

Ceacht

8

Cén tslí bheatha atá agat?

What do you do for a living?



This lesson introduces verbs and looks at occupations and pastimes, likes and dislikes, and introduces the *present habitual* tense.

This lesson contains the following topics:

- §1. I(n) + pronoun
- §2. Agent nouns ending in ‘-ir’
- §3. Agent nouns ending in ‘-ire’
- §4. Agent nouns ending in ‘-í’
- §5. Nouns ending in ‘-ach’
- §6. Other occupations
- §7. Likes, dislikes and preferences
- §8. Interests and hobbies
- §9. Abstract nouns ending in ‘-(e)acht’ or ‘-(a)íocht’
- §10. Activity
- §11. Agent (Person)
- §12. Expressing opinions with (is ... le)
- §13. Stating facts with (is ... do)
- §14. Introducing the Present tense

Occupations – Slite beatha

Three common ways of asking a person about their occupation include:

What occupation do you have? **Cén tslí bheatha atá agat?**

(Lit. 'way of life') /k'en' t'l'i: β'æ:hə əta: əgət/

What is your occupation/vocation? **Cad é is gairm bheatha dhuit?**

(Lit. 'calling of life') /kad e:s ga:r'm' β'æ:hə dit/

What kind of work do you have/do? **Cén cineál oibre atá agat?**

/k'en' k'in'a:L eb'r'ə ta: gət/

Here are some common ways of expressing your occupation:

I am a teacher. **Is múinteoir mé.**

/is mu:n't'o:r' m'e:/

I am a teacher. **Múinteoir is ea mé.^(M)**

/mu:n't'o:r' ə s'æ: m'e:/

I am a teacher. **(Is) múinteoir atá ionam.**

/(is) mu:n't'o:r' ə ta:Nəm/

I am (being) a teacher. **Tá mé/Táim i mo mhúinteoir.**

/ta:m' i mə βu:n't'o:r'/

Other useful expressions:

I am self-employed. **Tá mé féin-fhostaithe.**

/ta: m'e: f'e:n' ostəhə/

I am unemployed. **Tá mé dífhostaithe.**

/ta: m'e: d'i: ostəhə/

I work in an office in town. **Oibrím in oifig sa bhaile mór.***

/eb'r'i:m' in ef'ig' sə βa:l'ə mo:r/

I have a part-time job. **Tá post páirtaimseartha agam.**

/ta: post par't' a:m's'ər'hə gəm/

* [See Section 14](#)

§1. **I(n) + pronoun**

The prepositional pronouns based on **i** (*in*).

<i>in me</i>	in + mé	ionam /inəm/ /uNəm/*
<i>in you^{sing.}</i>	in + thú	ionat (ionad^c) /inət/ /uNət/ /uNəd/*
<i>in him/it</i>	in + é	ann /aun/ ^M /a:n/
<i>in her/it</i>	in + í	inti /in'ti/
<i>in us</i>	in + sinn	ionainn /inən'/ /uNən'/*
<i>in you^{pl.}</i>	in + sibh	ionaibh /inəβ'/ /uNəβ'/ /uNi:/*
<i>in them</i>	in + iad	iontu /intu/ /untə(b)/*

*/i/ before a broad consonant is written **io**. In the Gaeltacht regions, it is often pronounced /u/ before a nasal consonant (**n**, **m** or **mh**).

There are two constructions employing **i(n)** (*in*) that are commonly used to express a *state of being*. These constructions imply that it is a *new* or *temporary* state:

I am (being/have become) a teacher. **(Is) múinteoir atá ionam.**
Tá mé/Táim i mo mhúinteoir.

Are you (being/Have you become) a nurse? **An banaltra atá ionat?**
An bhfuil tú i do bhanaltra?

He is not (being/has not become) a poet. **Ní file atá ann.**
Níl sé ina fhile.

She is (being/has become) a scientist. **(Is) eolaí atá inti.**
Tá sí ina heolaí.

We are (being/have become) dentists. **(Is) fiaclóirí atá ionainn.**
Táimid inár bhfiaclóirí.

You are (being/have become) prisoners. **(Is) príosúnaigh atá ionaibh.**
Tá sibh i bhur bpríosúnaigh.

They are (being/have become) singers. **(Is) amhránaithe atá iontu.**
Tá siad ina n-amhránaithe.

Ceacht A. Rewrite the following expressions in two ways, using the preposition **in**. Follow the example:

Eg: Is múinteoir mé. (*teacher*)

Is múinteoir atá ionam.

Tá mé i mo mhúinteoir.

1. Is feirmeoir mé. (*farmer*)

Is feirmeoir atá _____.

Tá mé _____.

2. Is dochtúir thú. (*doctor*)

Is dochtúir atá _____.

Tá tú _____.

3. Is ceoltóir é. (*musician*)

Is ceoltóir atá _____.

Tá sé _____.

4. Is iriseoir í.

Is iriseoir atá _____.

Tá sí _____.

5. Is iascairí sinn. (*fishermen*)

Is iascairí atá _____.

Táimid _____.

6. Is gardaí sibh. (*guards/police*)

Is gardaí atá _____.

Tá sibh _____.

7. Is tógálaithe mé. (*builders*)

Is tógálaithe atá _____.

Tá mé _____.

§2. Agent nouns ending in ‘-ir’

Agent nouns refer to people or things that are habitually or continuously occupied with performing a particular action, for example, words that denote occupations.

Like English (-er and -or), many Irish agent nouns end in: **-éir/aeir, -eoir/óir, -úir**. They all masculine nouns belonging to the *third declension*, and form a *strong plural* in **-í**.

an búistéir	siopa an bhúistéara	na búistéirí	Geata na mBúistéirí
<i>the butcher</i>	<i>the butcher's shop</i>	<i>the butchers</i>	<i>the Butchers' Gate</i>

Other nouns like this include:

(bank) teller	airgeadóir	actor	aisteoir
translator	aistritheoir	importer	allmhaireoir
baker	báicéir	boatman (rower)	bádóir
banker	baincéir	manager	bainisteoir
bricklayer	bríceadóir*	musician	ceoltóir
(geo)chemist	(geoi)ceimiceoir	treasurer	císteoir
broadcaster	craoltóir	inventor, composer	cumadóir
accountant	cuntasóir	(classroom) assistant	cúntóir (ranga)
(book)seller	díoltóir leabhar	designer, programmer	dearthóir
lawyer	dlíodóir	dramatist	drámadóir
doctor	dochtúir	receptionist	fáilteoir
artist	ealaíontóir	dentist	fiaclóir
farmer	feirmeoir*	cooper	fonsóir
(geo)physicist	(geoi)fisiceoir	bookmaker	geallglacadóir
employer	fostóir	photographer	grianghrafadóir
cleaner	glantóir	(computer) engineer	(ríomh)innealtóir
(tennis) player	imreoir (leadóige)	(television) presenter	láithreoir (teilifise)
journalist	iriseoir	(university) lecturer	léachtóir (ollscoile)
electrician	leictreoir	mathematician	matamaiticeoir
mechanic	meicneoir	teacher	múinteoir
exporter	onnmhaireoir	pianist	pianódóir

<i>plumber</i>	pluiméir	<i>(Gaelic) football player</i>	peileadóir
<i>politician</i>	polaiteoir	<i>pharmacist</i>	poitigéir
<i>astrophysicist</i>	réaltfhisiceoir	<i>administrator</i>	riarthóir
<i>dancer</i>	rinceoir	<i>sawyer</i>	sábhadóir
<i>soldier</i>	saighdeoir	<i>(copy)writer</i>	(cóip)scríbhneoir
<i>sailor</i>	seoltóir	<i>shopkeeper</i>	siopodaóir
<i>subscriber</i>	síntiúsóir	<i>carpenter</i>	siúinéir*
<i>mountaineer</i>	sléibhteoir	<i>director</i>	stiúrthóir
<i>stockbroker</i>	stocbhróicéir	<i>tailor</i>	táilliúr
<i>producer</i>	táirgtheoir	<i>tobacconist</i>	tobacadóir
<i>tax-collector</i>	toibhgheoir	<i>reporter</i>	tuairisceoir
<i>thatcher</i>	tuíodóir	<i>(piano) tuner</i>	túnadóir
<i>tourist</i>	turasóir	<i>owner</i>	úinéir

*Another word for **bríceadóir** is **brícléir**, or the informal: **bríce**.
 Other terms for **siúinéir** are **cearpantóir** and **saor adhmaid**.
 Another word for **feirmeoir** is **feilmeara^c** (*fourth declension*).

Just like in English, some agent nouns can also refer to machines that perform tasks, rather than people's occupations:

<i>amplifier</i>	aimplitheoir	<i>carburettor</i>	carbradóir
<i>muffler</i>	ciúnadóir	<i>printer</i>	clódóir
<i>distributor</i>	dáileoir	<i>receiver</i>	glacadóir
<i>grinder</i>	meilteoir	<i>monitor</i>	monatóir
<i>mailer</i>	postóir	<i>transmitter</i>	tarchuradóir
<i>transistor</i>	trasratheoir	<i>booster</i>	treiseoir

Ceacht B. Fill in the blanks. Follow the example:

Eg: an múinteoir peata an mhúinteora.
 (the teacher's pet)

1. an bainisteoir oifig an _____.
 (the manager's office)

2. an clódóir cábla an _____.
(the printer cable)
3. an dlíodóir táille an _____.
(the lawyer's fee)
4. an glantóir cófra an _____.
(the cleaner's cupboard)
5. an stiúrthoir cathaoir an _____.
(the director's chair)
6. an fáilteoir deasc an _____.
(the receptionist's desk)
7. an pluiméir uirlisí an _____.
(the plumber's tools)
8. an saighdeoir éide an _____.
(the soldier's uniform)
9. an grianghrafadóir cúntóir an _____.
(the photographer's assistant)
10. an turasóir ticéad an _____.
(the tourist ticket)
11. an t-éalaíontóir cuspa an _____.
(the artist's model)
12. an rinceoir bróga an _____.
(the dancer's shoes)
13. an báicéir dósaen _____.
(a baker's dozen)

§3. Agent nouns ending in ‘-ire’

Many agent nouns end in: **-ire**. They all masculine nouns belonging to the *fourth declension*, and form a *strong plural* in **-í**.

an t-iascaire **slat an iascaire** **na hiascairí** **báid na n-iascairí**
the fisherman *the fisherman's rod* *fishermen* *the fishermen's boats*

Other nouns like this include:

<i>minister</i>	aire	<i>architect</i>	aittire
<i>shepherd, pastor</i>	aoire	<i>inspector</i>	cigire
<i>cook/chef</i>	cócaire	<i>chatterbox</i>	cabaire, geabaire
<i>golfer</i>	gailfire	<i>crook, con artist</i>	cneámhaire
<i>piper</i>	píobaire	<i>gravedigger</i>	reiligire
<i>computer</i>	ríomhaire	<i>stripper (dancer)</i>	scamhaire
<i>scholar</i>	scolaire	<i>filter</i>	sgagaire
<i>astronaut</i>	spásaire	<i>masseur</i>	suathaire
<i>pump</i>	teannaire	<i>courier, messenger</i>	teachtaire
<i>interpreter</i>	teangaire	<i>delegate/deputy</i>	toscaire
<i>commentator</i>	tráchtaire	<i>crooner/eavesdropper</i>	dúdaire*

*Possible origin of ‘*didgeridoo*’, (also means *hummer* or *pipe smoker*).

§4. Agent nouns ending in ‘-í’

Many agent nouns end in: **-í**. They all masculine nouns belonging to the *fourth declension*, and form a *strong plural* in **-ithe**.

an freastalaí **práiscín an fhreastalaí** **na freastalaithe** **bróga na bhfreastalaithe**
the waiter *the waiter's apron* *the waiters* *the waiters' shoes*

Other nouns like this include:

<i>singer</i>	amhránaí	<i>analyst</i>	anailísí
<i>astrologer</i>	astralaí	<i>biologist</i>	bitheolaí
<i>cartoonist</i>	cartúnaí	<i>merchant (buyer)</i>	ceannaí
<i>boxer</i>	dornalaí	<i>magician, conjurer</i>	draoi, asarlaí
<i>scientist</i>	eolaí	<i>(physio)therapist</i>	(fisi)teiripí
<i>pirate</i>	foghlaí mara	<i>employee</i>	fostaí

<i>geologist</i>	geolaí	<i>thief</i>	gadaí
<i>athlete</i>	lúthchleasaí	<i>stenographer</i>	luathscríobhaí
<i>meteorologist</i>	meitéareolaí	<i>registrar</i>	meabhránaí
<i>newsagent</i>	nuachtánaí	<i>microprocessor</i>	micreaphróiseálaí
<i>pathologist</i>	paiteolaí	<i>(factory/social) worker</i>	oibrí (monarchan/sóisealta)
<i>runner</i>	reathaí	<i>pickpocket</i>	pasghadaí
<i>cyclist</i>	rothaí	<i>astronomer</i>	réalteolaí
<i>secretary</i>	rúnaí	<i>storyteller</i>	scéalaí
<i>scribe</i>	scríobhaí	<i>psychologist</i>	siceolaí
<i>psychiatrist</i>	siciatraí	<i>swimmer</i>	snámhaí
<i>traveller</i>	taistealaí	<i>explorer/prospector</i>	taiscéalaí
<i>builder</i>	tógalaí	<i>driver/chauffeur</i>	tiománaí
<i>pastor</i>	tréadaí	<i>robber, pursuer</i>	tóraí

One slightly irregular member of this group is:

an rí	caisleán an rí	na ríthe	caisleáin na ríthe
<i>the king</i>	<i>the king's castle</i>	<i>the king</i>	<i>the kings' castles</i>

§5. Nouns ending in ‘-ach’

Some nouns denoting a few occupations end in **-ach**, (like the inhabitant of a country, or practitioner of a particular religion, etc.). They are generally *masculine* nouns belonging to the *first declension*, and form a *weak* plural in **-igh**:

an t-oifigeach	hata an oifigh	na hoifigh	cúramaí na n-oifigeach
<i>the officer</i>	<i>the officer's hat</i>	<i>the officers</i>	<i>the officers' duties</i>

Other nouns like this include:

<i>flight attendant</i>	aeróstach	<i>spinner (of wool)</i>	abhráiseach
<i>addict</i>	andúileach	<i>(bank) clerk</i>	cléireach (bainc)
<i>chair(person)</i>	cathaoirleach	<i>courier/messenger</i>	eachlach
<i>clergy(man)</i>	eaglaiseach	<i>mariner, seaman</i>	mairnéalach
<i>monk</i>	manach	<i>rider (jockey)</i>	marcach
<i>nudist</i>	nochtach	<i>prisoner</i>	priosúnach
<i>civil servant</i>	státseirbhíseach	<i>chief (PM)</i>	taoiseach

Beware, though, some nouns that look like these are *feminine* nouns belonging to the *second declension*, and form a *weak* plural in **-a**:

an chailleach	scuab na caillí	na cailleacha	draoicht na gcailleach
<i>the hag/witch</i>	<i>the witch's broom</i>	<i>the witches</i>	<i>the witches' magic</i>

Other nouns like this include:

<i>the widow</i>	an bhaintreach	<i>the girl</i>	an ghirseach^u
<i>the prostitute</i>	an eachleach	<i>the moon</i>	an ghealach
<i>the harp</i>	an chláirseach	<i>the stripper (old calf)</i>	an ghamhnach

§6. Other occupations

You can sometimes combine a noun with **fear** or **bean** to create agent or occupational nouns:

<i>businessman</i>	fear gnó	<i>businesswoman</i>	bean gnó
<i>milkman</i>	fear an bhainne	<i>postman</i>	fear an phoist
<i>fireman</i>	fear dóiteáin	<i>nun</i>	bean rialta

Some occupational nouns are so closely associated with women, that they form a compound noun with **ban** prefixed to a masculine noun, making a feminine form of the noun. They sometimes (but not always) become feminine nouns:

<i>the queen</i>	an bhanríon	<i>the housewife</i>	an banabhraiseach
<i>the nurse</i>	an bhanaltra	<i>the goddess</i>	an bandia
<i>the princess</i>	an banfhlaith	<i>the priestess</i>	an bansagart
<i>the empress</i>	an banimpire	<i>the abbess</i>	an bhan-ab

Which has sometimes necessitated some strange constructions like:

<i>male nurse</i>	banaltra fir	<i>widower</i>	baintreach fir
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Here are some other (mainly *first* and *fourth declension*) nouns denoting occupations (with their genitive/plural forms):

<i>bishop</i>	easpag (easpaig)	<i>(Protestant) minister</i>	ministir (-trí)
<i>priest</i>	sagart (sagairt)	<i>(fashion) model</i>	cuspa (an fhaisin)
<i>poet</i>	file (filí)	<i>guard/police officer</i>	garda/póilín (-í)
<i>principal</i>	príomhoide (príomhoidí)	<i>artisan, craftsman</i>	saor (saoir)

<i>president</i>	uachtarán (uachtaráin)	<i>traffic warden</i>	maor (maoir) tráchtá
<i>author</i>	údar (údair)	<i>foreman/supervisor</i>	maor (maoir) oibre
<i>babysitter</i>	gogamán (gogamáin)	<i>professor</i>	ollamh (ollaimh/ollúna)*
<i>pilot</i>	píolóta (-í)	<i>philosopher</i>	fealsamh (fealsaimh/fealsúna)*
<i>pupil</i>	dalta (-í)	<i>judge</i>	breitheamh (breitheaimh/breithiúna)*
<i>surgeon</i>	máinlia (-nna)	<i>deputy PM (2nd in rank)</i>	tánaiste (tánaistí)
<i>chiropodist</i>	coslia (-nna)	<i>(university) student</i>	mac (mic) léinn
<i>veterinarian</i>	tréidlia (-nna)	<i>housekeeper</i>	bean (mná) an tí
		<i>(lit. woman of the house)</i>	

* (Singular genitive: **-imh**, Strong plural: **-úna**)

Ceacht C. *Fill in the blanks. Follow the example:*

Eg: an máinlia scian an mháinlia
the surgeon's knife

1. an fealsamh cloch _____
the philosopher's stone

2. an t-easpag fáinne _____
the bishop's ring

3. an taoiseach Roinn _____
the Prime Minister's Department

4. an mairnéalach culaith _____
a sailor's suit

5. an óinseach Achasán _____ don amaid.
(The fool's insult to the idiot.
"The pot calling the kettle black")

6. an t-oibrí Pairtí _____
The Workers' Party

Pastimes – Caithimh aimsire

Here are some of the words/phrases you'll use when talking about your hobbies and pastimes.

§7. Likes, dislikes and preferences

Express your liking (or disliking) of something using a combination of the *copula* + **maith**/**breá**/**fuath** + **le** (lit. *It's good/fine/distaste with*).

Do you like football? **An maith leat peil?**

Yes. **Is maith.**

No. **Ní maith.**

I don't like that at all. **Ní maith liom sin ar chor ar bith.**

I love it. **Is breá liom é/í.**

I hate it. **Is fuath liom é/í.**

Use **fearr** (*better*), the comparative form of **maith**, to show a preference for something.

Note: Use **nó** (*or*) when offering a choice, but use **ná** (*than, to*) when comparing two things unequally.

Do you prefer tea or coffee? **An fearr leat tae nó caife?**

I prefer tea. **Is fear liom tae.**

He prefers Gaelic football to rugby. **Is fearr leis peil Ghaelach ná rugbaí.**

§8. Interests and hobbies

Another way of saying you like a pastime is by expressing an *interest* (**suim**) in it.

Are you interested in music?

*Do you have an(y) **interest** in music?* **An bhfuil **suim** agat sa cheol?**
(Lit. *Is interest at-you in-the music?*)

I'm not much interested in it. **Níl **mórán suime** agam ann.**
(Lit. *There's not **a lot of interest** at-me in-it.*)

I'm not interested in it at all. **Níl **suim ar bith** agam ann.**
(Lit. ***There's not interest at all** at-me in-it.*)

I'm very interested in it. **Tá **suim mhór** agam ann.**
(Lit. *There's **a great interest** interest at-me in-it.*)

First declension nouns

First declension nouns are masculine. The largest group form their (weak) common plural and genitive singular by making the final broad consonant slender.



the sport (fun) **an sport**

having/making fun **ag déanamh spoirt**

the badminton **an badmantan**

the badminton net **líon an bhadmantain**



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the golf **galf**

the golf course **raon an ghailf**

the golf club **maide an ghailf**

the cricket **an cruicéad**

the cricket bat **maide an chruicéid**

the soccer **an sacar**

the soccer match **cluiche an tsacair**

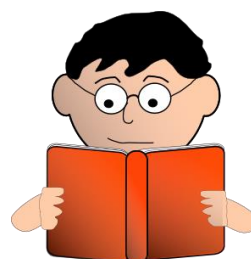


the circus **an sorcas**

the circus clown **fear an tsorcais**

(the) reading **an léamh**

the reading room **seomra an léimh**



the weight **an meáchan**

losing the weight **ag cailliú an mheáchain**

the weights **na meáchain**

lifting the weights **ag tógáil/ardú na meáchan**

weightlifting **tógáil mheácan**





(the) music **an ceol**

the concertina **bosca an cheoil**

the musical instruments **uirlisí an cheoil**

the piece of music **dréacht an cheoil**

playing the music **ag seinm an cheoil**

the bass **an dord**

the double-bass **an t-olldord**

the bass clef **eochair an doird**

the basses **na doird**

the bass(es') part **páirt na ndord**



the guitar **an giotár**

the bass guitar **an dordghiotár**

the guitar(s) strings **téada an ghiotáir**

the guitars **na giotáir**

the guitar(s') chords **cordaí na ngiotár**



the bassoon **an basún**

the bassoon(s) reed **giolcach an bhasúin**

the bassoons **na basúin**

the bassoons' melody **fonn na mbasún**



the bodhrán (winnowing drum) **an bodhrán**

the bodhrán(s) rhythm **rithim an bhodhráin**

the bodhráns **na bodhráin**

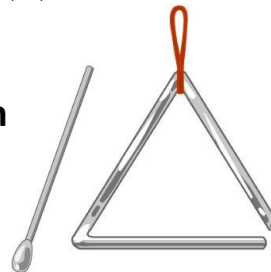
the Bodhrán(s') Festival **Féile na mBodhrán**

the triangle **an triantán**

striking the triangle **ag bualadh an triantáin**

the triangles **na triantáin**

the use of (the) triangles **úsáid na dtriantán**



the cymbal **an ciombal**

striking the cymbal **ag bualadh an chiombail**

the cymbals **na ciombail**

the clatter of (the) cymbals **clagarnach na gciombail**



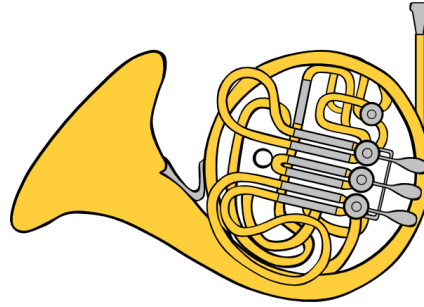
the (French) horn **an** corn (francach)

the cor anglais **an** corn sasanach

the horn('s) bell **clog an choirn**

the horns **na** coirn

playing *the* horns **ag seinm na gcorn**



the (generic) horn (/speaker) **an** stoc

the megaphone **an** stoc fogartha

the battle-horn **stoc an chomhraic**

the horn('s) noise **fuaime an stoic**

the horns **na** stoic

blowing *the* horns **ag séideadh na stoc**

the bugle (/drinking horn) **an** buabhall

the bugle('s) call **glór an bhuabhaill**

the bugles **na** buabhaill

the bugle(s') music **ceol na mbuabhall**



the saxophone **an** sacsafón

the saxophone solo **aonréad an t-sacsafóin**

the saxophones **na** sacsafóin

the saxophone(s') players **seinnteoirí na sacsafón**

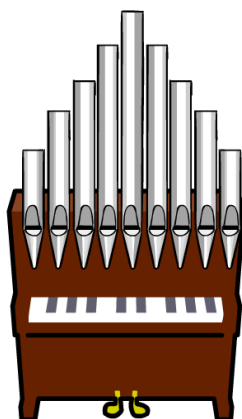
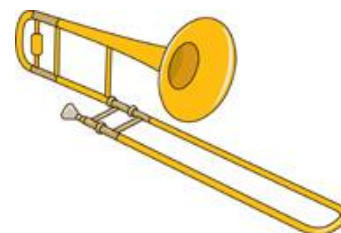
the trombone **an** trombón

the bass trombone **an** dordtrombón

the trombone slide **sleamhnán an trombóin**

the trombones **na** trombóin

the trombone(s') strain **séis na dtrombón**



the organ **an t-orgán**

the organist **an t-orgánaí**

the organ-grinder **orgánaí na sráide**

swell of *the* organ **ollghuth an orgáin**

the organs **na horgáin**

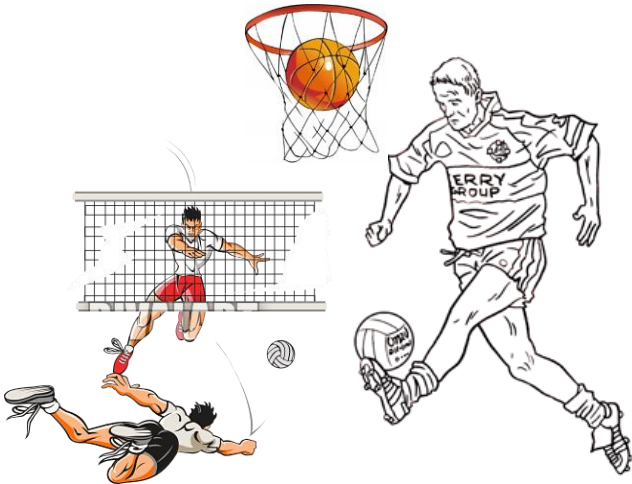
the organ(s') music **ceol na n-orgán**

Second declension nouns

Second declension nouns are mostly feminine and form the genitive singular ending in **-e**. Many have a (weak) common plural ending in **-a**.

the tennis **an** leadóg

the tennis racquet **raicéad na** leadóige



the football **an** pheil

the Gaelic football **an** pheil ghaelach

the football team **foireann na** peile

the basketball **an** chispheil

the basketball game **cluiche na** cispheile

the volleyball **an** eitpheil

the volleyball game **cluiche na** heitpheile

the ball **an** liathróid

playing *the* ball **ag imirt na** liathróide

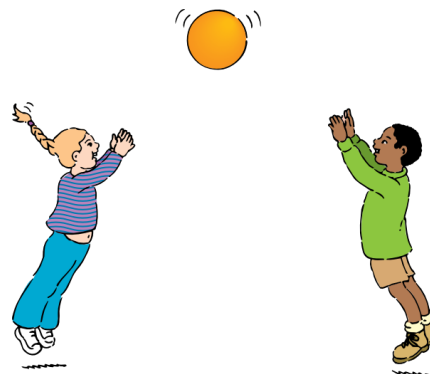
handball **liathróid láimhe**

football (generic) **liathróid coise**

the balls **na** liathróidí

throwing *the* balls **ag caitheamh na** liathróidí

catching *the* balls **ag ceapadh na** liathróidí



the edge/hump **an** chorr

summit *of the* rounded hill **mullach na** coirre

the edges/humps **na** corra

the game of rounders **cluiche na** gcorr

the chess(board) **an** fhicheall

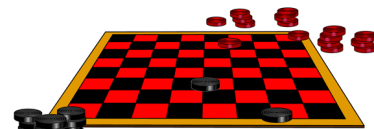
the chess pieces **fir na** fichille

the tables/game-board **an** táiplis

the draughts (board) **an** táiplis bheag

the backgammon (board) **an** táiplis mhór

the history of backgammon **stair na** táiplise mór





the concert **an cheolchoirm**

the concert tickets **ticéid na ceolchoirme**

the concerts **na ceolchoirmeacha**

the concert noise **clampar na gceolchoirmeacha**

the instrument **an uirlis**

the instrument's use **úsáid na huirlise**

the instruments **na huirlisí**

the musical instruments **uirlisí an cheoil**

playing *the* instruments **ag seinm na n-uirlisí**

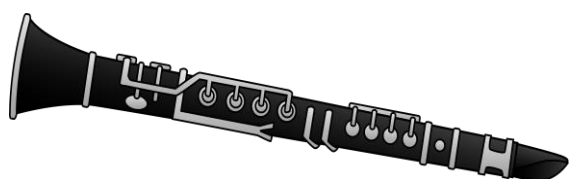


the clarinet **an chláirnéid**

the clarinet's use **úsáid na cláirnéide**

the clarinets **na cláirnéidí**

the clarinets' manufacture **déantús na gcláirnéidí**



the flute **an fhlúit**

the flute's keys **méir na fliúite**

the flutes **na fliúiteanna**

the flute music **ceol na bhfliúiteanna**



the piccolo **an fhlúiteog**

the piccolo player **seinnteoir na fliúiteoige**

the piccolos **na fliúiteoga**

the piccolos' timbre **tondath na bhfliúiteog**

the whistle **an fheadóg**

learning *the* whistle **ag foghlaim na feadóige**

the whistles **na feadóga**

selling *the* whistles **ag díol na bhfeadóg**



the spoon **an spúnóg**

the spoon('s) handle **lámh na spúnóige**

the spoons **na spúnóga**

playing *the* spoons **ag seinm na spúnóg**

the fiddle **an fhidil**
learning the fiddle **ag foghlaim na fid(i)le**
the fiddles **na fidleacha/fidilí**
the sound of (the) fiddles **fuaim na bhfidleacha/bhfidilí**



the viol(in) **an veidheal**
playing the viol **ag seinm na veidhle**
the viols **na veidhlí**
(the) viol music **ceol na veidhlí**



the (violon)cello **an dordveidhil**
the cello piece **dréacht na dordveidhle**
the cellos **na dordveidhlí**
(the) cello music **ceol na ndordveidhlí**

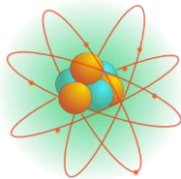


the harp **an chláirseach**
the harp('s) strings **téada na cláirsí**
the harps **na cláirseacha**
the harp(s') music **ceol na gcláirseach**



(the) chemistry **an cheimic**
the chemistry school **scoil na ceimice**
(the) alchemy **an ailceimic**
the age of alchemy **tréimhse na hailceimice**

$$\begin{aligned} S^2 \int_0^1 \frac{a+b''(d^2-c^2)^{-3}}{4 + \frac{32}{11}(\sqrt{\frac{15}{8}}(a-d)^{-1})} a-b &= ? \\ \frac{1}{2} U - \gamma^2 &= \sqrt{\frac{(c-s)^2}{15} \frac{(a+b+c)^2}{(s+a)^2}} \quad 7(a-c) \\ -b+a^2 &= \sqrt{?} \quad S'' = V^2 + \frac{v'-v}{a} \\ \alpha &= \infty \quad c+a \\ = 2 &= a-b^2 \quad 1=0+0 \quad \sqrt{\frac{a+b}{a}} \\ + &= cb' \quad S^2 - V^2 = a - C + a \\ \sqrt{\frac{a+b}{a}} &? \quad b+a^2 \quad \int_0^1 \frac{a+b''(d^2-c^2)^{-3}}{1+32} \end{aligned}$$



(the) physics **an fhisic**
the laws of physics **dlíthe na fisice**
the department of physics **roinn na fisice**
(the) mathematics **an mhatamaitic**
(the) higher mathematics **an ardmhatamaitic**
the mathematical problem **ceist na matamaitice**
the mathematical solution **freagra na matamaitice**

(the) history **an stair**
(the) history of Ireland **stair na hÉireann**
the historical society **cumann na staire**
the historiography **scríobh na staire**



the theatre **an** amharclann

the theatre-goer gnáthóir **na** hamharclainne

the restaurants **na** hamharclanna

the theatre district ceantar **na** n-amharclann



the restaurant **an** b^hialann

the restaurant manager bainisteoir **na** bialainne

the restaurants **na** bialanna

the restaurant(s)' chain líne **na** m^bialann

the pharmacy **an** chógaslann

the pharmacy services serbhisí **na** cógaslainne

the pharmacies **na** cógaslanna

the pharmacy shelves seilfeanna **na** gcógaslann



the art gallery **an** dánlann

the art gallery exhibition taispeántas **na** dánlainne

the art galleries **na** dánlanna

the art galleries' collections bailliúcháin **na** ndánlann

the brewery **an** ghrúdlann

the brewery('s) gate geata **na** grúdlainne

the breweries **na** grúdlanna

the brewery workers oibrithe **na** ngrúdlann



the museum **an** iarsmalann

the museum('s) site suíomh **na** hiarsmalainne

the museums **na** hiarsmalanna

the museums' council comhairle **na** n-iarsmalann

the library **an** leabharlann

the library book leabhar **na** leabharlainne

the libraries **na** leabharlanna

the Library Association Cumann **na** Leabharlann



Third declension nouns

Third declension nouns form the genitive singular ending in **-a**.
Many form their (strong) plural ending in **-í**.

(the) swimming **an snámh**
the swimming pool linn **an snámha**
 swimsuit **culaith shnámha**
the backstroke **snámh an dhroma**
the breaststroke **snámh an ucta**



(the) skiing **an sciáil**
the ski jump léim **an sciála**
the ski lift **ardaitheoir an sciála**
the skiing accident **timpiste an sciála**

(the) painting **an phéinteáil**
 paint-brush **scuab phéinteála**
the paint-brush **scuab na péinteála**



(the) knitting **an chniotáil**
the knitting needle **biorán na cniotála**
the knitting yarn **snáth na cniotála**
the knitting machine **inneall na cniotála**

(the) wrestling **an iomrascáil**
the wrestling bout **babhta na iomrascála**



(the) driving **an tiomáint**
the driver's licence **ceadúnas na tiomána**
a three-hour drive **trí huaire tiomána**

(the) hurling **an iomáin(t)**
the hurling match **cluiche na hiomána**
the hurling team **foireann na hiomána**



§9. Abstract nouns ending in ‘-(e)acht’ or ‘-(a)íocht’

Many abstract nouns end in **-(e)acht** or **-(a)íocht**. They are feminine nouns belonging to the *third declension*, and are formed from other words: nouns, verbs and even some adjectives. Many describe an activity derived from an ‘agent’ noun, that is, a person who performs the activity.

<i>the druid, magician</i>	an draoi
<i>(the) magic</i>	an draíocht
<i>the magic spell</i>	briocht na draíochta
<i>the magic wand</i>	slat na draíochta
<i>the magic cloak</i>	cochall na draíochta



Nouns ending in **-(a)íocht** are often derived from agent nouns ending in **-(a)í**.

	Activity	Agent (Person)
<i>sorcery, conjuring</i>	an asarlaíocht	an t-asarlaí
<i>astrology</i>	an astralaíocht	an t-astralaí
<i>bowling</i>	an bhabhlálaíocht	an babhlálaí
<i>(the) bowling alley</i>	pinniúr na babhlálaíochta	
<i>biology</i>	an bhitheolaíocht	an bitheolaí
<i>cartography</i>	an chartagrafaíocht	an cartagrafaí
<i>choreography</i>	an chóragrafaíocht	an córagrafaí
<i>boxing</i>	an dornálaíocht	an dornálaí
<i>(the) boxing ring</i>	cró na dornálaíochta	
<i>science</i>	an eolaíocht	an t-eolaí
<i>athletics</i>	an luthchleasaíocht	an luthchleasaí
<i>racing</i>	an rásaíocht	an rásaí
<i>horse racing</i>	rásaíocht capall	
<i>running</i>	an reathaíocht	an reathaí
<i>cross-country running</i>	reathaíocht trastíre	
<i>cycling</i>	an rothaíocht	an rothaí
<i>agriculture</i>	an talmhaíocht	an talmhaí
<i>archaeology</i>	an tseandálaíocht	an seandálaí

Nouns ending in, **-(e)acht** are often derived from agent nouns ending in **-(e)óir, -aeir, -(i)úir, -(e)aire** or even **-lia**.

<i>woodwork, carpentry</i>	an adhmadóireacht	an t-adhmadóir
<i>acting</i>	an aisteoireacht	an t-aisteoir
<i>boating</i>	an bhádóireacht	an bádóir
<i>baking</i>	an bháicéireacht	an báicéir
<i>banking</i>	an bhaincéireacht	an baincéir
<i>pottery, ceramics</i>	an chriadóireacht	an criadóir
<i>accountancy, book-keeping</i>	an chuntasóireacht	an cuntasóir
<i>sculpture</i>	an dealbhóireacht	an dealbhóir
<i>(mountain-)climbing</i>	an dreapadóireacht	an dreapadóir
<i>doctorate, medical practice</i>	an dochtúireacht	an dochtúir
<i>(radio) reception</i>	an ghlacadóireacht	an glacadóir
<i>glazing</i>	an ghloinadóireacht	an gloineadóir
<i>dressmaking</i>	an ghúnadóireacht	an gúnadóir
<i>gunnery</i>	an ghnunadóireacht	an gnnadóir
<i>engraving</i>	an ghreanadóireacht	an greanadóir
<i>engineering</i>	an innealtóireacht	an t-innealtóir
<i>journalism</i>	an iriseoireacht	an t-iriseoir
<i>lecturing, lectureship</i>	an léachtóireacht	an léachtóir
<i>draughtsmanship</i>	an línitheoireacht	an línitheoir
<i>seamanship, navigation</i>	an loingseoireacht	an loingseoir
<i>catering, provision</i>	an lónadóireacht	an lónadóir
<i>mining, excavation</i>	an mhanadóireacht	an mianadóir
<i>milling</i>	an mhuilleoireacht	an muilleoir
<i>news-reporting, journalism</i>	an nuachtóireacht	an nuachtóir
<i>sailing</i>	an tseoltóireacht	an seoltóir
<i>painting</i>	an phéintéireacht	an péintéir
<i>fencing</i>	an phionsóireacht	an pionsóir
<i>orienteering</i>	an rianadóireacht	an rianadóir
<i>drawing, illustration</i>	an tarraingeoireacht	an tarraingeoir
<i>diving</i>	an tumadóireacht	an tumadóir

<i>architecture</i>	an ailtireacht	an t-aitire
<i>cooking</i>	an chócaireacht	an cócaire
<i>cooking skills, culinary arts</i>	ealaíona (na) cócaireachta	
<i>agency</i>	an ghníomhaireacht	an gníomhaire
<i>hairdressing</i>	an ghruagaireacht	an gruagaire
<i>fishing</i>	an iascaireacht	an t-iascaire
<i>surgery</i>	an mháinliacht	an máinlia
<i>chiropody</i>	an chosliacht	an coslia

Some agent nouns change slightly when adding a suffix.

<i>philosophy</i>	an fhealsúnacht	an fealsamh
<i>professorship</i>	an ollúnacht	an t-ollamh

Some are derived from other nouns or from verbs, rather than agent nouns.

<i>choral singing</i>	an chlasaíocht	an chlais(ceadal) (<i>choir</i>)
<i>angling, rod-fishing</i>	an duántacht	an duán (<i>hook</i>)
<i>camogie</i>	an chamógaíocht	an chamóg (<i>curved stick</i>)
<i>hurling</i>	an iománaíocht	iomáin (<i>to hurl</i>)
<i>line-drawing, sketching</i>	an líníocht	línigh (<i>to sketch</i>)

Some are (also) used as verbal nouns.

<i>riding</i>	an marcaíocht	marcaigh (<i>to ride</i>)
<i>horse riding</i>	(ag) marcaíocht capall	
<i>surfing, wave riding</i>	(ag) marcaíocht toinne	

Some seem to be exceptions, with both abstract nouns and agent nouns derived directly from a verb or a foreign word.

<i>drama, dramatic art</i>	an dramaíocht	an dramadóir
<i>politics</i>	an pholataíocht	an polaiteoir
<i>listening</i>	an éisteacht	an t-éisteoir

Many abstract nouns like these are derived from adjectives.

<i>humourousness</i>	an ghreannmhaireacht	greannmhar
<i>neutrality</i>	an neodracht	neodrach

Fourth declension nouns

Fourth declension nouns usually end in a vowel or **-ín**. There is no change for the genitive singular. Most form their (strong) plural ending in **-í**.

the cinema **an cineama**

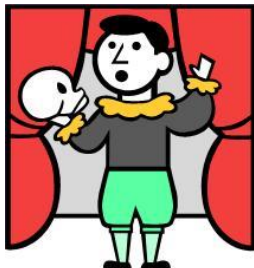
history of *the* cinema **stair an chineama**

the comedy **an chóiméide**

the comedy's plot **plota na cóiméide**

the comedies **na cóiméidí**

variety of *the* comedies **éagsúlacht na gcóiméidí**



the (stage-)play **an dráma**

the end of *the* play **críoch an dráma**

the plays **na drámaí**

production of *the* plays **léiriú na ndrámaí**

the game **an cluiche**

rules of *the* game **rialacha an chluiche**

the games **na cluichí**

the computer games **cluichí na ríomhaire**

the International Olympic Games Committee **Coiste Idirnáisiúnta na gCluichí Oilimpeacha**



(*the*) rugby **an rugbaí**

the rugby match **cluiche an rugbaí**

(*the*) hockey **an haca**

the hockey puck **poc an haca**

the billiards **na billéardaí**

the billiards cue **cleathóg na mbilléardaí**



the dance, dancing **an damhsa/rince**

the dance hall **halla an damhsa/rince**

the dances **na damhsaí/rincí**

the dance music **ceol na ndamhsaí/rincí**

Fifth declension nouns

Fifth declension nouns are mostly feminine. Many of them form the genitive singular by changing the final consonant from slender to broad, often adding a broad consonant. Many form their (strong) plural in **-acha**.

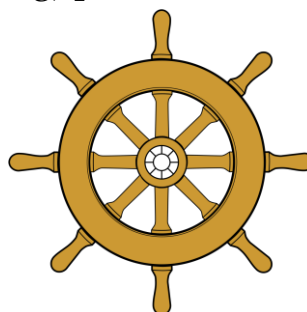
the steering, rudder **an stiúir**

the helmsman **fear na stiúrach**

the steering wheel **roth na stiúrach**

the controls, rudders **na stiúracha**

use of the controls **lá na stiúracha**



the anvil **an inneoin**

horn of the anvil **soc na hinneonach**

the anvils **na hinneonacha**

chorus of the anvils **cór na n-inneonacha**

the rule **an riail**

according to the rule **de réir na rialach**

the rules **na rialacha**

breaking the rules **ag briseadh na rialacha**



the river **an abhainn**

the river-bank **bruach na habhann**

the rivers **na haibhneacha**

flow of the rivers **sruith na n-aibhneacha**

the friend **an cara, an caraid**

the friend's help **cabhrú an carad**

the friends **na cairde**

The Society of *(the)* Friends
(Quakers)

Cumann na gCairde

My dearest friend!
(lit. O friend of friends!)

A chara na gcarad!



the enemy **an namhaid**

the enemy's strength **neart an namhad**

the enemies **na namhaide**

against the enemies **in éadan na namhaide**



Cad a cheapeann tu?

The prepositions, **le** (with) and **do** (to, for) are often used with the copula to state *opinions* and *facts* about things. Their pronominal forms are set out in the following table:

Réamhfhocail	le	*do
mé	liom	dom
tú	leat	duit
sé	leis	dó
sí	léi	di
muid/sinn	linn	dúinn
sibh	libh	daoibh
siad	leo	dóibh

*In Connacht, all pronominal forms of **do** are usually lenited (**dhom**, **dhuit**, **dhó**, and so on). In Ulster, they are not usually lenited, but **dom** is usually pronounced (and often written) **domh**. In Munster, they are often lenited when they come after a vowel sound.

§10. Expressing opinions with (is ... le)

The construction: **is ... le** is often used to express an *opinion*.

I don't care/It's all the same to me.
(Lit. It's equal with-me.)

Is cuma liom é.

Do you mind speaking more slowly?
(Lit. Is-it a harm for-you)

An miste leat labhairt níos moille?

No. **Ní miste.**

I don't mind. **Ní miste liom é.**

If you don't mind. ***Mura miste leat.**

I want to do it.
(lit. It's a desire with-me)

Is mian liom é a dhéanamh.

I don't care for them.
(Lit. They aren't a wish with-me)

Ní háil liom iad.

What do you want from/with me?

Cad ab áil leat díom?

**also muna^M or mara^C*

<i>Can he do it?</i> (Lit. Is-it a possibility with-him)	An féidir leis é a dhéanamh?
<i>Yes.</i>	Is féidir.
<i>Maybe.</i>	B'fhéidir
<i>I suppose</i>	Is dóigh liom go mbíonn sí ann.
<i>I think it's a pity.</i>	Is trua liom é.
<i>I think it's too much.</i>	Is mór liom é.
<i>I don't grudge it to you.</i> (I don't hold it against you.)	Ní mór liom duit é.
<i>I think it's enough.</i>	Ní beag liom é.
<i>I'm amazed/surprized/astonished.</i> (Lit. It's a wonder with-me)	Is ionadh liom.

§11. Stating facts with (is ... do)

Instead of **le**, the preposition **do** (*to, for*) is used to state a fact (as opposed to an opinion). Compare the following examples:

<i>I might as well do it.</i> (Lit. It's no harm for-me)	Ní miste dhom é a dhéanamh.
<i>I must do it.</i> (It's not big for-me)	Ní mór dom é a dhéanamh.
<i>I must do it.</i> (It's not excess for-me)	Ní folóir dom é a dhéanamh.
<i>It's enough/plenty for me.</i> (It's not little for-me)	Is leor dom é.
	Ní beag dom é.
<i>They cannot stay here.</i> (Lit. It's not possible)	Ní féidir dóibh fanacht anseo.
<i>You don't have to stay .</i> (Lit. It's not necessary)	Ní gá dhuit fanacht.

§12. Introducing the Present tense

In Irish, there is a special form of the present of the verb **bí** (to be) used for actions or events taking place **NOW**.

I'm here now. **Táim** (or **Tá mé**) anseo anois.

I'm talking to Mícheál. **Táim** (or **Tá mé**) ag caint le Mícheál.

Are you here now. **An bhfuil tú** ag éisteacht.

They're not at home. **Níl siad** sa bhaile.

Just as in English, the present tense is usually reserved for *habitual* actions, that is, actions that occur (or not) on a regular basis.

I'm here every week. **Bím** anseo gach seachtain.

You play the fiddle well. **Seinneann tú** an fhidil go maith.

He doesn't play football. **Ní imríonn sé** peil.

She listens to the radio in the mornings. **Éistíonn sí** leis an radio ar maidin.

We watch television in the evening. **Féachaimid** ar an teilifís tráthnóna.

Do you write to them often? **An scríobhann sibh** dóibh go minic?

Don't they read the newspaper? **Nach léamhann siad** an nuachtán?

As in English, the present tense is used for thought or (the five) senses:

What do you think (suppose)? **Cad (Céard) a cheapann tú**
/ka:d (k'e:rd) ə x'æ:pən tu: /

Do you understand? **An dtuigeann tú?**
/ə dig'ən tu: /

I understand. I don't understand. **Tuigim. Ní thuigim.**
/tig'im' / /n'i: hig'im' /

Do you see them? **An bhfeiceann tú iad?**
/ə β'ek'ən tu: iəd /

Yes (I see). No (I don't see). **Feicim. Ní fheicim.**
/f'ek'im' / /n'i: ek'im' /

Do you hear it? **An gcloiseann tú é?**
/ə gles'ən tu: e: /

Yes (I hear). No (I don't hear). **Cloisim. Ní chloisim.**
/kles'im' / /n'i: xles'im' /