

[philoprogress1-15b] PII Lesson 06 Assignments and Grammar  
Welcome to lesson six of Progress in Irish by Máiréad Ní Ghráda.

Read the lesson on page 8 of your book and listen to the audio file (Lesson06.mp3) which is available in the Audio folder of our Files section.

Homework: Complete the six exercises in the "Cuir Gaeilge air seo" section on page 8 of the book and forward to me for evaluation.

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Grammar:

duine (person, man): This is a masculine noun which, in some circumstances, can be used as an alternative noun for "fear" (man) which was introduced in lesson 1.

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This week's lesson introduces the following 20 additional adjectives into our vocabulary:

ard - tall  
bán - white  
beag - little, small  
bocht - poor  
dearg - red  
deas - nice  
donn - brown, brown-haired  
dubh - black, black-haired  
fionn - fair-haired  
glas - green  
gorm - blue  
láidir - strong  
liath - grey-haired  
mór - big, large  
nua - new  
óg - young  
ramhar - fat  
rua - red-haired  
sean - old  
uaine - green

The adjectives introduced in lesson 2 were used \*predicatively\* (see the grammar supplement for that lesson). The adjectives introduced in lesson 6 are used \*attributively\* and they directly qualify the noun. Consider the following construction:

[verb] + [subject] + [remainder of sentence]  
Tá + an cailín bocht + ag gol - The poor girl is crying

We see that "bocht" directly qualifies the noun "cailín" and therefore forms part of the \*subject\*.

In the majority of cases an attributive adjective FOLLOWS the noun which it qualifies, unlike the English construction:

cailín beag - a little girl,  
fear láidir - a strong man.

There are, however, a few exceptions. The adjective "sean" (old) PRECEDES the noun and causes lenition, except to nouns beginning with D.

bean - a woman,  
seanbhean - an old woman.

fear - a man,  
seanfhear - an old man.

but  
duine - person, man  
seanduine - an old man

In addition to the adjectives shown in this week's lesson, the prefix "droch-" (bad, un-, ill-) causes lenition:

pingin - a penny,  
droch-phingin - a bad penny.

When two or more attributive adjectives are used with the noun, the order is similar to the English with first place being given to size (big, small etc), followed by quality (sweet, fat etc) and colour etc.

úll mór milis dearg - a big sweet red apple,  
leabhar deas nua - a nice new book.

It is important to note that the adjectives in this week's lesson are being used with MASCULINE singular nouns and no change is made to the adjective in this case. Although it is not mentioned in this week's lesson, in the case of a FEMININE singular noun an attributive adjective is subject to lenition in many situations:

fuinneog - a window,  
fuinneog mhór - a large window.

There are a number of other rules regarding adjectives which we will encounter as we work our way through this course. For this week's lesson, however, remember that the MASCULINE singular nouns do not change the adjectives in the examples shown on page 8

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"have": Remember that in order to say that a person "has" something, for example "X", in their possession we use the construction:

[tá] + [X] + [ag] + [person]

tá + úll + ag + Nóra - Nora has an apple

We can extend this construction to include an adjective:

[tá] + [X] + [adjective(s)] + [ag] + [person]

Tá + leabhar + deas nua + ag + Seán - Sean has a nice new book.

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