

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.

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.
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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