

Welcome to lesson 9 of Progress in Irish by Máiréad Ní Ghráda.

Read the lesson on pages 12 & 13 of your book and listen to the audio file (Lesson09.mp3) which is available at www.philo-celtic.com/PII/Progress.htm

Homework:

Complete the 32 exercises in the "Cuir Gaeilge air seo" and "Revision" section on page 13 of the book and forward all 32 answers to me for evaluation. This will mean extra work on your part but the repetition will sow the seeds more firmly into your memory.

Grammar:

The future tense:

In lesson 1 we saw how to use the PRESENT tense of the irregular verb "bí ", namely "tá", and in lesson 8 we saw the PAST tense "bhí."

Lesson 9 introduces us to the FUTURE tense of this irregular verb, namely "beidh."

We construct our sentences in a similar way to that which we have used so far in this course:

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

Beidh + Nóra + ag féachaint ar an teilifís - Nóra will be looking at the television.

A statement is made NEGATIVE by placing "Ní " (which causes lenition) in front of the verb:

Ní + bheadh + Nóra + ag féachaint ar an teilifís - Nóra will not be looking at the television.

POSITIVE questions are asked by placing "An" (which causes eclipsis) in front of the verb:

An + mbeidh + Nóra + ag féachaint ar an teilifís? - Will Nóra be looking at the television?

You will notice in the list on page 12 that if the SUBJECT of the sentence is the 1st person plural, "we", it combines with the verb to form "beimid":

Beimid + ag féachaint ar an teilifís - We will be looking at the television.

Ní bheimid... - We will not be... An mbeimid...? - Will we be...?

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Days of the week:

In this week's lesson we see the Irish words for the days of the week. The words on page 12 are used as *adverbs* to state *when* something occurs, for example "on Wednesday", and you will notice that they all commence with "Dé." With the exception of the adverb for "Thursday", the word "Dé" is written separately and you will also notice that "Dé" causes the letter "h" to be prefixed to the vowel used in "Aoine" (Friday).

One of the features of written Irish is that a prefix letter, such as "h", is always written in lower case. You will therefore encounter many examples of an Irish word which begins with a lower case letter immediately followed by an upper case letter, such as "Dé hAoine." It is not a typographical error! A similar rule applies to all of the prefixes and to eclipsis.

Note that we do NOT write "Dé Haoine."

If the original noun has an upper case letter, that is retained even though we may use a prefix. To those students who are new to Irish this rule may appear strange as there is no comparison in English, but you will rapidly come to accept it as one of the beauties of the Irish language.

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Two extra nouns are used in this week's lesson. In keeping with the practice I initiated in lesson 8 I have shown them here together with their plural and genitive singular cases:

bliain (year): Feminine Plural "blianta." Genitive singular "bliana."
seachtain (week): Feminine Plural "seachtainí." Genitive singular "seachtaine"

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amárach (tomorrow), anocht (tonight), go luath (soon), ar ball (by and by, in a while), an bhliain seo chugainn (next year), an tseachtain seo chugainn (next week).

Note the construction of the last two adverbs in the above list. They are formed by using: [definite article] + [noun] + ["seo"] + [prepositional pronoun "chugainn"]

Here again we see the effect of the *definite article* on a following noun. The Irish noun for "year" is "bliain" and this is a feminine noun so we see lenition.

The Irish noun for "week" is "seachtain", again a feminine noun, and we see prefix "t" being used following the definite article.

Although it is not directly illustrated in this week's lesson, the first part of this construction, i.e. [def, art.] + [noun] + [seo], is how we say "this X" in Irish, so "an + tseachtain + seo" = "this week."

We can use this construction with most nouns to talk about "this X". For example, an fear seo - this man, an bhean seo - this woman.

The prepositional pronoun "chugainn" means "to us" or "towards us" so we can literally translate the last two adverbs in the above list as "this year towards us" and "this week towards us" These adverbs in this week's lesson are used in a similar way to the others we have previously covered and add more information about the time at which an event will occur, using the construction: [verb] + [subject] + [remainder of sentence] + [adverb] Beidh + Nóra + ag féachaint ar an teilifís + anocht - Nóra will be looking at the television tonight.