

Verb (*briathar*): The verb is the word that expresses the action in a sentence.

Conjugation (*réimniú*): A conjugation is the pattern for the various forms of a verb, representing the time the action happens and who performs the action. In Irish, there are two conjugation patterns.

First Conjugation (*an chéad réimniú*) / Short Verbs (*briathra gearra*): The first conjugation is used for one-syllable verbs, verbs that end in *-áil* and a few others. Many of the verbs ending in *-áil* are borrowed from English, so should be easily recognizable.

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|-----------|-------|--|---|
| cuir | put | <u>Cuir</u> an t-uisce sa chuisneoir. | <u>Put</u> the water in the fridge. |
| ól | drink | <u>D'ól</u> mé cupán caife. | I <u>drank</u> a cup of coffee. |
| péinteáil | paint | <u>Péinteálann</u> siad na ballaí gach bliain. | They <u>paint</u> the walls every year. |
| taispeáin | show | <u>Taispeánfaidh</u> mé duit é. | I <u>will show</u> it to you. |

Second Conjugation (*an dara réimniú*) / Long Verbs (*briathra fada*): The second conjugation is used for multi-syllable verbs, usually ending in *-(a)igh*, *-(a)il*, *-(a)in*, *-(a)ir*, *-is*.

| | | | |
|-----------|-------|--------------------------------------|---|
| ceannaigh | buy | <u>Cheannaigh</u> sí carr nua inniú. | She <u>bought</u> a new car today. |
| imigh | leave | <u>Imeoidh</u> siad amárach. | They <u>will leave</u> tomorrow. |
| imir | play | <u>Imrímid</u> peil gach Sathairn. | <u>We play</u> football every Saturday. |

Irregular Verbs (*briathra neamhrialta*): There are eleven irregular verbs in Irish. These verbs do not follow all the rules of the main conjugations, so their forms should be memorized. These are all fairly common verbs.

| | | | |
|---------|----------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| bí | be | <u>Tá</u> sé ar an mbord. | It <u>is</u> on the table. |
| déan | make, do | <u>Rinne</u> sí císte deas. | She <u>made</u> a nice cake. |
| téigh | go | <u>Chuaigh</u> siad abhaile. | They <u>went</u> home. |
| faigh | get | <u>Fuair</u> mé litir ó m'athair. | I <u>got</u> a letter from my father. |
| abair | say | <u>Abair</u> rud éigin. | <u>Say</u> something. |
| feic | see | <u>Chonaic</u> mé ar scoil í. | I <u>saw</u> her at school. |
| tar | come | <u>Tháinig</u> mo chara ar cuairt. | My friend <u>came</u> on a visit. |
| tabhair | give | <u>Thug</u> sé blathanna di. | He <u>gave</u> her flowers. |
| ith | eat | <u>Íosfaidh</u> mé ar maidin é. | I <u>will eat</u> it in the morning. |
| clois | hear | Ar <u>chuala</u> tú an scéal? | Did you <u>hear</u> the news? |
| beir | catch | <u>Rug</u> an leanbh ar an liathróid. | The child <u>caught</u> the ball. |

The Copula (*an chopail*): The copula, *is*, is a special type of verb used to say what something is as well as being used in many Irish expressions. It does not fall into one of the verb conjugations but has its own special forms instead.

| | | | |
|----|----|---|--------------------------------|
| is | is | <u>Is</u> mise Pádraig. | I <u>am</u> Patrick. |
| | | <u>An maith leat</u> glasraí? (is? good with-you vegetables) | <u>Do you like</u> vegetables? |

Synthetic form (*foirm tháite*) and analytic form (*foirm scartha*): In the synthetic form of the verb, the person doing the action is shown as part of the verb. In the analytic form, the person doing the action is shown as a separate word.

| | | |
|-----------|------------------------|----------------------|
| Synthetic | <u>Táim</u> sa bhaile. | I'm at home. |
| Analytic | Tá mé sa bhaile. | I <u>am</u> at home. |

Pronouns (*forainmneacha*): Pronouns are used in a sentence instead of a noun (person, place or thing). A pronoun is said to be 1st person when it refers to the person speaking, 2nd person when it refers to the person or people being spoken to, and 3rd person when it refers to someone else. A pronoun is singular when it refers to one person and plural when it refers to more than one person. The order of the pronouns shown below is important, since verb forms and other patterns are usually given in this order.

| | | | |
|------------|------------|------------|----------|
| I | mé | 1st person | singular |
| you, thou | tú | 2nd person | singular |
| he | sé | 3rd person | singular |
| she | sí | 3rd person | singular |
| we | muid, sinn | 1st person | plural |
| you, y'all | sibh | 2nd person | plural |
| they | siad | 3rd person | plural |

The free verb (*an saorbhriathar*): There is a special form of the verb called the free verb or the autonomous verb that does not show who does an action. Irish sentences with a free verb are often equivalent to saying “one does”, “you do” or “is done” in English.

| | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Itheann siad a lán cáise. | They eat a lot of cheese. |
| Itear a lán cáise sa bhFráinc. | They eat a lot of cheese in France. |
| | People eat a lot of cheese in France. |
| | A lot of cheese is eaten in France. |

Four forms of the verb: There are four forms of the verb in Irish – positive (*dearfach*), negative (*diúltach*), question (*ceisteach*) and negative question (*ceisteach diúltach*). The positive form is used when making a statement about what someone does, the negative form is used when making a statement about what someone does not do, the question form is used when asking whether someone does something and the negative question form is used when asking if someone does not do something.

| | | |
|-------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| positive | Dúnann sé an doras. | He closes the door. |
| negative | Ní dhúnann sé an doras. | He doesn't close the door. |
| question | An ndúnann sé an doras? | Does he close the door? |
| negative question | Nach ndúnann sé an doras? | Doesn't he close the door? |

Yes/No questions: Irish does not have single words for ‘yes’ and ‘no’. To reply to a yes/no question in Irish, you repeat the verb from the question, using either the positive or negative form of the verb. Answers with the copula repeat another word besides just the copula.

| | | | | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|-----------|------|------------|-----|
| Ar dhún tú an doras? | Did you close the door? | Dhún. | Yes. | Níor dhún. | No. |
| An maith leat sicín? | Do you like chicken? | Is maith. | Yes. | Ní maith. | No. |

Mood (*modh*): There are four moods in Irish that tell how a verb is being used.

| | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|---|
| indicative mood | <i>an modh táscach</i> | an action that actually happens |
| | Chuaigh mé abhaile. | I went home. |
| conditional mood | <i>an modh coinníolach</i> | an action that won't necessarily happen |
| | Ní rachainn abhaile. | I wouldn't go home. |
| imperative mood | <i>an modh ordaitheach</i> | a command |
| | Téigh abhaile. | Go home. |
| subjunctive mood | <i>an modh foshuiteach</i> | an action one wishes to happen |
| | Go dté tú slán. | May you go in safety. |

Tense (*aimsir*): Tense tells you when the action of a verb happens.

| | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| present tense | <i>aimsir láithreach</i> | an action that is currently happening |
| | Tá sí ar scoil anois. | She's at school now. |
| past tense | <i>aimsir chaite</i> | an action that happened in the past |
| | Bhí sí ar scoil inné. | She was at school yesterday. |
| future tense | <i>aimsir fháistineach</i> | an action that will happen in the future |
| | Beidh sí ar scoil amárach. | She'll be at school tomorrow. |
| present habitual tense | <i>aimsir ghnáthláithreach</i> | an action that regularly happens |
| | Bíonn sí ar scoil ag a seacht. | She's at school at seven. |
| past habitual tense | <i>aimsir ghnáthchaite</i> | an action that used to happen |
| | Bhíodh sí ar scoil ag a seacht. | She used to be at school at seven. |

Verbal Noun (*ainm briathartha*): The verbal noun is a special form of the verb that often corresponds to the infinitive (to do) or gerund (doing) in English.

| | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Ba mhaith leis é <u>a</u> ithe. | He would like <u>to eat</u> it. |
| Tá sé ag <u>ithe</u> sa bhaile. | He is <u>eating</u> at home. |

Verbal Adjective (*aidiacht bhriathartha*): The verbal adjective is a special form of the verb that is used to form the past perfect of the verb (has done).

| | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Tá an bia <u>ite</u> aige. | He has <u>eaten</u> the food. |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|

Paradigm (*tábla*): A verb paradigm shows all the different forms of the verb within a conjugation, including all the moods, tenses, persons and numbers that can be used with the verb.

Verb: cuir

Verbal Noun: cur

Verbal Adjective: curtha

| Past | |
|-------------|----------|
| chuir me | I put |
| chuir tú | you put |
| chuir sé | he put |
| chuir sí | she put |
| chuireamar | we put |
| chuir sibh | you put |
| chuir siad | they put |
| cuireadh | one put |

| Present | |
|----------------|----------|
| cuirim | I put |
| cuireann tú | you put |
| cuireann sé | he puts |
| cuireann sí | she puts |
| cuirimid | we put |
| cuireann sibh | you put |
| cuireann siad | they put |
| cuirtear | one puts |

| Future | |
|---------------|---------------|
| cuirfidh mé | I will put |
| cuirfidh tú | you will put |
| cuirfidh sé | he will put |
| cuirfidh sí | she will put |
| cuirfimid | we will put |
| cuirfidh sibh | you will put |
| cuirfidh siad | they will put |
| cuirfear | one will put |

| Conditional | |
|--------------------|----------------|
| chuirfinn | I would put |
| chuirfeá | you would put |
| chuirfeadh sé | he would put |
| chuirfeadh sí | she would put |
| chuirfimis | we would put |
| chuirfeadh sibh | you would put |
| chuirfidís | they would put |
| chuirfí | one would put |

| Past Habitual | |
|----------------------|------------------|
| chuirinn | I used to put |
| chuirteá | you used to put |
| chuireadh sé | he used to put |
| chuireadh sí | she used to put |
| chuirimis | we used to put |
| chuireach sibh | you used to put |
| chuiridís | they used to put |
| chuirtear | one used to put |

| Imperative | |
|-------------------|--------------|
| cuirim | may I put |
| cuir | put |
| cuireadh sé | let him put |
| cuireadh sí | let her put |
| cuirimis | let's put |
| cuirigí | put |
| cuiridís | let them put |
| cuirtear | let one put |

| Present Subjunctive | |
|----------------------------|--------------|
| go gcuire mé | may I put |
| go gcuire tú | may you put |
| go gcuire sé | may he put |
| go gcuire sí | may she put |
| go gcuirimid | may we put |
| go gcuire sibh | may you put |
| go gcuire siad | may they put |
| go gcuirtear | may one put |