

The **Past Tense** (*An Aimsir Chaite*) is used for describing events that already happened. The past tense is formed by leniting the first letter of the command form of the verb. If the verb starts with a vowel or *f*, then *d'* is placed in front of the positive form of the past tense verb.

Chuir mé an leabhar ar an mbord.
D'ól mé an bainne.

I **put** the book on the table.
I **drank** the milk.

Cheannaigh sé an carr gorm.
D'oscail sí an doras.

He **bought** the blue car.
She **opened** the door.

It is possible to use the analytic form of the verb with all persons (requiring a noun or pronoun to follow the verb), but a synthetic form is commonly used for the “we” form.

Chuireamar an leabhar ar an mbord.
D'ólamar an bainne.
Cheannaíomar an carr gorm.
D'osclaíomar an doras.

We put the book on the table.
We drank the milk.
We bought the blue car.
We opened the door.

Negative statements are made by putting *níor* in front of the verb.

Níor chuir mé an leabhar ar an mbord.
Níor ól mé an bainne.
Níor osclaíomar an doras.

I **didn't put** the book on the table.
I **didn't drink** the milk.
We didn't open the door.

A positive question is made by putting *ar* in front of the verb.

Ar chuir tú an leabhar ar an mbord?
Ar ól siad an bainne?
Ar osclaíomar an doras?

Did you put the book on the table?
Did they drink the milk?
Did we open the door?

A negative question is made by putting *nár* in front of the verb.

Nár chuir tú an leabhar ar an mbord?
Nár ól siad an bainne?
Nár osclaíomar an doras?

Didn't you put the book on the table?
Didn't they drink the milk?
Didn't we open the door?

Irish does not have specific words for “yes” or “no”. To answer a yes/no type question in the past tense, you repeat the positive or negative form of the verb without any following noun or pronoun.

Ar oscail tú an doras?
D'oscail.
Níor oscail.

Did you open the door?
Yes (opened).
No (didn't open).

Six irregular verbs (*bí, téigh, déan, feic, abair, faigh*) use *ní* for negatives and *an* and *nach* for questions.

Ní raibh mé sa bhaile.
An bhfaca tú an cat?
Nach ndeachaigh sé le Síle?

I **wasn't** at home.
Did you see the cat?
Didn't he go with Sheila?

The impersonal verb (*saorbhriathar*) is often used in the past to avoid saying who did an action.

Osclaíodh an doras ag a hocht.

The door **was opened** at eight.

Below are full past tense conjugations for a few common verbs.

cuir	put	ól	drink
chuir mé	I put	d'ól mé	I drank
chuir tú	you put	d'ól tú	you drank
chuir sé	he put	d'ól sé	he drank
chuir sí	she put	d'ól sí	she drank
chuireamar	we put	d'ólamar	we drank
chuir sibh	y'all put	d'ól sibh	y'all drank
chuir siad	they put	d'ól siad	they drank
cuireadh	one put	óladh	one drank

imigh	leave	ceannaigh	buy
d'imigh mé	I left	cheannaigh mé	I bought
d'imigh tú	you left	cheannaigh tú	you bought
d'imigh sé	he left	cheannaigh sé	he bought
d'imigh sí	she left	cheannaigh sí	she bought
d'imíomar	we left	cheannaíomar	we bought
d'imigh sibh	y'all left	cheannaigh sibh	y'all bought
d'imigh siad	they left	cheannaigh siad	they bought
imíodh	one left	ceannaíodh	one bought

imir	play	oscail	open
d'imir mé	I played	d'oscail mé	I opened
d'imir tú	you played	d'oscail tú	you opened
d'imir sé	he played	d'oscail sé	he opened
d'imir sí	she played	d'oscail sí	she opened
d'imríomar	we played	d'osclaíomar	we opened
d'imir sibh	y'all played	d'oscail sibh	y'all opened
d'imir siad	they played	d'oscail siad	they opened
imríodh	one played	osclaíodh	one opened

In Munster Irish, synthetic (combined) forms are used more than in the more northerly dialects. Also, the *do* prefix can appear in front of vowels or consonants.

ól	drink	ceannaigh	buy
dh'ólas	I drank	(do) cheannaíos	I bought
dh'ólais	you drank	(do) cheannaís	you bought
dh'ól sé	he drank	(do) cheannaigh sé	he bought
dh'ól sí	she drank	(do) cheannaigh sí	she bought
dh'ólamair	we drank	(do) cheannaíomair	we bought
dh'ólabhair	y'all drank	(do) cheannaíobhair	y'all bought
dh'óladar	they drank	(do) cheannaíodar	they bought
(do) hóladh	one drank	(do) cheannaíodh	one bought

<p>Dialann Sadie – An Luan</p> <p>Dhúisigh mé ag leathuair tar éis a hocht. Níor bhuail an clog. “Déanach arís”, arsa mise liom féin. Léim mé as an leaba. Ní raibh an t-am agam bricfeasta a ithe. D’ól mé gloine bainne agus chuir mé úll i mo phóca. Ní raibh mo mhála scoile le feiceáil in aon áit. Fuair Maim é faoin mbord sa seomra suí. Nuair a chuaigh mé go dtí an stad-bus ní raibh éinne ann. Bhí an bus imithe. Tar éis leathuair a chloig tháinig bus eile. Bhí an dara rang ag tosú nuair a shroich mé an scoil. Bhí fearg ar an Uas. (Uasal) Breathnach, an múinteoir Fraincise, nuair a chuaigh mé isteach sa rang. Bhí orm fanacht sa seomra ranga ag am lóin agus aiste a scríobh.</p>		<p>Sadie’s Diary – Monday</p> <p>I woke up at half past eight. The alarm didn’t ring. “Late again”, I said to myself. I jumped out of the bed. I didn’t have time to eat breakfast. I drank a glass of milk and I put an apple in my pocket. My backpack was not to be seen in any place. Mom found it under the table in the living room. When I went to the bus-stop there was nobody there. The bus was gone. After a half hour another bus came. The second class was starting when I reached the school. Mr. Breathnach, the French teacher, was angry when I went into the class. I had to stay in the classroom at lunch time and write an essay.</p>	
<p>dialann – diary Luan - Monday dhúisigh – woke up dúisigh – wake up! mé - I ag – at leathuair – half hour leath- – half (on front of word) tar éis – after a hocht – eight (counting, or time) ocht – eight níor – didn’t bhuail – strike buail – strike! an - the clog – clock déanach - late arís - again arsa – said (in narration) mise – I (emphatic) liom féin – to myself liom – with me, to me féin - self léim – leapt, leap! as an – out of the as – out of leaba - bed</p>	<p>ní raibh ... agam – I didn’t have ... bhí ... agam – I had ... tá ... agam – I have ... an t-am – the time am – time bricfeasta - breakfast a ithe – to eat ith – eat! d’ól – drank ól – drink! gloine - glass bainne - milk agus - and chuir – put (past) cuir – put! úll - apple i – in (before consonant) mo phóca – my pocket mo – my (lenites) póca - pocket ní raibh – wasn’t mála scoile – backpack mála – bag scoile - school le feiceáil – to be seen feiceáil – to see feic – see!</p>	<p>in aon áit – anywhere in – in (before vowel) aon – any, one áit - place fuair - found Maim - Mom é - it faoin mbord – under the table faoin – under the (eclipses) faoi – under bord - table sa – in the (lenites) seomra suí – living room seomra – room suí - sitting nuair a - when chuaigh – went téigh – go! go dtí an – to the stad-bus – bus stop éinne - anyone ann - there imithe – left (past participle) leathuair a chloig – half an hour a(n) chloig – of the clock tháinig – came tar – come! eile - other dara - second</p>	<p>rang - class ag tosú – starting tosaigh – start! shroich – reached sroich – reach! fearg - anger ar - on Uas. – Mr. Uasal - Mister múinteoir Fraincise – French teacher múinteoir – teacher Fraincise – of French Fraincis - French isteach sa rang – into the class isteach - into bhí orm fanacht – I had to wait orm – on me fanacht – to wait, waiting fan – wait! seomra ranga – classroom ranga – of class ag am lóin – at lunch time lóin - of lunch lón - lunch aiste – essay a scríobh – to write scríobh – write!</p>

Regular Verbs

1. Ar dhúisigh tú go moch inniu? Did you wake up early today?
2. Ar ól tú cupán tae ar maidin? Did you drink a cup of tea in the morning?
3. Ar imir tú cluiche aréir? Did you play a game last night?
4. Ar bhreathnaigh tú ar an teilifís inné? Did you watch television yesterday?
5. Ar léigh tú an nuachtán inniu? Did you read the newspaper today?
6. Ar léim tú as an leaba ar maidin? Did you leap out of bed in the morning?
7. Ar cheannaigh tú cupán caife inniu? Did you buy a cup of coffee today?
8. Ar oscail tú an doras? Did you open the door?
9. Ar dhún tú an doras i do dhiaidh? Did you close the door after you?
10. Ar shroich tú an pháirc ag a sé anocht? Did you reach the park at six this evening?
11. Ar scríobh tú aiste anuraidh? Did you write an essay last year?

Irregular Verbs I

12. Ar ith tú banana ar maidin? Did you eat a banana in the morning?
13. Ar tháinig tú isteach anseo go luath? Did you come in here early?
14. Ar chuala tú U2 riamh? Did you ever hear U2?

Irregular Verbs II

15. An raibh tuirse ort ar maidin? Were you tired in the morning?
16. An raibh tú in Éirinn riamh? Were you ever in Ireland?
17. An ndeachaigh tú chuig bialann inniu? Did you go to a restaurant today?
18. An bhfuair tú litir sa phost inniu? Did you get a letter in the mail today?
19. An bhfaca tú madra inniu? Did you see a dog today?
20. An ndearna tú brioscaí inniu? Did you make cookies today?