



USBORNE

USBORNE INTERNET-LINKED

# IRISH FOR BEGINNERS

Dia duit! Cad is ainm duit?

Seán.  
Agus tusa?

Máire is ainm dom.

Táim dhá bhliain déag.

Cén aois thú?



An labhraíonn tú Gaeilge?

Labhraím beagán.

An labhraíonn tú Gaeilge, Lola?

Labhraím.  
Labhraím Gaeilge agus beagán Béarla.



Labhraíonn Heinz Gearmáinis, Béarla agus Gaeilge.

# Internet links

Throughout this book we have recommended useful websites for learning Irish and finding out more about Ireland. You can find links to all the websites, plus downloadable puzzles to print out, at the **Usborne Quicklinks Website**.

1. Go to **www.usborne-quicklinks.com**
2. Type the keywords for this book:  
**Irish for beginners**
3. Type the page number of the link you want to visit.
4. Click on the links to go to the recommended sites.

Here are some of the things you can do on the websites recommended in this book:

- Listen to Irish words and phrases.
- Brush up your Irish with online lessons and exercises.
- Listen to Irish radio and Irish music.
- Solve word searches and play matching games.

## Site availability

The links in Usborne Quicklinks are regularly reviewed and updated, but occasionally you may get a message that a site is unavailable. This might be temporary, so try again later, or even the next day. Websites do occasionally close down and when this happens, we will replace them with new links in Usborne Quicklinks. Sometimes we add extra links too, if we think they are useful. So when you visit Usborne Quicklinks, the links may be slightly different from those described in your book.

## What you need

To visit the websites you need a computer with an internet connection and a web browser (the software that lets you look at information from the internet). Many language websites have recordings and pronunciation guides that you can listen to. To hear these recordings you need a media player such as Windows Media® Player or RealPlayer®. You probably already have one of these, but if not, you can download them for free from the internet.

For more information about media players, and other free programs called 'plug-ins' that enable your browser to display video clips and animations, go to the Net Help area on the Usborne Quicklinks Website.

## Safety on the internet

Ask your parent's or guardian's permission before you connect to the internet and make sure you follow these simple rules:

- Never give out information about yourself, such as your real name, address, phone number or the name of your school.
- If a site asks you to log in or register by typing your name or email address, ask permission from an adult first.

## Note for parents and guardians

The websites described in this book are regularly reviewed, but the content of a website may change at any time and Usborne Publishing is not responsible for the content on any website other than its own.

We recommend that children are supervised while on the internet, that they do not use internet chat rooms, and that you use internet filtering software to block unsuitable material. Please ensure that your children read and follow the safety guidelines printed above. For more information, see the Net Help area on the Usborne Quicklinks Website.

### COMPUTER NOT ESSENTIAL

This book is a fun and informative language book on its own.

*Usborne Publishing is not responsible and does not accept liability for the availability or content of any website other than its own, or for any exposure to harmful, offensive or inaccurate material which may appear on the Web. Usborne Publishing will have no liability for any damage or loss caused by viruses that may be downloaded as a result of browsing the sites it recommends. Usborne picture puzzles can be downloaded for personal use, but may not be used for any commercial purposes.*

*Windows Media is the registered trademark of Microsoft Corporation in the United States and other countries. RealPlayer is a registered trademark of RealNetworks, Inc.*

# IRISH FOR BEGINNERS

Angela Wilkes

Illustrated by John Shackell

Designed by Roger Priddy

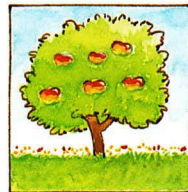
Edited by Nicole Irving

Language Consultants: Séamus O Cróinín & Michael Smith

---

## CONTENTS

- |                            |                                 |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 2 About this book          | 26 Telling the time             |
| 4 Saying "Hello"           | 28 Arranging things             |
| 6 What is your name?       | 30 Asking where places are      |
| 8 Naming things            | 32 Finding your way around      |
| 10 Where do you come from? | 34 Going shopping               |
| 12 More about you          | 36 Shopping and going to a café |
| 14 Your family             | 38 The months and seasons       |
| 16 Your home               | 40 Colours and numbers          |
| 18 Looking for things      | 41 Pronunciation guide          |
| 20 What do you like?       | 42 Grammar                      |
| 22 Table talk              | 44 Answers to puzzles           |
| 24 Your hobbies            | 46 Glossary                     |
- 



# About this book

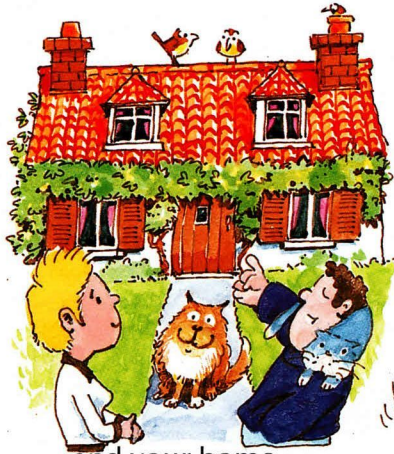
Being in Ireland is much more fun if you can speak a little of the language. This book shows you that learning another language

is a lot easier than you might think. It teaches you the Irish you will find useful in everyday situations.

You can find out how to . . .



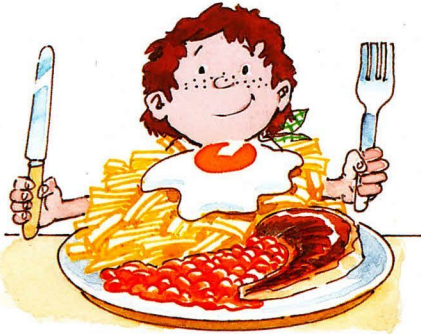
talk about yourself,



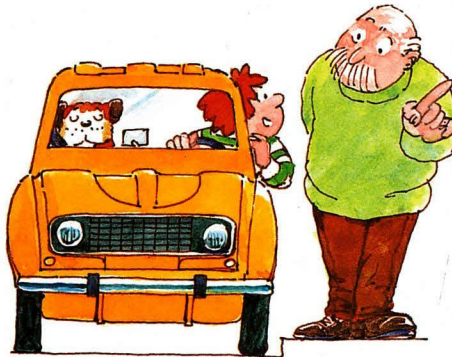
and your home,



count and tell the time,



say what you like,

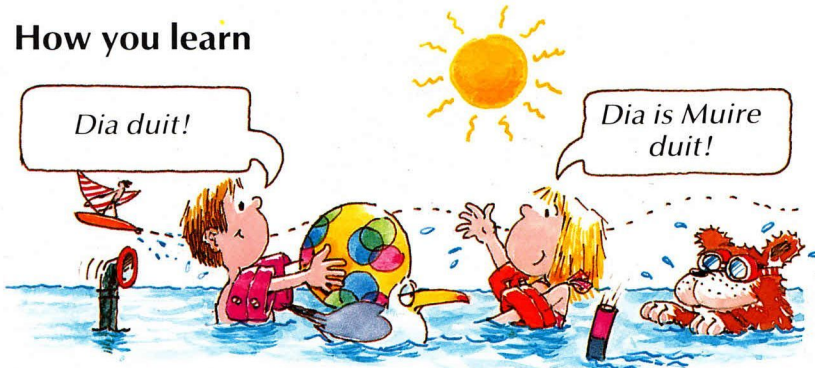


find your way around,



and ask for what you want in shops.

## How you learn



Picture strips like this show you what to say in each situation. Read the speech bubbles and see how much you can understand by

yourself, then look up any words you do not know. Words and phrases are repeated again and again, to help you remember them.



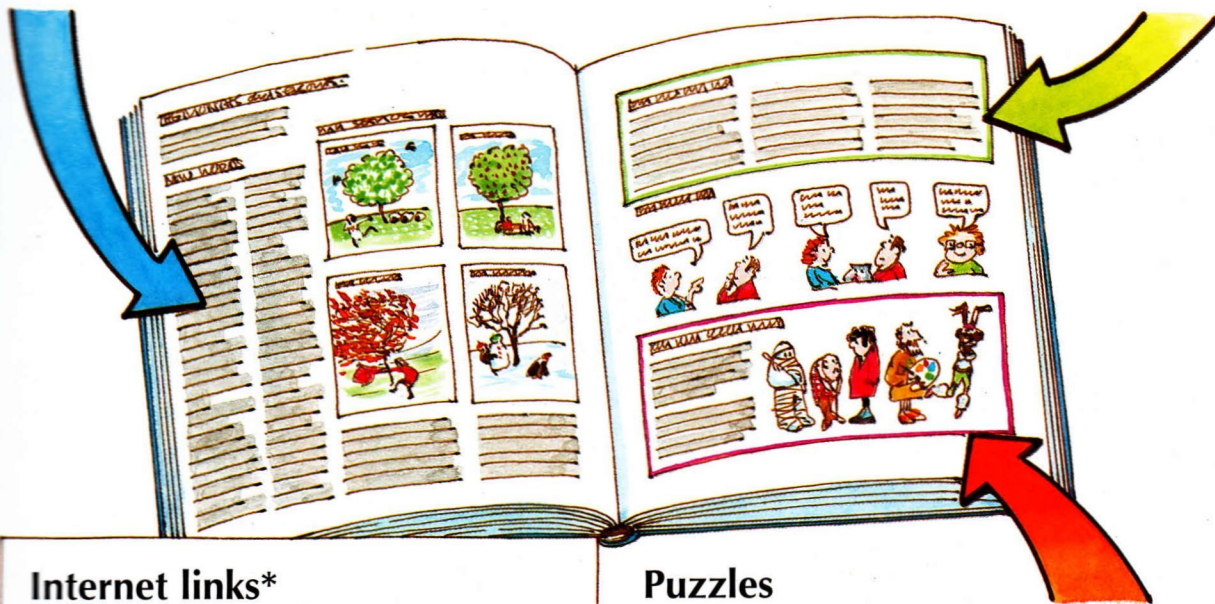
The book starts with really easy things to say and gets more difficult towards the end.

## New words

All the new words you come across are listed on each double page, so you can look them up as you go along. If you forget any words, you can look them up in the Glossary on pages 46-48. \*If you see an asterisk by a word, it means that there is a note about it at the bottom of the page.

## Grammar

Boxes like this around words show where new grammar is explained. You will find Irish easier if you learn some of its grammar, or rules, but don't worry if you don't understand it all straight away. You can look up any of the grammar used in the book on pages 42-43.



## Internet links\*

At the top of each double page you will find descriptions of useful websites for learning Irish. For links to these sites, go to [www.usborne-quicklinks.com](http://www.usborne-quicklinks.com) and enter the keywords **Irish for beginners**.

## Puzzles

Throughout this book there are puzzles and quizzes to solve (see answers on pages 44-45). You can also find picture puzzles to print out on the Usborne Quicklinks Website at [www.usborne-quicklinks.com](http://www.usborne-quicklinks.com)

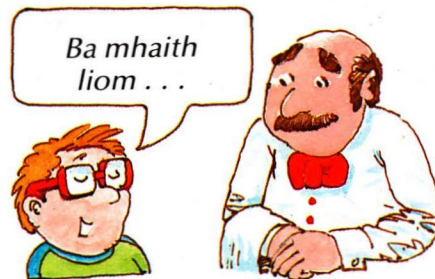
## Practising your Irish



Write all the new words you learn in a notebook and try to learn a few every day. Keep going over them and you will soon remember them.



Ask a friend to keep testing you on your Irish. Even better, ask someone to learn Irish with you so that you can practise on each other.



Try to get to an Irish-speaking area for your holidays, and speak as much Irish as you can. Don't be afraid of making mistakes. No one will mind.

# Saying "Hello"

The first thing you should know how to say in Irish is "Hello". Here you can find out the different greetings for different times of the day.

If you greet someone by name in Irish, you put a before the name, and the name also changes its sound and spelling, e.g. "Hello Seán" is **Dia duit**, a **Sheáin**.\*



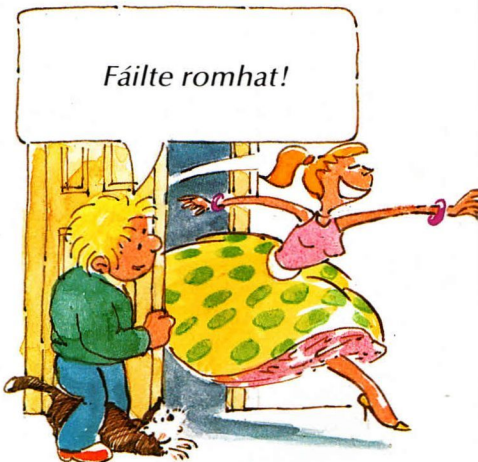
## Saying "Hello"



This is how you say "Hello" to your friends.\*\*



This shows how you answer when someone says **Dia duit**.



This is how you welcome someone.

## Saying "Goodbye"



These are different ways of saying goodbye.



**Slán go fóill** means "Goodbye for now".

## Saying "Goodnight"



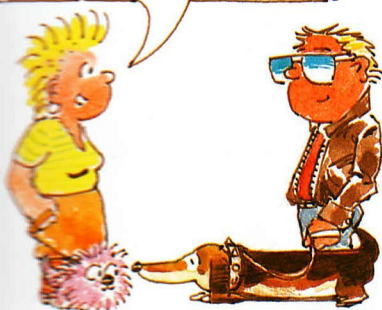
You say **Oíche mhaith** at bedtime.

\*In Irish, an "h" is added to show the previous letter has changed its sound. See page 41. \*\*Dia daoibh means "hello" when you are talking to more than one person. The "d" of duit and daoibh in Dia duit/daoibh is said like the "g" in "get".



### How are you?

Conas atá tú?



This shows how to greet someone and ask how they are.

Dia duit, a Mháire, conas atá tú?



This person is saying that she is very well, thank you . . .

Ar fheabhas go raibh maith agat.

Dia duit, conas atá tú?



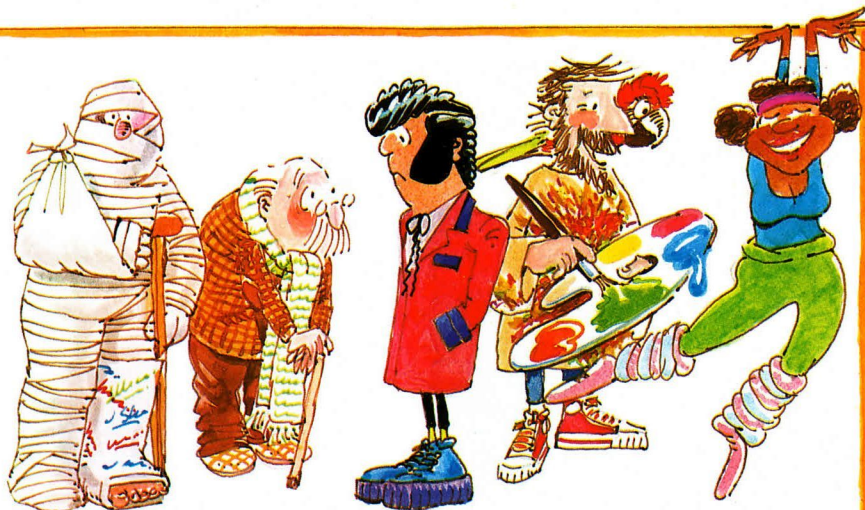
. . . but this person is saying things aren't too good.

Go hainnis.

### Conas atá tú?

This list shows you the different ways of saying how you are, from very well to terrible. What do you think each of the people here would say if you asked them how they were?

- |             |                 |
|-------------|-----------------|
| ar fheabhas | very well       |
| go maith    | well            |
| cuíosach    | fairly well     |
| go dona     | not at all well |
| go hainnis  | terrible        |



\*Go raibh maith agat means "Thank you".

# What is your name?

Here you can find out how to ask someone their name and tell them yours, and how to introduce your friends. Read the picture strip and see how much you can understand. Then try doing the puzzles on the page opposite.

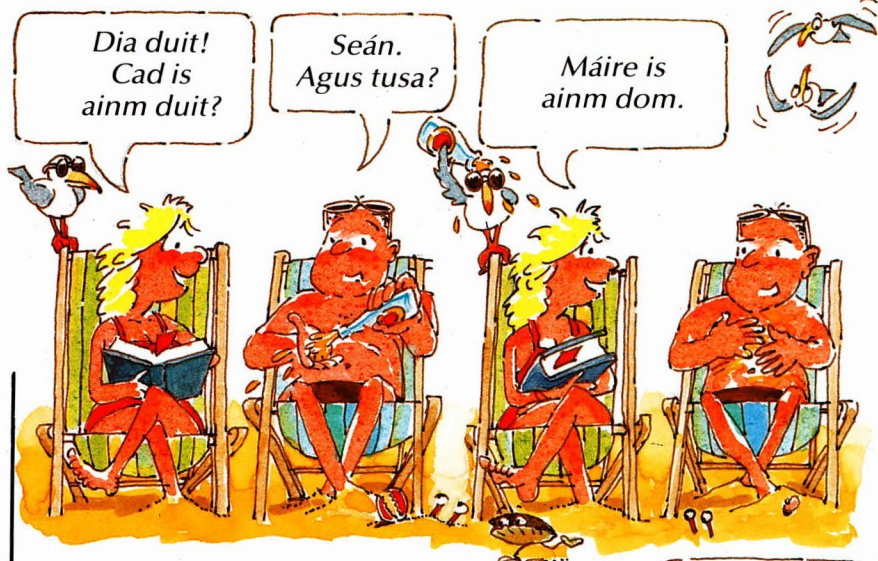
## New words

ainm (m)	name
is	is
dom	to me
agus	and
tusa	yourself
seo é/í	this is (male/ female)
mo chara	my friend
duit	to you
do	to him
di	to her
dóibh	to them
sin é/í	that is (m/f)
cé hé/hí sin?	who is that? (m/f)
is í	she/it is
is é	he/it is
an tú?	are you?
ní mé	I am not
cad?	what?
cad is ainm duit?	what is your name? (s)
cad is ainm daoibh?	what is your name? (pl*)
cad is ainm dóibh?	what are their names?

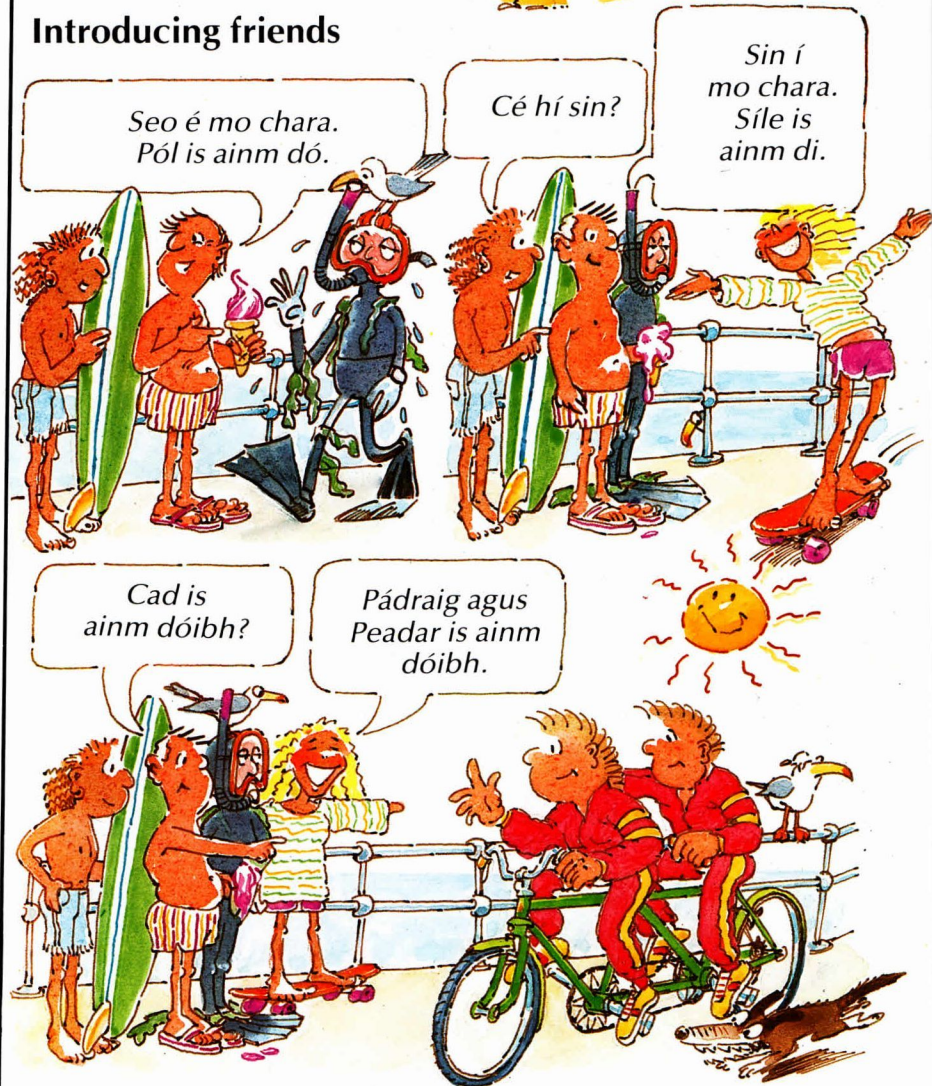
## Saying your name

In Irish you say "Seán is name to me": **Seán is ainm dom.** Do (to) joins with mé (I/me) to become dom.

Do+tú (you) becomes	duit
Do+sé (he) . . .	dó
Do+sí (she) . . .	di
Do+sinn (we) . . .	dúinn
Do+sibh (you; pl*) . . .	daoibh
Do+siad (they) . . .	dóibh



## Introducing friends





## What are they called?

Can you answer these questions in Irish?



*Cad is ainm dó?*

*Cad is ainm duit?*

*Cad is ainm dóibh?*

*Cad is ainm duit?*

## Who is who? Look at the box below, then try and answer the questions beneath the picture.



*Dia duit, conas atá tú?*

*Go maith, go raibh maith agat.*

*Slán leat, a Mhichíl.*

*An í sin Áine?*

*Is í.*

*Slán go fóill.*

*Is é sin Seán.*

*Cé hé sin?*

*Ní mé. Dónall is ainm dom.*

*An tú Pádraig?*

*Cad is ainm duit?*

*Síle. Agus tusa?*

Who is talking to Seán?  
Who is talking to Síle?

Who is called Dónall?  
Who is talking to him?

Who is called Áine?  
Who is going home?



### Points to remember

In Irish, to ask "Who is that?", "Is that Seán?" and to answer "That is . . ." or "Yes, it is", you use "he" and "she" depending on

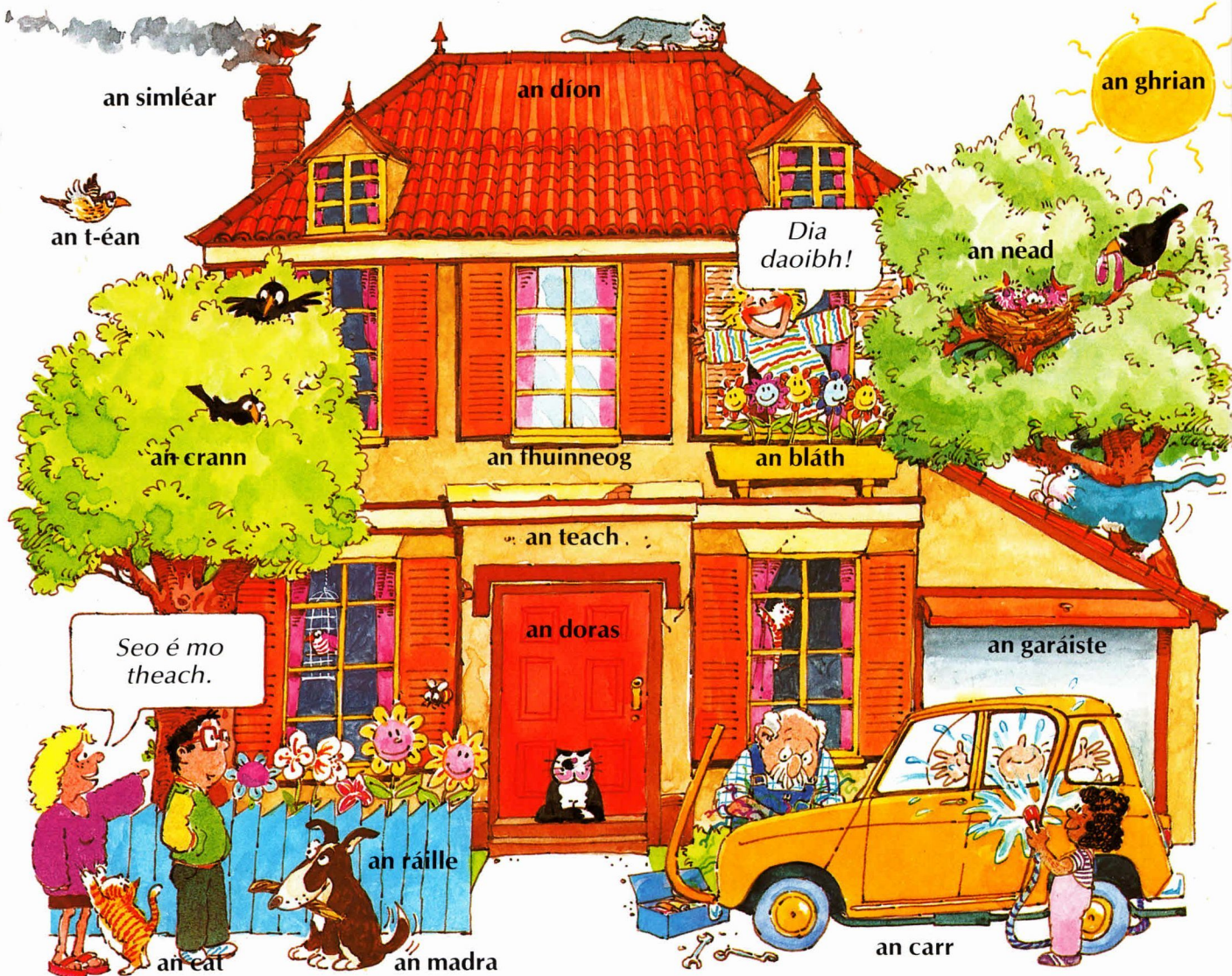
whether you are talking about a male or female. So for a boy you ask **An é sin Seán** (Is that Seán)? and you answer **Is é** (It is). For a girl, you say **An í sin Máire** (Is that Máire)? and **Is í** (It is).\*

\*Notice how Irish does not use "Yes" or "No" in answers to questions. Instead you answer with the verb, e.g. Is that Máire? It is.

# Finding out what things are called

Everything on this picture has its name on it. See if you can learn the names for

everything, then try the memory test at the bottom of the opposite page.



## Irish nouns (naming words)

Irish nouns are either masculine or feminine. In this book, "(m)" or "(f)" after a noun shows you what gender it is. There is no word for "a" or "an" in Irish. You just say the noun on its own, e.g. **bláth** (a flower). The word for "the"

is **an**. When a noun is used with **an**, its beginning can change in different ways, showing the noun's gender. \* There are three examples in the list below, and you can find out more about this on page 42.

<b>an ghrian</b> (f)	the sun	<b>an nead</b> (m)	the nest	<b>an fhuinneog</b> (f)	the window
<b>an crann</b> (m)	the tree	<b>an t-éan</b> (m)	the bird	<b>an doras</b> (m)	the door
<b>an díon</b> (m)	the roof	<b>an garaiste</b> (m)	the garage	<b>an bláth</b> (m)	the flower
<b>an cat</b> (m)	the cat	<b>an carr</b> (m)	the car	<b>an teach</b> (m)	the house
<b>an madra</b> (m)	the dog	<b>an simléar</b> (m)	the chimney	<b>an raille</b> (m)	the fence

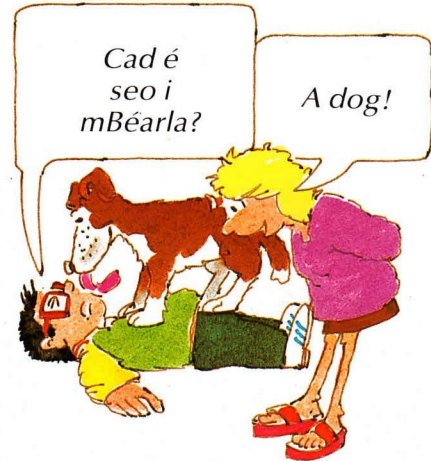
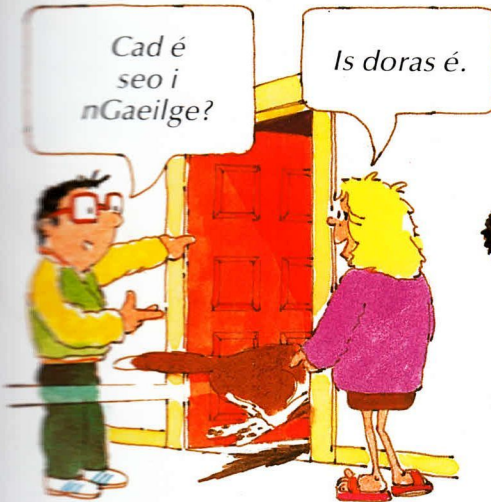
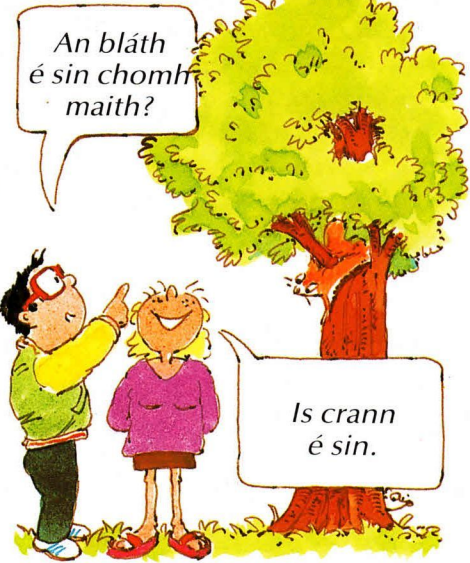
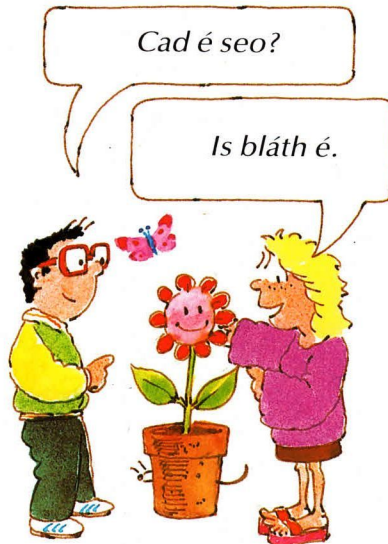


## Asking what things are called

Don't worry if you don't know what something is called in Irish. To find out what it is just ask someone *Cad é...?* Look at the list of useful phrases below, then read the picture strip to see how to use them.

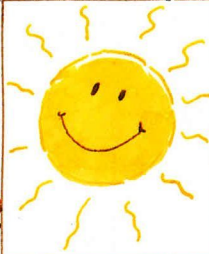
*cad é seo?*  
*cad é sin?*  
*is... é seo/sin*  
*comh maith*  
*i\*\**  
*i mBéarla*  
*inGaeilge*

what is this?  
 what is that?  
 this/that is ...  
 also  
 in  
 in English  
 in Irish



### Can you remember?

Cover up the opposite page and see if you can name all of these things in Irish.



an tseilí. It is difficult to learn all this at once, but bear it in mind when looking for words in the Glossary: an t-éan will be under "e" for éan. \*\*The word i (in) often adds a letter to the beginning of a word. See page 41.

# Where do you come from?

Here you can find out how to ask people where they come from. You can also find out how to ask if they speak Irish.

## Where do you come from?

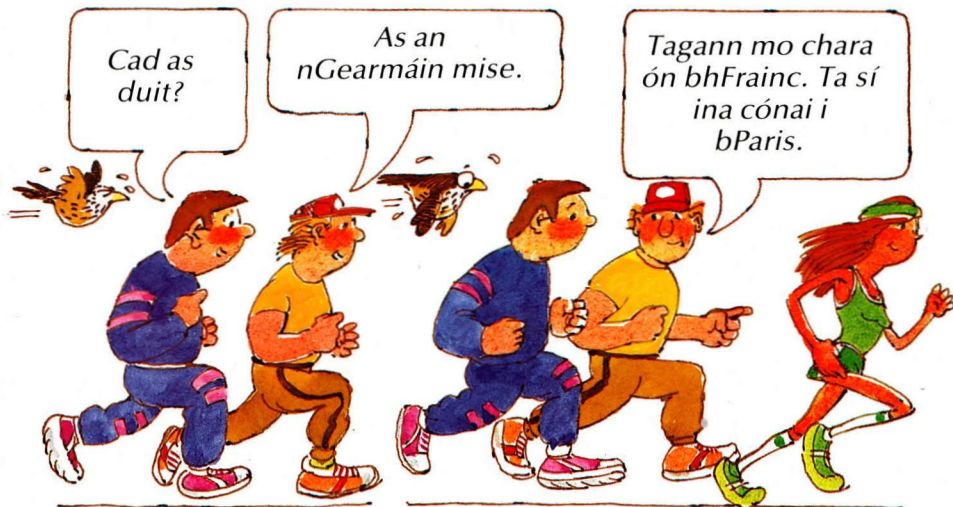
### New words

<b>cad as duit?</b>	where are you from?
<b>mise</b>	I, myself
<b>tagaim ó</b>	I come from
<b>ca bhfuil tú</b>	where do you
<b>i do chónaí?</b>	live?
<b>táim i mo chónaí</b>	I live
<b>an labhraíonn tú?</b>	do you speak?
<b>labhraím</b>	I speak
<b>beagán (m)</b>	a little
<b>Gaeilge (f)</b>	Irish
<b>Béarla (m)</b>	English
<b>Gearmáinis (f)</b>	German
<b>Baile Átha Cliath</b>	Dublin
<b>tá sí ina cónaí</b>	she lives
<b>tagann ó/ón</b>	comes from/ from the
<b>as Éirinn</b>	from Ireland
<b>labhríonn Heinz</b>	Heinz speaks

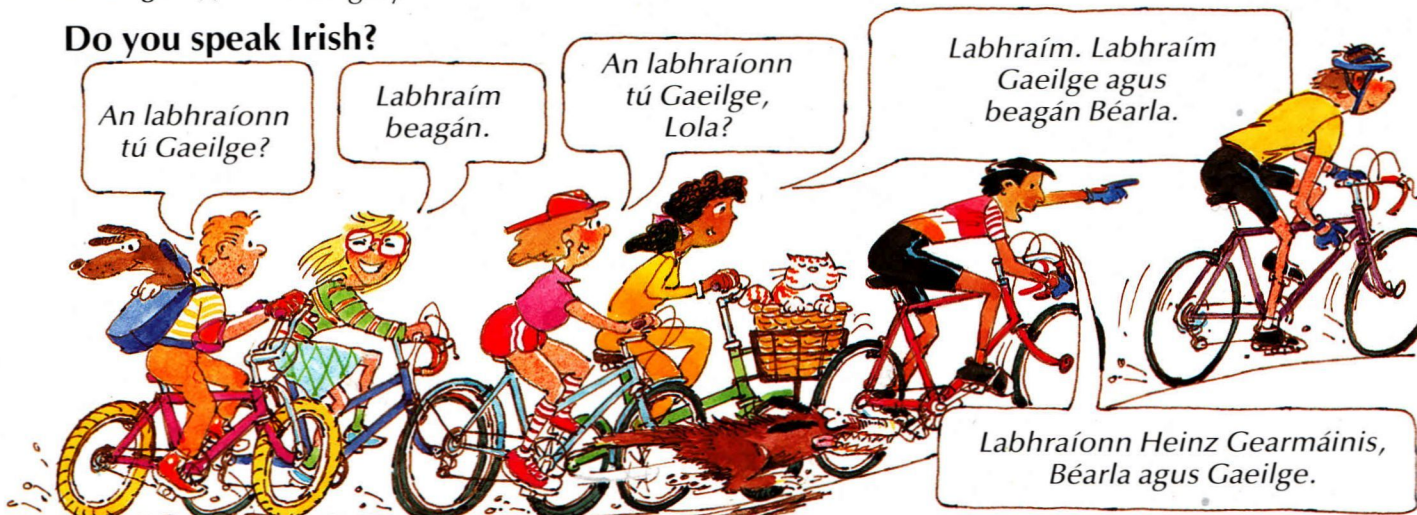


### Countries

<b>Éire (f)</b>	Ireland
<b>an Ghearmáin (f)</b>	Germany
<b>Sasana (f)</b>	England
<b>an Fhrainc (f)</b>	France
<b>an India (f)</b>	India
<b>Albain (f)</b>	Scotland
<b>an Ostair (f)</b>	Austria
<b>an Spáinn (f)</b>	Spain
<b>an Ungáir (f)</b>	Hungary



### Do you speak Irish?



## Who comes from where?

These are the contestants for an international dancing competition. They have come from all over the world. The compère does not speak any Irish and does not understand where

anyone comes from. Read about the contestants, then see if you can tell him what he wants to know. His questions are beneath the picture.

Tagann Aongus ó Albain.

Seo í Marie agus Pierre. Tagann siad ón bhFrainc.

Tagann Hari agus Indira ón India.

Tagann Yuri ón Ungáir. Ta sé ina chónaí i mBudapest.



Tagann Franz ón Ostair.

Seo í Lolita. Tagann sí ón Spáinn.

Where does Franz come from?  
What are the Indian contestants called?  
Is Lolita Italian or Spanish?

Is there a Scottish contestant?  
Where do Marie and Pierre come from?  
Who lives in Budapest? Where is Budapest?

Verbs (action words)	bí*	be	tar	come
In Irish the words for "I", "you", etc. (listed on page 6) come after the verb. Notice how <b>mé</b> (I) and <b>sinn</b> (we) change and join with the end of the verb.	táim tá tú tá sé/sí táimid tá sibh tá siad	I am you are he/she is we are you are (pl) they are	tagaim tagann tú tagann sé/sí tagaimid tagann sibh tagann siad	I come you come he/she comes we come you come (pl) they come



### Points to remember

To ask a question in Irish, you place **an** before the verb, e.g. **An labhraíonn tú Gaeilge?** Do you speak Irish? As there is no word for

"yes" or "no", you have to repeat the verb in the answer. To answer "Yes", meaning you do speak Irish, you say **Labhraím** (I speak).

# More about you

Here you can find out how to count up to 19, say how old you are and say how many brothers and sisters you have.

To say how old you are in Irish, you say how many years you are. So if you are ten, you say **Táim deich mbliana** (I am ten years).\*

## New words

cén aois thú?	how old are you?
cén aois iad?	how old are they?
bliain (f)	year
bliana	years
táim dhá bhliain déag	I am twelve
an bhfuil ... agat?	have you (got) ...?
tá ... agam	I have (got)
níl ... agam	I have not (got)
mo	my
deartháir (m)	brother
deartháireacha	brothers
deirfiúr (f)	sister
deirfiúracha	sisters
beagnach	almost
ná	nor
ach	but

## Numbers

1 aon	6 sé
2 dhá	7 seacht
3 trí	8 ocht
4 ceithre	9 naoi
5 cúig	10 deich

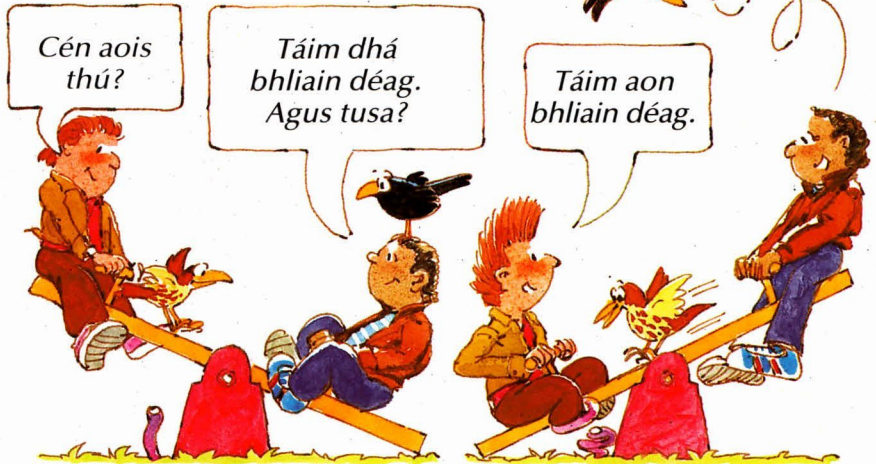
For numbers 11 to 19, you add **déag**, e.g. **aon déag** (11); **dhá bhliain déag** (12 years).\*

## Counting people

Irish has special numbers for counting people.

1 duine	6 seisear
2 beirt*	7 seachtar
3 triúr	8 ochtar
4 ceathrar	9 naonúr
5 cúigear	10 deichniúr

## How old are you?

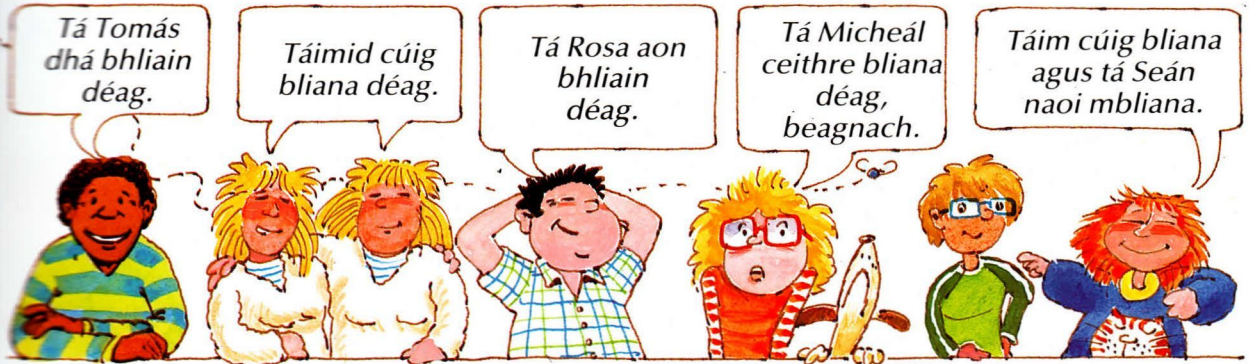


## Have you any brothers and sisters?



## How old are they?

Read what these children are saying, then see if you can say how old they all are.



Micheál

Diana agus Sílvia

Tomás

Rosa

Seán

Úna

## How many brothers and sisters?

Below you can read how many brothers and sisters the children have. Can you work out who has which brothers and sisters?

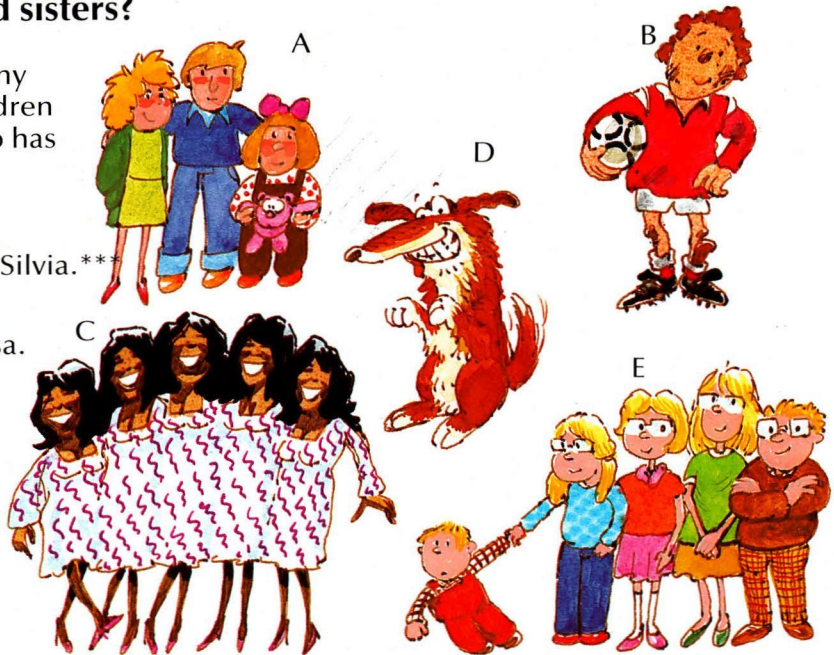
Tá deartháir agus beirt dheirfiúracha ag Diana agus Sílvia.\*\*\*

Tá triúr deirfiúracha agus beirt deartháireacha ag Rosa.

Tá cúigear deirfiúracha ag Micheál ach níl aon deartháir aige.

Tá deartháir ag Seán ach níl aon deirfiúr aige.

Níl deartháireacha na deirfiúracha ag Tomás, ach tá madra aige.



## Useful verbs

Bí (to be) has a special form for asking questions.

To say "I have" in Irish, you say "it is at me".\*\*

question form of bí      am I? are you?

an bhfuilim?*	am I?
an bhfuil tú?	are you?
an bhfuil sé/sí	is he/she?
an bhfuilimid?	are we?
an bhfuil sibh?	are you (pl)?
an bhfuil siad?	are they?

to have

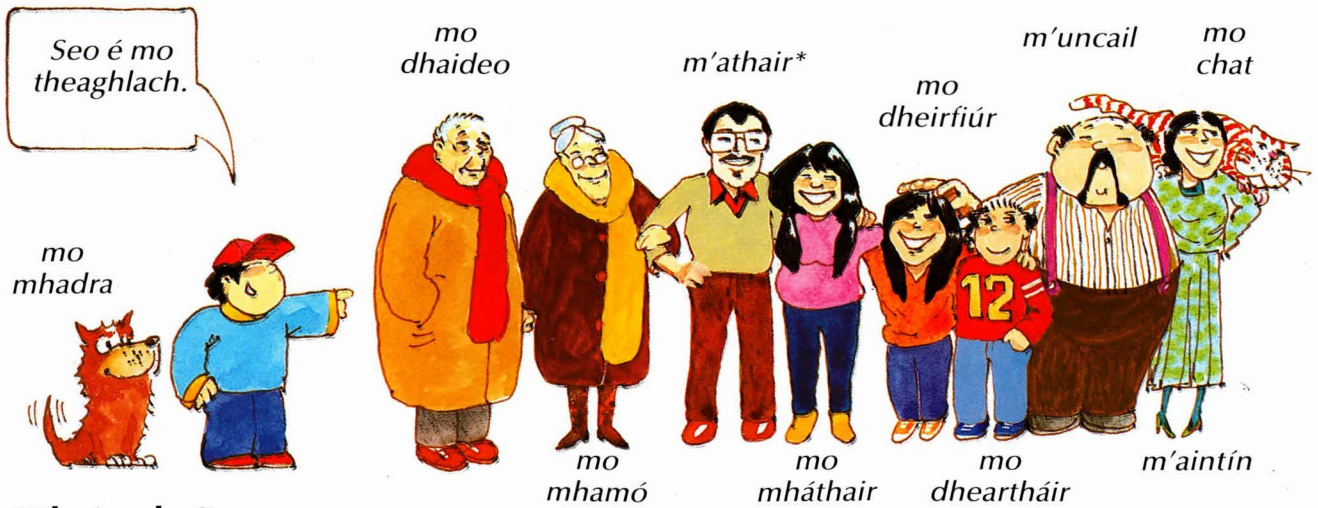
tá...agam	I have
tá...agat	you have
tá...aige	he has
tá...aici	she has
tá...againn	we have
tá...agaibh	you have (pl)
tá...acu	they have

\*In questions, the "n" of an is silent before a consonant, e.g. an bhfuil tú? sounds like "a will too". \*\* E.g. Tá deirfiúr agam (I have a sister). Ag (at) joins with mé, etc. to form agam, etc. \*\*\*"Has" or "have" is tá...ag when you use names instead of "he", "she" or "they".

# Talking about your family

On these two pages you will learn lots of words which will help you to talk about

your family. You will also find out how to say "my" and "your" and describe people.



## Who's who?



## New words

teaglach (m)	family	aintín (f)	aunt	tanaí	thin
daideo (m)	grandfather	cara (m)	friend	sean	old
mamó (f)	grandmother	tuismitheoirí	parents	óg	young
athair (m)	father	ard	tall	fionn	blond
máthair (f)	mother	íseal	short	dubh	dark-haired
uncail (m)	uncle	ramhar	fat	cairdiúil	friendly

## How to say "my" and "your"

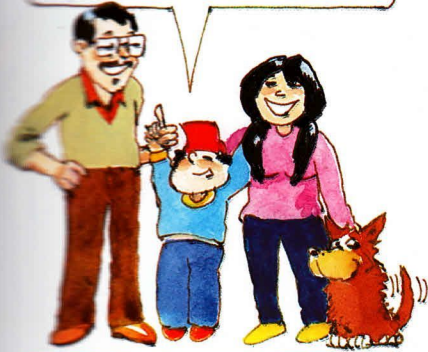
The word for "my" is **mo**, e.g. **mo mháthair** (my mother). The word for "your" is **do**, e.g. **do theaglach** (your family). Notice how **mo** and **do** change the beginning of the next

word: **máthair** but **mo mháthair**. This change is called an aspiration and you can read about it on page 41.\*\*

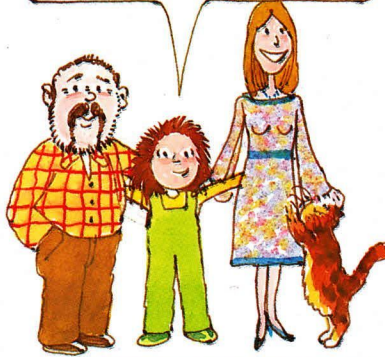


## Describing your family

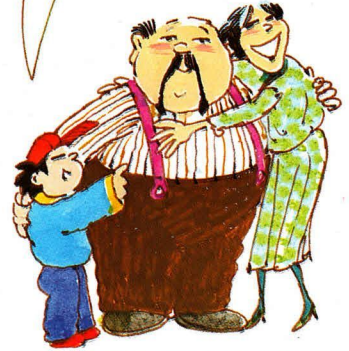
Tá m'athair ard agus tá mo mháthair íseal.



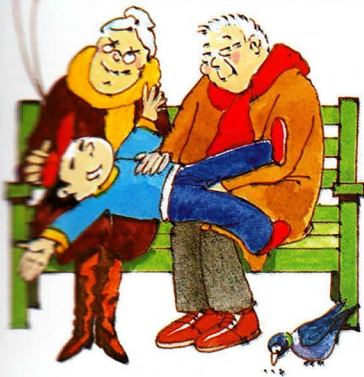
Tá mo mháthair ard agus tá m'athair íseal.



Tá m'uncail ramhar ach tá m'aintín tanaí.



Tá mo mhamó sean. Táim óg.



Tá mo dheirfiúr fionn agus tá mo dheartháir dubh.



Tá mo mhadra cairdiúil.



## Describing words

Irish adjectives come after the word they are describing, e.g. **madra cairdiúil**, a friendly dog. Irish has two words for "is": **is** for saying what something is (**is madra é sin**, that is a dog), but **tá** to describe something: **tá mo mhadra cairdiúil**, my dog is friendly.

Can you describe each of these people in Irish, starting **Tá sé** (he is) or **tá sí** (she is) . . . ?



# Your home

Here you can find out how to say what sort of home you live in and where it is. You can also learn what all the rooms are called.

## New words

an bhfuil tú i do chónaí? do you live?

nó or  
teach (m) house  
árasán (m) flat  
caisleán (m) castle  
sa chathair (f) in the city  
faoin tuath (f) in the country

cois na farraige (f) by the sea  
cé atá? who is?

Daid (m) Dad

Mam (f) Mum

Daideo (m) Grandad

Mamó (f) Granny

taibhse (f) ghost

cá bhfuil tú? where are you?

seomra folctha (m) bathroom

cá bhfuil sibh? where are you? (pl)

seomra bia (m) dining room

seomra leapa (m) bedroom

seomra suite (m) living room

cistin (f) kitchen

halla (m) hall

thuas staighre upstairs

## Where do you live?



## Town or country?



## Where is everyone?

Dad comes home and wants to know where everyone is. Look at the pictures and see if you can tell him where everyone is, e.g. Tá

Mamó sa seomra suite. Then see if you can answer the questions below the little pictures.



Mam

Daid

Daideo



Mamó

Pól

Síle



Seán

taibhse

Cé atá sa seomra suite?  
Cé atá sa chistin?  
Cé atá sa seomra folctha?  
Cé atá sa seomra leapa?

Cá bhfuil Mamó?  
Cá bhfuil an taibhse?  
Cá bhfuil an madra?  
Cá bhfuil Pól?  
Cá bhfuil Daid?



## Points to remember

The word **sa** means "in the", and it often changes or "aspirates" the first letter of the next word, e.g. **caisleán** (castle), but **sa chaisleán** (in the castle); **cistin** (kitchen) but **sa**

**chistin** (in the kitchen). However it does not aspirate the "s" in **seomra** (room), so you just say **sa seomra** (in the room).\*

\*You can find out more about aspiration on page 41.

# Looking for things

Here you can find how to ask someone what they are looking for, say where things are and learn lots of words for things around the house.

## New words

ag lorg	looking for
rud éigin (m)	something
hamster (m)	hamster
ní féidir liom	I can't
a fháil	to find
níl sé/sí	he/she/it is not*
ar	on
faoi/faoin	under/under the
taobh thiar (den)	behind (the)
os comhair	in front of
idir	between
taobh leis	next to
cófra (m)	cupboard
vardrús (m)	wardrobe
cathaoir	armchair
uilleach (f)	curtain
cuirtín (m)	plants
plandaí	shelf
seilf (f)	shelf
bord (m)	table
brat urláir (m)	carpet
tolg (m)	sofa
teilifís (f)	television
bláthchuach (m)	vase
seo é/í	here it is! (m/f)
i measc	among

## How to say "it"

There is no special word for "it" in Irish. When you are talking about animals, you say *sé* or *sí* ("he" or "she") depending on whether you are talking about a male or a female. When you are talking about things, you usually use *sé* (he).

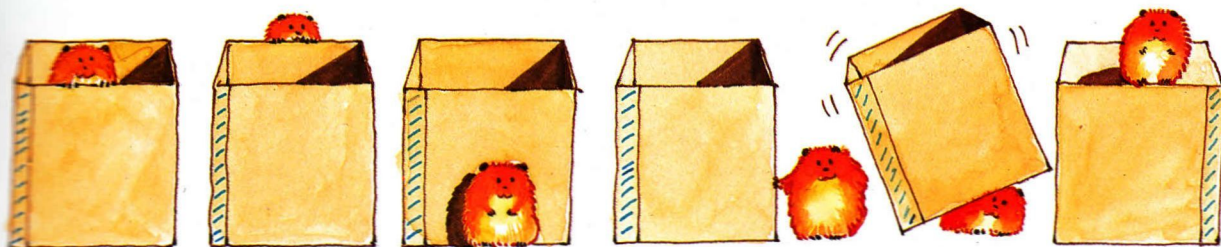
*E* or *í* ("him or "her") are used in the same way. To say "it is not", you use *níl sé* or *níl sí*.\*

## The missing hamster



## In, on or under?

Try to learn these words by heart.



sa

taobh thiar

os comhair

taobh leis

faoi(n)

ar

## Where are they hiding?

Seán's six pets are hiding somewhere in the room, but he cannot find them. Can you tell

him where they are in Irish, using the words above?



an hamstar (m)



an piscín (m)



an coileán (m)



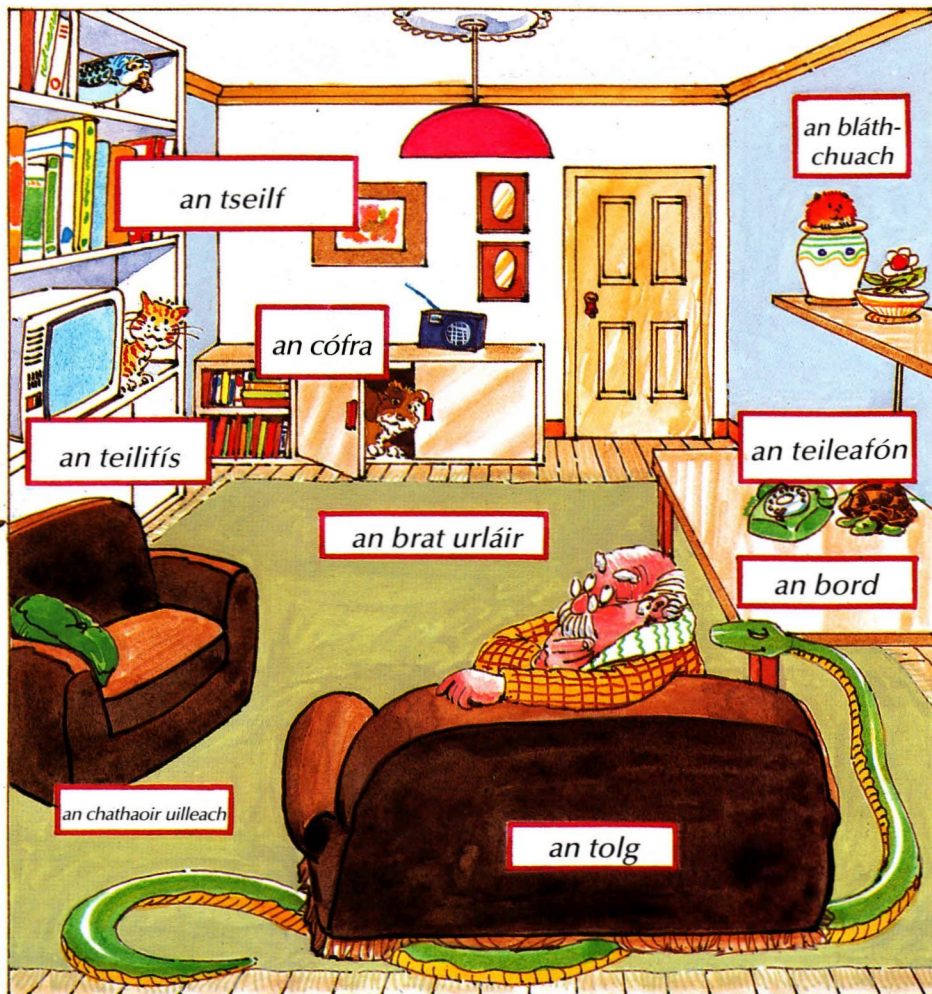
an phearaicít (f)



an nathair (f)



an toirtís (f)



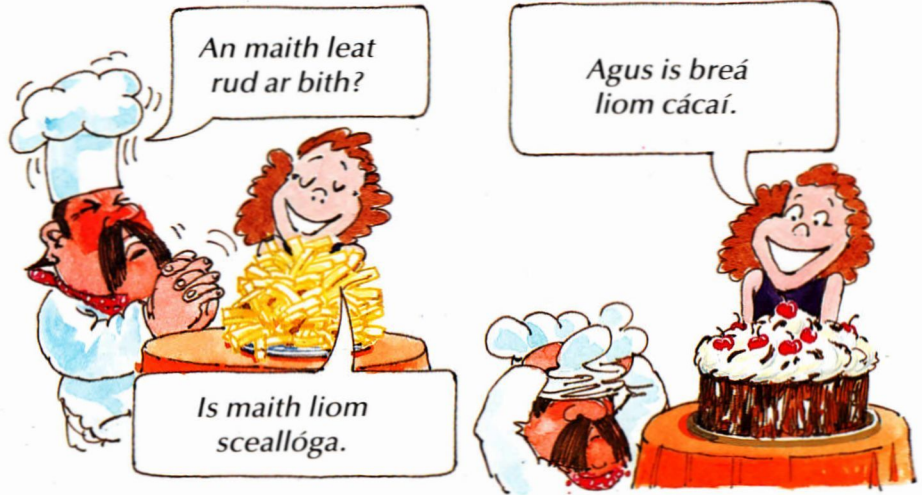
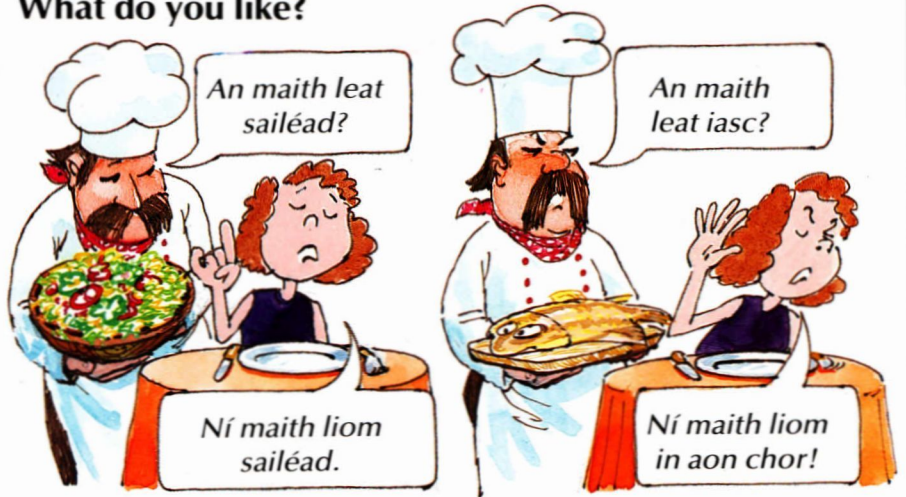
# What do you like eating?

Here you can find out how to say what you like and don't like.

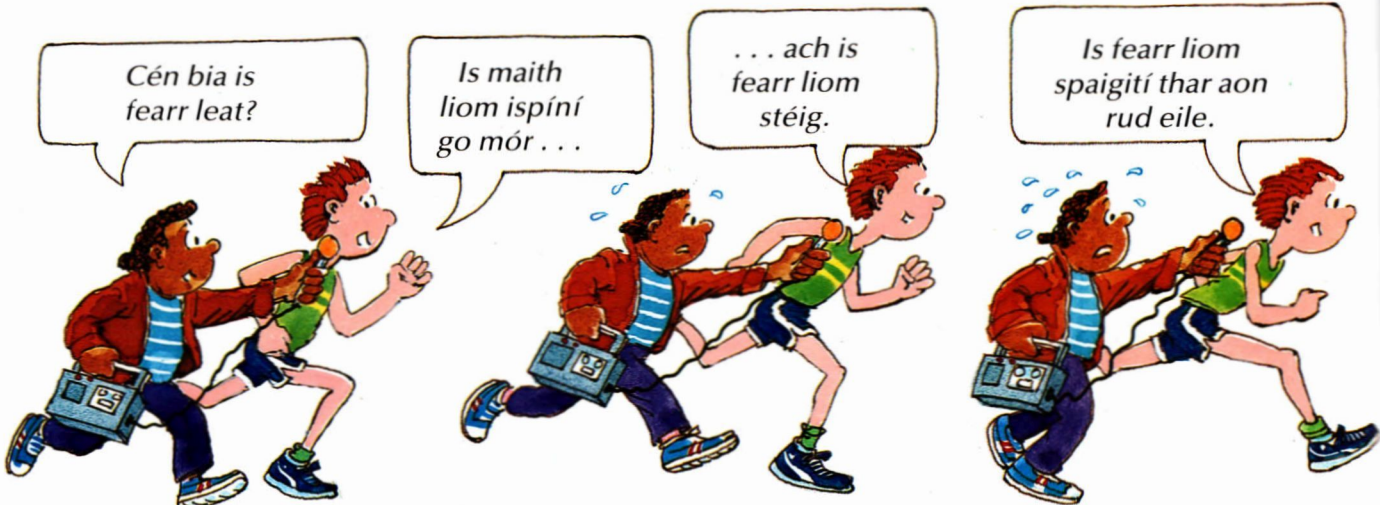
## New words

maith	good
an maith leat?	do you like?
is maith liom	I like
ní maith liom	I don't like
cad?	what...?
is breá liom	I love
in aon chor	... at all
mar sin	therefore
go mór	very much
cén bia?	what food?
is fearr liom	I prefer
thar aon rud eile	best of all
sailéad (m)	salad
iasc (m)	fish
sceallóga	chips
rud ar bith (m)	anything
cácaí	cakes
ispíní	sausages
stéig (f)	steak
spaigití (m)	spaghetti
cad atá á ithe	what are you
agat?	eating?
ithe	eating
pióg (f)	pizza
hamburger (m)	hamburger
rís (f)	rice
arán (m)	bread
cáis (f)	cheese

## What do you like?



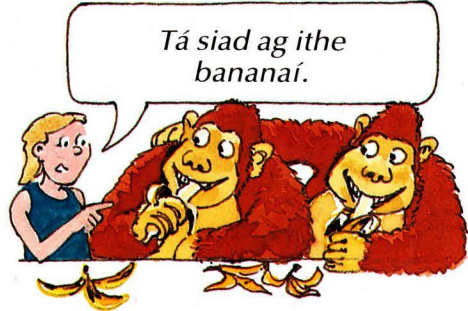
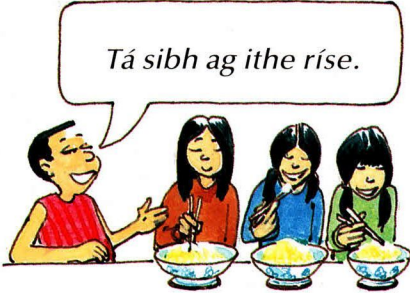
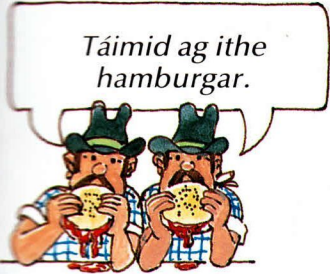
## What do you like best?



## What are they eating?



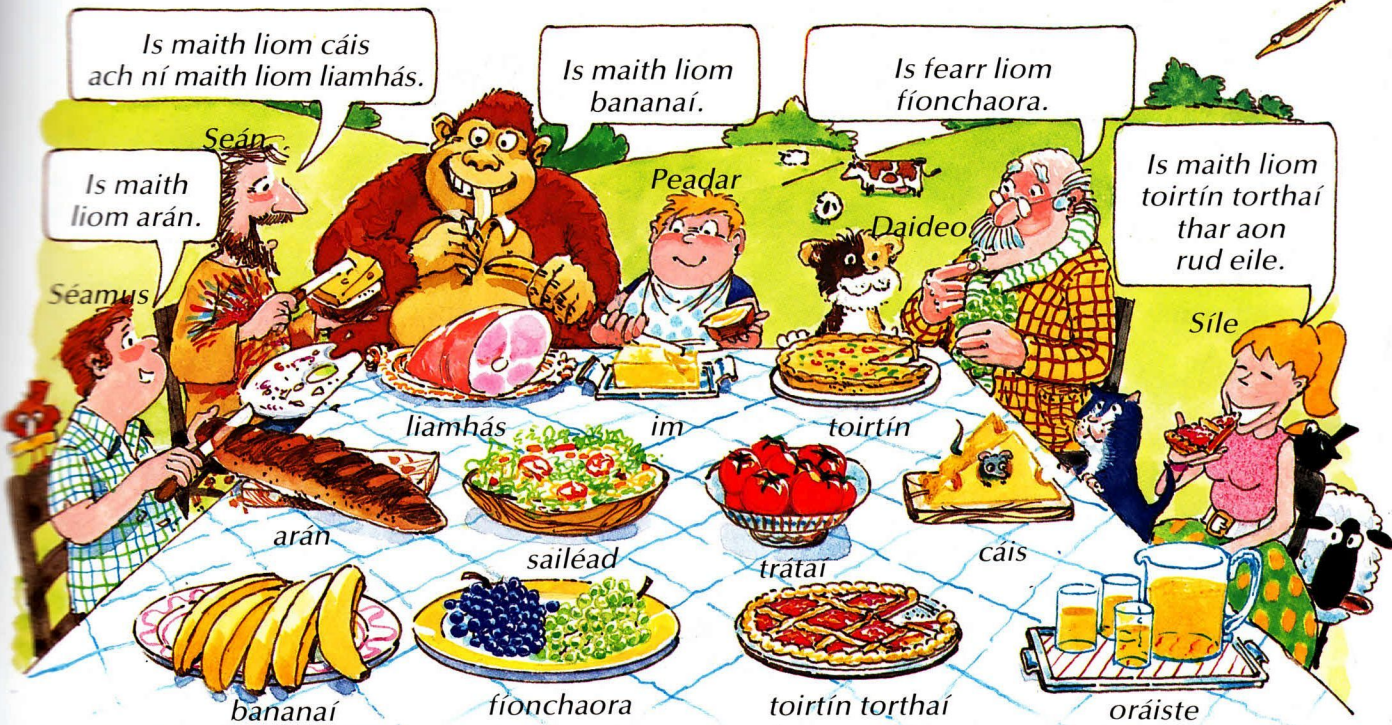
Táim ag ithe pióige.



## Who likes what?

Who likes bread? Who doesn't like ham?  
Who prefers grapes to bananas?

Can you say in Irish which things you like and which you don't like?



### Saying "I am eating"

In Irish, you say "I am at eating": **táim ag ithe**. This form of the verb can change the noun that follows. You say **arán** (bread), but **ag ithe aráin**; **cáis** (cheese), but **ag ithe cáise**.\*

### Saying "I like"

In Irish, you say "it is good with me": **is maith liom**. Le (with) joins with **mé, tú, sé, sí, sinn, sibh, siad** to become **liom, leat, leis, léi, linn, libh, leo**.

\*This is why hamstar changes in **táim ag lorg mo hamstair** (I am "at looking" for my hamster) on page 18.

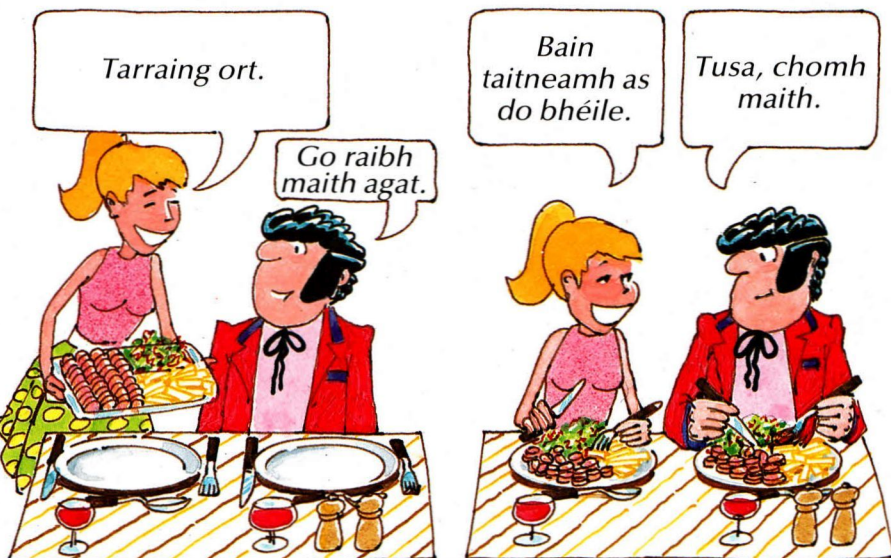
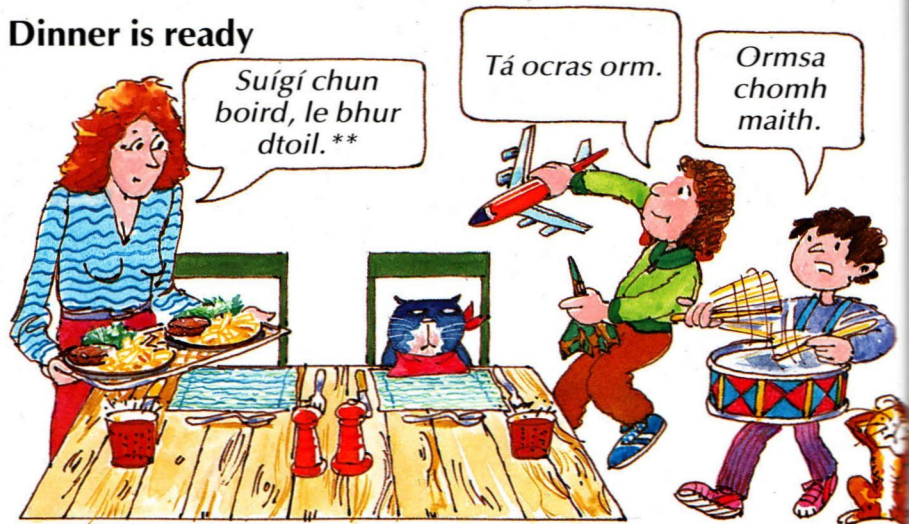
# Table talk

Here you can learn all sorts of useful things to say if you are having a meal with Irish-speaking friends.

## New words

<b>suígi* chun boird</b>	sit at the table,
<b>le bhur dtoil</b>	please
<b>tá ocras orm</b>	I'm hungry
<b>ormsa chomh maith</b>	me too
<b>tarraing ort</b>	help yourself
<b>go raibh maith agat</b>	thank you
<b>bain taitneamh as do bhéile</b>	enjoy your meal
<b>tusa</b>	yourself
<b>chomh maith uisce (m)</b>	as well, also water
<b>arán (m)</b>	bread
<b>gloine (m)</b>	glass
<b>ar mhaith leat?</b>	would you like?
<b>tuilleadh (m)</b>	some more
<b>feoil (f)</b>	meat
<b>le do thoil**</b>	please
<b>níor mhaith liom</b>	I would not like
<b>tá go leor agam</b>	I've had enough
<b>an bhfuil sé go maith?</b>	is it good?
<b>tá sé go hálainn</b>	it's delicious

## Dinner is ready

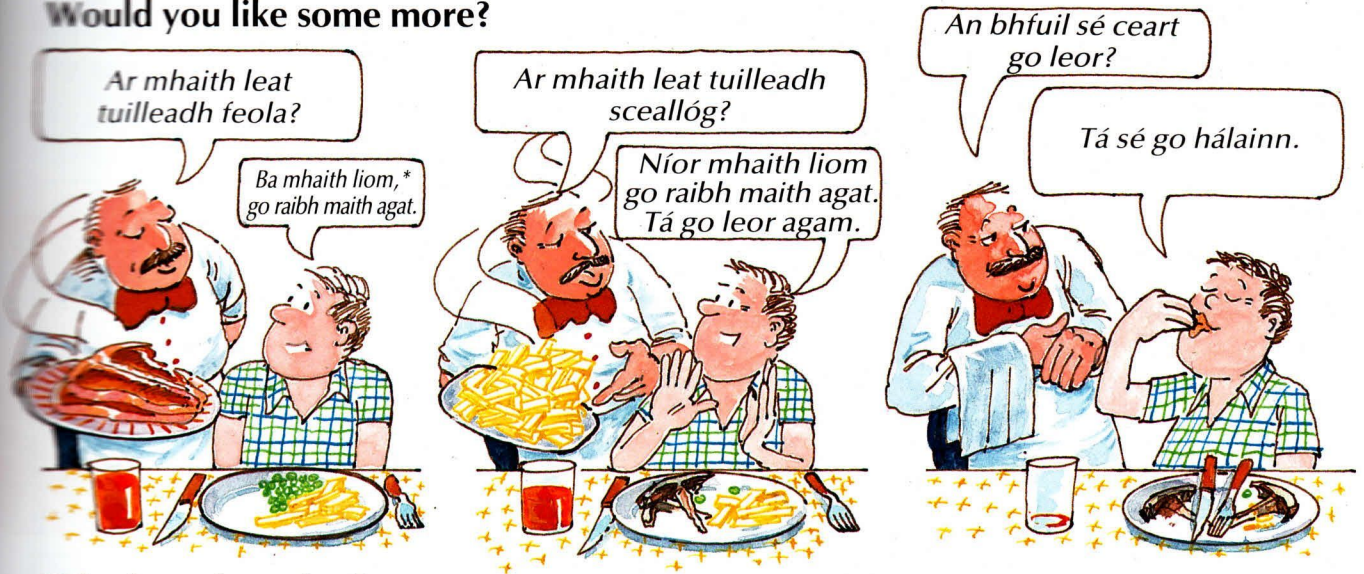


## Please will you pass me . . .





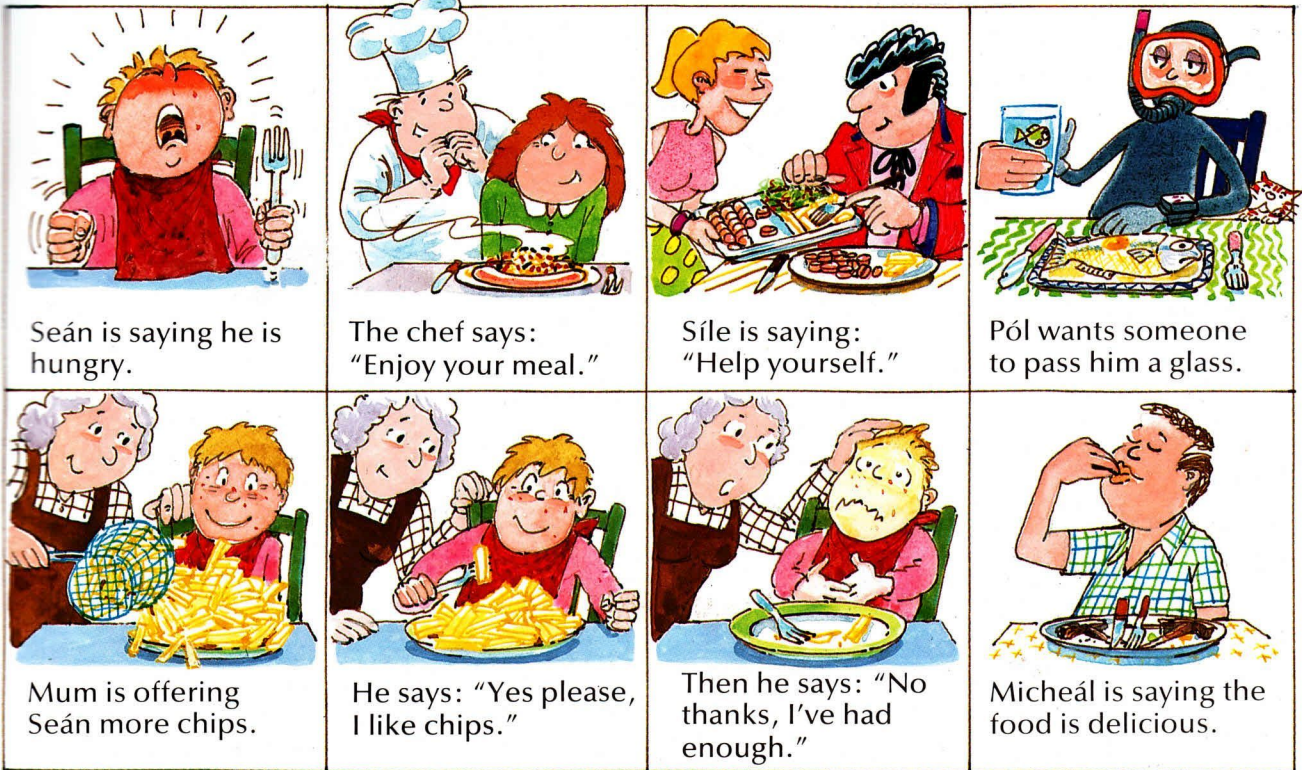
## Would you like some more?



## Who is saying what?

These little pictures show you different things that can happen at mealtime. Cover

up the rest of the page and see if you can say what everyone is saying in Irish.



## Ar

**Ar** means "on" and it joins with **mé, tú** etc. to form **orm, ort** etc. In Irish, to say "I am hungry", you say "hunger is on me": **tá ocrais orm**. **Ormsa** means the same as **orm**, but the extra ending is

a way of drawing attention. (There is another word **ar** which is used for making questions, e.g. **ar mhaith leat**, would you like . . . ?)

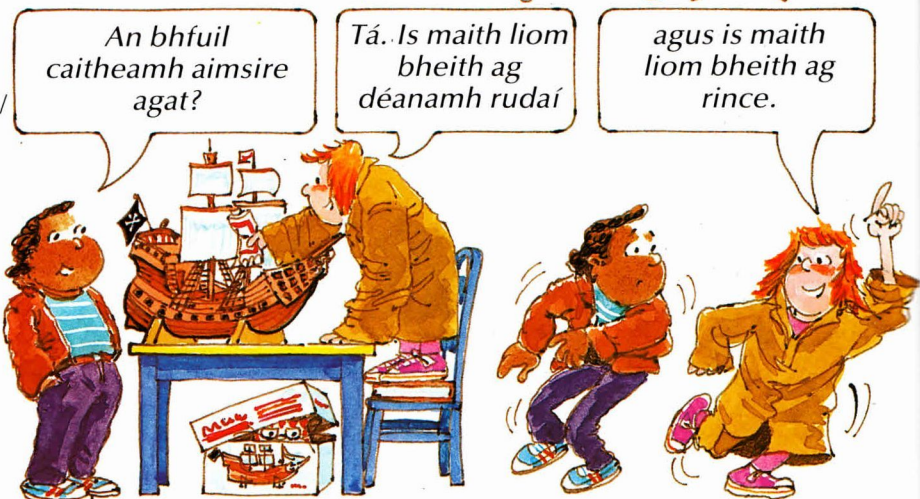
\*You say **is maith liom** for "I like", and **ba mhaith liom** means "I would like".

# Your hobbies

These people are talking about their hobbies.

## New words

<b>caitheamh</b>	hobby
<b>aimsire (m)</b>	
<b>cén?</b>	what?
<b>bheith</b>	being
<b>ag péintéireacht</b>	painting
<b>ag cócaireacht</b>	cooking
<b>ag déanamh rudaí</b>	making things
<b>ag rince</b>	dancing
<b>ag léamh</b>	reading
<b>cad a dhéanann tú?</b>	what do you do?
<b>istoíche</b>	at night
<b>ag féachaint spórt (m)</b>	watching sport
<b>ag snámh</b>	swimming
<b>ag imirt peile/leadóige</b>	playing football/tennis
<b>ag éisteacht le ceol</b>	listening to music
<b>an seinneann sibh?</b>	do you play?
<b>seinnim</b>	I play (music)
<b>seinneann mise ceol (m)</b>	I myself play music

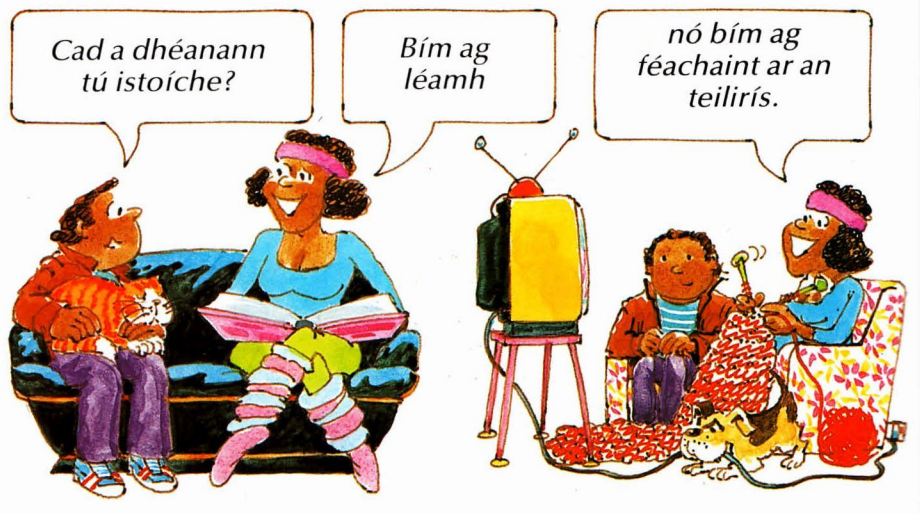


## Talking about what you do

There is a special form of **bí** (be) which you use to talk about something you do regularly.\* Where in English you say "I read", in Irish you say "I am (at)\*\* reading" and you use the special form for "I am":

<b>bím</b>	I am (usually)
<b>bíonn tú</b>	you are (usually)
<b>bíonn sé/sí</b>	he/she is (usually)
<b>bíimid</b>	we are (usually)
<b>bíonn sibh</b>	you are (pl) (usually)
<b>bíonn siad</b>	they are (usually)

## What do you do in the evenings?



## The sporty type



## Music lovers



## What do they do at the week-end?



See if you can say in Irish what all these people do in their spare time, e.g. **bíonn sé**

**ag cócaireacht.** Can you say in Irish what your hobbies are?

# Telling the time

Here you can find out how to tell the time in Irish. You can look up any numbers you don't know on page 40.\*

Saying what time it is in Irish is not difficult for an English speaker. You say **tá sé**, "it is", then put the word **a** in front of the number, e.g. **a haon**, "one". Like in English, you can add **a chlog**, "o'clock".

## What is the time?



Here is how to ask what the time is.

## New words

cén t-am é?	what time is it?
tá sé a haon a chlog	it is one o'clock
tá sé a dó a chlog*	it is two o'clock
cúig chun	five to
ceathrú tar éis	quarter past
ceathrú chun	quarter to
leathuair tar éis	half past
meán lae (m)	midday
meán oíche (m)	midnight
ar maidin	in the morning
um thráthnóna	in the evening/ afternoon
éiríonn Seán a**	Seán gets up his
bricfeasta (m)	breakfast
lón (m)	lunch
suipear (m)	supper
téann sé	he goes
ar scoil (f)	to school
go dtí an leaba	to bed
itheann sé	he eats
imríonn sé peil	he plays football
féachann sé	he watches
<b>téigh</b>	<b>(go)</b>
téim	I go
téann tú	you go (s)
téann sé/sí	he/she/it goes
téimid	we go
téann sibh	you go (pl)
téann siad	they go

## The time is . . .



Tá sé a cúig tar éis a naoi.



Tá sé a ceathrú tar éis a naoi.



Tá sé a leathuair tar éis a naoi.



Tá sé a ceathrú chun a deich.



Tá sé a cúig chun a deich.



Tá sé ina mheán oíche/mheán lae.

## What time of day?



Tá sé a seacht ar maidin.



Tá sé a seacht um thráthnóna.

## Seán's day

Read what Seán does throughout the day, then see if you can match each clock with

the right picture. You can find out what the answers are on pages 44-45.



a



b



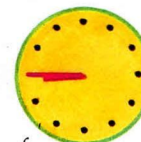
c



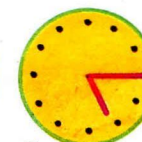
d



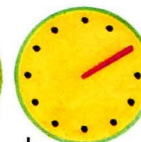
e



f



g



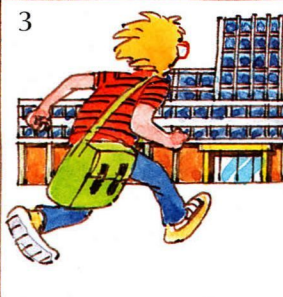
h



1 Éiríonn Seán ag leathuair tar éis a seacht.



2 Itheann sé a bhrícfesta ag a hocht.



3 Ag a ceathrú chun a naoi téann sé ar scoil.



4 Itheann sé lón ag leathuair tar éis a dó dhéag.\*



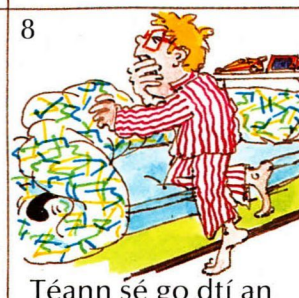
5 Ag deich tar éis a dó imríonn sé peil.



6 Ag ceathrú tar éis a cúig féachann sé ar an teilifís.



7 Itheann sé a shuipéar ag a sé.



8 Téann sé go dtí an leaba ag leathuair tar éis a hocht.

## What time is it?

Can you say in Irish what times these clocks show?



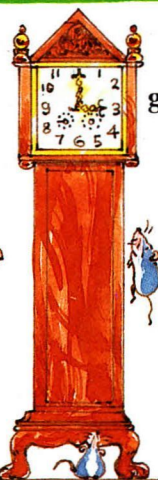
a



b



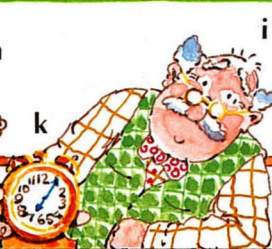
c



g



h



k



i



j



l



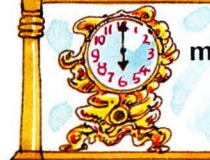
d



e



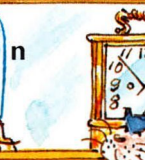
f



m



n



o

\*To say "half past twelve" you say leathuair tar éis a dó dhéag.

# Arranging things

Here is how to arrange things with your friends.

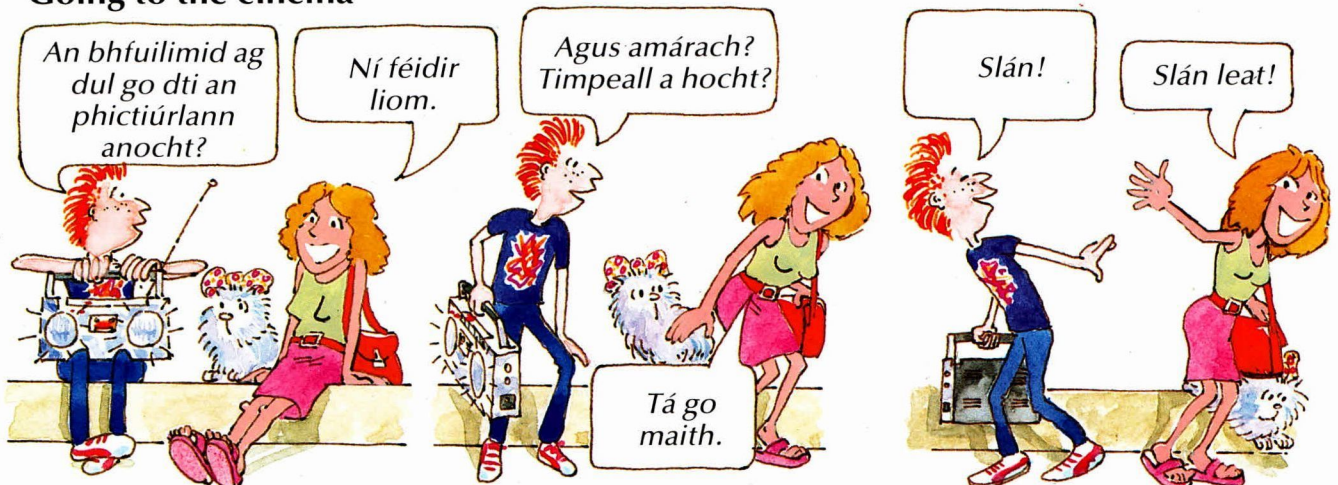
## New words

an bhfuilimid ag dul?	are we going?
cathain?	when?
Dé Máirt	on Tuesday
ar maidin	in the morning
cathain a théann tú?	when do you go?
linn snámha	swimming pool
timpeall	at about
inniu	today
ag teacht	coming
anocht	this evening
tá go maith	O.K.
ni féidir liom	I can't
amárach	tomorrow
is trua sin	it's a pity
dul go (dti)*	to go to
pictiúrlann (f)	cinema
cóisir (f)	party
cad a dhéanann tú?	what do you do?

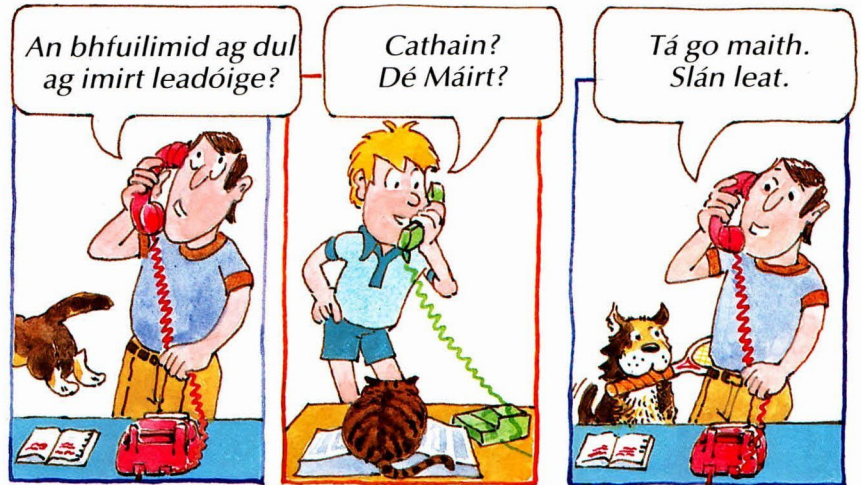
## Days of the week

Dé Domhnaigh	Sunday
Dé Luain	Monday
Dé Máirt	Tuesday
Dé Céadaoin	Wednesday
Déardaoin	Thursday
Dé hAoine	Friday
Dé Sathairn	Saturday

## Going to the cinema



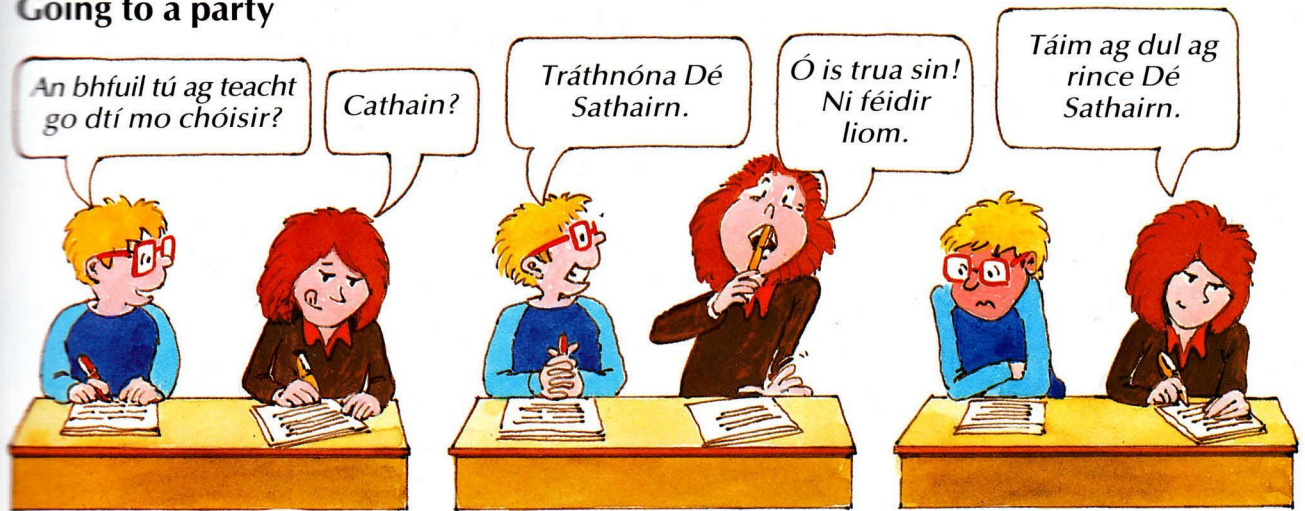
## Tennis



## Swimming



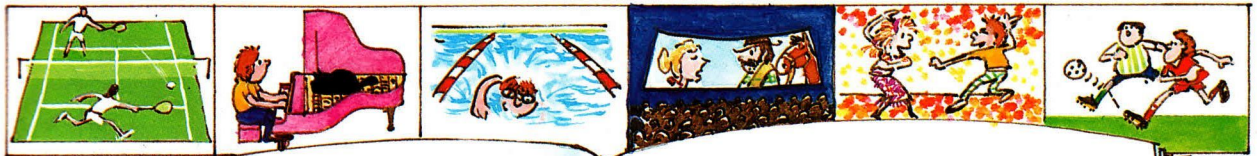
## Going to a party



## Your diary for the week

Here is your diary, showing you what you are doing for a week. Read it, then see if

you can answer the questions at the bottom of the page in Irish.



Cad a dhéanann tú Dé hAoine?  
 Cathain a bhíonn tú ag imirt leadóige?  
 Cathain a théann tú go dtí an phictiúrlann?  
 An\* mbíonn tú ag seinnt an phiano Déardaoin?  
 Cad a dhéanann tú Dé Domhnaigh?  
 Cad a dhéanann tú Dé Sathairn?

## Bíonn

Remember that this means "is" or "are" and is used when talking about something someone does regularly, e.g. **an mbíonn tú ag imirt peile** (do you play football)? **Bím** (I do). See page 24.

\*The word **an**, when used to ask a question, can change the beginning of the following verb, e.g. **an mbíonn tú?** You can find out more about changes at the beginnings of words on pages 42-43. \*\***Leadóg** means "tennis".

# Asking where places are

Here and on the next two pages you can find out how to ask your way around.

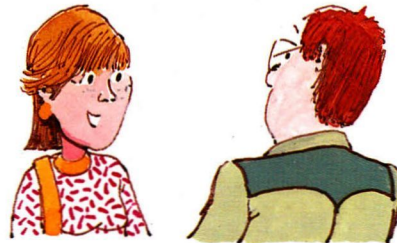
In Irish, when you address someone you don't know, it is polite to add a **dhuine uasail** (Sir), a **bhean uasal** (Madam) or a **chailín** (Miss).

## New words

<b>gabh mo leithscéal</b>	excuse me
<b>ná habair é</b>	don't mention it
<b>anseo/ansin</b>	here/there
<b>oifig an phoist</b>	post office
<b>thall ansin</b>	over there
<b>i gcearnóg an mhargaidh</b>	in the market square
<b>óstán (m)</b>	hotel
<b>ansin</b>	then
<b>cas</b>	turn
<b>an bhfuil . . . ?</b>	is there . . . ?
<b>caife (m)</b>	café
<b>in aice le*</b>	near
<b>sráid (f)</b>	street
<b>díreach</b>	straight
<b>an bhfuil sé i bhfad?</b>	is it far?
<b>cúig nóiméad</b>	five minutes
<b>cá bhfuil . . . ?</b>	where is . . . ?
<b>ag siúl</b>	on foot
<b>ollmhargadh (m)</b>	supermarket
<b>os comhair</b>	opposite
<b>taobh leis</b>	next to
<b>banc (m)</b>	bank
<b>cógaslann (f)</b>	chemist's

## Being polite

*Gabh mo leithscéal, a dhuine uasail.*



*Go raibh maith agat.*

*Ná habair é.*



This is how to say "Excuse me". It is polite to add "Sir".

When people thank you, it is polite to answer **Ná habair é**.

## Where is . . . ?

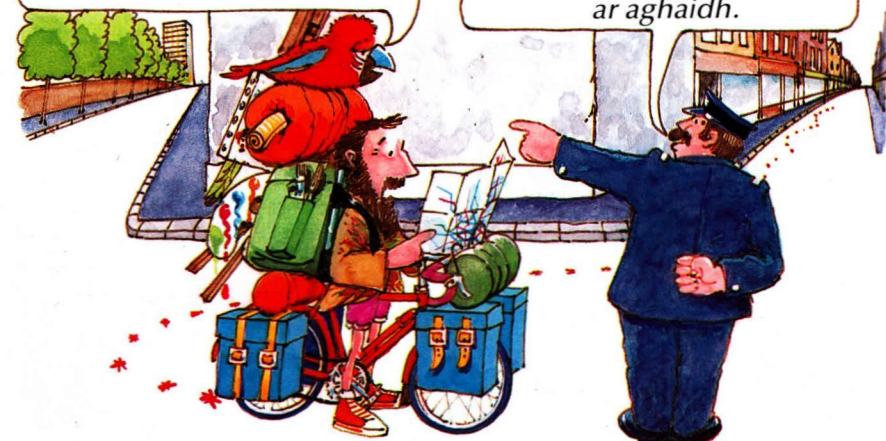
*Gabh mo leithscéal, a bhean uasal, cá bhfuil oifig an phoist?*

*Thall ansin i gcearnóg an mhargaidh.*



*Cá bhfuil Óstán an Stáisiúin?*

*Cas ar chlé, ansin díreach ar aghaidh.*



**Directions**

**ar chlé**      **díreach ar aghaidh**      **ar dheis**



**Is there a . . . nearby?**

Gabh mo leithscéal, a dhuine uasail. An bhfuil caife in aice linn anseo?



Tá, díreach ar chlé i Sráid Ghrafton.

**Is it far?**

An bhfuil sé i bhfad uainn?\*



Níl sé ach\*\* cúig nóiméad ag siúl.

Gabh mo leithscéal, a chailín. An bhfuil ollmhargadh in aice linn?



Tá, thall ansin ag an mbanc.

Agus an bhfuil cógaslann in aice linn?



Tá, taobh leis an ollmhargadh.

**Other useful places to ask for**

<p>an stáisiún</p>	<p>stáisiún peitрил</p>	<p>leithreas</p>	<p>bosca litreacha</p>
<p>the station</p>	<p>a petrol station</p>	<p>toilets</p>	<p>a letter box</p>
<p>bosca teileafóin</p>	<p>láthair champála</p>	<p>an t-ospidéal</p>	<p>an t-aerfort</p>
<p>a telephone box</p>	<p>a campsite</p>	<p>the hospital</p>	<p>the airport</p>

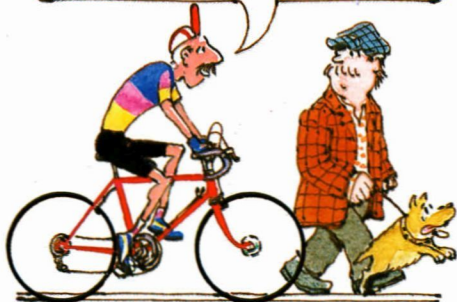
\*The word ó (from) joins with sinn (we) to form uainn (from us). \*\*Word for word, níl sé ach means "it is not but".

# Finding your way around

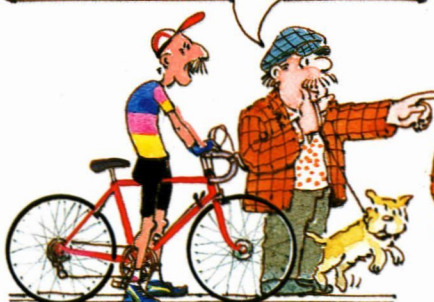
Here you can find out how to ask your way around and follow directions. When

you have read everything, try the map puzzle on the opposite page.

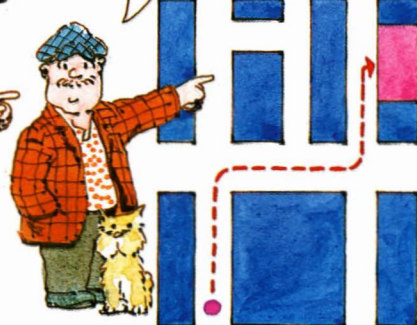
Gabh mo leithscéal, a dhuine uasail. Conas is féidir\* liom dul go dtí an stáisiún, le do thoil?



Tóg an chéad chasadh ar dheis agus an dara casadh ar chlé.



Tá an stáisiún ar dheis.



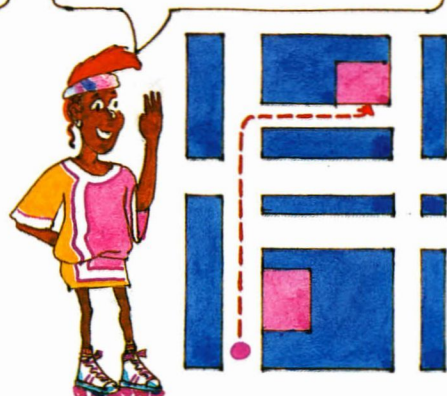
Conas is féidir liom dul go dtí an Brú?



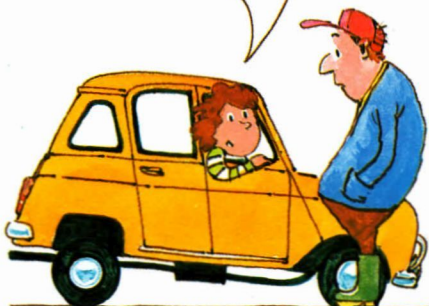
Lean díreach ar aghaidh chomh fada leis an stáisiún . . .



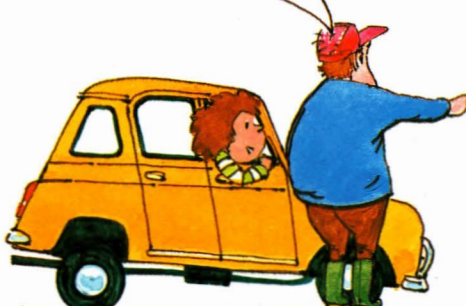
ansin tóg an trú cáis ar dheis.



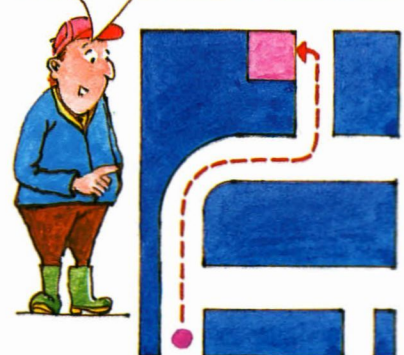
Conas is féidir liom dul go dtí an oifig fáilte?



I gcarr? Lean díreach ar aghaidh . . .



ansin tóg an chead chasadh ar chlé.



## New words

conas is féidir liom dul go dtí...?	how do I get to...?
tóg	take
lean ar aghaidh	carry on
Brú (m)	youth hostel
oifig fáilte (f)	tourist office

chomh fada leis i gcarr	as far as by car
an chéad chasadh	the first turning
an dara casadh	the second turning
an tríú casadh	the third turning

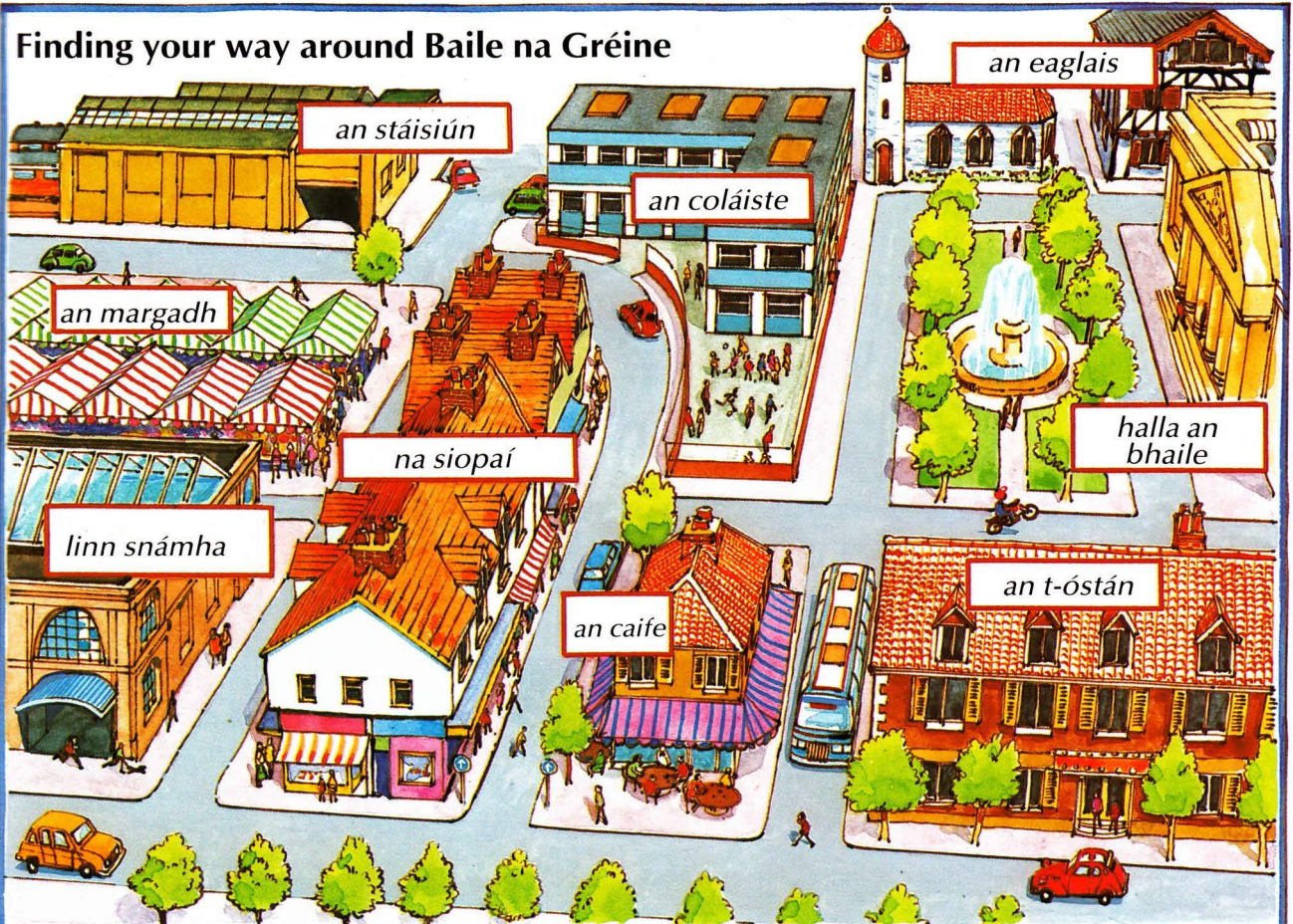
## Orders and commands

To tell you the way, people use the command form of the verb: **tóg** (take) and **lean** (carry on), e.g. **tóg an chéad chasadh** (take the first turning). In Irish, this is also the verb's basic form or stem.

## Plural "the"

The word for "the", **an**, becomes **na** in the plural (when you are talking about more than one thing or person): **an siopa** (the shop), but **na siopaí** (the shops).\*

## Finding your way around Baile na Gréine



How would you ask someone the way to the market place? How would you ask them if there is a café nearby? Ask how far it is.

Can you tell the person in the yellow car how to get to the church?  
Can you direct someone from the hotel to the market?

Where would these directions take the yellow car?  
**Tóg an dara casadh ar chlé agus tá sé ar dheis.**

\*You can find out about plural nouns on page 42.

# Going shopping

Here and on the next two pages you can find out how to say what you want when you go shopping. You can look up any numbers you need on page 40.

## Spending money

There are 100 cent in a euro. On price labels, the symbol € comes before the price, e.g. dhá euro is written as €2. For more numbers, see page 40.

## Saying what you want

To say "I want" in Irish, you say "it is from me". The word for "from" is ó and it joins with mé, tú (me, you etc.\*\*) to form uaim, uait . . . e.g. Cad atá uait (What do you want)? Tá arán uaim (I want bread).

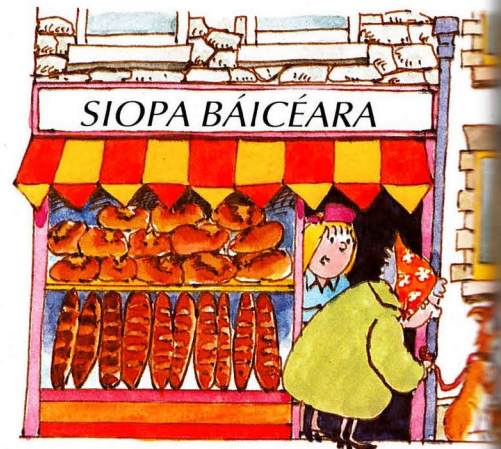
## New words

siopa (m)	shop
ag siopadóireacht	shopping
ceannaíonn sí	she buys
siopa báicéara (m)	baker's
siopa grósaera (m)	grocer's
siopa búistéara (m)	butcher's
bainne (m)	milk
uibheacha	eggs
torthaí	fruit
glasraí	vegetables
feoil	meat
rollóg aráin	bread roll
úll (m)	apple
trátaí	tomatoes
an féidir liom cabhrú leat?	can I help you?
ba mhaith liom cinnte	I would like certainly
aon rud eile?	anything else?
cé mhéad é sin?	how much is that?
seo duit	here it is
líotar (m)	a litre
cilea (m)	a kilo
leathcilea (m)	half a kilo

## Bean Uí Cheallaigh\* goes shopping



Téann Bean Uí Cheallaigh ag siopadóireacht.



Téann sí go dtí siopa báicéara.

## Sa siopa báicéara



Cinnte! An bhfuil aon rud eile uait?



Trí euro, le do thoil.



Níl, go raibh maith agat. Cé mhéad é sin?



Go raibh maith agat.

\*Bean Uí Cheallaigh means "Mrs Kelly". \*\* Ó also joins with sé, sí, sinn, sibh, siad to form uaidh, uaithe, uainn, uaibh, uathu. \*\*\*Unlike others "d"s, the "d" in seo duit is said like the "g" in "get".



Ceannaíonn sí bainne agus uibheacha sa siopa grósaera.



Ceannaíonn sí torthaí agus glasraí sa mhargadh.



Ceannaíonn sí feoil sa siopa búistéara.

### Sa siopa grósaera



### Sa mhargadh



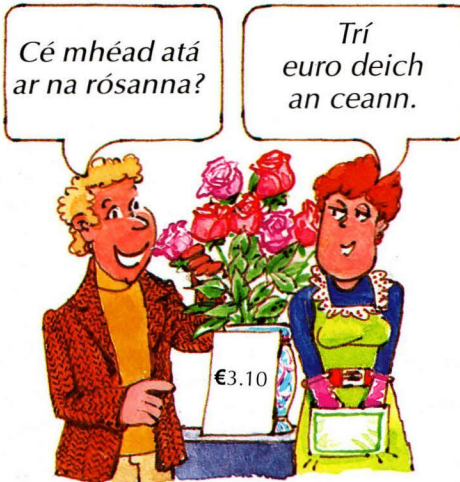
# More shopping and going to a café

Here you can find out how to ask how much things cost and how to order things in a café. Numbers are shown on page 40.

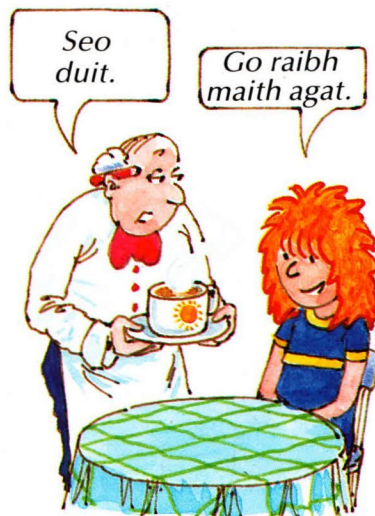
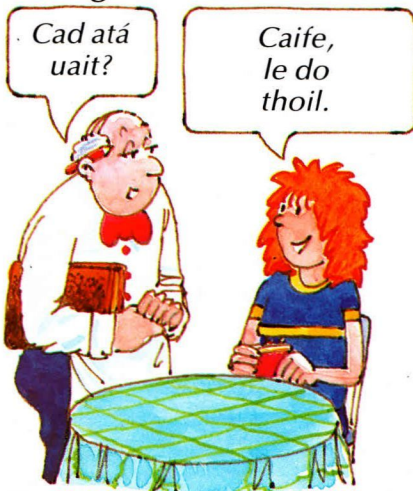
## New words

cosnaíonn	costs
cé mhéad atá ar?	how much is/are?
cárta poist (m)	postcard
cad a chosnaíonn?*	how much is?
cilea (m)	... a kilo
an ceann	... each
rós (rósanna) (m)	rose (roses)
tabhair dom	give me
seacht gcinn	seven
cad atá uait?	what do you want?
caife (m)	coffee
an bille (m)	the bill
oráistí	oranges
anann (m)	pineapple
líomóidí	lemons
peitseoga	peaches
líomanáid (f)	lemonade
cóc (m)	coca-cola
tae (m)	tea
le bainne	with milk
le líomóid	with lemon
seacláid the (f)	hot chocolate
gloine (m)	a glass of
uachtar reoite (m)	ice-cream
úlla (m)	apples

## Asking how much things cost



## Going to a café



## Buying fruit

Everything on the fruit stall is marked with its name and price.

Look at the picture, then see if you can answer the questions below it.

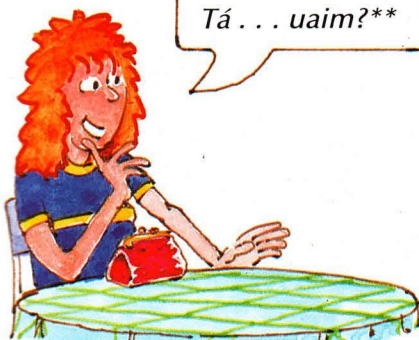










How do you tell the stallholder you would like four lemons, a kilo of bananas and a pineapple? How much do each of these things cost?

Cad a chosnaíonn dhá euro an ceann?  
 Cad a chosnaíonn dhá euro deich an cilea?  
 Cad a chosnaíonn dhá euro tríocha an cilea?  
 Cad a chosnaíonn daichead cent?

## Things to order

Here are some things you might want to order in a café.



 líomanáid	 cóc	 tae le bainne	 tae
 sú oráiste	 seacláid the	 gloine bainne	 uachtar reoite

\*Anainn is the plural form of anann. \*\*See page 34.

# The months and seasons

Here you can learn what the seasons and months are called and find out how to say what the date is.

## New words

mí (f)	month
bliain (f)	year
cén dáta atá againn?	what is the date?
inniu	today
lá (m)	day
breithlá (m)	birthday
de/d'	of
den	of the

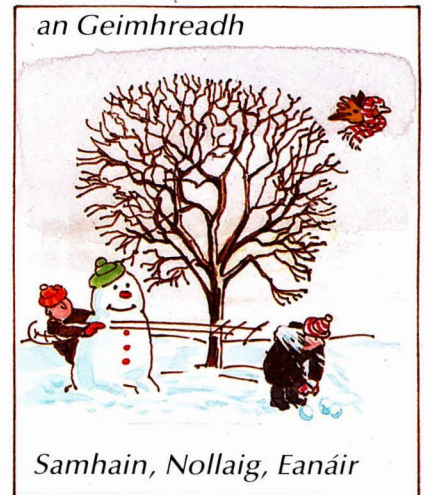
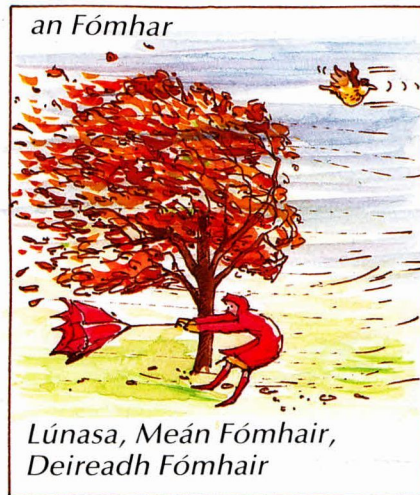
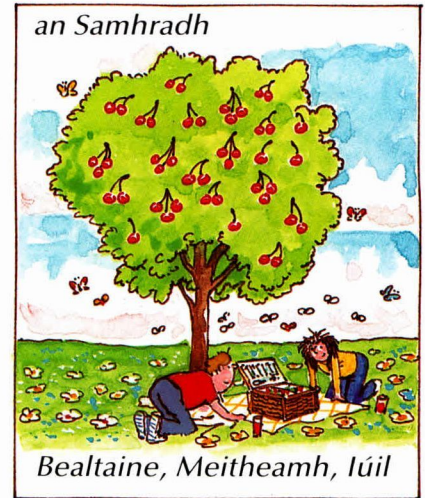
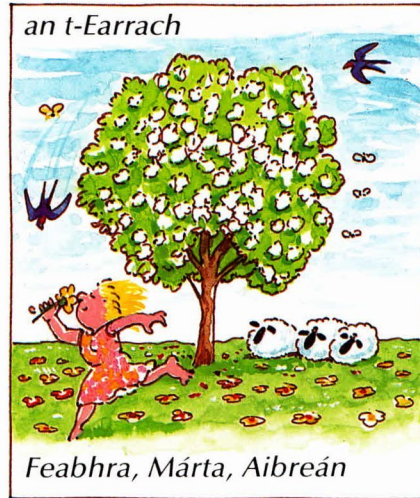
## The seasons

an t-Earrach (m)	the spring
an Samhradh (m)	the summer
an Fómhar (m)	the autumn
an Geimhreadh (m)	the winter

## The months

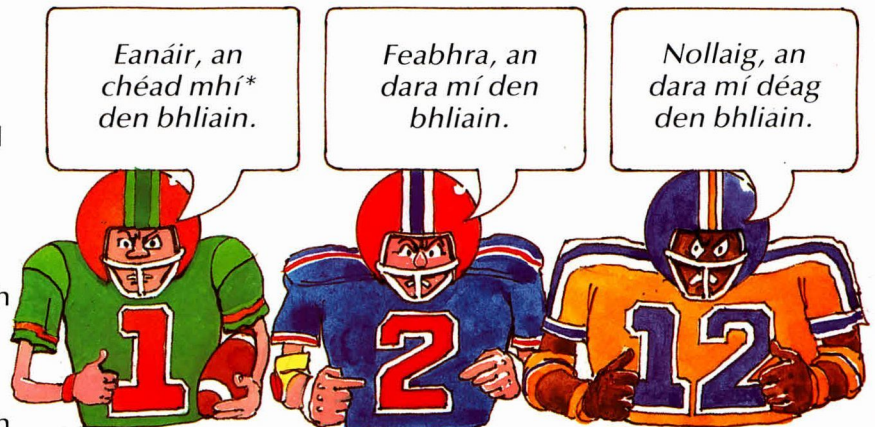
Eanáir (m)	January
Feabhra (f)	February
Márta (m)	March
Aibreán (m)	April
Bealtaine (f)	May
Meitheamh (m)	June
Iúil (m)	July
Lúnasa (m)	August
Meán Fómhair	September
Deireadh Fómhair (m)	October
Samhain (f)	November
Nollaig (f)	December

## The seasons



## The first, second, third . . .

an chéad	the first
an dara	the second
an tríú	the third
an ceathrú	the fourth
an cúigiú	the fifth
an séú	the sixth
an seachtú	the seventh
an t-ochtú	the eighth
an naoú	the ninth
an deichiú	the tenth
an t-aonú . . . déag	the eleventh
an dara . . . déag	the twelfth



Can you say where the rest of the months come in the year?



## What is the date?

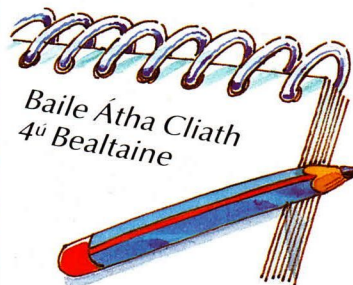
Inniu an tríú lá de Bhealtaine.

Cén dáta atá againn?

An chéad lá d'Eanáir.



## Writing the date



Baile Átha Cliath  
4<sup>ú</sup> Bealtaine

This is how you write  
Dublin, 4th May.

## When is your birthday?

Cathain\* a bhíonn do bhreithlá agat?

An deichiú lá de Shamhain.

Bíonn breithlá ag mo dheartháir ar an dara lá d'Fheabhra.

Bíonn breithlá ag Seán ar an naoú lá de Mheitheamh.



## When are their birthdays?

The dates of the children's birthdays are written below their pictures. Can you say in

Irish when they are, e.g. Tá breithlá ag Máire ar an dara lá d'Aibreán.

Máire

Pádraig

Síle

Aisling

Séamus

Micheál



2<sup>ú</sup> d'Aibreán

21<sup>ú</sup> Meitheamh

18<sup>ú</sup> Deireadh Fómhair

31<sup>ú</sup> Lúnasa

3<sup>ú</sup> Márta

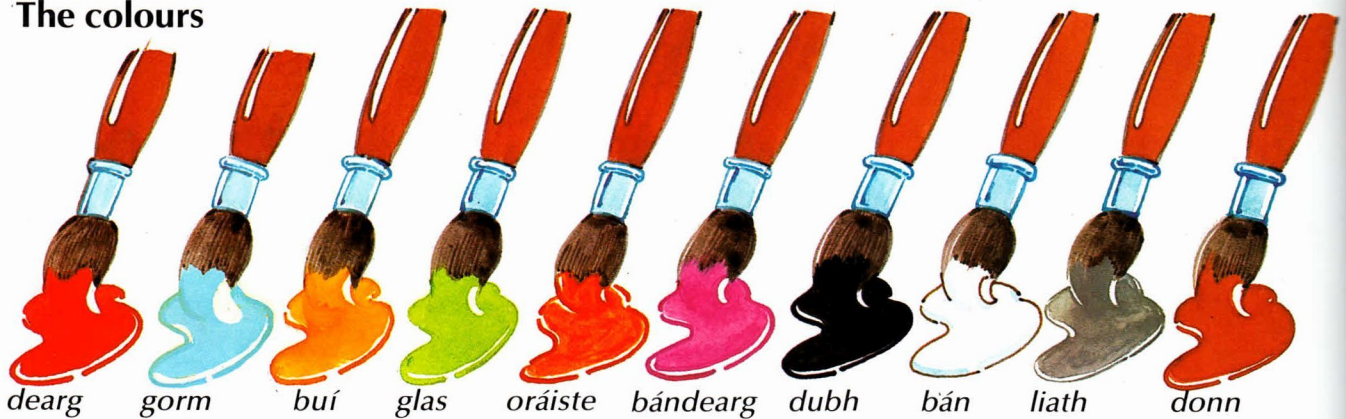
7<sup>ú</sup> Meán Fómhair

\*Cathain means "when?"; cén lá ("what day?") is more specific.

# Colours and numbers

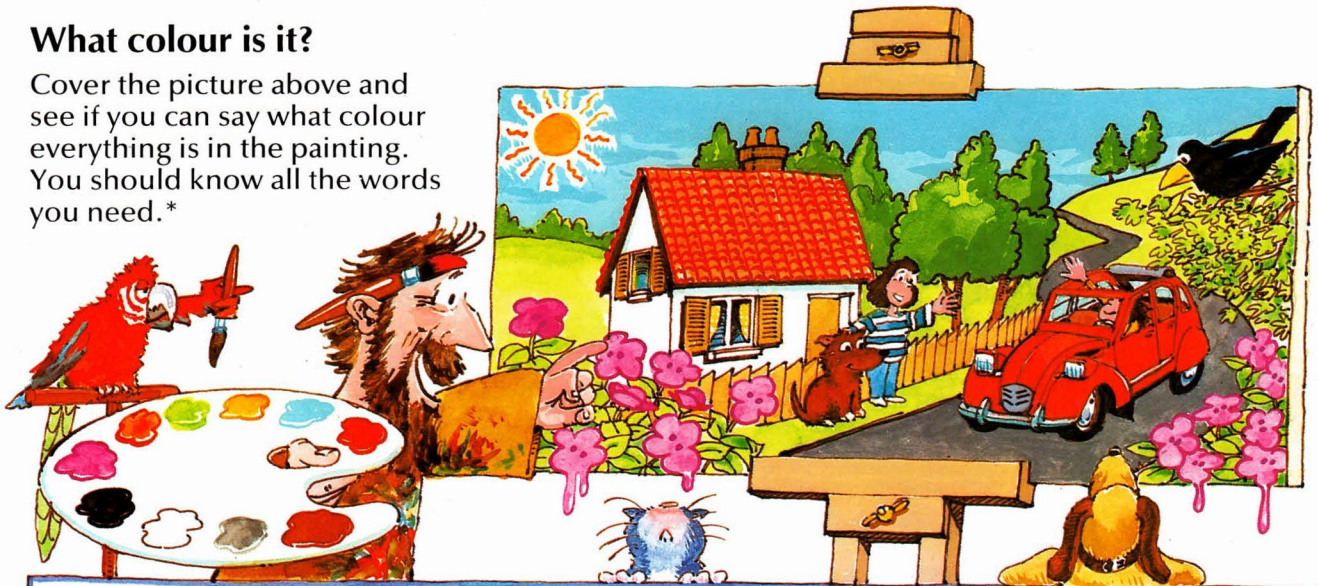
On this page you can find out the words for colours. You can also find out more about numbers and how to use them.

## The colours



## What colour is it?

Cover the picture above and see if you can say what colour everything is in the painting. You should know all the words you need.\*



## Numbers\*\*

1 aon	15 cúig ... déag	29 naoi ... is fiche
2 dhá	16 sé ... déag	30 tríocha
3 trí	17 seacht ... déag	31 aon ... is tríocha
4 ceithre	18 ocht ... déag	40 daichead
5 cúig	19 naoi ... déag	41 aon ... is daichead
6 sé	20 fiche	50 caoga
7 seacht	21 aon ... is fiche	51 aon ... is caoga
8 ocht	22 dhá ... is fiche	60 seasca
9 naoi	23 trí ... is fiche	70 seachtó
10 deich	24 ceithre ... is fiche	80 ochtó
11 aon ... déag	25 cúig ... is fiche	90 nócha
12 dhá ... déag	26 sé ... is fiche	100 céad
13 trí ... déag	27 seacht ... is fiche	
14 ceithre ... déag	28 ocht ... is fiche	

The examples below show you how numbers are used with the word euro:

- €11 aon euro déag
- €18 ocht euro déag
- €20 fiche euro
- €23 trí euro is fiche
- €30 tríocha euro
- €39 naoi euro is tríocha
- €56 sé euro is caoga
- €100 céad euro

\*\*"Road" is bóthar (m). \*\*Numbers are also explained on pages 12, 26, 38. Aon, dhá, trí, ceithre, cúig, sé "aspire" the next word; seacht, ocht, naoi, deich "eclipse" the next word (see page 41). Is is short for agus (and).

# Pronunciation Guide

*Internet links* For links to websites where you can hear lots of examples of Irish pronunciation, go to [www.usborne-quicklinks.com](http://www.usborne-quicklinks.com)

In Irish many letters are not pronounced in the same way as in English. The best way to learn is to listen to an Irish speaker and copy what you hear, but here are some general points to help you.

## How to say vowels

There are five short vowels: **a, o, u, i, e**, and five long vowels: **á, ó, ú, í, é** (the fada or "long" sign makes them long).

These vowels are either "broad" or "slender". The six broad vowels are:

- a** said like the "o" in "cot": **cat**
- o** like the "u" in "cut": **do**
- u** like the "u" in "run": **chun**
- á** like the "aw" in "law": **slán**
- ó** like the "o" in "low": **Pól**
- ú** like the "u" in "rule": **tú**

The four slender vowels are:

- i** said like the "i" in "hit": **is**
- e** like the "e" in "let": **le**
- í** like the "ee" in "see": **níl**
- é** like the "ay" in "say": **mé**

You can guess the sound of many double vowels, e.g. the vowel sound in **tae** is like in "say"; in **duit** it is like in "quit". However some double and triple vowel sounds need to be learnt:

- ái** is said like the "aw" in "law", quickly followed by the "i" in "ill": **garáiste**
- ia** like the "ea" in "near": **thiar**
- io** like the "o" in "come": **liom**
- éa** like the "ea" in "bear": **Béarla**
- ei** like the "e" in "let": **feic**
- eo** (long) like the "eo" in "yeoman": **fuinneog**
- eo** (short) like the "o" in "shove": **seo**
- aoi** like the "ea" in "mean": **daoibh**
- uai** like the "ue" in "blue", quickly followed by the "i" in "ill": **leathuair**
- eoi** like the "eo" in "yeoman", quickly followed by the "i" in "ill": **feoil**
- iai** like the "ee" in "see", quickly followed by the "i" in "ill": **bliain**

## How to say consonants

**b, d, f, h, l, m, n, p, r, t** and **v** are said more or less as in English.

**g** is always hard like the "g" in "gate".

**c** is always hard like the "c" in "cat".

**s** is said as in "said" except before a slender vowel when it is like the "sh" in "shin".

**j, k, q, w, x, y** and **z** are hardly ever used.

## How consonants can change their sound

When a word begins with **b, c, d, f, g, m, p, s** or **t**, this sound can be changed or "aspirated" by an **h**. This gives you an idea of how aspirated consonants sound:

- bh** is like the "v" in "voice": **bheith**
- ch** like the "ch" in the Scottish word "loch": **a chara**
- dh** (before a broad vowel) like the "g" in "gap": **a Dhónaill**
- dh** (before a slender vowel) like the "y" in "year": **Cad a dheánann tú?**
- fh** is silent (you don't say it): **3ú lá d'Fheabhra**
- gh** (before a slender vowel) can sound like the "y" in "yet": **an Ghearmáin**
- mh** like the "w" in "wall": **a Mháire**
- ph** like the "f" in "fall": **a Phádraig**
- th** like the "h" in "ham": **a Thomáis**
- sh** like the "h" in "ham": **a Shíle**

Some consonants can also be "eclipsed", or silenced, by another consonant placed before them:

**p** can be eclipsed by **b**, **t** by **d**, **c** by **g**, **f** by **bh**, **b** by **m**, and finally **d** and **g** can both be eclipsed by **n**, e.g. you say **carr** (car), but **igcarr** (in the car), and the "c" sound is replaced by a "g" sound.

# Grammar

**Internet link** For a link to a website where you can find help with Irish grammar and verb conjugation, go to [www.usborne-quicklinks.com](http://www.usborne-quicklinks.com)

Grammar is like a set of rules about how you put words together and it is different for every language. You will find Irish easier if you learn some of its grammar, but don't

worry if you don't understand all of it straight away. Just read a little about it at a time. This is a guide to the grammar used in this book.

## Masculine and feminine nouns

In Irish every noun is either masculine (m) or feminine (f). The word you use for "the" is **an** and it tells you

whether the noun is (m) or (f) by the way it affects the beginning of the noun:

	Masculine nouns	Feminine nouns
<b>Nouns beginning with a consonant</b>	no change: <b>bláth</b> (flower) becomes <b>an bláth</b> (the flower)	nouns beginning with "s" add an initial "t": <b>seif</b> (shelf) becomes <b>an tseif</b> (the shelf)  other nouns are aspirated:* <b>fuinneog</b> (window) becomes <b>an fhuinneog</b> (the window)
<b>Nouns beginning with a vowel</b>	an initial "t" is added: <b>éan</b> (bird) becomes <b>an t-éan</b> (the bird)	no change: <b>oíche</b> (night) becomes <b>an oíche</b> (the night)

## Plural nouns

When you are talking about more than one thing, the word for "the" is **na**:

**an bláth** the flower  
**na bláthanna** the flowers

Here are some of the ways in which Irish nouns form their plurals:

– the final consonant becomes slender\*\* : **an t-éan, na**

**héin** (the bird, the birds). Note that after **na**, nouns beginning with a vowel add an initial "h".

– or the noun adds a vowel: **an seomra, na seomraí** (the room, the rooms); **an fhuinneog, na fuinneoga** (the window, the windows)

– or the nouns adds "anna": **an bláth, na bláthanna** (the flower, the flowers).

## Prepositions: "for", "in", "under" . . .

The little words **do** (to, for), **i** (in), **faoi** (under), **ag** (at), **ó** (from), **as** (out of, from), and **de** (of) are all prepositions.

In Irish, these sometimes change the beginning of the next word,\*\*\* e.g. you say **carr** (car) but **i gcarr** (in a car); **Gearmáin** (Germany) but **as an nGearmáin** (from Germany).

**Do, i, faoi, ó** and **de** join with **an** (the) and become **don** (to the), **sa** or **san**, **faoin, ón** and **den**, e.g. **faoin tolg** (under the sofa).

Prepositions also often join with words like "I", "you", "he" etc., e.g. **do+mé= dom** (to me), **ag+mé= agam** (at me), **ó+mé= uaim** (from me).

## Adjectives

English adjectives usually come before the noun, e.g. a friendly dog. In Irish, adjectives come after the noun, so you say "a dog friendly":

**madra** a dog  
**madra cairdiúil** a friendly dog

## "My" and "your"

The word for "my" is **mo** and the word for "your" is **do**. Before a vowel, **mo** shortens to **m'** and **do** to **d'**.

**Mo** and **do** aspirate the word you use them with (if it is a word which aspirates): you say **máthair** (mother), but **mo mháthair** (my mother).\*

## Pronouns: "I", "you", "he" . . .

There are two words for "you" in Irish: **tú** is singular (you use it when you are talking to one person) and **sibh** is plural (used for more than one person). "I" is **mé**,

"he" and "she" are **sé** and **sí**, "we" is **sinn**, and "they" is **siad**. To say "it", you use **sé** (he) or **sí** (she). (This is explained on page 18.)

## Verbs

In Irish, the stem or basic part of the verb changes according to who is doing the action.

**Mé** (I) and **sinn** (we) become part of the verb. The other pronouns come after the verb.

The verb **déan** shows you the pattern followed by many verbs:

<b>déan</b>	make/do
<b>déanaim</b>	I make/do
<b>déanann tú</b>	you make/do
<b>déanann sé/sí</b>	he/she/it makes/does
<b>déanaimid</b>	we make/do
<b>déanann sibh</b>	you make/do (pl)
<b>déanann siad</b>	they make/do

Some Irish verbs follow a different pattern, e.g. **cosnaigh** (cost) and **éirigh** (get up) follow the pattern of **ceannaigh** (buy) shown below:

<b>ceannaigh</b>	buy
<b>ceannaím</b>	I buy
<b>ceannaíonn tú</b>	you buy
<b>ceannaíonn sé/sí</b>	he/she/it buys
<b>ceannaímid</b>	we buy
<b>ceannaíonn sibh</b>	you buy (pl)
<b>ceannaíonn siad</b>	they buy

The stem of the verb is used to give a command or tell someone what to do, e.g. **tóg** (take): **Tóg an chéad chasadh** (take the first turning).

## Negative verbs: "I don't . . ."

**Ní** before a verb makes it negative. If the verb begins with one of the following consonants: b, c, d, f, g, m, p, s, t, **ní** aspirates it (see page 41):

**ní dhéanaim** I don't make

**ní cheannaím** I don't buy

## Questions: "Do you . . .?"

**An** before a verb makes a question. If the verb begins with b, c, d, f, g, p, t, **an** eclipses it (see page 41):

**an ndéanann tú?** do you make?

**an gceannaíonn tú?** do you buy?

## Irregular verbs

Some verbs follow their own patterns. The most important is **bí** (be: I am, you are, he is, etc.), given in full on page 11.

There is a special form of **bí** (**bím, bíonn tú** etc.) which is used when talking about something you do regularly. This is explained on page 24. The question form of **bí** is shown on page 13, and here is its negative form:

<b>nílim</b>	I am not
<b>níl tú</b>	you are not
<b>níl sé/sí</b>	he/she/it is not
<b>nílimid</b>	we are not
<b>níl sibh</b>	you are not (pl)
<b>níl siad</b>	they are not

In Irish, there is a special verb meaning "is" or "are": **is**. It is often used instead of **tá** ("is" or "are" from the verb **bí**) when you are saying what something is (see page 15):

**is bláth é** it is a flower

You also find it in many everyday expressions, e.g. **is maith liom** (I like). Other useful forms are:

**an maith leat** do you like?

**ní maith liom** I do not like

**ar mhaith leat** would you like?

**ba mhaith liom** I would like

**níor mhaith liom** I would not like

# Answers to puzzles

p.7

## What are they called?

Pól is ainm dó.  
Síle is ainm dom.  
Pádraig agus Peadar is ainm dóibh.  
. . . is ainm dom.

## Who is who?

Dónall is talking to Seán.  
Áine is talking to Síle.  
Dónall is next to the seal.  
Seán.  
Áine is in the bottom left-hand corner.  
An madra.

p.9

## Can you remember?

Bláth, cat, crann, nead, éan, teach, grian,  
fuinneog, carr, madra.

p.11

## Who comes from where?

Franz comes from Austria.  
They are called Hari and Indira.  
Lolita is Spanish.  
Yes, Angus comes from Scotland.  
Marie and Pierre come from France.  
Yuri lives in Budapest.  
Budapest is in Hungary.

p.13

## How old are they?

Mícheál is 13. Diana and Silvia are 15.  
Tomás is 12. Seán is 9. Úna is 5. Rosa is 11.

## How many brothers and sisters?

A = Diana agus Silvia. B = Seán. C = Mícheál.  
D = Tomás. E = Rosa.

p.17

## Where is everyone?

Tá Mamó sa seomra suite.  
Tá Seán sa chistin.  
Tá Pól sa seomra folctha.  
Tá Mam sa seomra leapa.

Sa seomra suite.  
I seomra Shíle.  
Sa seomra bia.  
Sa seomra folctha.  
Sa halla.

p.19

## Where are they hiding?

Tá an hamstar sa bhláthchuach.  
Tá an piscín taobh thiar den teilifís.  
Tá an coileán sa chófra.  
Tá an phearaicít ar an seilf.  
Tá an nathair taobh thiar den tolg.  
Tá an toirtís taobh leis an teileafón.

p.21

## Who likes what?

1. Séamus.
2. Seán.
3. Daideo.

p.23

## Who is saying what?

"Tá ocras orm."  
"Bain taitneamh as do bhéile!"  
"Tarraing ort."  
"Tabhair gloine dom, le do thoil."  
"Ar mhaith leat tuilleadh sceallóg?"  
"Ba mhaith liom, go raibh maith agat. Is maith liom sceallóga."  
"Níor mhaith liom, go raibh maith agat. Tá go leor agam."  
"Tá sé go hálainn!"

p.25

### What are they doing?

A Bíonn sé ag cócaireacht. B Bíonn sé ag snámh. C Bíonn siad ag rince. D Bíonn sí ag seinnt. E Bíonn sé ag péintéireacht.

p.27

### Seán's day

1b, 2e, 3f, 4a, 5h, 6g, 7d, 8c.

### What time is it?

- a A cúig tar éis a trí.
- b A cúig tar éis a haondéag.
- c A deich chun a naoi.
- d A ceathrú chun a céathair.
- e A fiche cúig tar éis a trí.
- f A leathuair tar éis a seacht.
- g A trí a chlog.
- h A ceathair a chlog.
- i A naoi a chlog.
- j A leathuair tar éis a haon.
- k A cúig tar éis a seacht.
- l A leathuair tar éis a deich.
- m A sé a chlog.
- n A fiche cúig chun a ceathair.
- o A deich chun a dó.

p.29

### Your diary for the week

Téim ag rince le Séamus.  
Dé Luain, Dé Céadaoin agus Dé Domhnaigh.  
Dé Céadaoin.  
Ní bhím.  
Bím ag imirt leadóige.  
Bím ag imirt peile agus téim go dtí cóisir.

p.33

### Finding your way around

Conas is féidir liom dul go dtí cearnóg an mhargaidh?  
An bhfuil caife in aice linn?

An bhfuil sé i bhfad uainn?  
Tóg an tríú casadh ar chlé agus lean díreach ar aghaidh.  
Tóg an tríú casadh ar dheis. Lean ar aghaidh agus tá sé ar chlé.  
Go dtí an caife.

p.37

### Buying fruit

Tá ceithre líomóidí, cilea bananaí agus anann uaim.  
Euro seasca. Euro seachtó an cilea. Dhá euro an ceann.  
Anainn.  
Peitsoeoga  
Úlla.  
Líomóidí.

p.39

### When are their birthdays?

Tá breithlá ag Máire ar an dara lá d'Aibreán.  
Tá breithlá ag Pádraig ar an aonú lá is fiche de Mheitheamh.  
Tá breithlá ag Síle ar an ochtú lá déag de Dheireadh Fómhair.  
Tá breithlá ag Aisling ar an aonú lá is tríocha de Lúnasa.  
Tá breithlá ag Séamus ar an tríú lá de Mhárta.  
Tá breithlá ag Mícheál ar an seachtú lá de Mheán Fómhair.

p.40

### What colour is it?

Tá an bóthar liath.  
Tá an ghrian buí.  
Tá an díon oráiste.  
Tá an spéir gorm.  
Tá na bláthanna bán-dearg.  
Tá an madra donn.  
Tá an t-éan dubh.  
Tá an carr dearg.  
Tá na crainn glas.  
Tá an teach bán.

# Glossary

Each noun is followed by (m) or (f) to show if it is masculine or feminine. Irish verb stems are made clear by the (v) which follows the English translation. Some words have a page number to show where you can find out more

a	his (also see p.4)
abair	say (v)
ach	but
ag	at (p.13)
agus	and
ainm (m)	name
aintin (f)	aunt
álainn	beautiful
Albain (f)	Scotland
am (m)	time
an	the (s)
anann (m) (plural: anainn)	pineapple
annis	miserable
anocht	tonight
anseo	here
ansin	there, then
aois (f)	age
ar	on
ar?	(question word, see p.23)
ar aghaidh	forward, ahead
ar bith	any
ar chlé	on the left
ar dheis	on the right
ár	our
arán(m)	bread
ard	tall, high
as	out of
athair (m)	father
baile (m)	town
bain	take from (v)
bainne (m)	milk
bán	white
banana (m) (plural: bananai)	banana
banc (m)	bank
bándearg	pink
beag	small
beagán (m)	a little
beagnach	almost
bean (f)	woman
Béarla (m)	English language
béile (m)	meal
bheith	being
bhur	your (pl)
bí	be (v)
bia (m)	food
bille (m)	bill
bláth (m)	flower
bliain (f) (plural: bliana)	year
bord (m)	table
bóthar	road
brat urlair (m)	carpet
breá	fine
breithlá (m)	birthday
bricfeasta (m)	breakfast

about them. If you cannot find a word, remember it may have changed its beginning (see aspiration and eclipsis of consonants on page 41).

brú (m)	youth hostel
buí	yellow
búistéir (m)	butcher
cá?	where?
cáca (m) (plural: cácaí)	cake
cad?	what?
caife (m)	café, coffee
cairdiuil	friendly
cáis (f)	cheese
caisleán (m)	castle
caitheamh aimsire (m)	pastime, hobby
cara (m)	friend
carr (m)	car
cárta poist (m)	postcard
cas	turn (v)
casadh (m)	a turn
cat (m)	cat
cathain?	when?
cathair (f)	city
cathaoir uilleach (f)	armchair
cé?	who?
cé mhéad?	how much?
ceannaigh	buy (v)
cearnóg (f)	square
ceart	right
ceart go leor	satisfactory
cén?	what?
ceol (m)	music
chomh	as
chomh fada	as far, as long
chun	to, towards
cilea (m)	kilo
cinnte	certainly
cistin (f)	kitchen
clog (m)	clock
cniotáil	knitting
cóc (m)	coca-cola
cócaireacht (f)	cooking
cógaslann (f)	chemist's
coláiste (m)	college
coileán (m)	puppy
cois	beside
cóisir (f)	party
comhair, os	opposite, in front of
cónaí	dwelling, home
conas?	how?
cor ar bith	at all
cosnaigh	cost (v)
crann (m)	tree
cuíosach	fairly well
cúirtín (m)	a curtain
dáta (m)	date
de/d'	of



déan	do, make (v)	iad	they, them
déanamh	doing, making	iasc (m)	fish
deireadh (m)	end	i bhfad	far
díon (m)	roof	idir	between
díreach	straight	imirt, ag	playing (games)
do	your (p.15), to (p.6)	in	in the
donn	brown	ina	in his/her/their (p.15)
doras (m)	door	inniu	today
dubh	black	íseal	low
duine (m)	person, one person	ispín (m) (plural: ispíní)	sausage
dul	going	istoiche	at night
		ithe, ag	eating
é	he, it	lá (m)	day
eaglais (f)	church	labhair	speak (v)
éan (m)	bird	le	with (p.21)
Earrach (m)	spring	leaba (f)	bed
éigin	some	leadóg (f)	tennis
eile	other	léamh, ag	reading
éirí, ag	getting up	lean	continue (v)
éirigh	get up (v)	leathchilea (m)	half-kilo
Éire (m)	Ireland	leathuair (f)	half-hour
Éirinn, as	out of/from Ireland	léigh	read (v)
éisteacht, ag	listening	léir, go	all
		leithscéal (m)	excuse
fáil	finding, getting	leor, go	enough
fáilte (f)	welcome	liath	grey
faoi/faoin	under/under the	linn (f)	pool
farraige (f)	sea	linn snámha (m)	swimming-pool
féach	look (v)	líomanáid (f)	lemonade
féachaint	looking	líomóid (f) (plural: líomóidí)	lemon
féarr, is	prefer	líotar (m)	litre
féidir	possible	lón (m)	lunch
féin	self	lorg, ag	searching, looking for
feoil (f)	meat		
fheabhas, ar	excellent, very well	madra (m)	dog
fíonchaora (f)	grapes	maidin (f)	morning
fíonn	blond	maith	good
fóill, go	for a while	margadh (m)	market
folchta	bathing	máthair (f)	mother
Frainc (f)	France	mé	I, me
fuinneog (f)	window	meán lae (m)	midday
		meán oíche (f)	midnight
gabh	take, accept (v)	measc, i	among
Gaeilge (f)	Irish language	mí (f)	month
garáiste (m)	garage	mise	I, me, myself
Geimhreadh (m)	winter		
Gearmáin (f)	Germany	na	the (pl)
Germáinis (f)	German language	ná	nor
glasraí (m)	vegetables	nathair (f)	snake
gloine (m)	glass	nead (m)	nest
go hainnis	miserable, terrible	ní	(makes verb negative, p.43)
go hálainn	beautiful	ní/níl	is not
go dtí	to (a place)	nó	or
gorm	blue	nóiméad (m)	moment
grian (f)	sun		
		ó	from (p.30)
halla an bhaile (m)	town hall	ocras (m)	hunger
hamburgar (m)	hamburger	óg	young
hamstar (m)	hamster	oíche (f)	night
		oifig an phoist (f)	post office
i	in	oifig fáilte (f)	tourist office
í	she, her		

<b>ollmhargadh (m)</b>	supermarket
<b>ón</b>	from the
<b>oraibh</b>	on you (pl)
<b>oraíste (m) (plural: oraístí)</b>	orange
<b>ormsa</b>	on me, myself
<b>os comhair</b>	opposite, in front of
<b>Ostair (f)</b>	Austria
<b>óstán (m)</b>	hotel

<b>pearaicít (f)</b>	budgie
<b>peil (f)</b>	football
<b>peintéireacht, ag</b>	painting
<b>peitseog (f) (plural: peitseoga)</b>	peach
<b>pianó (m)</b>	piano
<b>pictiúrlann (f)</b>	cinema
<b>pióg (f)</b>	pizza
<b>piscin (m)</b>	kitten
<b>planda (m) (plural: plandaí)</b>	plant

<b>ráille (m)</b>	rail, fence
<b>ramhar</b>	fat
<b>rince, ag</b>	dancing
<b>rís (f)</b>	rice
<b>rollóg aráin (f)</b>	bread roll
<b>romhat</b>	before you
<b>rós (m) (plural: rósanna)</b>	rose
<b>rud (m)</b>	thing

<b>sa</b>	in the
<b>sailéad (m)</b>	salad
<b>Samhradh (m)</b>	summer
<b>Sasana (f)</b>	England
<b>sceallóga</b>	potato chips
<b>scoil (f)</b>	school
<b>seacláid (f)</b>	chocolate
<b>sean</b>	old
<b>seilf (f)</b>	shelf
<b>seinn</b>	play (music) (v)
<b>seisean</b>	he
<b>seo</b>	this
<b>seomra (m)</b>	room
<b>seomra bia (m)</b>	dining-room
<b>seomra folctha (m)</b>	bathroom
<b>seomra suite (m)</b>	sitting-room
<b>sí</b>	she, her
<b>siad</b>	they, them
<b>sibh</b>	you (pl)
<b>simléar (m)</b>	chimney
<b>sin</b>	that
<b>sinn</b>	we, us
<b>siopa</b>	shop
<b>siopa báicéara (m)</b>	baker's
<b>siopa búistéara (m)</b>	butcher's
<b>siopa grósaera (m)</b>	grocer's
<b>siopadóireacht, ag</b>	shopping
<b>sise</b>	herself
<b>siúil</b>	walk (v)

<b>siúl, ag</b>	walking
<b>slán</b>	go safely/goodbye
<b>snámh, ag</b>	swimming
<b>spaightí</b>	spaghetti
<b>Spáinn (f)</b>	Spain
<b>Spáinnis (f)</b>	Spanish
<b>spórt (m)</b>	sport
<b>staighre (m)</b>	stairs
<b>stéig (f)</b>	steak
<b>sráid (f)</b>	street
<b>suigh</b>	sit (v)
<b>suipéar (m)</b>	supper

<b>tá</b>	is, are
<b>tae (m)</b>	tea
<b>taibhse (f)</b>	ghost
<b>taiteamh (m)</b>	pleasure
<b>tanaí</b>	thin
<b>taobh leis</b>	beside
<b>taobh thiar</b>	behind
<b>tar</b>	come (v)
<b>tar éis</b>	after
<b>tarraing</b>	draw, pull
<b>te</b>	hot
<b>teach</b>	house
<b>teacht, ag</b>	coming
<b>teaghlach (m)</b>	household, family
<b>téigh</b>	go (v)
<b>teileafón (m)</b>	telephone
<b>teilifís (f)</b>	television
<b>thar</b>	over, beyond
<b>thuas</b>	above
<b>timpeall</b>	about, around
<b>tóg</b>	take (v)
<b>toirtín (m)</b>	tart
<b>tolg (m)</b>	sofa
<b>torthaí (m)</b>	fruit
<b>tráta (m) (plural: trátaí)</b>	tomato
<b>trua (f)</b>	pity
<b>tú</b>	you
<b>tuath, faoin</b>	in the country
<b>tuilleadh</b>	more, extra
<b>tusa</b>	yourself

<b>uachtar reoite (m)</b>	ice-cream
<b>uibheacha</b>	eggs
<b>uirlis (f)</b>	instrument
<b>uisce (m)</b>	water
<b>úll (m) (plural: úlla)</b>	apple
<b>um</b>	at
<b>um thráthnóna</b>	in the afternoon/evening
<b>uncaíl (m)</b>	uncle
<b>Ungáir (f)</b>	Hungary
<b>urlár (m)</b>	floor
<b>vardrús (m)</b>	wardrobe
<b>veidhlín (f)</b>	violin



USBORNE

USBORNE INTERNET-LINKED  
**IRISH**  
FOR BEGINNERS

**Irish For Beginners** is a lively and entertaining guide for complete beginners and anyone wanting to improve their Irish. Humorously illustrated and packed with everyday phrases, you'll find tips on pronunciation and clear explanations of new grammar, as well as puzzles and exercises. This revised edition also includes a wide range of recommended Web sites.

### Why use the internet?

The internet is a brilliant resource for language learning. On many of the websites recommended in this book you can brush up your pronunciation by listening to people speaking Irish. Other recommended sites have interactive word games to test your language skills, and sites where you can learn more about Irish culture and traditions.

### Usborne Quicklinks

To access the websites mentioned in this book, go to the Usborne Quicklinks website at **[www.usborne-quicklinks.com](http://www.usborne-quicklinks.com)** where there are links to all our recommended sites. These links will be regularly reviewed and updated. Here you can also find a selection of free, downloadable Irish picture puzzles.

For more information about Usborne Publishing, visit

**[www.usborne.com](http://www.usborne.com)**

£5.99

JFMAMJJASON /12 01127/9

Printed in Shenzhen, Guangdong, China

Made with paper from a sustainable source

ISBN 978-0-7460-0383-1



9 780746 003831 >