



fáilte go Cóin Saeilge

beirisi bua,
butt Saeilge

Adverbs 3: Position vs. Movement

Directional words and ones describing position can be very different. For example, if something is down: *thíos*. If it is going down, *síos*. If it is coming down, *aníos*. The below compares position and direction.

Position

| | |
|-----------|------------|
| Istigh | Isteach |
| Amuigh | Amach |
| Sa bhaile | Abhaile |
| Thuas | Suas/Aníos |
| Thíos | Síos/Anuas |

Direction

Istigh and *amuigh* can be reinforced with *taobh* for emphasis.

Now for up and down, it's far more interesting in that the position of the speaker matters. As I have already illustrated above, it matters if the object is going towards or away from the speaker. For example, if the speaker is on the same level or above the object:

You'll fall down.
Titfidh tú **síos**.

But, if the speaker is on a level lower than the object,

You'll fall down.

Titfidh tú **anuas**.

Going Places

The same applies to back and forth movements, with *abhus* meaning here and *thall* meaning over there or yonder.

Going over there (speaker is here)

Ag dul anonn/sall

Coming back from there

Ag teacht anall

Of course, the verb can be replaced to suit the message:

Come here (from there).

Tar anall.

They have a small house **over in Kerry** and a big one **over here**.

Tá teach beag acu **thall** i gCiarraí, agus tá ceann mór **abhus**.

Compass Directions

| | Position | To Us | Away From Us |
|-------|-----------|---------|--------------|
| North | ó thuaidh | aduaidh | ó thuaidh |
| South | ó dheas | aneas | ó dheas |
| East | thoir | anoir | soir |
| West | thiar | aniar | siar |

When we combine directions, east and west come before north and south, and the second word takes the *a*-form:

| | |
|---------------|--------------------|
| thiar aduaidh | in the northwest |
| soir aduaidh | to the northeast |
| aniar aneas | from the southwest |

Often, in Irish, when we say we are going to a place, it is accompanied by a compass direction. So we would say *Beidh mé ag dul siar go Gaillimh anocht* or *tá Pól thoir i mBalle Átha Cliath*.

Adjectives

Nouns

| | | | |
|-------|---------|-----------|---------------|
| North | Thuaidh | The North | an Tuaisceart |
| South | Theas | The South | an Deisceart |
| East | Thoir | The East | an Iarthar |
| West | Thiar | The West | an tOirthear |

When The Speaker is Unimportant

However, as with all things there are exceptions. Some things may take the perspective of the speaker, or another object in the sentence. For example, the sentence *chuir mé an buicéad síos ar an urlár*: I put the bucket down on the floor. *Síos* would be expected as it is put down away from the speaker. However, another form that is also accepted is *anuas ar an urlár*— down towards us, from the perspective of the floor.

Another example — say that we are here, with the subject, and we are talking about his family back wherever he is from:

Ní raibh siad sásta go ndeachaigh sé **anonn**; tá síul acu fós go dtiocfaidh sé **anall**.

They weren't happy that he went **over**; they're still hoping that he will come **back**.

Notice that the words used are “going over” and “coming back” because we are using the perspective of his family back home instead of us, the speakers’ perspective of “they weren’t happy he came over; they’re still hoping he’ll go back”.

Try it

Translate these:

1. She **keeps** walking back and forth.
2. They went **over** last year and haven't come back yet.
3. Ciarán is coming **up**.
4. I'll go **(south)** to Cork tomorrow.

Hover below for answers