

# Ceacht a Deich

## Lesson Ten

# Dúirt sé / Dúirt sí

## He said / She said

# Leathanach 1

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In Irish, when you want to report back what someone said, you can quote what they said and tack on the appropriate form of **deir** (“say”, often preceded by “a”), or use the word **ar** (“said”, for **seisean, sise, or siadsan**) or **arsa** (“said”, for anyone else). The forms **ar** and **arsa** are frequently seen written in stories.

1.	“Tá ocras orm”, [a] <b>deir</b> Seán.	“I’m hungry”, says John.
2.	“Tá tart orm”, [a] <b>dúirt</b> Máire.	“I’m thirsty”, said Mary.
3.	“Tá tuirse orm”, <b>arsa</b> Tadhg.	“I’m tired”, said Tim.
4.	“Tá tuirse orm”, <b>ar</b> sise.	“I’m tired”, said she.

An alternative way to repeat what someone said is to use the appropriate form of **deir** together with **go, gur, nach** or **nár** and a modified form of the original statement. You use **go** and **nach** in the same situations that you use the question word **an**; both **go** and **nach** eclipse the following verb. You use **gur** and **nár** in the situations where you use the question word **ar**; both **gur** and **nár** lenite the following verb. You use the same form of the verb that normally follows the question words **an** and **ar**, as appropriate.

5.	“Cuireann sí ar an mbord iad”, a deir Seán.	“She puts them on the table”, says John.
6.	Deir Seán <b>go</b> cuireann sí ar an mbord iad.	John says that she puts them on the table.
7.	“Ní cuireann sí ar an mbord iad”, a deir Seán.	“She doesn’t put them on the table”, says John.
8.	Deir Seán <b>nach</b> cuireann sí ar an mbord iad.	John says she doesn’t put them on the table.
9.	“Chuir sí ar an mbord iad”, a deir Seán.	“She put them on the table”, says John.
10.	Deir Seán <b>gur</b> chuir sí ar an mbord iad.	John says that she put them on the table.
11.	“Níor chuir sí ar an mbord iad”, a deir Seán.	“She didn’t put them on the table”, says John.
12.	Deir Seán <b>nár</b> chuir sí ar an mbord iad.	John says that she didn’t put them on the table.
13.	“Tá mé tinn”, a deir Seán.	“I’m sick”, says John.
14.	Deir Seán <b>go</b> bhfuil sé tinn.	John says that he is sick.
15.	“Níl mé tinn”, a deir Seán.	“I’m not sick”, says John.
16.	Deir Seán <b>nach</b> bhfuil sé tinn.	John says that he isn’t sick.
17.	“Bhí mé tinn”, a deir Seán.	“I was sick”, says John.
18.	Deir Seán <b>go</b> raibh sé tinn.	John says that he was sick.
19.	“Ní raibh mé tinn”, a deir Seán.	“I wasn’t sick”, says John.
20.	Deir Seán <b>nach</b> raibh sé tinn.	John says that he wasn’t sick.
21.	“Ceannaím brioscaí gach lá”, a dúirt Síle.	“I buy cookies every day”, said Sheila.
22.	Dúirt Síle <b>go</b> gceannaíonn sí brioscaí gach lá.	Sheila said that she buys cookies every day.
23.	“Ní cheannaím brioscaí gach lá”, a dúirt Síle.	“I don’t buy cookies every day”, said Sheila.
24.	Dúirt Síle <b>nach</b> gceannaíonn sí brioscaí gach lá.	Sheila said that she doesn’t buy cookies every day.
25.	“Cheannaigh mé brioscaí inné”, a dúirt Síle.	“I bought cookies yesterday”, said Sheila.
26.	Dúirt Síle <b>gur</b> cheannaigh sí brioscaí inné.	Sheila said that she bought cookies yesterday.
27.	“Níor cheannaigh mé brioscaí inné”, a dúirt Síle.	“I didn’t buy cookies yesterday”, said Sheila.
28.	Dúirt Síle <b>nár</b> cheannaigh sí brioscaí inné.	Sheila said that she didn’t buy cookies yesterday.

To ask what someone said, use one of these questions.

29.	Cad [a] dúirt tú?	What did you say?
30.	Cad [a] dúirt Seán?	What did John say?
31.	Cad [a] deir Seán?	What does John say?

When answering a yes/no question, just leave off everything after the verb.

32.	An bhfuil Seán tinn?	Is John sick?
33.	Deir sé go bhfuil.	He says he is.
34.	Deir sé go bhfuil sé tinn.	He says he is sick.
35.	An raibh Seán tinn?	Was John sick?
36.	Deir sé nach raibh.	He says he wasn’t.
37.	Deir sé nach raibh sé tinn.	He says he wasn’t sick.

# Ceacht a Deich

## Lesson Ten

# Dúirt sé / Dúirt sí

## He said / She said

# Leathanach 2

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There are several other expressions in Irish that use **go**, **nach**, **gur**, and **nár** in the same way as **deir** does. Many English expressions that use the word “that” have a form of **go** in Irish.

38.	Sílim go bhfuil sí tinn.	I think that she’s sick.
39.	Ceapaim go bhfuil sí tinn.	I think that she’s sick.
40.	Feicim go bhfuil sí tinn.	I see that she’s sick.
41.	Chuala mé go bhfuil sí tinn.	I heard that she’s sick.
42.	Is dócha go bhfuil sí tinn.	She’s probably sick.
43.	Is cosúil go bhfuil sí tinn.	It seems like she’s sick.
44.	Is dóigh liom go bhfuil sí tinn.	I think that she’s sick.
45.	Ní dóigh liom go bhfuil sí tinn.	I don’t think that she’s sick.
46.	B’fhéidir go bhfuil sí tinn.	Perhaps she’s sick.
47.	Tá a fhios agam go bhfuil sí tinn.	I know that she’s sick.
48.	Tá súil agam nach bhfuil sí tinn.	I hope that she’s not sick.
49.	Tá sé soiléir go bhfuil sí tinn.	It’s clear that she’s sick.
50.	Tá sí anseo toisc go bhfuil sí tinn.	She’s here because she’s sick.
51.	Tá sí anseo cé go bhfuil sí tinn.	She’s here although she’s sick.
52.	Cén fáth go bhfuil sí tinn?	Why is she sick?

When a sentence starts with a form of the copula **is**, special forms of **go** are used. These are **gur** and **nach** to replace **is** or **ní** in the present tense (these don’t lenite or eclipse following words) and **gur** and **nár** to replace **ba** or **níor** in the past tense and conditional (these both lenite the following word). Notice that the only difference between the two **gur** words is that one lenites and the other doesn’t.

53.	“Is maith liom iasc”, a deir Seán.	“I like fish”, says John.
54.	Deir Seán <b>gur</b> maith leis iasc.	John says that he likes fish.
55.	“Ní maith liom iasc”, a deir Máire.	“I don’t like fish”, says Mary.
56.	Deir Máire <b>nach</b> maith léi iasc.	Mary says that she doesn’t like fish.
57.	“Ba mhaith liom iasc”, a deir Seán.	“I’d like some fish”, says John.
58.	Deir Seán <b>gur</b> mhaith leis iasc.	John says that he’d like some fish.
59.	“Níor mhaith liom iasc”, a deir Máire.	“I wouldn’t like any fish”, says Mary.
60.	Deir Máire <b>nár</b> mhaith léi iasc.	Mary says that she wouldn’t like any fish.
61.	“Is liomsa é”, a dúirt Seán.	“It’s mine”, said John.
62.	Dúirt Seán <b>gur</b> leisean é.	John said that it’s his.
63.	“Ní le Máire é”, a dúirt Seán.	“It’s not Mary’s”, said John.
64.	Dúirt Seán <b>nach</b> le Máire é.	John said that it isn’t Mary’s.

When the following word starts with a vowel, **gurb** and **nach** are used in the present tense and **gurbh** and **nár bh** are used in the past and conditional.

65.	“Is é m’athair é”, a deir Seán.	“He’s my father”, says John.
66.	Deir Seán <b>gurb</b> é a athair é.	John says that he’s his father.
67.	“Ní hé m’athair é”, a deir Seán.	“He’s not my father”, says John.
68.	Deir Seán <b>nach</b> é a athair é.	John says that he’s not his father.
69.	“Ba é m’athair é”, a deir Seán.	“He was my father”, says John.
70.	Deir Seán <b>gurbh</b> é a athair é.	John says that he was his father.
71.	“Níorbh é m’athair é”, a deir Seán.	“He wasn’t my father”, says John.
72.	Deir Seán <b>nár bh</b> é a athair é.	John says that he wasn’t his father.

## Ceacht a Deich Lesson Ten

## Dúirt sé / Dúirt sí He said / She said

## Leathanach 3 Page 3

### Comhrá 1

A: Deir Máire go bhfuil sí tinn.

B: Cad atá uirthi?

A: Deir sí gur tháinig an fliú uirthi.

B: Tá súil agam go mbeidh biseach uirthi go luath.

### Comhrá 2

A: Tá tuirse orm.

B: Gabh mo leithscéal. Cad dúirt tú?

A: Dúirt mé go bhfuil tuirse orm.

B: Á. Níor chuala mé ar dtús thú.

### Comhrá 3

A: Dúirt Máire liom nach ndeachaidh sí ann fós.

B: Agus cad dúirt tusa léi?

A: Dúirt mé léi go rachaidh muidne ann amárach.

B: Abair léi go bhfuil súil agam  
go dtiocfaidh sí linn.

### Comhrá 4

A: Feicim nár ól Seán an bainne.

B: Deir sé nach maith leis bainne.

A: Is dócha gurbh fhearr leis cóc.

B: Ceapaim gurb ea.

### Comhrá 5

A: Chuala mé nár tháinig Síle aréir.

B: Is dóigh liom gur fhan sí sa bhaile.

A: Tá a fhios agam nach raibh sí sa bhaile.

B: B'fhéidir go raibh sí ag obair go déanach.

### Comhrá 6

A: Cén fáth go bhfuil tú anseo innu?

B: Táim anseo toisc gur tháinig tusa.

A: Cár chuala tú go raibh mé anseo?

B: Dúirt do mháthair liom go dtiocfaidh tú inniu.

### Conversation 1

Mary says that she's sick.

What's wrong with her?

She says that she got the flu.

I hope that she's better soon.

### Conversation 2

I'm tired.

Excuse me. What did you say?

I said that I'm tired.

Ah. I didn't hear you at first.

### Conversation 3

Mary told me she didn't go there yet.

And what did you tell her?

I told her we'd go there tomorrow.

Tell her that I hope  
that she will come with us.

### Conversation 4

I see that John didn't drink the milk.

He says he doesn't like milk.

He'd probably rather have coke.

I think so.

### Conversation 5

I heard that Sheila didn't come last night.

I suppose she stayed at home.

I know she wasn't at home.

Perhaps she was working late.

### Conversation 6

Why are you here today?

I'm here because you came.

Where did you hear that I was here?

Your mother said you'll come today.



Irish Dictionary Online interface showing search options for English and Irish words and verbs.

Irish Dictionary Online

<http://www.englishirishdictionary.com>

This site has a great online Irish-English and English-Irish dictionary that gives you numerous examples of how a word is used in different contexts. You can also type in a verb and get the conjugation of that verb in the various Irish tenses.

You can get a list of other online dictionaries from the Links in the SanDiegoIrish group under Yahoo, or from one of the following sites.

<http://www.smo.uhi.ac.uk/gaeilge/focloiri>

<http://www.ceantar.org/Dicts/index.html>

Search results for the word 'tabhair' showing translation, usage, and conjugation.

Ceisteanna

Líon na bearnaí sna habairtí a leanas chun tuairisc a thabhairt ar a dúirt gach duine.  
Fill in the blanks in the following sentences to report what each person said.

1. “Cheannaigh mé teach nua inné.”

Dúirt Máire \_\_\_\_\_.

2. “Tá slaghdán orm.”

Dúirt Seán \_\_\_\_\_.

3. “Níor ith mé na brioscaí go léir.”

Dúirt Máire \_\_\_\_\_.

4. “Chonaic mé Máire san ollmhargadh.”

Dúirt Seán \_\_\_\_\_.

5. “Scríobh mé litir chuig m’athair inné.”

Dúirt Máire \_\_\_\_\_.

6. “Gheobhaidh mé gloach ó mo chara anocht.”

Dúirt Seán \_\_\_\_\_.

7. “Gheobhaidh mé gloach ó mo chara anocht.”

Dúirt Máire \_\_\_\_\_.

1. gur cheannaigh sí teach nua inné; 2. go bhfuil slaghdán air; 3. nár ith sí na brioscaí go léir; 4. go bhfaca sé Máire san ollmhargadh; 5. gur scríobh sí litir chuig a hathair inné; 6. go bhfaighidh sé gloach óna chara anocht; 7. go bhfaighidh sí gloach óna cara anocht