

**The Past Habitual Tense** (*An Aimsir Ghnáthchaite*) is used for describing events that happened on a regular basis in the past. English often uses *used to* or *would* to describe past habitual actions. The past habitual tense has mainly synthetic forms, which must be learned. These forms are similar to the forms in the conditional mood in many cases. Past habitual forms are lenited and those starting with a vowel or *f* are prefixed with *d'*.

**Chuirinn** ar an mbord é.  
**D'óltá** le siúcra é.  
**D'óladh** sé le bainne é.  
**Chuireadh** sí sa phost é.  
**D'fheicimis** san oíche é.  
**D'fhágadh** sibh sa bhaile é.  
**D'fhanaidís** sa bhaile an lá ar fad.

**I used to put** it on the table.  
**You used to drink** it with sugar.  
He **used to drink** it with milk.  
She **used to put** it in the mail.  
**We used to see** it at night.  
Y'all **used to leave** it at home.  
**They used to stay** at home the whole day.

**D'osclaínn** an siopa go luath.  
**Cheannaíteá** ceann gach maidin.  
**D'imríodh** sé peil.  
**D'imríodh** sí corrchluiche libh.  
**D'imímis** roimhe sin.  
**D'osclaíodh** sibh an fhuinneog gach lá.  
**Cheannaidís** dhá cheann gach seachtain.

**I used to open** the shop early.  
**You used to buy** one every morning.  
He **used to play** (Gaelic) football.  
She **used to play** an occasional game with y'all.  
**We used to leave** before that.  
Y'all **used to open** the window every day.  
**They used to buy** two every week.

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

**Ní chuirinn** ar an mbord é.  
**Ní imríodh** sé peil.

**I didn't use to put** it on the table.  
He **didn't use to play** (Gaelic) football.

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

**An óltá** le siúcra é?  
**An gceannaíteá** ceann gach maidin?

**Did you use to drink** it with sugar?  
**Did you use to buy** one every 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 n-óltá** le siúcra é?  
**Nach gceannaíteá** ceann gach maidin?

**Didn't you use to drink** it with sugar?  
**Didn't you use to buy** one every morning?

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

**An óltá** le siúcra é?  
**D'ólainn.**  
**Ní ólainn.**

**Did you use to drink** it with sugar?  
**Yes** (I used to drink).  
**No** (I didn't use to drink).

The impersonal verb (*saorbhriathar*) is used in the past habitual to describe actions that were regularly done by people in general.

**Ní óltaí** a leithéid de dheoch in Éirinn.

Such a drink **was not drunk** in Ireland.

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

<b>cuir</b>	<b>put</b>	<b>ól</b>	<b>drink</b>
chuirinn	I used to put	d'ólainn	I used to drink
chuirteá	you used to put	d'óltá	you used to drink
chuireadh sé	he used to put	d'óladh sé	he used to drink
chuireadh sí	she used to put	d'óladh sí	she used to drink
chuirimis	we used to put	d'ólaimis	we used to drink
chuireadh sibh	y'all used to put	d'óladh sibh	y'all used to drink
chuiridís	they used to put	d'ólaidís	they used to drink
chuirítí	one used to put	d'óltaí	one used to drink

<b>imigh</b>	<b>leave</b>	<b>ceannaigh</b>	<b>buy</b>
d'imínn	I used to leave	cheannaínn	I used to buy
d'imíteá	you used to leave	cheannaíteá	you used to buy
d'imíodh sé	he used to leave	cheannaíodh sé	he used to buy
d'imíodh sí	she used to leave	cheannaíodh sí	she used to buy
d'imímis	we used to leave	cheannaímis	we used to buy
d'imíodh sibh	y'all used to leave	cheannaíodh sibh	y'all used to buy
d'imídís	they used to leave	cheannaídís	they used to buy
d'imítí	one used to leave	cheannaítí	one used to buy

<b>imir</b>	<b>play</b>	<b>oscail</b>	<b>open</b>
d'imrinn	I used to play	d'osclaínn	I used to open
d'imríteá	you used to play	d'osclaíteá	you used to open
d'imríodh sé	he used to play	d'osclaíodh sé	he used to open
d'imríodh sí	she used to play	d'osclaíodh sí	she used to open
d'imrímis	we used to play	d'osclaímis	we used to open
d'imríodh sibh	y'all used to play	d'osclaíodh sibh	y'all used to open
d'imrídís	they used to play	d'osclaídís	they used to open
d'imrítí	one used to play	d'osclaítí	one used to open

One verb that is particularly useful to know in the past habitual is the verb *to be* (*bí*), since it is used quite often in the past habitual.

<b>bí</b>	<b>be</b>
bhinn	I used to be
bhíteá	you used to be
bhíodh sé	he used to be
bhíodh sí	she used to be
bhímis	we used to be
bhíodh sibh	y'all used to be
bhídís	they used to be
bhítí	one used to be

**The Present Subjunctive** (*An Modh Foshuiteach Láithreach*) will mostly be seen when expressing wishes or desires. English equivalents often have the word *may* in them when the subjunctive mood is used in Irish. The subjunctive mood uses analytic forms, except for a synthetic *we* form. Verbs in the subjunctive are preceded by *go*, which eclipses the verb.

For short verbs, the subjunctive is made by adding *-a* or *-e* to the verb stem.

<b>Go dtaga</b> do ríocht.	<b>May</b> your kingdom <b>come</b> .
<b>Go n-éiste</b> Dia leat.	<b>May</b> God <b>hear</b> you (hear your prayer).

For long verbs, the subjunctive is made by adding *-aí* or *-í* to the verb stem (after removing any *-aigh* or *-igh* ending).

<b>Go mbeannaí</b> Dia duit.	<b>May</b> God <b>bless</b> you.
<b>Go méadaí</b> Dia do stór.	<b>May</b> God <b>increase</b> your wealth.

A negative wish or desire is expressed using the word *nár* followed by the subjunctive verb, which is lenited.

<b>Nár laga</b> Dia thú.	<b>May</b> God <b>not weaken</b> you.
<b>Nár fheice</b> mé arís thú.	<b>May</b> I <b>not see</b> you again.

The impersonal verb (*saorbhriathar*) is used in the subjunctive to express general wishes or desires, not pertaining to any one person in particular.

Toil Dé <b>go ndéantar</b> .	<b>May</b> God's will <b>be done</b> .
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The subjunctive used to follow certain words used to express uncertain times in the future. Nowadays, the future tense is often used in place of the subjunctive in these expressions.

Fan <b>go bhfeice</b> mé.	Wait <b>until</b> I see (let's see).
<b>Mura dtaga</b> sé go luath imeoidh mé abhaile.	<b>Unless</b> he <b>comes</b> soon, I'll go home.

Many common Irish expressions are actually in the subjunctive mood, as are many blessings and curses.

<b>Go maire</b> tú agus <b>go gcaithe</b> tú do ghúna nua.	<b>May</b> you <b>live</b> and <b>may</b> you <b>wear</b> your new dress.
<b>Go n-ithe</b> an tochas thú!	<b>May</b> the itch <b>devour</b> you!
<b>Go n-ithe</b> an cat thú	<b>May</b> the cat <b>eat</b> you, and <b>may</b> the devil <b>eat</b> the cat.
is <b>go n-ithe</b> an diabhal an cat.	
<b>Go ndéana</b> Dia trócaire air.	<b>May</b> God <b>have</b> mercy on him.
<b>Go dté</b> tú slán.	<b>May</b> you <b>go</b> safely (have a safe journey).
<b>Nár thé</b> tú ar strae choíche.	<b>May</b> you <b>not</b> ever <b>go</b> astray.
<b>Go n-éirí</b> an bóthar leat.	<b>May</b> your journey <b>succeed</b> (bon voyage).
<b>Go n-éirí</b> an bóthar fút.	<b>May</b> the road <b>rise</b> under you (swallow you up).
<b>Go raibh</b> maith agat.	<b>May</b> you <b>have</b> good (thank you).
<b>Go mbáitear</b> i bpoll portaigh thú!	<b>May</b> you <b>be drowned</b> in a bog hole!
<b>Go mbristear</b> do chosa is do chnámha.	<b>May</b> your legs and your bones <b>be broken</b> .

Below are full conjugations for a few common verbs in the present subjunctive mood.

<b>cuir</b>	<b>put</b>	<b>ól</b>	<b>drink</b>
go gcuire mé	may I put	go n-óla mé	may I drink
go gcuire tú	may you put	go n-óla tú	may you drink
go gcuire sé	may he put	go n-óla sé	may he drink
go gcuire sí	may she put	go n-óla sí	may she drink
go gcuirimid	may we put	go n-ólaimid	may we drink
go gcuire sibh	may y'all put	go n-óla sibh	may y'all drink
go gcuire siad	may they put	go n-óla siad	may they drink
go gcuirtear	may one put	go n-óltar	may one drink

<b>imigh</b>	<b>leave</b>	<b>ceannaigh</b>	<b>buy</b>
go n-imí mé	may I leave	go gceannaí mé	may I buy
go n-imí tú	may you leave	go gceannaí tú	may you buy
go n-imí sé	may he leave	go gceannaí sé	may he buy
go n-imí sí	may she leave	go gceannaí sí	may she buy
go n-imímid	may we leave	go gceannaímid	may we buy
go n-imí sibh	may y'all leave	go gceannaí sibh	may y'all buy
go n-imí siad	may they leave	go gceannaí siad	may they buy
go n-imítear	may one leave	go gceannaítear	may one buy

<b>imir</b>	<b>play</b>	<b>oscail</b>	<b>open</b>
go n-imrí mé	may I play	go n-osclaí mé	may I open
go n-imrí tú	may you play	go n-osclaí tú	may you open
go n-imrí sé	may he play	go n-osclaí sé	may he open
go n-imrí sí	may she play	go n-osclaí sí	may she open
go n-imrímid	may we play	go n-osclaímid	may we open
go n-imrí sibh	may y'all play	go n-osclaí sibh	may y'all open
go n-imrí siad	may they play	go n-osclaí siad	may they open
go n-imrítear	may one play	go n-osclaítear	may one open

One verb that is particularly useful to know in the subjunctive is the verb *to be* (*bí*), since it is used as part of many expressions of desires, wishes, blessings and curses.

<b>bí</b>	<b>be</b>
go raibh mé	may I be
go raibh tú	may you be
go raibh sé	may he be
go raibh sí	may she be
go rabhaimid	may we be
go raibh sibh	may y'all be
go raibh siad	may they be
go rabhtar	may one be

<p>Is cuimhin liom go maith an turas a rinne mé roinnt blianta ó shin go Páras na Fraince.  <b>D’fhanainn</b> i mo chodladh go déanach gach lá.  <b>D’éirínn</b> agus <b>rachainn</b> amach go caifé a bhí timpeall an chúinne ón ostán.  <b>Cheannaínn</b> brioche agus cupán caife ansin.  <b>D’ithinn</b> an brioche, <b>d’ólainn</b> an caife agus <b>léinn</b> na scéalta sa nuachtán.  Ina dhiaidh sin, <b>rachainn</b> amach arís agus <b>shiúlainn</b> sa pháirc ag breathnú ar na bláthanna, na crainn agus na dealbha.  <b>Cheannaínn</b> crepe le siúcra agus <b>d’ithinn</b> é ar an mbealach go dánlann éigin.  <b>Chaithinn</b> uair nó dó sa dánlann agus ansin <b>d’fhillinn</b> go dtí an t-ostán.  Um thráthnóna <b>roghnaínn</b> ceann de na bialanna deasa sa chathair agus <b>d’ithinn</b> mo dhinnéar.  Tár éis an dinnéir, <b>rachainn</b> amach ag damhsa i gclub éigin nó <b>d’fhillinn</b> go dtí an t-ostán agus <b>bhreannaínn</b> ar scannán ar an teilifís.</p>	<p>I remember well the trip I made a few years ago to Paris, France.  <b>I would stay</b> asleep until late every day.  <b>I would get up</b> and <b>would go</b> out to a cafe that was around the corner from the hotel.  <b>I would buy</b> a brioche and a cup of coffee there.  <b>I would eat</b> the brioche, <b>drink</b> the coffee and <b>would read</b> the stories in the newspaper.  After that, <b>I would go</b> out again and <b>would walk</b> in the park looking at the flowers, the trees and the statues.  <b>I would buy</b> a crepe with sugar and <b>would eat</b> it on the way to some gallery.  <b>I would spend</b> an hour or two in the gallery and then <b>would return</b> to the hotel.  In the evening <b>I would choose</b> one of the fine restaurants in the city and <b>would eat</b> my dinner.  After dinner, <b>I would go</b> out dancing in some club or <b>I would return</b> to the hotel and <b>would watch</b> a fim on the television.</p>
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<p>is cuimhin liom – I remember  is – is  cuimhin – remembering  liom – with me  go maith – well  maith – good  an – the  turas – trip  a – that  rinne – made  déan – make!, do!  mé – I  roinnt – a few  blianta – years  bliain – year  ó shin – ago  ó – from  sin – that  go – to  Páras – Paris  na Fraince – of (the) France  na – of the (feminine)  Fraince – of France  An Fhrainc – France  d’fhanainn – I would stay  fan – stay!  i mo chodladh – asleep  i – in  mo – my  codladh – sleeping  go déanach – (until) late  déanach – late</p>	<p>gach – every  lá – day  d’éirínn – I would rise  éirigh – rise!  agus – and  rachainn – I would go  téigh – go!  amach – out  go – to  caifé – cafe  bhí – was  bí – be!  timpeall – around  an chúinne – of the corner  an – of the (masculine)  cúinne – corner  ón – from the  ostán – hotel  cheannaínn – I would buy  ceannaigh – buy!  cupán – cup  caife – coffee  ansin – there  d’ithinn – I would eat  ith – eat!  d’ólainn – I would drink  ól – drink!  léinn – I would read  léigh – read!  na – the (plural)  scéalta – stories  scéal – story  sa – in the</p>	<p>nuachtán – newspaper  nuacht – news  nua – new  ina dhiaidh sin – after that  ina – in his  diaidh – following  sin – that  arís – again  shúlainn – I would walk  siúil – walk!  páirc – park  ag breathnú – looking  ag – at  breathnaigh – look  ar – on  bláthanna – flowers  bláth – flower  crainn – trees  crann – tree  dealbha – statues  dealbh – statue  le – with  siúcra – sugar  é – it  bealach – way  dánlann – art gallery  dán – art  éigin – some  chaithinn – I would spend  caith – spend!  uair – hour  nó – or  dó – two</p>	<p>ansin – then  d’fhillinn – I would return  fill – return!  um thráthnóna – in the afternoon  tráthnóna – afternoon  roghnaínn – I would choose  roghnaigh – choose!  rogha – choice  ceann – head, one  de – of  bialanna – restaurants  bialann – restaurant  bia – food  deasa – nice (plural)  deas – nice  cathair – city  mo – my  dinnéar – dinner  tár éis – after  dinnéir – of dinner  damhsa – dancing  club – club  go dtí an – to the  bhreannaínn – I would watch  breathnaigh – watch!  scannán – film  teilifís – television  fís - vision</p>
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