

The **Present Habitual Tense** (*An Aimsir Ghnáthláithreach*) is used for describing events that happen on a regular basis. The present tense is formed by adding *-ann* or *-eann* to short verbs and *-aíonn* or *-íonn* to long verbs (after removing *-aigh* or *-igh* from the end).

Cuireann sí an t-uisce sa chuisneoir.
Ólann siad tae le bainne.

She **puts** the water in the fridge.
They **drink** tea with milk.

Ceannaíonn sé cupán caife gach lá.
Osclaíonn sí na fuinneoga ar maidin.

He **buys** a cup of coffee every day.
She **opens** the windows in the morning.

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 “I” and “we” forms. For “I”, the ending is *-aim* or *-im* for short verbs and *-áim* or *-ím* for long verbs. For “we”, the ending is *-aimid* or *-imid* for short verbs and *-áimid* or *-ímid* for long verbs.

Cuirim an t-uisce sa chuisneoir.
Ceannaím cupán caife gach lá.

I put the water in the fridge.
I buy a cup of coffee every day.

Ólaimid tae le bainne.
Osclaím na fuinneoga ar maidin.

We drink tea with milk.
We open the windows in the morning.

Negative statements are made by putting *ní* in front of the verb and leniting the verb.

Ní chuireann siad an t-uisce sa chuisneoir.
Ní ólaim bainne.

They **don't put** the water in the fridge.
I don't drink milk.

A positive question is made by putting *an* in front of the verb and eclipsing the verb if it starts with a consonant.

An gcuireann sibh an t-uisce sa chuisneoir?
An ólann siad bainne?
An osclaíonn tú na fuinneoga ar maidin?

Do y'all put the water in the fridge?
Do they drink milk?
Do you open the windows in the morning?

A negative question is made by putting *nach* in front of the verb. After *nach* a verb starting with a consonant is eclipsed and one starting with a vowel is prefixed with *n-*.

Nach gcuireann sibh an t-uisce sa chuisneoir?
Nach n-ólann siad bainne?
Nach n-osclaíonn tú na fuinneoga ar maidin?

Don't y'all put the water in the fridge?
Don't they drink milk?
Don't you open the windows in the morning?

Irish does not have specific words for “yes” or “no”. To answer a yes/no type question in the present tense, you repeat the positive or negative form of the verb without any following noun or pronoun. For “I” and “we”, you can also use the synthetic forms as answers to a yes/no question.

An osclaíonn tú na fuinneoga ar maidin?
Osclaíonn / Osclaím.
Ní osclaíonn / Ní osclaím.

Do you open the windows in the morning?
Yes (open / I open).
No (don't open / I don't open).

The impersonal verb (*saorbhriathar*) is used in the present to describe actions that are generally done.

Osclaítear na fuinneoga ar maidin.

The windows **are opened** in the morning.

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

cuir	put	ól	drink
cuirim	I put	ólaim	I drink
cureann tú	you put	ólann tú	you drink
cureann sé	he puts	ólann sé	he drinks
cureann sí	she puts	ólann sí	she drinks
cuirimid	we put	ólaimid	we drink
cureann sibh	y'all put	ólann sibh	y'all drink
cureann siad	they put	ólann siad	they drink
cuirtear	one puts	óltar	one drinks

imigh	leave	oscail	open
imím	I leave	osclaím	I open
imíonn tú	you leave	osclaíonn tú	you open
imíonn sé	he leaves	osclaíonn sé	he opens
imíonn sí	she leaves	osclaíonn sí	she opens
imímid	we leave	osclaímid	we open
imíonn sibh	y'all leave	osclaíonn sibh	y'all open
imíonn siad	they leave	osclaíonn siad	they open
imítear	one leaves	osclaítear	one opens

The verb *bí* (be) is the only verb that has a different form for the present tense (*aimsir láithreach*) and present habitual tense (*aimsir ghnáthláithreach*).

bí (<i>láithreach</i>)	be (present)	bí (<i>ghnáthláithreach</i>)	be (present habitual)
táim	I am	bím	I do be
tá tú	you are	bíonn tú	you do be
tá sé	he is	bíonn sé	he does be
tá sí	she is	bíonn sí	she does be
táimid	we are	bímid	we do be
tá sibh	y'all are	bíonn sibh	y'all do be
tá siad	they are	bíonn siad	they do be
táthar	one is	bítear	one does be

The present tense (*tá*) is used to describe actions that are happening right now, while the present habitual (*bíonn*) is used to describe repeated actions.

Tá sé fuar anocht.
Níl an bia go maith.

It **is** cold tonight.
 The food **is not** good (now).

Bíonn sé fuar istoíche.
Ní bhíonn an bia go maith.

It is (usually) cold at night.
 The food **is not** (usually) good.

Dialann Sadie – An Satharn		Sadie’s Diary – Saturday	
<p>Is breá liom an Satharn mar ní bhíonn orm dul ar scoil. Ní éirím go dtí a deich. Tar éis an bhricfeasta téim go dtí teach cara liom, Sínead. Éistimid le ceirníní ar feadh uair a chloig nó mar sin. Má bhíonn an lá go breá téimid síos go dtí an club agus bíonn cluiche leadóige againn. De ghnáth, téim ar ais go dtí teach Shinéid tar éis an chluiche. Faighimid ceapaire ansin agus téimid beirt isteach sa chathair ar an traein. Má bhíonn an aimsir go dona téimid go dtí na pictiúir. Má bhíonn sí go breá siúlaimid timpeall ag féachaint isteach fuinneoga na siopaí. Uaireanta téimid isteach sna siopaí ceirníní nó sna siopaí éadaí. Má thagann tuirse orainn téimid isteach i gcaifé chun cupán caife a ól.</p>		<p>I love Saturday because I don’t have to go to school. I don’t get up until ten. After breakfast I go to the house of a friend of mine, Sinead. We listen to records for an hour or so. If the day is nice we go down to the club and we have a game of tennis. Usually, I go back to Sinead’s house after the game. We get a sandwich there and then the two of us go into the city on the train. If the weather is bad we go to the movies. If it’s nice we walk around looking into the windows of the shops. Sometimes we go into the record shops or the clothing shops. If we get tired we go into a cafe to drink a cup of coffee.</p>	
<p>dialann – diary Satharn - Saturday is breá liom – I love is – is breá – great liom – with me le - with mar – since ní bhíonn orm – I don’t have to ní – not bíonn – does be orm – on me ar – on dul – to go téigh – go! ar scoil – to school scoil - school éirím – I rise éirigh – rise! go dtí – until a deich – ten (number) deich - ten tar éis – after bricfeasta – breakfast téim – I go teach – house cara liom – a friend of mine cara – friend</p>	<p>éistimid – we listen éist – listen! ceirníní – records ceirnín – record ar feadh – for the space of uair – hour a chloig – of the clock clog – clock nó mar sin – or so nó – or mar – like sin – that má – if (lenites) lá – day go breá – nice téimid – we go síos – down (with motion) club – club agus – and bíonn cluiche leadóige againn – we have a game of tennis cluiche – game leadóige – of tennis leadóg – tennis againn – at us ag – at de ghnáth – usually ar ais – back</p>	<p>Shinéid – of Sinead an chluiche – of the game faighimid – we get faigh – get! ceapaire – sandwich ansin – there beirt – two (people) isteach – into sa – in the (lenites) cathair – city traein - train aimsir – weather go dona – bad na pictiúir – the movies na – the (plural) pictiúir – pictures pictiúr - picture siúlaimid – we walk siúil – walk timpeall – around ag féachaint – looking féach – look! fuinneoga – windows fuinneog - window siopaí – shops siopa - shop uaireanta – sometimes éadaí – clothes éadach – cloth</p>	<p>tagann tuirse orainn – we get tired tagann – comes tar – come! tuirse – tiredness orainn – on us i – in (eclipses) caifé – cafe chun – in order to cupán – cup caife – coffee a ól – to drink ól – drink!</p>

1. An éiríonn tú go moch ar maidin? Do you get up early in the morning?
2. An ólann tú tae? Do you drink tea?
3. An gceannaíonn tú caife ar maidin? Do you buy coffee in the morning?
4. An itheann tú bricfeasta mór? Do you eat a large breakfast?
5. An itheann tú torthaí ar maidin? Do you eat fruit in the morning?
6. An itheann tú feoil? Do you eat meat?
7. An léann tú an nuachtán? Do you read the newspaper?
8. An léann tú mórán leabhar? Do you read a lot of books?
9. An siúlann tú sa pháirc? Do you walk in the park?
10. An scríobhann tú dánta? Do you write poems?
11. An osclaíonn tú fuinneoga do chairr? Do you open your car windows?
12. An éisteann tú le ceol tíre? Do you listen to country music?
13. An éisteann tú le ceol Gaelach? Do you listen to Irish music?
14. An dtéann tú go hÉirinn go minic? Do you go to Ireland often?
15. An dtéann tú go dtí an trá go minic? Do you go to the beach often?
16. An dtagann tú go dtí an pháirc go minic? Do you come to the park often?
17. An ndéanann tú brioscaí go minic? Do you make cookies often?
18. An bhfaigheann tú litreacha sa phost? Do you get letters in the mail?
19. An mbreathnaíonn tú ar an teilifís? Do you watch television?
20. An imríonn tú spórt ar bith? Do you play any sport?