### Forábhar gramadaí do

## **Progress in Irish**

Grammar supplement



### Forábhar gramadaí do

### **Progress in Irish**

### Grammar supplement

This document may only be used in accordance with the terms and conditions stated on this and the following pages.

Document version 1.0

### Copyright Notice

Copyright © 2006 SimpsonIM. All rights reserved.

This document is intended for use by students enrolled in SimpsonIM LearningSolutions<sup>TM</sup> courses in Irish, and it is also available to the public for use in private study and in non-profit courses, provided that all copyright notices remain intact and that any person who uses this document has also purchased Máiréad Ní Ghráda's *Progress in Irish* (ISBN 0861671597). This workbook may be reproduced and distributed for non-profit use only, and its content may not be stored, reproduced, distributed, modified or used in any form that would comprise the copyright integrity of *Progress in Irish*.



### Clár Contents

- 4 Réamhrá Introduction
- 6 Ceachtanna Lessons
- A1 Gluais Glossary
- A5 Innéacs Index

### Réamhrá

#### Introduction

### Overview

This text has been designed to provide additional information and examples for the grammatical material presented in Máiréad Ní Ghráda's *Progress in Irish*, which is one of the recommended texts for the core curriculum of SimpsonIM LearningSolutions™ courses in Irish.

Ní Ghráda's work has been praised as one of the best introductory Irish texts. It is based on key vocabulary and presents new structures in a logical progression that allows for a gradual development of grammar skills. After completing *Progress in Irish*, learners will have gained exposure to almost every aspect of Irish grammar and will be familiar with many of the language's key structures. All of this is accomplished in a pocket-sized text convenient for serioius study and on-the-qo review.

One of the best aspects of *Progress in Irish* is that grammar is presented quite passively. There are no lengthy grammar explanations to deter the student who wishes to make great strides in the language without sifting through grammatical terminology. Grammatical concepts are developed in manageable segments over the course of several lessons, rather than in large, daunting units of verb charts and rules. In short, a learner using *Progress in Irish* can become quite proficient in the language with little formal study of grammar.

On the other hand, many language learners are eager to understand the grammatical concepts at work in the phrases and sentences they encounter, and it is the aim of this workbook to help them do so. It is hoped that the supplement will appeal to students who would otherwise dismiss *Progress in Irish* as a study aid because of its lack of grammar information, and that learners of all levels will be able to appreciate the depth of grammar material presented in the textbook, as well as its excellent use of sample sentences and questions as an instructional medium.

### **Format**

Each lesson in this workbook covers all of the grammatical concepts illustrated in the corresponding lesson of *Progress in Irish*, as well as additional concepts that will help students take full advantage of the explanations where necessary. As with *Progress in Irish*, many of these explanations are meant only to provide pre-exposure to concepts that will be introduced in greater depth in future lessons, so students should not be discouraged if they do not understand a concept immediately. Additionally, this workbook offers several features designed especially for independent learners:

Glossary. The glossary at the back of this text provides quick reference for virtually all of the grammatical terms used in this document and in *Progress in Irish*.

Index. The index at the end of this workbook allows readers to quickly locate lessons containing a particular concept, topic or grammatical term. Numbers in the index refer to lesson numbers in this text, which correspond directly to lesson numbers in *Progress in Irish*.

Typeface. Variations in color are used throughout this workbook to highlight changes within words and to show relationships between corresponding words in English and Irish sentences. Bold text is used to signal words that relate to entries in the Glossary.

**Pronunciation.** Though pronunciation is not covered in depth, this workbook does offer some tips and explanations, especially for irregular words. Phonetic indications in forward slashes (e.g. /y/) should be pronounced with English values.

### Reproduction and Distribution

This text has been made available as a reference tool for learners who are enrolled in SimpsonIM LearningSolutions™ programs and who have purchased a copy of *Progress in Irish*. However, it is also available to the public for use in private study, provided that all copyright notices remain intact and that any person who uses this text has also purchased Progress in Irish.

This workbook may be reproduced and distributed for not-for-profit use only. The text may not be stored, reproduced, distributed, modified or used in any form that would compromise the copyright integrity of Progress in Irish. If you are an instructor who wishes to use this text in your own Irish courses or programs, please contact SimpsonIM through our website at www.simpson-im.com.

### **Draft Notice**

This document is a work in progress. Therefore, its content, formatting and page numbering are subject to change due to revision or the addition of material. Until the document is completed (covering all 72 lessons of *Progress in Irish*), readers are encouraged to use the document version number, located on the copyright page, to help organize and correlate any pages that they print. Furthermore, we welcome feedback from both learners and instructors, and we will gladly incorporate your suggestions whenever possible.

## Ceacht a hAon Lesson One

### An Briathar 'tá' The Verb 'is'

The verb form tá is very useful in Irish. In this lesson, we are using tá to mean *is*, but as we will see in future lessons, it has several other meanings and uses. In a typical Irish sentence, the verb (here, tá) comes at the beginning of the sentence rather than in the middle like English. The SUBJECT follows directly after the VERB.

Tá an cailín... The girl is...
Tá an fear... The man is...

### An tAinm Briathartha The Verbal Noun

Each verb in Irish has a form known as the **verbal noun**. This form is similar in meaning to the *-ing* form of English verbs and is used in a variety of structures. Other than tá, all of the verbs presented in this lesson (ag siúl, ag rith, etc.) are verbal noun forms, and you will often see the verbal noun preceded by the little word ag, which is not translated in this case.

### An Aimsir Láithreach le 'tá' The Present Tense with 'tá'

We can use an expression with the verb tá to tell what someone is doing right now, and we will call this structure the **progressive present**. The structure for the progressive present is tá SUBJECT ag VERBAL NOUN. Here are some examples:

Tá an fear ag siúl.The man is walking.Tá an bhean ag rith.The woman is running.

### Fuaimniú Pronunciation

Virtually all Irish words are stressed on their first **syllable**, regardless of the length ofthe word. A few words, however, are stressed on the second syllable, such as amach, isteach and abhaile from this lesson.

### Ceacht a Dó Lesson Two

### Aidiachtaí Adjectives

As in English, Irish adjectives may be used in two ways: they can stand directly beside the noun (as in the English phrase the empty box), or they can stand alone in the **predicate** and describe or refer back to the subject (as in the box is empty). For now, we will only be working with predicate adjectives. The structure for this is tá + SUBJECT + ADJECTIVE.

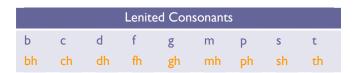
Tá an bosca folamh. The box is empty. Tá an t-urlár salach. The floor is dirty.

### An tAlt The Article

You will notice that each noun in the vocabulary lists is preceded by an, the Irish word for the. Grammatically, this word is referred to as the article. The article causes changes at the beginning of certain words by adding an h after the first consonant or by prefixing t-; we will begin learning rules for these changes in the next lesson. To look up a word in an Irish dictionary, you will need to remove these changes. To find t-urlár, for example, you would look up urlár; to find bhean, you would look up bean.

### Séimhiú Lenition

Irish words can change the first sound of their basic, "dictionary" form in certain grammatical contexts. For example, the word brog shoe can also appear as bhrog and mbrog. The first of these changes, as in bhróg, is called lenition. Lenition—also called 'aspiration' in older texts—means 'softening' the sound of a consonant; in bhróg, for example, the /b/ becomes a /v/ sound. In writing, lenition is represented by adding h after the consonant. The chart below shows all the consonants that can take lenition. You do not need to learn all these rules just yet, but you can refer back to this chart when needed. Note that I, n and r do not take lenition, nor do h, j, k, q, v, w, x and z, which are only used in borrowed words.



One circumstance that causes lenition is when an the is placed in front of certain words. For example, we have seen an bhean the woman and an bhróg the shoe, whose dictionary forms are simply bean woman and bróg shoe. We will learn more about this in the next lesson.

### Fuaimniú Pronunciation

The words anseo and ansin are stressed on the second syllable.

## Ceacht a Trí Lesson Three

### An Aidiacht Bhriathartha Verbal Adjectives

**Verbal adjectives** are adjectives formed from verbs, and they show that an action is complete: *broken*, *lost*, *finished*, *written*. Recognizing common endings for verbal adjectives such as *-ta*, *-te* and *-the* will help you build vocabulary more quickly.

### Litriú Spelling

While a complete description of Irish spelling is beyond the scope of these lessons, there are a few things you should know about Irish spelling that will help you understand the grammar of Irish.

As in English, the letters of the Irish alphabet are divided into two groups: **vowels** (a, e, i, o and u) and **consonants** (the remaining letters).

Irish consonants have two qualities: **broad** and **slender**. To the ear of an English speaker, slender consonants seem to be followed by a |y| sound, and sometimes slender consonants make sounds that are quite different from what we would expect in English. Broad consonants sound much more like their English equivalents. In the word dúnta, for example, the d is broad. It sounds more or less like an English d. In the word díreach, the d is slender and sounds more like an English |j|.

Irish uses spelling rules to help readers recognize whether a consonant is broad or slender. Broad consonants are surrounded by broad vowels (a, o and u), while slender consonants are surrounded by slender vowels (i and e). In the word dúnta, we know the d is broad because it has a broad vowel (u) beside it; in díreach, we know the d is slender because it has a slender vowel (i) beside it.

Because of this spelling rule, there are many silent vowels in Irish. In the word siúl, for example, the i is not really pronounced; it is written only to show that the s is slender (having a s) sound). Another example is múinteoir; all the s in this word are written to show the slender consonants (the s, s and s).

This spelling rule is very important to grammar. In this lesson, we learned that verbal adjectives can end in -ta or -te; the ending is chosen according to the quality of the final consonant of the verb stem: déanta (broad n, so we use -ta), briste (slender s, so we use -te). In the future, we will see that broad and slender endings exist for various types of words. For now, simply remember the Irish rule 'broad with broad and slender with slender'.

### Inscne Gender

In English, there are three noun **genders**: masculine, feminine and neuter. Masculine nouns are referred to as *he*, feminine nouns are referred to as *she*, and neuter nouns are referred to as *it*. The gender of an English noun is based purely on its physical gender. In Irish, however, the gender of a noun does not always relate to its physical properties, and all nouns are either masculine or feminine. This means that there is no *it* in Irish: every noun is literally referred to as *he* or *she*.

We will learn more about noun gender and its role in Irish grammar in later lessons. For now, you may simply want to familiarize yourself with this notion in order to understand some of the concepts you will encounter in upcoming lessons. Learning the gender of an Irish noun is important, but you should not worry too much about noun gender during your first lessons. In the Foclóir of your textbook, you will notice that each noun is labeled m(asculine) or f(eminine) for your reference.

### An tAlt The Article

In the previous lesson, we learned that the article an means *the*, and we learned that it can affect the beginning of the following word. Below are the rules for changes caused by an, but they are only presented for your reference at this point. You will learn the rules gradually as you learn more nouns, and these rules will help you better understand the forms of nouns you see in the lessons. Note that there are different rules for masculine and feminine nouns.

For masculine nouns, we follow these two rules:

Initial Letter	Change	Examples
vowel	prefix t-	an <mark>t-</mark> urlár, an <mark>t-</mark> úll, an <mark>t-</mark> airgead
consonant	no change	an <mark>m</mark> ála, an <mark>b</mark> ainne, an <mark>f</mark> ear, an <mark>c</mark> ailín

For feminine nouns, we have three rules:

Initial Letter	Change	Examples
vowel	no change	an <mark>o</mark> bair
sl, sn, sr, s + vowel	prefix t	an tsráid
other consonant	lenition (add h)	an <mark>bh</mark> róg, an fhuinneag, an <mark>bh</mark> ean

### An tAinmneach The Nominative Case

Each Irish noun has a **case** that is determined by its function in the sentence. When a noun functions as the subject or object of a verb, it is in the nominative case. All of the nouns we have learned so far are in the nominative case, and the rules for the article discussed above apply only to the nominative. We will learn about other noun cases, as well as other forms and changes related to the article, in future lessons.

### Ceacht a Ceathair Lesson Four

### Neamhspleách and Spleách Independent and Dependent

Irish verbs, like nouns, have a case that is determined by grammatical circumstances in the sentence. There are two verb cases; **independent** and **dependent**. The independent form of a verb is used for making statements, while the dependent form is used for yes/no questions, negative statements and in a few other structures.

The present independent form of the verb bí to be is tá. This is the same form we have been using throughout Ceachtanna 1-4 to make statements, and it also appears in questions that begin with a question word like who or what. (Notice we haven't had any yes/no questions yet).

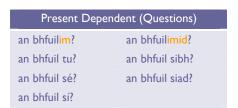
The present dependent form of the verb bí is fuil. We will use this form to make yes/no questions and negative statements, and in future lessons we will use it for other structures. Questions are formed with the particle an followed by the dependent, and negatives are formed with ni followed by the dependent. Both of these particles cause changes at the beginning of words; as a result, the dependent form of bí becomes an bhfuil in questions and níl (ní + fhuil) in negatives. Bí is one of a only a few verbs that have dissimilar independent and dependent forms, making the topic of independent and dependent verb forms look much more complex than it really is.

### 'Bí': An Aimsir Láithreach 'Be': Present Tense

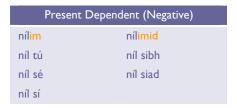
We have been using tá, the present independent form of the verb bí, to mean is. In this lesson, we learn other present forms of the verb and their meanings. Note that mé I and sinn we have special forms.

Present Independent		
táim	tá <mark>imid</mark>	
tá tú	tá sibh	
tá sé	tá siad	
tá sí		

When we want to make a question in Irish, we begin with the interrogative particle an, followed by the dependent form of the verb. The dependent form of tá for questions is bhfuil.

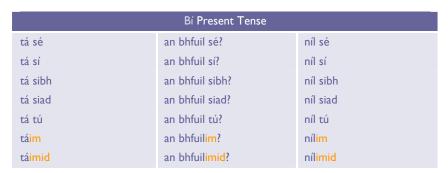


To make a negative statement, we use the negative particle ní followed by the dependent form of the verb. The dependent form of tá for negatives is níl, which is a contraction that has the ní built in.



From here on, you will often see verb forms presented in tables like the one below. The first thing you will notice is that the forms are not presented in the same order as your textbook; the purpose of this order is to highlight similarities in verb forms, which will become more apparent in later lessons.

The first column of this table gives the dependent form, the middle column gives the dependent form for questions, and the third column gives the dependent form for negatives. Special endings and other changes will be highlighted.



### Fuaimniú Pronunciation

The group bhf is pronounced with a |w| sound when broad, so bhfuil sounds similar to the English word will. The word anois is stressed on the second syllable.

### Ceacht a Cúig Lesson Five

### 'A(n)' a Aistriú Expressing 'a(n)'

There is no word in Irish for a(n) as in a bicycle and an apple. We simply use the noun by itself: rother bicycle, a bicycle; úll apple, an apple.

### Seilbh Possession

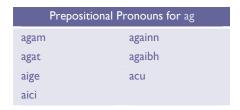
There is no word for have in Irish. Instead, we use the construction tá OBJECT ag POSSESSOR. In other words, when we want to say Brian has a penny, we literally say A penny is at Brian. It can take a little while to get used to this type of expression in Irish, but practice and repetition will make the structure feel natural to you. Below are further examples; note how we can still change tá to make a question or negative statement.

Tá rothar ag Máire. Máire has a bicycle. Tá an t-oráiste ag Pól. Pól has the orange. An bhfuil cóta ag Seán? Does Seán have a coat?

Níl airgead ag Brian agus ag Nóra. Brian and Nóra don't have (any) money.

### Forainmneacha Réamhfhoclacha Prepositional Pronouns

Irish prepositions (like ag at) contract with pronouns (mé, tú, siad, etc.) to create prepositional pronouns. For example, we cannot say ag tú in Irish; we must say agat. You will find a complete list of the prepositional pronoun forms for each preposition under its entry on the Irish side of the Foclóir in your textbook, and the more familiar you become with prepositional pronouns the more you will begin to recognize patterns in the way they look. Below are the forms for aq.





### Aidiachtaí Adjectives

In Ceacht 2, we began using adjectives in the predicate to refer back to a noun in the sentence. In this lesson we see that adjectives can be placed directly beside a noun, as part of a noun phrase. In this structure, virtually all adjectives in Irish follow the noun they modify, unlike in English where they usually come before the noun. When adjectives are used directly beside a noun, they must change their form to agree with the noun they modify; in this lesson, fortunately, we are only working with masculine nouns in the nominative case, so there are no changes to be made.

Like in English, the placement of an adjective has an effect on the meaning of the sentence:

Tá an cailín tinn. The girl is sick.

Tá an cailín tinn ag gol. The sick girl is crying.

In the first sentence above, the adjective is in a predicate position; even though it is visually beside the noun, it is grammatically removed from the noun. In the second sentence, the adjective (though seemingly in the same place) is now part of the noun phrase an cailín tinn the sick girl.

Here are two other sentences, beyond the scope of this lesson, that illustrate the difference between adjectives in the predicate and those directly modifying nouns:

The street is long and crooked. Tá an tsráid fada agus cam.

Tá an tsráid fhada cam. The long street is crooked.

In the first sentence, the adjectives fada and cam both stand in the predicate, referring to sráid. Since adjectives in the predicate never change, they retain their "dictionary" form. In the second sentence, fada is now part of a noun phrase: an tsráid fhada. Because sráid is a feminine word, fada must change to fhada to agree with it. The adjective cam, on the other hand, is still in the predicate, so it doesn't change.

We will learn more about adjective agreement in future lessons. For now, simply be aware of how changing adjective placement affects the meaning of the sentence.

### Na hAidiachtaí 'sean' & 'droch' The Adjectives 'old' & 'bad'

The adjectives sean and droch come before the noun they modify, and they are prefixed directly to the noun. There are several rules for lenition concerning these two adjectives:

- The initial consonant of the noun is lenited after sean and droch; vowels are not changed. seanbhóthar, seanpheann; drochbhóthar, drochpheann
- The consonants d, t and s often resist lenition after n. (This group of consonants can be remembered with the mnemonic DOTS, and their effect on lenition is very useful to remember.) Thus, d, t and s are not lenited after sean, because of its final n, yet they are lenited after

seanduine, seansráid; drochdhuine, drochshráid

### Ceacht a Seacht Lesson Seven

### Súil Siar Review

In the first six lessons, we learned how to make sentences using tá followed by a verbal noun. We learned that tá changes to an bhfuil in questions, and that it changes to níl in negative sentences. Since we will soon begin learning many more verb forms and concepts, now is a good time to review the forms of ta we have learned, and you may also want to review all of the verbal nouns we have seen thus far, such as ag siúl and ag caint.

### An Modh Ordaitheach The Imperative Mood

When giving commands, we use a verb form known as the imperative. All verb forms in Ceacht 7 are in the imperative, which is considered the "dictionary" form of verbs in Irish. The imperative supplies the stem of the verb, which we will use to make other verb forms in future lessons.

Commands in Irish follow the same word order as English. To make a negative command, add ná before the verb; the particle ná adds h to a following vowel.

Dún an leabhar! Shut the book! Ná dún an leabhar! Don't shut the book! Ná hoscail an doras! Don't open the door!

The imperative form of a verb usually resembles the verbal noun without ag, but there are often slight changes. The table below illustrates several common relationship patterns between the imperative and the verbal noun; these are not steadfast, but the patterns may help learning new verb forms easier. Remember that ag is a particle used in sentence formation; it is not actually part of the verbal noun form itself, but it is useful as a mental "trigger" for the verbal noun.

Imperative	Verbal Noun	Change
siúil	siúl	make final consonant broad (drop i)
ith	ithe	add a vowel to the end
féach	féachaint	add a syllable containing -nt
éist	éisteacht	add a syllable containing -cht
imigh	imeacht	change –(a)igh to –(e)ach(t)
léigh	léamh	make another slight change to the end
téigh	dol	use a completely different form

A good start with learning verb forms will make the process of learning Irish grammar much easier for you. Begin by making a list of all the verb forms you have learned. Group verbal nouns with their corresponding imperative as you learn them; the imperative and the verbal noun are key verb forms that we will use for making sentences and for other verb forms, but it is impossible to accurately predict how a verbal noun is formed from its imperative. As you learn new verb forms, add them to your list. For example, the entry on your list for scríobh would include the following forms: scríobh write, (ag) scríobh writing, scríofa written. As you list grows, you will begin to see patterns in verb forms.

### Ceacht a hOcht Lesson Eight

### 'Bî': An Aimsir Chaite 'Be': Past Tense

In Ceacht 4, we learned the simple present forms of bi to be and in this lesson, we learn the past forms. There is no special form for mé in the past, but there is a special form for sinn. The dependent form of bhí is raibh (or rabhamar for the sinn form), which we use in the question and negative forms; the letter r cannot take any of the changes we have seen with other dependent forms.

Bí Past Tense		
bhí sé	an raibh sé?	ní raibh sé
bhí sí	an raibh sí?	ní raibh sí
bhí sibh	an raibh sibh?	ní raibh sibh
bhí siad	an raibh siad?	ní raibh siad
bhí tú	an raibh tú?	ní raibh tú
bhí mé	an raibh mé?	ní raibh mé
bhíomar	an rabhamar?	ní rabhamar

### Ceisteanna Questions

The question words cé, cad and cathain take the independent form; they are added to the sentence with the particle a. The question word cá takes the dependent form. Compare the following:

Cé tá ag scríobh?	Who is writing?
Cad tá sé ag scríobh?	What is he writing?
Cathain atá sé ag scríobh?	When is he writing?
Cá bhfuil sé ag scríobh?	Where is he writing?
Cé bhí ag scríobh?	Who was writing?
Cad a bhí sé ag scríobh?	What was he writing?
Cathain a bhí sé ag scríobh?	When was he writing?
Cá raibh sé ag scríobh?	Where was he writing?

Note that the particle a mentioned above is often omitted after cé because it is silent in that case (soaked up in the final vowel sound of cé); it is also frequently omitted in cad tá. Rather than writing a tá, we write this phrase as one word: atá. These are not rules that you need to master at the moment.

### Sa... In the...

The word sa (originally ins an, which is still used on occasion) is a contraction of i in and an the. There are several rules concerning lenition with sa:

It generally lenites the following word.

```
sa bhaile, sa chistin
```

It does not lenite d or t; remember that sa was originally ins an, and d and t tend to resist lenition after n.

sa teach

It adds t to feminine nouns (no change to masculine nouns) beginning with s.

```
sa tsráid (f.) but sa siopa (m.)
```

Again, remember that d, t and s frequently resist lenition. Also remember that only certain s groups can be lenited (or have t added): s + vowel, sl, sn and sr. Some dialects, especially Ulster, apply the third rule to both feminine and masculine nouns: sa tsráid, sa tsiopa.

### An tAlt The Article

The form na is used for the with plural nouns. We will learn more about this in future lessons.

### Fuaimniú Pronunciation

The words inniu, inné and aréir are stressed on the second syllable.



### Laethanta na Seachtaine Days of the Week

There are two sets for the days of the week in Irish. The set we learn in Ceacht 9 is used for talking about on a certain day, as in I go to school on Monday. In the future we will learn forms used for simply naming the days of the week, as in Today is Monday.

### Dobhriathra Adverbs

Irish adverbs often appear as two-word phrases. Many begin with go as in go luath; others begin with a preposition or other word, as in ar ball. The phrases an bhliain seo chugainn and an tseachtain seo chugainn literally mean this year to us and this week to us respectively.

In the previous lesson we saw several other phrases that are not translated exactly like English, such as cois tine (beside the fire, literally at the foot of the fire) and ar scoil (to or at school, literally on school). Phrases such as these are part of the beauty and creativity of the Irish language, and it is important to make note of them and review them frequently. Even with a dictionary, finding the meaning of such phrases can be difficult, and trying to create the phrases on your own can result in awkward or meaningless constructions.

### 'Bí': An Aimsir Fháistineach 'Be': Future Tense

We have learned the present and past forms of the verb bi, and in this lesson we learn the future forms. Like in the past, there is no special form for mé, but there is a special form for sinn. The question and negative forms illustrate key mutation rules for verbs that we were not always able to see in the present and past: verbs are lenited after ní and are eclipsed (see Ceacht 17 in this text) after an.

Bí Future Tense		
beidh sé	an mbeidh sé?	ní <mark>bh</mark> eidh sé
beidh sí	an mbeidh sí?	ní <mark>bh</mark> eidh sí
beidh sibh	an mbeidh sibh?	ní <mark>bh</mark> eidh sibh
beidh siad	an mbeidh siad?	ní <mark>bh</mark> eidh siad
beidh tú	an mbeidh tú?	ní <mark>bh</mark> eidh tú
beidh mé	an mbeidh mé?	ní <mark>bh</mark> eidh mé
beimid	an mbeimid?	ní <mark>bh</mark> eimid

### Fuaimniú Pronunciation

The words amárach and anocht are stressed on the second syllable.

## Ceacht a Deich

### An Aimsir Láithreach The Present Tense

Up to this point, we have been using the structure tá + VERBAL NOUN to make sentences in the progressive present. In this lesson, we learn how to conjugate verbs to form the habitual present, which shows a repeated or habitual action. Conjugating a verb means changing its form by adding endings to the verb; these endings help show when the action happens and who does the action. There are several groups, or conjugations, of Irish verbs, and in this lesson we are learning the rules for first conjugation verbs.

Unless otherwise specified, the term 'present' will always refer to the habitual present in the remainder of this text.

### An Chéad Réimniú First Conjugation

First conjugation verbs are typically very short, usually one or two syllables long. The verbs cuir, bris, dún and tóg all belong to the first conjugation; cuir and bris are slender verbs because they end in a slender consonant, while dún and tóg are broad verbs because they end in a broad consonant.

As you will see below, there are two sets of first conjugation endings: one to match the spelling of slender verbs and one to match the spelling of broad verbs. The **imperative** or 'command' form of a verb—such as cuir and tóg—serves as the verb's stem or root. To this stem, we add the ending that matches up with the subject of the verb, the person who is doing the action.

Tóg Present Tense	Cuir Present Tense	
tóg <mark>ann</mark> sé	cuir <mark>eann</mark> sé	
tóg <mark>ann</mark> sí	cuireann sí	
tóg <mark>ann</mark> sibh	cuireann sibh	
tóg <mark>ann</mark> siad	cuireann siad	
tóg <mark>ann</mark> tú	cuir <mark>eann</mark> tú	
tóg <mark>aim</mark>	cuir <mark>im</mark>	
togaimid	cuir <mark>imid</mark>	

You will notice that the broad and slender endings are very similar. In fact, they are pronounced exactly the same. The highlighted a's and e's are silent and are written only to match the broad or slender quality of the last consonant of the verb's stem. You'll see similar patterns in future sets of endings.

We have learned several other verbs that follow the patterns above. Use these verbs to practice conjugating the present tense forms.

- Broad: seas, fan, dún, ól, stad, féach, scríobh, glan, scuab
- Slender: rith, ith, éist, bris

### Ceisteach agus Diúltach Question and Negative Forms

In previous lessons we have already seen how Irish verbs change their forms when they are put into negative or question forms. For the present tense, negative phrases are formed with ní, which causes lenition when possible. Questions are formed with an, which causes eclipsis (see Ceacht 17 in this text) when possible.

Tóg Present Tense	Cuir Present Tense
an dtógann sé?	an gcuireann sé?
an dtógann sí?	an gcuireann sí?
an dtógann sibh?	an gcuireann sibh?
an dtógann siad?	an gcuireann siad?
an <mark>d</mark> tógann tú?	an gcuireann tú?
an dtógaim?	an gcuirim?
an <mark>d</mark> tógaimid?	an gcuirimid?
ní <mark>th</mark> ógann sé	ní <mark>ch</mark> uireann sé
ní <mark>th</mark> ógann sí	ní <mark>ch</mark> uireann sí
ní <mark>th</mark> ógann sibh	ní <mark>ch</mark> uireann sibh
ní <mark>th</mark> ógann siad	ní <mark>ch</mark> uireann siad
ní <mark>th</mark> ógann tú	ní <mark>ch</mark> uireann tú
ní <mark>th</mark> ógaim	ní <mark>ch</mark> uirim
ní <mark>th</mark> ógaimid	ní <mark>ch</mark> uirimid

### Ceacht a hAon Déag Lesson Eleven

### Na hUimhreacha Numbers

The set of numbers present in this lesson is used for counting and telling time only. There are slightly different sets of numbers for counting objects, for example two doors, and for counting people, two men, and we will learn those in future lessons. The counting and time numbers are preceded by a. The word déag, used in the teens, becomes dhéag in a dó dhéag twelve. In certain dialects, i ndiaidh is used instead of tar éis, and go dtí is used instead of chun. As in English, the phrase a chlog o'clock is optional when saying the time.

### An Briathar Neamhrialta 'tar' The Irregular Verb 'come'

Irregular verbs are verbs that do not fit into conjugation patterns; they take changes that are different from regular verbs, or they use forms that are completely different from the basic form of the verb. The irregular verb tar means come and so far we have seen it in two forms: the imperative tar come! and the verbal noun (ag) teacht coming. This verb does not add present endings directly to its imperative form, as most regular verbs do; the present habitual stem is tag- and to this stem we add regular first conjugation endings for broad verbs:

Tar Present Tense		
tag <mark>ann</mark> sé	an <mark>d</mark> tagann sé?	ní <mark>th</mark> agann sé
tag <mark>ann</mark> sí	an <mark>d</mark> tagann sí?	ní <mark>th</mark> agann sí
tag <mark>ann</mark> sibh	an dtagann sibh?	ní <mark>th</mark> agann sibh
tag <mark>ann</mark> siad	an dtagann siad?	ní <mark>th</mark> agann siad
tag <mark>ann</mark> tú	an dtagann tú?	ní <mark>th</mark> agann tú
tag <mark>aim</mark>	an dtagaim?	ní <mark>th</mark> agaim
tagamaid	an dtagaimid?	ní <mark>th</mark> agaimid

### An Briathar Neamhrialta 'téigh' The Irregular Verb 'go'

The verb téigh go is another irregular verb introduced in this lesson. The verb has its own set of endings which are quite similar to those of regular first conjugation slender verbs, but without the e of -eann:

Téigh Present Tense		
té <mark>ann</mark> sé	an dtéann sé?	ní <mark>th</mark> éann sé
téann sí	an dtéann sí?	ní théann sí
téann sibh	an dtéann sibh?	ní théann sibh
téann siad	an dtéann siad?	ní théann siad
té <mark>ann</mark> tú	an dtéann tú?	ní <mark>th</mark> éann tú
téi <mark>m</mark>	an dtéim?	ní théim
téimid	an dtéimid?	ní théimid

### An Briathar 'léigh' The Verb 'read'

The verb léigh read is considered a regular verb, but it has a few peculariaties when endings are added. As you will see again in Ceacht 12, it follows the same pattern as téigh. Since the letter / cannot take eclipsis or lenition, the question and negative forms are the same as the independent.

Léigh Present Tense			
léann sé	an léann sé?	ní léann sé	
léann sí	an léann sí?	ní léann sí	
léann sibh	an léann sibh?	ní léann sibh	
léann siad	an léann siad?	ní léann siad	
léann tú	an léann tú?	ní léann tú	
léim	an léim?	ní léim	
léimid	an léimid?	ní léimid	

There are several other such verbs in Irish—most are very short and end in a silent gh consonant group—and they will be introduced bit by bit in your textbook. Add them to your verb lists and watch for patterns to help you remember how these verbs work.

## Ceacht a Dó Dhéag Lesson Twelve

### An Dara Réimniú Second Conjugation

In this lesson we learn how to create habitual present forms for the second conjugation, which primarily consists of longer verbs like éirigh and gléasaigh. Verbs of the second conjugation are characterized by the ending -(a)iqh, which causes slight spelling changes when endings are added to the verb. In your textbook, the second conjugation endings are presented with the verbs éirigh and nigh. Below, however, we will use the verbs ceannaigh buy and éirigh get up, in order to illustrate broad and slender endings for the second conjugation. You will notice that -(a)igh is replaced with -(a)i in the endings.

Ceannaigh Present Tense	Éirigh Present Tense
ceann <mark>aíonn</mark> sé	éir <mark>íonn</mark> sé
ceann <mark>aíonn</mark> sí	éir <mark>íonn</mark> sí
ceann <mark>aíonn</mark> sibh	éiríonn sibh
ceann <mark>aíonn</mark> siad	éir <mark>íonn</mark> siad
ceann <mark>aíonn</mark> tú	éir <mark>íonn</mark> tú
ceann <mark>aím</mark>	éir <mark>ím</mark>
ceann <mark>aímid</mark>	éir <mark>ímid</mark>

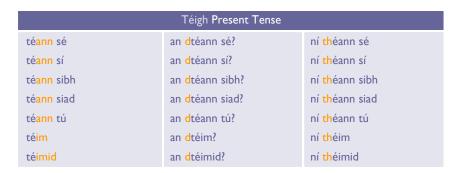
### Ceisteach agus Diúltach Question and Negative Forms

The negative and question forms are not presented in your textbook in this lesson, but they are listed below for your reference.

,		
Ceannaigh Present Tense	Éirigh Present Tense	
an gceannaíonn sé?	an éiríonn sé?	
an gceannaíonn sí?	an éiríonn sí?	
an gceannaíonn sibh?	an éiríonn sibh?	
an gceannaíonn siad?	an éiríonn siad?	
an gceannaíonn tú?	an éiríonn tú?	
an gceannaím?	an éirím?	
an gceannaímid?	an éirímid?	
ní cheannaíonn sé	ní éiríonn sé	
ní cheannaíonn sí	ní éiríonn sí	
ní cheannaíonn sibh	ní éiríonn sibh	
ní cheannaíonn siad	ní éiríonn siad	
ní <mark>ch</mark> eannaíonn tú	ní éiríonn tú	
ní <mark>ch</mark> eannaím	ní éirím	
ní <mark>ch</mark> eannaímid	ní éirímid	

### Briathra Neamhrialta Irregular Verbs

We learned one habitual present form of téigh go in the previous lesson, and we get the full conjugation in this lesson.



Ceacht 12 also shows us the habitual present stem for the verbs déan do and abair say. The verb déan follows the regular pattern for first conjugation broad verbs in the present. Abair is a bit peculiar; it takes the regular endings -im for mé and -imid for sinn, but it does not take the -eann ending for other persons. It is not lenited after ní.

Déan Present Tense			
déan <mark>ann</mark> sé	an ndéanann sé?	ní <mark>dh</mark> éanann sé	
déan <mark>ann</mark> sí	an ndéanann sí?	ní <mark>dh</mark> éanann sí	
déan <mark>ann</mark> sibh	an ndéanann sibh?	ní dhéanann sibh	
déan <mark>ann</mark> siad	an ndéanann siad?	ní <mark>dh</mark> éanann siad	
déan <mark>ann</mark> tú	an ndéanann tú?	ní <mark>dh</mark> éanann tú	
déanaim	an ndéanaim?	ní <mark>dh</mark> éanaim	
déanaimid	an ndéanaimid?	ní <mark>dh</mark> éanaimid	

Abair Present Tense			
deir sé	an ndeir sé?	ní deir sé	
deir sí	an ndeir sí?	ní deir sí	
deir sibh	an ndeir sibh?	ní deir sibh	
deir siad	an ndeir siad?	ní deir siad	
deir tú	an ndeir tú?	ní deir tú	
deir <mark>im</mark>	an ndeirim?	ní deirim	
deir <mark>imid</mark>	an ndeirimid?	ní deirimid	

The lesson presents forms for nigh and léigh as well, which are considered regular verbs but have irregularities in the habitual present. Nigh and léigh are good examples of one-syllable verbs ending in -gh, which causes peculiarities in endings.

Nigh Present Tense		
níonn sé	an níonn sé?	ní níonn sé
níonn sí	an níonn sí?	ní níonn sí
níonn sibh	an níonn sibh?	ní níonn sibh
níonn siad	an níonn siad?	ní níonn siad
n <mark>íonn</mark> tú	an níonn tú?	ní níonn tú
ním	an ním?	ní ním
nímid	an nímid?	ní nímid

Léigh Present Tense			
léann sé	an léann sé?	ní léann sé	
léann sí	an léann sí?	ní léann sí	
léann sibh	an léann sibh?	ní léann sibh	
léann siad	an léann siad?	ní léann siad	
léann tú	an léann tú?	ní léann tú	
léim	an léim?	ní léim	
léimid	an léimid?	ní léimid	

### Aidiachtaí Sealbhacha Possessive Adjectives

The **possessive adjectives** mo my do your and a his lenite the following word.

mo charr, mo phingin, mo dhúch do charr, do phingin, do dhúch a charr, a phingin, a dhúch

### Fuaimniú Pronunciation

The word aris is stressed on the second syllable. The f of féin is often pronounced as an h sound.

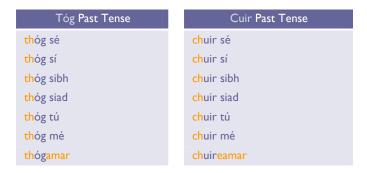
## Ceacht a Trí Déag Lesson Thirteen

### An Aimsir Chaite The Past Tense

We first encountered the past tense in Ceacht 8 with forms like bhí mé I was. In this lesson we will learn how to form the past tense—the form that shows that an action has already happened—for several types of regular and irregular verbs.

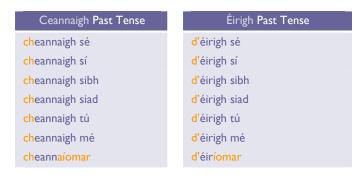
### An Chéad Réimniú First Conjugation

The sinn we form is the only verb form that has a distinct ending in the past tense. In short verbs, this ending is spelled -amar for broad verbs but -eamar in slender verbs to comply with Irish spelling rules. The endings are pronounced the same, however. All past tense verbs beginning with a consonant are lenited if possible; those beginning with a vowel add d' to the beginning.



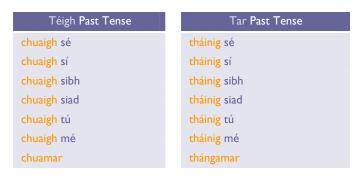
### An Dara Réimniú Second Conjugation

Long verbs like éirigh and ceannaigh lose their -(a)igh when the sinn ending is added. Otherwise, they follow the same patterns as first conjugation verbs.



### Briathra Neamhrialta Irregular Verbs

The last section of this lesson presents the past forms of several irregular verbs: téigh go, tar come, abair say and déan do). You should learn these forms carefully (though you are not required to know the sinn forms just yet), and you should also take note of the special sinn forms for verbs like nigh wash and léigh read; remember that since n and l do not take lenition, most of the past forms look just like the basic form.



Abair Past Tense	Déan Past Tense
dúirt sé	rinne sé
dúirt sí	rinne sí
dúirt sibh	rinne sibh
dúirt siad	rinne siad
dúirt tú	rinne tú
dúirt mé	rinne mé
dúramar	rinneamar

Nigh Past Tense	Léigh Past Tense
nigh sé	léigh sé
nigh sí	léigh sí
nigh sibh	léigh sibh
nigh siad	léigh siad
nigh tú	léigh tú
nigh mé	léigh mé
níomar	léamar

### Ceisteach agus Diúltach Question and Negative Forms

The past has unique question and negative words: ar and níor respectively. These particles maintain lenition on the verb when possible, but the past prefix d' is removed from verbs beginning with a vowel.

One way to remember the lenition, d', ar and níor concepts for the past tense is to consider the evolution of Modern Irish. The same sound—an Old Irish particle ro/do—led to lenition on consonants, became d' before vowels, and became the -r of ar and níor. We don't see that Old Irish particle in the past tense of the modern language, but all of these changes retain the memory of its presence.

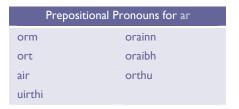
Below are independent forms for tog and eirigh, which show the use of ar and níor; the other regular verbs in this lesson for the same pattern: keep any lenition and remove d' from vowels. We will learn dependent forms for irregular verbs in Ceacht 22.

Tóg Past Tense	Éirigh Past Tense
ar thóg sé?	ar éirigh sé?
ar thóg sí?	ar éirigh sí?
ar thóg sibh?	ar éirigh sibh?
ar thóg siad?	ar éirigh siad?
ar thóg tú?	ar éirigh tú?
ar thóg?	ar éirigh?
ar thógamar?	ar éiríomar?
níor <mark>th</mark> óg sé	níor éirigh sé
níor <mark>th</mark> óg sí	níor éirigh sí
níor <mark>th</mark> óg sibh	níor éirigh sibh
níor <mark>th</mark> óg siad	níor éirigh siad
níor <mark>th</mark> óg tú	níor éirigh tú
níor <mark>th</mark> óg	níor éirigh
níor <mark>th</mark> ógamar	níor éiríomar

### Ceacht a Ceathair Déag Lesson Fourteen

### An Réamhfhocal 'ar' The Preposition 'on'

This lesson introduces several useful phrases and structures with the preposition ar on, and you will need to learn its prepositional pronouns to use these expressions fully.



### Abairtí Expressions

In Ceacht 5 we saw how Irish uses the preposition ag at to show possession. In this lesson, we learn several **idiomatic expressions** with ar on. The meanings of these idioms are often quite different from their literal translation; for example, tá eagla air means he is afraid, but the literal translation is fear is on him. Idiomatic expressions are very important to Irish, and you should make an effort to learn any that you encounter in the text.

Most of the examples in the textbook lesson use orm, literally on me, but this can be replaced by other forms of ar to create sentences with new subjects, for example tá ocras uirthi she is hungry. Likewise, the verbs in these expressions can be changed to positive or negative forms in any of the tenses we have learned: bhí ocras uirthi she was hungry, ní raibh ocras uirthi she wasn't hungry.

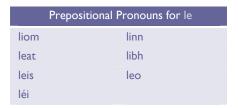
### Aidiachtaí Sealbhacha Possessive Adjectives

Each possessive adjective—words like mo my, do your, and so on—has its own rules for consonant mutation. Lenition occurs after mo, do and a his, but there is no change to consonants after a her. Notice how his and her (both a) are distinguished only by the presence or absence of lenition. We will learn more possessives in future lessons.

## Ceacht a Cúig Déag Lesson Fifteen

### An Réamhfhocal 'le' The Preposition 'with'

All of the phrases in this lesson contain the preposition le with, so the best way to begin is by learning all of its prepositional pronouns.



### Abairtí Expressions

You will remember from previous lessons that Irish relies heavily on idioms—phrases whose meanings are often different from the literal translation—to express many key ideas. Most of these idioms employ prepositions, so it is always important to learn prepositional pronouns as quickly as possible. Below are some of the idioms presented in this lesson; x and y are used to show word order.

Is le X Y. X belongs to Y. or Y owns X. Cé leis X? Who owns X? Who does X belong to? Is maith le X Y. X likes Y. Is fearr le X Y. X likes Y better. or X prefers Y. Is féidir le X Y. X can Y (verbal noun). Is cuimhin le X Y. X remembers Y. Is cuma le X. X doesn't care. Is mian le X Y. X wishes, wants to Y (verbal noun). Abair le X Y. Tell X to Y (verbal noun). Éist le X. Listen to X. Labhair le X. Speak to X. Fan le X. Wait for X.

### An Chopail The Copula

Up to this point, we have used forms of bí (such as tá) for is, am, was, were and so on. In this lesson, we encounter another verb that can be used for these meanings: is. The verb is is known gramatically as the copula, because it is often used to "couple" two nouns together like an equals sign as we will see in future lessons. Since we are only using is in set expressions right now, you shouldn't worry about the difference between bí and is just yet. However, you should learn its question and negative forms. To make a question from an is sentence, replace the is with an; to make a negative statement, replace the is with ní.

## Ceacht a Sé Déag

### An Aimsir Fháistineach The Future Tense

We first encountered the future tense in Ceacht 9 with forms like beidh mé I will be. In this lesson we will learn how to form the future tense—the will form—for several types of regular and irregular verbs.

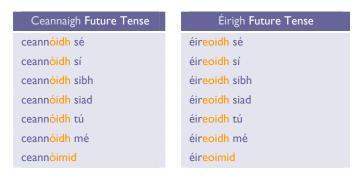
### An Chéad Réimniú First Conjugation

There are two sets of endings for short verbs: one set for broad verbs like tóg and one set for slender verbs like cuir. The broad and slender pairs of endings are pronounced the same, however, and the written differences are only meant to reflect Irish spelling rules. The f of future endings is pronounced as an /h/ sound.

Tóg Future Tense	Cuir Future Tense
tóg <mark>faidh</mark> sé	cuir <mark>fidh</mark> sé
tóg <mark>faidh</mark> sí	cuirfidh sí
tóg <mark>faidh</mark> sibh	cuirfidh sibh
tóg <mark>faidh</mark> siad	cuirfidh siad
tóg <mark>faidh</mark> tú	cuir <mark>fidh</mark> tú
tóg <mark>faidh</mark> mé	cuirfidh mé
tógfaimid	cuirfimid

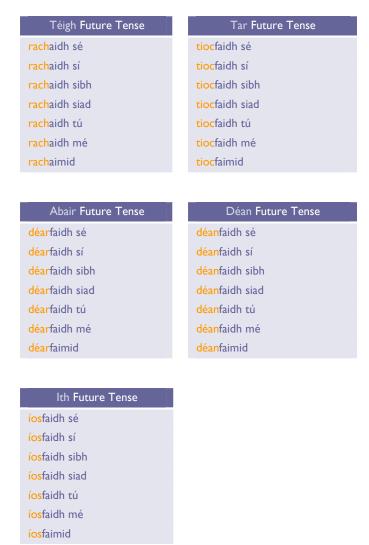
### An Dara Réimniú Second Conjugation

In the case of long verbs like éirigh and ceannaigh, the final -(a)igh is soaked up by the future endings. Other long verbs, such as freagair and oscail, are syncopated in the future. This means that their final syllable is contracted to the last consonant, for example freagr- and oscl-. This is a very common pattern for verbs ending in -air and -ail.



### Briathra Neamhrialta Irregular Verbs

The last section of this lesson presents the future forms of several irregular verbs: téigh go, tar come, abair say, ith eat and déan do. Note the loss of the future-tense f in téigh; other verbs have a unique base but keep the typical -f(a)idh / -f(a)imid endings of the future.



### Ceisteach agus Diúltach Question and Negative Forms

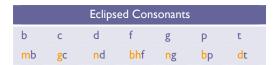
As with other verb tenses, an is used to form questions and causes eclipsis (see Ceacht 17) when possible; ní is used for negative statements and causes lenition when possible. We will see question and negative forms for irregular verbs in Ceacht 25.

An dtógfaidh mé an peann? Ní bhaileoidh sí an t-airgead inniu. Will I take the pen? She won't collect the money today.

### 7 Ceacht a Seacht Déag Lesson Seventeen

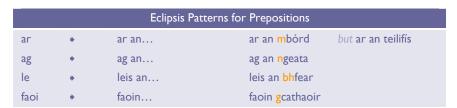
### Urú Eclipsis

We have already seen eclipsis with verbs after the question particle an, and this lesson focuses on eclipsis of the first consonant of a noun. Before we discuss the rules presented in Ceacht 17, let's learn what consonants become when they are eclipsed. Note that only some of the Irish consonants may be eclipsed:



### Réamhfhocail Prepositions

One structure that causes eclipsis on a noun is when the noun is preceded by a preposition and the article an the. This is only true with certain prepositions—in this lesson we have aq, ar, le and faoi and only when the preposition is followed by an. You'll notice that some prepositions have special forms used with the article: leis an (le + an), faoin (faoi + an). As stated in the lesson, d and t are not eclipsed in this case.



### Focail Eile Other Words

This lesson also presents several other words that cause eclipsis directly. The question words an and cá where cause eclipsis on verbs, while ar our, bhur your (plural) and a their cause eclipsis on nouns. In these cases, d and t are eclipsed.

Eclipsis Patterns for Other Words		
an	An ndéanfaidh tú do cheachtanna?	
cá	Cá bhfuil mo chóta?	
ár	Deirfimid ár <mark>b</mark> paidreacha.	
bhur	Tá bhur gcailín ag súgradh sa ghairdín.	
a	Ní raibh a <mark>m</mark> buachaill ar scoil inné.	

## Ceacht a hOcht Déag Lesson Eighteen

### Táim i mo... l am...

This lesson presents a structure with tá that is used with certain verbal nouns and other word forms to show a state of being. This same structure can also be used to talk about a person's profession. The structure consists of tá + SUBJECT + i + POSESSIVE + REST OF SENTENCE; the possessive is the form that goes along with the subject. The literal translations below will help you see the meaning behind this struc-

Tá tú i do shuí. You are sitting (down).

lit. You are in your sitting.

Tá Seán agus Máire ina gcodladh. Seán and Máire are asleep.

lit. Seán and Máire are in their sleeping.

Tá Pól ina mhúinteoir. Pól is a teacher.

lit. Pól is in his [role as a] teacher.

The tá can be changed to a question or negative form in any tense, but the rest of the structure will stay the same.

Were you sitting (down)? An raibh tú i do shuí?

lit. Were you in your sitting?

Ní bheidh siad ina gcodladh. They won't be asleep.

lit. They won't be in their sleeping.

Finally, you will notice that there are contractions with i and some of the possessives: ina (i + a in his, in her, in their) and inár (i + ár in our). Before vowel sounds, i becomes in, yielding in bhur in your (plural), as well as the n of the contractions above. Remember that you must also apply consonant mutation rules for possessives: lenition after mo, do and a his; eclipsis after ár, bhur and a their; no change to consonants after a her.

### Freagraí Answers

As stated in the lesson, there are no words in Irish for yes and no. We simply restate the verb from the question either in the positive or negative form.

## Ceacht a Naoi Déag Lesson Nineteen

### An tAlt The Article

The nouns in this lesson provide two good rules we have learned for changes after the article. An prefixes t- to masculine nouns beginning with a vowel and t to feminine nouns beginning with s groups that allow lenition or a t prefix. See Ceacht 3 of this text for a review of all the rules for changes after an.

### Tá...agam I have...

In Ceacht 5, we learned how to say have using the structure tá OBJECT ag POSSESSOR. In this lesson we are extending the phrase to mean I have done something, as in I have lost the money.

The structure here is tá OBJECT VERBAL ADJECTIVE ag SUBJECT. You may want to review forms of ag (Ceacht 5) and the concept of verbal adjectives (Ceacht 3) if you are rusty on those subjects.

Tá an t-airgead caillte ag Máire. Máire has lost the money. You have eaten the cake. Tá an císte ite agat. The cat has drunk the milk. Tá an bainne ólta ag an gcat.

Remember that if the subject is a pronoun (mé I, tú you, etc.)—as in the second sentence above—it will be built into a prepositional pronoun with ag (review Ceacht 5). Also, remember that a preposition followed by an causes eclipsis on the noun if possible, as in ag an gcat in the third sentence (review Ceacht 17).

## 2 Ceacht Fiche Lesson Twenty

### Táim agus Bím I am

We first began talking about the present in Ceacht 1, and from that point onward we learned forms for the present based on tá by itself (tá sé tinn) or with tá + ag and a verbal noun. This kind of present tense, the **progressive present**, shows that an action is happening right now; tá sé ag dul ar scoil anois he is going to school now. In Ceacht 10 we learned how to conjugate verbs in the habitual present. This present tense shows that an action occurs repeatedly or as habit: téann sé ar scoil gach lá he goes to school every day.

There is also a habitual present form for bí, which we learn in this lesson; it has the same general translations as tá—is, am and are—but it expresses the fact that the state is habitual or continuous, not just a one-time event. Let's look at these two sentences:

Tá sí tuirseach. Bíonn sí tuirseach. She is tired.

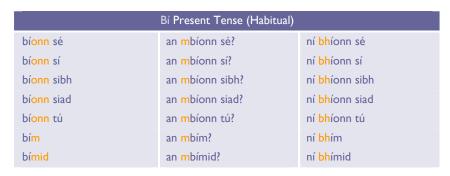
There is no difference in translation, because the Irish verb allows us to be more expressive than the English verb in this case. The first sentence means she is tired right now, while the second sentence means she is [usually or always] tired, like when she gets off from work in the evening.

Most of the time we will be using other little words and phrases in the sentence that will help us decide whether the action is progressive or habitual. Expressions like anois now and anois díreach right now make it obvious that the action is progressive; expressions like go minic often, i gcónaí always and riamh [n]ever make it clear that the action is habitual.

A good test for choosing the progressive or habitual present is to decide if you could naturally use a phrase like often, usually, every (day, week, etc.) or always in the sentence. If so, you should choose the habitual. If not, you should stick with the progressive. This little test will help with a few odd situations. For example, if you wanted to say the girl is young, you might be tempted to pick the habitual because the girl is young for guite a while, not just for an instant. But it would sound strange to add a habitual phrase to this sentence, as in she is usually young or she is always young, so you know to keep the progressive present.

### An Aimsir Láithreach Present Tense

Below are all the present habitual forms of bi, which follow patterns that are similar to the present habitual forms we learned for other verbs. As usual, there is eclipsis in question forms and lenition in negatives.



### Fuaimniú Pronunciation

Remember from Ceacht 4 that the words anseo and anois are stressed on the second syllable.

## Ceacht Fiche a hAon Lesson Twenty-One

### Súil Siar Review

In the next few lessons we will be learning various forms for irregular verbs. We will cover the past tense in Ceachtanna 21-22 and other forms up through Ceacht 27. Therefore, now would be a good time to review the verb concepts and the irregular verbs we have learned up to this point. The reference table below gives the imperative and the verbal noun of all eleven irregular verbs in Irish.

Imperative	Verbal Noun	Meaning
bí	bheith	be
téigh	dul*	go
déan	déanamh*	do
feic	feiceáil	see
faigh	fáil	get
abair	rá	say
tar	teacht*	come
clois	cloisteáil	hear
beir	breith	catch
tabhair	tabhairt	give
ith	ithe*	eat

The verbal nouns marked with an asterisk (\*) are the only ones that you are required to know at this point; the rest are for reference only. Some speakers use cluin, rather than clois, for hear but clois is used throughout Progress in Irish. As has been the practice in previous lessons, verbs will be referred to by their imperative, which serves as the dictionary-entry form for Irish verbs.

### Briathra Neamhrialta Irregular Verbs

In this lesson we are given the independent past-tense forms for all eleven irregular verbs in Irish. The tables below present full conjugations for each verb, but keep in mind that sinn is the only form with a special ending in the past tense. The verb tables are arranged so that verbs will be grouped in similar patterns for the next lesson.

Bí Past Indep.	Téigh Past Indep.	Déan <b>Past Indep</b> .	Feic Past Indep.
bhí sé	chuaigh sé	rinne sé	chonaic sé
bhí sí	chuaigh sí	rinne sí	chonaic sí
bhí sibh	chuaigh sibh	rinne sibh	chonaic sibh
bhí siad	chuaigh siad	rinne siad	chonaic siad
bhí tú	chuaigh tú	rinne tú	chonaic tú
bhí mé	chuaigh mé	rinne mé	chonaic mé
bhíomar	chuamar	rinne <mark>amar</mark>	chonaiceamar

### Faigh Past Indep.

fuair sé fuair sí

fuair sibh fuair siad fuair tú

fuair mé fuaireamar

### Abair Past Indep.

dúirt sé dúirt sí dúirt sibh dúirt siad dúirt tú dúirt mé

### Tar Past Indep.

tháinig sé tháinig sí tháinig sibh tháinig siad tháinig tú tháinig mé

### Clois Past Indep.

dúramar

chuala sé chuala sí chuala sibh chuala siad chuala tú chuala mé

### Beir Past Indep.

rug sé rug sí rug sibh rug siad rug tú rug mé rugamar

### Tabhair Past Indep.

thug sé thug sí thug sibh thug siad thug tú thug mé thugamar

### Ith Past Indep.

d'ith sé

thángamar

d'ith sí

d'ith sibh d'ith siad

d'ith tú d'ith mé

d'itheamar

## 2 Ceacht Fiche a Dó Lesson Twenty-Two

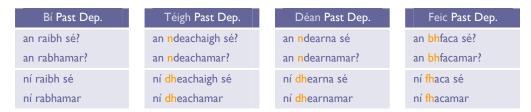
### Súil Siar Review

This lesson presents the dependent past-tense forms for the irregular verbs we studied in the previous lesson. You may want to skim back through the lessons up to this point to review patterns for dependent (question and negative) verb forms before continuing.

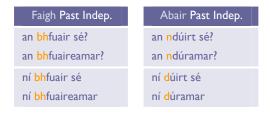
### Briathra Neamhrialta Irregular Verbs

The irregular verbs are grouped in the same order as the previous lesson to show patterns in their dependent forms. Since these verbs are irregular, they tend to break rules and use forms that are significantly different from their basic form. Since sinn is the only form with a special ending (or in some cases, with an entirely new form), only the sé and sinn forms are presented; the sé form can be used for all other persons except sinn.

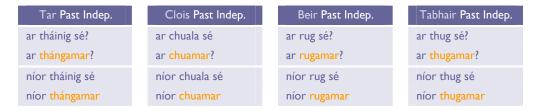
These four verbs are special in that they use an and ní in the past tense (rather than ar and níor for regular verbs) with eclipsis for questions and lenition for negatives:



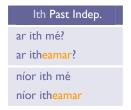
These two verbs also use an and ní in the past tense, but they break rules for consonant mutation after the particles; however, their dependent forms otherwise resemble the independent forms:



These four verbs have the same form for the independent and dependent, and they use ar and níor like regular verbs:



The verb ith is actually completely regular in the past tense:



Below are all of the past tense forms of irregular verbs for reference and comparison; remember that sé can be substituted with any person except sinn, which has its own special form (see the tables above).

Imperative	Past Indep.	Past	Dep
bí	bhí sé	an raibh sé?	ní raibh sé
téigh	chuaigh sé	an ndeachaigh sé?	ní <mark>dh</mark> eachaigh sé
déan	rinne sé	an rinne sé?	ní rinne sé
feic	chonaic sé	an bhfaca sé?	ní <mark>fh</mark> aca sé
faigh	fuair sé	an bhfuair sé?	ní <mark>bhf</mark> uair sé
abair	dúirt sé	an ndúirt sé?	ní <mark>d</mark> úirt sé
tar	tháinig sé	ar tháinig sé?	níor tháinig sé
clois	chuala sé	ar chuala sé?	níor <mark>ch</mark> uala sé
beir	rug sé	ar rug sé?	níor rug sé
tabhair	thug sé	ar thug sé?	níor <mark>th</mark> ug sé
ith	d'ith sé	ar ith sé?	níor ith sé

# **gluais** glossary

#### adjective

Adjectives describe or give details about a noun. The English words big, happy and strange are adjectives.

#### adverb

Adverbs generally tell when, where or how an action happens. English adverbs often end in ly, while Irish adverbs are often phrases that begin with the particle go. The English words tomorrow, here and slowly are all adverbs, corresponding to amárach, anseo and go mall in Irish.

#### agreement

Agreement means changing a word's form to make it match up or "agree" with another word in the sentence. In English, we change this to these in the phrase these books to make it agree with the plural books; we change do to does in the phrase he does to make it agree with the subject he.

#### article

The article is the word for the. There are two articles in Irish: an is used with singular nouns and na is used with plural nouns. There is no word for a(n) in Irish.

#### aspiration

An older term for LENITION

#### broad

Irish sounds are divided into two groups: broad and slender. The broad vowels are a, o and u, and a consonant placed beside one of these vowels is considered broad. There are slight differences in the sounds of broad and slender consonants, and silent vowels are often written only to show the quality of a consonant. In the word do to the d is broad and is pronounced /d/; in the word deo ever, the d is slender (shown by the use of the slender vowel e) and is pronounced /j/. Other than the difference in d sounds, these two words are pronounced the same. → SLENDER

#### case

The case of a noun is determined by its function in the sentence. If a noun is the subject or object of a verb, it is in the nominative case (The man called the woman). If a noun shows possession, it is in the genitive case (This is the man's wife. We read about the history of Ireland). Nouns used in prepositional phrases are in the dative case (We went to Ireland). The vocative case is used when speaking directly

to the person or thing (Where are you going, John?).

#### conjugation

Conjugating a verb means changing its form to give information about when the action happens and who is doing the action. Irish verbs are divided into conjugations, or groups of verbs that follow the same patterns. First conjugation verbs are usually short (one syllable), while second conjugation verbs are often longer (two or more syllables). The Irish verbs cuir and bris, for example, belong to the same conjugation because they follow the same patterns for adding endings and other changes.

#### copula

The Irish verb is is called the copula because it often 'couples' two nouns or a noun and pronoun together: Is fear é He is a man. The copula can mean is, am or are in the present tense (was or were in the past), and it is mainly used to show states that are not going to change (e.g. in the sentence above, he will always be a man).

#### dependent

The dependent form of a verb is used in particular circumstances, mainly for creating questions and negative phrases. The dependent verb form is usually very similar to the independent form in regular verbs, while irregular verbs sometimes have dependent forms that are completely different from the independent form. There is no exact English equivalent to dependent and independent verb forms, but we do change the way verbs are used when we make a question or negative statement, using a form of do; for example He speaks English (independent), Does he speak English? He does not speak *English* (dependent). → INDEPENDENT

#### eclipsis

Eclipsis (urú) occurs when the first consonant of a word is replaced by another sound. For example, we say teach house but i dteach in a house because the word i in eclipsis the following consonant when possible. The consonants b, c, d, f, g, p and t are eclipsed to mb, gc, nd, bhf, ng, bp respectively.

### feminine

A term used to refer to a noun's grammatical GENDER.

#### **future**

The future tense shows that an action will happen in the future. The English phrase she will go is in the future.  $\rightarrow$  TENSE

#### gender

The grammatical gender of an Irish noun is simply a classification that has nothing to do with the physical properties of the person or thing that the noun represents. There are two genders in Irish: masculine and feminine; see Ceacht 3 in this text for further explanation.

#### idiom

A set expression whose meaning is different from the literal translation; e.g. in English we say I have to go, but it has nothing to do with possession (as in I have a pen). This idiom means must.

#### imperative

The imperative form of a verb is used to give commands, such as the go in Go to your room! or the pass in Pass me the salt. The imperative form of an Irish verb is considered the basic form and is given as the entry in dictionaries.

#### independent

The independent form of a verb is the form used for making statements. There is nothing particularly 'special' about the independent form of a verb. → DEPENDENT

#### initial consonant

The first consonant of a word. We often refer to initial consonants in Irish because they can change their quality based on grammatical rules. → MUTATION

#### irregular

An irregular word does not fit into a normal grammatical pattern. Forms of irregular words often look significantly different from their original form, e.g. bean woman mná women. In English, we have irregular words like geese (not \*gooses as the regular pattern would go) and verb forms like are and is that come from the same verb but do not resemble each other (unlike regular verb forms such as speak, speaks).

#### **lenition**

Lenition (séimhiú) is the 'softening' of a consonant sound, shown in written by adding h after the consonant. Lenition is also known as aspiration in older texts. The consonants b, c, d, f, g, m, p, s and t are lenited as bh, ch, dh,

fh, gh, mh, ph, sh and th respectively. In some cases of lenition, s is prefixed by t, rather than becoming sh; s can only be lenited or have t prefixed when it is followed by a vowel or in the groups sl, sn and sr.

#### masculine

A term used to refer to a noun's grammatical GENDER.

#### mutation (consonants)

Consonant mutation means changing the quality of a consonant for grammatical reasons. There are two types of consonant mutation in Irish: ECLIPSIS and LENITION.

#### nominative

The noun CASE used when the noun is the subject or object of a verb.

#### noun

A noun represents a person, place, thing or idea. The English words John, sister, library, New York, book, dog and freedom are all nouns.

#### particle

A particle is a word that has little or no meaning on its own; rather, it is used to join words together or to change the meaning of a phrase or sentence. For example, the particles an and ar are used to form questions in Irish.

#### past

The past tense shows that an action has already happened. The English phrase she went is in the past. → TENSE

### plural

Plural words, such as plural nouns, refer to more than one object. The English nouns dogs and men are in their plural forms. → SINGULAR

#### possessive

Possessives, such as possessive adjectives, show that something belongs to a person or thing. English possessives are my, your, his, our, and so on.

### predicate

In English, the predicate is the part of the sentence that contains and follows the verb. In the sentence The new movie was very interesting, the predicate is was very interesting. Because Irish word order is different from English (the verb is usually the first word in the

sentence), you will need to use the English meaning to identify the predicate of an Irish sentence.

#### prefix

A prefix is a syllable or word added to the beginning of a word to change its meaning. In the English words unhappy and misunderstand, the prefixes are un- and mis-.

#### preposition

A preposition is a little word that often shows location. The English words about, in and with are prepositions. → PREPOSITIONAL PRONOUN

#### prepositional pronoun

Irish prepositions join with PRONOUNS to create one-word forms. For example, the Irish preposition ag means at; to say at me we use the prepositional pronoun agam, which has evolved from ag at + mé me.

#### present

The present tense indicates that an action is happening right now. There are two present tenses in Irish as in English; the progressive present shows that an action is taking place right at the very moment (tá sé ag ól he is drinking), while the habitual present shows an action that is continuous or repeated as habit (ólann sé tae he drinks tea).

#### pronoun

A pronoun replaces a NOUN or noun phrase in a sentence. In the sentence John visited the kids yesterday, and he gave them presents, the pronouns are he (replacing John) and them (replacing the kids). Common English pronouns are I, me, you, he, him, she, her, we, us, they, them and it.

#### singular

A singular word, such as a singular noun, refers to just one object. The English nouns dog and man are in their singular forms. → PLURAL

#### slender

Irish sounds are divided into two groups: broad and slender. The slender vowels are i and e, and a consonant placed beside one of these vowels is considered slender. There are slight differences in the sounds of broad and slender consonants, and silent vowels are often written only to show the quality of a consonant. In the word do to the d is broad and is pronounced /d/; in the word deo ever, the d is slender (shown by the use of the slender vowel e) and is pronounced /j/. Other than the difference in d sounds, these two words are pronounced the same. → BROAD

#### subject

The subject of a verb is the person or thing doing in the action. In the following sentences, box is the subject: The box is here. The box fell apart. The box had words printed on it.

#### syllable

A 'beat' in a word. The word danger has two 'beats' or syllables. The word physical has three syllables. The word some has only one syllable.

#### syncopated

A syncopated word loses a SYLLABLE when endings are added to it. For example, oscail open but osclóidh will open; notice the loss of ai in the last syllable.

#### tense

The tense of a verb tells when the action occurred: in the present, past or future. In English, the phrase he speaks is in the present tense, he spoke is in the past tense, and he will speak is in the future tense.

#### verb

Verbs show action or a state of being. The English words say, ask, jump, be, seem, want and think are all verbs.

#### verbal adjective

A verbal adjective is an ADJECTIVE created from a verb. The words written, finished and gone are examples of verbal adjectives in English, which are also known as past participles because they show that an action has passed and are used to create some past-tense structures (e.g. I have finished the book).

#### verbal noun

The Irish verbal noun is similar to the -ing form of English verbs, e.g. walking, going. The verbal noun can also be used like an English infinitive, e.g. to walk, to go.

## innéacs index

adjectives	nouns	
agreement 6	gender 3	
droch 6	nominative case 3	
placement 2, 6		
predicate ~ 2	numbers	
verbal ~ 3, 19	for counting and time 11	
sean 6	past tense	
adverbs	of <i>bí</i> 8	
notes on ~ 9	regular verbs 13	
notes on	irregular verbs 13, 20, 21	
article		
an 2	possessives	
changes to noun 2	possessive adjectives 12, 14	
nominative singular 3	prepositions	
introduction 2	ag 5, 19	
<b>na</b> 8	ar 14	
	contractions with an 17	
copula	eclipsis with ~ 17	
definition of ~ 15	<i>i</i> + possessive adjectives 18	
eclipsis	i + an (sa) 8	
introduction and chart 17	<i>le</i> 15	
with possessives 17, 18		
with prepositions 17	present tense	
with verbs 17	habitual of bí (bíonn) 20, 27	
with other words 17	habitual of regular verbs 10, 12	
With Guiler Words 11	habitual of irreg verbs 11, 12, 27	
future tense	habitual vs. progressive 10, 20	
of <i>bí</i> 9	progressive of <i>bí (tá)</i> 4	
regular verbs 16	progressive with <i>táag</i> 1	
irregular verbs 16		
	pronouns	
imperative	prepositional ~ 5	
use and forms 7	questions	
interrogative	answering yes/no ~ 18	
see QUESTIONS	forming ~ with question words 8	
555 €555.5	future tense forms 16	
lenition	past tense forms 13, 22	
introduction and chart 2	present tense forms 10	
with possessives 18	prosent tende tende te	
	spelling	
negatives	broad and slender concepts 3	
future tense forms 16	and a language	
past tense forms 13, 22	verbal noun	
present tense forms 10	introduction 1	
	common patterns 7	