

Ceacht

4

Cén t-am é anois?

What time is it now?



This lesson looks at counting numbers, which are used for telling the time and giving telephone numbers and addresses. It also introduces the past tense of **tá**.

This lesson contains the following topics:

- §1. Counting numbers to 20
- §2. Telephone numbers and addresses
- §3. Mathematical expressions
- §4. Other expressions using counting numbers
- §5. Playing cards
- §6. Asking about the time
- §7. Telling the time
- §8. Units of time
- §9. Periods of the day
- §10. The past tense of **tá**
- §11. The dependent form of **bhí**
- §12. The past continuous tense
- §13. Using the past tense
- §14. Other useful expressions of time

§1. Counting numbers to 20

When counting out digits, such as in an address or a telephone number, the time or a mathematical expression, the numbers to 20 are as follows:

0 náid /Nɑ:d'/	
1 a haon /ə hu:n/	11 a haon déag /ə hu:n d'e:g/
2 a dó /ə do:/	12 a dó dhéag /ə do ɣ'e:g/
3 a trí /ə t'r'i:/	13 a trí déag /ə t'r'i: d'e:g/
4 a ceathair /ə k'æ:hər'/	14 a ceathair déag /ə k'æ:hər' d'e:g/
5 a cúig /ə ku:g'/	15 a cúig déag /ə ku:g' d'e:g/
6 a sé /ə s'e:/	16 a sé déag /ə s'e: d'e:g/
7 a seacht /ə s'æ:xt/	17 a seacht déag /ə s'æ:xt d'e:g/
8 a hocht /ə hox't/	18 a hocht déag /ə hox't d'e:g/
9 a naoi /ə nu:/	19 a naoi déag /ə nu: d'e:g/
10 a deich /ə d'e(x')/	20 fiche /fɪx'ə/

Each counting number is preceded by an unstressed particle: **a**, which prefixes **h** to numbers beginning with a vowel. It is usually only pronounced after a word ending with a consonant-sound.

aon /u:n/	a haon /(ə) hu:n/	a haon déag /(ə) hu:n d'e:g/
ocht /ox't/	a hocht /(ə) hox't/	a hocht déag /(ə) hox't d'e:g/

§2. Telephone numbers and addresses

What is your (tele)phone number? **Cad is d'uimhir (teilea)fóin?**

/ka:d əs diβ'ir' t'el'əfo:n'/



Céard is d'uimhir fóin? (Connacht)

/k'e:rd əs diβ'ir' fo:n'/

Cad é d'uimhir fóin? (Ulster)

/kəd'e: diβ'ir' fo:n'/

9 0 1 6 4 5 2 8

a naoi náid a haon a sé a ceathair a cúig a dó a hocht

What is your mobile number? **Cad is d'uimhir fóin so-ghluaiste?**

/ka:d əs diβ'ir' fo:n' sə-ɣluas't'ə/

0 4 1 7 ... Náid, a ceathair, a haon, a seacht ...

/nɑ:d' ə k'æ:hər' ə hu:N ə s'æxt .../

6 2 2 (six double two) 9 3 8. a sé, péire dó... a naoi, a trí, a hocht.

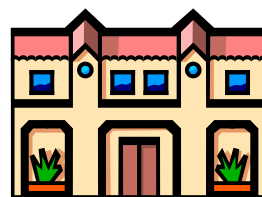
/s'e: p'e:r'ə do: ... nu: t'r'i: hox't/

What is your address? **Cad is do sheoladh?**

/ka:dəs də h'o:lə/

I live **Tá mé i mo chónaí**

/tɑ: m'e: (i)mə xu:ni:/



at number 12 Main Street, **in uimhir a dó dhéag Sráid Mhór,**

/in' iβ'ir' ə do: ɣ'e:g sra:d' βo:r/

apartment 6. **arasán a sé.**

/a:rəsɑ:n ə s'e:/

What is your e-mail address? **Cad is do sheoladh ríomhphoist?**

/ka:dəs də ho:lə ri:fʊes't'/



§3. Mathematical expressions

$1 + 1 = 2$ a haon is a haon sin a dó

$8 - 5 = 3$ a cúig óna hocht sin a trí

$10 \times 2 = 20$ a deich faoina dó sin fiche

$10 \div 5 = 2$ a deich ar a cúig sin a dó

6:1 a sé ar a haon

3.14159 a trí pointe a haon a ceathair a haon a cúig a naoi



§4. Other expressions using counting numbers

Bus 12 Bus a dó dhéag

Room 4 Seomra a ceathair

Platform 8 Ardán a hocht

Pope Benedict XVI An Pápa Beinidict a Sé Déag

King Charles III An Rí Searlas a Trí

since 1911 ó naoi (gcéad)* déag, a haon déag

in the year 2023 sa bhliain dhá* mhíle, fiche a trí



**See Lesson 5 for using numbers with nouns.*

§5. Playing cards

Playing cards can be a great way to learn counting numbers.

the queen of hearts



an bhanríon hart
/ə βa:nri:n ha:rt/

the jack of clubs



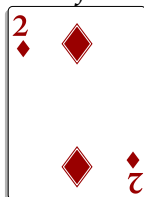
an cuireata triuf
/ə k'uir'ətə t'r'uf/

the joker



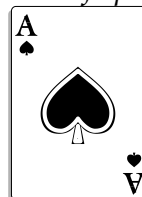
fear na gcrúb
/f'æ:r nə gru:b/

the deuce of diamonds



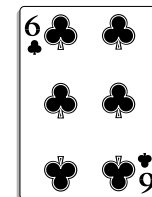
an dó muileata
/ə do: mil'ətə/

the ace of spades



an t-aon spéireata
/ə tu:n s'p'e:r'ətə/

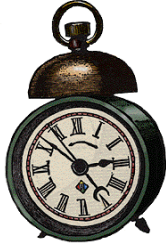
clubs are trumps



(Is é) triuf an mámh
/(s'e:) t'r'uf ə mɑ:β/

§6. Asking about the time

Asking and telling the time in Irish is much the same as it is in English. Just as there are differences between American and British English, there are slight differences among the dialects in Irish.



What time is it? **Cén t-am é?**
/k'e:N ta:m'e:/

Cad é an t-am atá sé? (Ulster)
/kə'd'e:N ta:m ə'ta: s'e:/

If asking a stranger, you may want to add a couple of polite phrases.

Excuse me, **Gabh mo leithscéal,**
/go mə l'es'k'e:L/

what time is it, please?, **cén t-am é, más é do thoil é?**
/k'e:N ta:m'e: mə:s'e: də hel'e:/

§7. Telling the time

It is one o'clock.



Tá sé a haon a chlog.
/ta: s'e: hu:N ə xlog/

It is two o'clock.



Tá sé a dó a chlog.
/ta: s'e: do: xlog/

It is three o'clock.



Tá sé a trí a chlog.
/ta: s'e: t'r'i: xlog/

It is four o'clock.



Tá sé a ceathair a chlog.
/ta: s'e: k'æ:hər' ə xlog/

It is five o'clock.



Tá sé a cúig a chlog.
/ta: s'e: ku:g' ə xlog/

It is six o'clock.



Tá sé a sé a chlog.
/ta: s'e: s'e: xlog/

It is seven o'clock.



Tá sé a seacht a chlog.
/ta: s'e: s'æ:xt ə xlog/

It is eight o'clock.



Tá sé a hocht a chlog.
/ta: s'e: hoxt ə xlog/

<i>It is nine o'clock.</i>		Tá sé a naoi a chlog. /tɑ: s'e: nɯ: xlog/
<i>It is ten o'clock.</i>		Tá sé a deich a chlog. /tɑ: s'e: d'e(x'ə) xlog/
<i>It is eleven o'clock.</i>		Tá sé a haon déag a chlog. /tɑ: s'e: hu:n d'e:g ə xlog/
<i>It is twelve o'clock.</i>		Tá sé a dó dhéag a chlog. /tɑ: s'e: do: γ'e:g ə xlog/
<i>It is midday.</i>		Tá sé meán lae. /tɑ: s'e: m'a:N lɛ:/
<i>It is midnight.</i>		Tá sé meán oíche. /tɑ: s'e: m'a:N i:(x'ə)/

Past or after can be translated as **tar éis** or **i ndiaidh**.

<i>It is a quarter past two.</i>	Tá sé ceathrú tar éis a dó. /tɑ: s'e: k'æ:ru: tər e:s' ə do:/
<i>It is a half past eleven.</i>	Tá sé leath(uair) i ndiaidh a haon déag. /tɑ: s'e: l'æ:(huər'ə) n'ia(g'ə) hu:n d'e:g/



To or of can be translated as **chun** or **go dtí**.

<i>It is a quarter to four.</i>	Tá sé ceathrú chun a ceathair. /tɑ: s'e: k'æ:ru: xUN ə k'æ:hər'/
<i>It is twenty (minutes) to eight.</i>	Tá sé fiche (nóiméad) go dtí a hocht. /tɑ: s'e: fix'ə (nɔ:m'e:d) gə d'i: hɔxt/
<i>It is a couple of minutes to five.</i>	Tá sé cúpla nóiméad chun a cúig. /tɑ: s'e: ku:plə nɔ:m'e:d xUN ə ku:g'/



§8. Units of time

<i>an hour</i>	uair an chloig (lit. <i>an hour of the clock</i>)
<i>half an hour</i>	leath(uair)
<i>a quarter (of an hour)</i>	ceathrú(huair)
<i>a minute</i>	nóiméad, bomaite (Ulster)
<i>a second</i>	soicind



§9. Periods of the day

The following expressions refer to periods of the day:

<i>in the morning</i>	sa mhaidin	<i>this morning</i>	ar maidin (seo)
<i>in the evening</i>	sa tráthnóna	<i>this evening</i>	tráthnóna (seo)
<i>at night</i>	istoíche	<i>tonight</i>	anocht

It is four o'clock in the morning. **Tá sé a ceathair a chlog sa mhaidin.**
/tɑ: s'e: k'æ:hər' ə xlog sə βɑ:d'in' /

It is two o'clock in the afternoon. **Tá sé a dó a chlog san iar-nóin.**
/tɑ: s'e: do: xlog sən iər-NO:n' /

It is half past six in the evening. **Tá sé leath i ndiaidh a sé sa tráthnóna.**
/tɑ: s'e: l'æ: n'ia(g'ə) s'e: sə trɑ:NO:Nə /

It is eleven o'clock at night. **Tá sé a haon déag a chlog istoíche.**
/tɑ: s'e: hu:n d'e:g ə xlog ə's't' i:x'ə /

Use **iar-nóin**, *afternoon*, from noon until about four o'clock;
after about four o'clock, use: **tráthnóna**, *evening*.

§10. The past tense of tá

Tá is part of the verb: **bí**. So, the past tense of **tá** is **bhí**.

I was here. **Bhí mé anseo.** **Bhíos** anso. (Munster)
/β'i: m'e:n' s'o/ /β'i:s əNSO/

You were there. **Bhí tú ansin.**
/β'i: tu: n' s'in' /

He was over there. **Bhí sé ansiúd.**
/β'i: s'e: n' s'u:d /

She was in Dublin. **Bhí sí i mBaile Átha Cliath.**
/β'i: s'i: m' l' α: kliə /

We were at the pictures. **Bhí muid ag na peictiúr.**
/β'i mid' eg nə p'ek't'u:r /

We were at the beach. **Bhíomar** ag an trá. (Munster)
/β'i:mər eg ə trɑ: /

You (pl.) were there too. **Bhí sibh ann freisin.**
/β'i: s'ib' α:N f'r'es'in' /

They were here at two o'clock. **Bhí siad anseo ar a dó a chlog.**
 /β'i: s'iad ən's'o er' ə do: xlog/

§11. The dependent form of bhí

Just like **tá**, **bhí** has a dependent form **raibh**, used after certain words, such as:

- **ní** negative particle, *not* **X**
- **an** interrogative particle **?**
- **nach** negative interrogative particle **?X**
- **cá** *where?*

Raibh is pronounced /reβ'/ in Munster, but /ro:/ in Connacht and Ulster.

She wasn't in the garden. **Ní raibh sí sa ghairdín.**
 /n'i: reβ' s'i: sə ɣa:r'd'i:n' / (Munster)

Were you there too? **An raibh tusa ann freisin?**
 /(ə) ro: tus ɑ:n' f'r'es'in' / (Connacht)

Weren't they here last night? **Nach raibh siad anseo aréir?**
 /nax ro: s'iad ən's'o ər'e:r' / (Connacht)

We weren't over there at all. **Ní rabhamair ansiúd ar chor ar bith?**
 /n'i: raumər' ən's'u:d əɾ xorəb'i' / (Munster)

Where were you last night, boys? **Cá raibh sibh aréir, a bhuacaillí?**
 /kɑ: ro: s'ib' ər'e:r' ə βuakəl'i: / (Connacht)

§12. The past continuous tense

Use the past tense of **tá** with **ag** + the verbal noun to form the past continuous tense.

I was walking in the park. **Bhí mé ag siúl sa pháirc.**
 /β'i: me: s'u:l sə fa:r'ək' /

Who was laughing? **Cé a bhí ag gáire?**
 /k'e: β'i: ga:r'ə /

Wasn't she dancing this evening? **Nach raibh sí ag damhsa tráthnóna seo?**
 /nax ro: s'i: dausa trɑ::no:nə s'o /

We weren't working yesterday. **Ní raibh muid ag obair inné?**
/n'i: ro: m^uid' əg obər' iN'e:/(Connacht)

Where were they waiting? **Cá raibh siad ag fanacht?**
/kɑ: ro: s'iəd' ə fa:Nəxt/

§13. Using the past tense

In Irish, the past tense indicates **a single event completed in the past**. Use the past tense in Irish where you would use the perfect tense (*have been*) in (Australian) English.

Have you ever been to Galway? **An raibh tú riamh i nGaillimh?**
(*Were you ever in Galway?*) / (ə) ro: tu: riəβ ə ɲa:L'əβ'/(Connacht)

I've never been in a plane. **Ní raibh mé riamh san eitleán.**
(*I was never in a plane.*) /n'i: ro: m'e: riən sən et'l'ɑ:N/

§14. Other useful expressions of time

It is nearly half past three. **Tá sé beagnach leath tar éis a trí.**
/tɑ: s'e: b'egnəx l'æ: tər e:s' ə t'r'i:/

It is not six o'clock yet. **Níl sé a sé a chlog fós.**
/n'i:l' s'e: s'e: xlog fo:s/

I was there before eight **Bhí mise ann roimh a hocht.**
/β'i: m'is' ɑ:N reβ' ə hox't/

You were there around nine. **Bhí tusa ann i dtrátha a naoi.**
/β'i: tus ɑ:N i dɾɑ:hə Ni:/

He was there **Bhí seisean ann**
/β'i: s'es'ən ɑ:N/

between eight and nine. **idir a hocht agus a naoi.**
/id'ir' əhox't a:gəs ə Ni:/

They were there **Bhí siadsan ann**
/β'i: s'iəds'ən ɑ:N/

from nine to ten. **óna naoi go dtí a deich.**
/o:Nə Ni: gə d'i: d'ex'/

Rann páistí*Nursery rhyme*

A haon, a dó,
 Capall is bó,
 A trí, a ceathair,
 Bróga leathair,
 A cúig, a sé,
 Cupán tae,
 A seacht, a hocht,
 Seanbhean bhocht,
 A naoi, a deich,
 Císte te.

**Líosta teaghmháil***Contact list*

Abair na huimhreacha seo os ard! Cén luas atá tú in ann éirigh?

Say these numbers out loud! How fast can you get?

Cad is d'uimhir fóin sa bhaile?

Cad is d'uimhir fóin ag obair?

Cad is d'uimhir fóin so-ghluaiste?

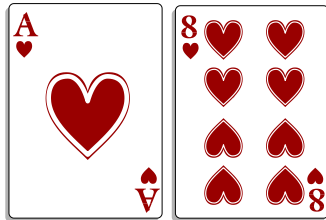
Cad is uimhir fóin do charad?

Abair na huimhreacha fóin do mhuintir agus do chairde go léir as Gaeilge!

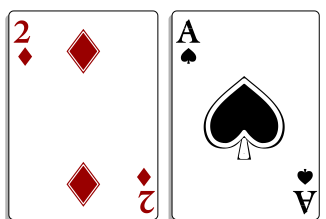
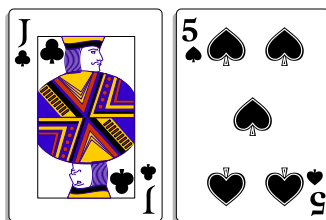
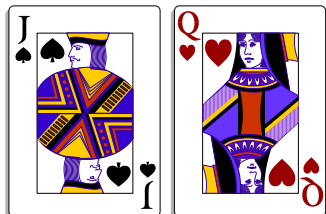
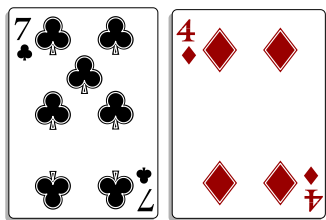
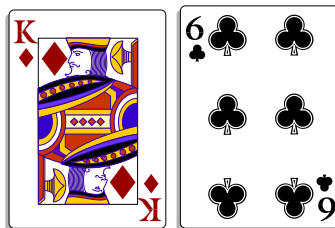
Say the phone numbers of all your family and friends in Irish!

Fiche a haon *Twenty-one*

Imagine you're in a casino playing Blackjack! Will you hold? Or will you say to the dealer, "Hit me!" Once you've tried adding the numbers together, try taking one number from the other.



A haon déag is a hocht sin a naoi déag.
A hocht óna haon déag sin a trí.



Cén t-am é anois?

1.

8:30

3.

1:00

5.

2:15

7.

3:45

9.

12:15

2.

11:45

4.

6:20

6.

9:59

8.

7:30

10.

4:50

Foirm iarratas*Application form*

Ón gcomhrá thíos, déan cabhrú le Máire a foirm iarratas a líon!

From the conversation below, help Máire fill in her application form!

Máire: Dia dhuit!

Rúnaí: Dia's Muire dhuit! Conas an féidir liom déanamh cabhrú leat?

Máire: Ba mhaith liom cur m'ainm thíos faoi choinne cúrsa anseo, más é do thoil é.

Rúnaí: Maise! Cén cúrsa é sin?

Máire: 'Ceol sean-nós do tosnaítheoirí'

Rúnaí: Cad is ainm duit?

Máire: Máire Ní Cheallaigh is ainm dom.

Rúnaí: Agus cad is do sheoladh?

Máire: Tá mé i mo chónaí in arasán a dó dhéag, uimhir fiche a trí Sráid Uí Chonaill, Baile Phib.

Rúnaí: Agus d'uimir fóin?

Máire: A naoi, a haon, a ceathair, náid, a cúig, a dó, a sé, a seacht

Rúnaí: An bhfuil sheoladh ríomhphoist agat?

Máire: Tá. Is é maire168@hotmail.com

Translation on page 16.

Foirm iarratas	
Cúrsa:	
Ainm:	
Seoladh:	
Uimhir fóin:	
Ríomhphoist:	

Bunimhríocht

Basic arithmetic

Freagair na fadhbanna seo!

Answer these problems!

1. Cad is a haon is a hocht?
2. Cad is a dó is a trí?
3. Cad is a dó óna a hocht?
4. Cad is sé faoina trí?
5. Cad is a ceathar déag ar a dó?
6. Cad is a dó dhéag is a seacht?
7. Cad is a deich ar a deich?
8. Cad is a seacht is a hocht?
9. Cad is a trí óna naoi déag?
10. Cad is a ceathar faoina cúig?
11. Cad is a sé ar a trí?
12. Cad is a hocht déag ar a sé?
13. Cad is a trí is a naoi?
14. Cad is ceathar is trí déag?

Is maith an scéalaí an aimsir!

Time will tell!

(Time is a good storyteller!)

Freagair na ceisteanna seo! *Answer these questions!*

Cén t-am an raibh tú sa chumann?

Cén t-am an raibh tú sa leaba aréir?

An raibh tú riamh i Sasana?

An raibh tú ag obair inné?

An raibh tú sa chathair aréir?

Cén t-ainm atá ar Rí na Spáinne?

Cad is trí óna naoi?

Cad is uimhir teileafóin don chumann?

Cén bhliain a raibh Éirí na Cásca?

Cén bhliain a rugadh d'athair?

Cad is do sheoladh?

Cén t-am an raibh tú ag ith do bhriceasta an mhaidin seo?

Cén t-am an raibh tú ag ith do dhinnéar aréir?

An raibh tú ag damhsa aréir?

Translation (from page 13):

Máire: Good day!

Secretary: Good day! How can I help you?

Máire: I'd like to put my name down for a course here, please.

Secretary: Sure! What course is that?

Máire: 'Sean-nós' (old-style) singing for beginners'

Secretary: What is your name?

Máire: Máire Ní Cheallaigh is my name.

Secretary: And what is your address?

Máire: I live in Unit 12, 23 O'Connell Street, Phibsborough.

Secretary: And your phone number?

Máire: 9140 5267

Secretary: Do you have an email address?

Máire: Yes. It's maire168@hotmail.com.