muid óstán ar bith. D'fhan muid in árasán mo dheirfiúr atá ag staidéar i bPáras. Bhí an-am againn.

§2. Na hUimhreacha 1-10 (The Numbers 1-10)**§2.1. Numbers Standing Alone**

a haon	one
a dó	two
a trí	three
a ceathair	four
a cúig	five
a sé	six
a seacht	seven
a hocht	eight
a naoi	nine
a deich	ten
a náid	zero

- These numbers are used for:

§2.1.1 Basic arithmetic:

a cúig pointe a trí	(5.3)
a haon is a haon sin a dó	(1 + 1 = 2)
a ceathair lúide a dó sin a dó	(4 - 2 = 2)

§2.1.2. Giving your telephone number:

a ceathair a naoi a cúig a haon a dó a náid a hocht (495-1208)

§2.1.3. Playing cards:

an dó spéireata	the two of spades
an t-aon hart	the one of hearts
an ceathair triuf	the four of clubs
an seacht muileata	the seven of diamonds

§2.1.4. Telling time (see next chapter):

tá sé a haon a chlog it's one o'clock

§2.1.5. And all other contexts where numbers stand on their own:

a haon a dó a trí	a-one, a-two, a-three
bus a dó	bus number two
seomra a cúig	room number five
Éilís a Dó	Elizabeth II

§2.2. Numbers Followed by Nouns (Counting Objects)

- Generally, the singular rather than plural form of the noun is used with numerals. When counting objects, a different form of the numerals 'one,' 'two' and 'four' is used. *Amháin*, 'one' follows the noun:

mada amháin one dog⁴⁴

- All other numbers precede the noun. The numbers 2-6 cause *séimhiú*:

dhá mhada	two dogs
trí chat	three cats
ceithre bhláth	four flowers
cúig bhláth	five flowers
sé bhuidéal	six bottles

- The numbers 7-10 cause *urú*:

seacht mbuidéal	seven bottles
ocht n-éan	eight birds
naoi gcapall	nine horses
deich bpeann	ten pens

⁴⁴ *Amháin* means 'only'; it was initially presumably added for emphasis. The form *aon* is found in the construction *aon mhada amháin* 'one dog only' but *mada amháin* has become the unmarked form.

Counting Objects

capall amháin	1	úll amháin
dhá chapall	2	dhá úll
trí chapall	3	trí úll
ceithre chapall	4	ceithre úll
cúig chapall	5	cúig úll
sé chapall	6	sé úll
seacht gcapall	7	seacht n-úll
ocht gcapall	8	ocht n-úll
naoi gcapall	9	naoi n-úll
deich gcapall	10	deich n-úll
capall ar bith	0	úll ar bith

§3. Cén áit a ndeachaigh tú? ‘Where did you go?’ (*chuíg; go; go dtí*)

§3.1. *chuíg*

- Used when you’re talking about going to an event or to see a person. *Chuíg* causes no mutation; when followed by the article *an* it causes *urú*:

Chuaigh Nóra *chuíg* dráma.

Nóra went to a play.

Chuaigh Liam *chuíg* an gceolchoirm.

Liam went to the concert.

Chuaigh sí *chuíg* an dochtúir.

She went to the doctor.

Chuaigh sí *chuíg* a deirfiúr.

She went to her sister.

CHUIG ‘to’

chugam	<i>to me</i>	chugainn	<i>to us</i>
chugat	<i>to you</i>	chugaibh	<i>to you</i>
chuíge	<i>to him</i>	chucu	<i>to them</i>
chuíci	<i>to her</i>		

- Chuíg* is also used in these common expressions:

Cuir litir *chuíci*.

Send her a letter.

Cuir *chugam* an báinne, mas é do thoil é.

Pass me the milk, please

§3.2. go

- Used before placenames which are NOT preceded by the definite article (cities; certain countries, incl. Ireland; American states). *Go* prefixes ‘h’ to words beginning with a vowel:

Chuaigh mé go Baile Átha Cliath.	I went to Dublin.
Chuaigh muid go hArd Mhacha.	We went to Armagh.
Tá Seán ag dul go hÉirinn.	Seán is going to Ireland.
Tá mé ag dul go Michigan.	I am going to Michigan.

§3.3. go dtí

- Used before placenames *and any other nouns* that are preceded by the article; does not affect them in any way:⁴⁵

Chuaigh sé go dtí an Fhrainc.	He went to France.
Tháinig sé go dtí an siopa.	He came to the shop.

CEACHTANNA LE DÉANAMH

1. Form affirmative sentences in the past tense from the following verbal stems, and then convert these statements into questions and negative responses. Translate the verb stem.

Example: *fan*: ‘stay’: *D’fhan sé sa mbaile; Ar fhan sé sa mbaile? Níor fhan; Fan.*

1. fág
2. éist
3. scríobh
4. ceannaigh
5. cuir
6. éirigh
7. suigh
8. críochnaigh
9. freagair
10. foghlaim

2. Translate the following sentences. Turn them into questions and answer them:

D’ól sí an bainne. ‘She drank the milk.’ – *Ar ól sí an bainne? D’ól.*

1. Ghlan sé an t-urlár.
2. Bhris an páiste an fhuinneog.
3. D’fhan sí liom.
4. D’oscail muid an doras.
5. Cheannaigh mé buidéal uisce.

⁴⁵ *Go dtí* is not a preposition though it acts like one; it is originally a verbal phrase in the subjunctive ‘until you come (to).’

6. Chuaigh sé abhaile.
7. Tháinig Máire linn.
8. Thug mé leabhar dó.
9. Chuala sí ceol.
10. Rinne mé an obair.

3. Convert the following affirmative sentences into questions and negative responses, according to the model:

Chonaic mé. > An bhfaca mé? Ní fhaca.

1. Chonaic sí é.
2. Chuala sé í.
3. Rinne siad é.
4. Chuaigh muid ann.
5. Thug sé leis é.
6. Dúirt tú é sin.
7. Tháinig sibh anseo.
8. Fuair tú é.
9. D'ith sibh.
10. Rug mé air.

4. Translate the following questions into English and answer them, first in the affirmative, then in the negative:

1. Ar thug tú bia don chat?
2. An raibh do dheirfiúr sa mbaile?
3. An ndeachaigh tú go dtí an scannán?
4. Ar chuala tú an scéal sin?
5. Ar ith tú do dhinnéar?
6. An bhfaca tú mo mhada?
7. An ndearna tú d'obair bhaile?
8. An ndúirt sé an fhírinne?
9. An bhfuair tú bronntanas?
10. Ar rug an cat ar an luch?
11. Ar tháinig Liam abhaile go fóill?

5. Cuir Gaeilge air seo:

1. Did you see that movie? Yes. It was great!
2. Did you hear the good news? No.
3. Did they go home last week? Yes.
4. Did he give you the book? No.
5. Did he do the homework? Yes.
6. Did she get the job? No.
7. Did the dog catch the cat? No.
8. Did your sister come home on Thanksgiving Day? Yes.

6. Cuir Gaeilge air:

1. five books
2. eight apples
3. two bottles
4. nine nights
5. six cats
6. seven birds
7. three glasses
8. four cars
9. ten windows
10. one class

7. Cluiche: Tá Mála Mór Agam

You are going off to Hawaii (or any place of your choice), and you need to pack a few things into your travel bag. Start with the formula *Tá mé ag dul go Hawaii amárach. Tá mála mór agam agus trí bhuidéal fíon ann*. The person next to you repeats that formula, but has to add an item of his/her own: ... *trí bhuidéal fíon agus seacht leabhar Gaeilge ann*. NB The suitcase can accommodate practically anything!

8. Cluiche: Sé Ghé

Each student says a number from one to ten plus a noun (whoever repeats a noun must pay a forfeit). However, *sé* (6) is always followed by *gé* ‘goose’.

9. Obair Ranga: Rang Mataimaitic as Gaeilge

Each student writes out a couple of simple equations on a piece of paper (in numbers not words!). Students then take turns at the blackboard, writing out the equations dictated to them by their peers. One student is nominated teacher and has to verify that both arithmetic and orthography is correct!

10. Scríobh amach na huimhreacha seo a leanas (‘Write out the following numbers’) as Gaeilge:

1. 617-495-1000
2. 724-694-5353
3. $4+5=9$
4. $6+4=10$
5. 5.63
6. $7-5=2$

11. Obair Bheirte: Laethanta Saoire: Cá raibh tú anuraidh?

Pair up with another student and ask each other where you were on holidays last year. Ask each other whether you ever were in a certain country, which countries you like etc.

12. Write about either your trip home for Thanksgiving OR the Thanksgiving from hell.

Describe the people who were there, say what you did and talked about, and what you ate and drank.

TEANGA IS CULTÚR

Rann Comhairimh ‘Counting Rhyme’

A haon, a dó
caora is bó.
A trí is a ceathair,
bróga leathair.
A cúig is a sé
cupán tae.
A seacht is a hocht
seanbhean bhocht
A naoi is a deich
gabh i leith
Suigh síos
is lig do scíth.
(CC #220)

One, two,
a sheep and a cow
three and four
leather shoes
Five and six
a cup of tea.
seven and eight
a poor old woman
Nine and ten
come here
sit down
and take it easy.

Rann do Pháistí

Chuaigh an mhuicín seo ar an aonach;
D’fhan an mhuicín seo ag baile;
Fuair an mhuicín seo arán is im;
Ní bhfuair an mhuicín seo tada;
‘Bhíoc, bhíoc, bhíoc,’ arsa an bainbhín,
‘Tá ocras ormsa.’
(RR 8)

This little pig went to market;
This little pig stayed home;
This little pig got bread and butter;
This little pig got nothing;
‘Oink, oink, oink,’ said the piglet,
‘I’m hungry.’

Rann: Nuair a Bhí Mé Óg

Nuair a bhí mé óg agus mé gan chéill,
Cheannaigh mé fídl ar scilling is réal.
Seo é an port a bhí ar casadh:
‘Os cionn an chnoic is i bhfad ó bhaile’
(CC #300)

When I was young and foolish
I bought myself a fiddle for a shilling and a sixpense
The tune it was playing was
‘Over the hills and far from home.’

Amhrán: Tá mo Chleamhnas Déanta

Ó d'éirigh mé ar maidin dhá uair roimh an lá
Agus fuair mise litir ó mo mhíle grá;
Chuala mé an smólach is an lon dubh a rá
Gur éalaigh mo ghrá thar sáile.

Since I got up this morning two hours before daybreak
And I got a letter from my own love
I have heard the lark and the blackbird sing
That my love has gone across the ocean.

Amhrán: Níl Sé ina Lá (II)

1.
Chuaigh mé isteach i dteach aréir
Is d'iarr mé cárt ar bhean an leanna;
Is é dúirt sí liom: Ní bhfaighidh tú deor,
Buail an bóthar is gabh 'na bhaile.

1.
I went into a (ale)house last night
and asked the bar woman for credit
This is what she said: 'You won't get a drop
Hit the road and go home.'

Curfá:
Níl sé ina lá, níl a ghrá
Níl sé ina lá, is ní bheidh go maidin
Níl sé ina lá, is ní bheidh go fóill
Solas ard atá sa ngealaigh.

Refrain
It's not day yet, it isn't, love,
It's not day yet, and it won't be till morning
It's not day yet, and it won't be for a while
The moon is very bright.

2.
Chuir mé féin mo lámh i mo phóca
Is d'iarr mé briseadh coróin uirthi,
Is é dúirt sí liom: 'Buail an bord
Is bí ag ól anseo go maidin.'

2.
I put my hand in my pocket
and asked for change for a crown
This is what she said: 'Sit at the table
and drink here until morning.'

3.
Éirigh i do shuí, a fhir an tí
Cuir ort do bhríste is do hata
Go gcoinní tú ceol leis an duine cóir
A bheas ag ól anseo go maidin.

3.
'Get up, Man of the House
Put on your trousers and your hat
Keep this good man company
Who will be drinking here until morning.'

4.
Nach mise féin an fear gan chéill
A d'fhág mo chíos i mo scornaigh
D'fhág mé léan orm féin
Is d'fhág mé séan ar dhaoine eile.

4.
Am I not a fool
I left my rent in my throat
I left sorrow for myself
and I left prosperity to others.

10

CEAHT A DEICH

FOCLÓIR

cara (m), pl. cairde	friend
ceathrú (f), ceathrú uair an chloig	quarter, a quarter of an hour
ceirtlis (f)	cider (alcoholic)
ceol clasaiceach (m)	classical music
ceol traidisiúnta (m)	traditional music
cluiche (m)	game
deireadh seachtaine (m)	weekend
dinnéar (m)	dinner
foireann (f)	team, crew
léacht (f)	lecture
leadóg (f)	tennis
leann (f)	beer, ale
leann dubh	stout, porter
leath (f)	half
leathuair (f)	half hour
lón (m)	lunch
meán oíche (m)	midnight
míle (m)	mile; thousand
nóiméad (m)	minute
peil (f)	soccer
píopa (m)	pipe
popcheol (m)	pop music
rac-cheol (m)	rock music
scannán (m)	movie
snagcheol (m)	jazz
tobac (m)	tobacco
toitín (m), pl. toitíní	cigarette
uair (f), pl. uaireanta	hour, time
uisce beatha (m)	whiskey
dul ag iascaireacht	go fishing
imirt	play (a sport)
péinteáil	painting
airím uaim thú/sibh	I miss you
an t-am ar fad	all the time
a chlog	o'clock
chun	to, up to, until
cráite	tormented

de ghnáth	usually
gach lá	every day
go hannamh	seldom
go léir	all
go minic	often
i gcónaí	always
idir	between
le tamall	for a while
ó am go ham	from time to time
tar éis	after
téim a chodladh ⁴⁶ / a leaba	I go to sleep / to bed
uair sa tseachtain	once a week
uaireanta	sometimes

LITIR ABHAILE

A Mhamaí,

Go raibh maith agat as do litir. D'iarr tú orm insint duit faoi chúrsaí an lae anseo. Seo anois iad. Téim chuig ranganna gach maidin ar a naoi nó ar a deich, agus críochnaím ar a cúig. Déanaim staidéar idir a hocht agus meán oíche. Uair sa tseachtain imrím leadóg leis an bhfoireann; oibrím sa leabharlann ar an deireadh seachtaine. Anois is arís, téim amach le mo chairde san oíche, ach de ghnáth, bím róthuirseach agus fanaím sa mbaile. Téim a chodladh ag meán oíche.

An bhfuil gach duine go maith sa mbaile? Cén chaoi a bhfuil Daidí? An bhfuil a chos tinn go fóill? Ní bhfuair mé litir ó Mháire le tamall. An mbíonn sí ag troid le Seán mar is gnáth? Cén chaoi a bhfuil Tiarnán? Chonaic mé mada a bhí beagán cosúil leis inné, agus bhí mé cráite.

Airím uaim sibh go léir, agus tá mé ag súil go mór leis na laethanta saoire.

Le grá,
Síle

AN CEACHT GRAMADAÍ

§1. An Aimsir Láithreach (The Present Tense)

- In Irish, as in English, the present continuous (*tá mé ag dul* / I am going) has expanded at the expense of the present tense (*téim* / I go), with the result that the use of the present tense has become relatively restricted. It is used mainly in the following three contexts:

a) With verbs of sensation and perception, and verbs of opinion:

airím	I perceive, feel
aontaím	I agree
ceapaim	I think
cloisim	I hear
deirim	I say
feicim	I see

⁴⁶ In the phrase *dul a chodladh*, *a* is a reduced form of *do*.

mothaím	I feel, sense
sílim	I think
tuigim	I understand

b) For habitual activities:

éirím go luath gach lá.	I get up early every day.
téim abhaile ar a cúig.	I go home at five.

c) For gnomic statements:

Déanann sparán trom croí éadrom.	A heavy purse makes for a light heart.
Molann an obair an fear.	The work praises its maker.

There are two conjugations of regular verbs in Irish.

§1.1. An Chéad Réimniú / First Conjugation

- We can divide the first conjugation into verbs with monosyllabic stems (1A) and those with polysyllabic stems (1B/1C).

1A	bris ‘break’ / glan ‘clean’
1B	sábháil ‘save’
1C	tiomáin ‘drive.’

§1.1A. Monosyllabic Stems

bris ‘break’	glan ‘clean’
brisim	glanaim
briseann tú	glanann tú
briseann sé/sí	glanann sé/sí
briseann muid	glanann muid
briseann sibh	glanann sibh
briseann siad	glanann siad

- One exception to this pattern is *siúil*, which is depalatalized: **siúlaim, siúlann tú, etc.**
- Monosyllabic verbs ending in *-igh* have basically the same endings but show some fluctuation in spelling and are best learned individually:

<i>stem</i>	<i>1sg</i>	<i>3sg</i>	<i>vn</i>	
dóigh	dóim	dó nn sé	ag dó	<i>burn</i> (tr)
báigh	báim	bá nn sé	ag bá	<i>drown</i> (tr)
brúigh	brúim	brú nn sé	ag brú	<i>press</i>
léigh	léim	lé ann sé	ag léamh	<i>read</i>
luigh	luím	luí onn sé	ag luí	<i>lie</i>
suigh	suím	suí onn sé	ag suí	<i>sit</i>
nigh	ním	ní onn sé	ag ní	<i>wash</i> (tr)

- Note that the subject of the verbs marked (tr) above *performs* the action of the verb: *dóinn sé* X ‘he burns (something)’; *bánn sí* X ‘she drowns (something)’; *ním* X ‘I wash (something)’.

§1.1B. Polysyllabic Stems

- Most polysyllabic verbs take the second conjugation, as we shall see, but *some* disyllabic verbs take the first conjugation, including all verbs ending in *-áil* (*bácáil* ‘bake’; *cniotáil* ‘knit’; *liostáil* ‘list’; *marcáil* ‘mark’; *priontáil* ‘print’; *sábháil* ‘save’; *spáráil* ‘save up, spare’; *robáil* ‘rob’; *vótáil*, ‘vote’). **First conjugation polysyllables are never syncopated**; thus a disyllabic stem will have a trisyllabic inflected form. Some of these polysyllabic stems are depalatalized and treated like a broad stem.

Stems in <i>-áil</i>:				
<i>sábháil</i>	<i>sábhálaim</i>	<i>sábhálann sé</i>	<i>ag sábháil</i>	<i>save</i>
Other depalatalized stems:				
<i>taispeáin</i>	<i>taispeánaim</i>	<i>taispeánann sé</i>	<i>ag taispeáint</i>	<i>show</i>
<i>gearáin</i>	<i>gearánaim</i>	<i>gearánann sé</i>	<i>ag gearán</i>	<i>complain</i>
<i>ceiliúir</i>	<i>ceiliúraim</i>	<i>ceiliúrann sé</i>	<i>ag ceiliúradh</i>	<i>celebrate</i>
Stems that preserve the stem’s palatal inflection:				
<i>tiomáin</i>	<i>tiomáinim</i>	<i>tiomáineann sé</i>	<i>ag tiomáint</i>	<i>drive</i>
Broad stems:				
<i>teagasc^U</i>	<i>teagascaim</i>	<i>teagascann sé</i>	<i>ag teagasc</i>	<i>teach</i>

§1.2. An Dara Réimniú / The Second Conjugation

§1.2A. Stems in *-(a)igh*

- The second conjugation contains polysyllabic verbs only.⁴⁷ The first and by far the largest group of verbs end in *-(a)igh* (2A). In the inflected forms, the final consonant is lost so that the inflected verb has the same number of syllables as the stem.

éirigh ‘get up’	ceannaigh ‘buy’
<i>éirím</i>	<i>ceannaím</i>
<i>éiríonn tú</i>	<i>ceannaíonn tú</i>
<i>éiríonn sé/sí</i>	<i>ceannaíonn sé/sí</i>
<i>éiríonn muid</i>	<i>ceannaíonn muid</i>
<i>éiríonn sibh</i>	<i>ceannaíonn sibh</i>
<i>éiríonn siad</i>	<i>ceannaíonn siad</i>

⁴⁷ Usually disyllabic, but there are a handful of trisyllabic verbal stems, e.g. *comhairligh* ‘counsel’ and *dúnmharaigh* ‘murder.’

§1.2B. Syncopated Stems

- Verbal stems ending in *-in*, *-il*, *-ir* and *-is* are in some (but not all) contexts syncopated, so that the inflected form has the same number of syllables as the stem:

aithin	aithním	aithníonn sé	ag aithint	<i>recognize</i>
codail	codlaím	codlaíonn sé	ag codladh	<i>sleep</i>
oscail	osclaím	osclaíonn sé	ag oscailt	<i>open</i>
freagair	freagraím	freagraíonn sé	ag freagairt	<i>answer</i>
imir	imrím	imríonn sé	ag imirt	<i>play</i>
inis	insím	insíonn sé	ag insint	<i>tell</i>
labhair	labhraím	labhraíonn sé	ag labhairt	<i>speak</i>

§1.2C. Stems That Resist Syncopation

- The remaining - very small - group of second conjugation verbs resist syncopation, so that a disyllabic verbal stem will produce a trisyllabic inflected form:

foghlaim	foghlaimím	foghlaimíonn sé	ag foghlaim	<i>learn</i>
tarraing	tarraingím	tarraingíonn sé	ag tarraingt	<i>pull</i>
taistil	taistealaím	taistealaíonn sé	ag taisteal	<i>travel</i>
freastail (ar)	freastalaím (ar)	freastalaíonn sé (ar)	ag freastal (ar)	<i>attend</i>

§1.3 The Irregular Verbs

Affirmative	Negative	Interrogative	
feicim	ní fheicim	an bhfeiceann tú?	<i>see</i>
déanaim	ní dhéanaim	an ndéanann tú?	<i>do</i>
téim	ní théim	an dtéann tú?	<i>go</i>
faighim	ní fhaighim	an bhfaigheann tú?	<i>get</i>
deirim	ní deirim	an ndeir tú?	<i>say</i>
cloisim	ní chloisim	an gcloiseann tú?	<i>hear</i>
tugaim	ní thugaim	an dtugann tú?	<i>give</i>
tagaim	ní thagaim	an dtagann tú?	<i>come</i>
beirim ar	ní bheirim ar	an mbeireann tú ar?	<i>catch</i>
ithim	ní ithim	an itheann tú?	<i>eat</i>

§1.4. Negative and Interrogative

- Verbs beginning in consonants:

negative: Ní **cheannaím** milseáin.
 interrog.: An **gceannaíonn** tú milseáin?
 neg. int.: Nach **gceannaíonn** sé milseáin?

I do not buy sweets.
 Do you buy sweets?
 Doesn't he buy sweets?

- Verbs beginning in vowels:

Ní éirím go luath.
 An éiríonn tú⁴⁸ go luath?
 Nach **n-éiríonn** tú go luath?

I don't get up early.
 Do you get up early?
 Don't you get up early?

- Responses to questions are constructed by repeating the verb:

An dtuigeann tú an léacht?
 Tuigim. / Ní thuigim.
 An bhfreastalaíonn sí ar an rang?
 Freastalaíonn. / Ní fhreastalaíonn.

Do you understand the lecture?
 Yes. / No.
 Does she attend the class?
 Yes. / No.

§2. An Aimsir Ghnáthláithreach (The Present Habitual)

- The substantive verb has a special form used to express habitual action in the present:

bím	<i>I am (habitually)</i>
bíonn tú	<i>you are (habitually)</i>
bíonn sé/sí	<i>he/she is (habitually)</i>
bíonn muid	<i>we are (habitually)</i>
bíonn sibh	<i>you are (habitually)</i>
bíonn siad	<i>they are (habitually)</i>

negative: ní bhíonn tú
 interrog.: an mbíonn tú?
 neg. int.: nach mbíonn tú?
 where: cá mbíonn tú?

Bíonn sé tinn go minic. He is sick often.

⁴⁸ Note that the interrogative particle *an* does *not* prefix an 'n' to a verb beginning with a vowel.

§3. An t-Am (Time)

1 a haon	7 a seacht
2 a dó	8 a hocht
3 a trí	9 a naoi
4 a ceathair	10 a deich
5 a cúig	11 a haon déag
6 a sé	12 a dó dheág

Cén t-am é?

Tá sé a haon **a chlog**.

Tá sé a dó a chlog.

Tá sé leathuair tar éis a trí.

Tá sé deich nóiméad tar éis a seacht.

Tá sé ceathrú chun a hocht.

Tá sé cúig nóiméad chun a dó.

leathuair, leathuair **an chloig**

ceathrú, ceathrú uair an chloig

nóiméad

chun

tar éis

san oíche

ar maidin

sa tráthnóna

ag meán lae

ag meán oíche

What time is it?

It's one o'clock.

It's two o'clock.

It's half past three.

It's ten past seven.

It's a quarter to eight.

It's five to two.

half an hour

a quarter of an hour

minute

to, until

after

at night

in the morning, a.m.

in the afternoon, p.m.

at midday

at midnight

§3.1. Talking about Daily Activities

Cén t-am a éiríonn tú ar maidin?

Cén uair a éiríonn tú ar maidin?

Éirím de ghnáth ar a hocht.

Ithim mo bhriceasta ar a naoi.

Siúlaim go dtí an ollscoil ar leathuair

tar éis a naoi.

Déanann siad a ndinnéar ar ceathrú

chun a sé.

What time do you get up in the morning?

What time do you get up in the morning?

I usually get up at eight.

I eat breakfast at nine.

I walk to university at half past nine.

They make dinner at quarter to six.

CEACHTANNA LE DEANAMH

1. Freagair na ceisteanna seo:

1. An éiríonn tú go luath ar maidin?

2. An itheann tú briceasta mór ar maidin?

3. An ólann tú tae nó caife?
4. An nglacann tú bainne nó an ólann tú tae/caife dubh?
5. An éisteann tú leis an raidió ar maidin?
6. An siúlann tú nó an dtéann tú ar an mbus?
7. An léann tú san oíche?
8. An ndéanann tú do dhinnéar féin?
9. An dtéann tú amach san oíche?
10. An ólann tú fíon nó uisce beatha?

2. Obair Ranga: Agallamh le Réaltóg

Tá agallamh agat le réaltóg chailiúil. Conduct an interview with your partner (the famous star) along the lines of:

Bia

An itheann tú: feoil glasraí bia mara ('seafood')?
bia Francach / Iodálach / Spáinneach / Indiach / Síneach?

Deoch

An ólann tú: uisce fíon uisce beatha ceirtlis?
leann dubh tae caife?

Tobac

An gcaitheann tú: tobac toitíní píopa?

Ceol

An éisteann tú le: ceol traidisiúnta ceol clasaiceach?
snagcheol popcheol rac-cheol?

San Oíche

An dtéann tú go dtí: an teach tábhairne an amharclann an phictiúrlann?

3. Put the following sentences into the present tense, then turn them into questions, and give a negative response:

1. Ghlan sé an t-urlár.
2. Bhris an páiste an fhuinneog.
3. D'fhan sí liom.
4. D'oscail muid an litir.
5. Cheannaigh mé uisce.
6. Chuaigh sé abhaile.
7. Tháinig Máire linn.
8. Thug mé leabhar dó.
9. Chuala sí ceol.
10. Rinne mé dearmad.

Obair Bhaile

1. Cuir Gaeilge air seo:

1. I go to sleep at nine o'clock every night.
2. She eats breakfast at five thirty every morning.
3. Do you take milk? No.
4. Do you understand his book? Yes.
5. He doesn't come here often.
6. They buy vegetables here every day.
7. She runs two miles every day.
8. He studies all the time. [i.e. 'he does be studying']
9. Do you play soccer? Yes.
10. Do you eat meat? No.

2. What do you do every day? Every weekend? Write a schedule of your activities.

3. Imagine you're an anthropologist doing field work on Mars. What are regular activities of the locals?

TEANGA IS CULTÚR

Seanfhocail

Déanann neart ceart.

Might is right.

Déanann sparán trom croí éadrom.

A full purse makes for a light heart.

Molann an obair an fear.

The work praises its maker.

Aithníonn ciaróg ciaróg eile.

It takes one beetle to recognize another.

Giorraíonn beirt bóthar.

Company shortens the road.

Tarraingíonn scéal scéal eile.

One story draws out another.

Bíonn an fhírinne searbh.

Truth is bitter.

Bíonn gach tosach lag.

Every beginning is weak.

Bíonn siúlach scéalach.

A traveller is full of tales.

Nuair a bhíonn an braon istigh,
bíonn an chiall amuigh.

When a drop has been taken,
sense goes out the door.

Tomhas

Céard a théann suas nuair a thagann an fhearhainn anuas?

What goes up when the rain comes down?

Rann do Pháistí

Gugalaí-gug, mo chircín dubh,
Suíonn sí síos is beireann sí ubh:
Ubh inné is ubh inniu,
Gugalaí-gug mo chircín dubh.
(RR 4)

Gugalaí-gug, my little black hen,
Sits down and lays an egg:
One egg yesterday and one egg today,
Gugalaí-gug, my little black hen.

Rann: An t-Am ‘Telling Time’

Tic, toc an gcloiseann tú mé?
Is mise an clog, is seanchlog mé.
Buailim a haon is buailim a dó
Ní chloiseann tú mé chomh luath sa ló.
Buailim a trí, a ceathair is a cúig;
Muintir an tí go fóill i suan.
Buailim a sé is buailim a seacht;
Éirigh a Róis, is réitigh an teach.
Buailim a hocht; tá an bricfeasta réidh.
Suígí síos is ólagaí bhur gcuid tae.
Buailim a naoi go hard is go binn;
Bígí ag triall ar scoil le bhur linn.
Buailim a deich is a haon déag a chlog;
Gach duine ag obair ag saothrú a chuid.
Buailim a dó dhéag ag meán lae
Fáilte an Aingil is abraigí é.
(CC #227)

Tick, tock, do you hear me?
I’m the clock – I’m an old clock.
I strike one and I strike two
You don’t hear me so early in the day.
I strike three, four and five
The household is still asleep.
I strike six and I strike seven;
Get up, Rose, and get the house in order.
I strike eight; breakfast is ready.
Sit down and drink your tea.
I strike nine, loud and melodious
Set out for school at this time.
I strike ten and I strike eleven
Everyone working earning a living.
I strike twelve at noon
for you to recite the Angelus.

11

CEACHT A HAON DÉAG

FOCLÓIR

bailigh, ag bailiú	collect
cuidigh le, ag cuidiú le	help
fiafraigh de, ag fiafraí de	ask
freagair, ag freagairt	answer
déan fabhar dom	do me a favor
iarr, ag iarraidh	request, want
iarr (ar dhuine)	ask (someone)
inis, ag insint	tell
crann Nollag (m)	Christmas tree
laethanta saoire (m., pl)	vacation
Nollaig (f)	Christmas
saoire (f)	holiday, vacation
úrscéal (m)	novel
éigin / eicint ^C	some
tuillte	earned
ó (uaim, uait, uaidh, uaithi, uainn, uaibh, uathu)	from (from me, from you, etc)
roimh (romham, romhat, roimhe, roimpi, romhainn, romhaibh, rompu)	before (before me, before you, etc)
an samhradh seo chugainn	next summer
an tseachtain seo chugainn	next week
an mhí seo chugainn	next month
céard atá ann?	what is it?
a choíche	ever, never (future events)
gan mhoill	soon
go leor	plenty; enough
go raibh míle maith agat	thank you very much
i gceann tamaill	in a while, later
i mbliana	this year
in am	in time
is féidir le X	X is able, X can
le déanamh	to do
níos déanaí	later
nó dhó	or two
sula	before (used with verb)
tá X ó Y	X is needed by Y (person); Y (person) needs X

COMHRÁ

Tar éis an ranga...

- Áine: Fan nóiméad, a Mháirín, tá rud eicínt agam duit. Nollaig shona duit!
- Máirín: Go raibh míle maith agat.
- Áine: Tá fáilte romhat. Ná hoscail do bhronntanas roimh an Nollaig!
- Máirín: Ceart go leor, ní osclóidh! Agus seo é bronntanas beag duitse.
- Áine: Ó, go raibh míle maith agat! (*ag breith air*) Hmm. Céard atá ann?
- Máirín: Ní inseoidh mé duit é sin! Caithfidh⁴⁹ tú fanacht!
- Áine: Ceart go leor, fanfaidh mé! Go raibh maith agat arís.
- Máirín: Tá fáilte romhat. Céard a dhéanfaidh tú ar na laethanta saoire?
- Áine: Ní dhéanfaidh mé rud ar bith. Rachaidh mé abhaile agus fanfaidh mé sa mbaile. Cuideoidh mé le mo thuismitheoirí; beidh go leor le déanamh againn sa teach – gheobhaidh muid crann Nollag agus déanfaidh muid cócaireacht. Ach beidh saoire dheas agam – íosfaidh mé bia maith, turcaí, císte. Léifidh mé úrscéal nó dhó. Ní dhéanfaidh mé obair ar bith. Bainfidh mé sult as sin.
- Máirín: Bainfidh, cinnte. Tá saoire tuillte agat.
- Áine: O, an ndéanfaidh tú fabhar dom, a Mháirín?
- Máirín: Déanfaidh. Céard atá uait?
- Áine: An bhfeicfidh tú Pádraigín sula n-imeoidh sí?
- Máirín: Feicfidh.
- Áine: An féidir leat a bronntanas a thabhairt di?
- Máirín: Is féidir. Tabharfaidh mé di anocht é.

AN CEACHT GRAMADAÍ

§1. An Aimsir Fháistineach (The Future Tense)

- The difference between the two conjugations is more marked in the future tense than in the present.

§1.1. First Conjugation Verbs

- The future tense of first conjugation verbs is formed by adding the ending *-f(a)idh* to the stem:
- The ‘f’ of the future tense stem is pronounced as an ‘h’ in Connacht Irish.

⁴⁹ In this usage, *caithfidh* means ‘must’. You will learn this construction next semester.

§1.1A. Monosyllabic Stems

cuir		glac	
cuirfidh mé	<i>I will put</i>	glacfaidh mé	<i>I will take/accept</i>
cuirfidh tú	<i>you will put</i>	glacfaidh tú	<i>you will take/accept</i>
cuirfidh sé/sí	<i>he/she will put</i>	glacfaidh sé/sí	<i>he/she will take/accept</i>
			<i>accept</i>
cuirfidh muid	<i>we will put</i>	glacfaidh muid	<i>we will take/accept</i>
cuirfidh sibh	<i>you will put</i>	glacfaidh sibh	<i>you will take/accept</i>
cuirfidh siad	<i>they will put</i>	glacfaidh siad	<i>they will take/accept</i>

- Monosyllabic verbs in *-igh* lose their stem ending before adding the future ending:

-faidh		-fidh	
dóigh ‘burn’	dófaidh	léigh ‘read’	léifidh
báigh ‘drown’	báfaidh	nigh ‘wash’	nífidh
brúigh ‘press’	brúfaidh	luigh ‘lie’	luífidh
buaigh ‘win’	buafaidh	suigh ‘sit’	suífidh

§1.1B. Polysyllabic Stems

- Polysyllabic stems tend to be depalatalized and take a broad *-faidh*, but there are exceptions:

-faidh		-fidh	
taispeáin ‘show’	taispeán faidh	tiomáin ‘drive’	tiomáin fidh
ceiliúir ‘celebrate’	ceiliúr faidh		
sábháil ‘save’	sábhál faidh		
vótáil ‘vote’	vótál faidh		

§1.2. Second Conjugation Verbs

- The future tense of second-conjugation verbs is formed by adding the ending **-óidh / -eoidh** to broad / slender stems respectively.

§1.2A. Stems ending in *-(a)igh*

- Most second-conjugation verbs end in *-(a)igh*, an ending which is lost in the future tense:

ceannaigh		imigh	
ceannóidh mé	<i>I will buy</i>	imeoidh mé	<i>I will leave</i>
ceannóidh tú	<i>you will buy</i>	imeoidh tú	<i>you will leave</i>
ceannóidh sé/sí	<i>he/she will buy</i>	imeoidh sé/sí	<i>he/she will leave</i>
ceannóidh muid	<i>we will buy</i>	imeoidh muid	<i>we will leave</i>
ceannóidh sibh	<i>you will buy</i>	imeoidh sibh	<i>you will leave</i>
ceannóidh siad	<i>they will buy</i>	imeoidh siad	<i>they will leave</i>

§1.2B. Syncopated Stems

- Other second-conjugation verbs add the future ending to the stem. Often the stem is syncopated in the process, so that the inflected form has the same number of syllables as the stem:

-óidh		-eoidh	
codail ‘sleep’	codlóidh	aithin ‘recognize’	aithneoidh
oscail ‘open’	osclóidh	imir ‘play’	imreoidh
freagair ‘answer’	freagróidh	inis ‘tell’	inseoidh
labhair ‘talk’	labhróidh		

§1.2C. Stems that Resist Syncopation

- Some few second-conjugation verbs resist syncopation, so that a disyllabic stem will produce a trisyllabic inflected form:

-óidh		-eoidh	
freastail ‘attend’	freastalóidh	foghlaim ‘learn’	foghlaimeoidh
taistil ‘travel’	taistealóidh	tarraing ‘pull’	tarraingeoidh

Negative:	ní (causes <i>séimhiú</i>)	ní chuirfidh mé ní imeoidh siad
Interrogative:	an (causes <i>urú</i>)	an dtaistealóidh tú? an ólfaidh tú ⁵⁰
Neg. int.:	nach (causes <i>urú</i>)	nach nglacfaidh tú nach n-ólfaidh tú
Before:	sula (causes <i>urú</i>)	sula n-imeoidh mé

⁵⁰ As in the present tense, the interrogative particle does not prefix ‘n’ to verbs beginning with a vowel.

Samplaí:

Cuirfidh mé an cupán ansin.	I will put the cup there.
Freagróidh sé gan mhoill.	He will answer soon.
Ní thógfaidh sé teach sa gcathair seo.	He will not build a house in this city.
Ní chodlóidh sé anseo.	He won't sleep here.
An nglanfaidh sé an teach?	Will he clean the house?
An éireoidh tú ag a seacht amárach?	Will you get up at seven tomorrow?
Nach gceannóidh tú bronntanas dó?	Won't you buy a present for him?

§1.3. The Irregular Verbs

- The irregular verbs have the following future tense forms:

Affirmative	Negative	Interrogative	
beidh	ní bheidh	an mbeidh	<i>be</i>
feicfidh	ní fheicfidh	an bhfeicfidh	<i>see</i>
cloisfidh	ní chloisfidh	an gcloisfidh	<i>hear</i>
déanfaidh	ní dhéanfaidh	an ndéanfaidh	<i>do</i>
tabharfaidh	ní thabharfaidh	an dtabharfaidh	<i>give</i>
tiocfaidh	ní thiocfaidh	an dtiocfaidh	<i>come</i>
béarfaidh ar	ní bhéarfaidh ar	an mbéarfaidh ar	<i>catch, hold</i>
gheobhaidh	ní bhfaighidh	an bhfaighidh	<i>get, find</i>
íosfaidh	ní íosfaidh	an íosfaidh	<i>eat</i>
déarfaidh	ní déarfaidh	an ndéarfaidh	<i>say</i>
rachaidh	ní rachaidh	an rachaidh	<i>go</i>

§2. The Prepositions *ó* and *roimh* and their Prepositional Pronouns

Ó 'from'	ROIMH 'before'
uaim <i>from me</i>	romham <i>before me</i>
uait <i>from you</i>	romhat <i>before you</i>
uaidh <i>from him</i>	roimhe <i>before him</i>
uaithi <i>from her</i>	roimpi <i>before her</i>
uainn <i>from us</i>	romhainn <i>before us</i>
uaibh <i>from you</i>	romhaibh <i>before you</i>
uathu <i>from them</i>	rompu <i>before them</i>

- The preposition *ó* is used to express need:

Céard a bheidh uait?	What will you need?
Beidh peann uaim.	I will need a pen.

CEACHTANNA LE DEANAMH

1. Future Tense, First Conjugation

Cuir Gaeilge air seo:

1. I will write a letter.
2. She will close the door.
3. You will take a drink, won't you?
4. Will you put the milk here?
5. He won't wait for her.
6. She will sweep the floor.
7. I will enjoy the night.
8. Won't they drink milk?
9. We will listen to him.
10. I shall run to the shop.

2. Future Tense, Second Conjugation

Cuir Gaeilge air seo:

1. She will finish her homework now.
2. We will sleep well tonight.
3. I will open the window.
4. Will he answer my question?
5. Shall we tell him the good news?
6. He will not leave his daughter.
7. He will collect stories. (*scéalta*)
8. The children will not play together.
9. Will you buy a coat there?
10. I will help the woman of the house. (*bean an tí*)

3. Cuir Gaeilge air seo:

1. I will go home later.
2. Will they eat meat? I don't know.
3. I'll see you tomorrow!
4. They won't see you.
5. Will you finish it in time? No.
6. She'll get a great job.
7. I'll get up at five o'clock tomorrow morning, but I won't do anything until nine.
8. Won't they come back tomorrow? No, they'll never come back.
9. Will he listen to me? Yes.
10. I won't buy anything there. It's too expensive.
11. He won't get a call from me today!

4. Plan your winter holidays. What will you do? What presents will you give to your friends and family? Where will you travel? When will you return?

5. You are planning a three-day fieldtrip. Write out a detailed plan for the participants, listing speakers and their transportation, speaking times, accommodation, meals, and entertainment. Write out your plans using the future tense.

TEANGA IS CULTÚR

Casfhocal ‘Tongue Twister’

Ní thuigfidh mise fear as Toraigh
is ní thuigfidh fear as Toraigh mé.

I won’t understand a man from Tory (Island),
and a man from Tory won’t understand me.

Seanfhocail

Mol an óige agus tiocfaidh sí.

Praise the young and they will get there.

Béarfaidh bó éigin lao éigin lá éigin.

Some cow will have some calf some day.

Cuidigh féin leat is cuideoidh Dia leat!

Help yourself and God will help you!

Nollaig agus an Bhliain Úr (Christmas and New Year)

Modern western Christmas customs are observed in Ireland today, including Christmas tree, Christmas cards and presents, and British-style Christmas dinner, with its obligatory turkey, brussel sprouts and Christmas crackers. Introduced from Britain, these customs are, however, of relatively recent vintage in Ireland. The older layer of native custom described below, which it has to some extent at least replaced, is more likely to reflect common medieval European tradition.

The Holy Family, Mary, Joseph, and Jesus, were believed to walk about on earth on Christmas Eve, and a candle was lit in every window, often by the youngest child, to show the wanderers that they were welcome there:

Bíonn soilse ar lasadh in gach aon fhuinneog in gach tigh Oíche Nollag, Oíche Lae Nollag, Oíche Choille, Oíche Lae Choille, Oíche Nollag Beag, agus Oíche Lae Nollag Beag, ar fud na bparóisteacha timpeall. Le honóir d’Ár Slánaitheoir atá gach éinne á dhéanamh. Bíonn suipéar maith agus dinnéar maith Lá Nollag mar onóir dó leis. (LSÍC, 354f)

Lights burn in every window in every house on Christmas Eve, the night of Christmas Day, New Year’s Eve, the night of New Year’s Day, Little Christmas Eve, the night of Little Christmas Day in all the parishes round about. It is in honour of Our Saviour that everyone does it. It is in honour of him too that there is a good supper and a good dinner on Christmas Day and Christmas Eve.
(SOCB, 319)

This folk belief is also reflected in literature, as in Máirtín Ó Direáin's poem *Cuireadh do Mhuire* 'Invitation to Mary,' and in Máire Mhac an tSaoi's *Oíche Nollag*:

Fágaidh an doras ar leathadh ina coinne,
An Mhaighdean a thiofaidh is a naoi ar a hucht [...]
Luífidh Mac Dé ins an tigh⁵¹ seo anocht.

*Leave the door ajar for them
Our Lady who will come with her baby in her arms [...]
The Son of God will sleep in this house tonight.*

In a short story by Pádraig Pearse, St Mary is offered hospitality by a childless couple and in return grants her hostess's request for a child.

Animals, too, were thought to feel the divine presence: at midnight on Christmas Eve the animals have the power of human speech, and ox and ass are said to go down on their knees in reverence. On the Eve of Epiphany (6th of January; in some areas called 'little Christmas,' *Nollaig Bheag*), water was said to turn to wine, rushes to silk, and gravel to gold, in memory not only of the three Magi, but also of the Wedding at Cana, which was thought to have taken place on that day (SOCB, 318).

Decorating the house with holly is also traditional, whether it is native or a reflection of English custom. Christmas mumming in Ireland is demonstrably of English origin. It is found in those areas in which English influence goes back longest, in the area around Dublin referred to as 'the Pale', in Wexford, and in the Northeastern counties. Although it is well-established in those areas, and the English cast of characters has received some Irish additions (in some areas St Patrick beats his rival St George), it never was part of Irish-language tradition.

Gaelic tradition did, however, have its own version of Christmas disguise and procession: On St Stephen's Day (December 26th), the wrenboys (*lucht an dreoilín*) went from house to house, dressed up and carrying a live or dead wren, and reciting poetry and collecting gifts:

Ó mhaidean go tráthnóna bíonn lucht a dreoilín ag imeacht ó thig go tig, a's a dreoilín marabh acu ar bharr cleithe, agus craobh ghlas agus ribíní tímpal air. A' bailiú airigid a bhíonn lucht a' dreoilín. A' dul isteach sa tig dóibh, abaraid siad rócán an dreoilín, agus nuair a bhíonn sé ráit' aca, agus ábhar facht⁵² aca, bailíonn siad leó ansan.⁵³ (LSÍC 355)

From morning to evening the wrenboys go from house to house, with a dead wren on top of a staff, which has a green branch and ribbons around it. Collecting money is what the wrenboys do. When they enter the house they say the rime of the wren, and when they have said it, and got something, they go off again.
(SOCB, 319)

⁵¹ = *teach*. The oblique case form *tigh* (= the dative form) has taken the place of the nominative in Munster Irish.

⁵² = *faighte*, 'gotten'.

⁵³ Ó Duilearga's spelling attempts to represent Munster dialect closely; the passage contains many divergences from modern standard orthography.

Here is a typical wrenboy rhyme:

Dreoilín, dreoilín, rí na n-éan
 Lá Fhéile Stiofáin a ceapadh mé.
 Éirigh suas, a bhean an tí
 Caith an donacht as do chroí
 Agus tabhair cúpla pingin don dreoilín. (CC #262a)

*Wren, wren, king of the birds
 On St Stephen's Day I was trapped
 Get up, Woman of the House
 Banish evil from your heart
 And give a couple of pence to the wren.*

As at Halloween and St Brigid's Day, the ritual and disguise accommodated and sanctioned noisy and unruly behaviour, especially if the procession included a hobby-horse, the *láir bhán*. The one-sided drum now ubiquitously associated with the traditional music *seisiún*, the *bodhrán*, was originally only associated with the wrenboy procession (Danaher 1977, 127). Some of the wren rhymes are quite aggressive:

Dreoilín, dreoilín, cois chlaí an chloch
 Chaith me mo mhaide leis, bhris mé a chos.
 Éirigh i do shuí, a bhean an tí,
 Agus tabhair dúinn deoch
 Nó sáfaidh mé an dreoilín siar i do chorp! (LSÍC 355)

*The wren, the wren, at the foot of the stone wall
 I threw my stick at him, I broke his leg.
 Get up, woman of the house,
 And give us a drink,
 Or I will stuff the wren down your throat! (SOCB, 319)*

New Year's, called *Lá Coille* (from Latin 'Calends Day') or *Lá Cinn Bhliana* 'Day of the Year's End' was a comparatively minor holiday. The custom of persuading one's neighbours to have a drink, though much less widespread than in Gaelic Scotland, is also attested in Ireland (SOCB, 318). The formula *Go mbeirimid beo ar an am seo arís* 'May we be alive this time next year' was said on New Year's Eve. As on Christmas Day itself, everyone, even the poorest members of the community, were supposed to get a good meal:

Tugtar Oíche na Coda Móire ar Oíche Choille. Siud é an focal a bhíonn ar siúl ag na daoine an oíche sin:
 'Corcán mór go mbuailimid síos é
 Go n-ithimid ár ndóthain
 Agus is cuma cé dhíolfaidh!'

An té ná híosfadh a dhóthain an oíche sin, ní íosfadh sé go ceann bliana eile é.
(LSÍC, 353)

Oíche Choille is called 'the Night of the Big Meal.' This is the saying the people have about that night:

*'A big pot let us put down
That we may eat our fill
No matter who pays for it!'*

Whoever did not eat his fill that night, would not eat it for another year. (SOCB, 318)

Dán: Cuireadh do Mhuire 'Invitation to Mary'

le Máirtín Ó Díreain (as *Dánta Aniar*, 1943)
Nollaig 1942

An eol duit, a Mhuire,
Cá rachair i mbliana
Ag iarradh foscaidh
Do do Leanbh Naofa
Tráth a bhfuil gach doras
Dúnta ina éadan
Ag fuath is uabhar
An chine dhaonna?

Do you know, Mary,
Where you will go this year
Looking for shelter
For your holy child
When every door
Is closed in His face
By the hate and the pride
Of the human race?

Deonaigh glacadh
Le cuireadh uaimse
Go hoileán mara
San Iarthar cianda:
Beidh coinnle geala
I ngach fuinneog lasta
Is tine mhóna
Ar theallach adhainte.

Deign to accept
My invitation
To an island in the sea
In the remote West:
Bright candles
Will shine in every window
And a turf fire
On the hearth.

Amhráin Nollag

Oíche Chiúin ‘Silent Night’

Oíche chiúin, oíche mhic Dé
Cách ina suan, dís araon,
Dís is dílse ag faire le spéis
Naíon beag gnaoigheal
 ceanantais caomh
Críost ina chodladh go séimh
Críost ina chodladh go séimh.

Silent Night, night of God’s son
Everyone’s asleep, except for one couple
The most faithful couple watching with
affection
Over a small beautiful dear fair child:
Christ, calmly asleep
Christ, calmly asleep.

Oíche chiúin, oíche mhic Dé
Aoirí ar dtús chuala an scéal
Allelúia aingeal ag glaoch
Cantain suairc i ngar is i gcéin
Críost an slánaitheoir féin
Críost an slánaitheoir féin.

Silent night, night of God’s son.
Shepherds first heard the tale
The angels’ calling ‘Halleluya’
Lovely chanting near and far.
Christ the saviour himself
Christ the saviour himself.

Carúl na Nollag ‘A Christmas Carol’

Dia do bheatha a Naí anocht
A rugadh insa stábla bocht
Go ciúin gan chaoi i do luascadh a luí
Tá do mháithrín le do thaobhsa.

God be with you tonight, little one
Who was born in the poor stable
Your mother’s by your side, rocking you
quietly to sleep without tears.

Anseo ina luí sa mainséirín
I gcró chúng an asailín
Gean is grá ó Bheithilín
Ag cur síocháin i gcroí gach éinne.

Lying here in the little manger
In the donkey’s narrow shed
Affection and love from Bethlehem
Is putting peace in everyone’s heart.

Na haingle insna Flaithis thuas
Na haoirí ag triall ó shliabh anuas
Ag neosadh dúinn gur rugadh Críost
Ag tabhairt féirín uainn go léir dhuit.

The angels in heaven above
The shepherds coming down the hill
Telling us that Christ is born
And gringing gifts from us all.

Dia do bheatha a Naí anocht
A rugadh insa stábla bocht
Go ciúin gan chaoi i do luascadh a luí
Tá do mháithrín le do thaobhsa.

God be with you tonight, little one
Who was born in the poor stable
Your mother’s by your side, rocking you
quietly to sleep without tears.

Beannachtaí na Nollag – Christmas Greetings

Nollaig shona duit	Merry Christmas
Nollaig mhaith chugat	Merry Christmas
Nollaig faoi shéan is faoi shonas duit	A prosperous and happy Christmas to you
Beannachtaí na Nollag / na hAthbhliana	Christmas / New Year's Greetings
Athbhliain faoi mhaise duit	Happy New Year

Foclóirín Beag na Nollag

crann Nollag	Christmas tree
coinneal, pl coinne	candle
lampaí draíochta	tree lights ('magic lamps')
cártaí Nollag	Christmas cards
siopadóireacht na Nollag	Christmas shopping
bronnatanas	present
Aifreann na Nollag	Christmas mass, midnight mass
ag dul chuig an aifreann	going to mass
máinséar	crèche (belen)
pleascóga Nollag	Christmas crackers
hataí páipéir	paper hats
Dadaí na Nollag / San Nioclás	Father Christmas / Santa Claus
Dinnéar Lá Nollag	Christmas Dinner
cóilis	cauliflower
bachlóga Bhruiséile	Brussels sprouts
tornapaí	turnip
turcaí	turkey
toirtín úll	apple pie
traidhfil	trifle
císte Nollag, maróg Nollag	British style Christmas pudding
uisce beatha	whisky

SÚIL SIAR (REVISION): CEACHT 8 – CEACHT 11

Can you say the following things? If you can't, or you're not quite sure, go back to the lesson and paragraph indicated after each item:

- tell first one person, then two, to listen, to clean the house, to get up, to leave, to buy coffee, to open the door, to speak Irish, to sit down, to be quiet, to come here, and to go there (§8.1).
- now tell them NOT to do any of the above-mentioned (§8.1).
- address the following people: Cáit, Donncha, Pádraigín, Seán, Séamas, Máire (§8.2).
- know at least six different terms of endearment to address your true love (§8.2.1).
- say 'give me a kiss, NN [insert personal name], love of my heart' (§8.2.1).
- address a letter to NN conveying similar sentiments, and closing with appropriate greetings (§8.2.3).
- say 'to me, to you, to him, to her, to us, to you, to them' (§8.3).
- say 'from me, from you, from him, from her, from us, from you, from them' (§8.3).
- say 'give me the book'; 'take off your hat'; 'put on your coat'; 'buy me an ice cream'; 'tell me' to first one person, then two (§8.1/§8.3)
- tell first one person, then two, to come in; go out; go downstairs; come upstairs; sit down and get up again (§8.4).
- say 'I got up, I washed myself, I put on my trousers, I ate my breakfast, I ran outside, I got the bus, I went to university, I came into the classroom, I sat down, I listened to the teacher, I fell asleep (§9.1).
- now say that you didn't do any of the above (§9.1).
- now ask Síle whether she did any of the above yesterday (§9.1).
- say the numbers from 1-10 (§9.2).
- say '1 + 1 = 2; 8 - 2 = 6' (§9.1.1).
- say your telephone number (§9.1.2).
- count Fionn Mac Cumhail's 10 cats (one cat, two cats, three cats etc; §9.2.2)
- say that you went to a concert; to the doctor; to your sister's; to Dublin; to Alaska; to France; to the library (§9.3).
- say what you do every day (§10.1).
- ask Seán whether he does any of these things; as it turns out, he doesn't: report what he doesn't do (§10.1.3).
- say 'I am (habitually), you are (habitually), he is (habitually), etc (§10.2).
- say what time it is (§10.3).
- describe what you will do tomorrow.
- say 'I will clean; I will drink; I will buy; I will leave; I will sleep' (§11.1).
- say that you will not, in fact, do the above (§11.1).
- say 'from me, from you, from him, from her, from us, from you, from them' (§11.2).

APPENDIX 1
CÚRSAÍ CANÚNA

WORDS AND PHRASES FREQUENTLY USED IN CLASS

CONNACHT IRISH	ULSTER AND/OR MUNSTER IRISH	
go n-éirí an t-ádh leat!	ádh mór!	good luck!
togha	ar dóigh	great, excellent

1

CONNACHT IRISH	ULSTER AND/OR MUNSTER IRISH	
bosca ^{CO 54}	bocsa	box
cén áit	cá háit	where
céard	cad é (<i>also spelt caidé, goidé</i>), cad ^{CO}	what
freisin	fosta	also
muidne ^{CO}	muidinne, sinne	we/us (emphatic form)
eireaball ^{CO}	ruball	tail
bord ^{CO}	tábla	table

2

CONNACHT IRISH	ULSTER AND/OR MUNSTER IRISH	
mada	madadh, madra ^{CO}	dog
fata (fataí)	práta ^{CO} (prátaí)	potatoe(s)

3

Identification Copula

In the context of the copula, the phenomenon of the proleptic (i.e. anticipatory) or the echoing pronoun is a relatively innovative feature in Irish, and there is some dialect variation in its use. In Ulster Irish, as opposed to Connacht Irish, the pronoun tends to be used more sparingly than elsewhere; e.g. it is not used with the demonstrative pronouns *sin* and *seo*:

CONNACHT IRISH	ULSTER IRISH
Seo é an peann.	Seo an peann.
Sin é an fear.	Sin an fear.

⁵⁴ Standard written forms are marked ^{CO} (*Caighdeán Oifigiúil*, 'Official Standard').

5

CONNACHT IRISH	ULSTER AND/OR MUNSTER IRISH	
dúnta	druidte	closed
oscailte	foscailte	open
ag breathnú, ag féachaint	ag amharc, ag féachaint	looking
ag goil*	ag dul ^{CO}	going

*Even though *ag goil* is commonly used in speech, *ag dul* should always be written.

6

CONNACHT IRISH	ULSTER AND/OR MUNSTER IRISH	
cén fáth	cad chuige	why
cén uair	cá huair, cathain	when
chuile (gach uile)	'achan (gach aon)	every
ag cloisteáil	ag cluinstit	hearing

Initial Mutations of the Noun in the Dative Case

In Connacht Irish, prepositions followed by the article cause eclipsis of the noun in the dative, except *do* and *de*, which cause lenition. The situation in Munster Irish is similar, with most prepositions causing eclipsis, and the prepositions *do*, *de*, **and** *sa* causing lenition. The Munster practice is equivalent to the written standard. In Ulster Irish, however, a great degree of simplification has occurred; all prepositions followed by the definite article cause lenition.

When writing essays in advanced courses or composing texts for publication in Irish, the written standard must be adhered to with regard to initial mutation of nouns in the dative case.

8

CONNACHT IRISH	ULSTER AND/OR MUNSTER IRISH	
dún, ag dúnadh	druid, ag druidim	close
dúisigh, ag dúiseacht	múscail, ag múscailt	wake
oscail, ag oscailt ^{CO}	foscail, ag foscladh	open
ag tuiscint ^{CO}	ag tuigbheáil	understanding
goile (gabh i leith)	goitse (gabh anseo), tar anseo ^{CO}	come here
tagaig ^{CO}	taraig ^U	come
más é do thoil é / le do thoil	le do thoil	please
a mhac	a mhic	sonny, dude

The Prepositional Pronouns of *de* and *do*

In Connacht and Munster Irish, the distinction between the pronominal forms of the prepositions *do* and *de* is strictly maintained. In many areas of Donegal, however, the prepositional pronouns *dom*, *duit*, *dó* etc. are always used instead of *díom*, *díot*, *de* etc. in the spoken language (Ó Baoill 1996, 95; Hughes 1994, 658). In writing, the distinction between the two sets of prepositions is always maintained.

9

CONNACHT IRISH	ULSTER AND/OR MUNSTER IRISH	
col ceathar	col ceathair	cousin
comhluadar, teaghleach	teaghleach	household, family
an iomarca	barraíocht, an iomarca	too much

Numbers Followed by Nouns

In Connacht Irish, the initial consonant is aspirated in the numbers *ceithre* and *cúig*. They are pronounced (and sometimes written) like this:

cheithre bhláth	four flowers
chúig bhláth	five flowers

The Past Tense: Irregular Verbs

The following variant forms of the irregular verbs are found in Connacht Irish:⁵⁵

	?	+	-
abair ‘say’	ar úirt	dúirt	níor úirt
déan ‘do’:	an rinne	rinne	ní rinne
clois ‘hear’	ar chlois*, an gcuala	chlois*, chuala	níor chlois*, ní chuala
tabhair ‘give, bring’	an dtug	thug	ní thug

* uncommon

10

CONNACHT IRISH	ULSTER AND/OR MUNSTER IRISH	
airím uaim thú	braithim uaim thú	I miss you
nóiméad ^{CO}	bomaite	minute
tar éis	i ndiaidh	after
tá sé trí nóiméad tar éis a dó	tá sé trí bhomaite i ndiaidh a dó	it’s 2:03
chun	go dtí	to
tá sé trí nóiméad chun a dó	tá sé trí bhomaite go dtí a dó	it’s 1:57

⁵⁵ See Ó hUiginn 589-94, 596 for a more detailed explanation of these forms.

Synthetic Verb Forms in the Present Tense

In standard and Munster Irish, synthetic verb forms are used in the 1pl. of the present tense:

brisimid	<i>we break</i>	glanaimid	<i>we clean</i>
éirimid	<i>we get up</i>	ceannaímid	<i>we buy</i>
bíimid	<i>we are (habitually)</i>		

11

CONNACHT IRISH

éigin, eicínt
fabhar
feicfidh mé thú
tá sé uaim

ULSTER AND/OR MUNSTER IRISH

inteacht, éigin
gar
chífidh mé thú
tá sé de dhíth orm

some, a certain
favor
see you (later)
I need it

The Future Tense

In both Connacht and Ulster Irish, the ‘f’ in the future tense ending *-f(a)idh* is generally either pronounced [h] or not pronounced at all.⁵⁶ In Connacht, *-f(a)idh* is pronounced [hə] or [ə], whereas in Ulster it is pronounced [hi:]. In Munster Irish, on the other hand, the ‘f’ is usually pronounced [f], so *-f(a)idh* is pronounced [fʲi:].

The consonants *b, d, g, bh,* and *mh* are regularly devoiced before the ‘f’ future ending (*-f(a)idh*) in Connacht Irish:

b > p	scuab f aidh
d > t	creid f aidh
g > c	tóg f aidh
bh > f	snám h faidh
mh > f	scríom h faidh

Synthetic Verb Forms in the Future Tense

In standard and Munster Irish, synthetic verb forms are used in the 1pl. of the future tense:

cuirfimid	<i>we will put</i>	glacfaimid	<i>we will take/accept</i>
ceannóimid	<i>we will buy</i>	imeoimid	<i>we will leave</i>

⁵⁶ On the development *-f- > [h]* see O’Rahilly *Irish Dialects Past and Present* (1932, 222) and Ó Buachalla ‘The *f*-future in Modern Irish: a re-assessment,’ *Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy* 85 C (1985, 1-36).

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APPENDIX 2

PHONETIC EXERCISES (CONNACHT IRISH)

Vowels

a

slat	<i>rod, wand</i>
baile	<i>village</i>
teach	<i>house</i>
fear	<i>man</i>

a:

Seán	<i>John</i>
am	<i>time</i>
níos fearr	<i>better</i>
thall	<i>yonder</i>

e

deich	<i>ten</i>
bheith	<i>be</i>
te	<i>hot</i>

e:

Éire	<i>Ireland</i>
sé	<i>he</i>
féar	<i>grass</i>
aon	<i>one</i>

i

sin	<i>that</i>
fios	<i>knowledge</i>
cistin	<i>kitchen</i>
uisce	<i>water</i>

i:

mín	<i>smooth</i>
scian	<i>knife</i>
braon	<i>drop</i>
naoi	<i>nine</i>
tinn	<i>ill</i>

o

cos	<i>foot</i>
deoch	<i>drink</i>
ocht	<i>eight</i>

o:

onóir	<i>honour</i>
mór	<i>large</i>
ceol	<i>music</i>

u

muc	<i>pig</i>
briseadh	<i>breaking</i>
tiubh	<i>thick</i>
iomarca	<i>excess</i>

u:

scrúdú	<i>exam</i>
uan	<i>lamb</i>
romhat	<i>before you</i>
nios mó	<i>bigger</i>
nós	<i>custom</i>
óinseach	<i>foolish woman</i>

ə

amárach	<i>tomorrow</i>
éadach	<i>cloth</i>
baile	<i>village</i>

Diphthongs

ua

suas	<i>up</i>
trua	<i>pity</i>
fuair	<i>cold</i>

ai

ceird	<i>trade</i>
coill	<i>forest</i>
toirneach	<i>thunder</i>

au

ord	<i>order</i>
orlach	<i>inch</i>

ia

Dia	<i>God</i>
siad	<i>they</i>
liath	<i>grey</i>

iə

préachán	<i>crow</i>
féach	<i>look</i>

Consonants

p

Pádraig	<i>Patrick</i>
póg	<i>kiss</i>
stop	<i>stop, stay</i>
cupa	<i>cup</i>

b

báire	<i>match, contest</i>
bos	<i>palm of hand</i>
gob	<i>beak, mouth</i>
i bpáirc	<i>in a field</i>

t

tá	<i>is</i>
alt	<i>article</i>
cat	<i>cat</i>

d

do	<i>to, for</i>
ard	<i>high</i>
fada	<i>long</i>
an dtugann	<i>do (you) take?</i>

p'

píosa	<i>piece</i>
cipín	<i>matches</i>
peann	<i>pen</i>

b'

béic	<i>scream</i>
bris	<i>break</i>
ribe	<i>hair of strand</i>
i bpian	<i>in pain</i>

t'

te	<i>hot</i>
caint	<i>talk</i>
ite	<i>eaten</i>

d'

deas	<i>nice</i>
in airde	<i>up high</i>
séid	<i>blow</i>
an dtéann?	<i>do (you) go?</i>

PHONETIC EXERCISES

k

carr *car*
 mac *son*
 acu *at them*

g

gasta *quick*
 snag *a catch, halt*
 ar gcara *our friend*

m

Máire *Mary*
 am *time*
 i mbróg *in a shoe*

w

a Mháire *o Mary*
 bhuail *hit*
 an bhfuil? *is there?*

γ

dhá *two*
 mo dhorn *my fist*
 dhún *closed*
 mo ghluaisteán *my car*

f

fan *wait!*
 phós *married*
 scríofa *written*

x

chuala *heard*
 mo chóta *my coat*
 amach *out*
 a chara *O friend*

k'

ceol *music*
 ciúin *quiet*
 minic *often*
 cic *kick*

g'

gé *goose*
 aige *at him*
 lig *let*
 i gceann *in a head*

m'

mire *merriment*
 imirt *playing*
 i mbliana *this year*

v'

bhí *was*
 an bhfeiceann tú? *do you see?*
 bhris *broke*
 seilbh *property*

y

gheall *promised*
 mo dheirfiúr *my sister*
 faoi gheasa *under a spell*
 róghlic *too clever*

f'

fear *man*
 feoil *meat*
 feic *see!*
 caife *coffee*

x'

chíor *combed*
 chlis *jumped, started*
 an cheist *the question*
 ag sroicheadh *reaching*

PHONETIC EXERCISES

s

sonas	<i>happiness</i>
suí	<i>sitting</i>
suas	<i>up</i>

h

thuas	<i>up above</i>
mhothaigh	<i>sensed</i>
shásaigh	<i>satisfied</i>
sheas	<i>stood</i>

l

lá	<i>day</i>
urlár	<i>floor</i>
callán	<i>noise, clamour</i>
geall	<i>promise</i>

L (l')

caill	<i>lose</i>
cailleach	<i>old woman</i>

n

nóta	<i>note</i>
náire	<i>shame</i>
canna	<i>can</i>
rann	<i>poem</i>

ñ

neamart	<i>neglect</i>
inné	<i>yesterday</i>
roinn	<i>department</i>
an ndéanfaidh?	<i>will (you) do?</i>

ng

rang	<i>class</i>
i ngluaisteán	<i>in a car</i>
i ngan fhios	<i>in ignorance</i>
an ngoideann	<i>do (you) steal?</i>

r

rud	<i>thing</i>
carr	<i>car</i>
seomra	<i>room</i>
ráta	<i>rate</i>

s'

sín	<i>stretch out!</i>
leis	<i>with him</i>
briseadh	<i>breaking</i>

lenited l

mo lá	<i>my day</i>
labhair mé	<i>I talked</i>
mála	<i>bag</i>
geal	<i>bright</i>

lenited L (l')

léigh mé	<i>I read</i>
cailín	<i>girl</i>

n'

mo náire	<i>my shame</i>
ceannach	<i>buying</i>
bean	<i>woman</i>
anuraidh	<i>last year</i>

ñ'

sin	<i>that</i>
gloine	<i>glass</i>
nigh mé	<i>I washed</i>

ng'

rinne	<i>dancing</i>
i ngreim	<i>in the grip</i>
i ngleann	<i>in a glen</i>
inghreimím	<i>I persecute</i>

r'

Máire	<i>Mary</i>
obair	<i>work</i>
uimhir	<i>number</i>

APPENDIX 3 PARADIGMS AND REFERENCE

Mutations	
^L	Lenition (<i>séimhiú</i>)
^N	Eclipsis (<i>urú</i>)
^H	Prefixes 'h' to vowel

Pronouns

Independent Pronouns

mé	muid
thú	sibh
é	iad
í	

Dependent Pronouns

mé	muid
tú	sibh
sé	siad
sí	

Possessive Pronouns

mo ^L	my	ár ^N	our
do ^L	your (sg)	bhur ^N	your (pl)
a ^L	his	a ^N	their
a ^H	her		

Emphatic Pronominal Suffixes

-sa/-se	-(n)e
-sa/-se	-se
-san/-sean	-san
-se	

Prepositions

ag	by, at
as	out, from
chuig	to
go ^H	to
le ^H	with
i ^N	in

ar ^L	on
do/d ^L	to, for
de/d ^L	from, off, of
faoi ^L	under
gan ^L	without
ó ^L	from
roimh ^L	before

Prepositions with the Definite Article

ó + an > ón	i + an > sa/san
faoi + an > faoin	i + na > sna
de + an > den	le + an > leis an
do + an > don	le + na > leis na

Initial consonants of nouns after most prepositions plus the article take *urú*. Exceptions are:

don ^L	go dtí ⁵⁷ an
den ^L	

⁵⁷ *Go dtí* (to) is not technically a preposition, but it acts as one.

Conjugated Prepositions

AG

agam	againn
agat	agaibh
aige	acu
aici	

AR

orm	orainn
ort	oraibh
air	orthu
uirthi	

CHUIG

chugam	chugainn
chugat	chugaibh
chuige	chucu
chuici	

DE

díom	dínn
díot	díbh
de	díobh
di	

DO

dom	dúinn
duit	daoibh
dó	dóibh
di	

I

ionam	ionainn
ionat	ionaibh
ann	iontu
inti	

LE

liom	linn
leat	libh
leis	leo
léi	

Ó

uaim	uainn
uait	uaibh
uaidh	uathu
uaithi	

ROIMH

romham	romhainn
romhat	romhaibh
roimhe	rompu
roimpi	

Copula Paradigms

Indefinite

Definite

1. Using a simple pronoun (I am, you are, he is, she is, we are, you (pl) are, they are)

The *definite* sentences of this type require an echoing pronoun.

Is múinteoir é.

Ní leabhar é.

An bó bheag í?

(proper names are always definite)

Is é ár múinteoir é.

Ní hé mo leabhar é.

An í an bhó bheag í?

Is í Síle í.

2. Using an emphatic pronoun (I am, you are, he is, she is, we are, you (pl) are, they are)

Is mac léinn mise.

An léachtóir ise?

(proper names are always definite)

Is mise an mac léinn.

An ise ár léachtóir?

Is muidne Seán agus Séamus.

3. Using the demonstrative (simple structure)

Seo í cathaoir.

Sin é athair.

(proper names are always definite)

Seo í an chathaoir.

Sin é m'athair.

Seo í Áine.

4. Using the demonstrative (complex structure)

Is cathaoir í seo.

An athair é sin?

(proper names are always definite)

Is í seo an chathaoir.

An é sin d'athair?

Ní hé seo Liam.

5. Using a proper noun as the subject

These sentences do *not* use a pronoun in English; in Irish they require a proleptic pronoun.

Is múinteoir é Séamus.

Is deirfiúracha iad Áine agus Aoife.

Is é Séamus an múinteoir.

Is iad Áine agus Aoife mo dheirfiúracha.

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FOCLÓIR GAELGE-BÉARLA⁵⁸

A

a (before a person's name etc)	vocative marker
a (before a noun)	3rd person poss. pronoun
a (before a verbal noun)	to
abair	say
ábhar (m)	subject
ach	but; (with negative) only
ádh (m)	luck
an Afraic (f)	Africa
ag	at, by
aghaidh (f)	face
agus	and
ainm (m)	name
ainmhí (m)	animal
aintín (f)	aunt
aisteach	strange
aisteoir (m)	actor
aithne (f)	acquaintance
a lán	a lot
amach	out
amárach	tomorrow
amharclann (f)	theatre
amhrán (m)	song
anocht	tonight
anois	now
anseo	here
ansin	there
anuraidh	last year
aois (f)	age
aon	one
ar (+ lenition)	on, about
ar ball	soon
ar bith	at all
ar buile	angry
ar chor ar bith	at all
ar chúl	in the back
ar fad	complete(ly), entire(ly)
arán (m)	bread
árasán (m)	apartment
ard	tall

⁵⁸ (n) noun; (gen) genitive case; (pl) plural; (vb) verb; (adj) adjective; (f) feminine and (m) masculine gender; superscript ^C Connacht dialect forms (ditto ^{U/M} for Ulster/Munster).

aréir
arís
arú aréir
as
athair (m)
athair (m) mór
áthas (m)

last night
again
night before last
from
father
grandfather
happiness

B

Baile Átha Cliath
baile (m)
baile (m) mór, sa mbaile mór^C
abhaile
as baile
sa mbaile^C
bain sult as, ag baint sult as
bainisteoir (m)
bainne (m)
bairín breac (m)
bán
banaltra (f)
barr (m)
beag
béal (m)
bean (f)
bean (f) chéile
beannacht (f)
beannachtaí (pl)
Béarla (m)
beirt
b'fhéidir
bheith
bhuel
bí
bia (m)
bialann (f)
blasta
bláth (m)
bliain (f)
an bhliain seo chugainn
bó (f)
bocht
bosca bruscair
bolg (m)
bord (m)

Dublin
village
town, in town
home, homewards
out of town
at home
enjoy
manager
milk
barmbrack (fruit loaf)
white
nurse
top
small
mouth
woman
wife
blessing, greeting
greetings
English
two people
maybe
being (substantive verb)
well
be
food
restaurant
delicious
flower
year
next year
cow
poor
waste paper basket
stomach
table

bóthar (m)	road
breá	lovely
an Bhreatain Bheag (f)	Wales
an Bhreatain Mhór (f)	Britain
breathnaigh (ar), ag breathnú (ar)	looking, watching
Breatnach (n and adj)	Welsh person or thing
Breatnais (f)	Welsh language
bricfeasta (m)	breakfast
briosca (m), brioscaí (pl)	cookie
Briotanach (n and adj)	Briton, British
an Bhriotáin (f)	Brittany
Briotánach (n and adj)	Breton
Briotáinis (f)	Breton language
bris, ag briseadh	break
bris isteach	break into
briste	broken
bríste (m), pl: brístí	pants
bróg (f)	shoe
brón (m)	sorrow
bronntanas (m)	present
brú (m)	hostel
buachaill (m), buachaillí (pl)	boy, lad
buail, ag bualadh	strike, hit
buail le, ag bualadh le	meet
buartha	worried
buí	yellow
buíochas (m)	thanks
buíochas le Dia!	thank God!
bun (m)	bottom, basis
bunchéimeach	undergraduate
bus (m)	bus
C	
cá	where?
caife (m)	coffee, café
cailc (f)	chalk
cailín (m), cailíní (pl)	girl
caint (f)	talk (n)
ag caint faoi	talking about
caith, ag caitheamh	spend, consume, throw
caithfidh	must
cantalach	grumpy
caora (f)	sheep
capall (m)	horse
cara (m)	friend

carr (m)	car
carraig (f)	rock
cas ar a chéile	meet each other
cat (m)	cat
cathair (f)	city
cathaoir (f)	chair
cé	who?
ceann (m)	head
an ceann seo (m)	this one
céanna	same
ceannaigh, ag ceannach	buy
ceantar (m)	area
ceap, ag ceapadh	think, invent
ceapaire (m)	sandwich
cearc (f)	chicken
céard	what?
ceart	right, proper
ceart go leor	right enough, alright
ceathair	four
ceathrú	quarter
cén áit	where?
cén fáth	why?
ceol (m)	music
ceol (m) clasaiceach	classical music
ceol (m) traidisiúnta	traditional music
ceolchoirm (f)	concert
ceoltóir (m)	musician
a chlog	o'clock
chomh... le	as...as (in comparison)
chomh maith	as well
chuig	to
chuile ^C (< gach uile)	every
cileagram	kilogram,
cineál (m)	kind, sort
cineálta	kind (adj)
cinnte	certain
cionn is go	because
císte (m)	cake
cistin (f)	kitchen
ciúin	quiet
clann (f)	children
clár dubh (m)	blackboard
cliste	intelligent, clever
clois, ag cloisteáil	hear
cluas (f)	ear

cluiche (m)
 cluiche na bhfochupán
 cnó (m), pl cnónna
 cócaire (m)
 ag cócaireacht
 codladh (m)
 cóipleabhar (m)
 cóisir (f)
 col ceathar (m), pl col ceathracha
 cónaí (m)
 cos (f)
 cosúil, is cosúil
 cóta (m)
 crann (m)
 críochnaigh, ag críochnú
 críochnaithe
 croí (m)
 cuid (f)
 cuid (f) mhór
 cúig
 is cuimhin le
 cuir, ag cur
 cuisneoir (m)
 is cuma liom
 cúpla
 ag cur báistí
 ag cur sneachta
 cúrsa, pl cúrsaí (m)

D

dá
 ag damhsa
 daoine beaga/maithe
 dath (m), pl dathanna
 dathúil
 de
 de ghnáth
 deacair
 déan, ag déanamh
 déan deifir
 déan dearmad (ar rud)
 ag déanamh staidéir ar
 déanta
 dearg
 deartháir (m)

game
 saucer game
 nut, nuts
 cook
 cooking
 sleep
 notebook
 party
 cousin
 home
 foot
 likely, it is likely
 coat
 tree
 finish
 finished
 heart, darling
 portion
 a lot
 five
 remember
 put
 fridge
 I don't mind, I don't care
 a couple
 raining
 snowing
 course, pl. courses, matters, things

if (in conditional sentence)
 dancing
 the fairies
 color
 handsome, pretty
 from
 usually
 difficult
 do
 hurry up
 forget (something)
 studying
 done
 red
 brother

deas
dea-scéala
deich
deifir (f)
deireadh (m) seachtaine
deirfiúr (f)
deoch (f)
dhá, an dá
dia (m)
Dia duit
Dia is Muire duit (response)
dinnéar (m)
ag díol
díomá (f)
dlíodóir (m)
do (+ lenition)
dó
dochtúir (m)
dóite
donn
doras (m)
dorcha
dráma (m)
droch- (prefix)
drochscéal (m)
dubh
dubh dóite
duine (m)
dúiseacht (f)
duit
ag dul
dul ag iascaireacht
dún, ag dúnadh
dúnta

E

é, eisean
eagla (f)
éan (m)
an t-earrach (m)
eile
Eilvéis, an (f)
Éire (f)
Éireannach
éirigh, ag éirí

nice
good news
ten
hurry
weekend
sister
drink
two (adj)
god
Hello ('God to you')
Hello ('God and Mary to you')
dinner
selling
disappointment
lawyer
to, for
two (number)
doctor
burned
brown
door
dark
drama
bad
bad news
black
sick and tired
person, man
waking state
to you (sg)
going
go fishing
close
closed

he
fear
bird
the spring
other
Switzerland
Ireland
Irish person or thing
rise, get up, become

éiríonn le (impersonal)
éist, ag éisteacht (le)
eitleán (m)
eolas (m)

succeed in
listen (to)
plane
knowledge

F

fada
fadhb (f)
faigh, ag fáil
fáilte romhat!
tá fáilte romhat
falsa
fan, ag fanacht (le)
faoi (+ lenition)
faoin tuath
farraige (f)
fataí rósta
fear (m)
fear (m) céile
féar (m)
fearg (f)
fearr (*comparative of maith*)
feic, ag feiceáil
is féidir liom
feirm, feilm^C (f)
feirmeoir, feilméara^C (m) \
feith, ag feitheamh
feoil (f)
fidil (f)
fíon (m)
fionn
fios (m)
fliuch
foghlaim, ag foghlaim
fómhar (m)
freisin
an Fhrainc (f)
Fraincis (f)
freastálaí (m)
fuar
fuath (m)
fuinneog (f)

long
problem
get
welcome!
you're welcome
lazy
wait (for)
about, under
in the country side
sea
roast potatoes
man
husband
grass
anger
better
see
I am able, I can
farm
farmer
wait, expect
meat
fiddle
wine
blond
knowledge
wet
learning
fall
also
France
French
attendant, waiter
cold
hate
window

G

gach

every

an Ghaeilge (f)	Irish language
Gaeilge na hAlban (f)	Scots Gaelic
gaineamh (m)	sand
ag gáire	laughing
gan	without
gan mhoill	soon
gaoth (f)	wind
gasúr (m)	child ^C , small boy
geal	bright
gealach (f)	moon
geansaí (m)	pullover (sweater)
gearán (m)	complaint
gerr	short
an Ghearmáin (f)	Germany
Gearmánach (n and adj)	German
Gearmáinis (f)	German
geimhreadh (m)	winter
glac, ag glacadh	take
glantóir (m)	duster
glan	clean (adj)
glan, ag glanadh	clean (vb)
glao (m); cuir glao ar X	call; call X (on the phone)
glas	green (as in vegetation)
glasraí	vegetables
gléasta	dressed
gloine (f)	glass
glúin (f)	knee, generation
gluaisteán (m)	car
gnó (m)	business
gnóthach	busy
go (prep.; prefixes ‘h’ to vowel)	to
go (before adj)	adverbial marker
go hannamh	seldom
go fóill	yet
go minic	often
go raibh maith agat	thank you
go raibh míle maith agat	thank you very much
go dtí	to, up to, until
gorm	blue
goid, ag goid	steal
grá (m)	love
grian (f)	sun
grianmhar	sunny
gúna (m)	dress

H

hata (m)

hat

I

i (+ eclipsis)

í, ise

i m'aonar

i mbun

i gceann

i gceann tamaill

i gcónaí

i ndiaidh

iad, iadsan

iarchéimeach

iarsmalann (f)

idir

imigh, ag imeacht

imir, ag imirt

imní (f)

in aice

Indiach

iníon (f)

inné

inniu

Iodálach

Iodáilis (f)

an iomarca

iontach

iontas (m)

is (conj.)

is (verb)

is éigean do

isteach

ith, ag ithe

in

she

by myself

in charge of

within

in a little while

always

after

they

postgraduate

museum

between

leave

play (a sport)

anxiety, worry

near

Indian (noun or adjective)

daughter

yesterday

today

Italian (noun or adjective)

Italian

too much

wonderful

surprise, wonder

and

is (copula verb)

must

in

eat

L

lá (m)

labhair, ag labhairt

lag

láidir

lámh (f)

le (prefixes 'h' to vowel)

le... anuas

le chéile

le do thoil

day

speak

weak

strong

hand

with, by

for (duration of time past)

together

please

leaba (f)
leabhar (m)
leabharlann (f)
léacht (f)
léachtóir (m)
ag léamh
leanbh (m)
léann (m) Ceilteach
leath
leathuair
léigh, ag léamh
léine (f)
liath (m. noun and adj)
lig do scíth
litir (f)
lón (m)
luch (f)
luí (m)

M

má
mac (m)
mac léinn (m), mic léinn (pl)
mada (m)
maidin (f)
maith
mála (m)
mar
mar atá
mar
mar gheall ar
mar sin
marbh
más é do thoil é^C
máthair (f)
máthair (f) mhór
mé, mise
meas (m)
Meiriceá
Meiriceánach
mí (f)
an mhí seo chugainn
milseán (m), milseáin (pl)
ní miste liom
mol, ag moladh

bed
book
library
lecture
lecturer
reading
child
Celtic Studies
half
half hour
read
shirt
grey, grey-haired
relax
letter
lunch
mouse
lying, reclining

if
son
student
dog
morning
good
bag
as, like
as it is
because
because of
therefore, then
dead
please
mother
grandmother
I, me
respect
America, USA
American (n or adj)
month
next month
candy (sweets)
I don't mind
praise

mór
mór millteach ^{C,U}
muid, muidinne
múinteoir (m), múinteoirí (pl)

big
great big, huge
we
teacher

N

ná
ná
ná bí buartha
ná habair é
náire (f)
naoi
nia (m)
tinn^C
níos déanaí
nó
nóiméad (m)
nua
Nua Eabhrac
nuair

than; or
do not
don't worry
don't mention it
shame
nine
nephew
sore
later
or
minute
new
New York
when

O

ó (+ lenition)
ó am go ham
ó shin
obair (f)
ocht
ocras (m)
óg
oíche (f)
Oíche Shamhna (f)
oifig (f)
ól, ag ól
olc
ollscoil (f)
ollmhargadh (m)
oscail
oscailte
óstán (m)

from
from time to time
ago, since then
work
eight
hunger
young
night
Halloween
office
drinking
bad
university
supermarket
open
open
hotel

P

pacáilte
páipéar (m)
páiste (m)
Páras (m)

packed
paper
child
Paris

peann (m)
peann luaidhe (m)
peil (f)
péinteáil
pionta (m)
píosa (m)
plódaithe
plúr (m)
popcheol (m)
post (m)
pósta
púicín (m)

R

ag rá
ramhar
rang (m)
an rang (m) Gaeilge
réitigh, ag réiteach
ag rince
rith, ag rith
rua
rud (m)
rúnaí (m)

S

sa (< i + an)
saibhir
samhradh (m)
saor
Sasana (m)
Sasanach (n and adj)
sásta
scamallach
scannán (m)
scartha
scéal (m)
sciorta (m)
scoil (f)
scríobh, ag scríobh
scríbhneoir (m)
sé
seacht
seachtain (f)
an tseachtain seo chugainn

pen
pencil
soccer
painting
pint
a piece
crowded
flour
pop music
job
married
blindfold

saying
fat
class
the Irish class
arrange, settle, get along with
dancing
run
red-haired
thing
administrator

in the
rich
summer
free
England
English person or thing
content
cloudy
movie
separated
story
skirt
school
writing
writer
six
seven
week
next week

sean	old
seasamh (m)	standing
séasúr (m)	season
seinn, ag seinm	play (music)
seo	this
seomra (m)	room
seomra scoile (m)	schoolroom
sibh, sibhse	you (pl)
sin	that
sine (< <i>sean</i>)	elder, eldest
singil	single
an tSín (f)	China
Sínis (f)	Chinese
siopa (m)	shop
siopadóir (m)	shopkeeper
ag siopadóireacht	shopping
síos	down
na síoga	the fairies
siúil, ag siúl	walk
slaghdán (m)	cold (n)
slán	healthy
slán!	goodbye!
slán go fóill!	goodbye! see you later!
slí bheatha	profession
sliabh (m)	hill
snagcheol (m)	jazz
ag snámh	swimming
ag soilsiú	shining
sona	happy
sona sásta	very happy
an Spáinn (f)	Spain
Spáinneach (n and adj)	Spaniard, Spanish
Spáinnis (f)	Spanish language
spéir (f)	sky
spéirbhean	dream woman
speisialta	special
go speisialta	especially
sráid (f)	street
srón (f)	nose
stábla (m)	stable
stad, ag stad	stop
ag staidéar	studying
stiúrthóir (m)	director, boss
suas	up
suigh, ag suí	sit

súil (f)
tá súil agam
ag súil le
ag súil go mór le
suim (f)
tá suim agam i
suimiúil

eye, expectation, hope
I hope
expecting
looking forward to
interest (n)
I am interested in
interesting

T

tá
tábhachtach
tabhair, ag tabhairt
tae (m)
taibhse (m), taibhsí (pl)
taisteal (m)
taitníonn le
tanaí
tar, ag teacht
te
teach (m)
teach lóistín
teach tábhairne
ag teacht
teaghlach (m)
teilifís (f)
téigh, ag dul
thall ansin
thig le
chífidh mé thú
tinn
tinneas (m) cinn
tinneas (m) fiacaile
tiomáin, ag tiomáint
tiománaí (m)
tirim
tost (m)
trá (f)
traein (f)
traidisiúnta
trí
triúr
troid, ag troid
trua (f)
is trua é, is trua é sin
tú, tusa

am, is, etc (substantive vb)
important
give
tea
ghost, ghosts
travel
pleases
thin
come
hot
house
lodging house
pub
coming
household; family
television
go
over there
is able
I'll see you!
sick
headache
toothache
drive
driver
dry
silence
beach
train
traditional
three
three people
fight
pity
it's a pity
you (sg)

tuig, ag tuiscint
tuirse (f)
tuirseach
tuismitheoir (m), tuismitheoirí (pl)
tús (m)

understand
fatigue, tiredness
tired
parent
beginning

U

uachtar (m) reoite
uaine (f. noun and adj)
uair (f), uaireanta (pl)
uaireanta
uimhir (f)
uisce (m)
úll (m), pl úlla
uncail (m)

ice cream
green (as in garments etc.)
hour
sometimes
number
water
apple, apples
uncle

FOCLOIR BEARLA-GAEILGE

A

about	faoi
above	os cionn (+ gen.)
acquaintance, knowledge of person	aithne (f)
actor	aisteoir (m)
accent (n)	blas (m)
accept	glac, ag glacadh;
he has an American accent	tá blas Meiriceánach air
administrator (US)	rúnaí (m)
address	seoladh (m)
adolescent	déagóir (m)
adult (adj)	do dhaoine fásta
adult (n.)	duine fásta
Africa	an Afraic (f)
after	tar éis / i ndiaidh ^U (+ gen)
afternoon	tráthnóna (m)
again	arís
against	in aghaidh (+ gen.)
age	aois (f)
ago	ó shin
agree with	aontaigh le, ag aontú le
a lot	a lán
allow, let	lig
almost	beagnach
alright	ceart go leor
also	freisin
always	i gcónaí
America, USA	Meiriceá (m)
American (n and adj)	Meiriceánach (m)
among	i measc (+ gen)
and	agus, is
anger	fearg (f)
anger	ar buile
animal	ainmhí (m)
announcement, notice	fógra (m)
annoy, bother	cuir as do
answer (vb)	freagair, ag freagairt
answer (n)	freagra (m)
answering machine	gléas (m) freagartha
anxiety, worry	imní (f)
apartment (US)	árasán (m)
apple	úll (m)
apple pie	toirtín (m) úll

approximately
architect
area
around
around the area
arrogant
art
artist
as, like
as ... as
as well
Asia
ask
at, by
at all
attendant, waiter
aunt
autumn

B

baby
back (n)
back (adv)
bad
bad news
bag
bank
barmbrack
be
beach
beautiful
bed
beer
before
beginning
believe
better
between
big
bird
biscuit(s), cookie(s)
black
blackboard
blonde
blue

thart ar^C
aitire (m)
ceantar (m)
thart, thart ar^C, faoi
thart ar an áit^C
sotalach
ealaín (f)
ealaíontóir (m)
mar
chomh ... le
chomh maith
an Áise (f)
fiafraigh de
ag
ar bith, ar chor ar bith
freastálaí (m)
aintín (f)
fómhar (m)

leanbh (m), naíonán (m)
droim (m)
ar ais
olc, droch-
drochscéala
mála (m)
banc (m)
bairín breac (m)
bí, bheith
trá (f)
álainn
leaba (f)
beoir (f)
roimh, sula (with verb)
tús (m)
creid, ag creidiúint
níos fearr
idir (+ lenition)
mór
éan (m)
briosca (m), brioscaí
dubh
clár dubh (m)
fionn
gorm

bone	cnámh (f)
book	leabhar (m)
boring	leadránach
boss, director	stiúrthóir (m)
bother, annoy	cuir as do
Boston	Bostún (m)
bottle	buidéal (m)
bottom	bun (m)
boy	buachaill (m), gasúr (m)
branch	craobh (f)
bread	arán (m)
break	bris, ag briseadh
breakfast	bricfeasta (m)
Breton (n and adj)	Briotánach (m)
Breton language	Briotáinis (f)
bright	geal
Britain	An Bhreatain Mhór
British	Briotanach
broken	briste
brother	deartháir (m)
brown	donn
brush (n)	scuab (f)
hairbrush	scuab gruaige (f)
brush, sweep	scuab, ag scuabadh
bus	bus (m)
busy	gnóthach
but	ach
butcher	búistéir (m)
butter	im (m)
buy, buying	ceannaigh, ag ceannach
by, next to	cois (+ gen)
by (authorship)	le (prefixes 'h' to vowel)
C	
café	caife
cake	císte (m)
call	cuir glaoch ar, cuir scairt ar
camcorder	ceamthairfeadán (m)
camera	ceamara (m)
car	carr (m), gluaisteán (m)
cat	cat (m)
CD <i>see</i> compact disc	
cell phone	fón póca, fón siúil
Celtic Studies	an Léann Ceilteach (m)

certainly	cinnte
chair	cathaoir (f)
chalk	caile (f)
cheese	cáis (f)
change (n)	briseadh
change (vb)	athraigh, ag athrú
character	carachtar (m)
cheers!	Sláinte! Sláinte mhaith!
chemistry	ceimic (f)
chicken	cearc (f)
child	leanbh (m), páiste (m), gasúr (m)
children	clann (f)
China	an tSín (f)
Chinese language	Sínis (f)
Christmas	Nollaig (f)
Christmas tree	crann (m) Nollag
church	teach (m) an phobail (Cath.) eaglais (f) (Cath./Prot.)
cider (alcoholic)	ceirtlis (f)
cider, apple juice	sú úll (m)
cigarette	toitín (m)
cinema	pictiúrlann (f)
city	cathair (f)
city centre	lár (m) na cathrach
class	rang (m)
classical music	ceol clasaiceach (m)
clean (adj)	glan
clean (vb)	glan, ag glanadh
clever	cliste
clock	clog (m)
o'clock	a chlog
close	dún, ag dúnadh
closed	dúnta
clothes	cuid (f) éadaigh
cloudy	scamallach
coat	cóta (m)
coffee	caife (m)
cold (adj)	fuar
cold (n.)	slaghdán (m)
collect	bailigh
college	coláiste (m)
color	dath (m)
come	tar, ag teacht
come here	goile ^C ; tar anseo

compact disc	dlúthdhiosca (m)
compact disc player	seinnteoir (m) dlúthdhioscaí
complaint	gearán (an)
completely, entirely	ar fad
computer, personal ~	ríomhaire (m); ~ pearsanta
computer game	cluiche (m) ríomhaire
computer software	bogearraí ríomhaire
concert	ceolchoirm (f)
condom	coiscín (m)
contemporary	comhaimseartha
content	sásta
contraceptives	frithghiniúnaigh
cook	cócaire (m)
cookie(s)	briosca(í) (m)
cooking	ag cócaireacht
copy (n)	cóip (f)
copy (vb)	déan cóip de
country	tír (f)
countryside, in the country	faoin tuath
country-western	ceol (m) tuaithe
couple, a few	cúpla
couple (n)	lánúin (f)
course	cúrsa (m)
cousin	col ceathar (m)
cousins	col ceathracha
cow	bó (f)
credit card	cárta (m) creidmheasa
crosswords	croshocail
crowded	plódaithe
culture	cultúr (m)
current affairs	cúrsaí reatha

D

dancing	ag damhsa, ag rince
dangerous	contúirteach
dark (adj)	dorcha
daughter	iníon (f)
day	lá (m)
dead	marbh
degree (academic)	céim (m)
undergraduate degree	bunchéim (m)
graduate/postgraduate degree	ardchéim (m)
department	roinn (f)
depressed	in ísle (f) brí

dessert	milseog (f)
detective	bleachtaire (m)
detective story	scéal (m) bleachtaireachta
delicious, tasty	blasta
describe	cuir síos (ar)
description	cur síos
desert	fásach
detective	bleachtaire
difficult	deacair, cruá
dinner	dinnéar (m)
disappointment	díomá
dishes	soithí
dissertation	tráchtas (m)
divorce	colscaradh (m)
divorced	colscartha
do	déan, ag déanamh
doctor	dochtúir (m)
dog	mada (m)
doll	babóg (f)
dollar	dollar (m)
done	déanta
door	doras (m)
down	síos (direction), thíos (location)
dozen	dosaen (an)
drama, play	dráma (m)
drama, dramatic art	drámaíocht (f)
dress (n)	gúna (m)
dress (vb)	cuir éadaí ort
dressed	gléasta
drink (n)	deoch (f)
drink (vb)	ól, ag ól
drive	tiomáin, ag tiomáint
driver	tiománaí (m)
drug(s)	druga(í)
drug abuse	mí-úsáid (f) drugaí
Dublin	Baile (m) Átha Cliath
duster	glantóir (m)
E	
ear	clúas (f)
earned	tuillte
eat	ith, ag ithe
economics	eacnamaíocht (f)

egg (n)
 eight
 electric
 e-mail
 emergency exit
 empty
 end (n)
 in the end
 engaged (to be married)
 English
 enjoy
 entrance
 environment
 euro
 even
 ever

every
 exactly
 exactly!
 exam
 excuse me
 exit (n)
 expensive
 extremely
 eye (n)

F

face (n)
 factory
 fair-haired
 fairies

fail (vb)
 I failed the test
 fall, autumn
 falling in love
 farm (n)
 farmer
 fat
 father
 fatigue
 favour
 fear

ubh (f)
 ocht
 leictreach
 ríomhphost (m)
 doras (m) éalaithe
 folamh
 deireadh (m)
 sa deireadh
 geallta
 Béarla (m)
 bain sult as, ag baint sult as
 bealach (m) isteach
 an comhshaol (m)
 euro
 fiú
 riamh (in past)
 choíche (in future)
 gach, gach uile (chuile^C)
 díreach
 go díreach
 scrúdú (m)
 gabh mo leithscéal
 bealach (m) amach
 daor
 thar a bheith
 súil (f)

aghaidh (f)
 monarcha (f)
 fionn, bán
 na síogaí, na daoine beaga,
 na daoine maithe
 theip ar
 theip orm sa scrúdú
 fómhar (m)
 ag titim i ngrá
 feirm, feilm^C (f)
 feirmeoir, feilméara^C (m)
 ramhar
 athair (m)
 tuirse (f)
 gar (m)
 eagla (f)

feel	braith; mothaigh
fence (n)	claí (m)
fiction	ficsean (m)
fiddle	fidil (f)
fight (vb)	troid, ag troid
field (of grass)	páirc (f)
field (tilled)	gort (m), cuibhreann (m)
find (vb)	aimsigh; faigh
finish (vb)	críochnaigh, ag críochnú
finished	críochnaithe
fire (n)	tine (f)
fish (n)	iasc (m)
fishing	iascaireacht (f), ag ~
fitting, proper	cóir
five	cúig
flower	bláth (m)
flour	plúr (m)
fluent	líofa
food	bia (b)
foot	cos (f)
for	do (+ lenition)
for (completed duration of time)	ar feadh (+ gen)
for (ongoing duration of time)	le
foreign (language etc.)	iasachta
foreigner	coimhthíoch
forget	déan dearmad (ar)
fortnight	coicís (f)
found, establish	cuir ar bun
four	ceathair
France	an Fhrainc (f)
free	saor
French person or thing	Francach (m)
French language	Fraincis (f)
friend	cara (m)
friendly	cairdiúil
from (a place)	as; ó (+ lenition)
from, made of	de (+ lenition)
fruits	torthaí
full	lán
funny	greannmhar
G	
game	cluiche (m)

generally
 German (n and adj)
 German language
 Germany
 get, find
 get along with, agree with, s.o.
 get up
 ghost
 girl
 give
 glass
 glove
 go
 go on!
 good
 good luck

good news
 goodbye
 government
 grandfather
 grandmother
 grass
 grey-haired
 greeting(s)

group
 grumpy
 guidebook
 guitar
 gust

H

hair
 half
 and a half
 half hour
 half pint
 Halloween
 hand
 handsome, beautiful
 happiness
 hard
 harm (n)

go ginearálta
 Gearmánach (m)
 Gearmáinis (f)
 an Ghearmáin (f)
 faigh, ag fáil
 ag réiteach le duine
 éirigh, ag éirí
 taibhse (m)
 cailín (m)
 tabhair, ag tabhairt
 gloine (f)
 lámhainn (f)
 téigh, ag dul
 lean ort, lean ar aghaidh
 maith
 go n-éirí an t-ádh leat, ádh mór

dea-scéala
 slán
 rialtas (m)
 athair mór, seanathair (m)
 máthair mhór, seanmháthair
 féar (m)
 liath
 beannacht (f), beannachtaí green
 glas (natural), uaine (other)
 dream (m)
 cantalach
 treoirleabhar (m)
 giotar (m)
 síobán (m)

gruaig (f), cuid (f) gruaige
 leath (f)
 go leith
 leathuair (f)
 leathphionta (m)
 Oíche Shamhna (f)
 lámh (f)
 dathúil
 áthas (m), lúcháir (m)
 cruá
 urchóid (f)

harp	cláirseach (f)
hat	hata (m)
hate (n)	fuath
he	é, eisean, sé
head (n)	ceann (m)
headache	tinneas (m) cinn
headphones	cluasáin
health	sláinte (f)
hear, hearing	clois, ag cloisteáil
heart	croí (m)
Hello!	Dia duit!
Hello! (response)	Dia is Muire duit!
here	anseo
hip-hop	ceol hip hap
hitchhiking	dul ar ordóg
home (n)	cónaí, teach
at home	sa mbaile
home, homewards	abhaile
homework	obair bhaile
horrible	uafásach
horror movie	scannán (m) uafáis
horse	capall (m)
hospital	otharlann (f), ospidéal (m)
hostel	brú (m)
hot	te
hotel	óstán (m)
hour, one hour	uair (f), uair an chloig
house	teach (m)
household; family	teaghlach (m)
housework	obair tí (f)
how?	cén chaoi ^C
	conas ^M
	cad é mar ^U
how long?	cén fhad, cén t-achar ^C
how much/many?	cé mhéad
hunger	ocras (m)
hurry (n)	deifir (f)
hurry up	déan deifir
husband	fear (m) céile
I	
I	mé, mise
ice cream	reoiteog (f), uachtar reoite (m)
idea	barúil (f), smaoinemh (m)

good idea	smaoineamh maith
ideology	ídé-eolaíocht
if	dá (with conditional verb), má (otherwise)
in	i (+ eclipsis)
in a while	i gceann tamaill
in back of	ar chúl (+ gen)
in front of	os comhair (+ gen)
information	eolas (m)
intelligent	cliste
intend	bheith ar intinn ag duine
interest	suim (f)
interesting	suimiúil
internet	idirlíon (m)
international	idirnaisiúnta
intersection	crosbhóthar (m)
interview	agallamh (m)
into	isteach
Ireland	Éire (f)
Irish	Éireannach (m)
Irish language	an Ghaeilge (f)
is	is (copula), tá (substantive verb)
island	oileán (m)
Italian (n and adj)	Iodálach (m)
Italian language	Iodáilis (f)
Italy	an Iodáil (f)
J	
jazz	snagcheol (m)
job	post (m)
journey	aistear (m)
K	
key	eochair (f), pl eochracha
keyboard	méarchlár (m)
kidding, teasing	ag magadh
kind (n)	cineál (m), sórt (m)
kind (adj)	cineálta
kitchen	cistin (f)
knee	glúin (f)
knowledge (of place or expertise)	eolas (m)
knowledge of fact	fios (m)
knowledge of person, acquaintance	aithne (f)

L

last, endure, live	mair, ag maireachtáil
last (adj)	deireannach
last month	an mhí seo caite
last night	aréir
last week	an tseachtain seo caite
last year	anuraidh
later	níos déanaí, níos moille
laughing	ag gáire
laughter	gáire (m)
lawyer	dlíodóir (m)
leaf	duilleog (f)
learn	foghlaim, ag foghlaim
leave (intrans.), go away	imigh, ag imeacht
leave behind (trans.),	fág, ag fágáil
lecture	léacht (f)
lecturer	léachtóir (m)
letter	litir (f)
library	leabharlann (f)
life	saol (m)
lift, ride	síob (f)
like (prep)	cosúil le
I like	is maith liom; tá dúil agam i
listen (to)	éist (le), ag éisteacht (le)
literature	litríocht (f)
local	áitiúil
local people	muintir (f) na háite
look, watch	breathnaigh (ar), ag breathnú (ar)
looking forward to	ag súil (go mór) le rud
lose	caill, ag cailleadh
a lot	a lán, cuid mhór
love (n)	grá
I love, like	is breá liom
I love (romantically)	tá mé i ngrá le
lovely	go breá
London	Londain (f)
long	fada
luck	ádh
lunch	lón (m)
lying down	ag luí
M	
magazine	iris (f)

make-up	smideadh (m)
man	fear (m)
manager	bainisteoir (m)
map	léarscáil (f)
married	pósta
marry	pós, ag pósadh
maybe	b'fhéidir
meat	feoil (f)
medicine	leigheas (m)
meet	cas ar, ag casadh ar
meet with	buail le, ag bualadh le
meeting	cruinniú (m)
melancholy	lionn dubh (m), gruaim (f)
mention	trácht ar
mermaid	maighdean mhara (f)
mess	praiseach (m)
microwave (n)	micreáthonnán (m)
middle	lár (m)
milk	bainne (m)
mind (n)	intinn (f)
I don't mind/care	is cuma liom
minister (religious)	ministir (m)
minister (government)	aire
minute	nóiméad (m)
mistake	meancóg (f)
mobile phone	fón siúil (m), fón póca (m)
month	mí (f)
moon	gealach (f)
morning	maidin (f)
mother	máthair (m)
mountain	sliabh (m)
mouse	luchóg (f)
mouth	béal (m)
movie, film	scannán (m)
moving	ag bogadh
museum	iarsmalann (f)
music	ceol (m)
music program	clár (m) ceoil
musicals	ceolraí
musician	ceoltóir (m)
must	caithfidh
N	
name (n)	ainm (m)

near
 I need
 neighbor
 Nepal
 nephew
 new
 New York
 next to
 next month
 next summer
 next thing
 next week
 next year
 nice
 niece
 night
 night before last
 nine
 nose
 novel (n)
 now
 number
 nurse (n)
 nut

O

o'clock
 office
 often
 old
 old-fashioned
 on
 once
 once or twice
 one (number)
 one (adj)
 this one
 only
 only one
 open (vb)
 open (adj)
 opera
 opinion
 what's your opinion?

cóngarach do, in aice le
 tá ... orm^C
 comharsa (f)
 Neipeál (f)
 nia (m)
 nua
 Nua Eabhrac (m)
 in aice (le)
 an mhí seo chugainn
 an samhradh seo chugainn
 an chéad rud eile
 an tseachtain seo chugainn
 an bhliain seo chugainn
 deas
 neacht (f)
 oíche (f)
 arú aréir
 naoi
 srón (f)
 úrscéal (m)
 anois
 uimhir (f)
 banaltra (f)
 cnó (m)

a chlog
 oifig (f)
 go minic
 sean
 sean-aimseartha
 ar (+ lenition)
 uair (f)
 uair nó dhó
 aon
 amháin
 an ceann seo
 ach (with negative)
 aon ... amháin
 oscail
 oscailte
 ceoldráma (m)
 barúil (f)
 céard é do bharúil?

in my opinion
 or
 orange (n and adj)
 other
 out (going ~)
 outside (being ~)
 outside of
 over, across, past
 overseas

P

packed
 painter
 painting
 pants, trousers
 paper
 parent
 Paris
 party (social)
 party (political)
 pass, succeed
 I passed the test
 pc *see* personal computer
 pen
 pencil
 penny
 people (collective)
 people (sg)
 people (pl)
 perhaps
 person
 personal (adj)
 personal computer
 personally
 pet
 PhD, doctorate
 phone (n)
 cell phone
 phone number
 photo (n)
 photocopy (n)
 photography
 physics
 piano

dar liom (go)
 nó
 oráiste (m)
 eile
 amach (as)
 amuigh
 taobh amuigh de
 thar
 thar lear, thar sáile

pacáilte
 péintéir (m)
 ag péinteáil
 bríste (m)
 páipéar (m)
 tuismitheoir (m)
 Páras (m)
 cóisir (f)
 páirtí (m)
 éiríonn le
 d'éirigh liom sa scrúdú

peann (m)
 peann (m) luaidhe
 pingin (f)
 muintir (f)
 pobal (m)
 daoine (m pl)
 b'fhéidir
 duine (m)
 pearsanta
 ríomhaire pearsanta
 go pearsanta
 peata (m)
 dochtúireacht (f)
 fón (m)
 fón póca
 uimhir (f) fóin
 grianghraf (m)
 fótachóip (f)
 grianghrafadóireacht (f)
 fisic (f)
 pianó (m)

piece	píosa (m)
pig	muc (f)
pint	pionta (m)
pity	trua (f)
plan (n)	plean (m)
plane	eitleán (m)
plant	planda (m)
play, drama (n)	dráma (m)
playing (an instrument)	ag seinm
playing (a game or sport)	ag imirt
please!	le do thoil!, más é do thoil é! ^C
plot (n)	plota (m)
pocket (n)	póca (m)
poem	dán (m)
poet	file (m)
poetry	filíocht (f)
politics	polaitíocht (f), cúrsaí polatíochta
poor	bocht
pop music	popcheol (m)
portion	cuid (f)
positive, certain	dearfach
post office	oifig (f) an phoist
postgraduate (adj)	iarchéimeach
postgraduate student	mac léinn iarchéimeach (m)
potato(es)	práta(i) (m)
pound	punt (m)
praising	ag moladh
pregnant	torrach
present, gift	bronntanas (m)
priest	sagart (m)
print (in print, out of print)	cló (m) (i gcló, as cló)
prize	duais (f)
probably	is cosúil, is dócha
problem	fadhb (f)
profession	slí (f) bheatha
professor (B&I), full professor (US)	ollamh (m)
professor (US)	léachtóir (m)
program	clár (m)
proud (of)	bródúil (as)
psychology	síceolaíocht (f)
pub, bar	teach (m) tábhairne
pullover	geansaí (m)
purse	sparán (m)

put

cuir, ag cur

Q

quarter

ceathrú (f)

quarter of an hour

ceathrú (f) uair an chloig

quiet

ciúin

R

radio

raidió (m)

rain (n)

báisteach (f); fearthainne (f)

raining

ag cur báistí

raise, take

tóg, ag tógáil

read

léigh, ag léamh

ready, finished

réidh

reasonable

réasúnta

reasonably

réasúnta, measartha

recognize

aithin, ag aithint

red

dearg

red-haired

rua

refrigerator

cuisneoir (m)

relax

lig do scíth

remedy (n)

leigheas (m)

remember

is cuimhin le

request (vb)

iarr (ar), ag iarraidh (ar)

research

taighde (m)

respect (n)

meas (m)

restaurant

bialann (f)

retire

éirigh as, ag éirí as

retired

éirithe as

rice

rís (f)

right, proper

ceart

right enough

ceart go leor

rise, get up

éirigh, ag éirí

road

bóthar (m)

rock

carraig (f)

rock-music

roc-cheol (m)

romance (novel)

scéal (m) grá

romantic affairs

cúrsaí grá

room

seomra (m)

rose

rós (m)

run

rith, ag rith

S

sailor

mairnéalach (m)

salt	salann (m)
same	céanna
sand	gaineamh (m)
sandwich	ceapaire (m)
say, tell	abair (le); inis (do)
school	scoil (f)
primary school	bunscoil (f)
secondary school, high school	meánscoil (f)
science	eolaíocht (f)
Scot	Albanach (m)
Scotland	Albain (f)
Scottish	Albanach
Scottish Gaelic	Gaeilge na hAlban (f)
sea	farraige (f)
season (n)	séasúr (m)
secretary	rúnaí (m)
see	feic, ag feiceáil
seldom	annamh
selling	ag díol
sensible	ciallmhar
separated	scartha
seven	seacht
shame (n)	náire (f)
she	í, ise, sí
sheep	caora (f)
shining	ag soilsiú
shirt	léine (f)
shoe	bróg (f)
shop	siopa (m)
shopkeeper	siopadóir (m)
shopping	ag siopadóireacht
shopping centre	ionad (m) siopadóireachta
short	gearr
shy	faiteach
sick	tinn
silence (n)	tost (m)
silence!	ciúnas! (m)
sing (a song)	abair amhrán, gabh amhrán
singing	ag canadh
single	singil
sister	deirfiúr (f)
sitting	ag suí
six	sé
skirt	sciorta (m)

sky	spéar
sleep	codladh (m)
sleet	fliuchshneachta (m)
small	beag
smart, clever	cliste
smile	meangadh (m)
smoking	ag caitheamh (tobaic)
no smoking!	cosc ar thobac
snow	sneachta (m)
snowing	ag cur sneachta
soap opera	sobalchlár (m)
soccer	peil (f)
sociology	socheolaíocht (f)
some	éigin, eicint ^C
sometimes	uaireanta, corruair
son, boy	mac (m)
song	amhrán (m)
soon	ar ball, gan mhoill
sore	tinn ^C , nimhneach
sorrow	brón (m)
sound	fuaim (f)
Spain	an Spáinn (f)
Spaniard	Spáinneach
Spanish (adj)	Spáinneach
Spanish language	Spáinnis (f)
speak	labhair, ag labhairt
speech	óráid (f)
spices	spíosraí
spoil	mill, ag milleadh
sport	spóirt (m)
sports program	clár (m) spóirt
sports centre	ionad (m) spóirt
the spring	an t-earrach (m)
stable (n)	stábla (m)
standing	ag seasamh
star	réalta (f)
movie star, starlet	réalta scannán, realtóg
stay	fan, ag fanacht
stay there	fan ansin
staying	ag stopadh, ag fanacht
steal	goid, ag goid
stereo, record player	seinnteoir (m)
stomach (n)	bolg (m)
stop (vb)	stad, ag stad

storm
 story
 straight
 strange
 street
 strong
 student
 studying
 stupid
 suburb
 succeed (in)
 I passed the exam
 sugar
 summer
 sun
 sunny
 supermarket
 swim
 sweep
 sweets
 Swiss
 Switzerland

T

table
 take

 talk (n)
 talking
 talk show
 tall
 tape
 tapedeck, tape recorder
 taste (n)
 tasty
 tea
 tea pot
 teacher
 tear (vb)
 telephone (n)
 television
 tell (a story)
 tell (someone something)
 ten

stoirm (f)
 scéal (m)
 díreach
 aisteach
 sráid (f)
 láidir
 mac (m) léinn
 ag staidéar
 bómánta
 bruachbhaile (m)
 éiríonn le (i)
 d'éirigh liom sa srúdú
 siúcra (m)
 samhradh (m)
 grian (f)
 grianmhar
 ollmhargadh (m)
 snámh, ag snámh
 scuab, ag scuabadh
 milseáin
 Eilvéiseach
 an Eilvéis (f)

bord (m)
 glac, ag glacadh;
 tóg, ag tógáil
 caint (f)
 ag caint
 clár (m) cainte
 ard
 téip (m)
 téipthaifeadán (m)
 blas (m)
 blasta
 tae (m)
 pota (m) tae
 múinteoir (m)
 stróic, ag stróiceadh
 teileafón (m); guthán (m)
 teilifís (f)
 inis (sceal), ag insint (scéil)
 inis (do); abair (le)
 deich

tennis	leadóg (f)
terrorist	sceimhlitheoir (m)
than	ná
thanks	buíochas (m)
many thanks	míle buíochas
thank God	buíochas le Dia
thank you (sg/pl)	go raibh maith agat/agaibh
thank you (sg) very much	go raibh míle maith agat
that	an ... sin
that book	an leabhar sin
that's it	sin é
that's all	sin a bhfuil
theatre	amharclann (f)
theology	diagacht (f)
therapy	teiripe (f)
there	ansin
they	siad, siadsan, iad, iadsan
thick	tiubh
thief	gadaí (m)
thin	tanaí
thing	rud (m)
think (about)	smaoinigh (ar), ag smaoineamh
thirst (n)	tart (m)
thirsty, dry	tirim
I got thirsty	bhuail tart mé
this	an ... seo
this one	an ceann seo
this year	i mbliana
thought, idea	smaoineamh (m)
three	trí
three people	triúr
thriller (novel, film)	scéinséir (m)
throughout	ar fud
Tibet	an Tibéid (f)
tidy, put in order	réitigh, ag réiteach
tights	riteoga
tired	tuirseach
I'm tired of it	tá mé tuirseach de
tiredness, fatigue	tuirse (f)
to (a place)	go (prefixes 'h' to vowel)
to (event)	chuig
to, for	do (+ lenition)
to, in order to	le (prefixes 'h' to vowel)
	chun (+ gen)

together	le chéile, in éineacht le
tomorrow	amárach
today	inniu
tonight	anocht
too (also)	freisin
too (excessive)	ró-
too much (n)	an iomarca
tooth	fiacal (m), fiacla (pl)
toothache	tinneas fiacaile (m)
toothbrush	scuab fiacla (f)
toothpaste	taos fiacla
top	barr (m)
tourist	turasóir (m)
translate	aistrigh, ag aistriú
translation	aistriúchán (m)
tree	crann (m)
tradition	traidisiún (m)
traditional music	ceol traidisiúnta (m)
train	traein (f)
train station	stáisiún traenach (m)
travel	taisteal (m)
trouble	trioblóid (f)
trousers	bríste (m)
truth	fírinne (f)
turkey	turcaí (m)
two (number)	dó
two (adj)	dhá (+ lenition)
two people	beirt (f) (+ lenition)
U	
uncle	uncail (m)
under	faoi (+ lenition)
undergraduate	bunchéimeach
undergraduate degree	bunchéim (m)
understand	tuig, ag tuiscint
unemployed	dífhostaithe
university	ollscoil (f)
until, up to	go dtí
up (direction)	suas
up (location)	thuas
use (n)	úsáid (f)
he used to...	ba ghnách leis ^C ...
usually	de ghnáth

V

vacation
 vegetables
 vegetarian
 very
 videocamera
 videotape
 video recorder
 visit
 vitamins
 voice

laethanta saoire
 glasraí
 feoilséantóir (m)
 an-, fíor-
 físcemara (m)
 fístéip (f)
 físthaifeadán (m)
 cúairt (f)
 vitimíní
 guth (m)

W

wait (for)
 wait a minute
 waiter
 wake
 waking state
 Wales
 walk
 walkman

 wash
 waste basket
 watch (n)
 watch (vb)
 watching tv
 water
 we
 weak
 wealthy
 the web
 website
 wedding
 week
 weekend
 welcome, you're welcome
 well!
 well, healthy
 Welsh (person or thing)
 Welsh language
 wet
 Western (movie)
 what?

fan (le), ag fanacht
 fan nóiméad (m)
 freastalaí (m)
 dúisigh, ag dúiseacht
 dúiseacht
 an Bhreatain Bheag (f)
 siúil, ag siúl
 seinnteoir (m);
 dlúthdhioscaí pearsanta
 nigh, ag ní
 bosca bruscair (m)
 uaireadóir (m)
 breathnaigh^C / féach^M / amharc^U
 ag breathnú ar an teilifís
 uisce (m)
 muid, muidinne
 lag
 saibhir
 an greasán (m)
 suíomh gréasáin (m)
 bainis (f)
 seachtain (f)
 deireadh seachtaine (m)
 fáilte (f), fáilte romhat
 bhuel
 go maith
 Breatnach
 Breatnais (f)
 fliuch
 scannán (m) buachaillí bó
 céard?

when?	cén uair?
when	nuair
where?	cá, cén áit?
whiskey	uisce (m) beatha
white	bán
who?	cé?
why?	cén fáth?
widow, widower	baintreach (f)
wife	bean chéile (f)
wind	gaoth (f)
window	fuinneog (f)
wine; white / red wine	fíon (m); fíon bán / dearg
winter	geimhreadh (m)
with	le (prefixes 'h' to vowel)
without	gan (+ lenition)
woman	bean (f)
wonder, surprise	iontas (m)
wonderful	iontach
work (n)	obair, cuid (f) oibre
work (vb)	ag obair
worker	oibrí (m)
world	domhan (m)
worried	buartha
write	scríobh, ag scríobh
writer	scríbhneoir (m)
writing	scríbhneoireacht (f)
wrong	contráilte, mícheart
Y	
year	bliain (f)
yellow	buí
yesterday	inné
yet	go fóill
yonder	thall, úd
you (pl)	sibh, sibhse
you (sg)	tú, thú, tusa
young	óg

GEARRLIOSTA BRIATHRA: A SELECT VERB LIST

The three forms listed for each verb are, in that order, the second singular imperative ('go!') which in Irish is the same as the verbal stem, the first person singular present tense (I go'), and the verbal noun ('going'), which is either masculine (m) or feminine (f). Irregular verbs are printed in bold.

Superscript ^U (for Ulster) denotes an Ulster dialect variant.

Regular verbs follow one of two conjugations. All monosyllabic stems take the first conjugation; all polysyllabic stems in *-igh* take the second conjugation. In the case of polysyllabic verbs which have a different ending, their conjugation has been indicated by a bold **1** or **2**, followed by a letter **A**, **B**, or **C** to refer to subdivisions (based on Mac Congáil 2004, 117f). Thus polysyllabic second-conjugation stems that syncopate (e.g. *freagair*) are marked **2B**, and second-conjugation polysyllables that do not syncopate (e.g. *foghlaim*) are marked **2C**.

A

adhlaic! adhlacaim; ag adhlacadh (m) 1C	bury
admhaigh! adhmaím, ag adhmaíl (f)	admit
aistrigh! aistrím; ag aistriú (m)	translate
aithin! aithním; ag aithint (f) 2B	recognize
aontaigh! aontaím; ag aontú (m)	agree
athraigh! athraím; ag athrú (m)	change
athscríobh! athscríobhaim; ag athscríobh (m) 1C	rewrite, copy, transcribe

B

báigh! báim; ag bá (m) / ag báthadh (m) ^U 1A	drown (tr.)
bácáil! bácálaim; ag bácáil (f) 1B	bake
bagair! bagraím; ag bagairt (f) 2B	threaten
bailigh! bailím; ag bailiú (m)	collect, gather
bain! bainim; ag baint (f)	pick, extract
beannaigh! beannaím; ag beannú (m)	bless, greet
beartaigh! beartaím; ag beartú (m)	plan
béic! béicim; ag béiceadh (m)	yell
beir! beirim; ag breith (f)	bear; take
bí! tá mé; a bheith	be
blais! blaisim; ag blaiseadh (m)	taste
bog! bogaim; ag bogadh (m)	soften; move
breathnaigh! breathnaím; ag breathnú (m)	observe, look
bris! brisim; ag briseadh (m)	break
brostaigh! brostaím; ag brostú (m)	hurry; urge
brúigh! brúim; ag brú (m) 1A	press
buail! buailim; ag bualadh (m)	hit
buaigh! buaim; ag buachan (f) 1A	win

C

cabhraigh! cabhraím; ag cabhrú (m)	help
caill! caillim; ag cailleadh (m)	lose
cáin! cáinim; ag cáineadh (m)	condemn; fine
caith! caithim; ag caitheamh (m)	throw, spend, smoke, wear
can! canaim; ag canadh (m)	sing
caoin! caoinim; ag caoineadh (m)	weep
cas! casaim; ag casadh (m)	turn, twist
ceadaigh! ceadaím; ag ceadú (m)	allow
ceangail! ceanglaím; ag ceangal (m) 2B	tie, connect
ceannaigh! ceannaím; ag ceannach (m)	buy
ceap! ceapaim; ag ceapadh (m)	think, invent
ceartaigh! ceartaím, ag ceartú (m)	correct
ceil! ceilim; ag ceilt (f)	hide
ceiliúir! ceiliúraim, ag ceiliúradh (m) 1C	celebrate
ceistigh! ceistím; ag ceistiú (m)	question
ciallaigh! ciallaím; ag ciallú (m)	mean; explain
cíor! cíoraim; ag cíoradh (m)	comb
cleachtaigh! cleachtaim; ag cleachtadh (m)	practise
clis! clisim; ag cliseadh (m)	jump, start; fail
clóbhuail! clóbhuailim; ag clóbhualadh (m) 1C	print
clois! cloisim; ag cloisteáil (f)	hear
clóscríobh! clóscríobhaim; ag clóscríobh (m)	type(write)
clúdaigh! clúdaím; ag clúdach (m)	cover
cnag! cnagaim; ag cnagadh (m)	knock
cniotáil! cniotáilim; ag cniotáil (f) 1B	knit
cnuasaigh! cnuasaím; ag cnuasach (m)	gather
cóirigh! cóirím; ag cóiriú (m)	arrange, dress
comhlíon! comhlíonaim; ag comhlíonadh (m) 1C	fulfil
cónaigh! cónaím; ag cónaí (m)	live, dwell
corraigh! corraím; ag corraí (m)	move, stir
cosnaigh! cosnaím; ag cosaint (f)	defend; cost
cráigh! cráim; ag crá (m)	annoy, torment
creid! creidim; ag creidiúint (f)/creidbheáil (f) ^U	believe, think
críochnaigh! críochnaím; ag críochnú (m)	finish
crith! crithim; ag crith (m)	shake, tremble
croch! crochaim; ag crochadh (m)	hang
crom! cromaim; ag cromadh (m)	bend, stoop
cruaigh! cruaim; ag cruachan (f)	harden (tr. & intr.)
crúigh! crúim; ag crú (m) 1A	milk
cruinnigh! cruinním; ag cruinniú (m)	gather, collect (tr. & intr.)
cruthaigh! cruthaím; ag cruthú (m)	form, shape, prove
cuidigh! cuidím; ag cuidiú (m)	help
cuidhnigh! cuidhním; ag cuidhneamh (m)	remember
cuir! cuirim; ag cur (m)	put

cum! cumaim; ag cumadh (m)

compose, shape

D

dealaigh! dealaím; ag dealú (m)

separate; subtract

déan! déanaim; ag déanamh (m)**do, make**

dearbhaigh! dearbhaím; ag dearbhú (m)

swear, declare

deimhnigh! deimhním; ag deibhniu (m)

affirm; certify

abair! deirim; ag rá (m)**say**

deisigh! deisím; ag deisiú (m)

fix

díol! díolaim; ag díol (m)

sell; pay^U

díriú! dírim; ag díriú (m)

straighten

diúltaigh! diúltaím; ag diúltú (m)

refuse, deny

dóigh! dóim; ag dó (m) **1A**

burn

dúisigh! dúisím; ag dúiseacht (f)

wake (tr. & intr.)

dún! dúnam; ag dúnadh (m)

close

E

eagraigh! eagraím; ag eagrú (m)

arrange, organize

éalaigh! éalaím; éalú (m)

escape, elope

éirigh! éirim; ag éirí (m)

get up, rise

éist! éistím; ag éisteacht (f)

listen

eitil! eitlím; ag eitilt (f) **2B**

fly, flutter

F

fág! fágaim; ag fágáil (f)

leave s.th.

faigh! faighim; ag fáil (f)**get, find**

fan! fanaim; fanacht (m)

wait, stay

fás! fásaim; ag fás (m)

grow

féach! féachaim; féachaint (f) / ag féacháil (f)^M

look; try

feic! feicim; ag feiceáil (f)**see**

fiafraigh! fiafraím; ag fiafraí (m)

ask, enquire

fill! fillim; ag filleadh (m) / pill! pillim; ag pilleadh^U

return

foghlaím! foghlaimím; ag foghlaim (f) **2C**

learn

fógair! fógraím; ag fógairt (f) **2B**

announce

foilsigh! foilsím; ag foilsíú (m)

publish

freagair! freagraím; ag freagairt (f) **2B**

respond

freastail! freastalaím; ag freastal (m) **2C**

attend, serve

fulaing! fulaingím; ag fulaingt (f) **2C**

suffer

Ggeall! geallaim; ag gealladh (m) / ag geallstan^U

promise

garr! gearraim; ag gearradh (m)

cut

géill! géillim; géilleadh	yield
glac! glacaim; ag glacadh (m)	take
glan! glanaim; ag glanadh (m)	clean
glaogh! glaeim; ag glaoch (m) 1A	call
goid! goidim; ag goid (f)	steal
goin! goinim; ag goin (f)	wound
gortaigh! gortaím, ag gortú (m)	hurt, injure
guigh! guím; ag guí (f) 1A	pray

I

iarr! iarraim; ag iarraidh (f)	ask for, want
imigh! imím; ag imeacht (m)	leave (intrans.)
imir! imrím; ag imirt (f) 2B	play
inis! insím; ag insint (f) 2B	tell
íoc! íocaim; ag íoc (m)	pay
iompair! iompraím; ag iompar (m) 2B	carry
ísligh! íslím; ag ísliú (m)	lower
ith! ithim; ag ithe (f)	eat

L

labhair! labhraím; ag labhairt (f) 2B	speak
las! lasaim; ag lasadh (m)	light, burn
leag! leagaim; ag leagan (m)	knock down
lean! leanaim; ag leanúint (f)	follow
léigh! léim; ag léamh (m) 1A	read
léim! léimim; ag léim (f)	jump
léirigh! léirím; ag léiriú (m)	explain, produce
lig! ligim; ag ligean (m)	allow
líon! líonaim; ag líonadh (m)	fill
litriugh! litrím; ag litriú (m)	spell
luaigh! luaim; ag lua (m) 1A	mention, cite
luigh! luím; ag luí (m) 1A	lie, lie down

M

maraigh! maraím; ag marú (m) / ag marbhadh (m) ^{U59}	kill
meall! meallaim; ag mealladh (m)	woo, entice
meas! measaim; ag meas (m)	think, estimate
measc! meascaim; ag meascadh (m)	mix
mill! millim; ag milleadh (m)	spoil

⁵⁹ In Ulster, *maraigh* takes an f-future / conditional, and in those tenses, the stem is pronounced as if it were written *muir-*: *muirfidh sé mé; mhuirfeadh sé mé* (Ó Baoill 1996, 144).

mínigh! míním; ag míniú (m)	explain
mol! molaim; ag moladh (m)	praise
mothaigh! mothaím; ag mothú (m) / ag mothachtáil ^U	hear; perceive, feel
múch! múchaim; ag múchadh (m)	extinguish
múin! múinim; ag múineadh [mu:nu ^U] (m)	teach
mún! múnaim; ag múnadh (m)	urinate
muscail! musclaím; ag muscailt (f) 2B	wake, awake

N

nigh! ním; ag nigh (f) 1A	wash
----------------------------------	------

O

ól! ólaim; ag ól (m)	drink
oscail! osclaím; ag oscailt (f) 2B	open

P

pacáil! pacálaim; ag pacáil (f) 1B	pack
pioc! piocaim; ag piocadh (m)	pick
pléigh! pléim; ag plé (m) 1A	dispute
póg! pógaim; ag pógadh (m)	kiss
pós! pósaim; ag pósadh (m)	marry

R

réab! réabaim; ag réabadh (m)	tear apart, rend
réitigh! réitím; ag réiteach (m)	solve, clear
rith! rithim; ag rith (m)	run
roinn! roinnim; ag roinnt (f)	divide

S

sábháil! sábhálaim; ag sábháil (f) 1B	save
samhlaigh! samhlaím; ag samhlú (m)	imagine
scaoil! scaoilim; ag scaoileadh (m)	release
scairt! scairtim; ag scairteadh (m) / ag scairtigh ^U	call, shout
scréach! scréachaim; ag scréachach (f)	screach
scread! screadaim; ag screadach (f) / ag screadaigh ^U	scream
scríobh! scríobhaim; ag scríobh (m)	write
scrios! scriosaim; ag scriosadh (m)	destroy
scrúdaigh! scrúdaím; ag scrúdú (m)	examine
scuab! scuabaim; ag scuabadh (m)	brush
seas! seasaim; ag seasamh (m)	stand
síl! sílim; ag síleadh (m) / ag silstin (f) ^U	think
sín! sínim; ag síneadh (m)	stretch

sínigh! síním; ag síniú (m)	sign
siúil! siúlaim; ag siúl (m)	walk
smaoinigh! smaoiním; ag smaoineadh (m) / ag smaoiteamh (m) ^U	think
socraigh! socraím; ag socrú (m)	settle, arrange
spreag! spreagaim; ag spreagadh (m)	urge, inspire
sroich! sroichim; ag sroicheadh (m)	reach, arrive at
stad! stadaim; ag stad (m)	stop
stop! stopaim; ag stopadh (m)	stop, stay
suigh! suím; ag suí (m) 1A	sit

T

tabhair! tugaim; ag tabhairt (f)	give
taispeáin! taispeánaim; ag taispeáint (f) 1C	show
taistil! taistealaím; ag taisteal (m) 2C	travel
tar! tagaim; ag teacht (m)	come
tarlaigh! tarlaím; ag tarlú (m)	happen
tarraing! tarraingím; ag tarraingt (f) 2C	pull
téigh! téim; ag dul (m)	go
teip! teipim; ag teip (f)	fail
tiomáin! tiomáinim; tiomáint (f) 1C	drive
tit! titim; ag titim (f)	fall
tóg! tógaim; ag tógáil (f)	take, raise
togh! toghaim; ag toghadh (m)	choose, elect
tosaigh! tosaím; ag tosú (m)	begin
troid! troidim; ag troid (f)	fight
tuig! tuigim; ag tuiscint (f) / ag tuigbheáil ^U	understand

U

ullmhaigh! ullmhaím; ag ullmhú (m)	prepare
úsáid! úsáidim; ag úsáid (f) 1C	use

V

vótáil! vótáilím; ag vótáil 1B	vote
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