

10 LESSON 2 VOCABULARY

bord /bɔrd/	table
cóta /kɔtə/	coat
cupán /kʉpən/	cup
doras /dɔrəs/	door
doine /dɔinə/	person, people
gearr /gʉr/	short
gairr /gʉr/	child
lampa /lʉmpə/	lamp
míinteoir /mʉntʉɔir/	teacher
rud /rʉd/	thing
teach /tʉtʃ/	teacher
timpeall /tʉmpʉl/	accident
Brid /brʉd/	(woman's name)
Cait /kʉt/	(woman's name)
Máirin /mʉrʉn/	(man's name)
eile /ilʉ/	other, another
ársa /arsə/	older, pleased
ann /ʉn/	there (see this lesson)
anois /ʉnʉs/	now
anois /ʉnʉs/	here
ann /ʉn/	there, then
ann /ʉn/	there (see this lesson)
ann /ʉn/	any ... (at all), so ... (at all)
ach /ʉk/	but, however
ach a órad /ʉk ə ɔrəd/	either
ágn, á /ʉgn, ə/	and
ágn, á /ʉgn, ə/	too, also, indeed
ná /nə/	(neither ... nor)
tá /tə/	is
ní /nʉ/	is not
an bhfuil /ʉn bʉvil/	is (see this lesson)
nach bhfuil /nʉk bʉvil/	is not (see this lesson)
á /ʉ/	one is, people are
ní /nʉ/	one is not, people are not
á /ʉ/	is (see this lesson)
ní /nʉ/	says
tá /tə/	I
ní /nʉ/	you
tá /tə/	she, it
ní /nʉ/	we
tá /tə/	we (pl.)
ní /nʉ/	they

VOCABULARY NOTE: A second person singular pronoun, e.g. *tú*, is used when addressing one person. A second person plural pronoun, e.g. *sibh*, is used when addressing more than one person. The plural is not used to express politeness or formality.

GRAMMAR

NO INDEFINITE ARTICLE
Irish has no indefinite article. 'A man' is simply expressed by *féar*.

THE VERB TÁ (IS)

(i) Statement
Tá Cait ann. Cait is here.
Tá fear agus gearr anois. There is a man and a child here.
Tá mé anois. I am here.

(ii) Negation.
Níl Cait anois. Cait is not here.

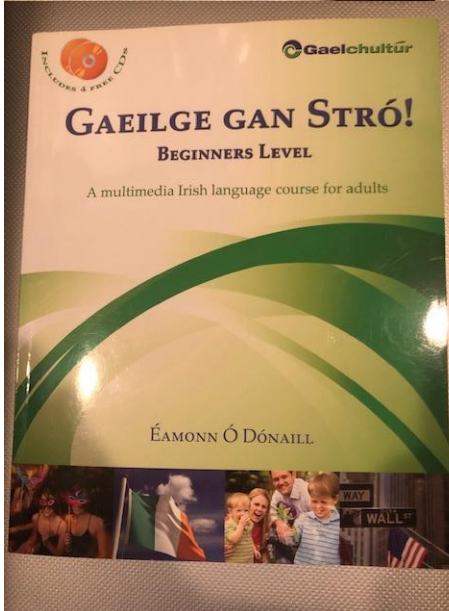
(iii) Questions
An bhfuil Cait anois? Is Cait here?
Nach bhfuil sí anois? Is she not here?

(iv) Indirect speech
Deir sé go bhfuil Cait anois. He says that Cait is here.
Deir sé nach bhfuil Cait anois. He says that Cait is not here.

(v) Summary table:

	Tá	Cait	anois.
	Níl	mé	
An	Nach	bhfuil	mise, etc.
Deir sé	go	nach	

(vi) Usage
The verb *tá* originally meant 'stands' but has come to mean 'is'. It is, however, *is* we will see, not used to link two nouns or pronouns.
When a sentence with the verb *tá* does not contain an adjective, e.g. *Tá Cait anois* 'Cait is content', or an adverb/adverbial phrase of place, e.g. *Tá Cait anois* 'Cait is here', *ann* is inserted: *Tá fear ann* 'There is a man (there)'. 'A man exists'. In the case of a noun describing an event, e.g. *timpeall* 'accident', an adverb of time is sufficient.



2.4 I and in

The simple preposition (*in*) is used in Irish before words beginning with a consonant:

Tá mé i mo chónaí i mBaile Átha Cliath.
I live in Dublin.

Note how *Baile* changes to *mBaile* when it's preceded by the simple preposition *i*. This is an example of *urú*.

An changes the way the word sounds – the new *an* suppresses the first letter of the word and only this letter is pronounced.

An is placed before the consonants *b, c, d, f, g, p* and after the simple preposition *i*:

b → mb	Béal Feirste → i mBéal Feirste
c → gc	Cantaigh → i gCantaigh
d → nd	Doire → i nDoire
f → bhf	Fear Manach → i bhFear Manach
g → ng	Gaillimh → i nGaillimh
p → bp	Port Láirge → i bPort Láirge
t → dt	Trá Lí → i dtRá Lí

Letters *h* and *gh* have a special sound, the new letter, *n*, not suppress the sound of the first letter, *g*, but continue to form a new sound. You might have difficulty with this sound initially, but you'll master it as you learn.

An is used before vowels:

An tAontainn
An tAontainn.
An tAontainn
An tAontainn.
An tAontainn
An tAontainn.
An tAontainn
An tAontainn.
An tAontainn
An tAontainn.

2.5 Nationality

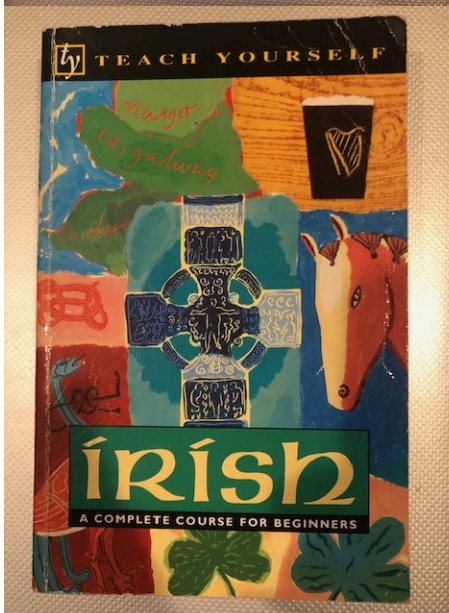
You also use *is* when saying what your nationality is:

Is Éireannach mé.
I'm Irish.
Is Meiriceánach mé.
I'm American.
Is Astrálach mé.
I'm Australian.

This is how to find out whether or not someone is of a particular nationality:

An Franchach tú?
Are you French?
An Spáinneach tú?
Are you Spanish?
An Spáinneach tú?
Are you Spanish?
An Ceannach tú?
Are you Canadian?
Is ea.
Yes.
An Gearmánach tú?
Are you German?
Ní hea.
No.

Insight
The Irish language is recognised in the Constitution of the Republic of Ireland as the national and first official language of the country. And, since the 1st of January 2007, Irish has been an official language of the European Union.
The Irish-speaking areas, the *Gaeilteachtaí* (singular: *Gaeilteach*), are mainly located on the western seaboard in Donegal, Mayo, Galway, Cork and Kerry. There are also small *Gaeilteachtaí* in County Wick and in County Meath (Rathfriland). There are thought to be between 70,000 and 80,000 native speakers of Irish, although many more people, particularly in Dublin and Belfast, use the language on a daily basis.



2 IS MÚINTEOIR MÉ I am a teacher

In this unit you will learn how to

- state your nationality and occupation
- check somebody else's nationality or occupation
- say where you work

Is ... mé (I am (a) ...)
An ... á? (Are you (a) ...?) Is ea. (Yes) Ní hea. (No.)
Cad as tú? (Where are you from?) As ... (From ...)

Here are two interviews with learners of Irish in a summer college.

Agallamh 1 (Interview 1)

Rínaid: Cad is ainm duit, le do thoil?
Aine: Aine Ní Chonailí is ainm dom.
Rínaid: Cad as tú?
Aine: An Trá Lí, ach tá mé i mo chónaí i gCorcaigh anois.
Rínaid: I gceathair Chorcaí?
Aine: Is ea.
Rínaid: Agus do shíle bheatha?

Is muinteoir mé.
Tugim. Go raibh maith agat.
Tá fáilte romhat.

Cad is ainm (ní) duit? What is your name?
Is do bhoil pleasaí? (Is your name pleasant?)
Aine Ní Chonailí is ainm dom. My name is Aine Ní Chonailí.
Cad as tú? Where are you from?
An Trá Lí. From Tralee.
Ach tá mé i mo chónaí i gCorcaigh. But I live in Cork.

anois now
i gceathair (i) Chorcaí? (in Cork City?)
Is ea. Yes (i.e. That's it!)
Agus do shíle bheatha? And your occupation (i.e. way of life)?
Is muinteoir mé. I am a teacher.
Tugim. I understand.
Go raibh maith agat. Thanks.
Tá fáilte romhat. You are welcome.

Ceisteanna
(a) Cad as Aine?
(b) An múinteoir í?

Agallamh 2 (Interview 2)

Students attending a language class in Dublin meet their new teacher. She introduces herself and asks the students who they are and where they come from.

Caitlín: Is mise Caitlín Ní Cheallaigh ... cé hé tú?
Bob: Bob Mac Mathúna is ainm dom.
Caitlín: An Meiriceánach tú?
Bob: Is ea. Is as Boston mé.
Caitlín: An bhfuil an Ghaeilge deacair, dar leat?
Bob: Níl. Tá na ranganna suimiúil, agus tá na mínteoirí go deas.
Caitlín: Go raibh maith agat.

Agus do hé tuasa? And who are you?
An Meiriceánach? Are you American?
Is ea. Yes (i.e. It's me).
An bhfuil an Ghaeilge deacair? Is Irish difficult?

dar leat in your view
Níl, it isn't!
ranganna (n) classes
suimiúil interesting
na mínteoirí the teachers
go deas nice



The genitive case: general
In English, *of* is often used to convey the relationship between two words:
a lot of work
a glass of beer
Or, in the case of possession, *'s* is used:
a day's work

In Irish, one noun is placed after the other and the second one is usually changed. This second noun is said to be in the genitive case:

chair (work) a lán oibre (a lot of work)
beoir (beer) gloine beorach (a glass of beer)
lá (day) obair lae (a day's work)

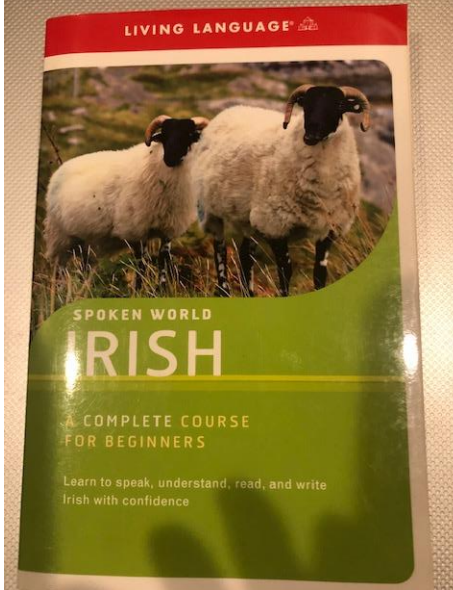
A noun is also in the genitive case when it follows:

a) a compound preposition:
an teach (the house) os comhair an tí (in front of the house)
an samhradh (the summer) i rith an tsamhraidh (during the summer)

b) the prepositions *chun*, *dála*, *timpeall*, and *trasa*:
an scéal (the story, news) dála an scéil (by the way)
an baile (the town) chun an bhaile (to the town)
an pháirc (the field) timpeall na páirce (around the field)
an spéir (the sky) trasa na spéire (across the sky)

c) verbal nouns:
an seomra (the room) glanadh an tseomra (the cleaning of the room)
an mhúinteoir (the teacher) ag cáineadh an mhúinteora (criticizing the teacher)

d) words used to express quantity:
airgeall (money) a lán airgid (a lot of money)
eolas (information) níos mó eolais (more information)
obair (work) an iomarca oibre (too much work)



LESSON 2

Mo mhuintir
My family

Family is of utmost importance for the Irish, so let's learn how to talk about it in Irish. In addition, in this lesson, you will also find out how to express ownership by using possessive adjectives and how to count from one to ten. Finally, you'll learn a little more about the importance of family life in Irish culture and about the dialects of Irish.

2A. VOCABULARY WARM-UP

of how much, how many
Sin an méid. That's all.
Cén aois thú? How old are you?

2B. DIALOGUE

Michael attends a speed dating event where he meets Amy; they talk about their families.

Michael: An bhfuil muintir mhór agat?
Amy: Níl ach deirfiúr amháin agam, sin an méid. Deborah is ainm í.
Michael: An bhfuil páiste ag do dheirfiúr?
Amy: Tá iníon amháin ag mo dheirfiúr.
Michael: Cad is ainm í?
Amy: Emily is ainm í.
Michael: Ainm deas é sin. Cén aois í?
Amy: Tá sí trí bliana d'aois. Is cailín dáinn é Agus í féin? An bhfuil muintir mhór agat?

2F. GRAMMAR

Possessive adjectives: mo (my) and do (your)

One of the ways of expressing possession in Irish is by using possessive adjectives. In the dialogue above, *mo* (my) and *do* (your) were used in *do dheirfiúr* (your sister) and *mo dheirfiúr* (my sister).

An bhfuil páiste ag do dheirfiúr?
Does your sister have a child?

Tá iníon amháin ag mo dheirfiúr.
My sister has one daughter.

When the noun begins with consonants *b*, *c*, *d*, *g*, *m*, *p*, *s*, or *t*, these possessive adjectives *mo* and *do* cause lenition: an *h* is placed after the first letter.

dearthair (brother)	mo dhearthair (my brother)	do dhearthair (your brother)
máthair (mother)	mo mháthair (my mother)	do mháthair (your mother)

When the noun begins with a vowel or an *f* sound, *mo* is contracted to *m'* and *do* is contracted to *d'*. The possessive adjectives are pronounced together with the noun that follows.

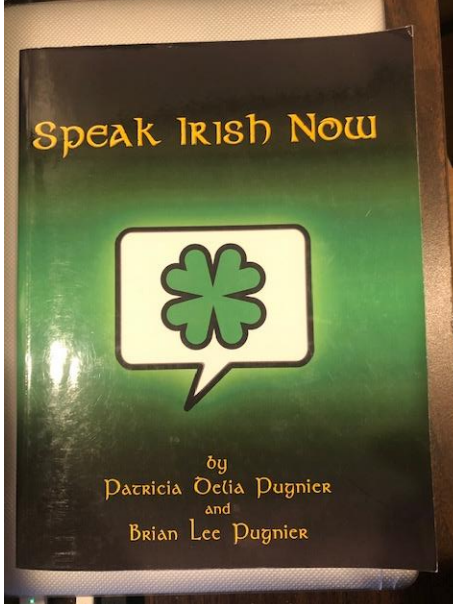
athair (father)	m'athair (my father)	d'athair (your father)
ardóg (thumb)	m'ordóg (my thumb)	d'ordóg (your thumb)
fhacail (tooth)	m'fhacail (my tooth)	d'fhacail (your tooth)

Expressing possession with the verb *bí* (to be) + preposition *ag* (at)

There is no single verb to express the meaning of the English verb *to have* in Irish. Instead, a construction that combines the verb *bí* (to be) with the preposition *ag* (at), that is *to be at*, is used to express the same meaning.

Note that the preposition *ag* fuses with the personal pronouns when they follow it, to form "possessive pronouns." For example, *ag* is followed by *mé*, the fused form is *agam* (at me).

Tá dearthair agam.
I have a brother. (lit. There is a brother at me.)



Lesson 70 – Talking About the Past

You've learned a lot of Irish! So far, we've been talking about what things are like now or what's happening now. You'll also want to talk about how something was or what someone was doing. Luckily, putting "ta" [taw] sentences into the past tense is easy.

The Past Tense of "Tá"

As we learned back in Lesson 2, a basic Irish sentence starts with a verb. Therefore, to turn a present tense sentence into a past tense sentence, all you have to do is change the first word. The past tense of "ta" [taw], "is," is "bhí" [vay].

Examples

Let's take a look at a simple sentence in the present tense, and one in the past tense to compare.

"I am cold."
Tá mé fuar.
[taw may foo-uh-er]

"I was cold."
Bhí mé fuar.
[vay may foo-uh-er]

Here are sample sentences using all of the pronouns in the past tense:

"I was cold."
Bhí mé fuar.
[vay may foo-uh-er]

"You were cold."
Bhí tú fuar.
[vay too foo-uh-er]

"He was cold."
Bhí sé fuar.
[vay shay foo-uh-er]

"She was cold."
Bhí sí fuar.
[vay shee foo-uh-er]

Vocabulary

To make your sentences more interesting, you can add words to the end of your sentence that describe when something happened.

"Yesterday"
inné
[in-ay]

"Last night"
arís
[ah-ay-er]

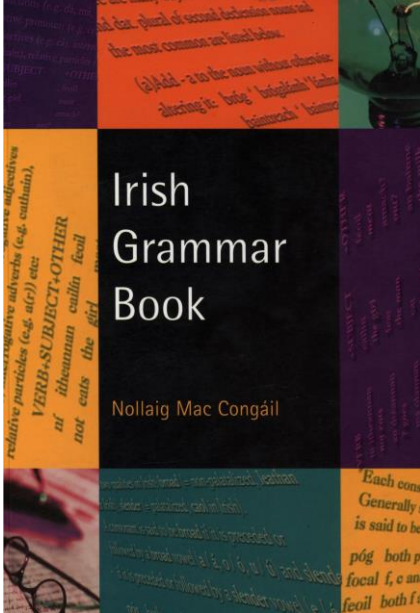
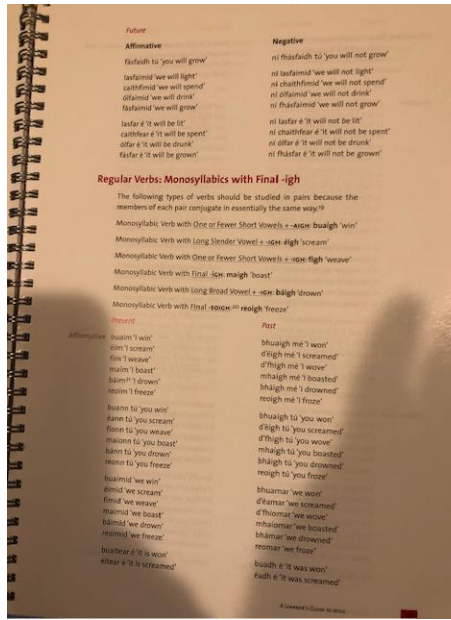
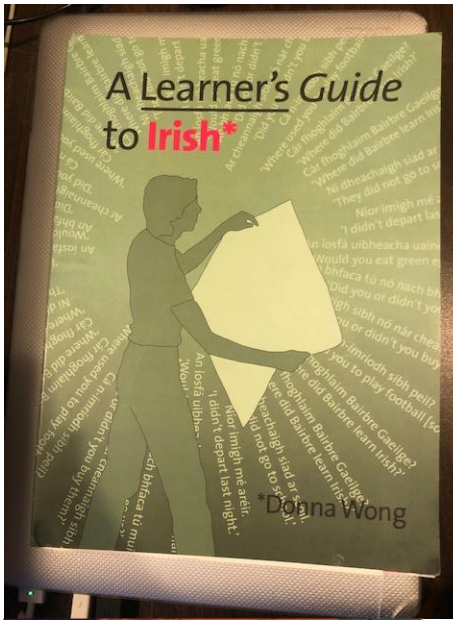
Examples

"The weather was hot yesterday."
Bhí an aimsir te inné.
[vay an aim-shayr keh-in-ay]

"I went to bed last night."
Bhí mé an aréir.
[vay may an keh-em uh-ray]

"She was reading yesterday."
Bhí Patricia ag léamh inné.
[vay kree-shay-ahk goom ehg lay-uv in-ay]

"The floor was dirty last night."
Bhí an fóir salach arís.
[vay an foo-lay-er sah-ahk uh-ray]



Eclipsis affects the following consonants only:

b	→	mb
c	→	gc
d	→	nd
f	→	bhf
g	→	ng
p	→	bp
t	→	dt

The remaining consonants cannot be eclipsed.

Eclipsis affects all vowels in the same way:

a	→	n-a
e	→	n-e
i	→	n-i
o	→	n-o
u	→	n-u

t before VOWELS and s

t (with hyphen except when following vowel is a capital letter) can be prefixed to initial vowels or s (without hyphen):

t-a	tA
t-e	tE
t-i	tI
t-o	tO
t-u	tU
ts	

h before VOWELS

h can be prefixed to initial vowels only:

ha
he
ho
hu

During the course of this work frequent reference will be made to these initial mutations and what causes them.

The Past Tense

FIRST CONJUGATION - CATEGORY 1 (A)

	Broad	Slender
1 sg.	mhol mé	chuir mé
2 sg.	mhol tú	chuir tú
3 sg.	mhol sé, sí	chuir sé, sí
1 pl.	mholamar	chuireamar
2 pl.	mhol sibh	chuir sibh
3 pl.	mhol siad	chuir siad
Passive	moladh	cuireadh

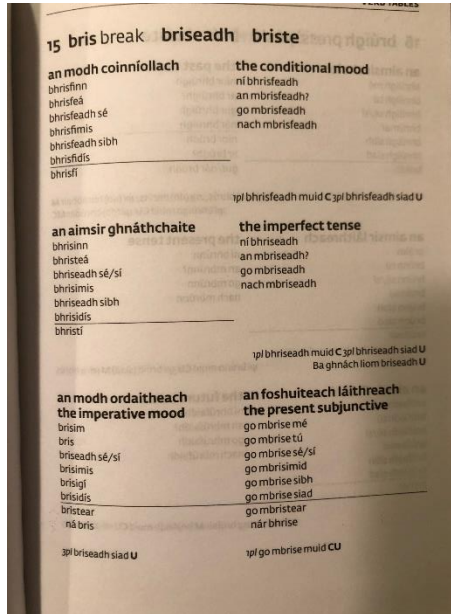
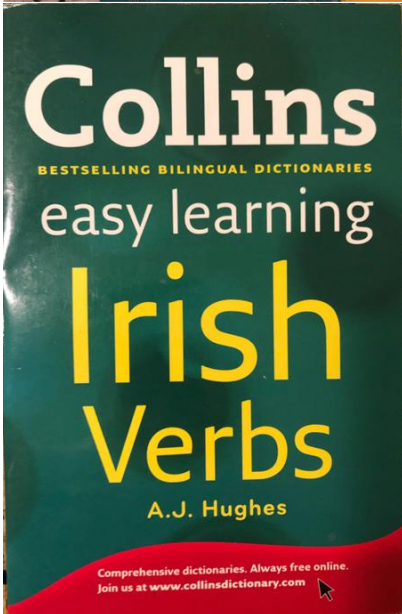
FIRST CONJUGATION - CATEGORY 1 (B)

	Broad	Slender
1 sg.	reachtáil mé	thiomáin mé
2 sg.	reachtáil tú	thiomáin tú
3 sg.	reachtáil sé, sí	thiomáin sé, sí
1 pl.	reachtálamar	thiomáineamar
2 pl.	reachtáil sibh	thiomáin sibh
3 pl.	reachtáil siad	thiomáin siad
Passive	reachtáladh	thiomáineadh

To form the past tense, lenite the initial consonant of the verb and prefix 'd' if the initial letter is f or a vowel, e.g. d'fhág, d'ól.

The only synthetic form of the verb in the past tense is 1 pl. - (e)amar and - (e)adh is the passive ending.

In the passive forms, the initial consonant of the regular verb is **never** lenited and initial f and vowels remain unaffected, e.g. óladh, fágadh.



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