

Review of “is”

When “is” is used to identify an *indefinite* noun (“a”, not “the”), the noun is placed immediately after “is”, followed by the pronoun.

Is rúnaí mé. (iss roon-ee may) I am a secretary.

Remember that the third-person pronouns drop the initial “s”.

Is rúnaí é. (iss roon-ee ey) He is a secretary.

When using a person’s name, the pronoun is still used, followed by the name.

Is rúnaí é Seán. (iss roon-ee ey shawn) John is a secretary.

When using an adjective to describe the noun, the adjective comes *after* the noun.

Is rúnaí maith é Seán. (iss roon-ee mah ey shawn) John is a good secretary.

Finally, the other forms of “is” are as follows:

Ní rúnaí é.	(nee roon-ee ey)	He is not a secretary.
An rúnaí é?	(un roon-ee ey)	Is he a secretary?
Nach rúnaí é?	(nakh roon-ee ey)	Isn’t he a secretary?

To answer questions using “is” (with indefinite nouns), respond with:

Is ea. (’Sea.)	(shah)	Yes.
Ní h-ea.	(nee hah)	No.

Examples:

Is dochtúir mé.	(iss dokh-toor may)	I am a doctor.
Ní freastalaí í.	(nee frass-tah-lee ee)	She’s not a waitress.
Nach scoláirí iad?	(nakh skul-oy-ree ee-ud)	Aren’t they students?
Is cailín lách í.	(iss kal-yeen lawkh ee)	She’s a pleasant girl.
Ní fear dáthúil é.	(nee fahr dah-hool ey)	He’s not a handsome man.
Is garda maith í.	(iss gar-dah mah ee)	She’s a good police officer.

Nach gadaithe grána iad!
(nakh god-ee-huh graw-nah ee-ud)
Aren’t they nasty thieves!