

Larry_PII_class_15b_02.doc

A Chairde,

Welcome to lesson two of Progress in Irish by Máiréad Ní Ghráda.

Read the lesson on page 4 of your book and listen to the audio file (Lesson02.mp3) which is available in the Audio folder of our Files section.

Homework: Complete the sixteen exercises in the "Cuir Gaeilge air seo" section on page 4 of the book and forward to me for evaluation.

Any questions on this or the previous lesson, just ask :-)

Le meas,Larry.

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Grammar:

The definite article with the noun: Lesson one introduced the singular definite article "an" (the). In that lesson we saw that the singular article causes lenition to a FEMININE noun beginning with a lenitable consonant (except D, S or T):

bean - woman (feminine noun). an bhean - the woman.

If the noun is MASCULINE and begins with a lenitable consonant, no change is made:

mála - bag (masculine noun), an mála - the bag.

If the noun is FEMININE and begins with "s", the singular article prefixes "t" to the noun:

sráid - street (feminine noun), an tsráid - the street.

If the noun is MASCULINE and begins with a vowel, the singular article prefixes "t-" to the noun. Note the use of the hyphen:

urlár - floor (masculine noun), an t-urlár - the floor.

úll - apple (masculine noun), an t-úll - the apple.

Prefix 't' is always written in lower case. Note however that if the noun has an upper case initial vowel, for example "Úll", no hyphen is used - an tÚll (the Apple).

We can summarise the thirteen nouns from lessons one and two with the singular definite article as follows:

Masculine:

an fear - the man,
an páiste - the child,
an cailín - the girl,
an buachaill - the boy,
an múinteoir - the teacher,
an mála - the bag,
an bosca - the box,
an bóthar - the road,
an t-urlár - the floor,
an bainne - the milk,
an t-úll - the apple.

Feminine:

an bhean - the woman,
an tsráid - the street,
an bhróg - the shoe.

Remember that we are dealing here with singular nouns in the **common form** which can be used as the subject of a sentence. The *subject* in a simple sentence immediately follows the verb as we saw in lesson one:

Tá an fear ag gáire. - The man is laughing. "an fear" is the *subject.*

See the file "The Article.pdf" in our Files section.

An introduction to the adjective: An adjective is a word which tells us something about the quality of a person, thing or idea.

This week's lesson introduces 11 adjectives into our vocabulary:

lán - full
folamh - empty
cam - crooked
díreach - straight
fada - long
milis - sweet
géar - sour
glan - clean
salach - dirty
tuirseach - tired
tinn - ill

All the adjectives introduced this week can be considered as "descriptive" adjectives because they describe the noun which they qualify. Most adjectives of this type can be used in either of two ways; "predicative" or "attributive."

When an adjective is used in the manner shown in this week's lesson it is said to be used as a *predicative* adjective. In other words, the adjective forms part of the "predicate." The *predicate* refers to all the parts of the sentence or clause that are not contained in the *subject*. In the examples above, "the bag", "the box" and "the road" are the subjects.

Using an adjective in this manner gives us the construction:

[verb] + [subject] + [adjective]
[Tá] + [an mála] + [lán] - The bag is full. Literally, "is + the bag + full."
[Tá] + [an bosca] + [folamh] - The box is empty. Literally, "is + the box + empty."
[Tá] + [an bóthar] + [cam] - The road is crooked. Literally, "is + the road + crooked."

The form and spelling of the adjectives shown in this week's lesson is that which you will find in a dictionary.

There are a number of grammatical rules to consider when we deal with adjectives depending on how they are used and their position in the sentence. Fortunately, none of those rules are relevant to the "predicative" adjectives in this week's lesson. "Attributive" adjectives will be dealt with in lesson six.

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Adverbs: In lesson one we saw three adverbs of movement; "amach" (outwards), "isteach" (inwards) and "abhaile" (homewards).

In this week's lesson we are introduced to two new adverbs of *location* or *position*; "anseo" (here) and "ansin" (there).

Consider the following two sentences:

Tá an buachaill ag dul *amach* (movement). The boy is going out. He is still in the process of going ("ag dul") and he's not reached his destination yet.

Tá an buachaill *ansin* (location). The boy is there. This sentence does not tell us that he is in the process of doing anything. He's simply "there".

+ + + + +

cad (what): This *interrogative pronoun* is placed in front of the verb to ask "what?", giving us the construction:

[int. pr] + [verb] + [remainder]

Cad tá lán? - What is full?

Cad tá folamh? - What is empty?