

**The Conditional Mood** (*An Modh Coinníollach*) is used for describing events that did not or may not happen. English equivalents often have the word *would* in them when the conditional mood is used in Irish. The conditional mood has mainly synthetic forms, which must be learned. Most conditional forms have an *-f* after the verb stem and are lenited if possible. Words starting with *f* or a vowel are prefixed with *d'* in the conditional.

**Chuirfinn** ar an mbord é.

**D'ólfá** é, gan aon agó.

**D'ólfadh** sé le siúcra é.

**Chuirfeadh** sí sa phost é.

**D'fhanfaimis** sa bhaile.

**D'fheicfeadh** sibh san oíche é.

**D'fhanfaidís** sa bhaile an lá ar fad.

**D'osclóinn** ar an bpointe é.

**Cheannófa** é, gan dabht.

**D'imreodh** sé peil.

**D'imreodh** sí cluiche libh.

**D'imeoimis** roimhe sin.

**D'osclódh** sibh an fhuinneog, is dócha.

**Cheannóidís** dhá cheann.

**I would put** it on the table.

**You would drink** it without a doubt.

He **would drink** it with sugar.

She **would put** it in the mail.

**We would stay** at home.

Y'all **would see** it at night.

**They would stay** at home the whole day.

**I would open** it at once.

**You would buy** it without a doubt.

He **would play** (Gaelic) football.

She **would play** a game with y'all.

**We would leave** before that.

Y'all **would** probably **open** a window.

**They would buy** two.

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

**Ní chuirfinn** ar an mbord é.

**Ní imreodh** sí cluiche libh.

**I wouldn't put** it on the table.

She **wouldn't play** a game with y'all.

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

**An gceannófa** é?

**An imreodh** sí cluiche linn?

**Would you buy** it?

**Would she play** a game with us?

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 gceannófa** é?

**Nach n-imreodh** sí cluiche linn?

**Wouldn't you buy** it?

**Wouldn't she play** a game with us?

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

**An osclófa** na fuinneoga ar maidin?

**D'osclóinn.**

**Ní osclóinn.**

**Would you open** the windows in the morning?

**Yes** (I would open).

**No** (I wouldn't open).

The impersonal verb (*saorbhriathar*) is used in the conditional to describe conditional actions without saying who would do them.

**Ní ólfaí** a leithéid de dheoch.

**One wouldn't drink** such a drink.

Following are several examples of situations where the conditional mood is used in Irish:

1. When there's an understood condition.

Cad a déarfá le duine Lá Nollag?                      What would you say to someone on Christmas day?

2. After *dá* (*if*), used for conditions that may or may not happen.

Dá mbeadh dollar agam, cheannóinn deoch.                      If I had a dollar, I would buy a drink.  
Dá gcuirfeá ar an mbord é, thitfeadh sé.                      If you were to put it on the table, it would fall.

3. After certain words: *b'fhéidir* (*perhaps*), *ar eagla go* (*for fear that*), *níl a fhios ag xxx*, (*xxx doesn't know*) *cá bhfios do xxx* (*how does xxx know*).

B'fhéidir go dtiocfadh sé.                      Perhaps he would come.  
Ní bheadh a fhios agat cad a dhéanfadh sé.                      You wouldn't know what he would do.

4. To make polite requests.

An ólfá cupán tae?                      Would you drink a cup of tea?

5. To recount a statement someone made about their future plans.

Dúirt Seán go bhfanadh sé sa bhaile.                      John said that he would stay at home.

6. Instead of the past tense to add to the surprise or effect of a story.

Cad a chloisfinn ach ceol an chláirsigh.                      What did I hear, but the sound of the harp.

7. Instead of the past habitual to describe regular occurrences in the past.

Nuair a thagadh an oíche, rachaidís a choladh.                      When night would come, they would go to sleep.

8. In metaphorical expressions.

Rith sé mar a ritheadh giorria.                      He ran like a hare [would run].

9. In rhetorical questions.

Cad a dhéanfadh mac an chait ach luch a mharú?                      What would the cat's son do but kill a mouse.

Below are full conditional conjugations for a few common verbs.

<b>cuir</b>	<b>put</b>	<b>ól</b>	<b>drink</b>
chuirfinn	I would put	d'ólfainn	I would drink
chuirfeá	you would put	d'ólfá	you would drink
chuirfeadh sé	he would put	d'ólfadh sé	he would drink
chuirfeadh sí	she would put	d'ólfadh sí	she would drink
chuirfimis	we would put	d'ólfaimis	we would drink
chuirfeadh sibh	y'all would put	d'ólfadh sibh	y'all would drink
chuirfidís	they would put	d'ólfaidís	they would drink
chuirfí	one would put	d'ólfáí	one would drink

<b>imigh</b>	<b>leave</b>	<b>ceannaigh</b>	<b>buy</b>
d'imeoinn	I would leave	cheannóinn	I would buy
d'imeofá	you would leave	cheannófá	you would buy
d'imeodh sé	he would leave	cheannódh sé	he would buy
d'imeodh sí	she would leave	cheannódh sí	she would buy
d'imeoimis	we would leave	cheannóimis	we would buy
d'imeodh sibh	y'all would leave	cheannódh sibh	y'all would buy
d'imeoidís	they would leave	cheannóidís	they would buy
d'imeofaí	one would leave	cheannófaí	one would buy

<b>imir</b>	<b>play</b>	<b>oscail</b>	<b>open</b>
d'imreoinn	I would play	d'osclóinn	I would open
d'imreofá	you would play	d'osclófá	you would open
d'imreodh sé	he would play	d'osclódh sé	he would open
d'imreodh sí	she would play	d'osclódh sí	she would open
d'imreoimis	we would play	d'osclóimis	we would open
d'imreodh sibh	y'all would play	d'osclódh sibh	y'all would open
d'imreoidís	they would play	d'osclóidís	they would open
d'imreofaí	one would play	d'osclófaí	one would open

One verb that is particularly useful to know in the conditional is the verb *to be* (*bí*), since it is used in many conditional expressions.

<b>bí</b>	<b>be</b>
bheinn	I would be
bheifeá	you would be
bheadh sé	he would be
bheadh sí	she would be
bheimis	we would be
bheadh sibh	y'all would be
bheidís	they would be
bheifí	one would be

Milliún Dollar	A Million Dollars
<p>Dá <b>dtabharfaí</b> milliún dollar dom, <b>bheadh</b> an-spraoi go deo agam.  <b>Cheannóinn</b> carr deas nua agus <b>thabharfainn</b> mo sheancharr caite do dhuine eile.  <b>Chuirfinn</b> troscán nua i mo theach agus <b>gheobhainn</b> pictiúir dheasa do na ballaí.  <b>D’ullmhóinn</b> cóisir bhreá mhór do mo mhuintir agus do mo chairde.  <b>Thabharfainn</b> bronntanais dheasa dóibh go léir agus <b>bheidís</b> an-sásta ar fad.  <b>Rachainn</b> ar turas go Páras agus <b>chaithfinn</b> coicís nó b’fhéidir mí iomlán in ostán cúig réalt.  <b>D’íosfainn</b> i mbialann galánta gach oíche agus <b>d’ólfainn</b> fíon blásta na Fraince.  <b>D’fheicfinn</b> na hiarsmalanna agus na dánlanna go léir, agus <b>rachainn</b> go háiteanna cáiliúla uile na cathrach.  <b>Thiocfainn</b> abhaile agus ní <b>dhéanfainn</b> obair a thuilleadh, ach <b>d’fhanfainn</b> sa bhaile nó <b>shiúlfainn</b> ar an trá gach lá.</p>	<p>If I <b>were given</b> a million dollars, I <b>would have</b> a great time.  <b>I would buy</b> a nice new car and <b>I would give</b> my worn-out old car to someone else.  <b>I would put</b> new furniture in my house and <b>I would get</b> nice pictures for the walls.  <b>I would prepare</b> a nice big party for my family and my friends.  <b>I would give</b> nice presents to them all and <b>they would be</b> very happy.  <b>I would go</b> on a trip to Paris and <b>I would spend</b> two weeks or maybe a whole month in a five-star hotel.  <b>I would eat</b> in an elegant restaurant every night and <b>I would drink</b> the delicious French wine.  <b>I would see</b> all the museums and galleries and <b>I would go</b> to all the famous places in the city.  <b>I would come</b> home and <b>[I] would not do</b> any more work, but <b>[I] would stay</b> at home or <b>[I would] walk</b> on the beach every day.</p>

<p>dá – if            thabharfaí – one were to give                tabhair – give!            milliún – million            dollar – dollar            dom – to me                do – to            bheadh – would be                bí – be!            an-spraoi – great fun                spraoi – fun            go deo – forever            agam – at me                ag – at            cheannóinn – I would buy                ceannaigh – buy!            carr – car            deas – nice            agus – and            thabharfainn – I would give            mo – my            seancharr – old car                sean- – old            caite – worn out            duine – person            eile – other            chuirfinn – I would put                cuir – put!            troscán – furniture            i – in            teach – house</p>	<p>gheobhainn – I would get                faigh – get!            pictiúir – pictures                pictiúr – picture            na – the (plural)            ballaí – walls                balla – wall            d’ullmhóinn – I would                prepare                ullmhaigh – prepare            cóisir – party            breá – fine            mór – big            muintir – relatives            cairde – friends                cara – friend            thabharfainn – I would give            bronntanais – gifts                bronntanas – gift            dóibh – to them            go léir – all            bheidís – they would be            an-sásta – very happy                sásta – happy            ar fad – all together            rachainn – I would go                ar – on            turas – trip                go – to            Páras – Paris            chaithfinn – I would spend                caith – spend!</p>	<p>coicís – fortnight            nó – or            b’fhéidir – perhaps                féidir – possible            mí – month            iomlán – whole            in – in            ostán – hotel            cúig – five            réalt – star            d’íosfainn – I would eat                ith – eat!            bialann – restaurant                bia – food            galánta – elegant            gach – every            oíche – night            d’ólfainn – I would drink                fíon – wine            blásta – tasty            na Fraince – of France                an Fhrainc – France            d’fheicfinn – I would see                feic – see!            iarsmalanna – museums                iarsmalann – museum                iarsma – relic            dánlanna – galleries                dánlann – gallery                dán – art            áiteanna – places                áit – place</p>	<p>cáiliúla – famous (plural)            cáiliúil – famous            cáil – fame            uile – all            na cathrach – of the city                an chathair – the city            cathair – city            thiocfainn – I would come                tar – come!            abhaile – home            ní – not            dhéanfainn – I would do                déan – do!            obair – work            a thuilleadh – any more                tuilleadh – more            ach – but            d’fhanfainn – I would stay                fan – stay!            sa bhaile – at home                sa – in the                baile – home            nó – or            shiúlfainn – I would walk                siúil – walk!            trá – beach            gach – every            lá – day</p>
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1. Dá mbeadh tuirse ort, an ólfá cupán caife?  
If you were tired, would you drink a cup of coffee?
2. Dá mbeifeá sa teach tábhairne, an ólfá pionta Guinness?  
If you were in the pub, would you drink a pint of Guinness?
3. Dá mbeadh ocras ort, an íosfá císte seacláide?  
If you were hungry, would you eat chocolate cake?
4. Dá mbeadh do rogha agat, an íosfá cáis nó feoil?  
If you had your choice, would you eat cheese or meat?
5. Dá mbeadh an t-airgead agat, an gceannófá carr ar céad míle dollar?  
If you had the money, would you buy a car for one hundred thousand dollars?
6. Dá mbeadh sé ag cur báistí, an bhfanfa sa bhaile?  
If it were raining, would you stay at home?
7. Dá mbeadh sé saor in aisce, an léifeá an nuachtán?  
If it were free, would you read the newspaper?
8. Dá mbeadh an t-am agat, an siúlfá ar an trá?  
If you had the time would you walk on the beach?
9. Dá mbeadh an t-am agat, an scríobhfá litir?  
If you had the time, would you write a letter?
10. Dá mbeadh sé te, an osclófá na fuinneoga?  
If it were hot, would you open the windows?
11. Dá mbeadh sé ag cur báistí, an osclófá fuinneog an chairr?  
If it were raining, would you open the car window?
12. Dá mbeadh an deis agat, an rachfa go hÉirinn?  
If you had the chance, would you go to Ireland?
13. Dá mbeadh an fonn ort, an ndéanfa brioscaí?  
If you had the desire, would you make cookies?
14. Dá mbeadh lá breá ann, an imreofa cluiche peile?  
If the day were nice, would you play a game of (Gaelic) football?
15. Dá mbeadh an rang thart, an imeofa abhaile?  
If the class were over, would you go home?