

# Ceacht a Trí

## Lesson Three

# An Briathar “Tá” – Cuid 2

## The Verb “Tá” – Part 2

# Leathanach 1

## Page 1

The verb tá can be used together with the preposition ag (“with”) to make the equivalent of the verb “have” in English. The preposition ag combined with the article an eclipses the following word (except words beginning with “t” or “d”).

1.	Tá cat ag Máire.	Mary has a cat.
2.	Tá luch ag an gcat.	The cat has a mouse.

Ag combines with the pronouns mé, tú, sé, sí, muid, sibh and siad to form the following prepositional pronouns.

3.	Tá cat <b>agam</b> .	I have a cat.
4.	Tá cat <b>agat</b> .	You have a cat.
5.	Tá cat <b>aige</b> .	He has a cat.
6.	Tá cat <b>aici</b> .	She has a cat.
7.	Tá cat <b>againn</b> .	We have a cat.
8.	Tá cat <b>agaibh</b> .	Ye have a cat.
9.	Tá cat <b>acu</b> .	They have a cat.

The verb tá can be used together with the preposition ó (“from”) to make the equivalent of the verbs “want” or “need” in English. The preposition ó by itself lenites the following word. The preposition ó combined with the article an contracts to ón and eclipses the following word (except words beginning with “t” or “d”).

10.	Tá cat ó Mháire.	Mary wants a cat.
11.	Tá luch ón gcat.	The cat wants a mouse.

Ó combines with the pronouns mé, tú, sé, sí, muid, sibh and siad to form the following prepositional pronouns.

12.	Tá cat <b>uaim</b> .	I want a cat.
13.	Tá cat <b>uait</b> .	You want a cat.
14.	Tá cat <b>uaidh</b> .	He wants a cat.
15.	Tá cat <b>uaithi</b> .	She wants a cat.
16.	Tá cat <b>uainn</b> .	We want a cat.
17.	Tá cat <b>uaibh</b> .	Ye want a cat.
18.	Tá cat <b>uathu</b> .	They want a cat.

To ask what someone wants or needs, the question word cad is used. Cad is followed by the relative pronoun a. This combines with tá to form atá.

19.	Cad atá ag Seán?	What does John have?
20.	Cad a bhí ag Seán?	What did John have?
21.	Cad atá aige?	What does he have?
22.	Cad atá ó Sheán?	What does John want?
23.	Cad a bhí ó Sheán?	What did John want?
24.	Cad atá uaidh?	What does he want?

To ask how many of something someone wants or needs, cé mhéad is used, followed by the relative pronoun a. Unlike in English, the thing you’re asking about in Irish occurs in the singular rather than the plural (e.g. Cé mhéad páiste atá agat? is literally *How many **child** do you have?* rather than *How many **children** do you have?*). The word ceann (“head”) and its variants are used to respond to a question of how many things; special personal numbers or the word duine (“person”) and its variants are used to answer a question about how many people.

25.	Cé mhéad páiste atá agat?	How many children do you have?
26.	Cé mhéad atá agat?	How many do you have?
27.	Tá triúr agam.	I have three [children].
28.	Cé mhéad ispín atá uait?	How many sausages do you want?
29.	Cé mhéad atá uait?	How many do you want?
30.	Tá trí cinn uaim.	I want three [sausages].

Irish numbers and counting are rather complicated compared to English. You have to use different forms of the numbers when giving out a phone, house or bus number, when counting things and when counting people. When counting or giving out a number, the word *a* precedes the number, and adds an “h” before a number starting with a vowel.

	<b>Number</b>	<b>Number of Item</b>	<b>Counting Cups</b>	<b>Counting Things</b>	<b>Counting Friends</b>	<b>Counting People</b>
0.	náid / faic	a náid / a faic	cupán ar bith	ceann ar bith	cara ar bith	duine ar bith
1.	aon	a haon	cupán amháin / aon chupán [amháin]	ceann amháin / aon cheann [amháin]	cara amháin / aon chara [amháin]	duine amháin / aon duine [amháin]
2.	dó	a dó	dhá chupán	dhá cheann	beirt chara	beirt
3.	trí	a trí	trí chupán	trí cinn	triúr cairde	triúr
4.	ceathair	a ceathair	ceithre chupán	ceithre cinn	ceathrar cairde	ceathrar
5.	cúig	a cúig	cúig chupán	cúig cinn	cúigear cairde	cúigear
6.	sé	a sé	sé chupán	sé cinn	seisear cairde	seisear
7.	seacht	a seacht	seacht gcupán	seacht gcinn	seachtar cairde	seachtar
8.	ocht	a hocht	ocht gcupán	ocht gcinn	ochtar cairde	ochtar
9.	naoi	a naoi	naoi gcupán	naoi gcinn	naonúr cairde	naonúr
10.	deich	a deich	deich gcupán	deich gcinn	deichniúr cairde	deichniúr
11.	aon déag	a haon déag	aon chupán déag	aon cheann déag	aon chara dhéag	aon duine dhéag
12.	dó dhéag	a dó dhéag	dhá chupán déag	dhá cheann déag	dháréag cairde	dháréag
13.	trí déag	a trí déag	trí chupán déag	trí cinn déag	trí chara dhéag	trí dhuine dhéag
14.	ceathair déag	a ceathair déag	ceithre chupán déag	ceithre cinn déag	ceithre chara dhéag	ceithre dhuine dhéag
15.	cúig déag	a cúig déag	cúig chupán déag	cúig cinn déag	cúig chara dhéag	cúig dhuine dhéag
16.	sé déag	a sé déag	sé chupán déag	sé cinn déag	sé chara dhéag	sé dhuine dhéag
17.	seacht déag	a seacht déag	seacht gcupán déag	seacht gcinn déag	seacht gcara dhéag	seacht nduine dhéag
18.	ocht déag	a hocht déag	ocht gcupán déag	ocht gcinn déag	ocht gcara dhéag	ocht nduine dhéag
19.	naoi déag	a naoi déag	naoi gcupán déag	naoi gcinn déag	naoi gcara dhéag	naoi nduine dhéag
20.	fiche	a fiche	fiche cupán	fiche ceann	fiche cara	fiche duine
21.	fiche a haon	a fiche a haon	cupán is fiche	ceann is fiche	cara is fiche	duine is fiche
22.	fiche a dó	a fiche a dó	dhá chupán is fiche	dhá cheann is fiche	dhá chara is fiche	dhá dhuine is fiche
23.	fiche a trí	a fiche a trí	trí chupán is fiche	trí cinn is fiche	trí chara is fiche	trí dhuine is fiche
24.	fiche a ceathair	a fiche a ceathair	ceithre chupán is fiche	ceithre cinn is fiche	ceithre chara is fiche	ceithre dhuine is fiche
25.	fiche a cúig	a fiche a cúig	cúig chupán is fiche	cúig cinn is fiche	cúig chara is fiche	cúig dhuine is fiche
30.	tríocha	a tríocha	tríocha cupán	tríocha ceann	tríocha cara	tríocha duine
31.	tríocha a haon	a tríocha a haon	cupán is tríocha	ceann is tríocha	cara is tríocha	duine is tríocha
40.	daichead	a daichead	daichead cupán	daichead ceann	daichead cara	daichead duine
50.	caoga	a caoga	caoga cupán	caoga ceann	caoga cara	caoga duine
60.	seasca	a seasca	seasca cupán	seasca ceann	seasca cara	seasca duine
70.	seachtó	a seachtó	seachtó cupán	seachtó ceann	seachtó cara	seachtó duine
80.	ochtó	a hochtó	ochtó cupán	ochtó ceann	ochtó cara	ochtó duine
90.	nócha	a nócha	nócha cupán	nócha ceann	nócha cara	nócha duine
100.	céad	a céad	céad cupán	céad ceann	céad cara	céad duine

There are several ways to say “none” in Irish.		
31.	Níl ceann uaim.	I don’t want one.
32.	Níl ceann ar bith uaim.	I don’t want one at all.
33.	Níl rud ar bith uaim.	I don’t want anything.
34.	Níl aon rud uaim.	I don’t want anything.
35.	Níl aon rud ar bith uaim.	I don’t want anything at all.
36.	Níl tada uaim.	I don’t want anything.
37.	Níl dada uaim.	I don’t want anything.
38.	Níl faic uaim.	I don’t want anything.
To make the equivalent of “only” in English, you use the negative of the verb with <u>ach</u> (“but”).		
39.	Níl ach ceann amháin uaim.	I only want one.
40.	Níl ach aon cheann amháin uaim.	I only want one.

### **Comhrá 1**

A: An bhfuil páistí agat?

B: Tá. Tá beirt mhac agus iníon amháin agam.

A: Tá triúr iníonacha agamsa.

B: An bhfuil cat agat?

A: Níl. Ach tá trí mhadra agam.

B: Tá dhá chat agamsa.

### **Comhrá 2**

A: Cad atá uait inniu?

B: Níl uaim ach brioscaí agus bainne.

A: Cé mhéad briosca atá uait?

B: Trí cinn. Dhá cheann domsa agus ceann do Shéamaisín.

### **Comhrá 3**

A: Nach raibh Úna anseo ar maidin?

B: Bhí.

A: Cad a bhí uaithi?

B: Bhí oráistí uaithi.

A: Nach bhfuil oráistí aici sa bhaile?

B: Níl. Ní raibh ach dhá cheann uaithi.

A: An bhfuil sí tinn?

B: Níl. Ach tá slaghdán ar a mac.

### **Conversation 1**

Do you have [any] kids?

Yes. I have two sons and a daughter.

I have three daughters.

Do you have a cat?

No. But I have three dogs.

I have two cats.

### **Conversation 2**

What do you need today?

I only want cookies and milk.

How many cookies do you want?

Three. Two for me

and one for Jimmy.

### **Conversation 3**

Wasn't Una here in the morning?

Yes.

What did she want?

She needed oranges.

Doesn't she have oranges at home?

No. She only wanted two.

Is she ill?

No. But her son has a cold.

# Ceacht a Trí Lesson Three

# An Briathar “Tá” – Cuid 2 The Verb “Tá” – Part 2

# Leathanach 4 Page 4

## Foclóir Gaeilge-Béarla Ó Dónaill

**tá** : BÍ.  
**tabard**, *m. (gs. & npl. -aird, gpl. ~)*. Tabard.  
**tabhach** = TOBHACH.  
**tábhacht**, *f. (gs. ~a)*. 1. Importance; significance, substance. **Ba mhór an ~ punt an uair sin**, a pound was really worth something at that time. **Tá ~ lena chuid cainte**, his words carry weight. **Focal gan ~**, a word of no consequence. **Is beag an ~ é**, it is no great matter, of no importance. 2. Industry, thrift. **Bean a bhfuil ~ inti**, a woman who is well able to manage.  
**tábhachtach**, *ai. 1. (a)* Important. **Ceisteanna, imeachtaí, ~a**, important questions, events. **Is ~ an obair í**, it is very important work. **Is é an rud is tábhachtaí é**, it is the thing that matters most. *(b)* Substantial, consequential. **Feirmeoir ~**, substantial farmer. **Duine ~ i bpobal**, a person of consequence in a community. 2. Industrious, thrifty. **Tá sé ~ i mbun a ghnó**, he manages his business economically. (*Var. tábhachtmhar*)  
**tabhaigh**, *v.t. (vn. -bhú m, gs. -ithe)*. 1. Earn, deserve. **Thabhaigh sé airgead mór**, he earned a lot of money. **Thabhaigh sé clú dó féin**, he gained a reputation for himself. **Thabhaigh tú an t-achasán sin**, you deserved that reproach. **Tá sé tabhaithe agat**, it is coming to you. *Cad é a thabhaigh an onóir seo dom?* To what do I owe this honour? 2 = TOIBHGH.  
**tabhail** = TOGHAIL.<sup>2</sup>  
**tabhaill**<sup>1</sup>. 1. *gs. of* TABHALL<sup>1</sup>. 2. *f =* TABHALL<sup>1</sup>.  
**tabhaill**<sup>2</sup>: TABHALL<sup>2</sup>.  
**tábhail**, *f =* TABHALL<sup>2</sup>.  
**tabhailleadan** = TAIBHLÉADAN.  
**tabhair**, *v.t. & i. (pres. tugann, p. thug, fut. tabharfaidh, vn. ~t, pp. tugtha)*. 1. Give. *(a)* Grant, bestow, confer, provide, contribute. **Rud a thabhairt in aisce, go fonnmhar, le gean ar dhuine**, to give sth. gratis, willingly, out of affection for s.o. **Féirín, sintiús, cuimhneachán, a thabhairt**, to give a keepsake, a subscription, a token of remembrance. **Thug sé suim mhaith airgid**, he gave a good sum of money. **Cuidiú, tacaíocht, misneach, a thabhairt**, to give help, backing, encouragement. **Má thugtar cead dul ar aghaidh leis an obair**, if permission is given to proceed with the work. **Post, tuarastal, pinsean, a thabhairt**, to give a job, a salary, a pension. **Ní thugann siad ach coicís saoire sa bhliain**, they only give a fortnight's holidays in the year. **Seilbh, teideal, a thabhairt**, to give possession, a title. **Thug sé an garraí beag isteach leis an teach**, he gave the little garden in addition to the house. **Cairde, faill íocaíochta, a thabhairt**, to give credit, time to pay. **Thug sé punt de lacáiste**, he gave a pound rebate. **Céim, onóir, a thabhairt**, to give a degree, an honour. **Ná ~ ómós ach mar a**

Ó Dónaill's Irish-English dictionary is a must have if you plan to read anything but the simplest works in Irish. The contents are a little dated, but the vocabulary is otherwise very complete. Each entry includes forms for genitives and plurals (when not obvious) as well as any irregular forms of words. Entries are extensive, giving numerous uses of the words, often with full phrases or entire sentences used as examples. Alternate spellings (e.g. dialectical variants) are referenced at the bottom of entries, and alternate spellings often are shown as their own entries with references to the standard form of the word.

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## Numbers

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

\_\_\_ fiche  
\_\_\_ beirt  
\_\_\_ dhá cheann  
\_\_\_ seisear cailíní  
\_\_\_ bliain is fiche  
\_\_\_ triúr cairde  
\_\_\_ ocht gcupán  
\_\_\_ deichniúr páistí  
\_\_\_ trí cinn déag  
\_\_\_ ocht ngloine  
\_\_\_ trí chat is fiche  
\_\_\_ cat amháin  
\_\_\_ ceithre chupán  
\_\_\_ cat ar bith  
\_\_\_ trí chat

a. eight glasses  
b. ten children  
c. two [people]  
d. twenty three cats  
e. twenty one years  
f. four cups  
g. one cat  
h. twenty  
i. three cats  
j. no cat  
k. eight cups  
l. two [things]  
m. thirteen [things]  
n. six girls  
o. three friends