

[philoprogress1-15b] PII Lesson 13 Assignments and Grammar
Welcome to lesson 13 of Progress in Irish by Máiréad Ní Ghráda.

Read the lesson on pages 18 & 19 of your book and listen to the audio file (Lesson13.mp3) which is available at www.philo-celtic.com/PII/Progress.htm

Homework:

Complete the eighteen exercises in the "Cuir Gaeilge air seo" sections on pages 18 & 19 of the book. You should also complete A, B and C on page 19 and include that in your Homework.

Any questions on this or previous lessons, just ask.

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Grammar:

The Past Tense:

Originally, the past tense of a verb was formed by placing "do", which causes lenition, in front of the stem of the verb.

In modern Irish, however, this "do" is now omitted if the verb begins with a consonant although we still use the lenition. We saw in lesson 8, for example, that the verb "bí" becomes "bhí" in the past tense. The letter "h" in "bhí" is caused by the word "do" being originally placed in front of the verb to indicate the past tense. You may still encounter the construction "do bhí" in some older texts. "Do" is abbreviated to "D'" if the verb begins with a vowel or f+vowel.

Page 18 lists 3 verbs belonging to the 1st conjugation:

Cuir (put) - This is the stem of the verb. Chuir mé - I put. Past tense

Tóg (take, build) Thóg mé - I took, I built.

Ól (drink) D'ól mé - I drank

The subject is shown separately, except in the case of the first person plural ("we") when it combines with the verb: chuir mé (tú, sé, sí, sibh, siad, Nóra) - I (you, he, she, you, they, Nóra) put, chuireamar - we put. D'ól mé (tú, sé, sí, sibh, siad, Nóra) - I (you, he, she, you, they, Nóra) drank, D'ólamar - We drank.

A positive question in the past tense is formed by placing "Ar" in front of the verb and removing the "d'" if it begins with a vowel: Ar chuir tú? - Did you put? Ar ól tú? - Did you drink?

A negative statement is made in the past tense by placing "Níor" in front of the verb and removing the "d'" if it begins with a vowel:

Níor chuir tú - You did not put, Níor ól tú - You did not drink. "Ar" and "Níor" are used in the past tense with ALL regular verbs.

Remember that they remove the "d'" from those beginning with a vowel.

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nigh (washed), léigh (read): These two verbs belong to the 1st conjugation but both begin with a consonant that cannot be lenited ("N" and "L"):

Nigh mé (tú, etc.) - I (you, etc.) washed, Níomar - We washed, Ar nigh sé? - Did he wash? Níor nigh sé - He did not wash.

Léigh mé (tú, etc.) - I (you, etc.) read, Léamar - We read, Ar léigh sé? - Did he read? Níor léigh sé - He did not read.

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d'Éirigh (got up, rose): This is the past tense of the 2nd conjugation verb "Éirigh." Because the verb begins with a vowel, we place "D'" in front of it to form the past tense as we did with the other verbs above. Similarly, the subject is shown separately, except in the case of the first person plural where it combines with the verb: D'Éirigh mé (tú, etc.) - I (you, etc.) rose, D'Éiríomar - We rose, Ar éirigh sé? - Did he rise? Níor éirigh sé - He did not rise.

To summarise this section dealing with regular verbs in the past tense:
(a) Lenite the initial consonant of the stem, or use "d' " in front of a vowel,

(b) Use "Níor" in front of the verb to make a negative statement, remove "D'" from those verbs beginning with a vowel, and

(c) Use "Ar" to ask a positive question, removing "D'" from those verbs beginning with a vowel.

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Irregular verbs in the past tense:

Page 19 lists 4 irregular verbs, shown in the past tense. From these you can see why they are called irregular - they do not follow the "normal" rules and change completely from what you would expect to see when putting a verb into the past tense as demonstrated above.

Abair (say): Dúirt mé (tú, etc.) - I (you, etc.) said, Dúramar - We said.

Déan (do, make): Rinne mé (tú, etc.) - I (you, etc.) did, I (you, etc.) made, Rinneamar - We did, we made.

Téigh (go): Chuaigh mé (tú, etc.) - I (you, etc.) went, Chuamar - We went.

Tar (come): Tháinig mé (tú, etc.) - I (you, etc.) came, Tháingamar - We came.

These are the forms of the verb used in POSITIVE STATEMENTS. In later lessons we will see how to form negative statements and also how to form positive and negative questions using these irregular verbs.