

Ná déan é sin!

Comhrá

Milsc

An Modh Ordaitheach

An Modh Ordaitheach -- the imperative mood -- is used to give a command, that is, to tell someone to do something directly. The singular form is most frequently the same as the root of the verb itself, that is, the form you will find in a dictionary. To form the plural, add **-(a)igí**.

cas - casaigí (turn, twist) **cuir - cuirigí** (put, place)
déan - déanaigí (do, make) **fág- fágaigí** (stay)

First conjugation verbs (the majority of verbs in Irish) have roots of one syllable, with **-(e)ann** in the third personal singular of the present tense. Most of these have roots ending in a consonant. If the root ends in a vowel, the singular imperative is formed by adding **-igh** in the singular and **-igí** in the plural.

suigh - suigí (sit) **téigh (téir) - téigí** (go)

If the verb belongs to the second conjugation (most verbs of two or more syllables ending in **-igh**), there are two types.

Type 1- ending in **-igh**

Tosaigh - tosaigí (start) **ceannaigh - ceannaigí *** (buy)

*Note that the plural form has two long í's **-(a)igí**

Type 2- verbs ending in **-ir, -il, -in, -im**

freagair - freagraigí * (answer)
ceangail - ceanglaigí * (to tie)
foghlaim - foghlaimigí (to learn)
codail - codlaigí* (sleep)
labhair - labhraigí* (talk)

*Often called 'syncopated' verbs, because they lose a vowel.

A few verbs have irregular forms:

abair (deir)	- abair	abraigí	speak
tar (tagann)	- tar	tagaigí	come
tabhair (tugann)	- tabhair	tugaigí	give
bí (tá)	- bí	bígí	be

To express a negative command, place **ná** before the verb:

Ná téigh suas ansin!	<i>Don't go up there!</i>
Ná habair* é sin arís!	<i>Don't repeat that!</i>
Ná himigh* go fóill!	<i>Don't leave yet!</i>
Ná bígí dána!	<i>Don't misbehave!</i>

*Note that when the verb begins with a vowel, you must put an **h** before that vowel when giving a negative command.

Some examples of commands:

Dún an doras.	<i>Shut the door.</i>
Ná himigh abhaile.	<i>Don't go home.</i>
Ná himrígí anseo.	<i>Don't play here.</i>
Fágaigí sa bhaile.	<i>Stay at home.</i>
Caith éadaí éadroma.	<i>Wear light clothes.</i>
Smaoinigh ar dhaoine eile.	<i>Think of others.</i>
Ná déan torann.	<i>Don't make noise.</i>
Gabh mo leithscéal.	<i>Excuse me.</i>
Tóg an chéad casadh ar dheis.	<i>Take the first right turn.</i>
Lean díreach ar aghaidh.	<i>Keep going straight ahead.</i>
Fan amach!	<i>Stay away!</i>
Siúil ná rith!	<i>Walk, don't run.</i>
Ná páirceáil anseo.	<i>Don't park here.</i>
Dún an fhuinneog.	<i>Close the window.</i>
Coimeád dúnta.	<i>Keep closed.</i>
Ná siúil ar an bhféar.	<i>Don't walk on the grass.</i>
Tiomáin go mall.	<i>Drive slow(ly).</i>
Suigh síos.	<i>Sit down.</i>
Seas suas.	<i>Stand up.</i>

Bígí cúramach.	<i>Be careful.</i>
Tabhair di é.	<i>Give it to her.</i>
Faigh an nuachtán.	<i>Get the newspaper.</i>
Las an solas.	<i>Turn on the light.</i>
Múch an solas	<i>Turn off the light.</i>
Cuir an glas ar an doras.	<i>Lock the door.</i>
Lig an cat amach.	<i>Let the cat out.</i>
Stop an carr.	<i>Stop the car.</i>
Cuir ort do chóta.	<i>Put on your coat.</i>
Bain dfot do chóta.	<i>Take off your coat.</i>
Ná cuirigí ceisteanna orm.	<i>Don't ask me any questions.</i>

Here is a list of common Irish verbs. For practice, give the singular and plural forms, both affirmative and negative. Try making sentences using these verbs in the imperative.

tar (come)	téigh (go)	beir ar (grasp)
déan (do)	abair (say)	faigh (get)
féach ar (look at)	ith (eat)	tabhair (give)
bí (be)	suigh (sit)	tóg (take)
dún (close)	oscail (open)	glan (clean)
scuab (sweep)	scríobh (write)	seas (stand)
fág (leave)	éist (listen)	léigh (read)
cuir (put, place)	rith (run)	ól (drink)
stróic (tear)	buail (hit)	labhair (speak)
leag (knock down)	brúigh (push)	tarraing (pull)
coimeád (keep)	páirceáil (park)	siúil (walk)
caith (throw)	tosaigh (start)	críochnaigh (finish)
éirigh (get up)	imigh (leave)	fás (grow)
fill (return)	preab (jump)	gortaigh (hurt)
maraigh (kill)	ardaigh (raise)	ullmhaigh (prepare)
feic (see)	beir (catch)	clois (hear)
éist le (listen to)	béic (shout)	bearr (shave)
blais (taste)	bris (break)	caill (lose)
cáin (criticize)	can (sing)	ceap (think)
cíor (comb)	cleacht (practice)	cnag (knock)
doirt (pour)	dreap (climb)	fiuch (boil)
folc (bathe)	frioch (fry)	geall (promise)

garr (cut)	gléas (dress)	líon (fill)
measc (mix)	mol (praise)	múin (teach)
pioc (pick)	póg (kiss)	pós (marry)
róst (roast)	ruaig (chase, pursue)	saor (free)
scar (separate)	sciorr (skid)	seid (blow)
seinn (play)	slog (swallow)	snaidhm (knot)
stiúir (steer)	stop (stop)	tacht (choke)
táirg (produce)	togh (choose)	ceistigh (question)
deisigh (repair)	diúltaigh (refuse)	dorchaigh (darken)
fiosraigh (enquire)	fostaigh (employ)	giorraigh (shorten)
fuaraigh (cool)	iompaigh (turn)	ísligh (lower)
mínigh (explain)	mothaigh (feel)	méadaigh (increase)
roghnaigh (choose)	scrúdaigh (examine)	sínigh (sign)
socraigh (arrange)	suimigh (add up)	trasnaigh (cross)
triomaigh (dry)	fliuchaigh (wet)	clúdaigh (cover)
cuardaigh (search)	dúisigh (wake)	iarr ar (request)
fiafraigh de (ask)	freagair (answer)	cabhraigh (help)
crap suas (fold up)	meaitseáil (match)	ordaigh (order)
snámh (swim)	tuig (understand)	tuill (earn)
lig (let)	díol (sell)	bailigh (collect)
rith (run)	nigh (wash)	aimsigh (find)
marcálaigh (mark)	gluais (move)	goid (steal)
roinn (divide)	tit (fall)	íoc (pay)
guigh (pray)	clóigh (print)	luaigh (mention)
corraigh (stir)	cónaigh (dwell)	dathaigh (paint)
ionsaigh (attack)	sásaigh (satisfy)	áirigh (count)
cuimhnigh (remember)	cogair (whisper)	fógair (announce)
iomair (row)	cigil (tickle)	taitin (please)
ainmnigh (name)	athraigh (change)	bronn (present)

Change these to express a command, both positive and negative following the model given.

Mar shampla: Tógann Pól an bruscar amach.
Paul takes the garbage out.
A Phóil, tóg amach an bruscar!
Paul, take the garbage out.

1. Téann na páistí ar scoil
2. Suíonn Máire sa halla
3. Freagraíonn Liam i gcónaí
4. Ceanglaíonn Mícheál na bróga le chéile
5. Seachnaíonn (avoid) na cailíní an discó sin.
6. Foghlaimíonn na daltaí stair na hEorpa.
7. Casan na carranna ar chlé.
8. Déanann Liam a obair bhaile.
9. Cuireann siad sa phost é.
10. Leanann Úna an leoraí.
11. Insíonn sé scéal greannmhar.
12. Tosaímid ar a naoi a chlog.
13. Críochnaímid ar a cúig a chlog.
14. Ceannaíonn mo mháthair lítear bainne.
15. Deir Mícheál linn é.
16. Tagann Tadhg isteach ar a hocht.

- 17 Tugann siad na leabhair dom.
18. Tá na páistí ciúin.
19. Tá an buachaill dána.
20. Níl na daltaí buartha.
21. Tá Mamaí ag déanamh suibhe.
22. Tá Pól agus Liam ag cur pacáistí sa phost.
23. Tá mé ag foghlaim focail nua gach lá.
24. Itheann Nóra bricfeasta maith.
25. Fágann Liam an teach déanach.
26. Chuir tú isteach ar mórán postanna.
27. Ghoid an gadaí mo rothar nua.
28. Bhris sé é.
29. Ní ólann na linbh bainne géar.
30. D'ith mé sa bhialann.

Cuir Gaeilge air seo:

1. Be on the lookout for a white house on the left
2. Give me a hand
3. Spend some time working!
4. Don't be watching TV

5. Don't forget your pills.
6. Don't leave just yet. Wait for Mary.
7. Don't smoke here.
8. Don't close the door. Close the window.
9. Don't play football here.
10. Don't throw the garbage here.
11. Kids! Sit down and don't be talking.
12. Get the newspaper for me.
13. Say your prayers.
14. Put on your hat. The sun is very strong.
15. Don't drink that tea. It's too strong.
16. Read the story for class tomorrow.
17. Come here and tell me what's the matter.
18. Don't cry. It's not that bad.
19. Leave the change on the kitchen table.
20. Pay the man for the pizza.
21. Don't eat green apples. You'll get sick.
22. Don't forget to buy eggs and milk at the store.
23. Get your coat.
24. Hang your coat in the closet.

25. Get your shoes and put them on.
26. Wear your raincoat this morning. It's raining hard.
27. Tell the teacher you were sick yesterday.
28. Write a letter to Granny.
29. Ask him to help you.
30. Take off your hat in the house.
31. Ask Liam what time he's coming home.
32. Ask him to go with you to the movies.
33. Ask your father where he parked the car.
34. Go to bed. It's late.
35. Turn off the TV before you go to bed. Close the door and open the window a bit.
36. Find out where the meeting is.
37. Don't say such nonsense.
38. Thank your Granny for the gift.
39. Go play in the garden.
40. Don't be climbing the trees.
41. Don't do that again.
42. Listen to me! Tell the truth.
43. Meet us around 10 in the pub.

44. Phone me this evening.
45. Send me the photographs.
46. Drive slowly.
47. Drive on the left.
48. Drive the truck to Glasgow this afternoon.
49. Find out who they are and what they want.
50. Don't lose your keys.

Giving Instructions

Situation 1 **Getting to the bank**

2 people

Person 1 asks how to get to the bank.

Person 2 tells Person 1 he has gone too far. Tell person 1 to go back along the same street to the traffic lights (soilse tráchtá). Turn right then continue straight for 2 and a half miles. The bank is on the left opposite the church.

Situation 2 **How to get to the hospital**

2 persons

Person 1 asks if the hospital is located on Sherbrooke street.

Person 2 says that it is and that it's not far away. Tell person 1 to go a mile along the same road then turn left at the traffic light. Tell person 1 to be on the lookout for a large white building opposite post office.

Person 1 thanks person 2.

Situation 3
Looking for the post office

Person 1 tells person 2 he wants to buy stamps. Person 1 asks 2 where he can get stamps.

Person 2 answers that there's a post office on Marcil but that it's closed on Mondays. Tell person 1 that they sell stamps in a pharmacy.

Person 1 asks where the nearest pharmacy is located.

Person 2 tells 1 that there's a pharmacy at the second traffic light.

Situation 4
Finding someone's house

Person 1 excuses himself and asks person 2 where Martin O'Connor's house is located. Person 2 asks if it's the Martin O'Connor who is a doctor.

Person 1 says that that's the man.

Person 2 tells person 1 to continue straight ahead about half a mile, then to turn left at the intersection. The O'Connor house is the third or fourth one on the right. It's a white house.

Situation 5
Looking for the right house

Person 1 excuses himself and asks if Person 2 is Mrs O'Boyle.

Person 2 says she is not. She says that Mrs O'Boyle lives down the street. Ask Person 1 if she can see the house with the yellow door.

Person 1 says she can.

Person 2 says that the house she's looking for is the next house.

Person 1 thanks person 2, and person 2 tells person 1 she is welcome.

Situation 6
Buying gas

Person 1 greets the *freastalaí*.

Person 2 (*freastalaí*) greets the driver (*tiománaí*).

Person 1 asks the attendant to fill it up.

Person 2 says OK. Comment that it's very hot.

Person 1 says it's very hot indeed. Ask now far it is to the highway to New York.

Person 2 says it's about five miles straight ahead and tells person 1 to keep an eye out for the signs

Person 1 asks if they accept credit cards.

Person 2 says yes, gladly.

Situation 7
Making tea

Give instructions to someone, detailing the steps to make a cup of tea. Fill the kettle, boil the water. Put a tea bag in the teapot. Pour the boiling water into the teapot. Wait a few minutes. Stir the teapot. Pour the tea into a cup. Add sugar and milk. Drink the tea.

Situation 8
Writing a letter

Describe the stages involved in writing a letter. Take a piece of paper. Write the letter. Fold the letter. Place the letter in an envelope. Moisten the seal. Close the envelope. Write the address on the envelope. Put a stamp on the envelope. Drop the letter in the mail.

Situation 9
Using the dishwasher

Collect the dishes. Rinse them. Place the dishes in the dishwasher. Close the door. Start the washer. Wait till the cycle is complete. Open the door. Remove the dishes. Place them in the cupboard.

Situation 10
Setting the table

Describe the steps to take to set the table. Put the plates on the table. Place the fork to the left of the plate. Place the knife and spoon to the right of the plate. Put the saucer and cup to the right of the plate, and the water glass to the left of the plate. Put the napkin beside the forks.

You can think of many other similar situations which require the use of imperatives , for example, making a cake, making bread etc. Practice them yourself.

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John Donahue

A list of books used to prepare this leaflet

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