

AONAD 4

AG PLÉ TEANGACHA | DISCUSSING LANGUAGES

ASKING SOMEONE IF THEY SPEAK A LANGUAGE

| | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| An bhfuil ... agat? | Can you speak ...? (literally, 'Have you' ...?) |
| An bhfuil Gaeilge agat? | Can you speak Irish? |
| An bhfuil Fraincis agat? | Can you speak French? |

Teangacha

| | |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| Béarla | English |
| Gearmáinis | German |
| Iodáilis | Italian |
| Spáinnis | Spanish |
| Breatnais | Welsh |
| Gaeilge na hAlban | Gaelic (Scotland) |

SAYING HOW WELL YOU SPEAK A LANGUAGE

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Tá Gaeilge líofa agam. | I speak Irish fluently. |
| Tá beagán Fraincise agam. | I speak a little French. |
| Tá mé ag foghlaim Gearmáinise. | I'm learning German. |
| Níl mórán Iodáilise agam. | I can't speak much Italian. |

If you're responding specifically to the question **An bhfuil Gaeilge agat?** Here are some possible answers:

| | |
|---------------------------|------------------|
| Tá. | Yes. |
| Níl. | No. |
| Beagán. | A little. |
| Tá. Tá mé líofa. | Yes. I'm fluent. |
| Tá mé ag foghlaim. | I'm learning. |



1. Try saying these sentences in Irish:

1. Can you speak German?
2. I speak Welsh fluently.
3. I speak a little Italian.
4. I'm learning Irish.

ASKING SOMEONE WHICH LANGUAGE THEY SPEAK

Cad é na teangacha atá agat?

Which languages can you speak?

SAYING WHICH LANGUAGES YOU SPEAK

Tá Fraincis agus Gearmáinis agam. I speak French and German.

Tá Iodáilis agam ach níl aon Spáinnis agam. I speak Italian but I can't speak Spanish.

Níl aon Fhraincis nó Spáinnis agam. I speak neither French nor Spanish.

SAYING WHERE YOU'RE LEARNING A LANGUAGE

If you tell someone that you're learning a language, you might be asked where—**Cá háit?** Here are some possible answers:

Ón teilifís. From the television.

Ón raidió. From the radio.

Ag rang oíche. At a night class.

Ó fhístéipeanna sa bhaile. From videos at home.



2. You'll hear four people saying where they're learning certain languages. Try to anticipate what they're going to say.

1. Mark is learning French from the television.
2. Claire is learning German from videos at home.
3. Póilín is learning Italian at a night class.
4. Ciarán is learning Welsh from the radio.

ASKING IF SOMEONE UNDERSTANDS A LANGUAGE

An dtuigeann tú Gaeilge?

Do you understand Irish?

Tuigim.

Yes (I do understand).

Ní thuigim.

No (I don't understand).

Faisnéis

A question is formed in the present tense by placing **An** before the verb. This causes an *urú* in verbs beginning with a consonant (except **l, m, n, r,** or **s**):

An dtuigeann tú?

Do you understand?

(This **An** tends not to be pronounced in everyday speech.)

As you've probably noticed, there's no equivalent of the words 'yes' or 'no' in Irish. You must listen to the question and use the same verb in your answer:

An ólann tú caife?

Do you drink coffee?

Ólaim.

Yes.

Ní ólaim.

No.

When **Ní** precedes a verb beginning with a consonant (except **l, n,** or **r**) it causes a *séimhiú*:

Ní thuigim.

I don't understand.

Only a handful of Irish verbs (eleven, to be precise) are irregular, but they occur quite frequently. You've already come across one of the most widely used: **Tá**.

An bhfuil Gaeilge agat?

Can you speak Irish?

Tá.

Yes.

Níl.

No.

You'll have plenty of opportunities to practise using verbs between now and the end of the course, so don't worry unduly about them!

3. Imagine that you're the manager of a busy tourist information office. You've advertised a part-time job in the office, and now you're dealing with interested applicants and taking down their details.

A You've just finished talking to one of the applicants. Fill in the blanks in the dialogue below using the information contained in the application form (foirm iarratais).

You: **C'ainm atá ort?**
 Interviewee: _____

You: **Cá as tú?**
 Interviewee: _____

You: **Cad é an seoladh atá agat? (What's your address?)**
 Interviewee: _____

You: **Cad é d'uimhir fóin?**
 Interviewee: _____

You: **An bhfuil Spáinnis agat?**
 Interviewee: _____

You: **Cad é na teangacha eile atá agat? (other languages)**
 Interviewee: _____

FOIRM IARRATAIS

Ainm agus sloinne: Caitlín Ní GhalIchoir

Seoladh: 5 Sráid Mhic Liam
Port Stíobhaid

Uimhir fóin: 52987

Áit bhreithe:
(place of birth) Béal Feirste

Teangacha: Gaeilge, Gearmáinis,
Fraincis, Spáinnis (beagán)



B Another applicant has just walked into your office.

Ask him what his name is.

Pádraig Mac Mathúna.

Ask him where he's from.

As Leitir Ceanainn, ach tá mé i mo chónaí anseo anois.

Ask him what his address is.

Cúig déag, Bóthar na Trá.

Ask him what his phone number is.

A hocht, a naoi, a seacht, a sé, a cúig.

Ask him which languages he speaks.

Bhuel, tá Gearmáinis líofa agam agus beagán Iodáilise.

Faisnéis

Counting Things

The numbers 2–6 cause a *séimhiú* on words beginning with a consonant (except **l**, **n**, or **r**):

| | |
|----------------|---------------|
| teanga | a language |
| teanga amháin | one language |
| dhá theanga | two languages |
| trí phionta | three pints |
| ceithre dhoras | four doors |
| cúig bhuidéal | five bottles |
| sé chaife | six coffees |
| trí leabhar | three books |
| dhá rothar | two bicycles |

Note!

The numbers *a haon*, *a dó* and *a ceathair* change when counting things.

Words beginning with a vowel remain unchanged:

| | |
|--------------|--------------|
| ceithre úll | four apples |
| cúig oráiste | five oranges |

Note how the singular form is used after numbers in Irish:

| | |
|--------------|---------------|
| oráistí | oranges |
| but | |
| cúig oráiste | five oranges |
| teangacha | languages |
| but | |
| dhá theanga | two languages |



4. You'll hear people on the recording counting things. Try to anticipate what they're going to say.

1. pionta



2. buidéal



3. caife



4. tábla



5. doras

