

How the Language Works

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ORTHOGRAPHY

In the Irish language, vowels are separated into two groups: slender (*caol*) and broad (*leathan*). The slender vowels are *i, e*; the broad vowels are *a, o, u*.

Caol le caol agus leathan le leathan (Slender with slender and broad with broad)

If, in spelling, a slender vowel comes before a consonant or a group of consonants, there should be a slender vowel after it as well. Similarly, **a, o, u** and **ae** before a consonant should be followed by a broad vowel. This rule is called “Caol le Caol agus leathan le leathan”.

<i>slender</i>	<i>broad</i>
feicfidh tú	fágfaidh mé
ithigí	cúramach

THE ARTICLE

The singular definite article *the* in the nominative case is **an**. **An** retains this form preceding both feminine and masculine nouns. There is no indefinite article.

fear

(a) man

an fear

the man

Na is the plural form of **an** in all grammatical cases, with the exception of the genitive singular case which will be dealt with in due course. **Na** does not affect the following nouns, except those beginning in a vowel in which case a *h* precedes the noun:

na cailíní

the girls

na heitleáin

the planes

NOUNS

All nouns are either masculine or feminine, may be singular or plural and may assume different cases.

1. Nouns in the nominative singular beginning with a vowel

Masculine nouns preceded by the definite article are prefixed by **t-**; feminine nouns are unaffected.

Masculine

óstán (*hotel*)

an t-óstán (*the hotel*)

Feminine

aghaidh (*face*)

an aghaidh (*the face*)

ocras (*hunger*)

an t-ocras (*the hunger*)

ubh (*egg*)

an ubh (*the egg*)

2. Nouns in the nominative singular beginning with the consonants **d, h, l, n, r, t, sc-, sl-, sm-, sp-, st-**.

All such nouns irrespective of gender are unaffected when preceded by the definite article.

Masculine

doras (*door*)

an doras (*the door*)

Feminine

lámh (*hand*)

an lámh (*the hand*)

teach (*house*)

an teach (*the house*)

reilig (*graveyard*)

an reilig (*the graveyard*)

spórt (*sport*)

an sport (*the sport*)

scoil (*school*)

an scoil (*the school*)

3. Nouns in the nominative singular beginning with s, excepting those in §2 above.

Masculine nouns preceded by the definite article are unaffected, feminine nouns are aspirated.

Masculine

sagart (*priest*)

an sagart (*the priest*)

Feminine

súil (*eye*)

an tsúil (*the eye*)

4. Nouns in the nominative singular beginning with a consonant excepting those in §2 and §3 above.

Masculine nouns preceded by the definite article are unaffected; feminine nouns are aspirated.

Masculine

fear (*man*)

an fear (*the man*)

Feminine

bean (*woman*)

an bhean (*the woman*)

Gender

The gender of a noun may frequently be deduced from its ending.

Masculine endings

- (a)ire	iascaire (fisherman), ailtíre (architect) {exceptions: aire (care), trócaire (mercy)}
- án	cosán (path), amhrán (song)
- (e)acht*	ceacht (lesson), fuacht (cold) {exception: léacht }
- éad	éad (jealousy), buicéad (bucket)
- (e)adh	geimhreadh (winter), samhradh (summer)
- éal	béal (mouth), scéal (story)
- éar	féar (grass), páipéar (paper) {exceptions: méar (finger), sméar (berry)}
- éir**	báicéir (baker), búistéir (butcher)
- eoir	múinteoir (teacher), feirmeoir (farmer) {exceptions: beoir (beer), deoir (drop), treoir (guidance)}
- óir	cúntóir (assistant) {exceptions: altóir (altar), éagóir (injustice), glóir (glory), onóir (honour)}
- úir	saighdiúir (soldier), dochtúir (doctor)
- ste	coiste (committee), páiste (child) {exceptions: aiste (essay), timpiste (accident), tubaiste (disaster)}
- ún	botún (mistake), príosún (prison)
- úr	casúr (hammer), pictiúr (picture) {exceptions: deirfiúr (sister), siúr (sister)}

{* nouns with one syllable} {** when referring to jobs}

Feminine endings

- (a)íl	feadaíl (whistling)
- (e)áil	sábháil (saving)
- (e)ailt	oscailt (opening)
- (a)int	tuiscint (understanding) {exception: sáirsint (sergeant)}
- áint	tiomáint (driving)
- is/ís	uirlis (instrument)
- chan	athbheochan (revival) {exception: meachán (weight)}
- (a)irt	scairt (call)
- (e)acht**	gluaiseacht (movement) {exceptions: bunreacht (constitution), comhlacht (company)}
- (a)íocht**	filíocht (poetry)
- úil	barúil (opinion)
- úint	canúint (dialect)
- lann	bialann (restaurant) {exceptions: anlann (sauce), salann (salt)}
- eog/óg	bábóg (doll) {exception: dallamullóg (deception)}

{** nouns with more than one syllable}

<i>Countries:</i>	An Astráil (<i>Australia</i>), An Fhrainc (<i>France</i>), etc.
<i>Rivers:</i>	An Bhóinn (<i>The Boyne</i>), An tSionainn (<i>The Shannon</i>)
<i>Languages:</i>	An Fhraincis (<i>French</i>), An Ghaeilge (<i>Irish</i>) {exception: An Béarla (<i>English</i>)}

The Vocative Case

The vocative case is used when a person is being addressed. It may occasionally be used, particularly in poetry, to address plants, animals or inanimate objects.

Female nouns are aspirated in the vocative case; masculine nouns are both aspirated and slenderised.

Masculine

Séamas
duine (*person*)
madadh (*dog*)

a Shéamais
a dhuine
a mhadaidh

Feminine

Mairéad
mná (*women*)
máthair (*mother*)

a Mhairéad
a mhná
a mháthair

The Genitive Case

A noun assumes the genitive case in the following instances:

- when a noun is the subject of possession:

Séamas	máthair Shéamais (<i>Séamas' mother</i>)
an bhean (<i>the woman</i>)	teach na mná (<i>the woman's house</i>)

- when a noun immediately follows a compound preposition:

an lá (<i>the day</i>)	i lár an lae (<i>in the middle of the day</i>)
an áit (<i>the place</i>)	ar fud na háite (<i>all over the place</i>)

- when a noun is the direct object of a verbal noun:

an tír (<i>the country</i>)	ag taisteal na tíre (<i>touring the country</i>)
airgead (<i>money</i>)	ag saothrú airgid (<i>earning money</i>)

- when a noun is the subject of indefinite quantity:

solas (<i>light</i>)	tuilleadh solais (<i>more light</i>)
am (<i>time</i>)	go leor ama (<i>plenty of time</i>)

- when a noun is the subject of the following prepositions:

chun (*to*), **cois** (*beside*), **timpeall** (*around*), **trasna** (*across*), **fearacht** (*like*):

an scoil (<i>the school</i>)	chun na scoile (<i>to the school</i>)
an pháirc (<i>the field</i>)	trasna na páirce (<i>across the field</i>)

The Article in the Genitive Case

The article **an** is always used in the nominative singular, regardless of gender. In the genitive case the feminine singular article is **na**.

an doras (*the door*) **doras na scoile** (*the school door*)

Nouns in the Genitive Case

1. Nouns in the genitive singular beginning with a vowel
Masculine nouns lose the prefix **t-** of the nominative case. Feminine nouns are preceded by a **h**. Both assume various endings depending on declension.

	<i>Masculine</i>	<i>Feminine</i>
Nominative	an t-arán (<i>the bread</i>)	an aghaidh (<i>the face</i>)
Genitive	cruth an aráin (<i>the shape of the bread</i>)	dath na haghaidhe (<i>the colour of the face</i>)

2. Nouns in the genitive singular beginning with the consonants **d, h, l, n, r, t, sc-, sl-, sm-, sp-, st-**.

	<i>Masculine</i>	<i>Feminine</i>
Nominative	an doras (<i>the door</i>)	an tine (<i>the fire</i>)
Genitive	ag oscailt an dorais (<i>opening the door</i>)	ag lasadh na tine (<i>lighting the fire</i>)

3. Nouns in the genitive singular beginning with **s**, excepting **sc-, sl-, sm-, sp-, st-**.
When preceded by the definite article, such masculine nouns are preceded by **t**. Feminine nouns change towards the end.

	<i>Masculine</i>	<i>Feminine</i>
Nominative	an siopa (<i>the shop</i>)	an tsúil (<i>the eye</i>)
Genitive	doras an tsiopa (<i>the shop's door</i>)	dath na súile (<i>the colour of the eye</i>)

4. Nouns in the genitive singular beginning with a consonant, excepting those in §2 and §3 above.

Masculine nouns preceded by the definite article are aspirated; feminine nouns lose the aspiration of the nominative case.

	<i>Masculine</i>	<i>Feminine</i>
Nominative	an fear	an fhuinneog

Genitive	<i>(the man)</i>	<i>(the window)</i>
	obair an fhir	ag glanadh na fuinneoige
	<i>(the man's work)</i>	<i>(cleaning the window)</i>

ADJECTIVES

The adjective assumes the gender, case and number of the associated noun or pronoun and in the majority of instances it follows that noun.

Masculine

leabhar (*a book*)

leabhar maith (*a good book*)

Feminine

srón (*a nose*)

srón mhór (*a big nose*)

Some exceptions to the above generalisation are as follows:

aimsir (*weather*)

drochaimsir (*bad weather*)

scéala (*news*)

dea-scéala (*good news*)

bean (*a woman*)

seanbhean (*an old woman*)

In describing nouns in the plural, adjectives must also be added in plural.

Most adjectives ending in a vowel remain unaffected by a plural noun:

tanaí (*thin*)

daoine tanaí (*thin people*)

simplí (*simple*)

ceisteanna simplí (*simple questions*)

{exceptions: **breá** (*fine*), which changes to **breátha** in the plural; and **te** (*hot*) which changes to **teo** in the plural}

Feminine nouns in the plural do **not** aspirate the following adjective(s):

oíche fhada (*a long night*)

oícheanta fada (*long nights*)

Masculine nouns ending in a slender consonant in the plural aspirate adjective(s) that follow them:

amhrán fada (*a long song*)

amhráin fhada (*long songs*)

In the case of adjectives with one syllable, an **a** is attached to the end of nouns ending in a broad consonant, and an **e** to those ending in a slender consonant:

mór (*big*)

fadhbanna móra (*big mouths*)

binn (*sweet*)

guthanna binne (*sweet voices*)

Adjectives ending in **-úil** in the singular end in **-úla** in the plural:

flaithiúil (*generous*)

daoine flaithiúla (*generous people*)

Adjectives ending in **-air** in the singular end in **-ra** in the plural:

ceist dheacair (*a difficult question*) **ceisteanna deacra** (*difficult questions*)

COMPARATIVE AND SUPERLATIVE FORMS

The comparative and superlative forms of the adjective are the same. **Níos** precedes the adjective in the comparative form in the Present and Future Tenses; this becomes **ní ba** in the Past Tense and in the Conditional Mood. **Is** precedes the adjective in the superlative form in the Present and Future Tenses; this becomes **ba** in the Past Tense and in the Conditional Mood.

Comparative adjectives change form according to their endings in the nominative singular.

Adjectives of one syllable are often slenderised: an *i* and *e* surround the final consonant:

<i>adjective</i>	<i>comparative</i>	<i>superlative</i>
glic (<i>cunning</i>)	níos glice (<i>more cunning</i>)	is glice (<i>most cunning</i>)
deas (<i>nice</i>)	níos deise (<i>nicer</i>)	is deise (<i>nicest</i>)

Adjectives ending in **-úil** in the nominative singular end in **-úla**:

<i>adjective</i>	<i>comparative</i>	<i>superlative</i>
dathúil (<i>pretty</i>)	níos dathúla	is dathúla
bródúil (<i>proud</i>)	níos bródúla	is bródúla

Adjectives ending in **-air** in the nominative singular end in **-ra**:

<i>adjective</i>	<i>comparative</i>	<i>superlative</i>
socair (<i>settled</i>)	níos socra	is socra
deacair (<i>difficult</i>)	níos deacra	is deacra

Adjectives ending in **-each** in the nominative singular end in **-í**; adjectives ending in **-ach** in the nominative singular end in **-aí**:

<i>adjective</i>	<i>comparative</i>	<i>superlative</i>
uaigneach (<i>lonely</i>)	níos uaigní	is uaigní
cúramach (<i>careful</i>)	níos cúramaí	is cúramaí

The following is a number of the irregular comparative adjectives:

<i>adjective</i>	<i>comparative</i>	<i>superlative</i>
beag (<i>small</i>)	níos lú	is lú
fada (<i>long</i>)	níos faide	is faide
maith (<i>good</i>)	níos fearr	is fearr
mór (<i>big</i>)	níos mó	is mó
te (<i>hot</i>)	níos teo	is teo
breá (<i>fine</i>)	níos breátha	is breátha
furasta (<i>easy</i>)	níos fusa	is fusa

THE PREFIXES AN- AND RÓ

The prefix **an-** (*very*) aspirates the following noun beginning in a consonant, except those beginning in **d, h, l, n, r, t, s, sc-, sl-, sm-, sp-, st-**:

an-mhaith (*very good*)

an-fhada (*very long*)

but

an-deas (*very nice*)

The prefix **ró** (*too*) aspirates the following noun beginning in a consonant, except those beginning in **h, l, n, r, sc-, sl-, sm-, sp-, st-**:

róshearbh (*too bitter*)

róthe (*too hot*)

but

ró-neata (*too neat*)

POSSESSIVE ADJECTIVES

	<i>Consonant</i>	<i>Vowel</i>
mo (<i>my</i>)	mo <u>mhac</u> (<i>my son</i>)	m'athair (<i>my father</i>)
do (<i>your</i>)	do <u>chat</u> (<i>your cat</i>)	d'aird (<i>your attention</i>)
a (<i>his</i>)	a <u>bhean</u> (<i>his wife</i>)	a aghaidh (<i>his face</i>)
a (<i>her</i>)	a fear (<i>her man</i>)	a <u>háilleacht</u> (<i>her beauty</i>)
ár (<i>our</i>)	ár <u>gceacht</u> (<i>our lesson</i>)	ár <u>n-eiteog</u> (<i>our kite</i>)
bhur (<i>your</i>)	bhur <u>dteach</u> (<i>your house</i>)	bhur <u>n-oifig</u> (<i>your office</i>)
a (<i>their</i>)	a <u>bhfonn</u> (<i>their tune</i>)	a <u>n-uaigh</u> (<i>their grave</i>)

EMPHATIC SUFFIXES

	<i>Consonant</i>	<i>Vowel</i>
mo (<i>my</i>)	mo mhac<u>sa</u>	m'athair<u>se</u>
do (<i>your</i>)	do chat<u>sa</u>	d'aird<u>se</u>
a (<i>his</i>)	a bhean<u>san</u>	a aghaidh<u>sean</u>
a (<i>her</i>)	a fear<u>se</u>	a háilleacht<u>sa</u>
ár (<i>our</i>)	ár gceacht<u>ne</u>	ár n-eiteog<u>na</u>
bhur (<i>your</i>)	bhur dteach<u>sa</u>	bhur n-oifig<u>se</u>
a (<i>their</i>)	a bhfonn<u>san</u>	a n-uaigh<u>sean</u>

PRONOUNS

	<i>pronoun</i>	<i>emphatic form</i>
<i>I, me</i>	mé	mise
<i>You</i>	tú	tusa
<i>he/it</i>	*sé/é	seisean/eisean
<i>she/it</i>	*sí/í	sise/ise
<i>we/us</i>	muid	muidne
<i>you</i>	sibh	sibhse
<i>they</i>	*siad/iad	siadsan/iadsan

*The forms **sé**, **sí** and **siad**, and their emphatic equivalent, are used when a pronoun is the subject immediately following a verb. In all other instances the forms **é**, **í**, **iad** and their emphatic equivalents are used.

THE CARDINAL NUMBERS

0	a náid	21	fiche a haon
1	a haon	22	fiche a dó
2	a dó	30	tríocha
3	a trí	35	tríocha a cúig
4	a ceathair	40	daichead/ceathracha
5	a cúig	46	daichead a sé
6	a sé	50	caoga/leathchéad
7	a seacht	57	caoga a seacht
8	a hocht	60	seasca
9	a naoi	69	seasca a naoi
10	a deich	70	seachtó
11	a haon déag	77	seachtó a seacht
12	a dó dhéag	80	ochtó
13	a trí déag	88	ochtó a hocht
14	a ceathair déag	90	nócha
15	a cúig déag	99	nócha a naoi
16	a sé déag	100	céad
17	a seacht déag	200	dhá chéad
18	a hocht déag	300	trí chéad
19	a naoi déag	1,000	míle
20	fiche		

NUMERICAL ADJECTIVES

1	capall (aon chapall amháin)	11	aon chapall déag
2	dhá chapall	12	dhá chapall déag
3	trí chapall	13	trí chapall déag
4	ceithre chapall	14	ceithre chapall déag
5	cúig chapall	15	cúig chapall déag
6	sé chapall	16	sé chapall déag
7	seacht gcapall	17	seacht gcapall déag
8	ocht gcapall	18	ocht gcapall déag
9	naoi gcapall	19	naoi gcapall déag
10	deich gcapall	20	fiche capall

The singular form of the noun is usually retained following numbers.

COUNTING IRREGULAR NOUNS

There are a number of exceptions: **ceann**, **bliain**, **fiche** and **uair**.

bliain (year)

bliain amháin	<i>one year</i>
dhá bhliain	<i>two years</i>
trí bliana	<i>three years</i>
ceithre bliana	<i>four years</i>
cúig bliana	<i>five years</i>
sé bliana	<i>six years</i>
seacht mbliana	<i>seven years</i>
ocht mbliana	<i>eight years</i>
naoi mbliana	<i>nine years</i>
deich mbliana	<i>ten years</i>
aon bhliain déag	<i>eleven years</i>

The same rules apply when counting 12-19 years

dhá bhliain déag	<i>twelve years</i>
trí bliana déag	<i>thirteen years</i>
seacht mbliana déag	<i>seventeen years</i>

uair (hour or time)

uair	<i>one hour</i>
dhá uair	<i>two hours</i>
trí huaire	<i>three hours</i>
ceithre huaire	<i>four hours</i>
cúig huaire	<i>five hours</i>
sé huaire	<i>six hours</i>
seacht n-uair	<i>seven hours</i>
ocht n-uair	<i>eight hours</i>
naoi n-uair	<i>nine hours</i>

deich n-uaire

ten hours

PERSONAL NUMBERS

1 duine (aon duine amháin)	11 aon duine dhéag
2 beirt	12 dáréag
3 triúr	13 trí dhuine dhéag
4 ceathrar	14 ceithre dhuine dhéag
5 cúigear	15 cúig dhuine dhéag
6 seisear	16 sé dhuine déag
7 seachtar	17 seacht nduine dhéag
8 ochtar	18 ocht nduine dhéag
9 naonúr	19 naoi nduine dhéag
10 deichniúr	20 fiche duine

Nouns following the personal numbers are usually written in the genitive plural.

seisear iníonacha (*six daughters*)

seachtar mac (*seven sons*)

ceathrar deirfiúracha (*four sisters*)

Nouns beginning with a consonant are aspirated following **beirt**.

beirt mhac (*two sons*)

beirt fhidhléirí (*two fiddlers*)

ORDINAL NUMBERS

1 an chéad lá (<i>the first day</i>)	11 an t-aonú lá déag
2 an dara lá	12 an dara lá déag
3 an tríú lá	13 an tríú lá déag
4 an ceathrú lá	14 an ceathrú lá déag
5 an cúigiú lá	15 an cúigiú lá déag
6 an séú lá	16 an séú lá déag
7 an seachtú lá	17 an seachtú lá déag
8 an t-ochtú lá	18 an t-ochtú lá déag
9 an naoú lá	19 an naoú lá déag
10 an deichiú lá	20 an fichiú lá

Nouns beginning with a consonant, except those beginning in **d, h, l, n, r, t, sc-, sl-, sm-, sp-, st-**, aspirate the noun following **an chéad**.

an chéad fhear (*the first man*)

but

an chéad duine (*the first person*)

Nouns beginning with a consonant are not affected by ordinal numbers **an dara** - **an deichiú**; nouns beginning with a vowel, however, are preceded by a h.

an dara bean (*the second woman*)

an tríú háit (*the third place*)

an séú hoíche (*the sixth night*)

an deichiú hiarracht (*the tenth attempt*)

THE VERB

The majority of verbs in Irish are regular.

Regular Verbs

Regular verbs are divided into two conjugations i.e. the first conjugation and the second conjugation.

Remember!: Caol le caol agus leathan le leathan

The Imperative Mood

The first conjugation:

	<i>Broad</i>	<i>Slender</i>
1 sg.	bogaim	caillim
2 sg.	bog	caill
3 sg.	bogadh sé / sí	cailleadh sé / sí
1 pl.	bogaimis	caillimis
2 pl.	bogaigí	cailligí
3pl.	bogaidís	caillidís
Passive	bogtar	cailltear

The second conjugation:

	<i>Broad</i>	<i>Slender</i>
1 sg.	admhaím	bailím
2 sg.	admhaigh	bailigh
3 sg.	admhaíodh sé / sí	bailíodh sé / sí
1 pl.	admhaímis	bailímis
2 pl.	admhaígí	bailígí
3pl.	admhaídís	bailídís
Passive	admhaítear	bailítear

The negative of the imperative is formed by placing **ná** before the verb. Verbs beginning with a consonant remain unaffected when preceded by **ná**; those beginning with a vowel are preceded by **h**.

Ná bog sin. (*Don't move that.*)

Ná hól an t-uisce. (*Don't drink the water.*)

The Present Tense

In the first conjugation the endings **–ann** or **–eann** are placed at the end of the imperative singular form of the verb.

	<i>Broad</i>	<i>Slender</i>
Imperative	bog (<i>move</i>)	caill (<i>lose</i>)
1 sg.	bogaim	caillim
2 sg.	bogann tú	cailleann tú
3 sg.	bogann sé/ sí	cailleann sé/ sí
1 pl.	bogann muid / bogaimid	cailleann muid / ithimid
2 pl.	bogann sibh	cailleann sibh
3pl.	bogann siad	cailleann siad

In the second conjugation the **–igh** contained in the imperative form of the verb is reduced to **í** and the ending **–onn** is added.

	<i>Broad</i>	<i>Slender</i>
Imperative	admhaigh (<i>admit</i>)	bailigh (<i>collect</i>)
1 sg.	admhaím	bailím
2 sg.	admhaíonn tú	bailíonn tú
3 sg.	admhaíonn sé/sí	bailíonn sé/sí
1 pl.	admhaíonn muid	bailíonn muid
2 pl.	admhaíonn sibh	bailíonn sibh
3pl.	admhaíonn siad	bailíonn siad

In the Present Tense a question is formed by placing **an** before the verb. **An** demands an eclipse on all verbs beginning with a consonant except those beginning in **l, n, r, t, sc-, sl-, sm-, sp-, st-**. Verbs beginning in a vowel remain unaffected.

An mbogann tú as an teach sa samhradh? (*Do you move from the house in summer?*)
An mbailíonn sé na páistí? (*Does he collect the children?*)
An ólann tú caife? (*Do you drink coffee?*)

Ní before the verb indicates a negative statement. **Ní** aspirates all verbs beginning with a consonant except those beginning in **l, n, r, t, sc-, sl-, sm-, sp-, st-**. Verbs beginning in a vowel remain unaffected.

Ní bhogaim. (*I don't move.*)
Ní ólaim an oiread sin. (*I don't drink much.*)

There is no Irish equivalent of *yes/no*; when answering *yes* or *no*, the verb used in the question must be also used in the answer.

An gceannaíonn tú bróga ansin? (*Do you buy shoes there?*)
Ceannaím. / Ní cheannaím. (*Yes. / No.*)

The Future Tense

In first conjugation the endings **–faidh** or **–fidh** are placed after the imperative form of the verb.

	<i>Broad</i>	<i>Slender</i>
Imperative	bog (<i>move / leave</i>)	caill (<i>lose</i>)
1 sg.	bogfaidh mé	caillfidh mé
2 sg.	bogfaidh tú	caillfidh tú
3 sg.	bogfaidh sé / sí	caillfidh sé / sí
1 pl.	bogfaidh muid / bogfaimid	caillfidh muid / caillfimid
2 pl.	bogfaidh sibh	caillfidh sibh
3pl.	bogfaidh siad	caillfidh siad

In the second conjugation the **-aigh** contained in the imperative form of the verb is replaced by **-óidh** or **-eoidh**.

	<i>Broad</i>	<i>Slender</i>
Imperative	admhaigh (<i>admit</i>)	bailigh (<i>collect</i>)
1 sg.	admhóidh mé	baileoidh mé
2 sg.	admhóidh tú	baileoidh tú
3 sg.	admhóidh sé / sí	baileoidh sé / sí
1 pl.	admhóidh muid / admhóimid	baileoidh muid / baileoimid
2 pl.	admhóidh sibh	baileoidh sibh
3pl.	admhóidh siad	baileoidh siad

The format for asking a question in the Future Tense resembles that used in the Present Tense. The same rules apply.

An + eclipse + verb (+ noun / pronoun).

Ní + aspiration + verb (+ noun/ pronoun).

An mbogfaidh tú do rothar? (*Will you move your bicycle?*)

Ní bhogfaidh. (*No. / I will not.*)

An admhóidh siad go raibh siad mícheart? (*Will they admit they were wrong?*)

Ní admhóidh. (*No. / They will not.*)

The Past Tense

In the first conjugation the imperative form of verbs beginning with a consonant, with the exception of those beginning with **d**, **h**, **l**, **n**, **r**, **t**, **sc-**, **sl-**, **sm-**, **sp-**, **st-**, are aspirated; verbs beginning with a vowel are preceded by **d'**; verbs beginning in **f-** are both aspirated and preceded by **d'**.

The first conjugation:

	<i>Broad</i>	<i>Slender</i>
Imperative	bog (<i>move</i>)	caill (<i>lose</i>)

1 sg.	bhog mé	chaill mé
2 sg.	bhog tú	chaill tú
3 sg.	bhog sé / sí	chaill sé / sí
1 pl.	bhogamar / bhog muid	chailleamar / chaill muid
2 pl.	bhog sibh	chaill sibh
3pl.	bhog siad	chaill siad

The second conjugation follows the same rules as those used in the first conjugation in the Past Tense.

	<i>Broad</i>	<i>Slender</i>
Imperative	admhaigh (<i>admit</i>)	fiafraigh (<i>ask</i>)
1 sg.	d'admhaigh mé	d'fhiafraigh mé
2 sg.	d'admhaigh tú	d'fhiafraigh tú
3 sg.	d'admhaigh sé / sí	d'fhiafraigh sé / sí
1 pl.	d'admhaigh muid	d'fhiafraigh muid
2 pl.	d'admhaigh sibh	d'fhiafraigh sibh
3pl.	d'admhaigh siad	d'fhiafraigh siad

In the Past Tense a question is formed by inserting **ar** before the verb. **Ar** demands that all following verbs beginning with a consonant be aspirated, except those beginning in **d, h, l, n, r, t, sc-, sl-, sm-, sp-, st-**. Verbs beginning in a vowel remain unaffected.

Ar bhog tú do rothar? (*Did you move your bicycle?*)

Ar fhiafraigh tú de cá raibh sé? (*Did you ask him where he was?*)

Ar ól siad an caife? (*Did they drink the coffee?*)

Níor before the verb indicates a negative statement. **Níor** aspirates all verbs beginning with a consonant except those beginning in **d, h, l, n, r, t, sc-, sl-, sm-, sp-, st-**. Verbs beginning in a vowel remain unaffected.

Ar bhog tú do rothar? (*Did you move your bicycle?*)

Bhog. / **Níor bhog.** (*Yes. / No.*)

Ar ól siad an caife? (*Did they drink the coffee?*)

D'ól. / **Níor ól.** (*Yes. / No.*)

Ar fhiafraigh tú de cá raibh sé? (*Did you ask him where he was?*)

D'fhiafraigh. / **Níor fhiafraigh.** (*Yes / No.*)

Irregular Verbs

<i>Imperative</i>	<i>Present Tense</i>	<i>Future Tense</i>	<i>Past Tense</i>
Abair (<i>Say</i>)	Deirim	Déarfaidh mé	Dúirt mé
	An ndeir tú?	An ndéarfaidh tú?	An ndúirt tú?
	Deirim / Ní deirim	Déarfaidh / Ní déarfaidh	Dúirt / Ní dúirt

<i>Imperative</i> Clois (Hear)	<i>Present Tense</i> Cloisim An gcloiseann tú? Cloisim / Ní chloisim	<i>Future Tense</i> Cloisfidh mé An gcloisfidh tú? Cloisfidh / Ní chloisfidh	<i>Past Tense</i> Chulala mé Ar chuala tú? Chuala / Níor chuala
<i>Imperative</i> Déan (Do)	<i>Present Tense</i> Déanaim An ndéanann tú? Déanaim / Ní dhéanaim	<i>Future Tense</i> Déanfaidh mé An ndéanfaidh tú? Déanfaidh / Ní dhéanfaidh	<i>Past Tense</i> Rinne mé An ndearna tú? Rinne / Ní dhearna
<i>Imperative</i> Faigh (Get)	<i>Present Tense</i> Faighim An bhfaigheann tú? Faighim / Ní fhaighim	<i>Future Tense</i> Gheobhaidh mé An bhfaighidh tú? Gheobhaidh / Ní bhfaighidh	<i>Past Tense</i> Fuair mé An bhfuair tú? Fuair/Ní bhfuair
<i>Imperative</i> Feic (See)	<i>Present Tense</i> Feicim An bhfeiceann tú? Feicim / Ní fheicim	<i>Future Tense</i> Feicfidh mé An bhfeicfidh tú? Feicfidh / Ní fheicfidh	<i>Past Tense</i> Chonaic mé An bhfaca tú? Chonaic / Ní fhaca
<i>Imperative</i> Ith (Eat)	<i>Present Tense</i> Ithim An itheann tú? Ithim / Ní ithim	<i>Future Tense</i> Íosfaidh mé An íosfaidh tú? Íosfaidh / Ní íosfaidh	<i>Past Tense</i> D'ith mé Ar ith tú? D'ith / Níor ith
<i>Imperative</i> Tabhair (Give)	<i>Present Tense</i> Tugaim An dtugann tú? Tugaim / Ní thugaim	<i>Future Tense</i> Tabharfaidh mé An dtabharfaidh tú? Tabharfaidh / Ní thabharfaidh	<i>Past Tense</i> Thug mé Ar thug tú? Thug / Níor thug
<i>Imperative</i> Tar (Come)	<i>Present Tense</i> Tagaim An dtagann tú? Tagaim / Ní thagaim	<i>Future Tense</i> Tiocfaidh mé An dtiocfaidh tú? Tiocfaidh / Ní thiocrfaidh	<i>Past Tense</i> Tháinig mé Ar tháinig tú? Tháinig / Níor tháinig
<i>Imperative</i> Téigh (Go)	<i>Present Tense</i> Téim An dtéann tú? Téim / Ní théim	<i>Future Tense</i> Rachaidh mé An rachaidh tú? Rachaidh / Ní rachaidh	<i>Past Tense</i> Chuaigh mé An ndeachaigh tú? Chuaigh / Ní dheachaigh
<i>Imperative</i> Bí (Be)	<i>Present Tense</i> Tá mé / Táim An bhfuil tú? Tá mé / Níl mé	<i>Future Tense</i> Beidh mé An mbeidh tú? Beidh / Ní bheidh	<i>Past Tense</i> Bhí mé An raibh tú? Bhí / Ní raibh

The verb *bí* (be)

The verb *to be* in Irish is unique in that it has two distinct forms in the Present Tense: the Present Indicative and the Present Habitual.

	<i>Present Indicative</i>	<i>Present Habitual</i>
1 st sg.	tá mé (táim)	bíonn mé (bím)
2 nd sg.	tá tú	bíonn tú
3 rd sg. masc.	tá sé	bíonn sé
3 rd sg. fem.	tá sí	bíonn sí
1 st pl.	tá muid	bíonn muid
2 nd pl.	tá sibh	bíonn sibh
3 rd pl.	tá siad	bíonn siad

Dependent forms of the verb following **go** and **nach** are as follows:

	<i>Positive</i>	<i>Negative</i>
Present Indicative	go bhfuil	nach bhfuil
Present Habitual	go mbíonn	nach mbíonn
Past Indicative	go raibh	nach raibh
Future Indicative	go mbeidh	nach mbeidh

THE COPULA

The copula is frequently used in conjunction with nouns / pronouns:

Is mise Áine. Is altra mé. (*I'm Áine, I'm a nurse.*)

in discussing possession:

Is liomsa an mála. (*The bag is mine.*)

in comparing nouns:

Is áille Máirín ná Aisling. (*Máirín is prettier than Aisling.*)

in describing feelings:

Is maith liom fíon dearg. (*I like red wine.*)

Is fuath liom an tobac. (*I hate tobacco.*)

A question is formed in the Present and Future Tenses by replacing **is** with **an**.
Ní preceding the noun / pronoun indicates a negative statement.

An maith leat fíon dearg? (*Do you like red wine?*)

Is maith / Ní maith. (*Yes / No.*)

An fuath leis peil? (*Does he hate football?*)

Is fuath / Ní fuath. (*Yes / No.*)

An múinteoir í Áine? (*Is Áine a teacher?*)

Ní hea, is altra í. (*No. she's a nurse.*)

The Past Tense

The copula acts similarly in the Past Tense and Conditional Mood.

Ba replaces **is**. **Ba** aspirates following nouns beginning in consonants, with the exception of **l**, **n**, **r**, **t**, **sc-**, **sl-**, **sm-**, **sp-**, **st-**. It is abbreviated to **b'** when preceding nouns begin in a vowel and both abbreviates and aspirates nouns beginning in **f**.

Ba mhúinteoir í Áine. (*Áine was a teacher.*)

Ba mhaith leis peil. (*He liked football.*)

B'fhuath leat uisce beatha. (*You hated whiskey.*)

PREPOSITIONS

There are two groups of prepositions

1. simple prepositions
2. compound prepositions

Simple Prepositions

Nouns following **ag, as, chuig**, remain unchanged.

Nouns following **do, de, fá, faoi, ar, ó** are aspirated.

Nouns beginning with a vowel and following **le, go** are preceded by a **h**

Nouns following **i** are eclipsed.

Compound prepositions

Nouns following compound prepositions (e.g. **ar feadh, ar son, os comhair**) assume the genitive case.

Prepositions with the Singular Article

When joined to the definite article, a number of prepositions change form. This is usually for pronunciation reasons.

do + an > don (*to / for the*)

i + an > sa (*in the*)¹

i + an > san (*in the*)²

le + an > leis an (*with the*)

ó + an > ón (*from the*)

¹ When preceding a noun beginning with a consonant

² When preceding a noun beginning with a vowel

Prepositions eclipse (or aspirate in the case of Ulster Irish) following nouns beginning with a consonant, with the exception of those beginning with **d, h, l, n, r, t, sc-, sl-, sm-, sp-, st-**.

ag an bhfuinneog (Ulster: **ag an fhuinneog**) (*at the window*)

leis an bpáiste (Ulster: **leis an bpáiste**) (*with the child*)

but

ón scoil (*from the school*)

Nouns that follow **don, den** and **sa** are aspirated:

don bhean (*for the woman*)

sa bhaile (*at home*)

¹ When preceding a noun beginning with a consonant

² When preceding a noun beginning with a vowel

Feminine nouns beginning with a vowel and used in conjunction with a preposition and the definite article remain unaffected; masculine nouns lose the **t**-:

an t-arán (*the bread*)

ar an arán (*on the bread*)

an ógbhean (*the young woman*)

leis an ógbhean (*with the young woman*)

Prepositions with the Plural Article

With the exception of **i** and **le**, prepositions remain in their original form when used in conjunction with the plural article.

i + na > sna (*in the*)

le + na > leis na (*with the*)

The plural article **na** does not aspirate following nouns but does demand a **h** in front of nouns beginning with a vowel.

ar na fir (*on the men*)

leis na hairí (*with the ministers*)

PREPOSITIONAL PRONOUNS

	1 st sg.	2 nd sg.	3 rd sg. masc.	3 rd sg. fem.	1 st pl.	2 nd pl.	3 rd pl.
	mé	tú	sé	sí	muid	sibh	siad
ag (<i>at</i>)	agam	agat	aige	aici	againn	agaibh	acu
ar (<i>on</i>)	orm	ort	air	uirthi	orainn	oraibh	orthu
as (<i>from</i>)	asam	asat	as	aisti	astainn	asaibh	astu
chuig (<i>to</i>)	chugam	chugat	chuige	chuici	chugainn	chugaibh	chucu
do (<i>to / for</i>)	domh	duit	dó	dí	dúinn	daoibh	dóibh
le (<i>with</i>)	liom	leat	leis	léi	linn	libh	leo
ó (<i>from</i>)	uaim	uait	uaidh	uaithi	uainn	uaibh	uathu