

[philoprogress1-15b] PII Lesson 08 Assignments and Grammar

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

Read the lesson on pages 10 & 11 of your book and listen to the audio file (Lesson08.mp3) which is available at www.philoceltic.com/PII/Progress.htm.

Homework: Complete the seventeen exercises in the "Cuir Gaeilge air seo" section on page 11 of the book and forward to me for evaluation.

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Grammar:

bhí (was): This is the past tense of the irregular verb "bí. " The past tense of this verb is formed by leniting the initial consonant of the stem,"bí.":

Bí - is, am, are (imperative mood).

Bhí - was, were.

Use a similar construction to that which we saw with "tá":

[verb] + [subject] + [remainder of sentence]

Bhí + Seán + ag rith - Seán was running

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Questions in the past tense using the verb "bí." "Bí " is one of the 6 irregular verbs which form questions in the past tense by placing "An" in front of the *dependant* form of the verb.

I mentioned in lesson 4 that there are a handful of irregular verbs which have a special dependant form. In the case of the past tense of the verb "bí " the dependant form is "raibh."

[An] + [verb] + [subject] + [remainder of sentence]...?

An + raibh + Seán + ag rith? - Was Seán running?

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ní (negative particle): This particle is placed in front of some irregular verbs, including "bí ", in the past tense to form a negative statement. We have previously encountered this particle in the construction "níl" which, as I indicated in lesson 4, is formed from "ní" + "fuil". It requires the *dependant* form of the verb, if there is one.

[Ní] + [verb] + [subject] + [remainder of sentence]

Ní raibh Seán ag rith - Seán was not running.

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An introduction to the *genitive* case: We have used nouns so far in this course as either the *subject* or the *object* of a sentence. When a noun is used as the *subject* in an English sentence it is said to be in the *subjective*, or the *nominative*, case. When a noun is used as the *object* it is said to be in the *objective*, or the *accusative*, case. In Irish, however, there is no difference between these two cases. The noun remains the same regardless of whether it is the *subject* or the *object* of the sentence. For this reason, it is often referred to as the COMMON form of the noun.

This week's lesson introduces us to another *case* - the *genitive* - with the nouns "farrage" (sea) and "tine" (fire). There are a number of circumstances which require a noun to be in the genitive

case, one of which is demonstrated in this lesson. The word "cois" (beside) requires a following noun to be in the genitive.

A noun which ends in a vowel, for example "tine" (fire), does not change in the genitive case. Máiréad Ní Ghráda chose nouns ending in a vowel in the examples on pages 10 & 11 but you should be aware that many other nouns change their spelling and pronunciation when they are in the genitive case.

The formation of the genitive case is beyond the scope of this week's lesson. However, in order to illustrate the difference between the COMMON form and the GENITIVE case, I have extracted and summarised, at the end of this email, the genitive form of the nouns used in this and the previous seven lessons. See "Additional vocabulary" below.

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An introduction to the *plural* noun: This week's lesson introduces two *plural* nouns; "milseáin" and "pictiúir."

In Irish there are a few ways in which a noun is made plural. Some nouns are also irregular. There is no hard and fast rule for constructing the plural form of a noun. The surest way is to learn the plural form at the same time as the singular.

I have extracted and summarised, at the end of this email, the plural form of the nouns used in this and the previous seven lessons. See "Additional vocabulary" below.

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na (the - plural): In English, the *definite article* (the) remains the same whether the following noun is singular or plural:

the picture
the pictures

However, in Irish the definite article becomes "na" with a plural noun:
an pictiúr - the picture
na pictiúir - the pictures

We have seen that the SINGULAR definite article ("an") causes lenition to a feminine noun in some circumstances. "Na" does NOT cause lenition to a following noun, regardless of gender, but it prefixes "h" to those nouns beginning with a vowel.

See the file "[The Article.pdf](#)" in our Files section.

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Cá? (Where?): Placed in front of the verb to ask "Where...?", the particle "cá" requires the *dependant* form of the verb:

[Cá] + [verb] + [remainder of sentence]...?

When used in the manner demonstrated in this week's lesson, "cá" causes eclipsis:

Cá + bhfuil + an fear? - Where is the man?

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Cathain? (When?): Placed in front of the verb to ask "When", "cathain" takes the *independent* form of the verb. The remainder of the sentence is then a *relative* clause which is introduced by the *relative particle* "a" (see below):

[Cathain] + [relative particle - "a"] + [verb] + [remainder of sentence]

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inniu (today), inné (yesterday), aréir (last night): These adverbs are usually placed at the end of the sentence / clause in much the same way as the English construction:

Bhí Nóra anseo inné - Nóra was here yesterday.

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ag féachaint ar (looking at): In Irish, we "look *on*" something instead of "at" something and we use the preposition "ar" (on):

Bhí sé ag féachaint ar an teilifís aréir - He was looking at the television last night.

Note: You need to be a little careful when using "ar" immediately before the article "an" because it causes eclipsis to a singular noun, except to those nouns beginning D or T. Máiréad Ní Ghráda avoids this rule in this lesson by using the noun "teilifís."

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cois (beside): This requires a following noun to be in the *genitive* case, as I mentioned above in the introduction to the genitive case:

cois tine - beside a fire

cois na tine - beside the fire

In my opinion, there is an error on page 10 of the book. You will notice that "cois tine" is translated as "by THE fire" but, strictly speaking, in order to specify *the* fire we must use the definite article which, with a feminine noun in the genitive case, is "na".

Similarly: cois na farraige - beside the sea.

These errors on page 10 of the book have been corrected in the Vocabulary on page 141.

See the summary table in the file "[The Article.pdf](#)" in our Files section.

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sa (in the): Although it is not mentioned until lesson 18, the Irish word for "in" is "i." When used with the singular definite article "an" it becomes "sa" before a consonant and causes lenition, except to those nouns beginning D, S or T. It prefixes "t" to a feminine noun beginning with "s". "San" is used before nouns beginning with a vowel or "f":

cistin - kitchen,

sa chistin - in the kitchen.

siopa - shop (masculine noun),

sa siopa - in the shop.

sráid - street (feminine noun),

sa tsráid - in the street.

teach - house,

sa teach - in the house.

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ar scoil (to school, at school): The preposition "ar" generally means "on" but, when used with the noun "scoil" (school) it can be translated as "to" or "at."

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a (relative / verbal particle): As I mentioned in lesson 1 there are some circumstances which require the insertion of this little word "a." When a verb does NOT take first place in a sentence, such as when it is preceded by an interrogative word such as "cé" (who), or "cathain" (when), it forms part of a *relevant clause* which is introduced by a relative particle.

The relevant particle causes lenition, except to the verb "tá" where it forms one word and becomes "atá."

Relative clauses are used more widely in Irish than in English and we will encounter much more of their structure as we work through the course.

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doing, making: So far in this course we have been using the verbal noun to express the "-ing" part of the verb by preceding the verbal noun with the preposition "ag." This use of the verbal noun is equivalent to the English present participle:

ag gol - crying

ag teacht - coming

The verbal noun is also used to express the equivalent of the English *infinitive*, or the *to* part of a verb, for example "to cry", "to come", "to do"

+ + + + +

Additional vocabulary:

airgead (money):	Masculine	<u>Plural and</u>	Genitive singular	airgid
baile (home):	Masculine	Plural bailte	Genitive singular	baile
bosca (box):	Masculine	Plural boscaí	Genitive singular	bosca
buachaill (boy):	Masculine	Plural buachaillí	Genitive singular	buachalla
bóthar (road):	Masculine	Plural bóithre	Genitive singular	bóthair
cailín (girl):	Masculine	Plural cailíní	Genitive singular	cailín
ceacht (lesson):	Masculine	Plural ceachtanna	Genitive singular	ceachta
clós (enclosure, yard):	Masculine	<u>Plural and</u>	Genitive singular	clóis
cóta (coat):	Masculine	Plural cótaí	Genitive singular	cóta
doras (door):	Masculine	Plural doirse	Genitive singular	dorais
fear (man):	Masculine	<u>Plural and</u>	Genitive singular	fir
gairdín (garden):	Masculine	Plural gairdíní	Genitive singular	gairdín
geimhreadh (winter):	Masculine	Plural geimhrí	Genitive singular	geimhridh
leabhar (book):	Masculine	<u>Plural and</u>	Genitive singular	leabhair
milseán (sweet):	Masculine	<u>Plural and</u>	Genitive singular	milseáin
mála (bag):	Masculine	Plural málaí	Genitive singular	mála
múinteoir (teacher):	Masculine	Plural múinteoirí	Genitive singular	múinteora
oráiste (orange):	Masculine	Plural oráistí	Genitive singular	oráiste
peann (pen):	Masculine	<u>Plural and</u>	Genitive singular	pinn
peann luaidhe (pencil):	Masculine	Plural pinn luaidhe		
pictiúr (picture):	Masculine	<u>Plural and</u>	Genitive singular	pictiúir
punt (pound):	Masculine	<u>Plural and</u>	Genitive singular	puint
páiste (child):	Masculine	Plural páistí	Genitive singular	páiste
samhradh (summer):	Masculine	Plural samhraí	Genitive singular	samhraidh
seandúine (old man):	Masculine	Plural seandaoine	Genitive singular	seandúine
seomra (room):	Masculine	Plural seomraí	Genitive singular	seomra
siopa (shop):	Masculine	Plural siopaí	Genitive singular	siopa
teach (house):	Masculine	Plural tithe	Genitive singular	tí
urlár (floor):	Masculine	<u>Plural and</u>	Genitive singular	urláir
úll (apple):	Masculine	Plural úlla	Genitive singular	úill
bean (woman):	Feminine	<u>Plural and</u>	Genitive singular	mná
bróg (shoe, boot):	Feminine	Plural bróga	Genitive singular	bróige
cathair (city):	Feminine	Plural cathracha	Genitive singular	cathrach
cistin (kitchen):	Feminine	Plural cistineacha	Genitive singular	cistine
farraige (sea):	Feminine	Plural farraigí	Genitive singular	farraige
fuinneog (window):	Feminine	Plural fuinneoga	Genitive singular	fuinneog
leaba (bed):	Feminine	Plural leapacha	Genitive singular	leapa
litir (letter):	Feminine	Plural litreacha	Genitive singular	litreach
obair (work):	Feminine	Plural oibreacha	Genitive singular	oibre
pingin (penny):	Feminine	Plural pingíní	Genitive singular	pingine
páirc (park, field):	Feminine	Plural páirceanna	Genitive singular	páirce
reoiteog (ice-cream):	Feminine	Plural reoiteoga	Genitive singular	reoiteog
scoil (school):	Feminine	Plural scoileanna	Genitive singular	scoile
sráid (street):	Feminine	Plural sráideanna	Genitive singular	sráide
teilifís (television):	Feminine		Genitive singular	teilifíse
tine (fire):	Feminine	Plural tinte	Genitive singular	tine