

Aimsir Chaite (Past Tense)

- Add a 'h' to the start of the verb unless it begins with L, N, R or Sc.
- Add a d' before the verb if it starts with a vowel.
- Add a d' AND a 'h' in the verb if it begins with an 'f'.
- Use the word 'Ar' and a 'h' to form questions.
- Make sure to drop the d' in question form.
- To write in negative use Níor and a 'h'.
- Form a negative question by using 'nár' instead of 'ar'.

For the "we" form of the verb, you add "eamar" if it's slender or "amar" if it's broad and it's a one syllable verb. However, for a two syllable verb, you add "íomar" if it's slender or "aíomar" if it's broad.

Examples

Fan (To stay)

D'fhan mé
D'fhan tú
D'fhan sé / sí
D'fhanamar
D'fhan sibh
D'fhan siad

Ceannaigh - To buy

Cheannaigh mé
Cheannaigh tú
Cheannaigh sé / sí
Cheannaíomar
Cheannaigh sibh
Cheannaigh siad

I meant to also say before this:

If it's a two syllable verb, you drop the ending. Endings could include

- igh (e.g. Míⁿigh)
- aigh (e.g. Ceannaigh)
- i (e.g. Inis)

You do this in other tenses, not the Aimsir Chaite (except for the "we" form).

Aimsir Láithreach (Present Tense)

- To form a question, you use “An” and add an úrú instead of “Ar”.
- To form a negative question, you use “Nach”.
- To form the negative sentence, you use “Ní” and add a ‘h’.
- Form the present tense by using the endings below.

An Chéad Réimniú (The first declension)

Caol (Slender)

Mé - im
Tú - eann
Sé / sí - eann
Muid / sinn - imid
Sibh - eann
Siad - eann

Leathan (Broad)

Mé - aim
Tú - ann
Sé / sí - ann
Muid / sinn - aimid
Sibh - ann
Siad - ann

An Dara Réimniú (The second declension)

Caol (Slender)

Mé - ím
Tú - íonn
Sé / sí - íonn
Muid / sinn - ímid
Sibh - íonn
Siad - íonn

Leathan (Broad)

Mé - aím
Tú - aíonn
Sé / sí - aíonn
Muid / sinn - aímid
Sibh - aímid
Siad - aímid

Examples

Múin - To teach

Múinim

Múineann tú

Múineann sé / sí

Múinimid

Múineann sibh

Múineann siad

Éirigh - To rise / get up

Éirím

Éiríonn tú

Éiríonn sé / sí

Éirimid

Éiríonn sibh

Éiríonn siad

Notice you do not put in the pronouns "mé" agus "muid / sinn" in this tense.

Remember that to tell if a verb is caol nó leathan depends on the last vowel in the verb.

Múin is a caol (slender) verb because "i" is the last vowel.

If a verb is caol, the last vowel is either "e" or "i".

If a verb is leathan, the last vowel is either "a", "o" "u".

You need to know these basic rules just to conjugate verbs.

Aimsir Fháistineach (Future Tense)

- To form a question, you use the word "An" and add an úrú.
- To form a negative question, you use the word "Nach".
- To form the negative sentence, you use "Ní" and add a 'h'.
- Form the future tense by using the endings below.

An Chéad Réimniú

Caol

Mé - fidh

Tú - fidh

Sé / sí - fidh

Muid / sinn - fimid

Sibh - fidh

Siad - fidh

Leathan

Mé - faidh
Tú - faidh
Sé / sí - faidh
Muid / sinn - faimid
Sibh - faidh
Siad - faidh

An Dara Réimniú

Caol

Mé - eoidh
Tú - eoidh
Sé / sí - eoidh
Muid / sinn - eoimid
Sibh - eoidh
Siad - eoidh

Leathan

Mé - óidh
Tú - óidh
Sé / sí - óidh
Muid / sinn - óimid
Sibh - óidh
Siad - óidh

Examples

Fág - To leave

Fágfaidh mé
Fágfaidh tú
Fágfaidh sé / sí
Fágfaimid
Fágfaidh sibh
Fágfaidh siad

Inis - To tell

Inseoidh mé
Inseoidh tú
Inseoidh sé / sí
Inseoimid
Inseoidh sibh
Inseoidh siad

Modh Coinníollach (Conditional Mood)

- To form a question, you use the word “An” and add an úrú.
- To form a negative question, you use the word “Nach”.
- To form the negative sentence, you use “Ní” and add a ‘h’.
- Like the past tense, you add a ‘h’ after the consonant at the beginning of the verb.
- If the verb begins with a vowel, you add a d’ instead.
- If the verb begins with an ‘f’, you add a ‘h’ and a d’.
- Do not say the pronouns “mé”, “tú”, “muid” or “siad” in this tense.
- Form the conditional mood by using the endings below:

An Chéad Réimniú

Caol

Mé - finn
 Tú - feá
 Sé / sí - feadh
 Muid / sinn - fimis
 Sibh - feadh
 Siad - fidís

Leathan

Mé - fainn
 Tú - fá
 Sé / sí - fadh
 Muid / sinn - faimis
 Sibh - fadh
 Siad - faidís

An Dara Réimniú

Caol

Mé - eoinn
 Tú - eofá
 Sé / sí - eodh
 Muid / sinn - eoimis
 Sibh - eodh
 Siad - eoidís

Leathan

Mé - óinn

Tú - ófá
Sé / sí - ódh
Muid / sinn - óimis
Sibh - ódh
Siad - óidís

Examples

Ól - To drink

D'ólfainn
D'ólfá
D'ólfadh sé / sí
D'ólfaimis
D'olfadh sibh
D'olfaidís

Imir - To play

D'imreoinn
D'imreofá
D'imreodh sé / sí
D'imreois
D'imreodh sibh
D'imreoidís

"Go" in Irish cannot be translated literally but it frequently translates as either "That" or "To". For example,

Ó áit go háit - From place TO place

Tá súil agam go bhfuil tú i mbarr na sláinte - I hope THAT you are in the best of health

When putting two verbs like the one above in a sentence in Irish, you have to say "Go" (That) even though you can say the sentence without "That" in English. You just have to I'm afraid, there's no way out of it.

This article, "Go" varies by tense also.

Aimsir Chaite: "Gur" + 'h' (e.g. gur bhagair - That threatened)

Aimsir Láithreach: "Go" + úrú (e.g. go gcríochnaíonn - That finishes)

Aimsir Fháistineach: "Go" + úrú (e.g. go bhfágfaidh - That will leave)

Modh Coinníollach: "Go" + úrú (e.g. go bhféadfadh - That could)

Also, if it's a negative, you do not use "Gur" nó "Go", you use "Nár" (Aimsir Chaite) nó "Nach" (every other tense).

For emotions, in Irish, you say the feeling is "on" you. For example,

Tá bron orm - I am sad but literally means "Sadness is on me".

Tá sceithimíní orm - I am excited but literally means "Excitement is on me".

This goes for all emotions and feelings.

So the formation for this kind of sentence is,

Bí + mothúcháin + ar (orm, ort, air, uirthi etc)

Here's the different prepositional pronouns for phrases like this:

Orm - On me

Ort - On you

Air - On him

Uirthi - On her

Orainn - On us

Oraibh - On you (plural)

Orthu - On them

There is no verb for the English verb, "To have" in Irish. However, we use a special idiomatic expression in Irish that you take as it means "To have". If you want to say the verb "To have" in Irish, then you say the object is "at you". For example,

Tá leabhar agam - I have a book but literally means a book is at me

Tá cara nua agam - I have a new friend but literally means a new friend is at me.

Again you can change the tense of Bí to change the tense of "To have".

Bhí oíche mhaith agam - I had a good night but literally means a good night was at me.

Beidh an-craic agat - You will have great crack but literally means very crack will be at you.

Sometimes on rare occasions though, you use "Ar" instead of "Ag" in the Aimsir Chaite - though most of the time you will use "Ag" so I wouldn't worry about this.

Here's the prepositional pronouns for phrases like this:

Agam - At me

Agat - At you

Aige - At him

Aici - At her

Againn - At us

Agaibh - At you (plural)

Acu - At them

Here's a more complicated sentence using this and the grammar of "Go" which you already learnt here.

Cheap mé go mbeinn oíche mhaith agam - I thought that I would have a good night

Also there is no verbal noun for "To have" in Irish. Verbal nouns are words like singing, doing, playing etc. Since there is no verbal noun, we take the tense as the verbal noun. So for example,

Bhí oíche mhaith againn - We had a good night; but it could also mean "We were having a good night"

Tá oíche mhaith agat - You have a good night; but it could also mean "You are having a good night"

The verb for "To listen" in Irish is Éist le. And even though in English you say "I listen TO", in Irish you say "I listen WITH". For example,

D'éist mé leis an raidió ar maidin - I listened to the radio this morning

Éistim le mo cheol gach lá - I listen to my music everyday

Remember also that whenever you use "le" (With) in contexts like these unless there's possession like "my" or "your", you use "leis".

An Aidiacht Shealbhach (The Possessive Adjective)

Consain (nouns beginning with consonants)

Mo (+h) - My

Do (+h) - Your

A (+h) - His

A - Her

Ár (+ úrú) - Our

Bhur (+ úrú) - Your (plural)

A (+ úrú) - Their

Mo leabhar - My book (do not add a 'h' with L, N, R, Sc)

Mo pheann - My pen

Ár bpinn luaidhe - Our pencils

Gúta (nouns starting with vowels)

Mo (M')

Do (D')
A - stays the same (his)
A (+h) - her
Ár (+n-)
Bhur (+n-)
A (+n-) - Their

M'athair - My father
D'airgead - Your money
Bhur n-iníonacha - Your daughters

Aimsir Chaite: Saorbhriathar (Past tense: Free verb)

The saorbhriathar is used when an action has been done but you don't know or state who did it.

Tugadh soláistí saor dom - I was given free refreshments (see how you don't say who gave you them?)

These are the endings the saorbhriathar takes in the Aimsir Chaite:

An Chéad Réimniú

Caol - eadh

Leathan - adh

An Dara Réimniú

Caol - íodh

Leathan - aíodh

Itheadh an cáca a d'fhág mo mháthair ar an mbord - The cake that my mother left on the table was eaten

However, even though it's the Aimsir Chaite, the +h or d' rules do not apply with the saorbhriathar.

When saying you're telling a story to someone you use the verb "Inis" - To tell. However, in most other cases, you use the irregular verb, "Abair" - To say even if in English you're saying "Tell" or "Told" or "Will tell" etc. For example,

Ná habair aon bréaga - Never tell no lies (notice Abair?)

D'inis mé an scéal do mo thuismitheoirí - I told the story to my parents (notice Inis?)

Dúirt mé an príomhoide faoin thimpiste - I told the principal about the accident (notice Abair?)

When saying "Was", in the Aimsir Chaite, you use the verb "Bhí". It is an irregular verb and unfortunately has to be learnt off by heart.

Bhí mé - I was

Bhí tú - You were
Bhí sé / sí - He / she was
Bhíomar / Bhí muid - We were
Bhí sibh - You were
Bhí siad - They were

However, you use a whole different word to say the negative, question form and "that was". In these cases, you use "Raibh" instead.

Ní raibh mé - I wasn't
Ní raibh tú - You weren't
Ní raibh sé / sí - He / she wasn't
Ní raibh muid - We weren't
Ní raibh sibh - You weren't
Ní raibh siad - They weren't

Cheap mé go raibh mé - I thought that I was - Notice

An raibh tú anseo? - Were you here? – Notice

There are two verbs for "To think" in Irish, Ceap and Smaoinigh. However, there's a difference between them and because of this, you cannot use whichever one you want in a situation using the verb "To think" in Irish.

Ceap is more of a "vague" type of "think". A good example is

Cheap mé go raibh tú sa teach - I thought that you were in the house

However, Smaoinigh is more of "to think of something".

Smaoinigh mé ar chleas - I thought of an idea

Aimsir Chaite Diúltach (Past Tense Negative)

Remember that to make a negative regular verb in the past tense, you simply add "Níor" and a "h" to the verb.

Níor chaill mé - I didn't lose

Níor líon mé - I didn't fill

However, irregular verbs are different. 5 of the irregular verbs in the Aimsir Chaite have rules like the regular verbs whilst the other 6 have to be learnt off by heart. These 6 are the following

Abair - Ní dúirt (it is irregular, because it is not "Níor" nó "h")
Bí - Ní raibh
Feic - Ní fhaca
Faigh - Ní bhfuair
Déan - Ní dhearna
Téigh - Ní dheachaigh

You just have to know these I'm afraid! See the other irregular verbs have regular negative forms.

Clois - Níor chuala
Tar - Níor tháinig
Ith - Níor ith
Tabhair - Níor thug
Beir - Níor rug

You also use these negative forms (the 6 irregular ones) when you say "Go".

For example,

You do not say, go bhí - X
But you say, go raibh - ✓

In Irish, if you want to say "had to" something, you say "Bhí ar" + "verbal noun form".

So

Bhí orm dul - I had to go
Bhí orm imeacht - I had to leave

You can also use

B'éigean do
B'éigean dom dul - I had to go / chase

If you want to say "have to" (present tense) or "must" in Irish, then you say

Caithfidh + pronoun + verbal noun form

Caithfidh mé a rá - I must say
Caithfidh mé a dhéanamh - I must do

Though there isn't an official name I know of for this, let's call it the Perfect Infinitive (which I saw somewhere that named this thing that). The Perfect Infinitive in English is when you say "To be _____" (something) like To be done, To be seen etc.

In Irish, you form this by

Le + verbal noun form of verb

Le dul - To be going
Le feiceáil - To be seen
Le déanamh - To be done

Full sentence example: Tá an téama seo go soiléir le feiceáil sa dán seo - This theme is clearly to be seen in this poem

"This"

An + object + seo

An leabhar seo - This book

An lá seo - This day

An teilifís seo - This TV

"These"

Na + object + seo

Na leabhair seo - These books

Na fadhbanna seo - These problems

"That" + object

An + object + sin

An lá sin - That day

An cluiche sin - That game

"That" + verb

Go + verb conjugated (gur in the Aimsir Chaite) (make sure you add a séimhiú in the Aimsir Chaite and add an eclipsis to every other tense)

Gur tharraing mé - That I pulled

Go bhfeicfidh mé - That I will see

The difference between Tar éis and in dhiadh / ina dhiaidh.

Tar éis is normally seen at the beginning of a sentence that uses "after". It is also used in the clock to represent "past".

Tá sé ceathrú tar éis a deich - It is quarter past ten

Tar éis sin, thosaigh mé ag éisteacht le mo iPod - After that, I started listening to my iPod

However, ina dhiaidh is used in cases where you say "after" at the end of a sentence.

Shroich mé ina dhiaidh tamaill - I arrived after a while

There are two different To be's in Irish in the present tense (not counting "Is" - The Copula), "Tá" agus "Bíonn".

Bíonn is the continuous present tense so like:

Bíonn ranganna againn gach maidin - We have classes every morning

Bíonn scoil agam gach Luain - I have school every Monday

However, Tá is used in most other situations.

Táim ar scoil - I am at school

Tá sé te - It is hot

Never use "Tá" with gach something that relates to time. For example, you use it in these situations

Tá gach leathanach marcáilte - Every page is marked

And correction on saying the verbal noun for To have.

Tá oíche mhaith agat - You have a good night (but it CANNOT also mean "You are having a good night")

Instead, you change Tá to Bíonn (because it's continuous and you learnt the difference between Tá and Bíonn above ^).

Bíonn oíche mhaith agat - You are having a good night

Aimsir Láithreach: Saorbhriathar (Present tense: Free verb)

The saorbhriathar is used when an action is being done but you don't know or state who did it.

Deirtear linn faoin ábhar in Alt 2 - We are told about the subject in paragraph 2

These are the endings the saorbhriathar takes in the Aimsir Láithreach:

An Chéad Réimniú

Caol - tear

Leathan - tar

An Dara Réimniú

Caol - ítear

Leathan – aítear

There are two MAIN ways of saying "To want" in Irish.

You say either,

Teastaigh + ó

Bí + ag iarraidh

Theastaigh uaim dul go dtí an siopa - I wanted to go to the shop

Ní raibh mé ag iarraidh a deireadh é - I didn't want it to end

There is no difference really between them of when to use them. It is better off learning phrases like these though ^ because at least then, you don't have a chance of using the wrong To want.

If you use the Teastaigh + ó one here's the prepositional pronouns you choose from

Uaim (Also means "Alliteration")

Uait

Uaidh

Uaithi

Uainn

Uaibh

Uathu

When conjugation for the Aimsir Láithreach, do not get confused with saying "Teastaím uaim" - That's incorrect! It's actually Teastaíonn uaim (so you only have to do one conjugation for this verb in the tense when saying "To want").

Teastaíonn uaim - I want

Teastaíonn uainn - We want

There are two different forms of "If" in Irish, Má agus Dá. There is a simple rule of when to use either.

Má is followed by any verb that is in the Aimsir Chaite, Láithreach agus Fháistineach.

However,

Dá is followed by any verb that is in the Modh Coinníollach.

Má tiocfaidh sé go ndeanfaidh mé an rud ansin - If he will come, I will do the thing then

Dá thiocfá go mbeinn áthas orm ansin - If you would come, then I would be happy

"But"

Ach

Chuaigh mé go dtí an siopa inné ach níor cheannaigh mé aon rud - I went to the shop yesterday but I didn't buy anything

"Only"

Ní + verb + ach

Ní raibh mé sásta ach inné - I was only satisfied yesterday

Níor cheannaigh mé ach mar dúirt tú dom - I only went because you told me to

Remember your synthetic pronouns!

When the pronoun (subject pronoun - if you want me to be more specific) is conjoined into the verb and appears as one word, this is called a synthetic form.

Aimsir Chaite: Ní "muid"

Aimsir Láithreach: Ní "mé" agus "muid" (Although it is sometimes okay to say the verb with mé after it, for example, Tá mé (which can be also Táim)

Aimsir Fháistineach: Ní "muid"

Modh Coinníollach: Ní "mé", "tú", "muid" agus "siad"

Examples

Ithim - I eat

Cheannaíomar - We bought

Déanfaimid - We will make

Thiocfainn - I would come

A common mistake that I have seen in many litreacha is the fact that students tend to say "Dom" instead of "Chugam". Here is a big difference as an example between the two:

Scríobh tú dom - You wrote FOR me

Scríobh tú chugam - You wrote TO me

^ Though Dom also means "To me", in this case, it doesn't and you MUST use Chugam instead.

Scríobh litir chugam go luath - Write TO me soon

^ Another example

With the help of prepositions, Cuir can have many different verb meanings. In this case, I will discuss three different verbs it can translate as. Firstly, without a preposition, it is the verb To put:

Chuir mé mo chuid éadaí scoile orm - I put my school clothes on

With the preposition "ar" and the word "glao" / "glaoch" OR "fios", it becomes the verb To call (Glaigh is also perfectly acceptable for To call instead of this if you like):

Chuir sé fios ar an otharcharr - He called the ambulance

Chuir mé glaoch ar mo chairde inné - I called my friends yesterday

Ghlaigh mé ar mo chairde inné - I called my friends yesterday

^ See no difference between using Glaigh or Cuir?

There is no verb for "To scare" in Irish but we use the phrase "To put fear on something / someone" to make the verb To scare. So for example,

Chuir mé eagla ar mo dheartháir inniu - I scared my brother today (literally "I put fear on my brother today")

There are three translations for "Before" in Irish. These are Sula, Sular or Roimh - technically 2 translations since Sular is much like Sula.

Roimh is used before nouns.

Bhí eagla orm roimh an mbean sí - I was afraid of the banshee (notice the noun "an mbean"?)

Sula / Sular is used before verbs.

Bhí an turas eitleáin fada sular shroich mé ag Málaga - The plane journey was long before I arrived at Málaga (notice the verb "sroich")

The difference between Sula and Sular meanwhile is:

Sula is used before verbs in the Aimsir Láithreach, Aimsir Fháistineach agus Modh Coinníollach.

Sular is used before verbs in the Aimsir Chaite.

There are four different forms of "except" in Irish and the literal translations may give you an indication here of when to use each.

ach amháin (go) - "but alone(that)"

cé is moite de/go - "who is exception of/that"

diomaite de - "apart from"

seachas - "besides"

The most you'd probably use is "Seachas".

Thug mé mo leabhair na scoile abhaile seachas mo leabhar stair - I brought all my school books except History

To say the verb "To visit" in Irish, we say "give a visit on". So the verb is technically,

Tabhair + cuairt + ar

For example,

Thug mé cuairt ar pháirc uisce - I visited a waterpark

Tugaim cuairt ar Bhaile Átha Cliath gach lá - I visit Dublin every day

Tabharfaidh mé cuairt ort amárach - I will visit you tomorrow

I will start now telling you times when you use a "séimhiú" or "úró".

You use a séimhiú after "go dtí an", of course the usual exceptions apply.

Chuaigh mé go dtí an chistin - I went to the kitchen

Rachaidh mé go dtí an siopa - I will go to the shop

You use an "úró" after "go" (not "gur" in the Aimsir Chaite though which you use a 'h' (séimhiú)).

Dúradh liom go gcuireadh mé ar shínteáin - I was told that I was put on a stretcher

Tá súil agam go bhfuil tú i mbarr na sláinte - I hope that you are in the best of health (bhfuil is its own word anyways but if it were used in other situations than after "go", "a" or "an", it would be just "fuil" - so it is considered an úró ("bh" is the úró for 'f').

When forming questions and saying "what ____ (a noun)", you do not use Cad nó céard. Instead you use Cén (literally "Which"). When saying "what and a noun together" in Irish, you always use Cén.

Cén comhairle? - What advice?

Cén post? - What job?

Cén aimsir? - What weather?

Cén siopa? - What shop?

I think you get the point. I could go on forever with loads of examples.

When saying "never" in Irish, you use the negative form of the verb. You can't just say for example:

Thiocfaidís riamh - They would never come

The correct way of saying it is actually

Ní thiocfaidís riamh

It is a small silly mistake that loads of students make but remember that I am trying to help you keep your grammar as accurate as possible so you don't lose marks on inaccurate grammar on your exam.

A very silly and confusing mistake that I have seen also is the fact that some people use "Ag rince" instead of "Ag damhsa".

They both mean "dancing" but there's one difference.

Ag rince = IRISH dancing
Ag damhsa = Dancing (in general)

In English to emphasise words, we tend to raise our voice (e.g. HE isn't to blame). In Irish we do not do this. Instead we use special emphatic forms of the subject pronouns (mé, tú, sé, sí etc). These are the emphatic pronouns:

Mise - I
Tusa - You
Seisean - He
Síse - She
Muidne / Sinne - We
Sibhse - You (plural)
Siadsan - They

More examples

I WILL NOT GO - Ní rachaidh mise
They will never LEAVE ME ALONE AGAIN - Ní fhágfaidh siad riamh mise i m'aonar arís
MY NAME is - Is mise...

The days of the week appear in two forms in Irish with either the article "an" or the word "Dé" preceding them.

The article "an" is used when simply listing the days:

An Luan - Monday
An Mháirt - Tuesday
Inniu an Chéadaoin - Today is Wednesday
An Chéadaoin ina dhiaidh sin - The following Wednesday

The word "Dé" is used when referring to (on) a specific day of the week.

Dé Luain seo chugainn - Next Monday
Tráthnóna Dé Céadaoin - On Wednesday evening
Oíche Dé Máirt - On Tuesday night

To say "Last" in Irish as in time (months, days, years), you generally use "Seo caite":

An bhliain seo caite - Last year
An Lúnasa seo caite - Last August

Dé Máirt seo caite - Last Tuesday
An tseachtain seo caite - Last week

An exception is Last night which instead of "An oíche seo caite" (which is incorrect), you use the word "Aréir".

Tháinig mé abhaile aréir - I came home last night

When saying "Next" in Irish as in time, you generally use "Seo chugainn"

An bhliain seo chugainn - Next year
Tá mo Theastas Sóisearach agam an Mheitheamh seo chugainn - I have my Junior Cert next June
Dé Céadaoin seo chugainn - Next Wednesday
Rachaidh mé ann an tseachtain seo chugainn - I will go there next week

Though Irish does not have any infinitives, there is this form of the verb called the Imperative. This is used when you tell someone to do something. For example,

Dún an doras! - Shut the door!
Tóg an leabhar! - Pick up the book!
Éist leis an cheol! - Listen to the music
Taispeáin dom an pictiúr - Show me the picture

However, this is only for when you tell one person to do something. I will go over the imperative another day when you tell more than one person to do something.

When saying "you have hair", you do not say "Tá gruaig rua agam" etc. You instead use the preposition "ar".

Tá gruaig rua orm - I have red hair
Tá gruaig dhubh ort - You have black hair
Tá gruaig dhonn air - He has brown hair
Tá gruaig fhionn uirthi - She has blonde / fair hair

So you literally say, "the hair is on you".

Formation:

Tá + gruaig + gruaig dath + ar

Aimsir Fháistineach: Saorbhriathar (Future tense: Free verb)

The saorbhriathar is used when an action will be done but you don't know or state who will do it.

Goidfear na cácaí ón mbácús - The bakery's cakes will be stolen

These are the endings the saorbhriathar takes in the Aimsir Fháistineach:

An Chéad Réimniú

Caol - fear

Leathan - far

An Dara Réimniú

Caol - eofar

Leathan - ófar

Imreofar an cluiche - The game will be played

Whether it's a noun, adjective or verb, you never add a séimhiú onto the word if the preposition before it is:

- Le
- Ag
- As
- Chuig

However, you put in a séimhiú on the following word if it's preceded by the following prepositions:

- Ar
- De
- Do
- Faoi
- Ó
- Trí
- Thar
- Roimh
- Den
- Don
- Sa

You add an úrú on the word following a preposition if the preposition is:

- Ag an
- As an
- Chuig an
- Leis an
- Ar an
- Faoin
- Ón
- Tríd an
- Thar an
- Roimh an
- I

To say you work as something like "I am a teacher" or "you are a vet" etc, you DO NOT use "Tá nó Bíonn". Instead, you use "Is" - which is called The Copula. You also use these pronouns which some are slightly different than the normal ones you come across.

These are called Direct Object Pronouns.

Mé
Thú
É
Í
Muid / sinn
Sibh
Iad

Is fear gnó é - He is a business man
Is dalta bunscoile í - She is a primary school student
Is dochtúir é mo dheartháir - My brother is a doctor
Is múinteoir mé - I am a teacher
Is í an dalta is fearr - She is the best student

As can be seen on the last example, the Copula is also used in situations of using the Superlative Adjective (Best, Worst, Nicest etc).

Always put the pronoun before "an" if it appears in a sentence.

The Aimsir Ghnáthchaite (Habitual past tense) is a tense used for situations where you use the two modal verbs, "would" and "used to". Like the other tenses, the rules depend on the number of syllables in the verb as well as caol nó leathan.

For two syllable verbs, do not forget to take off the ending or "i" nó "ai" etc before putting on the ending for the tense.

An Chéad Réimniú

Caol

Mé - inn
Tú - teá
Sé / sí / muid / sibh - eadh
Siad - idís

Leathan

Mé - ainn
Tú - tá
Sé / sí / muid / sibh - adh
Siad - aidís

An Dara Réimniú

Caol

Mé - ínn
Tú - íteá
Sé / sí / muid / sibh - íodh
Siad - idís

Leathan

Mé - aínn

Tú - aíteá

Sé / sí / muid / sibh - aíodh

Siad - aídís

You also add the 'h' and 'd' where possible - just like the Aimsir Chaite and Modh Coinníollach. However, the Ghnáthchaite differs from the Aimsir Chaite in terms of these rules because:

- You use "An" instead of "Ar" for questions.
- You use "Nach" instead of "Nár" for negative questions.
- You use "Ní" instead of "Níor" for negative sentences.

In this tense, you only use the pronouns, Sé / sí / muid / sibh.

D'imrín - I would play / I used to play

D'insín - I would tell / I used to tell

D'fhanainn - I would stay / I used to stay

When using the verb "Abair" in any tense, make sure you use the preposition "Le" and NOT "Do".

Dúradh liom - I was told

Deirtear linn - We are told

Dúirt tú liom - You said to me

And so on...

What is the difference between Tóg and Gabh?

Tóg = To take away / To take up something

Gabh = To take hold of something / To catch

Tóg an leabhar - Take the book

Gabh mo leithscéal - Excuse me

When saying "Of" with a possessive pronoun, this is what you do:

Noun + Possessive pronoun + Noun in genitive case

Love of my life - Grá mo shaoil

Have you ever wondered why some adjectives don't require "Go" in a sentence whilst others do like "Go hiontach"?

Well the adjectives when wrote with the verb "Bí (To be)" are seen as adverbs of the verb Bí. Like I said previously, adverbs are wrote as, Go + adjective/verb in Irish.

Tá an fear go maith - The man is good.

Tá an cailín go hálainn - The girl is beautiful.

Tá an lá go deas - The day is nice.

Tá an aimsir go dona - The weather is bad.
Tá an samhradh go haoibhinn - The summer is splendid.
Tá an rós go breá - The rose is pretty.
Tá sé go holc - It is evil.
Tá sí go hiontach - She is wonderful.

Here are lots of examples above to show you this.

However, it is not always like this. If there are additional adverbs like Rather (Sách) or Always (Riamh / i gcónaí), the additional adverbs take the place of the "Go" and "Go" is no longer in the sentence. Also, "Go" does not ever appear with the copula. See the following examples to show you:

Bíonn beoir maith i gcónaí - Beer is always good.
Bhíodh sí riamh álainn - She was always beautiful.
Tá an lá réasúnta deas. - The day is reasonably nice.
Bhí an aimsir sách dona inné - The weather was rather bad yesterday.
Tá an lá go deas - The day is nice.
Is deas é an lá - The day is nice.

^ Notice "Is", the copula not using "Go" on deas.

Personal pronouns you already basically know like Me, you. Now we'll be combining them with prepositions. Today I'm going to be talking about the preposition Faoi which is Under or About in English. These are the personal pronouns for Faoi

Fúm - Under me
Fút - Under you
Faoi - Under him
Fúithi - Under her
Fúinn - Under us
Fúibh - Under you's
Fúthu - Under them

These personal pronouns are used in conjunction with the verb "Bí" and a specific action. For example,

Tá siúl fúm - I walk fast
Tá fuadar fút - You're in a hurry
Bhí fuadar fút - You were in a hurry
Bhí siúl fúm - I walked fast
Beidh siúl fúinn - We will walk fast
Beidh fuadar fúibh - You's will be in a hurry

See how easy it is to form sentences like this once you know those pronouns?

Today, I'm going to be continuing on from Faoi but I'm going to be doing the possessive pronouns for Faoi now instead of the personal pronouns. If you don't know the difference between possessive and personal pronouns well here ya go:

Possessive pronouns: My, Your, His, Her, Our, Your's, Their
Personal pronouns: Me, You, He, She, We, You's, They

With that out of the way, here are the possessive pronouns for Faoi, when applied with a consonant following them.

Faoi mo (+ h)
Faoi do (+ h)
Faoina (+ h)
Faoina
Faoinár (+ úrú)
Faoi bhur (+ úrú)
Faoina (+ úrú)

As you can see, the normal possessive pronouns' (or possessive adjectives as they are known as) rules are applied with prepositions also like adding a "h" or úrú.

These are the possessive pronouns for Faoi, when applied with a vowel following them.

Faoi m'
Faoi d'
Faoina
Faoina (+ h)
Faoinár (+ n-)
Faoi bhur (+ n-)
Faoina (+ n-)

Again normal rules for possessive pronouns also apply here with prepositions.

The book is under my table - Tá an leabhar faoi mo bhord
I left the plate under his sink - D'fhág mé an pláta faoina dhoirteal
I left the plate under the sink - D'fhág mé an pláta faoina dhoirteal

Notice how "I left the plate under _____ sink" does not change even with the different word (from "his" to "the). This is because, Sink is a masculine word and therefore follows the rules of the "His" form of the preposition. If it were female, it would change slightly to fit the feminine rules. I'll go over masculine and feminine rules of nouns someday. They're definitely very tricky to learn thus why I'm not going over them in great detail just yet! I'm getting all the easy Irish grammar out of the way first.

When applied with numbers, the preposition Faoi becomes "Times". Thus, why you see on your exam papers in the Listening, Faoi dhó which means Two times or Twice. Faoi cannot be applied with Once or One time however and instead, that is Uair amháin.

Uair amháin
Faoi dhó
Faoi thrí
Faoi ceithre
Faoi cúig
Faoi sé

And so on

To say you have a desire in something, you use the preposition "Ag" and the verb "Bí" with this method of formation:

Bí + dúil + ag + i + object you have a desire in

Tá dúil agam in airgead - I have a desire in/for money, basically means, I want money

Remember that the preposition "i" becomes "in" when placed before a word that begins with a vowel.

When combining "for" with an amount of money or just stating how much something costs in general, you use the preposition Ar. For example,

Ar phunt - For a pound

Tá punt ar an t-ull - The apple costs a pound

As you can see, you literally say "The pound is on the apple" or "The currency is on the object".

To state probability in Irish (probably, likely etc), all you do is combine the verb "Bí" with the preposition Ar and have what is likely in between the two. For example,

Tá baisteach air - It will probably rain / It will likely rain

Tá cogadh air - There'll likely be a war

It's as simple as that!

An tAinm Briathartha means The Verbal Noun. Verbal nouns are words like jogging, running etc i.e. verbs ending in "ing". In this case, they become nouns rather than verbs thus why they're called verbal nouns. In Irish, verbal nouns are irregular and have to be learnt off by heart unfortunately. However, they are recognised by the preposition "Ag" and many of them are repetitive. Here are lots of verbal nouns for you:

Ag rince - dancing

Ag brú - pushing

Ag tarraingt - pulling

Ag déanamh - doing

Ag iarraidh - trying

Ag feabhsú - improving

Ag meath - declining/withering

Ag gortú - hurting/injuring

Ag éalú - escaping/fleeing

Ag troid - fighting

Ag traenáil - training

Ag cleachtadh - practising

Ag ullmhú - preparing

Ag buachan - winning

Ag cailleadh - losing

Ag casadh - turning

Ag léim - jumping

Ag tabhairt - giving

Ag éisteacht + le - listening to

Ag féachaint + ar - watching
Ag breathnú + ar - watching/observing
Ag smaoineamh ar - thinking about
Ag roghnú - choosing/selecting
Ag séideadh - blowing
Ag bailiú - collecting/gathering
Ag imeacht - leaving
Ag dul - going
Ag teacht - coming
Ag imirt - playing (sports, games)
Ag seinm - playing (musical instruments)
Ag casadh - playing (music/CDs/records/MP3, etc)
Ag béicíl - screaming/cheering
Ag gearán - complaining
Ag leanúint - continuing/following
Ag coimeád - keeping
Ag ionsaí - attacking
Ag cosaint - defending
Ag ligint - letting
Ag scaoileadh - releasing/shooting
Ag rith - running
Ag snámh - swimming
Ag rothaíocht - cycling
Ag caitheamh - throwing/wearing/spending/smoking
Ag breith - catching
Ag preabadh - bouncing
Ag greamú - grabbing/tackling/sticking
Ag bualadh - hitting/striking
Ag tógáil - taking/building
Ag dúnadh - closing
Ag oscailt - opening
Ag ithe - eating
Ag ól - drinking
Ag rá - saying
Ag insint - telling
Ag fáil - finding/getting
Ag líonadh - filling
Ag scríobh - writing
Ag léamh - reading
Ag glanadh - cleaning
Ag eagrú - organising
Ag díol - selling
Ag gearradh - cutting
Ag baint - taking off
Ag briseadh - breaking
Ag fágáil - leaving
Ag fanacht - staying/waiting
Ag ní - washing
Ag scuabadh - brushing
Ag cíoradh - combing
Ag dó - burning

Ag ceannach - buying
Ag tosú - starting
Ag críochnú - finishing
Ag dúiseacht - waking
Ag éirí - getting up/becoming
Ag deisiú - mending/fixing
Ag múineadh - teaching
Ag foghlaim - learning
Ag ceangal - tying
Ag mothú - feeling
Ag brath - depending
Ag glacadh - taking/accepting
Ag aontú - agreeing
Ag diúltú - refusing
Ag moladh - suggesting/praising
Ag cruthú - creating/proving
Ag guí + ar - praying/imploring
Ag gealladh – promising

This list is the prepositions that are combined with the article An (The) and which of the methods you use, séimhiú OR urú.

Ar an (+ urú)
Ag an (+ urú)
As an (+ urú)
Chuig an (+ urú)
Don (+ séimhiú)
Den (+ séimhiú)
Faoin (+ urú)
Sa (+ séimhiú)
Ionsar an (+ urú)
Leis an (+ urú)
Ón (+ urú)
Roimh an (+ urú)
Thar an (+ urú)

When to use the Genitive Case (An Tuiseal Ginideach)

- Nuair a bhíonn seilbh nó úinéiracht i gceist. (Possession or ownership)

Más le duine rud éigin:

leabhar + Seán => Leabhar Sheáin.
cóta + Máire => Cóta Mháire
carr + Séamas => Carr Shéamais
ollscoil + Éire => Ollscoil na hÉireann

- I gcás ainm briathartha, nuair a chuirtear gníomh in iúl. (After the verbal noun, when describing an action, where the verb would end with “ing” in English)

peil => Ag imirt peile
an fhuinneog => Ag glanadh na fuinneoige

an aiste => Ag scríobh na haiste
an t-úrlár => Ag scuabadh an úrláir
an bia => Ag ithe an bhia
an páipéar => Ag léamh an pháipéir
an t-úll => Ag ithe an úill

- Nuair a úsáidtear Réamhfhocail Comhshuite, cuirtear an t-ainmfhocal a leanann é sa T.G. (in the case of compound prepositions)

an oíche => Ar feadh na hoíche
an domhan => Ar fud an domhain
an tseachtain => Go ceann seachtaine
an geimhreadh => I rith an gheimhridh
an samhradh => Le linn an tsamhraidh
an balla => In aghaidh an bhalla.

(ar aghaidh, os coinne, os comhair, ar chúl, taobh thiar, ar feadh, i gcaitheamh, i rith, in imeacht, le linn, ar fud, ar lorg, ar nós, ar son, thar ceann, de cheann, ar tí, de bharr, dá bhrí, de thairbhe, de réir, faoi choinne, le haghaidh, i gcomhair, go ceann, i bhfeighil, i gcionn, i dteannta, i gcoinne, in aghaidh, in éadan, i lár, i láthair, i measc, i ndiaidh, tar éis, in áit, os cionn, os coinne, os comhair, faoi chúram, srl)

- Nuair a thagann dhá ainmfhocal le chéile, cuirtear an dara ceann sa T.G. (when 2 nouns come together, the second goes into the genitive case; often where you would see "of the" or 's in English)

(caint + máistir) => Caint an mháistir
(tafann + madra) => Tafann an mhadra
(eochair + taisceadán) => Eochair an taisceadáin
(solas + gealach) => Solas na gealaí
(leath + obair) => tús maith, leath na hoibre

- Tar éis Réamhfhocail Simplí áirithe (chun, cois, dála, timpeall, trasna), leanann an T.G. (these 5 particular simple prepositions)

an Ghealtacht => chun na Gaeltachta
an fharraige => cois na farraige
an scéal => dála an scéil
an chathair => timpeall na cathrach
an tsráid => trasna na sráide

- An Ginideach Rannaíoch ("partitive") (words describing quantities)

Ciallaíonn seo go gcuireann focail nó fráasáí cosúil le "a lán/an iomad/an tuafás/barraíocht/beagán/beagainín/cuid/dóthain/go leor/méid/mórán/níos mó/níos lú/oiread/roinnt" an t-ainmfhocal a leanann iad sa TG.

There are three types of numbers in Irish though one of them has various forms.

1. Cardinal numbers
2. Number of people
3. Ordinal numbers

Cardinal numbers are numbers like "One", "Two", "Three" etc. They can be used as adjectives or nouns.

If used as a noun, they are always preceded by the article "a" so like:

A haon
A dó
A trí

And so on. The exceptions to this rule are numbers that are divisible by 10 (with the exception of 10 itself) so numbers like 20, 30, 40 where they appear on their own like Fíche (20) or Tríocha (30). When the tens are combined with singular numbers, like let's say 21, they then have the article.

21 - Fíche a haon

The numbers 11-19 (Teens) are formed using the affix déag.

A haon déag (11)
A dó dhéag (12)
A trí déag (13)
A ceathair déag (14)
A cúig déag (15)
A sé déag (16)
A seacht déag (17)
A hocht déag (18)
A naoi déag (19)

Make sure to always have the "déag" lenited (add a 'h') after dó. There is no particular reason why this rule exists except maybe because it's easier to say on your tongue if it's lenited rather than not.

However, the article "A" is not used in selections. For example,

Bád nó dhó - One boat or two
Trí nó ceathair de bháid - Three or four boats

Náid (0) often appears without the article "A".

A use with other nouns may only follow with the aid of the preposition de: e.g.: a trí déag de chapail = 13 of the horses. Without the preposition, you use the adjectival forms of the Cardinal numbers instead of the noun forms which we have talked about here. I'll go over the adjectival forms and the other types of numbers another time.

I'm going to be talking about the adjectives side of Cardinal Numbers today.

Here are all the things about them that you must take in.

They are used in specifying a quantity of things (trí bhád = 3 boats)

The number 1: There are 3 possibilities for "one boat":
bád = bád amháin = aon bhád amháin = one boat

but not : aon bhád: this takes the meaning of "any boat," in questions, or in negative sentences, "no boat":

An bhfuil aon bhád agat? = Do you have a boat?, Níl aon charr agam = I don't have a car

The numbers 2-10 und 12 are sometimes used with quantities of people (except duine), but mostly in their place on uses the special numbers of person: trí fhear = tríúr fear = 3 men

The noun following 1 is always in the singular and is (after aon) lenited
e.g. aon bhád amháin = 1 boat

The noun following 2 (dhá) is always in the singular and is lenited, if possible (2nd declension) in the dual-form* (the dual is equivalent to the dative form)

e.g.: dhá bhád = 2 boats (singular), dhá mhuic = 2 pigs (muic is the dial of muc), dhá lámh = 2 hands (lámh is the dual of lámh)

The noun following 3-10 is today mostly in the singular, but it is lenited after 3-6 (e.g.: trí bhád = three boats)
eclipsed after 7-10 (e.g.: seacht mbád = seven boats)

less commonly, the noun following 3-10 is in the plural, but it is not lenited after 3-6 (e.g.: trí bliana = three years)
(an h-prefix preceding a vowel: e.g.: trí huibhe = 3 eggs)
eclipsed after 7-10 (e.g.: seacht mbliana = seven years)

The plural after 3-10 ist always used when:
counting of years (special plural form for bliain: bliana):
aon bhliain, dó bhliain, trí bliana, sé bliana, seacht mbliana, etc.

The gen. noun ceann (= "piece" lit. "head"), plural: cinn
ceann = 1 piece, dhá cheann = 2 pieces, trí cinn = 3 pieces, seacht gcinn = 7 pieces
(instead of ceann there are also similar words in this vein)
units of measurement and the like: e.g.: trí cinn = 3 pieces, trí huaire = 3 hours, three times, trí huibhe = 3 eggs, trí fichid/trí scóir = 3 x 20, trí scilinge = 3 shillings, trí pingine = 3 pence

With the numbers from 11-19 déag comes after the noun: trí bhád déag = 13 boats
otherwise they act as the numbers from 1-10
déag (-ten) is lenited after a noun with a final vowel sound (in the singular), e.g.: aon chóta dhéag = 11 coats . This isn't the case if the noun is in the plural: trí bliana déag = 13 years

after even steps of tens or twenties (except deich) nouns are unlenited and always in the singular (originally, this is the genitive plural), e.g.: tríocha bád = 30 boats, caoga ceann = 50 pieces, fiche bliain = 20 years

with a following adjective:

an adj. after aon + feminine noun is lenited and is in the singular e.g: aon bhean mhór amháin
an adj. after aon + masculine noun remains unlenited in the singular e.g: aon fhear mór amháin
an adj. after dhá till deich + noun is lenited and is in the plural e.g: dhá bhád mhóra, seacht mbád mhóra

(if one uses a noun in the plural after 3-10, lenition of the adjective follows only then if the noun ends in a slender consonant: e.g. trí capaill mhóra = 3 big horses , otherwise not: trí bróga móra = 3 big shoes)
with an article

the singular article an precedes 1, 2, 11, 12 (dhá after an article de-lenited to dá).
e.g.: an t-aon bhád déag = the 11 boats, an dá bhád = the 2 boats, an dá bhád déag = the 12 boats.

In the genitive, the t-prefix is omitted on aon with a masc. noun : an aon, preceding femin. nouns, though still na haon; an dá remains unchanged. (after aon one also commonly places the noun in the genitive)

e.g.: seolta an aon bháid déag = the sails of the eleven boats, leabhar na haon mhná amháin = the book of the one woman, seolta an dá bhád = the sails of the two boats.

plural-article na precedes 3-10 and 13-19:

e.g.: na trí bhád = the 3 boats, na ceithre bhád = the 4 boats, na hocht mbád = the 8 boats.

In the genitive there is eclipsis on the number:

e.g.: seolta na dtrí bhád = the sails of the 3 boats, stábla na gceithre bho = the stall of the 4 cows

singular article an preceding even tens (except deich):

e.g.: an fiche bliain = the 20 years, an caoga bád = the 50 boats.

céad/míle also in the plural (with the plural article: na) na céadtha / na mílte = hundreds/thousands of... After this, follows the noun, mostly in the plural: na céadtha mná = hundreds of women

miscellaneous and variants

ceithre, cúig appear often in lenited form (cheithre, chúig)

preceding dhá always in instead of i (e.g.: in dhá bhaile = in two towns)

fiche is a noun, which can be declined (5th declension):

genitive fichead, dative fichid, plural fichid (with other numbers, otherwise: fichidí)

similarly, the other powers of 10 are declined

instead of fiche/fichid also scór/scóir (after that also nouns in the plural are possible.)

instead of is fiche, is tríocha etc. of course also agus fiche, agus tríocha

instead of is fiche ("and 20") then also fichead ("of 20") or ar fhichid ("on 20") are possible and vice versa

- trí bhád is fiche / agus fiche = 23 boats ("3 boats and 20")

- trí bhád fichead = 23 boats ("3 boats of 20")

- trí bhád ar fhichid = 23 boats ("3 boats on 20")

Instead of e.g. is caoga, is seachtó ("and 50", "and 70") equivalent to caogad, seachtód ("of 50", "of 70") or ar caogaid, ar seachtóid ("on 50", "on 70") etc. are possible (but not as common as with fiche)

- trí bhád is seachtó = 73 boats ("3 boats and 70")

- trí bhád seachtód = 73 boats ("3 boats of 70")

- trí bhád ar seachtóid = 73 boats ("3 boats on 70")

instead of céad is dhá bhád then dhá bhád is céad/ar chéad (102 boats); despite the rule of thumb that numbers over one hundred have céad leading.

The twenties or vigesimal system can also be used above 100 : e.g.: sé fichid bád = 120 boats (lit.: "6x20 boats") instead of: céad is fiche bád = 120 boats;
seacht bhfichid = 140 ("7x20"), cúig fichid = 100, ocht bhfichid = 160, naoi bhfichid = 180, etc.

instead of dhá cheann then péire = both

instead of 12 then doiséinne or dosaen (= dozen):
e.g.: doiséinne uibheacha = a dozen eggs , in multiples: dhá dhosean uibheacha = two dozen eggs,
deich ndosaen uibheacha = 120 eggs .

daichead (40) is the compact form of dá fhichead ("2x20"),

instead of that one, also dhá scór (+ noun in the plural) or ceathracha (analog to tríocha = 30)

instead of caoga or dhá fhichead a deich (50) also leathchéad ("half a hundred")
e.g.: caoga bád = deich mbád is dá fhichead = leathchéad bád = 50 boats
equivalent to céad go leith = 150 (lit.: "100 with half ")

punt (pound) vor déag (also 11-19) always punta
e.g.: dhá phunta dhéag = 12 pounds

I am not done with Numbers however. Just realise yourself that this is indeed hard. It takes time to learn how Numbers work in Irish. Numbers in Irish are definitely among the hardest to learn across the different languages so don't feel that they are just hard to you. Believe me, all us Irish learners have been there.

For number of people, these are all the things you must remember:

numbers of person are used to count people.

they are nouns (as opposed to the adjectival cardinal numbers).

there are only ones for from 2-10, as well as a special form for 12

3-10 are masculine and originally contractions of normal cardinal number and fear = man: trí fhear > tríúr. They are used for women as well (tríúr ban = 3 women), 2 (beirt) is a feminine noun

for the numbers 1, 11 and above 13 there are no special numbers of person, i.e. one uses the normal cardinal numbers

they may occur on their own or in connection with nouns that describe persons:

e.g.: tríúr = 3 people, tríúr fear = 3 men, tríúr ban = 3 women, tríúr múinteoir = 3 teachers

Nouns denoting people can also be used with adjectival cardinal numbers, but this is less common (tríúr ban = 3 women , less common would be trí bhean)

the noun duine = person is already included in the noun of person: 3 people = tríúr not *tríúr duine

a following noun is unlenited after 3-10, but is lenited after beirt,

- in the genitive plural (older standard variant) e.g. beirt fhear, tríúr ban, ochtar banaltraí

- in the nominative-singular (but bean is always in the gen. plural: ban) e.g. ochtar banaltra
a following adjective would then be in the nominative singular, after beirt, in the plural e.g. beirt fhear mhóra, tríúr fear mór
- in the dative plural, with the preposition de: tríúr d'fhir, ochtar de mhná

expressions like "as a threesome ", "as a foursome ", etc. are formed with the preposition i and the possessive pronoun: Bhí siad ina n-ochtar ann = they were there as a group of eight. (lit.: "were they in-their eight[-man] there "); Rinne muid inár gcúigear é = we did it as a group of five.

without a following noun, numbers of person can also be used as a substitute for number + ceann when counting inanimate objects: trí cinn = tríúr = 3 pieces
e.g. "Cé mhéad leabhar?" - "Tríúr" (eng.: "How many books ?" - "3 (pieces)")

with the article: dháréag is delenited to dáréag after the article: an dáréag aspal = the 12 Apostles
ochtar with article always takes the t-prefix: an t-ochtar, but not in the genitive and dative: ar an ochtar = on the 8 people

instead of beirt = two also dís is possible, instead of seachtar = seven also mórsheisear (lit. "big six ")

The word aonar is due to its origin a number of person ("one person "), but is hardly used in that sense (instead of that is means "alone" Tá mé i m'aonar = I am alone (lit.: "I am in my one person "). It is used as the other expressions like "threesome" , so it quasi literally means "onesome"