

<p><b>An tOllamh agus an Luchóg</b> le Tomás O'Toole agus Pauline Cummins</p>	
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<b>An tOllamh agus an Luchóg</b> le Tomás O'Toole agus Pauline Cummins	<b>The Professor and the Mouse</b> by Tomás O'Toole and Pauline Cummins
Fadó, fadó, bhí teach beag gleoite istigh i lár coille.	Once upon a time, there was a lovely little house in the middle of a wood.
Thart timpeall an tí bhí bláthanna áille ag fás, agus bhíodh na héin ag canadh ann ó mhaidin go hoíche.	Around the house there were beautiful flowers growing, and the birds would be singing there from morning to night.
Ba le firín cantalach an teach beag gleoite.	The lovely little house belonged to a grumpy little man.
Ollamh léannta a bhí ann ach ní raibh suim aige i nduine ar bith ná i rud ar bith ach sna rudaí nua a bhíodh á gceapadh aige.	He was a learned professor, but he wasn't interested in anyone or anything but in the new things he was inventing.
Ní bhíodh cead ag aon duine cur isteach air agus é ag obair.	Noone was allowed to bother him while he was working.
Rinne sé piollaire beag bídeach a bhí in ann an t-ocras a bhaint de dhuine chomh maith céanna le dinnéar mór blasta.	He made a tiny little pill that was able to take the hunger from a person just as well as a large tasty dinner.
Rinne sé slat iascaigh a bhí in ann breith láithreach ar an iasc san abhainn.	He made a fishing pole that was able to catch a fish right away in the river.
Ina dhiaidh sin féin ní raibh na daoine róthógtha leis na rudaí seo.	Nevertheless, people were not too taken with these things.
Go deimhin níor bhain siad sásamh ar bith astu agus ní fhéadfadh an tOllamh é sin a thuiscint.	Indeed, they didn't get any pleasure from them and the Professor could not understand that.
Ach ar ndóigh is iomaí rud nár thuig an tOllamh céanna.	But of course there are many things this Professor did not understand.

<p>an t-ollamh – the professor ollamh – professor agus – and luchóg – mouse le – with, by fadó – long ago bhí – was bí – be! teach – house beag – small gleoite – lovely istigh – inside i – in lár – middle coille – of woods coill – woods thart – around timpeall an tí – around the house timpeall – around an tí – of the house an teach – the house bláthanna – flowers bláth – flower áille – pretty (pl.) álainn – pretty ag fás – growing fás – grow! bhíodh – used to be na héin – the birds an t-éan – the bird ag canadh – singing ann – there ó – from maidin – morning go – until oíche – night ba le – belonged to ba – was is – is firín – little man fear – man cantalach – grumpy léannta – learned léann – learning a bhí ann – he was ann – in him</p>	<p>ach – but ní raibh – wasn't suim – interest aige – at him duine ar bith – anyone duine – person ar bith – at all ná – nor rud ar bith – anything rud – thing sna – in the (pl.) rudaí – things nua – new á – at their ceapadh – inventing ní bhíodh – didn't used to be cead – permission ag – at cur isteach – to bother cur – to put cuir – put! isteach – into air – on him é – he, him ag obair – working obair – work rinne – made déan – make! sé – he piollaire – pill bídeach – tiny a bhí in ann – that was able an t-ocras – the hunger a bhaint de – to remove chomh maith – as well maith – good céanna – same, just dinnéar – dinner mór – large blasta – tasty slat iascaigh – fishing pole slat – rod iascach – fishing iasc – fish</p>	<p>breith – to catch beir – catch! láithreach – immediately ar an iasc – on the fish an t-iasc – the fish san – in the abhainn – river ina dhiaidh sin féin – nevertheless ina dhiaidh sin – after that na daoine – the people róthógtha – too taken tógtha – taken tóg – take! leis na rudaí seo – with these things leis na – with the (pl.) seo – this go deimhin – indeed níor bhain ... as – didn't get siad – they sásamh – pleasure astu – from them ní fhéadfadh – couldn't é sin – that a thuiscint – to understand tuig – understand! ar ndóigh – of course is iomaí – is many nár thuig – that didn't understand céanna – same</p>
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**Grammar Note: The Genitive Case (An Tuiseal Ginideach):**

The genitive case of a noun is used when the noun is the owner of another noun. The genitive often replaces the word “of” in English. Many word pairs use the genitive case for the second word in the pair.

A proper noun (name of specific person or place) is lenited in the genitive.

teach	house	Seán	John	teach Sheán	John’s house
lár	middle	Meiriceá	America	lár Mheiriceá	middle of America

Otherwise, there is no change to the beginning of a word, but the form of the word itself may change.

lár	middle	coill	wood	lár coille	middle of a wood
gloine	glass	fíon	wine	gloine fíona	glass of wine

When a genitive expression is definite, the definite article is used before the genitive word only (i.e. the second word). The masculine definite article in the genitive is *an*, which lenites the following word. The feminine definite article in the genitive is *na*, which prefixes an *h* to a word starting with a vowel. The plural definite article in the genitive is *na*, which eclipses the following word.

an fear	the man	an post	the mail	fear an phoist	the mailman
an lár	the middle	an choill	the wood	lár na coille	the middle of the wood
an leithreas	the toilet	na fir	the men	leithreas na bhfear	the men’s restroom

There are many ways to form the genitive in Irish. Some words don’t change at all, some follow common patterns and others are more or less irregular.

No change:	tae	tea	cupán tae	cup of tea
Slenderize:	cnoc	hill	barr cnoic	top of a hill
Add <i>e</i> :	coill	wood	lár coille	middle of wood
Broaden, add <i>a</i> :	múinteoir	teacher	teach múinteora	a teacher’s house
Broaden, add <i>-ach</i> :	beoir	beer	pionta beorach	pint of beer
Change <i>-ach</i> to <i>-igh</i> :	iascach	fishing	slat iascaigh	fishing rod
Change <i>-ach</i> to <i>-í</i> :	teach	house	bean an tí	woman of the house
Irregular:	lá	day	breacadh an lae	daybreak

Many prepositions use the genitive case for their object.

timpeall	around	an teach	the house	timpeall an tí	around the house
os comhair	before	an doras	the door	os comhair an dorais	before the door

A genitive construction in Irish is often used to represent a single word or thing in English.

am	time	lón	lunch	am lóin	lunchtime
slat	rod	iascach	fishing	slat iascaigh	fishing rod
scáth	shade	grian	sun	scáth gréine	parasol
deireadh	end	seachtain	week	deireadh seachtaine	weekend

**Expressions from the reading passage:**

**fadó, fadó** (long, long ago) – this is a common introduction to stories.

**ba le** (belonged to) – to say that something belongs to someone, a form of *is* (is) is used, together with the preposition *le* (with).

An leatsa an leabhar seo?	Is this book yours?
Ní liom. Is le Seán é.	No. It's John's.
Ar leatsa an madra beag?	Was the little dog yours?
Ba liom.	Yes.
Cé leis an teach?	Whose house is it?
Cér leis an teach?	Whose house was it?

**a bhí ann** (he was) – one way in Irish to say what someone is is to say that that thing is in them.

Tá doctúir maith ann.	He's a good doctor (a good doctor is in him).
Bhí múinteoir maith inti.	She was a good teacher (a good teacher was in her).

**ní raibh suim aige i** (he wasn't interested in) – in Irish, when you're interested in something, you have interest in it.

An bhfuil suim agat sa scannán seo?	Are you interested in this movie?
An raibh suim aici ann?	Was she interested in it?

**ní ... ach** (was only) – the Irish equivalent of *only* is often a negative expression combined with *ach* (but).

Ní maith leis ach milseáin.	He only likes candy.
Ní ólaim ach uisce.	I only drink water.

**ní bhíodh cead ag** (were not allowed) – to be allowed to do something in Irish is expressed as having permission (cead) to do it.

An bhfuil cead agam dul go dtí an leithreas? Can I go to the bathroom.

**cur isteach ar** (to bother) – to bother someone is to put in on them.

Ná cuir isteach ar do dheartháir.	Don't bother your brother.
An bhfuil mé ag cur isteach ort?	Am I bothering you?

**agus é ag obair** (while he was working) – Irish often uses *agus* (and) to express actions happening at the same time. The English equivalent often has the word *while* or *when* in it.

Chonaic mé é agus é ag teacht abhaile. I saw him when he came home.

**a bhí in ann** (was able to), **ní fhéadfadh** (couldn't) – there are several ways to express ability to do something in Irish.

An bhfuil tú ábalta é a léamh?	Can you read it?
An bhfuil tú in ann é a léamh?	Can you read it?
An féidir leat é a léamh?	Can you read it?
An bhféadfadh tú é a léamh?	Could you read it?

**a bhaint de** (to take from), **níor bhain siad sásamh astu** (they didn't enjoy them) – several Irish verbs change their meaning quite a bit depending on nouns or prepositions that are used together with them.

1. Cá raibh an teach? Where was the house?
2. An raibh an teach mór? Was the house large?
3. Cad a bhí ag fás thart timpeall an tí? What was growing around the house?
4. Cad a bhíodh na héin ag déanamh? What would the birds be doing?
5. Cér leis an teach beag gleoite? Whose was the lovely little house?
6. Cén saghas duine a bhí san fhirín? What kind of person was the little man?
7. Ar dhochtúir é an firín? Was the little man a doctor?
8. An raibh suim ag an bhfirín i ndaoine eile? Was the little man interested in other people?
9. Cad a rinne an piollaire beag? What did the little pill do?
10. Cad a rinne an slat iascaigh? What did the fishing rod do?
11. Ar thaitin na rudaí seo le daoine eile? Did other people like these things?
12. An bhfuil teach agat i lár coille? Do you have a house in the middle of a wood?
13. An bhfuil cónaí ort i lár na cathrach? Do you live in the middle of the city?
14. An bhfuil bláthanna timpeall do thí féin? Are there flowers around your own house?
15. An gcloiseann tú riamh na héin ag canadh? Do you ever hear the birds singing?
16. An gcuireann na héin isteach ort agus iad ag canadh? Do the birds bother you when they sing?
17. Ar mhaith leat piollaire atá in ann an t-ocras a bhaint díot láithreach? Would you like a pill that could take away your hunger right away?
18. An itheann tú iasc? Do you eat fish?
19. An maith leat dul ag iascach? Do you like to go fishing?
20. An mbainfeá sásamh as na rudaí a cheap an tOllamh? Would you enjoy the things the Professor invented?