

Buntús na Gaeilge

Irish for Adult Learners

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Textbook for Celtic 133r: Intermediate Modern Irish

Harvard 2005

[for class use and private circulation only]

Buntús na Gaeilge

Cuid a Dó

*I d'óige oscail do mheabhair
is bailigh an fhoghlaim leat.*

'Open your mind while you are young
and gather learning as you go.'

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1

CEAHT A HAON TUAIRMÍ (*INDIRECT SPEECH AND OPINIONS*)

FOCLÓIR

ábhar, m	subject
agus nach mbeidh fonn uirthi	so that she won't want
ba cheart domh	I should
b'fhéidir	maybe
bhuel	well
bialann, f	restaurant
ceapaim	I think
cé go...	although
cinnte	certain
cionn 's go	because
creidim	I think, I believe
dar liom	it seems to me
dea-scéala	good news
ag déanamh staidéir ar	studying
is dóigh liom	I think
falsa	lazy
fiú	even; worth
tá fonn orm	I want to
geallaim	I promise
an Ghréig	Greece
litir, f	letter
measaim	I think, I reckon
obair, f	work
oifig, f	office
scoláireacht, f	scholarship; here: studentship, grant
seandálaíocht, f	archaeology
sílim	I think
tá slaghdán orm	I have a cold
tá súil agam	I hope
tá suim agam i...	I am interested in...
suimiúil	interesting
tábhachtach	important
taitníonn le	pleases
tarlaíonn	happens
thall ansin	over there
tuirseach	tired

COMHRÁ

Pádraigín and Síle are chatting after class.

Pádraigín: A Shíle, ar chuala tú go bhfuair Máirín scoláireacht a dhul go dtí an Ghréig?

Síle: Chuala. Nach dea-scéala é sin? Sílim go mbeidh sí ag déanamh staidéir ar an seandálaíocht thall ansin.

Pádraigín: Is dócha é. Tá a fhios agam go bhfuil suim mhór aici san ábhar sin.

Síle: Tá mé cinnte go dtiocfaidh sí ar ais le cuid mhór scéalta.

Pádraigín: Tá súil agam. B'fhéidir go dtaitneoidh an tír sin chomh mór léi agus nach mbeidh fonn uirthi teacht abhaile!

Síle: Ní dóigh liom go dtarlóidh sin! Tá buachaill aici anseo.

Pádraigín: O bhuel, feicfidh muid arís í mar sin.

AN CEACHT GRAMADAÍ

Syntax: From Simple To Complex Sentences

In the next three lessons we shall learn how to join clauses together to produce more complex sentences. In this lesson, we learn how to report speech and express opinions.

§1. Insint Neamhdhíreach agus Tuairimí (Indirect Speech and Opinions)

§1.1. Indirect Speech

Present Tense

If direct speech is reported as indirect speech, we use the conjunctions *go* 'that' or *nach* 'that ... not,' followed by the **eclipsed dependent verb**:

Liam: `Téim amach go minic'	> Deir Liam go dtéann sé amach go minic
`Níl airgead agam'	> Deir sé nach bhfuil airgead aige
`Beidh béile deas agam inniu.'	> Deir sé go mbeidh béile deas aige inniu.

Past Tense

In the past tense, *go* becomes *gur*, *nach* becomes *nár*, and the dependent verb is lenited:

Síle: `D'ól mé cupán tae'	> Dúirt Síle gur ól sí cupán tae
`Níor bhris mé an fhuinneog'	> Dúirt sí nár bhris sí an fhuinneog.

Remember that some irregular verbs take *go / nach* rather than *gur / nár* in the past tense:

Seán: `Chuaigh mé abhaile'	> Dúirt Seán go ndeachaigh sé abhaile
`Níl mé go dona inniu'	> Dúirt sé nach raibh sé go dona
`Rinne mé m'obair bhaile'	> Dúirt sé go ndearna sé a obair bhaile
`Ní bhfuair mé mo bhricfeasta'	> Dúirt sé nach bhfuair sé a bhricfeasta.

§1.2. Tuairimí (Opinions)

The same construction is used also with all phrases expressing opinion etc:

Síleann sí go bhfuil an cóta daor.	She thinks that the coat is expensive.
Ceapaim féin nach bhfuil sé ródhaor.	I myself don't think (that) it's too expensive.
Chreid mé go raibh an bia fíor-bhlasta.	I thought (that) the food was really delicious.

ceapaim go / nach	<i>I think that</i>
creidim go / nach	<i>I think / believe that</i>
sílim go / nach	<i>I think that</i>
measaim go / nach	<i>I reckon / think that</i>
deirim go / nach	<i>I'd say that</i>
tá mé ag déanamh go / nach	<i>I think that</i>
is dóigh liom go / nach	<i>I think that</i>
is dócha go / nach	<i>it is likely that</i>
dar liom go / nach	<i>it seems to me that</i>
tuigim go / nach	<i>I understand that</i>
bífhéidir go / nach	<i>it is possible that</i>
caithfidh go / nach	<i>it must be that</i>
geallaim go / nach	<i>I promise</i>
aontaím (le...) go / nach	<i>I agree (with ...) that</i>
tá súil agam go / nach	<i>I hope that</i>
tá eagla orm go / nach	<i>I'm afraid that</i>
tá mé cinnte go / nach	<i>I'm sure that</i>

§2. Cónaisc (Conjunctions)

The conjunctions *agus* 'and', *ach* 'but' and *mar* 'because' join two independent clauses, each ruled by an independent verb:

Tá mé tuirseach. Tá mé tinn.	I am tired. I am sick.
Tá mé tuirseach <i>agus</i> tá mé tinn.	I am tired and I am sick.
Tá mé tuirseach <i>ach</i> níl me tinn.	I am tired but I am not sick.
Tá me tuirseach <i>mar</i> tá mé tinn. ¹	I am tired because I am sick.

¹ *Mar* may also be followed by a subordinate clause and take a dependent verb: *Tá mé tuirseach mar go bhfuil mé tinn* (Ó Siadhail 1989), 268.

Most other conjunctions involve a subordinate construction, usually with the conjunctive particle *go* followed by the dependent form of the verb:

Níl mé tinn *cé go bhfuil* mé tuirseach. I am not sick although I am tired.
Tá mé tuirseach *cionn 's go bhfuil* mé tinn. I am tired because I am sick.

§3. The Verbal Noun of Necessity (preposition *le* + verbal noun)

The preposition *le*, followed by a verbal noun, is used to express purpose or necessity:

tá obair le déanamh there is work to do/to be done
tá scéalta le hinsint there are stories to be told.

Agency is expressed by the preposition *ag*:

An raibh greim bia le hithe agat? Did you have a bite to eat?

CEACHTANNA

1. Indirect Speech

1. Tá sí tuirseach. (The woman says that...)
2. Ní bhfuair sí aon chodladh aréir. (She says that...)
3. Bhí a leanbh beag ag caoineadh ar feadh na hoíche. (She says that...)
4. Chuaigh an leanbh a chodladh ar maidin. (She says that...)
5. Rinne sí cupán caife láidir di féin. (She says that...)
6. Beidh laethanta saoire aige go luath. (The student says that...)
7. Rachaidh sé go dtí an Fhrainc. (He says that...)
8. Éireoidh sé go luath maidin amárach agus ceannóidh sé ticéad. (He says that... and that...)
9. Gheobhaidh sé lóistín saor. (He says that...)
10. Tiocfaidh a chailín leis. (He says that...)

2. Tuairimí

a) Express the following statements as your opinion:

1. Tá an leabhar sin go hiontach. (Creidim... 'I believe that that book is great')
2. Bhí an obair bhaile seo crua. (Ceapaim...)
3. Bíonn Seán ag caitheamh toitíní. (Sílim...)
4. Tá Fraincis mhaith aige. (Deirim...)
5. Glacann Áine siúcra sa tae. (Ceapaim...)

b) Now turn them into negatives (Creidim... 'I believe that that book is not great').

3. Tuairimí: Cuir Gaeilge air seo:

1. Tá an leanbh ina chodladh. (I believe that...)

INDIRECT SPEECH AND OPINIONS

2. Tháinig sé abhaile. (I think that...)
3. D'fhoscail sí an fhuinneog. (It must be that...)
4. Níor bhris sí an cupán. (Maybe...)
5. Beidh mé mall don rang. (I'm afraid that...*tá eagla orm go*)
6. Ní bhíonn sé ag teacht ro-mhínic (I'd say/I think that...)
7. Tiocfaidh mo chara ar cuairt (I hope that...)
8. Chonaic sí an scannán. (It is likely that...)
9. Níor ól sé mórán. (I believe that...)
10. Chuaigh sé go dtí an phictiúrlann. (I think/am of the opinion that...)

4. Conjunctions

1. The doctor came because I was sick. (both options)
2. The boy is nice although he is a little lazy.
3. He stayed at home because he was sick. (both options)
4. I went to school even though I had a cold.
5. He came to the pub, but he did not see her that night.

5. Verbal Noun of Necessity

1. Do you have home work to do?
2. There was no one to be seen.
3. To be learned.
4. Is the house to be sold? (*díol*)
5. Did you have a(ny)thing to eat?
6. I have to tell you a story.

6. Cuir Gaeilge air seo:

1. He said that he went home at six o'clock, but I think he stayed in the office until (*go dtí*) eight o'clock.
2. Although they were tired, they finished the work.
3. My sister says that this movie is very interesting.
4. I think it is an important book.
5. I don't think he will listen to me.
6. They told us they didn't get the letter.
7. He hopes she won't be angry.
8. They didn't know he was sick.
9. I hope he'll call me tonight.
10. I heard that this restaurant is not very good.

Project:

You are telling a friend about a lecture or story you heard, or a book you read. Say, in indirect discourse, what you heard/read, and express your own opinions about it.

TEANGA IS CULTÚR

Casfhocail

Tá neascóid ar ioscaid an easpaig;
ach níl a fhios ag an easpaig
go bhfuil neascóid ar a ioscaid.

There's a boil in the hollow of the bishop's knee
but the bishop doesn't know
that there's a boil in the hollow of his knee.

Dúirt bean liom
go ndúirt bean léi
go bhfaca sí bean
a chonaic bean
a rinne leann de phrátaí.
(CC #196)

A woman told me
that a woman told her
that she saw a woman
who saw a woman
make beer from potatoes.

Dúirt bean le mo bheansa
gur chuala sí bean ag rá
le bean as Baile an Dúlaigh
agus bean as Ceathrú an Bhrúnaigh
gur bean as Baile na Cúirte
a dúirt é.
(CC #194)

A woman told my wife
that she heard a woman say
to a woman from Baile an Dúlaigh
and a woman from Ceathrú an Bhrúnaigh
that it was a woman from Baile na Cúirte
who said it.

Lá Fhéile Bríde (St Brigid's Day, 2/1)

Ráithí Fírinneacha na Bliana / The True Quarters of the Year

(Lúnasa 8/1; Samhain 11/1; Lá Fhéile Bríde 2/1; Bealtaine 5/1)

Ráithe ó Lúnasa go Samhain

A quarter from Lúnasa to Samhain

Ráithe ó Shamhain go Lá Fhéile Bríde

A quarter from Samhain to St Brigid's Day

Ráithe ó Lá Fhéile Bríde go Bealtaine

A quarter from St Brigid's Day to Bealtaine

Ráithe ó Bhealtaine go Lúnasa

A quarter from Bealtaine to Lúnasa.

(LSÍC, 353)

Naomh Bríd

Ar an chéad lá d'Earrach, is é sin an chéad lá d'Fheabhra, atá Lá Fhéile Bríde. Dar le scoláirí éagsúla gur duine stairiúil Naomh Bríd, agus dar le scoláirí eile gur bandia í go bunúsach. Mhair Bríd sa chúigiú haois. Níor phós sí: bhí sí ina bean rialta. Bhí mainistir aici i gCill Dara. De réir na scéalta, bhí sí an-mhaith do na bochta. Tugann na daoine 'Muire na nGael' ar Naomh Bríd. Seo ceann de na scéalta faoi Bhríd:

Lá amháin tháinig scaifte de dhaoine bochta chuig Bríd agus ocras mór orthu, ach ní raibh bia ar bith aici. Bhí fear ag teacht agus mála mór aige, agus d'iarr Bríd arán air, ach lig seisean air nach raibh arán ar bith sa mhála ach clocha. Bhí fearg mhór ar Bhríd, agus rinne sí clocha den arán.

Tháinig náire ar an fhear ansin. Bhí brón air agus d'iarr sé maithiúnas ar Bhríd. Mhaith sise dó é, agus rinne sí arán de na clocha arís, agus thug an fear do na bochta é.

Lá Fhéile Bríde déanann daoine – crosóga Bhríde' de luachair ina honóir. Bíonn daoine ag imeacht le 'Brídeog' ó theach go teach – babóg atá inti atá déanta de phíosa éadaigh . Bíonn daoine ag caitheamh éadaí tuí – caipín agus veist tuí agus crios tuí. Bíonn siad ag rá amhrán agus iad ag iarraidh airgid nó milseán. Seo cúpla rann a deir siad:

Seo í Naomh Bríd is í gléasta go breá;
Tabhair di rud éigin in onóir don lá.
(CC #244)

Crios Bríde mo chríos,
Crios na dtrí geros,
Éirigh suas, a bhean an tí,
Agus téirigh tríd an chríos,
Go mba sheacht fearr a bheas sé
bliain ó anocht!
(CC #246)

Seanfhocal: Leath Tine agus Leath Bia

'Leath tine agus leath bia Lá Fhéile Bríde.' Bíonn leath na móna dóite agat, agus leath an bhia ite.
(LSÍC, 358)

Amhrán: Gabhaim Molta Bríde

Gabhaim molta Bríde
Ionmhain í le hÉirinn
Ionmhain le gach tír í
Molaimis go léir í.

I praise Bridget
Beloved of Ireland
Beloved of all lands
Let us all praise her.

Lóchrann geal na Laighneach
Ag soilsiú feadh na tíre
Ceann ar óghaibh Éireann
Ceann na mban ar míne.

The bright torch of Leinster
Shining throughout the land
The pride of all Irish women
The pride of women for gentleness.

Tig an geimhreadh dian dubh
Ag gearradh lena ghéire
Ach ar Lá 'le Bríde
Gar dúinn earrach Éireann.

The hard dark winter comes
Cutting with its severity
But on St Bridget's Day
The Irish spring is nearby.

Foclóir

naomh	saint
dar le x	x thinks

CEACHT A HAON / LESSON ONE

éagsúil	certain, some
bandia	goddess
bean rialta	nun
sa chúigiú haois	in the fifth century
mainistir	monastery
Cill Dara	Kildare
de réir	according to
Muire na nGael	Mary of the Gaels
scaifte	crowd
iarraidh ar	to ask for
lig sé air	he let on, he pretended
mhaith sí dó é	she forgave him for it
crosóga Bhríde	St Bridget's crosses
luachair	rushes
déanta de	made of
brídeog	St Bridget doll
babóg	doll
ag imeacht le brídeog	procession from door to door with St Bridget doll
éadaí tuí	garments of straw
caipín tuí	straw cap
crios tuí	straw belt
veist tuí	straw vest
gléasta	dressed up
téirigh = téigh	go
an mhóin, leath na móna	the peat, half the peat

2

CEACHT A DÓ

AN CHOPAIL IS NA HÚIMHREACHA (*COPULA AND NUMBERS*)

FOCLÓIR

ainmhí, m, pl ainmhithe	animal
aois, f	age
briosca, m, pl brioscaí	cookies
buidéal, m	bottle
cáis, f	cheese
cá mhéad? ^U	how much/how many
ceart	right, proper
cent	cent
cileagram (an cileagram <i>per kilogram</i>)	kilogram
cóir	fitting, proper
crua	hard
cuairt, f; ~ a thabhairt ar x	visit; to pay x a visit
cuid mhór	a lot
déan deifir!	hurry up!
dosaen (an dosaen <i>per dozen</i>)	dozen
dúil a bheith ag duine i rud	to like something
euro	euro
fan ... gus rachaidh mé leat	wait until I go with you
folamh	empty
glasraí (<i>pl of glasra</i> , m)	vegetables
gloine, f	glass
gnáthcheann, m	regular kind
gnó, m; pl gnaithe ^U	business
déanfaidh sé gnaithe	it will do
go leith	and a half
iasc, m; pl éisc	fish
im, m	butter
a lán	great deal, many, much
leor (<i>usually preceded by go</i>)	enough
lítear, m (an lítear <i>per litre</i>)	litre
mair, ag maireachtáil	to last, to live
oraíste, m, pl oraistí	orange
pionta, m (an pionta <i>per pint</i>)	pint
pingin, m [pi:N]	penny
punt, m	pound
plúr, m	flour
pós, ag pósadh	marry
rís, f	rice

CEACHT A DÓ / LESSON TWO

salann, m	salt
siopadóir, m	shopkeeper
siúcra, m	sugar
sparán, m	purse
spíosraí (<i>pl of spíosra</i> , m)	spices
teacht ar cuairt	coming for a visit, visiting
thart fá ^U	approximately
tiomáin, ag tiomáint	to drive
torthaí (<i>pl of toradh</i> , m)	fruits
toirtín ^U úll	apple pie
uachtar reoite, m	ice cream

COMHRÁ

Pádraigín and Síle are going shopping for groceries.

Pádraigín: A Shíle, tá mé ag dul go dtí an siopa. An bhfuil rud ar bith de dhith ort?

Síle: Tá. Fan bomaite gus rachaidh mé leat. Tá mo dheirfiúr agus a clann ag teacht ar cuairt Dé Sathairn, agus ba mhaith liom toirtín úll a dhéanamh dóibh.

Pádraigín: Cá mhéad páiste atá ag do dheirfiúr?

Síle: Tá triúr páistí aici: beirt mhac agus iníon.

Pádraigín: Cén aois atá siad?

Síle: Tá Séamus seacht mbliana d'aois, tá Caitlín cúig bliana d'aois, agus tá Donncha ina leanbh beag sé mhí d'aois.

Pádraigín: Seacht mbliana d'aois! Cén aois atá do dheirfiúr féin?

Síle: Tá sí óg go leor. Níl sí ach sé bliana is fiche d'aois. Tá mo dheartháir trí bliana is fiche, agus tá mé féin bliain is fiche.

(Sa siopa)

Síle: Anois, caithfidh mé go leor rudaí a fháil. Tá mé ag iarraidh thart fá sheacht n-úll, mála siúcra, agus dhá bhuidéal bainne.

Pádraigín: An fearr leat lítear nó pionta bainne?

Síle: Dhá pionta, le do thoil. Tá plúr agus im againn sa bhaile, nach bhfuil?

Pádraigín: Tá plúr againn ceart go leor, ach níl mé cinnte faoin im.

Síle: Gheobhaidh mé im fosta mar sin. – Gabh mo leithscéal. Cá mhéad atá ar na húlra?

Siopadóir: Dhá euro go leith an cileagram.

Síle: Gheobhaidh mé dhá chileagram, le do thoil. – Go raibh maith agat. Agus cá mhéad atá ar na horáistí?

Siopadóir: Leatheuro an ceann - níl siad saor.

Síle: Níl. Tá siad beagán ródhaor.

Pádraigín: Amharc, a Shíle, tá uachtar reoite Häagen-Dazs acu anseo!

Síle: Tá dúil mhór agam san uachtar reoite sin! Tá sé an-bhlasta, agus réitíonn sé go maith leis an toirtín úll. Cá mhéad atá air?

Pádraigín: Cúig euro atá air.

Síle: Dia ár sábháil! Cúig euro an pionta!! Bhuel ní bhfaighidh muid Häagen-Dazs inniu, is dócha. Déanfaidh an gnáthcheann gnaithe.

AN CEACHT GRAMADAÍ

§1. An Chopail (The Copula: Past and Conditional)

There is only one form for the past tense and the conditional of the copula:

Ba mhaith liom an leabhar I liked the book / I would like the book.

Usually the context helps to disambiguate:

Ba dheas an fear é, beannacht Dé lena anam!	He was a nice man, God rest his soul!
Ba mhúinteoir é sa scoil seo.	He was a teacher in this school.
Ba mhaith liom pionta Guinness, le do thoil.	I would like a pint of Guinness, please.

Ba becomes *b'* before a vowel or a lenited 'f,' except before the pronouns *é*, *í* and *iad*. The negative copula *níor*, and the interrogative and negative interrogative forms of the copula *ar* and *nár*, have special forms before a vowel/lenited 'f.' **All cause lenition:**

ba	ba mhaith	b'fhearr	ba é	<i>was/would be</i>
níor	níor mhaith	níorbh fhearr	níorbh é	<i>wasn't/wouldn't be</i>

ar	ar mhaith	arbh fhearr	arbh é	<i>was? would be?</i>
nár	nár mhaith	nárbh fhearr	nárbh é	<i>wasn't? wouldn't be?</i>
gur	gur mhaith	gurbh fhearr	gurbh é	<i>that was/that would be</i>
nár	nár mhaith	nárbh fhearr	nárbh é	<i>that wasn't/that wouldn't be</i>

§2. Na Briathra Cúnta agus an tAinm Briathartha (Auxiliary Verbs and the Verbal Noun)

§2.1. The conditional of the copula occurs frequently in polite requests:

Ar mhaith leat cupán tae?	Would you like a cup of tea?
Ba mhaith, go raibh maith agat.	Yes, thank you.

ba chóir dom ...	I should
ba cheart dom	I should
b'fhearr liom ...	I'd prefer
ba bhreá liom ...	I'd love
ba ghnách liom ...	I used to
ar mhiste leat?	would you mind?

§2.2. Note the following ways of saying 'I must' and 'I can':

caithfidh mé ...	I must
tá orm ...	I must
thig liom ...	I can
is féidir liom ...	I can
tá mé ábalta ...	I can

§2.3. Modal Auxiliaries and the Verbal Noun

These and similar auxiliary verbs may be followed by a verbal noun and an **indirect** object:

caithfidh mé rith	I must run
ba chóir dom imeacht	I should leave
ba cheart dom fanacht	I should stay
d'iarr sí orm fanacht léi	she asked me to wait for her
b'fhearr liom fanacht le mo mháthair	I'd prefer waiting for my mother
ba mhaith liom caint leat	I'd like to talk to you
ba ghnách liom rith go dtí an scoil	I used to run to school
is féidir liom labhairt as Béarla	I can talk in English
ar mhiste leat tiomáint?	would you mind driving?
tá mé ábalta tiomaint	I am able to drive.

If one wants to negate a statement, one can add *gan* 'without' before the verbal noun:

B'fhearr liom gan labhairt leis	I'd prefer not to talk to him.
---------------------------------	--------------------------------

§2.4. Verb-Subject Inversion after the Modal Auxiliary

If the verbal noun in such a subordinate clause has a **direct** object, however, the syntax changes. The direct object is placed **before** the verbal noun, followed by the particle *a*² which lenites the verbal noun:

caithfidh mé	an obair	a dhéanamh
[I must]	[the work]	[to do]

ba chóir dom an obair a dhéanamh	I should do the work
b'fhéarr liom an litir a scríobh anois	I'd prefer writing the letter now
ba mhaith liom Gaeilge a labhairt	I would like to speak Irish
ba ghnách liom arán a dhéanamh sa bhaile	I used to make bread at home
is féidir liom Fraincis a labhairt	I can speak French
tá mé ábalta carr a thiomáint	I am able to drive a car
dúirt sé liom an obair a dhéanamh	he told me to do the work.

§3. Na hUimhreacha (Numbers)

Like most languages, Irish has different sets for cardinal numbers (one, two, three...) and ordinal numbers (first, second, third...). In addition, Irish has different subsets of cardinal numbers: a set of independent numbers (one, two, three...), a set used to count objects (one book, two books), and a set for counting people (two men; three people).

§3.1. Independent Numerals

The numbers 1-19 are preceded by the particle *a*; there is **no particle** before 0 nor before the decimal numbers 20, 30, 40, ... or before 100, 1,000, 1,000,000:

a cúig	five
fiche	twenty
caoga	fifty
céad	hundred

0 neamhní ^U	11 a haon déag	22 fiche a dó	50 caoga
1 a haon	12 a dó dhéag	23 fiche a trí	60 seasca
2 a dó	13 a trí déag	24 fiche a ceathair	70 seachtó
3 a trí	14 a ceathair déag	25 fiche a cúig	80 ochtó
4 a ceathair	15 a cúig déag	26 fiche a sé	90 nócha
5 a cúig	16 a sé déag	27 fiche a seacht	100 céad
6 a sé	17 a seacht déag	28 fiche a hocht	200 dhá chéad
7 a seacht	18 a hocht déag	29 fiche a naoi	1.000 míle
8 a hocht	19 a naoi déag	30 tríocha	
9 a naoi	20 fiche	40 daichead /	
10 a deich	21 fiche a haon	ceathracha	

² A lenited and unstressed form of the preposition *do* 'to'; cf. English 'to do.'

§3.2. Ordinal Numbers

As in most languages, the words for 'first' (*an chéad*) and 'second' (*an dara*) have special forms, all the others are regular: they are formed by adding *-ú* to the cardinal number. The ordinal number is followed by the singular noun; it does not lenite the noun (except for *an/na chéad*), but it does prefix *h* to nouns beginning with a vowel. Note that slender numerals add *-iú* rather than *-ú*, that *ceathair* becomes syncopated to *ceathrú*, and that *naoi* loses an *i* (*naoiú*). Also note the special forms for 11th and 12th:

an chéad chapall	an chéad asal
an dara capall	an dara hasal
an tríú capall	an tríú hasal
an ceathrú capall	an ceathrú hasal
an cúigiú capall	an cúigiú hasal
an séú capall	an séú hasal
an seachtú capall	an seachtú hasal
an t-ochtú capall	an t-ochtú hasal
an naoú capall	an naoú hasal
an deichiú capall	an deichiú hasal
an t- aonú capall déag	an t- aonú hasal déag
an dóú/dara capall déag	an dóú/dara hasal déag
an tríú capall déag...	an tríú hasal déag...
an fichiú capall	an fichiú hasal
an t- aonú capall is fiche	an t- aonú h -hasal is fiche

The decimal numbers are as follows: *an tríochadú*; *an daicheadú*; *an caogadú*; *an seascadú*; *an seachtódú*; *an t-ochtódú*; *an nóchadú*; *an céadú*; *an míliú*; *an milliúnú*.

An chéad / *na chéad* lenite the following noun (except nouns beginning with *d/t/s*):

an chéad chapall	`the first horse'
an chéad doras	`the first door'

Note that in combination with *eile* 'other,' *an chéad* is used to express 'the next':

an chéad mhí eile	`the next month'
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§3.2.1 Months and Dates

§3.2.1.1 Na Míonna (The Months)

The months, particularly those that are borrowed from Latin, are generally used without the article; some months, particularly those with a native derivation, tend to use the article, at least when preceded by *mí* 'month':

Eanáir, m	<i>January</i>	mí Eanáir ³
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³ *Mí Eanáir* means 'the month of May,' and the name of the month is thus in the genitive case (see Ceacht a Cúig), which is why this form in some cases has a different ending, or why the form of the article differs, or why there is a lenition after the article.

THE COPULA / MODAL AUXILIARIES

Feabhra, f	<i>February</i>	mí Feabhra
Márta, m	<i>March</i>	mí an Mhárta
Aibreán, m	<i>April</i>	mí Aibreáin
Bealtaine, f	<i>May</i>	mí na Bealtaine
Meitheamh, m	<i>June</i>	mí an Mheithimh
Iúil, m	<i>July</i>	mí Iúil
Lúnasa, m	<i>August</i>	mí Lúnasa
Meán Fomhair, m	<i>September</i>	mí Mheán Fomhair
Deireadh Fomhair, m	<i>October</i>	mí Dheireadh Fomhair
Samhain, f	<i>November</i>	mí na Samhna
Nollaig, f	<i>December</i>	mí na Nollag

§3.2.1.2 Dátáí (Dates)

In dates, one can either use either the month on its own, or preceded by *mí*:

an chéad lá de Mheitheamh	<i>the first day of June</i>
an chéad lá de mhí an Mheithimh	<i>the first day of June</i>

Note that, unlike in English, the word *lá* is NOT optional in dates (*an tríú **lá** de mhí Iúil*):

an chéad lá de mhí Eanáir, *or* an chéad lá d'Eanáir
 an dara lá de mhí na Feabhra
 an tríú lá de mhí Mhárta
 an ceathrú lá de mhí Aibreáin
 an cúigiú lá de mhí na Bealtaine
 an séú lá de mhí an Mheithimh
 an seachtú lá de mhí Iúil
 an t-ochtú lá de mhí Lúnasa
 an naoú lá de mhí Mheán Fomhair
 an deichiú lá de mhí Dheireadh Fomhair
 an t-**aonú** lá déag de mhí na Samhna
 an **dara/dóu** lá déag de mhí na Nollag
 an fichiú lá
 an t-aonú lá is fiche (*or* an t-aonú lá **fichead** *or* an fiche is a haonú lá)
 an **dara/dóu** lá is fiche (*or* an dóu lá **fichead** *or* an fiche is a dóu lá)
 an tríochadú lá

In *writing* dates such as 1st January, 2nd February, the simple numeral tends to be used, followed by the nominative form of the month: 1 Eanáir, 2 Feabhra. In formal contexts, the ordinal is represented by a superscript ^ú: an 4^ú lá de Bhealtaine.

Years, Decades and Centuries

As in English, the 'hundred' in dates such as nineteen **hundred** sixteen is often omitted:

CEACHT A DÓ / LESSON TWO

1916	míle naoi gcéad sé déag naoi déag sé déag	nineteen hundred sixteen nineteen sixteen
------	--	--

BC	Roimh Chríost		
AD	d'aois an Tiarna		
1000 AD	míle bliain d'aois an Tiarna		
in 1000 AD	sa bhliain míle d'aois an Tiarna		
in 1066	sa bhliain míle seasca a sé		
in 432 AD	sa bhliain ceithre chéad tríocha a dó d'aois an Tiarna		
8C	an t-ochtú haois	in the 8C	san ochtú haois
19C	an naoú haois déag	in the 19C	sa naoú haois déag
20C	an fichiú haois	in the 20C	san fhichiú haois
the '20's	na fichidí	in the '20's	sna fichidí

Decades: na tríochaidí; na daichidí; na caogaidí; na seachtóidí; na hochtóidí; na nóchaidí.

Cad é an lá / an dáta atá ann inniu?

1/16/1986	Inniu an séú lá déag de mhí Eanáir, naoi déag (<i>or</i> : míle naoi gcéad) ochtó a sé
4/1/2002	Inniu an chéad lá d'Aibreán, dhá mhíle a dó.

Cá huair a tharla sin?

7/3/1999	Tharla sin ar an tríú lá d'Iúil, naoi déag (<i>or</i> : míle naoi gcéad) nócha a naoi.
5/4/1960	Tharla sé ar an cheathrú lá de mhí na Bealtaine, naoi déag seasca.

§3.3. Counting Things Over 10

In compound numbers (numbers made up of two or more numbers, such as *trí déag* etc), the thing to be counted is inserted into the compound number, and is mutated by the numeral preceding it. '25 cows' becomes '5 cows and twenty,' *cúig bhó is fiche*.

Note that in the cardinal numbers 11-19, *déag* is lenited after nouns ending in a vowel, but not after nouns ending in a consonant:

aon chóta dh éag	eleven coats
aon chapall déag	eleven horses.

Decimal numbers, such as 20, 30 etc, and 100, 1000, and 1,000,000 do not mutate the following noun:

céad / míle / milliún capall a hundred / a thousand / a million horses.

In composite numbers, the largest figure comes first, followed by the decade and single digit number if over 20, and followed by the single digit (and the teens) if below 20:

céad is fiche capall 120 horses

trí chéad is tríocha bó 330 cows
 míle is aon chapall déag 1011 horses

§3.3.1 There is a handful of commonly used words which take a special plural form with the numerals **between 3-10**:

ceann	-> cinn	ones (literally `heads')
bliain	-> bliana	years (normal plural <i>blianta</i>)
uair	-> uaire	hours, times (normal plural <i>uaireanta</i>)
fiche	-> fichid	twenties (normal plural <i>fichidí</i>)
pingin	-> pingine ⁴	pence (normal plural <i>pinginí</i>)

These nouns are **not lenited** by the numerals 3-6, but are **eclipsed** by numerals 7-10. Note that in this case the numerals from 3 to 6 classify as `little words that neither lenite nor eclipse' and hence they prefix *h-* to words beginning with a vowel:⁵

trí cinn	trí h uaire
ceithre cinn	ceithre h uaire
cúig cinn	cúig h uaire
sé cinn	sé h uaire
seacht g cinn	seacht n -uaire
ocht g cinn	ocht n -uaire
naoi g cinn	naoi n -uaire
deich g cinn	deich n -uaire

Note that decimal numbers over 10, i.e. 20 and upwards, take the singular:

fiche bliain ar fás twenty years a-growing.

Cad é an / Cén aois atá sí?	How old is she?
She is one year old	Tá sí bliain d'aois
... dhá bhliain d'aois	... two years old
... trí bliana d'aois	... three years old
... seacht mbliana d'aois	... seven years old
... aon bhliain déag d'aois	... eleven years old
... dhá bhliain déag d'aois	... twelve years old.
... trí bliana déag d'aois	... thirteen years old.
... seacht mbliana déag d'aois	... seventeen years old
... fiche bliain d'aois	... twenty years old
... bliain is fiche d'aois	... twenty-one years old

⁴ But note that *punt* `pound' does not have a special plural: *Tá trí phunt deich bpingine air* `it costs three pounds ten pence'.

⁵ NB *cúig* prefixes an `h' even though it does not end in a vowel.

... dhá bhliain is fiche d'aois	... twenty-two years old
... trí bliana is fiche d'aois	... twenty-three years old
... ceithre bliana fiche d'aois	... twenty-four years old
... tríocha bliain d'aois	... thirty years old
... caoga bliain d'aois	... fifty years of age.
... céad bliain d'aois.	... a hundred of years old.

Cá mhéad atá air?	How much does it cost?
Seacht bpunt, naoi bpingine déag.	Seven pounds, nineteen pence.
ocht bpunt déag is fiche pingin	Eighteen pounds and twenty

§3.3.2. A handful of words for body parts which come in sets of two have a special dual form used after *dhá*:

bos	dhá bhois	palm of hand
bróg	dhá bhróig	shoe
cluas	dhá chluais	ear
cos	dhá chois	foot
lámh	dhá láimh	hand

§3.4. Counting People

You can count people in the same way you count objects:

seacht bhfear 7 men

But Irish also has a special set of numbers used only for counting people (2-10):

beirt (<i>or</i> dís)	2 persons
triúr	3 persons
ceathrar	4 persons
cúigear	5 persons
seisear	6 persons
seachtar	7 persons
ochtar	8 persons
naonúr	9 persons
deichniúr	10 persons

Note that with the exception of *beirt* which is feminine, all the personal numerals are treated as masculine nouns⁶:

an bheirt	the two, the pair
an triúr	the three, the threesome
an ceathrar	the four, the foursome

⁶ *Triúr*, *ceathrar* etc are derived from a combination of the numeral + *fear* 'man').

The personal numbers are often combined with the prepositional pronoun of *ag*:

an bheirt againn	the two of us
an triúr acu	the three of them
an ceathrar agaibh	the four of you
an cúigear againn	the five of us
an t-ochtar acu	the eight of them

These can be used on their own, or in combination with nouns:⁷

Tá ochtar ina rang	There are eight people in his class
Tá ochtar cailíní ina rang	There are eight girls in his class
Tá triúr mac aige	He has three sons.

Note that *beirt* lenites the following noun:

beirt mhac	two sons
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CEACHTANNA

1. An Chopail

1. Ten years ago she was a teacher.
2. Would you like a cup of coffee?
3. I would prefer a glass of water, please.
4. He was a good student.
5. Would you mind closing the door?
6. She must drink.
7. She must drink water.
8. She should eat.
9. She should eat dinner.
10. Seán would like to marry.
11. Seán would like to marry Máire.
12. He would prefer to get the book now.
13. I must break the window.
14. He can't speak English.
15. We'd like to go to sleep.

2. Modal Auxiliaries

Express inability to carry out the following commands, according to the model:

Foscail mo mhála. - Ní thig liom (Ní féidir liom / Níl mé ábalta) do mhála a fhoscladh.

1. Foscail an fhuinneog.

⁷ The nouns that follow these numerals are in the genitive plural (see Ceacht a Cúig); the genitive plural may look like a plural or, in some cases, like a nominative singular (see Mac Congáil 2002, 194 and Wong 2004, 195).

2. Ith do ghlasraí.
3. Críochnaigh an obair.
4. Léigh an leabhar sin.
5. Éist leis an cheol.

3. Ordinal Numbers

1. the first dog, the third hen; the eighth horse
2. Today is the twentieth (day) of February; they came on the seventh (day), and they stayed until the tenth (day).
3. He went to America in 1928.
4. She left in 1963.
5. The new course will start (*tosóidh*) in 2003.
6. The next lesson is hard.

4. Máire's mother has left her the following extremely long list of jobs to do while house-sitting for her parents:

`A chroí,

seo liosta beag le cúpla jab duit. Ná déan dearmad orthu, le do thoil.

- cuir uisce ar na plandaí
- glan an t-urlár cúpla uair sa tseachtain
- nigh na soithí gach lá
- glan na fuinneoga gach seachtain
- nigh na héadaigh
- ceannaigh bia don chat sa siopa
- tabhair bia dó gach maidin is trathnóna
- cuir amach an bocsa bruscair gach Luan
- ná déan dearmad ar d'obair bhaile
- dúisigh agus éirigh go luath ar maidin
- ith do dhinnéar gach lá
- cóirigh an leaba
- foghlaim do cheachtanna

póg is barróg,

Mamáí

PS Bain sult as do laethanta saoire!"

a) Translate Máire's jobs to English.

b) Now write a third-person account of what Máire is supposed to do: *Caithfidh Máire uisce a chur ar na plandaí, agus an t-urlár a ghlanadh cúpla uair sa tseachtain....*

5. Counting Things

1. 1 cow; 2 sheep; 3 dogs; 4 cats; 5 horses; 6 hens; 7 cats; 8 birds; 9 dogs; 10 cows; 11 things; 12 boxes; 13 pints; 14 glasses; 15 coats; 16 houses; 17; cars; 18 buses; 19 bags; 20 schools.
2. 2 years old; 5 hours/times; 4 twenties; 3 hours/times; 5 pence; 9 hours; 6 ones/heads; 8

years old; 2 pence.

3. 3 boxes; 2 shoes; 7 books; 2 legs; 9 apples; 2 ears; 4 cups of tea; 2 arms.

6. Dates

Write out the following dates:

3/17/1989; 1/4/2000; 556; 11/1/1979; 7/14/1789

7. Prices

Write out the following prices:

5 Pound 16 pence; 25 pounds fifty pence; 16 pounds 20 pence; 8 euro 50 cent; 15 euro 99 cent; 56 euro 10 cent.

8. Counting People

1. He has two sons and four daughters.
2. The room was full: there were eight (people) in it.
3. There are four of us in the class.
4. They are both clever.(literally `the two of them')
5. The two students are working very hard.

9. Cuir Gaeilge air seo:

1. Éamonn likes animals. He has two dogs, three cats, and seven birds!
2. He drank four glasses of water, but he was still thirsty.
3. The five of us went to the movies last night. The movie was very long: three hours.
4. Hurry up! It's five minutes after seven! We'll be late!
5. We came back on the fifth of February.
6. They got married ten years ago, and now they have five children: two sons and three daughters.
7. The two women sang nine songs and told nine stories to the seven children.
8. We bought six bags of cookies for the party. Is that enough?
9. Her son is five years old, and her daughter is seven (years old).
10. That coffee costs two pounds and five pence; the tea is three pounds and nine pence.

Projects:

1. Take one of your favorite recipes and write out a detailed grocery-shopping list for it, including estimates of prices. Then write a script for your trip to the supermarket. For example: `Ba mhaith liom seacht mbocsa uachtar reoite...'
2. Write a list of the members of your extended family with their ages and children. For example, `Tá m'aintín cúig bliana is tríocha d'aois, agus tá triúr mac aici...'
3. Ask your classmates what their birthdate is.
4. Pretend you are a millionaire and have many cars, houses, etc. Have a boasting contest with a classmate.

TEANGA IS CULTÚR

Tomhasanna

Pingin, pingin, dhá phingin
Pingin go leith is leathphingin
Cá mhéad pingin é sin?
(CC #214)

A penny, a penny, two pennies
A penny and a half, and a halfpenny
How many pennies does that make?

Cúigear dall a chuaigh faoin choill,
Cúigear giolla i mbun gach daill,
Cúigear ban ag gach aon ghiolla,
Agus cúigear leanbh ag gach mná.
An raibh a lán ar fad ann?
(CC #218)

Five blind men went to the wood
Five servants waiting on each blind man
Five women with each servant
And each woman had five children.
Was there a lot of them?

Cé a bhí mí d'aois
Sular rugadh Maois
Agus atá mí d'aois ó shin?
(CC #424)

Who was one month old
Before Moses was born
And is still one month old?

3

CEACHT A TRÍ AN CLÁSAL COIBHNEASTA (*THE RELATIVE CLAUSE*)

FOCLÓIR

aisteach	strange
ar buile	angry
athraigh, ag athrú	change
caint, f	talk (n)
ag caint faoi	to talk about
ceapaire, m	sandwich
craobh, f	branch
creid, ag creideamh	believe
cruinniú, m	meeting
cur ar bun	found; establish
dán, m	poem
deoch, f	a drink
mo dhuine	that guy; your man
duilleog, f	leaf
ealaín, f	art
ealaíontóir, m	artist
faoi	about; under
filíocht, f	poetry
fógra, m	announcement, notice
guth, m	voice
lig, ag ligint	leave, allow
líofa	fluent
maighdeán mhara, f	mermaid
mairnéalach, m	sailor
ollamh, m	professor
rós, m	rose
sláinte, f	health
Sláinte / Sláinte mhaith!	To your health! Cheers!
smaoinigh, ag smaoiniamh ar	think about
tit, ag titim i ngrá	fall in love

COMHRÁ

Tá Cathal agus Pádraigín sa teach tábhairne.
Cathal: Seo duit do phionta, a Phádraigín!

Pádraigín: Go raibh céad maith agat. Sláinte!

Cathal: Sláinte mhaith!

Pádraigín: A Chathail, an bhfeiceann tú an fear sin a bhfuil an hata aisteach dubh air?

Cathal: Feicim.

Pádraigín: Nach é sin an fear ar bhuail muid leis anuraidh? An fear a bhí ina mhairnéalach agus a raibh na mílte scéalta aige? An cuimhin leat an ceann a d'inis sé faoin fhear a phós an mhaighdeán mhara?

Cathal: Is cuimhin. Seo mo dhuine ceart go leor. Agus cé hé an fear a bhfuil sé ag caint leis anois? An fear a bhíonn ag ceol 'achan oíche agus a bhfuil guth álainn aige?

Pádraigín: Nach bhfuil aithne agat air? Is é sin an múinteoir a chuir an scoil teanga seo ar bun. Fear deas atá ann.

Cathal: Ah! An é sin an fear a bhí i ngrá le Bríd?

Pádraigín: Muise, ní hé – *au contraire*, mar a deir Henri. Ise a bhí go mór i ngrá leisean. Is é an múinteoir eile a raibh suim mhór aige inti. Bríd bhocht. Bhí sé iontach greannmhar. Ar mhaith leat deoch eile? Cad é a bheidh agat?

Cathal: Ba mhaith liom pionta Guinness, le do thoil.

AN CEACHT GRAMADAÍ

§1. An Clásal Coibhneasta (The Relative Clause)

The relative clause is always introduced by the relative particle *a* (as is often the case with unstressed particles, it is frequently elided in speech).⁸ The relative particle is followed by either the lenited independent form of the verb, or the eclipsed dependent form, depending on whether the relative clause is direct or indirect, as explained below.

Irish used to have a special verbal form for a relative. This relative form is now only used in the 3rd singular of the present and the future tense, and is generally no longer taught, since it is no longer obligatory. However, it is still commonly found in colloquial speech and in literature.

Present Tense:

Ar scáth a chéile a mhaireas na daoine.	`People live by giving one another shelter'
Is maith an capall a tharraingíos a charr féin.	`It's a good horse that pulls his own cart.'
Is beag an dealg a dhéanas síleadh.	`Even a small thorn can cause festering'

⁸ Unlike in other languages, where the interrogative pronoun often doubles as the relative pronoun, in Irish the relative pronoun *a* is used in all cases:

Who is that man?	He is the man who committed the murder.
<i>Cé hé an fear sin?</i>	<i>Sin an fear a rinne an dúnmharú.</i>

Present Habitual (*bíonn*):

An té **a bhíos** fial roinneann Dia leis. `God shares with the person who is generous'

Future Tense:

An té **a thabharfas** scéal chugat, tabharfaidh sé dhá scéal uait.
`He who will tell you a story, will take away two stories from you.'

Na daoine **a thioctas** inniu ní hiad **a bheas** anseo amárach.
`Those who will come today are not the ones who will be here tomorrow.'

§1.1. The Direct Relative

When the subject of a relative clause refers back *directly* to the subject of the main clause we speak of a *direct relative clause*. In English, a direct relative clause may be introduced by the relative pronoun `who' (i.e. the subject of the relative clause is the same as the subject of the main clause) or by `whom' (i.e. the subject of the relative clause refers back to the direct or accusative object of the main clause). In Irish, the relative particle *a* is used in all cases:

Seo **an fear**. Tá **sé** mór. > Seo an fear atá mór.
*Here is **the man**. He is big.* > *Here is **the man who** is big.*

Sé refers to the subject of the previous sentence (*an fear*).

Seo **an fear**. Feicim sa tsráid é go minic. > Seo an fear a fheicim go minic.
*Here is **the man**. I often see **him** in the street.* > *Here is **the man whom** I often see.*

É refers to the direct object of the previous sentence and is in the accusative case.

§1.1.1. Present / Future Tenses

Affirmative: ... **a + lenited independent form of verb**

seo an fear a fheicim this is the man I see

Note that *a + tá = atá* (one word), and that the verb is not lenited after the relative particle in both *atá* and *a deir*.

Negative: ... **nach + eclipsed dependent verb**

Seo an fear nach bhfuil mór. This is the man who is not big.
Seo an fear nach bhfeicim go minic. This is the man I don't often see.

§1.1.2. Past Tense⁹

Affirmative:

In the past tense, the verb is also lenited (but of course past tense is lenited anyway); before vowels and *fh* (+ vowel) *d'* is prefixed:

... **a + lenited independent verb**

⁹ Also used for the Imperfect and the Conditional which we have not yet covered.

an fear a bhí deas
an bhean a d'ól uisce beatha
an fear a d'fhan sa bhaile

Fuair and *dúirt* are not lenited after the relative particle in the past tense (*a fuair*; *a dúirt*).

Negative:

The negative relative particle in the past tense is *nár* (for regular and those irregular verbs that take past tense particles) or *nach* (for the irregular verbs taking present tense particles).

an fear nach raibh deas	the man who was not nice
an bhean nár ól uisce beatha	the woman who did not drink whisky
an fear nár fhan sa bhaile	the man who did not stay home
an fear nach bhfuair deoch	the man who did not get a drink

§1.2. The Indirect Relative

The indirect relative is used if the subject of the relative clause is neither the subject nor the direct object of the main clause (i.e. the subject of the relative clause is in the dative or genitive case):

Seo an fear . Tá hata ar an fhear .	>	Seo an fear a bhfuil hata air
Or:		Seo an fear ar a bhfuil hata
<i>This is the man. He is wearing a hat.</i>		<i>This is the man who is wearing a hat.</i>

Seo an fear. Tá a bhean ar buile.	>	Seo an fear a bhfuil a bhean ar buile
<i>Here is the man. His wife is furious.</i>		<i>Here is the man whose wife is furious.</i>

§1.2.1. Present / Future Tense

Affirmative: ... **a + eclipsed dependent verb**

Negative: ... **nach + eclipsed dependent verb**

an fear nach bhfuil hata air	the man who isn't wearing a hat
an fear nach bhfuil a bhean ar buile	the man whose wife isn't furious

§1.2.2. Past Tense

Affirmative: ... **ar + lenited independent form**

But note that the irregular verbs *abair*, *bí*, *faigh*, *feic*, *déan*, *téigh* take *a* with eclipsed dependent.

an fear ar cheannaigh hata	the man who bought a hat
----------------------------	--------------------------

Negative: ... **nár + lenited independent form**

But *abair*, *bí*, *faigh*, *feic*, *déan*, *téigh* take the eclipsed dependent verb.

an fear nár cheannaigh a bhean hata	the man whose wife didn't buy a hat
an fear nach raibh a bhean ar buile	the man whose wife wasn't furious.

§2. Forainmeacha Ceisteacha (Interrogative Pronouns)¹⁰

We have in fact already encountered the relative particle in the context of interrogative constructions such as *cad é mar atá, cá huair a bheidh, cá háit a bhfuil* etc. Some questions take the direct relative (= followed by the independent verb), some the indirect relative (= followed by the dependent verb).

§2.1. Interrogative Pronouns Taking the Direct Relative

Cad é? 'What?'¹¹

Cad é a dhéanfaidh tú ansin?	What will you do there?
Cad é atá ann?	What is it?
Cad é an obair a rinne tú inné?	What is the work you did yesterday?
Abair liom cad é a tharla.	Tell me what happened.
Níl a fhios agam cad é a dúirt sé.	I don't know what he said.
Cad é an t-am atá sé?	What time is it?
Cad é an lá atá ann inniu?	What day is it today?

Cé? 'Who?'¹²

Cé bhuaíl an madadh?	Who hit the dog?
Cé rinne an obair?	Who did the work?
Cé chonaic tú ansin?	Whom did you see there?
Inis dom cé rinne an obair.	Tell me who did the work.
Cé acu is fearr leat, Seán nó Síle?	Whom do you prefer, Seán or Síle?

Cad é mar? 'How?'

Cad é mar a tá tú?	How are you?
Cad é mar a chaith tú an tseachtain?	How did you spend the week?
Cad é mar a gheobhaidh mé an áit?	How will I find the place?
Inis dom cad é mar a rinne tú an ciste.	Tell me how you made the cake.

Cá mhéad? 'How much/many?'

Cá mhéad atá ar an chaife?	How much is the coffee?
Cá mhéad a bheidh ag an chóisir?	How many will be at the party?

¹⁰ The system of interrogatives is fluid and interrogatives tend to vary between different dialect areas. Even within the same dialect area different interrogatives, or different forms of the same interrogative, may co-exist. The system below is based on Donegal Irish; the most important variants from other dialects are listed in the Appendix. Since most interrogatives are transparent, such variety in usage does not generally lead to lack of comprehension.

¹¹ *Cad é an ...* can be *Cén*.

¹² The relative particle *a* is elided after *cé*.

Cá mhéad uair a chuaigh tú ann?
Cá mhéad duine a bhí ann?

How many times did you go there?
How many people were there?

Cá fhad? `How long?'

Cá fhad a chaith tú in Éirinn?
Cá fhad a chaithfidh tú i mBostún?
Cá fhad anseo thu?
Ní dúirt sé liom cá fhad a bheidh sé anseo.
Cá fhad é ó Dhoire go Béal Feirste?

How long did you spend in Ireland?
How long will you spend in Boston?
How long have you been here?
He didn't tell me how long he'd be here.
How far is it from Derry to Belfast?

Cá mhinice?/ Cé chomh minic is? `How often?'

Cá mhinice a bhí sí anseo?
Cé chomh minic is a bhí sí anseo?

How often was she here?
How often was she here?

C'ainm / Cad é an t-ainm...?

C'ainm atá ort/ Cad é an t-ainm atá ort?

What's your name?

Cá as / Carbh as?

Cá as tú / Carbh as tú?

Where are you from?

Cén uair? / Cá huair? `When?'

Cén uair (cá huair) a rinne tú an obair?
Cén uair (cá huair) a tháinig tú ar ais san oíche?
Cén uair (cá huair) a bheidh tú ar ais?
Níl a fhios agam cén uair a thiocfaidh mé ar ais.

When did you do the work?
When did you come back at night?
When will you be back?
I don't know when I'll come back.

Nuair a: The Conjunction `When'

Similarly, the conjunction *nuair a* `when' (< *an uair a* `the time that') acts like a direct relative:

Nuair a théim abhaile, ithim mo dhinnéar.
Nuair a bhí mé óg, bhí saol maith agam.
Déanfaidh mé é nuair a thiocfaidh mé ar ais.

When I go home I eat dinner.
When I was young I had a good life.
I will do that when I get back.

§2.2. Question Words Taking the Indirect Relative

Cá? / Cá háit? `Where?'

Cá bhfuil sé / Cá háit a bhfuil sé?
Cá (cá háit a) bhfaighidh tú an t-airgead?
Cá raibh tú / Cá háit a raibh tú aréir?
Cá bhfuair tú an hata sin?
Cá mbeidh tú / Cá háit a mbeidh tú ag stopadh?
Cá háit ar chuir tú an salann?

Where is he?
Where will you get the money?
Where were you last night?
Where did you get that hat?
Where will you stay?
Where did you put the salt?

Cad chuige? `Why?'

THE RELATIVE CLAUSE

Cad chuige nach raibh tú ann inné?	Why weren't you there yesterday?
Cad chuige ar thóg tú an t-airgead?	Why did you take the money?
Cad chuige a gceannaíonn tú an nuachtán sin?	Why do you buy that newspaper?
Cad chuige nár cheannaigh tú nuachtán aréir?	Why didn't you buy a newspaper last night?

§2.3. Adverbials

The adverbials *an dóigh* 'the manner,' *an chaoi* 'the way,' *an áit* 'the place,' *an t-am* 'the time,' and *an fáth* 'the reason,' take the *indirect* relative.

Sin an áit a bhfuil m'athair ina chónaí.	That's where my father lives.
Sin an t-am a raibh an-airgead agam.	That's when I had lots of money.
Sin an fáth nach bhfuil mé pósta.	That's the reason I'm not married.

CEACHTANNA

1. Direct Relative Clauses

Join the sentences below: e.g. *1. Seo an fear a chonaic an fógra.*

1. Seo an fear. Chonaic sé an fógrá.
2. Bhí mé ag caint leis an fhear. Ní fhaca sé an fógrá.
3. Níor mhol mé an fear. Ní raibh sé ag an chruinniú.
4. Is maith liom an bhean. Chuaigh sí chuig an dioscó aréir.
5. Ní maith liom an bhean. Ní dheachaigh sí chuig an dioscó aréir (buíochas le Dia)
6. Seo an drochscéal. Níor chuala mé a riamh é.

2. Indirect Relatives Clauses

a)

1. Chonaic mé an tábla. Bhí úlla air.
2. Is maith liom an bhean. Tá hata dearg uirthi.
3. Seo an fear. Tá a dheirfiúr san ospidéal.
4. Sin an bhean bhocht. Bíonn a fear céile ar meisce ó Luan go Luan (i.e. all the time).
5. Tá mé ag caint leis an chailín. Tá Gaeilge líofa aici.
6. Ba mhaith liom an deoch. Tá dath bándearg ('pink') air.
7. Cheannaigh sé an carr. Bhí a roth briste.
8. Chonaic mé na cailíní. Bhris a ndearthair an fhuinneog.
9. Labhair mé leis na tuismitheoirí. Bhuail an drochmhúinteoir a mac.
10. Bhí mé ag labhairt le cara. Chonaic a bhean an dráma.

b)

Cuir Gaeilge air seo:

11. This is the girl whose father I saw yesterday.
12. That is the boy with whom I was talking. (*bhí mé ag caint le...*)
13. I don't like the woman who is wearing that big hat.
14. I don't see the man today from whom I buy milk every day..
15. I know a girl whose heart you will not break.

3. Direct and Indirective Relatives

Cuir Gaeilge air seo:

1. Is this the man who bought the hat?
2. She is the teacher who helped me to learn Italian.
3. That is the artist our professor was talking about in the lecture today.
4. That is the man my sister is in love with.
5. I met a woman whose daughter was working in France last year.
6. Who is the person you were speaking with on the phone last night?
7. Don't let the cat on the table that has the sandwiches and cookies on it!
8. That is something that will never change.
9. That is the child I saw last year.
10. Poetry is the subject she is always thinking about.
11. What subject are you studying in university?

4. Interrogative Pronouns

Cuir Gaeilge air seo:

1. What is her name?
2. Where is the house?
3. Why does he not drink coffee today?
4. When will he come back?
5. How did you spend the holidays?

5. Cé hé sin?

Bring in a photograph and identify the people/objects in it by description. Eg.: Is é an fear a bhfuil cóta mór dubh air mo dheartháir.

6. Litir Lá Fhéile Vailintín

Write a Valentine's letter to yourself – the kind of valentine you've always wanted to receive.... And why not put in a love poem (see the *Teanga is Cultúr* section).

A few useful phrases:

Beannachtaí na Féile ort!

Lá 'le Vailintín faoi mhaise duit!

Tá mé i ngrá leat

tá grá agam ort

le gach beannacht don spéirbhean álainn

a chuisle / a stór / a ghrá / a chuid / a leannán

Grá mór ó ... / Le grá ó ... / Póg agus barróg

TEANGA IS CULTÚR

Amhrán: 'Éamonn an Chnoic'

`Cé hé sin amuigh a bhfuil faobhar ar a ghuth
ag réabadh mo dhorais dhúnta?'
`Mise Éamonn a' Chnoic atá báite fuar fliuch
ó shíorshúil sléibhte is na gleannta.'

`Who is that outside whose voice is so harsh
Piercing my locked door?'
`It's Éamonn of the Mountain, cold and wet
From wandering forever the hills and glens.'

Seanfhocail

Is minic a bhris béal duine a shrón.

A man's mouth often broke his nose.

Is minic a ghearr teanga duine a scornach.

A man's tongue often cut his throat.

Is olc an ghaoth nach séideann do dhuine éigin.

It's an ill wind that blows nobody good.

Tomhas

An fear a dhéanann é, ní chaitheann sé é,
agus an fear a chaitheann é, ní fheiceann sé é.

The man who makes it doesn't use it;
And the man who uses it, doesn't see it.

An Grá agus an Ghruaim: Lá Fhéile Vailintín (Love and the Blues: St Valentine's Day)

`Ortha Seirce agus Síorghrá' (A Charm for Love and Lasting Affection)

Ortha a chuir Muire in im
Ortha seirce is síorghrá
Nár stada do cholann
ach d'aire a bheith orm
go leana do ghrá mo ghnaoi
mar a leanas an bhó an lao
ón lá seo go lá mo bháis.
(*An Duanaire*, 350)

A charm which Mary put on butter
A charm for love and lasting affection
May your body not cease
to pay me attention
May your love follow my face
as the cow follows her calf
from this day on to the day of my death.

`Bláth Geal na Sméar' (The Bright Blackberry Flower)

'S í bláth geal na sméar í,
's í bláth deas na sú craobh í,
's í planda b'fhearr méin mhaith
le hamharc do shúl;
's í mo chuisle, 's í mo rún í,
's í bláth na n-úll gcumhra í,
is samhradh ins an fhuacht í
idir Nollaig is Cáisc.
(*An Duanaire* #69)

She's the bright blackberry-flower,
the fine raspbeberry-flower,
she's the plant of best breeding
your eye could behold:
she's my darling and dear,
my fresh apple-tree flower,
she is summer in the cold
between Christmas and Easter.

`A Óganaigh an Chúil Cheangailte' (Youth of the Curly Hair; excerpt)

Agus shíl mé, a stóirín,
go mba gealach agus grian tú,
agus shíl mé ina dhiaidh sin
go mba sneachta ar an sliabh tú,
agus shíl mé ina dhiaidh sin
go mba lóchrann ó Dhia tú,
nó go mba tú an réalt eolais
ag dul romham is i mo dhiaidh tú.
(*An Duanaire* #81; *Teanga Bheo*, 160)

And I thought, my darling,
that you were the moon and the sun,
and I thought,
that you were the snow on the mountain,
and I thought
you were a lamp from God
or the guiding star
before me and behind.

`Dónall Óg' (Young Dónall; excerpt)

Gheall tú domhsa ní nárbh fhéidir
go dtabharfá láimhne do chroiceann éisc domh
go dtabharfá bróga de chraiceann éan domh
Is culaith den tsíoda ba dhaoire in Éirinn.

You promised me a thing hard to get
You'd give me gloves made of fish skin
You'd give me shoes made of bird skin
And a suit of the costliest silk in Ireland.

Och ochón, agus ní le hocras,
uaireasa bía, dí, ná codlata,
faoi deara domhsa bheith tanaí trochailte,
ach grá fir óig is é bhreogh go follas mé.

Misery! and it isn't hunger
the want of food or drink or sleep
that is the reason I'm thin and haggard
It's clear I am sick from love for a young man.

Bhain tú soir díom is bhain tú siar díom,
bhain tú romham is bhain tú i mo dhiaidh díom,
bhain tú gealach is bhain tú grian díom.
Is rómhór m'eagla gur bhain tú Dia díom.
(*An Duanaire* #77)

You took my East and you took my West
you took what was before and what was behind me
you took the moon and you took the sun,
and I have great fear that you took God from me.

4

CEACHT A CEATHAIR AN T-IOLRA (*PLURALS*)

FOCLÓIR

a lán	a lot
ar fad	entire, whole
ar feadh	for (a duration of time)
bain sult as	enjoy
bialann, f, bialanna	restaurant
buail le, vn. ag bualadh le	meet
cainteoir dúchais, m	native speaker
coicís, f	fortnight (two weeks)
caith, ag caitheamh	spend
cara, m, cairde	friend
cuid mhór, f	a lot
freastail ar, vn freastal	attend
go háirithe	especially
is éigean do	must
laethanta saoire	vacation
mar gheall ar	because of
'na bhaile (< chun an bhaile) = abhaile	home (homewards)
rud beag	a little
sliabh, m, sléibhte	hill
spéisiúil	interesting
turasóir, m, turasóirí	tourist

COMHRÁ

Éamonn and Helen are discussing last year's summer holidays.

Éamonn: An raibh tú in Éirinn riamh? Tá do chuid Gaeilge an-mhaith ar fad.

Helen: Chuaigh mé go hÉirinn le mo fhear céile anuraidh.

Éamonn: Cad é a rinne sibh?

Helen: Rinne muid rud beag taistil ar fud na tíre agus d'fhreastal muid ar chúrsa Gaeilge i dTír Chonaill. Thaitin sé go mór linn.

Éamonn: Cad é mar a bhí an cúrsa?

Helen: Bhí se ar dóigh. Bhí ranganna againn gach maidin agus tráthnóna, agus chuaigh muid amach lenar gairde san oíche. Bhí an-chraic againn sna tithe tábhairne. Bhí na mic léinn eile a bhí ar an chúrsa an-deas ar fad, agus bhuaíl muid le turasóirí ó 'achan áit agus le daoine áitiúla sa teach tábhairne. Bhí ceoltóirí traidisiúnta ag seinm a chóir a bheith gach oíche, agus d'éist muid le hamhráin Ghaeilge agus puirt traidisiúnta.

Éamonn: An raibh na múinteoirí Gaeilge go maith?

Helen: Bhí siad an-mhaith; cainteoirí dúchais a bhí iontu. D'fhoghlaim muid cuid mhór.

Éamonn: Cad é a rinne sibh taobh amuigh de na ranganna?

Helen: Chuaigh muid ag siúl sna sléibhte, agus chonaic muid áiteanna spéisiúla.

Éamonn: Ar chaith sibh an samhradh ar fad in Éirinn?

Helen: Níor chaith. Bhí muid ann ar feadh trí seachtainí. B'éigean dúinn teacht 'na bhaile ansin mar gheall ar na páisti. Chaith muid trí lá i mBaile Átha Cliath, ceithre lá i gCiarraí, agus coicis i dTír Chonaill.

Éamonn: Cad é faoin bhia?

Helen: Bhí bialanna deasa ann, go háirithe i mBaile Átha Cliath, cé go raibh siad beagán daor. Bhain muid an-sult as na laethanta saoire.

AN CEACHT GRAMADAÍ

§1. An tIolra (The Plural of Nouns)

Most nouns in modern Irish form the plural by adding a distinctive 'strong' plural ending, this form being used in all cases of the plural (nominative, genitive etc). Historically speaking, such distinctive plural endings are a relatively recent development in Irish. There are two plural formations that are a holdover of the older system, one masculine and one feminine. They are called 'weak plurals'; in the genitive plural the noun reverts to the nominative singular form.

The plural article is *na*; in the nominative plural it prefixes *h-* to nouns beginning with a vowel:

an áit > na háiteanna

§1.1. Weak Plurals (Masculine)

Masculine nouns ending in a broad consonant form the nominative plural by making the consonant slender (the so-called first declension):

an t-amhrán na hamhráin *song*

an cat	na cait	<i>cat</i>
an crann	na crainn	<i>tree</i>
an focal	na focail	<i>word</i>
an leabhar	na leabhair	<i>book</i>

Sometimes, the palatalization effects a vowel change:

an fear	na fir	<i>man</i>
an ceann	na cinn	<i>head</i>
an peann	na pinn	<i>pen</i>
an mac	na mic	<i>son</i>
an t-éan	na héin	<i>bird</i>
an páipéar	na páipéir	<i>paper</i>

Practically all masculine nouns ending in a broad consonant form weak plurals by palatalization; the following few first declension nouns however form a strong plural in *-e* by syncopation:

an bóthar	na bóithre	<i>road</i>
an solas	na soilse	<i>light</i>
an doras	na doirse	<i>door</i>

§1.2. Weak Plurals (Feminine)

Feminine nouns ending in a broad consonant (the so-called second declension) take a nominative plural in *-a*, reverting to the nominative singular form in the genitive plural):

an bhróg	na bróga	<i>shoe</i>
an chluas	na cluasa	<i>ear</i>
an chos	na cosa	<i>foot</i>
an lámh	na lámha	<i>hand</i>
an tsrón	na sróna	<i>nose</i>
an chloch	na clocha	<i>stone</i>
an ghaoth	na gaotha	<i>wind</i>

This class includes all nouns ending in *-óg / -eog* and in *-lann*:

an fhuinneog	na fuinneoga	<i>window</i>
an bhialann	na bialanna	<i>restaurant</i>

§1.3. Plurals in *-í* (Masculine)

This is easily the most common plural formation in Modern Irish.

a) Nouns ending in *ín*:

an gairdín	na gairdíní	<i>garden</i>
an cailín	na cailíní	<i>girl</i>
an toitín	na toitíní	<i>cigarette</i>

Similarly:

an phingin, f.	na pingíní	<i>penny</i>
an tseachtain, f.	na seachtainí	<i>week</i>

PLURALS

b) All nouns of profession (et al.) with the ending -óir/-eoir/-éir/úir (Masculine):

an t-aisteoir	na haisteoirí	<i>actor</i>
an cainteoir	na cainteoirí	<i>speaker</i>
an dlíodóir	na dlíodóirí	<i>lawyer</i>
an múinteoir	na múinteoirí	<i>teacher</i>
an rinceoir	na rinceoirí	<i>dancer</i>
an tuismitheoir	na tuismitheoirí	<i>parent</i>
an báicéir	na báicéirí	<i>baker</i>
an péintéir	na péintéirí	<i>painter</i>
an strainséir	na strainséirí	<i>stranger</i>
an dochtúir	na dochtúirí	<i>doctor</i>
an saighdiúir	na saighdiúirí	<i>soldier</i>

c) Singular nouns ending in -a (Masculine)

an cóta	na cótaí	<i>coat</i>
an bocsa	na bocsaí	<i>box</i>
an cóta	na cótaí	<i>coat</i>
an garda	na gardaí	<i>guard, police</i>
an gúna	na gúnaí	<i>dress</i>
an halla	na hallaí	<i>hall</i>
an hata	na hataí	<i>hat</i>
an lampa	na lampaí	<i>lamp</i>
an liosta	na liostaí	<i>list</i>
an píopa	na píopaí	<i>pipe</i>
an pláta	na plátaí	<i>plate</i>
an póca	na pócaí	<i>pocket</i>
an práta ^U	na prátaí ^U	<i>potato</i>
an seomra	na seomraí	<i>room</i>
an siopa	na siopaí	<i>shop</i>

d) Singular nouns ending in -e (mostly masculine, but note exceptions):

an coláiste	na coláistí	<i>college</i>
an aiste, f.	na haistí	<i>essay</i>
an páiste	na páistí	<i>child</i>

Also:

an béile *meal*; an císte *cake*; an cluiche *game*; an chomhairle, **f.**, *advice*; an fainne *ring*; an fharraige, **f.**, *ocean*; an file *poet*; an gloine *glass*; an t-oráiste *orange*.

e) Some singular nouns ending in a broad consonant take a plural in -aí:

an roth	na rothaí	<i>wheel</i>
an rud	na rudaí	<i>thing</i>
an rás	na rásaí	<i>race</i>

§1.4. Plurals in *-(e)anna* (Masculine & Feminine):

an áit, f	na háiteanna	<i>place</i>
an cheist, f	na ceisteanna	<i>question</i>
an pháirc, f	na páirceanna	<i>field, park</i>
an scoil, f	na scoileanna	<i>school</i> (similarly <i>ollscoil</i>)
an tsráid, f	na sráideanna	<i>street</i>
an deoch, f	na deochanna	<i>drink</i>
an t-am, m	na hamanna	<i>time</i>
an bláth, m	na bláthanna	<i>flower</i>
an ceacht, m	na ceachtanna	<i>exercise, lesson</i>
an dath, m	na dathanna	<i>colour</i>
an loch, m	na lochanna	<i>lake</i>
an rang, m	na ranganna	<i>class</i>

Some singular nouns ending in a long vowel add *-nna* in the plural:

an cnó, m	na cnónna	<i>nut</i>
an trá, m	na tránna	<i>beach</i>
an mhí, f	na míonna	<i>month</i>

§1.5. Plurals in *-(e)acha* (predominantly feminine):

an charraig	na carraigeacha	<i>rock</i>
an fheirm	na feirmeacha	<i>farm</i>
an mhaidin	na maidineacha	<i>morning</i>
an chistin	na cistineacha	<i>kitchen</i>
an ubh	na huibheacha	<i>egg</i>
an chathaoir	na cathaoireacha	<i>chair</i>
an traein, m	na traenacha	<i>train</i>

By syncope:

an obair	na hoibreacha	<i>work</i>
an phaidir	na paidreacha	<i>prayer</i>
an chathair	na cathracha	<i>city</i>
an litir	na litreacha	<i>letter</i>
an uimhir	na huimhreacha	<i>number</i>

This plural formation includes **kinship terms**; the grammatical gender of kinship terms reflects their biological gender:

an t-athair, m	na haithreacha	<i>father</i>
an mháthair, f	na máithreacha	<i>mother</i>
an deartháir, m	na deartháireacha	<i>brother</i>
an deirfiúr, f	na deirfiúreacha	<i>sister</i>
an col ceathar, m	na col ceathracha	<i>cousin</i>

PLURALS

§1.6. Plurals in *-tha/the* and *-ta/te*:

an tír, f	na tíortha	<i>country</i>
an sliabh, m	na sléibhte	<i>mountain</i>
an tine, m	na tinte	<i>fire</i>
an bhliain, f	na blianta	<i>years</i>
an scéal, m	na scéalta	<i>story</i>

§1.7. Plurals in *-(a)ithe*:

Nouns of occupation etc. ending in Nsg *-(a)í* take a plural in *-(a)ithe*:

an rúnaí, m	na rúnaithe	<i>secretary</i>
an t-eolaí, m	na heolaithe	<i>scientist</i>
an t-oibrí, m	na hoibrithe	<i>worker</i>
an scrúdú, m	na scrúduithe	<i>exam</i>

§1.8. Irregular Plurals

an duine, m	na daoine	<i>person</i>
an bhó, f	na ba	<i>cow</i>
an teach, m	na tithe	<i>house</i>
an bhean, f	na mná	<i>woman</i>
an leaba, f	na leapacha	<i>bed</i>
an chaora, f	na caoraigh	<i>sheep</i>
an lá, m	na laethanta	<i>day</i>
an oíche, f	na hoícheanta	<i>night</i>

CEACHTANNA

1. Put down the plural form of the nouns below:¹³

1. Sin an fear, agus seo na ...
2. Sin an bocsa, agus seo na ...
3. Sin an cailín, agus seo na ...
4. Sin an tuismitheoir, agus seo na ...
5. Sin an bhó, agus seo na ...
6. Sin an siopa, agus seo na ...
7. Sin an rud, agus seo na ...
8. Sin an cóta, agus seo na ...
9. Sin an bhean, agus seo na ...
10. Sin an mhí, agus seo na ...
11. Sin an doras, agus seo na ...
12. Sin an t-éan, agus seo na ...
13. Sin an deoch, agus seo na ...
14. Sin an obair, agus seo na ...

¹³ For further plural practice, study *Cúrsa Closamhairc* #37 and #38.

15. Sin an rang, agus seo na ...
16. Sin an lámh, agus seo na ...
17. Sin an deartháir, agus seo na ...
18. Sin an mháthair, agus seo na ...
19. Sin an fhuinneog, agus seo na ...
20. Sin an chathaoir, agus seo na ...
21. Sin an duine, agus seo na ...
22. Sin an coláiste, agus seo na ...
23. Sin an litir, agus seo na ...
24. Sin an teach, agus seo na ...
25. Sin an scéal, agus seo na ...
26. Sin an bhliain, agus seo na ...

TEANGA IS CULTÚR

Seanfhocal

Páidríní beannaithe ag cailleacha mallaithe. Malicious old women with pious prayers.

Amhrán: 'Is Leatsa Í' le Ruaidhrí Ó Báille

Tá Fraincis ag na Francaigh
tá Gréigis ann sa Ghréig;
Tá Iodáilis ag na hIodálaigh,
bíodh Gaeilge ag na Gaeil!

The French speak French,
in Greece they have Greek;
the Italians speak Italian:
may the Gaels speak Irish!

Dán: 'Gné na Gaeltachta' le Mícheál Ó hAirtneide¹⁴

in memoriam Caitlín Maude

Sea, iad so na carraigeacha,
is iad so na botháin bhacacha -
tá seantaithí agam ar an áit seo:
feamainn ar na clocha
mar chróch báite,
linnte lán de mhíolta corcra,

Yes, these are the rocks,
these the crooked cottages.
I knew this place well,
kelp on the stones, oh yes -
like drowned crocuses:
pools full of purple creatures,

¹⁴ *Teanga Bheo*, 2; translation by the poet (*A Necklace of Wrens*, Dublin 1987, 96-97).

PLURALS

éan ann chomh dubh le hocras.
Sea, is iad so na seansléibhte
atá anois déanta de bhréidín
(seantaithí agam ar an nGaeltacht -
duine mé de na stróinséirí).
Sea, is iad so na haighthe
d'eibhear déanta,
aighthe Atlantacha, creimthe le mórtas:
tá seantaithí agam ar na haighthe -
lán de shotal is d'éadóchas.
Sliabh, carraig is aghaidh - an buan iad?
Leathnaíonn criostal an tsalainn iontu
's pléasctar gach scoilt go smúit -
an salann, is sioc é gan séasúr,
an salann, tá sé buan.
Má mhaireann an charraig
go deireadh an domhain seo
mairfidh aghaidh áirithe
liom go lá mo mhúchta.
Na réalta bheith dall,
an ghaoth bheith balbh,
rachaidh an ghné sin liom sa talamh
is eibhear a scéimhe millte le salann.

a bird as black as hunger is.
Yes, these, the old hills,
now made of Irish tweed:
I know this Gaeltacht well,
I a stranger here.
Yes, these are the faces
with their granite glance
Atlantic faces, pride-eroded:
I know these faces well
full of despair and arrogance.
Hills, faces, rocks upthrust.
In them the salt expands,
each crack explodes in dust
from salt, an everlasting frost
this salt endures, and must.
Whether rock endures
until the world ends
a certain face will live with me
until my life is quenched.
Though stars not see,
though wind not sound,
this face will follow me underground,
the granite of its beauty all salt-devoured.

Dán: 'Duilleoga ar an Life'
le Séamus Ó Néill

Duilleoga ar snámh
Donn, geal is rua,
Ar abhainn na Life
Ag seoladh le sruth.

Leaves are floating
Brownish, silvery, red
Drifting along
On the Liffey River.

Spréigh siad brat glas
Ar bharr na gcrann,
Ar fud cuibhreann is coillte
I bhfad, i bhfad ó shin ann.

Once upon a time
They spread a green cloak
over tree tops
in forests and fields.

Duilleoga ar snámh,
Lá ceoch fómhair,
Ag iompar na háilleachta
Trí shráideanna dochair.

Leaves are floating
on a foggy autumn day
Taking their beauty
Through dark streets.

5

CEACHT A CÚIG AN TUISEAL GINIDEACH (*GENITIVE CASE*)

FOCLÓIR

ádh, m	luck
amharclann, f	cinema
ar fud	throughout, all over
barr, m	top
bun, m	bottom
cá háit	where
cá fhad	how long
cá huair	when (in question)
comharsa, f	neighbor
cuid (gruaige, airgid, éadaí...)	portion of
go ceann	for (future time)
in aice	near, next to
i mbun	in charge of
i gceann	within
i ndiaidh ^U	after
i rith	throughout
intinn, f	mind
tá sé ar intinn agam	I intend to
lár	middle
le...anuas	for (duration of time)
nuair	when
os comhair	in front of
péintéir, m	painter
planda, m	plant
saol, m	life
seinm	play (music)
ag súil go mór le rud	looking forward to
thar lear	overseas
tús, m	beginning

COMHRÁ

Máirín: Cá fhad atá tusa agus Deirdre ag foghlaim Gearmáinise?

Séamus : Ghlac mise cúrsa coicíse, agus tá Deirdre ag foghlaim le sé mhí anuas.

THE GENITIVE CASE

Máirín: Tá sí iontach líofa, nach bhfuil?

Séamus: Tá. Bhí sí ina cónai sa Ghearmáin ar feadh bliana nuair a bhí a tuismitheoirí ag obair ansin, agus sílim gur chuidigh sin go mór léi.

Máirín: Cá huair atá sibh ag imeacht?

Séamus: I gceann míosa.

Máirín: An mbeidh sibh ag fanacht in óstán nó i dteach lóistín?

Séamus: Níl go leor airgid againn le bheith ag fanacht in óstán, ach tá an t-ádh orainn. Beidh muid ag fanacht le deirfiúr mo charad, Áine. Tá mé ag súil go mór leis. Éist, tá sé ar intinn againn dul chuig scannán níos déanaí. Tá seanscannán Francach le Jean Renoir ar siúl in amharclann na hollscoile ag a hocht. Ar mhaith leat a dhul?

Máirín: Ba mhaith. Cá háit a mbuailfidh muid le chéile?

Séamus: Thig linn bualadh leat os comhair na hamharclainne.

Máirín: Maith go leor. Chífidh mé gan mhoill thú!

Séamus: Slán!

AN CEACHT GRAMADAÍ

§1. An Tuiseal Ginideach (The Genitive Case)

When two nouns come together to form a single nominal phrase, the second noun must be in the genitive case:

cóta **fir** a **man's** coat, a coat **of a man**

I.e. *fear* 'man' is in the genitive case (*fir* 'man's').

The relationship between the two nouns can be one of origin (*mac Sheáin* 'Seán's son': partitive genitive); ownership (*teach Sheáin*), material (*cos chrainn* 'wooden leg') or content (*buidéal uisce*), usage (*seomra codlata* 'bedroom') or kind (*lá geimhridh* 'a winter day'), position or rank (*fear oibre* 'a work man'), measure or value (*pá míosa* 'a month's salary.' For other important uses of the genitive case, see 2).

§1.1. Article and Noun in the Genitive Case

We have seen that when the article precedes the noun in the nominative singular and plural, certain rules need to be observed. Similarly if the article precedes a noun in the genitive singular or plural certain rules apply:

Nom. Sg.	Gen. Sg.	Nom. Plu.	Gen. Plu.	
an coláiste	an choláiste	na coláistí	na gcoláistí	<i>college</i>
an file	an fhile	na filí	na bhfilí	<i>poet</i>
an t-oráiste	an oráiste	na horáistí	na n-oráistí	<i>orange</i>
an siopa	an tsiopa	na siopaí	na siopaí	<i>shops</i>

§1.2. The Noun Defined by a Noun

A noun which is followed by a definite noun in the genitive is itself definite and does not need to be preceded by an article:

saol an fhile	the life of the poet, the poet's life
hata an chailín	the hat of the girl, the girl's hat
barr mo hata	the top of my hat
gúnaí na gcailíní	the girls' dresses

The same is true if the genitive phrase is definite by virtue of being a personal name, the personal name being lenited in this case:

leabhar Mháire	Mary's book (<i>the book of Mary</i>)
teach Cháit	Kate's house (<i>the house of Kate</i>)

§1.3. The Indefinite Genitive Phrase

If a **masculine** noun is followed by an indefinite noun in the genitive, the noun it governs is not lenited:

mála tae	tea bag
cóta fir	a man's coat
bia mara	seafood

If a **masculine plural noun** ends in a slender vowel, the noun it governs is lenited (but note initial d,s,t not lenited after final d,n,l,s,t):

buidéil bhainne	bottles of milk
éisc mhara	fish of the sea
amhráin ghrá	love songs

but:

buidéil draíochta	magic bottles.
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If a **feminine** noun is followed by an indefinite noun in the genitive, it is generally lenited:

obair bhaile	homework
obair pháistí	children's work

THE GENITIVE CASE

tine mhóna	a turf fire
tine chnámh	a bonfire (fire of bones)
bó bhainne	a milch cow
cos chrainn	a wooden leg

There are a number of exceptions to this rule:

(i) There is no lenition in the case of a partitive genitive, where the second noun is felt to be an inalienable part of the first noun:

cos cathaoireach	a leg of a chair
cos duine	a person's leg
lámh buicéad	a bucket handle
ubh circe	a hen's egg
mo chuid fola	my (share of) blood
a chuid gruaige	his (share of) hair

(ii) There is no lenition after a term of quantity:

barraíocht cainte	too much talk
breis bainne	extra milk
roinnt bagúin	some bacon.

(iii) There is no lenition when the first noun is a verbal noun with *ag*:

ag baint féir	making hay
ag baint móna	cutting turf.

(iv) The indefinite noun is rarely ever lenited when it denotes persons:

aois páiste	a child's age
airde fir	a man's height
culaith páiste	a child's suit
scoil cailíní	a girls' school.

§1.4. Genitive `Chains'

If a noun phrase contains several consecutive genitives, the simplest option is to put the final noun into the genitive case, and to lenite all additional nouns:

teach Sheáin	Seán's house
doras theach Sheáin	the door of Seán's house
boschrann dhoras theach Sheáin	the handle of the door of Seán's house

bó na mná	the woman's cow
bainne bhó na mná	the milk of the woman's cow
cruiscín bhainne bhó na mná	the jug of the milk of the woman's cow

§2. An Tuiseal Ginideach: Úsáidí (Uses of the Genitive Case)

Aside from the uses described in 1, the genitive case is also commonly found in the following contexts:

§2.1. After nouns describing amount, quantity:

cuid	<i>share, portion</i>
cuid mhór/mhaith	<i>a lot</i>
go leor	<i>enough</i>
barraíocht ^U	<i>too much</i>
neart	<i>a lot (literally, 'strength')</i>
rud beag	<i>a little, a bit</i>
beagán	<i>little, a little, only a little (often used in negative)</i>
cuid mhór	<i>a lot</i>
mórán	<i>a lot (often used in negative)</i>
a lán	<i>a lot</i>
roinnt	<i>a share</i>
roinnt mhór/mhaith	<i>a lot</i>
tuilleadh	<i>more</i>
níos mó	<i>more</i>
scaifte ^U	<i>a crowd, group</i>

Mo chuid ('my')

Cuid 'share' is commonly used with the possessive pronoun to express ownership of an unspecified or indefinite quantity or an unspecified number of people. It is best left untranslated:

mo chuid airgid	my money
do chuid gruaige	your hair
a chuid éadaigh	his clothes
a cuid Gaeilge	her Irish
ár gcuid trioblóidí	our troubles
bhur gcuid eolais	your expertise
a gcuid mac	their sons

Similarly: mo chuid oibre *my work*; mo chuid ama *my time*; mo chuid deirfiúracha *my sisters*; mo chuid cainte *my talk*; mo chuid fola *my blood*.

§2.2. After compound prepositions, since these are originally nominal phrases:

ar fud	<i>throughout, all over</i>	ar fud na tíre	throughout the land
ar feadh	<i>during, for (past time)</i>	ar feadh seachtaine	for a week
ar nós	<i>like</i>	ar nós na gaoithe	like the wind
ar son	<i>for the sake of</i>	ar son na hÉireann	for Ireland
faoi choinne	<i>for (purpose)</i>	faoi choinne uisce	for water
i mbun	<i>in charge of</i>	i mbun na hoibre	in charge of the work
i ndiaidh	<i>after</i>	i ndiaidh seachtaine	after a week
i rith	<i>during</i>	i rith an ranga	during class
i measc	<i>amidst</i>	i measc na gcailíní	in the middle of the girls
in aghaidh	<i>against</i>	in aghaidh an rialtais	against the government
go ceann	<i>until, for (future time)</i>	go ceann míosa	for a month
os cionn	<i>above</i>	os cionn na leapa	above the bed
os comhair	<i>opposite, in front of</i>	os comhair an tsiopa	in front of the shop

The following simple prepositions are also nominal in origin and hence take the genitive case:

chun ¹⁵	<i>to</i>	chun na Fraince	to France
timpeall	<i>around</i>	timpeall na háite	around the place, locally
cois	<i>beside</i>	cois na farraige	beside the sea
trasna	<i>across</i>	trasna na sráide	across the street

§2.3. After the verbal noun:

Tá sí ag labhairt Gearmáinise	She is speaking German
Tá Seán ag iarraidh aráin	Seán wants bread
Tá Máire ag gearradh an aráin	Máire is cutting the bread
Bhí mé ag déanamh na hoibre	I was doing the work.

§3. Na Díochlaontáí (The Five Declensions)

A declension is a paradigm that shows how a noun's cases are formed. There are five noun declensions in Irish, each with a distinctive pattern of case formations.

Weak Plurals and Strong Plurals

There is a fundamental distinction between the so-called 'weak' and 'strong' plurals. 'Strong' plurals (third, fourth, and fifth declension) have a single plural form that is used in all cases, including the genitive plural. 'Weak' plurals (first and second declension) have a different genitive form: the noun reverts back to the nominative singular.

¹⁵ Combined with the definite article, the preposition *chun* 'to', becomes '*na*' in Ulster Irish: '*na bhaile* 'home'; '*na scoile* 'to school'; '*na tí* 'to the house'; '*na choláiste* 'to college.'

§3.1. The First Declension

First declension nouns typically take a weak plural, i.e. in the genitive plural the noun reverts back to the nominative singular form. First declensions nouns are all masculine and end in a broad consonant. The Gen Sg / Nom Pl is formed by making the word slender, usually by inserting an *i* before the final consonant. First declension nouns thus have the same form in the nominative singular / the genitive plural, and the genitive singular / the nominative plural:

Nom Sg	Gen Sg	Nom Pl	Gen Pl
cat <i>cat</i>	cait <i>of a cat</i>	cait <i>cats</i>	cat <i>of cats</i>

If there are vowel clusters, to prevent 'vowel pile-ups,' the following changes occur:

ea	>	i	an fear	>	an fhir	<i>man</i>
éa	>	éi	an féar	>	an fhéir	<i>grass</i>
ia	>	éi	an t-iasc	>	an éisc	<i>fish</i>
íó	>	í	an gníomh	>	an ghnímh	<i>deed</i>

NB The genitive of *mac* is *mic*.

Nouns ending in *-ach /-each* belong to this declension. They take a Gen Sg / Nom Pl in *-aigh / igh*:

an bacach	an bhacaigh	na bacaigh	na mbacach	<i>beggar</i>
an clúdach	an chlúdaigh	na cludaigh	na gcludach	<i>envelope, cover</i>
an dúch (<dubhach)	dúigh (<dubhaigh)			<i>ink</i>

Other First Declension Nouns

Nom Sg/Gen Pl	Gen Sg/Nom Pl	
clog	cloig	<i>clock</i>
cnoc	cnoic	<i>hill</i>
crann	crainn	<i>tree</i>
focal	focail	<i>word</i>
leabhar	leabhair	<i>book</i>
amhrán	amhráin	<i>song</i>
asal	asail	<i>donkey</i>
amadán	amadáin	<i>fool</i>
gual	guail	<i>coal</i>
ceann	cinn	<i>head</i>
peann	pinn	<i>pen</i>
béal	béil	<i>mouth</i>
páipéar	páipéir	<i>paper</i>
éan	éin	<i>bird</i>

Some first-declensions nouns take a nominative plural in *-a* but in the genitive revert back to the Nom Sg form:

Nom Sg	Nom Pl	Gen Pl
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THE GENITIVE CASE

úll	úlla	na n-úll	<i>apple</i>
ceart	cearta	na gceart	<i>right</i>
cleas	cleasa	na gcleas	<i>trick, feat.</i>

Not all first-declension nouns take a weak plural:

Nom Sg	Nom Pl	Gen Pl	
scéal	scéalta	scéalta	<i>story.</i>

The words for the four seasons conveniently illustrate different types of first declension nouns:

samhradh	samhraidh	summer
fómhar	fómhair	autumn
geimhreadh	geimhridh	winter
earrach	earraigh	spring.

§3.2. The Second Declension

Second declension nouns are almost all feminine and end in a consonant. The genitive singular is formed by adding an *-e* (if the noun ends in a broad consonant, it is made slender by inserting an *-i-* before the final consonant).

A) Weak Plurals

Some second-declension nouns take a weak plural. The nominative plural of the following nouns is formed by adding *-a*; the genitive plural is identical to the nominative singular:

Nom Sg	Gen Sg	Nom Pl	Gen Pl	
an bhos	na boise	na bosa	na mbos	<i>palm of hand</i>
an bhróg	na bróige	na bróga	na mbróg	<i>shoe</i>
an chluas	na cluaise	na cluasa	na gcluas	<i>ear</i>
an chos	na coise	na cosana	gcós	<i>leg / foot</i>
an lámh	na láimhe	na lámha	na lámh	<i>arm / hand</i>
an tsrón	na sróine	na sróna	na srón	<i>nose</i>
an chloch	na cloiche	na clocha	na gcloch	<i>stone</i>
an ghaoth	na gaoithe	na gaotha	na ngaoth	<i>wind</i>

Vowel changes, though less prominent than with first declension nouns, does occur:

an chearc	na circe	na cearca	na gcearc	<i>hen</i>
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All nouns ending in *-óg* and *-eog* belong to this declension:

an fhuinneog	na fuinneoige	na fuinneoga	na bhfuinneog	<i>window</i>
an phóg	na póige	na póga	na bpóg	<i>kiss</i>

Similarly: an aeróg *aerial*; an bhábóg *doll*; an bharróg *hug*; an dallóg *blind, curtain*; an chruinneog *globe*; an duileog *leaf*; an fheadóg *tin whistle*; an fhéasóg *beard*; an ghráinneog *hedgehog*; an ordóg *thumb*; an phancóg *pancake*; an spúnóg *spoon*.

Compounds of *-lann* 'place' belong to this declension:

an bhialann na bialainne na bialanna na mbialann *restaurant*

Similarly: leabharlann *library*; teanglann *language lab*; suanlann *dormitory*; otharlann *hospital*; ceartlann *archive*; saotharlann *laboratory*; proinnlann *dining hall, restaurant*; amharclann *theatre*; pictiúrlann *cinema*; iarsmalann *museum*.

Nouns ending in *-each* (and a couple of feminine nouns in *-ach*, v. below):

an chailleach na caillí na cailleacha na gcailleach *old woman*

an bháisteach na baistí - - *rain, downpour*

Similarly: baintreach *widow*; cláirseach *harp*; girseach *girl*; tintreach *lightning*, toirneach *thunder*

Most nouns ending in *-ach* are masculine (and belong to the first declension), but there are a few exceptions:

an scornach na scornaí na scornacha na scornach *throat*

an ghealach na gealaí - - *moon*

Similarly: an ghallúnach *soap*; an ghríosach *ashes*

Before the spelling reform recommended in *Litriú na Gaeilge - an Caighdeán Oifigiúil* (1945), the genitive ending was the same as that of masculine nouns in *-ach*, with an additional *-e*. Since the spelling reform generally reduced *-ighe* to *-í*, but left *-igh* untouched, the spelling of the feminine ending now looks rather different than that of masculine nouns ending in *-ach*.

-ach > *-aighe* (old spelling) > *-aí* (new spelling)

-each > *-ighe* (old spelling) > *-í* (new spelling)

A few nouns ending in a slender consonant add *-e* in the genitive singular; the genitive plural is made broad:

an tsúil na súile na súile na súl *eye*

an ghlúin na glúine na glúine na nglún *knee; generation*

B) Strong Plurals

Most second-declension nouns have a distinctive strong plural ending which is the same in all cases:

Nom Sg	Gen Sg	Nom Pl	Gen Pl	
an áit	na háite	na háiteanna	na n-áiteanna	<i>place</i>
an chailc	na cailce	na cailceanna	na gcailceanna	<i>chalk</i>
an chaint	na cainte	na cainteanna	na gcainteanna	<i>talk</i>
an cheist	na ceiste	na ceisteanna	na gceisteanna	<i>question</i>
an pháirc	na páirce	na páirceanna	na bpáirceanna	<i>field</i>
an scoil	na scoile	na scoileanna	na scoileanna	<i>school</i>
an ollscoil	na hollscoile	na hollscoileanna	na n-ollscoileanna	<i>university</i>
an tsráid	na sráide	na sráideanna	na sráideanna	<i>street</i>
an charraig	na carraige	na carraigeacha	na gcarraigeacha	<i>rock</i>
an fheirm	na feirme	na feirmeacha	na bhfeirmeacha	<i>farm</i>
an chistin	na cistine	na cistineacha	na gcistineacha	<i>kitchen</i>

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an ubh	na huibhe	na huibheacha	na n-uibheacha	<i>egg</i>
an phingin	na pingine	na pingineacha	na bpingineacha	<i>penny</i>
an tseachtain	na seachtaine	na seachtainí	na seachtainí	<i>week</i>
an spéir	na spéire	na spéartha	na spéartha	<i>heaven</i>
an tír	na tíre	na tíortha	na dtíortha	<i>land, country</i>
an ghualainn	na gualainne	na guaillí	na nguailí	<i>shoulder</i>

Some nouns have syncopated endings in the genitive singular and the common plural:

an obair	na hoibre	na hoibreacha	na n-oibreacha	<i>work</i>
an phaidir	na paidre	na paidreacha	na bpaidreacha	<i>prayer</i>

Countries and Languages

Most of the words for countries and languages are feminine and belong to this declension

Countries are always accompanied by the definite article (*an Fhrainc* 'France').¹⁶

an Fhrainc	na Fraince	<i>France</i>
an Fhraincis	na Fraincise	<i>the French language</i>
an Ghearmáin	na Gearmáine	<i>Germany</i>
an Ghearmáinis	na Gearmáinise	<i>the German language</i>
an Iodáil	na hIodáile	<i>Italy</i>
an Iodáilis	na hIodáilise	<i>the Italian language</i>
an Spáinn	na Spáinne	<i>Spain</i>
an Spáinnis	na Spáinnise	<i>Spanish</i>

There are two **masculine** words in this declension:

an t-im	an ime	-	-	<i>butter</i>
an sliabh	an tsléibhe	na sléibhte	na sléibhte	<i>mountain</i>

§3.3. The Third Declension

The third declension includes both masculine and feminine nouns ending in a consonant. In the genitive, an *-a* is added; if the final consonant is slender, it is made broad:

Nom Sg	Gen Sg	Common Plural	
an múinteoir	an mhúinteora	múinteoirí	<i>teacher</i>
an cainteoir	an chainteora	cainteoirí	<i>speaker</i>
an t-aisteoir	an aisteora	aisteoirí	<i>actor</i>
an rinceoir	an rinceora	rinceoirí	<i>dancer</i>
an léachtóir	an léachtóra	léachtóirí	<i>lecturer</i>
an báicéir	an bháicéara	báicéirí	<i>baker</i>
an strainséir	an strainséara	strainséirí	<i>stranger</i>

¹⁶ But note that those countries and languages most important to the Irish psyche, such as 'Ireland', 'Scotland', 'England' and 'America,' 'Irish' and 'English' are **not** second-declension nouns, and are generally not accompanied by the definite article.

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an tincéir	an tincéara	tincéirí	<i>'tinker,' traveller</i>
an dochtúir	an dochtúra	dochtúirí	<i>doctor</i>
an saighdiúir	an tsaighdiúra	saighdiúirí	<i>soldier</i>
an scríbhneoir	an scríbhneora	scríbhneoirí	<i>writer</i>
an tuismitheoir	an tuismitheora	tuismitheoirí	<i>parent</i>
an buachaill	an bhuachalla	buachaillí	<i>lad</i>
an roth	an rotha	rothaí	<i>wheel</i>
an rud	an ruda	rudáí	<i>thing</i>
an t-am	an ama	amanna	<i>time</i>
an bláth	an bhlátha	bláthanna	<i>flower</i>
an dath	an datha	dathanna	<i>colour</i>
an loch	an locha	lochanna	<i>lake</i>
an rang	an ranga	ranganna	<i>class</i>
an sioc	an tseaca	-	<i>frost</i>
an gleann	an ghleanna	gleannta	<i>valley, glen</i>

The following nouns are feminine:

an bhliain	na bliana	blianta	<i>year</i>
an Cháisc	na Cásca	-	<i>Easter</i>
an fheoil	na feola	-	<i>meat</i>
an fhuil	na fola	-	<i>blood</i>
an mhil	na meala	-	<i>honey</i>
an mhóin	na móna	-	<i>turf</i>
an mhuir	na mara	-	<i>ocean</i>

All nouns with the abstract ending in *-íocht* are feminine and belong to this declension:

an litríocht	na litríochta	-	<i>literature</i>
an pholaitíocht	na polaitíochta	-	<i>politics</i>

Similarly: an eagraíocht *organization*; an eolaíocht *science*; an bhitheolaíocht *biology*; an rothaíocht *cycling*; an scéalaíocht *storytelling*; an scolaíocht *schooling*; an talmhaíocht *agriculture*; an fhilíocht *poetry*; an amhránaíocht *singing*.

Words ending in *-eacht*, *-acht* also belong to this declension; they are also feminine, except for *ceacht* 'lesson' which is masculine:

an chumhacht	na cumhachta	-	<i>power</i>
an ceacht	an cheachta	-	<i>lesson, exercise</i>

Similarly: an aisteoireacht *acting*; an bheannacht *blessing*; an mhallacht *curse*; an charthanacht *charity*; an chumhacht *power*; an scoláireacht *scholarship*; an eisceacht *exception*; an iascaireacht *fishing*; an intleacht *intellect*; an mhilseacht *sweetness*; an tábhacht *importance*; an phoblacht *republic*; an nuacht *news*; an uaisleacht *nobility*; an chosúlacht *similarity, likelihood*; an díospóireacht *debate*.

§3.4. The Fourth Declension

Fourth-declension nouns have only two forms – one form for the nominative and genitive singular, and one form for the nominative and genitive plural. With few exceptions, fourth declension nouns are masculine.

Nom Sg	Gen Sg	Nom Pl	Gen Pl
an cailín	an chailín	na cailíní	na gcailíní

Nouns with the ending *-ín*, including diminutives, all masculine, belong to this declensions: *asailín little donkey*; *ceirnín record*; *toitín cigarette*; *ispín sausage*; *risín raisin*; *sicín chicken*; *coinín rabbit*.

This declension includes nouns ending in an unstressed vowel (either *-a* or *-e*), many of them borrowed from Norman French or English. In the plural, nouns ending in *-a* add *í*, nouns ending in *-e* change it to *í*:

an balla	an bhalla	na ballaí	na mballaí	<i>wall</i>
an coláiste	an choláiste	na coláistí	na gcoláistí	<i>college</i>

Like *balla*:

an bocsa (in South with metathesis, *bosca*) *box*; an cóta *coat*; an garda *guard, police*; an gúna *dress*; an halla *hall*; an hata *hat*; an lampa *lamp*; an liosta *list*; an píopa *pipe*; an pláta *plate*; an póca *pocket*; an práta *potato*; an seomra *room*; an siopa *shop*.

Like *coláiste*:

an aiste, **f**, *essay*; an béile *meal*; an ciste *cake*; an cluiche *game*; an chomhairle, **f**, *advice*; an fáinne *ring*; an fharraige, **f**, *ocean*; an file *poet*; an ghloine, **f**, *glass*; an duine *person*, an t-oráiste *orange*; an páiste *child*.

Fourth-declension nouns with a different plural ending:

an oíche	na hóiche	na hoícheanta	<i>night</i>
an tine	na tine	na tinte	<i>fire</i>

Note the words for 'Irish' and 'English':¹⁷

an Ghaeilge, f	na Gaeilge	<i>the Irish language</i>
an Béarla, m	an Bhéarla	<i>the English language</i>

§3.5. The Fifth Declension

Fifth-declension nouns, mostly feminine, have a Gen Sg ending in a broad consonant, *-ch*, *-n*, *-d*, or *-r*. The most distinctive ending is that in *-(e)ach*:

¹⁷ Note that while *Gaeilge* tends to be accompanied by the definite article (*is breá liom an Ghaeilge* 'I love Irish'; *stáidéar na Gaeilge* 'the study of Irish'), *Béarla* tends to be used without article (*ag stáidéar Béarla* 'studying English' but NB *lucht an Bhéarla* 'English speakers').

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Nom Sg	Gen Sg	Common Plural	
an chathair	na cathrach	cathracha	<i>city</i>
an chathaoir	na cathaoireach	cathaoireacha	<i>chair</i>
an litir	na litreach	litreacha	<i>letter</i>
an traein	na traenach	traenacha	<i>train</i>
an uimhir	na huimhreach	huimhreacha	<i>number</i>

Kinship terms belong to this declension:

Nom Sg	Gen Sg	Nom Pl	
an t-athair	an athar	na haithreacha	<i>father</i>
an mháthair	na máthar	na máithreacha	<i>mother</i>
an deartháir	an dearthár	na deartháireacha	<i>brother</i>
an deirfiúr ¹⁸	an deirféar	na deirfiúreacha	<i>sisters</i>
an bráthair	an bhráthar	na bráithre	<i>religious brother</i>

Genitives ending in *-n*:

Nom Sg	Gen Sg	Nom Pl	Gen Pl	
an cheathrú	na ceathrún	na ceathrúna	= Nom Pl	<i>quarter</i>
an chomharsa	na comharsan	na comharsana	na gcomharsan	<i>neighbour</i>
an mhonarcha	na monarchan	na monarchana	= Nom Pl	<i>factory</i>
an abhainn	na habhann	na haibhneacha	= Nom Pl	<i>river</i>

The words for Ireland and Scotland belong to this declension:

Nom Sg	Gen Sg	Dat Sg	
Éire	na hÉireann ¹⁹	in Éirinn ²⁰	<i>Ireland</i>
Albain ²¹	na hAlban	in Albain	<i>Scotland</i>

The following pair are masculine:

Nom Sg	Gen Sg	Nom Sg	Gen Pl	
an cara	an charad	na cairde	na gcarad ²² /na gcairde	<i>friend</i>
an namhaid	an namhad	na naimhde		<i>enemy</i>

¹⁸ *Deirfiúr* is not a fifth-declension noun, strictly speaking, although it does have the characteristic broad gen sg ending; it is listed here for completeness sake.

¹⁹ Note that with *Éire/Albain* the definite article is usually found in the genitive case, but **never** in the nominative or dative: *muintir na hÉireann / na hAlban* 'the people of Ireland/Scotland;' *is breá liom Éire/Albain* 'I like Ireland/Scotland;' *déanta in Éirinn/in Albain* 'made in Ireland/Scotland.'

²⁰ The added consonant is normally *-n*; however, when the syllable begins in *-l*, *-r* or *n*, the added consonant is *-nn*. This phenomenon was first identified by Eóin MacNeill in 'Notes on Irish Analogy', *Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy C* 15, 1909, 347 and has become known as MacNeill's Law. For the most recent discussion v. B. Ó Buachalla, 'MacNeill's Law and the Plural Marker *-(E)AN'*', *Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy C* 88 (1988).

²¹ The nominative was historically *Alba* (still in Scottish Gaelic); the form *Albain* is an example of the use of an oblique (dative) case for the nominative.

²² The Gen Pl *carad* is used in certain idioms.

§3.6. Irregular Nouns

A handful of nouns finally do not fit into any of the above classes:

Nom Sg	Gen Sg	Nom Pl	Gen Pl (if different)	
an bhean	na mná	na mná	na mban	<i>woman</i>
an bhó	na bó	na ba	na mbó	<i>cow</i>
an chaora	na caorach	na caoirigh	na gcaorach	<i>sheep</i>
an deoch	na dí	na deochanna	na ndeochanna	<i>drink</i>
an leaba	na leapa	na leapacha		<i>bed</i>
an ollann	na holla	-		<i>wool</i>
an mhí	na míosa	na míonna		<i>month</i>

The following nouns are masculine:

an lá	an lae	na laethanta		<i>day</i>
an teach	an tí	na tithe	na dtithe	<i>house</i>

The following noun can be both masculine and feminine:

an talamh, m	an talaimh	na tailte	na dtailte	<i>land, ground</i>
an talamh, f	na talún	na tailte	na dtailte	

CEACHTANNA

1. First Declension

1. the music of the bird
2. the beginning of (the) winter
3. the beginning of (the) summer
4. the end of (the) spring
5. a man's coat
6. the son's hat
7. a piece (*píosa*) of paper
8. the fool's luck (*ádh*)
9. the cover of the book
10. the men's hats

2. Second Declension

1. the colour of the shoe
2. a hand bag
3. the middle of the field
4. the middle of the street
5. the meaning of the question
6. the end of the work

7. the door of the school
8. the day of the downpour (*báisteach*)
9. the people (*muintir*) of the place
10. the colour of the shoes

3. Third Declension

1. the speaker's accent (*blas*)
2. the teacher's class
3. the smell (*boladh*) of the flower
4. lake view, the view (*radharc*) of the lake
5. the doctor's work
6. the farmer's daughter
7. the painter's brush (*scuab*)
8. the bottom (*bun*) of the glen
9. the beginning of the year
10. Easter Monday

4. Fourth Declension

1. the girl's hat
2. the girls' bags
3. the door of the room
4. the back (*cúl*) of the garden
5. the colour of the coat
6. the box of biscuits
7. the speech community (*lucht*) of the English language
8. the speech community of Irish
9. the children's room
10. the man of the shop

5. Fifth Declension

1. the father's brother
2. the mother's sister
3. the people (*muintir*) of the city
4. the leg of the chair
5. the legs of the chairs
6. the letter box
7. the people of Ireland
8. the neighbour's talk
9. the neighbours' talk
10. the friend's letter

6. Irregular Nouns

1. the woman's secret

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2. the women's secret
3. the (single) sheep's milk
4. the (plural) sheep's wool
5. the end of the day
6. the beginning of the month
7. the leg of the bed
8. the woman of the house
9. the man of the house
10. the colour of the wool

7. Turn the second clause into a genitive phrase:

e.g. Sin an teach, agus seo doras *an tí*.

1. Sin an fear, agus seo cóta ...
2. Sin an bhróg, agus seo bonn ...
3. Sin an cailín, agus seo deirfiúr ...
4. Sin an feirmeoir, agus seo teach ...
5. Sin an coláiste, agus seo geata ...
6. Sin an siopa, agus seo doras ...
7. Sin an rud, agus seo deireadh ...
8. Sin an cóta, agus seo póca ...
9. Sin an litir, agus seo bocsa ...
10. Sin an mhí, agus seo deireadh ...
11. Sin an chathaoir, agus seo cos ...
12. Sin an t-éan, agus seo nead ...
13. Sin an deoch, agus seo blas ...
14. Sin an obair, agus seo luach ...
15. Sin an rang, agus seo múinteoir ...
16. Sin an lámh, agus seo méara ...
17. Sin an deartháir, agus seo cara ...
18. Sin an mháthair, agus seo sparán ...
19. Sin an fhuinneog, agus seo gloine ...
20. Sin an doras, agus seo cúl ...
21. Sin an duine, agus seo mála ...
22. Sin an bhó, agus seo lao ...
23. Sin an bhean, agus seo iníon ...
24. Sin an teach, agus seo doras ...
25. Sin an scéal, agus seo tús ...
26. Sin an bhliain, agus seo deireadh ...

8. Expressions of Quantity

1. her money
2. his hair
3. my time

4. their clothes
5. your sisters
6. her brothers
7. a lot of drink
8. enough talk
9. too much poetry
10. little money

9. Compound Prepositions

1. all over the country
2. during the day
3. amidst the people
4. against the wind
5. until the end of the month
6. throughout Ireland
7. amidst the old people
8. to school
9. opposite the restaurant
10. for a month (present & future)

10. Verbal Noun Phrases

1. they are learning French
2. you (pl) are eating the bread
3. we are drinking the drink
4. he is opening the door
5. she is breaking the window
6. we are doing the work
7. he is writing the letter
8. she is kissing the man
9. he is cleaning the house
10. she is brushing the floor.

11. Cuir Gaeilge air seo:

1. Her hair is very long.
2. I'll meet you after the class.
3. They will be playing music every weekend.
4. They were eating the bread I bought for the neighbour's children.
5. I'll see you after the game.
6. The students of this class are writing a book about the painter's life.
7. That woman's daughter was learning German with my friend's sister.
8. There are classes going on (*ar siúl*) there throughout the summer.
9. We will be overseas for a month at the end of the winter.
10. The Irish speech community (*lucht*) is growing all over Ireland.

TEANGA IS CULTÚR

Sloinnte Gaelacha (Gaelic Surnames)

Most Irish surnames originated as patronymics:

Mac Dónaill	Son of Dónall
Nic Dhónaill	Daughter of Dónall
Ó Briain	Grandson of Brian
Ní Bhriain	Granddaughter of Brian

Note that there is no lenition after *Mac* and *Ó*, even though in Modern Irish a personal name in the genitive is always lenited (*mála Phádraig*); in medieval Irish, when patronymics started to be used as surnames, personal names were lenited after a feminine noun, but not a masculine noun, hence lenition after *Ní* and *Nic* (except, for phonological reasons, after *Nic + Gr*: Nic Grianna), but no lenition after *Ó* and *Mac*.

Women were traditionally known by their family (maiden) name even after marriage. More recently, to allow for the anglophone custom of women adopting their husband's name, the following practice was adopted:

Bean Mhic Dhónaill	Mrs Mac Donnell (i.e. the wife of Mac Donnell)
Bean Uí Bhriain	Mrs O'Brien (i.e. the wife of O'Brien)

The same genitive form is also used in other context where the surname needs to be put into the genitive:

teach Mhic Dhónaill	Mac Donnell's house
leabhar Uí Bhriain	O'Brien's book

In the Gaeltacht areas, genuine patronymics are still very much in use. In areas where everyone is on first-name basis and many families share the same surname anyhow, a patronymic may be more useful than a surname. People are known by their father's (or, not infrequently, their mother's) name:

Peadar Mháirtín	Peter the son of Martin
Seán Bhríde	John the son of Bridget

Often the grandfather (grandmother's) name is included as well:

Micí Sheáin Néill	Micky son of John son of Niall
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Seanfhocail

Ná bac le mac an bhacaigh is ní bhacfaidh mac an bhacaigh leat.	Don't bother the beggarman's son, And the beggarman's son won't bother you.
Ní hé lá na gaoithe lá na scolb.	A stormy day isn't a day for fixing the scollops.
Tús maith, leath na hoibre.	A good beginning is half the work done.
I ndomhan na ndall is rí fear na haon tsúile.	Among the blind the one-eyed man is king.
Ní hé lá na báistí lá na bpáistí.	A rainy day is not a day for children.

Amhrán: `Thíos Cois na Trá'

Thíos cois na trá domh i ndoimhneacht na hoíche An saol mór ina gcodladh agus mise liom féin Na héanacha mara ag scairtigh go léanmhar Cosúil le hanamacha bochta i bpéin.	As I was down by the beach in the middle of the night All the creation asleep and I was by myself The seabirds screeching sadly Like the poor souls in pain.
Iomlán gealaí agus iomlán rabharta Aoibhneas is ciúnas is áilleacht sa domhan Crónán na farraige a dhul siar i mo chluasa Is bogcheol an uisce ag sileadh san abhainn.	Full moon and high tide The world is filled with beauty, calm, and delight The lapping of the sea in my ears The soft music of the water flowing in the stream.
Bhuail uaigneas m'intinn is mé ag amharc ar an reilig Mé ag meabhrú ar dhaoine a bhí istigh ina luí, Fir is mná óga, seandaoine is páistí, Muintir mo mhuintir agus cairde mo chroí.	I am overcome by loneliness as I look at the graveyard I am thinking of those who are lying there Young men and women, old people and children My forebears and my dearest friends.

Dán: Sliocht as 'Cúl an Tí'
le Seán Ó Riordáin (*Teanga Bheo*, 106)

Tá Tír na nÓg ar chúl an tí
Tír álainn trína chéile
Lucht ceithre chos ag siúl na slí
Gan bróga orthu ná léine
Gan Béarla acu ná Gaeilge [...]

Is ann a thagann tincéirí
Go naofa, trína chéile
Tá gaol acu le cúl an tí
Is bíd ag iarraidh déirce
Ar chúl gach tí in Éirinn.

cúl an tí the back of the house; *trína chéile* confused, disorderly; *lucht* 'people'; *naofa* 'holy,' here 'religiously'; *gaol* 'love'; *bíd* = *bíonn siad* (Munster Irish); *ag iarraidh déirce* 'asking for alms.'

6

CEACHT A SÉ

DÍOCHLAONADH NA HAIDIACHTA (*DECLENSION OF THE ADJECTIVE*)

FOCLÓIR

anuas (with time)	for
ar chúl	in back
áthas a chur ar dhuine	make someone happy
cairdiúil	friendly
ceol clasaiceach	classical music
ceol traidisiúnta	traditional (Irish) music
chomh cairdiúil le	as friendly as
cineálta	kind
cláirseach, f	harp
cnuasach filíochta, m	poetry anthology
cnuasaigh, ag cnuasach	collect, gather
cois tine	by the fire
craobh, f	branch
cultúr, m	culture
díreach	straight
fuaim, f	sound
gaoth, f	wind
giotar, m	guitar
gléas ceoil	musical instrument
greannmhar	funny
in aghaidh	against
i measc	among
mar (+ seimhiú)	as, like
an léann Ceilteach, m	Celtic studies
litríocht, f	literature
Nua Eabhrac	New York
oileán, m	island
os cionn	above
roinn, f	department
seanaimseartha	old-fashioned
taitníonn sé liom	I like it (it pleases me)
taobh na láimhe deise/clé	on the right/left hand side
téacsleabhar	textbook
traidisiúnta	traditional

COMHRÁ

Cathal: An bhfuil tú ag baint suilt as an rang litríochta, a Aisling?

Aisling: Tá. Ach is fuath liom an cnuasach filíochta atá againn mar théacsleabhar – tá sé iontach seanaimseartha. Is fearr liom an rang ceoil. Tá sé an-suimiúil ar fad.

Cathal: An bhfuil tú fhéin ábalta gléas ceoil a sheinm?

Aisling: Tá mé ag foghlaim na cláirsí. Is breá liom é. Agus tú féin?

Cathal: Tá mise ag foghlaim an ghiotair, ach ní thig liom canadh. Bím ag seinm ceoil chlasacaigh an chuid is mó den am, ach is maith liom snagcheol fosta. – Chuala mé go bhfuil do dheartháir ina chónaí i Nua Eabhrac anois.

Aisling: Tá, le seacht mí anuas.

Cathal: An dtaitníonn saol na cathrach móire leis?

Aisling: Taitníonn, ach deireann sé nach bhfuil na daoine ansin chomh cairdiúil le muintir an oileáin bhig a raibh sé ina chónaí ann anuraidh.

Cathal: Cad é a bhí sé ag déanamh ansin?

Aisling: Bhí sé ag cnuasach amhrán agus scéalta traidisiúnta ar feadh tamaill bhig do Roinn an Léinn Cheiltigh.

Cathal: Bíonn sé i gcónaí ag déanamh oibre suimiúla, nach mbíonn?

Aisling: Bíonn. Tá an t-ádh air.

AN CEACHT GRAMADAÍ

§1. Díochlaonadh na hAidiachta (Declension of the Adjective)

The adjective is declined according to the gender, number, and case of the noun it qualifies. There are distinct forms for the genitive singular and the common plural of adjectives.

§1.1. The plural of an adjective is generally formed in one of three ways:

1) Adjectives that end in a consonant add *-a / -e*:

teach mór maith tithe móra maithe

2) Adjectives that end in a vowel are not inflected:

cailín sona sásta cailíní sona sásta

3) Adjectives that end in *-iúil* have a plural ending *-iúla*:

file cáiliúil filí cáiliúla

§1.2. The genitive singular of an adjective qualifying a masculine noun is formed by making it slender (analogous to the first declension of nouns):

teach ard (doras an) tí aird

The genitive singular of an adjective qualifying a feminine noun is formed by making it slender and adding *-e* (analogous to the second declension of nouns):

cearc mhór mhaith (ubh na) circe móire maithe

§2. Initial Mutation of Noun and Adjective

§2.1. Nominative / Accusative Singular

The adjective following a **feminine** noun in the nominative and accusative singular is lenited, whether or not it is preceded by an article:

an bhean mhór mhaith	the tall good woman
an tsráid mhór fhada	the big long road
bean mhór mhaith	a tall good woman
sráid mhór fhada	a big long road.

The adjective is not lenited, however, if it is qualified by an adverb:

áit measartha mór	a fairly large place.
ceist réasúnta deacair	a reasonably difficult question.

§2.2. Genitive Singular

The adjective following a **definite masculine** noun in the genitive singular is lenited:

searman an tsagairt bhoicht	the poor priest's sermon
ceol an éin bhig	the small bird's song
doras an tí mhóir	the door of the big house

The adjective following an **indefinite masculine** noun is lenited even if the noun is not:

port amhráin mhaith	the tune of a good song
léitheoir leabhair mhaith	the reader of a good book.

A feminine noun in the genitive is not lenited after the article, and the adjective following a

feminine noun in the genitive is never lenited either:

lá na gaoithe móire	the day of the great storm
oíche na báistí móire	the night of the great rain.

An **indefinite** feminine noun may be lenited if it is governed by a feminine noun (see Ceacht 5, §1.3 for instances of lenition after a feminine noun):

oíche bháistí	a night of rain
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but it is **not** lenited if it is qualified by an adjective:

oíche báistí móire	a night of great rain.
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§2.3. Dative Singular^U

In Ulster Irish, the adjective following a noun in the dative singular is lenited after the article (for the other dialects, see relevant section in *Cúrsaí Canúna*):

ar an chnoc ghlas	on the green hill
ón bhean bheag bhocht	from the poor little woman

The adjective following a feminine noun is always lenited, whether or not it is preceded by an article, and whether or not the noun is lenited:

ag bean bheag bhocht	by a poor little woman
ón áit dheas	from the nice place

The adjective following a masculine noun is not lenited after an indefinite noun and it tends not to be lenited after a definite noun if the noun itself does not show lenition (because of the 'd,t,s rule' or simply because it can't be lenited):

le fear mór	with a big man
ag an doras bán	by the white door
sa teach mór	in the big house

§2.4. Vocative Singular

The adjective accompanying a noun in the vocative singular is always lenited. A masculine noun, and the adjective following it, is palatalized; a feminine noun, and the adjective that follows it, remains unchanged:

a chara dhil	dear friend
a Shagairt mhóir	great priest

DECLENSION OF THE ADJECTIVE

a bhean chóir	kind lady
a Áine dhil	dear Anne

Inanimate objects or abstract concepts are not palatalized even if they are masculine:

a rún gheal	o bright love
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§2.5. Nominative / Accusative / Dative Plural

The adjective following a masculine noun in the nominative or accusative plural is lenited, whether or not it is preceded by an article, **if** and only if **the noun ends in a slender consonant** (i.e. a first declension noun with a weak plural):

fir mhóra mhaithe	big good men
cairde móra maithe	great old friends

§2.6. Genitive Plural

If the noun has a weak plural, the qualifying adjective reverts to the nominative singular form:

caint na bhfear mór	the talk of the tall men
teach na mban bocht	the house of the poor women

§2.7. Vocative Plural

The adjective following a noun in the vocative is **not** lenited, even though the noun is lenited:

a chairde maithe	dear friends
a fheara cóire	gentlemen

§3.1. Declension of the Definite Noun Phrase

Masculine:

Singular

- N** an fear mór maith croíúil shona cainteach
G bia an fhir mhóir mhaith chroíúil shona chaintigh
D ag an fhear mhór mhaith chroíúil shona chainteach
V a fhir mhóir mhaith chroíúil shona chaintigh

Weak Plural

- N** na fir mhóra mhaith chroíúla shona chainteacha
G bia na bhfear mór maith chroíúil shona cainteach
D ag na fir mhóra mhaith chroíúla shona chainteacha
V a fheara móra maithe croíúla shona cainteacha

Strong Plural

- N** na gaolta móra maithe croíúla shona cainteacha
G bia na ngaolta móra maithe croíúla shona cainteacha
D ag na gaolta móra maithe croíúla shona cainteacha
V a ghaolta móra maithe croíúla shona cainteacha

Feminine:

Singular

- N** an chearc mhór mhaith chroíúil shona chainteach
G bia na circe móire maithe croíúla shona caintí
D ag an chearc mhór mhaith chroíúil shona chainteach
V a chearc mhór mhaith chroíúil shona chainteach

Weak Plural

- N** na cearca móra maithe croíúla shona cainteacha
G bia na gcearc mór maith chroíúil shona cainteach
D ag na cearca móra maithe croíúla shona cainteacha
V a cearca móra maithe croíúla shona cainteacha

Strong Plural

- N** na deirfíuracha móra maithe croíúla shona cainteacha
G bia na ndeirfíuracha móra maithe croíúla shona cainteacha
D ag na deirfíuracha móra maithe croíúla shona cainteacha
V a dheirfíuracha móra maithe croíúla shona cainteacha

§3.2. Declension of the Indefinite Noun Phrase

Masculine:

Singular

N	fear mór maith
G bia	fir mhóir mhaith
D ag	fear mór maith
V	a fhir mhóir mhaith

Weak Plural

N	fir mhóra mhaith
G bia	fear mór maith
D ag	fir mhóra mhaith
V	a fheara móra maithe

Strong Plural

N	gaolta móra maithe
G bia	gaolta móra maithe
D ag	gaolta móra maithe
V	a ghaolta móra maithe

Feminine:

Singular

N	cearc mhór mhaith
G bia	circe móire maithe
D ag	cearc mhór mhaith
V	a chearc mhór mhaith

Weak Plural

N	cearca móra maithe
G bia	cearc mór maith
D ag	cearca móra maithe
V	a chearca móra maithe

Strong Plural

N	deirfiúracha móra maithe
G bia	deirfiúracha móra maithe
D ag	deirfiúracha móra maithe
V	a dheirfiúracha móra maithe

§4. Classes of Adjectives

Adjectives can be classified according to their different declensional patterns (the classification below represents a simplification of *New Irish Grammar*, 63-68):

Nom Sg	Gen Sg (m.)	Gen Sg (f.)	Common Plural
1. mór	móir	móire	móra
2. mall	mall	maille	malla
3. maith	maith	maithe	maithe
4. croíúil	croíúil	croíúla	croíúla
5. sona	sona	sona	sona
6. cainteach	caintigh	caintí	cainteacha
7. bacach	bacaigh	bacaí	bacacha
8. ramhar	ramhair	raimhre	ramhra

§1. Like *mór*: Adjectives ending in a Broad Consonant

Nom Sg	Gen Sg (m.)	Gen Sg (f.)	Plural	
bocht	boicht	boichte	bochta	<i>poor</i>
bog	boig	boige	boga	<i>soft</i>
beag	big	bige	beaga	<i>small</i>
caol	caoil	caoile	caola	<i>slender</i>
saor	saoir	saoire	saora	<i>free, cheap</i>
dall	daill	daille	dalla	<i>blind</i>
dearg	deirg	deirge	dearga	<i>red</i>
donn	doinn	doinne	donna	<i>brown</i>
fuar	fuair	fuaire	fuara	<i>cold</i>
bríomhar	bríomhar	bríomhaire	bríomhara	<i>lively</i>

Similarly: *borb gruff*; *úr new*; *marbh dead*; *ceolmhar musical*; *ciallmhar sensible*; *greannmhar funny* etc.

§2. Like *mall*: Monosyllables ending in a Broad Consonant²³

The difference between this and the previous group is that for phonological reasons²⁴ these adjectives resist palatalization in the genitive singular masculine:

Nom Sg	Gen Sg (m.)	Gen Sg (f.)	Plural	
fann	fann	fainne	fanna	<i>weak</i>
fionn	fionn	finne	fionna	<i>fair</i>
fliuch	fliuch	fliuiche	fliucha	<i>wet</i>
moch	moch	moiche	mocha	<i>early</i>
deas	deas	deise	deasa	<i>nice</i>
trom	trom	troime	troma	<i>heavy</i>

A small group of adjectives ending in *-íoch/-ach* should be mentioned here:

Nom Sg	Gen Sg (m.)	Gen Sg (f.)	Plural	
buíoch	buíoch	buíthí	buíocha	<i>grateful</i>
imníoch	imníoch	imnithí	imníocha	<i>anxious</i>
gnách	gnách	gnáthái	gnácha	<i>usual</i>

§3. Like *maith*: Adjectives ending in a Slender Consonant

Most adjectives which end in a slender consonant (except those ending in *-úil*): *glic clever*; *tinn sick*; *ciúin quiet* etc.

§4. Like *croíúil*: Adjectives ending in *-úil*

²³ The apparent incongruity between the genitive singular masculine and feminine is a result of the spelling reform. Before the spelling reform the adjective 'grateful' was declined as follows: Nom Sg *buidheach*; Gen Sg (m.) *buidheach*; Gen Sg (f.) *buidhighi*; Plural *buidheacha*.

²⁴ These adjectives have endings in *-nn, -ll, -m, -ng-, ch* and *-s*. But note that *dall* and *donn* are declined like *mór*.

DECLENSION OF THE ADJECTIVE

áitiúil *local*; bliantiúil *annual*; cosúil *like, likely*; cáiliúil *famous*; cairdiúil *friendly*; dathúil *handsome*; fearúil *manly*; flaithiúil *generous*; laethúil *daily*; misniúil *brave*; polaitiúil *political*; practiciúil *practical*; stairiúil *historical*; suimiúil *interesting*; tuirsiúil *tiring* etc.

§5. Like *sona*: Adjectives ending in a Vowel (NB *te, nua, and breá* > Irregular)

buí *yellow*; crua *hard*; corcra *purple*; éasca *easy*; gránna *ugly*; ólta *drunk*; réasúnta *reasonable*; rua *red*; sásta *satisfied*; stuama *sensible*; tanaí *thin* etc.

§6. Like *cainteach*: Adjectives ending in *-each*

aisteach *strange*; bídeach *tiny*; faiteach *nervous, shy*; leictreach *electrical*; náireach *shameful*; uaigneach *lonely* etc.

§7. Like *bacach*: Adjectives ending in *-ach*

brónach *sad*; ciontach *guilty*; codlatach *sleepy*; iontach *wonderful*; fadalach *slow*; feargach *angry*; fiosrach *curious*; leadránach *boring*; ocrach *hungry*; salach *dirty*; sealadach *temporary*; tábhachtach *important*; taitneamhach *pleasant* etc.

§8. Syncopated Adjectives

Nom Sg	Gen Sg (m.)	Gen Sg (f.)	Plural	
ramhar	ramhair	raimhre	ramhra	<i>fat</i>
folamh	folaimh	foilmhe	folmha	<i>empty</i>
íseal	ísil	ísle	ísle	<i>low</i>
uasal	uasail	uaisle	uaisle	<i>noble</i>
álainn	álainn	áille	áille	<i>beautiful</i>
domhain	domhain	doimhne	doimhne	<i>deep</i>
aoibhinn	aoibhinn	aoibhne	aoibhne	<i>pleasant</i>
saibhir	saibhir	saibhre	saibhre	<i>rich</i>
socair	socair	socra	socra	<i>easy</i>
deacair	deacair	deacra	deacra	<i>difficult</i>
tirim	tirim	tirime	tiorma	<i>dry</i>
láidir	láidir	láidre	láidre	<i>strong</i>

§9. Irregular Adjectives

Nom Sg	Gen Sg (m.)	Gen Sg (f.)	Plural	
garr	garr	giorra	gearra	<i>short</i>
tapaidh	tapaidh	tapaí	tapaí	<i>quick</i>
te	te	te	teo	<i>hot</i>
breá	breá	breá	breátha	<i>fine</i>
nua	nua	nuaí	nua	<i>new</i>

CEAHTANNA

1. Cuir Gaeilge air seo:

1. a big girl; the good actor; the talkative woman; a red hen; the big window.
2. the fat man's hat; the end of the good book; the beginning of a good story; the house of the kind priest; a poor man's life.
3. at the big door; on the white shoe; with a long essay; in the big school.
4. dear Bridget; dear Peter; o good friend; o talkative woman; o big man.
5. good books; long stories; the nice men; long roads; the good teachers; the white papers; nice songs; good scholars; long words.

2. Cuir Gaeilge air seo:

1. the nice men / girls / women / old women (*cailleach*)
2. the head of the nice man / girl / woman / old woman
3. the head of a nice man / girl / woman / old woman
4. the shoes of the nice men / girls / women / old women.

3. Cuir Gaeilge air seo:

1. The music of the musical birds is coming from the black branches of those high trees.
2. He was telling us a funny story.
3. We were cleaning the dirty house.
4. They are praising his big new book, but I don't like his poetry ('share of poetry').
5. The sad children heard the laughter of the kind woman.
6. Our house is at the end (*bun*) of the long straight road.
7. The nice old woman's little red hen is lost.
8. He was sitting by the fire reading a good book.
9. The café is in the back of the big shop.
10. We were walking against the cold wind.

TEANGA IS CULTÚR

Amhrán: 'Dúlamán'

`Rachaimid 'un Iúir,' ars' an Dúlamán Gaelach
`Ceannóidh mise bróg,' ars' an Dúlamán Gaelach

`We will go to Newry' says the Gaelic Dúlamán
`I will buy a pair of shoes' says the Gaelic Dúlamán.

Dúlamán na binne buí
Dúlamán Gaelach
Dúlamán na binne buí
Dúlamán Gaelach

Dúlamán of the yellow cliff
Gaelic Dúlamán,
Dúlamán of the yellow cliff
Gaelic Dúlamán.

Tá bearad agus triús ar an Dúlamán Gaelach
Péire bróga dubha ar an Dúlamán Gaelach

Gaelic Dúlamán has a beret and trousers on
Gaelic Dúlamán has a pair of black shoes on.

Dúlamán na binne buí...

Dúlamán of the yellow cliff...

Dúlamán na binne buí, Dúlamán an tsléibhe
Dúlamán na farraige is Dúlamán an déididh.

Dúlamán of the yellow cliff, Dúlamán of the mountain
Dúlamán of the sea, Dúlamán of the toothache.

Dúlamán is a type of seaweed, but the word can also refer to the person selling the seaweed.

'Amhrán an Ghaeilgeora Mhóir'
le Tadhg Mac Dhonnagáin²⁵

Bhí mise i ngrá le cailín tráth
Le cailín a bhris mo chroí
An cailín ab áille ag siúl na sráide
A leithéidí ní fhaca tú riamh
Agus bheadh muid pósta agus sásta inniu
Bheadh páistí ar fud an tí
Ag Gaeilgeoireacht ó dhubh go dubh
Murach a cuid gramadaí.

I was in love once with a girl
A girl who broke my heart
The most beautiful girl to walk the street,
You never saw the likes.
We would be married and happy today
There would be children all over the house
Speaking Irish from dawn til dusk
If it weren't for her grammar.

²⁵ From the CD *Imíonn an tAm* (2004); text and translation (with minor modifications) from www.futafata.com.

Mura bhfuil an tuiseal ginideach agat
 Agus smacht ar do chuid `h'annaí
 Níl suim dá laghad agam ionat
 Mar is cinnte go mbridfidh tú mo chroí
 Ach más Gaeilgeoir snasta blasta thú
 Is má thuigeann tú cúrsaí gramadaí
 Tar transna na páirce móire chugam
 Táim anseo i dtóin an tí.

Táim ag siúl an bhóthair uaignigh seo
 Le fada, fada an lá
 Ag cuartú na mná gaelaí i ngach áit
 Ach faraor, níl sí le fáil
 Bean atá tugtha don tuiseal tabharthach
 Bean a thuigeann na díochlaontaí
 Bean a rachfadh chun na leapan liom
 Le Graiméar na mBráithre Críostaí.

Mura bhfuil an tuiseal ginideach agat
 Agus smacht ar do chuid `h'annaí
 Níl suim dá laghad agam ionat
 Mar is cinnte go mbrisfidh tú mo chroí
 Ach más Gaeilgeoir snasta blasta thú
 Is má thuigeann tú cúrsaí gramadaí
 Tar trasna na sráide caoile chugam
 Táim anseo i dtóin an tí.

Mar sin más tú an cailín seo
 Is má tá tú i do shaineolaí
 Ar rangabháil na deacrachta
 Gan trácht ar na tréaniolraí
 Má bhaineann tú pléisiúr as na consain chaola
 Más maith leat an briathar saor
 Tar liomsa a stóirín nó go n-éalóimid le chéile
 Ach ar dtús scrúdú beag gramadaí.

If you don't have a grasp of the genitive case,
 And your `h's aren't in good shape
 I have no interest in you
 Because you're sure to break my heart
 But if you're a polished, skilled Irish speaker
 And if you know your grammar
 Come across the big field to me,
 I'm here in the back of the house.

I've been walking this lonely road
 For many's the long, long day
 Looking for the Gaelic woman everywhere
 But sadly, she just isn't out there.
 A woman who is devoted to the dative case
 A woman who understands the declensions
 A woman who'd go to bed with me
 With the Christian Brothers' Grammar.

If you don't have a grasp of the genitive case,
 And your `h's aren't in good shape
 I have no interest in you
 Because you're sure to break my heart
 But if you're a polished, skilled Irish speaker
 And if you know your grammar
 Come across the narrow street to me,
 I'm here in the back of the house.

So if you're that girl
 And if you're an expert
 On the participle of difficulty
 Not to mention strong plurals
 If you get pleasure from slender consonants
 If you like the autonomous verb
 Come with me my love and we'll elope
 But first, a little grammar test.

DECLENSION OF THE ADJECTIVE

Tar trasna na páirce móire chugam	Come across the big field to me
Tar trasna na sráide caoile chugam	Come across the narrow street to me
Tar trasna na leabharlainne ciúine chugam	Come across the quiet library to me
Tar trasna na farraige gairbhe chugam	Come across the rough sea to me
Tar trasna na carraige duibhe chugam	Come across the black rock to me
Tar trasna na liomanáide báine chugam	Come across the white lemonade to me
Táim anseo i dtóin an tí.	I'm here in the back of the house.

Bheadh muid pósta agus sásta inniu	We would be married and happy today
Bheadh páistí ar fud an tí	There'd be children all over the house
Ag Gaeilgeoireacht ó dhubh go dubh	Speaking Irish from dawn til dusk
Ag Gaeilgeoireacht ó dhubh go dubh	Speaking Irish from dawn til dusk
Ag Gaeilgeoireacht ó dhubh go dubh	Speaking Irish from dawn til dusk
Murach a cuid gramadaí.	If it weren't for her grammar.

Lá Fhéile Pádraig (St Patrick's Day, 3/17)

Seanfhocal

Ní ar leathchois a tháinig Pádraig go hÉirinn. Patrick didn't come to Ireland on one leg.

Dhá Rann

I.

Naomh Bríd:

Gach dara lá go haoibhinn álainn,
ó mo lá-sa go Lá Fhéile Pádraig!

Every other day will be fine and pleasant
from my feast day to St Patrick's Day!

Naomh Pádraig:

Gach aon lá go haoibhinn álainn
ó mo lá-sa amach,
agus leath mo lae-sa leis!
(CC #249)

Every day will be fine and pleasant
from my feast day onwards,
and half of my feast day as well!

II.

Lá Fhéile Pádraig Earraigh
Bíonn nead ar gach coill
Breac ar gach linn
Agus lao in gach cró in Éirinn!
(CC #251)

St Patrick's Day in Spring
There's a nest in every cove
A trout in every pool
And a calf in every barn in Ireland!

Sliocht as *Leabhar Sheáin Uí Chonaill*: Lá 'le Pádraig²⁶

Nuair a bhí mé beag, ag éirí suas, bhí crosanna éadaigh déanta ar lámh dheis na gcailíní, agus iad daite de gach aon dath. Ní raibh siad ar na buachaillí; chuir na buachaillí cipíní saileach sa tine, agus nuair a bhí siad dóite, chuir gach aon duine, óg is críona, cros saileach ar a lámh dheis – fir is mná. `Cros cipín dóite' a thug siad orthu. Bhí an tseamróg ar chaipíní agus ar hataí na ngarsún agus na bhfear. Chaith na mná ribíní uaithne.

Lá 'le Pádraig chuaigh gach aon duine go dtí an teach tábhairne, agus sin an port a bhí ag gach aon duine: `Tá muid ag dul ár bPota Pádraig a ól! Tagaigí linn go mbeidh ár bPota Pádraig againn!'

cros `cross'; *ar lámh dheis* `on the right arm'; *daite* `coloured'; *dath* `colour'; *cipín* `little stick' *sail* (gen. *saileach*) `willow'; *seamróg* shamrock'; *caipín* `cap'; *ribín* `ribbon'; *uaithne* `green'; *port* `tune'; *Pota Pádraig* `St Patrick's Pot.'

²⁶ With considerable didactic editing.

7

Ceacht a Seacht An Modh Coinníollach (*Conditional*)

FOCLÓIR

aghaidh, f	face
aistear, m	journey
aithin, vn. aithint, f	recognize
cuir as do dhuine	annoy, bother
níl tú ag cur as dom	you're not bothering me
cuir scairt ar dhuine	call someone on the phone
cuir tuairisce dhuine	ask after someone
bhí sí ag cur do thuairisce	she was asking after you
abair leis go raibh mé ag cur a thuairisce	tell him I was asking after him
contúirteach	dangerous
cruinniú, m	meeting
dá	if
a dhath, m	anything, nothing
an bhfuil a dhath ag dul?	is anything happening? what's up?
éineacht, f, in éineacht le	together with
faoi (fúm, fút, faoi, faoithi, fúinn, fúibh, fúthu)	under
fá (fúm, fút, faoi, faoithi, fúinn, fúibh, fúthu)	around, about
fá choinne (+ <i>genitive</i>)	for, for the purpose of
guthán (<i>or</i> fón) póca, m	cellular phone
meangadh	smile
milseog, f	dessert
rúnaí, m	secretary
sula (+ urú)	before
síob, f	lift
stáisiún traenach, m	train station
thart fá	around, about
úsáid, ag úsáid	to use

COMHRÁ

Aisling and Pádraigín and Bríd have arranged to meet in the café before going to the movies together.

Aisling: Gabh mo leithscéal, a Phádraigín. An bhfuil mé mall?

Pádraigín: Níl tú. Suigh síos anseo. Tá uair a chloig againn; dúirt siad liom nach dtosódh an scannán go dtí a sé. – An bhfuil a dhath ag dul?

Aisling: Níl. Bhuail mé le Máire inné. Bhí sí ag cur do thuairisce.

Pádraigín: Ní fhaca me í le fada. An bhfuil sí go maith?

Aisling: Déarfainn go bhfuil. Tá cuma mhaith uirthi. Bhí Caitlín bheag in éineacht léi: Ní aithneofá í; tá sí sé bliana d'aois anois agus iontach ard!

Pádraigín: Is dócha go bhfuil sí iontach cliste fosta.

Aisling: Tá sí.

Pádraigín: Cá bhfuil Bríd? Dúirt sí go mbuailfeadh sí linn anseo ag a cúig.

Aisling: B'fhéidir gur cheart dúinn scairt a chur uirthi.

Pádraigín: An bhfuil a huimhir ghutháin agat?

Aisling: Tá. Ar mhiste leat dá n-úsáidfainn do ghuthán póca?

Pádraigín: Níor mhiste. Seo duit.

Aisling: 465-568-9893. Haileó. A Bhríd, seo Aisling. An bhfuil tú ceart go leor? ... Ná bí buartha. Tá tú ceart go leor... Is maith sin. Chífídh mé thú gan mhoill.

Tá sí ag teacht. Dúirt sí go mbeadh sí anseo i gceann deich mbomaite nó mar sin. Dúirt sí go dtabharfadh Séamus síob di.

Pádraigín: O, ba chóir do Shéamus teacht linn! Tá mé cinnte go dtaitneoidh an scannán leis fosta!

AN CEACT GRAMADAÍ

§1. An Modh Coinníollach (The Conditional Mood)

The conditional mood of the verb is used to express unreal or contrary-to-fact statements, wishes, and polite requests. It is also used to report indirect speech of future tense statements. It is often translated in English with the modal 'would'.²⁷

Ní dhéanfainn sin	I would not do that
Dúirt sé go mbeadh sé anseo	He said that he would be here.

Note that although the conditional resembles the past tense in its treatment of the initial letter of the verb (consonants are lenited; *d'* prefixed to vowels / *fh*), the negative /interrogative particles used are the same as in the present and future tenses:

Negative: **ní** ní bheinn

²⁷ In addition, in some parts of Donegal, the conditional is also used in place of the imperfect tense (see Ceacht 11 and dialect appendix) to indicate repeated or habitual action in the past.

THE CONDITIONAL

Interrogative:	an	an mbeifeá
Conjunctive:	go	go mbeadh sí
Neg. interr./conj.:	nach	nach mbeadh sé
before:	sula	sula mbeadh sé

§1.1. The Substantive Verb²⁸

Note that the 2 sg has the ending *-fá/-feá* in **all** conjugations:

bheinn	<i>I would be</i>
bheifeá	<i>you would be</i>
bheadh sé	<i>he would be</i>
bheadh sí	<i>she would be</i>
bheimis	<i>we would be</i>
bheadh sibh	<i>you would be</i>
bheadh siad^U/bheidís	<i>they would be</i>

§1.2. First Conjugation

glan	`clean'	cuir	`put'
ghlanfainn	<i>I would clean</i>	chuirfinn	<i>I would put</i>
ghlanfá ...		chuirfeá	...
ghlanfadh sé		chuirfeadh sé	
ghlanfadh sí		chuirfeadh sí	
ghlanfaimis		chuirfimis	
ghlanfadh sibh		chuirfeadh sibh	
ghlanfadh siad ^U / ghlanfaidís		chuirfeadh siad ^U / chuirfidís	

§1.3. Second Conjugation

ceannaigh	`buy'	éirigh	`get up'
cheannóinn	<i>I would buy</i>	d'éireoinn	<i>I would get up</i>
cheannófá ...		d'éireofá	...
cheannódh sé		d'éireodh sé	
cheannódh sí		d'éireodh sí	
cheannóimis		d'éireoimis	
cheannódh sibh		d'éireodh sibh	
cheannódh siad ^U / cheannóidís		d'éireodh siad ^U / d'éireoidís	

²⁸ See also discussion of forms and pronunciation of the conditional paradigm in the dialect appendix.

The pronunciation of second-conjugation verbs in Donegal does not match the standard paradigm well, and might better be represented by the following spelling:

ceannaigh	éirigh
cheannochainn	d'éireochainn
cheannochfá	d'éireochá
cheannochadh sé	d'éireochadh sé
cheannochadh sí	d'éireochadh sí
cheannochadh muid	d'éireochadh muid
cheannochadh sibh	d'éireochadh sibh
cheannochadh siad	d'éireochadh siad

§1.4. The Irregular Verbs

Affirmative	Negative	Interrogative	
bheinn	ní bheinn	an mbeinn?	<i>would be</i>
d'fheicfinn	ní fheicfinn	an bhfeicfinn?	<i>would see</i>
chluinfinn	ní chluinfinn	an gcluifinn?	<i>would hear</i>
dhéanfainn	ní dhéanfainn	an ndéanfainn?	<i>would do</i>
thabharfainn	ní thabharfainn	an dtabharfainn?	<i>would give</i>
bhéarfainn	ní bhéarfainn	an mbéarfainn?	<i>would catch</i>
thiocfainn	ní thiocfainn	an dtiocfainn?	<i>would come</i>
gheobhainn	ní bhfaighinn	an bhfaighinn?	<i>would get</i>
d'íosfainn	ní íosfainn	an íosfainn?	<i>would eat</i>
déarfainn	ní déarfainn	an ndéarfainn?	<i>would</i>
sayrachainn	ní rachainn	an rachainn?	<i>would go</i>

§1.5. Copula Idioms in the Conditional

As we have seen in Ceacht a Dó (1), the conditional of the copula is identical with the past tense of the copula. The conditional of the copula appears ubiquitously in idioms expressing wishes or polite requests:

Ba mhaith liom deoch	I would like a drink
Ar mhaith leat pionta eile?	Would you like another pint?

Before a vowel (or a lenited `f) *ba* becomes *b'*, *ar* becomes *arbh* etc:

B'fhearr liom tae	I would prefer tea
-------------------	--------------------

THE CONDITIONAL

Arbh fhearr leat suíochán eile? Would you prefer a different seat?

Affirmative:	ba mhaith	b' fhearr
Negative:	níor mhaith	níorbh fhearr
Interrogative:	ar mhaith	arbh fhearr
Neg. interrog.:	nár mhaith	nárbh fhearr
Conjunctive:	gur mhaith	gurbh fhearr
Neg. conjunct.:	nár mhaith	nárbh fhearr

§2. Other Polite Requests

The conditional is widely used to express polite requests. Below are some useful phrases:

An ndéanfá gar dom? – Déanfaidh cinnte.	<i>Would you do me a favour? – Sure.</i>
An dtig liom caitheamh? – Ní thig.	<i>May I smoke? – No.</i>
An dtiocfadh liom labhairt le Seán? – Thig.	<i>Could I speak with Seán? – Yes.</i>
Ar mhiste leat an doras a dhruidim? – Níor mhiste.	<i>Would you mind closing the door? – No.</i>

§3. The Preposition *faoi* and its Prepositional Pronouns

FAOI `under, around'			
fúm	<i>under me</i>	fúinn	<i>under us</i>
fút	<i>under you</i>	fúibh	<i>under you</i>
faoi	<i>under him</i>	fúthu	<i>under them</i>
fúithi	<i>under her</i>		

Faoi lenites the following noun:

faoi thábla	under a table
faoin mhála	under the bag
faoin tábla	under the table.

Whereas in the South, the preposition *faoi* can carry the meaning of `under' or `around, about,' Ulster Irish distinguishes between the two. In Donegal, *faoi* is used solely to express `under,' and *fá* for `around, about:'

faoin leabhar	under the book
fáin leabhar ^U	about the book.

Fá appears in many idioms:

fá dtaobh do ^U	about	bhí sé ag caint fá dtaobh duit	he was talking about you
fá choinne ^U	for	téim amach fá choinne dinnéir	I go out for dinner

thart fá^U around thart fán cheantar around the area

CEAIGHTANNA

1. An Scrúdú Beag

Scríobh an sliocht seo a leanas sa mhodh choinníollach agus cuir Béarla air:

Beidh an múinteoir i láthair agus déarfadh sé linn suí síos. Tabharfaidh sé páipéar dúinn agus inseoidh sé dúinn na ceisteanna a fhreagairt. Scríobhfaidh muid linn go ceann tamaill, agus tógfaidh an múinteoir na páipéir uainn ansin. Rachaidh muid amach go dtí an chéad rang eile. Beidh an múinteoir sona sásta, mar ní bheidh botún ar bith againn! Éireoidh go geal linn sa scrúdú agus gheobhaidh 'achan duine 'A+'!

2. Substantive Verb

1. I would be happy.
2. Would he be sad?
3. The children would be pleased.
4. Seán would not have a cold.
5. Would you (plural) be angry?

3. First Conjugation Verbs

1. That wouldn't bother us.
2. I wouldn't listen to that music.
3. Wouldn't little Síle break the glass?
4. They said they wouldn't clean the car.
5. Would you (sg) write to me? (*scríobh chuig*)

4. Second Conjugation Verbs

1. She said she would leave at seven o'clock.
2. Would you buy that book for her?
3. The students said they wouldn't finish the homework today.
4. Would you (sg) help me?
5. She said she wouldn't work there.

5. Irregular Verbs

1. I wouldn't do that. It's too dangerous.
2. 'Would you eat that?' 'I wouldn't.'
3. I would go on a long journey with you, but I'd be in the driver's seat (*ach mise ag tiomáint*).²⁹
4. He said he'd come home at twelve.
5. Would you get a chance to go to the shop later?

²⁹ See Nuala Ní Dhomhnaill's poem, 'Mise ag Tiomáint', *Pharaoh's Daughter* (1990), 102.

6. Indirect Speech

Tá Seán ag caint faoi na rudaí a dhéanfaidh sé amárach. Scríobh síos cad é a dúirt sé:

1. Éireoidh mé ar a hocht a clog. (*Dúirt sé go...*)
2. Íosfaidh mé mo bhricfeasta.
3. Rachaidh mé amach leis an mhadadh.
4. Tiocfaidh mé ar ais thart fá a deich.
5. Glanfaidh mé an teach.
6. Tabharfaidh mé bia don mhadadh.
7. Ólfaidh mé cupán tae.
8. Léifidh mé mo nótaí le haghaidh an ranga agus déanfaidh mé m'obair bhaile.
9. Beidh ranganna agam go dtí a cúig a clog.
10. Buailfidh mé le mo chairde fá choinne dinnéir ina dhiaidh sin.
11. Ní bheidh mé amuigh rófhada ach ní rachaidh mé a chodladh go dtí meán oíche.

7. An ndéanfá gar dom?

How would you ask for help if...

1. you're trying to reach your friend Máire at work on the telephone?
2. you have your bags full of groceries and the door is closed?
3. you have half an hour to prepare a 3-course meal?
4. the house is dirty and you don't want to be the only one who's cleaning?
5. you have a cold and the door is wide open?

8. Obair Bheirte

Here are some of the requests a secretary has to deal with. Simulate conversations, and take turns as the patient (or not so patient) secretary:

1. Could I see the doctor today?
2. Could you give me the doctor's telephone number?
3. Would you mind closing the window?
4. Could I speak to my wife?
5. May I smoke?

9. Cuir Gaeilge air seo:

1. They thought you would be interested in the lecture (that there would be interest at you in the lecture').
2. He said he wouldn't eat in that restaurant.
3. I didn't know you'd be at the meeting.
4. The doctor thought this would help her.
5. Would you give me a lift to the train station?
6. I wouldn't say that; my teacher would be very angry.
7. I thought he'd give the present to Síle, but he didn't.
8. They said they wouldn't leave until (*go / go dtí go*) they saw a smile on her face.
9. Would you buy a dessert for the party tonight, please?
10. I don't believe they would do a thing like that.

8. Ba mhaith liom...

What is your greatest wish? What would you do to realize it? Give your imagination free rein.

TEANGA IS CULTÚR

Seanfhocal

Cad é a dhéanfadh cat ach luch a mharú.

What would the cat do but kill mice.

Rann do Pháistí

`An ólfá deoch, a Thomáisín?'
`D'ólfainn agus trí dheoch –
Deoch le tart
Deoch gan tart
Deoch ar eagla an tairt.'
(CC #188)

`Will you have a drink, little Thomas?'
`I will have three drinks –
One drink for the thirst
One drink without being thirsty
One drink for fear of being thirsty.'

Amhrán: Máire Bhán

(from the singing of Róise Mhic Grianna)

Shiúlfainn oileán Árainn leat is páirt den Mhullach Mhór,
Rachainn go Flaithis Dé leat dá mb'fhéidir domh dhul ann;
Ní iarrfainn bó ná spré leat ach mo lámh a chur faoi do cheann,
Ó is tá mé i ngrá le Máire Bhán is níl cás ar bith domh ann.

A Mháire Bhán a thaisce, is a Mháire Bhán a stór,
Dá dtigfeá thusa liomsa fríd choillte dlútha ceo
Bhéarfainn amharc bailte móra duit a thógfadh suas do chroí,
Ó is bheinn féin ag ól leat ar bhorda geala an rí.

Luigh mé taobh thiar díthe mar bhí mé breoite tinn,
Is d'fhiafraigh mé den ainnir óg an dtomhaisfeadh sí mo cheann;
Tá na mílte fear i ngrá léithe go brách nach dtig chun cinn,
Ó is tá mé i ngrá le Máire Bhán is níl cás ar bith domh ann.

*I would walk the island of Aran with you and a part of Mullaghmore,
I would go to heaven with you if I were able to go there;
I wouldn't ask for a cow or a dowry with you – only to put my hand under your head, *
Oh and I am in love with Máire Bhán and there is no hope for me.

THE CONDITIONAL

*Máire Bhán my darling and Máire Bhán my love,
If you were to come with me through dense misty woods;
I would show you towns that would lift up your heart,
Oh and I myself would be drinking with you at the burnished tables of the king.*

*I lay down by her side because I was sick and sore
And I asked the young woman would she measure my head;
There are thousands of men in love with her who will never get anywhere,
Oh and I am in love with Máire Bhán and there is no hope for me.*

Amhrán: Gan Dhá Phingin Spré (An Clár Board Deal)
(from the singing of Maighread Ní Dhomhnaill and Róise Mhic Grianna)

Phósfainn thú gan bó gan puntaí gan dhá phingin spré
Leagfainn fúm thú maidin drúchta le bánú an lae
Mo ghalar dúnta gan mé agus tú, a ghrá mo chléibh
I gCaiseal Dubh is gan de leaba fúinn ach an clár bord deal

Bean solasta ní mholfaidh mé is ní cháinfidh mé í
Bean dorcha ní ghlacfaidh mé í go deo mar mhnaoi
Iníon an bhodaigh ní shantóidh mé mar gheall ar mhaoín
Ach pósfaidh mé mo stóirín, is í grá mo chroí

O léifinn leabhar Gaeilge agus canúint mhaith chrua
Scríobhfaidh mé ina dhiaidh sin le barr mo phinn
Loch Éirne go snámhfainn ar chúl mo chinn
Is dá dtéadh agam bean a bhréagadh bheadh an báire liom.

Ná síl cé gurb íseal nach uasal mé
Ná síl gur insan díog údaí a fuarthas mé
Sín síos liom ar seal míosa agus cuartaigh mé
Is gheobhaidh tú scríofa i mo thaobh deas gurb uasal mé

*I would marry you without a cow without pounds without tuppence dowry,
I would lay you beneath me on a dewy morning at the dawn of day;
It is my complete affliction that you, my darling love, and I
are not in Caiseal Dubh with nothing beneath us but the deal board.*

*I will not praise and I will not criticise a bright-faced woman,
I will never take a dark-faced woman as a wife;
I will not desire the daughter of somebody important because of wealth*

But I will marry my darling, she is the love of my heart.

*O I would read an Irish book in good hard language;
After that I will write with the tip of my pen;
I would swim Lough Erne on my back
And if I were able to entice a woman, I would have won the day.*

*Do not think that I am not noble even though I am lowly
Do not think that I was found in yon ditch
Lie down beside me for a month or so and try me out
And you will find written in my right side that I am noble.*

Lá na nAmadán (April Fool's Day)

Seanfhocal

Bíonn ádh ar an amadán.

Fools are lucky.

Rann

Sceimhle! Sceimhle!
An chéad lá de gheimhreadh.
Scanradh! Scanradh!
An chéad lá de shamhradh.
Amadán! Amadán!
An chéad lá d'Aibreán.
(CC #253)

A scare! A scare!
The first day of winter.
A fright! A fright!
The first day of summer.
A fool! A fool!
The first day of April.

8

CEAHT A HOHT MÁ AGUS DÁ ('IF')

FOCLÓIR

an Afraic, f	Africa
an Áise, f	Asia
ar chor ar bith	at all
ar fud (+ <i>genitive</i>)	throughout
ceolchoirm, f	concert
cuairt, f	visit
cuairt a thabhairt ar áit	to visit a place
dá	if (with conditional)
domhan, m	world
fadhb, f	problem
fásach, m	desert
féadaim	I can
inteacht ^U = éigin	some
leathphingin rua, f (<i>with neg.</i>)	not a penny
mór millteach	great big; huge
má	if
Neipeal, m	Nepal
pianó, m	piano
plean, m	plan
saibhir	rich
an tSín, f	China
siúilim an domhan	I travel the world
sona sásta	(really) happy
stiúideo, m	studio
taisteal, m	travel
déanaim taisteal	I travel
an Tibéid, f	Tibet
trua, f	pity

COMHRÁ

Aisling: Dá mbeifeá saibhir, cad é a dhéanfá, a Shíle?

Síle: Níl me cinnte. Sílim go ndéanfainn taisteal. Rachainn go dtí an Tibéid, go Neipeal, go dtí an tSín – gach áit san Áise. Thabharfainn cuairt ar an Afraic fosta – d'fheicfinn an Sahára, an fásach mór millteach.... Shiúilfainn an domhan go léir dá bhféadfainn. Agus tú féin? Cad é a dhéanfá?

Aisling: Sílim go bhfanfainn anseo agus go gceannóinn teach mór in aice na farraige. Gheobhainn

cláirseach mhór agus pianó. Bheadh stiúideo agam agus bheinn ag seinm ceoil le mo chairde. Rachainn go dtí an Fhrainc nó go tír inteacht eile ar feadh tamaill bhig – ar laethanta saoire nó fá choinne ceolchoirme, ach bheinn sona sásta fanacht in Éirinn.

Síle: Hm. Tá cuma fíormhaith ar an phlean sin fosta. Nach mór an trua nach bhfuil leathphingin rua againn! – Éist, a chailín, tá mé féin agus Pádraigín agus Henri ag dul chuig an bhialann bheag nua sin anocht – níl sé daor ar chor ar bith. Nach dtiocfá linn?

Aisling: Ní dócha go dtiocfainn. Rachainn libh dá bhféadfainn, ach caithfidh mé obair anocht. Am éigin eile.

AN CEACHT GRAMADAÍ

§1. Na Cónaisc `Má' agus `Dá' (The Conjunction `If')

Depending on the context, `if' can either be translated *má* or *dá*. *Má* is used to express real or likely conditions, and *dá* is used to express unreal or unlikely/impossible conditions. *Dá* is used only when the main clause is in the conditional; *má* is used when the main clause is in the present, past, or future tense. If the main clause is in the conditional, use *dá*; otherwise use *má*.

§1.1. Má

Má lenites the following verb, except for *tá*, *deir/dúirt*; and *fuair*:

Má théann tú amach, cuir ort do hata.	If you go out, put on a hat.
Má tá tú tinn, fan sa bhaile.	If you are sick, stay home.
Má deirim féin é.	If I say so myself.

Má can be used with the present or past tense:

Má tá an t-airgead agam, téim amach go minic.	If I have the money, I go out often.
Má chuala sé an scéal, níor lig sé air.	If he had heard the story, he didn't let on.

Má is never followed by the future tense; if the main clause is in the future tense, the if- clause will be in the present tense; in the case of the substantive verb, however, the present habitual *bíonn* is used rather than *tá*:

Má fheicim amárach é, tabharfaidh mé dó é.	If I see him tomorrow, I'll give it to him.
Má chuidíonn tú liom, beidh muid in am.	If you help me, we'll be on time.
Má bhíonn sé fliuch, ní rachaidh muid amach.	If it is rainy, we won't go out.

§1.2. Dá

Dá eclipses the following verb. It is always followed by the conditional:

Dá mbeadh an t-airgead agam, rachainn inniu.	If I had the money, I'd go today.
Bheadh áthas orm dá mbeifeá anseo.	I'd be happy if you were here.
Dá bhfaighinn an post, rachainn go hÉirinn.	If I got the job, I'd go to Ireland.

Note that there is no distinction between 'I would do' and 'I would have done' in Irish; the above sentence could also mean 'If I had got the job, I would have gone to Ireland.'

§1.3. *Muna/Mura*

The negative of both *má* and *dá* is *muna* (*mura* in the *Caighdeán*), which eclipses:

Muna mbíonn sé fliuch, rachaidh muid amach.	If it is not rainy, we'll go out.
Muna mbeadh tinneas cinn orm, rachainn amach.	If I didn't have a headache, I'd go out.

§1.4. The Copula

Má is always used with the present form of the copula, *dá* with the conditional:

<i>má</i> + <i>is</i> > <i>más</i>	<i>dá</i> + <i>ba</i> > <i>dá mba</i> (<i>mb'</i> before vowels)
<i>má</i> + <i>ní</i> > <i>mura</i> (<i>murab</i> before vowels)	<i>dá</i> + <i>níor</i> > <i>murar</i> (<i>murarbh</i> before vowels)

<i>is cailín cliste í</i>	she is a clever girl
<i>más cailín cliste í</i>	if she is a clever girl
<i>mura cailín cliste í</i>	if she is not a clever girl
<i>dá mba chailín cliste í</i>	if she were a clever girl
<i>murar chailín cliste í</i>	if she weren't a clever girl

<i>is féidir é</i>	it is possible
<i>más féidir é</i>	if it is possible
<i>mura féidir é</i>	if it isn't possible
<i>dá mb'fhéidir é</i>	if it were possible
<i>murarbh fhéidir é</i>	if it weren't possible

Más / mura occurs in a number of commonly used expressions:

<i>más féidir leat</i>	if you can
<i>más maith leat</i>	if you like
<i>más mian leat</i>	if you wish
<i>más fearr leat</i>	if you prefer
<i>más fíor é</i>	if it is true
<i>mura miste leat</i>	if you don't mind
<i>murar mhiste leat</i>	if you wouldn't mind.

CEAHTANNA

1. Má

1. If you see him, tell him I was asking after him (*ag cur a thuairisce*).
2. If you go overseas, bring me with you.
3. If you eat this, you'll be all right.
4. If you marry the lawyer, you'll be rich!
5. If I have time tonight, I'll go to a movie with my friends.

2. Dá

1. I wish (Ba bhreá liom dá...) you could be here.
2. If she had time, she would take a vacation.
3. If you listened to her, you'd be deaf (*bodhar*).
4. If you had listened to her, you wouldn't be here now.
5. If I could go to France, I'd spend a year or two there.

3. Muna/Mura

1. If you don't get up now, you will be late.
2. If she weren't busy, she would do it.
3. If you hadn't broken the window, he wouldn't be furious now.
4. If you don't clean the house soon, I will leave!
5. If you didn't drink too much, you wouldn't lose your job.

4. Má nó dá?

Make up a suitable beginning for each of the sentences below:

1. ... chuirfinn suas mo scáth fearthainne.
2. ... caithfidh tú dul ar a lorg ('to look for it').
3. ... bheinn ábalta rith mar sin.
4. ... ná creid é!
5. ... bheadh cupán deas tae againn.
6. ... tosaimid a dhamhsa.
7. ... rachainn go hÉirinn leat.
8. ... phósfainn an píobaire.
9. ... cuirfidh mé orm mo chóta.
- 10.... ná bac leis!

5. Cad é a dhéanfá?

1. ... dá mbeifeá tinn?
2. ... dá mbeadh ocras ort?
3. ... dá mbeadh \$1000 agat?
4. ... dá mbeadh lá saor agat?
5. ... dá mbeadh bliain saoire agat?
6. ... dá mbeifeá réidh leis an ollscoil?

MÁ AND DÁ ('If')

7. ... dá gcluiféa scread ar an tsráid i lár na hoíche?
8. ... dá gcluiféa duine éigin thíos staighre san oíche agus tú leat féin?
9. ... dá mbrisféa fuinneog do chomharsan de thaisme agus é as baile?
- 10.... dá bhfeicféa do spéirbhean/spéirfhear sa tsráid chugat?
- 11.... dá bhfeicféa mac an bhacaigh?

6. Chaith tú an oíche sa teach tábhairne, agus chaill tú an bus abhaile, agus níl pingin rua sa phóca agat. Cad é a dhéanfa? *Try to construct 'if' sentences, e.g. 'if I had my credit card (cárta creidmheasa) with me...'; 'if I had a cell phone'; 'if I knew someone there ' etc.*

7. Dá mbeiféa anseo liom...

Imagine that you are staying in a foreign country. Write a letter to a friend telling him/her what s/he would see if s/he were there, and where you could go together.

8. Cara mo Charad

You are quite smitten by your friend's acquaintance, but it's clear to you a) that s/he is interested in your friend, and b) that your friend isn't in the least bit interested. Cad é a dhéanfa?

9. Cuir Gaeilge air seo:

1. I'd be very happy if you were here.
2. If they went to sleep early, they wouldn't be so tired in the morning.
3. If the day is nice, we'll go swimming. If it is cold, we'll stay at home.
4. I'd enjoy the concert if I didn't have a headache.
5. If you have a problem, we will help you.
6. If I had a house like that, I'd stay home all the time!
7. If she has time, she'll tell us a long story.
8. If he goes to Italy, he'll learn a lot of Italian.
9. If they opened the window, we'd be cold.
10. If they eat too much, they'll be sick.

TEANGA IS CULTÚR

Casfhocail

`An bhfaca tú an bacach
nó an bhfaca tú a mhac?'
`Ní fhaca mé an bacach
is ní fhaca mé a mhac.
Ach dá bhfeicfinnse an bacach
nó dá bhfeicfinnse a mhac
ní bhacfainn leis an bhacach
is ní bhacfainn lena mhac.'
(CC #451)

`Did you see the beggar
or did you see his son?'
`I didn't see the beggar
and I didn't see his son.
If I did see the beggar
or if I saw his son
I wouldn't bother the beggar
nor would I bother his son.'

Tomhas: `An Gadhar Odhar'

Dá mbeadh gabhar odhar agat
agus ábhar gabhair
Agus gabhar ramhar a chur i mbun
Is do thogha ghabhair odhar ramhar agat,
Cad é an méid gabhar a bheadh agat ansin?
(CC #447)

If you had a dun goat
and the makings of another
and a fat goat to go with it
and your pick of a fat dun goat
then how many goats would you have?

Rainn

`A sheanbhean, a sheanbhean,
a sheanbhean, a sheanbhean,
a sheanbhean, a sheanbhean,
an ólfa tae?'
`D'ólfainn,' arsa an tseanbhean,
`Dá mbeadh siúcra agus bainne ann,
d'ólfainn lán an channa de
dá bhfaighinn uait é.'
(CC #158)

`Old woman, old woman,
Old woman, old woman,
Old woman, old woman,
Would you have a tea?'
`I would,' said the old woman,
`If there were sugar and milk in it,
I'd drink a whole pot of it,
If you gave it to me.'

Rabhlaí Rabhlaí suas le falla
Rabhlaí Rabhlaí anuas den bhfalla.
Dá dtiocfadh na Fianna is Tuatha De Danann
Ní chuirfidís Rabhlaí Rabhlaí mar a bhí sé cheana.
(*Rabhlaí Rabhlaí*, 1)

Rabhlaí Rabhlaí up on the wall
Rabhlaí Rabhlaí fell off the wall.
If the Fianna came and the Tuatha Dé,
They couldn't put Rabhlaí Rabhlaí
together again.

MÁ AND DÁ ('IF')

Dá mba lachain san uisce na cailíní deasa
bheadh sciatháin ar bhuachaillí ag eitilt ina n-aice.

If the pretty girls were ducks in the water
The boys would sprout wings to fly to them.

Dá mba loin dubha móra iad nó smólaigh bhuí bhreaca
Bheadh buachaillí óga á dtóraíocht sna sceacha.
(CC #316)

If they were big blackbirds or speckled thrushes
The lads would look for them in the hawthorn.

Seanfhocal

Más maith leat do mholadh, faigh bás;
más maith leat do cháineadh, pós.

If you like being praised, die;
if you like being censured, get married.

Amhrán: 'Casadh an tSúgáin'

A Rí na bhfeart, cad é a chas insan dúthaigh mé?
Is gur mó cailín deas a gheobhainn i mo dhúthaigín beag féin
Casadh mé isteach mar a raibh searc agus grá geal mo chléibh
Is chuir an tseanbhean amach mé ag casadh an tsúgáinín féir.

Curfá:

Má bhíonn tú liom, bí liom, a stóirín mo chroí
Má bhíonn tú liom, bí liom os comhair an tsaoil
Má bhíonn tú liom, bí liom gach orlach de do chroí
'Sé mo lom go fann nach liom Dé Domhnaigh thú mar mhnaoi.

*Oh God of miracles, what brought me into this place?
It's many a nice girl I could get in my own townland.
I went into the house where my love and the darling of my heart lives
And the old woman turned me out, twisting the grass rope.*

Refrain:

*If you'll have me, have me, my darling and my heart,
If you'll have me, have me, for all the world to see,
If you'll have me, have me, with every inch of your heart
Alas that you won't be my wife this Sunday.*

9

CEACHT A NAOI CÉIMEANNA COMPARÁIDE (*COMPARISON*)

FOCLÓIR

aontaigh le	agree with
arú aréir	night before last
braithim	I feel
cantalach	grumpy; grouchy
cosúil, is cosúil	likely, it is likely
cuid mhór	a lot
cnuasach	anthology, collection
cóngarach (do)	close (to), nearby
deireanach	last, recent
duais, f	prize
faoi dheireadh thall	at long last
fiú	even
firinne, f	truth
leis an fhírinne a rá...	to tell you the truth...
geal	bright
gearán, m (<i>also</i> ag gearán)	complaint
tá gearán agam air	I complain about him
i bhfad	much
láidir	strong
lúcháir, f	happiness
magadh	kidding; teasing
níl mé ach ag magadh	I'm only kidding
ramhar	fat
réaltóg, f	star
saibhir	wealthy
sliocht	excerpt; progeny
speisialta	especially
sotalach	arrogant
teaghlach, m	household
sa teaghlach	in the family
te	hot
turasóir, m	tourist
tús, m	beginning

COMHRÁ

Liam: Dia duit, a Shíle. Nach bhfuil an aimsir go hálainn inniu?

Shíle: Dia is Muire duit, a Liam. Tá sé go hiontach. Tá tús an earraigh ann faoi dheireadh thall, agus

tá na laethanta ag éirí níos faide agus níos teo. Cad é mar atá tú? An mbraitheann tú níos fearr anois?

Liam: Braithim. Níl mé chomh dona agus a bhí mé ar aon chuma, buíochas le Dia.

Síle: Tá lúcháir orm sin a chluinstin. Inis dom, an bhfaca tú Séamus? Tháinig sé ar ais arú aréir.

Liam: Chonaic! Is cosúil gur ith sé cuid mhór thall ansin! D'éirigh sé i bhfad níos raimhre!

Síle: Níos raimhre agus níos saibhre. Chuala mé go bhfuair sé duais litríochta.

Liam: An bhfuair? Beidh sé fiú níos sotalaí fosta, mar sin!

Síle: A Liam! Ná bí chomh cantalach! Cad é an gearán atá agat air? Níl sé chomh dona sin!

Liam: Níl mé ach ag magadh! Tá Séamus ceart go leor. Leis an fhírinne a rá, is breá liom a chuid filíochta, go speisialta an cnuasach is deireanaí. Tá sé fiormhaith.

Síle: Aontaím leat. Tá sé thar barr.

AN CEACHT GRAMADAÍ

Na Céimeanna Comparáide (The Comparison of Adjectives)

§1. An Comhchéim (Equative)

The equative ('as ... as') is expressed with the preposition *chomh* 'so, as' (unlenited in Donegal and often spelled *comh*), followed by the regular form of the adjective.

§1.1. *Chomh* with a Noun Phrase: **chomh** (*adjective*) **le** (*noun*)

chomh mór le cnoc	as big as a hill
chomh beag le héan	as small as a bird
chomh hóg le Síle	as young as Síle
chomh falsa liomsa	as lazy as myself
Tá Síle beagnach chomh hard liom.	Síle is almost as tall as myself.

§1.2. *Chomh* with a Verb Phrase: **chomh** (*adjective*) **agus a** (*verb*)

Note that *a* is the relative particle and lenites the following verb:

Níl sé chomh dona agus a shíl mé.	He is not as bad as I thought.
Tá Seán chomh maith agus a bhí a riamh.	Seán is as well as he ever was.

§1.3. *Chomh* 'so, that'

Ná bí chomh dána!	Don't be so cheeky!
Níl sé chomh dona sin.	He's not that bad.

§2. An Breischéim agus an Sárchéim (Comparative and Superlative)

There is only one form in Irish for the comparative and the superlative of the adjective; the difference between the two is syntactic. There are, in fact, several syntactical options for expressing both the comparative and superlative degree, but the comparative always involves a relative comparison between two things (X is younger than Y), whereas the superlative is always part of a **definite noun phrase** (X is **the younger one**, i.e. X is the youngest):³⁰

Is óige Seán ná Séamus.	Seán is younger than Séamus.
Is é Seán an duine is óige .	Seán is the youngest (person).

§2.1. An Breischéim (Comparative)

There are two ways to express the comparative:

§2.1.1. is fearr X ná Y:

Is fearr bia ná deoch.	Food is better than drink.
Is óige Seán ná Séamus.	Seán is younger than Séamus.

§2.1.2. tá X níos fearr ná Y

Tá bia níos fearr ná deoch.	Food is better than drink.
Tá Seán níos óige ná Séamus.	Seán is younger than Séamus.

Níos contains the element *ní* 'a thing' and the copula *is*.

The first structure is ubiquitously used in traditional idioms, proverbs etc.; the other one is more commonly used in everyday speech today.

§2.2. An Sárchéim (Superlative)

The superlative of the adjective is always part of a noun phrase, i.e. one cannot say 'the youngest' but has to say 'the person who is youngest':

an duine is óige	the youngest person
an leabhar is suimiúla	the most interesting book.

The superlative typically appears in the context of a copula identification sentence:

Cé hé an scoláire is fearr sa rang?	Who is the best student in class?
Is í Síle an scoláire is fearr.	Síle is the best student.
Is mise an scoláire is fearr sa domhan!	I am the best student in the world!
An é an scoláire is fearr sa scoil é?	Is he the best student in the school?
Ní hé! Seo é an scoláire is fearr.	No. Here is the best student.

§2.2.1. An alternative, lesser used, method to express the superlative employs the substantive

³⁰ Strictly speaking, the form used in Modern Irish to express both the comparative and superlative degree is a comparative; Old Irish did have a special superlative form ('biggest') as well as an equative ('as big'), but both fell out of use after the Old Irish period.

verb rather than the copula identification structure:

Tá Tomás ar an duine is óige sa rang. Tomás is the youngest in class.

§3. The Form of the Comparative

Except for a handful of irregular adjectives, the form of the comparative adjective is the same as the genitive singular feminine adjective. As we have seen in Ceacht 6, it is formed by:

I. making the final consonant slender (if it is broad) and adding -e:

óg > óige
salach > salaí (formerly spelled salaighe)

II. making the final consonant broad, and adding -a if it ends in -iúil:

suimiúil > suimiúla

III. leaving it as it is if it ends in a vowel (but note exceptions below):

buí > buí

§3.1. Irregular Adjectives

Positive	Comparative/Superlative	
<i>True Irregulars</i>		
beag	lú	<i>small</i>
furasta	fusa	<i>easy</i>
iomaí	lia	<i>many</i>
maith	fearr	<i>good</i>
mór	mó	<i>big</i>
olc/dona	measa	<i>bad</i>
tréan	treise / tréine	<i>strong</i>
tirim	trioma	<i>dry</i>
fada	faide	<i>long</i>
te	teo	<i>warm</i>
<i>Slightly Irregular Formations (= Gen Sg fem)</i>		
álainn	áille	<i>beautiful</i>
breá	breátha	<i>fine</i>
deas	deise	<i>nice</i>
dócha	dóichí	<i>likely</i>
geal	gile	<i>bright</i>
garr	giorra	<i>short</i>
láidir	láidre	<i>strong</i>
milis	milse	<i>sweet</i>
nua	nuaí	<i>new</i>
sean	sine	<i>old</i>

CEACHTANNA

1. An Comhchéim

1. Seán is as big as Síle.
2. as black as coal
3. as white as snow
4. as tired as a dog
5. I am not that big.
6. She is almost as tall as myself.
7. Don't be so arrogant!
8. It is not as nice as it was last year.
9. He does it as well as his brother does it.
10. The food is not as tasty as it was yesterday.

2. An Breischéim: Cé acu is fearr?

Cuir freagra air:

Sampla: Cé acu is fearr, bia nó deoch? Is fearr bia ná deoch.

1. Cé acu is fearr, lá gréine nó lá báistí?
2. Cé acu is óige, tú féin nó do dheartháir?
3. Cé acu is mó, Mt Everest nó Mt Washington?
4. Cé acu is sine, Socrates nó Plato?
5. Cé acu is lú, cat nó luch?

3. An Breischéim: ... ach tá Séamus níos óige

Complete sentences and translate:

1. Tá an múinteoir deas, ach tá na mic léinn....
2. Tá an múinteoir cliste, ach tá na mic léinn....
3. Tá an múinteoir dathúil, ach tá na mic léinn i bhfad....
4. Tá an cnoc sin ard, ach tá an ceann seo....
5. Tá an leabhar seo suimiúil, ach tá an ceann sin i bhfad....
6. Tá an bia seo go blasta, ach tá an bia sa bhaile....
7. Bhí an mhaidin fliuch, ach bhí an tráthnóna....
8. Tá an Ghearmáinis crua, ach tá an Ghaeilge i bhfad....
9. Tá seomra Sheáin galánta, ach tá mo sheomra féin....
10. Tá muintir na hAlban cairdiúil, ach tá muintir na hÉireann....

4. An Breischéim: Join the bragging match!

Tá mo dheartháir mór. - Tá mo dheartháir féin níos mó! (or ... níos mó fíú 'even bigger')

1. Tá m'athair tréan. - ...
2. Tá mo mhadadh gasta. - ...
3. Tá mo chat glic. - ...

COMPARISON OF ADJECTIVES

4. Tá mo chóta úr. - ...
5. Tá mo spéirbhean álainn. - ...
6. Tá mo mháthair deas. - ...
7. Tá mo dheirfiúr saibhir. - ...
8. Tá an ollscoil s'againne (*our university*) sean. - Tá an ollscoil s'againne féin....
9. Tá mo mhúinteoir dona. - ...
10. Tá mise cliste. - Tá mise / mé féin / mise mé féin

5. An Sárchéim

Cuir Gaeilge air seo:

1. This is the best coat in the shop.
2. He is the nicest man in the world.
3. This is the shortest road.
4. She is the cleverest girl in school.
5. She buys the most expensive tea.

6. Cuir Gaeilge air seo:

1. Her eyes were brighter than the stars.
2. That story is as old as the hills.
3. She is not as strong as she was last year.
4. He is not as smart as his sister, but he is much more friendly.
5. Caitlín thinks that this is the most interesting passage (*sliocht*) in the book, but I don't agree with her: I think this passage is even more interesting.
6. Love is more important than money.
7. The weather got colder, and the tourists got grumpier (use *éirigh*).
8. Her house is smaller than her parents' house, but it is nicer, and closer to the city.
9. Are you the youngest person in your family? No. My brother is younger than I am.
10. I never heard a funnier story.
11. I think he is the best music teacher (*múinteoir ceoil*) in this city.

7. Identify the base form of the comparatives/superlatives in the proverbs and the song (*Nach aoibhinn...*) in the *Teanga is Cultúr* section below.

TEANGA IS CULTÚR

Ráite Comórtais

chomh falsa le hasal	as lazy as a donkey
chomh foighneach le cat	as patient as a cat
chomh láidir le capall	as strong as a horse

chomh ramhar le muc	as fat as a pig
chomh fíor leis an soiscéal	as true as the gospel
chomh hionraic leis an ghrian	as honest as the sun
chomh bodhar le cloch	as deaf as a stone
chomh sean leis na cnoic	as old as the hills
chomh glic le fear dlí	as smart as a lawyer
chomh sásta le píobaire	as happy as a piper

Tomhas

Tá sé chomh bán le bainne, chomh dearg le fuil, chomh milis le mil, agus chomh hard le crann. Cad é sin?	It is as white as milk, as red as blood, as sweet as honey, and as tall as a tree. What is it?
--	--

Sliocht as Amhrán

Tá mo chroí chomh dubh le hairne nó le gual dubh a bheadh i gceárta nó le bonn bróige ar hallaí bána is tá lionn dubh mór os cionn mo gháire. (<i>Duanaire</i> #77)	My heart is as black as sloe or a black coal in a forge or a shoe print on white halls and there's melancholy in my laughter.
--	--

Seanráiteachas: Bunadh na gCnoc ('The Fairies')

Chuala mé na seandaoine ag rá go minic – comh minic agus atá méara agus ladhra orm – go raibh bunadh na gcnoc comh fairsing leis an fhéar ag fás. (*Síscealta*, 36)

(bunadh na gcnoc *hill-people* (*fairies*); fairsing *plentiful*; féar, m *grass*; ladhra, f *toe*; méara, f *finger*; seanbhunadh, m *old people*).

Seanfhocail

Is glaise na cnoic i bhfad uainn.	The farthest hills are greenest.
Is buaine clú ná saol.	Fame is more lasting than life.
Is fearr a bheith in am ná in an-am.	It is better to be in time than in the wrong time.
Is mó saghas ceoil ann seachas píobaireacht.	There are more kinds of music than piping.
Ní hé an duine is áille is troime ciall.	The greatest beauty doesn't always have sense.
Is treise toil ná tuiscint.	Desire is stronger than understanding.

Sliocht as Amhrán: 'Nach Aoibhinn do na hÉiníní'

Is báine í ná an lile is deise í ná an scéimh, is binne í ná an veidhlín, 's is soilsí ná an ghrian, is fearr ná sin uile a huaisleacht is a méin, is a Dhé atá ins na flaitheasaibh, fuascail dom phéin! (<i>An Duanaire</i> #70)	She's whiter than the lily and lovelier than beauty itself, sweeter than the violin, brighter than the sun and better still than all of those is her noble mind; O God in Heaven – deliver me from my pain.
---	--

An Cháisc (Easter)

Rann

Domhnach an Iúir is Satharn na Cásca Bíonn an ghrian ag rince le háthas (CC #252)	Palm Sunday and Easter Saturday The Sun dances with joy.
Beannachtaí na Cásca ort/oraibh! Le beannachtaí na Cásca Cáisc, na Cásca, f An tSeachtain Mhór, Seachtain na Páise Domhnach an Iúir Céadaoin an Bhraith Déardaoin an Bhraith, an Déardaoin Mhór Aoine an Chéasta Domhnach (na) Cásca Luan (na) Cásca an céasadh an chroch, f an chros, f Íosa Críost Muire críostaí págánta págánach, m cráifeach cúbóg (f2) ubh seacláide ubh bhruite coinín Cásca	Happy Easter with best Easter wishes Easter Holy Week, 'Week of the Passion' Palm Sunday ('Yew Sunday') Spy Wednesday ('of the Treachery') Holy Thursday Good Friday (Friday of the Crucifixion) Easter Sunday Easter Monday the crucifixion cross cross Jesus Christ St. Mary christian (noun/adj) pagan (adj) pagan (noun) religious, pious batch of Easter eggs chocolate egg boiled egg Easter bunny

Caoineadh na dTrí Mhuire

A Pheadair a Aspail, an bhfaca tú mo ghrá geal?
Ochón agus ochón ó!
Do chonaic mé ar ball é i lár a namhad,
Ochón agus ochón ó!
Gabhaigí i leith, a dhá Mhuire, go gcaoine sibh mo Ghrá liom,
Ochón agus ochón ó!
Céard tá le caoineadh againn muna gcaoinimid a chnámha?
Ochón agus ochón ó!
Cé hé an fear sin ar Chrann na Páise?
Ochón agus ochón ó!

An é nach n-aithnir do Mhac, a Mháthair?
Ochón agus ochón ó!
An é sin an Maicín a d'iompar mé trí ráithe?
Ochón agus ochón ó!
Nó an é sin an Maicín a rugadh sa stábla?
Ochón agus ochón ó!
Nó an é sin an Maicín a hoileadh in ucht Mhuire?
Ochón agus ochón ó!
□S an é sin an casúr a bhuail tríot na tairní
Ochón agus ochón ó!
Nó an í sin an tseála a chuaigh trí do lár geal
Ochón agus ochón ó!
Éist a Mháthair is ná bí cráite
Ochón agus ochón ó!
Atá mná mo chaointe le breith fós, a mhaithrín
Ochón agus ochón ó!
A bhean atá ag gol de bharr mo bháis-se
Ochón agus ochón ó!
Beidh na céadta inniu i nGairdín Pharthais.
Ochón agus ochón ó!

*O Peter, Apostle, have you seen my darling?
Ochón and ochón!
I saw him just now, surrounded by enemies.
Come here, you two Marys, to lament my darling
What do we have to lament but only his bones?
Who is that man hanging on the Cross?
Don't you recognize your son?
Is that the little boy I carried for nine months?
And is that the little boy that was born in the stable?
And is that the little boy that was raised in Mary's bosom?
And is that the hammer that drove the nails through you?
And is that the spear that pierced your fair middle?
Listen Mother, don't be heartbroken
Women will mourn me who are not even born yet.
O woman weeping for my death
Today hundreds will enter Paradise.*

10

CEACHT A DEICH AN SAORBHRIATHAR (*THE AUTONOMOUS VERB*)

FOCLÓIR

aimsigh, ag aimsiú	find
arasán, m	apartment
baile mór, m; sa bhaile mhór	town; in town
bleachtaire, m	detective
briseadh isteach	was broken into
cas ar a chéile	meet each other
casadh ar a chéile iad	they met each other
cogadh, m; sa chogadh	war; in the war
comhaimseartha	contemporary
crossbhóthar, m	intersection
d'éirigh le X rud a dhéanamh	X succeeded in doing something
cuir fios ar na gardaí	notify the police
dea-scéala	good news
éadach, m	cloth
fliuchadh	was drenched, got wet
goid, ag goid	to steal
goideadh	was stolen
díreach i ndiaidh bogadh	had just moved
in am	in time
iarsmalann, f	museum
le chéile	together
mar atá	as it is
nár bh fhearrde duine éigin	without someone being better off
ó shin	ago; since then
poitín	poteen; illegally distilled whisky
ríomhaire, m	computer
rugadh	was born
seinnteoir, m	stereo
sméar dhubh, f, pl: sméara dubha	blackberry
stampa, m, pl: stampaí	stamp
stoirm, f	storm
stopadh	staying
taobh amuigh de	outside of
teacht i dtír	occur
níor tháinig olc riamh i dtír nár bh fhearrde duine éigin	a bad thing never occurred without someone benefitting from it

COMPARISON OF ADJECTIVES

tóg	build, raise, lift, take
tógadh	was raised
uafásach	horrible

COMHRÁ

Aisling: Cad é mar atá tú, a Liam?

Liam: Tá mé go maith, go raibh maith agat. An bhfuil nuacht ar bith agat?

Aisling: Níl mórán. Chuala mé go bhfuil leanbh beag ag Bríd.

Liam: Sin dea-scéala. Ní raibh a fhios agam go raibh sí pósta. Nach bhfuil sí i Meiriceá anois?

Aisling: Tá. Tá sí ina cónaí i Nua Eabhrac. Pósadh í féin agus Seán bliain go leith ó shin, agus rugadh a mac cúpla seachtain ó shin.

Liam: An Éireannach é Seán?

Aisling: Ní hea. Rugadh agus tógadh i Nua Eabhrac é, ach is Éireannaigh iad a thuismitheoirí.

Liam: Cá huair a casadh ar a chéile iad?

Aisling: Trí bliana ó shin. Scéal suimiúil atá ann. Bhí Bríd díreach i ndiaidh bogadh go Nua Eabhrac, agus briseadh isteach san arasán a raibh sí ag stopadh ann. Goideadh a ríomhaire, a seinnteoir, agus rudaí eile. Bhí sé uafásach. Chuir sí fios ar na gardaí, agus bhí Seán ag obair mar bhleachtaire ag an am.

Liam: Ar éirigh leis na gadaí a aimsiú?

Aisling: Níor éirigh, ach thit seisean agus Bríd i ngrá, agus tá siad le chéile ó shin!

Liam: Ah bhuel. Deirtear nár tháinig olc riamh i dtír nárbh fhearrde duine éigin.

AN CEACHT GRAMADAÍ

§1. An Saorbhriathar (The Autonomous)

The *saorbhriathar*, in English called the 'impersonal' or 'autonomous' form of the verb is used in many contexts where English uses the passive, even though it is not grammatically a passive. The impersonal is typically used to make statements of a universal nature (□potatoes are planted in spring') or to ascribe an activity to no-one in particular, where English might use an impersonal 'they' ('they say') or 'one' ('one doesn't find'):

Cuirtear síol san earrach.	Seed is sown in spring.
Baintear prátaí san fómhar.	Potatoes are harvested in autumn.
Deirtear go bhfuair sé bás.	People say (it is said) that he died.

In the present, future, and conditional, the negative/interrogative etc particles used are:

Negative:	ní	ní dhéantar
Interrogative:	an	an ndéantar
Neg. Interrog.:	nach	nach ndéantar
Conjunctive:	go	go ndéantar

Ní fhaightear aon bhotún sa leabhar seo! One doesn't find any mistake in this book!

The independent form of the pronoun (*é, í, iad* rather than *sé, sí, siad*) is used with all tenses of the impersonal verb:

Glantar an teach.	The house is cleaned.
Glantar é.	It is cleaned.

The pronoun is generally left out in the responsive:

An nglantar an teach go minic?	Is the house often cleaned?
Glantar. / Ní ghlantar.	Yes. / No.

§1.1. Present Tense

In the present tense, the ending *-t(e)ar* is added to short stems (first-conjugation verbs), and *-(a)ítear* to long stems (second-conjugation verbs):

Déantar arán de phlúr.	Bread is made of flour.
Ní fhaightear aon ghual in Éirinn.	No coal is found in Ireland.
Creidim go n-óltar tae in Éirinn.	I believe that people drink tea in Ireland.
Itear feoil ag am dinnéir.	Meat is eaten at dinner time.
Ní rómhnic a ghlantar an teach seo.	This house isn't cleaned too often.
Sa lá inniu ceannaítear bainne sna siopaí.	Today milk is bought in the shop.
Labhraítear Gaeilge anseo.	Irish is spoken here.

§1.2. Future Tense

The impersonal is used to make factual or prophetic statements of a general nature. In the future, the ending *-f(e)ar* is added to short stems, and *-eofar / -ófar* to long stems. The *-f-* in the future (and conditional) tense stem is pronounced [h] in Ulster Irish:

Díolfar an teach	The house will be sold.
Feicfeadh an fhírinne faoi dheireadh.	The truth will come out in the end.

Molfar an leabhar.	The book will be praised.
Tógfar an teach nua thall ansin.	The new house will be built over there.
Ní chríochnófar an obair sin a choíche.	That work will never get finished.
Ní thabharfar a chuid airgid dó.	He won't get (be given) his money.
Ní bhfaighfear aon jab anseo.	You won't find a job here.

§1.3. Conditional

In the conditional mood, the initial is lenited (*d'* prefixed to a vowel or lenited `f'). The ending *-f(a)i* is added to short stems, *-eofaí / -ófaí* to long stems:

Dhíolfaí an teach.	The house would be sold.
Ní ólfaí tae sa teach seo.	No one would drink tea in this house.
An imreofaí peil sa gheimhreadh?	Would one play soccer in winter?
D'imreofaí cinnte.	One certainly would.

§1.4. Past Tense

In the past tense, *-(e)adh* is added to short stems, and *-(a)iodh* to long stems (but note that some of the irregular verbs take the ending *-thas*). There is **no lenition** of the initial consonant in the past tense, and ***d'* is not prefixed to a vowel**:

Bádh an páiste.	The child was drowned.
Ullmhaíodh an ceacht.	The lesson was prepared.
Ceannódh i siopa mór i bPáras é.	It was bought in a big shop in Paris.
Fliuchadh mé san fheartainne.	I got wet in the rain.

The usual past tense particles are used (except with those of the irregular verbs that take present-tense particles), but they do not lenite the verb:

Negative:	níor	níor baineadh
Interrogative:	ar	ar baineadh
Neg. Interrog.:	nár	nár baineadh
Conjunctive:	gur	gur baineadh

Níor salaíodh mo ghúna. My dress didn't get dirty.

Nor is the past impersonal lenited by the relative particle *a*:

Seo béaloideas **a** bailíodh sa cheantar sin. This is folklore that was collected in that area.

The past impersonal is used to describe an action which is not ascribed to anyone in particular:

Ar briseadh na huibheacha?	Did the eggs get broken?
Níor baineadh na prátaí go fóill.	The potatoes were not harvested yet.

Dódh an teach agus cailleadh an bhean. The house was burned and the woman died.

It is ubiquitously found in historical and biographical statements:

Rugadh agus tógadh é sa Sasana.	He was born and raised in England.
Briseadh a bhád agus bádh eisean.	His ship was wrecked and he was drowned.
Cuireadh i bpríosún é.	He was put in prison.
Cuireadh cúirt air agus crochadh é.	He was tried and hung.
Feallmharaíodh / dúnmharaíodh é.	He was assassinated / murdered.
Pósadh iad cúpla bliain ina dhiaidh sin.	They were married a few years later.
Casadh ar a bhean chéile i mBostún é.	He met his wife in Boston.
Rinneadh sagart de.	He became a priest.
Cuireadh in Éirinn é.	He was buried in Ireland.

§1.5. The Irregular Verbs

Present	Future	Conditional	Past	
táthar	beifear	bheifí	bhíothas	<i>to be</i>
<i>níltear</i>			<i>ní rabhthas</i>	
beirtear	béarfar	bhéarfaí	rugadh	<i>to bear</i>
cluintear	cluinfear	chluinfí	chualathas	<i>to hear</i>
déantar	déanfar	dhéanfaí	rinneadh	
			<i>ní dhearnadh</i>	<i>to do</i>
deirtear	déarfar	dhéarfaí	dúradh	<i>to say</i>
faightear	gheofar	gheofaí	fuarthas	
	<i>ní bhfaighfear</i>	<i>ní bhfaighfí</i>	<i>ní bhfuarthas</i>	<i>to get</i>
feictear	feicfear	d'fheicfí	chonacthas	
			<i>ní fhacthas</i>	<i>to see</i>
itear	íosfar	d'íosfaí	itheadh	<i>to eat</i>
tagtar	tiocfar	thiocfaí	thángthas	<i>to come</i>
téitear	rachfar	rachfaí	chuathas	
			<i>ní dheachthas</i>	<i>to go</i>
tugtar	tabharfar	thabharfaí	tugadh	<i>to give</i>

CEAHTANNA

1. Present Tense

a) Rewrite using the impersonal, leaving out the subject:

1. Labhraíonn na mic léinn Fraincis sa rang. ('French is spoken in class.')
2. Druideann Máire an geata san oíche.
3. Tugann na tuismitheoirí bia don pháiste.
4. Itheann daoine a lán bia i Meiriceá.

5. Ní cheannaíonn muintir na háite bainne sa siopa.

b) Cuir Gaeilge air:

1. Tables are made of wood (*d'adhmaid*).
2. Coffee and wine are drunk in France; not much tea is drunk there.
3. Irish is spoken in the Gaeltacht but it is also spoken in the cities.
4. Hay (grass) is harvested in summer.
5. Do people put sugar in their tea (*sa tae*) in Ireland?
6. They say ('it is said') that he is a good lecturer.
7. That story is often heard.
8. Stamps are not sold here.
9. Potatoes are planted in Ireland.
10. Bread is not bought in the shop here; it is made at home.

2. Future Tense

1. Won't they sell the car ('won't the car be sold')?
2. Will he be seen in the drama?
3. He won't be seen, but, believe me, he'll be heard.
4. They will buy the wine ('the wine will be bought') in town.
5. No work will be done tomorrow.

3. Conditional

1. Would they plant potatoes here?
2. Wouldn't Irish be spoken in the university?
3. The house wouldn't get sold as it is.
4. Would meat be eaten on a Friday? Yes.
5. People would drink poteen at home, but you wouldn't buy it in the shops.

4. Past Tense

a) Cuir Gaeilge air:

1. He was born in Dublin, but he was raised in Belfast.
2. She was drowned.
3. The house was burned.
4. He was killed in the war.
5. The window didn't get broken, thank God.
6. He fell into the river but he didn't drown.
7. Did you get wet?

b) Write little biographical blurbs about two of the following people:

1. Jonah
2. Julius Caesar
3. Count Dracula
4. Íosa Críost (v. Teanga is Cultúr: An Cháisc)
5. St Patrick

c) Make up an eventful biography.

5. All Tenses

1. It is cleaned; it was cleaned; it will be cleaned; it would be cleaned.
2. Is it put (planted)? Was it put? Will it be put? Would it be put?
3. It is not harvested; it was not harvested; it will not be harvested; it would not be harvested.
4. She is praised; she was praised; she will be praised; she would be praised.
5. It is got; it was got; it wasn't got; it will be got; it will not be got; it would be got; it would not be got.

6. Cuir Gaeilge air seo:

1. He was born and raised in Belfast.
2. That house was bought two weeks ago.
3. It is said that a museum will be built here.
4. That cat was found at the crossroads, and was given to the children.
5. No English is spoken here.
6. A woman's voice was heard outside the window, but no one was seen at all.
7. I don't think the work will be finished in time.
8. He thinks he won't be believed.
9. It is said that he is one of (*ceann de na*) the best contemporary writers in the country.
10. I love this new coat; I was walking in the storm yesterday, and I didn't get wet at all!

7. An Teach Siúil (The Haunted House)

Tell a story about a haunted house, using the autonomous forms of the verb in all tenses. Say what is told about the house and what happens and has happened in it, and predict future events.

TEANGA IS CULTÚR

Tomhas

Tá sé sa tine agus ní dhóitear é,
tá sé sa tsruthán agus ní bháitear é,
tá sé sa tsiopa agus ní dhíoltar é.

I It is in the fire and isn't burned,
t's in the stream and isn't drowned,
it's in the shop and isn't sold.

Seanfhocail

Ní bhíonn cuimhne ar an arán a hitear.

No one remembers the bread he has eaten.

An té a bhíonn thuas, óltar deoch air;
an té a bhíonn thíos, buailtear cos air.

He who is in power is cheered;
he who is down is kicked.

Ní mar a shíltear a bhítear.

Man supposes, God disposes.

THE AUTONOMOUS

Níl meas ar an uisce go dtriomaítear an tobar. The water isn't missed till the well is dry.

Gach dalta mar a oiltear. Every student as he's been taught.

An Phaidir ('Our Father')

Ár nAthair atá ar neamh,

go naofar d'ainm

go dtaga do ríocht

go ndéantar do thoil ar an talamh

mar a dhéantar ar neamh.

Ár n-arán laethúil tabhair dúinn inniu,

agus maith dúinn ár bhfiacha

mar a mhaithimidne dár bhféichiúnaithe féin,

agus ná lig sinn i gcathú,

ach saor sinn ó olc.

neamh `heaven'

naomhaigh `sanctify'; naofa `holy'

ríocht `kingdom'

maith do `forgive'; fiacha `debts, offences'

féichiúnaí `debtor'

cathú `temptation'

saor `to free, deliver; olc `evil'

11

CEAHT A HAON DÉAG

AN AIMSIR GHNÁTHCHAITE IS AN MODH FOSHUI TEACH (*IMPERFECT AND SUBJUNCTIVE*)

FOCLÓIR

bunadh	race, people
bunadh na gcnoc	the hill folk, the fairies
caidé ^U = cad é	what
claidhe = claí, m	fence
codraisc, f	mess
cliabh mónadh	peat creel
comh ^U = chomh	so, as
comhgarach ^U = cóngarach)	near
comharsanaí ^U = comharsana	neighbours
cuibhreann, m; pl: cuibhrinn	field, allotments
ag cur daoine amach ar a chéile	setting people at odds
dream, m	group, people
an dream beag	the little people, the fairies
na daoine beaga, na daoine maithe	the fairies
ina dhiaidh sin	here: still, even so
eadar ^U = idir	group
eatarthu (from <i>idir</i> ; 3 pl prepos. pronoun)	between them
fá dhéin ^U	for
fá dhéin cliabh mónadh	for a creel of turf
feith, ag feitheamh	wait, expect
fríd a chéile ^U = trína chéile	all mixed up
Gaeil ^U = Gaeilge	Irish language
gibrisc, ^U f = gibiris	gibberish
gnoi theach ^U = gnóthach	busy
iarraidh, vn	here: time
ins an ^U = san	in the
labhair eadh siad ^U = labhraidís	they used to speak
léithi ^U = léi	with her
mion minic	very often
portach, m; chun an phortaigh	bog; to the bog
piocadh amach	picking out
rabh ^U = raibh	was
go sábhálaí ^U = go sábhála	may save
siabán, f = síobán, m	gust

tiubh	thick, fast
stoca ^U = stuca, m, pl: stucaí	stook (of cereal crop)
trácht ar	mention
údaí ^U = úd	yonder
urchóid, f	harm

PRÓS: NA DAOINE MAITHE
(as *Síscéalta ó Thír Chonail*³¹)

1. Nuair a bhí mise i mo ghasúr chluininn m'athair mór ag caint ar bhunadh na gcnoc.... Chreid sé féin go láidir go rabh siad ann, agus ní rabh aon iarraidh dá dtéadh sé chun an phortaigh fá dhéin cliabh mónadh nach mbíodh sé ag feitheamh ar a bhfeiceáil!

Bhí seanbhean anseo comhgarach dúinn...agus nuair a bhíodh siad ag trácht orthu ba ghnách léithi a rá:

`A gcúl linn,
Agus a n-aghaidhe uainn
Agus go sábhálaí Dia agus Muire muid
Ar an urchóid.' (Ó hEochaidh et al. 1977, 34)

2. Ina dhiaidh sin ní rabh siad ariamh ábalta tuigbheáil caidé a bheadh siad ag rá, agus ní rabh fhios acu ach oiread cé an teanga a bhíodh siad ag labhairt - Gaeilg, Béarla ná Laidin. Bhíodh siad ag gabháil comh tiubh nuair a bhíodh siad ag caint eatarthu féin agus nach mb'fhéidir déanamh amach caidé an cineál gibrisce a bhíodh acu, ach thigeadh cuid acu anois agus arís, agus labhairteadh siad ina dteanga féin leis na daoine.

Bhíodh an dream beag seo an-ghnoitheach ins an fhómhar, agus is mion minic a chuir siad comharsanaí maithe amach ar a chéile. Ins an am údaí bhí mórán den talamh ina roinn chuibhreann, agus mar nach rabh an claidhe féin eadar na cuibhrinn seo, nuair a thigeadh siabán gaoithe, thógadh sí léithe na stocaí, agus chuireadh sí fríd a chéile iad. Bhíodh an-obair ag daoine ansin a gcuid féin a phiocadh amach as an chodraisc. (Ó hEochaidh et al. 1977, 272)

AN CEACHT GRAMADAÍ

§1. An Aimsir Ghnáthchaite (The Imperfect Tense)

The imperfect tense is used to express habitual action in the past:

Chluininn an scéal seo go minic. I used to hear that story often.

³¹ Coll. Seán Ó hEochaidh, tr. Máire Mac Neill, ed. Séamas Ó Catháin (Dublin, 1977). This marvellous collection of Donegal fairy legends has facing English translations. Note that the editors modified standard spelling to represent Donegal forms and pronunciation more closely. The first account is from the fishing village of Teelin, in southwest Donegal, the second from the Bluestack Mountains, a little further north and inland.

1.1. First Conjugation Verbs

cuir	`put'	glan	`clean'
chuirinn	<i>I used to put</i>	ghlanainn	<i>I used to clean</i>
chuirteá	<i>you used to put</i>	ghlantá	<i>you used to clean</i>
chuireadh sé	...	ghlanadh sé	...
chuireadh sí		ghlanadh sí	
chuirimis		ghlanaimis	
chuireadh sibh		ghlanadh sé	
chuiridís		ghlanaidís	

Negative:	ní (causes <i>seimhiú</i>)	ní chuirteá
Interrogative:	an (causes <i>urú</i>)	an gcuirteá
Neg. Interrog.:	nach (causes <i>urú</i>)	nach gcuirteá
Conjunctive:	go (causes <i>urú</i>)	go gcuirteá

D'ólainn poitín gach lá nuair a bhí mé óg.
Vótáladh sé Lucht Oibre sna hochtóidí.
Thiomáineadh sé Jaguar mór galanta.

In my youth I used to drink poteen every day.
He used to vote Labour in the 80's.
He used to drive a big ritzy Jaguar.

§1.2. Second Conjugation Verbs

éirigh	`rise, get up'	ceannaigh	`buy'
d'éirinn	<i>I used to rise</i>	cheannaínn	<i>I used to buy</i>
d'éiríteá	<i>you used to rise</i>	cheannaíteá	<i>you used to buy</i>
d'éiríodh sé	...	cheannaíodh sé	...
d'éiríodh sí		cheannaíodh sí	
d'éirimis		cheannaimis	
d'éiríodh sibh		cheannaíodh sibh	
d'éiridís		cheannaidís	

Negative:	ní éirinn
Interrogative:	an éirinn
Neg. Interrog.:	nach n-éirinn
Conjunctive:	go n-éirinn

Ní labhraídís leis.

They didn't used to talk to him.

D'fhoghlaimíodh sí Gréigis ag an ollscoil. She used to study Greek at university.

§1.3. The Substantive Verb

bhínn	<i>I used to be</i>	ní bhínn	an mbínn?
Bhíteá	<i>you used to be</i>		
bhíodh sé	<i>he used to be</i>		
bhíodh sí	<i>she used to be</i>		
bhímis	<i>we used to be</i>		
bhíodh sibh	<i>you used to be</i>		
bhídís	<i>they used to be</i>		

§1.4. The Irregular Verbs

Affirmative	Negative	Interrogative	
bhínn	ní bhínn	an mbínn?	<i>used to be</i>
d'fheicinn	ní fheicinn	an bhfeicinn?	<i>used to see</i>
chluininn	ní chluininn	an gcluininn?	<i>used to hear</i>
dhéanainn	ní dhéanainn	an ndéanainn?	<i>used to do</i>
thugainn	ní thugainn	an dtugainn?	<i>used to give</i>
bheirinn	ní bheirinn	an mbeirinn?	<i>used to catch</i>
thagainn	ní thagainn	an dtagainn?	<i>used to come</i>
d'fhaighinn	ní fhaighinn	an bhfaighinn?	<i>used to get</i>
d'ithinn	ní ithinn	an ithinn?	<i>used to eat</i>
deirinn	ní deirinn	an ndeirinn?	<i>used to say</i>
théinn	ní théinn	an dtéinn?	<i>used to go</i>

§1.5. The Use of the Imperfect

The imperfect tense has largely dropped out of the spoken language in most areas of Donegal, except Teelin (southwest Donegal). The conditional is often used instead, and it is also very common to express the past habitual with the periphrastic construction *ba ghnách le`it was customary'*:

ba ghnách léi labhairt liom
ba ghnách leis a theacht

she used to talk to me
he used to come.

§2.1B. Polysyllabic Stems

go sábhála may ... save

§2.2. An Dara Réimniú

Second conjugation verbs form the subjunctive by adding *-aí /-í:*

§2.2A. Stems in *-(a)igh*

go mbeannaí Dia duit may God bless you
go n-éirí go geal leat may you succeed well

§2.2B. Syncopated Stems

go n-inse (< inis) may ... tell
nár agráí Dia orm é (< agair) may God not avenge it on me
nár aifrí Dia orm é (< aifir) may God not punish me for it

§2.2C. Stems That Resist Syncopation

go dtarraingí mé (tarraing) may I pull
nár fhulaingí (fulaing) may I not suffer

§2.3. Na Briathra Mírialta

§2.3.1. The Substantive Verb

go raibh maith agat thank you
ná raibh maith agatsa no thanks to you
dealbh go deo ná raibh tú! may you never be poor

Saorbhriathar

go raibhear [rohar]

§2.3.2. The Copula

gura maith duit é may it be good for you
nára mhaith duit may it not be good for you
gurab amhlaidh duit the same to you
nárab amhlaidh duit may it not be the same to you

§2.3.3. With all other irregular verbs the subjunctive is derived from the present stem:

The Irregular Verbs		
Affirmative	Negative	
go raibh mé	ná raibh mé	<i>may I (not) be</i>
go bhfeice mé	nár fheice mé	<i>may I (not) see</i>
go gcluine mé	nár chluine mé	<i>may I (not) hear</i>
go ndéana mé	nár dhéana mé	<i>may I (not) do</i>
go dtuga mé	nár thuga mé	<i>may I (not) give</i>
go mbeire mé	nár bheire mé	<i>may I (not) bear/lay</i>
go dtaga/dtíge ^U mé	nár thaga/thíge ^U mé	<i>may I (not) come</i>
go bhfaighe mé	nár fhaighe mé	<i>may I (not) get</i>
go n-ithe mé	nár ithe mé	<i>may I (not) eat</i>
go ndeire mé	nár deire mé	<i>may I (not) say</i>
go dté mé	nár thé mé	<i>may I (not) go</i>

§2.4. Use of the Subjunctive

The present subjunctive has two main functions: two express wishes ('optative') and in certain subordinate clauses.

§2.4.1. The optative figures prominently in traditional blessings, curses and the like:

Go gcuire Dia ráth ort!	May God prosper you!
Nár lagaí Dia do lámh!	May God not weaken your hand!
Nár lige Dia é!	May God not permit it / God forbid!

§2.4.2. The subjunctive may also be used in subordinate clauses:³³

(i) to express purpose

Fan go bhfeice tú!	Wait till you see.
Gabh anseo go dtóga tú mo spéaclaí dom.	Come here and give me my glasses.
Suigh síos go n-óla mé mo chuid tae.	Sit down until I drink my tea.

(ii) to express indefinite time in the future

Labhair léi sula n-imí sí.	Talk to her before she leaves/
Suigh ansin go dtaga/dtíge sé.	Sit there until he comes.

(iii) In if clauses, after *mura* and *dá*

Mura dtuga sí ar ais é beidh sí i bponc.	If she doesn't return it she'll be in trouble.
Mura n-éirí sé láithreach	Unless he doesn't get up at once.

³³ The use of the subjunctive is optional in all three instances; in less traditional or literary registers the future tense tends to substitute for the present subjunctive, and the conditional for the past subjunctive.

CEACHTANNA

1. The Imperfect

1. Cuir Gaeilge air seo:

1. He used to break his stick (*bata*).
2. she used to fall.
3. we did not used to clean
4. you (sg) didn't used to buy
5. they used to play

2. Cuir Gaeilge air seo:

1. When we were young, our mother used to tell us stories.
2. He often heard music at home.
3. They did not listen to their father too often.
4. When they were hungry, they used to buy food in this shop.
5. I never used to go to the movies when I was in college, but now I go almost every weekend.
6. They used to eat sweets often, but now they eat food that is better for them.
7. Did you usually stay at your mother's house when you were on vacation? No.
8. Did your parents often give you sensible advice? No!
9. She used to run faster when she was playing soccer with the soccer team every day.
10. It never used to be this warm in the winter.

3. Ba ghnách le...

Now express the sentences in #1 and 2 with *ba ghnách le*.

The Subjunctive

4. Cuir Gaeilge air:

1. May God put luck on you.
2. May God save you.
3. May God forgive you.
4. May God have (‘do’) mercy on you.
5. Thank you.

5. Put the above sentences into the negative.

6. Imagine you are making a hard living by begging and fortune telling. Drawing on the material below, how would you address a rich man? a poor man? a tourist? What would you tell a woman? a man? How would you thank a generous person? Curse a miser? Create a core repertoire of blessings and curses for yourself.

TEANGA IS CULTÚR

Beannachtaí agus Mallachtaí (Blessings and Curses)³⁴

Beannachtaí / Blessings

Beannacht (Dé) ort	God bless you (God's blessing on you)
Go mbeannaí Dia (is Muire) duit	May God (and Mary) bless you
Go mbeire muid beo an t-am seo arís	May we be alive this time (i.e. next year)
Bail ó Dhia ort (ar maidin)	May God prosper you (God's prosperity on you)
Bail ó Dhia ar an obair	May God bless the work
Go gcuire Dia rath agus blátha ort	May God grant that you prosper and flourish
Go bhfága Dia do shláinte	May God leave you your health
Go méadaí Dia do stór	May God increase your possession
Sonas ort	Happiness on you
Sláinte agus saol agat	Health and happiness to you
– <i>or, more elaborately</i> –	
Sláinte agus saol agat,	Health and happiness to you,
Bean ar do mhian agat,	a wife of your liking to you,
Talamh gan chíos agat,	land without rent to you,
Gob fliuch agus bás in Éirinn agat!	a wet mouth, and death in Ireland!
Go dtaga rath / séan ort	May wealth / prosperity come to you
Go dté an t-ádh ort	May luck be (lit. `go') on you
Go dté tú slán	May you be (lit. `go') safe
Go n-éirí leat	Good luck (May it rise with you)
Go n-éirí an t-ádh leat	Good luck (May luck rise with you)
Go n-éirí an bóthar leat	May the road rise to meet you
Slán abhaile	Safe home
Go maire tú i bhfad	May you live long

Beannachtaí Ócáideacha (For Special Occasions)

<i>Pósadh</i>	<i>For a marriage</i>
Go maire sibh an saol úr	May you live your new life
Go raibh sliocht sleachta	May the descendants of your descendants have
ar shliocht bhur sleachta	descendants who have descendants
Go n-éirí bhur bpósadh libh	May your marriage succeed
<i>In ndiaidh teacht slán ó chontúirt</i>	<i>After a danger</i>
Bhí Dia buíoch díot	God was indebted to you

³⁴ For many many more examples of blessings and curses see Seán de Fréine's anthology *Croí Cine* (Dublin 1990), and Breandán 'ac Gearailt's *500 Beannacht Ort* (Dublin 2003) and *500 Mallacht Ort* (Dublin 2001).

IMPERFECT AND SUBJUNCTIVE

<i>Nuair a dhéanann duine drochghníomh</i>	<i>If someone behaves badly</i>
Go maithe Dia dó é	May God forgive him for (doing/saying) it
Nár agraí Dia ort é	May God forgive you (~ not revenge it on you')
Nár aifrí Dia ort é	May God forgive you (~ not punish you for it')
<i>I ndiaidh sraoth a ligean</i>	<i>If someone sneezes</i>
Dia linn	Bless you – Gesundheit
<i>Duine ag caitheamh éadaigh nua</i>	<i>If someone wears something new</i>
Go gcaithear is go mairear é	May you live to wear it
<i>Ag cloisint drochscéil</i>	<i>On hearing bad news</i>
Go saora Dia sinn	May God Deliver us
Go sábhala Dia sinn	May God save us
Go bhfóire Dia orainn	May God have mercy on us
(Go raibh) Dia idir sinn agus an anachain	God between us and all harm
(Go raibh) Dia idir sinn agus an t-olc ditto	
<i>Nuair a fuair duine bás</i>	<i>When someone has died</i>
Ní maith liom do thrioblóid	I am sorry for your affliction
<i>Ag caint faoi dhuine atá marbh</i>	<i>Talking about someone who has died</i>
Beannacht Dé lena anam/lena hanam	God bless his/her soul
(... agus ar anamacha na marbh go léir)	(... and the souls of all the dead)
Go ndéana Dia trócaire ar a anam	God have mercy on his soul
Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam/a hanam	May his/her soul be on God's right hand
I bParthas Dé go raibh a hanam	May her soul be in God's paradise
(Go dtuga Dia) suaimhneas síoraí dá anam	Eternal peace to his soul
<i>Nollaig</i>	<i>Christmas</i>
Nollaig faoi shéan is faoi mhaise duit	Christmas under fortune and beauty to you
Nollaig shona duit	Merry Christmas
Athbhliain faoi mhaise duit	Happy New Year
Go mbeirimid beo ar an am seo arís	May we be alive this time (next year)
(said on New Year's Eve)	
<i>Breithlá</i>	<i>Birthday Wishes</i>
Breithlá sona duit	Happy Birthday
Lá breithe sona duit	Happy Birthday
Go maire tú an céad	May you live to be a hundred
Go maire tú an lá	May you live to your next birthday

<i>Freagra a théann le beannacht</i>	<i>Reply said in response to a blessing</i>
<i>Go coitianta, deir tú:</i>	
Gurab amhlaidh duit / Go mba hé duit	The same to you
<i>Ach uaireanta, tá freagra speisialta ag dul leis an bheannacht:</i>	
Dia duit	Dia is Muire duit
Dia is Muire duit	Dia is Muire duit agus Pádraig
Dia anseo isteach	Dia is Muire duit
(ar teacht isteach i dteach)	
Bail ó Dhia ort/ Bail ó Dhia ar an obair	An bhail chéanna ort
Fáilte romhat	Go maire tú (i bhfad)
Sé (< is Dia) do bheatha	Go maire tú (i bhfad)
Slán agat	Slán leat
Go dté tú slán	Slán agus beannacht ³⁵

Mallachtaí / Curses

Most of these curses are only used with serious intent; those used more commonly and profanely are marked by +:

Go n-ithe an cat thú,	May the cat eat you,
is go n-ithe an diabhal an cat	and may the devil eat the cat
Nár thé an t-ádh ort*	May luck not come (go) to you
Nár éistí Dia leat	May God not listen to you
Go ropa an diabhal leis é	May the devil stab him with it
Go lasca an diabhal é	May the devil whip him
Go dtachta an diabhal é mar amadán	May the devil suffocate him, the fool
T'anam `on diabhal+/ ón seabhac+	Your soul to the devil (lit. hawk)
Bá agus múchadh (bascadh) ort*	Drowning and suffocation (bashing) on you
Bás na gcat san Earrach ort*	Death of the cats in spring to you
Go raibh an chloch is ísle san fharraige mar philliúr duit	May the lowest rock in the sea be your pillow
Caor thine ort	A thunderbolt (lit. `fire ball') on you
Codladh an traona chugat	The sleep of the cornrake on you
Codladh trom traona ort	The heavy sleep of the cornrake on you
Diabhal agus daichead ort	41 devils on you
Díth sláinte agus saol ort*	Lack of health and life on you
Dul go holc ort	May you turn bad
Fán fada chugat	Long wandering to you
Fuacht agus oighear ort	Cold and ice on you
Greadadh trí lár do scairt	Trouncing through your lungs to you
Gread leat+	Beat it
Imeacht gan filleadh ort*	Emigration without return to you

³⁵ cf. the idiom *d'fhág mé slán agus beannacht aici* 'I said goodbye to her' which appears to be based on this response.

IMPERFECT AND SUBJUNCTIVE

Imeacht ghé an oileáin	The leaving of the island geese to you
Lagadh agus leoin ort	Weakening and sprain on you
Leá chúir na habhann ort	May you melt away like river foam
Luí gan éirí chugat*	Lying down without getting up to you
7 mallacht do mháthar ar mhullach do chinn*	Your mother's 7 curses on your head
Mallacht ort+	A curse on you
Marbhfháisc ort+	Swathings (of a corpse) on you
Plá ort+	Plague on you
Ná raibh rath ort	May you not have luck
Ná bheire an sagart ort*	May the priest not lay hand on you (i.e. in extreme unction)
Scalladh chugat	Scalding on you
Scread mhaidine ort	The morning wail on you (i.e. of keeners over corpse)
Scríos gan chraiceann ort	Ruin (erosion) without skin on you
Tachtadh ort	Choking on you
Go dtachta an diabhal thú+	May the devil choke you
Tuilleadh tubaiste ort+	More trouble to you

Amhrán: Bean Pháidín

'Sé an trua ghéar nach mise, nach mise
'Sé an trua ghéar nach mise bean Pháidín.
'Sé an trua ghéar nach mise, nach mise,
Is an bhean atá aige bheith cailte.

Rachainn go Gaillimh, go Gaillimh
Is rachainn go Gaillimh le Páidín;
Rachainn go Gaillimh, go Gaillimh,
Is thiocfainn abhaile sa mbád leis. 'Sé an trua....

Rachainn go hAonach an Chlocháin
Is siar go Béal Atha na Báighe,
Bhreathnóinn isteach tríd an bhfuinneog
Le súil is go bhfeicfínn bean Pháidín. 'Sé an trua....

Go mbristear do chosa, do chosa
Go mbristear do chosa, a bhean Pháidín
Go mbristear do chosa, do chosa
Go mbristear do chosa is do chnámha.

An Phaidir ('Our Father')

Ár nAthair atá ar neamh,
 go naofar d'ainm
 go dtaga do ríocht
 go ndéantar do thoil ar an talamh
 mar a dhéantar ar neamh.
 Ár n-arán laethúil tabhair dúinn inniu,
 agus maith dúinn ár bhfiacha
 mar a mhaithimidne dár bhféichiúna féin,
 agus ná lig sinn i gcathú,
 ach saor sinn ó olc.

Lá Bealtaine (Mayday Customs, 5/1)

Tá sé mar nós ag gach aon duine ar fud na paróiste dul amach roimh éirí na gréine an lá sin, agus craoibhín éigin glas – coll, nó fuinseog, nó aon ní glas – a bhreith isteach sa teach, mar deir siad gur cheart do gach aon duine an `Samhradh' a thabhairt isteach Lá Bealtaine. ('Everyone in the parish goes out before sun rise and brings some green branch - hazel or [fuchsia]? or anything green - into the house, because they say everyone should bring `the Summer' inside on Mayday.' LSÍC, 361)

Amhrán: `Samhradh Samhradh'

Samhradh samhradh, bainne na ngamhna
 Thugamar féin an samhradh linn
 Thugamar linn é is cé a bhainfidh dinn é?
 Thugamar féin an samhradh linn.

Summer summer, milk of the calves
 We have brought the summer with us
 We've brought it: who will take it?
 We have brought the summer with us.

Babóg na Bealtaine, maighdean an tsamhraidh
 Suas gach cnoc is síos gach gleann
 Cailíní maiseacha bángheala gléasta
 Thugamar féin an samhradh linn.

The May Doll, maid of summer
 Up every hill and down every glen
 Comely fair well-dressed maidens
 We have brought the summer with us.

Samhradh buí na nóinín gléigeal
 Thugamar féin an samhradh linn
 Ó bhaile go baile chun ár mbaile ina dhiaidh sin
 Thugamar féin an samhradh linn.

Yellow summer of bright daisies
 We have brought the summer with us
 From town to town, then to our own town
 We have brought the summer with us.

Samhradh samhradh, bainne na ngamhna
 Thugamar féin an samhradh linn.
 Thugamar linn é is cé a bhainfidh dinn é?
 Thugamar féin an samhradh linn.
 (CC #254)

Summer summer, milk of the calves
 We have brought the summer with us
 We've brought it: who will take it?
 We have brought the summer with us.

APPENDIX I: CÚRSAÍ CANÚNA

1

The Verbal Noun of Necessity

In Donegal, the preposition *le* prefixes `h' to verbal nouns beginning with a vowel; elsewhere, it prefixes `n':

ULSTER IRISH	MUNSTER AND/OR CONNAUGHT IRISH
le hithe	le n-ithe

2

ULSTER IRISH	MUNSTER AND/OR CONNAUGHT IRISH	
thart fá	thart faoi	<i>around, approximately</i>
cá mhéad	cé mhéad	<i>how many?</i>
cad é?	cad?	<i>what?</i>
cad é mar?	conas? / cén chaoi?	<i>how?</i>
cá mhinice?	cé chomh minic?	<i>how often?</i>
c'ainm/Cad é an t-ainm?	cad is ainm duit?	<i>what's your name?</i>
cén uair?/cá huair?	cadhain	<i>when?</i>
cad chuige?	cén fáth?	<i>why?</i>

4

ULSTER IRISH	MUNSTER AND/OR CONNAUGHT IRISH	
i ndiaidh	tar éis	<i>after</i>

Plural Endings

Since the existence of distinctive `common' plural endings such as *-anna*, *-acha*, *-í* etc are a relatively recent phenomenon in Irish, there is considerable fluctuation in plural formation between different dialects.

In Donegal Irish:

- the strong and very productive ending in *-(a)í* is also used for first-declension nouns such as *gasúr* (*gasúraí* / *gasraí*) and *leabhar* (*leabharthaí*).

A final *-í* is also found in:

- the ending *-(e)anna*, generally pronounced *-(e)annaí* (*amannaí*), and
- the ending *-ta*, pronounced *-taí* (*bliantaí*; *róntaí*; *scéaltaí*)
- *spéarthaí* for *spéartha*, *glórthaí* for *glórtha* etc
- *fuinneogaí* for *fuinneoga* etc.

Also note that:

- the ending *-aithe* is *íonnaí* in Donegal (*gadaíonnaí*; *comrádaíonnaí*, *seanchaíonnaí*)
- the ending *-acha* has spread to first-declension words such as *éan* (*éanacha*), and is often found instead of the *caighdeán* ending *-anna*: *sráideacha*; *géacha*.

6

Díochlaonadh na hAidiachta

Mutation of the Noun and Adjective after a Preposition in Munster/Connacht Irish

a) The noun is lenited after *den, don, sa(n)*: *den chapall, don fhear, sa pháirc*

If the noun is feminine, the adjective is also lenited: *den pháirc bheag, don bhean mhór*

If the noun is masculine, the adjective need not be lenited: *den chapall mór, don fhear beag, sa pháirc glas*

b) The noun is eclipsed after *ag an, ar an, as an, leis an, faoin, ón* etc: *ag an gcapall*

If the noun is feminine, the adjective is lenited: *as an bpáirc bheag, ag an mbean mhór*

If the noun is masculine, the adjective is neither lenited nor eclipsed: *ar an gcapall mór, ag an bhfear beag*

7

ULSTER IRISH MUNSTER AND/OR CONNAUGHT IRISH

fá choinne	faoi choinne	<i>for, to get</i>
ar chor ar bith	ar bith	<i>at all</i>
inteacht	éigin	<i>some</i>

The Conditional Mood

As in the future tense, the -f- in the conditional stem is pronounced [h] throughout Donegal, except for Teelin (Hughes 1994, 644). On the -f- -> [h] see O'Rahilly (1932, 222), Ó Buachalla (1985), Ó Dochartaigh (1987, 166-8) and Hughes (1994, 644).

Ó Baoill (1996, 55) has the following paradigm for the substantive verb in a quasi-phonetic spelling:

Sg	Pl
1 bhéinn	1 bhéimis(t) / bhéamais(t)
2 bhéiheá/bheifeá	2 bhéit sibh
3 bhéit sé	3 bhéit siad
bhéit sí	

When *bheadh* is not followed by a pronoun, it is pronounced *bhéú*.

The Preposition faoi

Hughes has the following forms (1994, 658; see also Ó Baoill 1996, 95):

Sg	Pl
1 fúm	1 fúinn
2 fút, fúd	2 fúibh
3 faoi	3 fúfa

fúithe

10

An Saorbhriathar

In Conemara Irish, the -f- in the future autonomous ending *-far / -fear* may be pronounced [f].

11

Bunadh na gCnoc

The two excerpts from *Síscéalta Ó Thír Chonaill* attempt to represent spoken Ulster Irish closely in terms of orthography, lexicography and grammar. Spellings such as *caidé* instead of *cad é*, *rabh* instead of *raibh*, *eadar* instead of *idir* reflect Donegal pronunciation of these words. Dialect variants, such as *gnoitheach* for *gnóthach*, *gibrisc* for *gibiris*, and *údaí* for *úd*, as well as the Donegal forms *frí* (for *trí*), *insan* (for *san*) and *léithi* (for *léi*).

The passages also illustrate grammatical features, such as the subjunctive ending in *-aí* rather than *-á* (*go sábhálaí*), and the use of the analytic form *labhairleadh siad* instead of *labhraidís*. Note also how even in Teelin, the area of Donegal where the imperfect has traditionally been strongest, it coexists with the periphrastic construction *ba ghnách le* 'used to.'

The Imperfect

As early as 1932, O'Rahilly (171) suggested that the imperfect tense was being replaced by the conditional in Donegal Irish. Wagner (1959, 296) maintains that in Teelin Irish at least the imperfect tense persists, but elsewhere in Donegal the imperfect is clearly being replaced, either by the conditional (Hughes 1994, 644f and Ó Tuathail 1933, xlv-xlvi) or the periphrastic construction *ba ghnách le*. Different strategies may coexist even in a single speaker's usage, as seen in such constructions as *ba ghnáthach le nead a bheith ag an iolar roimhe seo ann, bhíodh corr-chionn ann* ('the eagle used to have a nest there before, there used to be the odd one'; Hughes 1994, 645).

Even though the imperfect is no longer much in use in colloquial Ulster Irish, it is found in the literature, and of course continues to be used in other dialects. In view of the fact that the imperfect is no longer productive in most areas of Donegal, I have chosen to give *caighdeán* forms of the imperfect tense paradigm rather than attempting to produce a Donegal-based paradigm; in Teelin, the 3 pl and sometimes the 1 pl has no special synthetic form (3 plu: *bhíodh siad, chuireadh siad*; 1 plu: *cheannaíodh muid, cheannaíodh sinn*). The 't' in the characteristic 2 sg imperfect ending *-tá / -teá* is generally lenited in Teelin Irish (*-thá / -theá*, pronounced [ha]: *chuirtheá, cheanglatha*), which makes it hard at times to distinguish it from the 2 sg conditional ending *-f(e)á* [ha]. Ó Baoill (1996, 54) gives a paradigm for the substantive verb in a quasi phonetic spelling:

Sg 1 bhínn
2 bhítheá

3 bhít sé/sí (by assimilation of `dh' + `s' from *bhíodh sé*)
 Pl 1 bhímis(t) / bhíu (i.e. *bhíodh*) muid / bhíu sinn
 2 bhít sibh
 3 bhít siad

Subjunctive

The use of the subjunctive outside petrified phrases is discussed by Hughes 1994, 645 (see e.g. *go mbrise mé, go gceannaí mé, go gceangla mé*). Note that an ending in *-í / idh* is found as well as *-e / -a*: *go sábhálaí / go sábhála; go mbrisdh mé / go mbrise mé*.

There is fluctuation between the subjunctive and the future: *sula dté / sula racha mé*), and Hughes also notes fluctuation between subjunctive and conditional in central Donegal (Hughes 1994, 646 and Hughes 1986, 275-7).

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FOCLÓIR GAEILGE - BÉARLA³⁶

A

a (before a person's name etc)	vocative marker
a (before a noun)	3rd person poss. pronoun
a (before a verbal noun)	to
abair	say
ábalta ^U	able
ábhar (m)	subject
ach	but; (with negative) only
'achan ^U (<gach aon)	every
ádh (m)	luck
ádh mór! ^U	good luck, good bye
an Afraic (f)	Africa
ag	at, by
aghaidh (f)	face
in aghaidh (+ gen)	against
agus	and
aimsigh, ag aimsiú	find
aimsir (f)	weather (n)
ainm (m)	name (n)
ainmhí (m)	animal
aintín (f)	aunt
an Áise (f)	Asia
aisteach	strange
aistear (m)	journey
aisteoir (m)	actor
aithne (f)	acquaintance
a lán	a lot
amach	out
amárach	tomorrow
amharc (ar), ag amharc (ar) ^U	look, watch
amharclann (f)	theatre
amhrán (m)	song
anocht	tonight
anois	now
anseo	here
ansin	there
anuraidh	last year
aois (f)	age
aon	one
aontaigh le, ag aontú le	agree with

³⁶ (n) noun; (gen) genitive case; (pl) plural; (vb) verb; (adj) adjective; (f) feminine and (m) masculine gender; superscript ^U Ulster dialect forms (ditto ^{C/M} for Connacht/Munster).

ar (+ lenition)	on, about
ar ball	soon
ar bith	at all
ar buile	angry
ar chor ar bith ^U	at all
ar chúl	in back
ar fad	complete(ly), entire(ly)
ar feadh	for (a duration of time)
ar fud	throughout, all over
arán (m)	bread
árasán (m)	apartment
ard	tall
aréir	last night
arís	again
arú aréir	night before last
as	from
athair (m)	father
athair (m) mór	grandfather
áthas (m)	happiness
athraigh, ag athrú	change

B

ba cheart domh	I should
Baile Átha Cliath	Dublin
baile (m)	village
baile (m) mór, sa bhaile mhór	town, in town
abhaile, 'na bhaile ^U (< chun an bhaile)	home, homewards
as baile	out of town
sa bhaile	at home
bain sult as, ag baint suilt as	enjoy
bainisteoir (m)	manager
bainne (m)	milk
bairín breac (m)	barmbrack (fruit loaf)
bán	white
banaltra (f)	nurse
bandraoi (f)	witch
barr (m)	top
barraíocht ^U	too much
beag	small
béal (m)	mouth
bean (f)	woman
bean (f) chéile	wife
beannacht (f)	blessing, greeting

FOCLÓIR GAELGE - BÉARLA

beannachtaí (pl)	greetings
Béarla (m)	English
beirt	two people
b'fhéidir	maybe
bheith	being (substantive verb)
bhuel	well
bí	be
bia (m)	food
bialann (f)	restaurant
blasta	delicious
bláth (m)	flower
bleachtaire (m)	detective
bliain (f)	year
an bhliain seo chugainn	next year
bó (f)	cow
bocht	poor
bocsa ^U bruscair	waste paper basket
bolg (m)	stomach
bomaite (m)	minute
bóthar (m)	road
braith	feel
breá	lovely
an Bhreatain Bheag (f)	Wales
an Bhreatain Mhór (f)	Britain
Breatnach (n and adj)	Welsh person or thing
Breatnais (f)	Welsh language
bricfeasta (m)	breakfast
briosca (m), brioscaí (pl)	cookie
Briotanach (n and adj)	Briton, British
an Bhriotáin (f)	Brittany
Briotánach (n and adj)	Breton
Briotáinis (f)	Breton language
bris, ag briseadh	break
bris isteach	break into
briste	broken
bríste (m), pl.: brístí	pants
bróg (f)	shoe
brón (m)	sorrow
bronntanas (m)	present
brú (m)	hostel
buachaill (m), buachaillí (pl)	boy, lad
buail, ag bualadh	strike, hit
buail le, ag bualadh le	meet

buartha	worried
buí	yellow
buíochas (m)	thanks
buíochas le Dia!	thank God!
bun (m)	bottom, basis
bunadh (m)	race, people
bunadh (m) na gcnoc	the hill-folk, fairies
bunchéimeach	undergraduate
bus (m)	bus
C	
cá	where?
cá háit	where?
cá fhad	how long?
cá mhéad	how much, how many?
cá huair	when?
cad chuige	why?
cad é ^U , caidé ^U	what?
caife (m)	coffee, café
cailc (f)	chalk
cailín (m), cailíní (pl)	girl
caint (f)	talk (n)
ag caint faoi	talking about
cainteoir (m) dúchais	native speaker
cairdiúil	friendly
cáis (f)	cheese
caith, ag caitheamh	spend
caithfidh	must
can, ag canadh	singing
cantalach	grumpy
caora (f)	sheep
capall (m)	horse
cara (m)	friend
carr (m)	car
carraig (f)	rock
cas ar a chéile	meet each other
cat (m)	cat
cathair (f)	city
cathaoir (f)	chair
cé	who?
ceann (m)	head
an ceann seo (m)	this one
céanna	same

ceannaigh, ag ceannach	buy
ceantar (m)	area
ceap, ag ceapadh	think, invent
ceapaire (m)	sandwich
cearc (f)	chicken
ceart	right, proper
ceart go leor	right enough, allright
ceathair	four
ceathrú	quarter
cent	cent
cé go□	although
ceol (m)	music
ceol (m) clasaiceach	classical music
ceol (m) traidisiúnta	traditional music
ceolchoirm (f)	concert
ceoltóir (m)	musician
a chlog	o' clock
chomh□le	as...as (in comparison)
chomh maith	as well
chuig	to
cileagram	kilogram,
cineál (m)	kind, sort
cineálta	kind (adj)
cinnte	certain
cionn is go	because
císte (m)	cake
cistin (f)	kitchen
ciúin	quiet
claí (m)	fence
cláirseach (f)	harp
clann (f)	offspring, (one's) children
clár dubh (m)	blackboard
cliste	intelligent
cluas (f)	ear
cluiche (m)	game
cluiche na bhfochupán	saucer game
cluín, ag cluin ^U stín	hear
cnó (m), pl. cnónna	nut, nuts
cnuasach (m)	collection
cnuasaigh, ag cnuasach	collect
cócaire (m)	cook
ag cócaireacht	cooking
codladh (m)	sleep

codraisc (f)	mess
cogadh (m)	war
coicís (f)	fortnight (two weeks)
cóipleabhar (m)	notebook
cóir	fitting, proper
cois tine	by the fire
cóisir (f)	party
col ceathair (m)	cousin
comhaimseartha	contemporary
comharsa (f)	neighbor
cónaí (m)	home
cóngarach do	close to
contúirteach	dangerous
cos (f)	foot
cosúil, is cosúil	likely, it is likely
cóta (m)	coat
cráite	tormented
crann (m)	tree
craobh (f)	branch
creid, ag creidbheáil ^U , ag creidiúint	think, believe
críochnaigh, ag críochnú	finish
críochnaithe	finished
croí (m)	heart, darling
crosbhóthar (m)	intersection
crua	hard
cruinniú (m)	meeting
cuairt (f)	visit
cuibhreann (m)	field
cuid (f)	portion
cuid (f) mhór	a lot
cúig	five
is cuimhin le	remember
cuir, ag cur	put
cuir ar bun	found, establish
cuir as do	annoy, bother
cuir amach as a chéile	set at odds
cuir fios ar	notify
cuir scairt ar	call (on phone)
cuir tuairisc	ask after
cuisneoir (m)	fridge
culaith (f)	suit, dress, outfit
cultúr (m)	culture
is cuma liom	I don't mind

cúpla	a couple
ag cur báistí	raining
ag cur sneachta	snowing
cúrsa, pl. cúrsaí (m)	course
D	
dá	if (in conditional sentence)
ag damhsa	dancing
dán (m)	poem
daoine beaga/maithe	the fairies
dar liom	it seems to me
dath (m), pl. dathanna	colour
dathúil	handsome, pretty
de	from
de ghnáth	usually
deacair	difficult
déan, ag déanamh	do
déan deifir	hurry up
ag déanamh staidéir ar	studying
déanta	done
dearg	red
dearmad (m)	forgetfulness
dearmad a dhéanamh ar rud	to forget something
deartháir (m)	brother
deas	nice
dea-scéala	good news
deich	ten
deifir (f)	hurry
deireadh (m) seachtaine	weekend
deireanach	last, recent
deirfiúr (f)	sister
deoch (f)	drink
a dhath	anything, nothing
dhá, an dá	two (adj)
dia (m)	god
Dia duit	Hello ('God to you')
Dia is Muire duit (response)	Hello ('God and Mary to you')
Dia ár Sábháil!	God almighty!
dinnéar (m)	dinner
ag díol	selling
díomá (f)	disappointment
díreach	straight, exactly
dlíodóir (m)	lawyer

FOCLÓIR GAELGE - BÉARLA

do (+ lenition)	to, for
dó	two (number)
dochtúir (m)	doctor
is dóigh liom	I think
ar dóigh	excellent
ar dhóigh	in a way
ar ndóigh	of course
dóigh, ag dó	burn
dóite	burned
domhan (m)	world
donn	brown
doras (m)	door
dorcha	dark
dosaen	dozen
dráma (m)	drama
dream (m)	group of people
droch- (prefix)	bad
drochscéal (m)	bad news
druid, ag druidim ^U	close
druidte ^U	closed
duais (f)	prize
dubh	black
dubh dóite ^U	fed up
dúil a bheith ag duine i rud	to like something
duilleog (f)	leaf
duine (m)	person, man
dúiseacht (f)	waking state
duit	to you (sg)
(ag) dul	going
dul ag iascaireacht	go fishing

E

é, eisean	he
éadach (m)	cloth
eadar ^U , idir	between
eagla (f)	fear
ealaín (f)	art
ealaíontóir (m)	artist
éan (m)	bird
earrach (m)	spring
éigean (m)	force, necessity
is éigean do	to have to
eile	other

Eilvéis, an (f)	Switzerland
Éire (f)	Ireland
Éireannach	Irish person or thing
éirigh, ag éirí	rise, get up, become
éiríonn le (impersonal)	succeed in
éist (le), ag éisteacht (le)	listen (to)
eitleán (m)	plane
eolas (m)	knowledge
euro	euro
F	
fá ^U	about, around
fá choinne ^U	for the purpose of
fá dhéin ^U	to fetch, to get
fada	long
fadhb (f)	problem
faigh, ag fáil	get
fáilte romhat!	welcome!
tá fáilte romhat	you're welcome
falsa	lazy
fan, ag fanacht (le)	wait (for)
faoi (+ lenition)	about, under
faoi dheireadh	at long last
faoi dheireadh thall	at last, in the end
faoin tuath	in the country side
farraige (f)	sea
fás, ag fás	grow
fásta; daoine fásta	grown-up; adults
fásach (m)	desert
féadaim	I can
fear (m)	man
fear (m) céile	husband
féar (m)	grass
fearg (f)	anger
fearr (<i>comparative of maith</i>)	better
feic, ag feiceáil	see
is féidir liom	I am able
feirm (f)	farm
feirmeoir (m)	farmer
feith, ag feitheamh	wait, expect
feoil (f)	meat
fidil (f)	fiddle
filíocht (f)	poetry

firinne (f)	truth
fion (m)	wine
fionn	blond
fios (m)	knowledge
fiú	even; worth
fliuch	wet
fliuchadh	got wet
foghlaim, ag foghlaim	learning
fógra (m)	announcement
folamh	empty
fómhar (m)	fall
foscail ^U	open
foscailte ^U	open
fosta ^U	also
an Fhrainc (f)	France
Fraincis (f)	French
freastal ar	attend
freastálaí (m)	attendant, waiter
tá fonn orm	I want to
fríd a chéile ^U	all mixed up
fuaim (f)	sound
fuar	cold
fuath (m)	hate
fuinneog (f)	window
G	
gach	every
gabh, ag gabháil	say; go; accept
gabh mo leithscéal (m)	excuse me
gadaí (m)	thief
an Ghaeilge (f)	Irish language
Gaeilge na hAlban (f)	Scottish Gaelic
gaineamh (m)	sand
ag gáire	laughing
gairid	short
galánta	elegant, fine, swell
gan	without
gan mhoill	soon
gaoth (f)	wind
gasúr (m)	small boy
geal	bright
gealach (f)	moon
geall (m)	pledge, security

mar gheall ar	on account of, because of
geall, ag gealladh	promise (vb)
gealltanas (m)	promise (n)
geansaí (m)	pullover, sweater
gearán (m)	complaint
an Ghearmáin (f)	Germany
Gearmáineach (n and adj)	German
Gearmáinis (f)	German
geimhreadh (m)	winter
gibrisc ^U (f), gibiris	gibberish
giotar (m)	guitar
glac	take
glantóir (m)	duster
glan	clean (adj)
glan, ag glanadh	clean (vb)
glas	green (as in vegetation); blue; grey
glasraí	vegetables
gléas (m) ceoil	musical instrument
gléasta	dressed
gloine (f)	glass
glúin (f)	knee, generation
gluaisteán (m)	car
gnáthcheann (m)	regular kind
gnó (m)	business
gnóthach, gnóitheach ^U	busy
go (prep.; prefixes `h' to vowel)	to
go (before adj)	adverbial marker
go háirithe	especially
go hannamh	seldom
go ceann	for (future time)
go dtí	to, up to, until
go fóill	yet
go leith	and a half
go minic	often
go raibh maith agat	thank you
go raibh céad/míle maith agat	thank you very much
gorm	blue
goid, ag goid	steal
grá (m)	love
greannmhar	funny
an Ghréig (f)	Greece
grian (f)	sun
grianmhar	sunny

gúna (m)
guth (m)
guthán (m) póca

dress
voice
cell phone

H

hata (m)

hat

I

i (+ eclipsis)
í, ise
i m' aonar
i mbun
i gceann
i gceann tamaill
i gcónaí
i ndiaidh
i bhfad
i measc
i rith
iad, iadsan
iarchéimeach
iarr (ar), ag iarraidh (ar)
iarsmalann (f)
iasc (m)
idir
im (m)
imigh, ag imeacht
imir, ag imirt
imní (f)
in aghaidh
in aice
in am
in éineacht le
Indiach
iníon (f)
inné
inniú
inteacht^U, éigin
intinn (f), ar intinn ag
Iodáileach
Iodáilis (f)
iontach
iontas (m)

in
she
by myself
in charge of
within
in a little while
always
after
much
among
throughout (time)
they
postgraduate
ask (for), want
museum
fish
between
butter
leave
play (a sport)
anxiety, worry
against
near
in time
together with
Indian (noun or adjective)
daughter
yesterday
today
some
mind, in mind (intention)
Italian (noun or adjective)
Italian
wonderful; as adv.: very
surprise, wonder

FOCLÓIR GAEILGE - BÉARLA

is	and
is	is (copula verb)
is éigean do	must
isteach	in
ith, ag ithe	eat
L	
lá (m)	day
labhair, ag labhairt	speak
laethanta saoire	vacation
lag	weak
láidir	strong
lámh (f)	hand
lán (adj)	full
a lán	a lot
lár (m)	middle
le (prefixes `h' to vowel)	with, by
le□anuas	for (duration of time past)
le chéile	together
le do thoil	please
leaba (f)	bed
leabhar (m)	book
leabharlann (f)	library
léacht (f)	lecture
léachtóir (m)	lecturer
leadránach	boring
ag léamh	reading
leanbh (m)	child
léann (m) Ceilteach	Celtic Studies
leath	half
leathphingin rua (with neg.)	not a penny
leathuair	half hour
léigh	read
léine (f)	shirt
leor	enough
liath (m. noun and adj.)	grey, grey-haired
lig, ag ligint	leave, allow
lig do scíth	relax
líofa	fluent
lítear (m)	litre
litir (f)	letter
litriocht (f)	literature
lóistín (m)	lodgings, accommodation

lón (m)	lunch
luch (f)	mouse
lúcháir (f)	happiness
luí (m)	lying, reclining
M	
má	if
mac (m)	son
mac léinn (m), mic léinn (pl)	student
madadh ^U (m)	dog
magadh	kidding, teasing
maidin (f)	morning
maighdean (f) mhara	mermaid
mair, ag maireachtáil	to last, to live
mairnéalach (m)	soldier
maith	good
mála (m)	bag
mar	as, like
mar atá	as it is
mar	because
mar gheall ar	because of
mar sin	therefore, then
marbh	dead
máthair (f)	mother
máthair (f) mhór	grandmother
mé, mise	I, me
meangadh (m)	smile
meas (m)	respect
measaim	I think, reckon
Meiriceá	America, USA
Meiriceánach	American (n or adj)
mí (f)	month
an mhí seo chugainn	next month
milseán (m), milseáin (pl)	candy (sweets)
milseog (f)	dessert
mion minic	very often
ní miste liom	I don't mind
mol, ag moladh	praise
mór	big
mór millteach	great big, huge
muid, muidinne	we
múinteoir (m), múinteoirí (pl)	teacher
muintir (f)	family (parents/siblings)

N

ná	than; or
ná	do not
ná bí buartha	don't worry
'na bhaile (=chun an bhaile)	(to) home
ná déan dearmad ar	don't forget
ná habair é	don't mention it, you're welcome
náire (f)	shame
naoi	nine
nár bh fhearrde duine éigin	without someone being better off
neacht (f)	niece
Neipeal	Nepal
nia (m)	nephew
nimhneach	sore
níos déanaí	later
nó	or
nua	new
Nua Eabhrac	New York
nuacht (f)	news
nuair	when

O

ó (+ lenition)	from
ó am go ham	from time to time
ó shin	ago, since then
obair (f)	work
ocht	eight
ocras (m)	hunger
óg	young
oíche (f)	night
Oíche Shamhna (f)	Halloween
oifig (f)	office
oileán (m)	island
ól, ag ól	drinking
olc	bad
ollamh (m)	professor
ollscoil (f)	university
ollmhargadh (m)	supermarket
oraíste (m)	orange
os cionn	above
os comhair	in front of
óstán (m)	hotel

P

pacáilte
 páipéar (m)
 páiste (m)
 Páras (m)
 peann (m)
 peann luaidhe (m)
 peil (f)
 péinteáil
 péintéir (m)
 pianó (m)
 pingin (f)
 pioc amach
 pionta (m)
 píosa (m)
 planda (m)
 plean (m)
 plódaithe
 plúr (m)
 poitín
 popcheol (m)
 portach (m)
 pós, ag pósadh
 post (m)
 pósta
 prátaí rósta
 púicín (m)
 punt (m)

packed
 paper
 child
 Paris
 pen
 pencil
 soccer
 painting
 painter
 piano
 penny
 pick out
 pint
 a piece
 plant
 plan
 crowded
 flour
 poteen, illegally distilled whiskey
 pop music
 bog
 marry
 job
 married
 roast potatoes
 blindfold
 pound

R

(ag) rá
 ramhar
 réaltóg (f)
 rang (m)
 an rang (m) Gaeilge
 ag rince
 ríomhaire (m)
 ris (f)
 rith, ag rith
 roinn (f)
 rós (m)
 rua

saying
 fat
 star
 class
 the Irish class
 dancing
 computer
 rice
 run
 department
 rose
 red-haired

rud (m)	thing
rugadh	was born
rúnaí (m)	administrator
S	
sa (<i + an)	in the
sa bhaile	at home
sábháil, ag sábháil	save
Dia ár Sábháil!	God Almighty!
go sábhála, go sábhálaí ^U	may save
saibhir	rich
salann (m)	salt
samhradh (m)	summer
saoiste (m)	boss
saol (m)	life
saor	free
Sasana (m)	England
Sasanach (n and adj)	English person or thing
sásta	content
scairt (f)	shout, call (n)
scairt a thabhairt ar x	to call x
scamallach	cloudy
scannán (m)	movie
scartha	separated
scéal (m)	story
sciorta (m)	skirt
scoil (f)	school
scoláireacht (f)	scholarship, grant
scread (f)	scream (n)
scread a ligint	scream (vb)
scríobh, ag scríobh	writing
scríbhneoir (m)	writer
sé	six
seacht	seven
seachtain (f)	week
an tseachtain seo chugainn	next week
sean	old
seanaimseartha	old-fashioned
seandálaíocht (f)	archaeology
seasmh (m)	standing
séasúr (m)	season
seinn, ag seinm	play (music)
seinnteoir (m)	stereo, record player

FOCLÓIR GAEILGE - BÉARLA

seo	this
seomra (m)	room
seomra scoile (m)	schoolroom
sibh, sibhse	you (pl)
síl, sílint	think
sin	that
sine (< <i>sean</i>)	elder, eldest
an tSín (f)	China
singil	single
Sínis (f)	Chinese
siob (f)	lift, ride
siobán (m)	gust
siopa (m)	shop
siopadóir (m)	shopkeeper
ag siopadóireacht	shopping
síos	down
na síoga	the fairies
siúil, ag siúl	walk
siúil an domhan	travel the world
siúcra (m)	sugar
slaghdán (m)	cold (n)
sláinte (f)	health
slán	healthy
slán!	goodbye!
slán go fóill!	goodbye! see you later!
slán abhaile!	safe home!
slí (f)	way, manner
slí bheatha	profession
sliabh (m)	hill
sliocht	excerpt
smaoinigh, ag smaoineamh (ar)	think (about)
sméar (f) dhubh	blackberry
snagcheol (m)	jazz
ag snámh	swimming
ag soilsiú	shining
sona	happy
sona sásta	very happy
sotalach	arrogant
an Spáinn (f)	Spain
Spáinneach (n and adj)	Spaniard, Spanish
Spáinnis (f)	Spanish language
sparán (m)	purse
spéir (f)	sky

FOCLÓIR GAEILGE - BÉARLA

spéirbhean	dream woman
speisialta	special
go speisialta	especially
spéisiúil	interesting
spíosra (m)	spice
sráid (f)	street
srón (f)	nose
stábla (m)	stable
stad, ag stad	stop
ag staidéar	studying
stáisiún traenach	train station
stampa (m)	stamp
stiúideo (m)	studio
stoca ^U	stook
stoirm (f)	storm
stopadh	to stay
suas	up
suí (m)	sitting
suigh	sit
súil (f)	eye, expectation, hope
tá súil agam	I hope
ag súil go mór le	looking forward to
suim (f)	interest (n)
tá suim agam i	I am interested in
suimiúil	interesting
sula	before

T

tá	am, is, etc (substantive vb)
tábhachtach	important
tabhair, ag tabhairt	give
tábla ^U (m)	table
tae (m)	tea
taibhse (m), pl. taibhsí	ghost, ghosts
taisteal (m)	travel
taitníonn le	pleases
tanaí	thin
taobh amuigh de	outside of
taobh na láimhe deise/clé	on the right/left side
tar, ag teacht	come
tarlaíonn	happens
te	hot

FOCLÓIR GAEILGE - BÉARLA

teach (m)	house
teach lóistín	lodging house
teach tábhairne	pub
teacht i dtír	occur
téacsleabhar (m)	textbook
teaghlach (m)	household, family
téigh, ag dul	go
thall ansin	over there
thar	over, past
thar lear	overseas
thart fá	approximately, around
thig le	is able
an Tibéad (f)	Tibet
chífidh mé thú	I 'll see you!
tinn	sick
tinneas (m) cinn	headache
tinneas (m) fiacaile	toothache
tiomáin, ag tiomáint	drive
tiománaí (m)	driver
tirim	dry
tit, ag titim	fall
tiubh	thick, fast
tóg, ag tógáil	raise, lift, take, build
toirtín úll	apple pie
toradh (m), torthaí (pl)	fruit
tost (m)	silence
trá (f)	beach
trácht ar	mention
traein (f)	train
traidisiúnta	traditional
trí	three
triúr	three people
trua (f)	pity
is trua é, is trua sin	it's a pity
tú, tusa	you (sg)
tuairisc (f)	tidings
bhí sé ag cur do thuairisce	he was asking for you
tuig, ag tuigbheáil ^U , ag tuiscint	understand
tuirse (f)	fatigue, tiredness
tuirseach	tired
tuismitheoir (m), tuismitheoirí (pl)	parent
turasóir (m)	tourist
tús (m)	beginning

U

uachtar (m) reoite	ice cream
uafásach	horrible
uaine (f. noun and adj.)	green (as in garments etc.)
uair (f), pl. uaireanta	hour
uaireanta	sometimes
údaí ^U , úd	yonder
uimhir (f)	number
uisce (m)	water
uisce beatha (m)	whisky
úll (m), pl. úlla	apple, apples
uncail (m)	uncle
urchóid (f)	harm
úsáid, ag úsáid	use

FOCLÓIR BÉARLA - GAELGE

A

able	ábalta ^U
about	fá ^U , faoi
above	os cionn (+ gen.)
acquaintance, knowledge of person	aithne (f)
actor	aisteoir (m)
accent (n)	blas (m)
he has an American accent	tá blas Meiriceánach air
accommodation	lóistín (m)
administrator (US)	rúnaí (m)
address	seoladh (m)
adolescent	déagóir (m)
adult (adj.)	do dhaoine fásta
adult (n.)	duine fásta
Africa	an Afraic (f)
after	i ndiaidh ^U / tar éis (+ gen)
afternoon	tráthnóna (m)
again	arís
against	in aghaidh (+ gen.)
age	aois (f)
ago	ó shin
agree with	aontaigh le, ag aontú le
a lot	cuid mhór ^U , a lán
allow, let	lig
almost	chóir a bheith ^U , beagnach
alright	ceart go leor
also	fosta ^U , freisin
always	i gcónaí
America, USA	Meiriceá (m)
American (n and adj)	Meiriceánach (m)
among	i measc (+ gen)
and	agus, is
anger	fearg (f)
anger	ar buile
animal	ainmhí (m)
announcement, notice	fógra (m)
annoy, bother	cuir as do
answer (vb)	freagair, ag freagairt
answer (n)	freagra (m)
answering machine	gléas (m) freagartha
anxiety, worry	imní (f)
apartment (US)	árasán (m)

apple	úll (m)
apple pie	toirtín (m) úll
approximately	thart fá ^U
architect	ailtire (m)
area	ceantar (m)
around	thart fá ^U
around the area	thart fán áit ^U
arrogant	sotalach
art	ealaín (f)
artist	ealaíontóir (m)
as, like	mar
as ... as	chomh ... le
as well, in addition	chomh maith
Asia	an Áise (f)
ask	fiafraigh de
at, by	ag
at all	ar bith, ar chor ar bith ^U
attendant, waiter	freastálaí (m)
aunt	aintín (f)
autumn	fómhar (m)
B	
baby	leanbh (m), naíonán (m)
back (n)	droim (m)
back (adv)	ar ais
bad	olc, droch-
bad news	drochscéala
bag	mála (m)
bank	banc (m)
barmbrack	bairín breac (m)
be	bí, bheith
be able	thig le, bheith ábalta
beach	trá (f)
beautiful	álainn
become	éirigh, ag éirí
bed	leaba (f)
beer	beoir (f)
before	roimh, sula (with verb)
beginning	tús (m)
believe	creid, ag creidbheáil, ^U creidiúint
better	níos fearr
between	idir (+ lenition)
big	mór

bird	éan (m)
biscuit(s), cookie(s)	briosca (m), brioscaí
black	dubh
blackboard	clár dubh (m)
blonde	fionn
blue	gorm
bone	cnámh (f)
book	leabhar (m)
boring	leadránach
boss	saoiste (m)
bother, annoy	cuir as do
Boston	Bostún (m)
bottle	buidéal (m)
bottom	bun (m)
boy	buachaill (m), gasúr (m)
branch	craobh (f)
bread	arán (m)
break	bris, ag briseadh
breakfast	bricfeasta (m)
Breton (n and adj)	Briotánach (m)
Breton language	Briotáinis (f)
bright	geal
Britain	An Bhreatain Mhór
British	Briotanach
broken	briste
brother	deartháir (m)
brown	donn
brush (n)	scuab (f)
hairbrush	scuab gruaige (f)
brush, sweep	scuab, ag scuabadh
bus	bus (m)
busy	gnóthach
but	ach
butcher	búistéir (m)
butter	im (m)
buy, buying	ceannaigh, ag ceannach
by, next to	cois (+ gen)
by (authorship)	le (prefixes `h' to vowel)
C	
café	caife
cake	císte (m)
call	cuir glaoch ar, cuir scairt ar

camcorder	ceamthaiheadán (m)
camera	ceamara (m)
car	carr (m), gluaisteán (m)
cat	cat (m)
CD <i>see</i> compact disc	
cell phone	fón póca, fón siúil
Celtic Studies	an Léann Ceilteach (m)
certainly	cinnte
chair	cathaoir (f)
chalk	caile (f)
cheese	cáis (f)
change (n)	briseadh
change (vb)	athraigh, ag athrú
character	carachtar (m)
cheers!	Sláinte! Sláinte mhaith!
chemistry	ceimic (f)
chicken	cearc (f)
child	leanbh (m), páiste (m)
children	clann (f)
China	an tSín (f)
Chinese language	Sínis (f)
Christmas	Nollaig (f)
Christmas tree	crann (m) Nollag
church	teach (m) an phobail (Cath.) eaglais (f) (Cath./Prot.)
cider (alcoholic)	ceirtlis (f)
cider, apple juice	sú úll (m)
cigarette	toitín (m)
cinema	pictiúrlann (f)
city	cathair (f)
city centre	lár (m) na cathrach
class	rang (m)
classical music	ceol clasaiceach (m)
clean (adj)	glan
clean (vb)	glan, ag glanadh
clever, smart	cliste
clock	clog (m)
o'clock	a chlog
close	druid, ag druidim ^U ; dún, ag dúnadh
closed	druidte ^U , dúnta
clothes	cuid (f) éadaigh
cloudy	scamallach

coat	cóta (m)
coffee	caife (m)
cold (adj.)	fuar
cold (n.)	slaghdán (m)
collect	bailigh
college	coláiste (m)
color	dath (m)
come	tar, ag teacht
come here	goitse ^U ; tar anseo
compact disc	dlúthdhiosca (m)
compact disc player	seinnteoir (m) dlúthdhioscaí
complaint	gearán (an)
completely, entirely	ar fad
computer, personal ~	ríomhaire (m); ~ pearsanta
computer game	cluiche (m) ríomhaire
computer software	bogearraí ríomhaire
concert	ceolchoirm (f)
condom	coiscín (m)
contemporary	comhaimseartha
content	sásta
contraceptives	frithghiniúnaigh
cook	cócaire (m)
cookie(s)	briosca(i) (m)
cooking	ag cócaireacht
copy (n)	cóip (f)
copy (vb)	déan cóip de
country	tír (f)
countryside, in the country	faoin tuath
country-western	ceol (m) tuaithe
couple, a few	cúpla
couple (n)	lánúin (f)
course	cúrsa (m)
cousin	col ceathrair (m)
cow	bó (f)
credit card	cárta (m) creidmheasa
crosswords	croshocail
crowded	plódaithe
culture	cultúr (m)
current affairs	cúrsaí reatha

D

dancing	ag damhsa, ag rince
dangerous	contúirteach

FOCLÓIR BÉARLA - GAEILGE

dark (adj.)	dorcha
daughter	iníon (f)
day	lá (m)
dead	marbh
degree (academic)	céim (m)
undergraduate degree	bunchéim (m)
graduate/postgraduate degree	ardchéim (m)
department	roinn (f)
depressed	in ísle (f) brí
dessert	milseog (f)
detective	bleachtaire (m)
detective story	scéal (m) bleachtairreachta
delicious, tasty	blasta
describe	cuir síos (ar)
description	cur síos
desert	fásach
detective	bleachtaire
difficult	deacair, crua
dinner	dinnéar (m)
disappointment	díomá
dishes	soithí
dissertation	tráchtas (m)
divorce	colscaradh (m)
divorced	colscartha
do	déan, ag déanamh
doctor	dochtúir (m)
dog	madadh ^{U/C} (m); madra ^M (m)
doll	babóg (f)
dollar	dollar (m)
done	déanta
door	doras (m)
down	síos (direction), thíos (location)
dozen	dosaen (an)
drama, play	dráma (m)
drama, dramatic art	drámaíocht (f)
dress (n)	gúna (m)
dress (vb)	cuir éadaí ort
dressed	gléasta
drink (n)	deoch (f)
drink (vb)	ól, ag ól
drive	tiomáin, ag tiomáint
driver	tiománaí (m)

drug(s)
 drug abuse
 Dublin
 duster

druga(i)
 mí-úsáid (f) drugaí
 Baile (m) Átha Cliath
 glantóir (m)

E

ear
 earned
 eat
 economics
 egg (n)
 eight
 elegant
 electric
 e-mail
 emergency exit
 empty
 end (n)
 in the end
 engaged (to be married)
 English
 enjoy
 entrance
 environment
 euro
 even
 ever

 every
 exactly
 exactly!
 exam
 excuse
 excuse me
 exit (n)
 expensive
 extremely
 eye (n)

clúas (f)
 tuillte
 ith, ag ithe
 eacnamaíocht (f)
 ubh (f)
 ocht
 galánta
 leictreach
 ríomhphost (m)
 doras (m) éalaithe
 folamh
 deireadh (m)
 sa deireadh
 geallta
 Béarla (m)
 bain sult as, ag baint sult as
 bealach (m) isteach
 an comhshaol (m)
 euro
 fiú
 riamh (in past)
 choíche (in future)
 'achan (< gach aon)
 díreach
 go díreach
 scrúdú (m)
 leithscéal (m)
 gabh mo leithscéal
 bealach (m) amach
 daor
 thar a bheith
 súil (f)

F

face (n)
 factory
 fair-haired

aghaidh (f)
 monarcha (f)
 fionn, bán

fairies	na síogaí, na daoine beaga, na daoine maithe
fail (vb)	theip ar
I failed the test	theip orm sa teist
fall, autumn	fómhar (m)
falling in love	ag titim i ngrá
family (parents, siblings)	muintir (f)
family (household)	teaghlach (m)
family (children)	clann (f)
family (relatives, kin)	gaolta (m pl)
farm (n)	feirm (f)
farmer	feirmeoir (m)
fat	ramhar
father	athair (m)
fatigue	tuirse (f)
favour	gar (m)
fear	eagla (f)
feel	braith; mothaigh
fence (n)	claí (m)
fiction	ficsean (m)
fiddle	fidil (f)
field (of grass)	páirc (f)
field (tilled)	gort (m), cuibhreann (m)
find (vb)	aimsigh; faigh
finish (vb)	críochnaigh, ag críochnú
finished	críochnaithe
fire (n)	tine (f)
fish (n)	iasc (m)
fishing	iascaireacht (f), ag iascaireacht
fitting, proper	cóir
five	cúig
flower	bláth (m)
flour	plúr (m)
fluent	líofa
food	bia (b)
foot	cos (f)
for	do (+ lenition)
for (completed duration of time)	ar feadh (+ gen)
for (ongoing duration of time)	le
for the purpose of	fá choinne ^U (+ gen)
	le haghaidh (+ gen)
foreign (language etc.)	iasachta
foreigner	coimhthíoch

forget	déan dearmad (ar)
fortnight	coicís (f)
found, establish	cuir ar bun
four	ceathair
France	an Fhrainc (f)
free	saor
French person or thing	Francach (m)
French language	Fraincis (f)
friend	cara (m)
friendly	cairdiúil
from (a place)	as; ó (+ lenition)
from, made of	de (+ lenition)
fruits	torthaí
full	lán
funny	greannmhar
G	
game	cluiche (m)
generally	go ginearálta
German (n and adj)	Gearmáineach (m)
German language	Gearmáinis (f)
Germany	an Ghearmáin (f)
get, find	faigh, ag fáil
get, become, grow	éirigh, ag éirí
get up	éirigh, ag éirí
ghost	taibhse (m)
girl	cailín (m)
give	tabhair, ag tabhairt
glass	gloine (f)
glove	lámhainn (f)
go	téigh, ag dul
go on!	lean ort, lean ar aghaidh
good	maith
good luck!	go n-éirí leat
good luck, goodbye!	ádh mór
good news	dea-scéala
goodbye	slán
government	rialtas (m)
grandfather	athair mór, seanathair (m)
grandmother	máthair mhór, seanmháthair (f)
grass	féar (m)
grey-haired	liath
greeting(s)	beannacht (f), beannachtaí green

group	glas (natural), uaine (other)
grow (tr. & intr.)	dream (m)
grow, become	fás, ag fás
grumpy	éirigh, ag éirí
guidebook	cantalach
guitar	treoirleabhar (m)
gust	giotar (m)
	síobán (m)
H	
hair	gruaig (f), cuid (f) gruaige
half	leath (f)
and a half	go leith
half hour	leathuair (f)
half pint	leathphionta (m)
Halloween	Oíche Shamhna (f)
hand	lámh (f)
handsome, beautiful	dathúil
happiness	áthas (m), lúcháir (m)
hard	crua
harm (n)	urchóid (f)
harp	cláirseach (f)
hat	hata (m)
hate (n)	fuath
he	é, eisean, sé
head (n)	ceann (m)
headache	tinneas (m) cinn
headphones	cluasáin
health	sláinte (f)
hear, hearing	cluin, ag cluin ^U
heart	croí (m)
Hello!	Dia duit!
Hello! (in response)	Dia is Muire duit!
here	anseo
hip-hop	ceol hip hap
hitchhiking	dul ar ordóg
home (n)	cónaí, teach
at home	sa bhaile
home, homewards	abhaile, 'na bhaile ^U
homework	obair bhaile
horrible	uafásach
horror movie	scannán (m) uafáis
horse	capall (m)

FOCLÓIR BÉARLA - GAEILGE

hospital	otharlann (f), ospidéal (m)
hostel	brú (m)
hot	te
hotel	óstán (m)
hour, one hour	uair (f), uair an chloig
house	teach (m)
household	teaghlach (m)
housework	obair tí (f)
how	cad é mar ^U ; conas ^M ; cé chaoi ^C
how long	cá fhad
how much/many	cá mhéad
hunger	ocras (m)
hurry (n)	deifir (f)
hurry up	déan deifir
husband	fear (m) céile
I	
I	mé, mise
I don't care/mind	is cuma liom
ice cream	reuiteog (f), uachtar reuite (m)
idea	barúil (f), smaoineamh (m)
good idea	smaoineamh maith
ideology	ídé-eolaíocht
if	dá (with conditional verb), má (otherwise)
in	i (+ eclipsis)
in a while	i gceann tamaill
in back of	ar chúl (+ gen)
in front of	os comhair (+ gen)
information	eolas (m)
intelligent	cliste
intend	bheith ar intinn ag duine
interest	suim (f)
interesting	suimiúil
internet	idirlíon (m)
international	idirnaisiúnta
intersection	crosbhóthar (m)
interview	agallamh (m)
into	isteach
Ireland	Éire (f)
Irish	Éireannach (m)
Irish language	an Ghaeilge (f)
is	is (copula),

island	tá (substantive verb)
Italian (n and adj)	oileán (m)
Italian language	Iodáileach (m)
Italy	Iodáilis (f)
	an Iodáil (f)
J	
jazz	snagcheol (m)
job	post (m)
journey	aistear (m)
K	
key	eochair (f), pl. eochracha
keyboard	méarchlár (m)
kidding, teasing	ag magadh
kind (n)	cineál (m), sórt (m)
kind (adj)	cineálta
kitchen	cistin (f)
knee	glúin (f)
knowledge (of place or expertise)	eolas (m)
knowledge of fact	fios (m)
knowledge of person, acquaintance	aithne (f)
L	
last, endure, live	mair, ag maireachtáil
last (adj)	deireannach
last month	an mhí seo caite
last night	aréir
last week	an tseachtain seo caite
last year	anuraidh
later	níos déanaí, níos moille
laughing	ag gáire
laughter	gáire (m)
lawyer	dliodóir (m)
leaf	duilleog (f)
learn	foghlaim, ag foghlaim
leave (intrans.), go away	imigh, ag imeacht
leave behind (trans.),	fág, ag fágáil
lecture	léacht (f)
lecturer	léachtóir (m)
letter	litir (f)
library	leabharlann (f)
life	saol (m)

lift, ride	síob (f)
like (prep)	cosúil le
I like	is maith liom; tá dúil agam i
listen (to)	éist (le), ag éisteacht (le)
literature	litríocht (f)
local	áitiúil
local people	muintir (f) na háite
look, watch	amharc (ar), ag amharc (ar)
looking forward to	ag súil (go mór) le rud
lose	caill, ag cailleadh
a lot	a lán, cuid mhór
love (n)	grá
I love, like	is breá liom
I love (romantically)	tá mé i ngrá le
lovely	go breá
London	Londain (f)
long	fada
luck	ádh
lunch	lón (m)
lying down	ag luí
M	
magazine	iris (f)
make-up	smideadh (m)
man	fear (m)
manager	bainisteoir (m)
map	léarscáil (f)
married	pósta
marry	pós, ag pósadh
maybe	b'fhéidir
meat	feoil (f)
medicine	leigheas (m)
meet	cas ar, ag casadh ar
meet with	buail le, ag bualadh le
meeting	cruinniú (m)
melancholy	lionn dubh (m), gruaim (f)
mention	trácht ar
mermaid	maighdean mhara (f)
mess	praiseach (m)
microwave (n)	micreáthonnán (m)
middle	lár
milk	bainne (m)

FOCLÓIR BÉARLA - GAEILGE

mind (n)
 minister (religious)
 minister (government)
 minute
 mistake
 mobile phone
 month
 moon
 morning
 mother
 mountain
 mouse
 mouth
 movie, film
 moving
 museum
 music
 music program
 musicals
 musician
 must

intinn (f)
 ministir (m)
 aire
 bomaite^U (m)
 meancóg (f)
 fón siúil (m), fón póca (m)
 mí (f)
 gealach (f)
 maidin (f)
 máthair (m)
 sliabh (m)
 luchóg (f)
 béal (m)
 scannán (m)
 ag bogadh
 iarsmalann (f)
 ceol (m)
 clár (m) ceoil
 ceolraí
 ceoltóir (m)
 caithfidh

N

name (n)
 near
 need, lack (n)
 I need
 neighbor
 Nepal
 nephew
 new
 New York
 next to
 next month
 next summer
 next thing
 next week
 next year
 nice
 niece
 night
 night before last
 nine

ainm (m)
 cóngarach do, in aice le
 díth (f)
 tá ... de dhíth orm^U
 comharsa (f)
 Neipeál (f)
 nia (m)
 nua
 Nua Eabhrac (m)
 in aice (le)
 an mhí seo chugainn
 an samhradh seo chugainn
 an chéad rud eile
 an tseachtain seo chugainn
 an bhliain seo chugainn
 deas
 neacht (f)
 oíche (f)
 arú aréir
 naoi

FOCLÓIR BÉARLA - GAEILGE

nose
 novel (n)
 now
 number
 nurse (n)
 nut

srón (f)
 úrscéal (m)
 anois
 uimhir (f)
 banaltra (f)
 cnó (m)

O

o'clock
 office
 often
 old
 old-fashioned
 on
 once
 once or twice
 one (number)
 one (adj)
 this one
 only
 only one
 open (vb)
 open (adj)
 opera
 opinion
 what's your opinion?
 in my opinion
 or
 orange (n and adj)
 other
 out (going ~)
 outside (being ~)
 outside of
 over, across, past
 overseas

a chlog
 oifig (f)
 go minic
 sean
 sean-aimseartha
 ar (+ lenition)
 uair (f)
 uair nó dhó
 aon
 amháin
 an ceann seo
 ach (with negative)
 aon ... amháin
 foscail^U, oscail
 foscailte^U, oscailte
 ceoldráma (m)
 barúil (f)
 cad é do bharúil?^U
 dar liom (go)
 nó
 oráiste (m)
 eile
 amach (as)
 amuigh
 taobh amuigh de
 thar
 thar lear, thar sáile

P

packed
 painter
 painting
 pants, trousers
 paper
 parent

pacáilte
 péintéir (m)
 ag péinteáil
 bríste (m)
 páipéar (m)
 tuismitheoir (m)

FOCLÓIR BÉARLA - GAEILGE

Paris	Páras (m)
party (social)	cóisir (f)
party (political)	páirtí (m)
pass, succeed	éiríonn le
I passed the test	d'éirigh liom sa teist
pc <i>see</i> personal computer	
pen	peann (m)
pencil	peann (m) luaidhe
penny	pingin (f)
people (collective)	muintir (f)
people (sg)	pobal (m)
people (pl)	daoine (m pl)
perhaps	b'fhéidir
person	duine (m)
personal (adj)	pearsanta
personal computer	ríomhaire pearsanta
personally	go pearsanta
pet	peata (m)
PhD, doctorate	dochtúireacht (f)
phone (n)	fón (m)
cell phone	fón póca
phone number	uimhir (f) fóin
photo (n)	grianghraf (m)
photocopy (n)	fótachóip (f)
photography	grianghrafadóireacht (f)
physics	físic (f)
piano	pianó (m)
piece	píosa (m)
pig	muc (f)
pint	pionta (m)
pity	trua (f)
plan (n)	plean (m)
plane	eitleán (m)
plant	planda (m)
play, drama (n)	dráma (m)
playing (an instrument)	ag seinm
playing (a game or sport)	ag imirt
please!	le do thoil!
plot (n)	plota (m)
pocket (n)	póca (m)
poem	dán (m)
poet	file (m)
poetry	filíocht (f)

politics	polaitíocht (f), cúrsaí polatíochta
poor	bocht
pop music	popcheol (m)
portion	cuid (f)
positive, certain	dearfach
post office	oifig (f) an phoist
postgraduate (adj)	iarchéimeach
postgraduate student	mac léinn iarchéimeach (m)
potato(es)	práta(i) (m)
pound	punt (m)
praising	ag moladh
pregnant	torrach
present, gift	bronntanas (m)
priest	sagart (m)
print (in print, out of print)	cló (m) (i gcló, as cló)
prize	duais (f)
probably	is cosúil, is dócha
problem	fadhb (f)
profession	slí (f) bheatha
professor (B&I), full professor (US)	ollamh (m)
professor (US)	léachtóir (m)
program	clár (m)
proud (of)	bródúil (as)
psychology	síceolaíocht (f)
pub, bar	teach (m) tábhairne
pullover	geansaí (m)
purse	sparán (m)
put	cuir, ag cur
Q	
quarter	ceathrú (f)
quarter of an hour	ceathrú (f) uair an chloig
quiet	ciúin
R	
radio	raidió (m)
rain (n)	báisteach (f); fearthainne (f)
raining	ag cur báistí
raise, take	tóg, ag tógáil
read	léigh, ag léamh
ready, finished	réidh
reasonable	reasúnta

reasonably	réasúnta, measartha
recognize	aithin, ag aithint
red	dearg
red-haired	rua
refrigerator	cuisneoir (m)
relax	lig do scíth
remedy (n)	leigheas (m)
remember	is cuimhin le
request (vb)	iarr (ar), ag iarraidh (ar)
research	taighde (m)
respect (n)	meas (m)
restaurant	bialann (f)
retire	éirigh as, ag éirí as
retired	éirithe as
rice	ris (f)
right, proper	ceart
right enough	ceart go leor
rise, get up	éirigh, ag éirí
road	bóthar (m)
rock	carraig (f)
rock-music	roc-cheol (m)
romance (novel)	scéal (m) grá
romantic affairs	cúrsaí grá
room	seomra (m)
rose	rós (m)
run	rith, ag rith

S

sailor	mairnéalach (m)
salt	salann (m)
same	céanna
sand	gaineamh (m)
sandwich	ceapaire (m)
say, tell	abair (le); inis (do)
school	scoil (f)
primary school	bunscoil (f)
secondary school, high school	meánscoil (f)
science	eolaíocht (f)
Scot	Albanach (m)
Scotland	Albain (f)
Scottish	Albanach
Scottish Gaelic	Gaeilge na hAlban (f)
sea	farraige (f)

FOCLÓIR BÉARLA - GAEILGE

season (n)	séasúr (m)
secretary	rúnaí (m)
see	feic, ag feiceáil
seldom	annamh
selling	ag díol
sensible	ciallmhar
separated	scartha
seven	seacht
shame (n)	náire (f)
she	í, ise, sí
sheep	caora (f)
shining	ag soilsiú
shirt	léine (f)
shoe	bróg (f)
shop	siopa (m)
shopkeeper	siopadóir (m)
shopping	ag siopadóireacht
shopping centre	ionad (m) siopadóireachta
short	gairid
shy	faiteach
sick	tinn
silence (n)	tost (m)
silence!	ciúnas! (m)
sing (a song)	abair amhrán, gabh amhrán
singing	ag canadh
single	singil
sister	deirfiúr (f)
sitting	ag suí
six	sé
skirt	sciorta (m)
sky	spéar
sleep	codladh (m)
sleet	fliuchshneachta (m)
small	beag
smart, clever	cliste
smile	meangadh (m)
smoking	ag caitheamh (tobaic)
no smoking!	cosc ar thobac
snow	sneachta (m)
snowing	ag cur sneachta
soap opera	sobalchlár (m)
soccer	peil (f)
sociology	socheolaíocht (f)

FOCLÓIR BÉARLA - GAEILGE

some	éigin, inteacht ^U
sometimes	uaireanta, corruair
son, boy	mac (m)
song	amhrán (m)
soon	ar ball, gan mhoill
sore	nimhneach
sorrow	brón (m)
sound	fuaim (f)
Spain	an Spáinn (f)
Spaniard	Spáinneach
Spanish (adj)	Spáinneach
Spanish language	Spáinnis (f)
speak	labhair, ag labhairt
speech	óráid (f)
spices	spíosraí
spoil	mill, ag milleadh
sport	spórt (m)
sports program	clár (m) spóirt
sports centre	ionad (m) spóirt
spring	earrach (m)
stable (n)	stábla (m)
standing	ag seasamh
star	réalta (f)
movie star, starlet	réalta scannán, realtóg
stay	fan, ag fanacht
stay there	fan ansin
staying	ag stopadh, ag fanacht
steal	goid, ag goid
stereo, record player	seinnteoir (m)
stomach (n)	bolg (m)
stop (vb)	stad, ag stad
storm	stoirm (f)
story	scéal (m)
straight	díreach
strange	aisteach
street	sráid (f)
strong	láidir
student	mac (m) léinn
studying	ag staidéar
stupid	bómánta
suburb	bruachbhaile (m)
succeed (in)	éiríonn le (i)
I passed the exam	d'éirigh liom sa srúdu

sugar
summer
sun
sunny
supermarket
swim
sweep
sweets
Swiss
Switzerland

siúcra (m)
samhradh (m)
grian (f)
grianmhar
ollmhargadh (m)
snámh, ag snámh
scuab, ag scuabadh
milseáin
Eilvéiseach
an Eilvéis (f)

T

table
take
talk (n)
talking
talk show
tall
tape
tapedeck, tape recorder
taste (n)
tasty
tea
tea pot
teacher
team
tear (vb)
telephone (n)
television
tell (a story)
tell (someone something)
ten
tennis
terrorist
than
thanks
many thanks
thank God
thank you (sg/pl)
thank you (sg) very much
that
that book
that's it

tábla^U (m), bord (m)
glac, ag glacadh; tóg, ag tógáil
caint (f)
ag caint
clár (m) cainte
ard
téip (m)
téipthaifeadán (m)
blas (m)
blasta
tae (m)
pota (m) tae
múinteoir (m)
foireann (f)
stróic, ag stróiceadh
teileafón (m); guthán (m)
teilifís (f)
inis (sceal), ag insint (scéil)
inis (do); abair (le)
deich
leadóg (f)
sceimhlitheoir (m)
ná
buíochas (m)
míle buíochas
buíochas le Dia
go raibh maith agat/agaibh
go raibh céad/míle maith agat
sin
an leabhar sin
sin é

that's all	sin a bhfuil
theatre	amharclann (f)
theology	diagacht (f)
therapy	teiripe (f)
there	ansin
they	siad, siadsan, iad, iadsan
thick	tiubh
thief	gadaí (m)
thin	tanaí
thing	rud (m)
think (about)	smaoinigh (ar), ag smaoineamh
thirst (n)	tart (m)
thirsty, dry	tirim
I got thirsty	bhuail tart mé
this one	an ceann seo
this year	i mbliana
thought, idea	smaoineamh (m)
three	trí
three people	triúr
thriller (novel, film)	scéinséir (m)
throughout	ar fud
Tibet	an Tibéid (f)
tidy, put in order	réitigh, ag réiteach
tights	riteoga
tired	tuirseach
I'm tired of it	tá mé tuirseach de
tiredness, fatigue	tuirse (f)
to (a place)	go (prefixes `h' to vowel)
to (event)	chuig
to, for	do (+ lenition)
to, in order to	le (prefixes `h' to vowel)
	chun (+ gen)
together	le chéile, in éineacht le
tomorrow	amárach
today	inniu
tonight	anocht
too (also)	fosta ^U ; freisin
too (excessive)	ró-
too much (n)	barraíocht ^U
tooth	fiacal (m), fiacla (pl)
toothache	tinneas fiacaile (m)
toothbrush	scuab fiacla (f)
toothpaste	taos fiacla

top
 tourist
 translate
 translation
 tree
 tradition
 traditional music
 train
 train station
 travel
 trouble
 trousers
 truth
 turkey
 two (number)
 two (adj)
 two people

barr (m)
 turasóir (m)
 aistrigh, ag aistriú
 aistriúchán (m)
 crann (m)
 traidisiún (m)
 ceol traidisiúnta (m)
 traein (f)
 stáisiún traenach (m)
 taisteal (m)
 trioblóid (f)
 briste (m)
 fírinne (f)
 turcaí (m)
 dó
 dhá (+ lenition)
 beirt (f) (+ lenition)

U

uncle
 under
 undergraduate
 undergraduate degree
 understand
 unemployed
 university
 until, up to
 up (direction)
 up (location)
 use (n)
 he used to...
 usually

uncail (m)
 faoi (+ lenition)
 bunchéimeach
 bunchéim (m)
 tuig, ag tuigbheáil^U / ag tuiscint
 dífhostaithe
 ollscoil (f)
 go dtí
 suas
 thuas
 úsáid (f)
 ba ghnách dó^U ...
 de ghnáth

V

vacation
 vegetables
 vegetarian
 very
 videocamera
 videotape
 video recorder
 visit
 vitamins

laethanta saoire
 glasraí
 feoilséantóir (m)
 an-, iontach^U
 fisceamara (m)
 fístéip (f)
 fístháifeadán (m)
 cúairt (f)
 vitimíní

voice

guth (m)

W

wait (for)

fan (le), ag fanacht

wait a minute

fan bomaite^U/nóiméad (m)

waiter

freastalaí (m)

wake

dúisigh, ag dúiseacht

waking state

dúiseacht

Wales

an Bhreatain Bheag (f)

walk

siúil, ag siúl

walkman

seinnteoir (m) dlúthdhioscaí

pearsanta

wash

nigh, ag ní

waste basket

bocsa^U/bosca bruscair (m)

watch (n)

uaireadóir (m)

watch (vb)

amharc^U / feach^M / breathnaigh^C

watching tv

ag amharc ar an teilifís

water

uisce (m)

we

muid, muidinne

weak

lag

wealthy

saibhir

weather

aimsir (f)

the web

an greasán (m)

website

suíomh gréasáin (m)

wedding

bainis (f)

week

seachtain (f)

weekend

deireadh seachtaine (m)

welcome, you're welcome

fáilte (f), fáilte romhat

well!

bhuel

well, healthy

go maith

Welsh (person or thing)

Breatnach

Welsh language

Breatnais (f)

wet

fliuch

Western (movie)

scannán (m) buachaillí bó

what?

cad é?^U, caidé?^U

when?

cá huair?^U, cathain?

when

nuair

where?

cá, cá háit?

whiskey

uisce (m) beatha

white

bán

who?

cé?

why?

cad chuige?

widow, widower

baintreach (f)

FOCLÓIR BÉARLA - GAEILGE

wife	bean chéile (f)
wind	gaoth (f)
window	fuinneog (f)
wine; white / red wine	fíon (m); fíon bán / dearg
winter	geimhreadh (m)
with	le (prefixes `h' to vowel)
without	gan ((+ lenition)
woman	bean (f)
wonder, surprise	iontas (m)
wonderful	iontach
work (n)	obair, cuid (f) oibre
work (vb)	ag obair
worker	oibrí (m)
world	domhan (m)
worried	buartha
write	scríobh, ag scríobh
writer	scríbhneoir (m)
writing	scríbhneoireacht (f)
wrong	contráilte, mícheart

Y

year	bliain (f)
yellow	buí
yesterday	inné
yet	go fóill
yonder	údaí ^U , úd
you (pl)	sibh, sibhse
you (sg)	tú, thú, tusa
young	óg

GEARRLIOSTA BRIATHRA: A SELECT VERB LIST

The three forms listed for each verb are, in that order, the second singular imperative ('go!') which in Irish is the same as the verbal stem, the first person singular present tense (I go'), and the verbal noun ('going'), which is either masculine (m) or feminine (f). Irregular verbs are printed in bold. Superscript ^U (for Ulster) denotes an Ulster dialect variant.

Regular verbs follow one of two conjugations. All monosyllabic stems take the first conjugation; all polysyllabic stems in *-igh* take the second conjugation. In the case of polysyllabic verbs which have a different ending, their conjugation has been indicated by a bold **1** or **2**, followed by a letter **A**, **B**, or **C** to refer to subdivisions (based on Mac Congáil 2004, 117f). Thus polysyllabic second-conjugation stems that syncopate (e.g. *freagair*) are marked **2B**, and second-conjugation polysyllables that do not syncopate (e.g. *foghlaim*) are marked **2C**.

A

adhlaic! adhlacaim; ag adhlacadh (m) 1C	bury
admhaigh! admháim; ag admháil (f)	admit
aistrigh! aistrím; ag aistriú (m)	translate
aithin! aithním; ag aithint (f) 2B	recognize
aontaigh! aontaím; ag aontú (m)	agree
athraigh! athraím; ag athrú (m)	change
athscríobh! athscríobhaim; ag athscríobh (m) 1C	rewrite, copy, transcribe

B

báigh! báim; ag bá (m) / ag báthadh (m) ^U 1A	drown (tr.)
bácáil! bácáilim; ag bácáil (f) 1B	bake
bagair! bagraím; ag bagairt (f) 2B	threaten
bailigh! bailím; ag bailiú (m)	collect, gather
bain! bainim; ag baint (f)	pick, extract
beannaigh! beannaím; ag beannú (m)	bless, greet
beartaigh! beartaím; ag beartú (m)	plan
béic! béicim; ag béiceadh (m)	yell
beir! beirim; ag breith (f)	bear; take
bí! táim / tá mé^U; a bheith	be
blais! blaisim; ag blaiseadh (m)	taste
bog! bogaim; ag bogadh (m)	soften; move
breathnaigh! breathnaím; ag breathnú (m)	observe, look
bris! brisim; ag briseadh (m)	break
brostaigh! brostaím; ag brostú (m)	hurry; urge
brúigh! brúim; ag brú (m) 1A	press
buail! buailim; ag bualadh (m)	hit
buaign! buaim; ag buachan (f) 1A	win

C

cabhraigh! cabhraím; ag cabhrú (m)	help
caill! caillim; ag cailleadh (m)	lose

SELECT VERBS

cáin! cáinim; ag cáineadh (m)	condemn; fine
caith! caithim; ag caitheamh (m)	throw, spend, smoke, wear
can! canaim; ag canadh (m)	sing
caoin! caoinim; ag caoineadh (m)	weep
cas! casaim; ag casadh (m)	turn, twist
ceadaigh! ceadaím; ag ceadú (m)	allow
ceangail! ceanglaím; ag ceangal (m) 2B	tie, connect
ceannaigh! ceannaím; ag ceannach (m)	buy
ceap! ceapaim; ag ceapadh (m)	think, invent
ceartaigh! ceartaím, ag ceartú (m)	correct
ceil! ceilim; ag ceilt (f)	hide
ceiliúir! ceiliúraim, ag ceiliúradh (m) 1C	celebrate
ceistigh! ceistím; ag ceistiú (m)	question
ciallaigh! ciallaím; ag ciallú (m)	mean; explain
cíor! cíoraím; ag cíoradh (m)	comb
cleachtaigh! cleachtaim; ag cleachtadh (m)	practise
clis! clisim; ag cliseadh (m)	jump, start; fail
clóbhuail! clóbhuailim; ag clóbhualadh (m) 1C	print
clois! cloisim; ag cloisteáil (f)	hear
clóscríobh! clóscríobhaim; ag clóscríobh (m)	type(write)
clúdaigh! clúdaím; ag clúdach (m)	cover
cluín! cluinim; ag cluinstin (f)	hear
cnag! cnagaim; ag cnagadh (m)	knock
cniotáil! cniotálaim; ag cniotáil (f) 1B	knit
cnuasaigh! cnuasaím; ag cnuasach (m)	gather
cóirigh! cóirim; ag cóiriú (m)	arrange, dress
comhlíon! comhlíonaim; ag comhlíonadh (m) 1C	fulfil
cónaigh! cónaím; ag cónaí (m)	live, dwell
corraigh! corraím; ag corraí (m)	move, stir
cosnaigh! cosnaím; ag cosaint (f)	defend; cost
cráigh! cráim; ag crá (m)	annoy, torment
creid! creidim; ag creidiúint (f)/creidbheáil (f) ^U	believe, think
críochnaigh! críochnaím; ag críochnú (m)	finish
crith! crithim; ag crith (m)	shake, tremble
croch! crochaim; ag crochadh (m)	hang
crom! cromaim; ag cromadh (m)	bend, stoop
cruaigh! cruaim; ag cruachan (f)	harden (tr. & intr.)
crúigh! crúim; ag crú (m) 1A	milk
cruinnigh! cruinním; ag cruinniú (m)	gather, collect (tr. & intr.)
cruthaigh! cruthaím; ag cruthú (m)	form, shape, prove
cuidigh! cuidím; ag cuidiú (m)	help
cuidhnigh! cuidhním; ag cuidhneamh (m)	remember
cuir! cuirim; ag cur (m)	put

SELECT VERBS

cum! cumaim; ag cumadh (m)

compose, shape

D

dealaigh! dealáim; ag dealú (m)

separate; subtract

déan! déanaim; ag déanamh (m)

do, make

dearbhaigh! dearbhaím; ag dearbhú (m)

swear, declare

deimhnigh! deimhním; ag deibhniu (m)

affirm; certify

abair! deirim; ag rá (m)

say

deisigh! deisím; ag deisiú (m)

fix

díol! díolaim; ag díol (m)

sell; pay^U

dírigh! dírim; ag díriú (m)

straighten

diúltaigh! diúltaím; ag diúltú (m)

refuse, deny

dóigh! dóim; ag dó (m) **1A**

burn

druid! druidim; ag druidim (f) / ag drud^U

approach, close in on / close^U

dúisigh! dúisím; ag dúiseacht (f)

wake (tr. & intr.)

dún! dúnaim; ag dúnadh (m)

close

E

eagraigh! eagraím; ag eagrú (m)

arrange, organize

éalaigh! éalaím; éalú (m)

escape, elope

éirigh! éirim; ag éirí (m)

get up, rise

éist! éistím; ag éisteacht (f)

listen

eitil! eitlím; ag eitilt (f) **2B**

fly, flutter

F

fág! fágaim; ag fágáil (f)

leave s.th.

faigh! faighim; ag fáil (f)

get, find

fan! fanaim; fanacht (m)

wait, stay

fás! fásaim; ag fás (m)

grow

féach! féachaim; féachaint (f) / ag féacháil (f)^U

look; try

feic! feicim; ag feiceáil (f)

see

fiafraigh! fiafraím; ag fiafraí (m)

ask, enquire

fill! fillim; ag filleadh (m) / pill! pillim; ag pilleadh^U

return

foghlaim! foghlaimím; ag foghlaim (f) **2C**

learn

fógair! fógraim; ag fógairt (f) **2B**

announce

foilsigh! foilsím; ag foilsíú (m)

publish

foscail!^U *see* oscail!

open

freagair! freagraím; ag freagairt (f) **2B**

respond

freastail! freastalaím; ag freastal (m) **2C**

attend, serve

fulaing! fulaingím; ag fulaingt (f) **2C**

suffer

G

SELECT VERBS

geall! geallaim; ag gealladh (m) / ag geallstan ^U	promise
gearr! gearraim; ag gearradh (m)	cut
géill! géillim; géilleadh	yield
glac! glacaim; ag glacadh (m)	take
glan! glanaim; ag glanadh (m)	clean
glaoigh! glaoim; ag glaoch (m) 1A	call
goid! goidim; ag goid (f)	steal
goin! goinim; ag goin (f)	wound
gortaigh! gortaím, ag gortú (m)	hurt, injure
guigh! guím; ag guí (f) 1A	pray

I

iarr! iarraim; ag iarraidh (f)	ask for, want
imigh! imím; ag imeacht (m)	leave (intrans.)
imir! imrím; ag imirt (f) 2B	play
inis! insím; ag insint (f) / ag inse ^U 2B	tell
íoc! íocaim; ag íoc (m)	pay
iompair! iompraím; ag iompar (m) 2B	carry
ísligh! íslím; ag íslíú (m)	lower
ith! ithim; ag ithe (f)	eat

L

labhair! labhraím; ag labhairt (f) 2B	speak
las! lasaim; ag lasadh (m)	light, burn
leag! leagaim; ag leagan (m)	knock down
lean! leanaim; ag leanúint (f)	follow
léigh! léim; ag léamh (m) 1A	read
léim! léimim; ag léim (f)	jump
léirigh! léirim; ag léiriú (m)	explain, produce
lig! ligim; ag ligean (m)	allow
líon! líonaim; ag líonadh (m)	fill
litrigh! litrím; ag litriú (m)	spell
luaigh! luaim; ag lua (m) 1A	mention, cite
luigh! luím; ag luí (m) 1A	lie, lie down

M

maraigh! maraím; ag marú (m) / ag marbhadh (m) ^{U37}	kill
meall! meallaim; ag mealladh (m)	woo, entice
meas! measaim; ag meas (m)	think, estimate

³⁷ In Ulster, *maraigh* takes an f-future / conditional, and in those tenses, the stem is pronounced as if it were written *muir-*: *muirfidh sé mé; mhuirfeadh sé mé* (Ó Baoill 1996, 144).

SELECT VERBS

measc! meascaim; ag meascadh (m)	mix
mill! millim; ag milleadh (m)	spoil
mínigh! mínim; ag míniú (m)	explain
mol! molaim; ag moladh (m)	praise
mothaigh! mothaím; ag mothú (m) / ag mothachtáil ^U	hear; perceive, feel
múch! múchaim; ag múchadh (m)	extinguish
múin! múinim; ag múineadh [mu:nu ^U] (m)	teach
mún! múnaim; ag múnadh (m)	urinate
muscaíl! musclaím; ag muscailt (f) 2B	wake, awake

N

nigh! ním; ag nigh (f) 1A	wash
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O

ól! ólaim; ag ól (m)	drink
oscail! osclaím; ag oscailt (f) / foscaíl! fosclaím; ag foscladh ^U 2B	open

P

pacáil! pacálaim; ag pacáil (f) 1B	pack
pioc! piocaim; ag piocadh (m)	pick
pléigh! pléim; ag plé (m) 1A	dispute
póg! pógaim; ag pógadh (m)	kiss
pós! pósaim; ag pósadh (m)	marry

R

réab! réabaim; ag réabadh (m)	tear apart, rend
réitigh! réitím; ag réiteach (m)	solve, clear
rith! rithim; ag rith (m)	run
roinn! roinnim; ag roinnt (f)	divide

S

sábháil! sábhálaim; ag sábháil (f) 1B	save
samhlaigh! samhlaím; ag samhlú (m)	imagine
scaoil! scaoilim; ag scaoileadh (m)	release
scairt! scairtim; ag scairteadh (m) / ag scairtigh ^U	call, shout
scréach! scréachaim; ag scréachach (f)	scream
scread! screadaim; ag screadach (f) / ag screadaigh ^U	scream
scríobh! scríobhaim; ag scríobh (m)	write
scrios! scriosaim; ag scriosadh (m)	destroy
scrúdaigh! scrúdaím; ag scrúdú (m)	examine
scuab! scuabaim; ag scuabadh (m)	brush

SELECT VERBS

seas! seasaim; ag seasamh (m)	stand
síl! sílim; ag síleadh (m) / ag silstin (f) ^U	think
sín! sínim; ag síneadh (m)	stretch
sínigh! síním; ag síniú (m)	sign
siúil! siúlaim; ag siúl (m)	walk
smaoinigh! smaoiním; ag smaoineadh (m) / ag smaoiteamh (m) ^U	think
socraigh! socraím; ag socrú (m)	settle, arrange
spreag! spreagaim; ag spreagadh (m)	urge, inspire
sroich! sroichim; ag sroicheadh (m)	reach, arrive at
stad! stadaim; ag stad (m)	stop
stop! stopaim; ag stopadh (m)	stop, stay
suigh! suím; ag suí (m) 1A	sit

T

tabhair! tugaim; ag tabhairt (f)	give
taispeáin! taispeánaim; ag taispeáint (f) 1C	show
taistil! taistealaím; ag taisteal (m) 2C	travel
tar! tagaim; ag teacht (m)	come
tarlaigh! tarlaím; ag tarlú (m)	happen
tarraing! tarraingím; ag tarraingt (f) 2C	pull
téigh! téim; ag dul (m)	go
teip! teipim; ag teip (f)	fail
tiomáin! tiomáinim; tiomáint (f) 1C	drive
tit! titim; ag titim (f)	fall
tóg! tógaim; ag tógaint (f)	take, raise
togh! toghaim; ag toghadh (m)	choose, elect
tosaigh! tosaím; ag tosú (m) / toisigh! toisím; ag toiseacht ^U	begin
troid! troidim; ag troid (f)	fight
tuig! tuigim; ag tuiscint (f) / ag tuigbheáil ^U	understand

U

ullmhaigh! ullmhaím; ag ullmhú (m)	prepare
úsáid! úsáidim; ag úsáid (f) 1C	use

V

vótáil! vótáilím; ag vótáil 1B	vote
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TÉARMAÍ GRAMADAÍ (IRISH GRAMMATICAL TERMS)

abairt (f)	sentence
aidiacht (f)	adjective
aimsir (f)	tense
an aimsir chaite	past tense
an aimsir fháistineach	future tense
an aimsir láithreach	present tense
an aimsir ghnáthchaite	
ainmfhocal (m)	noun
ainmní (m)	subject
alt (m)	article
briathar (m)	verb
briathar rialta	regular verb
briathar mírialta	irregular verb
céim (f)	degree
céimeanna comparáide	degrees of comparison
comhchéim	equative
breischéim	comparative
sárchéim	superlative
clásal (m)	clause
príomhchlásal (m)	main clause
fochlásal (m)	subordinate clause
clásal coibhneasta	relative clause
cónasc (m)	conjunction
consan (m)	consonant
cuspóir (m)	object
díochlaonadh (m)	declension (of noun)
dobhriathar (m)	adverb
forainm (m)	pronoun
guta (m)	vowel
iarmhír (f)	suffix
inscne (f)	gender
baninscneach	feminine
firinscneach	masculine
mír (f)	particle
an mhír dhiúltach	negative particle
an mhír cheistiach	interrogative particle

GRAMMATICAL TERMS

an mhír chónascach	conjunctive particle
modh (m)	mood
an modh coinníollach	conditional mood
an modh foshuiteach	subjunctive mood
an modh ordaitheach	imperative mood
pearsa (f)	person
réamhfhocal (m)	preposition
réimír (f)	prefix
réimniú (m)	inflexion (of verb)
saorbhriathar (m)	the autonomous ('free') form of the verb
séimhiú (m)	lenition
síneadh (pl. sínte) fada	lengthmark (pl. sínte)
tuisseal (m)	case
an tuisseal ainmneach	nominative case
an tuisseal gairmeach	vocative case
an tuisseal ginideach	genitive case
an tuisseal tabharthach	dative case
an tuisseal cuspóireach	accusative case
uimhir (f)	number
an uimhir uatha	singular
an uimhir iolra	plural
urú (m)	eclipsis

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