

AONAD 29

AG CÓNÁÍ AGUS AG OBAIR THAR LEAR | LIVING AND WORKING ABROAD

GREETING SOMEONE YOU HAVEN'T SEEN FOR A WHILE

Cad é an dóigh atá ort?

How are you keeping?

Ní fhaca mé le fada tú.

I haven't seen you in a long time.

Ní fhaca mé le tamall tú.

I haven't seen you for a while.

ASKING SOMEONE IF THEY'VE BEEN ABROAD

An raibh tú thar lear?

Were you abroad?

or

Have you been abroad?

SAYING YOU'VE BEEN ABROAD

Bhí mé thar lear.

I was abroad.

SAYING WHAT COUNTRY YOU'VE BEEN TO

You learnt the names of various countries in Aonad 18. Let's look now at how you say you've been in a particular country.

Bhí mé ...

I was ...

sa Spáinn

in Spain

sa Ghearmáin

in Germany

san Iodáil

in Italy

san Astráil

in Australia

i Meiriceá

in America

i Sasana

in England

in Albain

in Scotland

Faisnéis

There are different ways of saying ‘in’ a country in Irish, depending on whether or not the name of the country is preceded by the article, **an**. If it is, you use **sa** before a consonant and **san** before a vowel:

an Fhrainc	France
sa Fhrainc	in France
an Iodáil	Italy
san Iodáil	in Italy

If the name of the country is *not* preceded by **an**, you use **i** before a consonant and **in** before a vowel:

Meiriceá	America
i Meiriceá	in America
Albain	Scotland
in Albain	in Scotland

Where the name is preceded by the *plural* article, **sna** is used:

na Stáit Aontaithe	the United states
sna Stáit Aontaithe	in the United States



Have a listen now to people discussing being abroad. Look out for the phrase **Nach tú atá ag amharc go maith!** (Aren't you looking well!).

–Cad é mar atá tú, a Bhriain? Ní fhaca mé le fada tú. An raibh tú thar lear?

–Bhí. Bhí mé sa Ghearmáin ar feadh trí mhí.

–Ní fhaca mé le fada tú, a Chaitríona.

–Bhí mé thar lear.

–Ó, cá háit a raibh tú?

–Bhí mé ag obair sa Spáinn ar feadh sé mhí.

–Cad é mar atá tú, a Nuala?

–Tá mé go breá.

–Nach tú atá ag amharc go maith! Chuala mé go raibh tú thar lear.

–Bhí. Bhí mé san Iodáil ar feadh cúpla mí.

SAYING HOW LONG YOU WERE ABROAD

We already came across **ar feadh** (for) in Aonad 18. It can also be used when referring to the past.

Bhí mé ansin ...	I was there ...
ar feadh míosa	for a month
ar feadh dhá mhí	for two months
ar feadh seacht mí	for seven months
ar feadh bliana	for a year



1. You'll hear different people being asked where they've been. Try to give the answer before each person does.

1. I was in America for eight months.
2. I was in Spain for three months.
3. I was in Germany for six months.
4. I was in England for a year.
5. I was in the United States for a month.

Faisnéis

As you saw in Aonad 18, nouns that directly follow **ar feadh** are in the genitive case, and most undergo some change:

mí—ar feadh míosa

bliain—ar feadh bliana

However, if a **number** is placed between **ar feadh** and the noun, there is no change other than that caused by the number:

ar feadh dhá mhí

ar feadh ocht mí

ar feadh dhá bhliain

You can use **ar feadh** to refer to a period in the past that is finished:

Bhí mé ansin ar feadh bliana. I was there for a year.

Le, which we came across in Aonad 26, is used to refer to something that is continuing:

Ta mé i mo chónaí anseo le cúig bliana. I'm living here for five years.

ASKING SOMEONE WHEN THEY CAME BACK

Cá huair a tháinig tú ar ais?

When did you come back?



Listen to some people being asked when they returned from abroad.

-Chuala mé go raibh tú san Iodáil. Cá huair a tháinig tú ar ais?

-Trí seachtainí ó shin.

-Bhí tú i Meiriceá tamall. Cá huair a tháinig tú ar ais?

-Arú inné.

-Cá huair a tháinig tú ar ais ón Spáinn?

-Coicís ó shin.



2. Try saying the following in Irish:

1. How are you keeping?
2. I haven't seen you for a while.
3. Were you abroad?
4. Where were you?
5. When did you come back?
6. I came back three days ago.

ASKING SOMEONE IF THEY WERE WORKING THERE

An raibh tú ag obair ansin?

Were you working there?

SAYING WHAT WORK YOU DID

Bhí mé ag múineadh Béarla.

I was teaching English.

Bhí mé ag tabhairt aire do pháistí.

I was taking care of children.

Bhí mé ag staidéar.

I was studying.

Bhí mé ag déanamh cúrsa Fraincise.

I was doing a French course.

Bhí mé ag obair mar thógálaí.

I was working as a builder.

SAYING THAT THAT SOMETHING WAS GREAT

Bhí sé go hiontach.

It was great.

Bhí sé go hiontach ar fad.

It was really great.

SAYING WHY YOU DIDN'T ENJOY BEING SOMEWHERE

Bhí sé an-fhuar ansin.

It was very cold there.

Bhí sé i bhfad róthe.

It was far too hot.

Bhí cumha orm.

I was homesick.

Bhí an obair róchrúa.

The work was too hard.



Listen to people saying whether or not they enjoyed being abroad.

–Bhí tú san Iodáil. Ar bhain tú sult as?

–Níor bhain. Bhí sé i bhfad róthe.

–Chuala mé go raibh tú i Meiriceá. Ar bhain tú sult as?

–Bhain. Bhí sé go hiontach ar fad.

–Cad é mar atá tú, a Chaoimhín? Ní fhaca mé le fada tú. Cá raibh tú?

–Bhí mé ag obair i Sasana.

–Ar bhain tú sult as?

–Níor bhain, muise. Bhí an obair i bhfad róchrúa.



3. Imagine that your name is Gearóidín and that you've just spent six months teaching English in Greece. A week after returning home you meet a friend whom you haven't seen for a while. Try participating in the conversation below.

–Á, a Ghearóidín. Ní fhaca mé le fada tú.

Say, 'I was abroad.'

–Cá háit a raibh tú?

Say, 'I was in Greece for six months. I was teaching English.'

–Cá huair a tháinig tú ar ais?

Say, 'A week ago.'

–Ar bhain tú sult as?

Say, 'I did. It was great.'

Náisiúntachtaí Nationalities

Éireannach	an Irish person
Éireannaigh	Irish people
Francach	a French person
Francaigh	French people
Spáinneach	a Spaniard
Spáinnigh	Spanish people
Gearmánach	a German
Gearmánaigh	German people
Iodálach	an Italian
Iodálaigh	Italian people
Astrálach	an Australian
Astrálaigh	Australian people
Meiriceánach	an American
Meiriceánaigh	American people
Sasanach	an English person
Sasanaigh	English people
Albanach	a Scot
Albanaigh	Scottish people

Faisnéis

The nouns you have just learnt can also be used as adjectives:

Francach	a French person
bia Francach	French food
Spáinneach	a Spaniard
ceol Spáinneach	Spanish music

ASKING FOR AN OPINION ON A NATIONALITY

Cad é a shíleann tú de na hIodálaigh? What do think of the Italians?

GIVING AN OPINION ON A NATIONALITY

Ta siad iontach* cineálta.

They're very kind.

Tá siad an-díograiseach mar dhaoine.

They're very diligent people.

Tá siad lách mar dhaoine.

They're pleasant people.

*in the Ulster Dialect, **iontach**, is often used instead of **an-**



4. You'll hear people being asked their opinion on different nationalities. Try to answer before each person does.

1. They're very pleasant people.
2. They're very diligent.
3. I really like them. They're very pleasant.
4. They're very friendly.
5. They're very nice. They treated me well.

ASKING SOMEONE IF THEY WENT BY THEMSELVES

An ndeachaigh tú leat féin?

Did you go by yourself?

In reply you can say:

Chuaigh. / Ní dheachaigh

Yes, I did. / No, I didn't.

SAYING WHO ACCOMPANIED YOU

Chuaigh mo chara Siobhán in éineacht liom.

My friend Siobhán went with me.

Chuaigh mo chairde Dónall agus Niall liom.

My friends Dónall and Niall went with me.

ASKING SOMEONE IF THEY LIVED ALONE OR WITH OTHER PEOPLE

An raibh tú i do chónaí leat féin?

Did you live alone?

An raibh tú i do chónaí le daoine eile?

Did you live with other people?

GIVING YOUR REPLY

Bhí. / Ní raibh.

Yes, I was. / No, I wasn't.

Two other phrases that you might use are:

Bhí ar dtús ...

I was at first ...

ach ansin bhog mé isteach le daoine eile.

but then I moved in with other people.

or

ach ansin fuair mé áit domh féin.

but then I got my own place.



5. Try saying the following in Irish

1. What do you think of the Spaniards?
2. Do you like French wine?
3. Did you go there alone?
4. My friend Peadar went with me.
5. Did you live alone or with other people?