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This book is designed as a reference guide for those who, with or without the help of a teacher, wish to study or revise all the essentials of Irish grammar. It will also be useful as a companion to your Irish language course.

How to use this book

Many people find the learning of grammar extremely daunting; in this book, therefore, an attempt has been made to explain the grammar of Irish in simple, jargon-free language and to present examples that are useful and reflect everyday usage. All the structures presented are illustrated with examples that are translated into English. It is probably worth making the **glossary of grammatical terms** your starting point, especially if you are unsure about terms such as noun, adjective, verb, etc.

On the contents page, the grammar covered in each unit is outlined. If you want to look up a particular grammar point, you can also consult the index at the back of the book.

The following procedure is suggested for working through each unit:

Read the section headed **In this unit you will learn about ...**, in order to get an overview of what grammar is taught in the unit. When the structures contained in that section are clear to you, try out the exercises which follow the explanations. These are designed to give you immediate practice of the grammar points, through a variety of activities. It may be better not to write your answers into the book, so that you

can return to the exercises at a later date to test yourself. At that point, try to do them without looking at the explanations, to see what you can remember.

Once you have completed the exercises, you can check your answers in the **key to exercises** section at the back of the book.

You should also consult the **taking it further** section where you will find references to other grammar books and useful information related to the Irish language, such as websites, language courses and organizations.

The main Irish language dictionary, *Foclóir Gaeilge – Béarla*, Niall Ó Dónaill and Tomás de Bhaldraithe (eds.), published by Oifig an tSoláthair, Dublin (1977), is referred to throughout this book.

To my parents and aunt Frances

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01

Irish spelling, accents and stress

In this unit you will learn about

- the alphabet
- changes to the beginning of words (lenition, eclipsis)
- long and short vowels
- broad and slender consonants
- word order
- slendering and broadening
- syncopation
- word stress
- *yes* and *no* in Irish

The alphabet

The letters of the basic Irish alphabet are:

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

The letter v occurs in some loan-words:

veain (*van*)

vóta (*vote*)

The remaining letters (j, q, v, w, x, z) occur very rarely (they are mostly found in scientific and mathematical words).

Changes to the beginning of words (lenition, eclipsis)

In Irish (as in other Celtic languages), both the beginning and ending of a word can change.

The change of form at the beginning of a word is caused by a preceding word. One such change is called lenition (or *séimhiú* in Irish) and the other eclipsis (*urú* in Irish). You will see many examples of lenition and eclipsis throughout this book.

Lenition

This change occurs to the following consonants:

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

The remaining consonants (h, l, n, r) cannot be lenited.

Eclipsis

This change occurs to both consonants and vowels.

Here are the consonants that are affected by eclipsis:

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

The remaining consonants (h, l, m, n, r, s) cannot be eclipsed.

t before vowels and s

t can be placed before an initial vowel. It is followed by a hyphen, except when the vowel is a capital letter:

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

There is never a hyphen between t and an initial s:

ts

h before vowels

h can be placed before an initial vowel. Again, there is never a hyphen between an h and a vowel:

ha	ho
he	hu
hi	

Long and short vowels

Vowels in Irish are either long or short. A stroke (called *síneadh fada* in Irish) over a vowel indicates that it is long. Replacing one type of vowel with the other changes the pronunciation of a word, e.g. *páiste* (*child*) and *paiste* (*patch*).

short	long
a	á
e	é
i	í
o	ó
u	ú

Broad and slender consonants

Irish has many more consonant sounds than other languages such as English. In Irish, each consonant has a broad and slender value. In spoken language, failure to distinguish between the two types of consonant can change the meaning of a word.

In written Irish, a broad consonant is preceded by or followed by the broad vowels *a/á, o/ó, or u/ú*. A slender consonant is preceded by or followed by the slender vowels *i/í or e/é*.

<i>Broad consonants</i>	<i>Slender consonants</i>
póg (the p and g are broad)	feiceáil (the f, c and l are slender)

Slender with slender and broad with broad

One of the major rules in Irish spelling is 'slender with slender and broad with broad'. What this means is that a consonant in the middle of a word must be surrounded by the same kind of vowel – both must be slender (e, i) or both must be broad (o, a, u). There are few exceptions to this rule.

Here are two examples of "slender with slender and broad with broad":

deireadh (the r is flanked by the slender vowels, i and e)
fochal (the c is flanked by the broad vowels o and a)

Word order

In English, the word order is most commonly as follows:

<i>Subject</i>	<i>verb</i>	<i>other</i>
John	ran	home

In Irish, however, the order is different – the verb generally comes at the beginning of a simple sentence:

<i>Verb</i>	<i>subject</i>	<i>object</i>	<i>other</i>
Cheannaigh	Ciara	carr	inné
Bought	Ciara	car	yesterday

Slendering and broadening

A consonant is made slender by inserting an *i* before it:

amhrán (*song*) amhráin

Sometimes, however, one or two other vowels in the word are affected:

fear (<i>man</i>)	→	fir (e and a are lost)
béal (<i>mouth</i>)	→	béil (the a is lost)
iasc (<i>fish</i>)	→	éisc (ia is replaced by éi)
siól (<i>seed</i>)	→	síl (the o is lost)

A consonant is made broad by removing the *i* which precedes it:

athair (*father*) → athar

Again, sometimes, one or two other vowels in the word are affected:

baincéir (*banker*) → bancéara
mil (*honey*) → meala

Syncopation

Syncopation refers to the loss of one or more vowels or a syllable from the middle of a word:

milis (*sweet*) níos milse (*sweeter*)
coinneal (*candle*) coinnle (*candles*)

Word stress

In Irish, the stress is usually placed on the first syllable of a word:

athair (*father*)
coláiste (*college*)

Note: In Munster Irish (spoken in Waterford, Cork and Kerry), the stress is often placed on syllables other than the first:

fuinneog (*window*)
caisleán (*castle*)

Many adverbs containing two or more syllables are stressed on the second syllable:

amárach (*tomorrow*)
amuigh (*outside*)

Yes and no in Irish

The Irish language does not have equivalents of the English *yes* and *no*. Instead, the speaker repeats the verb from the question in the affirmative or the negative:

An bhfaca tú Doireann inné? (*Did you see Doireann yesterday?*)
Chonaic./Ní fhaca. (literally, *Saw./Didn't see.*)

An dtéann sí ansin go minic? (*Does she go there often?*)
Téann./Ní théann. (literally, *Does./Doesn't.*)

The same system is used in Hiberno-English:

Were you home at the weekend?
I was.

Exercises

A Most consonants are eclipsed when they follow the word *i* (*in*). Change the initial consonant of each place-name listed if necessary.

- 1 Baile Átha Cliath (*Dublin*) i _____ Átha Cliath (*in Dublin*)
- 2 Doire (*Derry*) i _____ (*in Derry*)
- 3 Londain (*London*) i _____ (*in London*)
- 4 Glaschú (*Glasgow*) i _____ (*in Glasgow*)
- 5 Muineachán (*Monaghan*) i _____ (*in Monaghan*)
- 6 Páras (*Paris*) i _____ (*in Paris*)
- 7 Trá Lí (*Tralee*) i _____ Lí (*in Tralee*)
- 8 Sasana (*England*) i _____ (*in England*)
- 9 Cúba (*Cuba*) i _____ (*in Cuba*)
- 10 Fear Manach (*Fermanagh*) i _____ Manach (*in Fermanagh*)

B Say whether the consonants underlined are broad or slender.

- 1 deireadh
- 2 focal
- 3 poiblí
- 4 Spáinnis
- 5 scrúdú

C Column One contains a list of various grammatical terms. There is one example of each contained in Column Two. Match the items in each column.

Column One

- 1 imperative
- 2 adjective
- 3 article
- 4 adverb
- 5 compound preposition
- 6 noun

Column Two

- a cóta (*coat*)
- b an (*the*)
- c cé? (*who?*)
- d deas (*nice*)
- e tú (*you*)
- f éirigh (*arise*)

- 7 ordinal number
- 8 pronoun
- 9 simple preposition
- 10 imperative
- 11 verbal adjective
- 12 interrogative
- 13 comparative
- 14 verbal noun

- g ag bualadh (*beating*)
- h in aice (*beside*)
- i níos deise (*nicer*)
- j le (*with*)
- k ite (*eaten*)
- l thiar (*in the west*)
- m stad! (*stop!*)
- n an tríú (*the third*)

02

articles and nouns

In this unit you will learn about

- articles
- uses of the definite article
- avoidance of double article
- gender of nouns
- how to recognize masculine and feminine nouns
- the various cases of the noun
- initial changes in the nominative/accusative cases
- initial consonants and vowels in the plural
- strong-plural and weak-plural nouns
- declensions

Articles

There is only one article in the Irish language, that is, the definite article:

an páiste (*the child*)

Páiste, therefore, can either mean **child** or **a child**.

In the singular, the form is **an**.

(Exception: in the genitive singular, feminine, **na** is used.)

The form in the plural is **na**:

na páistí (*the children*)

The article combines with **cé** and with the simple prepositions **do**, **de**, **faoi**, **i**, **ó** to form the compounds **cén**, **don**, **den**, **faoin**, **sa** (used before consonants), **san** (used before vowels), and **ón**.

Cén fáth an ndeachaigh tú ansin? (*Why did you go there?*)

Cén áit a raibh tú inné? (*Where were you yesterday?*)

Thug mé an t-airgead don bhean. (*I gave the money to the woman.*)

Bhí sí sa bhaile ag an deireadh seachtaine. (*She was at home at the weekend.*)

D'fhan mé san óstán. (*I stayed in the hotel.*)

Uses of the definite article

The definite article in Irish is used in ways in which its equivalent in English would not be:

a *With certain place-names*

an Fhrainc (*France*)

an Bheilg (*Belgium*)

an tSín (*China*)

Note: the article is used with the place-names **Albain**, **Éire**, and **Gaillimh** in the genitive case only:

Albain (*Scotland*)

muintir na hAlban (*the people of Scotland*)

Éire

stair na hÉireann (*the history of Ireland*)

Gaillimh

cathair na Gaillimhe (*Galway city*)

b With the names of languages when referring to them in a general sense:

an Béarla (*English*)
an Ghaeilge (*Irish*)

c With the names of the seasons:

an t-earrach (*spring*)
an samhradh (*summer*)
an fómhar (*autumn*)
an geimhreadh (*winter*)

d With the days of the week:

an Luan (*Monday*)
an Mháirt (*Tuesday*)
an Chéadaoin (*Wednesday*)
an Déardaoin (*Thursday*)
an Aoine (*Friday*)
an Satharn (*Saturday*)
an Domhnach (*Sunday*)

e With the names of certain months or feasts:

an Cháisc (*Easter*)
an Carghas (*Lent*)
an Nollaig (*Christmas*)
mí na Bealtaine (*May*)
mí na Samhna (*November*)

f In titles:

an tUachtarán Bill Clinton (*President Bill Clinton*)
an tUasal Ó Ceallaigh (*Mr Kelly*)
an Dochtúir Ó Briain (*Dr O'Brien*)
an tOllamh Ó Cuinneagáin (*Professor Cunningham*)

g Before surnames when the personal name and Ó, Mac, and de are omitted:

an Ceallach (*Mr Kelly*)
an Ríordánach (*Mr O'Riordan*)

Avoidance of double article

When two nouns preceded by the definite article are used together, the first article is omitted:

an barr (*the top*) + an staighre (*the stairs*) = barr an staighre (*the top of the stairs*)

an obair (*the work*) + an tiománaí (*the driver*) = obair an tiománaí (*the work of the driver*)

Gender of nouns

All nouns in Irish are either masculine or feminine. This is not necessarily based on the sex of the object – the noun *cailín* (*girl*), for example, is masculine.

How to recognize masculine and feminine nouns

The ending of a noun determines whether it is masculine or feminine. Here is a guide to masculine and feminine endings.

Masculine nouns: endings

- (a)ire iascaire (*fisherman*), ailtire (*architect*)
Exceptions: aire (*care*), faire (*wake*), trúcaire (*mercy*)
- án cosán (*path*), amhrán (*song*)
- (e)acht* ceacht (*lesson*), fuacht (*cold*)
Exception: léacht (*lecture*)
- éad éad (*jealousy*), saicéad (*jacket*), buicéad (*bucket*)
- (e)adh geimhreadh (*winter*), samhradh (*summer*), bualadh (*beating*)
- éal béal (*mouth*), scéal (*story*)
- éar féar (*grass*), páipéar (*paper*)
Exceptions: méar (*finger*), sméar (*berry*)
- éir** báicéir (*baker*), siúinéir (*carpenter*), búistéir (*butcher*)
- eoir múinteoir (*teacher*), feirmeoir (*farmer*)
Exceptions: beoir (*beer*), deoir (*drop*), treoir (*guidance*)
- óir cúntóir (*assistant*)
Exceptions: altóir (*altar*), éagóir (*injustice*), glóir (*glory*), onóir (*honour*), tóir (*pursuit*)
- úir saighdiúir (*soldier*), dochtúir (*doctor*)
- ste coiste (*committee*), páiste (*child*)
Exceptions: aiste (*essay*), timpiste (*accident*), tubaiste (*disaster*)

-ún	botún (<i>mistake</i>), príosún (<i>prison</i>)
-úr	casúr (<i>hammer</i>), pictiúr (<i>picture</i>)

Exceptions: deirfiúr (*sister*), siúr (*sister – nun*)

* nouns with one syllable ** when jobs are being referred to

Feminine nouns: endings

-(a)íl	feadaíl (<i>whistling</i>)
-(e)áil	sábháil (<i>rescue</i>)
-(e)ailt	oscailt (<i>opening</i>), tochailt (<i>digging</i>)
-(a)int	seachaint (<i>avoidance</i>), tuiscint (<i>understanding</i>)

Exception: sairsint (*sergeant*)

-áint	tiomáint (<i>driving</i>)
-is/ís	uirlis (<i>instrument</i>), foraois (<i>forest</i>), mailís (<i>malice</i>)
-chan	athbheochan (<i>revival</i>)

Exception: meáchan (*weight*)

-(a)irt	abairt (<i>sentence</i>), scairt (<i>call</i>)
-(e)acht***	beannacht (<i>blowing</i>), gluaiseacht (<i>movement</i>)

Exceptions: bunreacht (*constitution*), comhlacht (*company*)

-(a)íocht***	filíocht (<i>poetry</i>)
-úil	barúil (<i>opinion</i>)
-úint	canúint (<i>dialect</i>)
-lann	bialann (<i>restaurant</i>), amharclann (<i>theatre</i>)

Exceptions: anlann (*sauce*), salann (*salt*)

-eog/-óg	bábóg (<i>doll</i>), brídeog (<i>bride</i>)
----------	---

Exception: dallamullóg (*deception*)

*** nouns with more than one syllable

Countries: an Astráil (*Australia*), an Fhrainc (*France*), an Iodáil (*Italy*), etc.

Rivers: an Bhóinn (*the Boyne*), an Éirne (*the Erne*), an tSionainn (*the Shannon*)

Languages: an Fhraincis (*French*), an Ghaeilge (*Irish*), an Iodáilis (*Italian*) **Exception:** an Béarla (*English*)

Compound words

When two nouns are joined together to form a compound noun, the second word is the important one as it determines the gender of the new noun.

Example:

The Irish word for *village*, sráidbhaile, is a compound noun. This is how the word is formed:
sráid (feminine) (*street*) + baile (masculine) (*town*)

Sráidbhaile, despite containing a feminine noun, is masculine due to the fact that the second noun it contains is masculine.

The various cases of the noun

The nominative case

A noun or pronoun is in the nominative case when it is the subject of the sentence. The subject usually comes directly after the verb and generally does the act referred to in the sentence:

Stop an bhean agus d'fhéach sí air. (*The woman stopped and looked at him.*)

Labhair Seán leis na hoibrithe ar feadh leathuaire. (*Seán spoke to the workers for half an hour.*)

The accusative case

A noun or pronoun is in the accusative when it is the object of the sentence, or the person or thing affected by the act being referred to. The Irish words in italics in these sentences are the objects of the sentence and are therefore in the accusative case:

Cheannaigh Caitlín *madra* do na páistí agus thug sí abhaile é Oíche Nollag. (*Caitlín bought a dog for the children and brought it home on Christmas Eve.*)

Cheannaigh Risteard *nuachtán* agus léigh sé é cois farraige. (*Risteard bought a newspaper and read it by the sea.*)

The genitive case

In the genitive case, one noun governs another:

mac an fhir (*the man's son*)

The genitive of a noun is used to express possession, position, origin, etc:

obair na máithreacha (*the mothers' work*)
doras tosaigh (*front door*)

The dative case

Nouns which follow the simple prepositions **ag** (*at*), **ar** (*on*), **as** (*from, out of*), **chuig** (*to*), **de** (*off, of, from*), **do** (*to, for*), **faoi** (*under, about*), **go** (*to, until*), **i** (*in*), **le** (*with, by*), **ó** (*from*), **roimh** (*before*), **thar** (*over*), **trí** (*through, among*), and **um** (*about, at*) are in the dative case:

ar an mbus (*on the bus*)
i monarcha (*in a factory*)
go Sasana (*to England*)
leis an athair (*with the father*)

The vocative case

An noun is in the vocative case when used to name the person or thing that is being addressed. In the vocative case, the particle **a** is placed before the noun and the initial consonant is lenited. Vowels remain unchanged:

A Sheáin, seo í mo mháthair. (*Seán, this is my mother.*)
A amadáin! (*You fool!*)
Conas mar tá sibh inniu, a fheara? (*How are you today, men?*)

In the case of some masculine nouns, the ending is made slender, in addition to the initial consonant being lenited:

Cad é mar atá cúrsaí, a Chiaráin? (*How are things, Ciarán?*)
Cén chaoi a bhfuil tú, a mhic? (*How are you, son?*)

Feminine nouns are lenited as well, but the ending *never* changes in the vocative case:

Ia fada an lá ó chonaic mé tú, a Shiobhán. (*I haven't seen you in a long time, Siobhán.*)
Go raibh míle maith agat, a Chlár. (*Thanks very much, Clár.*)

Initial changes in the nominative/accusative cases

Masculine nouns which begin with a consonant are not affected by the definite article. Those with an initial vowel, however, have **t-** added to their beginning.

an fear (*the man*)
an saighdiúir (*the soldier*)
an t-athair (*the father*)
an t-uncail (*the uncle*)
an t-óstán (*the hotel*)

Feminine nouns which begin with a consonant are lenited when the article is placed before them and **s** is changed to **ts**.

an bhean (*the woman*)
an mháthair (*the mother*)
an aintín (*the aunt*)
an ollscoil (*the university*)
an tsráid (*the street*)

Overview

Every noun in Irish fits into one of the categories below:

Nouns which begin with:

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| (a) a vowel: | an t-athair (m.) (<i>the father</i>)
an iris (f.) (<i>the magazine</i>) |
| (b) a consonant: | an bainisteoir (m.) (<i>the manager</i>)
an bhean (f.) (<i>the woman</i>) |
| (c) s: | an sagart (m.) (<i>the priest</i>)
an tsráid (f.) (<i>the street</i>)
(t cannot be placed before sc-, sf-, sm-, sp-, st-) |

- (d) **d, t:**
- an duine (m.) (*the person*)
 an deirfiúr (f.) (*the sister*)
 an tine (f.) (*the fire*)
 an tionscadal (m.) (*the project*)
 (Feminine nouns beginning with **d** and **t** are not lenited in the nominative/accusative case)

Initial consonants and vowels in the plural

The definite article **na** does not cause lenition in the plural:

Nom. sing.	Plural
an mheánscoil (<i>the secondary school</i>)	na meánscoileanna (<i>the secondary schools</i>)
an teach (<i>the house</i>)	na tithe (<i>the houses</i>)

An **h** is prefixed to initial vowels:

Nom. sing.	Plural
an t-ógánach (<i>the youth</i>)	na hógánaigh* (<i>the youths</i>)
an t-ábhar (<i>the subject</i>)	na hábhair* (<i>the subjects</i>)

* Note that there is never a hyphen between **h** and a vowel.

Strong-plural and weak-plural nouns

Weak plurals

Nouns with weak plurals have different forms in the nominative and genitive plural.

A noun has a weak plural:

- (a) when the nominative case, plural ends in a slender consonant
 or
 (b) if **-a** is added to the nominative singular to form the nominative plural.

Examples of a:

Nom. sing.	Nom. plural
amhrán (<i>song</i>)	amhráin (<i>songs</i>)
peann (<i>pen</i>)	pinn (<i>pens</i>)
bád (<i>boat</i>)	báid (<i>boats</i>)
fear (<i>man</i>)	fir (<i>men</i>)
páipéar (<i>papers</i>)	páipéir (<i>papers</i>)

Examples of b:

Nom. sing.	Nom. plural
bróg (<i>shoe</i>)	bróga (<i>shoes</i>)
úll (<i>apple</i>)	úlla (<i>apples</i>)
cos (<i>foot</i>)	cosa (<i>feet</i>)
leabharlann (<i>library</i>)	leabharlanna (<i>libraries</i>)

Strong plurals

All the nouns that are not like those that we have just seen, are said to have strong plurals. The same form is used in all cases in the plural:

- fadhbanna (*problems*)
- fuaimeanna (*sounds*)
- ranganna (*classes*)
- briathra (*verbs*)
- doirse (*doors*)
- cruinnithe (*meetings*)

The dictionary

In *Foclóir Gaeilge-Béarla* (Niall Ó Dónaill and Tomás de Bhaldraithe), both the nominative plural (npl.) and genitive plural (gpl.) are given in the case of nouns which have a weak plural. This is a typical entry:

- bileog (*leaflet, handout*)
- bileog, f. (gs. - oige, npl. ~a, gpl. ~)

The tilda (~) indicates that the genitive plural form and the basic form (nominative singular) are the same.

In the case of nouns with strong plurals, however, there is only one entry for the plural. Here is a typical entry:

- ollamh (*professor*)
- ollamh, m. (gs. - aimh, pl. ollúna)

Declensions

Nouns in Irish are divided into various categories called declensions. There are five declensions in all. More information is given on the declensions in Appendix 1.

Exercises

A Say whether each noun is feminine or masculine.

- 1 an t-agallamh (*the interview*)
- 2 tsochraid (*the funeral*)
- 3 an chontúirt (*the danger*)
- 4 an eagraíocht (*the organization*)
- 5 an fhógraíocht (*the advertising*)
- 6 an sos (*the break*)
- 7 an iasacht (*the loan*)
- 8 an ceoltóir (*the musician*)
- 9 an t-ordú (*the order*)
- 10 an tseamróg (*the shamrock*)

B Place the article *an* before each of the nouns and change the noun if necessary. Masculine and feminine are indicated by the letters *m.* and *f.*

- 1 airgead (*m.*) (*money*)
- 2 seirbhís (*f.*) (*service*)
- 3 áis (*f.*) (*facility*)
- 4 bialann (*f.*) (*restaurant*)
- 5 athrú (*m.*) (*change*)
- 6 forbairt (*f.*) (*development*)
- 7 eolaí (*m.*) (*scientist*)
- 8 iarratas (*m.*) (*application*)
- 9 taithí (*f.*) (*experience*)
- 10 irisleabhar (*m.*) (*journal*)
- 11 ollscoil (*f.*) (*university*)
- 12 ábhar (*m.*) (*material*)
- 13 oideachas (*m.*) (*education*)
- 14 Béarla (*m.*) (*English*)
- 15 Gréigis (*f.*) (*Greek*)
- 16 óstán (*m.*) (*hotel*)
- 17 pictiúrlann (*f.*) (*cinema*)
- 18 meánscoil (*f.*) (*secondary school*)
- 19 meánleibhéal (*m.*) (*intermediate level*)
- 20 scuab (*f.*) (*brush*)

C Again, place the article before each of the nouns and change the noun if necessary. This time, however, try working out yourself whether or not the nouns are masculine or feminine by looking at the endings.

- 1 feadóg (*whistle*)
- 2 ospidéal (*hospital*)
- 3 bainis (*wedding*)
- 4 bradán (*salmon*)
- 5 beoir (*beer*)
- 6 sairsint (*sergeant*)
- 7 oráiste (*orange*)
- 8 cuireadh (*invitation*)
- 9 Gearmáinis (*German*)
- 10 seamróg (*shamrock*)
- 11 bileog (*leaflet, handout*)
- 12 ceardlann (*workshop*)
- 13 comhlacht (*company*)
- 14 fuinneog (*window*)
- 15 eagarthóir (*editor*)
- 16 filíocht (*poetry*)
- 17 príosún (*prison*)
- 18 bagairt (*threat*)
- 19 éagóir (*injustice*)
- 20 iarrthóir (*candidate*)

D The plural form of various nouns is given below. In the case of each noun, say whether it has a weak or strong plural.

- 1 cnámha (*bones*)
- 2 amhráin (*songs*)
- 3 áiteanna (*places*)
- 4 tíortha (*countries*)
- 5 cosa (*feet, legs*)
- 6 géaga (*branches*)
- 7 duaiseanna (*prizes*)
- 8 fir (*men*)
- 9 fuinneoga (*windows*)
- 10 stoirmeacha (*storms*)

03

the genitive case

In this unit you will learn about

- the genitive case: general
- the genitive singular with an article
- the genitive singular: word endings
- the genitive plural
- using the dictionary
- the nominative form instead of the genitive

The genitive case: general

In English, *of* is often used to convey the relationship between two words:

- a lot of work*
- a glass of beer*

Or, in the case of possession, 's is used:

- a day's work*

In Irish, one noun is placed after the other and the second one is usually changed. This second noun is said to be in the genitive case:

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| obair (<i>work</i>) | a lán oibre (<i>a lot of work</i>) |
| beoir (<i>beer</i>) | gloine beorach (<i>a glass of beer</i>) |
| lá (<i>day</i>) | obair lae (<i>a day's work</i>) |

A noun is also in the genitive case when it follows:

a a compound preposition:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| an teach (<i>the house</i>) | os comhair an tí (<i>in front of the house</i>) |
| an samhradh (<i>the summer</i>) | i rith an tsamhraidh (<i>during the summer</i>) |

b the prepositions *chun*, *dála*, *timpeall*, and *trasna*:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| an scéal (<i>the story, news</i>) | dála an scéil (<i>by the way</i>) |
| an baile (<i>the town</i>) | chun an bhaile (<i>to the town</i>) |
| an pháirc (<i>the field</i>) | timpeall na páirce (<i>around the field</i>) |
| an spéir (<i>the sky</i>) | trasna na spéire (<i>across the sky</i>) |

c verbal nouns:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| an seomra (<i>the room</i>) | glanadh an tseomra (<i>the cleaning of the room</i>) |
| an múinteoir (<i>the teacher</i>) | ag cáineadh an mhúinteora (<i>criticizing the teacher</i>) |

d words used to express quantity:

- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| airgead (<i>money</i>) | a lán airgid (<i>a lot of money</i>) |
| eolas (<i>information</i>) | níos mó eolais (<i>more information</i>) |
| obair (<i>work</i>) | an iomarca oibre (<i>too much work</i>) |

daoine (*people*) an t-uafás daoine (*an awful lot of people*)

e the noun **cuid** (*portion, share*), which is used to refer to an unspecified quantity:

mic (*sons*) mo chuid mac (*my sons*)
leabhair (*books*) a cuid leabhar (*her books*)

The genitive singular with an article

The changes that occur to the beginning of nouns preceded by the article in the genitive singular are given below. Every noun in Irish belongs to one of the categories given.

Note that **na** is the form of the definite article used in the genitive singular feminine and that it prefixes an **h** to following vowels.

	Masculine	Feminine
Nouns which begin with		
a a vowel:	fadhanna an athar (<i>the father's problems</i>)	eagarthóir na hirise (<i>the editor of the magazine</i>)
b a consonant:	cúraimí an bhainisteora (<i>the manager's duties</i>)	in aice na fuinneoige (<i>beside the window</i>)
c d, t:	in aice an dorais (<i>beside the door</i>) tús an tionscadail (<i>the beginning of the project</i>)	airgead na deirféar (<i>the sister's money</i>) os comhair na tine (<i>in front of the fire</i>)
d s:	teach an tsagairt (<i>the priest's house</i>)	trasna na sráide (<i>across the street</i>)

The article is not always used in the genitive case:
eagarthóir irise (*the editor of a magazine*)

The genitive singular: word endings

In Ó Dónaill's *Foclóir Gaeilge-Béarla*, the genitive singular ending of each noun appears beside the abbreviation gs. This guide below will also help you to form the genitive singular.

Masculine nouns

a A broad consonant at the end of some masculine nouns is made slender:

an t-amhrán (*the song*) deireadh an amhráin (*the end of the song*)

b -each changes to -igh and -ach go -aigh:

an cléireach (*the clerk*) obair an chléirigh (*the work of the clerk*)

an t-earrach (*the spring*) tús an earraigh (*the beginning of the spring*)

c -eadh changes to -idh, and -adh changes to -aidh:

an geimhreadh (*the winter*) ag deireadh an gheimhridh (*at the end of winter*)

an cogadh (*the war*) tar éis an chogaidh (*after the war*)

d a is added to some masculine nouns which end in a broad consonant:

fíon (*wine*) buideál fíona (*a bottle of wine*)
snámh (*swimming*) linn snámha (*swimming pool*)

e Nouns which denote occupations, and which end in -ir, are broadened:

fiaclóir (*dentist*) pá fiaclóra (*a dentist's pay*)
an múinteoir (*the teacher*) ceartúchán an mhúinteora (*the teacher's corrections*)

f Nouns which end in -ín and in a vowel remain unchanged:

an cailín (*the girl*) cairde an chailín (*the girl's friends*)

an bia (*the food*) blas an bhia (*the taste of the food*)

Feminine nouns

a e is added to some feminine nouns ending in a slender consonant:

eaglais (<i>church</i>)	doras eaglaise (<i>the door of a church</i>)
an tseachtain (<i>the week</i>)	ag deireadh na seachtaine (<i>at the end of the week</i>)

b The broad consonant at the end of some feminine nouns is made slender and e is added:

an fhuinneog (<i>the window</i>)	in aice na fuinneoige (<i>beside the window</i>)
------------------------------------	--

c -each changes to -í and -ach go -aí:

an bhaintreach (<i>the widow</i>)	pinsean na baintrí (<i>the widow's pension</i>)
an ghealach (<i>the moon</i>)	solas na gealaí (<i>the light of the moon</i>)

d a is added to nouns which have more than one syllable and which end in -eacht, -acht, -íocht, or -aíocht:

an ghluaiseacht (<i>the movement</i>)	baill na gluaiseachta (<i>the members of the movement</i>)
iarracht (<i>effort</i>)	ag déanamh iarrachta (<i>making an attempt</i>)

an chaílíocht (<i>the qualification</i>)	ag fáil na cáilíochta (<i>getting the qualification</i>)
an íocaíocht (<i>the payment</i>)	ag lorg na híocaíochta (<i>looking for the payment</i>)

e The slender consonant at the end of some feminine nouns which have one syllable is made broad and -ach is added:

cáin (<i>tax</i>)	foirmeacha cánach (<i>tax forms</i>)
traein (<i>train</i>)	stáisiún traenach (<i>train station</i>)
beoir (<i>beer</i>)	pionta beorach (<i>a pint of beer</i>)

f The slender consonant at the end of some feminine nouns which have *more than one syllable* is made broad and -each or -ach is added:

an eochair (<i>the key</i>)	poll na heochrach (<i>the keyhole</i>)
litir (<i>letter</i>)	clúdach litreach (<i>envelope</i>)

g Some nouns which end in a vowel remain unchanged:

an trá (<i>the beach</i>)	bóthar na trá (<i>the beach road</i>)
an íomhá (<i>the image</i>)	ag forbairt na híomhá (<i>developing the image</i>)

h n is added to some other nouns which end in a vowel:

an chomharsa (<i>the neighbour</i>)	teach na comharsan (<i>the neighbour's house</i>)
an mhonarcha (<i>the factory</i>)	geataí na monarchan (<i>the gates of the factory</i>)

The genitive plural

Nouns with a weak plural

The ending of the noun is the same in the genitive plural as it is in the nominative singular:

Nom. sg.	Nom. pl.	Gen. pl.
fear (<i>man</i>)	fir (<i>men</i>)	fear (<i>men</i>)
bróg (<i>shoe</i>)	bróga (<i>shoes</i>)	bróg (<i>shoes</i>)

Bhí a lán fear ansin. (*There were lots of men there.*)

Chheannaigh mé péire bróg inné. (*I bought a pair of shoes yesterday.*)

Nouns with a strong plural

Nouns with a strong plural have the same ending in each case in the plural:

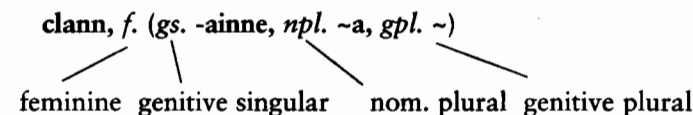
Nom. sg.	Pl.
ceacht (<i>lesson</i>)	ceachtanna (<i>lessons</i>)
aiste (<i>essay</i>)	aistí (<i>essays</i>)

When the article is used in the genitive plural, the initial consonant or vowel of the noun is eclipsed:

Nom. sg.	Nom. pl.	Gen. pl.
an fear (<i>the man</i>)	na fir (<i>the men</i>)	obair na bhfear (<i>the men's work</i>)
an bhróg (<i>the shoe</i>)	na bróga (<i>the shoes</i>)	ag glanadh na mbróg (<i>cleaning the shoes</i>)
an ceacht (<i>the lesson</i>)	na ceachtanna (<i>the lessons</i>)	ag déanamh na gceachtanna (<i>doing the lessons</i>)
aiste (<i>essay</i>)	aistí (<i>essays</i>)	ag scríobh na n-aistí (<i>writing the essays</i>)

Using the dictionary

Ó Dónaill's *Foclóir Gaeilge-Béarla* gives the genitive singular and plural endings of each noun listed. This is the information provided:



In the case of an ending, when a letter is preceded by a straight line (e.g. -ainne in the example above) this indicates that the body of the noun changes in the genitive case and shows where this change occurs.

When a letter is preceded by a tilde (~), this shows that that particular letter is added to the noun.

A tilde after the letters gpl. indicates that the same form is used in genitive plural as is used in the nominative singular.

So, in the case of the noun **clann** above, we know from looking at the dictionary entry the forms used in the various cases:

Nom. sg.	Gen. sg.	Nom. pl.	Gen. pl.
clann	clainne	clanna	clann

The nominative form instead of the genitive

The nominative form is sometimes used where you would expect a genitive form to be used.

(1) (2) (3)
a word or words normally followed by the genitive + noun + noun

If the two nouns, (2 and 3 above) can be regarded as a unit, then the first one will be lenited and the second one placed in the genitive.

Examples:

- (1) (2) and (3)
os cionn (*above*) + doras an tí (*the door of the house*)
= os cionn dhoras an tí (*above the door of the house*)
- (1) (2) and (3)
cúrsa (*a course*) + Fraincis na bialainne (*restaurant French*)
= cúrsa Fhraincis na bialainne (*a course of restaurant French*)
- (1) (2) and (3)
múinteoir (*teacher*) + ceol an cheantair (*the music of the area*)
= múinteoir cheol an cheantair (*a teacher of the music of the area*)

If (1) and (2) are the unit, however, both (2) and (3) are placed in the genitive:

Examples:

- (1) and (2) (3)
cúrsa Fraincise (*a French course*) + an bhialann (*the restaurant*)
= cúrsa Fraincise na bialainne (*the restaurant's French course*)
- (1) and (2) (3)
múinteoir ceoil (*music teacher*) + an ceantar (*the area*)
= múinteoir ceoil an cheantair (*the music teacher of the area*)

Exercises

A Place each genitive in the list in the appropriate column below. Don't forget that the article **na** is used in both the genitive singular feminine and in the genitive plural.

focail na n-amhrán	ag seoladh na mbád
bun na sráide	ag cur na gceisteanna
doras an chairr	trasna na tíre
baill na heagraíochta	ag bun na bileoige
bean an tsiúneara	daonra na dtíortha
ag moladh an athar	trasna an bhóthair

Genitive singular masculine	Genitive singular feminine	Genitive plural

B Use the information given regarding each noun to put it in the genitive singular. The letters m. and f. indicate the gender of the noun.

- cistin, f. (gs. ~e, pl. ~eacha)
ag glanadh na _____ (cleaning the kitchen)
- ollamh, m. (gs. -aimh, pl. ollúna)
oifig an _____ (the office of the professor)
- oifigeach, m. (gs. & npl. -gigh, gpl. ~)
obair an _____ (the officer's work)
- meánscoil, f. (gs. ~e, pl. ~eanna)
daltaí na _____ (the pupils of the secondary school)
- óráid, f. (gs. ~e, pl. ~í)
tar éis na _____ (after the speech)

- séipéal, m. (gs. & npl. -éil, gpl. ~)
doras an _____ (the door of the chapel)
- trial, f. (gs. -alach, pl. -alacha)
laethanta na _____ (the days of the trial)
- srón, f. (gs. -óine, npl. ~a, gpl. ~)
cruth na _____ (the shape of the nose)
- contae, m. (gs. ~, pl. ~tha)
bailte an _____ (the towns of the county)
- earráid, f. (gs. ~e, pl. ~í)
de bharr na _____ (because of the error)

C This time try to put the nouns in the genitive plural. Since the article **na** comes before each noun, the initial consonant or vowel will be eclipsed.

- cistin, f. (gs. ~e, pl. ~eacha)
ag glanadh na _____ (cleaning the kitchens)
- ollamh, m. (gs. -aimh, pl. ollúna)
oifigí na _____ (the offices of the professors)
- oifigeach, m. (gs. & npl. -gigh, gpl. ~)
obair na _____ (the officers' work)
- meánscoil, f. (gs. ~e, pl. ~eanna)
daltaí na _____ (the pupils of the secondary schools)
- óráid, f. (gs. ~e, pl. ~í)
tar éis na _____ (after the speeches)
- séipéal, m. (gs. & npl. -éil, gpl. ~)
doirse na _____ (the doors of the chapels)
- trial, f. (gs. -alach, pl. -alacha)
laethanta na _____ (the days of the trials)
- srón, f. (gs. -óine, npl. ~a, gpl. ~)
cruth na _____ (the shape of the noses)
- contae, m. (gs. ~, pl. ~tha)
bailte na _____ (the towns of the counties)
- earráid, f. (gs. ~e, pl. ~í)
de bharr na _____ (because of the errors)

04

adjectives 1

In this unit you will learn about

- agreement between adjectives and nouns
- predicative adjectives vs. attributive adjectives
- plurals
- adjectives which become syncopated
- lenition in the plural
- the comparative and superlative forms

Agreement between adjectives and nouns

Adjectives are words used to describe nouns or pronouns, or to give more information about them. In Irish, they generally follow the noun and agree with it in gender, number and case.

Singular	Plural
lá deas (<i>a nice day</i>)	laethanta deasa (<i>nice days</i>)
duine suimiúil (<i>an interesting person</i>)	daoine suimiúla (<i>interesting people</i>)

Adjectives are lenited when they qualify nouns that are feminine, singular and in the nominative, accusative, dative and vocative cases.

nominative/accusative	an mháthair chairdiúil (<i>the friendly mother</i>)
genitive	mac na máthar cairdiúla (<i>the son of the friendly mother</i>)
dative	leis an máthair chairdiúil (<i>with the friendly mother</i>)
vocative	a mháthair chairdiúil! (<i>friendly mother!</i>)

Adjectives are also lenited when they qualify nouns that are masculine, singular and in the genitive and vocative cases.

nominative/accusative	an fear cairdiúil (<i>the friendly man</i>)
genitive	mac an fhir chairdiúil (<i>the son of the friendly man</i>)
dative	leis an bhfear cairdiúil
vocative	a fhir chairdiúil! (<i>friendly man!</i>)

An adjective qualifying a masculine noun in the dative case can also be lenited:

don lá fada

or

don lá fhada (*for the long day*)

Predicative adjectives vs. attributive adjectives

A predicative adjective qualifies a noun or pronoun indirectly and requires a verb to connect it to the noun or pronoun.

Is breá an fear é. (*He's a fine man.*)
Tá sí tuirseach anois. (*She's tired now.*)

It is important to remember that adjectives used predicatively do not, for the most part, inflect to match the gender or number of a noun.

An attributive adjective qualifies the noun directly:

Is bean dheas í. (*She's a nice woman.*)
Channaigh mé an geansaí glas sin. (*I bought that green sweater.*)

Plurals

To form the plural of adjectives an *a* is added to adjectives which end in a broad consonant in the singular:

deas (*nice*) laethanta deasa (*nice days*)
mór (*big*) fadhbanna móra (*big problems*)

An *e* is added to adjectives which end in a slender consonant in the singular:

binn (*sweet*) guthanna binne (*sweet voices*)
cruinn (*accurate*) abairtí cruinne (*accurate sentences*)

The ending in *-úil* in the singular changes to *-úla* in the plural:

suimiúil (*interesting*) scannáin shuimiúla (*interesting films*)

The ending in *-air* in the singular changes to *-ra* in the plural:

deacair (*difficult*) blianta deacra (*difficult years*)

Adjectives with a final vowel remain unchanged (with two exceptions: *te* and *breá*):

buí (*yellow*) doirse buí (*yellow doors*)
cliste (*clever*) daoine cliste (*clever people*)

but

te (*hot*) laethanta teo (*hot days*)
breá (*fine*) daoine breátha (*fine people*)

Strong- and weak-plural nouns

An adjective qualifying a strong-plural noun has the same form for all the cases in the plural:

nominative/accusative plural: na ceisteanna suimiúla (*the interesting questions*)
genitive plural: ag cur ceisteanna suimiúla (*asking interesting questions*)
dative plural: ag caint faoi na ceisteanna suimiúla (*talking about the interesting questions*)

An adjective qualifying a weak-plural noun has the same form for all the cases in the plural except the genitive, which has the same form as the nominative/accusative singular.

nominative/accusative plural: na fir shuimiúla (*the interesting men*)
genitive plural: ag moladh na bhfear suimiúil (*praising the interesting men*)
dative plural: do na fir shuimiúla (*for the interesting men*)

The initial consonant of an adjective is not lenited in the genitive plural, even if it qualifies a feminine noun:

ag plé na gceisteanna casta (*discussing the complicated questions*)
ag moladh na mban cliste (*praising the clever women*)

Note: If you are not sure whether a noun has a weak or a strong plural, have a look in Ó Dónaill's *Foclóir Gaeilge-Béarla*. In the case of nouns that have a weak plural, both npl. (nominative plural) and gpl. (genitive plural) are mentioned. In the case of nouns with a strong plural, however, only pl. (plural) is mentioned.

Adjectives which become syncopated

Some adjectives lose a vowel or two in the plural:

Singular	Plural
aoibhinn (<i>delightful</i>)	aoibhne
bodhar (<i>deaf</i>)	bodhra
daingean (<i>solid, strong</i>)	daingne
deacair (<i>difficult</i>)	deacra
domhain (<i>deep</i>)	doimhne
folamh (<i>empty</i>)	folmha
íseal (<i>low</i>)	ísle
láidir (<i>strong</i>)	láidre
milis (<i>sweet</i>)	milse
ramhar (<i>fat</i>)	ramhra
righin (<i>stubborn</i>)	righne
saibhir (<i>rich</i>)	saibhre
sleamhain (<i>slippery</i>)	sleamhna
socair (<i>still</i>)	socra
tirim (<i>dry</i>)	tirme
uasal (<i>noble</i>)	uaisle
umhal (<i>humble</i>)	umhla

Lenition in the plural

When an adjective qualifies a noun in the singular in Irish, the gender of that noun is important. As we have seen, an adjective is lenited when it qualifies a feminine noun. In the plural, however, gender is of no importance.

Masculine nouns + adjective

buachaillí deasa (*nice boys*)
scrúduithe deacra (*difficult exams*)

Feminine nouns + adjective

banaltraí deasa (*nice nurses*)
ceisteanna deacra (*difficult questions*)

However, when an adjective beginning with a consonant qualifies a noun that ends in a slender consonant (i.e. a consonant preceded by an *i*), that initial consonant of the adjective is lenited.

Nouns ending on a slender consonant

amhráin dheasa (*nice songs*)
amadáin mhóra (*big fools*)
teaghlaigh bheaga (*small families*)

Nouns ending on a vowel or broad consonant

páistí dána (*bold children*)
ballaí arda (*high walls*)
obair na mban Francach (*the work of the French women*)

The comparative and superlative forms

This is how you express as...as in Irish:

Tá Mícheál chomh sean le Caoimhín. (*Mícheál is as old as Caoimhín.*)

Tá mise chomh haclaí céanna leatsa. (*I'm as fit as you are.*)

Níl mise chomh cliste le Seán. (*I'm not as clever as Seán/I'm less clever than Seán.*)

An **h** is placed before vowels that follow **chomh**. Consonants that follow **chomh** remain unchanged.

The comparative form is preceded by **níos** and the superlative form by **is**. The adjective has the same form in both.

deas (*nice*)

Tá Mícheál níos deise ná Máirín. (*Mícheál is nicer than Máirín.*)

Is í Caitríona an duine is deise sa chlann sin. (*Caitríona is the nicest person in that family.*)

After níos and is:		
most adjectives ending in a vowel remain unchanged	buí (<i>yellow</i>)	níos/is buí (<i>more/most yellow</i>)
	Exceptions: breá (<i>fine</i>) te (<i>hot</i>) fada (<i>long</i>)	níos/is breátha (<i>finer/finest</i>) níos/is teo (<i>hotter/hottest</i>) níos/is faide (<i>longer/longest</i>)
many adjectives are slendered if necessary and an e is added to them	daor (<i>dear</i>) ciúin (<i>quiet</i>)	níos/is daoire (<i>dearer/dearest</i>) níos/is ciúine (<i>quieter/quietest</i>)
-úil changes to -úla:	suimiúil (<i>interesting</i>)	níos/is suimiúla (<i>more/most interesting</i>)
-each changes to -í:	aisteach (<i>strange</i>)	níos/is aistí (<i>stranger/strangest</i>)
-ach changes to -aí:	tábhachtach (<i>important</i>)	níos/is tábhachtaí (<i>more/most important</i>)
-air changes to -ra:	deacair (<i>difficult</i>)	níos/is deacra (<i>more/most difficult</i>)

The copula **is** is used with the superlative forms:

Is mise an duine is óige. (*I'm the youngest.*)
 Is tusa an dalta is cliste. (*You're the most clever pupil.*)
 Is eisean an fear deireanach. (*He's the last man.*)
 Is é Liam an duine is sine. (*Liam is the eldest.*)
 Is ise an bhean is fearr liom. (*She's the woman I like most.*)
 Is í Paula an bhean is ciúine sa chlann. (*Paula is the quietest woman in the family.*)

How are the plural forms:

- 1. Is muidne (or Is sinne ...) na daoine deireanacha. (*We are the last people.*)
- 2. Is sibhse an bheirt is fearr liom. (*You are the two people I like best.*)
- 3. Is iadsan an triúr is sine. (*They are the three eldest.*)
- 4. Is iad Dónall agus Máirtín an bheirt is óige. (*Dónall and Máirtín are the youngest.*)

How are some commonly-used comparatives and superlatives, some of which are irregular:

álainn (<i>beautiful</i>)	níos/is áille (<i>more/most beautiful</i>)
bán (<i>white</i>)	níos/is báine (<i>whiter/whitest</i>)
beag (<i>small</i>)	níos/is lú (<i>smaller/smallest</i>)
breá (<i>fine</i>)	níos/is breátha (<i>finer/finest</i>)
deacair (<i>difficult</i>)	níos/is deacra (<i>more difficult/most difficult</i>)
dian (<i>intense</i>)	níos/is déine (<i>more intense/most intense</i>)
dubh (<i>black</i>)	níos/is duibhe (<i>blacker/blackest</i>)
éasca (<i>easy</i>)	níos/is éasca (<i>easier/easiest</i>)
fliuch (<i>wet</i>)	níos/is fliche (<i>wetter/wettest</i>)
furasta (<i>easy</i>)	níos/is fusa (<i>easier/easiest</i>)
maith (<i>good</i>)	níos/is fearr (<i>better/best</i>)
garr (<i>short</i>)	níos/is giorra (<i>shorter/shortest</i>)
leathan (<i>wide</i>)	níos/is leithne (<i>wider/widest</i>)
mór (<i>big</i>)	níos/is mó (<i>bigger/biggest</i>)
óg (<i>young</i>)	níos/is óige (<i>younger/youngest</i>)
olc (<i>bad</i>)	níos/is measa (<i>worse/worst</i>)
ramhar (<i>fat</i>)	níos/is raimhre (<i>fatter/fattest</i>)
saibhir (<i>rich</i>)	níos/is saibhre (<i>richer/richest</i>)
sean (<i>old</i>)	níos/is sine (<i>older/oldest</i>)
tanaí (<i>thin</i>)	níos/is tanaí (<i>thinner/thinnest</i>)
te (<i>hot</i>)	níos/is teo (<i>hotter/hottest</i>)

The form *níos* is used when the comparison is for present or future time. *Níos* can also be used in the case of comparisons that are past or conditional, in addition to these forms:

níb before vowels or *fh* + vowel

ní ba before consonants (causes lenition)

D'éirigh *níb* fhearr liomsa ar scoil.

or

D'éirigh *níos* fhearr liomsa ar scoil. (*I got on better at school.*)

Mheas mé go raibh an cheist sin *ní ba* dheacra.

or

Mheas mé go raibh na cheist sin *níos* deacra. (*I thought that that question was more difficult.*)

Exercises

A Lenite the adjectives below if necessary. The letter *f* indicates that the preceding noun is feminine.

1 oíche (f.) + *deas* (*a nice night*)

2 bean (f.) + *dathúil* (*a good-looking woman*)

3 fear + *dathúil* (*a good-looking man*)

4 bia + *blasta* (*tasty food*)

5 an bhialann (f.) + *Francach* (*the French restaurant*)

6 cúrsa + *fada* (*a long course*)

7 an deirfiúr (f.) + *ciallmhar* (*the sensible sister*)

8 sráidbhaile + *beag* (*a small village*)

9 sráid (f.) + *fada* (*a long street*)

10 scrúdú + *deacair* (*a difficult exam*)

B Place the adjectives in the parentheses in the plural so that they agree with the nouns preceding them.

1 laethanta (te) (*warm days*)

2 daoine (láidir) (*strong people*)

3 crainn (mór, ard) (*big, tall trees*)

4 amhráin (fada, suimiúil) (*long, interesting songs*)

5 ballaí (daingean) (*strong walls*)

6 ceist (casta, deacra) (*difficult, complicated questions*)

7 mná (breá) (*fine women*)

8 fir (breá) (*fine men*)

9 pócaí (folamh) (*empty pockets*)

10 teaghlaigh (mór) (*big family*)

Translate these sentences to Irish. Use *tá* in numbers 2 and 4 and the copula *is* in the rest of the sentences.

1 You're (plural) the three eldest in the family.

2 I'm as old as Deirdre.

3 Maria is the youngest girl (*cailín*) in the family.

4 Pádraig is more clever than Darren.

5 He's the most clever person.

6 She's the nicest person in the family.

7 I'm the eldest.

8 Mairéad and Ciarán are the eldest (use *beirt*).

05

adjectives 2

In this unit you will learn about

- adjectives which come before the noun
- *an-* (very) and *ró-* (too)
- possessive adjectives
- emphatic suffixes

Adjectives which come before the noun

As we have seen, in Irish most adjectives follow the noun. *Sean-* and *droch-* (*bad, poor, evil*) are exceptions, however, as they precede the noun. Vowels that follow them remain unchanged, but most consonants are lenited.

Vowels	Consonants
<i>seanollscóil</i> (<i>an old university</i>)	<i>seanfhear</i> (<i>an old man</i>)
<i>drochíde</i> (<i>bad treatment</i>)	<i>drochdhuine</i> (<i>a bad person</i>)

In Irish, when two words are joined together, the second one is lenited if it begins with a consonant:

<i>cóta</i> (<i>a coat</i>)	<i>seanchóta</i> (<i>an old coat</i>)
<i>mála</i> (<i>a bag</i>)	<i>seanmhála</i> (<i>an old bag</i>)

However, if the letters *d, n, t, l* or *s* come together at the end of the first word and the beginning of the second, there is no lenition:

<i>duine</i> (<i>a person</i>)	<i>seandúine</i> (<i>an old person</i>)
<i>teach</i> (<i>a house</i>)	<i>seanteach</i> (<i>an old house</i>)

An- (very) and *ró-* (too)

Adjectives beginning with a consonant are lenited when they follow *an-* (*very*):

<i>an-bheag</i> (<i>very small</i>)
<i>an-fhada</i> (<i>very long</i>)

Note, however, that the consonants *d, s* and *t* remain unchanged after *an-*:

<i>an-deas</i> (<i>very nice</i>)
<i>an-te</i> (<i>very hot</i>)

Ró- (*too*) lenites consonants (except *l, n* and *r*):

<i>ródheas</i> (<i>too nice</i>)
<i>rómhór</i> (<i>too big</i>)

but

róláidir (*too strong*)

A hyphen is always placed between ró- and a vowel:

ró-éasca (*too easy*)

ró-álainn (*too beautiful*)

Possessive adjectives

A possessive adjective is used with a noun to indicate possession, ownership or close relationship. Here are the various forms in Irish:

1st per. sing.	Before consonants	
	mo (<i>my</i>) + lenition	mo dheartháir (<i>my brother</i>)
	Before vowels and fh- + vowel	
	m' (<i>my</i>)	m'uncail (<i>my uncle</i>)
2nd per. sing.	Before consonants	
	do (<i>your</i>) + lenition	do dheartháir (<i>your brother</i>)
	Before vowels and fh- + vowel	
	d' (<i>your</i>)	d'uncail (<i>your uncle</i>)
3rd per. sing.	Before consonants	
	a (<i>his</i>) + lenition	a dheartháir (<i>his brother</i>)
	a (<i>her</i>) + lenition	a deartháir (<i>her brother</i>)
	Before vowels and fh- + vowel	
	a (<i>his</i>)	a uncail (<i>his uncle</i>)

	a (<i>her</i>)	a huncail (<i>her uncle</i>)
1st per. pl.	Before consonants	
	ár (<i>our</i>) + eclipsis	ár ndeartháir (<i>our brother</i>)
	Before vowels and fh- + vowel	
	+ ár (<i>our</i>) + eclipsis	ár n-uncail (<i>our uncle</i>)
2nd per. pl.	Before consonants	
	bhur (<i>your</i>) + eclipsis	bhur ndeartháir (<i>your brother</i>)
	Before vowels and fh- + vowel	
	+ bhur (<i>your</i>) + eclipsis	bhur n-uncail (<i>your uncle</i>)
3rd per. pl.	Before consonants	
	a (<i>their</i>) + eclipsis	a ndeartháir (<i>their brother</i>)
	Before vowels and fh- + vowel	
	+ a (<i>their</i>) + eclipsis	a n-uncail (<i>their uncle</i>)

Emphatic forms

In Irish, unlike English, the possessive pronouns cannot be stressed during speech – emphatic suffixes must be used instead.

Tá *mo dheartháir sa bhaile freisin. (* = incorrect)

Tá mo dheartháirse sa bhaile freisin. (correct) (*My brother is at home as well.*)

1st per. sing.	Used after a slender consonant	
	mo (<i>my</i>) + -se	mo dheartháirse (<i>my brother</i>)
	Used after a broad consonant	
	+ -sa	mo theachsa (<i>my house</i>)
2nd per. sing.	Used after a slender consonant	
	do (<i>your</i>) + -se	d'athairse (<i>your father</i>)
	Used after a broad consonant	
	+ -sa	do bheansa (<i>your woman/wife</i>)
3rd per. sing.	Used after a slender consonant	
	a (<i>his</i>) + -sean	a dheartháirsean (<i>his brother</i>)
	Used after a broad consonant	
	+ -san	a phostsan (<i>his job</i>)
	a (<i>her</i>) + -se	a deartháirse (<i>her brother</i>)
	+ -sa	a postsa (<i>her job</i>)
1st per. pl.	Used after a slender consonant	
	ár (<i>our</i>) + -ne	ár ndeartháirne (<i>our brother</i>)
	Used after a broad consonant	
	+ -na	ár n-óstán-na (<i>our hotel</i>)
2nd per. pl.	Used after a slender consonant	
	bhur (<i>your</i>) + -se	bhur n-athairse (<i>your fathers</i>)

	Used after a broad consonant	
	+ -sa	bhur n-ábharsa (<i>your subject</i>)
3rd per. pl.	Used after a slender consonant	
	a (<i>their</i>) + -sean	a ndeartháirsean (<i>their brother</i>)
	Used after a broad consonant	
	+ -san	n-ábharsan (<i>their subject</i>)

The forms below are also commonly used in everyday speech:

- deartháir s'agamsa (*my brother*)
- deartháir s'agatsa (*your brother*)
- deartháir s'aigesean (*his brother*)
- deartháir s'aicise (*her brother*)
- deartháir s'againne (*our brother*)
- deartháir s'agaibhse (*your brother*)
- deartháir s'acusan (*their brother*)

Exercises

A Place *sean-* and *droch-* before each of these adjectives and change them if necessary.

- 1 bean (*a woman*)
- 2 uaireadóir (*a watch*)
- 3 duine (*a person*)
- 4 amhrán (*a song*)
- 5 tiománaí (*a driver*)
- 6 pictiúr (*a picture*)
- 7 coláiste (*a college*)
- 8 fadhb (*a problem*)
- 9 carr (*a car*)
- 10 óstán (*an hotel*)

B Place an- and ró- before each of these adjectives.

- 1 bocht (*poor*)
- 2 deacair (*difficult*)
- 3 geal (*bright*)
- 4 ard (*tall, high*)
- 5 fliuch (*wet*)
- 9 te (*hot, warm*)
- 6 íseal (*low*)
- 7 saibhir (*rich*)
- 8 uasal (*noble*)
- 9 domhain (*deep*)
- 10 milis (*sweet*)
- 11 bodhar (*deaf*)
- 12 éasca (*easy*)
- 13 tirim (*dry*)
- 14 sleamhain (*slippery*)

C Translate each possessive adjective and noun below to Irish.
The italics indicate emphasis.

- 1 your brother
- 2 *your* brother
- 3 *their* son
- 4 their uncle
- 5 my job
- 6 *my* job
- 7 his uncle
- 8 her uncle
- 9 *his* uncle
- 10 *her* uncle

06

prepositions

In this unit you will learn about

- simple prepositions
- simple prepositions before consonants
- simple prepositions before vowels
- simple prepositions + the definite article
- nouns with an initial s
- compound prepositions
- the simple prepositions in the plural
- compound prepositions

Simple prepositions

A simple preposition is a word which comes before a noun and indicates a relationship between that noun and some other element (another noun, a verb or an adverb) in the sentence or clause.

The following are the simple prepositions in Irish:

- ag (*at*)
- ar (*on, in, at*)
- as (*from, out of*)
- chuig (*to*)
- de (*off, of, from*)
- do (*to, for*)
- faoi (*under, about*)
- gan (*without*)
- go (*to, until*)
- i (*in*)
- idir (*between*)
- le (*with, by*)
- mar (*as, for*)
- ó (*from*)
- roimh (*before*)
- seachas (*besides, other than, rather than, compared to*)
- thar (*over*)
- trí (*through, among*)
- um (*about, at*)

Simple prepositions before consonants

The list below shows which simple prepositions lenite or eclipse the initial consonant of nouns that directly follow them. (Note that we are focusing at the moment on nouns *not* preceded by a definite article.)

de, do, faoi, mar, ó, roimh, trí, um

Nouns with the initial consonants **b, c, d, f, g, m, p, s** and **t** that follow them are lenited.

- Fuair mé grainghráf de Shíle sa bhosca. (*I found a photo of Síle in the box.*)

- Thug mé an t-airgead do Mhícheál. (*I gave the money to Micheál.*)
- D'inis sé scéal dom faoi thaibhsí. (*He told me a story about ghosts.*)
- Bhí sí ag obair ansin mar fhreastalaí. (*She was working there as a waitress.*)
- Feicfidh mé tú roimh dheireadh na seachtaine. (*I'll see you before the end of the week.*)
- Feicfidh mé tú um Cháisc. (*I'll see you at Easter.*)

- **as, chuig, go, go dtí, le, seachas**
Nouns that follow them are not lenited.
- Bhí an t-airgead ag fear an phoist. (*The postman had the money.*)
- As Maigh Eo ó dhúchas mé. (*I'm originally from Mayo.*)
- Chuir mé an bille chuig Séamas. (*I sent the bill to Séamas.*)
- Rachaidh mé leat go Corcaigh amárach. (*I'll go with you to Cork tomorrow.*)
- Abair le Máirín go raibh mé ag cur a tuairisce. (*Tell Máirín I was asking for her.*)
- Bhí siad ar fad ansin seachas Dónall. (*They were all there apart from Dónall.*)

gan², idir³

Nouns that follow them are lenited in certain cases.

Lenited

- D'iarr mé síob ar thuismitheoirí Bhríd. (*I asked Brid's parents for a lift.*)
- Bhí idir chailíní agus bhuachaillí i láthair. (*There were both girls and boys there.*)
- Sin leabhar gan mhaith. (*That's a useless book.*)

Not lenited

- Bhí siad ar meisce aréir. (*They were drunk last night.*)
- Stop mé idir Doire agus Muineachán. (*I stopped between Derry and Monaghan.*)
- D'fhág sé mé gan pá ar bith. (*He left me with no pay.*)

Nouns with the initial consonants **b, c, d, f, g, p** and **t** are eclipsed after it.

- Tá cónaí uirthi i gCorcaigh anois. (*She lives in Cork.*)
- Chaith sé trí oíche i mBaile Átha Cliath. (*I spent three nights in Dublin.*)

Note 1: Nouns which follow *ar* are lenited when a particular situation or fixed location is being referred to:

D'iarr mé iasacht ar Shiobhán. (*I asked Siobhán for a loan.*)
Bhí sé thuas ar bharr an tí. (*He was up on top of the house.*)

Nouns which follow *ar* are not lenited:

- when a *general location* is being referred to: ar muir (*at sea*), ar bord (*on board*)
- when a *state or condition* is being referred to: ar buile (*angry*), ar meisce (*drunk*), ar crith (*shaking*)
- when *time* is being referred to: ar ball (*later*), ar maidin (*in the morning*)

Note 2: The initial consonant of a noun is lenited following *gan*, unless the consonant is *t, d, f* or *s*:

gan chead (*without permission*)
gan mhúineadh (*without manners*)
but
gan sos (*without a break*)
gan taithí (*without experience*)

There is no lenition, however, if *gan* is followed by a subordinate clause, an adjective or a proper noun:

gan corraí as an teach (*without leaving the house*)
gan post ceart (*without a proper job*)
gan Siobhán (*without Siobhán*)

Note 3: Consonants are lenited following *idir* when it means *among* or *both* or when there is a list:

Bhí idir mhúinteoirí agus thuismitheoirí ag an gcruinniú. (*There were both teachers and parents at the meeting.*)

Consonants are not lenited after *idir* when space or time are being referred to:

idir Baile Átha Cliath agus Corcaigh (*between Dublin and Cork*)
idir meán oíche agus a dó a chlog (*between midnight and two o'clock*)

Simple prepositions before vowels

ro, le

An *h* is prefixed to nouns with an initial vowel which follow them.

- Chuaigh sí go hAontroim don deireadh seachtaine. (*She went to Antrim for the weekend.*)
- Bhuail mé le hAnna ar an tsráid inné. (*I met Anna on the street yesterday.*)

ar, as, chuig, faoi, gan, idir, in, mar, ó, roimh, trí, um
Nouns with an initial vowel which follow them remain unchanged

- Ghlaigh mé ar úinéir an árasáin. (*I called the owner of the apartment.*)
- Ná gabh ansin gan airgead. (*Don't go there without money.*)
- Stop mé uair amháin idir Eochail agus Áth Luain. (*I stopped once between Youghal and Athlone.*)
- Tá sí ina cónaí in Éirinn le fiche bliain anois. (*She has been living in Ireland for twenty years now.*)

le, do

These prepositions lose their vowel when they precede a noun with an initial vowel or *fh* + vowel:

- Thug sí grianghraf d'Anna dom. (*She gave me a photograph of Anna.*)
- Thug sí cupán tae d'fhear an phoist. (*She gave the postman a cup of tea.*)
- Tabhair an t-airgead d'Éamonn. (*Give the money to Éamonn.*)

Simple prepositions + the definite article

Most simple prepositions remain unchanged before the definite article:

ag an, ar an, as an, chuig an, leis an, ón, roimh an, thar an, tríd an, um an

The exceptions are *i, de, do*, and *faoi*. These join up with the article to create *sa(n) den, don*, and *faoin*.

Group 1

ag an, ar an, as an, chuig an, faoin, leis an, ón, roimh an, thar an, tríd an

The consonants **b, c, f, g, p**

- ag an mbus (*at the bus*)
- ar an gcathaoir (*on the chair*)
- as an bPortaingéil (*from Portugal*)
- chuig an ngarda (*to the guard*)
- faoin bhfuinneog (*under the window*)
- leis an ngaoth (*with the wind*)
- ón bhfreastalaí (*from the waiter*)
- roimh an gCáisc (*before Easter*)
- thar an mballa (*over the wall*)
- tríd an bpáirc (*through the field*)

The consonants **d, l, m, n, r, s, t** remain unchanged.

- ag an dochtúir (*at the doctor*)
- ar an long (*on the ship*)
- as an túr (*from the tower*)
- chuig an máthair (*to the mother*)
- faoin toghchán (*about the election*)
- leis an sagart (*with the priest*)
- ón tógálaí (*from the builder*)
- roimh an Máirt (*before Tuesday*)
- thar an teach (*over the house*)
- tríd an leabhar (*through the book*)

The vowels remain unchanged.

- ag an óstán (*at the hotel*)
- ar an eaglais (*on the church*)
- as an Eoraip (*from Europe*)
- chuig an urlabhraí (*to the spokesperson*)
- faoin uisce (*under the water*)
- leis an úinéir (*with the owner*)
- ón aiste (*from the essay*)
- roimh an Aoine (*before Friday*)
- thar an uisce (*over the water*)
- tríd an ollscoil (*through the university*)

Note: In Ulster Irish, consonants are lenited instead of being eclipsed:

- ag an bhus (*at the bus*)
- ar an chathaoir (*on the chair*)

Group 2

den, don, sa (used before consonants only), san (used before vowels and f + vowel):

The consonants **b, c, f, g, m, p** are lenited.

- den mhí (*of the month*)
- don bhainisteoir (*to the manager*)
- sa ghairdín (*in the garden*)

The consonants **d, l, n, r, t** remain unchanged.

- den téarma (*of the term*)
- don rúnaí (*to the secretary*)
- sa leabharlann (*in the library*)

The vowels remain unchanged.

- den úll (*of the apple*)
- don aiste (*for the essay*)
- san óstán (*in the (hotel)*)
- san fhuinneog (*in the window*)

Nouns with an initial s

After a preposition and article, a **t** is placed before feminine nouns with an initial **s** + vowel, or **sl, sn, sr**:

Masculine

- ar an seanfhear (*on the old man*)
- leis an slaghdán (*with the cold*)
- don sneachta (*for the snow*)
- roimh an samhradh (*before summer*)
- sa siopa (*in the shop*)

Feminine

- ar an tseanbhean (*on the old woman*)
- leis an tslat (*with the rod*)
- don tsnáthaid (*for the needle*)
- roimh an tsochraid (*before the funeral*)
- sa tSeapáin (*in Japan*)

In everyday speech, many speakers also place a *t* before masculine nouns beginning with an *s*. When writing in Irish, however, it is best to follow the above rule.

The simple prepositions in the plural

Nearly all the simple prepositions remain unchanged after the plural article:

ag na, ar na, as na, chuig na, de na, do na, faoi na, ó na, roimh na, thar na, trí na, um na

The exceptions are *i* and *le*. These become *sna* and *leis na* when combined with the plural article.

Simple preposition + *na*

Nouns with an initial consonant remain unchanged

- chuig na bainisteoirí (*to the managers*)
- leis na fir (*with the men*)

An *h* is placed before nouns with an initial vowel.

- ag na haerfoirt (*at the airports*)
- leis na hoifigh (*with the officers*)

Compound prepositions

A compound preposition consists of two words: a simple preposition and a noun. When a noun is the object of a compound preposition, it is placed in the genitive case.

an teach (<i>the house</i>)	ar chúl an tí (<i>behind the house</i>)
tinneas (<i>illness</i>)	de bharr tinnis (<i>because of illness</i>)

When another word, such as a possessive adjective, comes between the compound preposition and the noun which is its object, that noun is still in the genitive:

mo dhoras (<i>my door</i>)	in aice mo dhorais (<i>beside my door</i>)
do dhinnéar (<i>your dinner</i>)	le haghaidh do dhinnéir (<i>for your dinner</i>)

Exercises

A Change the words in parentheses if necessary.

- 1 Bíonn sí ag obair go minic idir (meán lae) agus meán oíche. (*She often works between midday and midnight.*)
- 2 As (Béal Feirste) ó dhúchas é ach tá sé ina chónaí i (Baile Átha Cliath) anois. (*He's originally from Belfast but he lives in Dublin now.*)
- 3 Ar mhiste leat na litreacha seo a thabhairt (do) (Micheál) agus (do) (Eoin), le do thoil? (*Would you mind giving these letters to Micheál and to Eoin, please?*)
- 4 Bhí sé ar (deargmheisce) agus bhí ar (Brid) é a fhágáil sa bhaile. (*He was very drunk and Bríd had to leave him at home.*)
- 5 Bhí idir (Francaigh) agus (Gearmánaigh) ag obair liom. (*There were both French and Germans working with me.*)
- 6 Bím gnóthach go maith ó (Samhain) go (Aibreán). (*I'm always busy from November to April.*)
- 7 Beidh mé ar ais roimh (deireadh) na seachtaine. (*I'll be back before the end of the week.*)
- 8 Fuair siad carr ar (cíos) ar feadh seachtaine. (*They rented a car for a week.*)
- 9 Chuir mé an litir chuig (Siobhán). (*I sent the letter to Siobhán.*)
- 10 Tá mé féin agus Julie ag dul go (Glaschú) ag deireadh na míosa. (*Julie and I are going to Glasgow at the end of the month.*)

B Place each of these nouns after the prepositional pronoun and the article and change the noun if necessary.

- | | |
|---|--------------|
| 1 an t-airgead (<i>the money</i>) | leis an ... |
| 2 an t-árasán (<i>the apartment</i>) | san ... |
| 3 an sagart (<i>the priest</i>) | don ... |
| 4 an mheánscoil (<i>the secondary school</i>) | ar an ... |
| 5 t-oifigeach (<i>the officer</i>) | chuig an ... |
| 6 an chéad bhliain (<i>the first year</i>) | faoin ... |
| 7 an t-iriseoir (<i>the journalist</i>) | don ... |
| 8 an dráma (<i>the play</i>) | ón ... |
| 9 an téarma (<i>the term</i>) | roimh an ... |

- 10 an aiste (*the essay*)
11 an fhuinneog (*the window*)
12 an tsúil (*the eye*)
13 an bóthar (*the road*)
14 an talamh (*the land*)
15 an deartháir (*the brother*)
16 an bhean (*the woman*)
17 an t-uisce (*the water*)
18 an ollscoil (*the university*)
19 an bosca (*the box*)
20 an samhradh

- leis an ...
san ...
sa ...
ar an ...
ar an ...
don ...
chuig an ...
ón ...
ar an ...
faoin ...
roimh an ...

07

pronouns

In this unit you will learn about

- the personal pronouns
- introducing people
- pronouns and verbal nouns
- prepositional pronouns
- emphatic forms
- nouns which require prepositional pronouns
- complete list of prepositional pronouns

The personal pronouns

A pronoun is a word used to take the place of a noun or noun phrase and is often used to substitute for a noun already mentioned in order to avoid repetition. A personal pronoun is a kind of pronoun that refers to people and things. Here are the personal pronouns in Irish:

	Singular	Plural
1st per.	mé (<i>I</i>)	muid/sinn (<i>we</i>)
2nd per.	tú (<i>you</i>)	sibh (<i>you</i>)
3rd pers. (masc.)	sé/é (<i>he</i>)	siad/iad (<i>they</i>)
(fem.)	sí/í (<i>she</i>)	

The forms sé, sí, siad are used when they are the subject of the verb. The forms é, í, iad are used when they are the object. In the following examples, the first pronoun in each case is the subject of the sentence and the second one is the object of the sentence:

Chonaic sé ag an deireadh seachtaine í. (*He saw her at the weekend.*)
Múineann sé iad gach samhradh. (*He teaches them every summer.*)

In the case of the second person singular, the form thú is often used when it is the object of the verb:

Chonaic mé ag an gluiche thú. *I saw you at the match.*

Emphatic forms

The emphatic forms of the personal pronouns are given below. These are special forms used to express emphasis.

	Singular	Plural
1st pers.	mise (<i>I</i>)	muidne/sinne (<i>we</i>)
2nd person	tusa (<i>you</i>)	sibhse (<i>you</i>)
3rd person (masc.)	seisean, eisean (<i>he</i>)	siadsan/iadsan (<i>they</i>)
(fem.)	sise, ise (<i>she</i>)	

The word féin is also used to add emphasis:

Beidh mé féin agus Síle ansin. (*Síle and I will be there.*)
An tú féin a rinne an obair? (*Did you do the work yourself?*)
Beidh muid féin ag dul ann freisin. (*We'll be going there as well.*)

Introducing people

This is how you introduce people in Irish:

Seo é Liam. (*This is Liam.*)
Seo í Catherine. (*This is Catherine.*)
Seo iad Brian agus Máirín. (*These are Brian and Máirín.*)

Pronouns and verbal nouns

In Irish, a pronoun cannot be used as the direct object of a verbal noun. The following are all incorrect:

ag cáineadh mé (*criticizing me*)
ag múineadh iad (*teaching them*)
ag bualadh é (*beating him*)

The following construction is used instead:

do + possessive adjective + verbal noun

1st person singular		
do mo	Bhí se do mo cháineadh.	(He was criticizing me.)
do m'	Bhí siad do m'ionsaí.	(They were attacking me.)
2nd person singular		
do do	Bhí sé do do cháineadh.	(He was criticizing you.)
do d'	Bhí sé do d'ionsaí.	(He was attacking you.)
3rd person singular		
á	Bhí sé á cháineadh. (masc.) Bhí sé á cáineadh. (fem.)	(He was criticizing him.) (He was criticising her.)
1st person plural		
dár	Bhí sé dár gcáineadh	(They were criticizing us.)
2nd person plural		
do bhur	Bhí sé do bhur gcáineadh.	(He was criticizing you.)
3rd person plural		
á	Bhí sé á gcáineadh.	(He was criticizing them.)

In everyday speech, the preposition *do* is usually left out, and *ár* is used instead of *dár* in the first person plural:

Bhí sé mo mholadh. (He was praising me.)
Bhí siad ár mbualadh. (They were beating us.)

Prepositional pronouns

When a pronoun is the object of a simple preposition, they are both replaced by a prepositional pronoun. Here are two examples:

chuig (*to*) + mé (*I*) = chugam (*to me*)
faoi (*under*) + tú (*you*) = fút (*under you*)

A complete list of the prepositional pronouns is given at the end of this unit.

Emphatic forms

The following suffixes are added to the prepositional pronouns that have a *broad* ending:

	Singular	Plural
1st pers.	-sa	-e
2nd pers.	-sa	-sa
3rd pers.	-san (masculine) -sa (feminine)	-san

These suffixes are added to the prepositional pronouns that have a *slender* ending:

	Singular	Plural
1st pers.	-se	
2nd pers.	-se	-se
3rd pers.	-sean (masculine) -se (feminine)	-sean

- (chuir sé litir chugam. (He sent a letter to me.)
(chuir sé litir chugamsa. (He sent a letter to me.)
(chuala mé go raibh tú ag dul go Sasana léi. (I heard you were going to England with her.)
(chuala mé go raibh tú ag dul go Sasana léise. (I heard you were going to England with her.)

Nouns which require prepositional pronouns

Prepositional pronouns are used with some nouns to express emotion or state.

Complete list of prepositional pronouns

Ag

Tá súile gorma aici. (*She has blue eyes.*)

Ar

Tá ocras orm. (*I'm hungry.*)

Tá tart uirthi. (*She's thirsty.*)

Tá codladh ort. (*You're tired.*)

Tá tinneas cinn air. (*He has a headache.*)

Tá áthas oraibh. (*You're delighted.*)

Tá brón orm. (*I'm sorry.*)

Tá eagla uirthi. (*She's afraid.*)

Tá fearg orainn. (*We're angry.*)

Tá náire orm. (*I'm ashamed.*)

Tá uaigneas air. (*He's lonely.*)

Tá cáil uirthi. (*She's famous.*)

Chuir sé déistin air. (*It disgusted him.*)

Tháinig sé aniar aduaidh orm. (*It caught me by surprise.*)

Tá gruaig fhionn air. (*He has blonde hair.*)

Tá fuath agam air. or Tá fuath agam dó. (*I hate him.*)

Theip uirthi sa scrúdú. (*She failed the exam.*)

Ag + ar

Tá aithne aige orthu. (*He knows them.*)

Tá cion agam uirthi. (*I have affection for her.*)

Tá meas acu orm. (*They respect me.*)

As

Níl muintín ar bith agam aisti. (*I have no confidence in her.*)

Tá mé bródúil astu. (*I'm proud of them.*)

Chuig

Chuir mé litir chuici. (*I sent her a letter.*)

De

Tá mé an-bhuíoch díot. (*I'm very grateful to you.*)

Do

Dinne sí gar dom. (*She did me a favour.*)

Faoi

Bhí siad ag magadh faoi. or Bhí siad ag magadh air. (*They were making fun of him.*)

Rinne sé gearán fúm. (*He complained about me.*)

I

Tá suim agam ionat. (*I'm interested in you (sing,).*)

Idir

Thosaigh troid eatarthu. (*A fight started between them.*)

Le

Tá siad in éad liom. or Tá éad orthu liom. (*They're jealous of me.*)

Bhuail mé leis inné. (*I met him yesterday.*)

Thaitin an scannán liom. (*I enjoyed the film.*)

Rinne sé gearán liom. (*He complained to me.*)

Ó

Fuair mé litir uaithi. (*I got a letter from her.*)

Roimh

Bhí eagla orthu roimpi. (*They were afraid of her.*)

	1 Sing.	2 Sing	3 Masc. Sing.	3 Fem. Sing.	1 Pl.	2 Pl.	3 pl.
ag (at)	agam	agat	aige	aici	againn	agaibh	acu
ar (on)	orm	ort	air	uirthi	orainn	oraibh	orthu
as (out of)	asam	asat	as	aisti	asainn	asaibh	astu
chuig (to)	chugam	chugat	chuige	chuici	chugainn	chugaibh	chucu
de (from)	díom	díot	de	di	dínn	díbh	díobh
do (to)	dom	duit	dó	di	dúinn	daoibh	dóibh
faoi (under)	fúm	fút	faoi	fúithi	fúinn	fúibh	fúthu
i (in)	ionam	ionat	ann	inti	ionaínn	ionaibh	iontu
idir (between)	—	—	—	—	eadrainn	eadraibh	earthu
ionsar (to)	ionsorm	ionsort	ionsair	ionsuirthi	ionsorainn	ionsoraibh	ionsorthu
le (with)	liom	leat	leis	léi	linn	libh	leo
ó (from)	uaim	uait	uaidh	uaithi	uainn	uaibh	uathu
roimh (before)	romham	romhat	roimhe	roimpi	romhainn	romhaibh	rompu
thar (over)	tharam	tharat	thairis	thairisti	tharainn	tharaibh	tharstu
trí (through)	tríom	tríot	tríd	tríthi	trínn	tríbh	tríothu

Exercises

V Write the correct personal pronoun in each blank.

- Chonaic ___ nuair a shiúil sé isteach an doras. (He saw her when he walked in the door.)
- Bhí ___ déanach ar maidin, cloisim. (I hear you were late this morning.)
- Mura mbíonn ___ ag an gcuinniú, feicfidh mé ina dhiaidh ___. (If you're not at the meeting, I'll see you after it.)
- Tá ___ anseo faoi láthair. (They're here at the moment.)
- Chuala mé gur mhol tú go hard ___. (I heard you gave them high praise.)
- An bhfaca tú ___ le tamall anuas? (Have you seen her in the past while?)
- Tá ___ níos sine ná ___. (He's older than she is.)
- Tá ___ níos sine ná ___. (He's older than she is.)
- Tá ___ níos cliste ná mar atá ___. (You are more clever than I am.)
- Tá ___ níos cliste ná mar atá ___. (You are more clever than I am.)
- Seo ___ Martina. (This is Martina.)
- Seo ___ Dónall agus Bairbre. (This is Dónall and Bairbre.)

VI Write each of these properly:

- ag moladh + iad (praising them)
- ag múineadh + mé (teaching me)
- ag cáineadh + sibh (criticizing you)
- ag ionsaí + tú (attacking you)
- ag bailiú + í (collecting her)
- ag ceistiú + é (questioning him)
- ag bualadh + iad (beating them)
- ag fágáil + mé (leaving me)
- ag deisiú + iad (fixing them)
- ag ceannach + iad (buying them)

C Write the correct prepositional pronoun in each blank.

- 1 Tá tart _____. (*I'm thirsty.*)
- 2 Tá muinín agam _____. (*I have confidence in her.*)
- 3 Tá mé gar _____. (*I did her a favour.*)
- 4 Tá cion aici _____. (*She has affection for me.*)
- 5 Tá siad bródúil _____. (*They are proud of me.*)
- 6 Tá tinneas cinn _____. (*They have a headache.*)
- 7 Tá gruaig dhonn _____. (*She has brown hair.*)
- 8 Tá súile gorma _____. (*She has blue eyes.*)
- 9 Tá suim aici _____. (*She's interested in him.*)
- 10 Rinne siad gearán _____. (*They complained to him.*)
- 11 Rinne siad gearán _____. (*They complained about him.*)
- 12 Theip _____ sa scrúdú. (*I failed the examination.*)

08

the verb 1

In this unit you will learn about

- the verb in Irish: general information
- the first conjugation
- the second conjugation
- the imperative mood
- the negative form
- the irregular verbs
- giving directions and orders

The verb in Irish: general information

- The verb in Irish has four tenses: present, future, past and past continuous / habitual.
- There are four moods: the indicative, the imperative, the conditional and the subjunctive.
- The second person singular imperative is the root form which you will find in dictionaries.
- Regular verbs are divided into two categories called conjugations.
- Most verbs in Irish are regular, that is, they retain the same root in all tenses and moods. There are 11 irregular verbs.
- In some cases, the subject pronoun is suffixed to the verb, while in other cases it is separate:

Suffixed	Separate
Éirim ar a hocht. (I get up at eight.)	D'éirigh mé ar a sé a chlog Dé Sathairn. (I got up at six o'clock on Saturday.)

- Every verb in Irish has an autonomous form in each tense. This form is used when it is not specified who has done (will do, etc.) something.
- When the verb is followed by a personal pronoun (*mé, tú*, etc) this is called an *analytic* verb-form. When there is no pronoun after the verb, and person and number are expressed by the ending of the verb, this is known as a *synthetic* verb-form.

Analytic	Synthetic
téann sé (<i>he goes</i>)	molfaimid (<i>we will praise</i>)

Sometimes there is a choice between an analytic verb-form and a synthetic verb-form:

Analytic	or	Synthetic
tá mé	or	táim (<i>I am</i>)
chuaigh muid	or	chumar (<i>we went</i>)

The first conjugation

There are three types of verbs in the first conjugation:

- verbs with a one-syllable root, e.g. mol (*praise*), ól (*drink*), bris (*break*);
- verbs with a root containing more than one syllable and ending in -áil, e.g. sábháil (*save*)
- small group of verbs ending in -áin, -óil and -úir, tiomáin (*drive*), tionóil (*convene*), ceiliúir (*celebrate*).

The second conjugation

There are three types of verbs in the second conjugation:

- verbs with more than one syllable in their root, ending in -(a)igh, e.g. ceannaigh (*buy*), cruinnigh (*gather*);
- verbs with more than one syllable in their root, ending in -(a)il, -(a)in, -(a)ir, -(a)is, e.g. codail (*sleep*), cosain (*protect*), imir (*play*), inis (*tell*) (these verbs lose a vowel when they are conjugated);
- some other verbs that do not lose a vowel when they are conjugated, e.g. foghlaim (*learn*), freastail (*attend*).

The imperative mood

The imperative mood is used to give a command or to make a request. It is therefore usually encountered only in the second person singular and plural forms.

The first conjugation

This is how verbs in the first conjugation are changed to the plural (the form used to give a command to more than one person):

- The endings -igí or -aigí are added to the verbs which have only one syllable in their root:

Singular	Plural
bris (<i>break</i>)	brisigí
tóg (<i>take</i>)	tógaigí

- b The endings **-áil** and **-áin** are broadened and **-igí** or **-aigí** added:

Singular	Plural
marcáil (<i>mark</i>)	marcálaigí
taispeáin (<i>show</i>)	taispeánaigí

- c In the case of verbs ending in **-igh** which contain a long vowel, the **-igh** is replaced by **-ígí**:

Singular	Plural
dóigh (<i>burn</i>)	dóigí
léigh (<i>read</i>)	léigí

- d The short vowel in verbs such as **nigh** and **suigh** is lengthened:

Singular	Plural
nigh (<i>wash</i>)	nígí
suigh (<i>sit</i>)	suígí

The second conjugation

This is how verbs in the second conjugation are changed to the plural (the form used to give a command to more than one person):

- a The ending **-igh** is changed to **-ígí** and **-aigh** is changed to **-aígí**:

Singular	Plural
bailigh (<i>gather</i>)	bailígí
ceannaigh (<i>buy</i>)	ceannaígí

- b In the case of verbs with more than one syllable in their root, ending in **-(a)il**, **-(a)in**, **-(a)ir** and **-(a)is**, the **-(a)i** is left out and **-(a)ígí** is added to them:

Singular	Plural
ceangail (<i>tie</i>)	ceanglaígí
imir (<i>play</i>)	imrígí
inis (<i>tell</i>)	insígí

The negative form

The negative is formed by placing **ná** before the positive form of the verb. **Ná** prefixes **h** to initial vowels:

Ná bris é! (*Don't break it!*)
 Ná habair é sin. (*Don't say that.*)
 Ná himrígí peil ar an bpríomhbhóthar. (*Don't play football on the main road.*)

The irregular verbs

Verb	2nd Pers. Sing.	2nd Pers. Pl.
tar (<i>come</i>)	tar	tagaigí
téigh (<i>go</i>)	téigh	téigí
feic (<i>see</i>)	feic	feicigí
clois (<i>hear</i>)	—	—
abhair (<i>say, sing</i>)	abair	abraigí
déan (<i>do, make</i>)	déan	déanaigí
beir (<i>bring, take</i>)	beir	beirigí
faigh (<i>get</i>)	faigh	faighigí
tabhair (<i>give</i>)	tabhair	tugaigí
ith (<i>eat</i>)	ith	ithigí

Giving directions and orders

Directions

Cas (or Tiontaigh) ar chlé. (*Turn left.*)
 Cas (or Tiontaigh) ar dheis. (*Turn right.*)
 Téigh díreach ar aghaidh. (*Go straight ahead.*)
 Gabh thar an droichead. (*Go across the bridge.*)
 Siúil suas go barr na sráide. (*Walk up to the top of the street.*)
 Lean ort síos go bun na sráide. (*Continue on down to the bottom of the street.*)

Orders

Bí ciúin! (*Be quiet!*)
 Déan deifir. (*Hurry up.*)
 Dún an doras. (*Close the door.*)
 Oscail an fhuinneog. (*Open the window.*)
 Nigh d'aghaidh. (*Wash your face.*)
 Suigh síos. (*Sit down.*)
 Tar isteach. (*Come in.*)
 Ith do dhinnéar. (*Eat your dinner.*)
 Stad! (*Stop!*)

Exercises

A Write all these orders in the plural.

- 1 Bailigh an bruscar, le do thoil. (*Gather the rubbish, please.*)
- 2 Nigh na gréithe. (*Wash the dishes.*)
- 3 Luigh ar an leaba agus bí ciúin. (*Lie on the bed and be quiet.*)
- 4 Ordaigh do dhinnéar go tapa. (*Order your dinner quickly.*)
- 5 Ná téigh amach go fóill. (*Don't go out yet.*)
- 6 Sábháil neart airgid roimh an samhradh. (*Save plenty of money before the summer.*)

- 7 Ná hinis dó faoi Nóra. (*Don't tell him about Nóra.*)
 - 8 Abair leo teacht isteach. (*Tell them to come in.*)
 - 9 Dún an fhuinneog sin, le do thoil. (*Close that window, please.*)
 - 10 Freagair gach ceist ar an bpáipéar. (*Answer every question of the paper.*)
 - 11 Críochnaigh an obair sin roimh dheireadh an lae. (*Finish that work before the end of the day.*)
 - 12 Ná tabhair aon aird air. (*Don't pay any heed to him.*)
- B Place one of the verbs in the box in each of the gaps. Be careful – some of the verbs don't fit into any gap!
- 1 Ná _____ na brioscaí go léir, a pháistí! (*Don't eat all the biscuits, children!*)
 - 2 _____ an t-airgead dó. (*Give him the money.*)
 - 3 Ná _____ di go raibh mé anseo. (*Don't tell her I was here.*)
 - 4 _____ nuachtán domsa. (*Get a newspaper for me.*)
 - 5 _____ ar ais anseo ar a sé, a Liam. (*Come back here at six, Liam.*)
 - 6 A Bhrid agus a Dhónaill – _____ shibhse liomsa. (*Brid and Dónall – you come with me.*)
 - 7 Ná _____ rud ar bith le Séan faoi seo. (*Don't say anything to Séan about this.*)
 - 8 A Pheadair, _____ do dhinnéar. (*Peadar, eat your dinner.*)
 - 9 Tar isteach agus _____ síos. (*Come in and sit down.*)
 - 10 _____ deifir, a pháistí. (*Hurry up, children.*)

déan suigh tar inis ith habair hinsígí ithígí
 déanaigí tugaigí faigh tagaigí hitigí suígí abair

09

the verb 2

In this unit you will learn about

- forming the past tense (regular verbs)
- the first conjugation
- the second conjugation
- questions and answers (regular verbs)
- irregular verbs

Forming the past tense (regular verbs)

Verbs beginning with a consonant

The past tense is formed by leniting the initial consonant of the second person singular, imperative mood form (which is the root form of the verb in Irish):

2nd Pers. Sing. Imperative mood	Past tense
siúil (<i>walk</i>)	shiúil mé (<i>I walked</i>)
bris (<i>break</i>)	bhris sé (<i>he broke</i>)

Verbs beginning in a vowel or f

D' is prefixed to verbs beginning with a vowel or f:

2nd Pers. Sing. Imperative mood	Past tense
ól (<i>drink</i>)	d'ól siad (<i>they drank</i>)
imigh (<i>leave</i>)	d'imigh sí (<i>she left</i>)
frestail (<i>attend</i>)	d'fhrestail mé (<i>I attended</i>)

(This rule does not apply in the case of verbs preceded by participles such as níor, ar, gur, nár, murar, sular, etc., or in the passive form.)

The first conjugation

1st Pers. Sing.	mhol mé (<i>I praised</i>)	bhris mé (<i>I broke</i>)
2nd Pers. Sing.	mhol tú (<i>you praised</i>)	bhris tú (<i>you broke</i>)
3rd pers. Sing.	mhol sé/sí (<i>he/she praised</i>)	bhris sé/sí (<i>he/she broke</i>)
1st Pers. Pl.	mholamar (<i>we praised</i>)	bhriseamar (<i>we broke</i>)
2nd Pers. Pl.	mhol sibh (<i>you praised</i>)	bhris sibh (<i>you broke</i>)
3rd Pers. Pl.	mhol siad (<i>they praised</i>)	bhris siad (<i>they broke</i>)

1st Pers. Sing.	shábháil mé (<i>I saved</i>)	thiomáin mé (<i>I drove</i>)
2nd Pers. Sing.	shábháil tú (<i>you saved</i>)	thiomáin tú (<i>you drove</i>)
3rd Pers. Sing.	shábháil sé/sí (<i>he/she saved</i>)	thiomáin sé/sí (<i>he/she drove</i>)
1st Pers. Pl.	shábhálar (<i>we saved</i>)	thiománamar (<i>we drove</i>)
2nd Pers. Pl.	shábháil sibh (<i>you saved</i>)	thiomáin sibh (<i>you drove</i>)
3rd Pers. Pl.	shábháil siad (<i>they saved</i>)	thiomáin siad (<i>they drove</i>)

In the first person plural, another form can be used in which the pronoun is separated from the verb:

mholamar	or	mhol muid (<i>we praised</i>)
bhriseamar	or	bhris muid (<i>we broke</i>)
shábhálar	or	shábháil muid (<i>we saved</i>)
thiománamar	or	thiomáin muid (<i>we drove</i>)
thionólamar	or	thionóil muid (<i>we convened</i>)

The second conjugation

1st Pers. Sing.	cheannaigh mé (<i>I bought</i>)	d'imigh mé (<i>I left</i>)
2nd Pers. Sing.	cheannaigh tú (<i>you bought</i>)	d'imigh tú (<i>you left</i>)
3rd Pers. Sing.	cheannaigh sé/sí (<i>he/she bought</i>)	d'imigh sé/sí (<i>he/she left</i>)
1st Pers. Pl.	cheannaíomar (<i>we bought</i>)	d'imiomar (<i>we left</i>)
2nd Pers. Pl.	cheannaigh sibh (<i>you bought</i>)	d'imigh sibh (<i>you left</i>)
3rd Pers. Pl.	cheannaigh siad (<i>they bought</i>)	d'imigh siad (<i>they left</i>)

1st Pers. Sing.	d'fhoghlaim mé (<i>I learnt</i>)	chodail mé (<i>I slept</i>)
2nd Pers. Sing.	d'fhoghlaim tú (<i>you learnt</i>)	chodail tú (<i>you slept</i>)
3rd Pers. Sing.	d'fhoghlaim sé/sí (<i>he/she learnt</i>)	chodail sé/sí (<i>he/she slept</i>)
1st Pers. Pl.	d'fhoghlaimíomar (<i>we learnt</i>)	chodlaíomar (<i>we slept</i>)
2nd Pers. Pl.	d'fhoghlaim sibh (<i>you learnt</i>)	chodail sibh (<i>you slept</i>)
3rd Pers. Pl.	d'fhoghlaim siad (<i>they learnt</i>)	chodail siad (<i>they slept</i>)

Again, in the first person plural either of these forms can be used:

chodlaíomar	or	chodail muid (<i>we slept</i>)
d'fhoghlaimíomar	or	d'fhoghlaim muid (<i>we learnt</i>)

Questions and answers (regular verbs)

The particle *ar* is placed before regular verbs in the past tense to form a question. *Níor* is the negative marker. Initial consonants are lenited following *ar* and *níor*.

Ar bhuail tú le Mairéad? (Did you meet Mairéad?)
Bhuail./Níor bhuail. (Yes./No.)

Nár is the negative interrogative particle. Again, initial consonants are lenited when they follow *nár*.

Nár chuir tú teachtaireacht chuici go fóill? (Did you not send her a message yet?)

An important point

A pronoun (*mé, tú, sí, etc.*) is not used when answering *yes* or *no* to questions such as the ones below – it is usually incorrect to use a pronoun in such cases.

Ar ól tú féin agus Caoimhín mórán aréir? (Did you and Kevin drink much last night?)

D'ól. I bhfad an iomarca. (Yes. Far too much.)

Ar thóg siad mórán trioblóide? (*Did they cause much trouble?*)

Níor thóg. Bhí siad an-chiúin i mbliana. (*No. They were very quiet this year.*)

Irregular verbs

Some of the irregular verbs are preceded by the *ar*, *níor* and *nár* in the past tense (as are regular verbs), while *an*, *ní* and *nach* are used before other irregular verbs:

Tar (come)

Ar tháinig Cáit abhaile inné? (*Did Cáit come home yesterday?*)

Tháinig./Níor tháinig. (*Yes./No.*)

Nár tháinig Cáit ...? (*Did Cáit not come ...?*)

... gur tháinig Cáit ... (*... that Cáit came ...*)

Thángamar .../Níor thángamar ... (*We came ... / We didn't come ...*)

Tabhair (give)

Ar thug siad an t-airgead dó? (*Did they give him the money?*)

Thug./Níor thug. (*Yes./No.*)

Nár thug siad ...? (*Did they not give ...?*)

... gur thug siad ... (*... that they gave ...*)

Thugamar .../Níor thugamar ... (*We gave ... / We didn't give ...*)

Clois (hear)

Ar chuala tú an dea-scéala? (*Did you hear the good news?*)

Chuala./Níor chuala. (*Yes./No.*)

Nár chuala tú ...? (*Did you not hear ...?*)

... gur chuala tú ... (*... that you heard ...*)

Chualamar .../Níor chualamar ... (*We heard ... / We didn't hear ...*)

Ith (eat)

Ar ith tú bia Síneach riamh? (*Did you ever eat Chinese food?*)

D'ith./Níor ith. (*Yes./No.*)

Nár ith tú ...? (*Did you not eat ...?*)

... gur ith tú ... (*... that you ate ...*)

D'itheamar .../Níor itheamar ... (*We ate ... / We didn't eat ...*)

Bí (be)

An raibh sí amuigh mall aréir? (*Was she out late last night?*)

Bhí./Ní raibh. (*Yes./No.*)

Nach raibh sí ...? (*Was she not ...?*)

... go raibh sí ... (*... that she was ...*)

Bhíomar .../Ní rabhamar ... (*We were ... / We weren't ...*)

Faigh (get)

An bhfuair tú carr nua go fóill? (*Did you get a new car yet?*)

Fuair./Ní bhfuair. (*Yes./No.*)

Nach bhfuair tú ...? (*Did you not get ...?*)

... go bhfuair tú ... (*... that you got ...*)

Fuairamar .../Ní bhfuairamar ... (*We got ... / We didn't get ...*)

Do (do)

An ndearna Séamas an scrúdú go fóill? (*Did Séamas do the exam yet?*)

Rinne./Ní dhearna. (*Yes./No.*)

Nach ndearna Séamas ...? (*Did Séamas not do ...?*)

... go ndearna Séamas ... (*... that Séamas did ...*)

Rinneamar .../Ní dhearnamar ... (*We did ... / We didn't do ...*)

Feic (see)

An bhfaca tú an bainisteoir nua ar maidin? (*Did you see the new manager this morning?*)

Chonaic./Ní fhaca. (*Yes./No.*)

Nach bhfaca tú ...? (*Did you not see ...?*)

... go bhfaca tú ... (*... that you saw ...*)

Chonaiceamar .../Ní fhacamar ... (*We saw .../We didn't see ...*)

Abair (say)

An ndúirt sé é sin? (*Did he say that?*)

Dúirt./Ní dúirt. (*Yes./No.*)

Nach ndúirt sé é sin? (*Did he not say that?*)

... go ndúirt sé é sin (*... that he said that*)

Dúramar .../Ní dúramar ... (*We said .../We didn't say ...*)

Téigh (go)

An ndeachaigh sibh chuig an seisiún ceoil aréir? (*Did you go to the music session last night?*)

Chuaigh./Ní dheachaigh. (*Yes./No.*)

Nach ndeachaigh sibh ...? (*Did you not go ...?*)

... go ndeachaigh sibh ... (*... that you went ...*)

Chuamar .../Ní dheachamar ... (*We went .../We didn't go ...*)

Exercises

A Answer each one of these questions in the affirmative (yes) and in the negative (no).

- 1 Ar inis sí an dea-scéala dó? (*Did she tell him the good news?*)
- 2 Ar fhreastail tú ar an scoil áitiúil? (*Did you attend the local school?*)
- 3 An bhfuair tú an páipéar? (*Did you get the paper?*)
- 4 Nár ól siad an fion go léir aréir? (*Did they not drink all the wine last night?*)

5 An ndúirt sí aon rud eile? (*Did she say anything else?*)

6 Ar thug sí an t-airgead ar ais dó? (*Did she give him back the money?*)

7 Ar chuala tú go raibh sé sa bhaile roimh an Nollaig? (*Did you hear that he was home before Christmas?*)

8 Ar imríomar an fhoireann sin riamh? (*Did we ever play that team?*)

9 Nach ndeachaigh siad ar ais go Baile Átha Cliath fós? (*Did they not go back to Dublin yet?*)

10 Nach ndúramar gach rud a bhí le rá? (*Did we not say everything that had to be said?*)

11 Ar tháinig Brian abhaile aréir? (*Did Brian come home last night?*)

12 Ar thiomáin siad go Béal Feirste? (*Did they drive to Belfast?*)

B Change the verbs in parentheses if necessary.

1 An (déan) tú an obair sin fós? (*Did you do that work yet?*)

2 Ar (buail) tú le Sorcha inné? (*Did you meet Sorcha yesterday?*)

3 An (téigh) sé ar laethanta saoire anuraidh? (*Did he go on holidays last year?*)

4 Ar (ól) sibh mo bhuidéal fiona? (*Did you drink my bottle of wine?*)

5 An (feic) tú mo chuid eochracha in aon áit? (*Did you see my keys anywhere?*)

6 Ar (tar) Ciarán ar ais ón Astráil fós? (*Did Ciarán come back from Australia yet?*)

7 Ar (ceap) tú go raibh sé suimiúil? (*Did you think it was interesting?*)

8 An (faigh) sé mo theachtaireacht? (*Did he get my message?*)

9 An (bí) tú ag an gcluiche? (*Were you at the match?*)

10 Ar (tabhair) sé a sheoladh nua duit? (*Did he give you his new address?*)

C Change each statement below from the first person singular, past tense, to the first person plural.

1 Thiomáin mé go Corcaigh. (*I drove to Cork.*)

2 Cheannaigh mé bronntanas do Chaitlín. (*I bought a present for Caitlín.*)

- 3 Shábhail mé a lán airgid i rith an tsamhraidh. (*I saved a lot of money during the summer.*)
- 4 Níor ól mé ach cúpla pionta aréir. (*I only drank a few pints last night.*)
- 5 D'imigh mé go luath ar maidin. (*I left early in the morning.*)
- 6 D'fhoghlaim mé an dán de ghlanmheabhair. (*I learnt the poem off by heart.*)
- 7 Níor chodail mé go rómhaith aréir. (*I didn't sleep too well last night.*)
- 8 Ní dhearna mé an obair sin ag an deireadh seachtaine. (*I didn't do that work at the weekend.*)
- 9 D'ith mé an iomarca! (*I ate too much!*)
- 10 Ní dheachaigh mé ar saoire anuraidh. (*I didn't go on holidays last year.*)

D Write the correct particle (**ar** or **an**, **nár** or **nach**) and the correct form of the verb in the blanks in each sentence.

- 1 _____ sí do chuid oibre? Mhol. (*Did she praise your work? Yes.*)
- 2 _____ siad ansin le chéile? Níor thiomáin (*Did they drive there together? No.*)
- 3 _____ sise ar an scoil sin chomh maith? D'fhreastail. (*Did she attend that school as well? Yes.*)
- 4 _____ tú an t-amhrán sin? Níor fhoghlaim. (*Did you not learn that song? No.*)
- 5 _____ sí anseo romhat? Bhí. (*Was she here before you? Yes.*)
- 6 _____ siad scéala uaidh? Ní bhfuair. (*Did they not get word from him? No.*)
- 7 _____ an scannán sin cheana féin? Ní fhaca. (*Did we not see that film before? No.*)
- 8 _____ siad chuig an gcluiche? Chuaigh. (*Did they go to the match? Yes.*)
- 9 _____ sé abhaile inné? Ní dheachaigh. (*Did he not go home yesterday? No.*)
- 10 _____ Bríd leat? Níor tháinig. (*Did Bríd not come with you? No.*)

10

the verb 3

In this unit you will learn about

- the present tense (regular verbs)
- the verb *bí*
- questions and answers (regular verbs)
- irregular verbs
- *má*

The present tense (regular verbs)

The first conjugation

1st Pers. Sing.	molaim (<i>I praise</i>)	brisim (<i>I break</i>)
2nd Pers. Sing.	molann tú (<i>you praise</i>)	briseann tú (<i>you break</i>)
3rd Pers. Sing.	molann sé/sí (<i>he/she praises</i>)	briseann sé/sí (<i>he/she breaks</i>)
1st Pers. Pl.	molaimid (<i>we praise</i>)	brisimid (<i>we break</i>)
2nd Pers. Pl.	molann sibh (<i>you praise</i>)	briseann sibh (<i>you break</i>)
3rd Pers. Pl.	molann siad (<i>they praise</i>)	briseann siad (<i>they break</i>)

1st Pers. Sing.	sábhálaim (<i>I save</i>)	tiománaim (<i>I drive</i>)
2nd Pers. Sing.	sábhálann tú (<i>you save</i>)	tiománann tú (<i>you drive</i>)
3rd Pers. Sing.	sábhálann sé/sí (<i>he/she saves</i>)	tiománann sé/sí (<i>he/she drives</i>)
1st Pers. Pl.	sábháilimid (<i>we save</i>)	tiománaimid (<i>we drive</i>)
2nd Pers. Pl.	sábhálann sibh (<i>you save</i>)	tiománann sibh (<i>you drive</i>)
3rd Pers. Pl.	sábhálann siad (<i>they save</i>)	tiománann siad (<i>they drive</i>)

The second conjugation

1st Pers. Sing.	ceannaím (<i>I buy</i>)	imím (<i>I leave</i>)
2nd Pers. Sing.	ceannaíonn tú (<i>you buy</i>)	imíonn tú (<i>you leave</i>)
3rd Pers. Sing.	ceannaíonn sé/sí (<i>he/she buys</i>)	imíonn sé/sí (<i>he/she leaves</i>)
1st Pers. Pl.	ceannaímid (<i>we buy</i>)	imímid (<i>we leave</i>)
2nd Pers. Pl.	ceannaíonn sibh (<i>you buy</i>)	imíonn sibh (<i>you leave</i>)
3rd Pers. Pl.	ceannaíonn siad (<i>they buy</i>)	imíonn siad (<i>they leave</i>)

1st Pers. Sing.	foghlaimím (<i>I learn</i>)	codlaím (<i>I sleep</i>)
2nd Pers. Sing.	foghlaimíonn tú (<i>you learn</i>)	codlaíonn tú (<i>you sleep</i>)
3rd Pers. Sing.	foghlaimíonn sé/sí (<i>he/she learns</i>)	codlaíonn sé/sí (<i>he/she sleeps</i>)
1st Pers. Pl.	foghlaimímid (<i>we learn</i>)	codlaímid (<i>we sleep</i>)
2nd Pers. Pl.	foghlaimíonn sibh (<i>you learn</i>)	codlaíonn sibh (<i>you sleep</i>)
3rd Pers. Pl.	foghlaimíonn siad (<i>they learn</i>)	codlaíonn siad (<i>they sleep</i>)

The verb *bí*

The present tense is used to describe something which is true now or always holds true:

Is mé ag obair mar fhreastalaí i mbialann. (*I am working as a waiter in a restaurant.*)

Is triúr deartháireacha agam. (*I have three brothers.*)

The present habitual tense is used in all other cases – to describe events that happen regularly, for example:

Bím sa bhaile gach tráthnóna timpeall a sé a chlog. (*I'm home every evening around six o'clock.*)

Bí (*be*) is the only verb in Irish which has distinct forms in the present tense and in the present habitual tense:

The present tense

	Affirmative	Negative
1st Pers. Sing.	táim (or tá mé) (<i>I am</i>)	nílím (or níl mé) (<i>I am not</i>)
2nd Pers. Sing.	tá tú (<i>you are</i>)	níl tú (<i>you are not</i>)
3rd Pers. Sing.	tá sé/sí (<i>he/she is</i>)	níl sé/sí (<i>he/she is not</i>)
1st Pers. Pl.	táimid (<i>we are</i>)	nílímíd (<i>we are not</i>)
2nd Pers. Pl.	tá sibh (<i>you are</i>)	níl sibh (<i>you are not</i>)
3rd Pers. Pl.	tá siad (<i>they are</i>)	níl siad (<i>they are not</i>)

The present habitual tense

	Affirmative	Negative
1st Pers. Sing.	bím (<i>I am</i>)	ní bhím (<i>I am not</i>)
2nd Pers. Sing.	bíonn tú (<i>you are</i>)	ní bhíonn tú (<i>you are not</i>)
3rd Pers. Sing.	bíonn sé/sí (<i>he/she is</i>)	ní bhíonn sé/sí (<i>he/she is not</i>)
1st Pers. Pl.	bíimid (<i>we are</i>)	ní bhíimid (<i>we are not</i>)
2nd Pers. Pl.	bíonn sibh (<i>you are</i>)	ní bhíonn sibh (<i>you are not</i>)
3rd Pers. Pl.	bíonn siad (<i>they are</i>)	ní bhíonn siad (<i>they are not</i>)

Questions and answers (regular verbs)

To form a question in the present tense, the particle *an* is placed before the verb, which eclipses the following consonant. To make a statement negative, *ní* is used, which lenites a following consonant.

An bhféachann tú ar an teilifís gach oíche? (*Do you watch TV every night?*)

Bhfeachaim./Ní fhéachaim. (*Yes /No.*)

Initial vowels remain unchanged after *an*:

An ólann tú caife? (*Do you drink coffee?*)

ní is the negative interrogative particle. Initial consonants and vowels are eclipsed when they follow *nach*.

Nach mbíonn tú anseo gach seachtain? (*Are you not here every week?*)

Nach n-imríonn tú galf? (*Do you not play golf?*)

Important points

A pronoun (*mé, tú, sí*, etc.) is not used when answering *yes* or *no* to questions such as the ones below – it is usually incorrect to use a pronoun in such cases.

An gceannaíonn sí carr nua gach bliain? (*Does she buy a new car every year?*)

Ceannaíonn. (*Yes.*)

An imíonn sé go moch ar maidin? (*Does he leave early in the morning?*)

Ní imíonn. (*No.*)

In the case of the first person singular, there are two ways of giving the answers *yes* and *no*:

An mbíonn tú anseo go minic? (*Are you here often?*)
Bím./Ní bhím. or Bíonn./Ní bhíonn.
An gcaitheann tú mórán airgid? (*Do you spend much money?*)
Caithim./Ní chaithim. or Caitheann./Ní chaitheann.

Irregular verbs

Abair (say)

Note that, unlike all other verbs, *ní* does not lenite in the case of this verb.

	Affirmative	Negative
1st Pers. Sing.	deirim (<i>I say</i>)	ní deirim (<i>I don't say</i>)
2nd Pers. Sing.	deir tú (<i>you say</i>)	ní deir tú (<i>you don't say</i>)
3rd Pers. Sing.	deir sé/sí (<i>he/she says</i>)	ní deir sé/sí (<i>he/she doesn't say</i>)
1st Pers. Pl.	deirimid (<i>we say</i>)	ní deirimid (<i>we don't say</i>)
2nd Pers. Pl.	deir sibh (<i>you say</i>)	ní deir sibh (<i>you don't say</i>)
3rd Pers. Pl.	deir siad (<i>they say</i>)	ní deir siad (<i>they don't say</i>)

An ndeir tú aon rud leo? (*Do you say anything to them?*)
Deirim./Ní deirim. (*Yes./No.*)
Nach ndeir tú ...? (*Do you not say ...?*)
... go ndeir tú ... (*... that you say ...*)

Beir (bring, take)

	Affirmative	Negative
1st Pers. Sing.	beirim (<i>I bring, take</i>)	ní bheirim (<i>I don't bring, take</i>)
2nd Pers. Sing.	beireann tú (<i>you bring, take</i>)	ní bheireann tú (<i>you don't bring, take</i>)
3rd Pers. Sing.	beireann sé/sí (<i>he/she brings, takes</i>)	ní bheireann sé/sí (<i>he/she doesn't bring, take</i>)
1st Pers. Pl.	beirimid (<i>we bring, take</i>)	ní bheirimid (<i>we don't bring, take</i>)
2nd Pers. Pl.	beireann sibh (<i>you bring, take</i>)	ní bheireann sibh (<i>you don't bring, take</i>)
3rd Pers. Pl.	beireann siad (<i>they bring, take</i>)	ní bheireann siad (<i>they don't bring, take</i>)

An mbeireann tú leat é? (*Do you bring it with you?*)
Beirim./Ní bheirim. (*Yes./No.*)
Nach mbeireann tú ...? (*Do you not bring, take ...?*)
... go mbeireann tú ... (*... that you bring, take ...*)

Clois (hear)

	Affirmative	Negative
1st Pers. Sing.	cloisim (<i>I hear</i>)	ní chloisim (<i>I don't hear</i>)
2nd Pers. Sing.	cloiseann tú (<i>you hear</i>)	ní chloiseann tú (<i>you don't hear</i>)
3rd Pers. Sing.	cloiseann sé/sí (<i>he/she hears</i>)	ní chloiseann sé/sí (<i>he/she doesn't hear</i>)
1st Pers. Pl.	cloisimid (<i>we hear</i>)	ní chloisimid (<i>we don't hear</i>)
2nd Pers. Pl.	cloiseann sibh (<i>you hear</i>)	ní chloiseann sibh (<i>you don't hear</i>)
3rd Pers. Pl.	cloiseann siad (<i>they hear</i>)	ní chloiseann siad (<i>they don't hear</i>)

An gcloiseann tú an clár sin go minic? (*Do you hear that programme often?*)

Cloisim./Ní chloisim. (*Yes./No.*)

Nach gcloiseann tú ...? (*Do you not hear ...?*)

... go gcloiseann tú ... (*... that you hear ...*)

Déan (do, make)

	Affirmative	Negative
1st Pers. Sing.	déanaim (<i>I do</i>)	ní dhéanaim (<i>I don't do</i>)
2nd Pers. Sing.	déanann tú (<i>you do</i>)	ní dhéanann tú (<i>you don't do</i>)
3rd Pers. Sing.	déanann sé/sí (<i>he/she do</i>)	ní dhéanann sé/sí (<i>he/she doesn't do</i>)
1st Pers. Pl.	déanaimid (<i>we do</i>)	ní dhéanaimid (<i>we don't do</i>)
2nd Pers. Pl.	déanann sibh (<i>you do</i>)	ní dhéanann sibh (<i>you don't do</i>)
3rd Pers. Pl.	déanann siad (<i>they do</i>)	ní dhéanann siad (<i>they don't do</i>)

An ndéanann tú an turas sin gach bliain? (*Do you do that journey every year?*)

Déanaim./Ní dhéanaim. (*Yes./No.*)

Nach ndéanann tú ...? (*Do you not do ...?*)

... go ndéanann tú ... (*... that you do ...*)

Faigh (get)

	Affirmative	Negative
1st Pers. Sing.	faighim (<i>I get</i>)	ní fhaighim (<i>I don't get</i>)
2nd Pers. Sing.	faigheann tú (<i>you get</i>)	ní fhaigheann tú (<i>you don't get</i>)
3rd Pers. Sing.	faigheann sé/sí (<i>he/she gets</i>)	ní fhaigheann sé/sí (<i>he/she doesn't get</i>)
1st Pers. Pl.	faighimid (<i>we get</i>)	ní fhaighimid (<i>we don't get</i>)
2nd Pers. Pl.	faigheann sibh (<i>you get</i>)	ní fhaigheann sibh (<i>you don't get</i>)
3rd Pers. Pl.	faigheann siad (<i>they get</i>)	ní fhaigheann siad (<i>they don't get</i>)

An bhfaigheann tú nuachtán gach lá? (*Do you get a newspaper every day?*)

Faighim./Ní fhaighim. (*Yes./No.*)

Nach bhfaigheann tú ...? (*Do you not get ...?*)

... go bhfaigheann tú ... (*... that you get ...*)

Faic (see)

	Affirmative	Negative
1st Pers. Sing.	feicim (<i>I see</i>)	ní fheicim (<i>I don't see</i>)
2nd Pers. Sing.	feiceann tú (<i>you see</i>)	ní fheiceann tú (<i>you don't see</i>)
3rd Pers. Sing.	feiceann sé/sí (<i>he/she sees</i>)	ní fheiceann sé/sí (<i>he/she doesn't see</i>)
1st Pers. Pl.	feicimid (<i>we see</i>)	ní fheicimid (<i>we don't see</i>)
2nd Pers. Pl.	feiceann sibh (<i>you see</i>)	ní fheiceann sibh (<i>you don't see</i>)
3rd Pers. Pl.	feiceann siad (<i>they see</i>)	ní fheiceann siad (<i>they don't see</i>)

An bhfeiceann tú í go minic? (*Do you see her often?*)

Feicim./Ní fheicim. (*Yes./No.*)

Nach bhfeiceann tú ...? (*Do you not see ...?*)

... go bhfeiceann tú ... (*... that you see ...*)

Ith (eat)

	Affirmative	Negative
1st Pers. Sing.	ithim (<i>I eat</i>)	ní ithim (<i>I don't eat</i>)
2nd Pers. Sing.	itheann tú (<i>you eat</i>)	ní itheann tú (<i>you don't eat</i>)
3rd Pers. Sing.	itheann sé/sí (<i>he/she eats</i>)	ní itheann sé/sí (<i>he/she doesn't eat</i>)
1st Pers. Pl.	ithimid (<i>we eat</i>)	ní ithimid (<i>we don't eat</i>)
2nd Pers. Pl.	itheann sibh (<i>you eat</i>)	ní itheann sibh (<i>you don't eat</i>)
3rd Pers. Pl.	itheann siad (<i>they eat</i>)	ní itheann siad (<i>they don't eat</i>)

An itheann tú bia Indiach? (*Do you eat Indian food?*)

Ithim./Ní ithim. (*Yes./No.*)

Nach n-itheann tú ...? (*Do you not eat ...?*)

... go n-itheann tú ... (*... that you eat ...*)

Tabhair (give)

	Affirmative	Negative
1st Pers. Sing.	tugaim (<i>I give</i>)	ní thugaim (<i>I don't give</i>)
2nd Pers. Sing.	tugann tú (<i>you give</i>)	ní thugann tú (<i>you don't give</i>)
3rd Pers. Sing.	tugann sé/sí (<i>he/she gives</i>)	ní thugann sé/sí (<i>he/she doesn't give</i>)
1st Pers. Pl.	tugaimid (<i>we give</i>)	ní thugaimid (<i>we don't give</i>)
2nd Pers. Pl.	tugann sibh (<i>you give</i>)	ní thugann sibh (<i>you don't give</i>)
3rd Pers. Pl.	tugann siad (<i>they give</i>)	ní thugann siad (<i>they don't give</i>)

An dtugann tú airgead dó? (*Do you give him money?*)

Tugaim./Ní thugaim. (*Yes./No.*)

Nach dtugann tú ...? (*Do you not give ...?*)

... go dtugann tú ... (*... that you give ...*)

Tar (come)

	Affirmative	Negative
1st Pers. Sing.	tagaim (<i>I come</i>)	ní thagaim (<i>I don't come</i>)
2nd Pers. Sing.	tagann tú (<i>you come</i>)	ní thagann tú (<i>you don't come</i>)
3rd Pers. Sing.	tagann sé/sí (<i>he/she comes</i>)	ní thagann sé/sí (<i>he/she doesn't come</i>)
1st Pers. Pl.	tagaimid (<i>we come</i>)	ní thagaimid (<i>we don't come</i>)
2nd Pers. Pl.	tagann sibh (<i>you come</i>)	ní thagann sibh (<i>you don't come</i>)
3rd Pers. Pl.	tagann siad (<i>they come</i>)	ní thagann siad (<i>they don't come</i>)

An dtagann tú anseo gach lá? (*Do you come here every day?*)

Tagaim./Ní thagaim. (*Yes./No.*)

Nach dtagann tú ...? (*Do you not come ...?*)

... go dtagann tú ... (*... that you come ...*)

Téigh (go)

	Affirmative	Negative
1st Pers. Sing.	téim (<i>I go</i>)	ní théim (<i>I don't go</i>)
2nd Pers. Sing.	téann tú (<i>you go</i>)	ní théann tú (<i>you don't go</i>)
3rd Pers. Sing.	téann sé/sí (<i>he/she goes</i>)	ní théann sé/sí (<i>he/she doesn't go</i>)
1st Pers. Pl.	téimid (<i>we go</i>)	ní théimid (<i>we don't go</i>)
2nd Pers. Pl.	téann sibh (<i>you go</i>)	ní théann sibh (<i>you don't go</i>)
3rd Pers. Pl.	téann siad (<i>they go</i>)	ní théann siad (<i>they don't go</i>)

An dtéann tú ansin gach Satharn? (*Do you go there every Saturday?*)

Téim./Ní théim. (*Yes./No.*)

Nach dtéann tú ...? (*Do you not go ...?*)

... go dtéann tú ... (*... that you go ...*)

Má

Má (*if*) is used with the past tense and with the present tense. Initial consonants and vowels remain unchanged after **má** in the past tense:

Bhí sí ansin. (*She was there.*)

Má bhí sí ansin, ní fhaca mé í. (*If she was there, I did not see her.*)

Má + the present tense is used to refer to something which is happening at the moment and also to future events. Tá and deir remain unchanged after **mura** but other consonants are lenited:

Má tá sé anseo, abair leis teacht chun cainte liom. (*If he is here, tell him to come and talk with me.*)

Má bhíonn tá ar ais amárach, beidh lón againn le chéile. (*If you are back tomorrow, we will have lunch together.*)

Má fheiceann tú í, abair léi go raibh mé ag cur a tuairisce. (*If you see her, tell her I was asking for her.*)

Exercises

A Answer each one of these questions in the affirmative (*yes*) and in the negative (*no*).

- 1 An bhfeiceann sé Deirdre go minic? (*Does he see Deirdre often?*)
- 2 An mbíonn tú i mBéal Feirste mórán anois? (*Are you in Belfast much now?*)
- 3 An itheann tú bia Síneach? (*Do you eat Chinese food?*)
- 4 An sábhálann siad mórán airgid? (*Do they save much money?*)
- 5 An bhfoghlaímíonn siad na hamhráin? (*Do they learn the songs?*)
- 6 An éiríonn sibh go luath ar maidin? (*Do you get up early in the morning?*)
- 7 An dtéann Maria go Baile Átha Cliath gach deireadh seachtaine? (*Does Maria go to Dublin every weekend?*)
- 8 An bhfuil tú ag obair sa scoil chéanna fós? (*Are you still working in the same school?*)
- 9 An ólann siad fíon? (*Do they drink wine?*)
- 10 An imríonn tú leadóg? (*Do you play tennis?*)

B Change the verbs in parentheses if necessary.

- 1 Ní (codlaíonn) siad mórán. (*They don't sleep much.*)
- 2 Nach (itheann) tú bia Seapánach? (*Do you not eat Japanese food?*)
- 3 Chuala mé go (fágann) sí go moch. (*I hear she leaves early.*)
- 4 Ní (foghlaímíonn) siad mórán sa rang sin. (*They don't learn much in that class.*)
- 5 An (ceannaíonn) sí nuachtán gach lá? (*Does she buy a newspaper every day?*)

6 Nach (bíonn) sos agat ar an Domhnach? (*Do you not have a break on Sunday?*)

7 Ní (tógann) sé aon saoire níos mó. (*He doesn't take any holidays any more.*)

8 Nach (imríonn) sí peil? (*Does she not play football?*)

9 Ní (taispeánann) sé a chuid oibre do dhaoine eile. (*He doesn't show his work to other people.*)

10 An (feiceann) siad é go minic? (*Do they see him often?*)

11 Nach (cloiseann) tú é a thuilleadh? (*Do you not hear it any more?*)

12 Ní (deir) sé mórán. (*He doesn't say much.*)

C Write the correct particle (*an, ní or nach*) and the correct form of the verb in the blanks in each sentence.

- 1 _____ tú ar an teilifís go minic? Féachaim. (*Do you often watch television? Yes.*)
- 2 _____ tú mórán spóirt? (*Do you play much sport? No.*)
- 3 _____ sé amach i rith na seachtaine. (*He doesn't go out during the week.*)
- 4 _____ siad an dinnéar ag a seacht a chlog? Itheann. (*Do they not eat dinner at seven o'clock? Yes.*)
- 5 _____ sé chuig Bríd go rialta? Scríobhann. (*Does he write to Bríd often? Yes.*)
- 6 _____ sé anseo ar an Aoine. (*He's not here on Fridays.*)
- 7 _____ ocras ort i gcónaí ag deireadh an lae? Bíonn. (*Are you always hungry at the end of the day? Yes.*)
- 8 _____ siad an baile ar a seacht a chlog gach maidin? Fágann. (*Do they leave home at seven o'clock every morning? Yes.*)
- 9 _____ tú go bhfuil sé seo leadránach? Ceapann! (*Do you not think that this is boring? Yes!*)
- 10 _____ Máirtín aon airgead dó. (*Máirtín doesn't give him any money.*)

11

the verb 4

In this unit you will learn about

- the future tense (regular verbs)
- questions and answers (all verbs)
- the irregular verbs
- making requests
- present tense with future meaning
- talking about plans and intentions

The future tense (regular verbs)

The first conjugation

Verbs with a one-syllable root

	Broad consonant	Slender consonant
	<i>Glan (clean)</i>	<i>Tuig (understand)</i>
1st Pers. Sing.	glanfaidh mé (<i>I will clean</i>)	tuigfidh mé (<i>I will understand</i>)
2nd Pers. Sing.	glanfaidh tú (<i>you will clean</i>)	tuigfidh tú (<i>you will understand</i>)
3rd Pers. Sing.	glanfaidh sé/sí (<i>he/she will clean</i>)	tuigfidh sé/sí (<i>he/she will understand</i>)
1st Pers. Pl.	glanfaimid (<i>we will clean</i>)	tuigfimid (<i>we will understand</i>)
2nd Pers. Pl.	glanfaidh sibh (<i>you will clean</i>)	tuigfidh sibh (<i>you will understand</i>)
3rd Pers. Pl.	glanfaidh siad (<i>they will clean</i>)	tuigfidh siad (<i>they will understand</i>)

	Broad consonant	Slender consonant
	<i>Léigh (read)</i>	<i>Suigh (sit)</i>
1st Pers. Sing.	léifidh mé (<i>I will read</i>)	suifidh mé (<i>I will sit</i>)
2nd Pers. Sing.	léifidh tú (<i>you will read</i>)	suifidh tú (<i>you will sit</i>)
3rd Pers. Sing.	léifidh sé/sí (<i>he/she will read</i>)	suifidh sé/sí (<i>he/she will sit</i>)
1st Pers. Pl.	léifimid (<i>we will read</i>)	suifimid (<i>we will sit</i>)
2nd Pers. Pl.	léifidh sibh (<i>you will read</i>)	suifidh sibh (<i>you will sit</i>)
3rd Pers. Pl.	léifidh siad (<i>they will read</i>)	suifidh siad (<i>they will sit</i>)

Verbs with a root containing more than one syllable and ending in -áil

	<i>Marcáil (mark)</i>	<i>Sábháil (save)</i>
1st Pers. Sing.	marcálfaidh mé (<i>I will mark</i>)	sábhálfaidh mé (<i>I will save</i>)
2nd Pers. Sing.	marcálfaidh tú (<i>you will mark</i>)	sábhálfaidh tú (<i>you will save</i>)
3rd Pers. Sing.	marcálfaidh sé/sí (<i>he/she will mark</i>)	sábhálfaidh sé/sí (<i>he/she will save</i>)
1st Pers. Pl.	marcálfaimid (<i>we will mark</i>)	sábhálfaimid (<i>we will save</i>)
2nd Pers. Pl.	marcálfaidh sibh (<i>you will mark</i>)	sábhálfaidh sibh (<i>you will save</i>)
3rd Pers. Pl.	marcálfaidh siad (<i>they will mark</i>)	sábhálfaidh siad (<i>they will save</i>)

Verbs ending in -áin, -óil and -úir

	<i>Taispeáin (show)</i>	<i>Tionóil (convene)</i>
1st Pers. Sing.	taispeánfaidh mé (<i>I will show</i>)	tionólfaidh mé (<i>I will convene</i>)
2nd Pers. Sing.	taispeánfaidh tú (<i>you will show</i>)	tionólfaidh tú (<i>you will convene</i>)
3rd Pers. Sing.	taispeánfaidh sé/sí (<i>he/she will show</i>)	tionólfaidh sé/sí (<i>he/she will convene</i>)
1st Pers. Pl.	taispeánfaimid (<i>we will show</i>)	tionólfaimid (<i>we will convene</i>)
2nd Pers. Pl.	taispeánfaidh sibh (<i>you will show</i>)	tionólfaidh sibh (<i>you will convene</i>)
3rd Pers. Pl.	taispeánfaidh siad (<i>they will show</i>)	tionólfaidh siad (<i>they will convene</i>)

Ceiliúir (celebrate)

1st Pers. Sing.	ceiliúrfaidh mé (<i>I will celebrate</i>)
2nd Pers. Sing.	ceiliúrfaidh tú (<i>you will celebrate</i>)
3rd Pers. Sing.	ceiliúrfaidh sé/sí (<i>he/she will celebrate</i>)
1st Pers. Pl.	ceiliúrfaimid (<i>we will celebrate</i>)
2nd Pers. Pl.	ceiliúrfaidh sibh (<i>you will celebrate</i>)
3rd Pers. Pl.	ceiliúrfaidh siad (<i>they will celebrate</i>)

The second conjugation

Verbs with more than one syllable in their root, ending in -(a)igh

	Broad consonant	Slender consonant
	<i>Tosaigh (start)</i>	<i>Éirigh (get up)</i>
1st Pers. Sing.	tosóidh mé (<i>I will start</i>)	éireoidh mé (<i>I will get up</i>)
2nd Pers. Sing.	tosóidh tú (<i>you will start</i>)	éireoidh tú (<i>you will get up</i>)
3rd Pers. Sing.	tosóidh sé/sí (<i>he/she will start</i>)	éireoidh sé/sí (<i>he/she will get up</i>)
1st Pers. Pl.	tosóimid (<i>we will start</i>)	éireimid (<i>we will get up</i>)
2nd Pers. Pl.	tosóidh sibh (<i>you will start</i>)	éireoidh sibh (<i>you will get up</i>)
3rd Pers. Pl.	tosóidh siad (<i>they will start</i>)	éireoidh siad (<i>they will get up</i>)

Verbs with more than one syllable in their root, ending in -(a)il, -(a)in, -(a)ir, -(a)is. These verbs shorten when they are conjugated.

	<i>Cosain (protect)</i>	<i>Imir (play)</i>
1st Pers. Sing.	cosnóidh mé (<i>I will protect</i>)	imreoidh mé (<i>I will play</i>)
2nd Pers. Sing.	cosnóidh tú (<i>you will protect</i>)	imreoidh tú (<i>you will play</i>)
3rd Pers. Sing.	cosnóidh sé/sí (<i>he/she will protect</i>)	imreoidh sé/sí (<i>he/she will play</i>)
1st Pers. Pl.	cosnóimid (<i>we will protect</i>)	imreimid (<i>we will play</i>)
2nd Pers. Pl.	cosnóidh sibh (<i>you will protect</i>)	imreoidh sibh (<i>you will play</i>)
3rd Pers. Pl.	cosnóidh siad (<i>they will protect</i>)	imreoidh siad (<i>they will play</i>)

Inis (tell)

1st Pers. Sing.	inseoidh mé (<i>I will tell</i>)
2nd Pers. Sing.	inseoidh tú (<i>you will tell</i>)
3rd Pers. Sing.	inseoidh sé/sí (<i>he/she will tell</i>)
1st Pers. Pl.	inseoimid (<i>we will tell</i>)
2nd Pers. Pl.	inseoidh sibh (<i>you will tell</i>)
3rd Pers. Pl.	inseoidh siad (<i>they will tell</i>)

Some other verbs that do not lose a vowel when they are conjugated

	<i>Fulaing (suffer)</i>	<i>Tarraing (draw)</i>
1st Pers. Sing.	fulaingeadh mé (<i>I will suffer</i>)	tarraingeadh mé (<i>I will draw</i>)
2nd Pers. Sing.	fulaingeadh tú (<i>you will suffer</i>)	tarraingeadh tú (<i>you will draw</i>)
3rd Pers. Sing.	fulaingeadh sé/sí (<i>he/she will suffer</i>)	tarraingeadh sé/sí (<i>he/she will draw</i>)
1st Pers. Pl.	fulaingeoimid (<i>we will suffer</i>)	tarraingeoimid (<i>we will draw</i>)
2nd Pers. Pl.	fulaingeadh sibh (<i>you will suffer</i>)	tarraingeadh sibh (<i>you will draw</i>)
3rd Pers. Pl.	fulaingeadh siad (<i>they will suffer</i>)	tarraingeadh siad (<i>they will draw</i>)

Questions and answers (all verbs)

As in the present tense, to form a question in the future tense, the particle **an** is placed before the verb, which eclipses a following consonant. To make a statement negative, **ní** is used, which lenites a following consonant:

An bhfeicfidh tú Mairéad anocht? (*Will you see Mairéad tonight?*)
Feicfidh./Ní fheicfidh. (*Yes./No.*)

Initial vowels remain unchanged after **an** and **ní**:

An imreoidh tú cluiche leadóige liom amárach? (*Will you play a game of tennis with me tomorrow?*)
Ní imreoidh. (*No.*)

Nach is the negative interrogative particle. Initial consonants *and* vowels are eclipsed when they follow **nach**.

Nach mbeidh tú ar ais anocht? (*Will you not be back tonight?*)
Nach n-aithneoidh tú é? (*Will you not recognize him?*)

Important point

A pronoun (**mé**, **tú**, **sí**, etc.) is not used when answering *yes* or *no* to questions such as the ones below – it is usually incorrect to use a pronoun in such cases.

An dtabharfaidh tú airgead dóibh? (*Will you give them money?*)
Tabharfaidh. (*Yes.*)
An n-imeoidh tú ar maidin? (*Will you leave in the morning?*)
Ní imeoidh. (*No.*)

The irregular verbs

Abair (say)

Note that, unlike all other verbs, **ní** does not lenite in the case of this verb.

	Affirmative	Negative
1st Pers. Sing.	déarfaidh mé (<i>I will say</i>)	ní déarfaidh mé (<i>I won't say</i>)
2nd Pers. Sing.	déarfaidh tú (<i>you will say</i>)	ní déarfaidh tú (<i>you won't say</i>)
3rd Pers. Sing.	déarfaidh sé/sí (<i>he/she will say</i>)	ní déarfaidh sé/sí (<i>he/she won't say</i>)
1st Pers. Pl.	déarfaimid (<i>we will say</i>)	ní déarfaimid (<i>we won't say</i>)
2nd Pers. Pl.	déarfaidh sibh (<i>you will say</i>)	ní déarfaidh sibh (<i>you won't say</i>)
3rd Pers. Pl.	déarfaidh siad (<i>they will say</i>)	ní déarfaidh siad (<i>they won't say</i>)

An ndéarfaidh tú cúpla focal? (*Will you will say a few words?*)

Déarfaidh./Ní déarfaidh. (*Yes./No.*)

Nach ndéarfaidh tú ...? (*Will you not say ...?*)

... go ndéarfaidh tú ... (... *that you will say ...*)

Beir (bring, take)

	Affirmative	Negative
1st Pers. Sing.	béarfaidh mé (<i>I will bring</i>)	ní bhéarfaidh mé (<i>I will not bring</i>)
2nd Pers. Sing.	béarfaidh tú (<i>you will bring</i>)	ní bhéarfaidh tú (<i>you will not bring</i>)
3rd Pers. Sing.	béarfaidh sé/sí (<i>he/she will bring</i>)	ní bhéarfaidh sé/sí (<i>he/she will not bring</i>)
1st Pers. Pl.	béarfaimid (<i>we will bring</i>)	ní bhéarfaimid (<i>we will not bring</i>)
2nd Pers. Pl.	béarfaidh sibh (<i>you will bring</i>)	ní bhéarfaidh sibh (<i>you will not bring</i>)
3rd Pers. Pl.	béarfaidh siad (<i>they will bring</i>)	ní bhéarfaidh siad (<i>they will not bring</i>)

An mbéarfaidh tú leat é? (*Will you bring it with you?*)

Béarfaidh./Ní bhéarfaidh. (*Yes./No.*)

Nach mbéarfaidh tú ...? (*Will you not bring ...?*)

... go mbéarfaidh tú ... (... *that you will bring ...*)

Bi (be)

	Affirmative	Negative
1st Pers. Sing.	beidh mé (<i>I will be</i>)	ní bheidh mé (<i>I will not be</i>)
2nd Pers. Sing.	beidh tú (<i>you will be</i>)	ní bheidh tú (<i>you will not be</i>)
3rd Pers. Sing.	beidh sé/sí (<i>he/she will be</i>)	ní bheidh sé/sí (<i>he/she will not be</i>)
1st Pers. Pl.	beimid (<i>we will be</i>)	ní bheimid (<i>we will not be</i>)
2nd Pers. Pl.	beidh sibh (<i>you will be</i>)	ní bheidh sibh (<i>you will not be</i>)
3rd Pers. Pl.	beidh siad (<i>they will be</i>)	ní bheidh siad (<i>they will not be</i>)

An mbeidh tú leat féin? (*Will you be alone?*)

Beidh./Ní bheidh. (*Yes./No.*)

Nach mbeidh tú ...? (*Will you not be ...?*)

... go mbeidh tú ... (... *that you will be ...*)

Clois (hear)

	Affirmative	Negative
1st Pers. Sing.	cloisfidh mé (<i>I will hear</i>)	ní chloisfidh mé (<i>I will not hear</i>)
2nd Pers. Sing.	cloisfidh tú (<i>you will hear</i>)	ní chloisfidh tú (<i>you will not hear</i>)
3rd Pers. Sing.	cloisfidh sé/sí (<i>he/she will hear</i>)	ní chloisfidh sé/sí (<i>he/she will not hear</i>)
1st Pers. Pl.	cloisfimid (<i>we will hear</i>)	ní chloisfimid (<i>we will not hear</i>)
2nd Pers. Pl.	cloisfidh sibh (<i>you will hear</i>)	ní chloisfidh sibh (<i>you will not hear</i>)
3rd Pers. Pl.	cloisfidh siad (<i>they will hear</i>)	ní chloisfidh siad (<i>they will not hear</i>)

An gcloisfidh tú an torann? (*Will you hear the noise?*)

Cloisfidh./Ní chloisfidh. (*Yes./No.*)

Nach gcloisfidh tú ...? (*Will you not hear ...?*)

... go gcloisfidh tú ... (*... that you will hear ...*)

Déan (do, make)

Affirmative

1st Pers. Sing. déanfaidh mé (*I will do*)

2nd Pers. Sing. déanfaidh tú (*you will do*)

3rd Pers. Sing. déanfaidh sé/sí (*he/she will do*)

1st Pers. Pl. déanfaimid (*we will do*)

2nd Pers. Pl. déanfaidh sibh (*you will do*)

3rd Pers. Pl. déanfaidh siad (*they will do*)

Negative

ní dhéanfaidh mé (*I will not do*)

ní dhéanfaidh tú (*you will not do*)

ní dhéanfaidh sé/sí (*he/she will not do*)

ní dhéanfaimid (*we will not do*)

ní dhéanfaidh sibh (*you will not do*)

ní dhéanfaidh siad (*they will not do*)

An ndéanfaidh tú gar dom? (*Will you do me a favour?*)

Déanfaidh./Ní dhéanfaidh. (*Yes./No.*)

Nach ndéanfaidh tú ...? (*Will you not do ...?*)

... go ndéanfaidh tú ... (*... that you will do ...*)

Faigh (get)

Affirmative

1st Pers. Sing. gheobhaidh mé (*I will get*)

2nd Pers. Sing. gheobhaidh tú (*you will get*)

3rd Pers. Sing. gheobhaidh sé/sí (*he/she will get*)

1st Pers. Pl. gheobhaimid (*we will get*)

2nd Pers. Pl. gheobhaidh sibh (*you will get*)

3rd Pers. Pl. gheobhaidh siad (*they will get*)

Negative

ní bhfaighidh mé (*I will not get*)

ní bhfaighidh tú (*you will not get*)

ní bhfaighidh sé/sí (*he/she will not get*)

ní bhfaighimid (*we will not get*)

ní bhfaighidh sibh (*you will not get*)

ní bhfaighidh siad (*they will not get*)

An bhfaighidh tú toitíní dom? (*Will you get cigarettes for me?*)

Gheobhaidh./Ní bhfaighidh. (*Yes./No.*)

Nach bhfaighidh tú ...? (*Will you not get ...?*)

... go bhfaighidh tú ... (*... that you will get ...*)

Feic (see)

Affirmative

1st Pers. Sing. feicfidh mé (*I will see*)

2nd Pers. Sing. feicfidh tú (*you will see*)

3rd Pers. Sing. feicfidh sé/sí (*he/she will see*)

1st Pers. Pl. feicfimid (*we will see*)

2nd Pers. Pl. feicfidh sibh (*you will see*)

3rd Pers. Pl. feicfidh siad (*they will see*)

Negative

ní fheicfidh mé (*I will not see*)

ní fheicfidh tú (*you will not see*)

ní fheicfidh sé/sí (*he/she will not see*)

ní fheicfimid (*we will not see*)

ní fheicfidh sibh (*you will not see*)

ní fheicfidh siad (*they will not see*)

An bhfeicfidh tú Ciara annin? (Will you see Ciara there?)

Feicfidh./Ní fheicfidh. (Yes./No.)

Nach bhfeicfidh tú ...? (Will you not see ...?)

... go bhfeicfidh tú ... (... that you will see ...)

Ith (eat)

	Affirmative	Negative
1st Pers. Sing.	íosfaidh mé (I will eat)	ní íosfaidh mé (I will not eat)
2nd Pers. Sing.	íosfaidh tú (you will eat)	ní íosfaidh tú (you will not eat)
3rd Pers. Sing.	íosfaidh sé/sí (he /she will eat)	ní íosfaidh sé/sí (he/she will not eat)
1st Pers. Pl.	íosfaimid (we will eat)	ní íosfaimid (we will not eat)
2nd Pers. Pl.	íosfaidh sibh (you will eat)	ní íosfaidh sibh (you will not eat)
3rd Pers. Pl.	íosfaidh siad (they will eat)	ní íosfaidh siad (they will not eat)

An íosfaidh tú greim? (Will you eat a bite?)

Íosfaidh./Ní íosfaidh. (Yes./No.)

Nach n-íosfaidh tú ...? (Will you not eat ...?)

... go n-íosfaidh tú ... (... that you will eat ...)

Tabhair (give)

	Affirmative	Negative
1st Pers. Sing.	tabharfaidh mé (I will give)	ní thabharfaidh mé (I will not give)
2nd Pers. Sing.	tabharfaidh tú (you will give)	ní thabharfaidh tú (you will not give)
3rd Pers. Sing.	tabharfaidh sé/sí (he/she will give)	ní thabharfaidh sé/sí (he/she will not give)
1st Pers. Pl.	tabharfaimid (we will give)	ní thabharfaimid (we will not give)
2nd Pers. Pl.	tabharfaidh sibh (you will give)	ní thabharfaidh sibh (you will not give)
3rd Pers. Pl.	tabharfaidh siad (they will give)	ní thabharfaidh siad (they will not give)

An dtabharfaidh tú airgead dó? (Will you give him money?)

Tabharfaidh./Ní thabharfaidh. (Yes./No.)

Nach dtabharfaidh tú ...? (Will you not give ...?)

... go dtabharfaidh tú ... (... that you will give ...)

Tar (come)

	Affirmative	Negative
1st Pers. Sing.	tiocfaidh mé (I will come)	ní thiocfaidh mé (I will not come)
2nd Pers. Sing.	tiocfaidh tú (you will come)	ní thiocfaidh tú (you will not come)
3rd Pers. Sing.	tiocfaidh sé/sí (he/she will come)	ní thiocfaidh sé/sí (he/she will not come)
1st Pers. Pl.	tiocfaimid (we will come)	ní thiocfaimid (we will not come)
2nd Pers. Pl.	tiocfaidh sibh (you will come)	ní thiocfaidh sibh (you will not come)
2nd Pers. Pl.	tiocfaidh siad (they will come)	ní thiocfaidh siad (they will not come)

An dtiocfaidh tú ar ais amárach? (*Will you come back tomorrow?*)

Tiocfaidh./Ní thiocfaidh. (*Yes./No.*)

Nach dtiocfaidh tú ...? (*Will you not come ...?*)

... go dtiocfaidh tú ... (*... that you will come ...*)

Téigh (go)

	Affirmative	Negative
1st Pers. Sing.	rachaidh mé (<i>I will go</i>)	ní rachaidh mé (<i>I will not go</i>)
2nd Pers. Sing.	rachaidh tú (<i>you will go</i>)	ní rachaidh tú (<i>you will not go</i>)
3rd Pers. Sing.	rachaidh sé/sí (<i>he/she will go</i>)	ní rachaidh sé/sí (<i>he/she will not go</i>)
1st Pers. Pl.	rachaimid (<i>we will go</i>)	ní rachaimid (<i>we will not go</i>)
2nd Pers. Pl.	rachaidh sibh (<i>you will go</i>)	ní rachaidh sibh (<i>you will not go</i>)
3rd Pers. Pl.	rachaidh siad (<i>they will go</i>)	ní rachaidh siad (<i>they will not go</i>)

An rachaidh tú ansin le Bríd? (*Will you go there with Bríd?*)

Rachaidh./Ní rachaidh. (*Yes./No.*)

Nach rachaidh tú ...? (*Will you not go ...?*)

... go rachaidh tú ... (*... that you will go ...*)

Making requests

The future tense is often used when requests are being made:

An bhfaighidh tú nuachtán dom? (*Will you get a newspaper for me?*)

An dtiocfaidh tú anseo ar feadh nóiméid? (*Will you come here for a minute?*)

An rachaidh tú ag siopadóireacht liom? (*Will you go shopping with me?*)

Present tense with future meaning

Similar to English, the present tense is often used in Irish to refer to future events. The construction is:

tá (present tense of bí) + pronoun + ag + verbal noun

Tá mé ag dul go Corcaigh ag an deireadh seachtaine. (*I'm going to Cork at the weekend.*)

Tá sé ag bualadh le Róisín amárach. (*He's meeting Róisín tomorrow.*)

Táimid ag imeacht ar maidin. (*We're leaving in the morning.*)

Talking about plans and intentions

Here are various ways of talking about plans and intentions:

Tá sé i gceist agam dul go Londain ar feadh trí lá. (*I intend to go to London for three days.*)

Tá sé beartaithe ag Dónall agus Jacinta bogadh go hAlbain. (*Dónall and Jacinta plan on moving to Scotland.*)

Tá siad ag brath cúpla lá a chaitheamh anseo. (*They intend to spend a few days here.*)

Exercises

A Answer each one of these questions in the affirmative (*yes*) and in the negative (*no*).

- 1 An dtabharfaidh tú an litir seo do Michelle? (*Will you give this letter to Michelle?*)
- 2 An léifidh tú an aiste seo dom? (*Will you read this essay for me?*)
- 3 An sábhálfaidh sibh mórán airgid má théann sibh ar an mbád? (*Will you save much money if you go on the boat.*)
- 4 An gceannóidh siad é? (*Will they buy it?*)
- 5 An bhfaighimid lá saor? (*Will we get a free day?*)
- 6 An dtiocfaidh siad ar ais amárach? (*Will they come back tomorrow?*)
- 7 An rachaidh sí leat go Gaillimh? (*Will she go with you to Galway?*)
- 8 An ndéanfaidh sibh gar dom? (*Will you do me a favour?*)

- 9 An ndéarfaidh tú leis teacht isteach? (*Will you tell him to come in?*)
 10 An dtabharfaidh siad an t-airgead ar ais duit? (*Will they give you back the money?*)

B Write the correct particle (an, ní or nach) and the correct form of the verb in the blanks in each sentence.

- 1 _____ tú ar ais leis? Tíocfaidh. (*Will you come back with him? Yes.*)
 2 _____ sí ar ais duit é? Ní thabharfaidh. (*Will she not give it back to you? No.*)
 3 _____ siad tú? Ní fheicfidh. (*Will they see you? No.*)
 4 _____ tú pas sna scrúduithe. (*You will not get a pass in the exams.*)
 5 _____ tú an guthán ag bualadh? Cloisfidh. (*Will you hear the phone ringing? Yes.*)
 6 _____ siad an méid sin. (*They won't eat that much.*)
 7 _____ tú léi go raibh mé anseo? Déarfaidh. (*Will you tell her I was here? Yes.*)
 8 _____ ar ais in am? Ní bheidh. (*Will we be back in time? No.*)
 9 _____ sibh an obair di? Ní dhéanfaidh. (*Will you not do the work for her? No.*)
 10 _____ aon airgead dó. (*We will not give him any money.*)

C Match each verb and pronoun in Column One with their English equivalents in Column Two:

Column One

- 1 tuigfidh sibh
- 2 suífimid
- 3 ceiliúrfaidh siad
- 4 ní éireoimid
- 5 ní bheidh siad
- 6 cloisfidh sibh
- 7 tuigfidh siad
- 8 nach n-éireoidh siad?
- 9 cloisfimid
- 10 íosfaimid
- 11 nach bhfaighidh sibh?
- 12 gheobhaidh mé

Column Two

- a we will sit
- b will they not get up?
- c you will hear
- d they will celebrate
- e they will understand
- f we will eat
- g we will not get up
- h will you not get?
- i they will not be
- j I will get
- k we will hear
- l you will understand

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the verb 5

In this unit you will learn about

- the conditional mood (regular verbs)
- questions and answers in the conditional mood
- the irregular verbs
- asking for favours/making requests
- *ba mhaith.../ar mhaith...?*
- *dá*
- *féad*

Verbs in the conditional mood are used to convey a possible or unfulfilled sense of the verb.

The conditional mood: regular verbs

The first conjugation

Verbs with a one-syllable root, e.g. díol (*sell*) and tit (*fall*).

	Broad consonant	Slender consonant
1st Pers. Sing.	dhíolfainn (<i>I would sell</i>)	thitfinn (<i>I would fall</i>)
2nd Pers. Sing.	dhíolfá (<i>you would sell</i>)	thitfeá (<i>you would fall</i>)
3rd Pers. Sing.	dhíolfadh sé/sí (<i>he/she would sell</i>)	thitfeadh sé/sí (<i>he/she would fall</i>)
1st Pers. Pl.	dhíolfaimis (<i>we would sell</i>)	thitfimis (<i>we would fall</i>)
2nd Pers. Pl.	dhíolfadh sibh (<i>you would sell</i>)	thitfeadh sibh (<i>you would fall</i>)
3rd Pers. Pl.	dhíolfaidís (<i>they would sell</i>)	thitfidís (<i>they would fall</i>)

Verbs beginning with a vowel or f

As in the past tense, *d'* is placed in front of verbs beginning with a vowel or *f* in the conditional mood. Note, however, that forms with *d'* are not used after *an*, *ní*, *nach*, etc.:

<i>d'</i> éistfidís (<i>they would listen</i>)	<i>d'</i> fhanfaidís (<i>they would wait</i>)
but	
ní éistfidís (<i>they would not listen</i>)	ní fhanfaidís (<i>they would not wait</i>)
an éistfidís? (<i>would they listen?</i>)	an bhfanfaidís? (<i>would they wait?</i>)

	<i>Fan</i> (<i>wait, stay</i>)	<i>Éist</i> (<i>listen</i>)
1st Pers. Sing.	<i>d'</i> fhanfainn (<i>I would wait</i>)	<i>d'</i> éistfinn (<i>I would listen</i>)
2nd Pers. Sing.	<i>d'</i> fhanfá (<i>you would wait</i>)	<i>d'</i> éistfeá (<i>you would listen</i>)
3rd Pers. Sing.	<i>d'</i> fhanfadh sé/sí (<i>he/she would wait</i>)	<i>d'</i> éistfeadh sé/sí (<i>he/she would listen</i>)
1st Pers. Pl.	<i>d'</i> fhanfaimis (<i>we would wait</i>)	<i>d'</i> éistfimis (<i>we would listen</i>)
2nd Pers. Pl.	<i>d'</i> fhanfadh sibh (<i>you would wait</i>)	<i>d'</i> éistfeadh sibh (<i>you would listen</i>)
3rd Pers. Pl.	<i>d'</i> fhanfaidís (<i>they would wait</i>)	<i>d'</i> éistfidís (<i>they would listen</i>)

	<i>Pléigh</i> (<i>discuss</i>)	<i>Luigh</i> (<i>lie down</i>)
1st Pers. Sing.	phléifinn (<i>I would discuss</i>)	luifinn (<i>I would lie down</i>)
2nd Pers. Sing.	phléifeá (<i>you would discuss</i>)	luifeá (<i>you would lie down</i>)
3rd Pers. Sing.	phléifeadh sé/sí (<i>he/she would discuss</i>)	luifeadh sé/sí (<i>he/she would lie down</i>)
1st Pers. Pl.	phléifimis (<i>we would discuss</i>)	luifimis (<i>we would lie down</i>)
2nd Pers. Pl.	phléifeadh sibh (<i>you would discuss</i>)	luifeadh sibh (<i>you would lie down</i>)
3rd Pers. Pl.	phléifidís (<i>they would discuss</i>)	luifidís (<i>they would lie down</i>)

Verbs with a root containing more than one syllable and ending in -áil

	<i>Márcáil (mark)</i>	<i>Sábháil (save)</i>
1st Pers. Sing.	mharcálfainn (<i>I would mark</i>)	shábhálfainn (<i>I would save</i>)
2nd Pers. Sing.	mharcálfá (<i>you would mark</i>)	shábhálfá (<i>you would save</i>)
3rd Pers. Sing.	mharcálfadh sé/sí (<i>he/she would mark</i>)	shábhálfadh sé/sí (<i>he/she would save</i>)
1st Pers. Pl.	mharcálfaimis (<i>we would mark</i>)	shábhálfaimis (<i>we would save</i>)
2nd Pers. Pl.	mharcálfadh sibh (<i>you would mark</i>)	shábhálfadh sibh (<i>you would save</i>)
3rd Pers. Pl.	mharcálfaidís (<i>they would mark</i>)	shábhálfaidís (<i>they would save</i>)

Verbs ending in -áin, -óil and -úir

	<i>Taispeáin (show)</i>	<i>Tionól (convene)</i>
1st Pers. Sing.	thaispeánfainn (<i>I would show</i>)	thionólfainn (<i>I would convene</i>)
2nd Pers. Sing.	thaispeánfá (<i>you would show</i>)	thionólfá (<i>you would convene</i>)
3rd Pers. Sing.	thaispeánfadh sé/sí (<i>he/she would show</i>)	thionólfadh sé/sí (<i>he/she would convene</i>)
1st Pers. Pl.	thaispeánfaimis (<i>we would show</i>)	thionólfaimis (<i>we would convene</i>)
2nd Pers. Pl.	thaispeánfadh sibh (<i>you would show</i>)	thionólfadh sibh (<i>you would convene</i>)
3rd Pers. Pl.	thaispeánfaidís (<i>they would show</i>)	thionólfaidís (<i>they would convene</i>)

Cheiliúir (celebrate)

1st Pers. Sing.	cheiliúrfainn (<i>I would celebrate</i>)
2nd Pers. Sing.	cheiliúrfá (<i>you would celebrate</i>)
3rd Pers. Sing.	cheiliúrfadh sé/sí (<i>he/she would celebrate</i>)
1st Pers. Pl.	cheiliúrfaimis (<i>we would celebrate</i>)
2nd Pers. Pl.	cheiliúrfadh sibh (<i>you would celebrate</i>)
3rd Pers. Pl.	cheiliúrfaidís (<i>they would celebrate</i>)

The second conjugation

Verbs with more than one syllable in their root, ending in (a)igh, e.g. ionsaigh (*attack*) and dúisigh (*wake up*)

	Broad consonant	Slender consonant
1st Pers. Sing.	d'ionsóinn (<i>I would attack</i>)	dhúiseoinn (<i>I would wake up</i>)
2nd Pers. Sing.	d'ionsófá (<i>you would attack</i>)	dhúiseofá (<i>you would wake up</i>)
3rd Pers. Sing.	d'ionsódh sé/sí (<i>he/she would attack</i>)	dhúiseodh sé/sí (<i>he/she would wake up</i>)
1st Pers. Pl.	d'ionsóimis (<i>we would attack</i>)	dhúiseoimis (<i>we would wake up</i>)
2nd Pers. Pl.	d'ionsódh sibh (<i>you would attack</i>)	dhúiseodh sibh (<i>you would wake up</i>)
3rd Pers. Pl.	d'ionsóidís (<i>they would attack</i>)	dhúiseoidís (<i>they would wake up</i>)

Verbs with more than one syllable in their root, ending in *-(a)il*, *-(a)in*, *-(a)ir*, *-(a)is*. These verbs lose a vowel or vowels when they are conjugated

	<i>Ceangail (tie)</i>	<i>Cosain (protect)</i>
1st Pers. Sing.	cheanglóinn (<i>I would tie</i>)	chosnóinn (<i>I would protect</i>)
2nd Pers. Sing.	cheanglófa (<i>you would tie</i>)	chosnófa (<i>you would protect</i>)
3rd Pers. Sing.	cheanglódh sé/sí (<i>he/she would tie</i>)	chosnódh sé/sí (<i>he/she would protect</i>)
1st Pers. Pl.	cheanglóimis (<i>we would tie</i>)	chosnóimis (<i>we would protect</i>)
2nd Pers. Pl.	cheanglódh sibh (<i>you would tie</i>)	chosnódh sibh (<i>you would protect</i>)
3rd Pers. Pl.	cheanglóidís (<i>they would tie</i>)	chosnóidís (<i>they would protect</i>)

	<i>Imir (play)</i>	<i>Inis (tell)</i>
1st Pers. Sing.	d'imreoinn (<i>I would play</i>)	d'inseoinn (<i>I would tell</i>)
2nd Pers. Sing.	d'imreofa (<i>you would play</i>)	d'inseofa (<i>you would tell</i>)
3rd Pers. Sing.	d'imreodh sé/sí (<i>he/she would play</i>)	d'inseodh sé/sí (<i>he/she would tell</i>)
1st Pers. Pl.	d'imreois (<i>we would play</i>)	d'inseois (<i>we would tell</i>)
2nd Pers. Pl.	d'imreodh sibh (<i>you would play</i>)	d'inseodh sibh (<i>you would tell</i>)
3rd Pers. Pl.	d'imreoidís (<i>they would play</i>)	d'inseoidís (<i>they would tell</i>)

Some other verbs that do not lose a vowel when they are conjugated

	<i>Fulaing (suffer)</i>	<i>Tarraing (draw)</i>
1st Pers. Sing.	d'fhulaingeoinn (<i>I would suffer</i>)	tharraingeoinn (<i>I would draw</i>)
2nd Pers. Sing.	d'fhulaingeofa (<i>you would suffer</i>)	tharraingeofa (<i>you would draw</i>)
3rd Pers. Sing.	d'fhulaingeodh sé/sí (<i>he/she would suffer</i>)	tharraingeodh sé/sí (<i>he/she would draw</i>)
1st Pers. Pl.	d'fhulaingeois (<i>we would suffer</i>)	tharraingeois (<i>we would draw</i>)
2nd Pers. Pl.	d'fhulaingeodh sibh (<i>you would suffer</i>)	tharraingeodh sibh (<i>you would draw</i>)
3rd Pers. Pl.	d'fhulaingeoidís (<i>they would suffer</i>)	tharraingeoidís (<i>they would draw</i>)

Questions and answers in the conditional mood

- As in the present and future tenses, to form a question in the conditional mood the particle **an** is placed before the verb, which eclipses a following consonant.

An mbuailfeá leis dá mbeadh sé anseo? (*Would you meet him if he were here?*)

- To make a statement negative, **ní** is used. Initial consonants are lenited following **ní** and the **d'** before vowels and **f** is dropped.

An bhfanfa liom dá mbeinn deanach? (*Would you wait for me if I was late?*)

D'fhanfainn./Ní fhanfainn. (*Yes./No.*)

An imreofa cluiche leis? (*Would you play a game with him?*)

D'imreoinn./Ní imreoinn. (*Yes./No.*)

- Initial vowels, however, are *not* eclipsed after an and ní:

An íosfá greim? (*Would you eat a bite?*)
 Ní ólfainn é. (*I wouldn't drink it.*)

- Nach is the negative interrogative particle. Initial consonants and vowels are eclipsed when they follow nach.

Nach mbeifeá ar buile? (*Would you not be angry?*)
 Nach n-aithneodh sé tú? (*Would he not recognize you?*)

Important point

Note that the same form of the verb is used to answer *yes* and *no* to questions in each person, apart from the first person singular.

An inseofá an fhírinne? (*Would you tell the truth?*)

D'inseoinn./Ní inseoinn. (*Yes./No.*)

but

An inseo dh sé an fhírinne? (*Would he tell the truth?*)

D'inseodh./Ní inseo dh (*Yes./No.*)

An inseo dh sibh an fhírinne? (*Would you tell the truth?*)

D'inseodh./Ní inseo dh (*Yes./No.*)

An inseo idís an fhírinne? (*Would they tell the truth?*)

D'inseodh./Ní inseo dh (*Yes./No.*)

The irregular verbs

Abair (say)

Note that, unlike all other verbs, ní does not lenite in the case of this verb.

	Affirmative	Negative
1st Pers. Sing.	déarfainn (<i>I would say</i>)	ní déarfainn (<i>I would not say</i>)
2nd Pers. Sing.	déarfá (<i>you would say</i>)	ní déarfá (<i>you would not say</i>)
3rd Pers. Sing.	déarfadh sé/sí (<i>he/she would say</i>)	ní déarfadh sé/sí (<i>he/she would not say</i>)
1st Pers. Pl.	déarfaimis (<i>we would say</i>)	ní déarfaimis (<i>we would not say</i>)
2nd Pers. Pl.	déarfadh sibh (<i>you would say</i>)	ní déarfadh sibh (<i>you would not say</i>)
3rd Pers. Pl.	déarfaidís (<i>they would say</i>)	ní déarfaidís (<i>they would not say</i>)

An ndéarfá cúpla focal? (*Would you say a few words?*)

Déarfainn./Ní déarfainn. (*Yes./No.*)

Nach ndéarfá ...? (*Would you not say ...?*)

... go ndéarfá ... (*... that you would say ...*)

Beir (bring, take)

	Affirmative	Negative
1st Pers. Sing.	bhéarfainn (<i>I would bring</i>)	ní bhéarfainn (<i>I would not bring</i>)
2nd Pers. Sing.	bhéarfá (<i>you would bring</i>)	ní bhéarfá (<i>you would not bring</i>)
3rd Pers. Sing.	bhéarfadh sé/sí (<i>he/she would bring</i>)	ní bhéarfadh sé/sí (<i>he/she would not bring</i>)
1st Pers. Pl.	bhéarfaimis (<i>we would bring</i>)	ní bhéarfaimis (<i>we would not bring</i>)
2nd Pers. Pl.	bhéarfadh sibh (<i>you would bring</i>)	ní bhéarfadh sibh (<i>you would not bring</i>)
3rd Pers. Pl.	bhéarfaidís (<i>they would bring</i>)	ní bhéarfaidís (<i>they would not bring</i>)

An mbéarfá leat é? (*Would you bring it with you?*)

Bhéarfainn./Ní bhéarfainn. (*Yes./No.*)

Nach mbéarfá ...? (*Would you not bring ...?*)

... go mbéarfá ... (*... that you would bring ...*)

Bí (be)

	Affirmative	Negative
1st Pers. Sing.	bheinn (<i>I would be</i>)	ní bheinn (<i>I would not be</i>)
2nd Pers. Sing.	bheifeá (<i>you would be</i>)	ní bheifeá (<i>you would not be</i>)
3rd Pers. Sing.	bheadh sé/sí (<i>he/she would be</i>)	ní bheadh sé/sí (<i>he/she would not be</i>)
1st Pers. Pl.	bheimis (<i>we would be</i>)	ní bheimis (<i>we would not be</i>)
2nd Pers. Pl.	bheadh sibh (<i>you would be</i>)	ní bheadh sibh (<i>you would not be</i>)
3rd Pers. Pl.	bheidís (<i>they would be</i>)	ní bheidís (<i>they would not be</i>)

An mbeifeá míshásta? (*Would you dissatisfied?*)

Bheinn./Ní bheinn. (*Yes./No.*)

Nach mbeifeá ...? (*Would you not be ...?*)

... go mbeifeá ... (*... that you would be ...*)

Clois (hear)

	Affirmative	Negative
1st Pers. Sing.	chloisfinn (<i>I would hear</i>)	ní chloisfinn (<i>I would not hear</i>)
2nd Pers. Sing.	chloisfeá (<i>you would hear</i>)	ní chloisfeá (<i>you would not hear</i>)
3rd Pers. Sing.	chloisfeadh sé/sí (<i>he/she would hear</i>)	ní chloisfeadh sé/sí (<i>he/she would not hear</i>)
1st Pers. Pl.	chloisfimis (<i>we would hear</i>)	ní chloisfimis (<i>we would not hear</i>)
2nd Pers. Pl.	chloisfeadh sibh (<i>you would hear</i>)	ní chloisfeadh sibh (<i>you would not hear</i>)
3rd Pers. Pl.	chloisfidís (<i>they would hear</i>)	ní chloisfidís (<i>they would not hear</i>)

An gcloisfeá an torann? (*Would you hear the noise?*)

Chloisfinn./Ní chloisfinn. (*Yes./No.*)

Nach gcloisfeá ...? (*Would you not hear ...?*)

... go gcloisfeá ... (*... that you would hear ...*)

Duan (do, make)

	Affirmative	Negative
1st Pers. Sing.	dhéanfainn (<i>I would do</i>)	ní dhéanfainn (<i>I would not do</i>)
2nd Pers. Sing.	dhéanfá (<i>you would do</i>)	ní dhéanfá (<i>you would not do</i>)
3rd Pers. Sing.	dhéanfadh sé/sí (<i>he/she would do</i>)	ní dhéanfadh sé/sí (<i>he/she would not do</i>)
1st Pers. Pl.	dhéanfaimis (<i>we would do</i>)	ní dhéanfaimis (<i>we would not do</i>)
2nd Pers. Pl.	dhéanfadh sibh (<i>you would do</i>)	ní dhéanfadh sibh (<i>you would not do</i>)
3rd Pers. Pl.	dhéanfaidís (<i>they would do</i>)	ní dhéanfaidís (<i>they would not do</i>)

An ndéanfá é? (*Would you do it?*)

Dhéanfainn./Ní dhéanfainn. (*Yes./No.*)

Nach ndéanfá ...? (*Would you not do ...?*)

... go ndéanfá ... (*... that you would do ...*)

Faigh (get)

	Affirmative	Negative
1st Pers. Sing.	gheobhainn (<i>I would get</i>)	ní bhfaighinn (<i>I would not get</i>)
2nd Pers. Sing.	gheobhfá (<i>you would get</i>)	ní bhfaighfeá (<i>you would not get</i>)
3rd Pers. Sing.	gheobheadh sé/sí (<i>he/she would get</i>)	ní bhfaigheadh sé/sí (<i>he/she would not get</i>)
1st Pers. Pl.	gheobhaimis (<i>we would get</i>)	ní bhfaighimis (<i>we would not get</i>)
2nd Pers. Pl.	gheobhadh sibh (<i>you would get</i>)	ní bhfaigheadh sibh (<i>you would not get</i>)
3rd Pers. Pl.	gheobhaidís (<i>they would get</i>)	ní bhfaighidís (<i>they would not get</i>)

An bhfaighfeá pá breise? (*Would you get extra pay?*)

Gheobhainn./Ní bhfaighinn. (*Yes./No.*)

Nach bhfaighfeá ...? (*Would you not get ...?*)

... go bhfaighfeá ... (*... that you would get ...*)

Feic (see)

	Affirmative	Negative
1st Pers. Sing.	d'fheicfinn (<i>I would see</i>)	ní fheicfinn (<i>I would not see</i>)
2nd Pers. Sing.	d'fheicfeá (<i>you would see</i>)	ní fheicfeá (<i>you would not see</i>)
3rd Pers. Sing.	d'fheicfeadh sé/sí (<i>he/she would see</i>)	ní fheicfeadh sé/sí (<i>he/she would not see</i>)
1st Pers. Pl.	d'fheicfimis (<i>we would see</i>)	ní fheicfimis (<i>we would not see</i>)
2nd Pers. Pl.	d'fheicfeadh sibh (<i>you would see</i>)	ní fheicfeadh sibh (<i>you would not see</i>)
3rd Pers. Pl.	d'fheicfidís (<i>they would see</i>)	ní fheicfidís (<i>they would not see</i>)

An bhfeicfeá í dá mbeadh sí ansin? (*Would you see her if she was there?*)

D'fheicfinn./Ní fheicfinn. (*Yes./No.*)

Nach bhfeicfeá ...? (*Would you not see ...?*)

... go bhfeicfeá ... (*... that you would see ...*)

Ith (eat)

	Affirmative	Negative
1st Pers. Sing.	d'íosfainn (<i>I would eat</i>)	ní íosfainn (<i>I would not eat</i>)
2nd Pers. Sing.	d'íosfá (<i>you would eat</i>)	ní íosfá (<i>you would not eat</i>)
3rd Pers. Sing.	d'íosfadh sé/sí (<i>he/she would eat</i>)	ní íosfadh sé/sí (<i>he/she would not eat</i>)
1st Pers. Pl.	d'íosfaimis (<i>we would eat</i>)	ní íosfaimis (<i>we would not eat</i>)
2nd Pers. Pl.	d'íosfadh sibh (<i>you would eat</i>)	ní íosfadh sibh (<i>you would not eat</i>)
3rd Pers. Pl.	d'íosfaidís (<i>they would eat</i>)	ní íosfaidís (<i>they would not eat</i>)

An íosfá an bia sin? (*Would you eat that food?*)

D'íosfainn./Ní íosfainn. (*Yes./No.*)

Nach n-íosfá ...? (*Would you not eat ...?*)

... go n-íosfá ... (*... that you would eat ...*)

Tabhair (give)

	Affirmative	Negative
1st Pers. Sing.	thabharfainn (<i>I would give</i>)	ní thabharfainn (<i>I would not give</i>)
2nd Pers. Sing.	thabharfá (<i>you would give</i>)	ní thabharfá (<i>you would not give</i>)
3rd Pers. Sing.	thabharfadh sé/sí (<i>he/she would give</i>)	ní thabharfadh sé/sí (<i>he/she would not give</i>)
1st Pers. Pl.	thabharfaimis (<i>we would give</i>)	ní thabharfaimis (<i>we would not give</i>)
2nd Pers. Pl.	thabharfadh sibh (<i>you would give</i>)	ní thabharfadh sibh (<i>you would not give</i>)
3rd Pers. Pl.	thabharfaidís (<i>they would give</i>)	ní thabharfaidís (<i>they would not give</i>)

An dtabharfá airgead dó? (*Would you give him money?*)

Thabharfainn./Ní thabharfainn. (*Yes./No.*)

Nach dtabharfá ...? (*Would you not give ...?*)

... go dtabharfá ... (*... that you would give ...*)

Tar (come)

	Affirmative	Negative
1st Pers. Sing.	thiocfainn (<i>I would come</i>)	ní thiocfainn (<i>I would not come</i>)
2nd Pers. Sing.	thiocfá (<i>you would come</i>)	ní thiocfá (<i>you would not come</i>)
3rd Pers. Sing.	thiocfadh sé/sí (<i>he/she would come</i>)	ní thiocfadh sé/sí (<i>he/she would not come</i>)
1st Pers. Pl.	thiocfaimis (<i>we would come</i>)	ní thiocfaimis (<i>we would not come</i>)
2nd Pers. Pl.	thiocfadh sibh (<i>you would come</i>)	ní thiocfadh sibh (<i>you would not come</i>)
3rd Pers. Pl.	thiocfaidís (<i>they would come</i>)	ní thiocfaidís (<i>they would not come</i>)

An dtiocfá dá mbeadh an t-am agat? (*Would you come if you had the time?*)

Thiocfainn./Ní thiocfainn. (*Yes./No.*)

Nach dtiocfá ...? (*Would you not come ...?*)

... go dtiocfá ... (*... that you would come ...*)

l'éigh (go)

	Affirmative	Negative
1st Pers. Sing.	rachainn (<i>I would go</i>)	ní rachainn (<i>I would not go</i>)
2nd Pers. Sing.	rachfá (<i>you would go</i>)	ní rachfá (<i>you would not go</i>)
3rd Pers. Sing.	rachadh sé/sí (<i>he/she would go</i>)	ní rachadh sé/sí (<i>he/she would not go</i>)
1st Pers. Pl.	rachaimis (<i>we would go</i>)	ní rachaimis (<i>we would not go</i>)
2nd Pers. Pl.	rachadh sibh (<i>you would go</i>)	ní rachadh sibh (<i>you would not go</i>)
3rd Pers. Pl.	rachaidís (<i>they would go</i>)	ní rachaidís (<i>they would not go</i>)

An rachfá ansin i d'aonar? (*Would you go there alone?*)

Rachainn./Ní rachainn. (*Yes./No.*)

Nach rachfá ...? (*Would you not go ...?*)

... go rachfá ... (*... that you would go ...*)

Asking for favours/making requests

The conditional mood is often used when asking a friend or someone you know well for a favour, or when making a request:

An bhfaighfeá toitíní dom. (*Would you get me cigarettes.*)

An ndúnfá an fhuinneog sin, a Chaoimhe. (*Would you close that window, Caoimhe.*)

An osclófá an doras dom, le do thoil. (*Would you open the door for me, please.*)

People normally avoid using the verb when responding to a request where the conditional mood is used:

An ndéanfá gar dom? (*Would you do me a favour?*)
 Cinnte. Níl mé gnóthach. (*Sure. I'm not busy.*)
 An ndéanfá gar dom? (*Would you do me a favour?*)
 Tá brón orm ach caithfidh mé imeacht anois díreach. (*I'm sorry but I have to leave right now.*)

Ba mhaith .../Ar mhaith ...?

The prepositional pronoun *le* is used when making a request using the construction *Ba mhaith ...*:

Ba mhaith liom cupán tae. (*I'd like a cup of tea.*)
 Ba mhaith liom pionta, le do thoil. (*I'd like a pint, please.*)

Ar mhaith ...? is used to ask someone if he/she would like something:

Ar mhaith leat gloine fíona? (*Would you like a glass of wine?*)

When answering *yes* or *no*, it is not necessary to use the prepositional pronoun:

Ar mhaith leat deoch? (*Would you like a drink?*)
 Ba mhaith./Níor mhaith.

Dá

The conjunction *dá* (*if*) is used with the conditional mood. The initial consonant or vowel of a verb is eclipsed when it follows *dá*.

Dá mbeadh go leor airgid agam, cheannóinn é. (*If I had enough money, I would buy it.*)
 Dá n-osclóidís an caife ar a hocht, dhéanfaidís níos mó airgid. (*If they would open the café at eight, they would make more money.*)

Mura is the negative form of *dá*. *Mura* also causes eclipsis:

Mura mbeadh sí liom, ní rachainn ann. (*If she weren't with me, I wouldn't go there.*)
 Mura n-imeoidís in am, chaillfidís an bus. (*If they would not have [had not] left on time, they would have missed the bus.*)

Féad

The auxiliary verb *féad* (*be able to*) is often used in the conditional mood:

An bhféadfainn labhairt le Seoirse, le do thoil? (*Could I speak to Seoirse, please?*)
 An bhféadfá a rá léi go bhfuil mé anseo? (*Could you say to her that I'm here?*)
 An bhféadfadh sibh fanacht anseo cúpla nóiméad? (*Could you stay here for a few minutes?*)

Exercises

A Answer each one of these questions in the affirmative (*yes*) and in the negative (*no*).

- 1 An ndíolfá é dá bhfaighfeá luach maith air? (*Would you sell it if you were to get a good price for it?*)
- 2 An bhfanfa oíche eile? (*Would you stay another night?*)
- 3 Ar mhaith leat cupán tae? (*Would you like a cup of tea?*)
- 4 An dtaispeánfa do chuid oibre di? (*Would you show her your work?*)
- 5 An ionsóidís é, meas tú? (*Would they attack him, do you think?*)
- 6 An ndéarfadh sí aon rud leis? (*Would she say anything to him?*)
- 7 An rachaidís le chéile? (*Would they go together?*)
- 8 An bhfaigheadh sé pinsean dá n-éireadh sé as a phost? (*Would he get a pension if he were to give up his job?*)
- 9 An íosfadh sí bia Seapánach? (*Would she eat Japanese food?*)
- 10 An dtiocfaidís gan an mháthair? (*Would they come without the mother?*)

B Write the correct particle (**an**, **ní** or **nach**) and the correct form of the verb in the blanks in each sentence.

- 1 _____ leis arís? Ní imreoinn. (*Would you play with him again? I would not.*)
- 2 _____ ábalta é a fheiceáil? Bheinn. (*Would you not be able to see it? I would.*)
- 3 _____ míshásta? Bheadh. (*Would they not be dissatisfied? They would be.*)
- 4 _____ seans eile. (*You wouldn't get another chance.*)
- 5 _____ an guthán ag bualadh? Ní chloisfinn. (*Would you hear the phone ringing? I would not.*)
- 6 _____ an bia go léir? D'íosfadh. (*Would they eat all the food? They would.*)
- 7 _____ an bia go léir? Ní íosfadh. (*Would they not eat all the food? They would not.*)
- 8 _____ ansin i d'aonar? Ní rachainn. (*Would you go there alone? They would not.*)
- 9 _____ sibh ann le chéile? Rachadh. (*Would you go there together? We would.*)
- 10 _____ post dó? Thabharfadh. (*Would they give him a job? They would.*)

C Each sentence below is in the affirmative. Write it in the negative.

- 1 Gheobhainn an leabhar dó. (*I'd get the book for him.*)
- 2 Thiocfaidís ar ais. (*They would come back.*)
- 3 D'ólfainn cúpla pionta. (*I'd drink a few pints.*)
- 4 D'fhanfainn sa bhaile. (*I'd stay at home.*)
- 5 Déarfainn leo imeacht. (*I'd tell them to leave.*)
- 6 D'inseoinn an fhírinne. (*I'd tell the truth.*)
- 7 D'fhoghlaimedh sé ceacht. (*He'd learn a lesson.*)
- 8 D'fheicfeadh sé mé. (*He would see me.*)
- 9 D'íosfadh sí an iomarca. (*She would eat too much.*)
- 10 Dhíolfaimis go daor as. (*We'd pay dearly for it.*)

D Match each verb in Column One with its English equivalent in Column Two:

Column One

- 1 thitfeá
- 2 dhúiseodh sibh
- 3 cheannóinn
- 4 an gcloisfidís?
- 5 ní inseofá
- 6 tharraingeoidís
- 7 chosnóinn
- 8 bheidís
- 9 bheimis
- 10 thitfidís
- 11 nach gcloisfimis?
- 12 dhéanfá

Column Two

- a I would protect
- b you would wake up
- c you would fall
- d they would be
- e would they hear?
- f they would fall
- g you would do/make
- h would we not hear?
- i they would draw
- j we would be
- k you would not tell
- l I would buy

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the verb 6

In this unit you will learn about

- the past habitual tense (regular verbs)
- the first conjugation
- the second conjugation
- questions and answers (all verbs)
- the irregular verbs
- avoiding the past habitual

The past habitual tense (regular verbs)

The past habitual tense is used to express actions that happened habitually or regularly in the past.

The first conjugation

In the first conjugation, the past habitual forms are similar to the conditional mood forms. The only differences are (i) there is no *t* after the root of the verb, as there is in the conditional; (ii) the *f* found in the conditional mood, second person singular is replaced by a *t*;

Conditional mood	Past habitual
d'ólfaínn (<i>I would drink</i>)	d'ólainn (<i>I used to drink</i>)
bhuailfidís (<i>they would strike</i>)	bhuailidís (<i>they used to strike</i>)

Verbs with a one-syllable root

	Broad consonant	Slender consonant
	<i>Scríobh</i> (<i>write</i>)	<i>Buail</i> (<i>strike</i>)
1st Pers. Sing.	scríobhainn (<i>I used to write</i>)	bhuailinn (<i>I used to strike</i>)
2nd Pers. Sing.	scríobhtá (<i>you used to write</i>)	bhuailteá (<i>you used to strike</i>)
3rd Pers. Sing.	scríobhadh sé/sí (<i>he/she used to write</i>)	bhuaileadh sé/sí (<i>he/she used to strike</i>)
1st Pers. Pl.	scríobhaimis (<i>we used to write</i>)	bhuailimis (<i>we used to strike</i>)
2nd Pers. Pl.	scríobhadh sibh (<i>you used to write</i>)	bhuaileadh sibh (<i>you used to strike</i>)
3rd Pers. Pl.	scríobhaidís (<i>they used to write</i>)	bhuailidís (<i>they used to strike</i>)

Verbs beginning with a vowel or f

In the imperative mood, *d'* is placed in front of verbs beginning with a vowel or *f*. Note, however, that forms with *d'* are not used after *an, ní, nach*, etc:

d'ólainn (<i>I used to drink</i>)	d'fhanaidís (<i>they used to wait</i>)
	but
ní ólainn (<i>I used not to drink</i>)	ní fhanaidís (<i>They used not to wait</i>)
an óltá? (<i>Used you to drink?</i>)	an bhfanaidís? (<i>Used they to wait?</i>)

	Ól (<i>drink</i>)	Fill (<i>return</i>)
1st Pers. Sing.	d'ólainn (<i>I used to drink</i>)	d'fhillinn (<i>I used to return</i>)
2nd Pers. Sing.	d'óltá (<i>you used to drink</i>)	d'fhillteá (<i>you used to return</i>)
3rd Pers. Sing.	d'óladh sé/sí (<i>he/she used to drink</i>)	d'fhilladh sé/sí (<i>he/she used to return</i>)
1st Pers. Pl.	d'ólaimis (<i>we used to drink</i>)	d'fhillimis (<i>we used to return</i>)
2nd Pers. Pl.	d'óladh sibh (<i>you used to drink</i>)	d'fhilladh sibh (<i>you used to return</i>)
3rd Pers. Pl.	d'ólaidís (<i>they used to drink</i>)	d'fhillidís (<i>they used to return</i>)

	Pléigh (<i>discuss</i>)	Luigh (<i>lie down</i>)
1st Pers. Sing.	phléinn (<i>I used to discuss</i>)	luínn (<i>I used to lie down</i>)
2nd Pers. Sing.	phléiteá (<i>you used to discuss</i>)	luíteá (<i>you used to lie down</i>)
3rd Pers. Sing.	phléadh sé/sí (<i>he/she used to discuss</i>)	luíodh sé/sí (<i>he/she used to lie down</i>)
1st Pers. Pl.	phléimis (<i>we used to discuss</i>)	luímis (<i>we used to lie down</i>)
2nd Pers. Pl.	phléadh sibh (<i>you used to discuss</i>)	luíodh sibh (<i>you used to lie down</i>)
3rd Pers. Pl.	phléidís (<i>they used to discuss</i>)	luídís (<i>they used to lie down</i>)

Verbs with a root containing more than one syllable and ending in -áil

Note how the second person singular is slender in the case of *mharcáil* and *sábháil*.

	Marcáil (<i>mark</i>)	Sábháil (<i>save</i>)
1st Pers. Sing.	mharcálainn (<i>I used to mark</i>)	shábhálainn (<i>I used to save</i>)
2nd Pers. Sing.	mharcáilteá (<i>you used to mark</i>)	shábháilteá (<i>you used to save</i>)
3rd Pers. Sing.	mharcáladh sé/sí (<i>he/she used to mark</i>)	shábháladh sé/sí (<i>he/she used to save</i>)
1st Pers. Pl.	mharcálaimis (<i>we used to mark</i>)	shábhálaimis (<i>we used to save</i>)
2nd Pers. Pl.	mharcáladh sibh (<i>you used to mark</i>)	shábháladh sibh (<i>you used to save</i>)
3rd Pers. Pl.	mharcálaidís (<i>they used to mark</i>)	shábhálaidís (<i>they used to save</i>)

Verbs ending in -áin, -óil and -úir

	Taispeáin (<i>show</i>)	Tionóil (<i>convene</i>)
1st Pers. Sing.	thaispeánainn (<i>I used to show</i>)	thionólainn (<i>I used to convene</i>)
2nd Pers. Sing.	thaispeántá (<i>you used to show</i>)	thionóltá (<i>you used to convene</i>)
3rd Pers. Sing.	thaispeánadh sé/sí (<i>he/she used to show</i>)	thionóladh sé/sí (<i>he/she used to convene</i>)
1st Pers. Pl.	thaispeánaimis (<i>we used to show</i>)	thionólaimis (<i>we used to convene</i>)
2nd Pers. Pl.	thaispeánadh sibh (<i>you used to show</i>)	thionóladh sibh (<i>you used to convene</i>)
2nd Pers. Pl.	thaispeánaidís (<i>they used to show</i>)	thionólaidís (<i>they used to convene</i>)

Ceiliúir (celebrate)

1st Pers. Sing.	cheiliúrainn (<i>I used to celebrate</i>)
2nd Pers. Sing.	cheiliúrtá (<i>you used to celebrate</i>)
3rd Pers. Sing.	cheiliúradh sé/sí (<i>he/she used to celebrate</i>)
1st Pers. Pl.	cheiliúramis (<i>we used to celebrate</i>)
2nd Pers. Pl.	cheiliúradh sibh (<i>you used to celebrate</i>)
3rd Pers. Pl.	cheiliúraidís (<i>they used to celebrate</i>)

The second conjugation

In the second conjugation, the endings in the past habitual tense are different from those of the conditional mood.

Verbs with more than one syllable in their root, ending in -(a)igh

	Broad consonant	Slender consonant
	<i>Gortaigh (hurt)</i>	<i>Éirigh (get up)</i>
1st Pers. Sing.	ghortaínn (<i>I used to hurt</i>)	d'éirínn (<i>I used to get up</i>)
2nd Pers. Sing.	ghortaíteá (<i>you used to hurt</i>)	d'éiríteá (<i>you used to get up</i>)
3rd Pers. Sing.	ghortaíodh sé/sí (<i>he/she used to hurt</i>)	d'éiríodh sé/sí (<i>he/she used to get up</i>)
1st Pers. Pl.	ghortaímis (<i>we used to hurt</i>)	d'éirimis (<i>we used to get up</i>)
2nd Pers. Pl.	ghortaíodh sibh (<i>you used to hurt</i>)	d'éiríodh sibh (<i>you used to get up</i>)
3rd Pers. Pl.	ghortaídís (<i>they used to hurt</i>)	d'éirídís (<i>they used to get up</i>)

Verbs with more than one syllable in their root, ending in (n)il, -(a)in, -(a)ir, -(a)is

These verbs shorten when they are conjugated.

	<i>Codail (sleep)</i>	<i>Cosain (protect)</i>
1st Pers. Sing.	chodlaínn (<i>I used to sleep</i>)	chosnaínn (<i>I used to protect</i>)
2nd Pers. Sing.	chodlaíteá (<i>you used to sleep</i>)	chosnaíteá (<i>you used to protect</i>)
3rd Pers. Sing.	chodlaíodh sé/sí (<i>he/she used to sleep</i>)	chosnaíodh sé/sí (<i>he/she used to protect</i>)
1st Pers. Pl.	chodlaímis (<i>we used to sleep</i>)	chosnaímis (<i>we used to protect</i>)
2nd Pers. Pl.	chodlaíodh sibh (<i>you used to sleep</i>)	chosnaíodh sibh (<i>you used to protect</i>)
3rd Pers. Pl.	chodlaídís (<i>they used to sleep</i>)	chosnaídís (<i>they used to protect</i>)

	<i>Imir (play)</i>	<i>Inis (tell)</i>
1st Pers. Sing.	d'imrínn (<i>I used to play</i>)	d'insínn (<i>I used to tell</i>)
2nd Pers. Sing.	d'imríteá (<i>you used to play</i>)	d'insíteá (<i>you used to tell</i>)
3rd Pers. Sing.	d'imríodh sé/sí (<i>he/she used to play</i>)	d'insíodh sé/sí (<i>he/she used to tell</i>)
1st Pers. Pl.	d'imrímis (<i>we used to play</i>)	d'insímis (<i>we used to tell</i>)
2nd Pers. Pl.	d'imríodh sibh (<i>you used to play</i>)	d'insíodh sibh (<i>you used to tell</i>)
3rd Pers. Pl.	d'imridís (<i>they used to play</i>)	d'insídís (<i>they used to tell</i>)

Some other verbs that do not shorten when they are conjugated

	<i>Fulaing (suffer)</i>	<i>Tarraing (draw)</i>
1st Pers. Sing.	d'fhulaingínn (<i>I used to suffer</i>)	tharraingínn (<i>I used to draw</i>)
2nd Pers. Sing.	d'fhulaingíteá (<i>you used to suffer</i>)	tharraingíteá (<i>I used to draw</i>)
3rd Pers. Sing.	d'fhulaingíodh sé/sí (<i>he/she used to suffer</i>)	tharraingíodh sé/sí (<i>he/she used to draw</i>)
1st Pers. Pl.	d'fhulaingímis (<i>we used to suffer</i>)	tharraingímis (<i>we used to draw</i>)
2nd Pers. Pl.	d'fhulaingíodh sibh (<i>you used to suffer</i>)	tharraingíodh sibh (<i>you used to draw</i>)
3rd Pers. Pl.	d'fhulaingídís (<i>they used to suffer</i>)	tharraingídís (<i>they used to draw</i>)

Questions and answers (all verbs)

- To form a question, the particle *an* is placed before verbs (regular and irregular), which eclipses a following consonant.
- To make a verb negative, *ní* is used, leniting the following consonants.
- Note that *an* and *ní* do not affect a following vowel.

An ngortaídís a chéile? (*Used they not to hurt each other?*)
 Ghortaíodh./Ní ghortaíodh. (*Yes./No.*)
 An éiríteá go luath? (*Did you use to get up early?*)
 D'éirínn./Ní éirínn. (*Yes./No.*)

Nach is the negative interrogative particle. Initial consonants *and vowels* are eclipsed when they follow **nach**.

Nach gcosnaíteá iad? (*Didn't you use to protect them?*)
 Nach n-insíodh sí dó? (*Didn't she use to tell him?*)

Important point

Note that the same form of the verb is used to answer *yes* and *no* to questions in each person, apart from the first person singular.

An insíteá an fhírinne? (*Didn't you use to tell the truth?*)
 D'insínn./Ní insínn. (*Yes./No.*)
 An insíodh sé an fhírinne? (*Didn't he use to tell the truth?*)
 D'insíodh./Ní insíodh. (*Yes./No.*)
 An insíodh sibh an fhírinne? (*Didn't you use to tell the truth?*)
 D'insíodh./Ní insíodh. (*Yes./No.*)
 An insídís an fhírinne? (*Didn't they use to tell the truth?*)
 D'insíodh./Ní insíodh. (*Yes./No.*)

The irregular verbs

Abair (say)

Note that, unlike all other verbs, **ní** does not lenite in the case of this verb.

	Affirmative	Negative
1st Pers. Sing.	deirinn (<i>I used to say</i>)	ní deirinn (<i>I didn't use to say</i>)
1st Pers. Sing.	deirtea (<i>you used to say</i>)	ní deirtea (<i>you didn't use to say</i>)
1st Pers. Sing.	deireadh sé/sí (<i>he/she used to say</i>)	ní deireadh sé/sí (<i>he/she didn't use to say</i>)
3rd Pers. Pl.	deirimis (<i>we used to say</i>)	ní deirimis (<i>we didn't use to say</i>)
3rd Pers. Pl.	deireadh sibh (<i>you used to say</i>)	ní deireadh sibh (<i>you didn't use to say</i>)
3rd Pers. Pl.	deiridís (<i>they used to say</i>)	ní deiridís (<i>they didn't use to say</i>)

An ndeirtea leo é? (*Did you use to say it to them?*)
 Deirinn./Ní deirinn. (*Yes./No.*)
 Nach ndeirtea ...? (*Didn't you use to say ...?*)
 ... go ndeirtea ... (*... that you used to say ...*)

Beir (*bring, take*)

1st Pers. Sing.	bheirinn (<i>I used to bring</i>)
2nd Pers. Sing.	bheirteá (<i>you used to bring</i>)
3rd Pers. Sing.	bheireadh sé/sí (<i>he/she used to bring</i>)
1st Pers. Pl.	bheirimis (<i>we used to bring</i>)
2nd Pers. Pl.	bheireadh sibh (<i>you used to bring</i>)
3rd Pers. Pl.	bheiridís (<i>they used to bring</i>)

An mbeirteá leat é? (*Used you to bring it with you?*)
 Bheirinn./Ní bheirinn. (*Yes./No.*)
 Nach mbeirteá ...? (*Didn't you use to bring ...?*)
 ... go mbeirteá ... (*... that you used to bring ...*)

Bí (*be*)

1st Pers. Sing.	bhínn (<i>I used to be</i>)
2nd Pers. Sing.	bhíteá (<i>you used to be</i>)
3rd Pers. Sing.	bhíodh sé/sí (<i>he/she used to be</i>)
1st Pers. Pl.	bhímis (<i>we used to be</i>)
2nd Pers. Pl.	bhíodh sibh (<i>you used to be</i>)
3rd Pers. Pl.	bhídís (<i>they used to be</i>)

An mbíteá ann go minic? (*Did you use to be there often?*)
 Bhínn./Ní bhínn. (*Yes./No.*)
 Nach mbíteá ...? (*Didn't you use to be ...?*)
 ... go mbíteá ... (*... that you used to be ...*)

Clois (*hear*)

1st Pers. Sing.	chloisinn (<i>I used to hear</i>)
2nd Pers. Sing.	chloisteá (<i>you used to hear</i>)
3rd Pers. Sing.	chloiseadh sé/sí (<i>he/she used to hear</i>)
1st Pers. Pl.	chloisimis (<i>we used to hear</i>)
2nd Pers. Pl.	chloiseadh sibh (<i>you used to hear</i>)
3rd Pers. Pl.	chloisidís (<i>they used to hear</i>)

An gcloisteá an torann? (*Did you use to hear the noise?*)
 Chloisinn./Ní chloisinn. (*Yes./No.*)
 Nach gcloisteá ...? (*Didn't you use to hear ...?*)
 ... go gcloisteá ... (*... that you used to hear ...*)

Déan (*do, make*)

1st Pers. Sing.	dhéanainn (<i>I used to do</i>)
2nd Pers. Sing.	dhéantá (<i>you used to do</i>)
3rd Pers. Sing.	dhéanadh sé/sí (<i>he/she used to do</i>)
1st Pers. Pl.	dhéanaimis (<i>we used to do</i>)
2nd Pers. Pl.	dhéanadh sibh (<i>you used to do</i>)
3rd Pers. Pl.	dhéanaidís (<i>they used to do</i>)

An ndéantá é? (*Did you use to do it?*)
 Dhéanainn./Ní dhéanainn. (*Yes./No.*)
 Nach ndéantá ...? (*Didn't you use to do ...?*)
 ... go ndéantá ... (*... that you used to do ...*)

Faigh (*get*)

1st Pers. Sing.	d'fhaighinn (<i>I used to get</i>)
2nd Pers. Sing.	d'fhaighteá (<i>you used to get</i>)
3rd Pers. Sing.	d'fhaigheadh sé/sí (<i>he/she used to get</i>)
1st Pers. Pl.	d'fhaighimis (<i>we used to get</i>)
2nd Pers. Pl.	d'fhaigheadh sibh (<i>you used to get</i>)
3rd Pers. Pl.	d'fhaighidís (<i>they used to get</i>)

An bhfaighteá pá breise? (*Did you use to get extra pay?*)
 D'fhaighinn./Ní fhaighinn. (*Yes./No.*)
 Nach bhfaighteá ...? (*Didn't you use to get ...?*)
 ... go bhfaighteá ... (*... that you used to get ...*)

Feic (see)

1st Pers. Sing.	d'fheicinn (<i>I used to see</i>)
2nd Pers. Sing.	d'fheicteá (<i>you used to see</i>)
3rd Pers. Sing.	d'fheiceadh sé/sí (<i>he/she used to see</i>)
1st Pers. Pl.	d'fheicimis (<i>we used to see</i>)
2nd Pers. Pl.	d'fheiceadh sibh (<i>you used to see</i>)
3rd Pers. Pl.	d'fheicidís (<i>they used to see</i>)

An bhfeicteá é go minic? (*Did you use to see him often?*)
 D'fheicinn./Ní fheicinn. (*Yes./No.*)
 Nach bhfeicteá ...? (*Didn't you use to see ...?*)
 ... go bhfeicteá ... (*... that you used to see ...*)

Ith (eat)

1st Pers. Sing.	d'ithinn (<i>I used to eat</i>)
2nd Pers. Sing.	d'iteá (<i>you used to eat</i>)
3rd Pers. Sing.	d'itheadh sé/sí (<i>he/she used to eat</i>)
1st Pers. Pl.	d'ithimis (<i>we used to eat</i>)
2nd Pers. Pl.	d'itheadh sibh (<i>you used to eat</i>)
3rd Pers. Pl.	d'ithidís (<i>they used to eat</i>)

An iteá an bia sin? (*Did you use to eat that food?*)
 D'ithinn./Ní ithinn. (*Yes./No.*)
 Nach n-iteá ...? (*Didn't you use to eat ...?*)
 ... go n-iteá ... (*... that you used to eat ...*)

Tabhair (give)

1st Pers. Sing.	thugainn (<i>I used to give</i>)
2nd Pers. Sing.	thugtá (<i>you used to give</i>)
3rd Pers. Sing.	thugadh sé/sí (<i>he/she used to give</i>)
1st Pers. Pl.	thugaimis (<i>we used to give</i>)
2nd Pers. Pl.	thugadh sibh (<i>you used to give</i>)
3rd Pers. Pl.	thugaidís (<i>they used to give</i>)

An dtugtá obair di? (*Did you use to give her work?*)
 Thugainn./Ní thugainn. (*Yes./No.*)
 Nach dtugtá ...? (*Didn't you use to give ...?*)
 ... go dtugtá ... (*... that you used to give ...*)

Iar (come)

1st Pers. Sing.	thagainn (<i>I used to come</i>)
2nd Pers. Sing.	thagtá (<i>you used to come</i>)
3rd Pers. Sing.	thagadh sé/sí (<i>he/she used to come</i>)
1st Pers. Pl.	thagaimis (<i>we used to come</i>)
2nd Pers. Pl.	thagadh sibh (<i>you used to come</i>)
3rd Pers. Pl.	thagaidís (<i>they used to come</i>)

An dtagtá anseo gach seachtain? (*Did you use to come here every week?*)
 Thagainn./Ní thagainn. (*Yes./No.*)
 Nach dtagtá ...? (*Didn't you use to come ...?*)
 ... go dtagtá ... (*... that you used to come ...*)

Téigh (go)

1st Pers. Sing.	théinn (<i>I used to go</i>)
2nd Pers. Sing.	theiteá (<i>you used to go</i>)
3rd Pers. Sing.	théadh sé/sí (<i>he/she used to go</i>)
1st Pers. Pl.	théimis (<i>we used to go</i>)
2nd Pers. Pl.	théadh sibh (<i>you used to go</i>)
3rd Pers. Pl.	théidís (<i>they used to go</i>)

An dtéiteá ansin i d'aonar? (*Did you use to go there alone?*)
 Théinn./Ní théinn. (*Yes./No.*)
 Nach dtéiteá ...? (*Didn't you use to go ...?*)
 ... go dtéiteá ... (*... that you used to go ...*)

Avoiding the past habitual

In Ulster Irish, the construction *ba ghnách* + the prepositional pronoun *le* + the verbal noun is usually used instead of the past habitual:

Ba ghnách liom dul ansin agus mé óg. (*I used to go there when I was young.*)

Ar ghnách leat fanacht san óstán? (*Used you to stay in the hotel?*)

Exercises

A Answer each one of these questions in the affirmative (yes) and in the negative (no).

- 1 An scríobhtá chuige go minic? (*Did you use to write to him often?*)
- 2 An mbuaileadh an múinteoir iad gach lá? (*Did the teacher use to beat them every day?*)
- 3 An óladh sibh an iomarca? (*Did you use to drink too much?*)
- 4 An ólaidís póitín sa cheantar sin? (*Did they use to drink póitín in that area?*)
- 5 An bhfillidís ag tús an tsamhraidh? (*Did they use to return at the beginning of summer?*)
- 6 An ndéireadh sí aon rud? (*Did she use to say anything?*)
- 7 An marcáladís na scrúduithe thar oíche? (*Did they use to mark the exams overnight?*)
- 8 An sábháladh sibh mórán airgid? (*Did you use to save much money?*)
- 9 An ngortaíodh na páistí móra tú? (*Did the big children use to hurt you ?*)
- 10 An éiríteá go luath? (*Did you use to get up early?*)

B Write the correct particle (*an*, *ní* or *nach*) and the correct form of the verb in the blanks in each sentence.

- 1 _____ leis gach lá? Ní imrín. (*Did you use to play with him every day? No.*)

- 2 _____ sibh an cheist sin go minic? Phléadh. (*Did you use often to discuss that question? Yes.*)
- 3 _____ sí na freagraí dó, meas tú? Thaispeánadh. (*Did she use to show him the answers, do you think? Yes.*)
- 4 _____ riamh é. (*I never used to hurt him.*)
- 5 _____ go moch ar maidin? Ní éiríodh. (*Did they use to get up early in the morning? No.*)
- 6 _____ go moch ar maidin. (*They didn't use to get up early in the morning.*)
- 7 _____ an bheoir go léir? D'óladh. (*Did they use to drink all the beer? Yes.*)
- 8 _____ an bia ar fad? Ní itheadh. (*Used they to eat all the food? No.*)
- 9 _____ na páistí? Ní chosnaíodh. (*Didn't they use to protect the children? No.*)
- 10 _____ sibh uisce ón tobar? Tharraingíodh. (*Did you use to draw water from the well? Yes.*)

Each sentence below is in the affirmative. Write it in the negative.

- 1 D'fhaighinn airgead uaidh. (*I used to get money from him.*)
- 2 Bhuaileadh sé léi go minic. (*He used to meet her often.*)
- 3 D'ithinn mo dhinnéar go luath. (*I used to eat my dinner early.*)
- 4 D'fhanadh sé liom uaireanta. (*He used to stay with me sometimes.*)
- 5 Théimis ansin gach samhradh. (*We used to go there every summer.*)
- 6 Scríobhann chuici gach seachtain. (*I used to write to her every week.*)
- 7 D'fhoghlaimínn na dánta de ghlanmheabhair. (*I used to learn the poems off by heart.*)
- 8 D'fheiceadh sé mé. (*He used to see me.*)
- 9 D'óladh sí fion geal. (*She used to drink white wine.*)
- 10 D'imrídís siad galf. (*They used to play golf.*)

D Half the verbs in the box are in the conditional mood and the other half are in the past habitual. Place them in the appropriate column.

<i>Conditional mood</i>	<i>Past habitual</i>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

rachfá chosnaínn d'oladh sé bhuaifinn leis bheifeá
 d'olfainn thugaimis thagadh sí théimis d'íofainn
 thabharfadh sé scríobhfainn d'éiríodh sí ní fhaighinn
 gheobhainn bhíteá d'itheadh sí chodlódh sibh
 thaispeánainn d'éireodh sé

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the verb 7

- In this unit you will learn about**
- the present subjunctive mood
 - uses of the subjunctive
 - verbal adjectives
 - irregular formations
 - verbal nouns
 - forming verbal nouns

The present subjunctive mood

The present subjunctive mood indicates that the speaker desires something to be true. In English, this is commonly expressed by the word *May*, e.g. *may you succeed*.

The Irish language has both past and present subjunctives, but we are going to focus on the latter here since it is the most commonly used.

Go is used before the verb, causing eclipsis. Consonants that follow *nár* are lenited but vowels are not affected:

Go dté tú slán. (*May you go safely.*)

Nár chúitítear do shaothar duit. (*May you not be rewarded for your effort.*)

Nár agraí Dia air é. (*May God forgive him for it.*)

The first conjugation

	Broad consonant	Slender consonant
	<i>Mol (praise)</i>	<i>Caith (spend)</i>
1st Pers. Sing.	go mola mé (<i>may I praise</i>)	go gcaithe mé (<i>may I spend</i>)
2nd Pers. Sing.	go mola tú (<i>may you praise</i>)	go gcaithe tú (<i>may you spend</i>)
3rd Pers. Sing.	go mola sé/sí (<i>may he/she praise</i>)	go gcaithe sé/sí (<i>may he/she spend</i>)
1st Pers. Pl.	go molaimid (<i>may we praise</i>)	go gcaithimid (<i>may we spend</i>)
2nd Pers. Pl.	go mola sibh (<i>may you praise</i>)	go gcaithe sibh (<i>may you spend</i>)
3rd Pers. Pl.	go mola siad (<i>may they praise</i>)	go gcaithe siad (<i>may they spend</i>)

The second conjugation

	Broad consonant	Slender consonant
	<i>Ceannaigh (buy)</i>	<i>Éirigh (arise)</i>
1st Pers. Sing.	go gceannaí mé (<i>may I buy</i>)	go n-éirí mé (<i>may I arise</i>)
2nd Pers. Sing.	go gceannaí tú (<i>may you buy</i>)	go n-éirí tú (<i>may you arise</i>)
3rd Pers. Sing.	go gceannaí sé/sí (<i>may he/she buy</i>)	go n-éirí sé/sí (<i>may he/she arise</i>)
1st Pers. Pl.	go gceannaímid (<i>may we buy</i>)	go n-éirimid (<i>may we arise</i>)
2nd Pers. Pl.	go gceannaí sibh (<i>may you buy</i>)	go n-éirí sibh (<i>may you arise</i>)
3rd Pers. Pl.	go gceannaí siad (<i>may they buy</i>)	go n-éirí siad (<i>may they arise</i>)

Uses of the subjunctive

In Irish, the present subjunctive mood is used when (i) greeting people; (ii) expressing a hope or desire; (iii) responding to a greeting; (iv) wishing well to someone who is about to embark on a journey; (v) thanking someone/responding to being thanked; (vi) wishing newly-weds well; (vii) congratulating someone; (viii) referring to a dead person; (ix) expressing surprise; (x) praying.

(i) Greeting people

Go mbeannaí Dia duit. (when addressing one person) (*May God bless you.*)

Go mbeannaí Dia daoibh. (when addressing more than one person)

(ii) Expressing a hope or desire

Go maire tú an céad. (*May you live to be a hundred.*)

Go mbeirimid beo ar an am seo arís. (*May we live to see this time next year.*)

Go gcúitítear do shaothar leat. (*May you be rewarded for your effort.*)

Go gcúití Dia leat é. (*May God reward you for it.*)

(iii) Responding to a greeting

In response to a greeting such as *Nollaig shona duit* (*Happy Christmas*) or *Athbhliain faoi mhaise duit* (*Happy New Year*), these sentences are often used:

Gurab amhlaidh duit. (*Same to you.*)

Go mbé duit. (*Same to you.*)

(iv) Wishing well to someone who is about to embark on a journey

Go dté tú slán. (*May you go safely.*)

Go ngnóthaí Dia duit. (*May God prosper you.*)

Go soirbhí Dia duit. (*I wish you godspeed.*)

(v) Thanking someone/responding to being thanked

Go raibh maith agat. (*Thank you.*)

Go raibh céad (míle) maith agat. (*Thank you very much.*)

Go méadaí Dia do stór. (*May God make you prosperous.*)

Nár lagaí Dia thú. (*May God keep you strong, lit. May God not weaken you.*)

In response:

Go ndéana (sé) a mhaith duit. (*May it do you good.*)

(vi) Wishing newly-weds well

Go maire sibh bhur saol nua. (*May you enjoy your new life.*)

(vii) Congratulating someone

Go maire tú is go caithe tú é. (*May you live to enjoy and wear it.*)
(said to someone who has bought new clothes)

Go maire tú is go caithe tú iad. (*May you live to enjoy and wear them.*) (said to someone who has bought new shoes)

(viii) Referring to a dead person

Go ndéana Dia trócaire air. (*May God have mercy on him.*)

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam. (*May his soul be on God's right hand.*)

(ix) Expressing surprise

Go sábhála Dia sinn! (*May God save us!*)

Go gcumhdaí Dia sinn! (*May God save us!*)

(x) Praying

Go dtaga do ríocht. (*Thy kingdom come.*)

Go ndéantar do thoil ar an talamh. (*Thy will be done on earth.*)

Irregular formations

abair (<i>say</i>)	ráite (<i>said</i>)
fógair (<i>advertise</i>)	fógartha (<i>advertised</i>)
imir (<i>play</i>)	imeartha (<i>played</i>)
inis (<i>tell</i>)	inste (<i>told</i>)
tabhair (<i>give</i>)	tugtha (<i>given</i>)
tar (<i>come</i>)	tagtha (<i>came</i>)
téigh (<i>go</i>)	dulta (<i>gone</i>)

Verbal nouns

The verbal noun, preceded by *ag*, is used to refer to progressive/continuous action. The English equivalent would be *eating, playing, running*, etc.

ag obair (*working*)
 ag scríobh (*writing*)
 ag troid (*fighting*)

When a noun is the direct object of a verbal noun, it is usually in the genitive case:

teach (*a house*) ag ceannach an tí (*buying the house*)
 beoir (*beer*) ag ól na beorach (*drinking beer*)

However, when it is *not* preceded by the definite article *an* and is followed by an adjective, it is not in the genitive case:

ag ceannach an tí mhóir (*buying the big house*)
 but
 ag ceannach teach mór (*buying a big house*)

In that first example, the verbal noun (*ceannach*) is followed by the definite article *an* + a noun (*teach*) + an adjective (*mór*), therefore the noun and adjective are in the genitive case.

In the second example, however, there is no article, therefore the noun and adjective are not in the genitive case.

The verbal noun also corresponds to the English infinitive *to*. When there is no direct object in the sentence, the word order is the same as in English:

Ba bhreá liom bualadh le Bríd. (*I'd love to meet Bríd.*)
 Ar mhaith leat dul amach? (*Would you like to go out?*)

When there is a direct object, however, the order differs from the English – the direct object comes first, and the verbal noun is preceded by the participle *a*, which lenites:

Ba mhaith liom an carr sin a cheannach. (lit. *I would like that car to buy.*)

Here are some other examples containing a direct object:

Bu mian liom an scrúdú a dhéanamh. (*I want to do the examination.*)
 Tá fonn orm dlúthdhiosca a cheannach. (*I feel like buying a CD.*)

As we saw in Unit 7, a pronoun cannot come directly after a verbal noun – a construction involving the possessive adjective must be used. The correct way of saying *beating me*, therefore, is *do mo bhualadh*, and not *ag bualadh mé*.

Forming verbal nouns

The ending *-adh* or *-eadh* is added to the root of some of the verbs in the first conjugation:

glan (*clean*) glanadh (*cleaning*)
 bris (*break*) briseadh (*breaking*)

In the case of some verbs in the second conjugation ending in *-aigh* or *-igh*, the *-aigh* or *-igh* is removed and replaced by *-ú* or *-iú*:

aistrigh (*translate*) aistriú (*translating*)
 críochnaigh (*finish*) críochnú (*finishing*)

These are verbs that end in *-aigh* or *-igh* which have an irregular verbal noun:

Root	Verbal noun
admhaigh (<i>admit</i>)	admháil (<i>admitting</i>)
ceannaigh (<i>buy</i>)	ceannach (<i>buying</i>)
cónaigh (<i>live</i>)	cónaí (<i>living</i>)
coinnigh (<i>keep</i>)	coinneáil (<i>keeping</i>)
cuardaigh (<i>search</i>)	cuardach (<i>searching</i>)
cuimhnigh (<i>remember</i>)	cuimhneamh (<i>remembering</i>)

dúisigh (<i>waken</i>)	dúiseacht (<i>waking</i>)
éiligh (<i>demand</i>)	ag éileamh (<i>demanding</i>)
éirigh (<i>get up</i>)	éirí (<i>getting up</i>)
eisigh (<i>issue</i>)	eisiúint (<i>issuing</i>)
fiafraigh (<i>ask</i>)	fiafraí (<i>asking</i>)
imigh (<i>go</i>)	imeacht (<i>going</i>)
impigh (<i>entreat</i>)	impí (<i>entreating</i>)
ionsaigh (<i>attack</i>)	ionsaí (<i>attacking</i>)
sásaigh (<i>satisfy</i>)	sásamh (<i>satisfying</i>)
smaoinigh (<i>think</i>)	smaoineamh (<i>thinking</i>)
soláthraigh (<i>supply</i>)	soláthar (<i>supplying</i>)
báigh (<i>drown</i>)	bá (<i>drowning</i>)
brúigh (<i>push</i>)	brú (<i>pushing</i>)
buaigh (<i>win</i>)	buachan (<i>winning</i>)
cloígh (<i>defeat</i>)	cloí (<i>defeating</i>)
cráigh (<i>torment</i>)	crá (<i>tormenting</i>)
dóigh (<i>burn</i>)	dó (<i>burning</i>)
glaoigh (<i>call</i>)	glaoch (<i>calling</i>)
guigh (<i>pray</i>)	guí (<i>praying</i>)
léigh (<i>read</i>)	léamh (<i>reading</i>)
luigh (<i>lie down</i>)	luí (<i>lying down</i>)
nigh (<i>wash</i>)	ní (<i>washing</i>)
pléigh (<i>discuss</i>)	plé (<i>discussing</i>)
suigh (<i>sit</i>)	suí (<i>sitting</i>)
téigh (<i>heat</i>)	téamh (<i>heating</i>)

-t added to the root of the verb:

Root	Verbal noun
bagair (<i>threaten</i>)	bagairt (<i>threatening</i>)

Similar verbal forms: bain (*win, cut*), cogain (*chew*), cosain (*protect*), cuimil (*rub*), díbir (*banish*), fógair (*advertise, announce*), freagair (*answer*), fulaing (*suffer*), imir (*play*), labhair (*speak*), múscail (*waken*), oscail (*open*), roinn (*share*), seachain (*avoid*), tabhair (*give*), taispeáin (*show*), tarraing (*draw*), tiomáin (*drive*), tuirling (*descend*).

-(e)áil

Root	Verbal noun
clois (<i>hear</i>)	cloisteáil (<i>hearing</i>)
fág (<i>leave</i>)	fágáil (<i>leaving</i>)
faigh (<i>get</i>)	fáil (<i>getting</i>)

feic (<i>see</i>)	feiceáil (<i>seeing</i>)
gabh (<i>go, take</i>)	gabháil (<i>going, taking</i>)
tóg (<i>take, raise, lift</i>)	tógáil (<i>taking, raising, lifting</i>)

(a)int

Root	Verbal noun
téach (<i>look</i>)	féachaint (<i>looking</i>)
tairg (<i>offer</i>)	tairiscint (<i>offering</i>)
tuig (<i>understand</i>)	tuisicint (<i>understanding</i>)

(c)amh

Root	Verbal noun
caith (<i>spend, throw</i>)	caitheamh (<i>spending, throwing</i>)
déan (<i>do</i>)	déanamh (<i>doing</i>)
seas (<i>stand</i>)	seasamh (<i>standing</i>)
tuill (<i>earn</i>)	tuilleamh (<i>earning</i>)

(e)an

Root	Verbal noun
leag (<i>knock down</i>)	leagan (<i>knocking down</i>)
lig (<i>let</i>)	ligean (<i>letting</i>)
tréig (<i>abandon</i>)	tréigean (<i>abandoning</i>)

(i)úint

Root	Verbal noun
creid (<i>believe</i>)	creidiúint (<i>believing</i>)
lean (<i>follow</i>)	leanúint (<i>following</i>)
oil (<i>rear, train</i>)	oilíúint (<i>rearing, training</i>)
oir (<i>fit, suit</i>)	oiriúint (<i>fitting, suiting</i>)

Verbs whose verbal noun is the same as their root:

Root	Verbal noun
aithris (<i>recite</i>)	aithris (<i>reciting</i>)

Similar verbal forms: amharc (*look*), at (*swell*), coimeád (*keep*), fearmad (*forget*), díol (*sell*), éag (*die*), fás (*grow*), foghlaim (*learn*), goid (*steal*), goin (*wound*), íoc (*pay*), leigheas (*cure*), lúim (*jump*), lorg (*seek*), marcáil (*mark*), meas (*estimate, assess*), oibrí (*drink*), robáil (*rob*), sábháil (*save*), scoilt (*split*), scríobh (*write*), snámh (*swim*), stad (*stop*), teagasc (*teach*), teip (*fail*), tairiscint (*mention*), triail (*try*), triall (*journey, travel*), troid (*fight*), úsáid (*use*).

Verbs in which the final consonant of the root is broadened:

Root

braith (*feel*)
 ceangail (*bind*)
 cogair (*whisper*)
 cuir (*put*)
 freastail (*attend*)
 goil (*weep*)
 iompair (*carry*)
 loit (*destroy*)
 siúil (*walk*)
 taistil (*travel*)
 tomhais (*guess, measure*)

Verbal noun

brath (*feeling*)
 ceanga (*binding*)
 cogar (*whispering*)
 cur (*putting*)
 freastal (*attending*)
 gol (*weeping*)
 iompar (*carrying*)
 lot (*destroying*)
 siúl (*walking*)
 taisteal (*travelling*)
 tomhas (*guessing, measuring*)

Irregular verbal nouns:

Root

abair (*say*)
 codail (*sleep*)
 éist (*listen*)
 fan (*stay*)
 gluais (*move*)
 iarr (*ask*)
 inis (*tell*)
 ith (*eat*)
 mair (*live*)
 scread (*scream*)
 seinn (*play*)
 tabhair (*give*)
 tar (*come*)
 téigh (*go*)
 tit (*fall*)

Verbal noun

rá (*saying*)
 codladh (*sleeping*)
 éisteacht (*listening*)
 fanacht (*staying*)
 gluaiseacht (*moving*)
 iarraidh (*asking*)
 insint (*telling*)
 ithe (*eating*)
 maireachtáil (*living*)
 screadaíl (*screaming*)
 seinm (*playing*)
 tabhairt (*giving*)
 teacht (*coming*)
 dul (*going*)
 titim (*falling*)

Exercises

A Which sentence from the box would be appropriate in each of the scenarios outlined below?

- 1 Someone wishes you a happy Christmas.
- 2 You are greeting one person.
- 3 Someone is embarking on a journey.

- 4 You are thanking someone.
- 5 You respond to someone who thanks you for something you have done for him.
- 6 You are saying 'Our Father'.
- 7 You have been told that someone has died.
- 8 You are congratulating a newly-married couple.
- 9 Your friend shows you the new shoes he has bought.
- 10 Your sister shows you the new dress she bought at the weekend.

Go mbeannaí Dia duit.
 Go ndéana a mhaith duit.
 Go maire tú is go caithe tú iad.
 Go dtaga do ríocht.
 Go raibh míle maith agat.
 Go ndéana Dia trócaire air.
 Gurab amhlaidh duit.
 Go maire tú is go caithe tú é.
 Go dté tú slán.
 Go maire sibh bhur saol nua.

B Write the verbal adjective of each verb.

- 1 mol (*praise*)
- 2 bris (*break*)
- 3 ith (*eat*)
- 4 póg (*kiss*)
- 5 léim (*jump*)
- 6 siúil (*walk*)
- 7 tar (*come*)
- 8 fógair (*advertise*)
- 9 taispeáin (*show*)
- 11 múch (*extinguish*)
- 12 faigh (*get*)
- 13 ceannaigh (*buy*)
- 14 scríobh (*write*)
- 15 abair (*say*)
- 16 íoc (*pay*)
- 17 cíor (*comb*)
- 18 léigh (*read*)

- 19 caith (*throw*)
20 buail (*beat*)
21 imir (*play*)

C Write the verbal noun in the case of each of these verbs.

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------|
| 1 seinn (<i>play</i>) | ag ... |
| 2 codail (<i>sleep</i>) | ag ... |
| 3 fág (<i>leave</i>) | ag ... |
| 4 tuig (<i>understand</i>) | ag ... |
| 5 buaigh (<i>win</i>) | ag ... |
| 6 éirigh (<i>get up</i>) | ag ... |
| 7 tiomáin (<i>drive</i>) | ag ... |
| 8 scríobh (<i>write</i>) | ag ... |
| 9 tit (<i>fall</i>) | ag ... |
| 11 teip (<i>fail</i>) | ag ... |
| 12 cuir (<i>put</i>) | ag ... |
| 13 clois (<i>hear</i>) | ag ... |
| 14 cosain (<i>protect</i>) | ag ... |
| 15 úsáid (<i>use</i>) | ag ... |
| 16 taistil (<i>travel</i>) | ag ... |
| 17 lig (<i>let</i>) | ag ... |
| 18 freastail (<i>attend</i>) | ag ... |
| 19 lean (<i>follow</i>) | ag ... |
| 20 seachain (<i>avoid</i>) | ag ... |
| 21 leag (<i>knock down</i>) | ag ... |

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the verb 8

In this unit you will learn about

- the copula *is*: general
- the copula in the present tense
- the copula *is*: questions and answers
- the copula in the past tense and conditional mood
- questions and answers in the past tense and conditional mood

The copula *is*: general

The copula *is* in Irish corresponds to some uses of the English verb *to be*. *Is* is usually used to refer to permanent qualities.

Tá, on the other hand, is mostly used to refer to temporary qualities and to say where something is or to refer to the state it's in.

Is	Tá
Is dochtúir í. (<i>She's a doctor.</i>)	Tá an lá go deas. (<i>It's a nice day.</i>)
Is mise Brian.	Tá post maith agam. (<i>I have a good job.</i>)

Is is used:

a in classification sentences:

Is Éireannach é. (*He is an Irish person.*)

b in identification sentences:

Is í Mairéad an rúnaí. (*Mairéad is the secretary.*)

c with the preposition *le* to refer to ownership:

Is le Diarmaid an carr dearg sin. (*That red car belongs to Diarmaid.*)

d to add emphasis:

Is uaimse a fhaigheann sé an t-airgead. (*It's me he gets the money from.*)

The copula in the present tense

		Interrogative		
	Affirmative	Negative	Affirmative	Negative
	is	ní	an	nach
Dependent	gur gurb*	nach		

* Often used before a vowel. Note, however, that *gur* is used before a noun with an initial vowel, e.g. *Dúirt sí gur Astrálach é.* (*She said that he is an Australian.*)

Is bean álainn í. (*She is a lovely woman.*)

Ní duine deas é. (*He is not a nice man.*)

An múinteoirí iad? (*Are they teachers?*)

Nach Francach é? (*Is he not French?*)

Cloisim gur dochtúir maith í. (*I hear that she's a good doctor.*)

Deir siad gurb é an duine is fearr sa rang. (*They say that he is the best person in the class.*)

Cloisim nach é an duine is cliste ar domhan é. (*I hear he's not the most clever person on earth.*)

Deir siad nach múinteoir é. (*They say he is not a teacher.*)

Ní prefixes *h* to the pronouns *é*, *í*, *iad*, and *ea*, and to adjectives:

Ní hí Doireann an duine is sine. (*Doireann is not the eldest.*)

An Iodálach é? Ní hea. (*Is he Italian? No.*)

Ní haoibhinn beatha an scoláire. (*The scholar's life is not blissful.*)

The copula *is*: questions and answers

a When a pronoun follows the interrogative form of the copula (*an* or *nach*), the answer must contain a pronoun (usually the same one):

An í Aoife an duine is óige? (*Is Aoife the youngest?*)

Is í. (*She is.*)

An iadsan na daoine a luaigh tú liom aréir? (*Are they the people that you mentioned to me last night?*)

Is iad. (*The are.*)

(Note: The emphatic form of the pronoun (*mise, tusa, eisean, etc.*) cannot be used in the answer.)

- b** When a noun comes between **an** or **nach** and the pronoun, however, *sea/ní hea* are used in the answer:

An meicneoir é Tomás? (*Is Tomás a mechanic?*)

Sea. (*Yes.*)

An Sasanach í Bernie? (*Is Bernie English?*)

Ní hea – is Albanach í. (*No – she is Scottish.*)

- c** When a prepositional pronoun (e.g. **agat(sa)**, **dúinn(e)**, **leat(sa)**) comes directly after **an** or **nach**, the same prepositional pronoun is included in the answer:

An agatsa atá mo pheann? (*Do you have my pen?*)

Ní agam. (*No.*)

Nach dósan a thugtar an t-airgead? (*Is the money not given to him?*)

Is dó. (*Yes.*)

(Note: The emphatic form of the prepositional pronoun cannot be used in the answer.)

- d** When an adjective comes directly after **an** or **nach**, the same adjective is included in the answer:

Nach deas an lá é. (*Isn't it a nice day.*)

Is deas. (*Yes.*)

Nach iontach an scéal é sin! (*Isn't that a great story!*)

Is iontach, go deimhin. (*It is indeed.*)

The copula in the past tense and conditional mood

Present tense	Past tense and conditional mood	
	(before consonant and before <i>fl-, fr-</i>)	(before a vowel and before <i>f + vowel</i>)
is	ba	b'
ní	níor	níorbh
an	ar	arbh
nach	nár	nárbh
gur(b)	gur	gurbh

All the past tense and conditional forms cause lenition in a following consonant:

Ba dhuine aclaí é uair amháin. (*He was once a fit person.*)

Ba fhreagra maith é. (*It was a good answer.*)

Níor mháthair rómhaith í. (*She wasn't a very good mother.*)

Ar mháthair mhaith í? (*Was she a good mother?*)

Nár mhac léinn anseo é? (*Was he not a student here?*)

Chuala mé gur dhrochdhuine é. (*I heard he was a bad person.*)

Note that **ba** is the form of the copula used before all the pronouns in the past tense:

Ba í Síle ab óige. (*Síle was the youngest.*)

Ba iad na páistí a chonaic é. (*It was the children who saw him.*)

Before a vowel and before *f + vowel*

B'iontach an scannán é. (*It was a great film.*)

B'ait an duine í. (*She was a strange person.*)

Níorbh athair rómhaith é. (*He wasn't a very good father.*)

Níorbh eol dó go raibh sí anseo. (*He didn't know that she was here.*)

Arbh eisean an duine ab óige? (*Was he the youngest?*)

Arbh eolaí é? (*Was he a scientist?*)

Nár bh eisean an duine a rinne an obair? (*Wasn't he the one who did the work?*)

Nár bh iontach an lá é! (*Wasn't it a great day!*)

Deir Bríd gurbh éigean do Shéamas imeacht. (*Brid says that Séamas had to leave.*)

Mheas mé i gcónaí gurbh eolaí é. (*I always thought he was a scientist.*)

Níorbh fhéidir leis teacht. (*He couldn't come.*)

Arbh fhearr leat pionta? (*Would you prefer a pint?*)

Questions and answers in the past tense and conditional mood

Arbh í Caoimhe an duine ab óige? (*Was Caoimhe the youngest?*)

Ba í./Níorbh í. (*Yes./No.*)

Ar dhuine deas é? (*Was he a nice person?*)

Ba ea./Níorbh ea. (*Yes./No.*)

Nár bh fhearr duit bheith i do chónaí anseo?

B'fhearr./Níorbh fhearr. (*Yes./No.*)

Exercises

A Write the appropriate form of the copula (present tense) in each sentence below.

- Deir sé _____ amhránaí maith í. (*He says that she is a good singer.*)
- _____ deirfiúracha iad? (*Are they sisters?*)
- _____ duine deas é Seoirse? (*Is Seoirse not a nice person?*)
- Cloisim _____ í Síle atá ceaptha mar bhainisteoir. (*I hear that it is Síle who has been appointed manager.*)
- _____ iadsan a dhéanann an obair go léir. (*It is they who do all the work.*)
- Deir Dónall _____ fear róchairdiúil é an múinteoir nua. (*Dónall says that the new teacher is not a very friendly man.*)

7 Deir Seosaimhín _____ duine fial é Eoin. (*Seosaimhín says that Eoin is a generous person.*)

8 _____ cairde iad a thuilleadh? (*Are they not friends any more?*)

9 _____ ceoltóir rómhaith é Tomás. (*Tomás is not a very good musician.*)

10 Deirtear _____ iad Ciarán agus Gearóid an bheirt is fearr sa rang. (*It is said that Ciarán and Gearóid are the best in the class.*)

B Answer each one of these questions in the affirmative (yes) and in the negative (no).

1 An í Deirdre an cailín is sine sa chlann? (*Is Deirdre the eldest in the family?*)

2 Nach dochtúir í Siobhán? (*Is Siobhán not a doctor?*)

3 An chugatsa a chuireann daoine an t-airgead? (*Do people send the money to you?*)

4 Nach breá an t-amhrán é sin! (*Isn't that a fine song!*)

5 An freastalaithe iad an bheirt sin? (*Are those two waiters?*)

6 An iad an bheirt sin na ceoltóirí is fearr leat? (*Are those two the musicians you like best?*)

7 An amhránaí maith é? (*Is he a good singer?*)

8 An aoibhinn beatha an scoláire, dar leatsa? (*Do you think the scholar's life blissful?*)

9 An dósan a thabharfaidh mé an seic? (*Is it to him I'll give the cheque?*)

10 An mac léinn tú? (*Are you a student?*)

11 An tusa an duine is óige sa chlann? (*Are you the youngest in the family?*)

12 An é Caoimhín an duine is fearr? (*Is Caoimhín the best?*)

C Change each sentence from the present tense to the past tense.

1 Is bean dheas í. (*She's a nice woman.*)

2 An duine díograiseach é? (*Is he a diligent person?*)

3 Is í Síle an rúnaí. (*Síle is the secretary.*)

4 Ní hé Liam a rinne an obair. (*It was not Liam who did the work.*)

5 Is iontach an lá é. (*It's a great day.*)

6 Is deirfiúracha iad Michelle agus Deirdre. (*Michelle and Deirdre are sisters.*)

- 7 Nach cairde iad an bheirt sin? (*Are those two not friends?*)
8 An é do chara é? (*Is he your friend?*)
9 Is é Breandán a uncail. (*Breandán is his uncle.*)
10 Is fiú duit é a cheannach. (*It's worth your while buying it.*)

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the verb 9

In this unit you will learn about

- autonomous forms: general
- autonomous forms: regular verbs
- the first conjugation
- the second conjugation
- the irregular verbs

Autonomous forms: general

The autonomous form of the verb refers to an action without specifying who is carrying out the action:

Maraítear na céadta ar na bóithre gach bliain. (*Thousands are killed on the roads every year.*)

Goideadh mála Shíle inné. (*Shíle's bag was stolen yesterday.*)

Autonomous forms: regular verbs

Note that autonomous verbs are not lenited in the past tense:

Dúnadh an doras. (*The door was closed.*)

Regular verbs are only lenited:

- a in the conditional mood, affirmative and negative;
- b in the past habitual tense, affirmative and negative;
- c in the present and future tenses, negative

Mol (*praise*)

Past tense	moladh	níor moladh
Past habitual tense	mholtaí	ní mholtaí
Present tense	moltar	ní mholtar
Future tense	molfar	ní mholfar
Conditional mood	mholfai	ní mholfai

Initial consonants are lenited after *ní* in all tenses:

Ní ghlantar an teach sin go rómhinic. (*That house is not cleaned too often.*)

níor is used instead of *ní* in the past tense and does not cause lenition:

Níor gortaíodh aon duine. (*No one was injured.*)

An is used to form questions in all tenses except the past tense. Initial vowels remain unchanged after *an* but consonants are clipped:

An itear mórán glasraí sa tír seo? (*Are many vegetables eaten in this country?*)

An ngortaítear mórán daoine ar na bóithre? (*Are many people injured on the roads?*)

Ar is used to form questions in the past tense. Initial vowels and consonants that follow it remain unchanged:

Ar maraíodh mórán daoine? (*Were many people killed?*)

Ar óladh an bheoir go léir? (*Was all the beer drunk?*)

The first conjugation

Verbs with a one-syllable root

Broad consonant

glan (clean)

Past tense	Past habitual	Present tense	Future tense	Conditional
glanadh	ghlantaí	glantar	glanfar	ghlanfaí
níor glanadh	ní ghlantaí	ní glantar	ní glanfar	ní ghlanfaí
ar glanadh ...?	an nglantaí ...?	an nglantar ...?	an nglanfar ...?	an nglanfaí ...?
gur glanadh	go nglantaí	go nglantar	go nglanfar	go nglanfaí

Slender consonant

caith (throw)

Past tense	Past habitual	Present tense	Future tense	Conditional
caithheadh	chaití	caitear	caithfear	chaitfí
níor caithheadh	ní chaití	ní chaitear	ní chaithfear	ní chaitfí
ar caithheadh ...?	an gcaití ...?	an gcaitear ...?	an gcaithfear ...?	an gcaithfí ...?
gur caithheadh	go gcaití	go gcaitear	go gcaithfear	go gcaithfí

Verbs beginning with a vowel or f

fág (leave)

Past tense	Past habitual	Present tense	Future tense	Conditional
fágadh	d'fhágtáí	fágtar	fágfar	d'fhágfaí
níor fágadh	ní fhágtáí	ní fhágtar	ní fhágfar	ní d'fhágfaí
ar fágadh ...?	an bhfágtáí ...?	an bhfágtar ...?	an bhfágfar ...?	an bhfágfaí ...?
gur fágadh	go bhfágtáí	go bhfágtar	go bhfágfar	go bhfágfaí

íoc (pay)

Past tense	Past habitual	Present tense	Future tense	Conditional
íocadh	d'íoctáí	íoctar	íocfar	d'íocfaí
níor íocadh	ní íoctáí	ní íoctar	ní íocfar	ní íocfaí
ar íocadh ...?	an íoctáí ...?	an íoctar ...?	an íocfar ...?	an íocfaí ...?
gur íocadh	go n-íoctáí	go n-íoctar	go n-íocfar	go n-íocfaí

Verbs with a root containing more than one syllable and ending in -áil

sábhail (save)

Past tense	Past habitual	Present tense	Future tense	Conditional
sábháladh	shábháltaí	sábháiltear	sábhálfar	shábhálfaí
níor sábháladh	ní shábháltaí	ní shábháiltear	ní shábhálfar	ní shábhálfaí
ar sábháladh ...?	an sábháltaí ...?	an sábháiltear ...?	an sábhálfar ...?	an sábhálfaí ...?
gur sábháladh	go sábháltaí	go sábháiltear	go sábhálfar	go sábhálfaí

Verbs ending in -áin, -óil and -úir

taispeáin (show)

Past tense	Past habitual	Present tense	Future tense	Conditional
taispeánadh	taispeántaí	taispeántar	taispeánfar	taispeánfaí
níor taispeánadh	ní taispeántaí	ní taispeántar	ní taispeánfar	ní taispeánfaí
ar taispeánadh ...?	an taispeántaí ...?	an taispeántar ...?	an taispeánfar ...?	an taispeánfaí ...?
gur taispeánadh	go dtaispeántaí	go dtaispeántar	go dtaispeánfar	go dtaispeánfaí

tionóil (convene)

Past tense	Past habitual	Present tense	Future tense	Conditional
tionóladh	tionóлтаí	tionóltar	tionólfar	tionólfáí
níor tionóladh	ní tionóлтаí	ní tionóltar	ní tionólfar	ní tionólfáí
ar tionóladh ...?	an dtionóлтаí ...?	an dtionóltar ...?	an dtionólfar ...?	an dtionólfáí ...?
gur tionóladh	go dtionóлтаí	go dtionóltar	go dtionólfar	go dtionólfáí

ceiliúir (celebrate)

Past tense	Past habitual	Present tense	Future tense	Conditional
ceiliúradh	ceiliúrtaí	ceiliúrtar	ceiliúrfar	ceiliúrfáí
níor ceiliúradh	ní ceiliúrtaí	ní ceiliúrtar	ní ceiliúrfar	ní ceiliúrfáí
ar ceiliúradh ...?	an gceiliúrtaí ...?	an gceiliúrtar ...?	an gceiliúrfar ...?	an gceiliúrfáí ...?
gur ceiliúradh	go gceiliúrtaí	go gceiliúrtar	go gceiliúrfar	go gceiliúrfáí

imir (play)

Past tense	Past habitual	Present tense	Future tense	Conditional
imíodh	d'imírtí	imítear	imreofar	d'imreofaí
níor imíodh	ní imírtí	ní imítear	ní imreofar	ní imreofaí
ar imíodh ...?	an imírtí ...?	an imítear ...?	an imreofar ...?	an imreofaí ...?
gur imíodh	go n-imírtí	go n-imítear	go n-imreofar	go n-imreofaí

inis (tell)

Past tense	Past habitual	Present tense	Future tense	Conditional
insíodh	d'insítí	insítear	inseofar	d'inseofaí
níor insíodh	ní insítí	ní insítear	ní inseofar	ní inseofaí
ar insíodh ...?	an insítí ...?	an insítear ...?	an inseofar ...?	an inseofaí ...?
gur insíodh	go n-insítí	go n-insítear	go n-inseofar	go n-inseofaí

Some other verbs that do not lose a vowel when they are conjugated
fulaing (suffer)

Past tense	Past habitual	Present tense	Future tense	Conditional
fulaingíodh	d'fhulaingítí	fulaingítear	fulaingefar	d'fhulaingeofaí
níor fulaingíodh	ní fhulaingítí	ní fhulaingítear	ní fhulaingeofar	ní fhulaingeofaí
ar fulaingíodh ...?	an bhfulaingítí ...?	an bhfulaingítear ...?	an bhfulaingefar ...?	an bhfulaingeofaí ...?
gur fulaingíodh	go bhfulaingítí	go bhfulaingítear	go bhfulaingefar	go bhfulaingeofaí

The irregular verbs

Note that in the past tense *an*, *ní* and *go* are used with some of the irregular verbs, and *ar*, *níor* and *gur* with some others.

Abair (say)

Past tense	Past habitual	Present tense	Future tense	Conditional
dúradh	deirtí	deirtear	déarfad	déarfaí
ní dúradh	ní deirtí	ní deirtear	ní déarfad	ní déarfaí
an ndúradh ...?	an ndeirtí ...?	an ndeirtear ...?	an ndéarfad ...?	an ndéarfaí ...?
gur ndúradh	go ndeirtí	go ndeirtear	go ndéarfad	go ndéarfaí

Beir (bring, take)

Past tense	Past habitual	Present tense	Future tense	Conditional
rugadh	bheirtí	beirtear	béarfad	bhéarfáí
níor rugadh	ní bheirtí	ní bheirtear	ní bhéarfad	ní bhéarfáí
ar rugadh ...?	an mbeirtí ...?	an mbeirtear ...?	an mbéarfad ...?	an mbéarfáí ...?
gur rugadh	go mbeirtí	go mbeirtear	go mbéarfad	go mbéarfáí

Bí (be)

Past tense	Past habitual	Present tense	Future tense	Conditional
bhíodhas	bhítí	bítear	beifead	bheifí
ní rabhthas	ní bhítí	ní bhítear	ní bheifead	ní bheifí
an rabhthas ...?	an mbítí ...?	an mbítear ...?	an mbeifead ...?	an mbeifí ...?
go rabhthas	go mbítí	go mbítear	go mbeifead	go mbeifí

Clois (hear)

Past tense	Past habitual	Present tense	Future tense	Conditional
chualathas	chloistí	cloistear	cloisfead	chloisfí
níor chualathas	ní chloistí	ní chloistear	ní chloisfead	ní chloisfí
ar chualathas ...?	an gcloistí ...?	an gcloistear ...?	an gcloisfead ...?	an gcloisfí ...?
gur chualathas	go gcloistí	go gcloistear	go gcloisfead	go gcloisfí

Déan (do, make)

Past tense	Past habitual	Present tense	Future tense	Conditional
rinneadh	dhéantáí	déantar	déanfad	dhéanfáí
ní dhearnadh	ní dhéantáí	ní dhéantar	ní dhéanfad	ní dhéanfáí
an ndearnadh ...?	an ndéantáí ...?	an ndéantar ...?	an ndéanfad ...?	an ndéanfáí ...?
go ndearnadh	go ndéantáí	go ndéantar	go ndéanfad	go ndéanfáí

Faigh (get)

Past tense	Past habitual	Present tense	Future tense	Conditional
fuarthas	d'fhaightí	faightear	gheofar	gheofaí
ní bhfuarthas	ní fhaightí	ní fhaightear	ní bhfaighfear	ní bhfaighfí
an bhfuarthas ...?	an bhfaightí ...?	an bhfaightear ...?	an bhfaighfear ...?	an bhfaighfí ...?
go bhfuarthas	go bhfaightí	go bhfaightear	go bhfaighfear	go bhfaighfí

Feic (see)

Past tense	Past habitual	Present tense	Future tense	Conditional
chonacthas	d'fheictí	feictear	feicfear	d'fheicfí
ní fhacthas	ní fheictí	ní fheictear	ní fheicfear	ní fheicfí
an bhfacthas ...?	an bhfeictí ...?	an bhfeictear ...?	an bhfeicfear ...?	an bhfeicfí ...?
go bhfacthas	go bhfeictí	go bhfeictear	go bhfeicfear	go bhfeicfí

Past tense	Past habitual	Present tense	Future tense	Conditional
itheadh	d'ití	itear	íosfar	d'íosfaí
níor itheadh	ní ití	ní itear	ní íosfar	ní íosfaí
ar itheadh ...?	an ití ...?	an itear ...?	an íosfar ...?	an íosfaí ...?
gur itheadh	go n-ití	go n-itear	go n-íosfar	go n-íosfaí

Tabhair (give)

Past tense	Past habitual	Present tense	Future tense	Conditional
tugadh	thugtaí	tugtar	tabharfar	thabharfaí
níor tugadh	ní thugtaí	ní thugtar	ní thabharfar	ní thabharfaí
ar tugadh ...?	an thugtaí ...?	an dtugtar ...?	an dtabharfar ...?	an dtabharfaí ...?
gur tugadh	go thugtaí	go dtugtar	go dtabharfar	go dtabharfaí

Tar (come)

Past tense	Past habitual	Present tense	Future tense	Conditional
thángthas	thagtaí	tagtar	tiocfaí	thiocfaí
níor thángthas	ní thagtaí	ní thagtar	ní thioctar	ní thioctfaí
ar thángthas ...?	an dtagtaí ...?	an dtagtar ...?	an dtiocfar ...?	an dtiocfaí ...?
gur thángthas	go dtagtaí	go dtagtar	go dtiocfar	go dtiocfaí

Téigh (go)

Past tense	Past habitual	Present tense	Future tense	Conditional tugadh
chuaithas	théití	téitear	rachfar	rachfaí
ní dheachthas	ní théití	ní théitear	ní rachfar	ní rachfaí
an ndeachthas ...?	an dtéití ...?	an dtéitear ...?	an rachfar ...?	an rachfaí ...?
go ndeachthas	go dtéití	go dtéitear	go rachfar	go rachfaí

Exercises

A Answer each one of these questions in the affirmative (*yes*) and in the negative (*no*).

- Ar gortaíodh mórán daoine? (*Were many people injured?*)
- An nglantar an oifig seo gach lá? (*Is this office cleaned every day?*)
- An mbaileofar an t-airgead ag deireadh na hoíche? (*Will the money be collected at the end of the night?*)
- An bhfacthas é le tamall anuas? (*Has he been seen in the past while?*)
- An gcloistear ar an raidió mórán anois í? (*Is she heard on the radio much now?*)
- An ionsófaí é dá rachadh sé ansin? (*Would he be attacked if he went there?*)
- An ndearnadh botún, meas tú? (*Do you think a mistake was made?*)
- An íosfar an bia go léir? (*Will all the food be eaten?*)
- An moltar do dhaoine gan dul ann san oíche? (*Are people advised not to go there at night?*)
- An dtaispeántaí daoine timpeall an fhoirgnimh? (*Did people use to be shown around the building?*)
- An rachfar ar aghaidh leis an gcluiche? (*Will the game be proceeded with?*)
- An íoctaí tú gach seachtain? (*Did you use to be paid every week?*)

B Write the correct particle (*an* or *ar*) and the correct form of the verb in the blanks in each sentence.

- _____ go maith léi? Níor caitheadh. (*Was she well treated? No.*)
- _____ cluiche ar an bpáirc sin go minic? Imrítear. (*Is a match often played on that field? Yes.*)
- _____ aon rud leat? Ní deirtí. (*Used anything to be said to you? No.*)
- _____ scéala uaidh le tamall anuas? Ní bhfuarthas. (*Was any news received from him in the past while? No.*)
- _____ prátaí sa tír ag an am sin? D'ití. (*Used potatoes to be eaten in the country at that time? Yes.*)

Cardinal numbers

These are used for ordinary, simple counting:

0 a náid		
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		
20 fiche	101 céad a haon	
21 fiche a haon	110 céad a deich	
22 fiche a dó	120 céad a fiche	
23 fiche a trí	200 dhá chéad	
24 fiche a ceathair	300 trí chéad	
25 fiche a cúig	400 ceithre chéad	
30 tríocha	500 cúig chéad	
31 tríocha a haon	600 sé chéad	
32 tríocha a dó	700 seacht gcéad	
40 ceathracha or daichead	800 ocht gcéad	
50 caoga	900 naoi gcéad	
60 seasca	1,000 míle	
70 seachtó	2,000 dhá mhíle	
80 ochtó	100,000 céad míle	
90 nócha	1,000,000 milliún	
100 céad	1,000,000,000 billiún	

Note the use of *is* (shortened from *agus*) and *a*:

trí chéad *is* fiche (*three hundred and twenty*)

míle *is* céad (*one thousand, one hundred*)

ceithre mhíle, a haon (*four thousand and one*)

dhá chéad fiche a dó (*two hundred and twenty-two*)

Nouns after cardinal numbers

In Irish, there are two separate systems for counting people and things. This is how you count things – chairs for example:

1 cathaoir amháin	11 aon chathaoir déag
2 dhá chathaoir	12 dhá chathaoir déag
3 trí chathaoir	13 trí chathaoir déag
4 ceithre chathaoir	14 ceithre chathaoir déag
5 cúig chathaoir	15 cúig chathaoir déag
6 sé chathaoir	16 sé chathaoir déag
7 seacht gcathaoir	17 seacht gcathaoir déag
8 ocht gcathaoir	18 ocht gcathaoir déag
9 naoi gcathaoir	19 naoi gcathaoir déag
10 deich gcathaoir	20 fiche cathaoir

Note that:

- the nominative singular form of the noun is usually used after the cardinals:

lá (*day*)

trí lá (*three days*)

- consonants (except **l**, **n** and **r**) are lenited after the numbers 2–6, and consonants (except **l**, **n**, **r** and **s**) and vowels are eclipsed after the numbers 7–10:

	Consonants	Vowels
1	aon charr amháin or carr amháin (<i>one car</i>)	aon óstán amháin (<i>one hotel</i>)
2–6	dhá charr (<i>two cars</i>) cúig dheoch (<i>five drinks</i>)	trí óstán (<i>three hotels</i>) sé óstán (<i>six hotels</i>)
7–10	seacht gcarr (<i>seven cars</i>) ocht gcóta (<i>eight coats</i>) deich gcathaoir (<i>ten chairs</i>)	naoi n-óiche (<i>nine nights</i>) ocht n-óstán (<i>eight hotels</i>) deich n-óiche (<i>ten nights</i>)

- the forms **dhá** and **ceithre** are used when counting things:

a dó (<i>two</i>)	but	dhá oíche (<i>two nights</i>)
a ceathair (<i>four</i>)	but	ceithre leabhar (<i>four books</i>)
- the basic form of the noun is used after numbers that are divisible by ten, starting with **fiche** (*twenty*), e.g. **tríocha**, **céad**, **míle**:

fiche bosca (<i>twenty boxes</i>)
céad bord (<i>one hundred tables</i>)
- the noun **euro** remains unchanged after the cardinal numbers:

ocht euro déag (<i>eighteen euro</i>)
seacht euro is fiche (<i>twenty-seven euro</i>)

Nouns with special plural forms

A special plural form is used in the case of the nouns below when they are preceded by a cardinal number:

bliain (*year*)

2	3-6	7-10
bhliain	bliana	mbliana

ceann (*one of a category*)

2	3-6	7-10
cheann	cinn	gcinn

uair (*hour or time*)

2	3-6	7-10
uair	huair	n-uair

orlach (*inch*)

2	3-6	7-10
orlach	horlaí	n-orlaí

troigh (*foot*)

2	3-6	7-10
throigh	troithe	dtroithe

seachtain (*week*)

2	3-6	7-10
sheachtain	seachtaine	seachtaine

Bhí sé sé troithe agus cúig horlaí. (*He was six feet, five inches.*)

Ní fhaca mé í anois le cúig seachtaine. (*I haven't seen her now in five weeks.*)

Bhí mé sa Fhrainc cúig huaire. (*I was in France five times.*)

Déag

The word **déag** (*-teen*) is lenited when it is preceded by a noun ending in a vowel:

dhá oíche **dhéag** (*twelve nights*)

sé bhó **dhéag** (*sixteen cows*)

but

dhá bhád **déag** (*twelve boats*)

seacht gcathaoir **déag** (*seventeen chairs*)

This rule does not apply, however, in the case of the nouns above which have a special plural form. The form **déag** is always used with them:

trí bliana **déag** (*thirteen years*)

cúig huaire **déag** (*fifteen times*)

Exercises

A Write out these numbers in full.

- 1 25
- 2 34
- 3 61
- 4 130
- 5 132
- 6 580
- 7 725
- 8 1,900
- 9 2,370
- 10 2,800
- 11 10,500
- 12 200,000

B The cost of attending various courses at Oideas Gael, a school for adult learners of Irish in Donegal, is given below. Write each price out in words.

1	GAEILGE/Irish, weekly courses	€180
2	GAEILGE/Irish, 3-day weekend courses	€90
3	SCOIL SHAMHRAIDH I dTEANGA & CULTÚR/Language & Culture Summer School	€190
4	SEANDÁLAÍOCHT/Archaeology	€150
5	AN BODHRÁN/Bodhrán Playing	€55
6	AN FHLIÚIT/Flute & Whistle Playing	€75

C Change the words in parentheses if necessary.

- 1 dhá (carr)
- 2 cúig (oíche)
- 3 seacht (bó) (déag)
- 4 sé (ceann)
- 5 seacht (ceann)
- 6 ocht (bliain)
- 7 trí (bliain)
- 8 fiche (cathaoir)
- 9 seacht (siopa)
- 10 naoi (euro)

D Place the correct form of déag in each of the gaps.

- 1 dhá charr
- 2 cúig oíche
- 3 seacht n-óstán
- 4 trí bliana
- 5 cúig huairé
- 6 dhá bhó
- 7 ocht seachtaine
- 8 ceithre chathaoir
- 9 sé lá
- 10 trí horlaí

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personal numerals

In this unit you will learn about

- counting people
- the genitive case
- adjectives
- counting people: summary

Counting people

Below are the forms used when counting people. Notice that in the case of numbers other than 2–10 and 12 the ordinary cardinal system (for counting things), outlined in Unit 17, is used.

duine amháin (<i>one person</i>)	aon duine dhéag (<i>eleven people</i>)
beirt (<i>two people</i>)	dáréag (<i>twelve people</i>)
triúr (<i>three people</i>)	trí dhuine dhéag (<i>thirteen people</i>)
ceathrar (<i>four people</i>)	ceithre dhuine dhéag (<i>fourteen people</i>)
cúigear (<i>five people</i>)	cúig dhuine dhéag (<i>fifteen people</i>)
seisear (<i>six people</i>)	sé dhuine dhéag (<i>sixteen people</i>)
seachtar (<i>seven people</i>)	seacht nduine dhéag (<i>seventeen people</i>)
ochtar (<i>eight people</i>)	ocht nduine dhéag (<i>eighteen people</i>)
naonúr (<i>nine people</i>)	naoi nduine dhéag (<i>nineteen people</i>)
deichniúr (<i>ten people</i>)	fiche duine (<i>twenty people</i>)
duine is fiche (<i>twenty-one people</i>)	
dhá dhuine is fiche (<i>twenty-two people</i>)	
ceithre dhuine is caoga (<i>fifty-four people</i>)	
céad duine (<i>one hundred people</i>)	

The genitive plural is the form of the noun used after **beirt** – **deichniúr**:

ceathrar ceoltóirí (*four musicians*)
 cúigear páistí (*four children*)
 seisear ban (*six women*)

If you are unsure what the genitive plural form of a noun is, have a look in Ó Dónaill's *Foclóir Gaeilge-Béarla* (Irish English Dictionary).

Note that nouns that have a weak plural have the same form in the genitive plural and nominative singular:

☞ fear (*a man*) triúr fear (*three men*)

The consonants **b, c, f, g, m** and **p** are lenited when they follow **beirt**:

beirt cheoltóirí (*two musicians*)
 beirt fhear (*two men*)
 but
 beirt deartháireacha (*two brothers*)
 beirt tráchtairí (*two commentators*)

The consonants **b, c, f, g, m** and **p** are also lenited when they follow **aon** (*one*). The other consonants and the vowels remain unchanged:

aon fhear déag (*eleven men*)
 aon mhúinteoir déag (*eleven teachers*)
 but
 aon duine dhéag (*eleven people*)
 aon amhránaí dhéag (*eleven singers*)

It is important to remember that the word **daoine** (*people*) cannot be used with the personal numerals **beirt-deichniúr** (*two-ten*).

triúr = *three people* (therefore, it is not necessary to use **daoine** with **triúr**)

Remember that the rules for counting (2–10) **people** and counting things differ in Irish:

Counting people

beirt ceoltóirí (*two musicians*)
 triúr ceoltóirí (*three musicians*)
 seachtar ceoltóirí (*seven musicians*)

Counting things

dhá theach (*two houses*)
 trí theach (*three houses*)
 seacht dteach (*seven houses*)

The genitive case

Beirt has a genitive case form: *beirte*. The other personal numerals remain unchanged:

uirli sí cúigear ceoltóirí (*the instruments of five musicians*)

scoil seisear múinteoirí (*a six-teacher school*)

but

obair na beirte deartháireacha (*the two brothers' work*)

clann na beirte ban (*the two women's children*)

Adjectives

Adjectives that directly follow the personal numerals (apart from *beirt*) are placed in the singular:

an triúr mór (*the three big people*)

an ceathrar suimiúil (*the four interesting people*)

but

an bheirt mhóra (*the two big people*)

an bheirt bhreátha (*the two fine people*)

Adjectives that follow a personal number and a noun agree with the noun:

triúr tiománaithe óga (*three young drivers*)

cúigear ban deas (*five nice women*)

ochtar fear cáiliúil (*eight famous men*)

Note that adjectives beginning with a consonant are lenited following *beirt* and a noun:

beirt bhan dheasa (*two nice women*)

beirt fhear mhóra (*two big men*)

Counting people: summary

	The consonants (except d, s and t)	The consonants d, s, and t	The vowels
... amháin	duine amháin (<i>one person</i>)	deartháir amháin (<i>one brother</i>)	iníon amháin (<i>one daughter</i>)
beirt : the consonants b, c, f, g, m and p are lenited when they follow it	beirt mhac (<i>two sons</i>)	beirt sagart (<i>two priests</i>)	beirt iníonacha (<i>two daughters</i>)
triúr- deichniúr : consonants and vowels that follow them remain unchanged	triúr ban (<i>three women</i>) cúigear múinteoirí (<i>five teachers</i>) ochtar banaltraí (<i>eight nurses</i>) deichniúr feirmeoirí (<i>ten farmers</i>)	triúr deirfiúracha (<i>three sisters</i>) cúigear tiománaithe (<i>five drivers</i>) ochtar tuairisceoirí (<i>eight reporters</i>) deichniúr dochtúirí (<i>ten doctors</i>)	iníon amháin (<i>one daughter</i>) beirt iníonacha (<i>two daughters</i>) triúr iascairí (<i>three fishermen</i>) cúigear oifigeach (<i>five officers</i>) ochtar amhránaithe (<i>eight singers</i>) deichniúr aisteoirí (<i>ten actors</i>)

Exercises

A Place beirt and triúr before each of these nouns:

- 1 páistí
- 2 ceoltóirí
- 3 amhránaíthe
- 4 dochtúirí
- 5 iníonacha
- 6 deartháireacha
- 7 feirmeoirí
- 8 mic
- 9 tiománaithe
- 10 máithreacha

B Translate the following to Irish:

- 1 six singers
- 2 two doctors
- 3 ten musicians
- 4 three daughters
- 5 two sons
- 6 four teachers
- 7 seven drivers
- 8 nine nurses
- 9 five women
- 10 ten men

C Match each personal numeral and noun in Column One with their English equivalents in Column Two:

Column One

- 1 triúr páistí
- 2 dáréag múinteoir
- 3 beirt mhac
- 4 seisear oifigeach
- 5 aon dochtúir déag
- 6 triúr deartháireacha
- 7 fiche dochtúir
- 8 cúig amhránaí dhéag
- 9 cúigear oifigeach
- 10 ceathrar mac

Column Two

- a twelve teachers
- b four sons
- c five officers
- d three brothers
- e twenty doctors
- f three children
- g two sons
- h six officers
- i fifteen singers
- j eleven doctors

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ordinal numbers

In this unit you will learn about

- ordinal numbers
- the months of the year
- dates

30th–100th: an tríochadú (an daicheadú, an caogadú, an seascadú, an seachtódú, an t-ochtódú, an nóchadú, an céadú) halt, bliain, duine

1,000th: an míliú

1,000,000th: an milliúnú

The months of the year

The column on the left shows how the dates are written (on a calendar, for example). In everyday speech, however, people tend to use the noun *mí* (*month*) before the name of the month. Note the different forms of this, below.

Eanáir (<i>January</i>)	mí Eanáir
Feabhra (<i>February</i>)	mí Feabhra
Márta (<i>March</i>)	mí an Mhárta
Aibreán (<i>April</i>)	mí (an) Aibreáin
Bealtaine (<i>May</i>)	mí na Bealtaine
Meitheamh (<i>June</i>)	mí an Mheithimh
Iúil (<i>July</i>)	mí Iúil
Lúnasa (<i>August</i>)	mí Lúnasa
Meán Fómhair (<i>September</i>)	mí Mheán Fómhair
Deireadh Fómhair (<i>October</i>)	mí Dheireadh Fómhair
Samhain (<i>November</i>)	mí na Samhna
Nollaig (<i>December</i>)	mí na Nollag

ag tús **mhí** Eanáir (*at the beginning of January*)
 i lár **mhí** na Samhna (*in the middle of November*)
 ag deireadh **mhí** Lúnasa (*at the end of August*)
 i rith **mhí** an Mhárta (*during March*)

Dates

This is how dates are written in Irish:

8 Feabhra 2008

This is how the dates are said in speech:

1st–10th	11th–20th	21st–31st
an chéad lá	an t-aonú lá déag	an t-aonú lá is fiche
an dara lá	an dara lá déag	an dara lá is fiche
an tríú lá	an tríú lá déag	an tríú lá is fiche
an ceathrú lá	an ceathrú lá déag	an ceathrú lá is fiche
an cúigiú lá	an cúigiú lá déag	an cúigiú lá is fiche
an séú lá	an séú lá déag	an séú lá is fiche
an seachtú lá	an seachtú lá déag	an seachtú lá is fiche
an t-ochtú lá	an t-ochtú lá déag	an t-ochtú lá is fiche
an naoú lá	an naoú lá déag	an naoú lá is fiche
an deichiú lá	an fichiú lá	an tríochadú lá an t-aonú lá is tríocha

Following *an* (*on the*), the initial consonant in the ordinal numbers *céad*, *ceathrú* and *cúigiú* is eclipsed (or lenited in Ulster Irish):

ar an gcéad lá de mhí Feabhra (*on the first day of February*)
 (Ulster: ar an chéad lá de mhí Feabhra)

Note that the *t*-preceding *an t-aonú* and *an t-ochtú* is removed following *an*:

an t-ochtú lá de mhí an Mheithimh (*the eighth of June*)
 ar an ochtú lá de mhí an Mheithimh (*on the eighth of June*)
 an t-aonú lá déag de mhí na Samhna (*the eleventh of November*)
 ar an aonú lá déag de mhí na Samhna (*on the eleventh of November*)

Exercises

A Remove the parentheses around the Irish words and change those words if necessary.

- Tháinig Máirín sa chéad (áit) sa rás agus Sinéad sa cheathrú (áit). (*Máirín came in first place in the race and Sinéad in fourth place.*)
- Feicfidh mé tú ar an (t-ochtú) lá déag. (*I'll see you on the eighteenth.*)

- 3 Bhí sí ansin an chéad (oíche) ach ní fhaca mé í an dara (oíche). (*She was there the first night but I didn't see her the second night.*)
- 4 Sin an chéad (deoch) a bhí agam le seachtain. (*That's the first drink I've had in a week.*)
- 5 Tóg an chéad (casadh) ar dheis agus is é mo theachsa an dara (ceann) ar chlé. (*Take the first right turn and my house is the second one on the left.*)
- 6 Is é seo an seachtú (bliain) agam ag obair san áit seo. (*This is my seventh year working in this place.*)
- 7 Beidh an chéad (cruinniú) ar siúl in airde staighre sa chúigiú (seomra) ar chlé. (*The first meeting will take place upstairs in the fifth room on the left.*)
- 8 Is é seo an t-ochtú (uair) a tháinig sí ar cuairt chugainn. (*This is the eighth time she has visited us.*)
- 9 Tósóidh an dara (téarma) ag deireadh (mí) (Márta). (*The second term will begin at the end of March.*)
- 10 Téigh suas go dtí an seachtú (urlár) agus tóg an tríú (casadh) ar dheis. (*Go up to the seventh floor and take the third turn on your right.*)

B Write these dates in words.

- 1 15/6/2005 An _____ dhá mhíle is a cúig.
- 2 22/4/2003 An _____ dhá mhíle is a trí.
- 3 5/11/2008 An _____ dhá mhíle is a hocht.
- 4 11/8/2002 An _____ dhá mhíle is a dó.
- 5 30/12/2001 An _____ dhá mhíle is a haon.
- 6 25/1/2004 An _____ dhá mhíle is a ceathair.
- 7 31/5/2009 An _____ dhá mhíle is a naoi.
- 8 18/7/2006 An _____ dhá mhíle is a sé.
- 9 20/2/2000 An _____ dhá mhíle.
- 10 28/10/2010 An _____ dhá mhíle is a deich.

C Now, place the words *an* (*on the*) before each of the dates in B above.

D Choose the correct form, (a) or (b), after each ordinal number below. The first one has been done to help you.

- 1 an cúigiú (a) bhosca
(b) bosca (*the fifth box*)
- 2 an naoú (a) hoifig
(b) oifig (*the ninth office*)

- 3 an dara (a) duine
(b) dhuine (*the second person*)
- 4 an t-ochtú (a) huair
(b) uair (*the eighth time*)
- 5 an tríú (a) bliain
(b) bhliain (*the third year*)
- 6 an deichiú (a) Iodálach
(b) hIodálach (*the tenth Italian*)
- 7 an chéad (a) hoifig
(b) oifig (*the first office*)
- 8 an chéad (a) bliain
(b) bhliain (*the first year*)
- 9 an séú (a) doras
(b) dhoras (*the sixth door*)
- 10 an seachtú (a) casadh
(b) chasadh (*the seventh turn*)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
(b)									

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adverbs

In this unit you will learn about

- adverbs: general
- adverbs of motion and position
- the cardinal directions
- adverbs of time
- the days of the week
- referring to past time
- referring to future time

Adverbs: general

An adverb is a word which qualifies another word, other than a noun or a pronoun:

Tá sé réasúnta deacair. (*It's reasonably difficult.*)
Tá sí ag obair go dian. (*She's working hard.*)
Bíonn Bairbre as láthair go minic. (*Bairbre is often absent.*)

Adverbs are used to refer to motion and position, and to time. We will focus on these particular adverbs in this unit.

Adverbs of motion and position

Adverbs that are used to describe motion or direction

Motion	In a position	Motion from a position
síos Chuaigh sí síos. (<i>She went down.</i>)	thíos Bhí sí thíos. (<i>She was down.</i>)	aníos Tháinig sí aníos. (<i>She came up.</i>)
suas Chuaigh sé suas. (<i>He went up.</i>)	thuas Bhí sé thuas. (<i>He was up.</i>)	anuas Tháinig sé anuas. (<i>He came down.</i>)
sall/anonn Chuaigh mé sall/ anonn. (<i>I went over (yonder).</i>)	thall Bhí mé thall. (<i>I was yonder.</i>)	anall Tháinig mé anall. (<i>I came back from yonder.</i>)
	abhus Tá mé abhus. (<i>I'm here, on this side.</i>)	
isteach Chuaigh sé isteach. (<i>He went in.</i>)	istigh Bhí sé istigh. (<i>He was inside.</i>)	amach Tháinig sé amach. (<i>He came out.</i>)
amach Chuaigh sí amach. (<i>She went out.</i>)	amuigh Bhí sí amuigh. (<i>She was outside.</i>)	isteach Tháinig sí isteach. (<i>She came in.</i>)

The cardinal directions

Adverbs and nouns can be used to refer to the cardinal directions.

Proper noun	Motion	In a position	From a position
an tuaisceart (the north)	ó thuaidh (to the north/ northwards)	thuaidh (in the north)	aduidh (from the north)
an deisceart (the south)	ó dheas (to the south/ southwards)	theas (in the south)	aneas (from the south)
an t-oirthear (the east)	soir (to the east/ eastwards)	thoir (in the east)	anoir (from the east)
an t-iarthar (the west)	siar (to the west/ westwards)	thiar (in the west)	aniar (from the west)

Chuaigh an bád ó thuaidh. (*The boat went northwards.*)

Tá sé ag teacht aduidh. (*He is coming from the north.*)

Thiomáin siad ó dheas. (*They drove south.*)

Tá siad ag dul soir faoi láthair. (*They are going eastwards at the moment.*)

Chuaigh mé siar go Gaillimh ag an deireadh seachtaine. (*I went west to Galway at the weekend.*)

Adverbs of time

The adverb **riamh** (*ever/never*) is used in the present and past tense. In the future tense, however, **choíche**, **go brách** and **go deo** are used to express the same meaning:

Ní fhaca mé riamh an méid seo turasóirí san áit. (*I have never seen so many tourists in the place.*)

but

Ní bhfaighidh Dónall bocht pas sa scrúdú sin choíche. (*Dónall won't ever pass that examination.*)

Ní fheicfidh mé go deo arís í! (*I won't ever see her again!*)

The adverbs **i gcaitheamh**, **i rith** and **le linn** are all used to express the meaning **during**:

Beidh mé i nGaillimh i gcaitheamh an tsamhraidh. (*I will be in Galway during the summer.*)

Bíonn sé an-fhuar ansin i rith an gheimhridh. (*It is very cold there during the winter.*)

Bhí sé ina chónaí sa Ghearmáin le linn an chogaidh. (*He lived in Germany during the war.*)

Le and **ar feadh** are both used to refer to time, but there are differences between them. **Le** is usually (although not always) used with the present tense form of the verb to refer to something which still holds, while **ar feadh** is used to refer to a period of time in the past and to something which has ended:

Tá mé i mo chónaí i Londain anois le deich mbliana (anuas). (*I've been living in London now for ten years.*)

Bhí mé i mo chónaí i gCorcaigh ar feadh trí bliana nuair a bhí mé óg. (*I lived in Cork for three years when I was young.*)

Note that **ar feadh** can also be used to refer to periods of time in the future:

Beidh mé san Afraic ar feadh míosa. (*I'll be in Africa for a month.*)

The adverbs *i gceann* and *go ceann* are often confused:

Beidh mé ar ais *i gceann bliana*. (*I'll be back in a year's time.*)
 Beidh sí anseo *go ceann bliana*. (*She will be here for a year.*)

The days of the week

This is how the days of the week are named:

an Luan (*Monday*)
 an Mháirt (*Tuesday*)
 an Chéadaoin (*Wednesday*)
 an Déardaoin (*Thursday*)
 an Aoine (*Friday*)
 an Satharn (*Saturday*)
 an Domhnach (*Sunday*)

Inniu an Mháirt. (*Today is Tuesday.*)
 Amárach an Chéadaoin. (*Tomorrow is Wednesday.*)
 Caitheann sé an Aoine *i gcónaí* lena mhac. (*He always spends Fridays with his son.*)

Dé is used when a particular day is being referred to:

Dé Luain (*on Monday*)
 Dé Máirt (*on Tuesday*)
 Dé Céadaoin (*on Wednesday*)
 Déardaoin (*on Thursday*)
 Dé hAoine (*on Friday*)
 Dé Sathairn (*on Saturday*)
 Dé Domhnaigh (*on Sunday*)

Buailfidh mé isteach chugat Dé Máirt. (*I'll pay you a visit on Tuesday.*)
 Chuaigh sí ar ais maidin Dé Luain. (*She went back on Monday morning.*)

Note that the nouns are in the genitive case following *Dé* and that it is already incorporated into *Déardaoin*. Learners often say or write **Dé Déardaoin*, but this is wrong.

Note that *Dé* is never lenited:

Feicfidh mé roimh dheireadh na míosa tú. (*I'll see you before the end of the month.*)

but

Beidh sí ar ais roimh Dé hAoine go cinnte. (*She'll be back before Friday for sure.*)

Referring to past time

inné (*yesterday*)
 arú inné (*the day before yesterday*)
 Dé Domhnaigh seo caite (*last Sunday*)
 or
 Dé Domhnaigh seo a d'imigh tharainn (*last Sunday*)
 or
 Dé Domhnaigh seo a chuaigh thart (*last Sunday*)
 seachtain is an lá inniu (*this day a week ago*)
 seachtain is an lá inné (*a week from yesterday*)
 seachtain is an Mháirt seo caite (*last Tuesday week*)

The Irish for ago is *ó shin*:

seachtain ó shin (*a week ago*)
 coicís ó shin (*a fortnight ago*)
 mí ó shin (*a month ago*)

Referring to future time

amárach (*tomorrow*)
 arú amárach/amanathar/anóirthear (*the day after tomorrow*)
 Dé Luain seo chugainn (*next Monday*)
 seachtain ó inniu/ón lá inniu (*this day week*)
 coicís ó inniu/ón lá inniu (*this day fortnight*)
 coicís ón Aoine seo chugainn (*next Friday fortnight*)
 seachtain ó amárach/ón lá amárach (*tomorrow week*)

lá arna mhárach (*on the following day*)
an lá dár gcionn (*the next day*)

Exercises

A Write the correct adverb of motion or position in each blank below.

- 1 Chuaigh sí _____ go Sasana nuair a bhí sí óg agus tá sí _____ ansin ó shin. (*She went over to England when she was young and she's still over there.*)
- 2 An bhfuil tú ag dul _____ anocht? (*Are you going out tonight?*)
- 3 Bhí mé _____ aréir go dtí a dó a chlog. (*I was out last night until two o'clock.*)
- 4 Tháinig sé _____ an doras agus na páistí á leanúint. (*He came out the door followed by the children.*)
- 5 Tá Vivienne _____ ag bun an ghairdín. (*Vivienne is down at the bottom of the garden.*)
- 6 Tá sé _____ sa chrann agus ní thiocfaidh sé _____. (*He's up in the tree and he won't come down.*)
- 7 Rachaidh mé _____ chugat ar ball. (*I'll go up to you later.*)
- 8 Tá sé _____ ansin, ag bun an chófra. (*It's in there, in the bottom of the cupboard.*)
- 9 Téigh _____ go bun na sráide agus cas ar dheis. (*Go down to the bottom of the street and turn right.*)
- 10 Tháinig sí _____ an tsráid cúpla nóiméad ó shin ar a rothar. (*She came up the street on her bicycle a few minutes ago.*)

B Write the appropriate adverb in each blank.

- 1 Ní raibh mé _____ i Meiriceá. (*I was never in America.*)
- 2 Ní bheidh go leor airgid agam _____. (*I'll never have enough money.*)
- 3 Beidh mé ag dul ansin _____ míosa. (*I'll be going there in a month's time.*)
- 4 Ní bheidh siad ar ais _____ seachtaine. (*They won't be back for a week.*)
- 5 Tá mé i mo chónaí i bPáras _____ trí bliana anois. (*I've been living in Paris now for three years.*)

- 6 Bhí siad ina gcónaí sa teach sin _____ tríocha bliain. (*They lived in that house for thirty years.*)
- 7 Beidh Caoimhín sa Spáinn _____ coicíse. (*Caoimhín will be in Spain for a fortnight.*)
- 8 Feicfidh mé tú _____ cúpla seachtain. (*I'll see you in a few weeks' time.*)
- 9 Bíonn sí ansin go minic _____ an tsamhraidh. (*She's often there during the summer.*)
- 10 Fuair go leor daoine bás in Éirinn _____ bhlianta an Ghorta. (*Many people died in Ireland during the Famine years.*)

C Place the words and phrases in chronological order, starting with the furthest point in the future and ending with the furthest point in the past.

coicís is an lá amárach
seachtain is an lá inniu
coicís ó inniu
mí ó amárach
mí ó shin
coicís is an lá inné
inné
seachtain ó amárach
amárach
arú inné
coicís ó amárach
coicís ó shin

21

relative clauses

In this unit you will learn about

- direct relative clause
- indirect relative clause
- choice between direct and indirect clause
- direct and indirect relative participles

Sentences can be divided into parts or clauses. A relative clause is a subordinate clause which gives additional information about someone or something. In Irish, one of the particles *a/ar* or *nach/nár* precedes a relative clause:

Sin é an buachaill a chonaic mé cheana. (*That's the boy I saw before.*)

Sin cluiche amháin nach mbacaim leis. (*That's one game I don't bother with.*)

Direct relative clause

A direct relative occurs when the noun at the beginning of the sentence is the subject or direct object of the verb in the relative clause that follows:

Sin í an bhean a bhí anseo ag an deireadh seachtaine. (*That's the woman who was here at the weekend.*)

Sin é an dráma a fheicimid agus muid i Londain. (*That's the play that we'll see when we are in London.*)

In English, a direct relative clause is usually introduced by *that*, *who* or *which*.

In Irish a direct relative is used in the following cases as well:

- a after the nouns **am**, **bliain**, **lá**, **oíche** and **uair**, and other such nouns, which are used to denote time:

Cén t-am a bhíonn sé anseo de ghnáth? (*What time is he usually here?*)

Cén bhliain a chonaic tú an dráma sin? (*What year did you see that play?*)

- b when the particles **cé** and **cad/céard**, which are used to form questions, are followed immediately by the relative particle **a**:

Cé a chonaic sé in éineacht léi? (*Who did he see accompanying her?*)

Céard a bhí á dhéanamh aige? (*What was he doing?*)

- c after *cé chomh minic is, cé/cá mhéad, cá/cén fhad, cathain, cá huair/cén uair, conas, nuair* and *mar*:

Cé chomh minic is a fheiceann tú í? (*How often do you see her?*)
 Cé mhéad a thug tú ar an gcarr sin? (*How much did you pay for that car?*)
 Cathain a bhí do bhreithlá ann? (*When was your birthday?*)
 Conas a chuaigh tú go Doire? (*How did you go to Derry?*)

Indirect relative clause

Note that the dependent form of the verb (e.g. *raibh, ndeachaigh*) is used in an indirect relative clause.

A indirect relative occurs in the following cases:

- a after *áit*:

Sin an áit a raibh mé ar saoire. (*That's where I was on holiday.*)
 Cén áit a ndeachaigh tú inné? (*Where did you go yesterday?*)

- b after *caoi* and *dóigh*:

Ní maith liom an chaoi a mbíonn sé ag cúlchaint. (*I don't like the way he gossips.*)
 Cén chaoi a bhfuil tú? (*How are you?*)
 Cén dóigh a mbeidh a fhios agat? (*How will you know?*)

- c after *fáth*:

Cén fáth a raibh sí ar buile? (*Why was she angry?*)
 Sin an fáth a ndeachaigh siad ansin. (*That's why they went there.*)
 (Note: The forms *cad chuige* and *tuige*, which have the same meaning as *cén fáth*, are also followed by an indirect relative.)

- d when the particles *cé* and *cad/céard*, which are used to form questions, are followed immediately by a prepositional pronoun:

Cé dó a raibh sé ag obair? (*For whom was he working?*)
 Céard faoi a raibh sé ag caint? (*About what was he talking?*)

- e when the meaning *whose* is being expressed, as well as *in which, of which*, etc.:

Sin í an bhean a raibh a fear sa phríosún. (*That's the woman whose husband was in prison.*)
 Sin an fear a mbeidh a mhac anseo amárach. (*That's the man whose son will be here tomorrow.*)

- f when the meanings *whom, to whom, for whom, with whom*, etc. are being expressed:

Bhí mé ag caint leis an bhfear ar thug tú an t-airgead dó. (*I was speaking to the man to whom you gave the money.*)
 Sin í an cailín a ndearna tú gar di. (*That's the girl for whom you did a favour.*)
 Sin é an fear a raibh mé ar scoil leis. (*That's the man with whom I was at school.*)

Choice between direct and indirect clause

Either a direct or indirect relative clause can often be used after nouns denoting time:

Cén t-am a éiríonn/n-éiríonn tú ar maidin? (*What time do you get up in the morning?*)
 Cén mhí a thagann/dtagann sé anseo de ghnáth? (*What month does he usually come here?*)

This rule does not pertain to **uair**, however – a direct relative clause always follows it:

Cén uair a bhí tú ansin? (*When were you there?*)

A direct relative clause *must* follow **am** in the present tense when you are asking what time it is:

Cén t-am atá sé? (*What time is it?*)

Summary

Direct relative clause	Indirect relative clause
After nouns which denote time: am, bliain, lá, oíche, and uair	After nouns which denote time: am, bliain, lá, oíche Exception: uair
Cén t-am a bhíonn tú ansin? (<i>What time are you usually there?</i>)	Cén t-am a mbíonn tú ansin? (<i>What time are you usually there?</i>)
Cén bhliain a chuaigh tú ansin? (<i>What year did you go there?</i>)	Cén bhliain a ndeachaigh tú ansin? (<i>What year did you go there?</i>)
Cén oíche a bheidh tú ar ais? (<i>What night will you be back?</i>)	Cén oíche a mbeidh tú ar ais? (<i>What night will you be back?</i>)
Cén uair a d'fhág siad? (<i>When did they leave?</i>)	
cé and cad/céard + the relative particle a	cé and cad/céard + a prepositional pronoun
Cé a thug an t-airgead duit? (<i>Who gave you the money?</i>)	Cé dó ar thug tú an t-airgead? (<i>To whom did you give the money?</i>)
Céard a bhí le déanamh? (<i>What was to be done?</i>)	Céard faoi a raibh an chaint? (<i>What was the talk about?</i>)
cé chomh minic is, cé/cá mhéad, cá/cén fhad, cathain, conas, nuair and mar	an áit, cén áit? an chaoi, cén chaoi? an fáth, cén fáth? cad chuige/tuige?

Cé chomh minic is a chonaic tú é?
(*How often did you see him?*)

Cé mhéad duine a bhí leat?
(*How many people were with you?*)

Cén fhad a d'fhan tú ann?
(*How long did you stay there?*)

Cathain a d'imigh sí?
(*When did you go?*)

Cén uair a chuaigh sé abhaile?
(*When did he go home?*)

Conas mar a bhí sé?
(*How was he?*)

Sin an áit a raibh siad ar saoire.
(*That's the place where they were on holidays.*)

Cén chaoi a raibh sé?
(*How was he?*)

Cén fáth ar fhan tú?
(*Why did you stay?*)

Cad chuige ar imigh sí?
(*Why did she go?*)

that, who or which

whose
in which, of which, etc.
whom, to whom, for whom, with whom, etc.

Direct and indirect relative participles

Direct relative participle	Indirect relative participle
<i>All tenses except the past tense a (followed by lenition) is used before the verb.</i> In the negative, nach (followed by eclipsis) is used before the verb.	<i>All tenses except the past tense a (followed by eclipsis) is used before every verb. In the negative, nach (followed by eclipsis) is used before the verb.</i>
<i>The present tense</i> Cathain a osclaíonn sé é? (<i>When does he open it?</i>) Cén uair a théann sé ansin? (<i>When does he go there?</i>) Céard a dhéanann tú? (<i>What do you do?</i>)	<i>The present tense</i> Cén chaoi a dtagann sí abhaile? (<i>How does she come home?</i>) Cad chuige a dtéann tú ansin? (<i>Why do you go there?</i>) Sin an bhean a mbíonn a mac anseo de ghnáth. (<i>That's the woman whose son is usually here.</i>)

<p>Sin an obair a dhéanaim de ghnáth. (<i>That's the work I do usually.</i>)</p> <p>Chuala mé nach mbíonn tú ann rómhinic. (<i>I heard you're not there often.</i>)</p>	<p>Cad chuige nach n-itheann tú an bia sin? (<i>Why don't you eat that food?</i>)</p>
<p><i>The future tense</i></p> <p>Cathain a osclóidh sé é? (<i>When will he open it?</i>)</p> <p>Sin an fhadhb a bheidh againn. (<i>That's the problem we will have.</i>)</p> <p>Cloisim nach mbeidh tú ann. (<i>I hear you won't be there.</i>)</p>	<p><i>The future tense</i></p> <p>Cén fáth a ndéarfaidh tú é sin? (<i>Why will you say that?</i>)</p> <p>Cén chaoi a gcloisfidh tú an guthán sa trácht? (<i>How will you hear the phone in the traffic?</i>)</p> <p>Cén áit a mbuailfidh mé leat? (<i>Where will I meet you?</i>)</p>
<p><i>The habitual past tense</i></p> <p>Cén t-am a d'osclaíodh sé an siopa? (<i>What time used he open the shop?</i>)</p> <p>Cé a théadh ann leis? (<i>Who used to go there with him?</i>)</p> <p>Cén mhí den bhliain a thosaíodh sé? (<i>What month of the year used he start?</i>)</p> <p>Deirtear nach mbíodh mórán daoine ann. (<i>It's said that there used not be many people there.</i>)</p>	<p><i>The habitual past tense</i></p> <p>Cé dó a dtugtaí an t-airgead? (<i>To whom used the money be given?</i>)</p> <p>Cén fáth a mbíodh sí ansin? (<i>Why used she be there?</i>)</p> <p>Cén chaoi a dtéiteá chuig do chuid oibre? (<i>How used you go to your work?</i>)</p>
<p><i>The conditional mood</i></p> <p>Cathain a d'osclóidh sé é? (<i>When would he open it?</i>)</p> <p>Cén uair a rachadh sé ansin? (<i>When would he go there?</i>)</p> <p>Cén t-am a bheifeá ansin dá bhfágfá anois? (<i>What time would you be there if you left now?</i>)</p>	<p><i>The conditional mood</i></p> <p>Cén fáth a n-osclóidh sé é? (<i>Why would he open it?</i>)</p> <p>Cad chuige a gcabhróinn leat? (<i>Why would I help you?</i>)</p> <p>Sin é an fear nach dtiocfadh a mhac ar ais. (<i>That is the man whose son wouldn't come back.</i>)</p>

The past tense

a (followed by lenition) is used before every verb, regular and irregular.

Cathain a d'oscaíl sé é?

(*When did he open it?*)

Cén uair a bhuaíl tú leis?

(*When did you meet him?*)

Cén t-am a fuair tú an scéala?

(*What time did you get the news?*)

(note that this verb is not lenited)

Sin é an fear a bhí sa rang liom.

(*There's the man who was in my class.*)

In the negative, nár (followed by lenition) is used before most verbs:

Dúirt sé liom nár bhuaíl sé leat.

(*He told me he didn't meet you.*)

Nach (followed by eclipsis) is used before a few irregular verbs:

nach ndúirt/ndeachaigh/raibh/
ndearna/bhfuair/bhfaca

The past tense

ar and nár (followed by lenition) are used before all regular verbs and some irregular verbs.

Cén chaoi ar bhuaíl sibh le chéile?

(*How did you meet?*)

Cén fáth nár cheannaigh tú an leabhar sin?

(*Why didn't you buy that book?*)

Sin í an bhean ar dhíol a mac a theach linne.

(*There's the woman whose son sold us his house.*)

Cén chaoi ar chuala tú ...?

(*How did you hear ...?*)

Cad chuige ar ith sí ...?

(*Why did she eat ...?*)

Cén fáth ar thug sé ...?

(*Why did he give ...?*)

Cén tslí ar tháinig tú ...?

(*How did you come ...?*)

Cén chaoi ar bheir tú ...?

(*How did you catch ...?*)

a and nach are used in the case of these irregular verbs:

Cén fáth nach ndúirt tú ...?

(*Why did you not say ...?*)

Cén áit a ndeachaigh tú ...?

(*Where did you go ...?*)

Cén dóigh a raibh sé ...?

(*How was he ...?*)

Cad chuige a ndearna siad ...?

(*Why did they do...?*)

Cén áit a bhfuair sibh ...?

(*Where did you get ...?*)

Cén áit a bhfaca sí ...?

(*Where did she see ...?*)

Exercises

A Choose which form of the verb to place in each blank.

- | | Direct | Indirect |
|----|-----------|--------------|
| 1 | bheidh | mbeidh |
| 2 | rinne | ndearna |
| 3 | a bhuail | ar bhuail |
| 4 | a d'fhág | ar fhág |
| 5 | a tháinig | ar tháinig |
| 6 | a fuair | a bhfuair |
| 7 | a bhí | a raibh |
| 8 | a bhí | a raibh |
| 9 | a chuaigh | a ndeachaigh |
| 10 | a chonaic | a bhfaca |
| 11 | a thug | ar thug |
| 12 | a bhuail | ar bhuail |
- Cén fhad a _____ tú ansin? (*How long will you be there?*)
 - Céard a _____ tú ag an deireadh seachtaine? (*What did you do at the weekend?*)
 - Cathain _____ tú léi? (*When did you meet her?*)
 - Cén fáth _____ sí? (*Why did she leave?*)
 - Cén t-am _____ sé ar ais? (*What time did he return?*)
 - Sin é an fear _____ a mhac an post sa mheánscoil. (*That's the man whose son got the job in the secondary school.*)
 - Cé mhéad duine _____ ansin? (*How many people were there?*)
 - Sin í an bhean _____ taom croí aici an samhradh seo caite. (*That's the woman who had a heart attack last summer.*)
 - Cén áit _____ sí? (*Where did she go?*)
 - Cé chomh minic is _____ tú é? (*How often did you see him?*)
 - Sin é an fear _____ mé an t-airgead dó. (*That's the man to whom I gave the money.*)
 - Cén áit _____ tú léi? (*Where did you meet her?*)

B Remove the parentheses and change the relative participle and the verb if necessary.

- Cathain a (beidh) sí sa bhaile? (*When will she be at home?*)
- Cén áit (a) (buail) tú léi aréir? (*Where did you meet her last night?*)
- Cad fáth (a) (téann) sí ansin? (*Why does she go there?*)
- Cén chaoi a (chuaigh) tú go Béal Feirste ag an deireadh seachtaine? (*How did you go to Belfast at the weekend?*)
- Cé mhéad duine a (beidh) leat? (*How many people will be with you?*)
- Cén fhad (a) (fan) tú ansin aréir? (*How long did you stay there last night?*)
- Sin é an fear (a) (cuir) mé an t-eolas chuige. (*That's the man to whom I sent the information.*)
- Sin í an bhean (a) (bhí) mé i ngrá léi nuair a bhí mé ar scoil. (*That's the woman with whom I was in love when I was at school.*)
- Sin an duine a (chuaigh) chun an choláiste i Luimneach. (*That's the person who went to college in Limerick.*)
- Sin an fear a (chuaigh) a mhac chun an choláiste i nGaillimh. (*That's the man whose son went to college in Galway.*)
- Cé chomh minic is a (téann) tú abhaile? (*How often do you go home?*)
- Conas (a) (déanann) tú é sin? (*How do you do that?*)

22

indirect speech

In this unit you will learn about

- direct speech vs. indirect speech
- change of tense
- adverbs of time and demonstrative words

Direct speech vs. indirect speech

Direct speech repeats, or quotes, the exact words spoken, usually contained within quotation marks. It is introduced by expressions such as *She said...*, and *I asked...*

Indirect speech is reported speech. The exact words of the original statement are not always used, and quotation marks are not required, e.g. *She said that she was disappointed.*

Direct speech

'Tá mé ag teacht chugam féin.'

(*I'm recovering.*)

'Ní bheidh sí ar ais amárach.'

(*She won't be back tomorrow.*)

'Chuaigh mé ansin i m' aonar.'

(*I went there alone.*)

Indirect speech

Deir sé go bhfuil sé ag teacht chuige féin.

(*He says he is recovering.*)

Measann sé nach mbeidh sí ar ais amárach.

(*He doesn't think she'll be back tomorrow.*)

Deir sé go ndeachaigh sé ansin ina aonar.

(*He says he went there alone.*)

Note that the dependent form of the verb is used after *go/gur* and *nach/nár*. Note also that the dependent form is given in the units of this book devoted to the verb.

Change of tense

Reported speech is usually used to talk about the past, so we normally change the tense of the words spoken:

The present tense is changed to the past tense:

'Tá mé ceart go leor.'

(*I'm all right.*)

'Níl sé ródheas.'

(*It's not too nice.*)

Dúirt sí go raibh sí ceart go leor.

(*She said she was all right.*)

Dúirt sí nach raibh sé ródheas.

(*She said that it wasn't too nice.*)

The present habitual tense is changed to the past habitual:

'Bím ansin go minic.' (<i>'I'm often there.'</i>)	Dúirt sí go mbíodh sí ansin go minic. (<i>'She said she was often there.'</i>)
--	---

The future tense is changed to the conditional mood:

'Rachaidh mé ansin gan é.' (<i>'I'll go there without him.'</i>)	Dúirt sí go rachadh sí ansin gan é. (<i>'She said she would go there without him.'</i>)
---	--

Verbs in the past tense, the past habitual tense and the conditional mood remain unchanged:

'Chonaic mé iad ansin.' (<i>'I saw them there.'</i>)	Dúirt sé go bhfaca sé iad ansin. (<i>'He said he saw them there.'</i>)
'Theadh sí ann gach bliain.' (<i>'She used to go there every year.'</i>)	Dúirt sé go dtéadh sí ann gach bliain. (<i>'He said she used to go there every year.'</i>)
'Dhéanfaidís an obair sin dó.' (<i>'They would do that work for him.'</i>)	Dúirt sí go ndéanfaidís an obair sin dó. (<i>'She said that they would do that work for him.'</i>)

The imperative is replaced by a verbal noun:

'Téigh abhaile leis.' (<i>'Go home with him.'</i>)	Dúirt sí liom dul abhaile leis. (<i>'She told me to go home with him.'</i>)
'Éirigh, a Bhríd.' (<i>'Get up Bríd.'</i>)	Dúirt sé le Bríd éirí. (<i>'He told Bríd to get up.'</i>)

When the commanding verb takes an object, a is placed before the verbal noun:

'Ceannaigh bronntanas dom.' (<i>'Buy me a present.'</i>)	Dúirt sí liom bronntanas a cheannach di. (<i>'She told me to buy her a present.'</i>)
'Tabhair an t-airgead ar ais dó.' (<i>'Give him back the money.'</i>)	Dúirt sí liom an t-airgead a thabhairt ar ais dó. (<i>'She told me to give him back the money.'</i>)

In the case of negative commands and requests, ná is replaced by gan:

'Ná dún an doras sin.' (<i>'Don't close the door.'</i>)	Dúirt sí leis gan an doras a dhúnadh. (<i>'She told him not to close the door.'</i>)
'Ná hith an bia go léir, a Aoife.' (<i>'Don't eat all the food, Aoife.'</i>)	Dúirt sé le hAoife gan an bia go léir a ithe. (<i>'He told Aoife not to eat all the food.'</i>)

Adverbs of time and demonstrative words

The adverbs of time must be changed when the introductory verb (*dúirt, chuala, etc.*) expresses past time:

inniu (<i>today</i>)	an lá sin (<i>that day</i>)
inné (<i>yesterday</i>)	an lá roimhe sin (<i>the day before</i>)
arú inné (<i>the day before yesterday</i>)	dhá lá roimhe sin (<i>two days before</i>)
aréir (<i>last night</i>)	an oíche roimhe sin (<i>the night before</i>)
amárach (<i>tomorrow</i>)	an lá ina dhiaidh sin (<i>the day after</i>)
arú amárach (<i>the day after tomorrow</i>)	dhá lá ina dhiaidh sin (<i>two days after that</i>)

anocht (<i>tonight</i>)	an oíche sin (<i>that night</i>)
anois (<i>now</i>)	ansin or an uair sin (<i>then or that time</i>)
i mbliana (<i>this year</i>)	an bhliain sin (<i>that year</i>)
anuraidh (<i>last year</i>)	an bhliain roimhe sin (<i>the previous year</i>)
an bhliain seo chugainn (<i>next year</i>)	an bhliain ina dhiaidh sin (<i>the following year</i>)
anseo (<i>here</i>)	ansin, ansiúd, ann (<i>there</i>)
sin (<i>that</i>) (adjective)	sin, úd (<i>that</i>)
sin (<i>that</i>) (pronoun)	sin, siúd (<i>that</i>)

Exercises

A Each adverb of time in Column One is used in direct speech. Match it with its equivalent in Column Two, used in indirect speech.

Column One

- 1 inniu
- 2 inné
- 3 arú inné
- 4 aréir
- 5 amárach
- 6 arú amárach
- 7 anocht
- 8 anois
- 9 i mbliana
- 10 anuraidh

Column Two

- an bhliain sin
- an oíche sin
- an bhliain roimhe sin
- dhá lá ina dhiaidh sin
- an lá ina dhiaidh sin
- an oíche roimhe sin
- ansin or an uair sin
- an lá roimhe sin
- an lá sin
- dhá lá roimhe sin

B Place the words 'Dúirt sí ...' before each sentence and make whatever changes are necessary.

- 1 'Tá mé ag dul abhaile amárach.' (*I'm going home tomorrow.*)
- 2 'Bím sa bhaile gach lá ar a cúig.' (*I'm home every day at five.*)
- 3 'Bhí Niall anseo arú inné.' (*Niall was here the day before yesterday.*)
- 4 'Beidh siad ar ais arú amárach.' (*They'll be back the day after tomorrow.*)

- 5 'Bhí an áit plódaithe aréir.' (*The place was packed last night.*)
- 6 'Dhéanfainn an obair dó dá mbeinn saor.' (*I'd do the work for him if I was free.*)
- 7 'D'ólfainn an iomarca dá mbeinn ansin.' (*I'd drink too much if I were there.*)
- 8 'Bhíodh Gearóidín ansin go minic.' (*Gearóidín often used to be here.*)
- 9 'Feicfidh mé amárach tú.' (*I'll see you tomorrow.*)
- 10 'Chuaigh siad ansin inné.' (*They went there yesterday.*)

C Fill in the blanks to change each direct command or request below into indirect speech. (If you are unsure of the forms of the verbal noun, have a look again at Unit 7 of this book.)

- 1 'Ná habair sin leis.' (*Don't say that to him.*)
Dúirt sé _____ sin a _____ leis.
- 2 'Éist le do mháthair, a Liam.' (*Listen to your mother, Liam.*)
Dúirt sé le Liam _____ lena mháthair.
- 3 'Oscail an fhuinneog.' (*Open the window.*)
Dúirt sé an fhuinneog a _____.
- 4 'Déanaigí an obair amárach.' (*Do the work tomorrow.*)
Dúirt sé leo an obair a _____ an lá ina dhiaidh sin.
- 5 'Na labhraigí focal, a pháistí.' (*Don't speak a word, children.*)
Dúirt sé leis na páistí _____ focal a _____.
- 6 'Tar isteach agus suigh síos.' (*Come in and sit down.*)
Dúirt sé léi _____ isteach agus _____ síos.
- 7 'Faigh nuachtán domsa, a Shíle.' (*Get a newspaper for me, Síle.*)
Dúirt sé le Síle nuachtán a _____ dó.
- 8 'Ná tar ar ais go dtí anocht.' (*Don't come back until tonight.*)
Dúirt sé leo _____ ar ais go dtí an oíche sin.
- 9 'Ith do dhinnéar, a Dhónaill.' (*Eat your dinner, Dónall.*)
Dúirt sé le Dónall a dhinnéar a _____.
- 10 'Críochnaigh an aiste amárach.' (*Finish the essay tomorrow.*)
Dúirt sé le Ciara an aiste a _____ an lá ina dhiaidh sin.

adjective An adjective describes a noun or gives us more information about it.

deas (*nice*)
mór (*big*)

adverb An adverb is a word which describes or tells us more about how an action is carried out. It answers the questions *Where?*, *When?*, or *How?* In Irish, *go* is often used where the ending *-ly* would be used in English.

thiar (*in the west*)
inné (*yesterday*)
go mall (*slowly*)

article The article is placed before the noun. There is only one article in the Irish language, that is, the definite article.

an fear (*the man*)

The form *na* is used in the plural.

na fir (*the men*)

cardinal numbers The numbers *one*, *two*, *three*, etc.

comparative This is a form of the adjective used to make comparisons.

Tá Londain níos mó ná Baile Átha Cliath. (*London is bigger than Dublin.*)
Is é Brian an duine is óige. (*Brian is the youngest.*)

compound preposition A compound preposition is a simple preposition (*ag*, *i*, *le*, etc) and a noun and is followed by the genitive case.

i rith (*during*)
ar feadh (*for*)

direct object The direct object of a sentence is the person or thing created, affected or altered by the action of the verb.

Brian cooked the dinner (*dinner* is the direct object of the sentence – it was created by the action of cooking).

imperative This is the form of the verb used when giving orders.

Tar isteach. (*Come in.*)
Bí i do thost. (*Be quiet.*)

indirect object The indirect object of a verb is not directly affected by the action.

She bought Mary a present. (*present* is the direct object as it is directly affected by the action and *Mary* is the indirect object as she receives the present.)

They made Peter dinner. (*dinner* is the direct object as it is created by the action and *Peter* is the indirect object as the dinner is made for him.)

interrogatives These are question forms such as *Cén áit?* (*Where?*), *Cén fáth?* (*Why?*), etc.

noun A noun is the name of something (person, animal, place, thing, quality, idea, or action). A noun can be singular (just one), or plural (more than one thing). Every noun in Irish is either feminine or masculine.

Tá an teach sin go deas. (*That's a nice house.*)
Is fear deas é Máirtín. (*Máirtín is a nice man.*)

ordinal numbers *First*, *second*, *third*, etc.

an chéad duine (*the first person*)
an tríú háit (*the third place*)

personal numbers (or numerals) These numbers are used to count people. In Irish, there is one system for counting people and another for counting things.

beirt fhear (*two men*)
cúigear ceoltóirí (*five musicians*)

Possessives These are words showing ownership or possession.

mo mháthair (*my mother*)
a mála (*her bag*)

prepositional pronoun This is a combination of a pronoun and a preposition.

ag + mé = agam
roimh + tú = romhat

pronoun A pronoun is a word used to take the place of a noun or noun phrase and is often used to substitute for a noun already mentioned in order to avoid repetition.

Tháinig Marcus isteach agus shuigh sé síos. (*Marcus came in and sat down.*)

D'ith siad an dinnéar agus d'fhág siad. (*They ate their dinner and left.*)

simple preposition A simple preposition is a small word which comes before a noun and indicates a relationship between that noun and some other element (another noun, a verb or an adverb) in the sentence or clause.

i (*in*)
ag (*at*)
faoi (*under*)

subject The subject of a sentence is the person or thing carrying out the action of the verb.

Cheannaigh Peadar carr nua. (*Peadar bought a new car.*)
Rith an bhó trasna na páirce (*The cow ran across the field.*)

suffix A letter or letters which are added to the end of a word. In Irish, a suffix is often used to add stress.

mo chóta (*my coat*)
but
mo chótasa (*my coat*)

syllable A syllable is a segment of a spoken word consisting of one sound or of two or more sounds said as a single unit of speech.

<i>two syllables</i>	<i>three syllables</i>
eat-en	com-put-er
show-er	heart-break-ing

verb A verb is a part of speech that usually denotes action, occurrence or a state of being.

Rith sé abhaile. (*He ran home.*)
Tá sí sona sásta. (*She is happy.*)

verb root The root of a verb is the 2nd person singular imperative (used to give an order to one person). This form is given as a headword in the dictionaries.

ceannaigh (*buy*)
imigh (*go*)

verbal adjective A form of the verb used to express the end of an action.

Tá an obair déanta. (*The work is done.*)
Tá an aiste críochnaithe. (*The essay is finished.*)

verbal noun Verbal nouns in English end in *-ing* (*eating, playing, etc.*). In Irish they are often preceded by *ag* or *a*.

ag ithe (*eating*)
a dhéanamh (*doing*)

In this appendix you will learn about

- the declensions of the noun
- the first declension
- the second declension
- the third declension
- the fourth declension
- the fifth declension
- adjectives in the genitive case singular

The declensions of the noun

Nouns in Irish are divided into five groups, called declensions.

The first declension

- All nouns in the first declension are masculine and end in a broad consonant.
- The genitive singular is formed by making the final consonant slender.
- Some nouns have a weak plural, therefore the genitive plural is the same as the nominative singular (e.g., *bád*, below).
- Other nouns have a strong plural, therefore the genitive plural is the same as the nominative plural (e.g. *carr*, below).
- The vocative case singular form is the same as the genitive case form.
- The exceptions to this rule are:
 - (i) collective nouns (e.g. a *phobal*)
 - (ii) terms of endearment (e.g. a *rún*, a *stór*, a *leanbh*)

Singular		Plural	
<i>Nominative</i>	<i>Genitive</i>	<i>Nominative</i>	<i>Genitive</i>
an <i>bád</i> (<i>the boat</i>)	foireann an <i>bháid</i> (<i>the crew of the boat</i>)	na <i>báid</i> (<i>the boats</i>)	foirne na <i>mbád</i> (<i>the crews of the boats</i>)
an <i>carr</i> (<i>the car</i>)	úinéir an <i>chairr</i> (<i>the car's owner</i>)	na <i>carranna</i> (<i>the cars</i>)	ag ní na <i>gcarranna</i> (<i>washing the cars</i>)
an <i>t-amhrán</i> (<i>the song</i>)	ag canadh an <i>amhráin</i> (<i>singing the song</i>)	na <i>hamhráin</i> (<i>the songs</i>)	ag foghlaim na <i>n-amhrán</i> (<i>learning the songs</i>)
an <i>sagart</i> (<i>the priest</i>)	teach an <i>tsagairt</i> (<i>the priest's house</i>)	na <i>sagairt</i> (<i>the priests</i>)	tithe na <i>sagart</i> (<i>the priests' houses</i>)

The second declension

- Nouns in the second declension are feminine and end in a consonant. The three exceptions are *im* (*butter*), *sliabh* (*mountain*) and *teach* (*house*).
- The genitive singular is formed:
 - (i) by adding *-e* to nouns ending in a slender consonant;
 - (ii) by making broad endings slender and then adding *-e*;
 - (iii) by changing final *-ach* to *-aí* and final *-each* to *-í*.
- The weak-plural nouns end in *-a* (e.g. *fuinneog*, below).
- The strong-plural endings are *-anna*, *-í*, *-acha*, *-eacha*, *-ta*, *-te*, *-tha* (e.g. *tuairisc*, below).
- The vocative singular has the same form as the nominative singular.

Singular		Plural	
<i>Nominative</i>	<i>Genitive</i>	<i>Nominative</i>	<i>Genitive</i>
an fhuinneog (<i>the window</i>)	dath na fuinneoige (<i>the colour of the window</i>)	na fuinneoga (<i>the windows</i>)	dath na bhfuinneog (<i>the colour of the windows</i>)
tuairisc (<i>report</i>)	deireadh na tuairisce (<i>the end of the report</i>)	na tuairiscí (<i>the reports</i>)	ag críochnú na dlúairiscí (<i>finishing the reports</i>)
an oifig (<i>the office</i>)	doras na hoifige (<i>the door of the office</i>)	na hoifigí (<i>the offices</i>)	ag glanadh na n-oifigí (<i>cleaning the offices</i>)
an tsráid (<i>the street</i>)	barr na sráide (<i>the top of the street</i>)	na sráideanna (<i>the streets</i>)	cúinní na sráideanna (<i>the corners of the streets</i>)

The third declension

- The third declension is made up of both masculine and feminine nouns.
- The genitive singular is formed by adding an *-a* to the nominative singular form (after broadening, if necessary).
- Almost all the nouns in the declension have strong plurals.
- The vocative singular has the same form as the nominative singular.

Singular		Plural	
<i>Nominative</i>	<i>Genitive</i>	<i>Nominative</i>	<i>Genitive</i>
an cainteoir (<i>the speaker</i>)	argóintí an chainteora (<i>the speaker's arguments</i>)	na cainteoirí (<i>the speakers</i>)	argóintí na gcainteoirí (<i>the speakers' arguments</i>)
cagraíocht (<i>organization</i>)	baill na heagraíochta (<i>the members of the organization</i>)	na heagraíochtaí (<i>the organizations</i>)	baill na n-eagraíochtaí (<i>the members of the organizations</i>)
an t-aisteoir (<i>the actor</i>)	ról an aisteora (<i>the actor's role</i>)	na haisteoirí (<i>the actors</i>)	ag moladh na n-aisteoirí (<i>praising the actors</i>)
an saighdiúir (<i>the soldier</i>)	pá an tsaighdiúra (<i>the soldier's pay</i>)	na saighdiúirí (<i>the soldiers</i>)	bás na saighdiúirí (<i>the death of the soldiers</i>)

The fourth declension

- There are both masculine and feminine nouns in the fourth declension.
- Most nouns ending in a vowel are in this declension.
- Diminutives ending in *-ín* are also in the fourth declension.
- All cases in the singular have the same form, and all cases in the plural have the same form.

Singular		Plural	
Nominative	Genitive	Nominative	Genitive
an balla (the wall)	dath an bhalla (the colour of the wall)	na ballaí (the walls)	ag tógáil na mballaí (building the walls)
an chomhairle (the council)	obair na comhairle (the council's work)	na comhairlí (the councils)	baill na gcomhairlí (the members of the councils)
an cailín (the girl)	cairde an chailín (the friends of the girl)	na cailíní (the girls)	scoileanna na gcailíní (the girls' schools)
an t-oibrí (the worker)	dualgais an oibrí (the worker's duties)	na hoibrithe (the workers)	coinníollacha na n-oibrithe (the workers' conditions)
an siopa (the shop)	úinéir an tsiopa (the shop's owner)	na siopaí (the shops)	úinéirí na siopaí (the owners of the shops)

The fifth declension

- Nouns in the fifth declension are feminine (with a few exceptions) and end in a slender consonant (-il, -in, -ir) or in a vowel.
- The genitive of nouns ending in -il, -in, -ir is formed by adding -each or by dropping the i ach adding -ach.
- In the case of some nouns, syncopation takes place (one or two vowels are lost) in the genitive and -ach or -each is added.
- The vocative singular has the same form as the nominative singular.

Singular		Plural	
Nominative	Genitive	Nominative	Genitive
an riail (the rule)	ag briseadh na rialach (breaking the rule)	na rialacha (the rules)	ag briseadh na rialacha (breaking the rules)
an abhainn (the river)	ainm na habhann (the name of the river)	na haibhneacha (the rivers)	ag seoladh na n-aibhneacha (sailing the rivers)
an chathair (the city)	muintir na cathrach (the people of the city)	na cathracha (the cities)	daonra na gcathracha (the population of the cities)
an t-athair (the father)	post an athar (the father's job)	na haithreacha (the fathers)	ag cáineadh na n-aithreacha (criticizing the fathers)
an tsiúr (the sister*)	ord the siúrach (the sister's order)	na siúracha (the sisters)	obair na siúracha (the work of the sisters)

* religious/nuns

Adjectives in the genitive case singular

Adjectives after masculine nouns in the genitive case

a Initial consonants are always lenited:

bán (white)

ag barr an leathanaigh bháin (at the top of the white page)

mór (big)

deireadh an lae mhóir (the end of the big day)

b Broad consonants are slendered in the genitive:

daor (<i>expensive</i>)	tithe an cheantair dhaoir (<i>the houses of the expensive area</i>)
bocht (<i>poor</i>)	cearta an fhir bhoicht (<i>the rights of the poor man</i>)

c Final -ach is changed to -aigh and final -each to -igh:

tábhachtach (<i>important</i>)	ag dréachtú an plean thábhachtaigh (<i>drafting the important plan</i>)
aisteach (<i>strange</i>)	smaointe an fhir aistigh (<i>the thoughts of the strange man</i>)

d Adjectives ending in a vowel or slender consonant remain unchanged:

fada (<i>long</i>)	tús an turais fhada (<i>the beginning of the long journey</i>)
suimiúil (<i>interesting</i>)	véarsaí an dáin shuimiúil (<i>the verses of the interesting poem</i>)

e There is lenition *only* in the case of:

(i) adjectives which end on -ch(t):

buíoch (*thankful*), fliuch (*wet*), moch (*early*), etc.

[Bocht (*poor*) is an exception: bás an fhir bhoicht (*the death of the poor man*)]

(ii) adjectives with one syllable which end in a double consonant:

gann (*scarce*), mall (*late, slow*), teann (*tight*), etc.

[Dall (*blind*) and donn (*known*) are exceptions: bás an fhir dhaill (*the death of the blind man*); ag moladh an aráin dhoinn (*praising the brown bread*)]

(iii) these adjectives:

cúng (*narrow*), deas* (*nice*), leamh (*weak, tepid*), mear (*quick*), searbh (*bitter*), tiubh (*thick*), trom (*heavy*), tur (*dry, dull*)

* not when it means *right* (direction)

Adjectives after feminine nouns in the genitive case

a -e is added to the end of the adjective and the final consonant is slendered if necessary:

mór (<i>big</i>)	coiste na féile móire (<i>the committee of the big festival</i>)
beag (<i>small</i>)	baill na heagraíochta bige (<i>the members of the small organization</i>)

b -ea- is changed to -ei- in certain words:

dearg (<i>red</i>)	in aice na fuinneoige deirge (<i>beside the red window</i>)
----------------------	---

c final -ach is changed to -aí and final -each to -í:

tábhachtach (<i>important</i>)	réiteach na ceiste tábhachtaí (<i>the solution to the important matter</i>)
aisteach (<i>strange</i>)	nósanna na mná aistí (<i>the habits of the strange woman</i>)

d final -úil is changed to -úla:

suimiúil (<i>interesting</i>)	deireadh na hóráide suimiúla (<i>the end of the interesting speech</i>)
misniúil (<i>brave</i>)	gníomhartha na mná misniúla (<i>the actions of the brave woman</i>)

e final -ir is changed to -ra in the case of the adjectives cóir (*just*), deacair (*difficult*) and socair (*calm, still*):

deacair (<i>difficult</i>)	deireadh na seachtaine deacra (<i>the end of the difficult week</i>)
socair (<i>calm</i>)	tús na tréimhse socra (<i>the beginning of the calm period</i>)

f Adjectives which finish in a vowel remain unchanged:

buí (<i>yellow</i>)	ag bun na bileoige buí (<i>at the bottom of the yellow leaflet</i>)
aosta (<i>old</i>)	cairde na mná aosta (<i>the friends of the old woman</i>)

The genitive singular of some commonly-used adjectives

	Genitive singular Masculine	Genitive singular Feminine
álainn (<i>beautiful</i>)	álainn	áille
aoibhinn (<i>charming</i>)	aoibhinn	aoibhne
bán (<i>white</i>)	bháin	báine
breá (<i>fine</i>)	bhreá	breátha
daingean (<i>solid</i>)	dhaingin	daingne
díreach (<i>straight</i>)	dhírigh	dírí
domhain (<i>deep</i>)	dhomhain	doimhne
folamh (<i>empty</i>)	fholaimh	foilmhe
gearr (<i>short</i>)	ghearr	giorra
leathan (<i>wide</i>)	leathain	leithne
maith (<i>good</i>)	mhaith	maithe
mall (<i>late, slow</i>)	mhaill	maille
ramhar (<i>fat</i>)	ramhair	raimhre
saibhir (<i>rich</i>)	shaibhir	saibhre
te (<i>hot</i>)	the	te
uasal (<i>noble</i>)	uasail	uaisle

appendix 2

In this appendix you will learn about

- first names
- surnames
- the provinces and counties of Ireland
- countries

First names

Men's names

All men's names in Irish are masculine. Most of those which end in a broad consonant belong to the first declension and are slendered in the vocative and genitive cases:

	Vocative case	Genitive case
Seán	a Sheáin	máthair Sheáin (<i>Seán's mother</i>)
Cathal	a Chathail	ag lorg Chathail (<i>looking for Cathal</i>)

Names in the third declension

	Vocative case	Genitive case
Críostóir	a Chríostóir	deartháir Chríostóra (<i>Críostóir's brother</i>)
Diarmaid	a Dhiarmaid	ag cáineadh Dhiarmada (<i>criticizing Diarmaid</i>)

Names in the fourth declension

	Vocative case	Genitive case
Liam	a Liam	carr Liam (<i>Liam's car</i>)
Proinsias	a Phroinsias	cabhair Phroinsias (<i>Proinsias' help</i>)

Women's names

All women's names in Irish are feminine. Lenition is the only change that they undergo in the vocative case.

Names in the second declension

	Vocative case	Genitive case
Brid	a Bhríd	ag moladh Bhríde (<i>praising Brid</i>)
Méabh	a Mhéabh	ag moladh Mhéibhe (<i>praising Méabh</i>)

Names in the fourth declension

	Vocative case	Genitive case
Clár	a Chlár	oifig Chlár (<i>Clár's office</i>)
Siobhán	a Shiobhán	ag pósadh Shiobhán (<i>marrying Siobhán</i>)

Surnames

Surnames containing Mac

Below are some of the surnames in Irish containing Mac:

Mac Diarmada	Mac Pháidín
Mac Donncha	Mac Shamhráin
Mac Mathúna	

Mac changes to Mhic in the vocative and genitive cases:

	Vocative case	Genitive case
Liam Mac Mathúna	a Liam Mhic Mhathúna	post Liam Mhic Mhathúna (<i>Liam Mac Mathúna's job</i>)

Consonants are lenited after **Mhic**. There is a tendency, however, not to lenite **c** and **g**:

cuid oibre Phroinsias Mhic Dhiarmada
(*the work of Proinsias Mac Diarmada*)
but
oifig Sheáin Mhic Cumhaill
(*Seán Mac Cumhaill's office*)
leabhar Ristead Mhic Gabhann
(*Ristead Mac Gabhann's book*)

Nic is the form used by single women or by those women who don't change their name when they get married. Consonants (other than **c** and **g**) are lenited after **Nic**.

Here are the forms used for various members of a family:

A man	His wife	His son	His daughter
Liam Mac Mathúna	Helena (Bean) Mhic Mhathúna	Dónall Mac Mathúna	Lisa Nic Mhathúna

Surnames containing Ó

Below are some of the surnames in Irish containing **Ó**. Note that consonants are not lenited after **Ó** but that an **h** is placed before a vowel:

Ó hAnnracháin Ó Ceallaigh
Ó Baoill Ó Murchú

Ó changes to **Uí** in the vocative and genitive cases:

	Vocative case	Genitive case
Tomás Ó Baoill	a Thomáis Uí Bhaoill	bás Thomáis Uí Bhaoill (<i>the death of Tomás Ó Basil</i>)

Ní is the form used by single women or by those women who don't change their name when they get married.

Consonants are lenited after **Uí** and **Ní**:

Oifig Uí Mhurchú
(*Ó Murchú's office*)

Caitriona Ní Shé
(*Caitriona Ó Shea*)

Here are the forms used for various members of a family:

A man	His wife	His son	His daughter
Tomás Ó Baoill	Aoife (Bean) Uí Bhaoill	Niall Ó Baoill	Fionnuala Ní Bhaoill

Surnames ending in -nach

These are the various forms of **Breatnach** (*Walsh*), a surname which is reasonably common in Ireland:

	Vocative case	Genitive case
Peadar Breatnach	a Pheadair Bhreatnaigh	cuid airgid Pheadair Bhreatnaigh (<i>Peadar Breatnach's money</i>)
Ciara Bhreatnach	a Chiara Bhreathnach	páistí Chiara Bhreatnach (<i>Ciara Bhreatnach's children</i>)

The provinces and counties of Ireland

The provinces

The provinces of Ireland are usually preceded by the word **Cúige** (*Province*) when they are being referred to in Irish:

Connachta Cúige Chonnacht (*the Province of Connacht*)
Laighin Cúige Laighean (*the Province of Leinster*)
Mumhain Cúige Mumhan (*the Province of Munster*)
Ulaidh Cúige Uladh (*the Province of Ulster*)

The counties (arranged by province)**Cúige Chonnacht**

Gaillimh (*Galway*)
 Liatroim (*Leitrim*)
 Maigh Eo (*Mayo*)
 Ros Comáin (*Roscommon*)
 Sligeach (*Sligo*)

Cúige Laighean

Baile Átha Cliath (*Dublin*)
 Ceatharlach (*Carlow*)
 Cill Chainnigh (*Kilkenny*)
 Cill Dara (*Kildare*)
 Cill Mhantáin (*Wicklow*)
 An Iarmhí (*Westmeath*)
 Laois (*Laois*)
 Loch Garman (*Wexford*)
 Longfort (*Longford*)
 Lú (*Louth*)
 An Mhí (*Meath*)
 Uíbh Fhailí (*Offaly*)

Contae na Gaillimhe (*County Galway*)
 Contae Liatroma (*County Leitrim*)
 Contae Mhaigh Eo (*County Mayo*)
 Contae Ros Comáin (*County Roscommon*)
 Contae Shligigh (*County Sligo*)

Contae Bhaile Átha Cliath (*County Dublin*)
 Contae Cheatharlach (*County Carlow*)
 Contae Chill Chainnigh (*County Kilkenny*)
 Contae Chill Dara (*County Kildare*)
 Contae Chill Mhantáin (*County Wicklow*)
 Contae na hIarmhí (*County Westmeath*)
 Contae Laoise (*County Laois*)
 Contae Loch Garman (*County Wexford*)
 Contae Longfoirt (*County Longford*)
 Contae Lú (*County Louth*)
 Contae na Mí (*County Meath*)
 Contae Uíbh Fhailí (*County Offaly*)

Cúige Mumhan

Ciarraí (*Kerry*)
 An Clár (*Clare*)
 Corcaigh (*Cork*)
 Luimneach (*Limerick*)
 Port Láirge (*Waterford*)
 Tiobraid Árann (*Tipperary*)

Contae Chiarraí (*County Kerry*)
 Contae an Chláir (*County Clare*)
 Contae Chorcaí (*County Cork*)
 Contae Luimnigh (*County Limerick*)
 Contae Phort Láirge (*County Waterford*)
 Contae Thiobraid Árann (*County Tipperary*)

Cúige Uladh

Aontroim (*Antrim*)
 Ard Mhacha (*Armagh*)
 An Cabhán (*Cavan*)
 Doire (*Derry*)
 An Dún (*Down*)
 Dún na nGall (*Donegal*)
 Fear Manach (*Fermanagh*)
 Muineachán (*Monaghan*)
 Tír Eoghain (*Tyrone*)

Contae Aontroima (*County Antrim*)
 Contae Ard Mhacha (*County Armagh*)
 Contae an Chabháin (*County Cavan*)
 Contae Dhoire (*County Derry*)
 Contae an Dúin (*County Down*)
 Contae Dhún na nGall (*County Donegal*)
 Contae Fhear Manach (*County Fermanagh*)
 Contae Mhuineacháin (*County Monaghan*)
 Contae Thír Eoghain (*County Tyrone*)

Countries

Afghanistan An Afganastáin
Albania An Albáin
Algeria An Ailgéir
Argentina An Airgintín
Armenia An Airméin
Australia An Astráil
Austria An Ostair
Bangladesh An Bhangladéis
Belgium An Bheilg
Bolivia An Bholaiiv
Bosnia An Bhoisnia
Brazil An Bhrasaíl
Bulgaria An Bhulgáir
Cambodia An Chambóid
Cameroon Camarún
Canada Ceanada
Chile An tSile
China An tSín
Colombia An Cholóim
Croatia An Chróit
Cuba Cúba
Cyprus An Chipir
Czech Republic Poblacht na Seice
Denmark An Danmhairg
Ecuador Eacuadór
Egypt An Éigipt
El Salvador An tSalvadóir
England Sasana
Estonia An Eastóin
Ethiopia An Aetóip
Faroe Islands Oileáin Fharó
Finland An Fhionlainn
France An Fhrainc
Georgia An tSeoirsia
Germany An Ghearmáin
Greece An Ghréig
Guatemala Guatamala
Haiti Háití
Honduras Hondúras
Hungary An Ungáir
Iceland An Íoslainn
India An India
Indonesia An Indinéis
Iran An Iaráin
Iraq An Iaráic
Israel Iosrael
Italy An Iodáil
Jamaica Iamáice
Japan An tSeapáin
Jordan An Iordáin
Kenya An Chéinia
Korea An Chóiré
Kuwait Cuáit
Latvia An Laitvia
Lebanon An Liobáin
Libya An Libia
Lithuania An Liotuáin
Luxembourg Lucsamburg
Malawi An Mhaláiv
Malaysia An Mhalaéisia
Mali Mailí
Malta Málta
Mexico Meicsiceo
Moldova An Mholdóiv
Monaco Monacó
Mongolia An Mhongóil
Morocco Maracó
Mozambique Mósaimbíc
Myanmar Maenmar
Namibia An Namaib
Nepal Neipeal
Netherlands An Ísiltír
New Zealand An Nua-Shéalainn
Nicaragua Nicearagua
Nigeria An Nigéir

North Korea An Chóiré Thuaidh
Norway An Iorua
Pakistan An Phacastáin
Paraguay Paragua
Peru Peiriú
Philippines Na hOileáin Philipíneacha
Poland An Pholainn
Portugal An Phortaingéil
Republic of South Africa Poblacht na hAfraice Theas
Romania An Rómáin
Russia Cónaidhm na Rúise (An Rúis)
Rwanda Ruanda
Saudi Arabia An Araib Shádach
Scotland Albain
Senegal An tSeineagáil
Serbia An tSeirbia
Slovakia An tSlóvaic
Slovenia An tSlóivéin
Somalia An tSomáil
South Korea An Chóiré Theas
Spain An Spáinn
Sri Lanka Srí Lanca
Sudan An tSúdáin
Sweden An tSualainn
Switzerland An Eilvéis
Syria An tSiria
Taiwan An Téaváin
Tanzania An Tansáin
Thailand An Téalainn
Tunisia An Túinéis
Turkey An Tuirc
Uganda Uganda
Ukraine An Úcráin
United Arab Emirates Aontas na nÉimíriochtaí Arabacha
United Kingdom An Ríocht Aontaithe

Uruguay Uragua
USA Stáit Aontaithe Mheiriceá
Venezuela Veiniséala
Vietnam Vítneam
Wales An Bhreatain Bheag
Yemen Poblacht Éimin
Zambia An tSaimbia
Zimbabwe An tSiombáib

Dictionaries

de Bhaldraithe, Tomás (ed.) *Foclóir Bearla-Gaeilge* (main English-Irish dictionary), Oifig an tSoláthair, Dublin, 1959 (reprint 1998).

Grundy, Valerie and Ó Cróinín, Breandán (eds), *The Pocket Oxford Irish Dictionary*, Oxford 1999/2000.

Mac Mathúna, Séamus, Ó Corráin, Ailbhe, and Ó Mianáin, Padraig (eds), *Pocket Irish Dictionary*, Harper Collins, 1997.

Ó Baoill, Dónall P. (ed.), *Foclóir Póca*, An Gúm, Dublin, 1986.

Ó Dónall, Niall and de Bhaldraithe, Tomás (eds) *Foclóir Gaeilge-Bearla* (main Irish-English dictionary), Oifig an tSoláthair, Dublin, 1977.

An Roinn Oideachais, *An Foclóir Beag*, Oifig an tSoláthair, Dublin, 1991. (Also available online at: www.esis.ul.ie/focloir).

Grammar books

Mac Congáil, Nollaig, *Irish Grammar Book*, Cló Iar-Chonnachta, 2004

Mac Murchaidh, Ciarán, *Cruinnscriobh na Gaeilge*, Cois Life, 2002/2004.

Irish courses

Beginners

Byrne, Annette, *Gaeilge agus Fáilte*, ITÉ/Gael Linn 2001). Book and two 60-minute audio cassettes.

Ó Sé, Diarmuid and Sheils, Joseph, *Teach Yourself Irish*, Hodder and Stoughton, 1993/2002. Book and two CDs.

Intermediate

Ó Dónaill, Éamonn, *Turas Teanga*, Gill and Macmillan, 2004. Book, three audio CDs, two DVDs and a website (www.rte.ie/tv/turasteanga).

Irish-language classes

In the Gaeltachtaí

The following organizations offer Irish-language courses in the *Gaeltachtaí*, the Irish-speaking regions of Ireland:

An Chrannóg, Srath na Corcra, Na Doirí Beaga, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal

Phone: (353) (074) 953 2208

Fax: (353) (074) 953 2189

Email: eolas@Crannog.iol.ie

Website: www.crannog.ie

Áras Mháirtín Uí Chadhain, An Cheathrú Rua, Conamara, Co. Galway

Phone: (353) (091) 595101/595038

Fax: (353) (091) 595041

Email: caitriona.uichualain@oegaillimh.ie

Website: www.gaeilge.oegaillimh.ie/aras_chadhain.html

Dáil Uladh, Coláiste Uladh, Gortahork, County Donegal

Phone: (353) (074) 916 5822

Email: dailuladh@eircom.net

Website: www.dailuladh.com

Ionad Foghlama Chléire, Carraig an Éisc, Cape Clear Island,
Co. Cork

Phone: (353) (028) 39190 / 39198

Email: eolas@cleire.com

Website: www.cleire.ie

Oideas Gael, Gleann Cholm Cille, Co. Donegal

Phone: (353) (074) 973 0248

Fax: (353) (074) 973 0348

Email: oidsgael@iol.ie

Website: www.oideas-gael.com

Oidhreacht Chorca Dhuibhne, Ballyferriter, Co. Kerry

Phone: (353) (066) 9156100

Fax: (353) (066) 9156348

Email: mus@cfcdeo.iol.ie

Website: www.corca-dhuibhne.com

Dublin

Áras Chronáin, Orchard Road, Clondalkin, Dublin 22

Phone: (353) (01) 457 4847

Fax: (353) (01) 457 4847

Email: brian@araschronain.com

Website: www.araschronain.com

Conradh na Gaeilge (The Gaelic League), 6 Harcourt Street,
Dublin 2

Phone: (353) (01) 475 7401

Fax: (353) (01) 475 7844

Email: eolas@cnag.ie

Website: www.cnag.ie/bunus/rang.htm

Gaelchultúr Ltd., Filmbase Building, Curved Street, Temple Bar,
Dublin 2

Phone: (353) (353) (01) 675 3658

Email: eolas@gaelchultur.com

Website: www.gaelchultur.com

Gael Linn, 35 Dame Street, Dublin 2

Phone: (353) (01) 676 7283

Fax: (353) (01) 676 7030

Email: gaellinn@eircom.net

Website: www.gael-linn.ie

Websites

Portal sites

An tEolaire, Leathanaigh Bhuí na Gaeilge
www.egt.ie/lghlin/eolaire.html

Foras na Gaeilge
www.gaeilge.ie

Gaelport
www.gaelport.com

Gaeilge ar an Ghréasán
www.smo.uhi.ac.uk/gaeilge/gaeilge.html

Webring

An Fáinne Órga
www.fainne.org

Online magazines and newspapers

Beo!
www.beo.ie

Foinse
www.foinse.ie

Lá
www.nuacht.com

The media

Radio

RTÉ Raidió na Gaeltachta, Casla, Conamara, Co. Galway
Phone: (353) (091) 506677
Fax: (353) (091) 506666
Email: rnag@rte.ie
Website: www.rte.ie/rnag

Raidió na Life 106.4 FM, 7 Merrion Square, Dublin 2
(broadcasting in Dublin area only)
Phone: (353) (01) 661 6333
Fax: (353) (01) 676 3966
Email: rnl102@iol.ie
Website: <http://homepages.iol.ie/~rnl102>

Television

TG4, Baile na hAbhann, Conamara, Co. Galway.
Phone: (353) (091) 505050
Fax: (353) (091) 505021
Email: eolas@tnag.ie
Website: www.tg4.ie

Magazines

Beo! (www.beo.ie) – online edition only

Comhar, 5 Merrion Row, Dublin 2
Tel: (353) (01) 678 5443
Fax: (353) (01) 678 5443
Email: eolas@comhar-iris.ie
Website: www.comhar-iris.ie

Newspapers

Foinse, An Cheathrú Rua, Conamara, Co. Galway
Phone: (353) (091) 595520
Fax: (353) (091) 595524
Email: nuacht@foinse.ie
Website: www.foinse.ie

Lá, Teach Basil, 2 Cnoc Bhaile Haine, Belfast BT17 0LT
Tel: (028) 90 605050
Fax: (028) 90 605544
Email: eolas@nuacht.com
Website: www.nuacht.com

Saol, 7 Merrion Square, Dublin 2
Tel: (01) 639 8400
Email: otorna@indigo.ie

Places to use Irish

An tOireachtas

An tOireachtas, the main cultural festival in the Irish language, is a celebration of the language and culture. It is organized by Conradh na Gaeilge; the first half of the festival is held in Dublin in May and the second part in a different location every year around the end of October or the beginning of November. There is a literary competition every year in poetry, journalism, drama, short stories, and the novel. There are also competitions in traditional singing (*sean-nós*), music and storytelling, as well as exhibitions, set-dancing workshops, book launches and so on.

An tOireachtas, 6 Harcourt Street, Dublin 2
Phone: (353) (01) 475-3857
Fax: (353) (01) 475-8767
Email: eolas@antoireachtas.ie
Website: www.antoireachtas.ie

The Frankie Kennedy Winter School

Named after Frankie Kennedy, founding member of the group Altan, The Frankie Kennedy Winter School is an annual event celebrating the strong and vibrant musical tradition of Donegal. The festival begins around 28 December and continues until 2 January and is held in the Irish-speaking region of Gaoth Dobhair in northwest Donegal. Concerts are held in the beautiful Ionad Cois Locha venue in Dunlewey and in one of the local hotels, Óstán Ghaoth Dobhair. Additionally, there are regular music sessions and workshops on various musical instruments, which cater for young and old alike.

Phone: (353) (074) 953-1639
Email: gearoidm@iol.ie

Caife Úna

Irish-language café and restaurant in Dublin city centre. Open Monday – Saturday.
Caife Úna, 46 Kildare Street, Dublin 2
Phone: (353) (01) 670-6087
Email: post@caifeuna.com
Website: www.caifeuna.com

An Chultúrlann

Irish-language centre, including restaurant, theatre and bookshop, in west Belfast.

Cultúrlann McAdam Ó Fiaich, 216 Falls Road, Belfast BT12 6AH

Phone: (028) 90 964180

Email: eolas@culturlann.ie

Website: www.culturlann.com

Unit 1

A 1 mBaile. 2 nDoire. 3 Londain. 4 nGlaschú. 5 Muineachán. 6 bPáras. 7 dTrá. 8 Sasana. 9 gCúba. 10 bhFear. B 1 d and r are both slender. 2 f and l are both broad. 3 p is broad and b is slender. 4 p is broad and s is slender. 5 d is broad. C 1 imperative: éirigh (f). 2 adjective: deas (d). 3 article: an (b). 4 adverb: thiar (l). 5 compound preposition: in aice (h). 6 noun: cóta (a). 7 ordinal number: an tríú (n). 8 pronoun: tú (e). 9 simple preposition: le (j). 10 imperative: stad! (m). 11 verbal adjective: ite (k). 12 interrogative: cé? (c). 13 comparative: níos deise (i). 14 verbal noun: ag bualadh (g).

Unit 2

A 1 masculine. 2 feminine. 3 feminine. 4 feminine. 5 feminine. 6 masculine. 7 feminine. 8 masculine. 9 masculine. 10 feminine.

B 1 an t-airgead. 2 an tseirbhís. 3 an áis. 4 an bhialann. 5 an t-athrú. 6 an fhorbairt. 7 an t-eolaí. 8 an t-iarratas. 9 an taithí. 10 an t-irisleabhar. 11 an ollscoil. 12 an t-ábhar. 13 an t-oideachas. 14 an Béarla. 15 an Ghréigis. 16 an t-óstán. 17 an phictiúrlann. 18 an mheánscoil. 19 an meánleibhéal. 20 an scuab.

C 1 an fheadóg. 2 an t-ospidéal. 3 an bhainis. 4 an bradán. 5 an bheoir. 6 an sairsint. 7 an t-oráiste. 8 an cuireadh. 9 an Ghearmáinis. 10 an tseamróg. 11 an bhileog. 12 an cheardlann. 13 an comhlacht. 14 an fhuinneog. 15 an t-eagarthóir. 16 an fhilíocht. 17 an príosún. 18 an bhagairt. 19 an éagóir. 20 an tziarrthóir. D 1 weak. 2 weak. 3 strong. 4 strong. 5 weak. 6 weak. 7 strong. 8 weak. 9 weak. 10 strong.

Unit 3

A *Genitive singular masculine:* doras an chairr; bean an tsiúneara; ag moladh an athar, trasna an bhóthair.

Genitive singular feminine: bun na sráide; baill na heagraíochta; trasna na tíre; ag bun na bileoige.

Genitive plural: focail na n-amhrán; ag seoladh na mbád; ag cur na gceisteanna; daonra na dtíortha.

B 1 cistine. 2 ollaimh. 3 oifigh. 4 meánscoile. 5 hóráide. 6 tséipéil. 7 trialach. 8 sróine. 9 chontae. 10 hearráide.

C 1 gcistineacha. 2 n-ollúna. 3 n-oifigeach. 4 meánscoileanna. 5 n-óráidí. 6 séipéal. 7 dtrialacha. 8 srón. 9 gcontaetha. 10 n-earráidí.

Unit 4

A 1 oíche dheas. 2 bean dhathúil. 3 fear dathúil. 4 bia blasta. 5 an bhialann Fhrancach. 6 cúrsa fada. 7 an deirfiúr chiallmhar. 8 sráidbhaile beag. 9 sráid fhada. 10 scrúdú deacair.

B 1 laethanta teo. 2 daoine láidre. 3 crainn mhóra, arda. 4 amhráin fhada, shuimiúla. 5 ballaí daingne. 6 ceisteanna casta, deacra. 7 mná breátha. 8 fir bhreátha. 9 pócaí folmha. 10 teaghlaigh mhóra.

C 1 Is sibhse an triúr is sine sa chlann. 2 Tá mise chomh sean le Deirdre. 3 Is í Maria an cailín is óige sa chlann. 4 Tá Pádraig níos cliste ná Darren. 5 Is é an duine is cliste. 6 Is í an duine is deise sa teaghlach. 7 Is mise an duine is sine. 8 Is iad Mairéad agus Ciarán an bheirt is sine.

Unit 5

A 1 seanbhean; drochbhean. 2 seanuaireadóir; drochuaireadóir. 3 seanduíne; drochdúine. 4 seanamhrán; drochamhrán. 5 seantiománaí; drochthiománaí. 6 seanphictiúr; drochphictiúr. 7 seancholáiste; droch-choláiste. 8 seanfhadhb; drochfhadhb. 9 seancharr; droch-charr. 10 seanóstán; drochóstán.

B 1 an-bhocht; róbhocht. 2 an-deacair; ródheacair. 3 an-gheal; rógheal. 4 an-ard; ró-ard. 5 an-fhliuch; rófhliuch. 6 an-te; róthe. 7 an-íseal; ró-íseal. 8 an-saibhir; róshaibhir. 9 an-uasal; ró-uasal. 10 an-domhain; ródhomhain. 11 an-mhilis; rómhilis. 12 an-bhodhar; róbhodhar. 13 an-éasca; ró-éasca. 14 an-tirim; róthirim. 15 an-sleamhain; róshleamhain.

C 1 do dheartháir. 2 do dheartháirse. 3 a macsan. 4 a n-uncail. 5 mo phost. 6 mo phostsa. 7 a uncail. 8 a huncail. 9 a uncailsean. 10 a huncailse.

Unit 6

A 1 idir meán lae. 2 as Béal Feirste; i mBaile Átha Cliath. 3 do Mhícheál; d'Eoin. 4 ar deargmheisce; ar Bhríd. 5 idir Fhrancaigh agus Ghearmánaigh. 6 ó Shamhain go hAibreán. 7 roimh dheireadh. 8 ar cíos. 9 chuig Siobhán. 10 go Glaschú.

B 1 leis an airgead. 2 san árasán. 3 don sagart. 4 ar an meánscoil. 5 chuig an oifigeach. 6 faoin gcéad bhliain. 7 don iriseoir. 8 ón dráma. 9 roimh an téarma. 10 leis an aiste. 11 san fhuinneog. 12 sa tsúil. 13 ar an mbóthar. 14 ar an talamh. 15 don deartháir. 16 chuig an mbean. 17 ón uisce. 18 ar an ollscoil. 19 faoin mbosca. 20 roimh an samhradh.

Unit 7

A 1 sé; í. 2 tú. 3 tú; thú. 4 siad. 5 iad. 6 í. 7 sé; í. 8 seisean; ise. 9 tusa; mé. 10 tusa; mise. 11 í. 12 iad.

B 1 á moladh. 2 do mo mhúineadh. 3 do bhur gcáineadh. 4 do d'ionsaí. 5 á bailiú. 6 á cheistiú. 7 á mbualadh. 8 do m'fhágáil. 9 á ndeisiú. 10 á gceannach.

C 1 orm. 2 aisti or inti. 3 di. 4 orm. 5 asam. 6 orthu. 7 uirthi. 8 aici. 9 ann. 10 leis. 11 faoi. 12 orm.

Unit 8

A 1 Bailíge an bruscar, le bhur dtoil. 2 Níge na gréithe. 3 Luíge ar an leaba agus bíge ciúin. 4 Ordaíge bhur ndinnéar go tapa. 5 Ná téige amach go fóill. 6 Sábhálaige neart airgid roimh an samhradh. 7 Ná hinsíge dó faoi Nóra. 8 Abraíge leo teacht isteach. 9 Dúnaíge an fhuinneog sin, le bhur dtoil. 10 Freagraíge gach ceist ar an bpáipear. 11 Críochnaíge an obair sin roimh dheireadh an lae. 12 Ná tugaíge aon aird air.

B 1 hithíge. 2 tugaíge. 3 faigh. 4 tagaíge. 5 tar. 6 tagaíge. 7 habair. 8 ith. 9 suigh. 10 déanaíge.

Unit 9

A 1 d'inis; níor inis. 2 d'fhreastail; níor fhreastail. 3 fuair; ní bhfuair. 4 d'ól; níor ól. 5 dúirt; ní dúirt. 6 thug; níor thug. 7 chuala; níor chuala. 8 d'imir; níor imir. 9 chuaigh; ní dheachaigh. 10 dúirt; ní dúirt. 11 tháinig; níor tháinig. 12 thiomáin; níor thiomáin.

B 1 an ndearna. 2 ar bhuail. 3 an ndeachaigh. 4 ar ól. 5 an bhfaca.

6 ar tháinig. 7 ar cheap. 8 an bhfuair. 9 an raibh. 10 ar thug.
 C 1 thiomáineamar (or thiomáin muid). 2 cheannaíomar (or cheannaigh muid). 3 shábhálar (or shábháil muid). 4 níor ólar (or níor ól muid). 5 d'imíomar (or d'imigh muid). 6 d'fhoghlaimíomar (or d'fhoghlaim muid). 7 níor chodlaíomar (or níor chodail muid). 8 ní dhearnamar (or ní dhearna muid). 9 d'itheamar (or d'ith muid). 10 ní dheachamar (or ní dheachaigh muid).
 D 1 ar mhol. 2 ar thiomáin. 3 ar fhreastail. 4 nár fhoghlaim. 5 an raibh. 6 nach bhfuair. 7 nach bhfacamar. 8 an ndeachaigh. 9 nach ndeachaigh. 10 nár tháinig.

Unit 10

A 1 feiceann/ní fheiceann. 2 bím/ní bhím (or bíonn/ní bhíonn). 3 ithim/ní ithim (or itheann/ní itheann). 4 sábhálann/ní shábhálann. 5 foghlaimíonn/ní fhoghlaimíonn. 6 éiríonn/ní éiríonn. 7 téann/ní théann. 8 tá/níl. 9 ólann/ní ólann. 10 imríonn/ní imríonn (ur imrím/ní imrím).
 B 1 chodlaíonn. 2 n-itheann. 3 bhfágann. 4 fhoghlaimíonn. 5 gceannaíonn. 6 mbíonn. 7 thógann. 8 n-imríonn. 9 thaispeánann. 10 bhfeiceann. 11 gcloiseann. 12 deir.
 C 1 an bhféachann. 2 an imríonn. 3 ní théann. 4 nach n-itheann. 5 an scríobhann. 6 ní bhíonn. 7 an mbíonn. 8 an bhfágann. 9 nach gceapann. 10 ní thugann.

Unit 11

A 1 tabharfaidh/ní thabharfaidh. 2 léifidh/ní léifidh. 3 sábhálfaidh/ní shábhálfaidh. 4 ceannóidh/ní cheannóidh. 5 gheobhaidh/ní bhfaighidh. 6 tiocfaidh/ní thiocfaidh. 7 rachaidh/ní rachaidh. 8 déanfaidh/ní dhéanfaidh. 9 déarfaidh/ní déarfaidh. 10 tabharfaidh/ní thabharfaidh.
 B 1 an dtiocfaidh. 2 nach dtabharfaidh. 3 an bhfeicfidh. 4 ní bhfaighidh. 5 an gcloisfidh. 6 ní íosfaidh. 7 an ndéarfaidh. 8 an mbeimid. 9 nach ndéanfaidh. 10 ní thabharfaimid.
 C 1 tuigfidh sibh; you will understand (l). 2 suifimid; we will sit (a). 3 ceiliúrfaidh siad; they will celebrate (d). 4 ní éireimid; we will not get up (g). 5 ní bheidh siad; they will not be (i). 6 cloisfidh sibh; you will hear (c). 7 tuigfidh siad; they will understand (e). 8 nach n-éireoidh siad?; will they not get up? (b) 9 cloisfidh; we will hear (k). 10 íosfaimid; we will eat (f). 11 nach bhfaighidh sibh?; will you not get? (h) 12 gheobhaidh mé; I will get (j).

Unit 12

A 1 dhíolfainn/ní dhíolfainn. 2 d'fhanfainn/ní fhanfainn. 3 ba mhaith/níor mhaith. 4 thaispeánfainn/ní thaispeánfainn. 5 d'ionsódh/ní ionsódh. 6 déarfadh/ní déarfadh. 7 rachadh/ní rachadh. 8 gheobhadh/ní bhfaigheadh. 9 d'íofadh/ní íofadh. 10 thiocfadh/ní thiocfadh.
 B 1 an imreofá. 2 nach mbeifeá. 3 nach mbeidís. 4 ní bhfaighfeá. 5 an gcloisfeá. 6 an íosfaidís. 7 nach n-íofaidís. 8 an rachfá. 9 an rachadh. 10 an dtabharfaidís.
 C 1 Ní bhfaighinn an leabhar dó. 2 Ní thiocfaidís ar ais. 3 Ní ólfainn cúpla pionta. 4 Ní fhanfainn sa bhaile. 5 Ní déarfainn leo imeacht. 6 Ní inseoinn an fhirinne. 7 Ní fhoghlaimíodh sé ceacht. 8 Ní fheicfeadh sé mé. 9 Ní íofadh sí an iomarca. 10 Ní dhíolfaimis go daor as.
 D 1 thitfeá; you would fall (c). 2 dhúiseodh sibh; you would wake up (b). 3 cheannóinn; I would buy (l). 4 an gcloisfidís?; would they hear? (e). 5 ní inseofá; you would not tell (k) 6 tharraingeoidís; they would draw (i) . 7 chosnóinn; I would protect (a). 8 bheidís; they would be (d). 9 bheimis; we would be (j). 10 thitfidís; they would fall (f). 11 nach gcloisfimis; would we not hear? (h). 12 dhéanfá; you would do/make (g).

Unit 13

A 1 scríobhainn/ní scríobhainn. 2 bhuaileadh/ní bhuaileadh. 3 d'óladh/ní óladh. 4 d'óladh/ní óladh. 5 d'fhilleadh/ní fhilleadh. 6 deireadh/ní deireadh. 7 mharcáladh/ní mharcáladh. 8 shábháladh/ní shábháladh. 9 ghortaíodh/ní ghortaíodh. 10 d'éirínn/ní éirínn.
 B 1 an imríteá. 2 an bpléadh. 3 an dtaispeánadh. 4 ní ghortaínn. 5 an éiridís. 6 ní éiridís. 7 an ólaidís. 8 an ithidís. 9 nach gcosnaidís. 10 an dtarraingíodh.
 C 1 Ní hfaighinn airgead uaidh. 2 Ní bhuaileadh sé léi go minic. 3 Ní ithinn mo dhinnéar go luath. 4 Ní fhanadh sé liom uaireanta. 5 Ní théimis ansin gach samhradh. 6 Ní scríobhainn chuici gach seachtain. 7 Ní fhoghlaimínn na dánta de ghlannmheabhair. 8 Ní fheiceadh sé mé. 9 Ní óladh sé fíon geal. 10 Ní imridís galf.
 D *Conditional mood:* rachfá; bhuailfinn leis; bheifeá; d'ólfainn; d'íofainn; thabharfadh sé; scríobhfainn; gheobhainn; chodlódh sibh; d'éireodh sé
Past habitual: chosnaínn; d'óladh sé; thugaimis; thagadh sí; théimis; d'éiríodh sí; ní fhaighinn; bhíteá; d'itheadh sí; thaispeánainn

Unit 14

A 1 Gurab amhlaidh duit. 2 Go mbeannaí Dia duit. 3 Go dté tú slán. 4 Go raibh míle maith agat. 5 Go ndéana a mhaith duit. 6 Go dtaga do ríocht. 7 Go ndéana Dia trócaire air. 8 Go maire sibh bhur saol nua. 9 Go maire tú is go gcaithe tú iad. 10 Go maire tú is go gcaithe tú é.

B 1 molta. 2 briste. 3 ite. 4 pógtha. 5 léimthe. 6 siúlta. 7 tagtha. 8 fógartha. 9 taispeánta. 10 múchta. 11 faighte. 12 ceannaithe. 13 scríofa. 14 ráite. 15 íoctha. 16 cíortha. 17 léite. 18 caite. 19 buailte. 20 imeartha.

C 1 ag seinm. 2 ag codladh. 3 ag fágáil. 4 ag tuiscint. 5 ag buachan. 6 ag éirí. 7 ag tiomáint. 8 ag scríobh. 9 ag titim. 10 ag teip. 11 ag cur. 12 ag cloisteáil. 13 ag cosaint. 14 ag úsáid. 15 ag taisteal. 16 ag ligean. 17 ag freastal. 18 ag leanúint. 19 ag seachaint. 20 ag leagan.

Unit 15

A 1 gur. 2 an. 3 nach. 4 gurb. 5 is. 6 nach. 7 gur. 8 nach. 9 ní. 10 gurb.

B 1 is í/ní hí. 2 sea/ní hea. 3 is chugam/ní chugam. 4 is breá/ní breá. 5 sea/ní hea. 6 is iad/ní hiad. 7 sea/ní hea. 8 is aoibinn/ní haoibhinn. 9 is dó/ní dó. 10 sea/ní hea. 11 is mé/ní mé. 12 is é/ní hé.

C 1 Ba bhean dheas í. 2 Ar dhuine díograiseasch é? 3 Ba í Síle an rúnaí. 4 Níorbh é Liam a rinne an obair. 5 B'íontach an lá é. 6 Ba dheirfiúracha iad Michelle agus Deirdre. 7 Nár chairde iad an bheirt sin? 8 Arbh é do chara é? 9 Ba é Breandán a uncail. 10 B'fhiú duit é a cheannach.

Unit 16

A 1 gortaíodh/níor gortaíodh. 2 glantar/ní glantar. 3 baileofar/ní baileofar. 4 chonacthas/ní fhacthas. 5 cloistear/ní chloistear. 6 d'ionsófaí/ní ionsófaí. 7 rinneadh/ní dhearnadh. 8 íosfar/ní íosfar. 9 moltar/ní mholtar. 10 thaispeántaí/ní thaispeántaí. 11 rachfar/ní rachfar. 12 d'íoctaí/ní íoctaí.

B 1 ar caitheadh. 2 an imrítear. 3 an ndeirtí. 4 an bhfuarthas. 5 an ití. 6 ar thángthas. 7 an ionsaítí. 8 an mbailítear. 9 an inseoфар. 10 an ndéanfaí. 11 an bhfaighfí. 12 an dtugtar.

C *Past tense*: níor glanadh; sábháladh; fágadh.

Past habitual: deirtí; ní bhailítí; thugtaí.

Present tense: íoctar; ní shábháiltear; ní fhágtar.

Future tense: ionsófar; ceiliúrfar; ní thaispeánfar.
Conditional: d'ionsófaí; gheofaí; ní bheifí.

Unit 17

A 1 fiche a cúig. 2 tríocha a ceathair. 3 seasca a haon. 4 céad a tríocha. 5 céad tríocha a dó. 6 cúig chéad ochtó. 7 seacht gcéad fiche a cúig. 8 míle naoi gcéad. 9 dhá mhíle trí chéad seachtó. 10 dhá mhíle ocht gcéad. 11 deich míle cúig chéad. 12 dhá chéad míle.

B 1 céad ochtó euro. 2 nócha euro. 3 céad nócha euro. 4 céad caoga euro. 5 caoga a cúig euro. 6 seachtó a cúig euro.

C 1 dhá charr. 2 cúig oíche. 3 seacht mbó dhéag. 4 sé cinn. 5 seacht gcinn. 6 ocht mbliana. 7 trí bliana. 8 fiche cathaoir. 9 seacht siopa. 10 naoi euro.

D 1 dhá charr déag. 2 cúig oíche dhéag. 3 seacht n-óstán déag. 4 trí bliana déag. 5 cúig huaire déag. 6 dhá bhó dhéag. 7 ocht seachtaine déag. 8 ceithre chathaoir déag. 9 sé lá dhéag. 10 trí horlaí déag.

Unit 18

A 1 beirt pháistí; triúr páistí. 2 beirt cheoltóirí; triúr ceoltóirí. 3 beirt amhránaithe; triúr amhránaithe. 4 beirt dochtúirí; triúr dochtúirí. 5 beirt iníonacha; triúr iníonacha. 6 beirt deartháireacha; triúr deartháireacha. 7 beirt fheirmeoirí; triúr feirmeoirí. 8 beirt mhac; triúr mac. 9 beirt tiománaithe; triúr tiománaithe. 10 beirt mháithreacha; triúr máithreacha.

B 1 seisear amhránaithe. 2 beirt dochtúirí. 3 deichniúr ceoltóirí. 4 triúr iníonacha. 5 beirt mhac. 6 ceathrar múinteoirí. 7 seachtar tiománaithe. 8 naonúr altraí. 9 cúigear ban. 10 deichniúr fear.

C 1 triúr páistí; three children (f). 2 dáréag múinteoir; twelve teachers (a). 3 beirt mhac; two sons (g). 4 seisear oifigeach; six officers (h). 5 aon dochtúir déag; eleven doctors (j). 6 triúr deartháireacha; three brothers (d). 7 fiche dochtúir; twenty doctors (e). 8 cúig amhránaí dhéag (i). 9 cúigear oifigeach; five officers (c). 10 ceathrar mac; four sons (b).

Unit 19

A 1 sa chéad áit; sa cheathrú háit. 2 ar an ochtú. 3 an chéad oíche; an dara hoíche. 4 an chéad deoch. 5 an chéad chasadh; an

dara ceann. 6 an seachtú bliain. 7 an chéad chruinniú; sa chúigiú seomra. 8 an t-ochtú huair. 9 an dara téarma; deireadh mhí an Mháirta. 10 an seachtú hurlár; an tríú casadh.

B 1 an cúigiú lá déag de mhí an Mheithimh. 2 an dara lá is fiche de mhí an Aibreáin. 3 an cúigiú lá de mhí na Samhna. 4 an t-aonú lá déag de mhí Lúnasa. 5 an tríochadú lá de mhí na Nollag. 6 an cúigiú lá is fiche de mhí Eanáir. 7 an t-aonú lá is tríocha de mhí na Bealtaine. 8 an t-ochtú lá déag de mhí Iúil. 9 an fichiú lá de mhí Feabhra. 10 an t-ochtú lá is fiche de mhí Dheireadh Fómhair.

C 1 ar an gcúigiú (or chúigiú) lá déag de mhí an Mheithimh. 2 ar an dara lá is fiche de mhí an Aibreáin. 3 ar an gcúigiú (or chúigiú) lá de mhí na Samhna. 4 ar an aonú lá déag de mhí Lúnasa. 5 ar an tríochadú lá de mhí na Nollag. 6 ar an gcúigiú (or chúigiú) lá is fiche de mhí Eanáir. 7 ar an aonú lá is tríocha de mhí na Bealtaine. 8 ar an ochtú lá déag de mhí Iúil. 9 ar an bhfichiú lá de mhí Feabhra. 10 ar an ochtú lá is fiche de mhí Dheireadh Fómhair.

D 1 an cúigiú bosca. 2 an naoú hoifig. 3 an dara duine. 4 an t-ochtú huair. 5 an tríú bliain. 6 an deichiú hIodálach. 7 an chéad oifig. 8 an chéad bhliain. 9 an séú doras. 10 an seachtú casadh.

Unit 20

A 1 anonn; thall. 2 amach. 3 amuigh. 4 amach. 5 thíos. 6 thuas; anuas. 7 suas. 8 istigh. 9 síos. 10 aníos.

B 1 riamh. 2 go deo or choíche. 3 i gceann. 4 go ceann. 5 le. 6 ar feadh. 7 ar feadh. 8 i gceann. 9 i rith. 10 le linn.

C 1 mí ó amárach. 2 coicís ó amárach. 3 coicís ó inniu. 4 seachtain ó amárach. 5 amárach. 6 inné. 7 arú inné. 8 seachtain is an lá inniu. 9 coicís is an lá amárach. 10 coicís ó shin. 11 coicís is an lá inné. 12 mí ó shin.

Unit 21

A 1 bheidh. 2 rinne. 3 a. bhuail. 4 ar fhág. 5 a tháinig. 6 a bhfuair. 7 a bhí. 8 a raibh. 9 a ndeachaigh. 10 a chonaic. 11 ar thug. 12 ar bhuail.

B 1 bheidh. 2 ar bhuail. 3 a dtéann. 4 ndeachaigh. 5 bheidh. 6 a d'fhan. 7 ar chuir. 8 a raibh. 9 chuaigh. 10 ndeachaigh. 11 théann. 12 a dhéanann.

Unit 22

A 1 inniu; an lá sin. 2 inné; an lá roimhe sin. 3 arú inné; dhá lá roimhe sin. 4 aréir; an oíche roimhe sin. 5 amárach; an lá ina dhiaidh sin. 6 arú amárach; dhá lá ina dhiaidh sin. 7 anocht; an oíche sin. 8 anois; ansin or an uair sin. 9 i mbliana; an bhliain sin. 10 anuraidh; an bhliain roimhe sin.

B 1 Dúirt sí go raibh sí ag dul abhaile an lá ina dhiaidh sin. 2 Dúirt sí go mbíodh sí sa bhaile gach lá ar a cúig. 3 Dúirt sí go raibh Niall ansin dhá lá roimhe sin. 4 Dúirt sí go mbeadh siad ar ais dhá lá ina dhiaidh sin. 5 Dúirt sí go raibh an áit plódaithe an oíche roimhe sin. 6 Dúirt sí go ndéanfadh sí an obair dó dá mbeadh sí saor. 7 Dúirt sí go n-ólfadh sí an iomarca dá mbeadh sí ansin. 8 Dúirt sí go mbíodh Gearóidín ansin go minic. 9 Dúirt sí go bhfeicfeadh sí an lá ina dhiaidh sin é. 10 Dúirt sí go ndeachaigh siad ansin an lá roimhe sin.

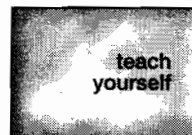
C 1 gan; rá. 2 éisteacht. 3 oscailt. 4 dhéanamh. 5 gan; labhairt. 6 teacht; suí. 7 fháil. 8 gan teacht. 9 ithe. 10 chríochnú.

Numbers refer to the units where the information can be found.

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 - before the noun 5
 - comparison 4
 - emphatic suffixes 5
 - genitive case **app 1**
 - plural forms 4
 - predicative adjectives vs. attributive adjectives 4
 - syncopation 4
 - lenition of adjectives in the plural 4
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 - of motion and position 20
 - of time 20
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 - referring to past time 20.
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 - avoidance of double article 2
 - lack of indefinite article 2
 - uses of the definite article 2
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 - autonomous forms of the verb 16
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 - questions and answers 15
- counties and countries **app 1**
- dá (if) 12
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- dates and months 19
- direct speech 22
- directions 8
- droch- (bad, evil) 5
- eclipsis 1
- future tense 11
 - irregular verbs 11
 - making requests 11
 - plans and intentions 11
 - present tense with future meaning 11
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 - negative form 8
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- initial mutations
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 - h before vowels 1
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 - t before s 1
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 - initial changes in the nominative/accusative cases 2
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- past habitual tense 13
 - avoiding the past habitual 13
 - questions and answers 13
- past tense 9
 - forming the past tense 9
 - irregular verbs 9
 - questions and answers 9
- position 20
 - possessive adjectives (mo, do etc.) 5
- prefixes 5
 - an- 5
 - droch- 5
 - ró- 5
- prepositional pronouns 7
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 - present tense 10
 - bí 10
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 - pronouns and verbal nouns 7
 - prepositional pronouns 7
- relative clauses 21
 - choice between direct and indirect clause 21
 - direct relative clause 21
 - indirect relative clause 21
 - direct and indirect participles 21
- ró- (too) 5
- séimhiú (see lenition)
- simple prepositions 6

- simple prepositions + the
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irish

diarmuid ó sé & joseph sheils

- Do you want to cover the basics then progress fast?
- Do you want to communicate in a range of situations?
- Do you want to reach a high standard?

Irish starts with the basics but moves at a lively pace to give you a good level of understanding, speaking and writing. You will have lots of opportunity to practise the kind of language you will need to be able to communicate with confidence and understand Irish culture.