

Ceacht a Ceathair

Lesson Four

An Chopail “is”

The Copula “is”

Leathanach 1

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The Irish copula **is** says who or what someone or something is, as opposed to **tá** which describes where they are or what they are like.

1.	Cé thusa?	Who are you?
2.	Is mise Máire.	I'm Mary.
3.	An tusa Máire?	Are you Mary?
4.	Nach tusa Máire?	Aren't you Mary?
5.	Is mé.	Yes [it is I].
6.	Ní mé.	No [it is not I].
7.	Ní mise Máire.	I am not Mary.

Emphatic pronouns ending in **-se**, **-sa**, **-sean**, **-san**, or **-ne** are often used when saying who someone is. The variants **-se / -sa**, **-sean / -san** and **-ne / -na** depend on whether the preceding consonant is broad or slender.

8.	Is mise Máire.	I am Mary.
9.	Is tusa Máire.	You are Mary.
10.	Is eisean Seán.	He is Mary.
11.	Is ise Máire.	She is Mary.
12.	Is sinne Máire agus Seán.	We are Mary and John.
13.	Is muidne Máire agus Seán.	We are Mary and John.
14.	Is sibhse Máire agus Seán.	Ye are Mary and John.
15.	Is iadsan Máire agus Seán.	They are Mary and John.

You can ask or tell someone's name using the copula **is** with the preposition **do** or one of the prepositional pronouns made from **do**. The preposition **do** aspirates the following word. The combination of **do** and **an** forms **don**, which also aspirates the following word, except when it begins with **t** or **d**. **don** adds a **t** in front of words starting with an **s**.

16.	Seán is ainm dom .	My name is John.
17.	Cad is ainm duit ?	What's your name?
18.	Cad is ainm dó ?	What's his name?
19.	Cad is ainm di ?	What's her name?
20.	Seán agus Máire is ainm dúinn .	John and Mary are our names.
21.	Cad is ainm daoibh ?	What are your names?
22.	Cad is ainm dóibh ?	What are their names?
23.	Cad is ainm do do chara?	What's your friend's name?
24.	Cad is ainm don chócaire?	What's the cook's name?
25.	Cad is ainm don dochtúir?	What's the doctor's name?
26.	Cad is ainm don tsaighdiúir?	What's the soldier's name?

An alternate way to ask someone's name is to ask what name is on them, using a form of **tá** with the preposition **ar**. The preposition **ar** aspirates the following word. The combination of **ar** and **an** eclipses the following word, except when it begins with **t**, **d** or **s**.

27.	Cén t-ainm atá orm ?	What's my name?
28.	Cén t-ainm atá ort ?	What's your name?
29.	Cén t-ainm atá air ?	What's his name?
30.	Cén t-ainm atá uirthi ?	What's her name?
31.	Cén t-ainm atá orainn ?	What are our names?
32.	Cén t-ainm atá oraibh ?	What are your names?
33.	Cén t-ainm atá orthu ?	What are their names?
34.	Cén t-ainm atá ar do chara?	What's your friend's name?
35.	Cén t-ainm atá ar an gcócaire?	What's the cook's name?
36.	Cén t-ainm atá ar an dochtúir?	What's the doctor's name?
37.	Cén t-ainm atá ar an saighdiúir?	What's the soldier's name?

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The words **seo** (this) and **sin** (that) follow the pronouns **é**, **í** and **iad** to refer to a specific person or people. You can start a sentence with **Seo é**, **Seo í** or **Seo iad** to introduce someone.

38.	Cé hé sin?	Who is that [man]?
39.	Cé hí sin?	Who is that [woman]?
40.	Cé hiad sin?	Who are they?
41.	Is é seo Seán. / Sé seo Seán.	This is John.
42.	Is í seo Máire. / Sí seo Máire.	This is Mary.
43.	Is iad seo Seán agus Máire. / Siad seo Seán agus Máire.	These are John and Mary.
44.	Seo é Seán.	This is John.
45.	Seo í Máire.	This is Mary.
46.	Seo iad Máire agus Seán.	These are Mary and John.
47.	An é sin Seán?	Is that John?
48.	An í sin Máire?	Is that Mary?
49.	An iad sin Seán agus Máire?	Are those John and Mary?
50.	Is é. / 'Sé. / Sé.	Yes [it is him].
51.	Is í. / 'Sí. / Sí.	Yes [it is her].
52.	Is iad. / 'Siad. / Siad.	Yes [it is them].
53.	Ní hé.	No [it isn't him].
54.	Ní hí.	No [it isn't her].
55.	Ní hiad.	No [it isn't them].

The possessive pronouns **mo**, **do**, **a**, **ár**, **bhur** and **a** are used to indicate possession or relationship. It is important to pay attention to what happens to the following word after the possessive pronouns.

56.	mo chara	my friend	m' athair	my father	m' fhioclóir	my dentist
57.	do chara	your friend	d' athair	your father	d' fhioclóir	your dentist
58.	a chara	his friend	a athair	his father	a fhioclóir	his dentist
59.	a cara	her friend	a hathair	her father	a fhioclóir	her dentist
60.	ár gcarara	our friend	ár n -athair	our father	ár bh fhioclóir	our dentist
61.	bhur gcarara	your friend	bhur n -athair	your father	bhur bh fhioclóir	your dentist
62.	a gcarara	their friend	a n -athair	their father	a bh fhioclóir	their dentist

You can use the emphatic endings on other words to stress one possessor as opposed to another. You will sometimes see a dash between the word and the emphatic ending (e.g. **mo chara-sa**).

63.	mo charasa	my friend	m' athairse	my father
64.	do charasa	your friend	d' athairse	your father
65.	a charasan	his friend	a athairsean	his father
66.	a carasa	her friend	a hathairse	her father
67.	ár gcarana	our friend	ár n -athairne	our father
68.	bhur gcarasa	your friend	bhur n -athairse	your father
69.	a gcarasan	their friend	a n -athairsean	their father

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Below are several useful kinship terms in Irish.

70.	athair	father	máthair	mother
71.	seanathair	grandfather	seanmháthair	grandmother
72.	daideo	grandpa	mamó	grandma
73.	mac / mic	son / sons	iníon / iníonacha	daughter / daughters
74.	garmhac / garmhic	grandson(s)	gariníon / gariníonacha	granddaughter(s)
75.	deartháir / deartháireacha	brother / brothers	deirfiúr / deirfiúracha	sister / sisters
76.	fear céile	husband	bean chéile	wife
77.	uncail	uncle	aintín	aunt
78.	col ceathrair	cousin	col seisir	second cousin
79.	tuismitheoirí	parents	gaolta	relatives
80.	páiste / páistí	child / children	leanbh / leanaí	baby / babies
81.	muintir	people / family	clann	children / family

The copula **is** is used to tell about someone's general occupation.

82.	Cén post atá agat?	What job [post] do you have?
83.	Cén jab atá agat?	What job [job] do you have?
84.	Cén tslí bheatha atá agat?	What job [way of life] do you have?
85.	Is múinteoir mé.	I'm a teacher.
86.	Ní múinteoir mé.	I'm not a teacher.
87.	An múinteoir thú?	Are you a teacher?
88.	Is ea. / 'Sea. / Sea.	Yes [it is so].
89.	Ní hea.	No [it is not so].
90.	An múinteoir é?	Is he a teacher?
91.	An múinteoir í?	Is she a teacher?
92.	An múinteoir é Seán?	Is John a teacher?
93.	An múinteoir í Máire?	Is Mary a teacher?

When asking about specific people (e.g. “the teacher” instead of “a teacher”), a different set of constructions with **is** are used than for general occupations.

94.	An tú an múinteoir?	Are you the teacher?
95.	Is mé.	Yes [is I].
96.	Ní mé.	No [is not I].
97.	An é an múinteoir?	Is he the teacher?
98.	Is é.	Yes [is him].
99.	Ní hé.	No [is not him].
100.	An í an múinteoir?	Is she the teacher?
101.	Is í.	Yes [is her].
102.	Ní hí.	No [is not her].
103.	An iad na múinteoirí?	Are they the teachers?
104.	Is iad.	Yes [is them].
105.	Ní hiad.	No [is not them].
106.	An é Seán an múinteoir?	Is John the teacher?
107.	An í Máire an múinteoir?	Is Mary the teacher?
108.	An iad Seán agus Máire na múinteoirí?	Are John and Mary the teachers?
109.	Is é Seán an múinteoir.	John is the teacher.
110.	Is í Máire an múinteoir.	Mary is the teacher.
111.	Is iad Seán agus Máire na múinteoirí.	John and Mary are the teachers.

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Comhrá 1

M: Dia duit.

S: Dia is Muire duit.

M: Is mise Máire. Cé thusa?

S: Is mise Seán.

M: An múinteoir thú?

S: Ní hea. Is dálta mé.

Comhrá 2

M: Dia duit a Sheáin.

S: Dia is Muire duit a Mháire.

M: Cé hé sin?

S: Is é m’athair é.

M: An í sin do mháthair?

S: Ní hí. Is í m’aintín í.

Comhrá 3

M: An bhfuil deartháireacha agat?

S: Tá. Tá triúr agam.

M: An bhfuil deirfiúracha agat?

S: Tá. Tá deirfiúr amháin agam.

M: Cad is ainm do do dheirfiúr?

S: Áine is ainm di.

Comhrá 4

M: Cé hé sin?

S: Is é mo dheartháir, Pádraig.

M: An í sin a bhean chéile?

S: Is í. Catraoine is ainm di.

M: An é sin a gcat?

S: Ní hea. Is é mo chatsa é.

M: An bhfuil madra agat freisin?

S: Níl. Níl ach cat agam.

Conversation 1

Hello.

Hello.

I’m Mary. Who are you?

I’m John.

Are you a teacher?

No. I’m a student.

Conversation 2

Hi John.

Hi Mary.

Who is that?

He’s my father.

Is that your mother?

No. She’s my aunt.

Conversation 3

Do you have any brothers?

Yes. I have three.

Do you have any sisters?

Yes. I have one sister.

What’s your sister’s name.

Her name is Anne.

Conversation 4

Who is that?

He’s my brother, Patrick.

Is that his wife?

Yes. Her name is Katherine.

Is that their cat?

No. It’s **my** cat.

Do you also have a dog?

No. I only have a cat.

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give¹, *s.* Tabhairt *f*, géilleadh *m*, dus *m* (adhmaid, etc.).

give². *I. v.tr.* Tugaim (*fut.*, tabharfad; *v.n.* tabhairt). **1.** (a) To give sth. to s.o., to give s.o. sth., rud a thabhairt do dhuine. *It was given to me, tugadh dom (mar bhronntanas) é, bronnadh orm é. To give alms, déirc a thabhairt. Given a leader they will act, ach ceann a bheith orthu déanfaidh siad rud éigin. God give me courage! go dtuga Dia misneach dom! It is not given to all to be rich, ní dlitear do chách a bheith saibhir. F: Give me the good old days! beannacht Dé leis an seansaol. (b) To give and take, ligean chugat is uait. They knew how to give and take, bhí ciall ranna acu. 2. (a) To give s.o. sth. to eat, to drink, rud a thabhairt le n-ithe, le n-ól, do dhuine. To give a child a name, ainm a thabhairt ar pháiste. To give s.o. six months' imprisonment, sé mhí príosúin a ghearradh ar dhuine. To give s.o. a job, (i) post a thabhairt do dhuine; (ii) rud a thabhairt le déanamh do dhuine. F: It will give me all I can do to finish it, cuirfidh sé go dtí m'aonbheart mé é a chríochnú. (b) To give sth. into s.o.'s hands, rud a thabhairt isteach ina lámha do dhuine. (c) Give my compliments to the minister, beir mo dhea-mhéin chuig an aire. Give him my love, beir mo bheannacht chuige. (d) Cuirim (m'fhocal, etc.) i ngeall. I give my word, tugaim m'fhocal (*that, ar*). **3.** To give a good price for sth., praghas maith a thabhairt, a ioc, ar rud. What did you give for it? cé mhéad a thugais air? **4.** He gave his life to God, thug sé, thoirbhir sé, thíolaic sé, a bheatha do Dhia. He*

English-Irish Dictionary

Tomás De Bhaldraithe

De Bhaldraithe's dictionary is the largest English-Irish dictionary, so it is a useful reference when trying to write something in Irish. Unfortunately, the dictionary dates from 1959, so it is missing a great deal of modern vocabulary. Another problem I've noticed is that it is often difficult to tell which word given by De Bhaldraithe is the appropriate one to use for a particular occasion. I've personally found it very helpful to check anything I find in De Bhaldraithe with O'Dónaill's to make sure the usage given in De Bhaldraithe is the one I'm looking for.

ISBN: 1-85791-036-2

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Published: 1959

Family Relationships

Fill in the blanks with the Irish term for each family relationship.
The symbol ♀ represents a woman and the symbol ♂ represents a man.

