

Ceacht a Dó

Lesson Two

An Briathar “Tá”

The Verb “Tá”

Leathanach 1

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The verb tá, meaning “is”, is used to describe the appearance, condition or location of someone or something. You can describe the weather by using tá together with sé.

1.	Tá Seán ard, ach tá Máire íseal.			John is tall, but Mary is short.		
	ard	tall	fada	long	ramhar	fat
	íseal	short (height)	gearr	short (length)	tanáí	thin
2.	Tá mé tinn.			I’m ill.		
3.	Tá an cupán sa chistin.			The cup is in the kitchen.		
	anseo	here	istigh	inside	sa ghairdín	in the garden
	ansin	there	amuigh	outside	sa bhaile	at home
4.	Tá sé fuar.			It’s cold.		
	fuar	cold	fliuch	wet	dorcha	dark
	te	hot	tirim	dry	geal	bright

As with all verbs in Irish, you must learn four sentence patters using tá: the positive statement, the negative statement, the positive question and the negative question. When answering a yes/no question in Irish, you usually respond with the same words you use to make the positive or negative statements. Below are the forms of tá in the present tense (*aimsir láithreach*), which is used for describing something as it is right now. As you can see by the changing forms of tá that it is rather irregular. Fortunately, Irish only has 11 irregular verbs.

5.	Tá sé fuar.	It is cold.
6.	Níl sé fuar.	It is not cold.
7.	An bhfuil sé fuar?	Is it cold?
8.	Nach bhfuil sé fuar?	Isn’t it cold?
9.	Tá.	Yes (in response to a question with <u>an bhfuil</u>).
10.	Níl.	No (in response to a question with <u>an bhfuil</u>).

Below are the forms of tá in the present habitual tense (*aimsir ghnáthláithreach*), used for describing how something is on a continual or repeated basis. You can often add the word “usually” to a sentence to get the idea that bíonn conveys.

11.	Bíonn sé fuar.	It is [usually] cold.
12.	Ní bhíonn sé fuar.	It is not [usually] cold.
13.	An mbíonn sé fuar?	Is it [usually] cold?
14.	Nach mbíonn sé fuar?	Isn’t it [usually] cold?
15.	Bíonn.	Yes (in response to a question with <u>an mbíonn</u>).
16.	Ní bhíonn.	No (in response to a question with <u>an mbíonn</u>).

Below are the forms of tá in the past tense (*aimsir chaite*), used for describing how something was in the past.

17.	Bhí sé fuar.	It was cold.
18.	Ní raibh sé fuar.	It was not cold.
19.	An raibh sé fuar?	Was it cold?
20.	Nach raibh sé fuar?	Wasn’t it cold?
21.	Bhí.	Yes (in response to a question with <u>an raibh</u>).
22.	Ní raibh.	No (in response to a question with <u>an raibh</u>).

Below are the forms of tá in the future tense (*aimsir fháistineach*), used for describing how something will be.

23.	Beidh sé fuar.	It will be cold.
24.	Ní bheidh sé fuar.	It will not be cold.
25.	An mbeidh sé fuar?	Will it be cold?
26.	Nach mbeidh sé fuar?	Won’t it be cold?
27.	Beidh.	Yes (in response to a question with <u>an mbeidh</u>).
28.	Ní bheidh.	No (in response to a question with <u>an mbeidh</u>).

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	You can use the various forms of <u>tá</u> mentioned above exactly as they are with any noun or pronoun.	
29.	Tá Seán anseo.	John is here.
30.	Tá na prátaí anseo.	The potatoes are here.
31.	Tá mé anseo.	I am here.
32.	Tá tú anseo.	You are here.
33.	Tá sé anseo.	He is here.
34.	Tá sí anseo.	She is here.
35.	Tá muid anseo.	We are here.
36.	Tá sibh anseo.	Ye are here.
37.	Tá siad anseo.	They are here.

Special combined (*táite*) forms of tá are commonly used instead of using the separate (*scartha*) form of ta with the pronouns mé or muid. You can get by without using these forms, but you will often hear them.

38.	Táim anseo.	Tá mé anseo.	Táimid anseo.	Tá muid anseo.
39.	Nílím anseo.	Níl mé anseo.	Nílimid anseo.	Níl muid anseo.
40.	An bhfuilim anseo?	An bhfuil mé anseo?	An bhfuilimid anseo?	An bhfuil muid anseo?
41.	Nach bhfuilim anseo?	Nach bhfuil mé anseo?	Nach bhfuilimid anseo?	Nach bhfuil muid anseo?
42.	Bím anseo.	Bíonn mé anseo.	Bíimid anseo.	Bíonn muid anseo.
43.	Ní bhím anseo.	Ní bhíonn mé anseo.	Ní bhíimid anseo.	Ní bhíonn muid anseo.
44.	An mbím anseo?	An mbíonn mé anseo?	An mbíimid anseo?	An mbíonn muid anseo?
45.	Nach mbím anseo?	Nach mbíonn mé anseo?	Nach mbíimid anseo?	Nach mbíonn muid anseo?
46.	Do bhíos anseo.	Bhí mé anseo.	[Do] bhíomar anseo.	Bhí muid anseo.
47.	Ní rabhas anseo.	Ní raibh mé anseo.	Ní rabhamar anseo.	Ní raibh muid anseo.
48.	An rabhas anseo?	An raibh mé anseo?	An rabhamar anseo?	An raibh muid anseo?
49.	Nach rabhas anseo?	Nach raibh mé anseo?	Nach rabhamar anseo?	Nach raibh muid anseo?
50.	Bead anseo.	Beidh mé anseo.	Beimid anseo.	Beidh muid anseo.
51.	Ní bhead anseo.	Ní bheidh mé anseo.	Ní bheimid anseo.	Ní bheidh muid anseo.
52.	An mbead anseo?	An mbeidh mé anseo?	An mbeimid anseo?	An mbeidh muid anseo?
53.	Nach mbead anseo?	Nach mbeidh mé anseo?	Nach mbeimid anseo?	Nach mbeidh muid anseo?

The question word <u>cá</u> is used to ask where something is.	
54.	Cá bhfuil tú? Where are you?
55.	Cá mbíonn tú? Where are you [usually]?
56.	Cá raibh tú? Where were you?
57.	Cá mbeidh tú? Where will you be?

The question word <u>cad</u> (or <u>céard</u>) is used for the English word “what”. In Irish, <u>cad</u> and <u>céard</u> are followed by the relative form of the verb, indicated by placing the relative pronoun <u>a</u> in front of the verb. When <u>a</u> appears in front of <u>tá</u> , the two combine to form <u>atá</u> .	
58.	Cad atá sa chistin? What is in the kitchen?
59.	Cad a bhíonn sa chistin? What is [usually] in the kitchen?
60.	Cad a bhí sa chistin? What was in the kitchen?
61.	Cad a bheidh sa chistin? What will be in the kitchen?

The question word <u>cé</u> is used for the English word “who”. As with <u>cad</u> , <u>cé</u> is also followed by the relative form of the verb.	
62.	Cé atá sa chistin? Who is in the kitchen?
63.	Cé a bhíonn sa chistin? Who is [usually] in the kitchen?
64.	Cé a bhí sa chistin? Who was in the kitchen?
65.	Cé a bheidh sa chistin? Who will be in the kitchen?

Below are several useful time expressions that can be used together with the different tenses of <u>tá</u> .				
66.	inniu	today	an tseachtain seo	this week
67.	inné	yesterday	an tseachtain seo caite	last week
68.	amárach	tomorrow	an tseachtain seo chugainn	next week
69.	maidin inniu	this morning	an mhí seo	this month
70.	maidin inné	yesterday morning	an mhí seo caite	last month
71.	maidin amárach	tomorrow morning	an mhí seo chugainn	next month
72.	anocht	tonight	i mbliana	this year
73.	aréir	last night	anuraidh	last year
74.	oíche amárach	tomorrow night	an bhliain seo chugainn	next year

The following time expressions are useful with the present habitual (<i>aimsir ghnáthláithreach</i>) of <u>tá</u> .						
75.	i gcónaí	always	go minic	often	gach lá	every day
76.	uaireanta	sometimes	ó am go ham	from time to time	riamh	ever / never

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tá → BÍ.

táb *nm* 1 tab (in typing).

tábhacht *rf* 3 1 importance; tá tábhacht lena bhfuil le rá agam what I have to say is important; 2 significance; 3 industry; tá tábhacht ann he's industrious.

tábhachtach *adj* 1 important; obair thábhachtach important work; 2 significant; 3 industrious.

tabhaigh *vb* 1 earn; 2 deserve.

tabhair (*pres tugann past thug fut tabharfaidh vn tabhairt vadj tugtha*) *vb* 1 give; ordú a thabhairt to give an order; fianaise a thabhairt to give evidence; gealltanais a thabhairt to give a promise; 2 bring; 3 take; 4 express (*opinion*); do bharúil ar rud a thabhairt to give one's opinion of something; 5 wage (*war*).

□ **tabhairt amach** 1 bring out; 2 give out, issue; 3 give out, scold; tabhairt amach do leanbh to give out to a child.

□ **tabhair ar** 1 give in exchange for; airgead mór a thabhairt ar rud to pay a lot of money for something; 2 call, name; tugtar Seán Diarmuid air he's called Seán Diarmuid; 3 compel; thug sí orm é a dhéanamh she made me do it; 4 rud a thabhairt do dhuine ar iasacht to give someone a loan of something.

The Oxford Pocket Irish Dictionary English-Irish / Irish-English Dictionary

The Oxford Pocket Dictionary is probably the most complete and up-to-date general-purpose Irish dictionary available at this time. The entries are very clear and good use is made of **bolding** and *italics* to break up the entries. Vocabulary is fairly up-to-date with recent vocabulary, irregular forms of words (e.g. genitives and plurals) are listed and various uses of a word are clearly called out. A grammar section in the middle of the dictionary gives a good summary of verb conjugations and noun and adjective declensions (you need to know these to get all the forms of a word). Unlike the Foclóir Póca, however, the Oxford dictionary does not provide any pronunciation help with Irish words.

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Time Expressions

Match the Irish expressions on the left with the English equivalents on the right.

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| ___ amárach | a. last night |
| ___ an mhí seo caite | b. this month |
| ___ an mhí seo chugainn | c. from time to time |
| ___ an mhí seo | d. sometimes |
| ___ an tseachtain seo | e. tomorrow |
| ___ an tseachtain seo caite | f. tonight |
| ___ an tseachtain seo chugainn | g. often |
| ___ anocht | i. tomorrow night |
| ___ anois | j. last month |
| ___ anuraidh | k. now |
| ___ aréir | l. ever |
| ___ gach lá | m. yesterday |
| ___ go minic | n. next month |
| ___ i gcónaí | o. this year |
| ___ i mbliana | p. next week |
| ___ inné | q. last year |
| ___ maidin amárach | r. tomorrow morning |
| ___ maidin inniu | s. this week |
| ___ ó am go ham | t. every day |
| ___ oíche amárach | u. this morning |
| ___ riamh | v. last week |
| ___ uaireanta | w. always |