



# Menghaváné Galáthach hAtevíu

## Modern Gaulish Lessons

This page would be intentionally left blank, if we would not wish to inform about that.



# Menghaváné Galáthach hAtevíu

## Modern Gaulish Lessons

**Document author:** Andy Nagels

**Content author:** Steve Gwiríu Mórghnath Hansen

**Date:** February 24, 2018

**Version:** 1.0

-DRAFT VERSION-

This page would be intentionally left blank, if we would not wish to inform about that.

## **Preface**

This free book is intended for all those, who wish to learn the beautiful, modern, celtic language *Galáthach hAtevíu*.

This page would be intentionally left blank, if we would not wish to inform about that.

## Foreword

The information in this document, was retrieved from  
*<https://moderngaulishlessons.wordpress.com/modern-gaulish-lessons-in-english/>*

I liked those lessons, but would've preferred the format to be in pdf or even better: epub.

Putting the information from that website in a L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X document, allows me to create the formats I desire. The content is transcribed, almost word for word. I may have made small changes related to punctuation marks, layout and for clarification, minor additions to the content itself.

The website *<http://moderngaulish.com>*, is also worth checking out. There, you can find all the latest information about the Modern Gaulish language.

There is also an active facebook group for the Modern Gaulish language, which you can find at the following url: *<https://www.facebook.com/groups/moderngaulishlanguage/>*.

It's a good place to ask questions about the language.



This page would be intentionally left blank, if we would not wish to inform about that.

dedication - TBD

This page would be intentionally left blank, if we would not wish to inform about that.

acknowledgement - TBD

This page would be intentionally left blank, if we would not wish to inform about that.

# Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>Menghavan 0: Swausé In Tengü</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1	Vowels . . . . .	1
1.2	Consonants . . . . .	1
1.3	Vowel length variation . . . . .	2
<b>2</b>	<b>Menghavan 1: Bréthré – Aman Dhathach: Gweranúé Donach</b>	<b>3</b>
2.1	Verbs in the present tense . . . . .	3
2.1.1	Root form . . . . .	3
2.1.2	Present tense . . . . .	3
2.1.3	Exercises . . . . .	5
2.2	Personal pronouns . . . . .	7
2.2.1	Exercises . . . . .	8
<b>3</b>	<b>Menghavan 2: Gweranúé Donach Co hUrchatha</b>	<b>10</b>
3.1	Personal Pronouns As Object Of An Active Verb . . . . .	10
3.1.1	Exercises . . . . .	12
3.2	Personal Pronouns As Object Of A Verbal Noun . . . . .	14
3.2.1	Exercises . . . . .	16
<b>4</b>	<b>Menghavan 3: Anúé – Téith – In hAmosanal</b>	<b>18</b>
4.1	Nouns . . . . .	18
4.1.1	Exercises . . . . .	19
4.2	Possession . . . . .	21
4.2.1	Exercises . . . . .	22
4.3	The Article . . . . .	24
4.3.1	Exercises . . . . .	25
<b>5</b>	<b>Menghavan 4: Alghnas Anúé</b>	<b>27</b>
5.1	Gender Of Nouns . . . . .	27
5.1.1	Exercises . . . . .	30
<b>6</b>	<b>Menghavan 5: Rithiúnan In Elwachídhu</b>	<b>32</b>
6.1	Plural Of Nouns . . . . .	32
6.2	Plural Of Woman . . . . .	32
6.3	Plural Of Natural Pairs . . . . .	33
6.4	Plural Of Collectivity . . . . .	33
6.5	Plural After Numbers . . . . .	33
6.6	Exercises . . . . .	34
<b>7</b>	<b>Menghavan 6: Anúé Benin Can In hAmosanal – Gwerthanále Coswaus Anol-</b>	
	<b>sam</b>	<b>40</b>
7.1	Feminine Nouns And The Article . . . . .	40
7.2	Initial Consonant Mutation Changes . . . . .	41
7.2.1	Exercises . . . . .	42
<b>8</b>	<b>Menghavan 7: Achathéné — In Bréthr <i>esi</i></b>	<b>44</b>
8.1	Adjectives . . . . .	44
8.1.1	The Suffix <i>-ach</i> . . . . .	44
8.1.2	The Suffix <i>-ch</i> . . . . .	44
8.1.3	The Suffix <i>-ídhu</i> . . . . .	44

8.1.4	The Suffix <i>-in</i> . . . . .	44
8.1.5	The Prefixes <i>su-</i> And <i>du-</i> . . . . .	44
8.1.6	Position Of The Adjective . . . . .	44
8.1.7	Mutation Of The Adjective . . . . .	44
8.2	The Verb <i>to be</i> . . . . .	44
8.3	Exercises . . . . .	45
<b>9</b>	<b>Menghavan 8: Rivrethré</b>	<b>46</b>
9.1	Adverbs . . . . .	46
9.1.1	Position Of The Adverb . . . . .	46
9.1.2	Exercises . . . . .	47
<b>10</b>	<b>Menghavan 9: Gwepráie</b>	<b>49</b>
10.1	Prepositions . . . . .	49
10.1.1	With Personal Pronouns . . . . .	49
10.1.2	Prepositions Ending In Consonants . . . . .	49
10.1.3	Prepositions Ending In Vowels . . . . .	49
10.1.4	Prepositions Consisting Of Only One Vowel . . . . .	49
10.1.5	Prepositions Ending On <i>-u</i> . . . . .	49
10.1.6	Exercises . . . . .	49
<b>11</b>	<b>Menghavan 10: Gweranúé Téithach — Adhavachúé – Nithachúé</b>	<b>50</b>
11.1	Possessive Pronouns . . . . .	50
11.1.1	Excercises . . . . .	50
<b>12</b>	<b>Menghavan 11: Colaváru — Méstu Péthach – Inchoran Chwogníthach</b>	<b>51</b>
12.1	Conversation . . . . .	51
<b>13</b>	<b>Menghavan 12: Inchorané Rhéiach – Inchorané hAnréiach</b>	<b>52</b>
13.1	Conversation . . . . .	52
<b>14</b>	<b>Menghavan 13: Inchorané Gwepsin – Inchorané Gwep Péthan</b>	<b>53</b>
14.1	Conversation . . . . .	53

# 1 Menghavan 0: Swausé In Tengu

(Lesson 0: The Sounds Of The Language)

In this preliminary lesson you will learn what the sounds of the language are.

## 1.1 Vowels

Modern Gaulish has five vowels. They can be short or long. These are the short ones. The table shows how they are written, what their phonetic value is, and what they sound like using examples in English and other languages.

vowel	phonetic value (IPA)	sound examples
a	[a]	pat
o	[o]	pot
u	[u]	put
e	[e]	pet
i	[i]	pit

Table 1: Vowels

This table shows the long vowels. They are indicated with diacritics over the vowel, e.g. á is long a.

vowel	phonetic value	sound examples
á	[a:]	part
ó	[o:]	pole
ú	[u:]	pool
é	[e:]	pay without the final y
í	[i:]	peel

Table 2: Long vowels

Modern Gaulish has five diphthongs. A diphthong is a group of two vowels written and pronounced together. This table shows them.

diphthong	phonetic value (IPA)	sound examples
ái	[a:j]	bye
ói	[o:j]	boy
úi	[u:j]	brouillard (French)
éi	[e:j]	bay
au	[au]	cow

Table 3: Diphthongs

## 1.2 Consonants

Modern Gaulish has a large number of consonants. The table below shows how they are written, gives their phonetic description, and gives sound examples in English and other languages. It is not possible to provide examples for every sound.



consonant	phonetic value (IPA)	sound examples
p	[p]	pit
t	[t]	tit
c	[k]	kit
b	[b]	boar
d	[d]	door
g	[g]	gore
v	[v]	very
dh	[ð]	there
gh	[ɣ]	* <i>ἐγώ</i> , ego, modern Greek “I”
f	[f]	fin
th	[θ]	thin
ch	[x]	* lo <b>ch</b> , Scottish; <b>ich</b> , German
fh	[ϕ]	* f, with no tongue on teeth
m	[m]	may
w	[w]	way
s	[s]	sit
sh	[ʃ]	shit
n	[n]	nose
r	[r]	rose
l	[l]	lose
nh	[xn]	* [x] followed by [n]
rh	[xr]	* [x] followed by [r]
lh	[xl]	* [x] followed by [l]
ng	[ŋ]	sing

Table 4: Consonants

### 1.3 Vowel length variation

The length of a vowel can change. In a word of two syllables or more the emphasis will be on the second last syllable. Often this will make the vowel of that syllable long. Examples are given below.

men: to think → vowel /e/ is short

ménu: thought → emphasis on first vowel /e/ which becomes long

menúé: thoughts → emphasis shifts to second last vowel /u/ which becomes long

## 2 Menghavan 1: Bréthré – Aman Dhathach: Gweranúé Donach

(Lesson 1: Verbs – Present Tense: Personal Pronouns)

In the first lesson you will learn how to put a verb in the present tense and how to use it with a personal pronoun.

### 2.1 Verbs in the present tense

#### 2.1.1 Root form

Each verb has a basic form or *root form*, known as a *verbal noun*. It has the same function as the infinitive in English.

Verbal nouns can end in a consonant, in -i, -a, -e, and in just one case in -ó, never in -u.

Examples:

Galáthach	English
ápis	to see
men	to think
gwel	to want
gar	to call
carni	to build
argha	to shine
delghe	to hold
ávó	to do, to make
berwi	to boil
gní	to know

#### 2.1.2 Present tense

To form the present tense of these verbs, an -a is added to the verbal noun in the following ways. Note that vowels in modern Gaulish can be either long or short. Vowel length changes with emphasis. The emphasis is always on the second last syllable. When words are extended the emphasis shifts accordingly.

Verbs on a consonant:

ápis → apísa  
men → ména  
gwel → gwéla  
gar → gára

Verbs on -i:

carni → carna

Verbs on -a:

argha → argha ⇒ nothing changes

Verbs on -e:

delghe → delgha

Verbs on -ó exchange the ó for an -a:

ávó → áva

Verbs on -wi retain the final -i:

berwi → berwía

Verbs on -i, where -i is the only vowel, retain the final -i:

gní → gnía

### 2.1.3 Exercises

Put the following verbs into the present tense:

Verb	Present tense	
prin	to buy	
ber	to carry	
gal	to be able to do	
brís	to break	
ívi	to drink	
cára	to love	
cinge	to wage war	
ávó	to do, to make	
camwi	to bend, to curve	
lí	to lie down	

Table 5: Exercise: present tense

Solution:

Galáthach	English	<i>Answer (Galáthach)</i>
prín	to buy	<i>prína</i>
ber	to carry	<i>bera</i>
gal	to be able to do	<i>gala</i>
bris	to break	<i>brisa</i>
ívi	to drink	<i>íva</i>
cára	to love	<i>cára</i>
cinge	to wage war	<i>cinga</i>
ávó	to do, to make	<i>áva</i>
camwí	to bend, to curve	<i>camwía</i>
Í	to lie down	<i>lí</i>

Table 6: Solution: present tense

## 2.2 Personal pronouns

The personal pronouns when used as subject are as follows:

Galáthach	English
mi	I
ti	you
é	he
í	she
í	it
ni	we
sú	you (pl.)
sí	they

Table 7: Personal pronouns, when used as subject

There is no difference in the third pronoun plural between the masculine and the feminine form.

In modern Gaulish the personal pronoun follows the verb it accompanies:

Galáthach	English
apísa mi	I see
ména ti	you think
gwéla é	he wants
gára í	she calls
carna ni	we build
argha sú	you shine
delgha sí	they hold
áva í	it does, it makes
berwía í	it boils
gnía í	it knows

### 2.2.1 Exercises

Make the following phrases:

Phrase (English)	Answer (Galáthach)
I buy	
you carry	
he can	
she breaks	
we drink	
you (pl.) love	
they wage war	
it does, it makes	
it bends	
it lies down	

Table 8: Exercise: personal pronouns

Solution:

Phrase (English)	<i>Answer (Galtlach)</i>
I buy	<i>prina mi</i>
you carry	<i>bera ti</i>
he can	<i>gala e</i>
she breaks	<i>brisa i</i>
we drink	<i>iwa ni</i>
you (pl.) love	<i>cara su</i>
they wage war	<i>cinga si</i>
it does, it makes	<i>dva i</i>
it bends	<i>camwida i</i>
it lies down	<i>lia i</i>

Table 9: Solution: phrases



## 3 Menghavan 2: Gweranúé Donach Co hUrchatha

(Lesson 2: Personal Pronouns As Object)

In the second lesson you will learn how to use a pronoun when it is the object of a phrase with a verb.

### 3.1 Personal Pronouns As Object Of An Active Verb

The object of a sentence is the thing to which something is being done. It is the receiving end of the action performed by the verb.

When personal pronouns are the object of a sentence they can take two different forms. The first form is identical to the form they take when they are the subject of a sentence, except for one. The subject of a sentence is the giving end of the action performed by the verb.

Personal pronouns as subject		Personal pronouns as object	
Galáthach	English	Galáthach	English
mi	I	mi	me
ti	you	ti	you
é	he	é	him
í	she	í	her
í	it	í	it
ni	we	ni	us
sú	you (pl.)	sú	you (pl.)
ís	they	ís	them

Table 10: Personal pronouns, as subject vs. as object

Only the third person plural pronoun differs: *ís* instead of *sí*.

These pronouns are used when they are the receiving end of an active verb. An active verb is a verb that performs the main action of a phrase. It will have a subject which will be performing the action. It will be in a form that indicates the time and the way the action is being performed.

V = verb

S = subject

O = object

In modern Gaulish a phrase has the standard order Verb-Subject-Object order. It is an aspect that is characteristic of the Celtic languages and is not common in English.

Using the verbs that were introduced in lesson 1 we can construct examples:

Galáthach	English		Galáthach	English
apísa mi	I see	→	apísa mi ti	I see you

In the phrase *apísa mi ti* the verb *apísa* comes first, the subject *mi* comes second, and the object *ti* comes third. This is indicated like this:

apísa	mi	ti
V	S	O

We can see that the verb *apísa* is an active verb because it is in the present tense: it has the present tense ending *-a*.

Here are more examples:

Galáthach	English
gára í mi	she calls me
delgha é ni	he holds us
gnía sí sú	they know you (pl.)

When the object pronoun starts with a vowel, such as *é*, *í* and *ís*, and they follow a subject pronoun, that object pronoun receives an extra letter *ch-* at the start. This letter *ch* is pronounced like the *-ch* in the Scottish word “loch”.

Galáthach	English
apísa mi chí	I see her
ména mi chí	I think it
gwéla í ché	she wants him
áva é chí	he does it
gnía sú chís	you (pl.) know them
gára í chís	she calls them

### 3.1.1 Exercises

Construct the following phrases with any of the following verbs:

prin (to buy), ber (to carry), brís (to break), ívi (to drink), cára (to love), ávó (to do, to make), camwi (to bend, to curve), lí (to lie down), gní (to know), apís (to see), gwél (to want), gára (to call)

Phrase (English)	Answer (Galáthach)
I buy it	
you carry him	
he breaks it	
she drinks it	
we love them	
they call you (pl.)	
you (pl.) bend us	
she sees me	
he knows her	
she wants you	

Table 11: Exercise: phrases with verbs

Solution:

Phrase (English)	<i>Answer (Galdthach)</i>
I buy it	<i>prina mi chi</i>
you carry him	<i>bèra ti ché</i>
he breaks it	<i>brisa é chi</i>
she drinks it	<i>iva i chi</i>
we love them	<i>càra ni chis</i>
they call you (pl.)	<i>gàra si su</i>
you (pl.) bend us	<i>camwla su ni</i>
she sees me	<i>apisa i mi</i>
he knows her	<i>gnia é chi</i>
she wants you	<i>gwela i ti</i>

Table 12: Solution: phrases with verbs

### 3.2 Personal Pronouns As Object Of A Verbal Noun

The verbal noun is the basic root form of the verb, called infinitive in English.

It is easiest to think of the verbal noun of modern Gaulish as the -ing form of the English verb.

E.g. can: to sing → can: singing

cána mi chí: I sing it

When the personal pronouns are the object of a verbal noun, they take on a different form:

Standard	As object of verbal noun
mi	imí
ti	ithí
é	iché
í	ichí
ni	iní
sú	isú
ís	ichís

Table 13: Personal pronouns, as object of verbal noun

When a verbal noun is used in a phrase with an active verb it comes *immediately after the subject*:

gwéla mi can: I want *to sing*

In this phrase the verbal noun is the object of the active verb:

gwéla	mi	can
V	S	O

If we think of the verbal noun as the -ing form of the verb, we could literally translate this as:

want	I	singing	(→ “I want singing”)
V	S	O	

If we use a personal pronoun to be the object of the verbal noun we use the special form described above:

gwéla mi can ichí: I want to sing it

In this phrase the two words *can ichí* become the new object of the phrase.

gwéla	mi	can ichí
V	S	[ O ]

The above phrase can be literally translated as *I want singing of-it*.

The particle i- that the pronouns are attached to indicates possession of something:

Galáthach	English
imí	of-me
ithí	of-you
iché	of-him
ichí	of-her
ichí	of-it
iní	of-us
isú	of-you (pl.)
ichís	of-them

The phrase *can ichí* translates as *singing of-it*. If we add an imaginary definite article [the] to the English version it makes sense:

Galáthach	English		Galáthach	English
can ichí	[the] singing of-it	→	gwéla mi can ichí	I want [the] singing of-it

### 3.2.1 Exercises

Make the following phrases, using the verbs given above:

Phrase (English)	Answer (Galáthach)
I want to see it	
you want to hold her	
he wants to know you	
she wants to love him	
it can break me	
we can buy them	
you (pl.) can carry us	
they can know you (pl.)	
you (pl.) can do it	

Table 14: Exercise: attached pronouns, indicating possession

Solution:

<i>gála sú ávo ichní</i>	you (pl.) can do it
<i>gála sí gní isú</i>	they can know you (pl.)
<i>gála sú ber iní</i>	you (pl.) can carry us
<i>gála ní prín ichní</i>	we can buy them
<i>gála í brís iní</i>	it can break me
<i>gwéla í cára íché</i>	she wants to love him
<i>gwéla é gní ithí</i>	he wants to know you
<i>gwéla tí delghe ichí</i>	you want to hold her
<i>gwéla mí ápis ichí</i>	I want to see it
<b><i>Answer (Galdathach)</i></b>	<b>Phrase (English)</b>

Table 15: Solution: attached pronouns, indicating possession



## 4 Menghavan 3: Anúé – Téith – In hAmosanal

(*Lesson 3: Nouns – Possession – The Article*)

In the third lesson you will learn what a noun is, how it is possessed, and what the article is.

### 4.1 Nouns

The word “noun” means *name*. It is a word that refers to anything that can have a name, such as a person, place, thing, state or quality. In lesson 1 and 2 we learned about subjects and objects. Nouns are things that can be subjects or objects of a sentence.

Examples:

Galáthach	English
gwir	man
cun	dog
ép	horse
cánu	song
ménu	thought
coch	leg
duvr	water
pen	head

There is no indefinite article like English “a, an” in modern Gaulish:

Galáthach	English
gwir	man
gwir	a man
cun	dog
cun	a dog

We can use the verbs we learned in the previous lessons to construct sentences where the subject and the object are nouns instead of pronouns:

gára gwir cun (a man calls a dog)  
V S O

Examples:

Galáthach	English
apísa cun ép	a dog sees a horse
cána gwir cánu	a man sings a song
ména gwir ménu	a man thinks a thought

#### 4.1.1 Exercises

Construct the following phrases with the verbs given in the previous lessons and the following nouns given:

ben (woman), gnath (child), mapath (boy), geneth (girl), curu (beer), cuchul (hat)

Phrase (English)	Answer (Galáthach)
a man buys a beer	
a woman holds a child	
a boy wants a hat	
a girl sings a song	
a horse drinks water	
a dog breaks a leg	
a child loves a horse	
a man sees a woman	
a horse carries a boy	
a woman calls a dog	

Table 16: Exercise: no indefinite article

Solution:

<i>gátra ben cun</i>	a woman calls a dog
<i>béira ép mapath</i>	a horse carries a boy
<i>apísa gwir ben</i>	a man sees a woman
<i>cára gnath ép</i>	a child loves a horse
<i>brísa cun coch</i>	a dog breaks a leg
<i>íva ép duvr</i>	a horse drinks water
<i>cána geneth cánu</i>	a girl sings a song
<i>gwéla mapath cuchul</i>	a boy wants a hat
<i>delgha ben gnath</i>	a woman holds a child
<i>prína gwir curu</i>	a man buys a beer
<b><i>Answer (Galathach)</i></b>	<b>Phrase (English)</b>

Table 17: Solution: no indefinite article

## 4.2 Possession

In lesson 2, we saw that when a pronoun was used as an object, it had a special possession particle *i-*. This particle is not used with anything else, only with the pronoun. When we use a noun we just replace the pronoun and the particle with a noun:

Galáthach	English
cána mi cánu	I sing a song
gwéla mi can ichí	I want to sing it
gwéla mi can cánu	I want to sing a song

The phrase *can* “*cánu*” means [*the*] *singing of a song*. The English word [the] is not used.

This phrase has two nouns:

1. the verbal noun *can*
2. the noun *cánu*

In this phrase, the first noun *can* is possessed by the second noun *cánu*. In English this is indicated by the word *of*. In modern Gaulish this is indicated by the position of the word: the *second* word *possesses* the *first* word.

The same can be done with any two nouns:

Galáthach	English
curu gwir	a beer of a man [a man's beer]
gnath ben	a child of a woman [a woman's child]
ép geneth	a horse of a girl [a girl's horse]

### 4.2.1 Exercises

Using the words learned in all the lessons make the following phrases:

Phrase (English)	Answer (Galáthach)
a leg of a dog [a dog's leg]	
a dog of a man [a man's dog]	
a head of a horse [a horse's head]	
a hat of a woman [a woman's hat]	
a thought of a child [a child's thought]	
a song of a girl [a girl's song]	
a horse of a boy [a boy's horse]	
a man of a woman [a woman's man]	
a child of a man [a man's child]	
a hat of a child [a child's hat]	

Table 18: Exercise: possession

Solution:

<i>Answer (Galáthach)</i>	<b>Phrase (English)</b>
<i>coch cun</i>	a leg of a dog [a dog's leg]
<i>cun gwir</i>	a dog of a man [a man's dog]
<i>pen ép</i>	a head of a horse [a horse's head]
<i>cuchul ben</i>	a hat of a woman [a woman's hat]
<i>ménu gnath</i>	a thought of a child [a child's thought]
<i>cánu geneth</i>	a song of a girl [a girl's song]
<i>ép mapath</i>	a horse of a boy [a boy's horse]
<i>gwir ben</i>	a man of a woman [a woman's man]
<i>gnath gwir</i>	a child of a man [a man's child]
<i>cuchul gnath</i>	a hat of a child [a child's hat]

Table 19: Solution: possession

### 4.3 The Article

Modern Gaulish has one article: “in”. It does not change for any reason.  
Examples:

Galáthach	English
in gwir	the man
in ép	the horse
in mapath	the boy
in curu	the beer
in pen	the head
in duvr	the water

The article *in* can be used in cases of possession. It can only be used with the second noun, which is the one possessing the first noun. The first noun can never have the article in front of it.

Examples:

Galáthach	English
cun gwir	a dog of a man [a man’s dog]
cun in gwir	a dog of the man [the man’s dog]

The English phrase between brackets [...] shows a very good translation of the modern Gaulish phrase. It only uses one article and can only ever use one article. It is not possible to say “the man’s the dog”.

The second noun possesses the first noun. The second noun is the only noun that can have the article.

### 4.3.1 Exercises

Construct the following phrases, using all the words learned so far:

Phrase (English)	Answer (Galáthach)
the head of the horse	
the leg of the dog	
the beer of the man	
the hat of the boy	
the water of the horse	
the song of the boy	
the thought of the man	
the horse of the song	
the dog of the boy	
the hat of the horse	

Table 20: Exercise: article in



Solution:

<i>Phrase (English)</i>	<i>Answer (Galáthach)</i>
the head of the horse	<i>pen in ép</i>
the leg of the dog	<i>coch in cun</i>
the beer of the man	<i>curn in gwir</i>
the hat of the boy	<i>cuchul in mapath</i>
the water of the horse	<i>duwr in ép</i>
the song of the boy	<i>cdnu in mapath</i>
the thought of the man	<i>ménu in gwir</i>
the horse of the song	<i>ép in cdnu</i>
the dog of the boy	<i>cun in mapath</i>
the hat of the horse	<i>cuchul in ép</i>

Table 21: Solution: article in

## 5 Menghavan 4: Alghnas Anúé

(Lesson 4: Gender Of Nouns)

In the fourth lesson you will learn how to determine the gender of nouns.

### 5.1 Gender Of Nouns

In modern Gaulish all nouns have a gender, which is either masculine or feminine. If the meaning of the noun indicates a gender, then that noun is that gender:

Galáthach	English	Gender
gwir	man	masculine
ben	woman	feminine
mapath	boy	masculine
geneth	girl	feminine
map	son	masculine
dúithir	daughter	feminine
áther	father	masculine
máthir	mother	feminine
moth	penis	masculine
tuthu	vagina	feminine

If the meaning of a noun does not indicate a gender, its gender is determined by the last vowel. If the last vowel is /a/ or /i/ the noun is feminine.

Galáthach	English	Gender
lam	hand	feminine
bis	finger	feminine
tír	land	feminine
cnam	bone	feminine

If the last vowel is /e/, /o/ or /u/ the noun is masculine.

Galáthach	English	Gender
pen	head	masculine
mór	sea	masculine
cánu	song	masculine
tráíeth	foot	masculine
coch	leg	masculine
curu	beer	masculine

The -i in the diphthongs *ái*, *éi*, *ói* and *úi* is not a vowel, it is a semi-consonant, like /y/ in English. It does not count as a vowel, and its presence does not make a nouns gender feminine:

Galáthach	English	→	Gender
brói	country	last vowel is /o/, the -i is the semi-consonant	masculine
mái	place, plain	last vowel is /a/	feminine
téi	house	last vowel is /e/	masculine
gwólúith	strain	last vowel is /u/	masculine

Some nouns end in a double consonant where the last consonant is *l*, *n* or *r*. When pronounced there is a dull indistinct sound between the second last consonant and the *l*, *n* or *r*. This sound is called *schwa*, and is represented by the symbol [ə]. It is not considered a vowel and is not written. It does not affect the gender of a noun. The gender of such a noun is determined by the last vowel before the schwa:

Galáthach	English	→	Gender
sédhl	seat	last vowel is /e/	masculine
sparn	thorn	last vowel is /a/	feminine
livr	book	last vowel is /i/	feminine

Some nouns end in a diphthong followed by a double consonant where the last consonant is *l*, *n* or *r*. The gender of these nouns is determined by the last vowel before the -i of the diphthong:

Galáthach	English	→	Gender
anéithl	protection	last vowel is /e/	masculine
lúithr	struggle	last vowel is /u/	masculine
bóithl	hit	last vowel is /o/	masculine
amáithl	service	last vowel is /a/	feminine

Nouns of animals are masculine by default, even if the vowels are /a/ or /i/:

Galáthach	English	Gender
garan	heron	masculine
cun	dog	masculine
lóern	fox	masculine
ép	horse	masculine
caval	[draught] horse	masculine
bó	cow [generic name for cattle]	masculine

These nouns can be made feminine by adding the suffix *-is*:

Galáthach	English	Gender
garanis	female heron	feminine
cunis	bitch	feminine
lóernis	vixen	feminine
épis	mare (also casich)	feminine
cavalis	female draught horse	feminine

Nouns indicating human functions or activities are also masculine by default:

Galáthach	English	Gender
drúidh	scholar	masculine
gwerchovreth	magistrate	masculine
tiern	boss, chief	masculine
dan	official, manager	masculine

These nouns can also be made feminine by adding the suffix *-is*:

<b>Galáthach</b>	<b>English</b>	<b>Gender</b>
drúidhis	female scholar	feminine
gwerchovrethis	female magistrate	feminine
tiernis	female boss, chief	feminine
danis	female official, manager	feminine

### 5.1.1 Exercises

Determine the gender of the following nouns:

Galáthach	English	Answer (m/f)
car	car	
sesa	chair	
roth	wheel	
aríthis	table	
dulu	paper	
cumlath	plate	
cladhal	knife	
gaval	fork	
bóthéi	stable	
bochwídh	spoon	
ethn	bird	
táru	bull	
amáiath	servant	
cerdhíath	worker	
menrodhiath	teacher	
gnisáiath	student	
pethlóí	stuff	
pren	tree	
bil	tree trunk	
clétha	ladder	
cilurn	bucket	
scothir	shovel	
cerdhl	work	
tráith	beach	
crósu	wave	
sir	star	
nem	sky	
brí	hill	
brói	country	
bélói	culture	
tengu	language	
tarinch	nail (fastening implement)	
cingeth	warrior	
delgheth	holder	
druthas	courage	
dumnas échal	darkness hoof	

Table 22: Exercise: gender

Solution:

Galáthach	English	Answer (m/f)
car	car	f
sesa	chair	f
roth	wheel	m
aríthis	table	f
dulu	paper	m
cumlath	plate	f
cladhail	knife	f
gaval	fork	f
bóthéi	stable	m
bochwídh	spoon	m
ethn	bird	m
táru	bull	m
amaíath	servant	m
cerdhíath	worker	m
menrodhiath	teacher	m
gnisáath	student	m
pethlói	stuff	m
pren	tree	m
bil	tree trunk	f
clétha	ladder	f
cilurn	bucket	m
scothir	shovel	f
cerdhl	work	m
tráith	beach	f
crósu	wave	m
sir	star	f
nem	sky	m
bri	hill	f
brí	country	m
béil	culture	m
tengu	language	m
tarinch	nail (fastening implement)	f
cingeth	warrior	m
delgheth	holder	m
druthas	courage	f
dumnas	darkness	f
échal	hoof	f

Table 23: Solution: gender

## 6 Menghavan 5: Rithiúnan In Elwachídhú

(Lesson 5: Plural Formation)

In the fifth lesson you will learn how to form the plural of nouns.

### 6.1 Plural Of Nouns

The plural of the most nouns is formed by adding the plural suffix *-é* to the noun.

Noun	Plural
gwir	gwiré
mapath	mapathé

Because it is an open vowel it causes the emphasis to *shift one place* closer to the end of the word. Where the plural ending is not separated from the previous syllable by more than one consonant the vowel of that syllable before the ending *-é* becomes *long* as well as *emphasised*.

Noun	Plural	Translation
gwir	gwíré	men
mapath	mapáthé	boys
geneth	genéthé	girls
map	mápé	sons
dúithir	dúithíré	daughters

If the plural ending is separated from the previous syllable by more than one consonant the vowel of that syllable is short.

Noun	Plural	Translation
ethn	ethné	birds
carch	carché	rocks

If a word ends in a vowel the ending *-é* follows immediately after that vowel, making that vowel emphasised and long.

Noun	Plural	Translation
cánu	canúé	songs

Most plurals in Galáthach are formed in this way. There are two exceptions only: *woman* and *natural pairs*.

### 6.2 Plural Of Woman

The plural of the word for woman is different.

Noun	Plural	Translation
ben	mná	women

This is attested as such in *Old Gaulish*.

## 6.3 Plural Of Natural Pairs

The plural of things that naturally occur as pairs is formed by adding the prefix *dá-*, which means “two”.

Noun	Plural	Translation
óp	<b>dáóp</b>	eyes
coch	<b>dáchoch</b>	legs
lam	<b>dálam</b>	hands

For the word *aus* “ear” the prefix *dá-* becomes shortened to *d-*.

Noun	Plural	Translation
<i>aus</i>	<b>daus</b>	ears

In cases where these things occur in numbers other than two, the normal plural suffix *-é* is used.

Plural	Translation	Explication
ópé damathal	[the] eyes of a spider	→ spiders have eight eyes
coché ép	[the] legs of a horse	→ horses have four legs
ópé gwíré	the eyes of men	→ several men together have more than two eyes

In cases where things are referred to that are not of natural formation and may or may not come in pairs, the normal plural suffix *-é* is used.

Plural	Translation	Explication
lamé gwepór	the hands of a clock	→ a clock is not a natural creature, and there may be more than two hands on a clock, e.g. hours, minutes, seconds

## 6.4 Plural Of Collectivity

A great number of things that is commonly considered as one whole is indicated by the suffix *-lóí*.

Noun	Translation	Collection Term	Translation	Plural	Translation
gwep	word	gweplóí	vocabulary	gweplóíé	vocabularies
sir	star	sirlóí	constellation	sirlóíé	constellations

## 6.5 Plural After Numbers

The plural is not used after numbers. Nouns stay in the singular.

Noun	Translation	A Number Of	Translation
ép	a horse	pethr ép	four horses
nóith	night	dech nóith	ten nights



## 6.6 Exercises

Put the following words into the plural:

Galáthach	English	Answer (m/f)
car	car	
sesa	chair	
roth	wheel	
aríthis	table	
dulu	paper	
cumlath	plate	
cladhal	knife	
gaval	fork	
bóthéi	stable	
bochwídhú	spoon	
cilurn	bucket	
cerdhl	work	
tarinch	nail	
crósu	wave	
brí	hill	
coch	leg	
aus	ear	
dós	arm	
durn	fist	

Table 24: Exercise: plural 1

Solution:

Galáthach	English	Answer (m/f)
car	car	<i>cár</i>
sesa	chair	<i>sesá</i>
roth	wheel	<i>róth</i>
arthis	table	<i>arthis</i>
dulu	paper	<i>dulú</i>
cumlath	plate	<i>cumláth</i>
cladhal	knife	<i>cladhál</i>
gaval	fork	<i>gavál</i>
bóthéi	stable	<i>bóthéie</i> [/o/ of bó stays long because it is etymologically determined]
bochwídhnu	spoon	<i>bochwídhnu</i>
cilurn	bucket	<i>cilurn</i>
ceadhhl	work	<i>ceadhhl</i>
tarinch	nail	<i>tarinch</i>
crósu	wave	<i>crósú</i>
bri	hill	<i>bri</i>
coch	leg	<i>cóch</i>
aus	ear	<i>aus</i>
dós	arm	<i>dós</i>
uinp	list	<i>duinp</i>

Table 25: Solution: plural 1

Construct the right plural:

English	Answer (m/f)
legs of a woman	
ears of a girl	
arms of a boy	
eyes of a man	
legs of a dog	
ears of a horse	
arms of a river	
eyes of a crab	
legs of girls	
ears of men	
arms of women	
eyes of boys	

Table 26: Exercise: plural 2

Solution:

<i>English</i>	<i>Answer (m/f)</i>
legs of a woman	<i>dáchoch ben</i>
ears of a girl	<i>daus geneth</i>
arms of a boy	<i>dádhós mapath</i>
eyes of a man	<i>dáóp gwr</i>
legs of a dog	<i>cóche cun</i>
ears of a horse	<i>ausé ép</i>
arms of a river	<i>dósé avon</i>
eyes of a crab	<i>ópé cartnu</i>
legs of girls	<i>cóche genéthé</i>
ears of men	<i>ausé gwíre</i>
arms of women	<i>dósé mnd</i>
eyes of boys	<i>ópé mapathé</i>

Table 27: Solution: plural 2

Use the following numbers to construct plural phrases:

dá (two), trí (three), pethr (four), pimp (five)

English	Answer (m/f)
five teachers	
four birds	
three bulls	
two buckets	

Table 28: Exercise: plural 3

Solution:

English	<i>Answer (m/f)</i>
five teachers	<i>pimp menrodhíath</i>
four birds	<i>pethr ethn</i>
three bulls	<i>tri táru</i>
two buckets	<i>dá cilurn</i>

Table 29: Solution: plural 3

## 7 Menghavan 6: Anúé Benin Can In hAmosanal – Gw-erthanálé Coswaus Anolsam

(Lesson 6: Feminine Nouns With The Article – Initial Consonant Mutations)

In the sixth lesson you will learn what happens to feminine nouns after the article.

### 7.1 Feminine Nouns And The Article

When feminine nouns are preceded by the article *in* their initial consonant changes according to regular patterns. This change is what marks the nouns as feminine.

Galáthach	English	Galáthach, with article	English, with article
par	cauldron	in <b>bar</b>	the cauldron
taran	storm	in <b>dar</b> an	the storm
carch	rock	in <b>gar</b> ch	the rock
ben	woman	in <b>ven</b>	the woman
dúithir	daughter	in <b>dhú</b> ithir	the daughter
glan	river bank	in <b>gh</b> lan	the river bank
máthir	mother	in <b>wá</b> thir	the mother
sir	star	in <b>sh</b> ir	the star
spáthl	story	in <b>'pá</b> thl	the story
nath	fate	in <b>nh</b> ath	the fate
rath	fern	in <b>rh</b> ath	the fern
latha	swamp	in <b>l</b> atha	the swamp
fich	fig	in <b>fh</b> ich	the fig

The semi-vowel i- (/y/ in English, [j]) is prefixed with a *ch'*:

Galáthach	English	Galáthach, with article	English, with article
iar	chicken	in <b>ch'</b> iar	the chicken

Vowels are prefixed with a *h*-:

Galáthach	English	Galáthach, with article	English, with article
aval	apple	in <b>h</b> aval	the apple
épis	mare	in <b>hé</b> pis	the mare
úlídh	feast	in <b>hú</b> lídh	the feast
ídh	chain	in <b>hí</b> dh	the chain
oghran	frost	in <b>h</b> oghran	the frost

If the nouns are in the plural, exactly the same thing happens:

Galáthach, with article	English, with article
pá <b>ré</b>	in bá <b>ré</b>
tará <b>né</b>	in dará <b>né</b>
carché	in gar <b>ché</b>
mná	in wná
dúithí <b>ré</b>	in dhúithí <b>ré</b>
glán <b>é</b>	in ghlán <b>é</b>

## 7.2 Initial Consonant Mutation Changes

The changes shown above are regular, they happen like that all the time. They are summarised below:

Original char	Mutated char	Comment
p	b	
t	d	
c	g	
b	v	
d	dh	
g	gh	
m	w	
s	sh	if followed by a vowel
s	'	[nothing] if followed by a consonant
n	nh	
r	rh	
l	lh	
f	fh	
i-	ch'i-	if followed by a vowel
i-	hi-	if followed by a consonant
a	ha	
e	he	
u	hu	
o	ho	

Some of these sounds are unusual.

dh = as in English **the**, **there**

gh = as in Greek *ἐγώ* (I, me), Breton *delec'h* (to hold). The sound is called *voiced velar fricative*. Like a Scottish *-ch* (as in **loch**) but said with a “thick voice” (i.e. voiced).

sh = as in English **ship**

h- = as in English **house**

ch' = as in Scottish **loch**

nh = ch- as in Scottish **loch**, followed by -n → sounds like *chn-*.

rh = ch- as in Scottish **loch**, followed by -r → sounds like *chr-*.

lh = ch- as in Scottish **loch**, followed by -l → sounds like *chl-*.

fh = an /f/ produced without the tongue touching the teeth. The sound is called *voiceless bilabial fricative*.

Of these sounds, *h-*, *sh-*, *fh-*, *nh-*, *rh-* and *lh-* only ever occur as initial consonant mutations.



### 7.2.1 Exercises

Put the article in front of the following words and change the consonants if necessary.

Galáthach	English	Answer (m/f)
pan	glas, cup	
penáilé	chapters	
tal	front	
támé	classes	
cái	hedge	
calghé	points	
bach	burden	
baláné	brooms	
daghl	torch	
daré	rages	
gaval	fork	
gnáthé	children	
fich	fig	
fíché	figs	
mái	place	
máné	necks	
sachrap	evil eye	
sáilé	sheds	
scáth	shadow	
sprié	twigs	
ial	clearing	
iatháné	loans	
nan	hunger	
nascáilé	rings	
ran	part	
ratháné	guarantees	
lam	hand	
láné	fields	
áchn	milk	
avanché	water spirits	
ili	ivy	
íthwéráné	distributions	
ódhan	smell	
olchraváné	descriptions	
uchan	rise	
uláé	powders	
échal	hoof	
echwichnáé	losses	

Table 30: Exercise: consonant mutation

Solution:

Galáthach	English	Answer (m/f)
pan	glas, cup	<i>in ban</i>
penálé	chapters	<i>in bentalé</i>
tal	front	<i>in dal</i>
támé	classes	<i>in damé</i>
cái	hedge	<i>in gai</i>
calghé	points	<i>in galghé</i>
bach	burden	<i>in vach</i>
baláné	brooms	<i>in valané</i>
daghl	torch	<i>in dhaghl</i>
daré	rages	<i>in dharé</i>
gaval	fork	<i>in ghaaval</i>
gnáthé	children	<i>in ghnáthé</i>
fch	fig	<i>in fhich</i>
fiché	figs	<i>in fhíché</i>
mái	place	<i>in wai</i>
máné	necks	<i>in wáné</i>
sachrap	evil eye	<i>in shachrap</i>
sálé	sheds	<i>in shalé</i>
scáth	shadow	<i>in cáth</i>
sprié	twigs	<i>in prié</i>
ial	clearing	<i>in ch'ial</i>
iatháné	loans	<i>in ch'iatháné</i>
nan	hunger	<i>in nhan</i>
nascálé	rings	<i>in nhascálé</i>
ran	part	<i>in rhan</i>
ratháné	guarantees	<i>in rthatháné</i>
lam	hand	<i>in lham</i>
láné	fields	<i>in lhané</i>
áchn	milk	<i>in háchn</i>
avanché	water spirits	<i>in havanché</i>
ili	ivy	<i>in hili</i>
íthwéráné	distributions	<i>in hithwéráné</i>
ódhan	smell	<i>in hódhan</i>
olchiraváné	descriptions	<i>in holchiraváné</i>
uchan	rise	<i>in huchan</i>
uláé	powders	<i>in hulaé</i>
échal	hoof	<i>in héchal</i>
echwíchnáé	losses	<i>in hechwíchnáé</i>

Table 31: Solution: consonant mutation

## 8 Menghavan 7: Achathéné — In Bréthr *esi*

(Lesson 7: Adjectives — The Verb to be)

In the seventh lesson you will learn about adjectives, and how to use the verb *to be*.

### 8.1 Adjectives

An adjective is a word that describes a quality or a characteristic of a noun.

There are different kinds of adjectives. The ones listed above are all natural adjectives. Adjectives can also be formed from other words by using suffixes and prefixes.

#### 8.1.1 The Suffix *-ach*

The suffix *-ach* can be used to make an adjective from another word, most usually a noun.

#### 8.1.2 The Suffix *-ch*

The suffix *-ch* is similar to the suffix *-ach*. It is used for words ending on a diphthong in *-i* or on *-u*, where *-ach* would be impractical.

#### 8.1.3 The Suffix *-idhu*

The suffix *-idhu* is used for words that end on *-ch*, to avoid doubling up of the *-ch-* sound.

#### 8.1.4 The Suffix *-in*

The suffix *-in* is only used to describe qualities of living creatures, people, animals etc.

#### 8.1.5 The Prefixes *su-* And *du-*

The prefixes *su-* (good) and *du-* (bad) can be attached to nouns to create adjectives.

If the emphasis in these constructions is not on the vowel /u/ of the prefixes, they become *sw-* and *dw-*

#### 8.1.6 Position Of The Adjective

An adjective always follows the nouns it says something about.

#### 8.1.7 Mutation Of The Adjective

If an adjective says something about a feminine noun it undergoes mutation of its initial consonant. This is how gender is indicated.

The adjective does not change for the plural.

### 8.2 The Verb *to be*

The verb *to be* is the only irregular verb in modern Gaulish.

The verbal root (or infinitive) is *bis*.

gwéla mi bis láen = I want to be happy The present tense form is *esi*. It does not take an *-a*.

Esi mi láen = I am happy

### **8.3 Exercises**

Construct the following sentences. You can check your answers at the end of the lesson.

## 9 Menghavan 8: Rivrethré

(*Lesson 8: Adverbs*)

In the eighth lesson you will learn about adverbs.

### 9.1 Adverbs

An adverb is a word that describes a quality or a characteristic of a verbal action.

English examples are: quickly, quietly, calmly, naturally, normally. In English they are usually formed with the suffix *-ly*

. In Galáthach adverbs are formed by placing the particle *in* in front of an adjective. The adjective undergoes mutation of its initial consonant.

#### 9.1.1 Position Of The Adverb

The adverb always follows the verb as closely as possible, after the subject and object of the phrase.

### **9.1.2 Exercises**

Construct the adverbial form of the following adjectives. You can check your answers at the end of the lesson.

Solution:

## 10 Menghavan 9: Gwepráíé

(Lesson 9: Prepositions)

In the ninth lesson you will learn about prepositions. A preposition is a word that provides information about the location, situation or position of something.

### 10.1 Prepositions

All prepositions in modern Gaulish cause initial consonant mutation on the word that follows them. Prepositions do not cause mutations on the article *in* or on possessive pronouns.

#### 10.1.1 With Personal Pronouns

Prepositions fuse with personal pronouns:

#### 10.1.2 Prepositions Ending In Consonants

These are:

These take the following endings:

*-im, -ith, -é, -í, -in, -sú, -ís*

The emphasis in these forms falls on the last syllable:

can**im**: with **me**

#### 10.1.3 Prepositions Ending In Vowels

These are:

These take the following endings:

*-em, -eth, -ché, -chí, -en, -sú, -chís*

The preposition *tré* takes a special form of this. It adds an *-i-* to the front of the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> form:

*-iem, -ieth, -ché, -chí, -ien, -sú, -chís*

#### 10.1.4 Prepositions Consisting Of Only One Vowel

These are: a, e, u, i (to, from, of [with quantity], of [property])

These take the following endings:

*-im, -ith, -é, -í, -in, -ú, -ís*

Also, the root form of the preposition changes:

#### 10.1.5 Prepositions Ending On -u

These prepositions don't fuse with personal pronouns. The personal pronouns follow after them without changing. The object pronouns are used.

#### 10.1.6 Exercises



## 11 Menghavan 10: Gweranúé Téithach — Adhavachúé – Nithachúé

(*Lesson 10: Possessive Pronouns — Demonstratives – Locatives*)

In the tenth lesson you will learn what possessive pronouns and demonstratives are, and how they work.

### 11.1 Possessive Pronouns

A possessive pronoun is a word that indicates possession of a thing. In Lesson 2 and 3 we learned two ways of indicating possession: by using the possession indicating particle *i-*, and by putting two things next to each other, with or without the article between them. Using a possessive pronoun is the third way of indicating possession.

A possessive pronoun is a word that comes before an other word and that indicates possession of the second word: my, your, his, her etc.

The possessive pronoun causes mutation on the following word in most cases, but not for the 3<sup>rd</sup> person singular feminine and not for the second person plural.

Because the third and the fourth and the sixth and the seven are the same, they are distinguished by the mutation: the third and the sixth cause mutation, the fourth and the seventh don't.

Remember that possession can also be expressed with the particle *i-*. In that case it uses the object pronouns, and they follow after the possessed thing.

#### 11.1.1 Exercises

## 12 Menghavan 11: Colaváru — Mésu Péthach – In-choran Chwoghníthach

*(Lesson 11: Conversation — Interrogative Mode – Subordinate Clause)*

In the eleventh lesson you will learn how to construct a question, and how to construct sentences within sentences.

### 12.1 Conversation

## 13 Menghavan 12: Inchoráné Rhéiach – Inchoráné hAn-réiach

*(Lesson 12: Direct Clauses – Indirect Clauses)*

In the twelfth lesson you will learn what direct and indirect clauses are, and how they are constructed in Galáthach.

### 13.1 Conversation

Below are two conversations between three people. Tarchonwoth is a man, Tuthchána and Cunvára are women. All three are attested Gaulish names. These conversations show you how direct clauses and indirect clauses are constructed.

## 14 Menghavan 13: Inchoráné Gwepsin – Inchoráné Gwep Péthan

*(Lesson 13: Conjunction Clauses – Question Word Clause)*

In the thirteenth lesson you will learn what conjunction and question word clauses are, and how they are constructed in Galáthach.

### 14.1 Conversation