

You can say what you like or don't like using the copula **is** in the present tense together with an appropriate adjective (e.g. **maith** – ‘good’) and the preposition **le** or one of the prepositional pronouns made from **le**. The preposition **le** prefixes an **h** to the following word if it begins with a vowel. The combination of **le** and **an** forms **leis an**, which eclipses the following word, except when it begins with **t** or **d**.

1.	Is maith <b>liom</b> sicín.	<b>I</b> like chicken.
2.	Is maith <b>leat</b> sicín.	<b>You</b> like chicken.
3.	Is maith <b>leis</b> sicín.	<b>He</b> likes chicken.
4.	Is maith <b>léi</b> sicín.	<b>She</b> likes chicken.
5.	Is maith <b>linn</b> sicín.	<b>We</b> like chicken.
6.	Is maith <b>libh</b> sicín.	<b>You</b> like chicken.
7.	Is maith <b>leo</b> sicín.	<b>They</b> like chicken.
8.	Is maith <b>le</b> Seán sicín.	John likes chicken.
9.	Is maith <b>le</b> hÁine sicín.	Anne likes chicken.
10.	Is maith <b>leis an</b> geat sicín.	The cat likes chicken.
11.	An maith leat sicín?	Do you like chicken?
12.	Nach maith leat sicín?	Don't you like chicken?
13.	Is maith.	Yes [is good].
14.	Ní maith.	No [isn't good].
15.	Ní maith liom sicín.	I don't like chicken.
16.	Is breá liom sicín.	I love chicken.
17.	Is cuma liom sicín.	I don't mind chicken.
18.	Is cuma.	It doesn't matter.
19.	Is cuma duit.	It's none of your business.
20.	Is cuma liom agam nó uaim é.	I don't care whether I have it or not.
21.	Is fuath liom sicín.	I hate chicken.
22.	Is gráin liom sicín.	I detest chicken.
23.	Cé acu is fearr leat, sicín nó iasc?	Which do you prefer, chicken or fish?
24.	Is fearr liom sicín.	I like chicken better.
25.	Is fearr liom sicín ná iasc.	I like chicken better than fish.
26.	Ní maith liom ceachtar acu.	I don't like either of them.
27.	Is breá liom iad araon.	I love them both.
28.	Is é an sicín an bia is fearr liom.	Chicken is my favorite food.
29.	Cad é an bia is fearr leat?	What's your favorite food?

You can say what you would or wouldn't like, or make an offer to someone using the conditional form of the copula **ba** together with an appropriate adjective and the preposition **le**. Notice that all forms of **ba** lenite the following adjective.

30.	Ar mhaith leat sicín?	Would you like some chicken?
31.	Nár mhaith leat sicín?	Wouldn't you like some chicken?
32.	Ba mhaith.	Yes [would be good].
33.	Níor mhaith.	No [wouldn't be good].
34.	Níor mhaith liom sicín.	I wouldn't like any chicken.
35.	Ba bhreá liom sicín.	I'd love some chicken.
36.	Cé acu ab fhearr leat, sicín nó iasc?	Which would you prefer, chicken or fish?
37.	B'fhearr liom sicín.	I'd prefer chicken.
38.	B'fhearr liom sicín ná iasc.	I'd prefer chicken to fish.

You use the copula **is** together with the preposition **le** to tell who something belongs to. You can ask who something belongs to by using the question **cé leis**. Remember that to say that you have something now (even if it isn't yours), you use the verb **tá** together with the preposition **ag**.

39.	Cé leis an leabhar seo?	Whose book is this?
40.	Is liomsa é.	It's mine.
41.	Is leatsa é.	It's yours.
42.	Is leisean é. / Is leis-sean é.	It's his.
43.	Is léise é.	It's hers.
44.	Is linne é. / Is linn-ne é.	It's ours.
45.	Is libhse é.	It's yours.
46.	Is leosan é.	It's theirs.
47.	Is le Seán é.	It's John's.
48.	Is le hÁine é.	It's Anne's.
49.	Is leis an gcailín é.	It's the girl's.
50.	Ní liomsa é.	It's not mine.
51.	An leatsa é?	Is it yours?
52.	Nach leatsa é?	Isn't it yours?
53.	Is liom.	Yes [is with me].
54.	Ní liom.	No [isn't with me].

To describe who something used to belong to, you use the past tense of the copula, **ba**, which looks exactly like the conditional. You can ask who something belonged to by using the question **cér leis**.

55.	Cér leis an leabhar seo?	Whose book was this?
56.	Ba liomsa é.	It was mine.
57.	Níor liomsa é.	It wasn't mine.
58.	Ar leatsa é?	Was it yours?
59.	Nár leatsa é?	Wasn't it yours?
60.	Ba liom.	Yes [was with me].
61.	Níor liom.	No [wasn't with me].
62.	Ba le Seán é.	It was John's.
63.	Ba le hÁine é.	It was Anne's.
64.	Ba leis an gcailín é.	It was the girl's.

**Ceacht a Cúig**  
**Lesson Five**

**An Chopail “is” – Cuid 2**  
**The Copula “is” – Part 2**

**Leathanach 3**  
**Page 3**

	The past tense forms of <b>ba</b> can be used together with the expressions we learned in the previous lesson, too.	
65.	Cad ab ainm dó?	What was his name?
66.	Seán ab ainm dó.	John was his name.
67.	Cérbh é sin?	Who was that [man]?
68.	Cérbh í sin?	Who was that [woman]?
69.	Cérbh iad sin?	Who were those [people]?
70.	Ba é sin Seán.	That was John.
71.	Ba í sin Máire.	That was Mary.
72.	Ba iad sin Seán agus Máire.	Those were John and Mary.
73.	Arbh é sin Seán?	Was that John?
74.	Arbh í sin Máire?	Was that Mary?
75.	Arbh iad sin Seán agus Máire?	Were those John and Mary?
76.	Ba é.	Yes [it was him].
77.	Ba í.	Yes [it was her].
78.	Ba iad.	Yes [it was them].
79.	Níorbh é.	No [it wasn't him].
80.	Níorbh í.	No [it wasn't her].
81.	Níorbh iad.	No [it wasn't them].
82.	Cén post a bhí agat?	What job [post] did you have?
83.	Cén jab a bhí agat?	What job [job] did you have?
84.	Cén tslí bheatha a bhí agat?	What job [way of life] did you have?
85.	Ba mhúinteoir mé.	I was a teacher.
86.	Níor mhúinteoir mé.	I was not a teacher.
87.	Ar mhúinteoir thú?	Were you a teacher?
88.	Ba ea.	Yes [it was so].
89.	Níorbh ea.	No [it was not so].
90.	Ar mhúinteoir é?	Was he a teacher?
91.	Ar mhúinteoir í?	Was she a teacher?
92.	Ar mhúinteoir é Seán?	Was John a teacher?
93.	Ar mhúinteoir í Máire?	Was Mary a teacher?
94.	Ar tú an múinteoir?	Were you the teacher?
95.	Ba mé.	Yes [was I].
96.	Níor mé.	No [was not I].
97.	Arbh é an múinteoir?	Was he the teacher?
98.	Ba é.	Yes [was him].
99.	Níorbh é.	No [was not him].
100.	Arbh í an múinteoir?	Was she the teacher?
101.	Ba í.	Yes [was her].
102.	Níorbh í.	No [was not her].
103.	Arbh iad na múinteoirí?	Were they the teachers?
104.	Ba iad.	Yes [was them].
105.	Níorbh iad.	No [was not them].
106.	Arbh é Seán an múinteoir?	Was John the teacher?
107.	Arbh í Máire an múinteoir?	Was Mary the teacher?
108.	Arbh iad Seán agus Máire na múinteoirí?	Were John and Mary the teachers?
109.	Ba é Seán an múinteoir.	John was the teacher.
110.	Ba í Máire an múinteoir.	Mary was the teacher.
111.	Ba iad Seán agus Máire na múinteoirí.	John and Mary were the teachers.

**Comhrá 1**

A: An bhfuil peann agat?

B: Tá. Seo duit.

A: An leatsa é?

B: Ní liom. Is le m’athair é.

**Comhrá 2**

A: Cérbh é sin?

B: Ba é mo dheartháir Pádraig é.

A: Arbh í a bhean chéile an bhean a bhí leis?

B: Ba í. Catraoine is ainm di.

A: Arbh é a gcatsan a bhí leo?

B: Níorbh ea. Ba é mo chatsa é.

**Comhrá 3**

A: Cérbh í an bhean a bhí leat?

B: Ba í mo chara í.

A: Cad ab ainm di?

B: Síle ab ainm di.

A: Cén post atá aici?

B: Ba mhúinteoir í,  
ach is ailtire anois í.

**Conversation 1**

Do you have a pen?

Yes. Here you are.

Is it yours?

No. It’s my father’s.

**Conversation 2**

Who was that?

He was my brother, Patrick.

Was the woman with him his wife?

Yes. Her name is Katherine.

Was that **their** cat with them?

No. It was **my** cat.

**Conversation 3**

Who was the woman with you?

It was my friend.

What was her name?

Her name was Sheila.

What’s her job?

She was a teacher,

but she’s an architect now.

<b>Sneachta</b> , le Leah Elliott, as “Duanaireacht na nÓg”.	
Is maith liom sneachta, mar tá sé go deas.	I like snow, because it’s nice.
Tá sé fuar agus tá sé fliuch.	It’s cold and it’s wet.
Tá sé bán, tá sé bog.	It’s white, it’s soft.
Ní maith liom sneachta, arsa mo Mhamáí,	I don’t like snow, said my Mommy,
mar tá do bhróga fliuch	because your shoes are wet
agus tá do hata salach.	and your hat is dirty.

<b>Madra</b> , le Doireann de Búrca, as “Duanaireacht na nÓg”.	
Tá madra beag donn agam,	I have a small brown dog,
Sammy is ainm dó.	Sammy is his name.
Bíonn sé amuigh sa ghairdín	He is outside in the garden
ag súgradh liom gach lá.	playing with me every day.
Is maith liom mo mhadra beag.	I like my little dog.
Sammy mo chara is fearr.	Sammy my best friend.



**Buntús Foclóra**  
**A Children’s Irish Picture-Dictionary**

Buntús Foclóra is a picture dictionary containing over 1000 words and pictures. It is a great book to browse through to improve your vocabulary, as the words are mostly those that you would use in everyday situations. Each pair of pages covers a different topic (home, kitchen, food, occupations, adjectives, seasons, body parts, colors, etc.) Some pages have a picture in the middle containing all the words from the topic (for a game of “I spy” with a friend, perhaps).

ISBN: 0-7171-3752-X (small format) or 0-7171-2601-3 (large format)  
Publisher: Gill & Macmillan  
Published: 1979

---

**An maith leat ...**

Scríobh amach an maith leat nó nach maith leat na rudaí a leanas.  
Write out whether you like or don’t like the following things.

Examples:

- E1 (sicín – chicken) Is maith liom sicín.  
E2. (brioscaí – cookies) – Ní maith liom brioscaí.  
E3. (toitíní – cigarettes) – Is fuath liom toitíní.

1. (uibheacha – eggs) \_\_\_\_\_.
2. (cáis – cheese) \_\_\_\_\_.
3. (beoir – beer) \_\_\_\_\_.
4. (iasc – fish) \_\_\_\_\_.
5. (seacláid – chocolate) \_\_\_\_\_.

Scríobh amach cé acu is fearr leat. Write out which you prefer.

- E1. (sicín/cáis – chicken/cheese) – Is fearr liom sicín ná cáis.  
E2. (beoir/fíon – beer/wine) – Ní maith liom beoir ná fíon.

1. (sicín/mairteoil – chicken/beef) \_\_\_\_\_.
2. (siúcra/mil – sugar/honey) \_\_\_\_\_.
3. (tae/caife – tea/coffee) \_\_\_\_\_.
4. (torthaí/glasraí – fruit/vegetables) \_\_\_\_\_.
5. (madraí/cait – dogs/cats) \_\_\_\_\_.