



GAEILGE GAN STRÓ!

BEGINNERS LEVEL

A multimedia Irish language course for adults

ÉAMONN Ó DÓNAILL

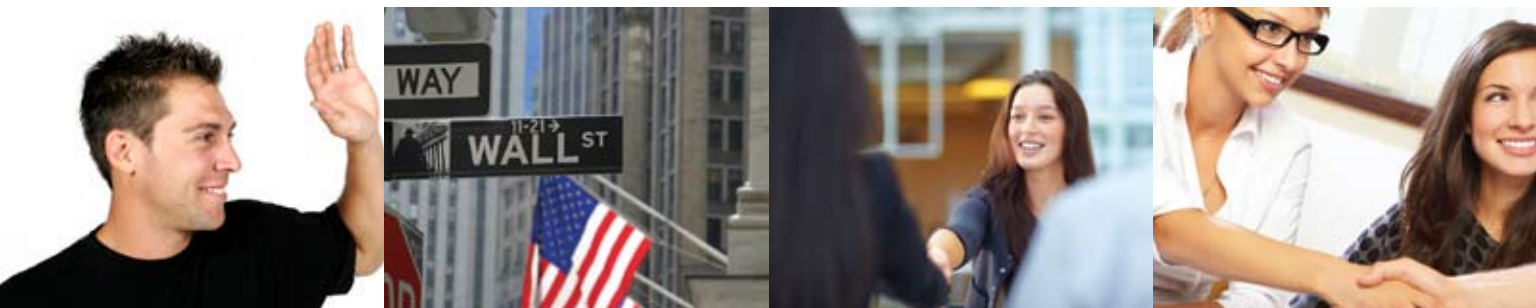


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Unit 1: Meeting People

Aonad 1: Bualadh le Daoine



In this unit you will learn how to:

- greet someone and return a greeting
- ask someone if he's well and answer that question
- introduce yourself
- ask someone his name and answer that question
- say to someone that it's nice to meet him
- give your telephone number
- introduce people to each other
- say goodbye to someone.

Grammar

- the prepositional pronouns **do** and **ar**
- personal pronouns
- emphatic forms
- the numbers 0–10
- the vocative case

San aonad seo foghlaimoidh tú conas:

- *beannú do dhuine agus beannú ar ais do dhuine*
- *ceist a chur ar dhuine an bhfuil sé go maith agus an cheist sin a fhreagairt*
- *tú féin a chur in aithne*
- *fiafraí de dhuine cén t-ainm atá air agus an cheist sin a fhreagairt*
- *a rá le duine go bhfuil sé go deas bualadh leis*
- *d'uimhir theileafóin a thabhairt*
- *daoine a chur in aithne dá chéile*
- *slán a fhágáil ag duine.*

Gramadach

- *na forainmneacha réamhfhoclacha **do** agus **ar***
- *forainmneacha pearsanta*
- *foirmeacha treise*
- *na huimhreacha 0–10*
- *an tuiséal gairmeach*



Key sounds



At the beginning of each unit, we pick out some of the key sounds of Irish for you to practise. Here are the most important sounds in Unit 1:

| | | |
|---------------|-------------|-----------------|
| mi <u>s</u> e | (slender s) | <i>I, me</i> |
| <u>s</u> lán | (broad s) | <i>goodbye</i> |
| dui <u>t</u> | (slender t) | <i>to you</i> |
| lea <u>t</u> | (broad t) | <i>with you</i> |
| muid | (slender d) | <i>we, us</i> |
| sia <u>d</u> | (broad d) | <i>they</i> |

The greetings used in the other dialects, Ulster and Munster, are given below. As you can see, they're different from the Connacht greeting. You can choose one of those three greetings, however, and learn how to say it properly. Don't worry about being able to pronounce the other two well – you only need to understand what they mean!

Ulster dialect

Cad é mar atá tú?

How are you?

Pronunciation: Jay ma thaw thoo?

Munster dialect

Conas atá tú?

How are you?

Pronunciation: Cunis thaw thoo?



Hello

In a formal context people use the following greeting:

Dia duit (literally, *God to you*).

In reply, people say:

Dia is Muire duit (literally, *God and Mary to you*).

This is how you greet more than one person:

Dia daoibh.



How are you?

In less formal contexts, when friends are meeting, for example, people tend not to use **Dia duit**. Instead, they greet each other by asking:

Cén chaoi a bhfuil tú?

How are you?

That particular greeting is used in Connacht Irish. Note that the **n** in **Cén** is not pronounced, that the first two words run together and that the **a** before **bhfuil** is not heard either.



Returning a greeting

If someone greets you by asking you how you are, you can say:

Tá mé go maith.

I'm well.

or

Tá mé go breá.

I'm fine.



Introducing yourself

In Irish, you introduce yourself by saying **Is mise** and then your name:

Is mise Sharon.

I'm Sharon.

Is mise Dónall.

I'm Dónall.

You can leave out the **Is**, however, and just say **Mise** and your name:

Mise Siobhán.

I'm Siobhán.



1.5 My name is Máirtín

This is how you say what your name is:

Máirtín is ainm dom.

My name is Máirtín.

A slightly different form of **dom**, **domsa**, is often used in a situation where more than one person introduces himself:

Sinéad: **Sinéad is ainm dom.**

My name is Sinéad.

Peadar: **Peadar is ainm domsa.**

My name is Peadar.

Bríd: **Agus Bríd is ainm domsa.**

And my name is Bríd.



1.6 What's your name?

The way you ask someone's name varies from dialect to dialect:

Cén t-ainm atá ort? (Connacht dialect)

What's your name?

Cad is ainm duit? (Munster dialect)

What's your name?

C'ainm atá ort? (Ulster dialect)

What's your name?

Again, you only have to choose one of the above sentences and learn how to say it properly. For the rest of this unit, however, we're going to use the Connacht dialect version.

When someone introduces himself before asking someone else his/her name, the different version of **dom** referred to earlier is used. Note that **ort** changes to **ortsa** as well:

Máirtín is ainm domsa. Cén t-ainm atá ortsa?

My name is Máirtín. What's your name?

Domsa and **ortsa** are known as emphatic forms. In English you can stress words like *my* and *your* but you can't do the same in Irish – you must use these special forms instead.



Conversation 1A



Michelle and Eoin meet for the first time, at an Irish language weekend in New York.

Michelle: Cén chaoi a bhfuil tú? Is mise Michelle – cén t-ainm atá ortsa?
How are you? I'm Michelle – what's your name?

Eoin: Mise Eoin.
I'm Eoin.

Michelle: Tá sé go deas bualadh leat, a Eoin.
It's nice to meet you, Eoin.



Conversation 1B



At the same Irish language weekend in New York, Áine greets her teacher, Liam.

Áine: Dia duit, a Liam.
Hello, Liam.

Liam: Dia is Muire duit, a Áine. Cén chaoi a bhfuil tú na laethanta seo?
Hello, Áine. How are you these days?

Áine: Tá mé go maith, go raibh maith agat. Agus tú féin?
I'm well, thank you. And yourself?

Liam: Tá mé go breá. Tá sé go deas tú a fheiceáil arís!
I'm fine. It's nice to see you again!



The emphatic form of leat

In Conversation 1A, Michelle said:

Tá sé go deas bualadh leat, a Eoin.
It's nice to meet you, Eoin.

If Eoin wanted to say the same thing in return, he would have had to use the emphatic form of **leat**. This is what he would have said:

Tá sé go deas bualadh leatsa freisin.
It's nice to meet you as well.



The personal pronouns

You've seen various personal pronouns used already in this unit. Here is a complete list of the pronouns now:

| Singular | Plural |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| mé <i>I, me</i> | muid <i>us, we</i> |
| tú <i>you</i> | sibh <i>you</i> |
| sé <i>he, it</i> | siad <i>they</i> |
| sí <i>she, it</i> | |

When pronouns are used in sentences, some of them sound a little different:

Tá mé go maith.
I'm well.

Tá sé go breá.
He's fine.

Don't worry too much about this, though – you'll soon get the hang of the different sounds in this unit.



Exercise 1.1: Your turn!



This is your chance to talk now. Pretend you're Michelle and that you're talking to Eoin.

Say: How are you? I'm Michelle
– what's **your** name?

Eoin: Mise Eoin.

Say: It's nice to meet you, Eoin.



Exercise 1.2: Your turn!



This time, pretend you're Áine and that you're talking to Liam.

Say: Hello, Liam.

Liam: Dia is Muire duit, a Áine. Cén chaoi a bhfuil tú na laethanta seo?

Say: I'm well, thank you. And yourself?

Liam: Tá mé go breá. Tá sé go deas tú a fheiceáil arís!



Exercise 1.3: Fill in the gaps

Fill in the gaps in these sentences.

1. *How are you?*
Cén _____ a bhfuil tú?
2. *I'm well.*
Tá mé go _____.
3. *I'm fine.*
Tá mé go _____.
4. *I'm Alan.*
Is _____ Alan.
5. *My name is Jennifer.*
Jennifer is ainm _____.



6. *My name is Dónall.*
Dónall is ainm _____.
7. *What's your name?*
Cén t-ainm atá _____?
8. *What's your name?*
Cén t-ainm atá _____?
9. *It's nice to meet you, Eoin.*
Tá sé go deas _____ leat, a Eoin.
10. *It's nice to see you again!*
Tá sé go deas tú a _____ arís!



The cardinal numbers

Here are the numbers that are used when there is no noun following them:

- | | |
|----|----------------------------------|
| 1 | a haon <i>one</i> |
| 2 | a dó <i>two</i> |
| 3 | a trí <i>three</i> |
| 4 | a ceathair <i>four</i> |
| 5 | a cúig <i>five</i> |
| 6 | a sé <i>six</i> |
| 7 | a seacht <i>seven</i> |
| 8 | a hocht <i>eight</i> |
| 9 | a naoi <i>nine</i> |
| 10 | a deich <i>ten</i> |



Introducing people

This is how you introduce a man:

Seo é Micheál.
This is Micheál.

This is how you introduce a woman:

Seo í Bríd.
This is Bríd.

And this is how you introduce more than one person:

Seo iad Máirtín agus Aoife.
This is Máirtín and Aoife.



Saying goodbye

The Irish for *goodbye* is **slán**. The person leaving the company uses **agat** and the person staying behind uses **leat**. In the following conversation, Éanna is staying in his office and Éilís is going out the door.

Éanna: **Slán leat, a Éilís. Feicfidh mé amárach tú.**
Goodbye, Éilís. I'll see you tomorrow.

Éilís: **Slán agat, a Éanna. Tóg go bog é!**
Goodbye, Éanna. Take it easy!

If you can't remember whether to use **leat** or **agat**, a good avoidance strategy is to use **go fóill** (*for now*) instead!

Éanna: **Slán leat, a Éilís. Feicfidh mé amárach tú.**
Goodbye, Éilís. I'll see you tomorrow.

Éilís: **Slán go fóill, a Éanna. Tóg go bog é!**
Goodbye for now, Éanna. Take it easy!



Conversation 1C

At a party, Caitlín introduces various people to her friend Nóra, who doesn't know anyone else there.

Caitlín: Seo é Barry.
This is Barry.



Barry: Tá sé go deas bualadh leat, a Nóra.
It's nice to meet you, Nóra.

Caitlín: Seo í Laura.
This is Laura.

Nóra: Cén chaoi a bhfuil tú?
How are you?

Caitlín: Agus seo iad Stiofán agus Peadar.
And this is Stiofán and Peadar.

Nóra: Cén chaoi a bhfuil sibh?
How are you?



Conversation 1D

Séamas had various friends over for dinner and now he's saying goodbye to them.



Séamas: Slán leat, a Shiobhán. Beidh mé ag caint leat amárach.
Goodbye, Siobhán. I'll be talking to you tomorrow.

Siobhán: Slán agat, a Shéamais, agus go raibh maith agat arís.
Goodbye, Séamas, and thanks again.

Séamas: Slán leat, a Mháire. Slán abhaile.
Goodbye, Máire. Safe home.

Máire: Slán agat, a Shéamais. Feicfidh mé amárach tú.
Goodbye, Séamas. I'll see you tomorrow.

1.12

CD 1
TR 16

The vocative case

The vocative case is used when addressing someone directly. There were three examples in Conversation 1D:

a Shéamais

Séamas

a Shiobhán

Siobhán

a Mháire

Máire

Changes occur to the beginning of many Irish language names, both male and female, in the vocative case and also to the end of some male names.



1.13

CD 1
TR 17

Sibh

In Conversation 1C, Nóra said the following when she was introduced to Stiofán and Peadar:

Cén chaoi a bhfuil sibh?

How are you?

As she was speaking to more than one person, she used the personal pronoun **sibh**.



Exercise 1.4: Your turn!



This is your chance to talk now. Pretend you're Caitlín and that you're introducing your friend Nóra to various people.

Say: *This is Barry.*

Barry: *Tá sé go deas bualadh leat, a Nóra.*

Say: *This is Laura.*

Nóra: *Cén chaoi a bhfuil tú?*

Say: *And this is Stiofán and Peadar.*

Nóra: *Cén chaoi a bhfuil sibh?*



Exercise 1.5: Your turn!



This time, pretend you're Séamas saying goodbye to your two friends.



Say: *Goodbye, Siobhán. I'll be talking to you tomorrow.*

Siobhán: *Slán agat, a Shéamais, agus go raibh maith agat arís.*

Say: *Goodbye, Máire. Safe home.*

Máire: *Slán agat, a Shéamais. Feicfidh mé amárach tú.*



Exercise 1.6: Numbers



Try saying the telephone numbers of various Irish language organisations below. Then, listen to the recording to see if your answers are correct.

1. Údarás na Gaeltachta: (091) 503 100
2. Gaelchultúr: (01) 484 5220
3. Oideas Gael: (074) 973 0248
4. Foras na Gaeilge: (028) 9089 0970
5. Glór na nGael: (046) 943 0974



Useful tips for learners

The three main dialects of Irish can be found in this course.

Don't worry too much about these – remember that a majority of those who learn Irish speak a mixture of dialects.

The most important thing is that you master the sounds of the language so that people understand what you're saying.



Talking heads



In the first Talking heads in the course, you'll hear various people introducing themselves. Listen to them first without looking at the script below to see how much you'll understand. After that, listen to them with the script in front of you and, lastly, look at the English translation of their speech.

Fionnuala Croker

(filmed in Dún Laoghaire, County Dublin)

Cad é mar atá tú?

Is mise Fionnuala Croker.

Colm Mac Séalaigh

(filmed at the Civic Offices, Dublin)

Cén chaoi a bhfuil tú?

Colm is ainm domsa.



Páidí Ó Lionáird

(filmed in An Spidéal, Galway)

Conas atá tú?

Páidí Ó Lionáird is ainm domsa.

TRANSLATION

Fionnuala Croker (Ulster dialect)

How are you?

I'm Fionnuala Croker.

Colm Mac Séalaigh (Connacht dialect)

How are you?

My name is Colm.

Páidí Ó Lionáird (Munster dialect)

How are you?

My name is Páidí Ó Lionáird.



The audio versions of these excerpts are available on the CDs accompanying this book. The video segments can be seen in the online version of *Gaeilge gan Stró! – Beginners Level*, available on Gaelchultúr's e-learning website, www.ranganna.com.



Exercise 1.7: Review of Unit 1



Have a go at this activity now to see if you know the most important phrases taught in Unit 1.

How would you say the following in Irish?

1. Hello (formal).
2. How are you (Connacht dialect)?
3. I'm well.
4. I'm Sharon.
5. My name is Máirtín.
6. My name is Bríd.
7. What's your name?
8. It's nice to meet you, Eoin.
9. It's nice to meet *you* as well.
10. Goodbye (said to the person leaving).
11. Goodbye (said to the person staying).
12. Goodbye for now.
13. This is Nóra.
14. This is Seán.
15. This is Stiofán and Peadar.



ANSWERS, DIRECTORY AND INDEXES / *FREAGRAÍ, EOLAIRE AGUS INNÉACSANNA*

- Answers to the Activities / Freagraí na gCleachtaí
- Irish Language Directory / Eolaire na Gaeilge
- Indexes / Innéacsanna

Answers to the Activities / Freagraí na gCleachtaí

UNIT 1: MEETING PEOPLE

Exercise 1.1: Your turn!

- Michelle: *How are you? I'm Michelle – what's **your** name?*
Cén chaoi a bhfuil tú? Is mise Michelle – cén t-ainm atá ortsa?
- Eoin: *Mise Eoin.*
- Michelle: *It's nice to meet you, Eoin.*
Tá sé go deas bualadh leat, a Eoin.

Exercise 1.2: Your turn!

- Áine: *Hello, Liam.*
Dia duit, a Liam.
- Liam: *Dia is Muire duit, a Áine. Cén chaoi a bhfuil tú na laethanta seo?*
- Áine: *I'm well, thank you. And yourself?*
Tá mé go maith, go raibh maith agat. Agus tú féin?
- Liam: *Tá mé go breá. Tá sé go deas tú a fheiceáil arís!*

Exercise 1.3: Fill in the gaps

- How are you?*
Cén chaoi a bhfuil tú?
- I'm well.*
Tá mé go maith.
- I'm fine.*
Tá mé go breá.
- I'm Alan.*
Is mise Alan.
- My name is Jennifer.*
Jennifer is ainm dom.
- My name is Dónall.*
Dónall is ainm domsa.
- What's your name?*
Cén t-ainm atá ort?
- What's **your** name?*
Cén t-ainm atá ortsa?
- It's nice to meet you, Eoin.*
Tá sé go deas bualadh leat, a Eoin.
- It's nice to see you again!*
Tá sé go deas tú a fheiceáil arís!

Exercise 1.4: Your turn!

- Caitlín: *This is Barry.*
Seo é Barry.
- Barry: *Tá sé go deas bualadh leat, a Nóra.*
- Caitlín: *This is Laura.*
Seo í Laura.
- Nóra: *Cén chaoi a bhfuil tú?*
- Caitlín: *And this is Stiofán and Peadar.*
Agus seo iad Stiofán agus Peadar.
- Nóra: *Cén chaoi a bhfuil sibh?*

Exercise 1.5: Your turn!

- Séamas: *Goodbye, Siobhán. I'll be talking to you tomorrow.*
Slán leat, a Shiobhán. Beidh mé ag caint leat amárach.
- Siobhán: *Slán agat, a Shéamais, agus go raibh maith agat arís.*
- Séamas: *Goodbye, Máire. Safe home.*
Slán leat, a Máire. Slán abhaile.
- Máire: *Slán agat, a Shéamais. Feicfidh mé amárach tú.*

Exercise 1.7: Review of Unit 1

- Hello (formal).*
Dia duit.
- How are you (Connacht dialect)?*
Cén chaoi a bhfuil tú?
- I'm well.*
Tá mé go maith.
- I'm Sharon.*
Is mise Sharon.

- My name is Máirtín.*
Máirtín is ainm dom.
- My name is Bríd.*
Bríd is ainm domsa.
- What's your name?*
Cén t-ainm atá ort?
- It's nice to meet you, Eoin.*
Tá sé go deas bualadh leat, a Eoin.
- It's nice to meet **you** as well.*
Tá sé go deas bualadh leatsa freisin.
- Goodbye (said to the person leaving).*
Slán leat.
- Goodbye (said to the person staying).*
Slán agat.
- Goodbye for now.*
Slán go fóill.
- This is Nóra.*
Seo í Nóra.
- This is Seán.*
Seo é Seán.
- This is Stiofán and Peadar.*
Seo iad Stiofán agus Peadar.

UNIT 2: YOUR BACKGROUND AND WHERE YOU LIVE

Exercise 2.1: Your turn!

- Helen: *How are you? I'm Helen – what's **your** name?*
Cén chaoi a bhfuil tú? Is mise Helen – cén t-ainm atá ortsa?
- Brian: *Brian. Tá sé go deas bualadh leat, a Helen.*
- Helen: *Where are you from, Brian?*
Cé as thú, a Bhriain?
- Brian: *Is as Glaschú mé. Cé as thú féin?*
- Helen: *From New York but I live in Cork now.*
As Nua-Eabhrac ach tá mé i mo chónaí i gCorcaigh anois.

Exercise 2.2: Your turn!

- Alan: *I'm Alan and I'm Australian. What's **your** name?*
Is mise Alan agus is Astrálach mé. Cén t-ainm atá ortsa?
- Francesca: *Francesca. Francesca Saltini.*
- Alan: *Are you Italian, Francesca?*
An Iodálach tú, a Francesca?
- Francesca: *Is ea. Is as an Róimh mé ach tá mé i mo chónaí i mBaile Átha Cliath anois.*
- Alan: *Rome is lovely. I was there last year.*
Tá an Róimh go hálainn. Bhí mé ansin anuraidh.
- Francesca: *Cá bhfuil tusa i do chónaí, a Alan?*
- Alan: *I'm from Sydney but I live in London now.*
As Sydney mé ach tá mé i mo chónaí i Londain anois.

Exercise 2.3: Fill in the gaps

- Where are you from?*
Cé as thú?
- Where are you from yourself?*
Cé as thú féin?
- I'm from Derry.*
Is as Doire mé.
- I'm from Madrid.*
Is as Maidrid mise.
- Where do you live?*
Cá bhfuil tú i do chónaí?
- Where do **you** live?*
Cá bhfuil tusa i do chónaí?
- I live in Paris.*
Tá mé i mo chónaí i bPáras.
- Are you American? No.*
An Meiriceánach tú? Ní hea.

Gaeilge gan Stró!

Beginners Level

A multimedia Irish language course for adults

The easiest way to start speaking Irish

- Are you looking for a beginners Irish course which focuses primarily on the spoken word?
- Would you like to learn authentic everyday language?
- Do you want to find out how the language works without having to grapple with complicated grammatical explanations?
- Then, *Gaeilge gan Stró! (Irish without Stress)* from Gaelchultúr is just the course for you!

Gaeilge gan Stró! – Beginners Level is a multimedia language course for adult learners of Irish. It's aimed at those who have not previously studied Irish or who only know a few words of the language. The course is intended for learners working by themselves and seeks to give them the confidence and language skills necessary to communicate in Irish in everyday situations. The emphasis is on developing speaking and listening skills but learners are also given some opportunities to read and write the language. Grammar is taught in context, as it's required.

Gaeilge gan Stró! – Beginners Level consists of this book and four audio CDs which are closely linked to the book and come free with it. There is also an online version of the course available on Gaelchultúr's e-learning website, www.ranganna.com. The book and audio CDs can be used independently of the online version of the course.

There are fifteen units in the course, focusing on core topics such as Work, Pastimes and Travel. There is a range of fun-to-do interactive activities, most of which require the learner to engage with the spoken language. Answers to these activities are given at the back of the book or on the accompanying CDs.

The "Insight" section in each unit contains information about the history of Irish and about the language in contemporary society, while the "Useful tips for learners" section aims to help those studying Irish to do so more efficiently.

Author

Éamonn Ó Dónaill is originally from the Gaoth Dobhair *Gaeltacht* in Donegal and has been teaching Irish to adults since 1981. He has written various books for learners and teachers, including *Essential Irish Grammar* (2008), *Gramadach gan Stró!* (2008/2011) and *Gaeilge gan Stró! – Lower Intermediate Level* (2010). Éamonn has been working as Director of Education in Gaelchultúr (www.gaelchultur.com) since 2005.