

The Article (*An tAlt*)

The English language makes use of the *indefinite* article (*a* or *an*) and the *definite* article (*the*). The Irish language, however, has no *indefinite* article and uses different forms of the *definite* article, depending on *case* and whether the noun is singular or plural.

case	singular		plural
	<i>masculine</i>	<i>feminine</i>	
nominative / accusative	an ¹	an ²	na ³
genitive	an ²	na ³	na ⁴

Summary table

Notes:

1. Prefix **t-** to nouns beginning with a vowel, *except* when immediately preceded by **ag, ar, as, chuig, den, don, faoi, le, ó, roimh, san, thar, trí** or **um**. No hyphen is inserted if the noun begins with an upper case vowel.
2. Causes *lenition* to nouns beginning with a consonant (*except* those beginning with **d, s** or **t**). Prefix **t** to nouns beginning with **s** + vowel, **sl-**, **sn-** or **sr-**.
3. Prefix **h** to nouns beginning with a vowel.
4. Causes *eclipsis* to nouns beginning with a consonant. Prefix **n-** to nouns beginning with a vowel.

The *singular* definite article **an** causes *eclipsis* to nouns beginning with a consonant (*except* those beginning with **d** or **t**) when immediately preceded by **ag, ar, as, chuig, dar, faoi, le, ó, roimh, thar, trí** or **um**.

Consonants are *lenited* or *eclipsed* as follows:

	<i>Lenited form</i>	<i>Eclipsed form</i>
b	bh	mb
c	ch	gc
d	dh	nd
f	fh	bhf
g	gh	ng
m	mh	--
p	ph	bp
s	sh	--
t	th	dt