

S C O I L S C A I R T E

Field Notes

A GUIDE TO SCOIL SCAIRTE



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Ainmfhocail Firinsneacha agus Baininscneacha | Masculine and Feminine Nouns

In Gaeilge / in Irish, tá gach ainmfhocal firinscneach nó baininscneach / all nouns are either masculine (firinscneach) or feminine (baininscneach). Grammatical gender in Irish is not associated with biological gender, e.g.: the word for girl / cailín is masculine!

In today's lesson I will share some clues / *leideanna* with you as to how to decipher whether a noun is masculine or feminine. Some of these tips relate to the sounds of words and so, it is really important that we awaken our ears / *caithfimid ár gcluasa a mhúscailt*! This is a really important step in building a natural affinity for the Irish language, where you start to develop an instinct for what sounds right.

Seo linn / here we go!



Why is it important that we know the gender of a given noun?

Well, from a beginner's point of view, the most common reason would be: When an adjective (a descriptive word e.g. big, small, lovely, red) is used directly with a noun, then the adjective has to agree with the noun's gender/number/case. Let's see this in action:

Fear Man (masculine noun) An fear maith The good man

Bean Woman (feminine noun) An bhean mhaith The good woman

Notice how both the noun and adjective for the masculine example <u>isn't lenited</u> while both the noun and the adjective in the case of the feminine example <u>is lenited</u>.

There are of course other more complex grammatical applications regarding a noun's gender but as we're just starting out on this journey, I think it's best to keep to the low pathways rather than diving off fearsome cliffs! Small steps are key!



Masculine Nouns

It's important to note that we can sometimes tell whether a noun is masculine or feminine from any changes (or lack of changes) which take place after the use of the definite article an (the).

Masculine nouns which begin with a <u>consonant</u> are always unaffected by the use of the definite article an (the), e.g.:

Fear	Man	An fear	The man
Buachaill	Boy	An buachaill	The boy
Grá	Love	An grá	The love
Cailín	Girl	An cailín	The girl
Domhan	World	An domhan	The world

Masculine nouns which begin with a <u>vowel</u> (a,e,i,o,u) have t- added to the beginning of their spelling when the definite article An is used e.g.:

Ainm	Name	An t-ainm	The name
Eolas	Information	An t-eolas	The information
<i>Iasc</i>	Fish	An t-iasc	The fish
Oileán	Island	An t-oileán	The island
<i>Uisce</i>	Water	An t-uisce	The water

Mar Shampla / For Example:

Cén t-ainm atá ort? What's your name? Bhí orm an t-eolas a tharraingt as I had to drag the information out of him Bhí an t-iasc sin an-bhlasta That fish was very tasty

Shiúil mé an t-oileán ó bhun go barr I walked the island from end to end/Lit: from bottom to top Tá an t-uisce úr, glan agus milis

The water is fresh, clean and sweet



Leideanna | Tips!

A noun is masculine if it ends in $-\acute{e}ir$, $-\acute{e}oir$, $-\acute{e}ir$ and is the name of a profession, e.g.:

Siúinéir Carpenter Scríbhneoir Writer

Báicéir Baker Bainisteoir Manager

Péintéir Painter *Feirmeoir* Farmer

Stiúrthóir Director Riarthóir Administrator

A noun is masculine if it is a <u>single syllable</u> word ending in *-eacht* or *-acht*, e.g,: *ceacht* (lesson), *racht* (fit/paroxysm) e.g. *racht feirge* / a fit of anger.

A noun is masculine if it ends with the diminutive suffix -in, e.g.: cailin (girl), cipin (match).



Leideanna | Tips!

A noun is likely to be masculine if it ends with a <u>long, broad consonant</u> (a consonant or group of consonants which have a/\acute{a} , o/\acute{o} , u/\acute{u} before them).

The following long, broad consonant endings are always masculine: $-\acute{a}n$, -adh, -eadh, $-\acute{e}al$, -eo, $-i\acute{u}$, $-\acute{u}n$, $-\acute{u}s$ it is masculine:

-án: Troscán	Furniture	-adh: Samhradh	Summer
-eadh: Geimhreadh	Winter	-éal: Scéal	Story
-eo: Treo	Direction	-iú: Síniú	Signature
-ú: Athrú	Change	-ún: Dún	Fort
-ús: Tús	Start		

Nóta: Not all nouns which end in long, broad consonants are masculine, there are exceptions, so be careful! If you are ever in doubt, then consult the wonderful resource https://www.teanglann.ie/ga/gram/. This will tell you whether a noun is masculine / feminine, along with providing other information that's really useful e.g. the genitive form.



Feminine Nouns

Feminine nouns which begin with \underline{most} consonants are lenited when they immediately follow the definite article an. Lenition means softening or mellowing and the Irish for lenition is $s\acute{e}imhi\acute{u}$. In Irish, lenition is shown by the addition of h after the first consonant in the given word, e.g.:

MáthairMotherAn mháthairThe motherMaidinMorningAn mhaidinThe morning

Notice that maidin is feminine <u>but</u> words that end in -in are masculine e.g. cailin. Again, don't underestimate the power of the small but significant siniu fada/acute accent!

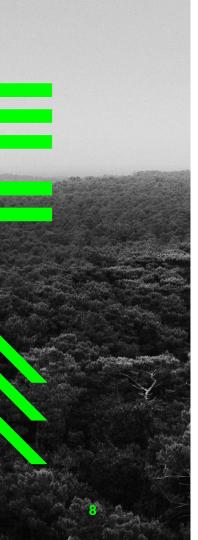
Grian Sun An ghrian The sun
Gealach Moon An ghealach The moon

Feminine nouns which begin with a d or a t are not lenited, e.g.:

DeoirTearAn deoirThe tearTonnWaveAn tonnThe wave

Feminine nouns which begin with s and are immediately followed by l, n, r (think of the consonants of LuNaR) or a vowel (a,e,i,o,u) becomes ts after An (the), e.g.:

Sluasaid Shovel An tsluasaid The shovel Snaidhm An tsnaidhm The knot Knot Sráid An tsráid The street Street An tsearc The love Searc Love



Leideanna | Tips!

A noun is feminine if it ends in *-lann* and denotes a place where something is done e.g.:

BialannRestaurantLeabharlannLibraryAmharclannTheatrePictiúrlannCinemaCogaslannPharmacySaotharlannLaboratory

A noun is feminine if it has <u>more than one syllable</u> and ends in *-íocht* or *-aíocht*, e.g.: *filíocht* (poetry) or *iomaíocht* (competition).

Nóta: Watch out for those words ending in *-cht* which have only one syllable as these are masculine nouns, e.g. *smacht* (discipline), *locht* (blame), *racht* (outburst/fit, e.g. *racht feirge*: fit of anger, *racht cainte*: outpouring of speech).

A noun is feminine if it ends in -eog or -óg e.g.:

FuinneogWindowAn fhuinneogThe windowBrógShoeAn bhrógThe shoe



Leideanna | Tips!

A noun is feminine if it ends in the following <u>short consonants</u> (a consonant or group of consonants which have i before them). Nouns which have the <u>following</u> short consonant endings are <u>always</u> feminine::

	Sráid Screadaíl	Street Scream	
-áil	Cáil	Fame	
-ailt	Scoilt	Crack/divide	e.g. <i>Tá scoilt mhór inár gcaidreamh</i>
-áint	Taispeáint	Display/Viewing	(There's a big divide in our relationship) e.g. <i>taispeáint phríobhaideach</i> (A private viewing/screening)
-airt	Abairt	Sentence	e.g. <i>abairt shimplí</i> (a simple sentence)
-eáil	Péinteáil	Painting	
- íl	Stíl	Style	e.g. <i>Stíl phearsanta</i> (personal style)
-ilt	Cuimilt	Stroking/Rubbing	
-irm	Ceolchoirm	Concert	
-irt	Contúirt	Danger	
-ip	Cóip	Сору	e.g. <i>cóip bhradach</i> (a pirated copy)
$-\acute{u}il$	Súil	Eye	
-úint	Canúint	Dialect	



Tuilleadh Leideanna | More Tips!

Nóta: It's important to note that some nouns e.g. *buachaill* / boy have consonant endings which sound short but the noun is in fact masculine! It's also worth noting that the word ending for *buachaill* (*-ill*) doesn't feature in our list of short cononant endings which always denote feminine nouns.

 $N\acute{o}ta$: Other examples of feminine nouns are maidin / morning; pingin / penny; traein / train. This isn't to say that all nouns which end with -in are feminine. But do try saying the words out loud. Do their consonant endings sound short? Remember not to mix up the long consonant sound -in with the short consonant sound -in (a little siniú fada makes a big difference!). If in doubt about the grammatical gender of any noun, please consult https://www.teanglann.ie/ga.

 $N\acute{o}ta$: Another example of a feminine noun is slat / slender stick or cane. The consonant ending sounds short but then so too does carbhat / tie, which is masculine. So do watch out!

Despite all of the exceptions, this guide should provide you with some valuable tools when trying to figure out whether a noun is masculine or feminine.



Tuilleadh Leideanna | More Tips!

A noun is <u>likely</u> to be feminine if it is the name of a country. This too carries some notable exceptions e.g.: *Meiriceá* (America), *Sasana* (England).

A noun is feminine if it is the name of a language e.g.: *Fraincís* (French) or *Iodáilís* (Italian). The exception to this rule is *Béarla* (English).

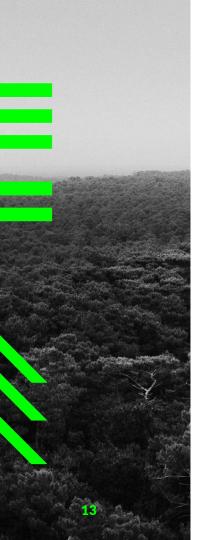
Nóta: Take a look at the Grammar Database on https://www.teanglann.ie/en/gram. This facility provides all kinds of grammatical information on words in Irish including gender. It's super-easy to use and extremely comprehensive. All you have to do is type the relevant word into the search engine and away you go!



Cleachtadh! | Practice!

An bhfuil na focla seo firinscneach nó baininscneach?

- 2. *Draíocht* Magic
- B. *Árasán* Apartment
- 4. *Míorúilt* Miracle
- 5. *Codladh* Sleep/slumber
- 6. *Stoirm* Storm
- 7. *Fraincís* French
- 8. *Folús* Void/Emptiness
- 9. Sasana England
- 10. *Anáil* Breath
- 11. *Botún* Mistake
- 12. *Gleo* Noise/racket
- 13. *Béal* Mouth
- 14. *Ócáid* Occasion/event



Cleachtadh! | Practice!

Freagraí

1.	Úrscéal	Novel	Firinscneach
2.	Draíocht	Magic	Baininscneach
3.	Árasán	Apartment	Firinscneach
4.	Míorúilt	Miracle	Baininscneach
5.	Codladh	Sleep/slumber	Firinscneach
6.	Stoirm	Storm	Baininscneach
7.	Fraincís	French	Baininscneach
8.	Folús	Void/Emptines	s <i>Firinscneach</i>
9.	Sasana	England	Firinscneach
10.	Anáil	Breath	Baininscneach
11.	Botún	Mistake	Firinscneach
12.	Gleo	Noise/racket	Firinscneach
13.	Béal	Mouth	Firinscneach
14.	Ócáid	Occasion/even	t <i>Baininscneach</i>



Stór Focal

Last week we had our first look at the verb *Taitníonn le* (pleasing with):

An dtaitníonn spórt leat? Taitníonn spórt go mór liom Ní thaitníonn spórt liom.. ..ach is breá liom a bheith ag cócaireacht Do you like sport? / Is sport pleasing with you?
I like sport a lot / Sport is pleasing with me a lot
I don't like sport / Sport is not pleasing with me..

..but I love cooking

Le / With combined with Pronouns

Liom	With me	Linn	With us
Leat	With you	Libh	With you
Leis	With him	Leo	With them
Léi	With her		

Taitníonn an dath dearg linn We like the colour red / The colour red is pleasing with us Taitníonn an dath bándearg liom | like pink / The colour pink is pleasing with me

Cé leis? Whose is? / Lit: Whose with?

Cé leis an mála leathair seo?Who owns this leather bag?Is liomsa éI own it / It's with meNí liomsa éI don't own it / It's not with me



Dathanna | Colours

Bán White Bándearg Pink

Bánghorm Light blue Yellow

CorcraPurpleDeargRedDonnBrownDubhBlack

Dorcha Dark (can be used in reference to hair, gruaig dhorcha / dark hair)

Dubh dorchaPitch blackFíondaiteWine coloured

Fionn Fair (used in reference to hair, gruaig fhionn / fair hair)

Green (used in reference to the natural world e.g. *féar glas* / green grass)

Glébhuí Canary Yellow

Gorm Blue

Gormghlas Bluegreen

Ildaite Multi-coloured

Liath Grey

Muirghlas Sea-greenOráiste Orange

Rua Red (used in reference to hair, gruaig rua / red hair as well as in other contexts e.g. Nil pingin rua

agam / I don't have a brass farthing / I am completely broke, madra rua / fox)

Spéirghorm Sky-blue

Uaine Green (used in reference to manufactured things e.g. *Tá gúna uaine orm* / I am wearing a green dress)



Dathanna | Colours

Taitníonn dathanna geala liom I like bright colours

Taitníonn dathanna dorcha léi She likes dark colours

Ní thaitníonn dathanna éadroma leo They don't like pale colours

Taitníonn dathanna spleodracha libh You (plural) like exuberant colours

Is fuath leis dathanna croíúla He hates cheerful colours



Baill Éadaigh | Items of Clothing

Bástchóta

Blús

Bróga

Bríste

Bríste Géine

Brístín

Buataisí

Caipín

Carbhat

Cóta

Cóta báistí

Culaith (éadaigh)

Culaith shnámha

Culaith oíche

Waistcoat

Blouse

Shoes

Trousers

Jeans

Knickers

Boots

Cap

Tie

Coat

Raincoat

Suit (of clothes)

Swimsuit/togs

Night clothes/pyjamas

Crios

Fothbhríste

Fo-éadaí

Geansaí

Gúna

Hata

Léine

Riteoga

Scairf Sciorta

Seaicéad

Stocaí

T-léine

Belt

Underpants

Underwear

Jumper

Dress

Hat

Shirt

Tights

Scarf

Skirt

Jacket

Socks

T-shirt



Oiriúintí | Accessories

Bráisléad Bracelet

Banda gruaige Hair band

Fáinne Ring

Fáinní cluaise Earrings

Fáinne laidhre Toe ring / Digit ring

Fáinne sróine Nose ring

Fáiscín gruaige Hair slide

Muince Necklace

Seodra Jewellery

Spéaclaí Glasses

Tatú Tattoo

Uaireadóir Watch

Nóta: Laidhricín is the Irish for little toe.



Seomraí Beaga

Tá an ceart agat.

Níl tú gar dó fiú. Tomhais arís.

Tá tú mícheart.

Why not try guessing each other's favourite colour:

Next week in your *Seomraí Beaga* you might like to take it in turns to describe what you are wearing or perhaps take time to describe a favourite outfit.

Is maith leatsa an dath .	You like the colour .
Is maith liom an dath sin ach is fearr liom dath eile.	I like that colour but I prefer another colour.
Tomhais cén dath is fearr liom.	Guess which colour I prefer/guess my favouri colour.
Sílim go b'é an dath is fearr leat ná an dath	. I think your favourite colour is the colour

You're right.

You're wrong.

You're not even close. Guess again.

If you can't guess one another's favourite colour, then, just ask what it is:

Abair liom mar sin, cén dath is fearr leat? Then tell me, what's your favourite colour? Sé'n dath is fearr liom ná an dath _____. My favourite is the colour _____.

Haiku

Báisteach thús an tsamhraidh guth na cuaiche sular rugadh mé

bawshtuck hoos un towree guh na cooihke suller rugoo may

Early summer rain – the voice of the cuckoo before I was born

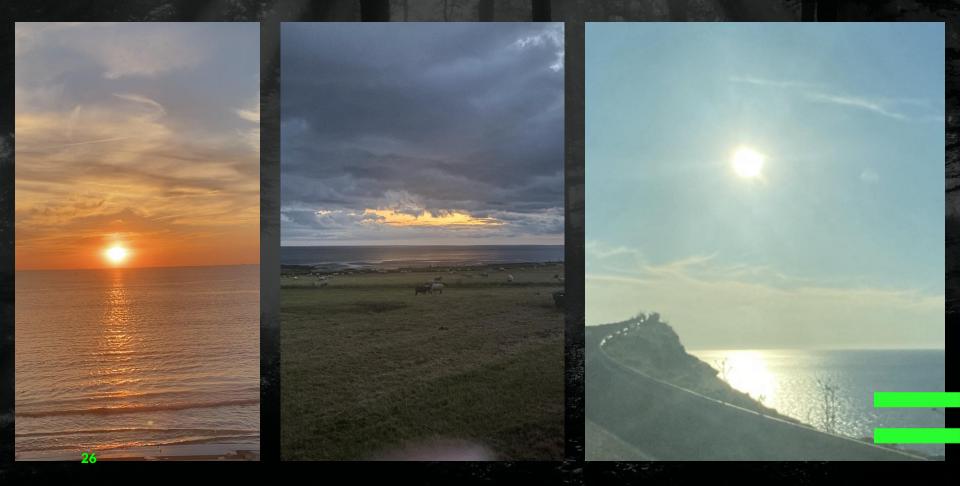


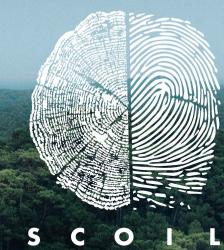
"If white people are a relatively modern invention, who were white people before they were white? This is a question that will have different answers depending on where you're from. But nonetheless whiteness is an erasure, a generic term that collapses crucial distinctions in order to consolidate capital. I recently came across the word Duthchas, an ancient Gaelic ecological principle of interconnectedness between people, the land and nonhuman beings. Duthchas speaks to the type of co-existence, interrelationality and entanglement that we are now, perhaps too late, recognising the utter necessity of, if we are going to survive. Entanglements that would be bulldozed over by 'modernity'; developments like the Cartesian logic of French philosopher Rene Descartes, with its culture/nature man/nature dualisms and Enlightenment Humanism that conceived of the world as comprised of discretely bounded entities that could be categorised, known and dominated by 'Man' (Man himself also conceived of as a discretely bounded entity). People with physical features that came to be racialised as 'white' had existed for many thousands of years before they became reimagined as 'white people'. That this re-imagining was developed and advanced not long after these philosophical developments is no coincidence, the two are inherently interconnected" (Dabiri, 2021: 34).

"Many of the cherished categories of the intersectional mantra—originally starting with race, class, gender, now including sexuality, nation, religion, age, and disability—are the products of modernist colonial agendas and regimes of epistemic violence, operative through a Western/Euro-American formation through which the notion of discrete identity has emerged" (Puar, 2012: 55).

"A being largely dominated by memory and the past is one for whom the present, and its possibilities of action are curtailed. To be mired in the past is to be unable to think and act the future; conversely, to be unanchored in the past, to have no connections to, or resonances with, the past, is also to have no way to see or make a future, it is to have no place from which a future can be made that is different to the present. Well-being requires a judicious mix of the historical and the ahistorical, the timely and the untimely, the past and the future" (Grosz, 2004:116). "Nietzsche was not concerned with historical accuracy or so-called 'facts', but rather with the potentialities of the past for the transformation of the future. Such a conception of history seeks to problematize the prevailing views on which the study of the past (from a western perspective, I hasten to add) has previously been based, such as the belief that the past is an objective reality that can be more or less accessed and reconstructed in the present through material artefacts and texts retained or gleaned from the past" (Grosz 2004: 114).

Duine Gorm





S C O I L S C A I R T E





