

AONAD 2

CUR IN AITHNE | INTRODUCTIONS

INTRODUCING YOURSELF

To introduce yourself you say:

Is mise ...

I'm ...

or

Mise ...

followed by your name.

ASKING SOMEONE'S NAME

C'ainm atá ort?

What's your name?

If you wish to ask the same question after you have given **your** name, then use the following:

C'ainm atá ortsa?

What's **your** name?

People normally respond to this question by simply giving their name.



Listen to these examples.

—Is mise Máirín. C'ainm atá ortsa?

—Gearóid.

—Mise Betty. C'ainm atá ortsa?

—Rónán.

—C'ainm atá ort?

—Eibhlín. C'ainm atá ortsa?

—Séamas Ó Briain.



1. Imagine your name is Pat. You're at a party and you're meeting some of the people there for the first time. See how you get on.

—Mise Frank. C'ainm atá ortsa?

Say who you are.

A woman joins the company. This time you introduce yourself and ask her what her name is.

—Hannah.

2. Fill in the blanks in the following conversations.

1. —C’ainm atá ____?
—Bríd. C’ainm atá ____?
—Mairéad.
2. —____ Dónall. C’ainm atá ortsa?
—Nóirín.
3. —____ Tomás. C’ainm ____?
—Síle.

Sloinnte | Surnames

The Irish for ‘surname’ is **sloinne**. Most surnames in Ireland are of Irish origin and therefore have an Irish-language version. You’ll notice some differences between men’s and women’s surnames.

Men’s and boys’ surnames usually have **Mac** (son) or **Ó** (grandson or descendant of) at the beginning.

If their family surname begins with **Ó**, girls and unmarried women have **Ní** (daughter of) at the beginning. Some married women have **Bean Uí** (wife of) or just **Uí** before their surnames.

If their family surname begins with **Mac**, girls and unmarried women have **Nic** (daughter of) at the beginning, and married women can have **Bean Mhic** (wife of) or just **Mhic** at the beginning of theirs.

3. Match each name with its Irish version.

Ryan	Ó Riain
Tom Ryan	Seán Ó Riain
Anne, his wife	Tomás Ó Riain
Mary, their daughter	Áine Bean Uí Riain
John, their son	Máire Ní Riain

4. Write the correct form of each name in the spaces below.

Williams	Mac Liam
James Williams	Séamas Mac Liam
Fiona, his wife	Fiona _____
Sheila, their daughter	Síle _____
George, their son	Seoirse _____

FILLINGS IN FORMS

Sloinne	Surname
Cad é an sloinne atá ort?	What's your surname?

An Aibítir | The Alphabet

The alphabet in Irish is similar to the English alphabet. However, the letter **j, k, q, v, w, x, y** and **z** do not occur in native Irish words. Some of these letters are used occasionally in spelling loanwords from English, for example **jab** (job) and **veain** (van).

Listen to the alphabet as it is spoken on the recording. Note how **a** is pronounced in Irish. If there's a **síneadh fada** or accent mark placed on any of the vowels, it lengthens its sound. Listen again to the recording and pay attention to the difference in sound between these pairs of words:

ar	(on)	ár	(our)
fear	(man)	féar	(grass)
fionn	(blond)	fíon	(wine)
solas	(light)	sólás	(comfort)
gunna	(gun)	gúna	(dress)



5. Listen to the people on the recording spelling their names. Try to write them down in the spaces below.

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

ASKING WHO SOMEONE IS

Cé seo?

Who's this?

If you're referring to more than one person you use the following:

Cé hiad seo?

INTRODUCING OTHERS

Seo Diarmaid.

This is Diarmaid.

INTRODUCING FAMILY MEMBERS

máthair

mother

Seo mo mháthair.

athair

father

Seo m'athair.

iníon*

daughter

Seo m'iníon.

mac

son

Seo mo mhac.

*In Ulster the **i** at the beginning of **iníon** is not pronounced.

This is how to introduce more than one daughter or son:

Seo mo chuid iníonacha.

Seo mo chuid mac.

Faisnéis

The Irish for 'my' is **mo**. If it precedes a word beginning with a consonant (other than **l**, **n**, or **r**) a **h** is added to the initial letter, causing a change in sound:

mac

mo mhac

If **mo** precedes a word beginning with a vowel or **f**, the **o** in **mo** is dropped:

iníon

m'iníon



6. You'll hear some people introduce their children. Try to anticipate what they're going to say.

1. Susan with her two daughters Nuala and Caitríona.
2. Seosamh with his sons Mark and Liam and daughter Laoise.
3. Aonghas with his son Dónall and daughter Cáit.
4. Siobhán with her son Proinsias and her three daughters Áine, Caoimhe and Róisín.



7. You're shopping with your son Fearghal and daughter Niamh when you meet a friend. Listen to the recording and respond to your friend's questions.

—Á, cad é mar atá tú?

Say 'Fine, thanks,' and ask how **she** is.

—Go breá. Cé hiad seo?

Introduce your son and daughter to her.