

# (H) Counting in Irish (I/4)

## H1.

a. naoi mbád déag is ceithre fichid

9	9		b	o	a	t	s								
---	---	--	---	---	---	---	---	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

b. sé dhuine déag

1	6		p	e	o	p	l	e							
---	---	--	---	---	---	---	---	---	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

c. naoi nduine

9		p	e	o	p	l	e								
---	--	---	---	---	---	---	---	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

d. fiche gasúr

2	0		b	o	y	s									
---	---	--	---	---	---	---	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

e. garra déag is fiche

3	1		g	a	r	d	e	n	s						
---	---	--	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	--	--	--	--	--	--

## H2.

a. 2 boys

d	h	á		g	h	a	s	ú	r								

b. 38 walls

o	c	h	t		m	b	a	l	l	a		d	é	a	g		i	s
	f	i	c	h	e													

c. 14 walls

c	e	i	t	h	r	e		b	h	a	l	l	a		d	é	a	g

d. 71 doors

d	o	r	a	s		d	é	a	g		i	s		t	r	í		
f	i	c	h	i	d													

e. 21 boats

b	á	d		i	s		f	i	c	h	e							

f. 90 people

d	e	i	c	h		n	d	u	i	n	e		i	s				
c	e	i	t	h	r	e		f	i	c	h	i	d					



## (H) Counting in Irish (2/4)

### H3.

Any enumerated noun phrase (ENP) in Irish has four positions, only one of which—the Head—must be filled. These four positions are:

- 1) Pre-Head
- 2) Head
- 3) Post-Head
- 4) Twenties.

The Pre-Head position contains either nothing, a numeral from two through ten, or a certain number of twenties (*fichid*). If there is one item, or a factor of ten plus one (e.g., 11, 21, 31, 41, 51, etc.) nothing appears in the Pre-Head position. If there are 2-10 items, or a factor of ten plus 2-9, the number 2-10 appears in the Pre-Head position (e.g. *dha* "2", *trí* "3", *ceithre* "4", *cúig* "5", *sé* "6", *seacht* "7", *ocht* "8", *naoi* "9", *deich* "10"). If there are 20 items, or a factor of 20 items (e.g., 20, 40, 60, etc.), the number of twenties appears in the Pre-Head position (e.g. *fiche* "20", *dha fichid* "two twenties", *tri fichid* "3 twenties", etc.).

The Head position contains the enumerated noun in the singular or appropriate plural form (see below).

The Post-Head position contains either nothing, the numeral *amháin* "one", or the Post-Head form of the numeral "ten", *déag*. If there is only one item, the Post-Head position contains only the numeral *amháin* "one", and there is nothing else in the ENP. If the number of items is 11-19, 31-39, 51-59 etc. (i.e. an odd number of tens, plus a number from one to nine), the numeral *déag* "ten" appears in the Post-Head position. The twenties position may be empty, or it may contain the conjunction *is* plus a number of twenties, e.g., *is fiche* "and twenty", *is dha fichid* "and two twenties", *is trí fichid* "and three twenties", *is ceithre fichid* "and four twenties." If the number of items is more than twenty, the number of twenties appears here.

Plurals are formed by initial consonant mutation. The basic (singular) form of every noun begins with a "plain" consonant, *b*, *d* or *g*. This form is used if there is one item or a factor of ten plus 1 (e.g., 11, 21, 31, 41, etc.). If there are two through six items, or a factor of ten plus two through six items, the initial consonant is followed by an *h*, i.e., *bh*, *dh* and *gh*. If there are seven through ten items, or a factor of ten plus seven through nine items, the initial consonant of the head is preceded by an *m* or an *n*. The *m* occurs before *b*, and the *n* occurs before *d*. There are no examples of what happens to an initial *g* in this situation.

There are a number of ways that students tried to explain this complex system. To get full credit for H3, they needed to notice the various positions, mention what occurs in each position, and correctly state the consonant mutation rule.

On the next page, there is a table which shows the problem ENPs analyzed according to this system:



# (H) Counting in Irish (3/4)

Pre-Head	Head	Post-Head	Twenties	Meaning
	garra	amháin		1 garden
	gasúr	déag		11 boys
ocht	mballa		is dhá fichid	48 walls
dhá	gharra	déag	is ceithre fichid	92 gardens
trí	bhád			3 boats
seacht	ndoras	déag		17 doors
seacht	mbád	déag	is dhá fichid	57 boats
naoi	nduine	déag	is fiche	39 people
ceithre fichid	doras			80 doors
cúig	bhalla			5 walls
sé	ghasúr		is trí fichid	66 boys
deich	mbád			10 boats
sé	dhuine			6 people
trí	dhoras		is dhá fichid	43 doors
	garra		is ceithre fichid	81 gardens

## Grading:

H1: 3.75 points. For each solution, minus 0.3 points for the wrong word and 0.45 points for the wrong number.

H2: 10.5 points. There is a syntactic and a morphological component to this problem. Most of the points were allocated to the syntactic component:

- Syntax: 9 points. For each solution, minus 0.75 points for getting the right words in the wrong sequence. Minus 0.75 points for getting the wrong words but overall getting the syntax correct (i.e., some points are given if the student understands how the number system works, but is confused about the vocabulary).
- Morphology: 1.5 points. There are 10 words that students could get the morphology wrong on in H2—the head nouns (6) and four examples of the word for "twenty." Minus 0.15 points for each mistake. If the student gets the wrong head noun, they lose points already via the syntactic part of the problem. However, they still get points if they notice the correct morphological pattern, even though the actual word is wrong.



## (H) Counting in Irish (4/4)

H3: 0.75 points. Students must mention how ones, tens and twenties are indicated in the number system. Minus 0.3 points for missing one or more of these. Students must notice that initial consonants of the head nouns change, and correctly identify the pattern (number 1 = plain consonant, 2-6 consonant+h, 7-10 n or m + consonant). Minus 0.3 points for missing this. Minus 0.15 points for lack of clarity.

Total: 15 points

