

SUBJECT	+OTHER
ailin	feoil
ie girl	meat
an-	amach?
an	out?

relative particles (e.g. *a(r)* etc.), interrogative adverbs (e.g. *cathuin*),

	(e.g. <i>al(r)</i> ) etc.
<i>VERB+SUBJECT+OTHER</i>	
<i>mf</i>	<i>itheannan</i>
<i>not</i>	<i>cailín</i>
<i>eats</i>	<i>feoil</i>

# Irish Grammar Book

# Nollaig Mac Congáil

two qualities in Irish: broad (= non-palatalized, *leathan* in Irish), slender (= palatalized, *caol* in Irish).

A consonant is said to be broad if it is preceded or followed by a broad vowel.

if it is preceded or followed by a slender vowel (e / ē /)

7  
Each conse  
Generally s  
is said to be

p6g both p  
focal f, c and

feoil both f a

# **IRISH GRAMMAR BOOK**



# IRISH GRAMMAR BOOK

**Nollaig Mac Congáil**



Cló Iar-Chonnachta  
Indreabhán  
Conamara

An Chéad Chló 2004  
An Dara Cló 2005

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Tugann Bord na Leabhar Gaeilge  
tacaíocht airgid do Chló Iar-Chonnachta.



Faigheann Cló Iar-Chonnachta cabhair airgid  
ón gComhairle Ealaíon.

Gach ceart ar cosaint. Ní ceadmhach aon chuid den fhoilseachán seo a atáirgeadh, a chur i gcomhad athfhála, ná a tharchur ar aon bhealach ná slí, bíodh sin leictreonach, meicniúil, bunaithe ar fhótachóipeáil, ar thaifeadadh nó eile, gan cead a fháil roimh ré ón bhfoilsitheoir.

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Do Tharlach, fear an chruinnis.

# INTRODUCTION

Since Irish is a highly inflected and idiomatic language, it presents a great challenge for learners. In addition, when one considers the history of the language, its descent into widely-differing dialects, its release from a standard, unifying form for centuries and the history of Irish literacy, it is small wonder that Modern Irish Grammar presents major problems for those who engage with it at any level. However, Irish Grammar is a *malum necessarium* if the Irish language is to be learned and used as a precise and effective communication tool.

Over the centuries people have attempted to explain and present Irish Grammar in a multiplicity of different manners, depending on their own educational background and experience, and also that of their intended audience. Many of us are familiar with the most successful and authoritative of the reference works published in the last century, namely, *Gramadach na Gaeilge: an Caighdeán Oifigiúil*, *Réchúrsa Gramadaí*, and *Graiméar Gaeilge na mBráithre Críostaí*. A lot of time has elapsed since those works were first published and major changes have since occurred in Irish society, in matters relating to the Irish language and to pedagogy in general. Most significantly, Niall Ó Dónaill's *Foclóir Gaeilge-Béarla*, which appeared in 1977, is the single, largest and most widely consulted corpus of authoritative Irish in existence. Consequently, this should be the one source for Irish grammar.

As one who has taught Irish for many decades to many different audiences from varying linguistic backgrounds, with different intellectual levels and with disparate motivation, I believe that, in the case of most learners, no effective, text-based teaching of any language can be achieved except through the medium which they understand. Most students of Irish, whether from Ireland or from Anglophone countries, speak English and are educated through that medium. It is only logical that they be taught Irish through English. Grammar is, for most learners, hard to digest. To administer it with a shovel makes the digestion process even more difficult. This book therefore is written in English. There is an Irish version of it which appeared in 2002 and that version addresses the needs of those who are educated through or already have a mastery of Irish. The grammatical rules contained in this grammar are based on those contained in Niall Ó Dónaill's *Foclóir Gaeilge-Béarla* and are presented in a clear, concise and understandable manner in order to make the material as palatable as possible. This

presentation of Irish grammar reflects the genesis of this work, as it was originally an integral part of *Speakwrite*, a successful speech based computer aid to language learning, which was developed at National University of Ireland, Galway, a decade ago.

Ba mhaith liom mo bhúiochas a chur in iúl do roinnt daoine a chuidigh liom agus an saothar seo á ullmhú agam thar na blianta: do Mhichael Bharry Ó Flathartha, Feidhmeannach Teanga, Áras Mháirtín Uí Chadhain, an Cheathrú Rua (Ollscoil na hÉireann, Gaillimh), d'fheidhmeannaigh teanga agus do mhúinteoirí Gaeilge eile in Ionad na Gaeilge Labhartha, Ollscoil na hÉireann, Gaillimh agus do Ghearóid Ó Casaide, M.A., Príomh-Aistritheoir i Rannóg an Aistriúcháin, Teach Laighean, as a chomhairle agus a chuidíu maidir le cúrsaí gramadaí i gcaitheamh na mblianta. Tá mé iontach buíoch festa d'fhoireann Chló Iar-Chonnachta as a gcuidiú le réiteach an leabhair seo. Má tá aon locht ar an ngraiméar seo, mé féin amháin is ciontaí leis, gan amhras.

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# GUIDELINES

## IRISH ALPHABET

The basic Irish alphabet consists of the following letters:

a b c d e f g h i l m n o p r s t u

The other letters of the English alphabet:

j k q v w x y z

are sometimes used in foreign loan words or in mathematical or scientific terminology. They never undergo any change.

## IRISH DIALECTS

Although it is an oversimplification of the matter, it is generally accepted that there are three main dialects of spoken Irish:

Ulster, Connaught and Munster.

There are, of course, subdialects within these three but such internal subdivisions are not generally alluded to here.

Some of the major differences between these dialects affect stress and pronunciation but, since this reference grammar does not include any such dimension, they are not referred to.

Major differences in forms, grammatical rules, syntax and idioms are, however, highlighted.

## INITIAL MUTATIONS

Under certain circumstances the initial letter of a word in Irish can change in one of four ways, depending on what letter it is, what precedes it or what grammatical function the word to which it belongs serves.

The following is a list of the four ways and the initial letters affected:

**lenition** of consonants

**eclipsis** of consonants and vowels

t before vowels and s

h before vowels

These initial changes or mutations are a distinctive feature of Celtic languages and can pose some difficulties initially for learners of Irish.

### Lenition

**Lenition** is the term used to refer to one of the initial mutations of consonants in Irish. The less-correct term **aspiration** is also used. The Irish word for lenition is **seimhiú**.

Lenition affects the following consonants only:

b	→	bh
c	→	ch
d	→	dh
f	→	fh
g	→	gh
m	→	mh
p	→	ph
s	→	sh
t	→	th

The remaining consonants cannot be lenited. Vowels cannot be lenited.

### Eclipsis

**Eclipsis** is the term used to refer to another of the initial mutations of both consonants and vowels in Irish. The term **nasalization** is also used.

The Irish word for eclipsis is **urú**.

Eclipsis affects the following **consonants** only:

b	→	mb
c	→	gc
d	→	nd
f	→	bhf
g	→	ng
p	→	bp
t	→	dt

The remaining consonants cannot be eclipsed.

**Eclipsis** affects all vowels in the same way:

a	→	n-a
e	→	n-e
i	→	n-i
o	→	n-o
u	→	n-u

### **t** before VOWELS and s

**t** (with **hyphen** except when following vowel is a **capital letter**) can be prefixed to initial vowels or **s** (without hyphen):

t-a	tA
t-e	tE
t-i	tI
t-o	tO
t-u	tU
ts	

### **h** before VOWELS

**h** can be prefixed to initial vowels only:

ha
he
hi
ho
hu

During the course of this work frequent reference will be made to these initial mutations and what causes them.

## BASIC GUIDE TO TERMINOLOGY USED IN IRISH GRAMMAR

### Consonants

#### Broad and Slender Consonants

Each consonant has two qualities in Irish: **broad** (= non-palatalized, *leathan* in Irish); **slender** (= palatalized, *caol* in Irish).

Generally speaking, a consonant is said to be **broad** if it is preceded or followed by a **broad** vowel (a / á, o / ó, u / ú) and **slender** if it is preceded or followed by a **slender** vowel (e / é, i / í):

póg	both p and g are broad.
focal	f, c and l are all broad.
feoil	both f and l are slender.
deifir	d, f and r are all slender.
bean	b is slender and n is broad.

### Vowels

#### Long and Short Vowels

Each vowel has two values in Irish: **short** and **long**:

short vowels:	a, e, i, o, u
long vowels:	á, é, í, ó, ú

### Slendering and Broadening

**Slendering** means making a consonant **slender** which normally entails simply inserting an - i - before it:

bád	→	báid
asal	→	asail

Sometimes, however, this involves a change to the preceding vowel(s) as well along the following lines:

(a)	- * ea -	→	- i -	fear	→	fir
	- * ea -	→	- i -	ceann	→	cinn
	- io -	→	- i -	fionn	→	finn
(b)	- éa -	→	- éi -	éan	→	éin
	- éa -	→	- éi -	béal	→	béil
	- * ia -	→	- éi -	iasc	→	éisc

(c) - ío → - í - síol → síl

(d) in polysyllabic words (and some monosyllabic words):

- (e)ach	→	- (a)igh	bacach	→	bacaigh
			aonach	→	onaigh
			oifigach	→	oifigigh

- íoch	→	- ígh	beithíoch	→	beithígh
--------	---	-------	-----------	---	----------

[\*NOTE: there are some exceptions to these rules.]

**Broadening** means making a consonant **broad** which normally entails simply removing the -i- before it:

máthair	→	máthar
abhainn	→	abhann

Sometimes, however, this involves a change to the preceding vowel(s), along the following lines:

- ei -	→	- ea -	greim	→	greama
- i -	→	- ea -	mil	→	meala
- i -	→	- ea -	binn	→	beann
- éi -	→	- éa -	báicéir	→	báicéara
- ui -	→	- o -	cuid	→	coda
- í -	→	- ío -	feadaíl	→	feadaíola

## Syncopation

**Syncopation** means simply removing one or more vowels or a syllable from the middle of a word for specific grammatical reasons.

cabhair	→	cabhrach
obair	→	oibre

## Word Order in Irish Sentences

Generally speaking, the word order in a simple sentence in Irish is:

Verb	+	Subject	+	Other -	object
					complement
					adverb phrase
molann		an múinteoir		an cailín	
<i>praises</i>		<i>the teacher</i>		<i>the girl</i>	
tá		an lá		go deas	
<i>is</i>		<i>the day</i>		<i>nice</i>	
tháinig		Seán		inné	
<i>came</i>		<i>John</i>		<i>yesterday</i>	
bhí		Máire		tinn	
<i>was</i>		<i>Mary</i>		<i>sick</i>	
d'imigh		an bhean			
<i>departed</i>		<i>the woman</i>			

NOTE: in English the normal pattern is:

Subject	+	Verb	+	Other
<i>I</i>		<i>saw</i>		<i>something</i>
<i>It</i>		<i>was</i>		<i>lovely</i>
<i>The man</i>		<i>sold</i>		<i>the dog yesterday</i>

The **verb** in Irish is preceded by verbal particles (e.g. negative *ní*, *ná*, interrogative *an*, *nach*), conjunctions (e.g. *dá*, *má*, *nuair*), interrogative pronouns (e.g. *cé*, *cad*), interrogative adjectives (e.g. *cá*), interrogative adverbs (e.g. *cathain*), relative particles (e.g. *a(r)*) etc:

	VERB	+ SUBJECT	+ OTHER
<i>ní</i> <i>not</i>	<i>itheann</i> <i>eats</i>	<i>an cailín</i> <i>the girl</i>	<i>feoil</i> <i>meat</i>
<i>an</i> ?	<i>dtéann</i> <i>goes</i>	<i>an fear</i> <i>the man</i>	<i>amach?</i> <i>out?</i>
<i>má</i> <i>if</i>	<i>ólann</i> <i>drinks</i>	<i>an cat</i> <i>the cat</i>	<i>an bainne</i> <i>the milk</i>
<i>nuair a</i> <i>when</i>	<i>ghoid</i> <i>stole</i>	<i>an gadaí</i> <i>the thief</i>	<i>an t-airgead</i> <i>the money</i>
<i>cé a</i> <i>who</i>	<i>ghoid</i> <i>stole</i>		<i>an t-ór?</i> <i>the gold?</i>
<i>cad a</i> <i>what</i>	<i>dúirt</i> <i>said</i>	<i>an t-amadán?</i> <i>the fool?</i>	
<i>cathain a</i> <i>when</i>	<i>tháinig</i> <i>came</i>	<i>sé</i> <i>he</i>	<i>abhaile?</i> <i>home?</i>

This normal word order can sometimes be altered for special reasons, e.g. emphasis:

<i>inné a</i> <i>yesterday</i>	<i>tháinig</i> <i>came</i>	<i>sé!</i> <i>he!</i>
<i>ag magadh a</i> <i>joking</i>	<i>bhí</i> <i>was</i>	<i>sí!</i> <i>she!</i>

# THE DEFINITE ARTICLE

There is no **indefinite article** in Irish. The noun standing alone constitutes an indefinite noun:

fear = *(a) man*      bean = *(a) woman*      báisteach = *rain*

There are two forms of the **definite article** in Irish: *an* and *na*.

*an*  is used only in the singular  
*an*  is used in nom./acc., gen. and dat. cases with masculine nouns  
*an*  is used in nom./acc. and dat. cases with feminine nouns

*na*  is used in gen. singular with feminine nouns  
*na*  is used always in the plural with masculine and feminine nouns

	Masculine		Feminine
fear	<i>a man</i>	bean	<i>a woman</i>
an fear	<i>the man</i>	an bhean	<i>the woman</i>
na fir	<i>the men</i>	na mná	<i>the women</i>

## SINGULAR FORM OF ARTICLE

### Nom./Acc. Singular of the Definite Article

#### MASCULINE DEFINITE NOUNS

t- is prefixed to initial vowel of masculine nouns; initial consonants are not affected:

an cat	an t-asal
an bád	an t-éan
an teach	an t-uán

## FEMININE DEFINITE NOUNS

Initial consonants of feminine nouns are lenited; initial vowels are not affected:

an bhean	an eaglais
an chistin	an aisling
an fharraige	an uirlis

Exceptions:

Initial d, t remain unaffected:

an dallóg	an tine
-----------	---------

t is prefixed to nouns whose initial letter is s followed by a vowel, or sl, sn, sr followed by a vowel.

an tseifl	an tsrón
-----------	----------

## Genitive Singular of the Definite Article

## MASCULINE DEFINITE NOUNS

Initial consonants of masculine nouns are lenited; initial vowels are not affected:

hata an fhir	cluasa an asail
cóta an mhic	cleite an éin

Exceptions:

Initial d, t remain unaffected:

bun an dorais	
ballaí an tí	

t is prefixed to nouns whose initial letter is s followed by a vowel, or sl, sn, sr followed by a vowel:

cistin an tsagairt	fad an tslabhra
--------------------	-----------------

## FEMININE DEFINITE NOUNS

Form of the feminine definite article **na**

**h** is prefixed to initial vowel of feminine nouns; initial consonants are not affected:

hata <b>na</b> mná	bun <b>na</b> habhann
solas <b>na</b> tine	trasna <b>na</b> farraige

### Dative Singular of the Definite Article

Initial consonants are eclipsed and initial vowels remain unaffected after the following prepositions + article:

ag an, ar an, as an, chuig an, faoin, leis an, ón,	
roimh an, thar an, trí an, um an	

ag an ngeata	leis an mbata
ar an gcathaoir	ón iasc

Exceptions: Initial d, t remain unaffected:

ag an doras	ar an tine
-------------	------------

**t** is prefixed to feminine nouns whose initial letter is s followed by a vowel, or sl, sn, sr followed by a vowel:

ar an tsráid	ón tseilf
--------------	-----------

Initial consonants are lenited and initial vowels remain unaffected after the following prepositions + article: den, don, sa(n):

den bhord	sa chistin
don bhuachaill	san fharraige
don uan	

Exceptions: Initial d, t remain unaffected:

den diallait	don doras	sa tine
--------------	-----------	---------

**t** is prefixed to feminine nouns whose initial letter is s followed by a vowel, or sl, sn, sr followed by a vowel:

sa tsráid	den tseilf
-----------	------------

NOTE: some prepositions combine with the definite article (an) in the dative singular:

de → den      do → don      /      faoi → faoin  
i → sa (san before a vowel or f + vowel) ó → ón

NOTE: the norm in Ulster dialects of Irish is for all prepositions which are followed by the dative case to affect the initial letter of the definite noun in exactly the same way as happens after den, don, sa(n) with one small addition, viz. t is prefixed to feminine nouns and masculine nouns whose initial letter is s followed by a vowel, or sl, sn, sr followed by a vowel:

ag an gheata      ón fhear      ar an tsagart

NOTE: there are other variations of the above rules in different dialects.

## PLURAL FORM OF ARTICLE

### Nom./Acc./Dat. Plural Of The Definite Article

Form of the definite article na

h is prefixed to initial vowel of nouns; initial consonants are not affected:

na cait	na hasail
na báid	na héin
sna tithe	ar na huain

### Genitive Plural Of The Definite Article

Initial consonants and vowels are eclipsed:

hataí na bhfear	cluasa na n-asal
bainne na gcat	ceol na n-éan
teas na dtinte	dath na n-úll

## GENERAL SUMMARY OF FORMS OF THE DEFINITIVE ARTICLE

	Singular		Plural
	Masc.	Fem.	Both Genders
nom. / acc.	an	an	na
gen.	an	na	na
dat.	an*	an	na†

\* Some prepositions combine with the definite article (an) in the dative singular:

de → den                    do → don                    faoi → faoin  
i → sa (san before a vowel or f+ vowel)            ó → ón

† The preposition i combines with the plural article na to give sna.

## WHEN TO USE THE DEFINITIVE ARTICLE

The most common use of the **definite** article is to make an **indefinite** noun definite:

fear	<i>a man</i>	an fear	<i>the man</i>
bean	<i>a woman</i>	an bhean	<i>the woman</i>
páistí	<i>children</i>	na páistí	<i>the children</i>
uain	<i>lambs</i>	na huain	<i>the lambs</i>

It is used with the **demonstratives** seo, sin and úd to translate the English this, that, these and those:

an fear seo	<i>this man</i>	an cnoc úd	<i>that (= yonder) hill</i>
an lá sin	<i>that day</i>	na daoine sin	<i>those people</i>

It is often used with the names of countries, continents, rivers and towns:

an Fhrainc	<i>France</i>	an Afraic	<i>Africa</i>
an Iodáil	<i>Italy</i>	an tSionainn	<i>the Shannon</i>
an Eoraip	<i>Europe</i>	an Daingean	<i>Dingle</i>

It is generally used with the names of languages:

an Ghaeilge	(the) <i>Irish</i> (language)
an Rúisis	(the) <i>Russian</i> (language)
an Ghearmáinis	(the) <i>German</i> (language)

It is generally used with **titles**:

an Dochtúir Mac Aodha	<i>Doctor Mc Hugh</i>
an tAthair Peadar	<i>Father Peter</i>

It is often used with the days of the week and certain months, festivals and seasons of the year:

(ar) an Domhnach	(on) <i>Sunday(s)</i>
an t-earrach	<i>spring</i>
(ar) an Luan	(on) <i>Monday(s)</i>
an samhradh	<i>summer</i>
lár na Bealtaine	<i>the middle of May</i>
an fómhar	<i>autumn</i>
an Cháisc	<i>Easter</i>
an geimhreadh	<i>winter</i>

It is used before iomad, iomarca, oiread, uafás, sluaite, céadta etc:

an iomad airgid	<i>too much money</i>
an iomarca céille	<i>too much sense</i>
an oiread sin daoine	<i>so many people</i>
an t-uafás oibre	<i>a huge amount of work</i>
na sluaite daoine	<i>crowds of people</i>

It usually occurs between cé and cad é followed by a noun:

cén t-am é?	<i>what time is it?</i>
cad é an rud é sin?	<i>what is that thing?</i>
cé na daoine iad sin?	<i>who are those people?</i>

It is sometimes used with certain abstract nouns:

an grá	<i>love</i>
an ceol	<i>music</i>

It is used before uile when it isn't preceded by gach:

an uile sheachtain	<i>every week</i>
an uile dhuine	<i>everybody</i>
an uile fhocal	<i>every word</i>

NOTE: the vowel of the singular, definite article is dropped when the latter merges with certain words which end in a vowel:

cén	(cé + an)
den	(de + an)
don	(do + an)
faoin	(faoi + an)
ón	(ó + an)

## THE DOUBLE ARTICLE

Where there occurs a double definite article in English and the second noun has a genitive relation with the first noun, only **one** definite article – **the second** – is permitted in Irish. The first noun is treated as an indefinite noun. In other words, a noun qualified by a definite noun cannot itself take a definite article.

hata an fhir	<i>the hat of the man</i>
bean an tí	<i>the woman of the house</i>
muintir na cathrach	<i>the inhabitants of the city</i>
i lár na sráide	<i>in the middle of the street</i>

NOTE: this rule also applies to certain instances where a definite article occurs in Irish but not in English.

muintir na hÉireann	<i>the people of Ireland</i>
cathracha na Fraince	<i>the cities of France</i>

This rule also applies when the second noun is not preceded by the definite article but by a possessive adjective or gach.

doras gach tí	<i>the door of every house</i>
fuinneoga a seomra	<i>the windows of her room</i>

# NOUNS

## GENDER OF NOUNS

There are two genders in Irish, **masculine** and **feminine**. Those nouns which are neuter in English are either masculine or feminine in Irish. The obvious gender of a noun in English does not necessarily mean that that noun will be of the same gender in Irish:

cailín meaning girl is a masculine noun in Irish,  
stail meaning stallion is a feminine noun in Irish.

Because of the great importance of the gender of Irish nouns, the gender must always be established. The best way to do this is to consult a dictionary.

## GUIDE TO GENDER OF NOUNS

The following **general** guidelines may be of some assistance.

The names of *most* continents, countries and rivers are **feminine**.

chun na hAfraice	<i>to Africa</i>
chun na Fraince	<i>to France</i>
trasna na Sionainne	<i>across the Shannon</i>
muintir na Rúise	<i>the people of Russia</i>
i láir na Spáinne	<i>in the middle of Spain</i>

The names of languages are **mostly** feminine:

an Ghaeilge	<i>Irish</i>
an Fhraincis	<i>French</i>
an Rúisis	<i>Russian</i>
an Spáinnis	<i>Spanish</i>

Exception:

an Béarla	<i>English</i>
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## MASCULINE NOUNS

The actual ending of a noun often gives a good indication as to its gender.

Nouns which have the following endings are **usually masculine**:

- (e)adh	cuireadh, geimhreadh, samhradh
- (a)í	ceannaí, leabharlannaí, sclábháí, rúnai
- án	arán, bradán, meascán, cnapán
- ch	cléireach, coileach, fathach, oifigeach, coimhthíoch
- éad	buicéad, céad, lipéad, paicéad
- éal	buidéal, ospidéal, scéal
- éan	éan, fíréan
- eál	seál, muineál
- éar	coiléar, féar, móinéar, páipéar
- eír	báicéir, siúinéir, tincéir
- eoír / óir	bádóir, cladóir, feirmeoír, múinteoir
- ín	báisín, caillín, cillín, púirín
- (i)úir	saighdiúir, táilliúir
- s (broad)	bus, cleas, costas, fios
- ún	botún, colún, oinniún, príosún
- úr	casúr, colúr, pictiúr, rásúr

## FEMININE NOUNS

Nouns which have the following endings are **usually feminine**:

- (a)íl	béicíl, feadaíl, osnáil
- (e)áil	sábháil, tarrtháil
- (a)ilt	meilt, oscailt
- (a)int	caint, seachaint
- áint	tiomáint
- (a)íocht	filíocht, eagraíocht, litríocht, siamsaíocht
- aois / ís	calaois, gaois, mailís, coicís
- chan	athbheochan
- (a)irt	bagairt, imirt
- (e)ach	báisteach, gríosach
- (e)acht	Gaeltacht, gluaiseacht, mallacht
- úil	barúil
- úint	canúint
- lann	amharclann, bialann, leabharlann
- eog / óg	bábóig, bróig, cuinneog, fuinneog

## THE SINGULAR AND PLURAL OF NOUNS

Sometimes in Irish the **singular** form is used for a **plural noun**.

The following are some examples of the occasions when this happens:

(i) often after **cardinal numbers**:

trí lá	<i>three days</i>
fiche uair	<i>twenty times</i>
seacht n-oíche	<i>seven nights</i>
céad capall	<i>a hundred horses</i>

(ii) with certain nouns in the **genitive plural**:

hataí na bhfear	<i>the men's hats</i>
ag glanadh na bhfuinneog	<i>cleaning the windows</i>

(iii) after **cá mhéad**:

cá mhéad duine?	<i>how many people?</i>
cá mhéad uair?	<i>how many times?</i>

(iv) after **is iomaí**:

is iomaí fear	<i>many men</i>
is iomaí uair	<i>many times</i>

(v) after **cúpla**:

cúpla lá	<i>a few days</i>
cúpla pingin	<i>a few pennies</i>

## THE CASES OF NOUNS

The **noun** in Irish has *four* cases:

i	nominative/accusative
ii	genitive
iii	dative
iv	vocative

### (i) Nominative / Accusative

For all practical purposes, the **nominative** and **accusative** cases are the same in Irish.

A noun is said to be in the **nominative case** if *it is the subject of a sentence/verb*:

d'imigh an cailín abhaile  
tháinig an múinteoir isteach  
d'ith an bhean a brífeasta

*the girl went home  
the teacher came in  
the woman ate her breakfast*

A noun is said to be in the **accusative case** if *it is the direct object of a verb*:

d'ith siad a ndinnéar  
cheannaigh sé an teach

*they ate their dinner  
he bought the house*

A noun is said to be in the **nominative case** when it is preceded by: gan, go dtí, idir, ná, seachas:

gan an t-airgead  
idir an bun agus an barr  
go dtí an chistin  
is fearr anois ná an t-am sin  
duine eile ar fad seachas  
an fear seo

*without the money  
between the bottom and the top  
to the kitchen  
now is better than that time  
someone else entirely apart  
from this man*

### (ii) Genitive

A noun is **usually** said to be in the **genitive case** in Irish if:

(a) it is the **direct object** of a verbal noun:

ag déanamh na hoibre  
ag moladh na mná  
ag ceannach dí

*doing the work  
praising the woman  
buying a drink*

(b) it is preceded by a **compound preposition** of which the following are some of the most common:

ar aghaidh, ar chúl, ar feadh, ar fud, ar lorg, ar son, de bharr, de réir, faoi choinne, go ceann, i lár, i measc, i ndiaidh, i rith, in aghaidh, le haghaidh, le linn, os cionn, os coinne, os comhair, tar éis.

ar feadh an lae	<i>during the day</i>
ar son na hÉireann	<i>for Ireland</i>
i lár na hoíche	<i>in the middle of the night</i>
i rith na seachtaine	<i>during the week</i>
tar éis an lóin	<i>after the lunch</i>

(c) it is preceded by such words as chun, trasna, timpeall, fearacht, dála:

chun na cathrach	<i>to the city</i>
trasna na sráide	<i>across the street</i>
timpeall na háite	<i>around the place</i>
fearacht fir uasail	<i>in the manner of a gentleman</i>
dála an scéil	<i>by the way</i>

(d) it is preceded by words which denote indefinite quantity such as:

a lán, an iomad, barraíocht, beagán, cuid, dóthain, go leor, mórán, níos lú, níos mó, oiread, roinnt, sá, tuilleadh etc:

a lán airgid	<i>a lot of money</i>
barraíocht oibre	<i>excess work</i>
roinnt ama	<i>some time</i>
go leor codlata	<i>enough sleep</i>

(e) it is governed by another noun which precedes it (with the article, a poss. adj. or gach sometimes intervening). Very often this is referred to as the case of possession or ownership, usually corresponding to the English possessive 's or *of the*:

the man's coat / the coat *of the man*:

siopa Sheáin	<i>John's shop</i>
cóta (na) mná	<i>a / the woman's coat</i>
clár urláir	<i>a floor board</i>
páiste scoile	<i>a school child</i>
fear an tí	<i>the man of the house</i>

NOTE: a noun is in the **genitive plural** when preceded by the words dís, péire, dosaen:

dís bhan	<i>two women</i>
péire bróg	<i>a pair of shoes</i>
dosaen uibheacha	<i>a dozen eggs</i>

NOTE: the above rules have been simplified out of necessity. More detailed rules concerning the above are found elsewhere in this grammar.

### (iii) Dative

A noun is said to be in the **dative** case in Irish if it is preceded by the following common, simple prepositions:

ag, ar, as, chuig, de, do, faoi, go, i, le, ó, roimh, thar, trí, um

ag an ngeata	<i>at the gate</i>
ar an gceathair	<i>on the chair</i>
ar mo bhealach go hÉirinn	<i>on my way to Ireland</i>
roimh an bhfear	<i>before the man</i>
thar an gcláí	<i>over the fence</i>

### (iv) Vocative

A noun, usually a person, which is the object of direct address (i.e. a statement, question or order) is said to be in the **vocative** case:

tá mé tinn, a Mháire	<i>I am sick, Mary</i>
tar anseo, a chara!	<i>come here, friend!</i>
dún an doras, a Sheáin!	<i>close the door, John!</i>
an bhfuil sibh réidh, a chailíní?	<i>are you ready, girls?</i>
an ndearna sibh an obair fós, a fheara?	<i>have you done the work yet, men?</i>

NOTE: a noun in the vocative case is *always* preceded by the leniting particle a.

## DECLENSIONS OF NOUNS

There are **five** declensions in Irish and all nouns, with the exception of a very few, belong to one of these declensions.

### First Declension Nouns

All the nouns in this declension are masculine and end in a broad consonant.

They tend to end in: - án, - ch (masc.), -éad, - éal, - éan, - éar, - s, - ún, - úr and - adh (except when derived from a verb in the case of the last ending).

### GENITIVE SINGULAR

In the **genitive** singular, the final consonant is made **slender** which generally means simply inserting an - i - before the final consonant:

bád → báid      arán → aráin      casúr → casúir

The noun mac → mic is an exception.

Sometimes making the final consonant **slender** involves certain vowel changes within the noun:

(i)	- ea -	→	- i -	fear	→	fir	peann	→	pinn
(ii)	- éa -	→	- éi -	béal	→	béil			
	- ia -	→	- éi -	iasc	→	éisc			
(iii)	- ío -	→	- í -	síol	→	síl	míol	→	míl
(iv)	- ach	→	- aigh	bacach	→	bacaigh			
	- each	→	- igh	oifigeach	→	oifigigh			
	- íoch	→	- ígh	gaiscíoch	→	gaiscígh	<i>(in polysyllabic words)</i>		

NOTE: there are exceptions to the above rules.

## VOCATIVE SINGULAR

The **vocative** case in the singular is usually formed in the same way as the genitive case, remembering that the vocative particle *a* followed by lenition must precede the noun:

a fhír!

a oifigigh!

a gharsúin!

Collective nouns or terms of endearment are not usually made slender in the vocative case:

a phobal!

a stór!

## FIRST DECLENSION - PLURAL

There are many ways of forming the **nom./acc.** and **dat. plural** of first declension nouns and the most common are listed below.

**(a)** Make the final consonant **slender** as in the genitive singular:

bád → báid

fear → fir

oifigeach → oifigigh

NOTE: it does not necessarily follow that **all** those nouns which form their gen. sg. by making their final consonant slender will form their nom. pl. in the same way.

**(b)** Add **- a** to the noun:

ceart → cearta

úll → úlla

**(c)** Add **- t(h)a** to the noun:

ceol → ceolta

céad → céadta

glór → glórtha

**(d)** Substitute **- (a)í** in certain nouns ending in **-ch** and some in **-dh**:

bealach → bealaí

éadach → éadaí

cogadh → cogáí

**(e)** Add **- anna** to the noun:

carr → carranna

cás → cásanna

(f) Syncopate and add - e:

bóthar → bóithre

doras → doirse

(g) Add - acha to the noun:

cineál → cineálacha

leagan → leaganacha

(h) Other irregular endings:

ollamh → ollúna

laoch → laochra

## GENITIVE PLURAL

The **gen. pl.** of first declension nouns is sometimes the same as the **nom. sg.** form and, other times, the **nom. pl.** form. The rules governing which form to use are as follows:

When to use **nom. sg.** form:

(a) with nouns whose plural is formed by making the final consonant slender:

asal	nom. pl.	asail	gen. pl.	[na n]-asal
bád	nom. pl.	báid	gen. pl.	[na m]bád
fear	nom. pl.	fir	gen. pl.	[na bh]fear
bacach	nom. pl.	bacaigh	gen. pl.	[na m]bacach

(b) with nouns whose plural is formed by simply adding - a to the **nom. sg.** form:

ceart	nom. pl.	cearta	gen. pl.	[na g]ceart
cleas	nom. pl.	cleasa	gen. pl.	[na g]cleas
úll	nom. pl.	úlla	gen. pl.	[na n]-úll

If the **nom. pl.** is formed in any other way, the **gen. pl.** form will be the same as the **nom. pl.** form:

ceol	nom. pl.	ceolta	gen. pl.	[na g]ceolta
bealach	nom. pl.	bealaí	gen. pl.	[na m]bealaí
bóthar	nom. pl.	bóithre	gen. pl.	[na m]bóithre

## FIRST DECLENSION - VOCATIVE PLURAL

The **vocative** case in the plural is formed in the same way as the **nom. pl.**, except in the case of those nouns whose plural is formed by making the final consonant slender. In the latter case, - a is added to the **nom. sg.** form:

fear	nom. pl.	fir	voc. pl.	a fheara!
oifigeach	nom. pl.	oifigigh	voc. pl.	a oifigeacha!
Gael	nom. pl.	Gaeil	voc. pl.	a Ghaela!

## A LIST OF COMMON FIRST DECLENSION NOUNS

ábhar, adhmad, aerfort, aiceann, ainmfhocal, airgead, alt, amadán, amhrán,  
aonach, árasán  
bacach, bád, ball, banc, bard, béal, beithíoch, bithiúnach, bonn, bord,  
bóthar, botún, bradán, braon, breac, buidéal  
caisleán, capall, carr, cás, cat, cathaoirleach, ceann, ceantar, ceapachán,  
ceardchumann, ceart, ceol, cineál, cleas, cléireach, clog, cnoc, cogadh,  
coinníoll, consan, costas, crann, cumann, cupán  
dán, deamhan, deireadh, deontas, dinnéar, díon, diúracán, domhan, doras,  
droichead, dualgas  
éadan, eagair, eagras, éan, earrach, easpag, eireaball, eitleán, eolas  
fál, faoileán, fathach, feachtas, fealsamh, fear, féar, feidhmeannach,  
fíleacán, fiach, fiántas, figiúr, fillteán, fiontar, fioras, focal, fochupán, fód,  
folcadán, folús, forás, friotal  
gadhar, Gael, gaiscíoch, galar, Gall, galún, garsún, gasúr, geall, gealltanás,  
gearán, geimhreadh, glas, gliomach, glór, gnás, gort, grád  
iarnród, iarratas, iasc, imeall, íochtar, iolar, ionad, iontas, irisleabhar  
lámhleabhar, laoch, lasán, leabhar, leabhrán, leagan, leanbh, léargas,  
leibhéal, leiceann, leigheas, leithreas, leithscéal, liobar, líon, lipéad,  
lóchrann, longfort, lúthchleas  
mac, mairnéalach, maor, marc, marcach, magadh, matán, méadar, meán,  
meatachán, míghníomh, milliún, milseán, míol, muileann  
naíonán, náisiún, naomh, néal, nod, nós, nuachtán  
ógánach, oifigeach, oileán, oileánach, oinniún, ollamh, ord, orlach, ospidéal,  
óstán, othar  
páipéar, pas, pátrún, peacach, peann, pictiúr, piléar, pláinéad, pléascán,  
pléisiúr, poll, portach, post, prionsabal, príosún, punt  
racán, ráiteas, rann, réigiún, rialtas, ród, rón, ronnach, rós, rothar, rún  
sac, sagart, saghas, saor, saoránach, scáileán, scamall, scannán, scáthán,  
scéal, seabhac, seánfhocal, searrach, séasúr, séipéal, seol, siléar, simléar,  
síol, sionnach, siosúr, sliogán, soitheach, solas, spórt, sreangán, srian,  
stáisiún, stát, suíochán  
táibléad, taifead, taisceán, taispeántas, taobh, tarbh, tarraiceán, teaghlaich,  
teallach, teampall, teastas, teideal, tinneas, tionchar, tionscal,  
tionscnamh, tobar, toghchán, tom, toradh, tormán, tuarastal, tuiseal,  
turas  
uachtarán, ualach, uan, údar, úll, urchar, urlár, úrscéal

## Second Declension Nouns

All the nouns in this declension are **feminine** (except a few like *im*, *sliabh* etc.) and end in a consonant.

## GENITIVE SINGULAR

In the **genitive** singular, - e is added to the final consonant of the noun which is first made **slender** if it is not already slender:

coill	coille
súil	súile
bróg	bróige
cluas	cluaise
géag	géige

Polysyllabic words ending in - (e)ach become - (a)í:

There are some exceptions in the second declension to the usual rules governing slendering.

## SECOND DECLENSION - PLURAL

There are many ways of forming the **nom./acc.** and **dat.** plural of second declension nouns and the most common are listed below.

(a) Add - a to the noun without otherwise altering it:

(b) Add -a after first altering the noun in some way either by **syncopation**, **broadening** of final consonant or changing of internal vowel:

roinn → ranna scian → sceana

(c) Add - (e)anna to the noun:

(d) Add - í to polysyllabic nouns which end in a slender consonant:

cáipéis → cáipéisí  
seachtain → seachtainí

óráid → óráidí

(e) Add - (e)acha to the noun:

feirm → feirmeacha  
paidir → paidreacha

iníon → iníonacha

(f) Add - ta / - te to some monosyllabic nouns which end in - l or - n:

tonn → tonnta

coilí → coilte

(g) Other irregular endings:

spéir → spéartha  
sliabh → sléibhте

foireann → foirne  
troigh → troithe

## GENITIVE PLURAL

The **gen. pl.** of second declension nouns is sometimes the same as the **nom. sg.** form, sometimes the same as the **nom. pl.** form. The rules governing which form to use are as follows:

When to use **nom. sg.** form:

(i) with nouns whose plural is formed by simply adding - a to the **nom. sg.** form:

bróg nom. pl. bróga  
cos nom. pl. cosa  
póg nom. pl. póga

gen. pl. [na m]bróg  
gen. pl. [na g]cos  
gen. pl. [na b]póg

If the **nom. pl.** is formed in any other way, the **gen. pl.** form will be the same as the **nom. pl.** form:

oifig nom. pl. oifigí  
páirc nom. pl. páirceanna

gen. pl. [na n]-oifigí  
gen. pl. [na b]páirceanna

There are some irregular forms used in the genitive plural of nouns of the second declension; consult the section in this grammar entitled **Genitive Plural of Nouns of all Declensions**.

There is no special **vocative** plural form for nouns in the second declension:

iníonacha → a iníonacha!  
baintreacha → a bhaintreacha!

## A LIST OF COMMON SECOND DECLENSION NOUNS

abairt, acmhainn, adharc, agóid, áibhéil, aidhm, aill, aimsir, áis, aisling, áit,  
aoir, aois, argóint  
bábóig, bainis, baintreach, beach, beairic, béim, bialann, bos, bréag,  
brionglóid, bróg  
caibidil, caint, cáipéis, caor, carraig, cearc, ceardlann, cearnóg, céim, ceird,  
ceist, ceolchoirm, ciall, cill, cistin, clann, cloch, cluas, cnámh, coicís,  
coil, coimhlint, cóip, coir, coiscéim, conspóid, constaic, contúirt, cos,  
croabh, creig, cros, cuileog, cúirt, culraith  
dallóg, dámh, dealbh, deifir, deis, deoir, dialann, dóigh, duais, dúil,  
dúshraith  
eaglais, ealaín, eangach, earráid, eitic  
fadhb, fallaing, feadóg, féasóg, feirm, fiacail, foireann, foirm, foraois,  
fréamh, fuaim, fuinneog  
gairm, gaoth, géag, gealtlann, gearsróg, geis, girseach, gluais, glúin,  
gnúis, grian, gruaig, gualainn  
im, inchinn, iníon, iris  
Laidin, lámh, lámhainn, lámhscríbhinn, lann, lánúin, leac, leadóg, léaráid,  
leid, léim, leithéid, liathróid, linn, long, luch  
maidin, malairt, meancóg, meánscoil, méar, meitheal, mian, mias, milseog,  
mír, muc  
naomhóg, nead, neantóg, nimh  
obair, ócáid, oifig, ollscoil, óráid, otharlann  
paidir, páirc, peil, péist, pian, pingin, pluais, pluid, póg, proinn  
réabhlóid, réaltóg, reilig, réimír, rinn, roinn  
saighead, sáil, saotharlann, sceach, sceallóg, scian, scilling, scoil, scríbhinn,  
seachtain, seamróg, seanaimsir, seift, seoid, sióg, siúlóid, slat, sliabh,  
sluasaid, spéir, spúnóg, sráid, srón, stoirm, súil  
tallann, téad, teoiric, tionóisc, thír, tóinn, treibh, tréith, troigh, tuairim,  
tuairisc  
uachtarlann, uaigh, uaimh, uair, ubh, uillinn, uirlis  
vaimpír, veist

## Third Declension Nouns

The nouns in this declension are masculine and feminine, end in a consonant and tend to include most polysyllabic nouns which end in:

- áil, - úil, - ail, - úint, - cht, - éir, - eoír, - óir, - úir

### GENITIVE SINGULAR

In the **genitive** singular, - a is suffixed to the final consonant which is also **broadened**:

bádóir	bádóra
saighdiúir	saighdiúra
feirmeoír	feirmeoíra
crios	creasa

**NOTE:** in the case of those nouns which end in - int, the final - t is dropped, and in the case of those which end in - irt, the final - t becomes - th:

canúint → canúna                    bagairt → bagartha

### THIRD DECLENSION - PLURAL

There are many ways of forming the plural of third declension nouns and the most common are listed below.

**NOTE:** some final consonants are sometimes **broadened** before a plural ending is added.

(a) Add - (a)í to most polysyllabic nouns which end in:

- éir, - eoír, - óir, - úir, - cht, - úint, - irt

péintéir	péintéirí
feirmeoír	feirmeoírí
dochtúir	dochtúríg
canúint	canúintí
cáilíocht	cáilíochtaí

(b) Add - anna to the noun:

am → amanna

bláth → bláthanna

(c) Add - acha to feminine, polysyllabic nouns which end in the slender consonants - l, - n, - r:

barúil → barúlacha

onóir → onóracha

(d) Add - ta to monosyllabic nouns which end in broad (masc.) or slender (fem.) - l and - n:

blain → blianta

gleann → gleannta

(e) Other irregular endings:

béas → béasa

móin → móinte

sliocht → sleachta

To find out which form of the noun is used in the genitive plural of nouns of the third declension, consult the section in this grammar entitled **Genitive Plural of Nouns of all Declensions**.

There is no special **vocative** plural form for nouns in the third declension:

feirmeoirí → a fheirmeoirí!

saighdiúirí → a shaighdiúirí!

## A LIST OF COMMON THIRD DECLENSION NOUNS

acht, admháil, aidiacht, aisteoir, aisteoireacht, altóir, am, anam, áth, athbheochan  
bádóir, bagairt, bailitheoir, baincéir, banríon, barúil, beannacht, béas, bláth, bliain, buachaill, buaiteoir, búistéir, bunaitheoir, bunreacht  
cáilíocht, cainteoir, Cáisc, canúint, cath, ceacht, ceannaitheoir, ceimiceoir, cíos, cith, cláirseoir, cláraitheoir, clódóir, coimisínéir, comhhdháil, comhlacht, conraitheoir, cosúlacht, crios, cruth, cuid, cumhacht, cuspóir, custaiméir  
Dáil, damhsóir, dath, deachtóir, deacracht, difhostaíocht, difríocht, díolaim, díoltóir, díospóireacht, dlíodóir, dochúir, drámaíocht, dream, droim  
éacht, eacnamaíocht, éagóir, eagraíocht, eas, éifeacht, eisceacht, éisteoir, Eoraip  
fáth, feag, fealsúnacht, féidearthacht, feirmeoir, feitheoir, feoil, fiaclóir, filíocht, fion, flaith, foclóir, foghlaimeoir, foilsitheoir, forbairt, fostóir  
Gaeilgeoir, Gaeltacht, gamhain, gleann, gluaiseacht, greim, guth  
iargúltacht, iarracht, iarrthóir, iasacht, imeacht, imreoir, innealtóir, íobairt, íocaíocht, iomaitheoir, iontráil  
leacht, léacht, léachtóir, leictreoir, léiritheoir, léirmheas, léitheoir, lios, litriocht, loch, locht, lóistéir, luach, lus  
máistreás, mallacht, marfóir, matamaiticeoir, meadaracht, measúnóir, meicneoir, meisceoir, mil, mírialtacht, míthuiscint, modh, móin, moltóir, muilleoir, múinteoir  
náisiúntacht, neacht, neamhrialtacht, nuacht  
oidhreacht, oiliúint, ollúnacht, onóir, óstóir  
paisinéir, peileadóir, péintéir, poblacht, polaiteoir, polaitíocht  
racht, rámh, rámhaíocht, rang, rás, reacht, réalteolaíocht, réiteoir, riarthóir, rinceoir, ríocht, roth, rud  
saighdiúir, scáth, scéalaíocht, scoláireacht, scread, scríbhneoir, scrúdaitheoir, sealbhóir, seanmóir, sioc, síocháin, siopadóir, siúinéir, siúlóir, sliocht, snámhóir, sos, spriónlóir, sruth, strainséir  
tábhacht, tagairt, tálliúir, tairiscint, tairngreacht, taom, tarracóir, teagascóir, teangeolaíocht, teas, teicneoir, teicneolaíocht, téitheoir, tincéir, tóin, tosaitheoir, tréad, troid, tuarascáil, tuismitheoir  
ucht, uaireadóir, ucht, úinéir  
vótaíocht

## Fourth Declension Nouns

The nouns in the fourth declension are **mostly** masculine, and include diminutives ending in -ín, most of the nouns which end in a vowel, and some other nouns.

### SINGULAR

The endings of nouns of this declension undergo **no change** in any case in the singular:

iascaire → iascaire      croí → croí      cailín → cailín

### PLURAL

There are many ways of forming the plural of fourth declension nouns and the most common are listed below.

(a) Add - (a)í to nouns which end in -ín, -a, -\*e:

cailín → cailíní      piópa → piópaí      páiste → páistí

\*NOTE: - í replaces - e.

(b) Add - (i)the to nouns which end in -\*(a)í, -aoi, -é:

oibrí	oibrithe	draoi	draoithe
rúnaí	rúnaithe	finné	finnéithe

\*NOTE: - (a)ithe replaces - (a)í.

Exceptions:

dlí → dlíthe      rí → ríthe

(c) Add -nna to nouns which end in -á, -éá, -ó, -eo, -ú, -ia, -ogha, -ua, -ao:

trá	tránnna	rogha	roghanna
fleá	fleánna	bua	buanna
cú	cúnna		

(d) Other irregular endings:

ainm → ainmneacha	máistir → máistrí
bruach → bruacha	

## GENITIVE PLURAL

To find out which form of the noun is used in the genitive plural of nouns of the fourth declension, consult the section in this grammar entitled **Genitive Plural of Nouns of all Declensions**.

There is no special **vocative** plural form for nouns in the fourth declension:

## A LIST OF COMMON FOURTH DECLENSION NOUNS

achainí, acra, aguisín, aicme, aigne, ailtire, ainm, ainmhí, aintín, Aire,  
amhránaí, ancaire, aoi, ateangaire, aturnae  
bá, báidín, baile, balla, banchéile, barra, bata, bearna, béile, bia, bille,  
bladhaire, blúire, bosca, bricfeasta, brioscá, bruach, buama, buille  
caife, cailín, cártá, cé, ceannaí, ceapaire, céilí, ceirnín, ceo, cigire, cine,  
cinsire, cipín, ciste, claí, cleasaí, cló, club, cluiche, cnaipe, cneá, cnó,  
cócaire, coinín, coisi, coiste, coláiste, comhartha, comhrá, comrádáí,  
contae, crúiscín, cú, cúige, cúnne  
dalta, damhsa, dáta, deoraí, dílleachta, dísle, dornáláí, draoi, dréimire,  
druga, duáilce, duga, duine  
eachtra, eala, earra, eascaine, easna, eite, eolaí  
faiche, fáinne, farraige, féasta, féile, féilire, féirín, fia, file, fleá, fógra, foinse,  
forainm, fórsa, freagra  
gadaí, gairdín, gáire, gála, garáiste, garda, garraí, gé, geata, giolla, giota,  
glao, gloine, gné, gnó, gráinne, grua, gúna, gunna, guta  
halla, hata  
iarla, iarsma, iascaire, inscne, iomaire, iománaí, ionadaí, ionsaí,ispín  
laige, lampa, lána, lao, laoi, lasta, leabharlannaí, léana, léine, leoithne, líne,  
liosta, lóistín, luibheolaí  
macalla, machaire, madra, máistir, mála, mangaire, masla, mianra, míle,  
ministir, moncaí, muga, muinchille, múnla  
ní, nia, nóta  
oibrí, oíche, oide, oidhre, oráiste, osna  
páiste, pána, paróiste, peaca, pérála, peata, pianó, píobaire, pionta, píopa,  
píosa, planda, pláta, pleán, pleidhce, pointe, polasaí, pota, práta,  
prionsa, profa  
rabharta, ráca, ráille, reachtaire, réalta, réimse, rí, ribe, rince, róba, rolla,  
rothaí, ruainne, rúitín, rúnaí  
saineolaí, sampla, saothráí, scála, scata, scéalaí, sciorta, sclábháí, scoláire,  
scuaine, sealgaire, seancháí, seanduine, seans, seic, seilf, seó, seomra,  
sicín, siolla, siopa, slabhra, slí, slua, snáithe, sonra, spaire, spota, stábla,  
staraí, stua, suáilce  
tábhairne, tábla, taibhse, táille, táirge, taisme, taoide, teachta, teachtaire,  
téacs, téama, teanga, téarma, teicneolaí, tiarna, tine, tionsclaí, tlú, toitín,  
trá, tráthnóna, tréadaí, tréimhse, tuáille, tubaiste, turcaí  
uisce, uncail, unsa, úrscéalaí  
veain, véarsa, vóta

## Fifth Declension Nouns

The nouns in the fifth declension are **mostly** feminine and end in a **slender** consonant or a vowel.

### GENITIVE SINGULAR

In the **genitive** singular, the nouns of this declension end in a broad - ch, - d, - (n)n, - r after undergoing internal changes in many instances to end in a broad consonant:

cathair	cathrach
traein	traenach
athair	athar
abhairn	abhan
monarcha	monarchan

### PLURAL

There are many ways of forming the plural of fifth declension nouns and the most common are listed below.

(a) Add - (e)acha after making appropriate internal changes in many instances:

cathair → cathracha      traein → traenacha  
athair → aithreacha

(b) Add - na /- ne to those feminine nouns which end in a vowel in the **nom. sg.** and - n in the **gen. sg.**:

comharsa → comharsana      monarcha → monarchana  
ceathrú → ceathrúna

(c) Add - idí to those masculine nouns which end in a broad - d in the **gen. sg.**:

fiche → fichidí      caoga → caogaidí

(d) Other irregular endings:

cara → cairde      caora → caoirigh

To find out which form of the noun is used in the genitive plural of nouns of the fifth declension, consult the section in this grammar entitled **Genitive Plural of Nouns of all Declensions**.

There is no special **vocative** plural form for nouns in the fifth declension:

cairde → a chairde!  
máithreacha → a mháithreacha!

## A LIST OF COMMON FIFTH DECLENSION NOUNS

abhainn, Albain, athair

beoir, bráthair

cáin, caora, cara, carair, cathair, cathaoir, ceathrú, comharsa, coróin, cráin

deartháir, díle, draein

eochair

faocha

gráin

inneoin, ionga, ithir

lacha, láir, lasair, láthair

leasmháthair, litir, loinnir

mainistir, máthair, meabhair, míthreoir, monarcha

namhaid, nathair, Nollaig

oitir

pearsa, príomhchathair

riail

seanathair, siocair, siúr, stiúir

traein, treoir, triail

uimhir

## IRREGULAR NOUNS

There are certain nouns, both masculine and feminine, which do not belong to any declension. The following is a list of the most important of these, their gender, their genitive singular and plural forms.

Singular		Plural
Nominative	Genitive	All Cases
deirfiúr (f.)	deirféar	deirfiúracha
deoch (f.)	dí	deochanna
Dia (m.)	Dé	Déithe
lá (m.)	lae	laethanta
leaba (f.)	leapa	leapacha
mí (f.)	míosa	míonna
teach (m.)	tí	tithe

NOTE: the noun bean is even more irregular:

bean (f.) mná mná (gen. pl. ban)

More irregular nouns:

meangadh  
scrúdú  
síniú  
talamh  
tarraigte

## GENITIVE PLURAL OF NOUNS OF ALL DECLENSIONS

The noun in the **gen. pl** sometimes uses its **nom. sg.** form, and sometimes uses its **nom. pl.** form. The rules governing which form to use are as follows:

When to use **nom. sg.** form:

(i) with nouns whose plural is formed by making the final consonant slender:

asal	nom. pl.	asail	gen. pl.	[na n-]asal
bád	nom. pl.	báid	gen. pl.	[na m]bád
fear	nom. pl.	fir	gen. pl.	[na bh]fear
bacach	nom. pl.	bacaigh	gen. pl.	[na m]bacach

(ii) with nouns whose plural is formed by simply adding -a to the **nom. sg.** form:

bróg	nom. pl.	bróga	gen. pl.	[na m]bróg
bos	nom. pl.	bosa	gen. pl.	[na m]bos
fuinneog	nom. pl.	fuinneoga	gen. pl.	[na bh]fuinneog

## SPECIAL GENITIVE PLURAL OF NOUNS

Some nouns have a special genitive plural form which can only be used in the genitive plural. The following is a complete list:

	nom. sg.	nom. pl.	gen. pl.
<i>blemish</i>	ainimh	ainimhe	aineamh
<i>woman</i>	bean	mná	ban
<i>peak</i>	binn	beanna	beann
<i>drop</i>	deoir	deora	deor
<i>loss</i>	díth	díotha	díoth
<i>desire</i>	dúil	dúile	dúl
<i>art</i>	ealaín	ealaíona	ealaíon
<i>knee</i>	glúin	glúine	glún
<i>jewel</i>	seoid	seoda	seod
<i>eye</i>	súil	súile	súl

The following nouns have the same special forms for **both** the genitive singular and genitive plural:

	nom. sg.	gen. sg. / pl.
<i>sheep</i>	caora	caorach
<i>neighbour</i>	comharsa	comharsan
<i>periwinkle</i>	faocha	faochan
<i>duck</i>	lacha	lachan

NOTE: a number of other nouns sometimes use special genitive plural forms in colloquial speech or in special circumstances:

bláin  
cara  
namhaid

Also, bó doesn't change its ending in gen. sg. / pl.

## ECLIPSIS OF NOUNS

The initial letter of the noun is eclipsed:

**(a) after the definite article:**

i. in the dative singular (in case of initial consonants only) when preceded by the simple prepositions ag, ar, as, chuir, faoi, le, ó, roimh, thar, trí, um:

*except* when initial is d or t which remain unaffected.

ag an bhfeair	<i>at the man</i>
as an gcistin	<i>out of the kitchen</i>
ar an mbus	<i>on the bus</i>
ón teach	<i>from the house</i>

**ii. in the genitive plural:**

ceol na n-éan	<i>the song of the birds</i>
rogha na mban	<i>the women's choice</i>
hataí na bhfeair	<i>the men's hats</i>

**(b) after the preposition i:**

i gcistin	<i>in a kitchen</i>
i dteach	<i>in a house</i>

NOTE: i becomes in before initial vowels, dhá and bhur:

in uisce	<i>in water</i>
in bhur mbosca	<i>in your (pl.) box</i>
in áit eile	<i>in another place</i>
in dhá ionad	<i>in two venues</i>

**(c) in certain fixed phrases:**

ar gcúl	<i>behind</i>
go bhfios dom	<i>to my knowledge</i>
ar ndóigh	<i>of course</i>
cá bhfios dom?	<i>how do I know?</i>
ar dtús	<i>firstly</i>

(d) after the plural possessive adjectives ár, bhur, a (including when they are followed by dhá):

ár bpáiste	<i>our child</i>
bhur gcuid airgid	<i>your (pl.) money</i>
a bpinn	<i>their pens</i>
bhur dhá ngeata	<i>your (pl.) two gates</i>
ár dhá gcarr	<i>our two cars</i>

(e) after the numerals seacht, ocht, naoi and deich:

seacht n-uaire	<i>seven hours</i>
naoi mbus	<i>nine buses</i>
ocht gcat	<i>eight cats</i>
deich bpingine	<i>ten pence</i>

## LENITION OF NOUNS

1 The initial consonant of the noun (excepting initial d- / t- / s-) is lenited after the **definite article** when the noun is:

(a) feminine, singular and in the nom./acc. case:

feicim an bhean	<i>I see the woman</i>
tá an fharraige ag trá	<i>the sea is ebbing</i>
las sé an tine	<i>he lit the fire</i>

(b) masculine, singular and in the gen. case:

hata an fhir	<i>the man's hat</i>
ag moladh an bhuauchalla	<i>praising the boy</i>
ag dúnadh an dorais	<i>closing the door</i>

(c) masculine or feminine, singular, in the dat. case and preceded by den/don/ sa(n):

den chrann	<i>of / off the tree</i>
san fharraige	<i>in the sea</i>
don chailín	<i>to the girl</i>
sa teach	<i>in the house</i>

2 The initial consonant of **all** nouns (sg./pl., masc./fem.) is lenited after:

(a) the vocative particle a:

a bhuauchail(i)!	<i>boy(s)!</i>	a fheara!	<i>men!</i>
a pháistí!	<i>children!</i>	a mháthair!	<i>mother!</i>

(b) the possessive adjectives mo, do, a (3rd sg. masc.):

mo chapall	<i>my horse</i>
a theach	<i>his house</i>
do dhinnéar	<i>your dinner</i>

(c) uile:

an uile dhuine	<i>every person</i>
gach uile sheachtain	<i>every week</i>

(d) the simple prepositions de, do, faoi, mar, ó, roimh, trí, um in all circumstances and, on certain occasions, \* ar, gan, idir, thar:

rud a bhaint de dhuine	<i>to take something from a person</i>
tabhair do chailín eile é!	<i>give it to another girl!</i>
ag obair faoi thalamh	<i>working underground</i>
fuair mé mar bhrónntanas é	<i>I got it as a present</i>
ó theach go teach	<i>from house to house</i>
roimh mhaidin	<i>before morning</i>
trí bhallaí an tí	<i>through the walls of the house</i>
um thráthnóna	<i>in the evening</i>
ar bharr an tí	<i>on the top of the house</i>
gan phingin	<i>without a penny</i>
ag taistéal idir thíortha	<i>travelling between countries</i>
thar bhalla na scoile	<i>over the wall of the school</i>

\* To ascertain when these four prepositions lenite a following noun and when not, consult the relevant preposition in the preposition section of this grammar.

3 The initial consonant of the noun is lenited after the following numerals:

(a) aon and chéad (excepting initial d- / t- / s-):

aon fhear amháin	<i>one man</i>
an chéad ghasúr	<i>the first boy</i>

(b) dhá (unless preceded by the possessive adjectives a (3rd sing. fem. & 3rd pl.), ár & bhur):

dhá chapall	<i>two horses</i>
dhá theach	<i>two houses</i>

(c) trí, ceithre, cúig, sé when the singular form of the noun is used:

trí charr	<i>three cars</i>	cúig dhoras	<i>five doors</i>
ceithre cheacht	<i>four lessons</i>	sé theach	<i>six houses</i>

(d) beirt:

beirt pháistí	<i>two children</i>
beirt fheirmeoirí	<i>two farmers</i>

4 The initial consonant of the noun is lenited when it is preceded by all forms of the copula, viz *ba*, *ar*, *gur*, *níor*, *nár* etc. in the past tense and conditional mood:

ba dhochtúir é níor chladhaire í ar shagart é? nár ghadaí é?	<i>he was a doctor she was not a coward was he a priest? wasn't he a thief?</i>
---	---

## 5 The initial consonant of surnames is lenited after:

teach Sheáin Úí Bhriain	<i>John O'Brien's house</i>
Cáit Ní Bhriain	<i>Kate O'Brien</i>
carr Pheadair Mhic Dhuibhir	<i>Peter Mc Dyer's car</i>
airgead Bhríd Nic Coinnigh	<i>Bridget Mc Kenzie's money</i>

\* NOTE: no lenition in case of initial c & g with these four.

6 The initial consonant of a **personal name** or the **name of a place** is lenited when it is directly governed by a compound preposition or has a genitive relationship with a preceding noun:

i láthair Sheáin	<i>in John's presence</i>
cathair Dhoire	<i>Derry City</i>
os comhair Mháire	<i>in front of Mary</i>
sráideanna Chorcaí	<i>the streets of Cork</i>
bean Shéamais	<i>James's wife</i>
contae Shligigh	<i>county Sligo</i>

7 The initial consonant of an indefinite noun or verbal noun in the genitive case governed by another noun which immediately precedes it is lenited when the first noun is \*feminine and singular (unless it is in the gen. case) or \*plural and ends in a **slender** consonant:

dlaoi ghruaige	<i>a lock of hair</i>
sráid mhargaidh	<i>a market street</i>
culaith bhréidín	<i>a tweed suit</i>
aimsir shamhraidh	<i>summer weather</i>
ábhair chainte	<i>topics of conversation</i>
éisc mhara	<i>sea fish</i>
leabhair Ghaeilge	<i>Irish books</i>
tuirse shúl	<i>eye fatigue</i>

NOTE\*: There are many exceptions to this rule and the following are the most common:

(a) When the first noun ends in d, n, t, l, s, and the second begins with d, s, t, there is no lenition:

báid seoil	<i>sailboats</i>
bean tí	<i>housewife</i>
poill deataigh	<i>smoke-holes</i>

(b) When the first noun is an **abstract noun**, there is no lenition:

saoirse cainte	<i>freedom of speech</i>
fairsinge cumhachta	<i>extent of power</i>
óige duine	<i>one's youth</i>
áilleacht mná	<i>a woman's beauty</i>

(c) When the first noun denotes **quantity**, e.g barraíocht, breis, cuid, easpa, iomarca, there is no lenition:

an iomarca codlata	<i>too much sleep</i>
breis misnigh	<i>extra courage</i>
barraíocht cainte	<i>too much talk</i>
easpa céille	<i>lack of sense</i>

(d) When the second noun is qualified by an adjective or otherwise qualified, there is no lenition:

oíche gaoithe móire	<i>a night of great wind</i>
scian coise duibhe	<i>a black handled knife</i>

(e) When a part of a person's or animal's body or a part of anything is involved, there is no lenition:

cuisle duine	<i>a person's pulse / vein</i>
cluas cupáin	<i>a cup's handle</i>
cos páiste	<i>a child's leg</i>
aghaidh mná	<i>a woman's face</i>

(f) When a **collective noun** precedes a noun in the genitive plural, there is no lenition:

scuaine caorach	<i>a flock of sheep</i>
táin bó	<i>a herd of cattle</i>

(g) When the noun in the genitive case is the **agent** or **subject**, there is no lenition:

búireach bó	<i>owing of cows</i>
beannacht baintrí	<i>a widow's blessing</i>

(h) When an indefinite noun follows a verbal noun which is preceded by a preposition, there is no lenition:

ag cogaint milseáin	<i>chewing a sweet</i>
ag tógáil balla	<i>building a wall</i>

**Exceptions:** ag gabháil cheoil / fhoinn, ag fáil bháis

(i) When the noun in the genitive case indicates the ownership or purpose of someone or something, there is no lenition:

culaith fir	<i>a man's suit</i>
bróg páiste	<i>a child's shoe</i>

(j) When the noun in the genitive case is in apposition (i.e. defines the meaning of the noun preceding it) and refers to a person, there is no lenition:

baintreach fir	<i>a widower</i>
leibide mná	<i>a foolish woman</i>

(k) When an indefinite noun (not a personal noun or name of a place) is preceded by a **compound preposition**, there is no lenition:

i láthair múinteora	<i>in the presence of a teacher</i>
in aghaidh duine	<i>against someone</i>

**NOTE:** there are numerous exceptions to the above rule.

8 The initial consonant of the noun is lenited when it is a **compound word** and has affixed to it leniting **prefixes** or other words except when final and initial d, n, t, l, s clash:

seanfhéar	<i>an old man</i>
seanduine	<i>an old person</i>
corrduine	<i>an occasional person</i>
bantiarna	<i>a lady</i>
bunchíos	<i>ground rent</i>
leasdeartháir	<i>a stepbrother</i>
aonmhac	<i>an only son</i>

9 The initial consonant of an abstract noun is lenited when it is preceded by the special particle a:

a bhoirbe a labhair sí  
a shaoire atá sé!  
a dheacra a bhí sé

*so angrily did she speak  
how cheap it is!  
considering how difficult it was*

# PREPOSITIONS

Prepositions in Irish fall into two categories:

- 1 simple prepositions which are generally termed **prepositions**
- 2 **compound prepositions**

## SIMPLE PREPOSITIONS

Prepositions in Irish can be divided into **three** categories according to the case which follows them.

(a) A few prepositions are followed by the nominative case, e.g. gan, go dtí, idir, seachas:

gan an t-airgead	<i>without the money</i>
go dtí an chathair	<i>to the city</i>
seachas an bhean sin	<i>other than that woman</i>

(b) Most prepositions are followed by the dative case, e.g. ag, ar, as, chuig, de, do, faoi, go, i, le, ó, roimh, thar, trí, um:

ag an mbord	<i>at the table</i>
ar an ngeata	<i>on the gate</i>
amach as an áit seo	<i>out of this place</i>

(c) The following prepositions are followed by the genitive case, e.g. chun, dála, fearacht, timpeall, trasna:

chun na cathrach	<i>to the city</i>
timpeall na háite	<i>around the place</i>
trasna na habhann	<i>across the river</i>

Most prepositions never change in form no matter what follows them. Some, however, change in various ways depending on the nature of the word which follows them, e.g. the **definite article**, singular or plural, **possessive adjectives**, **relative particles** etc. [This applies only to category (b) and, even there, not in the same way nor to all of them. Some slight exceptions to this rule are illustrated under the respective prepositions.] All this information is supplied with each preposition in this grammar.

Almost all of the prepositions in category (b) have special personal forms which are termed **prepositional pronouns**, i.e. the appropriate pronoun is joined to the preposition rather than kept separate as in English, e.g. agam (*at me*), agat (*at you*) etc. These forms are also supplied with each preposition in this grammar.

Examples are supplied with each preposition of some of their idiomatic uses in Irish.

ag *at*  
**Prepositional Pronouns**

agam	<i>at me</i>	againn	<i>at us</i>
agat	<i>at you (sg.)</i>	agaibh	<i>at you (pl.)</i>
aige	<i>at him, it</i>	acu	<i>at them</i>
aici	<i>at her, it</i>		

It does not affect the initial letter of a following indefinite noun:

ag baile *at a town*      ag caisleán *at a castle*

It undergoes no change when followed by the article or possessive adjectives:

ag an ngeata / na geataí	<i>at the gate / gates</i>
ag a dhoras / doras / ndoras	<i>at his / her / their door</i>

The relative particles a and ar are not normally used with this preposition.

**Usage:**

It is used to denote position, attendance, time etc:

tá sí ag an teach	<i>she is at the house</i>
bhí mé ag an gcóisir	<i>I was at the party</i>
ag a seacht a chlog	<i>at seven o'clock</i>

It is used with the verbal noun to denote action in progress:

tá sé ag léamh	<i>he is reading</i>
tá sé ag rith	<i>he is running</i>

It is used with the substantive verb to denote possession:

tá teach agam	<i>I have a house</i>
tá airgead agam	<i>I have money</i>

It is used to denote possession of knowledge, skill etc:

tá Gaeilge agam	<i>I know Irish</i>
	<i>(i.e. how to read, speak and write the language)</i>
tá snámh agam	<i>I know how to swim</i>

It is often used before a possessive adjective, followed by a verbal noun, to express the direct object pronoun of the verbal noun:

ag mo bhualadh	<i>beating me</i>
ag do mholadh	<i>praising you</i>

The plural prepositional pronouns (againn, agaibh, acu) are used when counting people to translate '*of us, of you, of them*':

duine (bean, fear) againn / agaibh / acu	<i>one of us / you / them</i>
triúr acu	<i>three of them</i>
cá mhéad acu?	<i>how many of them?</i>

ar on  
**Prepositional Pronouns**

orm	<i>on me</i>	orainn	<i>on us</i>
ort	<i>on you (sg.)</i>	oraibh	<i>on you (pl.)</i>
air	<i>on him, it</i>	orthu	<i>on them</i>
uirthi	<i>on her, it</i>		

When followed by an indefinite noun, ar generally lenites:

ar chrann *on a tree* ar chathaoir *on a chair*

NOTE: such phrases as ar gcúl are exceptions.

It does not affect the initial of a following noun when it forms part of a set phrase or occurs in references of a general nature:

ar mire	<i>mad</i>
ar deireadh	<i>last</i>
ar meisce	<i>drunk</i>
ar taispeáint	<i>on display</i>
ar ball	<i>later</i>
ar cuairt	<i>on a visit</i>
ar siúl	<i>going on</i>
ar maidin	<i>in the morning</i>
ar clé	<i>on the left</i>
ar díol	<i>for sale</i>
ar deis	<i>on the right</i>

It undergoes no change when followed by the article, or possessive adjectives, or relative particles:

ar an gcrann / na crainn *on the tree / trees*  
ar a chathaoir / a cathaoir *on his / her chair*  
ar a gcathaoireacha *on their chairs*

an bord ar a leagtar an mála *the table on which the bag is placed*  
an bord ar ar leagadh an mála *the table on which the bag was placed*

### Usage:

It is used to denote place or position:

ar an talamh	<i>on the ground</i>
ar charraig	<i>on a rock</i>

It is used with the substantive verb to denote possession of feelings, emotions, needs, ailments etc:

tá codladh orm	<i>I am sleepy</i>
tá slaghdán orm	<i>I have a cold</i>
tá eagla orm	<i>I am afraid</i>
cad tá ort?	<i>what is wrong with you?</i>
tá ocras orm	<i>I am hungry</i>

It is used with different verbs to convey a wide range of meanings:

breathnaigh air!	<i>look at it!</i>
dhíol mé ar phunt é	<i>I sold it for a pound</i>
lean ort!	<i>continue!</i>
d'fhéach mé air	<i>I looked at it</i>
iarr air é!	<i>ask him for it!</i>
bhí sí ag freastal air	<i>she was attending it</i>
theip orainn	<i>we failed</i>

It is used to denote time:

ar a hocht a chlog	<i>at eight o'clock</i>
ar an lá áirithe sin	<i>on that particular day</i>
tiocfaidh sé ar maidin	<i>he will come in the morning</i>

as *out of, from*  
**Prepositional Pronouns**

asam	<i>out of me</i>	asainn	<i>out of us</i>
asat	<i>out of you (sg.)</i>	asaibh	<i>out of you (pl.)</i>
as	<i>out of him, it</i>	astu	<i>out of them</i>
aisti	<i>out of her, it</i>		

It does not affect the initial letter of a following indefinite noun:

as áit	<i>out of place</i>	as gloine	<i>out of / from a glass</i>
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It undergoes no change when followed by the article, or possessive adjectives, or relative particles:

as an bpáirc / na páirceanna	<i>out of the field / fields</i>
as a theach / teach / dteach	<i>out of his / her / their house</i>
as a n-ólтар	<i>out of which is drunk</i>

Usage:

It is used with place-names to denote origin, distance etc:

is as Gaillimh é	<i>he is from Galway</i>
mile as Doire	<i>a mile from Derry</i>

It is used to denote language medium:

abair as Béarla é	<i>say it in English</i>
tá sé scríofa as Gaeilge	<i>it is written in Irish</i>

It is used with different verbs to convey a wide range of meanings:

d'ioc mé as an leabhar	<i>I paid for the book</i>
d'éirigh mé as an obair	<i>I gave up the work</i>
bainfidh mé triail as	<i>I'll try it</i>

chuig *to, towards*

## Prepositional Pronouns

chugam	<i>to me</i>	chugainn	<i>to us</i>
chugat	<i>to you (sg.)</i>	chugaibh	<i>to you (pl.)</i>
chuige	<i>to him, it</i>	chucu	<i>to them</i>
chuici	<i>to her, it</i>		

It does not affect the initial letter of a following indefinite noun:

chuig áit	<i>to(wards) a place</i>
chuig duine	<i>to(wards) a person</i>

It undergoes no change when followed by the article or possessive adjectives:

chuig an teach / na tithe	<i>to(wards) the house / houses</i>
chuig a athair / hathair / n-athair	<i>to(wards) his / her / their father</i>

The relative particles a and ar are not normally used with this preposition.

Usage:

It is used to denote direction:

chuig an siopa	<i>to(wards) the shop</i>
chuig an gcistin	<i>to(wards) the kitchen</i>

It is used in conjunction with particular adjectives to convey a range of meanings:

go maith chuig an nGaeilge	<i>good at Irish</i>
go maith chuig slaghdán	<i>good for a cold</i>

de *from, off, of*  
**Prepositional Pronouns**

díom	<i>from / off me</i>	dínn	<i>from / off us</i>
dít	<i>from / off you (sg.)</i>	díbh	<i>from / off you (pl.)</i>
de	<i>from / off him, it</i>	díobh	<i>from / off them</i>
di	<i>from / off her, it</i>		

When followed by an indefinite noun, de lenites:

buille de bhata	<i>a blow of a stick</i>
bain de dhuine eile é	<i>take it off someone else</i>

It becomes d' before vowels and fh followed by a vowel:

a leithéid d'amadán	<i>such a fool</i>
ribe d'fhéaság an fhir	<i>a hair of the man's beard</i>

It combines with the singular definite article to give den:

den bhord	<i>off / of the table</i>
den chrann	<i>off / of the tree</i>

It combines with the possessive adjectives a (his/its (masc.), her/its (fem.), their) and ár (our) to give dá, dá:

dá athair / hathair / n-athair	<i>from his / her / their father</i>
dár gclann	<i>from our family</i>

It combines with the relative particles a and ar to give dá and dá:

an t-ábhar dá ndéantar é	<i>the material from which it is made</i>
gach uair dár chuimhnigh mé air	<i>each time I thought of it</i>

It combines with the indirect relative forms of the copula ar(b)(h) to give dar(b)(h):

fear darb ainm Seán	<i>a man called John</i>
cé dar díobh thú?	<i>from whom are you descended?</i>

It combines with the particle a which is used with abstract nouns to express degree to give dá:

dá laghad é	<i>little as it is</i>
dá fheabhas é	<i>good as it is</i>
dá olcas é	<i>bad as it is</i>

Usage:

It is used to denote discontinuation, breaking off, removal etc:

tóg den chathaoir é!	<i>lift it off the chair!</i>
bain díot do chóta!	<i>take off your coat!</i>

It is used to denote a piece, quantity or portion of something:

cuid den airgead	<i>some of the money</i>
duine de na daoine	<i>one of the people</i>

It is used to describe means or manner:

de phlimp	<i>with a bang</i>
éirigh de léim!	<i>jump up!</i>

It is used with certain adjectives to convey a range of meanings:

bréan den obair	<i>tired of the work</i>
tuirseach den saol	<i>world-weary</i>

It is used with different verbs to convey a wide range of meanings:

stad sí den ól	<i>she stopped drinking</i>
leanfar den obair	<i>the work will be continued</i>

## do *to, for* Prepositional Pronouns

dom	<i>to me</i>	dúinn	<i>to us</i>
duit	<i>to you (sg.)</i>	daoibh	<i>to you (pl.)</i>
dó	<i>to him, it</i>	dóibh	<i>to them</i>
di	<i>to her, it</i>		

When followed by an indefinite noun, do lenites:

do dhuine	<i>to a person</i>	do mhadra	<i>to a dog</i>
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It becomes d' before vowels and fh followed by a vowel:

cóngarach d'áit eile	<i>near another place</i>
tabhair d'fhear eile é!	<i>give it to another man!</i>

It combines with the singular definite article to give don:

don bhuachaill	<i>to the boy</i>
don chailín	<i>to the girl</i>

It combines with the possessive adjectives a (his/its (masc.), her/its (fem.), their) and ár (our) to give dá, dár:

dá athair / hathair / n-athair	<i>to his / her / their father</i>
dár gclann	<i>to our family</i>

It combines with the relative particles a and ar to give dá and dár:

an té dá dtugann/	<i>the person to whom he gives/</i>
dár thug sé an t-airgead	<i>gave the money</i>

Usage:

It is used to denote proximity or relationship:

cóngarach don chathair	<i>near the city</i>
is cara dom é	<i>he is a friend of mine</i>

It is often used in certain interrogatory phrases, often with the copula:

cad is ainm di?	<i>what is her name?</i>
cárб as duit?	<i>where are you from?</i>

It is often used in greetings of all sorts:

Dia duit!	<i>God save you / Hello!</i>
oíche mhaith duit!	<i>good night (to you)!</i>

It is often used idiomatically with the **substantive verb**:

tá grá agam dó  
tá trua aige dóibh  
bí go maith di!

*I love him  
he pities them  
be good to her!*

It is often used before a possessive adjective, followed by a verbal noun, to express the object pronoun of the **verbal noun**:

do mo bhualadh  
do do mholadh

*beating me  
praising you*

It is used with different verbs to convey a wide range of meanings:

bheannaigh mé di  
tabhair dó an peann!  
d'inis sí scéal dom  
oireann sé duit  
d'ordaigh mé dó stad

*I greeted her  
give him the pen!  
she told me a story  
it suits you  
I ordered him to stop*

## faoi *under, beneath, about* Prepositional Pronouns

fúm	<i>under me</i>	fúinn	<i>under us</i>
fút	<i>under you (sg.)</i>	fúibh	<i>under you (pl.)</i>
faoi	<i>under him, it</i>	fúthu	<i>under them</i>
fúithi	<i>under her, it</i>		

When followed by an indefinite noun, faoi lenites:

faoi bhord	<i>under a table</i>
faoi bhrón	<i>grieving</i>

It combines with the singular definite article to give faoin:

faoin gcathaoir	<i>under the chair</i>
faoin gcarr	<i>under the car</i>

It combines with the possessive adjectives a (his/its (masc.), her/its (fem.), their) and ár (our) to give faoina, faoinár:

faoina ainm / hainm / n-ainm féin	<i>under his / her / their own name</i>
faoinár n-ainm féin	<i>under our own name</i>

It combines with the relative particles a and ar to give faoina and faoinar:

an charraig faoina luíonn sé	<i>the stone under which it lies</i>
an charraig faoinar luigh sé	<i>the stone under which it lay</i>

Usage:

It is used with the **substantive verb** to denote intention or purpose:

tá fúm dul abhaile	<i>I intend to go home</i>
cad tá fút?	<i>what are you up to?</i>

It is used with abstract nouns to denote state:

faoi smacht	<i>restrained</i>
faoi lánseol	<i>in full swing</i>

It is often used idiomatically with the substantive verb and another prepositional pronoun:

tá áthas orm faoi sin	<i>I am happy about that</i>
tá náire orm faoi sin	<i>I am ashamed of that</i>

It is used in various idiomatic phrases with different meanings:

faoi láthair	<i>at present</i>
faoi dhó	<i>twice</i>
faoin tuath	<i>in the country(side)</i>
faoin Aoine	<i>by Friday</i>

It is used with different verbs to convey a wide range of meanings:

thug sé fogha fúthu	<i>he made a lunge at them</i>
chuir sé faoi san áit	<i>he stayed in the place</i>

## gan *without* Prepositional Pronouns

For all persons, gan followed by appropriate pronouns:

gan mé	<i>without me</i>	gan muid / sinn	<i>without us</i>
gan tú	<i>without you (sg.)</i>	gan sibh	<i>without you (pl.)</i>
gan é	<i>without him, it</i>	gan iad	<i>without them</i>
gan í	<i>without her, it</i>		

It lenites initial b, c, \*f, g, m, p of indefinite/unqualified nouns/verbal nouns which stand alone:

gan chlann	<i>without a family</i>
gan phingin	<i>without a penny</i>
gan fheidhm	<i>aimless</i>
gan mhaith	<i>useless</i>
gan chorraí	<i>motionless</i>

\* Exception: gan fáth *without reason*

It does not lenite when followed by a dependent nominal or verbal phrase or clause:

gan clann ar bith	<i>without any family</i>
gan pingin lena ainm aige	<i>without a penny to his name</i>
gan maith dá laghad	<i>without any good at all</i>
abair leis gan corraí	<i>tell him not to move</i>
abair leis gan punt a chaitheamh	<i>tell him not to spend a pound</i>

It is followed by the **nominative case** and never undergoes any change no matter what follows it:

gan an t-airgead	<i>without the money</i>
gan an bhean	<i>without the woman</i>
gan a chead	<i>without his permission</i>

### Usage:

It is used with the verbal noun to indicate an indirect command:  
abair leis gan bogadh! *tell him not to move!*  
iarr air gan stad! *ask him not to stop!*

It is used to express a wish:

gan mé sa bhaile!	<i>if only I were at home!</i>
gan muid linn féin!	<i>if only we were alone!</i>

i in  
**Prepositional Pronouns**

ionam	<i>in me</i>	ionainn	<i>in us</i>
ionat	<i>in you (sg.)</i>	ionaibh	<i>in you (pl.)</i>
ann	<i>in him, it</i>	iontu	<i>in them</i>
inti	<i>in her, it</i>		

When followed by an indefinite noun, i eclipses consonants and becomes in before vowels, bhur, dhá and titles of books etc:

i mbád	<i>in a boat</i>
i gcarr	<i>in a car</i>
in uisce	<i>in water</i>
in bhur seasamh	<i>standing up (pl.)</i>
in dhá áit	<i>in two places</i>
in Comhar	<i>in Comhar</i>

Before the singular definite article, it combines with the article to become sa before consonants and san before vowels and f followed by a vowel:

sa pháirc	<i>in the field</i>	sa nead	<i>in the nest</i>
san uisce	<i>in the water</i>	san fharraige	<i>in the sea</i>

Before the plural definite article, it combines with the article to become sna:

sna tithe	<i>in the houses</i>	sna páirceanna	<i>in the fields</i>
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It combines with the possessive adjectives a (his/its (masc.), her/its (fem.), their), and ár (our) to give ina, inár:

ina charr / carr / gcarr	<i>in his / her / their car</i>
inár dteach	<i>in our house</i>

It combines with the relative particles a and ar to give ina and inar:

an teach ina gcónaíonn an chlann	<i>the house in which the family lives</i>
an teach inar chónaigh an chlann	<i>the house in which the family lived</i>

**Usage:**

It is used with the possessive adjective to denote classification, condition, state etc:

tá sí ina bainisteoir	<i>she is a manager</i>
tá siad ina gcodladh	<i>they are asleep</i>

## idir *between (partly . . . partly; both . . . and)* Prepositional Pronouns

For all persons in the singular, idir followed by appropriate pronouns:

idir mé	<i>between me (and...)</i>	eadrainn	<i>between us</i>
idir tú	<i>between you (sg.) (and...)</i>	eadraibh	<i>between you (pl.)</i>
idir é	<i>between him, it (and...)</i>	eatarthu	<i>between them</i>
idir í	<i>between her, it (and...)</i>		

It lenites the initial letter of the following noun except in certain phrases containing agus:

idir dhaoine / pháisceanna / mhná	<i>between people / fields /women</i>
idir Ciarraí agus Corcaigh	<i>between Kerry and Cork</i>
idir gháire agus ghol	<i>half laughing, half crying</i>
idir bheag agus mhór	<i>both small and big</i>
idir fhir agus mhná	<i>both men and women</i>

It undergoes no change when followed by the article or possessive adjectives:

idir an bun agus an barr	<i>between the bottom and the top</i>
idir na tithe	<i>between the houses</i>
idir a bhaile agus an chathair	<i>between his home and the city</i>

The relative particles a and ar are not normally used with this preposition.

It is followed by the nominative case:

idir an chistin agus an seomra	<i>between the kitchen and the room</i>
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Usage:

It is used to denote distance or time:

idir uaireanta itheacháin	<i>between eating hours</i>
idir Gaillimh agus Doire	<i>between Galway and Derry</i>

It is used to denote difference or sharing:

raithint idir pháistí	<i>to distinguish between children</i>
roinn eatarthu é	<i>share it between them</i>

It is used with agus to express partly...partly and both...and:

idir shúgradh is dáiríre	<i>half in jest, half in earnest</i>
idir bhuachaillí is chailíní	<i>both boys and girls</i>

le *with*  
**Prepositional Pronouns**

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, it</i>	leo	<i>with them</i>
léi	<i>with her, it</i>		

When followed by an indefinite noun le prefixes h to initial vowels:

le hairgead	<i>with money</i>	le himní	<i>with worry</i>
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Before the definite article, sg. & pl., it becomes leis:

leis an bhfeair	<i>with the man</i>
leis na fir	<i>with the men</i>

It combines with the possessive adjectives a (his/its (masc.), her/its (fem.), their) and ár (our) to give lena, lenár:

lena aghaidh	<i>for him</i>
lena haghaidh	<i>for her</i>
lena n-aghaidh	<i>for them</i>
lenár málaí	<i>with our bags</i>

It combines with the relative particles a and ar to give lena and lenar:

an tsalt <b>lena</b> mbuailtear an madra	<i>the stick with which the dog is beaten</i>
an tsalt <b>lenar</b> buaileadh an madra	<i>the stick with which the dog was beaten</i>

Usage:

It is used with the verbal noun to express purpose, obligation, expectation:

tá an chistin le glanadh	<i>the kitchen has to be cleaned</i>
tá obair le déanamh	<i>there is work to be done</i>
tá sé le himeacht anois	<i>he is due to leave now</i>

It is used with the copula to denote ownership:

is liomsa é	<i>it is mine</i>
is le Seán an teach	<i>John owns the house</i>
cé leis é?	<i>who owns it?</i>
an leatsa an carr?	<i>is the car yours?</i>

It is used with certain verbs to denote continued action:

ag canadh leis	<i>singing away</i>
ag caoineadh léi	<i>crying away</i>
imir leat!	<i>play away!</i>

It is used to denote equation i.e. to express that something is *as . . . adj . . . as . . .*:

chomh mó� le cnoc	<i>as big as a hill</i>
chomh bog le him	<i>as soft as butter</i>

It is used with the copula to convey opinions, feelings etc:

is fuath liom é	<i>I hate him / it</i>
ba bhreféad liom sin	<i>I would love that</i>
is deas liom é	<i>I think it is nice</i>
b'fhearr leis deoch	<i>he would prefer a drink</i>
is maith liom	<i>I like</i>

It is used to denote continuous spaces of time:

tá sé anseo le bliain	<i>he is here for a year now</i>
tá sí ar shiúl le tamall	<i>she is gone a while / for some time</i>

It is used with different verbs to convey a wide range of meanings:

éist leis!	<i>listen to him!</i>
cuidigh liom!	<i>help me!</i>
imigh leat!	<i>go away!</i>
thaitin sé léi	<i>she liked him / it</i>
d'éirigh léi	<i>she succeeded</i>
bhuail mé leis	<i>I met him</i>
labhair sé liom	<i>he spoke to me</i>
cuir leis an scéal!	<i>add to the story!</i>
scaoileadh urchar leis	<i>a shot was fired at him</i>
abair leis fanacht!	<i>tell him to wait!</i>
níor lig mé leis é	<i>I didn't let him get away with it</i>
cuir deireadh leis!	<i>finish it!</i>
fanfaimid leat	<i>we'll wait for you</i>
chuaign sé le leigheas	<i>he studied medicine</i>

## Ó from Prepositional Pronouns

uaim	<i>from me</i>	uainn	<i>from us</i>
uait	<i>from you (sg.)</i>	uaibh	<i>from you (pl.)</i>
uaidh	<i>from him, it</i>	uathu	<i>from them</i>
uaithi	<i>from her, it</i>		

When followed by an indefinite noun, ó lenites:

ó thús go deireadh  
ó dhuine go duine

It combines with the singular definite article to give **ón**:

ón áit seo  
ón mbean

It combines with the possessive adjectives a (his/its (masc.), her/its (fem.), their) and ár (our) to give óna, ónár:

óna athair	<i>from his father</i>
óna hathair	<i>from her father</i>
óna n-athair	<i>from their father</i>
ónár n-athair	<i>from our father</i>

It combines with the relative particles a and ar to give óna and ónar:

an t-athair óna dtógaann / ónar thóga sé an nós sin  
*the father from whom he takes / took that habit*

## Usage:

It is used with the **substantive verb** / the verb *teastaigh* to express need or want:

cad tá (ag teastáil) uait?  
theastaigh uaidh é sin a dhéanamh *what do you want?  
he wanted to do that*

It is used after certain adjectives to convey a range of meanings:

## roimh *before, in front of* Prepositional Pronouns

romham	<i>before me</i>
romhat	<i>before you (sg.)</i>
roimhe	<i>before him, it</i>
roimpi	<i>before her, it</i>
romhainn	<i>before us</i>
romhaibh	<i>before you (pl.)</i>
rompu	<i>before them</i>

When followed by an indefinite noun, roimh lenites:

roimh dheireadh	<i>before (the) end</i>
roimh mhaidin	<i>before morning</i>

It undergoes no change when followed by the article or possessive adjectives:

roimh an teach	<i>before the house</i>
roimh na tithe	<i>before the houses</i>
roimh a bhricfeasta	<i>before his breakfast</i>
roimh a bricfeasta	<i>before her breakfast</i>
roimh a mbriticfeasta	<i>before their breakfast</i>

The relative particles a and ar are not normally used with this preposition.

Usage:

It is often used idiomatically, often with other prepositional pronouns, to convey a range of meanings:

tá eagla orm roimhe	<i>I am afraid of him</i>
bhí doicheall ort roimhe	<i>you resented him</i>
tá fáilte romhat	<i>you are welcome</i>

thar *past, over, across*

## Prepositional Pronouns

tharam	<i>past me</i>	tharainn	<i>past us</i>
tharat	<i>past you (sg.)</i>	tharaibh	<i>past you (pl.)</i>
thairis	<i>past him, it</i>	tharstu	<i>past them</i>
thairsti	<i>past her, it</i>		

When followed by an indefinite noun, thar generally lenites:

thar chnoc	<i>over a hill</i>
thar gheata	<i>past a gate</i>

It does not affect the initial of a following noun when it forms part of a set phrase or occurs in references of a general nature:

thar bráid	<i>(passing) by</i>
thar cionn	<i>excellent</i>
thar muir, thar sáile	<i>across the sea</i>

It undergoes no change when followed by the article or possessive adjectives:

thar an teach	<i>past the house</i>
thar na tithe	<i>past the houses</i>
thar a chaisleán	<i>past his castle</i>
thar a caisleán	<i>past her castle</i>
thar a gcaisleán	<i>past their castle</i>

The relative particles a and ar are not normally used with this preposition.

Usage:

It is used to translate *more than*:

thar na trí scóir	<i>more than sixty</i> (lit. <i>the three scores</i> )
thar a bheith fial	<i>very generous</i>

It is used with comparisons:

thar aon duine eile	<i>above all people</i>
ní aithním oíche thar lá	<i>I cannot distinguish night from day</i>

## trí *through* Prepositional Pronouns

tríom	<i>through me</i>	trínn	<i>through us</i>
tríot	<i>through you (sg.)</i>	tríbh	<i>through you (pl.)</i>
tríd	<i>through him, it</i>	tríothu	<i>through them</i>
tríthi	<i>through her, it</i>		

When followed by an indefinite noun, trí lenites:

trí bhalla	<i>through a wall</i>
trí dheardad	<i>by (a) mistake</i>

Before the **singular** definite article it becomes tríd:

tríd an bpáirc	<i>through the field</i>
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It combines with the possessive adjectives a (his/its (masc.), her/its (fem.), their) and ár (our) to give trúna, trúnar:

trína fhaillí	<i>through his negligence</i>
trína faillí	<i>through her negligence</i>
trínár bhfaillí	<i>through our negligence</i>
trína bhfaillí	<i>through their negligence</i>

It combines with the relative particles a and ar to give trúna and trúnar:

an t-urlár trúna sileann /	<i>the floor through which the water leaks</i>
an t-urlár trúnar shil an t-uisce	<i>the floor through which the water leaked</i>

Usage:

It is used in various adverbial phrases to convey different meanings:

tháinig mé tríd	<i>I survived</i>
trína chéile	<i>muddled, confused</i>

It is used to express the reason, cause or medium of something:

trí thaisme	<i>by accident</i>
trí Bhéarla	<i>in English</i>

um *about, at*  
**Prepositional Pronouns**

umam	<i>about me</i>	umainn	<i>about us</i>
umat	<i>about you (sg.)</i>	umaibh	<i>about you (pl.)</i>
uime	<i>about him, it</i>	umpu	<i>about them</i>
uimpi	<i>about her, it</i>		

When followed by an indefinite noun, um lenites initial c, d, f, g, s, t:

um Cháisc	<i>at Easter</i>
um Nollaig	<i>at Christmas</i>
um thráthnóna	<i>in the evening</i>

It undergoes no change when followed by the article, or possessive adjectives, or relative particles:

um an teach	<i>about the house</i>
um a mheatacht	<i>about his cowardice</i>
an fáth um a bhfágfaidh	<i>the reason why he will leave the house</i>
an fáth um ar fhág sé an teach	<i>the reason why he left the house</i>

**Usage:**

It is used with different verbs to convey a range of meanings:

bhuail sí uime	<i>she met him</i>
ghabh sé uime	<i>he got dressed</i>

## COMPOUND PREPOSITIONS

A compound preposition consists of a simple preposition followed by a noun and is **usually** followed by the genitive case. The following is a list of the more common compound prepositions:

ar aghaidh	<i>opposite</i>
ar chúl	<i>behind</i>
ar feadh	<i>during</i>
ar fud	<i>throughout</i>
ar lorg	<i>looking for</i>
ar nós	<i>like</i>
ar son	<i>for the sake of</i>
ar tí	<i>about to</i>
de bharr	<i>as a result of</i>
de réir	<i>according to</i>
de thairbhe	<i>because of</i>
faoi choinne	<i>for (the purpose of)</i>
faoi dhéin	<i>to meet</i>
go ceann	<i>to the end of</i>
i bhfeighil	<i>in charge of</i>
i dteannta	<i>along with</i>
i gcaitheamh	<i>during</i>
i gcoinne	<i>against</i>
i lár	<i>in the middle of</i>
i láthair	<i>present at, in the presence of</i>
i measc	<i>among</i>
i ndiaidh	<i>after</i>
i rith	<i>during</i>
in aghaidh	<i>against</i>
in áit	<i>in place of</i>
in éadan	<i>against</i>
in imeacht	<i>during</i>
le cois	<i>along with</i>
le haghaidh	<i>for</i>
le hais	<i>beside</i>
le linn	<i>during</i>
os cionn	<i>above</i>
os coinne	<i>opposite, in front of</i>
os comhair	<i>opposite</i>
tar éis	<i>after</i>

## Examples

ar chúl an tí  
de bharr na hoibre  
faoi dhéin an dochtúra  
i bhfeighil an tí  
i gcaitheamh an lae  
in éadan na gaoithe  
i lár na habhann  
i measc na ndaoine  
i ndiaidh na cainte  
i rith an lae  
le haghaidh na coise tinne  
os cionn an dorais  
os coinne na mban  
os comhair na tine  
tar éis na troda

*behind the house*  
*as a result of the work*  
*to fetch the doctor*  
*minding the house*  
*during the day*  
*against the wind*  
*in the middle of the river*  
*among the people*  
*after the talk*  
*during the day*  
*for the rainy day (idiom)*  
*above the door*  
*in front of the women*  
*in front of the fire*  
*after the fight*

# ADJECTIVES

The adjective agrees in number, gender and case (but not necessarily in declension) with the noun it qualifies and also **usually** follows it.

All adjectives belong to one of the **three** declensions.

## FIRST DECLENSION

This declension consists of adjectives which end in a broad or slender consonant except those ending in - (i)úil and some ending in - (a)ir.

### Singular - Genitive Masculine

If the adjective ends in a slender consonant, the ending undergoes **no change**:

i rith an lae chiúin *during the quiet day*

If the adjective ends in a broad consonant, the ending is made **slender**:

hata an fhir mhóir	<i>the big man's hat</i>
bun an phoill dhuibh	<i>the bottom of the black hole</i>

**Certain** adjectives which end in a broad consonant do not have their ending made slender, e.g. **most** monosyllabic words ending in a double consonant (gann, mall, teann) or - ch(t) (moch, nocht; **exception** bocht):

ag caitheamh an airgid ghann	<i>spending the scarce money</i>
ag bualadh an duine nocht	<i>beating the naked person</i>

With adjectives ending in - (e)ach, the ending becomes - (a)igh:

ag moladh an fhir bhacaigh	<i>praising the lame man</i>
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## Singular - Genitive Feminine

If the adjective ends in a slender consonant, - e is suffixed to it:

barr na lainne míne  
cleasa na mná glice

*the top of the smooth blade  
the tricks of the clever woman*

If the adjective ends in a broad consonant, the ending is made **slender** and - e is suffixed to it:

lann na scine géire  
i lár na farraige móire

*the blade of the sharp knife  
in the middle of the ocean*

Certain adjectives undergo **syncopation** as well as the alteration mentioned above:

álainn	→	áille
aoibhinn	→	aoibhne
domhain	→	doimhne
ramhar	→	raimhre

uisce na habhann doimhne      *the water of the deep river*

With adjectives ending in - (e)ach, the ending becomes - (a)í:

i lár na coille uaigní

*in the middle of the lonely wood*

## Singular - Vocative

The vocative singular of the adjective has the same ending as the nominative singular except in the case of those adjectives which have a special genitive singular **masculine** form. In those cases, the vocative singular masculine form of the adjective **usually** has the same ending as the genitive singular masculine form:

a bhean mhaith!  
a bhithiúnaigh bhréagaigh!  
a fhír bhig!

*(my) good woman!  
(you) lying rogue!  
(you) small man!*

## Plural

Those adjectives which end in a **broad** consonant form their plural by suffixing - a:

na fir mhóra

*the big men*

Those adjectives which end in a **slender** consonant form their plural by suffixing - e:

na cait chiúine

*the quiet cats*

Certain adjectives undergo **syncopation** as well as the alteration mentioned above:

álainn



áille

aoibhinn



aoibhne

domhain



doimhne

ramhar



ramhra

na daoine ramhra

*the fat people*

## Adjectives with Masculine Nouns

	Singular	Plural
nom./acc.	an múinteoir mór	na múinteoirí móra
gen.	teach an mhúinteora	tithe na múinteoirí
	mhóir	móra
dat.	leis an múinteoir mór	leis na múinteoirí móra
voc.	a mhúinteoir mhóir!	a mhúinteoirí móra!
nom./acc.	an gadaí glic	na gadaithe glice
gen.	cóta an ghadaí ghlic	cótaí na ngadaithe glice
dat.	ar an ngadaí glic	ar na gadaithe glice
voc.	a ghadaí ghlic!	a ghadaithe glice!
nom./acc.	an fear bratógach	na fir bhratógacha
gen.	hata an fhir bhratógaigh	hataí na bhfear
	bratógach	bratógach
dat.	don fhear bratógach	do na fir bhratógacha
voc.	a fhir bhratógaigh!	a fheara bratógacha!

## Adjectives with Feminine Nouns

	Singular	Plural
nom./acc.	an mháthair mhór	na máithreacha móra
gen.	teach na máthar móire	tithe na máithreacha móra
dat.	leis an mháthair mhór	leis na máithreacha móra
voc.	a mháthair mhór!	a mháithreacha móra!
nom./acc.	an bhean ghlic	na mná glice
gen.	cóta na mná glice	cótaí na mban glic
dat.	ar an mbean ghlic	ar na mná glice
voc.	a bhean ghlic!	a mhná glice!
nom./acc.	an bhaintreach	na baintrecha
	bhratógach	bratógacha
gen.	bia na baintrí bratógaí	bia na mbaintreach
dat.	don bhaintreach	bratógach
	bhratógach	do na baintrecha
voc.	a bhaintreach	bratógacha
	bhratógach!	a bhaintrecha bratógacha!

## A List of Common First Declension Adjectives

### ORDINARY ADJECTIVES:

álainn, aoibhinn, amh, ard, bán, beag, binn, bocht, bodhar, bog, borb, caoch, caol, ciallmhar, ciúin, corr, daingean, dall, dearg, deas, dílis, domhain, donn, dubh, féarmhar, fiáin, fionn, fliuch, folamh, fuar, gann, gaofar, garbh, gearr, glas, glic, gorm, greannmhar, íseal, láidir, léanmhar, leathan, liath, maith, mall, marbh, milis, mín, moch, móir, nocht, olc, ramhar, réidh, saibhir, searbh, séimh, sleamhain, teann, tearc, tinn, toll, tur, uasal, úr

### ADJECTIVES THAT END WITH - (e)ach / - íoch:

achrannach, aerach, aisteach, amaideach, amhrasach, bacach, ballach, baolach, biorach, bratógach, bréagach, briotach, brocach, broghach, bunúsach, cabhrach, caifeach, carthanach, cearnach, ceathach, ceimiceach, ciontach, cleasach, clúiteach, codlatach, coinníollach, colgach, cúramach, dátheangach, déanach, deaslámhach, deisbhéalach, déistineach, díreach, dleathach, dlisteanach, dochrach, dóchasach, eachtrach, eacnamaíoch, éadóchasach, éigeantach, eolach, eolaíoch, fadálach, fadsaolach, faillíoch, fáilteach, faiteach, fealltach, feargach, feasach, feilliúnach, fiosrach, fírinneach, fóirsteanach, gaothach, garach, gníomhach, fóchтарach, iontach, leadránach, lochtach, marfach, mealltach, náireach, nimhneach, ocrach, piseogach, práinneach, réasúnach, salach, scifleogach, seasmhach, sinsearach, stadach, suarach, tábhachtach, tairbheach, tostach, uaigneach

## SECOND DECLENSION

This declension consists of adjectives which end in - (i)úil and some which end in - (a)ir.

### Genitive Singular

The ending of the genitive singular masculine of adjectives in this declension undergoes **no change**.

In the case of the genitive singular feminine, ***the final consonant is made broad and - a is suffixed.***

### Plural

***The final consonant is made broad*** and - a is suffixed. This ending is the same as that of the genitive singular feminine.

## Adjectives with Masculine Nouns

	Singular	Plural
nom./acc.	an buachaill éirimíúil	na buachaillí éirimíúla
gen.	obair an bhuauchalla	obair na mbuachaillí
	éirimíúil	éirimíúla
dat.	faoi mbuachaill éirimíúil	faoi na buachaillí
voc.	a bhuauchall éirimíúil!	éirimíúla
		a bhuaachaillí éirimíúla!
nom./acc.	an duine cóir	na daoine córa
gen.	mac an duine chóir	mic na ndaoine córa
dat.	ón duine cóir	ó na daoine córa
voc.	a dhuine chóir!	a dhaoine córa!

## Adjectives with Feminine Nouns

	Singular	Plural
nom./acc.	an bhanríon cháiliúil	na banríonacha cáiliúla
gen.	áras na banríona cáiliúla	árais na mbanríonacha cáiliúla
dat.	leis an mbanríon cháiliúil	leis na banríonacha cáiliúla
voc.	a bhanríon cháiliúil!	a banríonacha cáiliúla!
nom./acc.	an aintín chóir	na haintíní córa
gen.	teach na haintín córa	teach na n-aintíní córa
dat.	roimh an aintín chóir	roimh na haintíní córa
voc.	a aintín chóir!	a aintíní córa!

## A List of Common Second Declension Adjectives

### **Adjectives that end with - (i)úil:**

acadúil, áisiúil, áitiúil, báúil, bliantúil, bródúil, bunreachtúil, cáiliúil, ceanúil, coiriúil, comharsanúil, compordúil, croíúil, dathúil, deisiúil, dlíthiúil, dóighiúil, éagsúil, éirimíúil, féiltiúil, flaithiúil, fuinniúil, geanúil, gnaíúil, inniúil, laethúil, leisciúil, measúil, meisiciúil, misniúil, postúil, spéisiúil, suimiúil, tráthúil

### **Adjectives that end with - (a)ir:**

cóir, deacair, socair

## THIRD DECLENSION

This declension consists of adjectives which end in a vowel. The endings of adjectives in this declension never undergo any change except in the case of:

(a) *breá* → *breátha* in gen. sg. fem. and pl.

and

(b) *te* → *teo* in pl.

### Adjectives with Masculine Nouns

	Singular	Plural
nom./acc.	<i>an cléireach dána</i>	<i>na cléirigh dhána</i>
gen.	<i>peann an chléirigh dhána</i>	<i>pinn na gcléireach dána</i>
dat.	<i>don chléireach dána</i>	<i>do na cléirigh dhána</i>
voc.	<i>a chléirigh dhána!</i>	<i>a chléireacha dána!</i>

### Adjectives with Feminine Nouns

nom./acc.	<i>an iníon fhalsa</i>	<i>na hiníonacha falsa</i>
gen.	<i>éadaí na hiníne falsa</i>	<i>éadaí na n-iníonacha falsa</i>
dat.	<i>ón iníon fhalsa</i>	<i>ó na hiníonacha falsa</i>
voc.	<i>a iníon fhalsa!</i>	<i>a iníonacha falsa!</i>

### A List of Common Third Declension Adjectives

ábalta, aclaí, aibí, aosta, blasta, bómánta, breá, buí, calma, ceann dána, céillí, cineálta, cinnte, cneasta, corcra, cróga, crosta, cuí, cumhra, dána, dearfa, diaga, diaganta, ealaíonta, éiginnte, fada, faiseanta, falsa, fiata, fileata, foirfe, gasta, ginearálta, gonta, gránna, graosta, iargúlta, leanbaí, líofa, meata, mírialta, morálta, múinte, néata, rialta, sásta, sona, sothuigthe, spadánta, tapa, te, teasaí, teibí, teolaí, teoranta, tintrí, tíoránta, uaine

## GENITIVE PLURAL OF ALL DECLENSIONS

As in the case of the genitive plural of the noun, the adjective sometimes uses its nom. sg. form and, at other times, its nom. pl. form. Since the adjective agrees with the noun it qualifies in number, gender and case, it also agrees with the noun in this respect. If the noun uses its nom. sg. form, the adjective does likewise and, if the nom. pl. of the noun is used, the adjective follows suit:

nom. sg.	nom. pl.	gen. pl.
an t-asal mór	na hasail mhóra	na n-asal mór
an bhróg dhubh	na bróga dubha	na mbróg dubh
an duine maith	na daoine maithe	na ndaoine maithe
an madra ciúin	na madraí ciúine	na madraí ciúine
an bhean fhionn	na mná fionna	na mban fionn

**NOTE:** no matter what form of the adjective is used in the gen. pl., the initial consonant is **never** lenited.

## LENTION OF ADJECTIVES

1 The initial consonant of the adjective is lenited when the noun it qualifies and which immediately precedes it is:

(a) feminine, singular and in the nom./acc., dat. and voc. cases:

an bhean <b>mhaith</b> (nom./acc.)	ar an mbean <b>mhaith</b> (dat.)
don bhean <b>mhaith</b> (dat.)	a bhean <b>mhaith!</b> (voc.)

(b) masculine, singular and in the gen. and voc. cases:

hata an fhir <b>mhóir</b> (gen.)	a fhir <b>mhóir!</b> (voc.)
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NOTE: the tendency in Ulster Irish generally is to lenite the initial consonant of the adjective in the dat. sg. whether the noun is masc. or fem., e.g. ar an fhearr mhór, ar an bhean mhór, ón iascaire bheag, ón bhó bheag.

(c) in the plural and ends in a slender consonant:

cinn bheaga (nom./acc.)	ar na hasail dhubha (dat.)
-------------------------	----------------------------

Summary of (a), (b) and (c)

	Singular		Plural	
Case	Masc.	Fem.		
nom./acc.	-	L	L	when noun
gen.	L	-	L	ends in
dat.	-	L	L	slender
voc.	L	L	L	consonant

NOTE: L = lenition of initial consonant of adjective.

(d) preceded by the numeral d(h)á:

dhá chapall dhonna	an <b>dá</b> shiopa ghnóthacha
--------------------	--------------------------------

(e) in the singular and preceded by the cardinal numbers from 3 to 10:

ceithre chat dhubha	<b>seacht</b> mbord ghlana
---------------------	----------------------------

(f) beirt:

beirt bheaga

an bheirt mhóra

(g) preceded by beirt:

an bheirt fhear mhóra

teach na beirte fear mhóra

2 The initial consonant of the adjective is lenited when it is preceded by all forms of the copula (viz. ba, ar, gur, níor, nár etc.) in the past tense and conditional mood:

ba dheas an lá é  
ar mhaith leat tae?  
níor mhór an cúnamh é

dúirt sé gur bhreá leis imeacht  
nár dheas an smaoineamh é?

3 The initial consonant of the adjective is lenited when it occurs in the construction **idir** + **adj.** + **agus** + **adj.** meaning **both**:

idir bheag agus mhór  
idir shean agus óg

*both big and small*  
*both old and young*

## POSSESSIVE ADJECTIVES

mo	<i>my</i>	All followed by lenition
do	<i>your</i> (sg.)	
a	<i>his, its</i> (masc.)	

mo → m' and do → d' before vowel or f followed by vowel:

mo bhád	<i>my boat</i>	d'éadan	<i>your forehead</i>
m'aghaidh	<i>my face</i>	a charr	<i>his car</i>
do chapall	<i>your horse</i>	a úll	<i>his apple</i>

a - *her, its* (fem.)

Prefixes h to vowels:

a teach	<i>her house</i>	a hathair	<i>her father</i>
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ár	<i>our</i>	All followed by eclipsis
bhur	<i>your</i> (pl.)	
a	<i>their</i>	

ár n-athair	<i>our father</i>
ár dteach	<i>our house</i>
bhur n-ainmneacha	<i>your (pl.) names</i>
bhur gcuid airgid	<i>your (pl.) money</i>
a bhfoireann	<i>their team</i>
a n-aintín	<i>their aunt</i>

## PREPOSITIONS AND POSSESSIVE ADJECTIVES

All the simple prepositions which end in a consonant (e.g. ag, ar, as, chuir, roimh, thar) undergo no change when followed by possessive adjectives:

ag m'athair	<i>at my father</i>	chuig a seomra	<i>to her room</i>
ar do shrón	<i>on your (sg.) nose</i>	roimh ár	<i>before our</i>
as a theach	<i>out of his house</i>	mbricfeasta	<i>breakfast</i>

The following simple prepositions which end in a vowel, i.e. faoi, i, le, ó, trí combine with the 3 sg./pl. and 1 pl. possessive adjectives (a / ár) as follows:

	3 sg./pl.	1 pl.
faoi	faoina	faoinár
i	ina	inár
le	lena	lenár
ó	óna	ónár
trí	trína	trínár

NOTE: the simple preposition i → in before bhur (2 pl. possessive adjective).

In the case of the simple prepositions de and do, the following happens:

	3 sg./pl.	1 pl.
de, do	dá	dár
faoina chathaoir		<i>under his chair</i>
ina haghaidh		<i>in her face</i>
lena gcabhair		<i>with their help</i>
ónár gcairde		<i>from our friends</i>
trína chroí		<i>through his heart</i>
dá hainneoin		<i>in spite of her</i>
dá gclann		<i>to their family</i>

## VERBS REQUIRING PREPOSITION I AND POSSESSIVE ADJECTIVES

The verbs involved here are: codladh, cónaí, dúiseacht, luí, seasamh, suí

The construction required here is:

substant. verb	subject	i (prep.)	possess. adj.	vb. noun
tá	mé	i	mo	chodladh
níl	tú	i	do	chónaí
bhí	sé	ina		dhúiseacht
ní raibh	sí	ina		luí
beimid		inár		seasamh
bhíodh	sibh	in	bhur	suí
an bhfuil	siad	ina		gcodladh?

## IDIOMATIC USE OF POSSESSIVE ADJECTIVES

A fossilized form of the possessive adjective a (3rd sg. masc.) is sometimes used in certain idiomatic phrases:

a chéile *each other*      a lán *a lot, much*      a thuilleadh *more*

ní fhaca siad a chéile le fada

*they had not seen each other for a long time*

bhí a lán daoine i láthair  
níl siad ann a thuilleadh

*many people were present  
they are not there any more*

## COMPARISON OF ADJECTIVES

As a general rule, the comparative and superlative forms of the adjective are the same as their genitive singular feminine forms.

níos (ní ba + lenition in past tense/conditional mood, ní b' + lenition before vowel or f + vowel) precedes the comparative forms, is (ba + lenition in past tense/conditional mood, ab + lenition before vowel or f + vowel) precedes the superlative forms.

### Forms in the present/future tense

positive	comparative	superlative
gorm	níos goirme	is goirme
glic	níos glice	is glice
álainn	níos áille	is áille
fairsing	níos fairsinge	is fairsinge
bacach	níos bacaí	is bacaí
uaigneach	níos uaigní	is uaigní
cáiliúil	níos cáiliúla	is cáiliúla
dathúil	níos dathúla	is dathúla
cóir	níos córa	is córa
dána	níos dána	is dána
breá	níos breátha	is breátha

### Forms in the past tense/conditional mood

positive	comparative	superlative
gorm	ní ba ghoirme	ba ghoirme
glic	ní ba ghlice	ba ghlice
álainn	ní b'áille	ab áille
fairsing	ní b'fairsinge	ab fhairsinge

There are some irregular forms of which the following are the most common:

positive	comparative	superlative
beag	níos lú	is lú
fada	níos faide	is faide
furasta	níos fusa	is fusa
gearr	níos giorra	is giorra
maith	níos fearr	is fearr
mór	níos mó	is mó
olc	níos measa	is measa
te	níos teo	is teo

## ADVERBS

The usual way to form an adverb from an adjective is simply to put the particle go before it:

duine feargach	<i>an angry person</i>
go feargach	<i>angrily</i>
bean mhaith	<i>a good woman</i>
tá mé go maith	<i>I am fine</i>
gasúr ciúin	<i>a quiet boy</i>
go ciúin	<i>quietly</i>

NOTE: go prefixes h to vowels.

It sometimes happens that the go is dropped:

dhá mhíle glan	<i>two miles exactly</i>
díreach in am	<i>just in time</i>
labhair measartha ard!	<i>speak reasonably loud!</i>

### ADVERBS OF TIME

The following are common adverbs of time which *never* undergo any change:

amárach	<i>tomorrow</i>
feasta	<i>from now on</i>
anois	<i>now</i>
fós	<i>yet, still</i>
anuraidh	<i>last year</i>
go fóill	<i>yet, still</i>
aréir	<i>last night</i>
i mbliana	<i>this year</i>
arís	<i>again</i>
inniu	<i>today</i>
ar maidin	<i>in the morning</i>
inné	<i>yesterday</i>
anocht	<i>tonight</i>
láithreach	<i>immediately</i>
fadó	<i>long ago</i>
riamh	<i>(n)ever</i>

## ADVERBS OF DIRECTION

isteach	istigh		amach	amuigh
amach	<i>out(wards)</i>	motion	téann sé amach	<i>he goes out</i>
amuigh	<i>out(side)</i>	rest	tá sé amuigh	<i>he is outside</i>
isteach	<i>in(wards)</i>	motion	tagann sí isteach	<i>she comes in</i>
istigh	<i>in(side)</i>	rest	tá sí istigh	<i>she is inside</i>

anonn / sall

abhus		thall
	anall	

anonn / sall	<i>over</i>	motion	téann sé anonn / sall	<i>he goes over</i>
thall	<i>over</i>	rest	tá sé thall	<i>he is over</i>
anall	<i>back</i>	motion	tagann sé anall	<i>he comes back</i>
abhus	<i>here</i>	rest	tá sé abhus	<i>he is here</i>

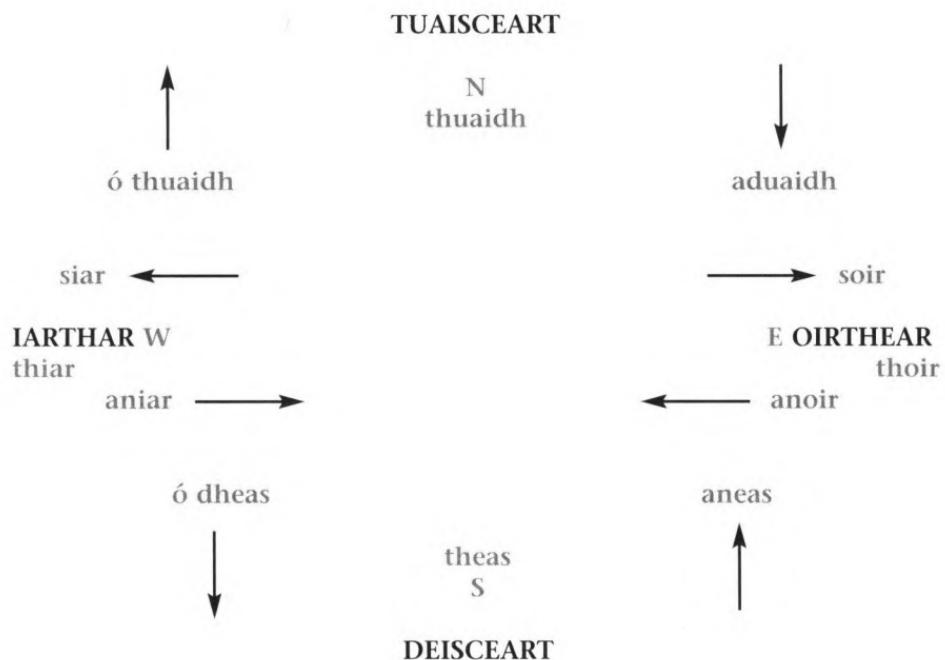
thuas

anuas		suas
aníos		síos

thíos

sus	<i>up(wards)</i>	motion
thuas	<i>up</i>	rest
anuas	<i>down(wards) (from above)</i>	motion
síos	<i>down(wards)</i>	motion
thíos	<i>down</i>	rest
aníos	<i>up(wards) (from below)</i>	motion

rith suas an staighre!	<i>run up the stairs!</i>
tá sí thuas san áiléar	<i>she is up in the attic</i>
thit úll anuas ó chrann	<i>an apple fell down off a tree</i>
síos go hIfreann leat!	<i>down to Hell with you!</i>
fan thíos ar íochtar!	<i>stay down below!</i>
tar aníos as an tobar!	<i>come up out of the well!</i>



### *Examples:*

rachaimid **soir** ó Ghaillimh go Baile Átha Cliath inniu agus tiocfaimid **anoir** arís amárach

*we will go east(wards) from Galway to Dublin today and we will return (lit. come from the east) again tomorrow*

rachaimid ó **thuaidh** ó Ghaillimh go Sligeach inniu agus tiocfaimid **aduaidh** arís amárach.

*we will go north(wards) from Galway to Sligo today and we will return (lit. come from the north) again tomorrow*

rachaimid **siar** ó Bhaile Átha Cliath go Gaillimh inniu agus tiocfaimid **aniar** arís amárach

*we will go west(wards) from Dublin to Galway today and we will return (lit. come from the west) again tomorrow*

rachaimid ó dheas ó Shligeach go Corcaigh inniu agus tiocfaimid **aneas** arís amárach

*we will go south(wards) from Sligo to Cork today and we will return (lit. come from the south) again tomorrow*

## EMPHATIC SUFFIXES

**Emphatic suffixes** are added to nouns and adjectives (when preceded by possessive adjectives), prepositional pronouns and synthetic forms of the verb. The various forms they assume are:

1 sg.	- sa / - se	1 pl.	- na / - ne (with verb/ adjective/noun)
2 sg.	- sa / - se		- e (with 1 pl. prep. pron. and sinn)
3 sg. masc.	- san / - sean	2 pl.	- sa / - se
3 sg. fem.	- sa / - se	3 pl.	- san / - sean

The **broad** suffixes ( - sa / - san / - na) are used when the preceding consonant or vowel is broad.

The **slender** suffixes ( - se / - sean / - ne / - e) are used when the preceding consonant or vowel is slender.

### Examples:

mo cheannsa	mo chistinse	mo chos-sa
do cheannsa	do chistinse	do chos-sa
a cheannsan	a chistinsean	a chos-san
a ceannsa	a cistinse	a cos-sa
ár gcinn-ne	ár gcistin-ne	ár gcosana
bhur gcinse	bhur gcistinse	bhur gcosasa
a gcinsean	a gcistinsean	a gcosasan

### More examples:

mo theachsa	mo chairdese
a athair mórsan	a bpáistí ciúinsean
dúramarna é	rachaimidne amach
is linne é	sinne a bhí ann

NOTE: a **hyphen** precedes these emphatic suffixes when the preceding word ends in the same consonant as the emphatic suffix:

mo chás-sa      ár n-oileán-na      a cúis-se

# PRONOUNS

## PRONOUN AS OBJECT OF VERBAL NOUN

In Irish, a pronoun cannot be used as the direct object of a verbal noun e.g. ag déanamh é / *doing it*, ag moladh mé / *praising me*, ag bualadh iad / *beating them*.

Instead, a different construction is used, viz. prep. \*do / ag + possessive adjective + verbal noun, with appropriate changes and mutations.

\*NOTE: the prepositions ag and do can interchange except in 3rd sg./pl.

The pattern is as follows:

*do / ag mo mholadh	<i>praising me</i>
*do / ag do mholadh	<i>praising you (sg.)</i>
á mholadh	<i>praising him, it</i>
á moladh	<i>praising her, it</i>
dár / ag ár moladh	<i>praising us</i>
do / ag bhur moladh	<i>praising you (pl.)</i>
á moladh	<i>praising them</i>

\*NOTE: do m' / do d' before a verbal noun which begins with a vowel or f + vowel:

do m'agairt

*imploring me*

## PRONOUN - EA

This is a 3 sg. neuter pronoun which can **only** be used with the copula.

NOTE: it does not translate the ordinary *it* in English as that is translated by the masculine or feminine pronouns in Irish.

Usage:

It is often used for purposes of emphasis, the information emphasised being placed at the head of the sentence followed by the positive, independent form of the copula (in appropriate tense), then by ea and then by the subject (noun, pronoun or other):

múinteoir is ea é  
falsóirí is ea na Gaeil  
thall i Sasana is ea atá sé

*he is a teacher*  
*the Irish are lazy*  
*over in England is where he is*

It is also used with the copula in a yes/no context:

an doras é sin?  
\*is ea / ní hea

*is that a door?*  
*yes / no*

an fuinneog í sin?  
is ea / ní hea

*is that a window?*  
*yes / no*

an amadán é Seán?  
is ea / ní hea

*is John a fool?*  
*yes / no*

an leabhar maith é?  
is ea / ní hea

*is it a good book?*  
*yes / no*

\*NOTE: is ea is often contracted to sea in speech.

## SUBJECT PRONOUNS

The following pronouns are used when they are the **subject** of the verb:

mé	<i>I</i>
tú	<i>you</i> (sg.)
sé	<i>he, it</i> (masc.)
sí	<i>she, it</i> (fem.)
muid / sinn	<i>we</i>
sibh	<i>you</i> (pl.)
siad	<i>they</i>

NOTE: Irish does not need a word for *it* since all objects are either masculine or feminine and are referred to as *he* or *she*. NOTE ALSO: the subject pronoun is not used with synthetic forms of the verb:

chuala mé an glór	is mé a tháinig isteach
rinne tú é	is tú an t-amadán
déanann sé an obair	níor ith sé an bia
d'ól sí an deoch	ní imeoidh sí anois

All the above can be used with the **copula** except sé, sí and siad.

## OBJECT PRONOUNS

The following pronouns are used when they are the **object** of the verb:

mé	<i>I, me</i>
thú	<i>you</i> (sg.)
é	<i>he, him, it</i> (masc.)
í	<i>she, her, it</i> (fem.)
muid / sinn	<i>we, us</i>
sibh	<i>you</i> (pl.)
iad	<i>they, them</i>

chuala sé mé	is mé a rinne é
chonaic mé thú	aithním thú
fuair mé é	is é a bhí ann
phóg mé í	is í atá ag teacht

All the above can be used with the **copula** except thú.

## EMPHATIC SUBJECT PRONOUNS

mise	<i>I</i>
tusa	<i>you</i> (sg.)
seisean	<i>he, it</i> (masc.)
sise	<i>she, it</i> (fem.)
muidne / sinne	<i>we</i>
sibhse	<i>you</i> (pl.)
siadsan	<i>they</i>

chuala <b>mise</b> é	is <b>mise</b> a tháinig isteach
rinne <b>tusa</b> sin	is <b>sibhse</b> na hamadáin
déanann <b>seisean</b> é	níor ith <b>siadsan</b> an bia
d'ól <b>sise</b> a deoch féin	<b>ní</b> <b>muidne</b> a rinne é

All the above can be used with the **copula** except seisean, sise and siadsan.

## EMPHATIC OBJECT PRONOUNS

mise	<i>I, me</i>
thusa	<i>you</i> (sg.)
eisean	<i>he, him, it</i> (masc.)
ise	<i>she, her, it</i> (fem.)
muidne / sinne	<i>we, us</i>
sibhse	<i>you</i> (pl.)
iadsan	<i>they, them</i>

chuala sé <b>mise</b>	is <b>muidne</b> a rinne é
chonaic mé <b>thusa</b>	aithním <b>thusa</b>
bhual mé <b>eisean</b>	is <b>iadsan</b> a bhí ann
ise a dúirt é	ní <b>eisean</b> a rinne é
gabh <b>thusa</b> amach!	luigh <b>thusa</b> síos!

All the above can be used with the **copula** except thusa.

thusa is also used instead of an emphatic suffix with a verb in the imperative mood.

## DEMONSTRATIVES

seo	<i>this</i> (pl. <i>these</i> )
sin	<i>that</i> (pl. <i>those</i> )
siúd / úd	<i>that, yon(der)</i> (pl. <i>those, yon(der)</i> )

They are used as the direct object of a **transitive** verb (but **not** of a verbal noun):

déan sin anois!	<i>do that now!</i>
ith seo láithreach!	<i>eat this immediately!</i>
ná creid siúd!	<i>don't believe that!</i>

NOTE: to make a demonstrative the direct object of a verbal noun (e.g. *doing this, saying that, praising those*), use á (followed by appropriate mutation after various 3rd sg., masc. and fem., 3rd pl. poss. adj.) + **verbal noun + demonstrative**:

á dhéanamh seo	<i>doing this</i> (sg., masc.)
á moladh sin	<i>praising that</i> (sg., fem.)
á gcáineadh siúd	<i>finding fault with those</i>

They are used at the beginning of a phrase or sentence with the copula understood, mostly to indicate people/things or for purposes of highlighting:

seo (í) mo mháthair	<i>this is my mother</i>
sin deireadh anois	<i>that is all now</i>
seo (é) do sheans	<i>this is your chance</i>
siúd (í) an fhírinne	<i>that is the truth</i>

They are most commonly used preceded by the definite article and noun:

an fear seo	<i>this man</i>
an bhean sin	<i>that woman</i>
ón duine úd*	<i>from yonder person</i>
na fir seo	<i>these men</i>
na mná sin	<i>those women</i>
na daoine úd*	<i>yonder people</i>

NOTE: \*úd is used instead of siúd in this case.

They are used with the 3rd sg./pl. prepositional pronouns which precede them:

thairis seo	<i>past this</i>
ag caint fúithi sin	<i>talking about that person (fem.)</i>
tabhair dóibh siúd é!	<i>give it to them!</i>
roimhe seo	<i>before this</i>
leis sin	<i>with that, thereupon</i>
ag díriú orthu siúd	<i>focusing on those</i>
tá brón orm faoi sin	<i>I am sorry about that</i>

They are used with the 3rd sg./pl. object and subject pronouns (s)é, (s)í, (s)iad:

tá sé seo réidh	<i>this is ready</i>
chonaic mé é sin	<i>I saw that (one) (masc.)</i>
an bhfuil sí sin tinn?	<i>is she (emph.) / that one (fem.) sick?</i>
an bhfaca tú í sin?	<i>did you see her (emph.) / that one? (fem.)</i>
cá bhfuil siad siúd?	<i>where are they (emph.) / those?</i>
iad siúd, an ea?	<i>do you mean them (emph.) / those ones?</i>

They are commonly used after the interrogative particles cé / cad followed by the 3rd sg./pl. object pronouns:

cé hí seo?	<i>who is this? (fem.)</i>
cad é seo?	<i>what is this?</i>
cé hiad sin?	<i>who are they?</i>

seo is commonly used in the following phrases:

seo dhuit	<i>here you are (sg.)</i>
seo dhaoibh	<i>here you are (pl.)</i>

NOTE: the initial of sin is lenited in the phrase ó shin = ago:

fada ó shin	<i>long ago</i>
seachtain ó shin	<i>a week ago</i>

# h BEFORE VOWELS

## NOUNS

h is prefixed to initial vowels of nouns after:

1 the forms of the article na:

(a) in the genitive singular feminine:

trasna na habhann	<i>across the river</i>
ag déanamh na hoibre	<i>doing the work</i>

(b) in the nominative / accusative / dative plural:

tá na héin ina gcodladh	<i>the birds are sleeping</i>
mharaigh mé na héisc	<i>I killed the fish</i>
amuigh ar na hoileáin	<i>out on the islands</i>

2 the prepositions go and le:

ó áit go háit	<i>from place to place</i>
le hór agus le hairgead	<i>with gold and silver</i>

3 the 3rd singular, feminine, possessive adjective a:

a hathair	<i>her father</i>
a hiníon	<i>her daughter</i>

4 Dé in case of Friday:

Dé hAoine	<i>on Friday</i>
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5 the negative form of the copula ní in certain cases:

ní hionadh	<i>it is no wonder</i>
ní hamháin sin	<i>not only that</i>
ní hionann é	<i>it is not the same thing</i>

6 Ó in surnames:

Seán Ó hUiginn	<i>John Higgins</i>
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## 7 The interrogative cá:

cá háit *where?*

cá huair? *when?*

NOTE: cá can only be used with a few nouns.

## 8 ordinal numbers except c(h)ead:

an dara háit  
an tríú hasal

*the second place*  
*the third donkey*

## 9 the cardinal numbers from 3 until 6 when the plural form of the noun is used:

trí huain  
ceithre huaire  
cúig háiteanna

*three lambs*  
*four times*  
*five places*

# ADJECTIVES, NUMBERS, PRONOUNS

h is prefixed to initial vowels

## 1 of adjectives after cá, chomh, le, go:

cá hard é?  
chomh hálainn leo!  
le haon chuidiú  
go hard sa spéir

*how high is it?*  
*how beautiful they are!*  
*with any help*  
*high in the sky*

## 2 of cardinal numbers aon and ocht after a (the particle used with non-adjectival numerals) and the definite article na:

a haon a chlog  
a hocht nó a naoi  
na hocht n-asal  
sneachta na haon oíche

*one o' clock*  
*eight or nine*  
*the eight donkeys*  
*the one night snow*

## 3 of num. adjective aon after ní:

ní haon iontaoibh é  
ní haon ghaisce é  
ní haon dóithín é

*he is not to be trusted*  
*it is no great achievement*  
*it is no joke*

4 of pronouns é, í, iad, ea\* after cé,ní, le:

cé hé / hí / hiad?	<i>who is he / she / are they?</i>
ní hé / hí / hiad / hea*	<i>not he / her / them, no</i>
le hé / hí / hiad a mharú	<i>to kill him / her / them</i>

\*only with ní

5 in phrases:

ní hansa	<i>it is not difficult</i>
ní hamháin	<i>not only</i>
ní hionann	<i>is not the same</i>
ní hamhlaidh	<i>not so</i>

6 of verb in imperative mood after negative particle ná:

ná hól é sin!	<i>don't drink that!</i>
ná hith an t-arán!	<i>don't eat the bread!</i>

## t BEFORE VOWELS AND s

1 After the singular definite article an in the nom./acc. singular, t- (with hyphen except before capital letter) is prefixed to:

(a) initial vowels of masculine nouns:

feicim an t-asal	<i>I see the donkey</i>
tá an t-ór sa mhála	<i>the gold is in the bag</i>
ith an t-im!	<i>eat the butter!</i>
tá an tAifreann thart	<i>the Mass is over</i>

(b) initial vowels of aon, aonú, \*ocht, ochtó, ochtódú, ochtú (except in a genitive situation):

an t-aon lá / bhean (amháin)	<i>the one day / woman</i>
an t-aonú fear / háit	<i>the first man / place</i>
an t-ochtó fear / bean	<i>the eighty men / women</i>
an t-ochtódú fear / háit	<i>the eightieth man / place</i>
an t-ochtú fear / háit	<i>the eighth man / place</i>
cuir isteach an *t-ocht!	<i>put in the eight</i>

\* Only in special circumstances

2 After the singular definite article an, t (without hyphen) is prefixed to initial s + vowel, sl, sn, sr + vowel:

(a) in the nom./acc. and dat. cases of feminine, singular nouns:

an tsúil seo	<i>this eye</i>
uair sa tseachtain	<i>once a week</i>
ar an tsráid	<i>on the street</i>

(b) in the gen. case of masculine, singular nouns:

teach an tsagairt	<i>the priest's house</i>
doras an tsíopa	<i>the shop door</i>

(c) in the gen. case of séú, seachtú:

airgead an tséú fear / an tséú fir	<i>the sixth man's money</i>
i rith an tseachtú mí	<i>during the seventh month</i>

(d) in the gen. case of seisear, seachtar:

airgead an tseisear ban	<i>the six women's money</i>
obair an tseachtar müínteoirí	<i>the seven teachers' work</i>

# THE VERB

## GENERAL

The Irish verb has **four** tenses, **present, future, past** and **past continuous / habitual / progressive** (= **imperfect**).

The Irish verb has **three** moods (four if one counts the **indicative, imperative, conditional** and **subjunctive**).

The Irish verb has **three** persons and **two** numbers, **1st** sg./pl., **2nd** sg./pl., **3rd** sg./pl.

Person in the verbal form is marked by a **synthetic** form of the verb, viz. the subject pronoun is suffixed to the verb, e.g. cuirim (*I put*), cuirfimid (*we will put*), chuirfeá (*you would put*) or by an **analytic** form of the verb, viz. the subject pronoun is separate from the verb, e.g. chuir mé (*I put*), cuireann siad (*they put*), chuirfeadh sibh (*you (pl.) would put*).

Synthetic forms of verbs, in conjunction sometimes with initial mutations, indicate person, number and tense. Generally speaking, the analytic forms of the verb are more widely used than the synthetic forms in Irish and progressively more so as one proceeds northwards in Ireland.

## THE IMPERSONAL FORM OF THE VERB

The Irish verb has an impersonal or passive (= autonomous) form in every tense. This passive form of the verb indicates that something is done without specifying who does it:

óladh an bainne aréir	<i>the milk was drunk last night</i>
déantar an obair gach lá	<i>the work is done every day</i>

## THE RELATIVE FORM OF THE VERB

Connaught and Ulster often use a special **relative** form of the verb but only in the present and future tenses.

There are regular verbs in Irish, ten irregular verbs and the two verbs *to be*, viz. the substantive verb *bí* and the copula *is*.

Irish verbs are usually listed in dictionaries under their 2nd singular, imperative forms:

mol

bris

ith

## THE INDEPENDENT AND DEPENDENT FORMS OF THE VERB

The **independent** form of the verb is that which is used:

(a) when the verb stands alone, i.e. not preceded by any verbal particle:

tar isteach!	<i>come in!</i>
feicim é	<i>I see him</i>
tháinig sé inné	<i>he came yesterday</i>

(b) when preceded by ó (in a positive context), má, mar (= *because*), óir (*because*), cé, cathain, a (direct rel. part.) etc:

ó bhí sé anseo  
má thagann sí anois  
mar tá siad ann  
óir d'imigh sé

The **dependent** form of the verb is that which is used after the preverbal particles *ní*(or), *an* / *ar*, *go* / *gur*, *nach* / *nár*, *sula*(r), *mura*(r), *a*(r) (indir. rel. particle) etc:

ní raibh sé anseo  
sula dtiocfaidh sí  
an bhfuil tú go maith?  
murar imigh sé

## THE REGULAR VERB

There are two **conjugations** (= categories) of regular verbs in Irish, viz. the first conjugation and the second conjugation.

The **first** conjugation consists of verbs:

(a) with monosyllabic roots:

mol bris

(b) with polysyllabic roots ending in *-áil* and some other polysyllabic verbs:

sábháil reáchtáil

(c) with polysyllabic roots other than those in (b):

tionóil adhlaic

The **second** conjugation consists of verbs:

(a) with polysyllabic roots ending in - (a)igh:

(b) with polysyllabic roots ending in- (a)il, - (a)in, - (a)ir, - (a)is which are syncopated when conjugated:

imir inis ceangail

(c) with polysyllabic roots which are not syncopated when conjugated:

In the following tables, examples for each conjugation consist of verbs which end in broad and slender roots:

broad	mol	ceannaigh
slender	cuir	cruinnigh

## The Present Tense

### FIRST CONJUGATION - CATEGORY 1 (A)

	<b>Broad</b>	<b>Slender</b>
1 sg.	molaim	cuirim
2 sg.	molann tú	cuireann tú
3 sg.	molann sé, sí	cuireann sé, sí
1 pl.	molaimid	cuirimid
2 pl.	molann sibh	cuireann sibh
3 pl.	molann siad	cuireann siad
Passive	moltar	cuirtear

### FIRST CONJUGATION - CATEGORY 1 (B)

	<b>Broad</b>	<b>Slender</b>
1 sg.	réáchtálaim	tiomáinim
2 sg.	réáchtálann tú	tiomáineann tú
3 sg.	réáchtálann sé, sí	tiomáineann sé, sí
1 pl.	réáchtálaimid	tiomáinimid
2 pl.	réáchtálann sibh	tiomáineann sibh
3 pl.	réáchtálann siad	tiomáineann siad
Passive	réáchtáiltear	tiomáintear

To form the present tense, add - (a)im, - (a)imid, - (e)ann tú / sé / sí / sibh / siad to the root for personal forms and - t(e)ar for the impersonal or passive forms.

There are only two synthetic forms of the verb in the present tense, viz. 1 sg. - (a)im, 1 pl. - (a)imid.

**NOTE:** the -t- in réáchtáiltear is slender.

**NOTE:** a relative ending - (e)as (or variant thereof) is widely used in Ulster and Connaught.

## The Present Tense

### SECOND CONJUGATION - CATEGORY 2 (A)

	<b>Broad</b>	<b>Slender</b>
1 sg.	ceannaím	cruinním
2 sg.	ceannaíonn tú	cruinníonn tú
3 sg.	ceannaíonn sé, sí	cruinníonn sé, sí
1 pl.	ceannaímíd	cruinnímíd
2 pl.	ceannaíonn sibh	cruinníonn sibh
3 pl.	ceannaíonn siad	cruinníonn siad
Passive	ceannaítear	cruinnítear

### SECOND CONJUGATION - CATEGORY 2 (B)

	<b>Broad</b>	<b>Slender</b>
1 sg.	labhraím	imrím
2 sg.	labhraíonn tú	imríonn tú
3 sg.	labhraíonn sé, sí	imríonn sé, sí
1 pl.	labhraímíd	imrímid
2 pl.	labhraíonn sibh	imríonn sibh
3 pl.	labhraíonn siad	imríonn siad
Passive	labhraítear	imrítear

To form the present tense, add - (a)ím, - (a)ímid, - (a)íonn tú / sé / sí / sibh / siad to the root for personal forms and - (a)ítear for the impersonal or passive forms.

There are only two synthetic forms of the verb in the present tense, viz. 1 sg. - (a)ím, 1 pl. - (a)ímid.

NOTE: a relative ending - (a)íos (or variant thereof) is widely used in Ulster and Connaught.

## The Past Tense

### FIRST CONJUGATION - CATEGORY 1 (A)

	<b>Broad</b>	<b>Slender</b>
1 sg.	mhol mé	chuir mé
2 sg.	mhol tú	chuir tú
3 sg.	mhol sé, sí	chuir sé, sí
1 pl.	<b>mholamar</b>	<b>chuireamar</b>
2 pl.	mhol sibh	chuir sibh
3 pl.	mhol siad	chuir siad
Passive	moladh	cuireadh

### FIRST CONJUGATION - CATEGORY 1 (B)

	<b>Broad</b>	<b>Slender</b>
1 sg.	reáchtáil mé	thiomáin mé
2 sg.	reáchtáil tú	thiomáin tú
3 sg.	reáchtáil sé, sí	thiomáin sé, sí
1 pl.	<b>reáchtálamar</b>	<b>thiomáineamar</b>
2 pl.	reáchtáil sibh	thiomáin sibh
3 pl.	reáchtáil siad	thiomáin siad
Passive	reáchtáladh	tiomáineadh

To form the past tense, lenite the initial consonant of the verb and prefix d' if the initial letter is f or a vowel, e.g. d'fhág, d'ól.

The only synthetic form of the verb in the past tense is 1 pl. - (e)amar and - (e)adh is the passive ending.

In the passive forms, the initial consonant of the regular verb is **never** lenited and initial f and vowels remain unaffected, e.g. óladh, fágadh.

## The Past Tense

### SECOND CONJUGATION - CATEGORY 2 (A)

	<b>Broad</b>	<b>Slender</b>
1 sg.	cheannaigh mé	chruinnigh mé
2 sg.	cheannaigh tú	chruinnigh tú
3 sg.	cheannaigh sé, sí	chruinnigh sé, sí
1 pl.	cheannaíomar	chruinníomar
2 pl.	cheannaigh sibh	chruinnigh sibh
3 pl.	cheannaigh siad	chruinnigh siad
Passive	ceannaíodh	cruinníodh

### SECOND CONJUGATION - CATEGORY 2 (B)

	<b>Broad</b>	<b>Slender</b>
1 sg.	labhair mé	d'imir mé
2 sg.	labhair tú	d'imir tú
3 sg.	labhair sé, sí	d'imir sé, sí
1 pl.	labhraíomar	d'imríomar
2 pl.	labhair sibh	d'imir sibh
3 pl.	labhair siad	d'imir siad
Passive	labhraíodh	imríodh

The only synthetic form of the verb in the past tense is 1 pl. - (a)íomar and - (a)íodh is the passive ending.

## The Future Tense

### FIRST CONJUGATION - CATEGORY 1 (A)

	<b>Broad</b>	<b>Slender</b>
1 sg.	molfaidh mé	cuirfidh mé
2 sg.	molfaidh tú	cuirfidh tú
3 sg.	molfaidh sé, sí	cuirfidh sé, sí
1 pl.	molfaimid	cuirfimid
2 pl.	molfaidh sibh	cuirfidh sibh
3 pl.	molfaidh siad	cuirfidh siad
Passive	molfar	cuirfear

### FIRST CONJUGATION - CATEGORY 1 (B)

	<b>Broad</b>	<b>Slender</b>
1 sg.	réachtálfайдh mé	tiomáinfidh mé
2 sg.	réachtálfайдh tú	tiomáinfidh tú
3 sg.	réachtálfайдh sé, sí	tiomáinfidh sé, sí
1 pl.	réachtálfaimid	tiomáinfimid
2 pl.	réachtálfайдh sibh	tiomáinfidh sibh
3 pl.	réachtálfайдh siad	tiomáinfidh siad
Passive	réachtálfar	tiomáinfear

To form the future tense, add - f(a)idh mé / tú / sé / sí / sibh / siad, - f(a)imid to the root for personal forms and - f(e)ar for the passive forms.

There is only one synthetic form of the verb in the future tense, viz. 1 pl. - f(a)imid.

NOTE: a relative ending - f(e)as is used in Ulster and Connaught.

## The Future Tense

### SECOND CONJUGATION - CATEGORY 2 (A)

	<b>Broad</b>	<b>Slender</b>
1 sg.	ceannóidh mé	cruinneoidh mé
2 sg.	ceannóidh tú	cruinneoidh tú
3 sg.	ceannóidh sé, sí	cruinneoidh sé, sí
1 pl.	ceannóimid	cruinneoimid
2 pl.	ceannóidh sibh	cruinneoidh sibh
3 pl.	ceannóidh siad	cruinneoidh siad
Passive	ceannófar	cruinneofar

### SECOND CONJUGATION - CATEGORY 2 (B)

	<b>Broad</b>	<b>Slender</b>
1 sg.	labhróidh mé	imreoidh mé
2 sg.	labhróidh tú	imreoidh tú
3 sg.	labhróidh sé, sí	imreoidh sé, sí
1 pl.	labhróimid	imreoimid
2 pl.	labhróidh sibh	imreoidh sibh
3 pl.	labhróidh siad	imreoidh siad
Passive	labhrófar	imreofar

To form the future tense, add - óidh mé / tú / sé / sí / sibh / siad, - óimid (broad) and - eoidh mé / tú / sé / sí / sibh / siad, - eoimid (slender) to the root for personal forms and - ófar or - eofar for the passive forms.

There is only one synthetic form of the verb in the future tense, viz. 1 pl. - óimid / - eoimid.

**NOTE:** a relative ending - ós or - eos is used in Ulster and Connaught.

## The Conditional Mood

### FIRST CONJUGATION - CATEGORY 1 (A)

	<b>Broad</b>	<b>Slender</b>
1 sg.	mholfainn	chuirfinn
2 sg.	mholfá	chuirfeá
3 sg.	mholfadh sé, sí	chuirfeadh sé, sí
1 pl.	mholfaimis	chuirfimis
2 pl.	mholfadh sibh	chuirfeadh sibh
3 pl.	mholfaidís	chuirfidís
Passive	mholfáí	chuirfí

### FIRST CONJUGATION - CATEGORY 1 (B)

	<b>Broad</b>	<b>Slender</b>
1 sg.	réachtálfainn	thiomáinfinn
2 sg.	réachtálfá	thiomáinfeá
3 sg.	réachtálfadh sé, sí	thiomáinfeadh sé, sí
1 pl.	réachtálfaimis	thiomáinfimis
2 pl.	réachtálfadh sibh	thiomáinfeadh sibh
3 pl.	réachtálfaidís	thiomáinfidís
Passive	réachtálfái	thiomáinfí

To form the conditional mood, lenite the initial consonant of the verb and prefix d' if the initial letter is f or a vowel, e.g. d'fhágfadh, d'ólfdadh.

The personal endings are - f(a)inn, - f(e)á, - f(e)adh sé / sí / sibh, - f(a)imis, - f(a)idís and - f(a)í for the passive forms.

There are four synthetic forms of the verb in the conditional mood, viz. 1 sg. - f(a)inn, 2 sg. - f(e)á, 1 pl. - f(a)imis, 3 pl. - f(a)idís.

## The Conditional Mood

### SECOND CONJUGATION - CATEGORY 2 (A)

	<b>Broad</b>	<b>Slender</b>
1 sg.	cheannóinn	chruinneoinn
2 sg.	cheannófá	chruinneofá
3 sg.	cheannódh sé, sí	chruinneodh sé, sí
1 pl.	cheannóimis	chruinneoimis
2 pl.	cheannódh sibh	chruinneodh sibh
3 pl.	cheannóidís	chruinneoidís
Passive	cheannófaí	chruinneofaí

### SECOND CONJUGATION - CATEGORY 2 (B)

	<b>Broad</b>	<b>Slender</b>
1 sg.	labhróinn	d'imreoinn
2 sg.	labhrófá	d'imreofá
3 sg.	labhródh sé, sí	d'imreodh sé, sí
1 pl.	labhróimis	d'imreoiimis
2 pl.	labhródh sibh	d'imreodh sibh
3 pl.	labhróidís	d'imreoidís
Passive	labhrófaí	d'imreofaí

To form the conditional mood, add - óinn, - ófá, - ódh sé / sí / sibh, - óimis, - óidís (broad) and - eoinn, - eofá, - eodh sé / sí / sibh, - eoimis, - eoidís (slender) to the root for personal forms and - ófaí or - eofaí for the passive forms.

There are four synthetic forms of the verb in the conditional mood, viz. 1 sg. - óinn / - eoinn, 2 sg. - ófá / - eofá, 1 pl. - óimis / - eoimis, 3 pl. - óidís / - eoidís.

## The Past Habitual Tense

### FIRST CONJUGATION - CATEGORY 1 (A)

	<b>Broad</b>	<b>Slender</b>
1 sg.	mholaínn	chuirinn
2 sg.	mholtá	chuirteá
3 sg.	mholaadh sé, sí	chuireadh sé, sí
1 pl.	mholaímis	chuirimis
2 pl.	mholaadh sibh	chuireadh sibh
3 pl.	mholaidís	chuiridís
Passive	mholtáí	chuirtí

### FIRST CONJUGATION - CATEGORY 1 (B)

	<b>Broad</b>	<b>Slender</b>
1 sg.	réáchtálainn	thiomáininn
2 sg.	réáchtálteá	thiomáinteá
3 sg.	réáchtáladh sé, sí	thiomáineadh sé, sí
1 pl.	réáchtálaimis	thiomáinimis
2 pl.	réáchtáladh sibh	thiomáineadh sibh
3 pl.	réáchtálaidís	thiomáinidís
Passive	réáchtáltí	thiomáintí

To form the past habitual tense, lenite the initial consonant of the verb and prefix d' if the initial letter is f or a vowel, e.g. d'fhágadh, d'óladh.

The personal endings are - (a)inn, - t(e)á, - (e)adh sé / sí / sibh, - (a)imis, - (a)idís and - t(a)í for the passive forms.

There are four synthetic forms of the verb in the past habitual tense, viz. 1 sg. - (a)inn, 2 sg. - t(e)á, 1 pl. - (a)imis, 3 pl. - (a)idís.

NOTE: the slender - t - in réáchtáltí.

## The Past Habitual Tense

### SECOND CONJUGATION - CATEGORY 2 (A)

	<b>Broad</b>	<b>Slender</b>
1 sg.	cheannaínn	chruinnínn
2 sg.	cheannaíteá	chruinníteá
3 sg.	cheannaíodh sé, sí	chruinníodh sé, sí
1 pl.	cheannaímis	chruinnímis
2 pl.	cheannaíodh sibh	chruinníodh sibh
3 pl.	cheannaídís	chruinnídís
Passive	cheannaítí	chruinnítí

### SECOND CONJUGATION - CATEGORY 2 (B)

	<b>Broad</b>	<b>Slender</b>
1 sg.	labhraínn	d'imrínn
2 sg.	labhraíteá	d'imríteá
3 sg.	labhraíodh sé, sí	d'imríodh sé, sí
1 pl.	labhraímis	d'imrímis
2 pl.	labhraíodh sibh	d'imríodh sibh
3 pl.	labhraídís	d'imrídís
Passive	labhraítí	d'imrítí

To form the past habitual tense, add - (a)ínn, - (a)íteá, - (a)íodh sé / sí / sibh, - (a)ímis, - (a)ídís to the root for personal forms and - (a)ítí for the passive forms.

There are four synthetic forms of the verb in the past habitual tense, viz. 1 sg. - (a)ínn, 2 sg. - (a)íteá, 1 pl. - (a)ímis, 3 pl. - (a)ídís.

## The Imperative Mood

### FIRST CONJUGATION - CATEGORY 1 (A)

	<b>Broad</b>	<b>Slender</b>
1 sg.	molaim	cuirim
2 sg.	mol	cuir
3 sg.	moladh sé, sí	cuireadh sé, sí
1 pl.	molaimis	cuirimis
2 pl.	molraigí	cuirigí
3 pl.	molaidís	cuiridís
Passive	moltar	cuirtear

### FIRST CONJUGATION - CATEGORY 1 (B)

	<b>Broad</b>	<b>Slender</b>
1 sg.	réachtálaim	tiomáinim
2 sg.	réachtáil	tiomáin
3 sg.	réachtáladh sé, sí	tiomáineadh sé, sí
1 pl.	réachtálaimis	tiomáinimis
2 pl.	réachtálaigí	tiomáinigí
3 pl.	réachtálaidís	tiomáinidís
Passive	réachtáltear	tiomáintear

To form the imperative mood, add - (a)im, - (e)adh sé / sí, - (a)imis, - (a)igí, - (a)idís to the root for personal forms and - t(e)ar for the passive forms.

There are four synthetic forms of the verb in the imperative mood, viz. 1 sg. - (a)im, 1 pl. - (a)imis, 2 pl. - (a)igí, 3 pl. - (a)idís.

**NOTE:** the - t - in réachtáltear is slender.

## The Imperative Mood

### SECOND CONJUGATION - CATEGORY 2 (A)

	<b>Broad</b>	<b>Slender</b>
1 sg.	ceannáím	cruinním
2 sg.	ceannaigh	cruinnigh
3 sg.	ceannáiodh sé, sí	cruinníodh sé, sí
1 pl.	ceannáímis	cruinnímis
2 pl.	ceannaígí	cruinnígí
3 pl.	ceannáídís	cruinnídís
Passive	ceannaítear	cruinnítear

### SECOND CONJUGATION - CATEGORY 2 (B)

	<b>Broad</b>	<b>Slender</b>
1 sg.	labhraím	imrím
2 sg.	labhair	imir
3 sg.	labhraíodh sé, sí	imríodh sé, sí
1 pl.	labhraímis	imrímis
2 pl.	labhraígí	imrígí
3 pl.	labhraídís	imrídís
Passive	labhraítear	imrítéar

To form the imperative mood, add - (a)ím, - (a)íodh sé / sí, - (a)ímis, - (a)ígí, - (a)ídís to the root for personal forms and - (a)ítear for the passive forms.

There are four synthetic forms of the verb in the imperative mood, viz. 1 sg. - (a)ím, 1 pl. - (a)ímis, 2 pl. - (a)ígí, 3 pl. - (a)ídís.

## The Present Subjunctive Mood

### FIRST CONJUGATION - CATEGORY 1 (A)

	<b>Broad</b>	<b>Slender</b>
1 sg.	- mola mé	- cuire mé
2 sg.	- mola tú	- cuire tú
3 sg.	- mola sé, sí	- cuire sé, sí
1 pl.	- molaimid	- cuirimid
2 pl.	- mola sibh	- cuire sibh
3 pl.	- mola siad	- cuire siad
Passive	- moltar	- cuirtear

### FIRST CONJUGATION - CATEGORY 1 (B)

	<b>Broad</b>	<b>Slender</b>
1 sg.	- reáchtála mé	- tiomáine mé
2 sg.	- reáchtála tú	- tiomáine tú
3 sg.	- reáchtála sé, sí	- tiomáine sé, sí
1 pl.	- reáchtálaimid	- tiomáinimid
2 pl.	- reáchtála sibh	- tiomáine sibh
3 pl.	- reáchtála siad	- tiomáine siad
Passive	- reáchtáiltear	- tiomáintear

To form the present subjunctive mood, add - a (broad) or - e (slender) mé / tú / sé / sí / sibh / siad, - (a)imid to the root for personal forms and - t(e)ar for the passive forms.

There is only one synthetic form of the verb in the present subjunctive mood, viz. 1 pl. - (a)imid.

NOTE: the - t - in reáchtáiltear is slender.

## The Present Subjunctive Mood

### SECOND CONJUGATION - CATEGORY 2 (A)

	<b>Broad</b>	<b>Slender</b>
1 sg.	- ceannáí mé	- cruinní mé
2 sg.	- ceannáí tú	- cruinní tú
3 sg.	- ceannáí sé, sí	- cruinní sé, sí
1 pl.	- ceannaímíd	- cruinnímíd
2 pl.	- ceannáí sibh	- cruinní sibh
3 pl.	- ceannáí siad	- cruinní siad
Passive	- ceannaítear	- cruinnítear

### SECOND CONJUGATION - CATEGORY 2 (B)

	<b>Broad</b>	<b>Slender</b>
1 sg.	- labhraí mé	- imrí mé
2 sg.	- labhraí tú	- imrí tú
3 sg.	- labhraí sé, sí	- imrí sé, sí
1 pl.	- labhraímíd	- imrímid
2 pl.	- labhraí sibh	- imrí sibh
3 pl.	- labhraí siad	- imrí siad
Passive	- labhraítear	- imrítear

To form the present subjunctive mood, add - (a)í mé / tú / sé / sí / sibh / siad, - (a)ímid to the root for personal forms and - (a)ítear for the passive forms.

There is only one synthetic form of the verb in the present subjunctive mood, viz. 1 pl. - (a)ímid.

## Verbal Adjective / Past Participle

### FIRST CONJUGATION - CATEGORY 1 (A)

Add - ta / - te to verbs ending in - l, - n, - s, - ch, - d:

#### Broad

ól	→	ólta
dún	→	dúnta
las	→	lasta
croch	→	crochta
stad	→	stadta

#### Slender

buail	→	buailte
sín	→	sínte
bris	→	briste
goid	→	goidte
stadta		

With verbs ending in - t / - th, remove the - t / - th and add - te / - ta:  
rith → rite      caith → caite      loit → loite      at → ata

Add - tha / - the to verbs ending in - b, - c, - g, - m, - p, - r:

#### Broad

cum	→	cumtha
ceap	→	ceaptha
fág	→	fágtha
glac	→	glactha
lúb	→	lúbtha

#### Slender

loisc	→	loiscthe
lig	→	ligthe
léim	→	léimthe
scaip	→	scaipthe
lúbtha		

NOTE: the final consonant is made broad in some cases:

cuir	→	curtha
siúil	→	siúlta

With verbs ending in - bh / - mh, remove the - bh / - mh and add - fa:  
scríobh → scríofa      gabh → gafa      lobh → lofa

There are some irregular formations: inis → inste

### SECOND CONJUGATION - CATEGORY 2 (A)

Remove the final - gh and add - the

#### Broad

ceannáigh	→	ceannaithe
athraigh	→	athraithe

#### Slender

cruinnigh	→	cruinnithe
imigh	→	imithe

## The Verbal Noun

The verbal noun in Irish is most frequently used preceded by *ag* to denote progressive/continuous action (i.e. to translate the *-ing* suffixed to the verb in English):

ag caint	<i>talking</i>	ag éisteacht	<i>listening</i>
ag ól	<i>drinking</i>	ag ceannach	<i>buying</i>
ag díol	<i>selling</i>	ag siúl	<i>walking</i>

It is used to translate the English infinitive *to*. When there is no direct object, the construction is as follows:

caithfidh mé <b>imeacht</b> anois	<i>I have to go now</i>
tá orm <b>fanacht</b>	<i>I have to wait</i>
ní mór dó <b>dul</b> amach	<i>he has to go out</i>
b'éigean dóibh <b>snámh</b>	<i>they had to swim</i>
an bhfuil tú ag iarráidh <b>fanacht?</b>	<i>do you wish to stay?</i>
ba bhreá liom <b>bualadh</b> leis	<i>I'd love to meet him</i>

When there is a direct object, whether a noun or pronoun, the construction is as follows:

other + object + a (leniting) + verbal noun

tá sé ar tí an obair a **dhéanamh**  
ba mhaith liom an fear a **fheiceáil**  
is breá liom é a **fheiceáil** gach lá  
caithfidh sí an carr a **thiomáint**  
tá ort an chistin a **ghlanadh**  
ní mór dúinn an siopa a **dhúnadh**  
b'éigean di an cat a **bhualadh**  
dúirt sé liom an t-airgead a  
chaitheamh

*he is about to do the work*  
*I would like to see the man*  
*I love to see him every day*  
*she has to drive the car*  
*you have to clean the kitchen*  
*we have to close the shop*  
*she had to beat the cat*  
*he told me to spend the money*

When a noun is the direct object of a verbal noun, that noun is *usually* in the genitive case:

ag déanamh na hoibre  
ag ithe **an dinnéir**  
ag scríobh na litreach

*doing the work*  
*eating the dinner*  
*writing the letter*

When the direct object of a verbal noun is a pronoun, a construction involving the possessive adjective is used:

do / ag mo mholadh  
do / ag do mholadh

*praising me*  
*praising you*

## The Verbal Noun

### FIRST CONJUGATION - CATEGORY 1 (A)

The most common way to form the verbal noun is simply to add - (e)adh to the root of the verb:

Broad		Slender	
mol	→	moladh	bris
dún	→	dúnadh	cáin
pós	→	pósadh	doirt

(Sometimes broadening of the final consonant takes place.)

bual	→	bualadh	loisc	→	loscadh
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Other common ways of forming the verbal noun:

The same as the root:

díol	→	díol	troid	→	troid
ól	→	ól	rith	→	rith

Broadening the final consonant of the root:

cuir	→	cur	siúil	→	siúl
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Adding - t to the root:

bain	→	baint	roinn	→	roinnt
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Adding - (e)amh:

caith	→	caitheamh	léigh	→	léamh
seas	→	seasamh			

Adding - (e)an:

lig	→	ligean	leag	→	leagan
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Adding - (i)úint:

creid	→	creidiúint	lean	→	leanúint
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Adding various other endings:

fág	→	fágáil	féach	→	féachaint
fan	→	fanacht			

## SECOND CONJUGATION - CATEGORY 2 (A)

Remove the final - (a)igh and add - (i)ú:

Broad		Slender	
maraigh	→	marú	cruinnigh
athraigh	→	athrú	bailigh
tosaigh	→	tosú	suimigh

Remove the final - (a)igh and add - (e)ach(t):

ceannaigh	→	ceannach
imigh	→	imeacht

## A LIST OF VERBS

### FIRST CONJUGATION - CATEGORY 1 (A)

adhlaic, adhain, aiseag, aisíoc, alp  
bac, bácaíl, báigh, bain, baist, basc, bearr, béic, bíog, blais, bligh, bog, borr,  
braith, breac, bréag, bris, bronn, brúigh, bruith, buail, buaigh  
caill, cáin, caith, cam, can, caoin, cardáil, carn, cas, cealg, ceap, céas, ceil,  
cinn, ciondáil, cíor, cleacht, clis, clóbhual, cloígh, clóscríobh, cniotáil,  
coimeád, coisric, comhair, comhlíon, cónasc, cráigh, craobhscaoil, craol,  
creach, creid, crith, croch, croith, crom, cros, cruaigh, crúigh, cuir, cum  
dall, daor, dearc, dearg, dearmad, déileáil, díol, díon, doirt, dréacht, dún  
éag, éist  
fág, fáisc, fan, fás, féach, féad, feall, feil, feoigh, fill, figh, fiuch, fliuch, fóir,  
foráil, friotháil, fuaign  
gabh, gair, geal, geall, gearr, géill, geit, gin, glac, glan, glaoigh, gléas, gluais,  
goid, goil, goill, goin, gráigh, gread, gróig, guigh  
iarr, iniúch, insteall, íoc  
las, lasc, leag, leáigh, lean, leath, leigheas, léigh, léim, leon, lig, ligh, lón,  
liostáil, loic, loisc, loit, lom, luaign, luasc, luigh  
maígh, mair, máirseáil, maith, marcáil, meall, meas, measc, meath, meil,  
mill, mór, múch, múin  
nasc, nigh, noct  
ofráil, oil, oir, ól  
pacáil, pioc, plab, planc, pléigh, plúch, póg, poll, pós, preab, priontáil,  
promh  
rácáil, réab, reic, reoigh, riar, righ, ríomh, robáil, roll, rop, ruaig, rúisc  
sábháil, saill, saor, scag, scaip, scaird, scairt, scall, scaoil, scar, scealp, sceith,  
scinn, sciorr, sciúr, scoilt, scoir, scoith, scréach, scread, scriob, scriobh,  
scuab, seachaid, séan, searg, searr, seas, séid, seinn, sín, síob, sioc, siúil,  
sléacht, slíoc, slog, sméid, smol, snigh, sníomh, sóinseáil, spáráil,  
speak, spíon, spreag, spreigh, srac, srann, sroich, stad, stán, staon,  
steall, stiall, stiúir, stoll, stríoc, stróic, suaith, suigh, súigh, suncáil  
tacht, taírg, táirc, taisc, taispeáin, taom, taosc, tástáil, téacht, teagasc,  
teann, teilg, téigh, teip, teith, tiomáin, tionlaic, tionóil, tit, tochais,  
tochrais, tóg, togh, tolg, tomhais, tost, trácht, tráigh, traith, tréig, triail,  
tríall, troid, troisc, tuig, tuill, tum  
uaim, urlaic, úsáid

## SECOND CONJUGATION - CATEGORY 2 (A)

achtaigh, adhraigh, admhaigh, agair, aifrigh, aimsigh, ainmnigh, airigh, áirigh, aiséirigh, aistrigh, aithin, aithris, áitigh, altaigh, aontaigh, athraigh

bagair, bailigh, bánaigh, básaigh, beachtaigh, beannagh, beartaigh, beathaigh, beirigh, bioraigh, bisigh, bláthaigh, bodhraigh, bolaigh, bréagnaigh, breathnaigh, breithnigh, brostaigh, buanaigh, bunaigh cabhraigh, cáligh, caomhnaigh, ceadaigh, cealaigh, ceangail, ceannaigh, ceansaigh, ceartaigh, ceisnigh, ceistigh, ciallaigh, cígil, ciontaigh, ciúnaigh, claochlaigh, cláraigh, clúdaigh, codail, cogain, coigil, coinnigh, cóirigh, comhairligh, comhlánaigh, comhordaigh, comhréitigh, cónaigh, corraigh, coscair, cosain, cothaigh, cothromaigh, creathnaigh, críochnaigh, cruinnigh, cruthaigh, cuardaigh, cuidigh, cuimhnigh, cúisigh, cútigh, cúlaigh, cumhdaigh

damhsaigh, damnaigh, dathaigh, dealaigh, dealraigh, dearbhaigh, deifrigh, deimhnigh, deonaigh, díbir, dícháiligh, dírigh, diúltaigh, dreasaigh, dúisigh, dúnmharaigh

eachtraigh, eagraigh, éalaigh, eascair, éiligh, éirigh, eisigh, eitigh, eitil fadaigh, fáiltigh, feistigh, fiafraigh, fiosraigh, foghlaim, fógair, foilsigh, foláigh, freastail, fulaing

giorraigh, gnáthaigh, gníomhaigh, gnóthaigh, gortaigh, greamaigh, gríosaigh

ídigh, imigh, impigh, imir, infheistigh, inis, íobair, iompaigh, iompair, iomair, ionsaigh, ísligh

labhair, laghdaigh, leasaigh, leathnaigh, léirigh, línigh, liostaigh, litrigh, lochtaigh

machnaigh, maisigh, maistrigh, malartaigh, mallachtaigh, maolaigh, maothaigh, maraigh, marcaigh, maslaigh, meabhraigh, mínligh, mionnaigh, móidigh, moilligh, mothaidh, muirnigh, múnligh, múscail náirigh, naomhaigh, neadaigh, neartaigh, neodraigh, oibrigh, oiriúnaigh, oirnigh, ordaigh, oscail

peacaigh, plandaigh, plódaigh,

rámhaigh, ramhraigh, reachtaigh, réimnigh, réitigh, rianaigh, righnigh, roghnaigh

sáinnigh, salaigh, samhlaigh, saoirsigh, saolaigh, saothraigh, sáraigh, sásáigh, satail, scanraigh, scrúdaigh, seachnaigh, séalaigh, sealbhaigh, sínigh, síolraigh, síothlaigh, slánaigh, sleamhnaigh, smachtaigh, smaoinigh, snasaigh, socraigh, soilsigh, soiprigh, soirbhígh, soláthraigh, sonraigh, sruthlaigh

tabhaigh, tagair, taithigh, taobhaigh, tapaigh, tarraing, táthaigh, teagmhaigh, teastaigh, timpeallaigh, tiomnaigh, tiomsaigh, tiontaigh, tochail, toiligh, tóraigh, tosaigh, trasnaigh, tréaslaigh, treoraigh, triomaigh, trualligh, tuirsigh

uachtaigh, uaisligh, ualaigh, údaraigh, uimhrigh, umhlaigh

## THE IRREGULAR VERB

There are **twelve** irregular verbs in Irish if we include the two verbs *to be*, viz. the copula *is* and the substantive *bí*. A verb is termed irregular if it does not retain the same root in all tenses. In addition, some irregular verbs have different dependent forms when preceded by certain preverbal particles. Some of the irregular verbs are only marginally irregular.

The following is a list of the irregular verbs excluding the two verbs *to be* (the 2 sg. imperative form of the verb is the one given here):

beir	<i>carry / catch / be born</i>
clois / cluin	<i>hear</i>
déan	<i>do / make</i>
abair	<i>say</i>
faigh	<i>get</i>
feic	<i>see</i>
ith	<i>eat</i>
tabhair	<i>give</i>
tar	<i>come</i>
téigh	<i>go</i>

## The Present Tense

With **eight** of these verbs (all except abair and, to a lesser extent, téigh), simply take the present root and add the normal endings for regular verbs  
 Category 1 (a).

	<b>Beir</b>	<b>Déan</b>	<b>Feic</b>
1 sg.	beirim	déanaim	feicim
2 sg.	beireann tú	déanann tú	feiceann tú
3 sg.	beireann sé, sí	déanann sé, sí	feiceann sé, sí
1 pl.	beirimid	déanaimid	feicimid
2 pl.	beireann sibh	déanann sibh	feiceann sibh
3 pl.	beireann siad	déanann siad	feiceann siad
Passive	beirtear	déantar	feictear

	<b>Ith</b>	<b>Tabhair</b>	<b>Tar</b>
1 sg.	ithim	tugaim	tagaim
2 sg.	itheann tú	tugann tú	tagann tú
3 sg.	itheann sé, sí	tugann sé, sí	tagann sé, sí
1 pl.	ithimid	tugaimid	tagaimid
2 pl.	itheann sibh	tugann sibh	tagann sibh
3 pl.	itheann siad	tugann siad	tagann siad
Passive	itear	tugtar	tagtar

NOTE: in case of tar and tabhair, the present roots are tag- and tug-.

	<b>Faigh</b>	<b>Clois / Cluin</b>
1 sg.	faighim	cloisim / cluinim
2 sg.	faigheann tú	cloiseann / cluineann tú
3 sg.	faigheann sé, sí	cloiseann / cluineann sé, sí
1 pl.	faighimid	cloisimid / cluinimid
2 pl.	faigheann sibh	cloiseann / cluineann sibh
3 pl.	faigheann siad	cloiseann / cluineann siad
Passive	faigheartear	cloistear / cluintear

	<b>Téigh</b>	<b>Abair</b>
1 sg.	téim	deirim
2 sg.	téann tú	deir tú
3 sg.	téann sé, sí	deir sé, sí
1 pl.	téimid	deirimid
2 pl.	téann sibh	deir sibh
3 pl.	téann siad	deir siad
Passive	téitear	deirtear

NOTE: the formation of téigh is *slightly* different from the previous eight while the formation of abair is *completely* different from the previous nine.

NOTE: when preceded by the negative particle *ní* or any other leniting verbal particle, the initial letter of this verb abair is not lenited in any tense.

## The Past Tense

	<b>Tabhair</b>	<b>Ith</b>
1 sg.	thug mé	d'ith mé
2 sg.	thug tú	d'ith tú
3 sg.	thug sé, sí	d'ith sé, sí
1 pl.	thugamar	d'itheamar
2 pl.	thug sibh	d'ith sibh
3 pl.	thug siad	d'ith siad
Passive	tugadh	itheadh

These two verbs have the same root as in the present tense and their endings and preverbal particles in the past tense are the same as those of the regular verb, Category 1 (a).

	<b>Beir</b>	<b>Clois / Cluin</b>	<b>Tar</b>
1 sg.	rug mé	chuala mé	tháinig mé
2 sg.	rug tú	chuala tú	tháinig tú
3 sg.	rug sé, sí	chuala sé, sí	tháinig sé, sí
1 pl.	rugamar	chualamar	thángamar
2 pl.	rug sibh	chuala sibh	tháinig sibh
3 pl.	rug siad	chuala siad	tháinig siad
Passive	rugadh	chualathas	thángthas

These three verbs do not have the same root as in the present tense and their preverbal particles in the past tense are the same as those of the regular verb.

	<b>Abair</b>	<b>Faigh</b>
1 sg.	dúirt mé	fuair mé
2 sg.	dúirt tú	fuair tú
3 sg.	dúirt sé, sí	fuair sé, sí
1 pl.	dúramar	fuaireamar
2 pl.	dúirt sibh	fuair sibh
3 pl.	dúirt siad	fuair siad
Passive	dúradh	fuarthas

These two verbs do not have the same root as in the present tense and their preverbal particles in the past tense are *ní*, *an*, *go*, *nach* etc. The negative particle *ní* or any other leniting particle do not lenite any of the *dúirt* forms. The negative particle *ní* eclipses the *fuair* forms.

	Independent Form	Dependent Form
	<b>Téigh</b>	<b>Téigh</b>
1 sg.	chuaign mé	- deachaigh mé
2 sg.	chuaign tú	- deachaigh tú
3 sg.	chuaign sé, sí	- deachaigh sé, sí
1 pl.	chuamar	- deachamar
2 pl.	chuaign sibh	- deachaigh sibh
3 pl.	chuaign siad	- deachaigh siad
Passive	chuathas	- deachthas
	<b>Déan</b>	<b>Déan</b>
1 sg.	rinne mé	- dearna mé
2 sg.	rinne tú	- dearna tú
3 sg.	rinne sé, sí	- dearna sé, sí
1 pl.	rinneamar	- dearnamear
2 pl.	rinne sibh	- dearna sibh
3 pl.	rinne siad	- dearna siad
Passive	rinneadh	- dearndadh
	<b>Feic</b>	<b>Feic</b>
1 sg.	chonaic mé	- faca mé
2 sg.	chonaic tú	- faca tú
3 sg.	chonaic sé, sí	- faca sé, sí
1 pl.	chonaiceamar	- facamar
2 pl.	chonaic sibh	- faca sibh
3 pl.	chonaic siad	- faca siad
Passive	chonacthas	- facthas

The three verbs above do not have the same root as in the present tense and their preverbal particles in the past tense are *ní*, *an*, *go*, *nach* etc.

## The Future Tense

	<b>Beir</b>	<b>Déan</b>	<b>Feic</b>
1 sg.	béarfaidh mé	déanfaidh mé	feicfidh mé
2 sg.	béarfaidh tú	déanfaidh tú	feicfidh tú
3 sg.	béarfaidh sé, sí	déanfaidh sé, sí	feicfidh sé, sí
1 pl.	béarfaimid	déanfaimid	feicfimid
2 pl.	béarfaidh sibh	déanfaidh sibh	feicfidh sibh
3 pl.	béarfaidh siad	déanfaidh siad	feicfidh siad
Passive	béarfar	déanfar	feicfear

	<b>Ith</b>	<b>Tabhair</b>	<b>Tar</b>
1 sg.	íosfaidh mé	tabharfaidh mé	tiocfaidh mé
2 sg.	íosfaidh tú	tabharfaidh tú	tiocfaidh tú
3 sg.	íosfaidh sé, sí	tabharfaidh sé, sí	tiocfaidh sé, sí
1 pl.	íosfaimid	tabharfaimid	tiocfaimid
2 pl.	íosfaidh sibh	tabharfaidh sibh	tiocfaidh sibh
3 pl.	íosfaidh siad	tabharfaidh siad	tiocfaidh siad
Passive	íosfar	tabharfar	tiocfar

**NOTE:** when preceded by the negative particle *ní* or any other leniting verbal particle, the initial letter of *abair* is not lenited.

	<b>Téigh</b>	<b>Clois / Cluin</b>	<b>Abair</b>
1 sg.	rachaidh mé	cloisfidh / cluinfidh mé	déarfaidh mé
2 sg.	rachaidh tú	cloisfidh / cluinfidh tú	déarfaidh tú
3 sg.	rachaidh sé, sí	cloisfidh / cluinfidh sé, sí	déarfaidh sé, sí
1 pl.	rachaimid	cloisfimid / cluinfimid	déarfaimid
2 pl.	rachaidh sibh	cloisfidh / cluinfidh sibh	déarfaidh sibh
3 pl.	rachaidh siad	cloisfidh / cluinfidh siad	déarfaidh siad
Passive	rachfar	cloisfear / cluinfear	déarfar

**NOTE:** only the following verb has separate independent and dependent forms in the future and only the following verb is eclipsed when preceded by *ní*.

Independent Form	Dependent Form
<b>Faigh</b>	<b>Faigh</b>
1 sg. gheobhaidh mé	- bhfaighidh mé
2 sg. gheobhaidh tú	- bhfaighidh tú
3 sg. gheobhaidh sé, sí	- bhfaighidh sé, sí
1 pl. gheobhaimid	- bhfaighimid
2 pl. gheobhaidh sibh	- bhfaighidh sibh
3 pl. gheobhaidh siad	- bhfaighidh siad
Passive gheofar	- bhfaighfear

NOTE: all the above irregular verbs have the same future endings (except in case of rach-, gheobh- and -faigh- which have no - f - except in the passive) as the regular verb, Category 1 (a).

NOTE: the verbs clois / cluin, feic, déan have the same root in the future as in the present tense whereas all the other irregular verbs have a different root.

## The Conditional Mood

	<b>Beir</b>	<b>Déan</b>	<b>Feic</b>
1 sg.	bhéarfainn	dhéanfainn	d'fheicfinn
2 sg.	bhéarfá	dhéanfá	d'fheicfeá
3 sg.	bhéarfadh sé, sí	dhéanfadh sé, sí	d'fheicfeadh sé, sí
1 pl.	bhéarfaimis	dhéanfaimis	d'fheicfimis
2 pl.	bhéarfadh sibh	dhéanfadh sibh	d'fheicfeadh sibh
3 pl.	bhéarfaidís	dhéanfaidís	d'fheicfidís
Passive	bhéarfáí	dhéanfáí	d'fheicfí
	<b>Ith</b>	<b>Tabhair</b>	<b>Tar</b>
1 sg.	d'iosfainn	thabharfainn	thiocfainn
2 sg.	d'iosfá	thabharfá	thiocfá
3 sg.	d'iosfadh sé, sí	thabharfadh sé, sí	thiocfadh sé, sí
1 pl.	d'iosfaimis	thabharfaimis	thiocfaimis
2 pl.	d'iosfadh sibh	thabharfadh sibh	thiocfadh sibh
3 pl.	d'iosfaidís	thabharfaidís	thiocfaidís
Passive	d'iosfáí	thabharfáí	thiocfáí

NOTE: when preceded by the negative particle *ní* or any other leniting verbal particle, the initial letter of the verb *abair* is not lenited in any tense.

	<b>Téigh</b>	<b>Clois / Cluin</b>	<b>Abair</b>
1 sg.	rachainn	chloisfinn/chluinfinn	déarfainn
2 sg.	rachfá	chloisfeá/chluinfeá	déarfá
3 sg.	rachadh sé, sí	chloisfeadh/chluinfeadh sé, sí	déarfadh sé, sí
1 pl.	rachaimis	chloisfimis/chluinfimis	déarfaimis
2 pl.	rachadh sibh	chloisfeadh/chluinfeadh sibh	déarfadh sibh
3 pl.	rachaidís	chloisfidís/chluinfidís	déarfaidís
Passive	rachfaí	chloisfí/chluinfí	déarfáí

NOTE: only the following verb has separate independent and dependent forms in the conditional mood and only the following verb is eclipsed when preceded by *ní*.

	Independent Form	Dependent Form
	<b>Faigh</b>	<b>Faigh</b>
1 sg.	gheobhainn	- bhfaighinn
2 sg.	gheofá	- bhfaighfeá
3 sg.	gheobhadh sé, sí	- bhfaigheadh sé, sí
1 pl.	gheobhaimis	- bhfaighimis
2 pl.	gheobhadh sibh	- bhfaigheadh sibh
3 pl.	gheobhaidís	- bhfaighidís
Passive	gheofaí	- bhfaighfí

NOTE: all the above irregular verbs have the same conditional endings (except in case of rach -, gheobh - and - faigh - which have no - f - except in the 2 sg. and passive) as the regular verb, Category 1 (a).

NOTE: the verbs clois / cluin, feic, déan have the same root in the conditional as in the present tense whereas all the other irregular verbs have a different root.

## The Past Habitual Tense

	<b>Beir</b>	<b>Déan</b>	<b>Feic</b>
1 sg.	bheirinn	dhéanainn	d'fheicinn
2 sg.	bheirteá	dhéantá	d'fheicteá
3 sg.	bheireadh sé, sí	dhéanadh sé, sí	d'fheiceadh sé, sí
1 pl.	bheirimis	dhéanaimis	d'fheicimis
2 pl.	bheireadh sibh	dhéanadh sibh	d'fheiceadh sibh
3 pl.	bheiridís	dhéanaidís	d'fheicidís
Passive	bheití	dhéantáí	d'fheictí
	<b>Ith</b>	<b>Tabhair</b>	<b>Tar</b>
1 sg.	d'ithinn	thugainn	thagainn
2 sg.	d'iteá	thugtá	thagtá
3 sg.	d'itheadh sé, sí	thugadh sé, sí	thagadh sé, sí
1 pl.	d'ithimis	thugaimis	thagaimis
2 pl.	d'itheadh sibh	thugadh sibh	thagadh sibh
3 pl.	d'ithidís	thugaidís	thagaidís
Passive	dítí	thugtaí	thagtaí
	<b>Téigh</b>	<b>Clois / Cluin</b>	
1 sg.	théinn	chloisinn / chluininn	
2 sg.	théiteá	chloisteá / chluinteá	
3 sg.	théadh sé, sí	chloiseadh / chluineadh sé, sí	
1 pl.	théimis	chloisimis / chlunimis	
2 pl.	théadh sibh	chloiseadh / chluineadh sibh	
3 pl.	théidís	chloisidís / chlunidís	
Passive	théití	chloistí / chluintí	
	<b>Abair</b>	<b>Faigh</b>	
1 sg.	deirinn	d'fhaighinn	
2 sg.	deirteá	d'fhaighteá	
3 sg.	deireadh sé, sí	d'fhaigheadh sé, sí	
1 pl.	deirimis	d'fhaighimis	
2 pl.	deireadh sibh	d'fhaigheadh sibh	
3 pl.	deiridís	d'fhaighidís	
Passive	deirtí	d'fhaigntí	

The past habitual tense is based on the present root. All of these irregular verbs, with the possible exception of téigh, have the same endings as the regular verb, Category 1 (a).

NOTE: when preceded by the negative particle *ní* or any other leniting verbal particle, the initial letter of the verb *abair* is not lenited in any tense.

## The Imperative Mood

	<b>Beir</b>	<b>Déan</b>	<b>Feic</b>
1 sg.	beirim	déanaim	feicim
2 sg.	beir	déan	feic
3 sg.	beireadh sé, sí	déanadh sé, sí	feiceadh sé, sí
1 pl.	beirimis	déanaimis	feicimis
2 pl.	beirígí	déanaigí	feicigí
3 pl.	beiridís	déanaidís	feicidís
Passive	beirtear	déantar	feictear
	<b>Ith</b>	<b>Tabhair</b>	<b>Tar</b>
1 sg.	ithim	tugaim	tagaim
2 sg.	ith	tabhair	tar
3 sg.	itheadh sé, sí	tugadh sé, sí	tagadh sé, sí
1 pl.	ithimis	tugaimis	tagaimis
2 pl.	ithigí	tugaigí	tagaigí
3 pl.	ithidís	tugaidís	tagaidís
Passive	itear	tugtar	tagtar

NOTE: the 2 sg. forms of tar and tabhair.

	<b>Téigh</b>	<b>Clois / Cluin</b>
1 sg.	téim	cloisim / cluinim
2 sg.	téigh	clois / cluin
3 sg.	téadh sé, sí	cloiseadh / cluineadh sé, sí
1 pl.	téimis	cloisimis / cluinimis
2 pl.	téigí	cloisigí / cluinigí
3 pl.	téidís	cloisidís / cluinidís
Passive	téitear	cloistear / cluintear
	<b>Abair</b>	<b>Faigh</b>
1 sg.	abraim	faighim
2 sg.	abair	faigh
3 sg.	abradh sé, sí	faigheadh sé, sí
1 pl.	abraimis	faighimis
2 pl.	abraigí	faighigí
3 pl.	abraigdís	faighidís
Passive	abairtear	faigtear

## The Present Subjunctive Mood

	<b>Beir</b>	<b>Déan</b>	<b>Feic</b>
1 sg.	- beire mé	- déana mé	- feice mé
2 sg.	- beire tú	- déana tú	- feice tú
3 sg.	- beire sé, sí	- déana sé, sí	- feice sé, sí
1 pl.	- beirimid	- déanaimid	- feicimid
2 pl.	- beire sibh	- déana sibh	- feice sibh
3 pl.	- beire siad	- déana siad	- feice siad
Passive	- beirtear	- déantar	- feictear
	<b>Ith</b>	<b>Tabhair</b>	<b>Tar</b>
1 sg.	- ithe mé	- tuga mé	- taga mé
2 sg.	- ithe tú	- tuga tú	- taga tú
3 sg.	- ithe sé, sí	- tuga sé, sí	- taga sé, sí
1 pl.	- ithimid	- tugaimid	- tagaimid
2 pl.	- ithe sibh	- tuga sibh	- taga sibh
3 pl.	- ithe siad	- tuga siad	- taga siad
Passive	- itear	- tugtar	- tagtar
	<b>Téigh</b>	<b>Clois / Cluin</b>	
1 sg.	- té mé	- cloise / cluine mé	
2 sg.	- té tú	- cloise / cluine tú	
3 sg.	- té sé, sí	- cloise / cluine sé, sí	
1 pl.	- téimid	- cloisimid / cluinimid	
2 pl.	- té sibh	- cloise / cluine sibh	
3 pl.	- té siad	- cloise / cluine siad	
Passive	- téitear	- cloistear / cluintear	
	<b>Abair</b>	<b>Faigh</b>	
1 sg.	- deire mé	- faighe mé	
2 sg.	- deire tú	- faighe tú	
3 sg.	- deire sé, sí	- faighe sé, sí	
1 pl.	- deirimid	- faighimid	
2 pl.	- deire sibh	- faighe sibh	
3 pl.	- deire siad	- faighe siad	
Passive	- deirtear	- faightear	

NOTE: all these irregular verbs, with the exception of téigh, have the same endings as the regular verb, Category 1 (a).

## The Irregular Verb

### Verbal Adjective / Past Participle      Verbal Noun

abair	→	ráite	abair	→	rá
beir	→	beirthe	beir	→	breith
clois	→	cloiste	clois	→	cloisteáil
cluin	→	cluinte	cluin	→	cluinstin
déan	→	déanta	déan	→	déanamh
faigh	→	faighte	faigh	→	fáil
feic	→	feicthe	feic	→	feiceáil
ith	→	ite	ith	→	ithe
tabhair	→	tugtha	tabhair	→	tabhairt
tar	→	tagtha	tar	→	teacht
téigh	→	dulta	téigh	→	dul

# THE SUBSTANTIVE VERB BÍ (TO BE)



## The Present Tense

	Positive	Negative	After particles an / go / nach etc.
1 sg.	táim / tá mé	nílim / níl mé	- bhfuilim / - bhfuil mé
2 sg.	tá tú	níl tú	- bhfuil tú
3 sg.	tá sé, sí	níl sé, sí	- bhfuil sé, sí
1 pl.	táimid	nílimid	- bhfuilimid
2 pl.	tá sibh	níl sibh	- bhfuil sibh
3 pl.	tá siad	níl siad	- bhfuil siad
Passive	táthar	níltear	- bhfuiltear

NOTE: the negative particle **ní** is incorporated into the negative forms.

## The Habitual Present Tense

The substantive verb, unique among Irish verbs, has a special habitual present tense (present continuous tense) which serves to indicate (repeated) continuous action in the present tense:

	Positive	Negative	After particles an / go / nach etc.
1 sg.	bím	- bhím	- mbím
2 sg.	bíonn tú	- bhíonn tú	- mbíonn tú
3 sg.	bíonn sé, sí	- bhíonn sé, sí	- mbíonn sé, sí
1 pl.	bímid	- bhímid	- mbímid
2 pl.	bíonn sibh	- bhíonn sibh	- mbíonn sibh
3 pl.	bíonn siad	- bhíonn siad	- mbíonn siad
Passive	bítear	- bhítear	- mbítear

NOTE: a relative, independent ending - **íó(nn)s** is widely used in Ulster and Connaught.

## The Past Tense

Positive	After particles ní / an / go / nach etc.
1 sg. <b>bhí</b> mé	- raibh mé
2 sg. <b>bhí</b> tú	- raibh tú
3 sg. <b>bhí</b> sé, sí	- raibh sé, sí
1 pl. <b>bhíomar</b>	- rabhamar
2 pl. <b>bhí</b> sibh	- raibh sibh
3 pl. <b>bhí</b> siad	- raibh siad
Passive <b>bhíothas</b>	- rabhthas

## The Future Tense

Positive	After negative particlení	After particles an / go / nach etc.
1 sg. <b>beidh</b> mé	- bheidh mé	- mbeidh mé
2 sg. <b>beidh</b> tú	- bheidh tú	- mbeidh tú
3 sg. <b>beidh</b> sé, sí	- bheidh sé, sí	- mbeidh sé, sí
1 pl. <b>beimid</b>	- bheimid	- mbeimid
2 pl. <b>beidh</b> sibh	- bheidh sibh	- mbeidh sibh
3 pl. <b>beidh</b> siad	- bheidh siad	- mbeidh siad
Passive <b>beifear</b>	- bheifear	- mbeifear

NOTE: a relative, independent ending - eas is widely used in Ulster and Connaught.

## The Conditional Mood



Positive	After negative particlení	After particles an / go / nach etc.
1 sg. <b>bheinn</b>	- bheinn	- mbeinn
2 sg. <b>bheifeá</b>	- bheifeá	- mbeifeá
3 sg. <b>bheadh</b> sé, sí	- bheadh sé, sí	- mbeadh sé, sí
1 pl. <b>bheimis</b>	- bheimis	- mbeimis
2 pl. <b>bheadh</b> sibh	- bheadh sibh	- mbeadh sibh
3 pl. <b>bheidís</b>	- bheidís	- mbeidís
Passive <b>bheifi</b>	- bheifi	- mbeifí

## The Past Habitual Tense

Positive	After negative particle ní	After particles an / go / nach etc.
1 sg. bhínn	- bhínn	- mbínn
2 sg. bhíteá	- bhíteá	- mbíteá
3 sg. bhíodh sé, sí	- bhíodh sé, sí	- mbíodh sé, sí
1 pl. bhímis	- bhímis	- mbímis
2 pl. bhíodh sibh	- bhíodh sibh	- mbíodh sibh
3 pl. bhídís	- bhídís	- mbídís
Passive bhítí	- bhítí	- mbítí

## The Imperative Mood      The Present Subjunctive Mood

1 sg. bím	- raibh mé
2 sg. bí	- raibh tú
3 sg. bíodh sé, sí	- raibh sé, sí
1 pl. bímis	- rabhaimid
2 pl. bígí	- raibh sibh
3 pl. bídís	- raibh siad
Passive bítear	- rabhthar

## The Verbal Noun is bheith

## The Substantive Verb Bí - Uses

It is used along with the preposition ag to translate the English verb *to have*:

tá carr agam	<i>I have a car</i>
níl cat agat	<i>you don't have a cat</i>
an bhfuil pingin aige?	<i>has he got a penny?</i>
an raibh peann aici?	<i>did she have a pen?</i>
bhí sos fada againn	<i>we had a long break</i>
ní raibh saoire agaibh	<i>you had no holiday</i>
beidh beagán airgid acu	<i>they will have a little money</i>
beidh an leabhar ag Seán	<i>John will have the book</i>

It is used idiomatically with the phrase a fhios (lit. its knowledge) + ag to translate the English verb *to know*:

tá a fhios agat sin	<i>you know that</i>
ní raibh a fhios agam faoi	<i>I didn't know about it</i>

It is used with the preposition i followed by the appropriate possessive adjective to indicate that a noun or pronoun is another noun. Such a use is sometimes referred to as classificatory:

tá mé i mo mhúinteoir	<i>I am a teacher</i>
níl tú i do gharda	<i>you are not a guard</i>
bhí Seán ina chladhaire	<i>John was a coward</i>
bhí Máire ina dochtaír	<i>Mary was a doctor</i>
tá siad ina gcleasaithe	<i>they are tricksters</i>

It is used with the verbal noun to denote continuous action:

tá sé ag obair	<i>he is working</i>
bhí sé ag ithe	<i>he was eating</i>

It is used with various prepositions to indicate position or location:

bhí sé ar an mbord	<i>it was on the table</i>
níl sé faoin leaba	<i>it is not under the bed</i>
beidh siad san abhainn	<i>they will be in the river</i>

It is used with chomh followed by an adjective to translate the equative, i.e. *as . . . (adj.) . . . as*:

tá sé chomh mór le cnoc	<i>it is as big as a hill</i>
tá sé chomh ramhar le muc	<i>he is as fat as a pig</i>

It is used with ar followed by noun(s) and the superlative of the adjective to translate the construction *the + {adj. + - est} + noun*, or *one of the {adj. + - est} + noun*:

tá sé ar an duine is cliste sa rang	<i>he is the cleverest in the class</i>
bhí sé ar an bpáiste ba shalaí ansin	<i>he was the dirtiest child there</i>
tá sé ar (dhuine de) na daoine is	<i>he is one of the best people in the class</i>
fearr sa rang	
níl sí ar (bhean de) na mná is áille	<i>she is not one of the most beautiful women</i>

It is used to indicate a point/unit/specific notation of time, measurement, weight and price:

tá sé a naoi a chlog	<i>it is nine o'clock</i>
tá sí deich mbliana d'aois	<i>she is ten years old</i>
tá sé cloch mheáchain	<i>it weighs a stone</i>
tá sé slat ar leithead	<i>it is a yard in width</i>
bhí sé cúig pingine	<i>it cost five pence</i>

It is used with go followed by an adjective to form an adverb:

tá sé go breá inniu	<i>it is fine today</i>
bhí sé go maith inné	<i>he was well yesterday</i>
tá an aimsir go dona	<i>the weather is awful</i>

It is used with various prepositional pronouns followed by the verbal noun to convey a variety of meanings:

bhí orthu imeacht	<i>they had to leave</i>
tá agam le jab a dhéanamh	<i>I have to do a job</i>
bhí faoi fanacht ann	<i>he intended to stay there</i>

It is used with the adverb ann to denote existence:

bhí fear ann fadó	<i>there was a man once</i>
tá aimsir bhreá ann	<i>the weather is great</i>

## ECLIPSIS OF VERBS

The initial letter of the verb is eclipsed:

(a) after the following particles and conjunctions: an, go, nach, cá, dá, mura, sula:

an bhfuil tú go math?  
abair liom go dtiocfaidh tú  
nach gcloiseann tú mé?  
cá n-itheann tú do chuid bia?  
dá n-imeodh sé, bheinn sásta  
mura bhfuil tú sásta leis sin,  
bíodh agat!  
críochnaigh an obair sula bhfága  
tú an teach!

*are you well?  
tell me that you will come  
don't you hear me?  
where do you eat your food?  
if he left, I would be happy  
if you're not happy with that, so  
be it!  
finish the work before you leave  
the house!*

NOTE: an does not eclipse initial vowels:

an ólann tú bainne?

*do you drink milk?*

(b) after the indirect relative particle a:

an fear a bhfuil an t-airgead aige  
cad faoi a mbíonn tú ag caint?  
an fear a ndeachaigh a mhac  
go Sasana  
cén áit a dtéann sí?  
cén chaoi a bhfuil tú?  
cén fáth a ndearnadh é sin?  
fan mar a bhfuil tú!

*the man who has the money  
what do you talk about?  
the man whose son went to  
England  
where does she go?  
how are you?  
why was that done?  
stay where you are!*

NOTE: also included in this category are a (= all that) and dá (< de/do + a):

sin a bhfaca mé an oíche sin  
an duine is cróga dá bhfuil ann

*that is all I saw that night  
the bravest person there is*

The initial letter of the irregular verb faigh is eclipsed after the negative particle ní in the conditional mood, the future and past tenses:

ní bhfaighidh sí  
ní bhfaigheadh sé  
ní bhfuair mé

*she won't get  
he wouldn't get  
I didn't get*

## LENITION OF VERBS

The initial consonant of the verb is lenited:

(a) in independent forms in the **past** and **past habitual** tenses as well as in the **conditional mood**:

chuir mé

chuirinn

chuirfinn

Exceptions:

the above mentioned tenses of the verb abair; the past tense of faigh; the past passive of all verbs except in the case of the irregular forms bhíothas, chonacthas, chualathas, chuathas, thángthas

dúirt mé

deirinn

déarfainn

fuair mé

moladh é

(b) after the direct relative particle a and the following particles and conjunctions, most of which require the direct relative particle a:  
\*cad / céard, cathain, \*cé, cén uair, conas, má, mar (= *as, how*), nuair, ó:

cad a cheapann tú?

*what do you think?*

cathain a thiocfaidh sé?

*when will he come?*

cé a dhéanann an obair?

*who does the work?*

cén uair a fhillfidh sé?

*when will he return?*

conas a dhéanfaidh sé é?

*how will he do it?*

má thagann sé in am

*if he comes on time*

mar a thugimid uilig

*as we all understand*

nuair a fhágann sí an baile

*when she leaves home*

ó cheapann tú é sin

*since you think that*

Exceptions: as in (a)

NOTE: \*except when followed immediately by a prepositional pronoun.

(c) after the negative particle **ní**:

**ní chuireann / chuirfidh / chuirfeadh / chuireadh**

Exceptions:

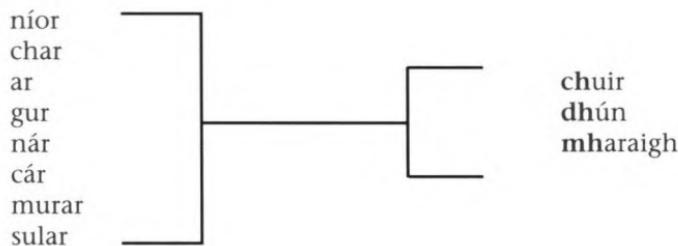
all tenses of the verb **abair**:

**ní deir / deireadh / déarfaidh / déarfadh / dúirt**

the future and past tenses and conditional mood of the verb **faigh** (eclipsis instead):

**ní bhfaighidh / bhfuair / bhfaigheadh**

(d) after the particles **níor**, **char**, **ar**, **gur**, **nár**, **cár**, **murar**, **sular** and the indirect relative particle **ar**:



## THE COPULA IS

The copula has **two** main tenses, viz. the **present** which is also used for the **future** and the **past** which also serves for the **conditional mood**. There are also a few **present subjunctive** forms of the copula.

### Present (and Future) Tense

	Affirmative	Negative	Affirmative	Interrogative Negative
Independent	is	ní	an	nach
Dependent	gur(*b)	nach		
Relative				
Direct	is	nach		
Indirect	ar(*b)	nach		

\*NOTE: the forms which end in b are **usually** used before words beginning with a vowel.

NOTE: unlike in the case of other verbs, no separate verbal particles (negative, interrogative etc.) are used with the copula but are instead incorporated into the various forms of the copula.

NOTE: ní prefixes h to the pronouns é, í, iad, ea and to adjectives and some nouns which begin with a vowel.

## Forms of Copula with Conjunctions

cá	→	cár(*b)	cárб as é?	<i>where is he from?</i>
do	→	dar(*b)	fear darb ainm Seán	<i>a man called John</i>
má	→	más	más fior é	<i>if it is true</i>
mura	→	mura(*b)	mura miste leat é	<i>if you don't mind</i>
ó	→	ós	ós é a rinne é	<i>since he did it</i>

\*NOTE: the forms which end in b are *usually* used before words beginning with a vowel:

tá a fhios agam gurb é Séamas a dhéanann an obair  
*I know that it is James who does the work*

## Past Tense and Conditional Mood

			Interrogative	
	Affirmative	Negative	Affirmative	Negative
Independent	ba / b'	níor(bh)	ar(bh)	nár(bh)
Dependent	gur(bh)	nár(bh)	—	—
Relative				
Direct	ba / ab	nár(bh)	—	—
Indirect	ar(bh)	nár(bh)	—	—

## Forms of Copula with Conjunctions

cá	→	cár(bh)	cárbh as é?	<i>where was he from?</i>
cé	→	cér(bh)	cérbh í?	<i>who was she?</i>
dá	→	dá mba	dá mba liom é	<i>if it were mine</i>
do	→	dar(bh)	fear darbh ainm Pól	<i>a man called Paul</i>
má	→	má ba	má b'fhíor sin	<i>if that was true</i>
mura	→	murar(bh)	murar bhréag é	<i>if it wasn't a lie</i>
ó	→	ó ba	ó b'fhearr leat é	<i>since you preferred it</i>

NOTE: the forms which end in bh are used before words beginning with a vowel or fh followed by a vowel:

tá a fhios agam gurbh fhearr leis imeacht  
*I know that he would prefer to go*

NOTE: the affirmative, independent form ba → b' before vowels (except é, í, iad, ea) or fh followed by a vowel:

b'ait liom é sin  
b'fhearr liom imeacht      *I thought that strange*  
                                    *I would prefer to leave*

The affirmative, direct relative form ba → ab before vowels or fh followed by a vowel:

an bhean ab áille  
an lá ab fhearr      *the most beautiful woman*  
                            *the best day*

NOTE: the past and conditional forms of the copula lenite:

ba / níor / ar etc. bhreá an duine é?  
*he was / wasn't, was he etc. a great person?*

## Present Subjunctive Mood

### Affirmative

gura(\*b)

### Negative

nára(\*b)

NOTE: the forms which end in b are *usually* used before words beginning with a vowel:

gurab amhlaidh duit!      *the same to you!*

## Usage

The main use of the copula is to indicate that a noun or pronoun is or is not another noun or pronoun. Such a use is sometimes referred to as classificatory:

is buachaill (maith) é  
ní daoine bochta iad  
an amadán é?  
creidim gur cleasaí é  
is feirmeoirí iad na fir sin  
dá mba mise thusa  
is Éireannach é

*he is a (good) boy  
they are not poor people  
is he a fool?  
I believe he is a trickster  
those men are farmers  
if I were you  
he is an Irishman*

When followed immediately by the preposition *le*, it is used to indicate ownership:

an leat an leabhar?  
ní liom an t-airgead  
nach le Máire é?

*do you own the book?  
the money is not mine  
isn't it Mary's?*

It is used to emphasise any part of a sentence. In such cases, the information emphasised is placed at the start of the sentence immediately after the copula:

is é Seán a chuaigh amach  
an abhaile a chuaigh sé?  
nach tú a rinne é?  
nach tinn atá sí?  
ní leatsa an t-airgead  
ba bhrefé an fear é

*John went out  
did he go home?  
didn't you do it?  
isn't she sick?  
the money isn't yours  
he was a fine man*

It is used in comparative and superlative constructions:

is fearr Seán ná Séamas  
is í Máire is óige  
ba iad ab fhéarr

*John is better than James  
Mary is the youngest  
they were the best*

It is used with a variety of words (nouns, adjectives, substantives) followed by the preposition *le* to translate a great range of meanings:

is cuimhin liom  
is maith liom  
is cuma liom  
is mian liom  
is dóigh liom  
is oth liom  
is fuath liom

*I remember  
I like  
I don't care  
I wish  
I think  
I regret  
I hate*

When cé is used without a verb, the copula is understood but not written when it is followed immediately by an object pronoun, the definite article or seo, sin, siúd:

cé (hé) sin?	<i>who is that?</i>
cén bhean (í) seo?	<i>who is this woman?</i>
cé hiad na daoine sin?	<i>who are those people?</i>

When cad is used without a verb, the copula is understood but not written when it is followed immediately by é:

cad é sin?	<i>what is that?</i>
cad é an t-am é?	<i>what time is it?</i>
cad é an mhaith é?	<i>what good is it?</i>

# CONJUNCTIONS AND VERBAL PARTICLES

## Má

It is used **mainly** with the present and past indicative tenses. When one wishes to express a future meaning after má, the present form of the verb is used:

má thagann sé amárach

*if he comes tomorrow*

When one wishes to express the future tense of the substantive verb after má, the present habitual form of the verb is used:

má bhíonn sé i láthair amárach

*if he is present tomorrow*

It lenites except:

(a)      tá:      má tá an ceart aige

(b)      those forms of the irregular verb abair which begin with d:

    má deir / deireadh / dúirt sé

(c)      fuair:    má fuair sé (i.e. past tense **only** of faigh)

(d)      the past passive of all the regular verbs and of some of the irregular verbs:

    má cuireadh, má moladh, má fágadh, má tugadh

It is followed by the independent form of the verb and, in the case of those verbs beginning with a vowel or f which are preceded by d' in the past tenses, the d' remains unaffected:

má d'ól/d'óladh sé

má chuireann/chuireadh/chuir sé

má d'fhan/d'fhanadh sé

má dhúnann/dhúnadh/dhún sí

It combines with the copula is to give más:

más maith leat

más fíor é

Dá

It is used only with the conditional or past subjunctive. It eclipses and is followed by the dependent form of the verb:

dá mbeadh sé	if he were
dá gceannódh sé	if he bought / were to buy
dá n-ólfadhl sé	if he drank / were to drink
dá bhfágfadh sé	if he left / were to leave

## SIMPLE CONJUNCTIONS

The following is a list of conjunctions commonly used in Irish:

mar / nó / óir for

óir is tú a rinne é  
nó tiocfaidh an lá sa deireadh  
mar dá bhfeicfinn é

*for it is you who did it  
for the day will finally come  
for if I had seen him*

## POSITIVE VERBAL PARTICLES

An

It is used with all verbs in all tenses except:

- (a) the imperative and present subjunctive moods
- (b) the past tense of all regular verbs and the irregular verbs *beir*, *clois* / *cluin*, *ith*, *tabhair*, *tar*.

It eclipses and takes the dependent form of the verb:

an gcuireann / gcuirfidh / gcuireadh / gcuirfeadh sé?  
an ndéanann / ndéanfaidh / ndéanadh / ndéanfadh / ndearna sé?  
an bhfágann / bhfágfaidh / bhfágadh / bhfágfadh sé?  
an ólann / ólfaidh / óladh / ólfadhbh sé?

NOTE: *an* does not eclipse verbs whose initial is a vowel:

an ólann tú? an imreoidh tú?

## Ar

It is used **only** in the past tense with all regular verbs and with the irregular verbs beir, clois / cluin, ith, tabhair, tar.

It lenites and takes the dependent form of the verb:

ar chuir sí?

ar fhág sí?

ar ól sí?

ar ith sí?

NOTE: it does not lenite the initial consonant of the past passive of regular verbs or of the irregular verb tabhair:

ar cuireadh?

ar tugadh?

## Go

It is used with all verbs in all tenses except:

- (a) the imperative mood
- (b) the past tense of all regular verbs and the irregular verbs beir, clois / cluin, ith, tabhair, tar.

It eclipses and takes the dependent form of the verb:

go gcuireann / gcuirfidh / gcuireadh / gcuirfeadh / gcuire sé

go ndéanann / ndéanfaidh / ndéanadh / ndéanfad / ndearna / ndéana sé

go bhfágann / bhfágfaidh / bhfágadh / bhfágfad / bhfága sé

go n-ólann / n-ólfaidh / n-óladh / n-ólfadh / n-óla sé

## Gur

It is used **only** in the past tense with all regular verbs and with the irregular verbs beir, clois / cluin, ith, tabhair, tar.

It lenites and takes the dependent form of the verb:

gur chuir sí

gur fhág sí

gur ól sí

gur ith sí

NOTE: it does not lenite the initial consonant of the past passive of regular verbs or of the irregular verb tabhair:

gur cuireadh

gur tugadh

## Sula

It is used with all verbs in all tenses except:

- (a) the imperative mood
- (b) the past tense of all regular verbs and the irregular verbs beir, clois / cluin, ith, tabhair, tar.

It eclipses and takes the dependent form of the verb:

sula gcuireann / gcuirfidh / gcuireadh / gcuirfeadh / gcuire sé  
sula ndéanann / ndéanfaidh / ndéanadh / ndéanfadh / ndearna / ndéana sé  
sula bhfágann / bhfágfaidh / bhfágadh / bhfágfadh / bhfága sé  
sula n-ólann / n-ólfaidh / n-óladh / n-ólfadh / n-óla sé

## Sular

It is used **only** in the past tense with all regular verbs and with the irregular verbs beir, clois / cluin, ith, tabhair, tar.

It lenites and takes the dependent form of the verb:

**sular** chuir sí      **sular** fhág sí      **sular** ól sí      **sular** ith sí

**NOTE:** it does not lenite the initial consonant of the past passive of regular verbs or of the irregular verb tabhair:

**sular** cuireadh      **sular** tugadh

## Cá

It is used with all verbs in all tenses except:

- (a) the imperative and the present subjunctive moods
- (b) the past tense of all regular verbs and the irregular verbs *beir*, *clois* / *cluin*, *ith*, *tabhair*, *tar*.

It eclipses and takes the dependent form of the verb:

cá *gcuireann* / *gcuirfidh* / *gcuireadh* / *gcuirfeadh* sé?  
cá *ndéanann* / *ndéanfaidh* / *ndéanadh* / *ndéanfad* / *ndearna* sé?  
cá *bhfágann* / *bhfágfaidh* / *bhfágadh* / *bhfágfad* sé?  
cá *n-ólann* / *n-ólfaidh* / *n-óladh* / *n-ólfad* sé?

## Cár

It is used **only** in the past tense with all regular verbs and with the irregular verbs *beir*, *clois* / *cluin*, *ith*, *tabhair*, *tar*.

It lenites and takes the dependent form of the verb:

cár *chuir* sí?              cár *fhág* sí?              cár *ól* sí?              cár *ith* sí?

NOTE: it does not lenite the initial consonant of the past passive of regular verbs or of the irregular verb *tabhair*:

cár *cuireadh*?              cár *tugadh*?

## NEGATIVE VERBAL PARTICLES

### Ná

It is used **only** with the imperative mood.

It prefixes h to initial vowels.

ná mol!  
ná hith!

*don't praise!*  
*don't eat!*

ná fág!

*don't leave!*

### Ní

It is used with all verbs in all tenses except:

- (a) the imperative and present subjunctive moods
- (b) the past tense of all regular verbs and the irregular verbs beir, clois / cluin, ith, tabhair, tar.

It lenites and takes the dependent form of the verb:

ní chuireann / chuirfidh / chuireadh / chuirfeadh sé  
ní dhéanann / dhéanfaidh / dhéanadh / dhéanfadh / dhearna sé  
ní fhágann / fhágfaidh / fhágadh / fhágfadh sé  
ní ólann / ólfaidh / óladh / ólfadh sé

Exceptions:

It eclipses the irregular verb faigh in the future, conditional and past tenses:

ní bhfaighidh / bhfaigheadh / bhfuair sé

It does not affect those forms of the irregular verb abair which begin with d:

ní deir / déarfaidh / deireadh / déarfadh / dúirt sé

## Níor

It is used **only** in the past tense with all regular verbs and with the irregular verbs beir, clois / cluin, ith, tabhair, tar.

It lenites and takes the dependent form of the verb:

níor chuir sí

níor fhág sí

níor ól sí

níor ith sí

NOTE: it does not lenite the initial consonant of the past passive of regular verbs or of the irregular verb tabhair:

níor moladh

níor tugadh

## Cha

There exists in Ulster Irish, most frequently nowadays in North and West Donegal, a negative particle cha.

It is used with all verbs in all tenses except:

- (a) the imperative and the present subjunctive moods
- (b) the past tense of all regular verbs and the irregular verbs beir, clois / cluin, ith, tabhair, tar.
- (c) the future tense. To translate a future meaning, the present tense of the verb is used and, in the case of the substantive verb, the present habitual tense.

It lenites initial b, c, f, g, m, p, s. It becomes chan before initial vowels or f. It takes the dependent form of the verb:

cha chuireann / chuireadh / chuirfeadh sé

chan fhágann / fhágadh / fhágfadhl sé

chan ólann / óladh / ólfadh sé

NOTE: it must be stressed here that in the various Ulster dialects in which cha is used, different rules often apply concerning initial mutations following it.

## Char

It is used **only** in the past tense with all regular verbs and with the irregular verbs beir, cluin, ith, tabhair, tar.

It lenites and takes the dependent form of the verb:

char chuir sí

char fhág sí

char ól sí

char ith sí

NOTE: it does not lenite the initial consonant of the past passive of regular verbs or of the irregular verb tabhair.

char moladh

char tugadh

## Nach

It is used with all verbs in all tenses except:

- (a) the imperative and present subjunctive moods
- (b) the past tense of all regular verbs and the irregular verbs beir, clois / cluin, ith, tabhair, tar.

It eclipses and takes the dependent form of the verb:

nach gcuireann / gcuirfidh / gcuireadh / gcuirfeadh sé

nach ndéanann / ndéanfaidh / ndéanadh / ndéanfad / ndearna sé

nach bhfágann / bhfágfaidh / bhfágadh / bhfágfad sé

nach n-ólann / n-ólfaidh / n-óladh / n-ólfad sé

## Nár

It is used in the past tense with all regular verbs and with the irregular verbs beir, clois / cluin, ith, tabhair, tar. It is also used with the present subjunctive mood. It lenites and takes the dependent form of the verb:

nár chuir sí      nár fhág sí      nár ól sí      nár ith sí      nár fheice tú!

NOTE: it does not lenite the initial consonant of the past passive of regular verbs or of the irregular verb tabhair:

nár cuireadh

nár tugadh

## Mura

It is used with all verbs in all tenses except:

- (a) the imperative mood
- (b) the past tense of all regular verbs and the irregular verbs beir, clois / cluin, ith, tabhair, tar.

It eclipses and takes the dependent form of the verb:

**mura** gcuireann / gcuirfidh / gcuireadh / gcuirfeadh / gcuire sé  
**mura** ndéanann / **ndéanfaidh** / **ndéanadh** / **ndéanfad** / **ndearna** / **ndéana** sé  
**mura** bhfágann / **bhfágfaidh** / **bhfágadh** / **bhfágfad** / **bhfága** sé  
**mura** n-ólann / **n-ólfaidh** / **n-óladh** / **n-ólfad** / **n-óla** sé

NOTE: it combines with the copula to become mura (murab before vowels) in the pres./fut. tenses and murar (murarbh before vowels) in the cond. mood and past tense.

## Murar

It is used **only** in the past tense with all regular verbs and with the irregular verbs beir, clois / cluin, ith, tabhair, tar.

It lenites and takes the dependent form of the verb:

**murar** chuir sí      **murar** fhág sí      **murar** ól sí      **murar** ith sí

NOTE: it does not lenite the initial consonant of the past passive of regular verbs or of the irregular verb tabhair:

**murar** cuireadh      **murar** tugadh

# RELATIVE CLAUSES

## DIRECT RELATIVE CLAUSE

1 A direct relative clause occurs when the noun at the beginning of the sentence (= the **antecedent**) is the subject of the verb in the following relative clause.

noun (subj.) + dir. rel. part. + verb + (other):

an fear a bhuaile an cat	<i>the man who hit the cat</i>
an bhean a ólann an tae	<i>the woman who drinks the tea</i>
na daoine a imíonn abhaile	<i>the people who go home early</i>
go luath	

2 A direct relative clause occurs when the noun at the beginning of the sentence (= the **antecedent**) is the direct object of the verb in the following relative clause.

noun (obj.) + dir. rel. part. + verb + subj. + (other):

an chulaith a cheannaigh mé	<i>the suit (which) I bought</i>
an t-airgead a chaithim gach lá	<i>the money (which) I spend every day</i>
an cluiche a fheicfimid amárach	<i>the game (that) we will see tomorrow</i>

3 After *am*, *lá*, *oíche*, *bliain* or other nouns denoting time,\* **either** an indirect **or** direct relative clause can be used:

cén lá a thagann / dtagann sé?	<i>(on) which day does he come?</i>
cén bliain a / ar tharla sé sin?	<i>(in) what year did that happen?</i>
cén t-am a chonaic / bhfaca tú é?	<i>when did you see him?</i>

\*NOTE: after *uair*, a direct relative clause is **always** used:

cén uair a thiocfaidh sé? *when will he come?*

4 After cá / cé mhéad, cá fhad, cathain, cén uair, conas, nuair and mar (*like, how, as*), the following relative clause is direct:

cá mhéad duine a bhí ann?	<i>how many people were there?</i>
cathain a thiocfaidh sé anseo?	<i>when will he come here?</i>
cén uair a fheicfidh tú é?	<i>when will you see him?</i>
conas a dhéanfaidh sé sin?	<i>how will he do that?</i>
nuair a cheapaim an liathróid rith sé mar a bheadh capall ann	<i>when I catch the ball</i>
cá fhad a chaitheann tú ansin gach lá?	<i>he ran like a horse</i> <i>how long do you spend there</i> <i>every day?</i>

5 When the interrogative particles cé, cad / céard are followed **immediately** by a relative particle, the following relative clause is direct.

cé a chuaigh amach anois beag?	<i>who went out a while ago?</i>
cad a dhéanfaidh sé leis an airgead?	<i>what will he do with the money?</i>
cé a bhris an fhuinneog?	<i>who broke the window?</i>

6 After an abstract noun, the following relative clause is *usually* direct:

bhí iontas orm a laghad obair a rinne sé  
*I was amazed at the little amount of work (that) he did*

chuir sé eagla orm a uaigní a bhí an choill  
*it frightened me how lonely the wood was*

tá a fhios agam a fheabhas a d'éirigh leo  
*I know how well they got on*

cá mhinice a théann tú ann?  
*how often do you go there?*

is ionadh liom a dheacra atá sé  
*I am amazed at how difficult it is*

## Direct Relative Particle (Positive)

### a

It is used in **all** tenses (except pres. subj. & impv.) with **all** verbs. It lenites the initial consonant of all verbs except:

- (a) tá (NOTE: a is joined to the present tense of this verb, e.g. atá)
- (b) all tenses of verb abair
- (c) the past tense of the verb faigh
- (d) the past passive of **all** verbs except the irregular bhíothas, chonacthas, chualathas, chuathas, thángthas
- (e) verbs preceded by d' in the past tenses and in the conditional mood.

an fear atá ina chónaí anseo  
an té a **deir** / **deireadh** / **déarfaidh** / **déarfadh** / **dúirt** é sin  
an bhean a **fuair** an t-airgead  
an madra a **buaileadh** inné  
an páiste a **d'fhág** / **d'fhág(f)adh** an teach go luath  
an cat a **d'ith(eadh)** / **d'íosadh** a dhinnéar

NOTE: After cad (é) / céard followed by tá and deir, the dir. rel. part. a is dropped:

cad (é) tá aige?	<i>what has he?</i>
cad (é) deir tú?	<i>what do you say?</i>
céard tá ort?	<i>what is wrong with you?</i>

After conas, followed by tá, the dir. rel. part. a is also dropped:

conas tá sibh?	<i>how are you (pl.)?</i>
----------------	---------------------------

## Direct Relative Particle (Negative)

### Nach

It is used in **all** tenses (except pres. subj. & impv.) with **all** verbs **except** the past tense of all regular verbs and the irregular verbs *beir*, *clois* / *cluin*, *ith*, *tabhair*, *tar*.

It eclipses and takes the dependent form of the verb:

an fear **nach** gcuireann / gcuirfidh / gcuireadh / gcuirfeadh an madra amach  
an máistir **nach** ndéanann / ndéanfaidh / ndéanadh / ndéanfad / ndearna

an obair

na daoine **nach** bhfágann / bhfágfaidh / bhfágadh / bhfágfad / n-ólann / n-ólfaidh / n-óladh / n-ólfad / n-óladh an bainne

### Nár

It is used **only** in the past tense with all regular verbs and with the irregular verbs *beir*, *clois* / *cluin*, *ith*, *tabhair*, *tar*. It lenites and takes the dependent form of the verb:

an páiste dána **nár** chuir sí amach

an scoil **nár** fhág sí nuair a bhí sí óg

an bainne **nár** ól siad

an dinnéar **nár** ith tú

**NOTE:** it does not lenite the initial consonant of the past passive of regular verbs or of the irregular verb *tabhair*.

an t-airgead **nár** caitheadh sa siopa

ní fiú éisteacht leis an bhfear **nár** moladh

chaith mé amach an bia **nár** tugadh do na madraí

## Direct Relative Forms of the Copula

NOTE: there is no relative particle for any form of the copula in any tense.

### PRESENT / FUTURE TENSE

Affirmative  
is

sin (é) an rud is maith liom  
sin ceacht is furasta a dhéanamh  
sin fear is sine ná é  
Máire is ainm dom  
déan ceacht ar bith is mian leat  
is é Peadar an buachaill is dána  
feicim an té is athair duit

Negative  
nach

sin rud **nach** ceart a rá  
sin scéal **nach** ceart a lua  
sin dán **nach** cuimhin liom

### PAST TENSE / CONDITIONAL MOOD

Affirmative  
ba / \*ab

sin rud ba mhaith liom a fheiceáil  
an rud ab fhusa a dhéanamh  
an té ab athair di

Negative  
nár(bh)

rud **nár** cheart a lua  
scéal **nárbh** fhíor

NOTE: the affirmative, direct relative form ba → ab and negative nár → nár bh before vowels or fh followed by a vowel:

an bhean ab áille, an lá ab fhearr, an rud nár bh fhíor.

NOTE: the past and conditional forms of the copula also lenite:

ba / ab / nár(bh) srl.

rud nár cheart a rá

## INDIRECT RELATIVE CLAUSE

1 When the interrogative particles cé, cad / céard are followed **immediately** by a prepositional pronoun or compound preposition, the following relative clause is indirect.

cé dó a dtugtar an t-airgead?  
cad / céard leis a nglantar é?  
cad / céard faoi a mbíonn sibh  
ag magadh?  
cé leis a raibh tú ag damhsa?  
cé ina aghaidh a mbeidh sibh  
ag imirt?

*to whom is the money given?  
with what is it cleaned?  
about what do you joke? / are  
you joking?  
with whom were you dancing?  
against whom will you play / be  
playing?*

2 When the relative particle expresses the meaning *all that*, the following relative clause is indirect:

sin a bhfuil le rá agam leat  
d'ól sé a bhfuair sé aréir  
caithfidh mé a bhfaighidh mé  
uaidh  
tar éis a ndearna mé ar do shon!

*that is all I have to say to you  
he drank all he got last night  
I'll spend all I'll get from him  
after all I did for you!*

NOTE: gach standing alone can also precede the relative particle with no change of status of the indirect relative clause but if gach is followed by a noun, the relative clause then becomes direct, except when followed by dá(r):

gach a bhfuil le rá aige  
(gach rud atá le rá aige)

*all he has to say*

gach a bhfaighidh tú  
(gach rud a gheobhaidh tú)

*all you will get*

gach ar ól mé  
(gach rud a d'ól mé)

*all I drank*

gach pingin dá bhfuair sé  
gach uair dár chuimhnigh sé air

*every penny he got  
every time he remembered it*

3 After the phrases *an áit / cén áit / cá háit a(r), an chaoi / cén chaoi a(r), an dóigh / cén dóigh a(r), an fáth / cén fáth a(r), cad chuige / tuige a(r)*, the following relative clause is **usually** indirect:

sin (é) <i>an áit a bhfuil an dochar</i>	<i>that is where the harm is</i>
<i>cén áit a bhfuil an deacracht?</i>	<i>where is the difficulty?</i>
<i>cá háit ar chaill sí an fáinne?</i>	<i>where did she lose the ring?</i>
<i>an chaoi a ndeirtear é sin</i>	<i>the way that is said</i>
<i>cén chaoi a bhfuil tú?</i>	<i>how are you?</i>
<i>an dóigh a ndéantar an</i>	<i>the way the work is done here</i>
<i>obair anseo</i>	
<i>cén dóigh ar éirigh leis</i>	<i>how did he perform in the</i>
<i>sa scrúdú?</i>	<i>exam?</i>
<i>cén fáth nach ndéanfá é sin?</i>	<i>why wouldn't you do that?</i>
<i>cad chuige a bhfuil tú ag rith?</i>	<i>why are you running?</i>

4 After *am, lá, oíche, bliain* or other nouns denoting time,\* **either** an indirect **or** direct relative clause can be used:

<i>cén lá a thagann / dtagann sé?</i>	<i>(on) which day does he come?</i>
<i>cén bhliain a / ar tharla sé sin?</i>	<i>(in) what year did that happen?</i>
<i>cén t-am a chonaic / bhfaca tú é?</i>	<i>when did you see him?</i>

NOTE: \* after *uair*, a direct relative clause is **always** used:

*cén uair a thiocfaidh sé?* *when will he come?*

5 An indirect relative clause occurs in the following situation in an Irish sentence:

*noun + ind. rel. part. + verb + poss. adj. + noun + other*

*an fear a bhfuil a iníon san otharlann*  
*the man whose daughter is in the hospital*

*sin (i) an bhean a ndeachaigh a mac le leigheas*  
*that is the woman whose son studied medicine*

*cá bhfuil an scannán a bhfaca mé a thús?*  
*where is the film, the beginning of which I saw?*

*an buachaill ar maraíodh a athair*  
*the boy whose father was killed*

NOTE: the poss. adj. agrees in number and gender with the noun at the beginning of the sentence (= the **antecedent**).

This type of relative clause is introduced in English by *whose, of which*.

6 An indirect relative clause occurs in the following situation in an Irish sentence:

noun + ind. rel. part. + verb + noun + prep. pron:

an fear a dtugaim an t-airgead dó  
*the man to whom I give the money*

na poill a dtagann na coiníní astu  
*the holes out of which the rabbits come*

an bhean a raibh mé ag caint léi  
*the woman with whom I was talking*

an chistin a mbíonn na páistí inti  
*the kitchen in which the children are*

NOTE: the prep. pron. at the end of the sentence agrees in number and gender with the noun at the beginning of the sentence (= the **antecedent**).

A variant of this indirect relative clause is also used:

noun + {\* prep. + ind. rel. part.} + verb + noun + other:

na fir lena raibh mé ag caint  
*the men with whom I was talking*

an chistin as a dtagann na páistí  
*the kitchen out of which the children come*

an t-óstán ina mbíonn siad ag ól  
*the hotel in which they drink*

an bord ar a bhfuil an cupán  
*the table on which the cup is*

\* Sometimes the prep. and indir. rel. part. merge e.g. lena(r), ina(r), sometimes not, e.g. as a(r), ar a(r) etc.

7 When an object pronoun referring to the noun at the beginning of the sentence is inserted at the end of the sentence to avoid ambiguity, the relative clause is indirect:

an gasúr ar bhual an múinteoir é  
*the boy whom the teacher beat*

an moltóir a gcáineann go leor daoine é  
*the referee whom many people blame*

8 An indirect relative clause follows the adverb mar when it means *where*:

fan mar a bhfuil tú!  
*stay where you are!*

gheobhaidh tú iad mar ar chuir tú iad  
*you'll get them where you put them*

## Indirect Relative Particle (Positive)

### a

It is used in **all** tenses (except pres. subj. and impv.) with **all** verbs **except** the past tense of all regular verbs and the irregular verbs *beir*, *clois* / *cluin*, *ith*, *tabhair*, *tar*.

It eclipses and takes the dependent form of the verb:

an bata **a** **mbuailim** / **mbuailinn** / **mbuailfidh** **mé** / **mbuailfinn** an madra leis  
an duine **a** **ndéanann** / **ndéanadh** / **ndéanfaidh** / **ndéanfad** **sé** coinne leis  
an cupán **a** **n-ólann** / **n-óladh** / **n-ólfaidh** / **n-ólfad** **sí** an bainne as

### ar

It is used **only** in the past tense with all regular verbs and with the irregular verbs *beir*, *clois* / *cluin*, *ith*, *tabhair*, *tar*.

It lenites and takes the dependent form of the verb:

an bosca **ar** **chuir** **mé** i bhfolach ann é  
*the box in which I hid it*

an fear **ar** **mharaigh** a mhac an capall  
*the man whose son killed the horse*

an mháthair **ar** **ith** a hinón a cuid milseán  
*the mother whose daughter ate her sweets*

na daoine óga **ar** **fhág** a dtuismitheoirí an talamh acu  
*the young people whose parents left them the land*

NOTE: it does not lenite the initial consonant of the past passive of either the regular verb or of the irregular verb *tabhair*.

an fear ar **maraíodh** a mhac  
*the man whose son was killed*

an cupán ar **óladh** an t-uisce as  
*the cup out of which the water was drunk*

an bhean ar **tugadh** drochíde dá fear  
*the woman whose husband was abused*

## Indirect Relative Particle (Negative)

### nach

It is used in **all** tenses (except pres. subj. and impv.) with **all** verbs **except** the past tense of all regular verbs and the irregular verbs *beir*, *clois* / *cluin*, *ith*, *tabhair*, *tar*.

It eclipses and takes the dependent form of the verb:

an fear nach moltar / moltaí / molfar / molfaí a mhac  
an máistir nach dtugann / dtugadh / dtabharfaidh /  
**dtabharfadhbh** na páistí a cheart dó  
na daoine nach bhfanann / bhfanadh / bhfanfaidh / bhfanfadhbh sí leo  
an seomra nach n-ithim / n-ithinn / n-íosfaidh mé / n-íosfainn  
an bia ann

### nár

It is used **only** in the past tense with all regular verbs and with the irregular verbs *beir*, *clois* / *cluin*, *ith*, *tabhair*, *tar*.

It lenites and takes the dependent form of the verb:

an páiste dána nár chuimhnigh sí air  
**the bold child whom she didn't remember**  
an scoil nár fhág sí a cuid fuinneog ar oscailt  
**the school whose windows she didn't leave open**  
an cupán nár ól siad aon deoch as  
**the cup out of which they didn't drink**

NOTE: it does not lenite the initial consonant of the past passive of regular verbs or of the irregular verb *tabhair*.

an teach nár fágadh solas lasta ann  
**the house which was left unlit**  
an bhó nár maraíodh a lao  
**the cow whose calf wasn't killed**  
an fear bocht nár tugadh cabhair dó  
**the poor man who wasn't helped**

## Indirect Relative Forms of the Copula

NOTE: there is **no** relative particle for any form of the copula in any tense.

### PRESENT / FUTURE TENSE

Affirmative  
ar(\*b)

sin fear **ar** fuath leis a chlann

Negative  
nach

sin múinteoir **nach** maith leis a  
ghlór féin

sin bean **arb** amhránaí í a hinión

sin fear **nach** Sasanaigh iad a  
mhuintir

sin gasúr **ar** peileadóir maith é

seo imreoir **arb** eol dó na rialacha

NOTE: the form ending in b is the one used before words beginning with a vowel.

### PAST TENSE / CONDITIONAL MOOD

Affirmative  
ar(\*bh)

sin deacracht **ar** cheart díriú  
uirthi

Negative  
nár(\*bh)

fear **nár** Shasanaigh iad a  
ghaolta go léir

sin bean **arbh** amhránaí í a  
hinión ina hóige

file **nár bh** fhiú a chuid  
filíochta a fhoghlaim

an té **arbh** eol dó an fhírinne

NOTE: the forms which end in bh are used before words beginning with a vowel or fh followed by a vowel.

# NUMBERS

## CARDINAL NUMBERS

The following are the forms of numerals used when they are not followed (immediately) by a noun:

1	a haon	11	a haon déag
2	a dó	12	a dó dhéag
3	a trí	13	a trí déag
4	a ceathair	14	a ceathair déag
5	a cúig	15	a cúig déag
6	a sé	16	a sé déag
7	a seacht	17	a seacht déag
8	a hocht	18	a hocht déag
9	a naoi	19	a naoi déag
10	a deich		

NOTE: a precedes all those numbers and prefixes h to aon and ocht. The initial of déag is lenited after dó.

20	fiche	21	fiche a haon
22	fiche a dó	23	fiche a trí
30	tríocha	31	tríocha a haon
40	daithead	41	daithead a haon
50	caoga	51	caoga a haon
60	seasca	61	seasca a haon
70	seachtó	71	seachtó a haon
80	ochtó	81	ochtó a haon
90	nócha	91	nócha a haon
100	céad	101	céad a haon
1,000	míle	1,001	míle a haon
1,000,000	milliún		

## ~~200~~ Cardinal Numbers Followed by Nouns

The following are the forms of numerals used when they are followed immediately by a noun:

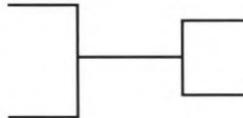
1 aon bhád amháin

aon lenites initial b, c, f, g, m, p. It does not lenite initial d, t, s.

2 dhá bhád

Lenites and is followed by singular noun.

3 trí



bhád / uan

4 ceithre

báid / huain

5 cúig

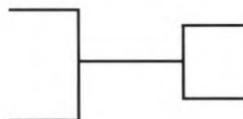
6 sé

These numbers can be followed by singular or plural of noun except in case of bliain, ceann, cloigeann, fiche, uair, pingin, scilling, seachtain, ubh which require their (special) plural forms to be used: *Seachtaine*

trí bliana, ceithre cinn, cúig cloigne, sé fichid etc.

If the singular noun is used, the initial consonant is lenited. If the plural noun is used, there is no lenition but h is prefixed to initial vowels:

7 seacht



mbád / n-uan

8 ocht

mbáid / n-uain

9 naoi

10 deich

These numbers can be followed by singular or plural of noun except in case of bliain, ceann, cloigeann, fiche, uair, pingin, scilling, seachtain, ubh which require their (special) plural forms to be used:

seacht **n-uaire**, ocht **bpingine**, naoi **scillinge**,  
deich **seachtaine**, deich **n-uibhe** etc.

Initial consonants and vowels are always eclipsed whether the singular or plural noun is used.

11-19 The pattern is the same as for 1- 10 except that déag is placed after the noun:

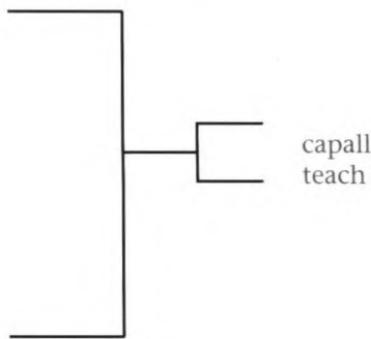
aon bhád déag, dhá bhád déag, trí bhád déag, ceithre uan déag etc.

NOTE: the initial of déag is lenited when the preceding noun is singular and ends in a vowel or is plural and ends in a slender consonant (except cinn):

trí chluiche **dhéag**

seacht n-uain **dhéag**

20	fiche
30	tríocha
40	daihead
50	caoga
60	seasca
70	seachtó
80	ochtó
90	nócha
100	céad
1,000	míle
1,000,000	milliún



21	leabhar is fiche
22	dhá leabhar is fiche
23	trí leabhar is fiche
34	ceithre leabhar is tríocha
45	cúig leabhar is daihead

## Genitive Case and Cardinal Numbers

1	luach aon bháid amháin	11	luach aon bháid déag
2	luach dhá bhád	20	luach fiche bád
3	luach trí bhád	30	luach tríocha bád
4	luach ceithre bhád	100	luach céad bád
5	luach cúig bhád	1,000	luach míle bád
6	luach sé bhád	1,000,000	luach milliún bád
7	luach seacht mbád		
8	luach ocht mbád		
9	luach naoi mbád		
10	luach deich mbád		

NOTE: only in the case of 1, 11, 21 etc. is the noun put in the genitive case.

## The Definite Article and Cardinal Numbers

1	an t-aon bhád / chistin / asal amháin
2	an dá bhád / chistin / asal
3	na trí bhád / chistin / asal
4	na ceithre bhád / chistin / asal
5	na cúig bhád / chistin / asal
6	na sé bhád / chistin / asal
7	na seacht mbád / gcistin / n-asal
8	na hocht mbád / gcistin / n-asal
9	na naoi mbád / gcistin / n-asal
10	na deich mbád / gcistin / n-asal
20	an fiche fear / cistin / asal
30	an tríocha fear / cistin / asal
100	an céad fear / cistin / asal
1,000	an míle fear / cistin / asal

## Genitive Case and Definite Article and Cardinal Numbers

1	airgead an aon fir / na haon mhná amháin
2	luach an dá chapall / an dá bhó
3	luach na dtrí chapall / bhó
4	luach na gceithre chapall / bhó
5	luach na gcúig chapall / bhó
6	luach na sé chapall / bhó
7	luach na seacht gcapall / mbó
8	luach na n-ocht gcapall / mbó
9	luach na naoi gcapall / mbó
10	luach na ndeich gcapall / mbó
20	luach an fiche capall / bó
30	luach an tríocha capall / bó
70	luach an seachtó capall / bó
100	luach an chéad capall / bó
1,000	luach an mhíle capall / bó
1,000,000	luach an mhilliún capall / bó

NOTE: initial f and s are not lenited.

## Cardinal Numbers and Adjectives

1	aon chapall mór / bhó mhór amháin
2	dhá chapall mhóra / bhó mhóra
3	trí chapall mhóra / bhó mhóra
4	ceithre chapall mhóra / bhó mhóra
5	cúig chapall mhóra / bhó mhóra
6	sé chapall mhóra / bhó mhóra
7	seacht gcapall mhóra / mbó mhóra
8	ocht gcapall mhóra / mbó mhóra
9	naoi gcapall mhóra / mbó mhóra
10	deich gcapall mhóra / mbó mhóra

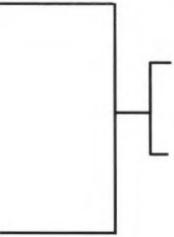
NOTE: when the pl. form of the noun is used in above, the usual rules for lenition of adjectives in pl. apply:

	sé cluichí gearra	naoi gcapaill <b>mhóra</b>
11	aon chapall déag <b>mhóra</b> / bhó dhéag <b>mhóra</b>	
20	fiche capall mór / bó <b>mhór</b>	
100	céad capall mór / bó <b>mhór</b>	

## PERSONAL NUMBERS

1	duine amháin
2	beirt bhan / fhear / pháistí

Lenites **and** is followed by the genitive plural.

3	triúr		fear ban páistí
4	ceathrar		
5	cúigear		
6	seisear		
7	seachtar		
8	ochtár		
9	naonúr		
10	deichniúr		

No lenition but is followed by the genitive plural.

11	aon duine dhéag
12	dháréag
13	trí dhuine dhéag
14	ceithre dhuine dhéag
15	cúig dhuine dhéag
16	sé dhuine dhéag
17	seacht nduine dhéag
18	ocht nduine dhéag
19	naoi nduine dhéag
20	fiche duine

## The Definite Article and Personal Numbers

1 an duine amháin  
2 an bheirt bhan / fhearr / pháistí

Lenites **and** is followed by the genitive plural.

3	an triúr			fear
4	an ceathrar			ban
5	an cúigear			paistí
6	an seisear			
7	an seachtar			
8	an t-ochtár			
9	an naonúr			
10	an deichniúr			

No lenition but is followed by the genitive plural.

## The Genitive Case of Personal Numbers

1	mála (an) duine
2	achrann (na) beirte
3	sáith (an) triúir
4	díol (an) c(h)eathair
5	áit (an) c(h)úigir
6	coiste (an) (t)seisir
7	teach (an) (t)seachtair
8	cor (an) ochtair
9	dóthain (an) naonúir
10	le haghaidh (an) deichniúir

The personal number is always in the genitive case and subject to the normal rules governing a noun in the genitive case when preceded by another definite or indefinite noun or genitive introducing word or phrase.

## ORDINAL NUMBERS

1st	an chéad bhean / chat / asal	[pl. na chéad daoine]
-----	------------------------------	-----------------------

céad is lenited after the def. art. in all cases, sg. and pl., except sometimes in the dat. sg. when it is eclipsed. It lenites initial b, c, f, g, m, p.

2nd	an dara bean / cat / hasal
3rd	an tríú bean / cat / hasal
4th	an ceathrú bean / cat / hasal
5th	an cúigiú bean / cat / hasal
6th	an séú bean / cat / hasal
7th	an seachtú bean / cat / hasal
8th	an t-ochtú bean / cat / hasal
9th	an naoú bean / cat / hasal
10th	an deichiú bean / cat / hasal

The initial consonant of the noun is not lenited but h is prefixed to initial vowels

11th	an t-aonú bean / cat / hasal déag
12th	an dara bean / cat / hasal déag

## Genitive Case and Ordinal Numbers

1st      hata an chéad fhir / na chéad mhná  
pl. luach na chéad uan

céad is lenited after the def. art. in all cases, sg. and pl., except sometimes in the dat. sg. when it is eclipsed. It lenites initial b, c, f, g, m, p.

2nd      teach an dara mac / an dara mic  
teach an dara bean / na dara mná

3rd      teach an tríu mac / an tríu mic  
teach an tríu bean / na tríu mná

4th      teach an cheathrú fear / an cheathrú fir  
teach an cheathrú bean / na ceathrú mná

5th      teach an chúigiú fear / an chúigiú fir  
teach an chúigiú bean / na cúigiú mná

6th      teach an tséú fear / an tséú fir  
teach an tséú bean / na séú mná

7th      teach an tseachtú fear / an tseachtú fir  
teach an tseachtú bean / na seachtú mná

8th      teach an ochtú fear / an ochtú fir  
teach an ochtú bean / na hochtú mná

9th      teach an naoú fear / an naoú fir  
teach an naoú bean / na naoú mná

10th     teach an deichiú fear / an deichiú fir  
teach an deichiú bean / na deichiú mná

## VARIA

### FORENAMES

Like other nouns, forenames of men and women are either masculine or feminine and belong to the various declensions:

Masc.	Seán Brian	<i>John Brian</i>	Peadar Séamas	<i>Peter James</i>
Fem.	Máire	<i>Mary</i>	Bríd	<i>Bridget</i>

There are usually only two possible **inflected** forms of forenames, i.e. the **vocative** and the **genitive**.

#### Vocative Case

The vocative case is preceded by the vocative particle **a** which lenites:

a Mháire!                    a Sheáin!                    a Eoghain!

The ending of the vocative case of forenames is the same as in the nominative case **except** with **1st** declension names. In the case of the latter, the vocative ending is the same as the genitive singular ending:

a Sheáin!                    a Pheadair!                    a Bhriain!                    a Shéamais!  
a Mháire!                    a Bhríd!                            a Chríostóir!

#### Genitive Case

The genitive endings of forenames follow the usual pattern for genitive case endings in the various declensions:

teach Pheadair	<i>Peter's house</i>
siopa Shéamais	<i>James's shop</i>
lámh Bhríde	<i>Bridget's hand</i>
leabhar Chríostóra	<i>Christopher's book</i>
bó Laoisí	<i>Lucy's cow</i>
cos Liam	<i>William's foot</i>
cóta Néimhe	<i>Niamh's coat</i>

## SURNAMES

The most common surnames in Irish are those introduced by Ó and Mac. The most frequently used forms of masculine and feminine surnames are the vocative and genitive forms.

A few examples of Ó and Mac surnames, masculine and feminine, in the various cases will illustrate their treatment:

### Masculine

Seán Ó Briain  
a Sheáin Uí Bhriain! (voc.)  
teach Sheáin Uí Bhriain (gen.)

### Feminine

*Máire Ní Bhriain*  
*a Mháire Ní Bhriain!* (voc.)  
*teach Mháire Ní Bhriain* (gen.)

### Peadar Ó hAodha

a Pheadair Uí Aodha! (voc.)  
teach Pheadair Uí Aodha (gen.)

### *Máire Ní Aodha*

*a Mháire Ní Aodha!* (voc.)  
*teach Mháire Ní Aodha* (gen.)

### Peadar Mac Coinnigh

a Pheadair Mhic Coinnigh! (voc.)  
teach Pheadair Mhic Coinnigh (gen.)

### *Máire Nic Coinnigh*

*a Mháire Nic Coinnigh!* (voc.)  
*teach Mháire Nic Coinnigh* (gen.)

Ó does not affect a following consonant but prefixes h to vowels.

Úi and Ní do not affect a following vowel but lenite a following consonant. Nic and Mhic do not affect a following vowel but lenite a following consonant (except c and g).

NOTE: the following usage with titles:

### an Dochtúir Ó Briain

teach an Dochtúra Uí Bhriain (gen.)  
a Dhochtúir Uí Bhriain! (voc.)

### an Dochtúir Seán Ó Briain

teach an Dochtúra Seán Ó Briain (gen.)  
a Dhochtúir Seán Ó Briain! (voc.)

When one wants to refer to someone by surname, without using a title or forename e.g. O'Brien, the MacMahons, one common way of doing this is to use a special form of the surname, usually preceded by the definite article. To get this form, add - (e)(a)ch / - och (sg.) to the nominative form of those surnames which are preceded by Ó or Mac with necessary adjustments where required:

Ó Conaire



an Conaireach

Ó Cadhain



an Cadhnach

Ó Muircheartaigh



an Muircheartach

The same formation is used with surnames ending in - éir / - éil or preceded by de except that the de is dropped and broadening of the final consonant usually occurs:

de Brún	→	an Brúnach
de Buitléir	→	an Buitléarach
Ruiséil	→	an Ruiséalach
Rís	→	an Ríseach

Those surnames which are preceded by nothing and have an adjectival ending undergo no change:

Breathnach	→	an Breathnach
Caomhánach	→	an Caomhánach

## DAYS OF THE WEEK

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

NOTE: Dé is *always* followed by the genitive case, is *never* lenited and is incorporated into the noun in the case of Déardaoin

Usage:

Preceded by **article**: when simply listing day(s): an Luan, an Mháirt:

ar an Luan	<i>on a / the Monday, on Mondays</i>
inniu an Luan	<i>today is Monday</i>
an Luan ina dhiaidh sin	<i>the following Monday</i>

Preceded by Dé: (*on* is understood):

Dé Luain (seo chugainn / seo caite / seo a chuaigh thart)  
(*on Monday (next / last)*)

ar maidin Dé Luain	<i>on Monday morning</i>
oíche Dé Céadaoin	<i>on Wednesday night</i>

Without **article** or Dé:

fan go Céadaoin	<i>wait until Wednesday</i>
oíche Chéadaoin	<i>Wednesday night</i>
Luan Cáscá	<i>Easter Monday</i>
Aoine (an) Chéasta	<i>Good Friday</i>
ó Luan go Domhnach	<i>from Monday until Sunday</i>

NOTE: it can be seen from the above that there can sometimes be an overlap of usage.

## MONTHS OF THE YEAR

Eanáir (m)	<i>January</i>	mí Eanáir
Feabhra (f)	<i>February</i>	mí Feabhrá
Márta (m)	<i>March</i>	mí an Mhárta
Aibreán (m)	<i>April</i>	mí Aibreáin
Bealtaine (f)	<i>May</i>	mí na Bealtaine
Meitheamh (m)	<i>June</i>	mí an Mheithimh
Iúil (m)	<i>July</i>	mí Iúil
Lúnasa (m)	<i>August</i>	mí Lúnasa
Meán Fómhair (m)	<i>September</i>	mí Mheán Fómhair
Deireadh Fómhair (m)	<i>October</i>	mí Dheireadh Fómhair
Samhain (f)	<i>November</i>	mí na Samhna
Nollaig (f)	<i>December</i>	mí na Nollag

**NOTE:** *March, May, June, November* and *December* have attracted the **definite article** when used in the genitive case above.

Dates written in English as: *1st January, 4th May* etc. are translated in Irish as: 1 Eanáir, 4 Bealtaine. The name of the month remains unaffected. It is not necessary to include ú after the number except in statutory instruments:

an 2ú lá seo de Bhealtaine, 2004

# PLACE-NAMES

## COUNTRIES, CONTINENTS

Éire (f)	<i>Ireland</i>	muintir na hÉireann
Albain (f)	<i>Scotland</i>	muintir na hAlban
Sasana (m)	<i>England</i>	muintir Shasana
an Bhreatain Bheag (f)	<i>Wales</i>	muintir na Breataine Bige

NOTE: Ireland and Scotland have attracted the definite article when used in the genitive case above. The definite article is not used with these countries in any other case.

An Fhrainc (f)	<i>France</i>
An Eoraip (f)	<i>Europe</i>
An Ghearmáin (f)	<i>Germany</i>
An Afraic (f)	<i>Africa</i>
An Spáinn (f)	<i>Spain</i>
An Rúis (f)	<i>Russia</i>
An Iodáil (f)	<i>Italy</i>
Meiriceá (m)	<i>America</i>
An Ísiltír (f)	<i>Netherlands</i>
Na Stáit Aontaithe (m.pl.)	<i>The United States</i>
An Danmhairg (f)	<i>Denmark</i>

NOTE: the names of most countries and continents are feminine and most of them are preceded by the definite article in all instances.

## PROVINCES, COUNTIES, CITIES AND TOWNS

cúige Chonnacht	<i>(the province of) Connaught</i>
cúige Laighean	<i>(the province of) Leinster</i>
cúige Mumhan	<i>(the province of) Munster</i>
cúige Uladh	<i>(the province of) Ulster</i>

cúige (m)	gs.	~	~ pl.	- gó	<i>province</i>
contae (m)	gs.	~	~ pl.	- tha	<i>county</i>
cathair (f)	gs.	- thrach	~ pl.	- thracha	<i>city</i>

## Cúige Chonnacht:

Contae na Gaillimhe	<i>County Galway</i>
Contae Liatroma	<i>County Leitrim</i>
Contae Mhaigh Eo	<i>County Mayo</i>
Contae Ros Comáin	<i>County Roscommon</i>
Contae Shligigh	<i>County Sligo</i>

## Cúige Laighean:

Contae Bhaile Átha Cliath	<i>County Dublin</i>
Contae Cheatharlach	<i>County Carlow</i>
Contae Chill Chainnigh	<i>County Kilkenny</i>
Contae Chill Dara	<i>County Kildare</i>
Contae Chill Mhantáin	<i>County Wicklow</i>
Contae na hIarmhí	<i>County Westmeath</i>
Contae Laoise	<i>County Laois</i>
Contae Loch Garman	<i>County Wexford</i>
Contae an Longfoirt	<i>County Longford</i>
Contae Lú	<i>County Louth</i>
Contae na Mí	<i>County Meath</i>
Contae Uíbh Fhailí	<i>County Offaly</i>

## Cúige Mumhan:

Contae Chiarráí	<i>County Kerry</i>
Contae an Chláir	<i>County Clare</i>
Contae Chorcaí	<i>County Cork</i>
Contae Luimnigh	<i>County Limerick</i>
Contae Phort Láirge	<i>County Waterford</i>
Contae Thiobraid Árann	<i>County Tipperary</i>

## Cúige Uladh:

Contae Aontroma	<i>County Antrim</i>
Contae Ard Mhacha	<i>County Armagh</i>
Contae an Chabháin	<i>County Cavan</i>
Contae Dhoire	<i>County Derry</i>
Contae an Dúin	<i>County Down</i>
Contae Dhún na nGall	<i>County Donegal</i>
Contae Fhear Manach	<i>County Fermanagh</i>
Contae Mhuineacháin	<i>County Monaghan</i>
Contae Thír Eoghain	<i>County Tyrone</i>

Some place-names (counties, cities, towns, rivers) are always preceded by the definite article:

an Daingean	<i>Dingle</i>
an Ómaigh	<i>Omagh</i>
an tSionainn	<i>the Shannon</i>
an Cabhán	<i>Cavan</i>
na Gleannta (pl.)	<i>Glenties</i>

Some place-names are preceded by the definite article only in the genitive case:

Gaillimh	<i>Galway</i>
muintir na Gaillimhe	<i>the people of Galway</i>

**NOTE:** *contae* and *cathair* are both followed by lenition and the genitive case where applicable. Nouns or adjectives denoting nationality or other relationship with continents, countries, provinces and sometimes counties and towns are often formed from the names of the places (often with certain adjustments to the ending of the place-names), *always* end in - (e)(a)ch / - och and, where a noun is involved, are **masculine**.

Adjectives		Nouns
<i>Irish</i>	<i>Éireannach</i>	<i>an Irish person</i>
<i>French</i>	<i>Francach</i>	<i>a French person</i>
<i>Spanish</i>	<i>Spáinnseach</i>	<i>a Spaniard</i>
<i>English</i>	<i>Sasanach</i>	<i>an English person</i>
<i>European</i>	<i>Eorpaach</i>	<i>a European</i>
<i>Asian</i>	<i>Áiseach</i>	<i>an Asian</i>
<i>Ulster</i>	<i>Ultach</i>	<i>an Ulster person</i>
<i>Munster</i>	<i>Muimhneach</i>	<i>a Munster person</i>
<i>Galway</i>	<i>Gaillmheach</i>	<i>a Galway person</i>
<i>Kerry</i>	<i>Ciarraíoch</i>	<i>a Kerry person</i>

## THE GENITIVE CASE OF PLACE-NAMES

If the place-name is preceded by the definite article, the normal rules for a definite noun in the genitive case apply:

an tImleach Mór	→ gs.	pobal an Imligh Mhóir
na Gleannta	→ gpl.	pobal na nGleanntach
an Rinn	→ gs.	pobal na Rinne
an Chill Mhór	→ gs.	pobal na Cille Móire

## PREFIXES

Prefixes are affixed to words (nouns, adjectives and verbs) in order to change or modify their meaning.

Some prefixes are used to negate the original meaning:

meas	<i>respect</i>	dímheas	<i>disrespect</i>
aontas	<i>union</i>	easaontas	<i>disunion</i>
clú	<i>reputation</i>	míchlú	<i>bad reputation</i>

Some prefixes are used to emphasise or intensify the original meaning:

maith	<i>good</i>	an-mhaith	<i>very good</i>
moladh	<i>praise</i>	ardmholaídh	<i>great praise</i>
bocht	<i>poor</i>	fíorbhocht	<i>very poor</i>

Some prefixes are used to convey the meaning *reasonable, moderately, somewhat*:

sláinte	<i>health</i>	breacshláinte	<i>fair health</i>
meisce	<i>inebriation</i>	bogmheisce	<i>slight inebriation</i>

Other prefixes are used to translate very specific meanings:

ban	<i>female</i>	bantiarna	<i>lady</i> (i.e. <i>female lord</i> )
rí	<i>king</i>	rítheaghlaídh	<i>royal household</i>

NOTE: these prefixes usually lenite the initial consonant of the word to which they are affixed except when the prefix ends in d, n, t, l, s and the following word starts with d, t, s:

an-duine	<i>seanduine</i>	bantiarna	indéanta
caoldroimh	<i>ardtráthnóna</i>	íosteochta	

Some prefixes have their final consonants made **broad** or **slender** depending on the quality of the initial of the following word:

anaithnid	but	aineolach
deaslámhach	but	deisbhéalach

Some prefixes undergo other changes depending on the final quality of the prefix and the initial quality of the following word:

atitim	=	ath + thitim (-th + th- → t)
cónasc	=	comh + nasc (comh + n- → có(i))
dúbhúi	=	dubh + bhúi (dubh → dú except before vowel & fh + vowel)

### Common Intensive Prefixes an-, sean(-) and ró(-)

an- meaning *very, great* is prefixed to nouns or adjectives.

sean(-) meaning *old, great* is prefixed to nouns, adjectives and verbs.

ró(-) meaning *over, too*, is prefixed to nouns, adjectives and verbs.

There is always a hyphen between an- and the following word.

It lenites except in case of d, t, s.

There is usually no hyphen between sean(-) and the following word.

It lenites except in case of d, t, s.

There is no hyphen after ró(-) except when the following word begins with a vowel. It lenites.

Examples:

an-mhaith	<i>very good</i>	an-ghaofar	<i>very windy</i>
an-fhear	<i>a great man</i>	an-lá	<i>a great day</i>
an-dána	<i>very bold</i>	an-tine	<i>a great fire</i>
seanbhean	<i>an old woman</i>	seandícheall	<i>best effort</i>
seanchaite	<i>antiquated</i>	seanaois	<i>old age</i>
ródhóchas	<i>presumption</i>	róghéarr	<i>over-cut (vb.)</i>
róbheag	<i>too small</i>	ró-íseal	<i>too low</i>

Exceptions are:

sean-aintín	sean-Ghall
sean-am	sean-ghaineamhchloch
sean-ancaire	sean-nós
sean-ard	sean-Samhain
sean-Bhealtaine	sean-Tiomna

## IDIOMS

### IDIOMS INVOLVING SUBSTANTIVE VERB + PREPOSITIONAL PHRASE

tá amhras orm	<i>I am doubtful</i>
tá áthas ort	<i>you are happy</i>
tá bród air	<i>he is proud</i>
tá brón uirthi	<i>she is sorry</i>
tá deifir orainn	<i>we are in a hurry</i>
tá éad oraibh	<i>you (pl.) are jealous</i>
tá eagla orthu	<i>they are afraid</i>
tá faitíos orm	<i>I am afraid</i>
tá fearg ort	<i>you are angry</i>
tá imní air	<i>he is worried</i>
tá iontas uirthi	<i>she is surprised</i>
tá náire orainn	<i>we are ashamed</i>
tá ocras oraibh	<i>you (pl.) are hungry</i>
tá tart orthu	<i>they are thirsty</i>
tá tinneas orm	<i>I am sick</i>
tá a fhios agam	<i>I know</i>
tá barúil agat	<i>you have an idea</i>
tá dúil aige	<i>he likes</i>
tá súil aici	<i>she hopes</i>

### IDIOMS INVOLVING COPULA AND PREPOSITIONAL PHRASE

is aoibhinn liom	<i>I love</i>
is breá leat	<i>you like, you love</i>
is ceart dó	<i>he should, it is right for him</i>
is cóir di	<i>she should, it is right for her</i>
is deacair linn	<i>we find it difficult</i>
is féidir libh	<i>you (pl.) can</i>
is maith leo	<i>they like</i>
is mian liom	<i>I wish (to) / I intend (to)</i>
is oth leat	<i>you regret</i>

# BLESSINGS, FAREWELLS, GREETINGS AND OTHER OCCASIONAL SAYINGS

It has long been recognised that the Irish language is particularly rich in formal blessings, greetings, curses etc., which are used on every possible occasion. Many of them illustrate a strong religious origin and, for that reason, cannot be easily translated. The following is a list of the most common and the occasions when they are used. In many instances, the verb which expresses the wish is dropped in colloquial speech for the sake of brevity.

When one meets someone, the form of address generally used is:

(go mbeannai) Dia \*duit (sg.) / \*daoibh (pl.)!  
*Hello! lit. (May) God bless you!*

bail ó Dhia ort!  
*God prosper you!*

\* NOTE: in speech this initial d is pronounced as if it were lenited.

The reply to this greeting is generally:

(go mbeannai) Dia is Muire \*duit (sg.) / \*daoibh (pl.)!  
*Hello! lit. (May) God and Mary bless you!*

gurab é duit! *the same to you!*

When entering a house/place, the entering address can be any of the following:

(go mbeannaí) Dia anseo!  
bail ó Dhia anseo!  
Dia sa teach!  
  
*God bless (all) here!  
God bless (all) here!  
God bless all in this house!*

When departing, the farewell directed at those remaining is:

slán agat (sg.) / agaibh (pl.)! *Good-bye!*

The farewell directed at those departing is:

slán leat (sg.) / slán libh (pl.)! *Good-bye!*

The normal greeting directed at someone engaged in work is:

bail ó Dhia ar an obair!

*God bless the work!*

General greetings or expressions of goodwill include:

sláinte (mhór) / seo do shláinte /  
sláinte agus saol (chugat)!  
*health (and long life) to you! / Cheers!*

nár lagaí Dia thú / sibh!  
ádh mórt / oraibh!  
go n-éíri an t-ádh leat!  
go soirbhí Dia duit / daoibh!  
Dia liom / leat / linn!  
go ngnóthaí Dia duit / daoibh!  
  
rath Dé ort / rath ó Dhia ort /  
go gcuire Dia (an) rath ort / oraibh!

*more power to you!*  
*good luck to you!*  
*good luck be with you!*  
*I wish you Godspeed!*  
*God bless me / you / us!*  
*may God prosper you!*  
- (saying goodbye to someone)  
*God prosper you!*

The greeting expressed to someone who has just acquired/purchased something which is new to him / her e.g. a car, a suit, a distinction:

go maire tú (is go gcaithe tú) é!

*may you live to enjoy (and wear) it!*

Other sayings or expressions include:

beannacht Dé ort / oraibh!  
beannacht Dé leat / libh!  
Dia ár sábháil!  
le do thoil / más é do thoil é  
go raibh maith agat / agaibh!

*God bless you!*  
*God speed you!*  
*God save us!*  
*please / if you please*  
*thank you!*

The reply to this last expression of thanks is:

go ndéana a mhaith duit / daoibh! *you are welcome!*

The expression used on hearing of a death is:

go ndéana Dia a mhaith air! *(may) God rest his soul!*

The normal English greeting *How are you?* is rendered in the various Irish dialects as follows:

Cad é mar tá tú?  
Cén chaoi a bhfuil tú?  
Conas tá tú?

Ulster  
Connaught  
Munster

There are even further variations of the above in the various dialects.

Answer:

tá mé go maith, slán a bheidh / *I am fine, thanks*  
bheas tú

Other popular phrases include:

fáilte romhat!  
céad míle fáilte romhat!  
buíochas do Dhia / le Dia!

*you are welcome!*  
*a hundred thousand welcomes to you!*  
*thanks be to God!*

# FÉIN

When féin is used after pronouns, prepositional pronouns, nouns or verbs, it means '*-self / -selves*'.

mé féin / tú féin  
í féin a rinne é  
tá a fhios acu féin é  
dúirt sí féin é  
tabhair dóibh féin é  
an gasúr féin a d'ith é  
déanfaimid féin é

*myself / yourself*  
*she herself did it*  
*they themselves know it*  
*she herself said it*  
*give it to themselves*  
*the boy himself ate it*  
*we ourselves will do it*

Féin never undergoes any change.

When féin is preceded by a possessive adjective + noun, it means *own*:

mo chlann féin  
i mo theach féin  
trí mo choir féin  
is é mo bharúil féin

*my own family*  
*in my own house*  
*through my own fault*  
*it is my own opinion*

When used adverbially, it means *even, only*:

má thagann sé anois féin  
má tá an t-airgead féin aige  
ag Dia féin atá a fhios  
dá ndéarfaí sin féin liom

*if he comes even now*  
*even if he has the money*  
*God only knows*  
*if I were only told that*

## CUID

By itself **cuid** is a feminine noun meaning *a part, portion or share*.

When used in conjunction with the simple preposition **de** it translates *a part of, some of*:

cuid den obair	<i>some of the work</i>
cuid de na daoine	<i>some of the people</i>
cuid den am	<i>some of the time</i>
cuid den airgead	<i>some of the money</i>

NOTE: to translate *some of* + pron., use **cuid** + correct prepositional pronoun form of **ag**:

cuid agaínn / acu	<i>some of us / them</i>
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When preceded by a possessive adjective and followed by the genitive case, it serves as a form of possessive adjective:

mo chuid oibre	<i>my work</i>
do chuid éadaigh	<i>your clothes</i>
a gcuid airgid	<i>their money</i>
do chuid cainte	<i>your talk</i>
bhur gcuid ama	<i>your (pl.) time</i>

NOTE: with **some** nouns, one may not use the poss. adj. alone but the poss. adj. + **cuid**:

mo chuid airgid	<i>my money</i>
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## GO LEOR

This phrase, meaning *enough, plenty, a lot of* can be used alone, before or after a noun\*, after an adjective etc:

fada go leor	<i>long enough</i>
óg go leor	<i>young enough</i>
go leor oibre *	<i>enough / a lot of work</i>
go leor ama *	<i>enough / a lot of time</i>
airgead go leor	<i>enough money</i>
tá go leor déanta	<i>enough / a lot is done</i>

\* NOTE: when a noun follows go leor, it is in the gen. case.

## WAYS OF TRANSLATING TO KNOW

When one wishes to say that one knows someone or is acquainted with someone, the construction is as follows:

tá aithne ag A ar B	<i>A knows B</i>
tá aithne mhaith agam ar Sheán	<i>I know John well</i>

When one wishes to say that one knows a language or how to perform certain skills, the construction is as follows:

tá Gaeilge / Béarla / Fraincis agam	<i>I know Irish / English / French</i>
tá snámh agam	<i>I know how to swim</i>

When one simply wants to say that one knows something in general, the usual construction is:

substantive verb + poss. adj. a (3rd sg. masc. leniting) + fhios + ag:

tá a fhios agam sin	<i>I know that</i>
an bhfuil a fhios agat go bhfuil sé tinn?	<i>do you know that he is sick?</i>
níl a fhios aige aon rud faoi sin	<i>he knows nothing about that</i>

When one wishes to say that one knows or has detailed knowledge of something, the construction commonly used is:

tá eolas ag A ar rud éigin	<i>A knows something</i>
tá eolas ar an gcineál sin oibre agam	<i>I know that kind of work</i>
an bhfuil aon eolas ar an gcathair agat?	<i>do you know the city at all?</i>

The construction: tá mé eolach ar an gcineál sin oibre / an bhfuil tú eolach ar an gcathair? can be used as well.

## ABSTRACT NOUNS FORMED FROM ADJECTIVES

Many abstract nouns have one form which is the same as the comparative/superlative form (= gen. sing. fem. form, usually) of the adjective from which it is formed:

díreach	→	dírí
géar	→	géire
gorm	→	goirmé
dubh	→	duibhé
cóir	→	córa
is ionadh liom a dhírí atá an bóthar seo		<i>I am surprised at how straight this road is</i>
dá ghéire an scian is amhlaidh is éifeachtaí í		<i>the sharper the knife is, the more effective it is</i>
is cuma liom a ghoirmé atá an spéir		<i>I don't care how blue the sky is</i>

Many other abstract nouns have two forms, one of which is the same as the comparative/superlative form (= gen. sing. fem. form, usually) of the adjective from which it is formed and the other is that same comparative/superlative form with endings, *usually*, - (a)cht / - ocht suffixed:

fearúil	→	fearúlacht
uasal	→	uaisleacht
misniúil	→	misniúlacht
calma	→	calmacht
te	→	teocht

Many abstract nouns have the form which is the same as the gen. sing. fem. form of the adjective from which it is formed to which is added the endings - (a)s:

maith	→	maitheas
crua	→	cruas
binn	→	binneas

Some abstract nouns have completely irregular forms and the most common of these are:

beag	→	laghad
fada	→	fad
iomáí	→	liacht
maith	→	feabhas
mór	→	méad

## YES AND NO IN IRISH

Unlike English and many other languages, there are no simple words in Irish for yes and no which can be used in every context. In Irish, to translate these one normally repeats the positive (to express yes) or negative (to express no) form of the verb used in asking the question except in the case of the copula:

an rachaidh tú ann?  
*will you go there?*

rachaidh / ní rachaidh  
*yes / no*

ar cheannaigh sé é?  
*did he buy it?*

cheannaigh / níor cheannaigh  
*yes / no*

nach bhfuil sé ann?  
*isn't he there?*

tá / níl  
*yes / no*

nach n-itheann siad úlla?  
*don't they eat apples?*

itheann / ní itheann  
*yes / no*

an dtiocfá liom?  
*would you come with me?*

thiocfainn / ní thiocfainn  
*yes / no*

an imríonn sibh peil?  
*do you play football?*

imrímid / ní imrímid  
*yes / no*

an gcónaíonn tú anseo?  
*do you live here?*

cónaím / ní chónaím  
*yes / no*

If the verb used in the answer to express yes/no has a special synthetic form, that is the form which is normally used. If not, the analytic form **without a pronoun** is used.

NOTE: the copula is one verb which can never stand alone to translate yes/no:

an maith leat tae?  
*do you like tea?*

is maith / ní maith  
*yes / no*

nach cuimhin leat sin?  
*don't you remember that?*

is cuimhin / ní cuimhin  
*yes / no*

NOTE: the following examples with the copula which always require a pronoun (é / í / ea / iad) in the reply in the following contexts:

an múinteoir é (Seán)?  
*is he (John) a teacher?*

is ea / ní hea  
*yes / no*

an ceoltóir (maith) í?  
*is she a (good) musician?*

is ea / ní hea  
*yes / no*

nár bh amhránaithe maithe iad?  
*weren't they good singers?*

ba ea / níor bh ea  
*yes / no*

bean mhaith is ea í, nach ea?  
*she is a good woman, isn't she?*

is ea / ní hea  
*yes / no*

an é Seán an múinteoir?  
*is John the teacher?*

is é / ní hé  
*yes / no*

arbh í Máire an t-amhránaí?  
*was Mary the singer?*

ba í / níor bh í  
*yes / no*

an doras é sin?  
*is that a door?*

is ea / ní hea  
*yes / no*

an fuinneog í sin?  
*is that a window?*

is ea / ní hea  
*yes / no*

# WAYS OF TRANSLATING CAN, BE ABLE [ABILITY, CAPABILITY]

The set phrase in ann used with the substantive verb bí can often translate *can, be able*:

tá mé in ann an obair a dhéanamh	<i>I can do the work</i>
tá Seán in ann aire a thabhairt dó féin	<i>John is able to look after himself</i>

The word ábalta used with the substantive verb bí can often translate *can, be able*:

tá mé ábalta an obair a dhéanamh	<i>I can do the work</i>
tá Seán ábalta an chloch a thógáil	<i>John is able to lift the stone</i>

Variations of the phrase tagann le / tig le followed by the appropriate subject can often translate *can, be able*:

ní thig liom siúl go síreach	<i>I cannot walk straight</i>
ní thiocfadh le Seán é sin a dhéanamh	<i>John would not be able to do that</i>

The word féidir used with the **copula** and often le + subject can be used to translate *can, be able* veering towards **possibility**:

is féidir é sin a dhéanamh gan mhoill	<i>that can be done without delay</i>
is féidir é sin a chruthú go héasca	<i>that can easily be proved</i>
is féidir liom é sin a dhéanamh	<i>I can do that</i>

When one wishes to express that one can read/write a language or is able to perform certain skills, the construction is as follows:

tá Gaeilge / Béarla / Fraincis agam	<i>I can speak / write Irish / English / French</i>
tá snámh agam	<i>I can swim</i>
tá radharc na súl agam	<i>I can see</i>

## WAYS OF TRANSLATING MUST, HAVE TO [NECESSITY, OBLIGATION]

One can use the substantive verb bí (with appropriate tense) followed by the appropriate form of the preposition ar to translate *must, have to*:

tá orm imeacht	<i>I have to go</i>
bhí ar na páistí dul a luí go luath	<i>the children had to go to bed early</i>
ní bheidh uirthi íoc as an mbéile	<i>she will not have to pay for the meal</i>

The auxiliary verb caith (used almost entirely in the present and future tenses) is used to translate *must, have to*:

caithfidh tú fanacht anseo	<i>you must remain here</i>
caithfidh siad an doras a dhúnadh ina ndiaidh	<i>they must close the door after them</i>

The phrase ní mór (with appropriate tense) followed by the appropriate form of the preposition do (where subject is required) is used to translate *must, have to*:

ní mór dóibh an madra a choinneáil sa teach	
<i>they have to keep the dog in the house</i>	

ní mór do dhuine a bheith cúramach	
<i>one must be careful</i>	

The phrase is éigean (with appropriate tense) followed by the appropriate form of the preposition do (where subject is required) is used to translate *must, have to*:

b'éigean dó imeacht go luath	<i>he had to leave early</i>
is éigean dom an obair a dhéanamh anois	<i>I have to do the work now</i>

NOTE: many of the above constructions are interchangeable.

# TIME

When designating units of time, the cardinal numbers are used:

1	a haon a chlog	<i>one o'clock</i>
2	a dó a chlog	<i>two o'clock</i>
3	a trí a chlog	<i>three o'clock</i>
4	a ceathair a chlog	<i>four o'clock</i>
5	a cúig a chlog	<i>five o'clock</i>
6	a sé a chlog	<i>six o'clock</i>
7	a seacht a chlog	<i>seven o'clock</i>
8	a hocht a chlog	<i>eight o'clock</i>
9	a naoi a chlog	<i>nine o'clock</i>
10	a deich a chlog	<i>ten o'clock</i>
11	a haon déag a chlog	<i>eleven o'clock</i>
12	a dó dhéag a chlog	<i>twelve o'clock</i>
	tá sé a trí a chlog anois	<i>it is three o'clock now</i>
	tháinig sé ag / ar a cúig (a chlog)	<i>he came at five (o'clock)</i>

NOTE: one can use either ag or ar to translate the English *at* when referring to time.

As in English, the a chlog meaning *o'clock* may be omitted:

ceathrú chun / go dtí a cúig	<i>a quarter to five</i>
leathuair tar éis / i ndiaidh a sé	<i>half past six</i>
cén t-am é / cad é an t-am atá sé?	<i>what time is it?</i>
beidh mé ann ar maidin	<i>I'll be there in the morning</i>
tháinig sí tráthnóna	<i>she came in the evening</i>
bhí siad ann aréis	<i>they were there last night</i>
ar an meán oíche	<i>at midnight</i>
um nónin	<i>at noon</i>
um thráthnóna	<i>in the evening</i>

NOTE: more adverbs of time.

cén uair a d'imigh sibh?	<i>when did you leave?</i>
cén lá atá ann?	<i>what day is it?</i>
cén bhliain a rugadh í?	<i>what year was she born?</i>

NOTE: for information on what type of clause follows designations of time, consult section on relative clauses in this grammar.

## SIMILES

chomh haoibhinn le lá samhraidh  
chomh haosta leis an gceo  
chomh haigeanta le meannán gabhair  
chomh haerach le gealbhan  
chomh bán le bainne  
chomh beo le breac  
chomh bodhar le cloch  
chomh bréagach leis an diabhal  
chomh binn le cláirseach  
chomh búi le buachalán  
chomh ciúin le luch  
chomh cosúil le dhá scadán  
chomh crua le hadharc reithe  
chomh cíortha le ceann sagairt  
chomh cruinn le fáinne  
chomh caol le ribe do chinn  
chomh croíUIL le fuisseog  
chomh domhain leis an bhfarrraigé  
chomh dubh le súiche  
chomh dearg le fuil  
chomh deas le bláth  
chomh díomhar le buidéal  
chomh do-mharaithe le cat  
chomh héadrom le cleite  
chomh heolach le saoi  
chomh fabhtach leis an bhfarrraigé  
chomh fada le lá samhraidh  
chomh fairsing le seangáin  
chomh fián le fia  
chomh flúirseach le gaineamh na trá  
chomh falsa le hasal  
chomh foighneach le cat  
chomh folamh le feedóg  
chomh folláin le bradán  
chomh fuar le sioc  
chomh fíor leis an soisceáil  
chomh geal leis an sneachta  
chomh gasta leis an ngaoth  
chomh géar le creamh  
chomh glic le fear dlí  
chomh glan le huisce  
chomh goirt leis an bhfarrraigé  
chomh hionraic leis an ngrian

chomh hinnealta le bean iarla  
chomh láidir le capall  
chomh ligthe le cú  
chomh lán le teach faire  
chomh luath le giorria  
chomh lúfar le breac  
chomh macánta le haingeal  
chomh marbh le corp  
chomh milis le mil  
chomh mín le síoda  
chomh neamhchoireach le leanbh baiste  
chomh nádúrtha le huisce an tsrutháin  
chomh pollta le gráta  
chomh ramhar le muc  
chomh righin le seanasal  
chomh saothrach le beach  
chomh sásta le píobaire  
chomh sean leis na cnoic  
chomh searbh le searbhán  
chomh sleamhain le heascann  
chomh stuama le sagart  
chomh suaimhneach le reilig  
chomh te le tine  
chomh tiubh le clocha sneachta  
chomh tirim le snaois  
chomh huasal le rí

Nollaig Mac Congáil's *Irish Grammar Book* is a comprehensive reference manual for learners of Irish. It presents the rules of Irish grammar in a clear, concise and understandable manner. The grammatical rules are based on those contained in Niall Ó Dónaill's *Focloir Gaeilge-Béarla*, the single, largest corpus of authoritative Irish in existence.

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