[10 reasons why Irish is an absolutely awesome language (lexiconista.com)](https://www.lexiconista.com/awesome-irish/)

**Basics 1#1 · 2018-10-25**[**^**](https://duome.eu/tips/en/ga#top)

**Fáilte | Welcome!**

**Intro**

The Irish alphabet:

**a b c d e f g h i l m n o p r s t u**

The vowels can take an added accent, the **fada**:

**á é í ó ú**

The rest of the English alphabet, **j k q v w x y z**, especially v, is gradually being naturalised into Irish due to the many loanwords we take in.

**Word Order**

"V-S-O"

**To be, or not to be...**

There are two versions. called **bí** and **an chopail**.

* **Bí** is Irish for *to be*, and is one of only eleven irregular verbs in the whole language

| **bí** | **to be** |
| --- | --- |
| tá mé/táim | I am |
| tá tú | you (sing.) are |
| tá sé | he/it is |
| tá sí | she/it is |
| tá muid/táimid | we are |
| tá sibh | you (pl.) are |
| tá siad | they are |

Notes: tá + mé (I) = táim, tá + muid (we) = táimid. These contractions are called the synthetic form.

* **An chopail** (the *copula*) is a defective verb with its own funky grammar. It doesn't even follow the normal word order rules! The word you are talking about goes in the middle.

| **copail** | **copula** |
| --- | --- |
| is ... mé | I am |
| is ... tú | you (sing.) are |
| is ... é | he/it is |
| is ... í | she/it is |
| is ... sinn/muid | we are |
| is ... sibh | you (pl.) are |
| is ... iad | they are |

The copula is for when you're **introducing** something or someone.

Bí is for when you're **describing** something or someone.

**Basics 2#2 · 2018-10-25**[**^**](https://duome.eu/tips/en/ga#top)

**Buntús 2 | Basics 2**

**"Caol le caol agus leathan le leathan."**

**“**slender with slender and broad with broad", and it refers to vowels in a word.

Slender vs broad is a way to group the vowels in two distinct groups:

| **leathan *broad*** | **caol *slender*** |
| --- | --- |
| a | e |
| o | i |
| u |  |

The rule says that the vowels on either side of any *consonant* should match: Certain consonants, especially **s** and **t** will change their sound appreciably depending on whether they are slender or broad.

To see if the stem of a verb is broad or slender, look at the last vowel in that stem.

**A bit about Verbs**

We do have two present tenses in Irish, which function just like in English. Let's start with the **present habitual**. This describes what one does on a regular basis, not what one is doing right now. Verbs in Irish are split into three main groups: the **first conjugation**, the **second conjugation** and the **irregular verbs**.

**1. The first conjugation**

*Basically*, these verbs have only **one syllable** (òl and bris)

**2. The second conjugation**

These verbs have **more than one syllable**.

The words come in **two halves**. They will have a **root** and a **stem**. To conjugate them, you will remove the stem and replace it with an appropriate ending (*bailigh, ceannaigh, oscail,* and *inis*).

**3. Irregular verbs**

There are only 11 of these:

* **abair** *say*
* **beir** *bear/carry/bring*
* **bí** *be*
* **clois** *hear*
* **déan** *do/make*
* **feic** *see*
* **faigh** *get*
* **ith** *eat*
* **tabhair** *give*
* **tar** *come*
* **téigh** *go*

**Common Phrases#2 · 2018-10-25**[**^**](https://duome.eu/tips/en/ga#top)

* **Dia duit** is used when greeting one person.
* **Dia daoibh** is used when greeting more than one person.
* **Dia is Muire duit** is used when replying to one person.
* **Dia is Muire daoibh** is used when replying to more than one person.

**Note on the Sociology of Ireland**: These forms are old, formal, and in sharp decline. There is a complicated relationship between Ireland and the Catholic church in recent history, and many younger speakers consciously avoid the nearly-obsolete religious constructions of yore. We don't *officially* teach you this here, because we decided to stick with The Standard so we *have* to teach you *"dia duit"* and so on. Just be aware you're more likely to hear somebody greet you with a typical English greeting like "hiya", or even by avoiding a "hello" and just asking how you are – Conas atá tú? –

**To have**

We don't say "have" in Irish, instead the verb **bí** (*be*) is used together with the preposition **ag** (*at*).

Distinct ways to translate the two meanings of the English "speak".

1) "I speak Irish" would translate as "Labhraím Gaeilge" if "speak" was referring to the act of speaking the language ("I speak Irish every day")

2) "I speak Irish" would translate as "Tá Gaeilge agam" (literally "I have Irish") if "speak" was referring to the ability to speak, or the knowledge of, the language.

**Plurals#2 · 2018-10-25**[**^**](https://duome.eu/tips/en/ga#top)

There are no indefinite articles in Irish.

When it comes to plurals, the Irish system is similar to that in English.

There are two forms of the definite article in Irish (they can change in different cases, i.e., nominative or others…).

* + **An** is used for singular nouns.
  + **Na** is used for plural nouns.

**Eclipsis#2 · 2018-10-25**[**^**](https://duome.eu/tips/en/ga#top)

**Urú** (*eclipsis*) is where one or two letters are added before a word in certain situations. This changes the spelling and pronunciation of the word, but not the meaning. Only some initial letters can be eclipsed: *b*, *c*, *d*, *f*, *g*, *p*, *t*. Words that begin with other letters do not undergo eclipsis at all.

Different dialects of Irish have different rules about when eclipsis should be used. It is important to pick a single system and to stick with it for consistency - so in this course, we will teach the system **traditionally used** in Standard Irish.

Eclipsis is used in the following situations:

**1. Possessive Adjectives**

Eclipsis occurs where a word comes after **ár** *our*, **bhur** *your* (plural), and **a** *their*.

Examples:

* **ár gcailín** *our girl*
* **a mbuachaill** *their boy*

**2. Numbers**

Eclipsis occurs after the numbers seven to 10.

Examples:

* **seacht gcapall** *seven horses*
* **naoi dteach** *nine houses*

**3. Preposition + Definite Article**

Eclipsis occurs after certain prepositions where they are joined by the singular definite article **an**:

| **Preposition + singular definite article** | **English translation** |
| --- | --- |
| ag an | at the |
| ar an | on the |
| faoin (*faoi* + *an*) | under/about the |
| leis an | with the |
| ón (*ó* + *an*) | from the |
| roimh an | before the |
| thar an | over the |
| tríd an | through the |
| um an | about/around the |

Other prepositions used with **an** do not cause eclipsis.

An exception to this rule is that the word should not be eclipsed if it begins with *d* or *t*.

If the word begins with *s* and is feminine, a *t* is placed in front of it — except for nouns beginning with *sc*, *sf*, *sm*, *sp*, *st* or *sv*.

If the word begins with *s* and is masculine, no change occurs.

**4. Other Words**

Eclipsis is also added after the words **i** *in*, **dá** *if*, **mura** *if/unless*.

Words that start with a vowel do not technically undergo eclipsis, but they do get the letter *n-* added to them wherever other words would be eclipsed — unless they come after a word that finishes with the letter *n*.

A dash is placed between the letter *n* and the vowel — unless that vowel is a capital letter.

Some words that start with a vowel are normally preceded by **t-** when they follow the word **an** *the*. For these words, after preposition + definite article combinations the **t-** is left out.

**Lenition#2 · 2018-10-25**[**^**](https://duome.eu/tips/en/ga#top)

**Welcome to the Lenition skill!**

**Séimhiú** (*lenition*) is where an extra *h* is added between the first and second letters of a word in certain situations. This changes the spelling and pronunciation of the word, but not the meaning. Only some initial letters can be lenited: *b*, *c*, *d*, *f*, *g*, *m*, *p*, *s*, and *t*. Words that begin with other letters do not undergo lenition at all.

Here are examples of words being lenited:

| **Initial letter** | **Example** | **Lenition** | **Example** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| b | buachaill | bh | b**h**uachaill |
| c | cailín | ch | c**h**ailín |
| d | doras | dh | d**h**oras |
| f | fuinneog | fh | f**h**uinneog |
| g | geata | gh | g**h**eata |
| m | mála | mh | m**h**ála |
| p | poll | ph | p**h**oll |
| s | seomra | sh | s**h**eomra |
| t | teach | th | t**h**each |

Lenition is used in the following situations.

**1. Feminine Nouns**

Feminine nouns are lenited after the definite article **an** in the nominative case.

Examples:

* **mairteoil** *beef*, **an mhairteoil** *the beef*
* **bean** *woman*, **an bhean** *the woman*

An exception to this rule is that feminine nouns beginning with *d* or *t* are not lenited. Another exception is that nouns beginning with *s* becomes *ts* if the *s* precedes a vowel, *l*, *n* or *r*.

Examples:

* **an deasc** *the desk*
* **an traein** *the train*
* **an tsubh** *the jam*
* **an tsláinte** *the health*
* **an tsnaidhm** *the knot*
* **an tsráid** *the street*

**2. Feminine Adjectives**

Singular feminine nouns cause lenition of the following adjective.

Examples:

* **bean mhaith** *a good woman*
* **an mhairteoil dhearg** *the red beef*

Note: Only when the adjective **directly** follows its noun.

**3. Possessive Adjectives**

Lenition occurs after **mo** *my*, **do** *your*, **a** *his*.

Examples:

* **mo chara** *my friend*
* **do mhadra** *your dog*
* **a mhac** *his son*

**4. Numbers**

Lenition occurs after the numbers one to six.

Examples:

* **sé chapall** *six horses*
* **trí bhuidéal** *three bottles*

**5. Vocative Case**

The vocative case is used when directly addressing someone or something, as in **Cá bhfuil tú, a chailín?** *Where are you, girl?* Lenition is used after the vocative particle **a**.

(Note that masculine nouns and names are also slenderised after the vocative particle: **fear** becomes **a fhir**, and **Pól** becomes **a Phóil**.)

More on this case in a later skill.

**6. Prepositions**

Lenition occurs after the words **ar** *on*, **de** *off*, **den** *off the*, **do** *to/for*, **don** *to the*, **faoi** *under/about*, **ó** *from*, **roimh** *before*, **sa**/**san** *in the*, **trí** *through*, **um** *around/about*.

Examples:

* **don bhuachaill** *to the boy*
* **sa pháirc** *in the field*

An exception is that words beginning with *d*, *t*, *s* are not lenited after **den**, **don**, **sa** or **san**.

Examples:

* **den doras** *off the door*
* **sa teach** *in the house*
* **don sú** *to the juice*

**7. Other Words**

Lenition is also used after the phrase **nuair a** *when*, the prefixes **ró-** *too* and **an-** *very*, and the word **má** *if* (unless the next word is a version of **tá** or **deir**). Other special cases will be highlighted in other lessons.

Examples:

* **nuair a bhrisim** *when I break*
* **ró-mhór** *too big*
* **an-mhaith** *very good*
* **má dhúnann sé** *if he closes*

**DeNTaLS-DoTS**

This is a handy mnemonic! If a word begins with *d*, *t* or *s* and it would normally be lenited according to the above rules, but the word that came before it in the sentence ends with *d*, *n*, *t*, *l* or *s*, then the word is not lenited.

Examples:

* **den sagart** *off the priest*
* **an-te** *very hot*

Phew! I hope that wasn't too complicated. It will start to make sense when you see some more examples! Good luck and see you in the next skill :D

**Possessives#2 · 2018-10-25**[**^**](https://duome.eu/tips/en/ga#top)

When possessives are used in Irish, certain changes occur to the following word. There are two systems: one for words starting with a consonant, and one for word starting with a vowel.

**Words starting with a consonant**

Here are the possessive adjectives and changes that occur when a word begins with a consonant:

| **English** | **Irish** | **Change** | **Example** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| my | mo | lenition | mo c**h**óta |
| your (singular) | do | lenition | do c**h**óta |
| his/its | a | lenition | a c**h**óta |
| her/its | a | no change | a cóta |
| our | ár | eclipsis | ár **g**cóta |
| your (plural) | bhur | eclipsis | bhur **g**cóta |
| their | a | eclipsis | a **g**cóta |

Before words starting with *fh* + a vowel, **mo** and **do** are abbreviated to **m'** and **d'**, with no space before the next word.

Examples:

* **fón** *phone*
* **m'fhón** *my phone*
* **d'fhón** *your phone*

If the word begins with a consonant that does not undergo lenition (or eclipsis), the spelling remains unchanged.

Examples:

* **léine** *shirt*
* **mo léine** *my shirt*
* **ár léine** *our shirt*
* **a léine** *his/her/its/their shirt*

**Words starting with a vowel**

Here are the possessive adjectives and changes that occur when a word begins with a vowel:

| **English** | **Irish** | **Change** | **Example** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| my | m' | no change | m'oráiste |
| your (singular) | d' | no change | d'oráiste |
| his/its | a | no change | a oráiste |
| her/its | a | h | a **h**oráiste |
| our | ár | n- | ár **n-**oráiste |
| your (plural) | bhur | n- | bhur **n-**oráiste |
| their | a | n- | a **n-**oráiste |

Instead of lenition or eclipsis, here you can see two other initial letter mutations used in Irish: the *h-prefix* and the *n-prefix*.

* The h-prefix is used after the word **a** (when it means *her*). Note that there is no hyphen.
* The n-prefix is used after **ár**, **bhur**, and **a** (when it means *their*). Note the hyphen between the *n-* and the word.

You can also see from the examples above that **m'** and **d** are used instead of **mo** or **do**, with no space before the next word.

**A**

The possessive adjective **a** can mean *his*, *her*, *its* or *their*. If you look at the tables above, you can see how to identify which one is used. It is usually clear from context, and from the word that follows the possessive.

**Verbs: Present 1#2 · 2018-10-25**[**^**](https://duome.eu/tips/en/ga#top)

In Irish, it is important to note that there are *two* present tenses: the present, and the present habitual. The present describes what one **is doing** (right now) and the present habitual is used to describe what one **does** (every day, every week, and so on).

In this skill you will learn verbs in the present habitual. You previously met the endings for conjugating regular verbs in the present habitual tense in Basics 2. But, lets revisit them here.

**1. The first conjugation**

These verbs have only one syllable¹, and the root form seen in the dictionary is identical to the stem used for verb conjugation. In the present tense the ending is, generally, added directly onto the stem. Examples are **dún** ("close"), **ól** ("drink"), **bris** ("break")

| **Pronoun** | **Broad ending** | **Example** | **Slender ending** | **Example** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| I | -aim¹ | dúnaim | -im² | brisim |
| you (singular) | -ann tú | dúnann tú | -eann tú | briseann tú |
| he/it | -ann sé | dúnann sé | -eann sé | briseann sé |
| she/it | -ann sí | dúnann sí | -eann sí | briseann sí |
| we | -aimid¹ | dúnaimid | -imid² | brisimid |
| you (plural) | -ann sibh | dúnann sibh | -eann sibh | briseann sibh |
| they | -ann siad | dúnann siad | -eann siad | briseann siad |

¹There is a small handful of first conjugation verbs that have more than one syllable. They aren't considered irregular- just a bit odd. These will be dealt with later.

²In present tense verbs, **mé** and **muid** are generally not used; instead, they are incorporated into the verb that precedes it, to make what is known as the "synthetic form".

Examples:

* **dúnaim** *I close*
* **dúnann sé** *he closes*
* **brisim** *I break*
* **briseann sé** *he breaks*

**2. The second conjugation**

These verbs have more than one syllable.

Many end in *-aigh* and *-igh* in the root form seen in the dictionary; to get the stem used for conjugation, the last syllable of the root is removed (i.e. remove the -aigh/-igh). The endings are then added to that stem. Examples include **ceannaigh** *buy*, **bailigh** *collect*. The stems for these would be **ceann-** and **bail-**.

Others end in *-ail/-il*, *-ain/-in*, *-ais/-is* or *-air/-ir*. To get the stem, the last syllable of the root is removed *but* the very last letter is kept, and then the appropriate ending is added. Examples include **inis** *tell* and **oscail** *open*. The stems for these would be **ins-** and **oscl-**.

| **Pronoun** | **Broad ending** | **Example** | **Slender ending** | **Example** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| I | -aím | osclaím | -ím | bailím |
| you (singular) | -aíonn tú | osclaíonn tú | -íonn tú | bailíonn tú |
| he/it | -aíonn sé | osclaíonn sé | -íonn sé | bailíonn sé |
| she/it | -aíonn sí | osclaíonn sí | -íonn sí | bailíonn sí |
| we | -aímid | osclaímid | -ímid | bailímid |
| you (plural) | -aíonn sibh | osclaíonn sibh | -íonn sibh | bailíonn sibh |
| they | -aíonn siad | osclaíonn siad | -íonn siad | bailíonn siad |

Examples:

* **bailíonn tú** *you collect*
* **ceannaímid / ceannaíonn muid** *we buy*
* **insím** *I tell*
* **osclaíonn sibh** *you open*

**3. Irregular verbs**

The last group of verbs in Irish are the irregular verbs. There are only 11 of these. Some of them appear quite regular most of the time, but all of them have at least one tense in which they don't obey the standard rules, so it is necessary to memorise these 11 verbs in all their forms and tenses!

**The question form**

To ask a question in this tense using a verb, you use the question word **an** and add an eclipsis (**urú**) to the verb if possible.

Examples:

* **Dúnann tú** *You close*
* **An ndúnann tú?** *Do you close?*
* **Briseann sí** *She breaks*
* **An mbriseann sí?** *Does she break?*

The irregular verb **bí** *be* is an exception:

* **Tá tú** *You are*
* **An bhfuil tú?** *Are you?*
* **Táimid** *We are*
* **An bhfuilimid?** *Are we?*

**The negative form**

To put a verb in the present habitual tense into the negative form, you use the negation word **ní** and add a lenition (**séimhiú**) to the verb if possible.

Examples:

* **Dúnann tú** *You close*
* **Ní dhúnann tú** *You do not close*
* **Briseann tú** *You break*
* **Ní bhriseann sí** *She does not break*

Again, the verb **bí** is an exception in this tense, as well as the verb **abair** *say*:

**Bí**

* **Tá tú** *You are*
* **Níl tú?** *You are not*
* **Táimid** *We are*
* **Nílimid?** *We are not*

**Abair**

* **Deir tú** *You say*
* **Ní deir tú** *You do not say*
* **Deirimid** *We say*
* **Ní deirimid** *We do not say*

**Yes or No?**

Irish has no word for "yes" or "no". That means when someone asks a questions using a verb like those above, you either answer with the positive form of the verb (the standard conjugated form) or the negative form (as seen above)

Example:

* **An ndúnann tú an doras?** *Do you close the door?*
* **Dúnaim (an doras)** *Yes, I close the door*. (literally just "*I close (the door)*")
* **Ní dhúnaim (an doras)** *No, I do not close the door* (literally just "*I do not close (the door)*")

**Colors#2 · 2018-10-25**[**^**](https://duome.eu/tips/en/ga#top)

Adjectives (such as colors) generally come after the noun in Irish. Their spelling is modified so that they agree with the noun, in number and in gender.

**Masculine singular nouns**

An adjective that follows a masculine singular noun does not change (for example, **an bosca dubh** *the black box*).

**Feminine singular nouns**

An adjective that follows a feminine singular noun is lenited if possible (for example, **an eilifint dhubh** *the black elephant*).

**Plural nouns**

An adjective that follows a plural noun has its spelling changed to the plural form of that adjective. If the noun ends with a slender consonant, the adjective is **also** lenited.

***What is a slender consonant?*** A slender consonant is a consonant with a slender vowel (*e* *é* or *i* *í*) next to it. For example, in the word **beoir**, *r* is a slender consonant.

**Getting Descriptive**

In this skill, we give you the basic vocabulary to describe most of the colours. One fun quirk in Irish is that there aren't of lots of words for all the different shades on the spectrum. Instead, you describe a particular colour by naming something that has that colour, or adding some detail (such as another colour!). So for example, you could distinguish something that is **spéirghorm** *sky-blue* from something that is **gormghlas** *blue-green*, or contrast **dearg** *red* with **bándearg** *pink* (*literally white-red*). Use the vocabulary you learn and get creative to think of how you could say things like 'blood-red', and 'forest green'!

**Questions#2 · 2018-10-25**[**^**](https://duome.eu/tips/en/ga#top)

**C question words**

When asking a question in English, you generally use a W question word such as *who*, *where*, *what*. Similarly, in Irish you generally use a C question word such as *cé*, *cá*, *cad*.

Here are some examples of C question words:

| **English** | **Irish** |
| --- | --- |
| who | cé |
| what | cad / céard |
| which | cén |
| where | cá |
| when | cathain |
| what time | cén uair / cá huair / cén t-am |
| whose | cé leis |
| what place | cá háit / cén áit |
| why | cén fáth |
| how | conas / cad é mar |
| how many / how much | cé mhéad / cá mhéad |

**Yes and no**

There is no direct translation for the words *yes* and *no* in Irish. Where in English you would use these words to answer a question, in Irish you repeat the verb from the original question in either the positive or the negative form. (You can choose to omit the pronoun if you like - unless you are using a synthetic form of the verb.)

Examples:

* Do you play soccer? Yes. = Do you play soccer? I play. = **An imríonn tú sacar? Imrím.**
* Do you eat cheese? No. = Do you eat cheese? I do not eat. = **An itheann tú cáis? Ní ithim.**
* Does she work in the city? Yes. = Does she work in the city? She works. = **An oibríonn sí sa chathair? Oibríonn (sí).**
* Do the children listen to you? No. = Do the children listen to you? They do not listen. = **An éisteann na páistí leat? Ní éisteann (siad).**

**Prepositions 1#2 · 2018-12-30**[**^**](https://duome.eu/tips/en/ga#top)

Prepositions (**réamhfhocail**) are short words that express relationships between things, like *to*, *for*, *with*, *on*, *between*.

In Irish most prepositions are usually written on their own, but when you use them together with a pronoun (*me*, *you*, *he*, *she*, *it*, *us*, *them*), the two words get contracted together to make what are known as *prepositional pronouns* (**forainmneacha réamhfhoclacha**).

Here are five prepositional pronouns in all their forms:

| **Pronoun** | **on** | **with** | **at** | **from** | **to, toward/s** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| (none) | ar | le | ag | ó | chun (chuig) |
| me | orm | liom | agam | uaim | chugam |
| you (singular) | ort | leat | agat | uait | chugat |
| he, it | air | leis | aige | uaidh | chuige |
| she, it | uirthi | léi | aici | uaithi | chuici |
| us | orainn | linn | againn | uainn | chugainn |
| you (plural) | oraibh | libh | agaibh | uaibh | chugaibh |
| them | orthu | leo | acu | uathu | chucu |

Examples:

* **Tá an fear liom** *The man is with me*
* **Ritheann an cailín chuici** *The girl runs to/toward/towards her*

When used in specific ways, some prepositions have special idiomatic meanings in Irish. You already met the idiomatic use of **ag** to mean *have* in Basics 2; here are some other examples.

**Ar**

The basic meaning of this word is *on*. For example, **Ritheann sé ar bhóthar** means *He runs on a road*.

When used with the verb **bí**, it conveys the idea of obligation to do something. For example, **Tá orm rith** means *I must run*. (The literal translation of the phrase would be "It is on me to run".)

* **Tá ort snámh** *You must swim*
* **Tá ar Phól éisteacht** *Paul must listen*
* **Tá orthu siúl** *They must walk*

**Ó**

The basic meaning of this word is *from*. For example, **Ritheann sé ó theach** means *He runs from a house*.

When used with the verb **bí**, it conveys the idea of wanting something. For example, **Tá bia uaim** means *I want food*. (The literal translation of the phrase would be "food is from me".)

* **An bhfuil léine uait?** *Do you want a shirt?*
* **Tá madraí uaidh** *He wants dogs*
* **Tá uathu siúl** *They want to walk*
* **Tá úll ó Phól** *Paul wants an apple*
* **Tá na páistí ó bhean** *A woman wants the children*

Another way to express wanting something is to use the verb **teastaigh** (*to be wanted/needed*), followed by a version of **ó**. Written this way, **Teastaíonn bia uaim** is the alternative way to say *I want food*; it can also mean *I need food*. (A literal translation would be "food is needed from me".)

* **Teastaíonn na leabhair uaithi** *She wants/needs the books*
* **Teastaíonn seacláid uainn** *We want/need chocolate*
* **Teastaíonn uaim snámh** *I want/need to swim*
* **Teastaíonn cáca ó chailín** *A girl wants/needs a cake*
* **An dteastaíonn na hataí?** *Are the hats needed?*

**Ireland 1#3 · 2018-10-25**[**^**](https://duome.eu/tips/en/ga#top)

Voccab and topics specificially related to Ireland craic, gardaí, taoiseach, eachtarán etc... Can be used to explain things about Ireland.

**Dates and Time#2 · 2018-10-25**[**^**](https://duome.eu/tips/en/ga#top)

In previous skills you will already have met lenition and eclipsis, the two most important initial mutations that can occur to words in Irish. Here are some other more minor changes that can occur.

**Words beginning with vowels**

If a masculine singular noun starts with a vowel, a *t-* is added at the start of the word after the definite article **an** (for example, **am** *time*, **an t-am** *the time*; **uisce** *water*, **an t-uisce** *the water*). A hyphen is placed between the letter *t* and the vowel —unless that vowel is a capital letter (for example, **an tUachtarán** *the President*).

Exceptions include **euro** *euro*, **iomad** *a great number*, and **oiread** *amount*. These are written as **an euro**, **an iomad** and **an oiread** respectively. Other exceptions include the following number words: **aon** *one*, **aonú** *first*, **ochtó** *eighty*, **ochtú** *eighth*, **ochtódú** *eightieth*.

If a plural noun starts with a vowel, a *h* is added at the start of the word after the definite article **na** (for example, **ainmneacha** *names*, **na hainmneacha** *the names*). No hyphen is used.

**Words beginning with s**

If a feminine singular noun starts with *s*, AND the *s* is itself followed by a vowel, *l*, *n* or *r*, then a *t* is added at the start of the word after the definite article **an** (for example, **seanbhean** *old woman*, **an tseanbhean** *the old woman*). No hyphen is used.

**The Irish calendar**

The names of the seasons and months in the Irish calendar reflect ancient Gaelic culture and tradition.

The seasons of the year are:

| **English** | **Irish** | **Duration** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Spring | Earrach | February to April |
| Summer | Samhradh | May to July |
| Autumn, Fall | Fómhar | August to October |
| Winter | Geimhreadh | November to January |

The seasons are based around the summer and winter solstices (the longest and shortest days of the year, which take place around 21 June and 21 December respectively in the northern hemisphere) and the equinoxes (the days in spring and autumn on which night and day are of equal length, around 20 March and 22 September in the northern hemisphere). The summer solstice in June is deemed to be the high point of summer and the months of summer are May, June and July accordingly. The other seasons are similarly centred around the winter solstice in December, and the vernal and autumnal equinoxes in March and September.

The months of the year are:

| **English** | **Irish** |
| --- | --- |
| January | Eanáir |
| February | Feabhra |
| March | Márta |
| April | Aibreán |
| May | Bealtaine |
| June | Meitheamh |
| July | Iúil |
| August | Lúnasa |
| September | Mean Fómhair |
| October | Deireadh Fómhair |
| November | Samhain, Mí na Samhna |
| December | Nollaig, Mí na Nollag |

**Bealtaine**, **Lúnasa** and **Samhain** were all originally pagan festivals occuring around these times. **Meán Fómhair** and **Deireadh Fómhair** literally mean *middle of the harvest* and *end of the harvest*. **Nollaig** also means *Christmas*.

**Family#2 · 2018-10-25**[**^**](https://duome.eu/tips/en/ga#top)

**Muintir, teaghlach, clann**

If you look up *family* in an English-Irish dictionary, you could be presented with all of the above as potential translations - but each has a different meaning!

**Muintir** is probably the closest to the English word *family* or *kinsfolk*, and in its broadest sense it can include parents, children and siblings as well as extended relations.

**Teaghlach** means *family* in the sense of *household*, a group of people living together under the same roof - most commonly parents and children.

**Clann** refers to the group of children that belong to a set of parents. For example, **mo chlann** could mean *my own children*, or *my siblings and I*. If a girl says that there are five people in her **clann**, it means that she has four other brothers or sisters.

**Verbs: Present 2#2 · 2018-10-25**[**^**](https://duome.eu/tips/en/ga#top)

**Unusual First Conjugation Verbs**

In this skill, you will also be introduced to some...peculiar first conjugation verbs such as **tiomáin** (*to drive*), **taispeáin** (*to show*) and **sábháil** (*to save*). These verbs clearly have 2 syllables, not the usual 1 syllable you've come to expect of first conjugation verbs. These verbs are not considered irregular...they're just a bit odd. Even though they are not monosyllabic, they are conjugated like other verbs in the first conjugation.

**Examples:**

* Tiomáinim (*I drive*) **Note the short -im ending, as opposed to the longer -ím ending you might expect**
* Taispeánann sé (*He shows*) **Note the short -ann ending, as opposed to the longer -aíonn ending you might expect. Also note how the second "i" was dropped from**taispeáin**to form the stem. This is another peculiarity of some of these verbs**

**Exception: The Habitual Present Bím/Bíonn**

The Habitual Present is used for actions that occur regularly (normally, generally, often, sometimes, seldom, never). The only verb conjugated in the habitual present tense in Irish is the verb Bí (to be) which becomes **Bím** (first person singular) or **Bíonn sé/sí/muid** etc.... In Hiberno-English (the English that is spoken in Ireland) the Irish present habitual has be incorporated into the language using the English verb 'do' as an auxiliary verb followed by a verb in the present continuous tense. This structure is commonly used throughout Ireland.

**Examples:**

* Bím ag rith - I do be running. In standard English this would be written: 'I run often or I usually run' etc....
* Bíonn sé ag ól - He does be drinking. In standard English this would be written: 'He drinks often or he regularly drinks' etc...
* Bíonn sé ag cur báistí in Éirinn - It does be raining in Ireland . Standard English: 'It rains often in Ireland, in Ireland it regularly rains, it usually rains in Ireland' etc...
* Ní bhíonn airgead againn - We don't be having money. In standard English this would be written: 'We don't often have money, we regularly don't have money.

**Prepositions 2#3 · 2018-10-25**[**^**](https://duome.eu/tips/en/ga#top)

Here are five more prepositional pronouns in all their forms:

| **Pronoun** | **in** | **before** | **out of** | **under, about** | **off, of, from** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *(none)* | i, in | roimh | as | faoi | de, d' |
| *me* | ionam | romham | asam | fúm | díom |
| *you* (singular) | ionat | romhat | asat | fút | díot |
| *he, it* | ann | roimhe | as | faoi | de |
| *she, it* | inti | roimpi | aisti | fúithi | di |
| *us* | ionainn | romhainn | asainn | fúinn | dínn |
| *you* (plural) | ionaibh | romhaibh | asaibh | fúibh | díbh |
| *them* | iontu | rompu | astu | fúthú | díobh |

**I**

The basic meaning of this word is *in*. When the next word begins with a vowel, you write **in** instead of **i**. For example, **Ritheann sé i bpáirc** means *He runs in a field*, and **Oibríonn sé in ospidéal** means *He works in a hospital*.

When **i** is followed by the singular definite article **an**, the two words combine to form **sa** (before a consonant) or **san** (before a vowel or *f* followed by a vowel). Similarly, **i** + **na** becomes **sna**.

* **Ceannaím bia sa siopa** *I buy food in the shop*
* **Tá an dochtúir san ospidéal** *The doctor is in the hospital*
* **Tá an t-iasc san fharraige** *The fish is in the sea*
* **Tá na dochtúirí sna nuachtáin** *The doctors are in the newspapers*

The preposition **i** also combines with the possessive adjectives **a** and **ár** to form **ina** and **inár**.

* **Tá an leabhar ina teach** *The book is in her house*
* **Tá an madra inár dteach** *The dog is in our house*

When used with special forms of the verb **bí**, it is possible to use this preposition to describe what something is, instead of using the copula **is**.

* **Is dochtúir é** = *He is a doctor* = "[It is] a doctor that is in him" = **(Is) dochtúir atá ann**
* **Is feirmeoirí muid** = *We are farmers* = "[It is] farmers that are in us" = **(Is) feirmeoirí atá ionainn**
* **Is dlíodóir í** = *She is a lawyer* = "[It is] a lawyer that is in her" = **(Is) dlíodóir atá inti**

**Faoi**

The basic meaning of this word is *under* or *about*. For example, **Ritheann sé faoi dhroichead** means *He runs under a bridge*, and **Léann sé faoi eolaíocht** means *He reads about science*.

When used with the verb **bí**, it conveys the idea of intention to do something, or planning to do something. For example, **Tá fúm rith** means *I intend to run*. (The literal translation of the phrase would be "It is about me to run".)

* **Tá fút snámh** *You intend to swim*
* **Tá faoi Phól éisteacht** *Paul intends to listen*
* **Tá fúthú siúl** *They intend to walk*

**Genitive Case#5 · 2018-10-25**[**^**](https://duome.eu/tips/en/ga#top)

**Cases**

Nouns in Irish have different forms depending on their gender (masculine or feminine), number (singular or plural), and case. Irish has several cases, and each one has a specific grammatical function. The case you will have used in previous lessons is called the *nominative* case (**tuiseal ainmneach**), which is used for the subjects and objects of sentences.

**The genitive case**

The *genitive* case (**tuiseal ginideach**) is used to demonstrate a relationship between two nouns. It can often be translated literally as "of". For example, in the phrase "noun A of noun B", noun A would be written in the nominative, and noun B would be in the genitive.

It is used:

* to express ownership ("the dog's bowl", "Paul's sandwich")
* after the verbal noun
* after some prepositions, like **tar éis** *after* or **os comhair** *over*
* after some adverbs, like **go leor** *lots* or **níos mó** *more*

Just as when forming a plural, the ending of a noun may change when writing the genitive form, and most nouns obey a regular pattern. For some words the genitive spelling is the same as the nominative singular spelling (or even the plural spelling), but it is always clear from the context which case is being used.

Here is an example of the genitive:

* **an hata** *the hat*
* **an fear** *the man*
* **hata an fhir** *the man's hat* (literally, *the hat of the man*)

This example highlights three separate features:

1. The definite article (in this case **an**) is used only *once* in Irish, where it is used twice in English.
2. The noun in the genitive case is lenited (**an fhir**), whereas it is not lenited in the nominative case (**an fear**). For *singular* nouns in the genitive, the rules of lenition in response to gender are reversed compared to the nominative case (in other words, masculine nouns are lenited and feminine nouns are not lenited).
3. The genitive singular form of **fear** (**fir**) is the same as the plural (**fir**). It will be clear from context and/or from the associated article (**an** or **na**) which case is being used.

Examples:

* **Tá hata ag na fir** *The men have a hat*
* **Seo é hata an fhir** *This is the man's hat*

The plural form in the genitive is eclipsed where this is possible. For example, *the men's hats* is **hata na bhfear**.

It is helpful to think of the forms in a table like this:

| **Case** | **Singular** | **Plural** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Nominative | an fear | na fir |
| Genitive | an fhir | na bhfear |

As for the genitive plural, there are many rules to how it is formed and these are best learned by observing patterns. In the example above, the vowel groups change from broad to slender and vice versa [ea] to [i].

For feminine nouns, the definite article **na** is used in both the genitive singular and genitive plural, as in the following example:

| **Case** | **Singular** | **Plural** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Nominative | an bhialann | na bialanna |
| Genitive | na bialainne | na mbialann |

**Declensions**

All nouns in Irish belong to one of five groups called *declensions* (**díochlaontaí**). Nouns in each declension follow similar rules for the way they form the genitive and the plural, although there are often exceptions. Most dictionaries indicate the declension to which a given noun belongs.

**The first declension**

These nouns are all masculine and end with broad consonants. In the genitive singular, the last consonant is slenderised by swapping the vowels or adding an extra *-i-*. Some of these nouns end in *-ach*; the genitive singular for these nouns will change this to *-aigh*.

**The second declension**

These nouns are all feminine. Some end in broad consonants and some end in slender consonants. The genitive singular will usually end in *-e*. Some of these nouns end in *-ach*; the genitive singular for these nouns will change this to *-aí*.

**The third declension**

Some end in *-óir*, *-éir* or *-úir*; these are masculine. Others end in *-íocht*, *-acht* or *-int*; these are feminine (with the exception of some short words like *acht* or *ceacht* which are masculine*). The genitive singular ends in*-a\*.

**The fourth declension**

These end in *-ín* or with a vowel. They can be either masculine or feminine. For these nouns, the genitive is identical to the nominative.

**The fifth declension**

Most of these are feminine. The genitive singular is varied for these nouns; they can end in *-ach*, *-n*, *-nn* or *-d*.

**Negatives#2 · 2018-10-25**[**^**](https://duome.eu/tips/en/ga#top)

**Níl**

You have already seen the present habitual tense of the verb **bí** conjugated (**tá mé**/**táim**, **tá tú**, and so on). When this is put into the negative, it is conjugated differently.

| **English** | **Irish** |
| --- | --- |
| I am not | níl mé / nílim |
| you are not (singular) | níl tú |
| he is not / it is not | níl sé |
| she is not / it is not | níl sí |
| we are not | níl muid / nílimid |
| you are not (plural) | níl sibh |
| they are not | níl siad |

**Comparison#2 · 2018-10-25**[**^**](https://duome.eu/tips/en/ga#top)

**Comparative**

The comparative form of the adjective is used to describe something that is **more** than the other (e.g. bigger, smaller, louder). The word "níos" is used in Irish when using the comparative form.

**Superlative**

The superlative form of the adjective is used to describe something that is the **most** (e.g. biggest, smallest, loudest). The word "is" is used in Irish when using the superlative form.

**Forming the Comparative and Superlative Forms**

There are 5 groups of adjectives when forming the comparative and superlative forms in Irish. They may seem intimidating at first, but the patterns are quite simple.

**Group 1**

The 1st group is made up of adjectives that end with -ach or -each. To form the comparative/superlative in this group, remove the ending and add -aí (in place of -ach) or -í (in place of -each). Examples: Brónach (sad) and Neirbhíseach (nervous)

| **Comparative** | **Superlative** |
| --- | --- |
| níos brónaí | is brónaí |
| níos neirbhísí | is neirbhísí |

**Group 2**

The 2nd group is made up of adjectives that end with -úil. To form the comparative/superlative in this group, remove the ending and add -úla. Example: Leisciúil (lazy)

| **Comparative** | **Superlative** |
| --- | --- |
| níos leisciúla | is leisciúla |

**Group 3**

The 3rd group is made up of other adjectives that end with a consonant. To form the comparative/superlative in this group, make the adjective slender (if necessary) and add -e. Examples: Saibhir (rich) and Óg (young)

| **Comparative** | **Superlative** |
| --- | --- |
| níos saibhre | is saibhre |
| níos óige | is óige |

**Group 4**

The 4th group is made up of adjectives that end with a vowel. These usually do not change. Example: Cróga (brave)

| **Comparative** | **Superlative** |
| --- | --- |
| níos cróga | is cróga |

**Group 5**

The 5th group is made up of adjectives that are irregular in the comparative and superlative forms.

| **Adjective** | **Comparative** | **Superlative** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| fada (long) | níos faide | is faide |
| gearr (short) | níos giorra | is giorra |
| maith (good) | níos fearr | is fearr |
| mór (big) | níos mó | is mó |
| beag (small) | níos lú | is lú |
| olc (bad) | níos measa | is measa |
| tapaidh (fast) | níos tapúla | is tapúla |
| te (hot) | níos teo | is teo |

**Places#2 · 2018-10-25**[**^**](https://duome.eu/tips/en/ga#top)

**Position vs Direction**

One note about what we teach in this lesson:

**Prepositions 3#2 · 2018-10-25**[**^**](https://duome.eu/tips/en/ga#top)

Here are five more prepositional pronouns in all their forms:

| **Pronoun** | **between** | **to** | **about, around** | **through** | **over** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *(none)* | idir | do | um | trí | thar |
| *me* | - | dom | umam | tríom | tharam |
| *you* (singular) | - | duit | umat | tríot | tharat |
| *he, it* | - | dó | uime | tríd | thairis |
| *she, it* | - | di | uimpi | tríthi | thairsti |
| *us* | eadrainn | dúinn | umainn | trínn | tharainn |
| *you* (plural) | eadraibh | daoibh | umaibh | tríbh | tharaibh |
| *them* | eatarthu | dóibh | umpu | tríothu | tharstu |

**Idir**

This preposition normally means *between*. In this case, no lenition occurs:

* **Tá an cat idir éan agus madra** *The cat is between a bird and a dog*
* **Ithim seacláid idir béilí** *I eat chocolate between meals*

When used in the construction **idir ... agus ...**, it has the special meaning of *both ... and ...*, or *partly ... and ...*. In this case, the words are lenited:

* **Tá idir chailíní agus bhuachaillí sa phictiúrlann** *Both girls and boys are in the cinema*
* **Is maith léi úlla idir bheag agus mhór** *She likes both small and large apples*

**Passive#3 · 2018-10-25**[**^**](https://duome.eu/tips/en/ga#top)

The passive is a form of a verb that uses no pronoun. An action is done but no person is given (e.g. apples **are eaten** every Friday)

In Irish, this form of the verb is known as **an briathar saor** or **an saorbhriathar**, meaning *free verb* or *autonomous verb*

**Passive in the First Conjugation**

Here are the endings that are added on to the root in the present tense of first conjugation verbs to form the passive.

| **Broad** | **Slender** | **Example** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| -tar | -tear | dúntar (is/are closed), tuigtear (is/are understood) |

You might notice that in English, you use a different form of the verb for singular and plural (an apple **is** eaten, but apples **are** eaten). In Irish, the same form is used for both (Itear úll *an apple is eaten*, Itear úlla *apples are eaten*)

**Passive in the Second Conjugation**

Here are the endings that are added on to the root in the present tense of second conjugation verbs to form the passive.

| **Broad** | **Slender** | **Example** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| -aítear | -ítear | ceannaítear (is/are bought), insítear (is/are told) |

**Passive for Irregular Verbs**

Though these verbs are irregular, in the passive they generally use the endings -tar and -tear, with some exceptions that should be learned by heart.

**Numbers#2 · 2021-04-03**[**^**](https://duome.eu/tips/en/ga#top)

In Irish, there are three systems of numbers: disjunctive, general conjunctive, and human conjunctive.

**1. Disjunctive numbers**

These are known in Irish as **maoluimhreacha**. They are used when the number is not immediately followed by a noun, such as:

* counting ("one, two, three")
* arithmetic ("two plus two is four")
* telling time ("it is a quarter to five")
* phone numbers ("call me at 555-1234")
* after nouns ("bus 13", "channel 6")

If the number is less than 20, the root word is preceded by the word **a** (for example, **a dó** *two*). Numbers beginning with a vowel have a *h* added to them after **a** (for example, **a haon** *one*).

For the numbers 11 to 19, the unit (one to nine) is written first, followed by **déag** (*-teen*) (for example, **a trí déag** *thirteen*). The number 12 is an exception: **déag** should be lenited (**a dó dhéag** *twelve*).

| **Number** | **Irish** |
| --- | --- |
| 0 | a náid |
| 1 | a **h**aon |
| 2 | a dó |
| 3 | a trí |
| 4 | a ceathair |
| 5 | a cúig |
| 6 | a sé |
| 7 | a seacht |
| 8 | a **h**ocht |
| 9 | a naoi |
| 10 | a deich |
| 11 | a **h**aon déag |
| 12 | a dó d**h**éag |
| 13 | a trí déag |
| 14 | a ceathair déag |
| ... | ... |
| 20 | fiche |
| 21 | fiche a **h**aon |
| 22 | fiche a dó |
| ... | ... |
| 30 | tríocha |
| 40 | daichead |
| 50 | caoga |
| 60 | seasca |
| 70 | seachtó |
| 80 | ochtó |
| 90 | nócha |
| 100 | céad |
| 1000 | míle |

**2. General conjunctive numbers**

These are known in Irish as **bunuimhreacha**. These numbers come before a noun and are used to count the amount of things that are present. In almost all situations, you use the singular version of the noun and not the plural version when counting with **bunuimhreacha** (for example, to count dogs you use the singular **madra** instead of the plural **madraí**). They are used as follows:

**1-6**

The number is placed before the noun, and the noun is lenited (for example, **trí gheata** *three gates*).

**7-10**

The number is placed before the noun, and the noun is eclipsed (for example, **deich ngeata** *ten gates*).

**11-19**

The unit (one to nine) is placed before the noun, with the noun being lenited or eclipsed as above, and **déag** (*-teen*) is placed after the noun (for example, **aon bhuachaill déag** *eleven boys*, **ocht mbuachaill déag** *eighteen boys*). If the noun ends with a vowel, **déag** should be lenited (for example, **trí oráiste dhéag** *thirteen oranges*.

**20+**

The unit (one to nine) is placed before the noun, with the noun being lenited or eclipsed as above. The noun is followed by the word **is** (*and*), plus the appropriate multiple of ten such as 20, 30, 40 or similar (for example, **ceithre chat is fiche** *twenty-four cats*, **naoi gcat is tríocha** *thirty-nine cats*). If the number is a multiple of ten (20, 30, 40 or similar), the number is simply placed before the noun with no change of spelling (for example, **caoga madra** *fifty dogs*).

| **Number** | **Irish** |
| --- | --- |
| 1 | aon chat amháin |
| 2 | dhá chat |
| 3 | trí chat |
| 4 | ceithre chat |
| 5 | cúig chat |
| 6 | sé chat |
| 7 | seacht gcat |
| 8 | ocht gcat |
| 9 | naoi gcat |
| 10 | deich gcat |
| 11 | aon chat déag |
| 12 | dhá chat déag |
| ... | ... |
| 19 | naoi gcat déag |
| 20 | fiche cat |
| 21 | cat is fiche / aon chat is fiche |

An exception applies for nine particular nouns: they use special plural forms instead of the singular form when they are counted with **bunuimhreacha**. They are:

| **English** | **Irish** | **Special plural form for counting** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| year | bliain | bliana |
| head/end/one | ceann | cinn |
| skull | cloigeann | cloiginn |
| twenty | fiche | fichid |
| penny | pingin | pingine |
| week | seachtain | seachtaine |
| third | trian | treana |
| foot (measurement) | troigh | troithe |
| hour/time | uair | uaire |

**3. Human conjunctive numbers**

These are called **uimhreacha pearsanta**. They are used to count people from two up to 12.

| **Number** | **Irish** |
| --- | --- |
| 1 | duine / aon duine amháin |
| 2 | beirt |
| 3 | triúr |
| 4 | ceathrar |
| 5 | cúigear |
| 6 | seisear |
| 7 | seachtar |
| 8 | ochtar |
| 9 | naonúr |
| 10 | deichniúr |
| 11 | aon duine dhéag |
| 12 | dháréag |

Note that **duine** in 1 and 11 is not lenited. For all other numbers of people you use the general conjunctive numbers as before (for example, **trí dhuine dhéag** *thirteen people*).

In fact, these numbers are nouns themselves. If they are followed by the word that is being counted, that word goes into the genitive plural. The number used for two people, **beirt**, is feminine so it causes the following noun to be lenited, except when the noun begins with *d*, *t* or *s* (for example, **beirt bhuachaillí** *two boys, a couple of boys*; **beirt déagóirí** *two teenagers, a couple of teenagers*). All the others are masculine and do not cause lenition (for example, **cúigear fear** *five men*).

These numbers are used on their own when referring to people in the generic sense (for example, **Bhí triúr ann** *Three people were there*). Thus, it is incorrect to refer to **triúr daoine**.

The word **duine** used alone has the meaning of *one person/a person*, but this can be emphasised by adding **amháin** to it (for example, **Bhí duine [amháin] ann** *There was one person there*).

**Feelings and Traits#2 · 2018-10-25**[**^**](https://duome.eu/tips/en/ga#top)

**Feelings**

There are several ways to express felling in Irish.

**Method 1**

This method uses a noun and the prepositional pronoun "ar" (on). Here is the prepositional pronoun in all its forms:

| **English** | **Irish** |
| --- | --- |
| On me | Orm |
| On you (singular) | Ort |
| On him (it) | Air |
| On her (it) | Uirthi |
| On us | Orainn |
| On you | Oraibh |
| On them | Orthu |

**Example**: Tá ocras orm. ( I am hungry)

**Method 2**

This method uses the verb "bí" and and adjective. **Example**: Táim **ocrasach** (I am hungry)

**Verbs: Past 1#2 · 2018-10-25**[**^**](https://duome.eu/tips/en/ga#top)

In Irish, the past tense is used very often and is quite easy to form.

**First conjugation**

Here are the changes that occur to single syllable (monosyllabic) verbs in the past tense.

| **Pronoun** | **Broad ending** | **Example** | **Slender ending** | **Example** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| I | lenition + mé | dhún mé | lenition + mé | bhris mé |
| you (singular) | lenition + tú | dhún tú | lenition + tú | bhris tú |
| he/it | lenition + sé | dhún sé | lenition + sé | bhris sé |
| she/it | lenition + sí | dhún sí | lenition + sí | bhris sí |
| we | lenition + muid / lenition + -amar¹ | dhún muid / dhúnamar | lenition + muid / lenition + -eamar¹ | bhris muid / bhriseamar |
| you (plural) | lenition + sibh | dhún sibh | lenition + sibh | bhris sibh |
| they | lenition + siad | dhún siad | lenition + siad | bhris siad |
| (autonomous) | -adh | dúnadh | -eadh | briseadh |

¹In the past tense, **muid** is often not used; it can be incorporated into the verb that precedes it instead, to make what is known as the "synthetic form".

If the verb begins with a vowel, then it is prefixed with **d'** (instead of a lenition), with no space between **d'** and the verb. The autonomous form is unchanged.

Examples:

* **D'ól mé** *I drank*
* **D'ól muid/ D'ólamar** *We drank*
* **Óladh an beoir** *The beer was drunk*

If the verb begins with the letter *f*, then not only does it undergo lenition, but it is also prefixed with **d'**. The autonomous form is unchanged.

Examples: ***D'fhág mé***I left**\***D'fhág muid / D'fhágamar***We left* \***Fágadh an carr ar oscailt*The car was left open*

**Second conjugation**

Here are the changes that occur to multiple syllable (polysyllabic) verbs in the past tense.

| **Pronoun** | **Broad ending** | **Example** | **Slender ending** | **Example** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| I | lenition + mé | cheannaigh mé | lenition + mé | bhailigh mé |
| you (singular) | lenition + tú | cheannaigh tú | lenition + tú | bhailigh tú |
| he/it | lenition + sé | cheannaigh sé | lenition + sé | bhailigh sé |
| she/it | lenition + sí | cheannaigh sí | lenition + sí | bhailigh sí |
| we | lenition + muid / lenition + -aíomar | cheannaigh muid / cheannaíomar | lenition + muid / lenition + -íomar | bhailigh muid / bhailíomar |
| you (plural) | lenition + sibh | cheannaigh sibh | lenition + sibh | bhailigh sibh |
| they | lenition + siad | cheannaigh siad | lenition + siad | bhailigh siad |
| (autonomous) | -aíodh | ceannaíodh | -íodh | bailíodh |

If the verb begins with a vowel, then it is prefixed with **d'**. No change applies to the autonomous form.

Examples:

* **D'éalaigh mé** *I escaped*
* **D'oscail muid/ D'osclaíomar** *We opened*
* **Osclaíodh an buidéal** *The bottle was opened*

If the verb begins with the letter *f*, then it undergoes lenition and is prefixed with **d'**. The autonomous form is unchanged.

Examples: ***D'fhreagair sé***He answered**Freagraíodh an cheist** *The question was answered*

**Irregular Verbs**

Although some of them look very similar in their conjugation, the 11 irregular verbs do not always follow these rules, so it is necessary to learn these off by heart.

**Question and Negative Forms**

**Question Form** To ask a question using a verb in this tense, you use the question word "ar" and the verb is lenited (séimhiú) if possible. **Example**: Ar dhún sí? (Did she close?)

* **Exceptions**:

Bí: An raibh...?

Téigh: An ndeachaigh...?

Déan: An ndearna...?

Feic: An bhfaca...?

Faigh: An bhfuair...?

Abair: An ndúirt...?

**Negative Form** To make a verb in this tense negative, you use the word "níor" and the verb in lenited (séimhiú) if possible: **Example**: Níor dhún mé (I did not close), Níor ól sí (She did not drink), Níor fhág sé (He did not leave)

* **Exceptions**:

Bí: Ní raibh...

Téigh: Ní dheachaigh...

Déan: Ní dhearna...

Feic: Ní fhaca...

Faigh: Ní bfuair...

Abair: Ní dúirt...

**Characteristics#2 · 2018-10-25**[**^**](https://duome.eu/tips/en/ga#top)

In Irish, when talking about hair, you use the prepositional pronoun "ar" (orm, ort, etc.) when discussing the hair someone has. (E.g. Tá gruaig fhada orm, I have long hair)

**Verbs: Past 2#2 · 2018-10-25**[**^**](https://duome.eu/tips/en/ga#top)

You should be familiar with the past tense by now, but here are the conjugation rules once again to refresh your memory:

**First conjugation**

Here are the changes that occur to single syllable (monosyllabic) verbs in the past tense.

| **Pronoun** | **Broad ending** | **Example** | **Slender ending** | **Example** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| I | lenition + mé | dhún mé | lenition + mé | bhris mé |
| you (singular) | lenition + tú | dhún tú | lenition + tú | bhris tú |
| he/it | lenition + sé | dhún sé | lenition + sé | bhris sé |
| she/it | lenition + sí | dhún sí | lenition + sí | bhris sí |
| we | lenition + muid / lenition + -amar¹ | dhún muid / dhúnamar | lenition + muid / lenition + -eamar¹ | bhris muid / bhriseamar |
| you (plural) | lenition + sibh | dhún sibh | lenition + sibh | bhris sibh |
| they | lenition + siad | dhún siad | lenition + siad | bhris siad |
| (autonomous) | -adh | dúnadh | -eadh | briseadh |

¹In the past tense, **muid** is often not used; it can be incorporated into the verb that precedes it instead, to make what is known as the "synthetic form".

If the verb begins with a vowel, then it is prefixed with **d'** (instead of a lenition), with no space between **d'** and the verb. The autonomous form is unchanged.

Examples:

* **D'ól mé** *I drank*
* **D'ól muid/ D'ólamar** *We drank*
* **Óladh an beoir** *The beer was drunk*

If the verb begins with the letter *f*, then not only does it undergo lenition, but it is also prefixed with **d'**. The autonomous form is unchanged.

Examples: ***D'fhág mé***I left**\***D'fhág muid / D'fhágamar***We left* \***Fágadh an carr ar oscailt*The car was left open*

**Second conjugation**

Here are the changes that occur to multiple syllable (polysyllabic) verbs in the past tense.

| **Pronoun** | **Broad ending** | **Example** | **Slender ending** | **Example** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| I | lenition + mé | cheannaigh mé | lenition + mé | bhailigh mé |
| you (singular) | lenition + tú | cheannaigh tú | lenition + tú | bhailigh tú |
| he/it | lenition + sé | cheannaigh sé | lenition + sé | bhailigh sé |
| she/it | lenition + sí | cheannaigh sí | lenition + sí | bhailigh sí |
| we | lenition + muid / lenition + -aíomar | cheannaigh muid / cheannaíomar | lenition + muid / lenition + -íomar | bhailigh muid / bhailíomar |
| you (plural) | lenition + sibh | cheannaigh sibh | lenition + sibh | bhailigh sibh |
| they | lenition + siad | cheannaigh siad | lenition + siad | bhailigh siad |
| (autonomous) | -aíodh | ceannaíodh | -íodh | bailíodh |

If the verb begins with a vowel, then it is prefixed with **d'**. No change applies to the autonomous form.

Examples:

* **D'éalaigh mé** *I escaped*
* **D'oscail muid/ D'osclaíomar** *We opened*
* **Osclaíodh an buidéal** *The bottle was opened*

If the verb begins with the letter *f*, then it undergoes lenition and is prefixed with **d'**. The autonomous form is unchanged.

Examples: ***D'fhreagair sé***He answered**Freagraíodh an cheist** *The question was answered*

**Irregular Verbs**

Although some of them look very similar in their conjugation, the 11 irregular verbs do not always follow these rules, so it is necessary to learn these off by heart.

**Question and Negative Forms**

**Question Form** To ask a question using a verb in this tense, you use the question word "ar" and the verb is lenited (séimhiú) if possible. **Example**: Ar dhún sí? (Did she close?)

* **Exceptions**:

Bí: An raibh...?

Téigh: An ndeachaigh...?

Déan: An ndearna...?

Feic: An bhfaca...?

Faigh: An bhfuair...?

Abair: An ndúirt...?

**Negative Form** To make a verb in this tense negative, you use the word "níor" and the verb in lenited (séimhiú) if possible: **Example**: Níor dhún mé (I did not close), Níor ól sí (She did not drink), Níor fhág sé (He did not leave)

* **Exceptions**:

Bí: Ní raibh...

Téigh: Ní dheachaigh...

Déan: Ní dhearna...

Feic: Ní fhaca...

Faigh: Ní bfuair...

Abair: Ní dúirt...

**Verbal Noun#2 · 2018-10-25**[**^**](https://duome.eu/tips/en/ga#top)

Each verb in Irish has its own *verbal noun* (**ainm briathartha**). The verbal noun is used in similar ways to the infinitive and the gerund in other languages. There is no absolute way to predict what the verbal noun will look like for a given verb, so you should learn them off by heart when learning new verbs.

Examples:

* **Táim ag glanadh** *I am cleaning*
* **Tá Pól ag ithe** *Paul is eating*
* **Níl mo mhac ag siúl** *My son is not walking*

**Objects after a verbal noun**

**Nouns**

When the object of a sentence comes after a verbal noun, and those two words form a complete concept by themselves, the object goes into the genitive case.

Examples:

* **Táim ag ithe úill** *I am eating an apple*
* **Tá mé ag bailiú airgid sa bhaile** *I am collecting money in the town*
* **An bhfuil Pól ag déanamh oibre?** *Is Paul doing work?*
* **Táim ag lorg oibre i Londain** *I am looking for work in London*
* **Tá síad ag díol na n-éadaí** *They are selling the clothes*

However, if the verbal noun clause needs to be followed by a prepositional phrase in order for it to make complete sense, then the genitive case is not used.

* **Táimid ag caitheamh seachtaine i Londain** *We are spending a week in London*
* **Táim ag lorg oibre sa Rialtas** *I am looking for work in the Government*

**Pronouns**

There are special systems to write things when a pronoun is used as the object of a verbal noun. One system applies when the verbal noun starts with a consonant, and another system is used when it starts with a vowel.

**Verbal nouns starting with a consonant**

To illustrate this, we will use:

* **Tá Pól ag glanadh** *Paul is cleaning*

| **Object pronoun** | **Change** | **Irish** | **English** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| me | do mo + lenition | Tá Pól **do mo** g**h**lanadh | Paul is cleaning me |
| you (singular) | do do + lenition | Tá Pól **do do** g**h**lanadh | Paul is cleaning you |
| him (it) | á + lenition | Tá Pól **á** g**h**lanadh | Paul is cleaning him |
| her (it) | á | Tá Pól **á** glanadh | Paul is cleaning her |
| us | dár + eclipsis | Tá Pól **dár n**glanadh | Paul is cleaning us |
| you (plural) | do bhur + eclipsis | Tá Pól **do bhur n**glanadh | Paul is cleaning you |
| them | á + eclipsis | Tá Pól **á n**glanadh | Paul is cleaning them |

**Verbal nouns starting with a vowel**

To illustrate this, we will use:

* **Tá sé ag aistriú** *He is transferring/moving*

| **Object pronoun** | **Change** | **Irish** | **English** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| me | do m' | Tá sé **do m'**aistriú | He is transferring me |
| you (singular) | do d' | Tá sé **do d'**aistriú | He is transferring you |
| him (it) | á | Tá sé **á** aistriú | He is transferring him |
| her (it) | á + h-prefix | Tá sé **á h**aistriú | He is transferring her |
| us | dár + n-prefix | Tá sé **dár n-**aistriú | He is transferring us |
| you (plural) | do bhur + n-prefix | Tá sé **do bhur n-**aistriú | He is transferring you |
| them | á + n-prefix | Tá sé **á n-**aistriú | He is transferring them |

**Ireland 2#2 · 2018-10-25**[**^**](https://duome.eu/tips/en/ga#top)

Welcome back to Ireland!

On this visit to the Land of Saints and Scholars, you will learn about Irish inventions, traditions and symbols.

Have fun!

**Pronouns Reflexive#2 · 2018-10-25**[**^**](https://duome.eu/tips/en/ga#top)

**Pronouns Reflexive**

Reflexive pronouns are very easy in Irish. To make a reflexive pronoun, all you have to do is add "féin" after the pronoun.

| **English** | **Irish** |
| --- | --- |
| myself | mé féin |
| yourself | tú féin |
| himself/itself | é féin |
| herself/itself | í féin |
| ourselves | muid féin/sinn féin |
| yourselves | sibh féin |
| themselves | iad féin |

These are then added after the verb and pronoun. For example:

* Ním mé féin (I wash myself)
* Ghortaigh sé é féin (He hurt himself)

**Directions#2 · 2018-10-25**[**^**](https://duome.eu/tips/en/ga#top)

**Position vs Direction**

In Irish, there are different words for the same *place* depending on whether something is **there already**, or **moving relative to it**. English kind of has this, with words like *in* (being there) vs *into* (going there).

Irish takes this idea much further. As one example, there are different words for *up*, depending on whether something is going up, already up, or coming back having been up. Let's see it in action:

| **en** | **ga** |
| --- | --- |
| I'm going up. | Táim ag dul **suas**. |
| I'm up. | Táim **thuas**. |
| I'm coming down (from above). | Táim ag teacht **anuas**. |

You may not be too familiar with such a feature, but don't be discouraged! It's actually quite useful. In fact, the very cool thing is that because the word itself indicates relative movement and postion, you can sometimes drop the verb! Example:

**Tá sé anuas. He's** (on his way) **down** (having been above).

Go learn all the words, and tell your friends easily and in great detail how things are situated relative to each other!

One more fun fact: the cardinal directions have the features we just learned, plus one more. They have a noun name. Here's an example to explain:

| **en** | **ga** |
| --- | --- |
| going towards east | soir |
| situated east | thoir |
| coming from the east | anoir |
| the east | an t-oirthear |

If this seems slightly out there, don't fret. Enjoy this skill and learn by example, it will make much more sense in context.

**Sport#2 · 2019-02-20**[**^**](https://duome.eu/tips/en/ga#top)

**Cúilín or Pointe**

In this skill, you will learn two words for *point*, **cúilín** and **pointe**. These words are sometimes used interchangeably, but in general:

* **Cúilín** is used for Gaelic games (hurling, Gaelic football, camogie) for the score obtained by hitting/kicking the ball over the crossbar of the goal and between the two posts. It is the diminuitive of the word for *goal*, **cúl** (in these sports one **cúl** is worth 3 points and one **cúilín** is just 1 point).
* **Pointe** is used for other sports or games (including video games), or when discussing, for example, the number of points a team has on a league table.

**Verbs: Future 1#2 · 2018-10-25**[**^**](https://duome.eu/tips/en/ga#top)

The future tense is a very common tense in Irish and is easy to form.

**The first conjugation**

These verbs have only one syllable. In the future tense the ending is, for the most part, added directly onto the root of the verb. Here are the endings that are added:

| **Pronoun** | **Broad ending** | **Slender ending** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| I | -faidh mé | -fidh mé |
| you (singular) | -faidh tú | -fidh tú |
| he/it | -faidh sé | -fidh sé |
| she/it | -faidh sí | -fidh sí |
| we | -faimid / faidh muid | -fimid / fidh muid |
| you (plural) | -faidh sibh | -fidh sibh |
| they | -faidh siad | -fidh siad |
| (passive voice) | -far | -fear |

Examples:

* **Dúnfaimid / Dúnfaidh muid** *We will close*
* **Ólfaidh sí** *She will drink*

**The second conjugation**

These verbs have more than one syllable. The pattern for forming the future tense is very similar to forming the present tense. For verbs ending in *-gh*, the last syllable of the word is removed to get a root and the endings are then added to that root. For verbs ending in *-il*, *-in*, *-is* or *-ir*, the last syllable is removed except for the very last letter, and then the appropriate ending is added.

Here are the endings that are added to the stem:

| **Pronoun** | **Broad ending** | **Slender ending** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| I | -óidh mé | -eoidh mé |
| you (singular) | -óidh tú | -eoidh tú |
| he/it | -óidh sé | -eoidh sé |
| she/it | -óidh sí | -eoidh sí |
| we | -óimid / óidh muid | -eoimid / eoidh muid |
| you (plural) | -óidh sibh | -eoidh sibh |
| they | -óidh siad | -eoidh siad |
| (passive voice) | -ófar | -eofar |

Examples:

* **Imeoidh sé** *He will leave*
* **Ceannóidh mé** *I will buy*

**Irregular verbs**

The irregular verbs do not all follow the above conjugation rules, though you will notice some similarities.

**Question form**

To make the question form in the future tense, you use the question word **an**, which causes the verb that comes after it to be eclipsed (if possible).

Examples:

* **An dtuigfidh sí?** *Will she understand?*
* **An ceannófar an leabhar?** *Will the book be bought?*

Exceptions include the verb **faigh** *get*:

* **An bhfaighidh sé?** *Will he get?*

**Negative form**

To make the negative form in the future tense, you use the negation word **ní**, which causes the verb that comes after it to be lenited (if possible).

Examples:

* **Ní bhaileoidh mé** *I will not collect*
* **Ní ólfaimid / Ní ólfaidh muid** *We will not drink*

Exceptions include the verbs **abair** *say* and **faigh** *get*:

* **Ní déarfaidh sé** *He will not say* (note: no lenition)
* **Ní bhfaighidh mé** *I will not get*

**Imperative#2 · 2021-03-11**[**^**](https://duome.eu/tips/en/ga#top)

To form the imperative in Irish, it is very simple.

**Second Person Singular**

If you are ordering **one** person, you use this form. It simply uses the verb root.

**Examples**: Dún! (Close!), Bí ciúin! (Be quiet)

**Second Person Plural**

If you are ordering **several** people, you use this form.

In the first conjugation, you add -aigí (broad) or -ígí (slender) to the stem of the verb.

In the second conjugation, first form the stem (if a verb ends in -aigh/-igh, just remove this part of the verb, e.g. ceannaigh -> ceann (stem), if a verb ends in -ail/-il, -ais/-is, -air/-ir, etc., remove this part of the verb but keep the last letter, e.g. cosain -> cosn (stem), imir -> imr (stem)), then just add -aígí (broad) or -ígí (slender) to the stem of the verb.

**Example**: Dúnaigí (Close!), Imrígí! (Play!), Ceannaígí nuachtáin! (Buy newspapers!)

**Negative**

To turn an imperative phrase negative, you use the imperative negative particle **ná** (this serves the purpose of English *don't* with relation to the imperative). If the verb starts with a vowel, add a **h** to the verb after **ná**.

**Example**: Ná dúnaigí! (Don't close!), Ná **h**ól alcól! (Don't drink alcohol!)

**Verbs: Imperfect#2 · 2018-10-25**[**^**](https://duome.eu/tips/en/ga#top)

The imperfect tense (or the past habitual tense) is used to describe what one *used to do* (e.g. I used to run every Wednesday)

**First Conjugation**

Here are the endings that are added to the root of single syllable (monosyllabic) verbs in the imperfect tense. (i.e. the first conjugation)

| **Pronoun** | **Broad Ending** | **Slender Ending** | **Other Changes** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Mé | -ainn | -inn | Consonant: Séimhiú, Vowel: D', F: D' and Séimhiú |
| Tú | -tá | -teá | Consonant: Séimhiú, Vowel: D', F: D' and Séimhiú |
| Sé/Sí/Sibh | -adh | -eadh | Consonant: Séimhiú, Vowel: D', F: D' and Séimhiú |
| Muid | -aimis | -imis | Consonant: Séimhiú, Vowel: D', F: D' and Séimhiú |
| Siad | -aidís | -idís | Consonant: Séimhiú, Vowel: D', F: D' and Séimhiú |
| Passive | -taí | -tí | Consonant: Séimhiú, Vowel: D', F: D' and Séimhiú |

* The pronoun is not used in the imperfect tense, except with the sé/sí/sibh form.

**Examples**: Mholainn (I used to praise), Thuigteá (You used to understand)

**Second Conjugation**

Here are the endings that are added to the stem (i.e. last part of the verb's root is removed) of multi-syllable (polysyllabic) verbs in the imperfect. (i.e. the second conjugation)

| Pronoun | Broad Ending | Slender Ending | Other Changes |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Mé | -aínn | -ínn | Consonant: Séimhiú, Vowel: D', F: D' and Séimhiú |
| Tú | -aíteá | -íteá | Consonant: Séimhiú, Vowel: D', F: D' and Séimhiú |
| Sé/Sí/Sibh | -aíodh | -íodh | Consonant: Séimhiú, Vowel: D', F: D' and Séimhiú |
| Muid | -aímis | -ímis | Consonant: Séimhiú, Vowel: D', F: D' and Séimhiú |
| Siad | -aídís | -ídís | Consonant: Séimhiú, Vowel: D', F: D' and Séimhiú |
| Passive | -aítí | -ítí | Consonant: Séimhiú, Vowel: D', F: D' and Séimhiú |

* The pronoun is not used in the imperfect, except with the sé/sí/sibh form.

**Examples**: Cheannaíodh sé (He used to buy), D'insídís (They used to tell)

**Question and Negative Forms**

**Question Form**

To make the question form in the imperfect tense, you use the question word "an" and add an urú to the verb. **Example**: An gceannaíteá? (Did you used to buy?)

**Negative Form**

To make the negative form in the conditional, you use the word "ní". The verb is lenited. **Example**: Ní cheannaínn(I did not used to buy)

**Verbs: Conditional#2 · 2018-10-25**[**^**](https://duome.eu/tips/en/ga#top)

The conditional is used to describe what one *would* do.

**First Conjugation**

Here are the endings that are added to the root of single syllable (monosyllabic) verbs in the conditional. (i.e. the first conjugation)

| **Pronoun** | **Broad Ending** | **Slender Ending** | **Other Changes** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Mé | -fainn | -finn | Consonant: Séimhiú, Vowel: D', F: D' and Séimhiú |
| Tú | -fá | -feá | Consonant: Séimhiú, Vowel: D', F: D' and Séimhiú |
| Sé/Sí | -fadh | -feadh | Consonant: Séimhiú, Vowel: D', F: D' and Séimhiú |
| Muid | -faimis | -fimis | Consonant: Séimhiú, Vowel: D', F: D' and Séimhiú |
| Sibh | -fadh | -feadh | Consonant: Séimhiú, Vowel: D', F: D' and Séimhiú |
| Siad | -faidís | -fidís | Consonant: Séimhiú, Vowel: D', F: D' and Séimhiú |
| Autonomous | -faí | -fí | Consonant: Séimhiú, Vowel: D', F: D' and Séimhiú |

* The pronoun is not used in the conditional, except with the sé/sí/sibh form.

**Examples**: Thuigfinn (I would understand), D'éistfeadh sí (She would listen)

**Second Conjugation**

Here are the endings that are added to the stem (i.e. last part of the verb's root is removed) of multi-syllable (polysyllabic) verbs in the conditional. (i.e. the second conjugation)

| **Pronoun** | **Broad Ending** | **Slender Ending** | **Other Changes** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Mé | -óinn | -eoinn | Consonant: Séimhiú, Vowel: D', F: D' and Séimhiú |
| Tú | -ófá | -eofá | Consonant: Séimhiú, Vowel: D', F: D' and Séimhiú |
| Sé/Sí | -ódh | -eodh | Consonant: Séimhiú, Vowel: D', F: D' and Séimhiú |
| Muid | -óimis | -eoimis | Consonant: Séimhiú, Vowel: D', F: D' and Séimhiú |
| Sibh | -ódh | -eodh | Consonant: Séimhiú, Vowel: D', F: D' and Séimhiú |
| Siad | -óidís | -eoidís | Consonant: Séimhiú, Vowel: D', F: D' and Séimhiú |
| Autonomous | -ófaí | -eofaí | Consonant: Séimhiú, Vowel: D', F: D' and Séimhiú |

* The pronoun is not used in the conditional, except with the sé/sí/sibh form.

**Examples**: Chabhrófá (You would help), D'éalódh sibh (You would escape)

**Irregular Verbs**

Though these 11 verbs are irregular, some are conjugated similarly to regular verbs in the conditional.

It is hard to give any meaningful rule or pattern for this group as a whole, so you will just have to learn these exceptions by heart.

**Question and Negative Forms**

**Question Form**

To make the question form in the conditional, you use the question word "an" and add an urú to the verb. **Example**: An gcodlófá? (Would you sleep?)

* **Exceptions**:

Faigh: An bhfaighinn?

**Negative Form**

To make the negative form in the conditional, you use the word "ní". The verb is lenited. **Example**: Ní chodlóinn (I would not sleep)

* **Exceptions**:

Faigh: Ní bhfaighinn...

**If**

When using the conditional mood (yes, this form is technically a **mood** and not a **tense**), we use the word **dá** to mean *if*.

**Dá** causes eclipsis if possible (remember: you can't have move eclipsis and lenition at the same time, so it would be **dá mbeadh** and never **dá mbheadh** (which is a monster to pronounce)).

**Dá** adds an **n-** ("n fleiscín") before verbs starting with a vowel (e.g. dá n-ólfá (if you would drink/if you drank)

Then, the word **mura** is used as the negative of (or, opposite of) **dá** (**mura** could be translated as **if not**)

**Mura** causes the same changes as **dá**

e.g. Mura mbeadh sí tinn (If she were not sick)

**Translating the Conditional Mood**

You will quickly learn that Irish and English treat the conditional quite differently. In this Irish conditional, the conditional mood is used throughout. For example:

**Ólfainn uisce dá mbeadh tart orm.**

A literal translation would be: *I would drink water if I would be thirsty*

This seems a bit unnatural in English. A more common translation would be *I would drink water if I were thirsty* (using the past subjunctive) or, common in some dialects, *I would drink water if I was thirsty* (using the preterite).

This is an example where tenses and moods don't match up perfectly between two languages.