

10

LESSON 2

VOCABULARY

bord /bɔrd/	pl. bord /bɔrd/	table
céad /tʃeːd/	céad /kʰeːd/	cup
cupán /kʰʉpʰən/	cupán /kʰʉpʰən/	cup
doras /dʉrʰə/	doras /dʉrʰə/	door
doine /dʉnʲə/	doine /dʉnʲə/	person, people
feas /fʲeːsʲ/	feas /fʲeːsʲ/	man, husband
gair /gʲeːrʲ/	gair /gʲeːrʲ/	child
lampa /lʰɑmpʰə/	lampa /lʰɑmpʰə/	lamp
mínteoir /mʲiːntʃeːrʲ/	mínteoir /mʲiːntʃeːrʲ/	teacher
rud /rʉdʲ/	rud /rʉdʲ/	thing
teach /tʃeːxʲ/	teach /tʃeːxʲ/	house
tiopaire /tʲiːpʰeːrʲə/	tiopaire /tʲiːpʰeːrʲə/	accident
Brid /brʲiːdʲ/	(woman's name)	
Cait /kʰeːtʲ/	(woman's name)	
Máirín /mʲeːrʲiːnʲ/	(woman's name)	
eile /eːlʲə/	other, another	
lesta /lʲeːstʲə/	satisfied, willing, pleased	
ann /ɑnʲ/	there (see this lesson)	
annas /ɑnʲəsʲ/	now	
annas /ɑnʲəsʲ/	here, then	
annas /ɑnʲəsʲ/	there, then	
annas /ɑnʲəsʲ/	there (see this lesson)	
annas /ɑnʲəsʲ/	any (at all), no... (at all)	
sch /ʃxʲ/	but, however	
ach a oiread /ɑxʲ ə ɔːdʲ/	either	
agus /ɑɡʲʉsʲ/	and	
is /iːsʲ/	too, also, indeed	
na /nʲeː/	(neither... nor)	
tá /tʰeː/	is	
níl /nʲilʲ/	is not	
nach bhfuil /nʲaxʲ wʲilʲ/	is not	
go bhfuil /gʲo wʲilʲ/	(see this lesson)	
fáthar /fʲeːxʲtʰərʲ/	one is, people are	
rífear /rʲiːfʲeːrʲ/	one is not, people are not	
bhfuiltear /wʲilʲtʰeːrʲ/	is	
dear /dʲeːrʲ/	says	
mé, mise /mʲeː/	I	
sé, seachtain /ʃeː/	you	
fú, tusa /fʲuː/	you	
si, sí /ʃiː/	he, it	
muid, muidhe /mʲuːdʲ/	she	
sibh, sibhe /ʃiːbʲ/	we	
siad, siadán /ʃiːdʲ/	you (pl.)	
	they	

VOCABULARY NOTE:
A second person singular pronoun, e.g. tú, is used when addressing one person. A second person plural pronoun, e.g. sibh, is used when addressing more than one person. The plural is not used to express politeness or formality.

GRAMMAR

1. NO INDEFINITE ARTICLE
Irish has no indefinite article. 'A man' is simply expressed by fear.

2. THE VERB 'TÁ' (IS)

(i) Statement
Tá Cait ann. Cait is here.
Tá fear agus gair ann. There is a man and a child here.
Tá mé ann. I am here.

(ii) Negation
Níl Cait ann. Cait is not here.

(iii) Questions
An bhfuil Cait ann? Is Cait here?
Nach bhfuil sí ann? Is she not here?

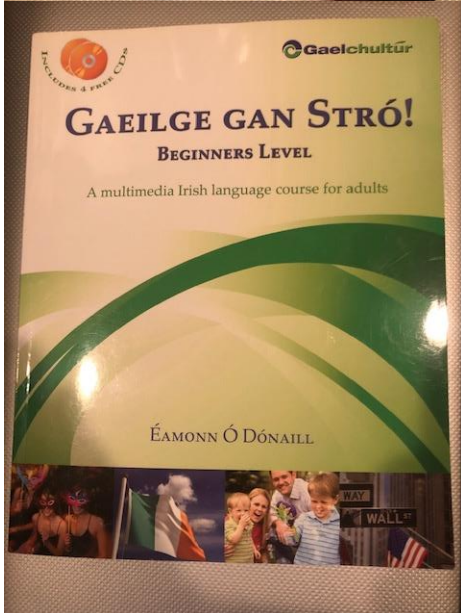
(iv) Indirect speech
Deir sé go bhfuil Cait ann. He says that Cait is here.
Deir se nach bhfuil Cait ann. He says that Cait is not here.

(v) Summary table:

	Tá	Níl	Cait	annas.
	An	Nach	bhfuil	mise, etc.
Deir sé	go	nach		

(vi) Usage
The verb tá originally meant 'stands' but has come to mean 'is'. It is, however, as we will see, not used to link two nouns or pronouns.

When a sentence with the verb tá does not contain an adjective, e.g. Tá Cait ann 'Cait is content', or an adverb/adverbial phrase of place, e.g. Tá Cait ann 'Cait is here', an is inserted. Tá fear ann 'There is a man (here) or 'A man exists'. In the case of a noun describing an event, e.g. timpire 'accident', an adverb of time is sufficient.



2.4 I and in

The simple preposition i (in) is used in Irish before words beginning with a consonant.

Tá mé i mo chónaí i mBaile Átha Cliath.
I live in Dublin.

Notice how Baile changes to mBaile when it's preceded by the simple preposition i. This is an example of lenition.

An ara changes the way the word sounds - the new letter suppresses the first letter of the word and only this new letter is pronounced.

An ara is placed before the consonants b, c, d, f, g, p and after the simple preposition i:

b → mb Béal Feirste → i mBaile Feirste
c → gc Contaigh → i gContaigh
d → nd Doire → i nDoire
f → fh Fear Manach → i bhFear Manach
g → gg Gaillimh → i nGaillimh
p → pp Port Láirge → i bhPort Láirge
t → dt Trá Lí → i dtRá Lí

Letters ng have a special sound, the new letter, n, does not suppress the sound of the first letter, g, but combine to form a new sound. You might have difficulty with this sound initially, but you'll master it in a while.

When m is used before vowels:

i → mi i mo chónaí in Aontroma.
I live in Aontrom.
is → mis i mo chónaí in Iain.
I live in Iain.

2.5 Nationality

You also use it when saying what your nationality is.

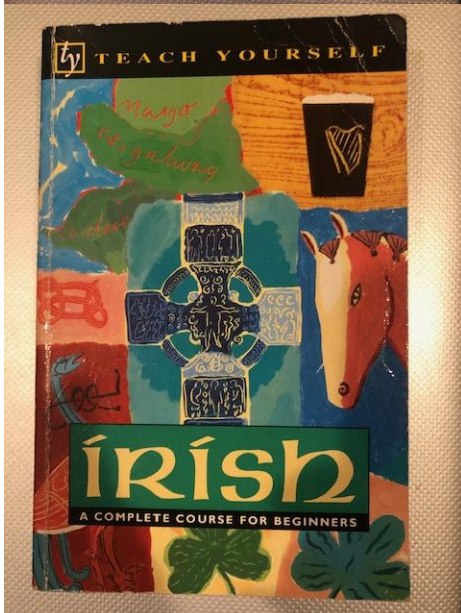
Is Éireannach mé.
I'm Irish.
Is Meiriceánach mé.
I'm American.
Is Astrálach mé.
I'm Australian.

This is how to find out whether or not someone is of a particular nationality:

An Fhrancach tú?
Are you French?
An Spáinnach tú?
Are you Spanish?
An Ceannach tú?
Are you Canadian?
Is ea.
Yes.
An Gearmánach tú?
Are you German?
Ní hea.
No.

Insight
The Irish language is recognised in the Constitution of the Republic of Ireland as the national and first official language of the country. And, since the 1st of January 2007, Irish has been an official language of the European Union.

The Irish-speaking areas, the Gaeltachtaí (singular, Gaeltacht), are mainly located on the western seaboard, in Donegal, Mayo, Galway, Cork and Kerry. There are also small Gaeltachtaí in County Wexford (An Rinn) and in County Meath (Rathfriland). There are thought to be between 70,000 and 80,000 native speakers of Irish, although many more people, particularly in Dublin and Belfast, use the language on a daily basis.



2

IS MÚINTEOIR MÉ
I am a teacher

In this unit you will learn how to

- state your nationality and occupation
- check somebody else's nationality or occupation
- say where you work

Is ... mé (I am (a) ...)
An ... a(t)? (Are you (a) ...?)
Cad as tús? (Where are you from?) As ... (From ...)

Here are two interviews with learners of Irish in a summer college.

Agallamh 1 (Interview 1)

Rónal: Cad is ainm duit, le do thoil?
Áine: Áine Ní Chonail is ainm dom.
Rónal: Cad as tús?
Áine: Tá Li, ach tá mé i mo chónaí i gCorcaigh anois.
Rónal: I gceathar Chorcaí?
Áine: Is ea.
Rónal: Agus do shí bheitha?

Áine: Is múinteoir mé.
Rónal: Tuigim. Go raibh maith agat.
Áine: Tá fáilte romhat.

Cad is ainm (n) duit? What is your name?
Is do thoil pleasaigh Áine Ní Chonail is ainm dom. My name is Áine Ní Chonail.
Cad as tús? Where are you from?
As Trá Lí, From Tralee.
Ach is mé i mo chónaí i gCorcaigh. But I live in Cork.

ainm now I gceathair (f) Chorcaí? in Cork City?
Is ea. Yes (Li). That's it!
Áine do shí leathas (f)? And your occupation (Li, way of life)?
Is múinteoir mé. I am a teacher.
Tuigim, understand.
Go raibh maith agat. Thanks.
Tá fáilte romhat. You are welcome.

Ceisteanna
(a) Cad as Áine?
(b) An múinteoir P?

Agallamh 2 (Interview 2)

Students attending a language class in Dublin meet their new teacher. She introduces herself and asks the students who they are and where they come from.

Caitlín: Is mise Caitlín Ní Cheallaigh ... agus ... cé hé tusa?
Bob: Bob Mac Mathúna is ainm dom.
Caitlín: An Meiriceánach tú?
Bob: Is ea. Is as Boston mé.
Caitlín: An bhfuil an Ghaeilge deacraí, dar leat?
Bob: Níl. Tá na ranganna suimil, agus tá na múinteoirí go deas.
Caitlín: Go raibh maith agat.

Áine: Agus cé hé tusa? And who are you?
An Meiriceánach tú? Are you American?
Is ea. Yes (Li). It's that.
An bhfuil an Ghaeilge deacraí? Is Irish difficult?

dar leat in your view Níl, it isn't ranganna (n) cleasra suimil interesting na múinteoirí the teachers go deas nice



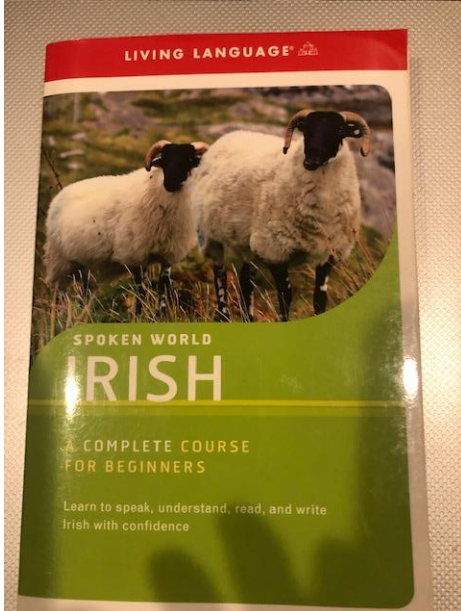
The genitive case: general
 In English, *of* is often used to convey the relationship between two words:
a lot of work
a glass of beer
 Or, in the case of possession, *'s* is used:
a day's work
 In Irish, one noun is placed after the other and the second one is usually changed. This second noun is said to be in the genitive case:
 oibrí (work) a lán oibre (a lot of work)
 beoir (beer) gloine beorach (a glass of beer)
 lá (day) oibrí lae (a day's work)

A noun is also in the genitive case when it follows:
 a) a compound preposition:
 an teach (the house) os comhair an tí (in front of the house)
 an samhradh (the summer) i rith an tsamhraidh (during the summer)

b) the prepositions *chun*, *dála*, *timpeall*, and *trasa*:
 an seol (the story, news) dála an scéil (by the way)
 an baile (the town) chun an bhaile (to the town)
 an pháirc (the field) timpeall na páirce (around the field)
 an spéir (the sky) trasa na spéire (across the sky)

c) verbal nouns:
 an seomra (the room) gianadh an tseomra (the cleaning of the room)
 an mhúinteoir (the teacher) ag cineadh an mhúinteora (criticizing the teacher)

d) words used to express quantity:
 airgeall (money) a lán airgid (a lot of money)
 colas (information) níos mó colais (more information)
 oibrí (work) an iomarca oibre (too much work)



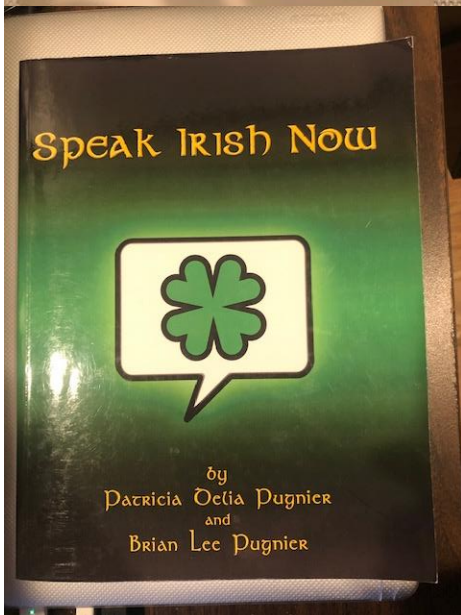
LESSON 2
Mo mhuintir
My family

Family is of utmost importance for the Irish, so let's learn how to talk about it in Irish. In addition, in this lesson, you will also find out how to express ownership by using possessive adjectives and how to count from one to ten. Finally, you'll learn a little more about the importance of family life in Irish culture and about the dialects of Irish.

2A. VOCABULARY WARM-UP
 or mhidid how much, how many
 Sin an méid. That's all.
 Céin aois thú? How old are you?

2B. DIALOGUE
 Michael attends a speed-dating event where he meets Amy; they talk about their families.

Michael: An bhfuil muintir mhór agat?
 Amy: Níl ach deirfiúr anáin agam, sin an méid. Deborah is ainm di.
 Michael: An bhfuil páistea ag do dheirfiúr?
 Amy: Tá intín anáin ag mo dheirfiúr.
 Michael: Cad is ainm di?
 Amy: Emily is ainm di.
 Michael: Ainm deas é sin. Céin aois í?
 Amy: Tá sí trí bliana d'aois. Is callta álainn í. Agus tú féin? An bhfuil muintir mhór agat?



Lesson 70 - Talking About the Past

You've learned a lot of Irish! So far, we've been talking about what things are like now or what's happening now. You'll also want to talk about how something was or what someone was doing. Luckily, putting "tá" [taw] sentences into the past tense is easy.

The Past Tense of "TÁ"

As we learned back in Lesson 2, a basic Irish sentence starts with a verb. Therefore, to turn a present tense sentence into a past tense sentence, all you have to do is change the first word. The past tense of "tá" [taw], "is" is "bhí" [vee], "was."

Examples

Let's take a look at a simple sentence in the present tense, and one in the past tense to compare.

"I am cold."
 Tá mé fuar.
 [taw may foo-uh-er]

"I was cold."
 Bhí mé fuar.
 [vee may foo-uh-er]

Here are sample sentences using all of the pronouns in the past tense:

"I was cold."
 Bhí mé fuar.
 [vee may foo-uh-er]

"You were cold."
 Bhí tú fuar.
 [vee too foo-uh-er]

"He was cold."
 Bhí sé fuar.
 [free shay foo-uh-er]

"She was cold."
 Bhí sí fuar.
 [vee shee foo-uh-er]

2F. GRAMMAR
Possessive adjectives: mo (my) and do (your)

One of the ways of expressing possession in Irish is by using possessive adjectives. In the dialogue above, *mo* (my) and *do* (your) were used in *do dheirfiúr* (your sister) and *mo dheirfiúr* (my sister).

An bhfuil páistea ag do dheirfiúr?
Does your sister have a child?
 Tá intín anáin ag mo dheirfiúr.
My sister has one daughter.

When the noun begins with consonants *b*, *c*, *d*, *g*, *m*, *p*, *s*, or *t*, these possessive adjectives *mo* and *do* cause lenition: an *h* is placed after the first letter.

dheartháir (brother)	mo dheartháir (my brother)	do dheartháir (your brother)
mháthair (mother)	mo mháthair (my mother)	do mháthair (your mother)

When the noun begins with a vowel or an *f* sound, *mo* is contracted to *m'* and *do* is contracted to *d'*. The possessive adjectives are pronounced together with the noun that follows.

athair (father)	m'athair (my father)	d'athair (your father)
ardóg (thumb)	m'ardóg (my thumb)	d'ardóg (your thumb)
fhacail (tooth)	m'fhacail (my tooth)	d'fhacail (your tooth)

Expressing possession with the verb *bí* (to be) + preposition *ag* (at)

There is no single verb to express the meaning of the English verb *to have* in Irish. Instead, a construction that combines the verb *bí* (to be) with the preposition *ag* (at), that is *to be at*, is used to express the same meaning.

Note that the preposition *ag* fuses with the personal pronouns, when they follow it, to form "prepositional pronouns." For example, *ag* is followed by *mé*, the fused form is *agam* (at me).

Tá deartháir agam.
I have a brother. (lit. There is a brother at me.)

Vocabulary

To make your sentences more interesting, you can add words to the end of your sentence that describe when something happened.

yesterday
 inné
 [in-ay]

last night
 anocht
 [ah-noy]

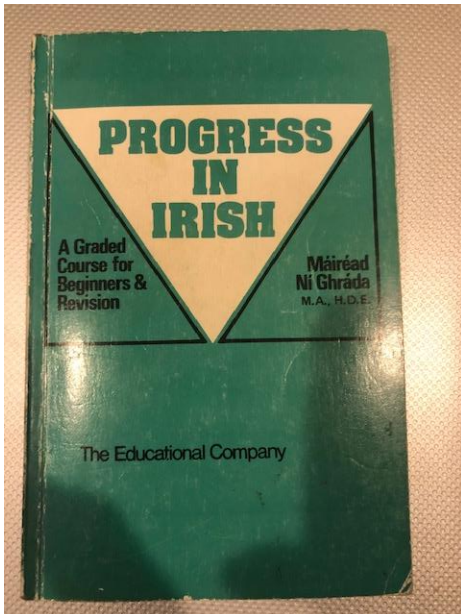
Examples

The weather was hot yesterday.
 Bhí an aimsir te inné.
 [vee ahn-ay-sheer tchey-in-ay]

My shoes were clean last night.
 Bhí mo shuáilín réidh anocht.
 [vee may shoo-ay-layn ray-ay]

Patricia was reading yesterday.
 Bhí Patricia ag léamh inné.
 [vee pah-trish-ay ah-geen ehg-lay-uv-in-ay]

The floor was dirty last night.
 Bhí an fóir salach anocht.
 [vee ahn fóir-sal-ah-uh-noy]



Foghlaim (Learn) :
 tá, is
 ag siúl, walking
 ag rith, running
 ag ithe, eating
 ag ól, drinking
 ag gáire, laughing
 ag gó, crying
 ag caint, talking
 ag dul, going
 ag teacht, coming

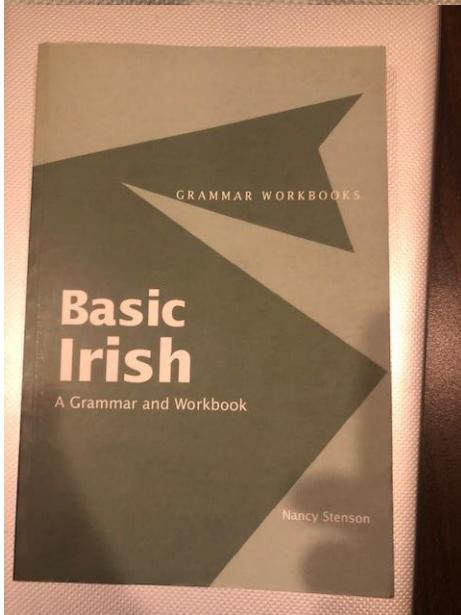
an fear, the man
 an bhean, the woman
 an páiste, the child
 an cailín, the girl
 an buachaill, the boy
 an múinteoir, the teacher
 amach, out
 isteach, in
 abhaile, home
 cé? who?

In Irish the verb comes first :
 Tá Brian ag siúl, Brian is walking.

Léigh (Read) :
 1. Tá Brian ag siúl. 2. Tá Seán ag rith.
 3. Tá Nóra ag ithe. 4. Tá Máire ag ól.
 5. Tá an fear ag gáire. 6. Tá an páiste ag gó.
 7. Tá an bhean ag dul amach.
 8. Tá an cailín ag teacht isteach.
 9. Tá an buachaill ag dul abhaile.
 10. Tá an múinteoir ag caint.

Freagair (Answer) :
 1. Cé tá ag siúl? 2. Cé tá ag rith? 3. Cé tá ag ithe?
 4. Cé tá ag ól? 5. Cé tá ag gáire? 6. Cé tá ag gó?
 7. Cé tá ag dul amach? 8. Cé tá ag teacht isteach?
 9. Cé tá ag dul abhaile? 10. Cé tá ag caint?

Cuir Gaeilge air seo (Translate into Irish) :
 1. Nora is running. 2. Brian is talking.
 3. Sean is coming. 4. The girl is crying.
 5. The woman is laughing. 6. The man is coming.
 7. The woman is going home. 8. The child is eating.
 9. The boy is drinking. 10. Nora is coming in.
 11. Eamann is going out. 12. Niall is coming home.



UNIT EIGHT
 place-names

Like personal names, Irish place-names typically come in both Irish and English versions. Most English versions of place-names rely on transliteration (Anglicizing the pronunciation and respelling it, ignoring the meaning of the name).

Traditional Irish place-names are typically composed of phrases that include a term referring to some geographical feature (a hill, valley, lake, etc.) or architectural structure of note in the region (church, castle, fort), followed by a descriptive term or name. The repeated use of certain geographical terms gives Irish place-names their characteristic flavour.

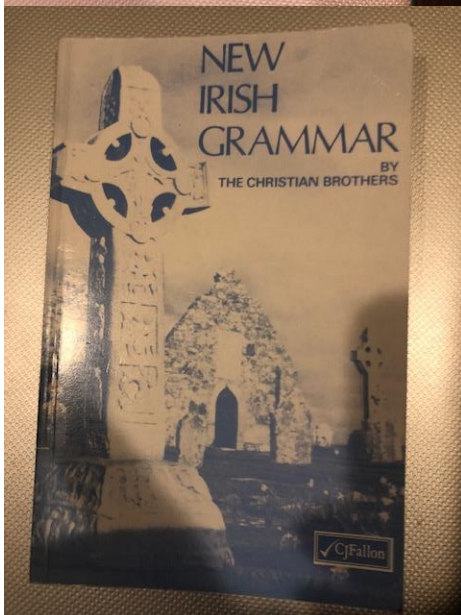
Baile 'townland', 'village' is one of the most common initial terms. It combines with various other words:

Adjectives **An Baile Glas** Ballyglass (lit. green village)
Names **Baile an Fheirtéaraigh** Ballyferrier (lit. Ferriter's town)
Other nouns **Baile an Toibair** Ballintober (lit. town of the well)

A second noun in such cases is in the genitive case (see Unit 6). It may be further modified, leading to still longer names, including most famously the Irish name of Dublin: **Baile Átha Cliath** 'the town of the ford of the hurdles'.

Two other extremely common components of place-names are **cill** 'churchyard' and **áth** 'ford':

Cill Iseal Killeeshill (lit. low churchyard)
Cill Bhríde Kiltbride (lit. Bridget's churchyard)
Cill an Mhuilinn Killavullen (lit. churchyard of the mill)
Áth Dara Adare (lit. oak ford)
Áth na mBó Ammoe (lit. ford of the cow)



8
THE FIRST DECLENSION

1. All nouns of the first declension are masculine and end in a broad consonant.

2. The **Genitive Singular** is formed by **attenuation**:—
 báid—báid; fear—fear; iasc—iasc; bacach—bacach. (See page 9, par. 2.)

3. The **Vocative Singular** has the same form, as a rule, as the genitive singular—a **bháid**; a **fhear**; a **bacach**.
 But,—a phobal, a cheann cripín, a rún, a stór, a leanbh. (i.e., collective nouns, terms of endearment, metaphorical terms.)

4. If the noun has a **strong plural**, all cases in the plural have the same form. For weak plurals see Ch. 7, §§. 5, 7, 8.

5. Nouns with **weak plurals** ending in a **slender consonant**:—
 Example: **an cat**

	Singular	Plural
Common	an cat	na cait
Genitive	don chat, ag an chat (gcat)	do na cait, ag na cait
Vocative	bia an chat	bia na geat
	a chat	a chata

Nouns declined like cat:

SINGULAR		PLURAL	
Common	Genitive	Common	Genitive
báid, a dhéir, cianóg, a huan	táin an bháid	na báid	na bháid
chóir, a hól	barr an choinn	na cinn	na gcóir
meach, a cúl	barr an chaoil	na cnoic	na gcóir
pháipiar, a papair	faip an mharaigh	na maraigh	na gcóir
peana, a pen	bun an pháipéir	na páipéir	na gcóir
	barr an phinn	na pinn	na gcóir

Unit 9: Prepositions I 71

Two of the above prepositions, **ar** and **faoi**, combine with the verb 'to be' to form useful idioms with verbal noun expressions following (see Unit 20). Again, the English subject is the object of the Irish preposition:

Irish	English
tá ar	must, has to
tá faoi	intends to, plans to

Tá ar Sheamas oibrí anocht. Séamas has to work tonight.
 Tá faoi Mhairín dul go Sasana. Máirín intends to go to England.

Tá ar is also used to indicate something is the matter with the person named as object of ar. This usage usually takes the form of a question, but not always:

Irish	English
Céard atá ort?	What's the matter with you?
Tá rud éigin air inniu.	Something is bothering him today.

Prepositional pronouns

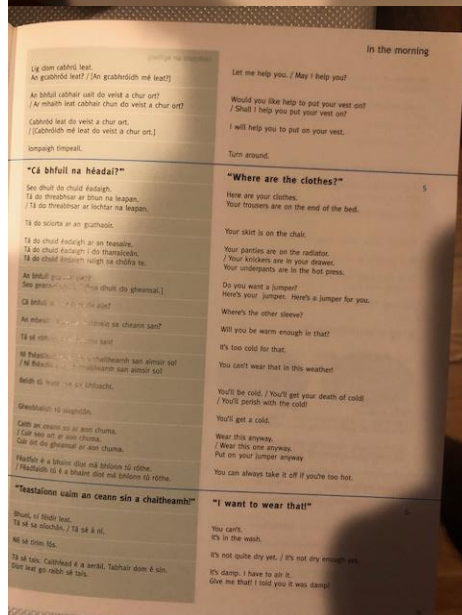
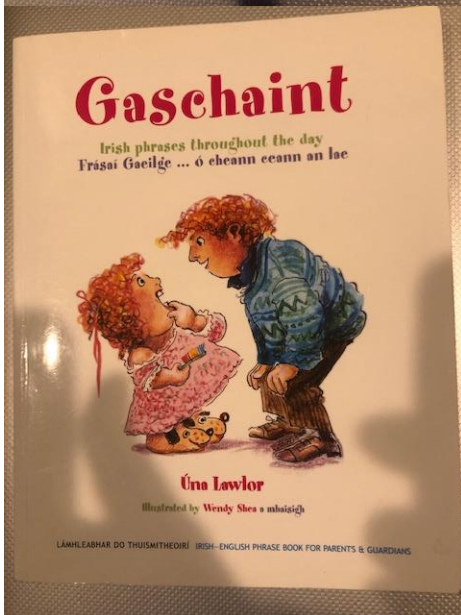
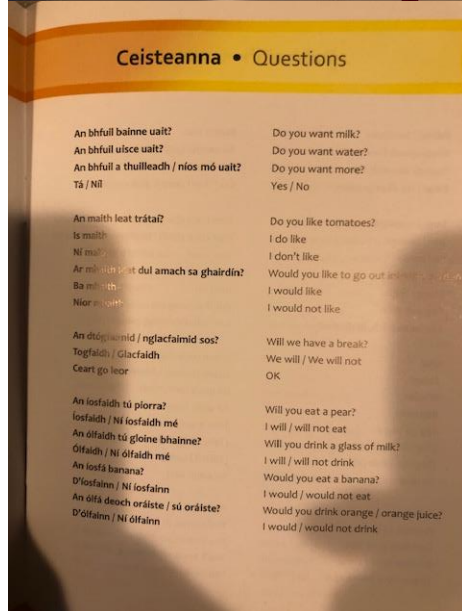
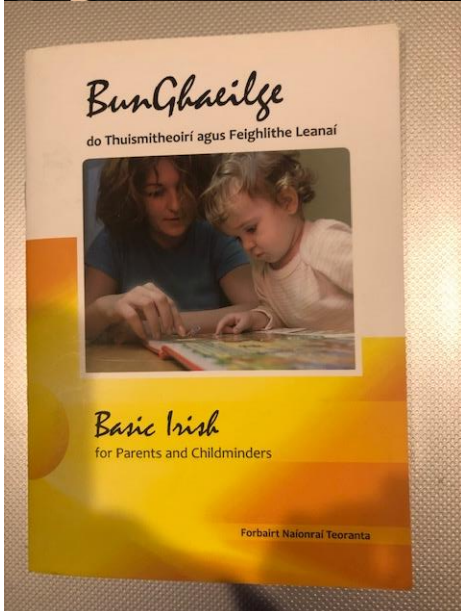
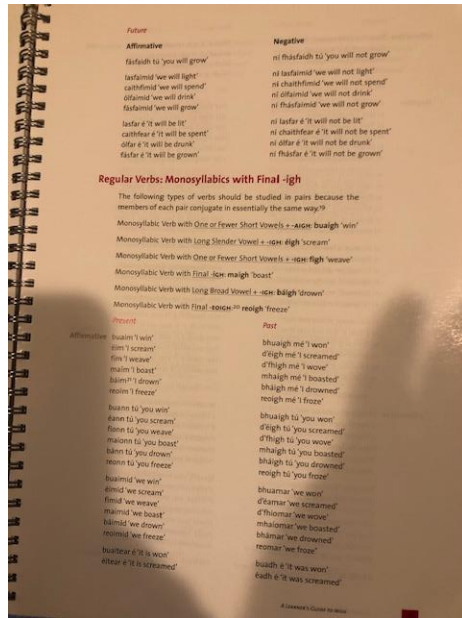
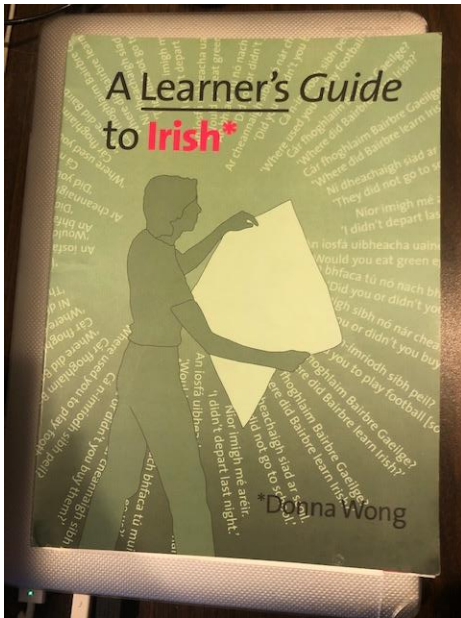
Many prepositions, including those presented in this unit, have special combination forms that incorporate a pronoun object. These may change the form of the preposition itself when a pronoun ending is added, and the endings are also only partly predictable. In this unit, we provide the pronoun forms for three of the prepositions introduced above, **ag**, **ar**, and **le**.

Singular	ag	ar	le
1 me	agam	orm	liom
2 you	agat	ort	leat
3 him/it	aige	air	leis
her/it	aici	airde	léi

Plural

	ag	ar	le
4 us	againn	orainn	linn
5 you	againn	orainn	linn
6 them	acu	orthu	leu

Some patterning in these forms can help in learning and remembering them. First- and second-person forms ('me', 'you', 'us') all consistently have the same endings for each preposition, endings which conveniently recall the pronouns mé, tú, sin, sibh; only the third-person forms don't resemble independent pronouns and are less predictable in form.



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