

Frásaí Comhrá

Everyday Irish across the three dialects, with the written standard

CGH — An Caighdeán M — Mumhan (Munster) C — Connacht U — Uladh (Ulster)

About the Caighdeán: An Caighdeán Oifigiúil is the official *written* standard — a spelling, not a way of speaking. It has no pronunciation of its own; you'd voice it in whichever dialect is yours. So the "say-it-like" guides sit on the three living dialects only, and they're rough approximations — accent varies even from one parish to the next.

Beannachtaí greetings & farewells

Hello *lit. "God to you"*

CGH	Dia duit	written standard
M	Dia duit	DEE-a dit
C	Dia duit	DEE-a ditch
U	Dia duit	JEE-a ditch

Hello — the reply *"and Mary to you"*

CGH	Dia is Muire duit	written standard
M	Dia is Muire duit	DEE-a iss MWIR-a dit
C	Dia is Muire duit	DEE-a iss MWIR-a ditch
U	Dia is Muire duit	JEE-a iss MWIR-a ditch

Good night

CGH	Oíche mhaith	written standard
M	Oíche mhaith	EE-ha wah
C	Oíche mhaith	EE-heh wah
U	Oíche mhaith	EE-hee my

Bye for now

CGH	Slán go fóill	written standard
M	Slán go fóill	slawn guh FOH-il
C	Slán go fóill	slawn guh FOH-il
U	Slán go fóill	slawn guh fyle

Please

CGH	Le do thoil	written standard
M	Le do thoil	leh duh HULL
C	Le do thoil	leh duh hoil
U	Le do thoil	leh duh hil

Thank you

CGH	Go raibh maith agat	written standard
M	Go raibh maith agat	guh rev mah AH-gut
C	Go raibh maith agat	guh rev mah AH-gut
U	Go raibh maith agat	guh roh may AH-gud

You're welcome

CGH	Tá fáilte romhat	written standard
M	Tá fáilte romhat	taw FAWL-cheh rote
C	Tá fáilte romhat	taw FAWL-teh root
U	Tá fáilte romhat	taw FAWL-cheh root

Excuse me / sorry

CGH	Gabh mo leithscéal	written standard
M	Gabh mo leithscéal	gav muh LESH-kayl
C	Gabh mo leithscéal	gow muh LESH-kyawl
U	Gabh mo leithscéal	goh muh LESH-kyal

Ag bualadh le daoine meeting people

How are you? the clearest dialect split

CGH	Conas atá tú?	all three forms are standard-spelt
M	Conas tánn tú?	CUN-us tawn too
C	Cén chaoi a bhfuil tú?	kayn KHWEe a will too
U	Cad é mar atá tú?	kuh-JAY mar a-TAW too

I'm well *the reply*

CGH	Tá mé go maith	written standard
M	Táim go maith	TAW-im guh mah
C	Tá mé go maith	taw may guh mah
U	Tá mé go maith	taw may guh may

What's your name?

CGH	Cad is ainm duit?	also "Cén t-ainm atá ort?"
M	Cad is ainm duit?	kod iss AN-im dit
C	Cén t-ainm atá ort?	kayn TAN-im a-TAW ort
U	Cad é an t-ainm atá ort?	kuh-JAY un TAN-im a-TAW ort

My name is ... *"Is mise ..." works everywhere*

CGH	... is ainm dom	written standard
M	... is ainm dom	... iss AN-im dum
C	... atá orm	... a-TAW UR-um
U	... atá orm	... a-TAW UR-um

An teanga féin *about the language*

One word, three shapes The name of the language itself shifts by region: *Gaelainn* in Munster, *Gaeilge* in Connacht and the Gaighdeán, *Gaeilg* / *Gaeilic* in Ulster.

Do you have Irish?

CGH	An bhfuil Gaeilge agat?	written standard
M	An bhfuil Gaelainn agat?	un will GWAY-lin AH-gut
C	An bhfuil Gaeilge agat?	un will GWAYL-geh AH-gut
U	An bhfuil Gaeilg agat?	un wil GAYL-ig AH-gud

I have a little

CGH	Tá beagán agam	written standard
M	Tá beagán agam	taw BYUG-awn AH-gum
C	Tá beagán agam	taw BYUG-awn AH-gum
U	Tá beagán agam	taw BYUG-an AH-gum

I don't understand *Ulster negates with cha*

CGH	Ní thuigim	written standard
M	Ní thuigim	nee HIG-im
C	Ní thuigim	nee HIG-im
U	Cha dtuigim	kha DIG-im

Say it again, please

CGH	Abair arís é, le do thoil	written standard
M	Abair arís é	OB-ir a-REESH ay
C	Abair arís é	AB-ir a-REESH ay
U	Abair aríst é	AB-ir a-REESHT ay

Ceisteanna áisiúla *useful questions*

Where is ...?

CGH	Cá bhfuil ...?	written standard
M	Cá bhfuil ...?	kaw will
C	Cá bhfuil ...?	kaw will
U	Cá bhfuil ...? / Cá háit a bhfuil ...?	kaw wil / kaw hawtch a wil

How much is it?

CGH	Cé mhéad atá air?	written standard
M	Cé mhéad atá air?	kay vayd a-TAW er
C	Cé mhéad atá air?	kay wayd a-TAW er
U	Cá mhéad atá air?	kaw wayd a-TAW er

What time is it?

CGH	Cén t-am é?	written standard
M	Cén t-am é?	kayn tom ay
C	Cén t-am é?	kayn tam ay
U	Cá huair é? / Cén t-am é?	kaw HOO-ir ay

Sa tábhairne & focail bheaga *the pub & small words*

Cheers! *lit. "health"*

CGH	Sláinte!	written standard
M	Sláinte!	SLAWN-cheh
C	Sláinte!	SLAWN-teh
U	Sláinte!	SLAWN-cheh

No plain yes or no You answer by echoing the verb. To "*An bhfuil...?*" reply **Tá** (taw) or **Níl** (neel); to "*An ea...?*" reply **Sea** (shah) or **Ní hea** (nee ha). This holds across all dialects — Ulster also reaches for **cha** for "no/not."

Wonderful

CGH	Go hiontach	written standard
M	Go hiontach	guh HOON-tukh
C	Go hiontach	guh HEEN-tukh
U	Go hiontach	guh HIN-takh

Well done! / Good on you!

CGH	Maith thú!	written standard
M	Maith thú!	mah hoo
C	Maith thú!	mah hoo
U	Maith thú!	may hoo

Ag cur aithne ar dhuine *getting to know someone*

The "what" word marks the dialect Munster says *cad*, Connacht *céard*, Ulster *cad é* (often written *goidé* / *caidé*). You'll see that split run right through these questions.

Where do you live?

CGH	Cá bhfuil tú i do chónaí?	written standard
M	Cá bhfuil tú id chónaí?	kaw will too id KHOH-nee
C	Cá bhfuil tú i do chónaí?	kaw will too ih duh KHOH-nee
U	Cá bhfuil tú i do chónaí?	kaw wil too ih duh KHOH-nee

FREAGRA Tá mé i mo chónaí i ... — *taw may ih muh KHOH-nee ih ...* — I live in ...

What do you do? *for work*

CGH

Cad a dhéanann tú?

also "Cén obair a dhéanann tú?"

M

Cad a dheineann tú?

kod a YIN-un too

C

Céard a dhéanann tú?

kyard a YAY-nun too

U

Cad é a dhéanann tú?

kuh-JAY a YAY-nun too

FREAGRA

Is ... mé (e.g. Is múinteoir mé) — *iss MOON-tchor may* — I'm a teacher

Are you married?

CGH

An bhfuil tú pósta?

same across dialects

M

An bhfuil tú pósta?

un will too POHS-ta

C

An bhfuil tú pósta?

un will too POHS-ta

U

An bhfuil tú pósta?

un wil too POHS-ta

FREAGRA

Tá mé pósta / Níl mé pósta — *taw / neel may POHS-ta* — I am / amn't married

Do you have children? *clann = one's children*

CGH

An bhfuil clann agat?

or "... páistí / leanaí agat?"

M

An bhfuil clann agat?

un will kloun AH-gut

C

An bhfuil clann agat?

un will klawn AH-gut

U

An bhfuil clann agat?

un wil klan AH-gud

FREAGRA

Tá tríúr clainne agam — *taw TROOR KLIN-yeh AH-gum* — I have three children · Níl aon chlann agam — none

Where are you from originally? *ó dhúchas = by origin*

CGH

Cárb as tú ó dhúchas?

written standard

M

Cé as tú ó dhúchas?

kay oss too oh GHOO-khus

C

Cárb as thú ó dhúchas?

karb oss hoo oh GHOO-khus

U

Cá as tú ó dhúchas?

kaw oss too oh GHOO-khus

FREAGRA

Is as ... mé ó dhúchas — *iss oss ... may oh GHOO-khus* — I'm originally from ...

What do you like to do? *hobbies & pastimes*

CGH	Cad is maith leat a dhéanamh?	<i>also "Cén caitheamh aimsire atá agat?"</i>
M	Cad is maith leat a dhéanamh?	<i>kod iss mah lat a YAY-nuv</i>
C	Céard is maith leat a dhéanamh?	<i>kyard iss mah lat a YAY-nuv</i>
U	Cad é is maith leat a dhéanamh?	<i>kuh-JAY iss may lat a YAY-nuv</i>

FREAGRA Is maith liom ... (snámh, ceol, siúl, léitheoireacht) — *iss mah lyum ...* — I like ... (swimming, music, walking, reading)

Na Briathra *key verbs · An Caighdeán, present tense*

How to read these Forms are the standard present tense. The *mé*-form is usually a single word (*táim, téim, deirim*); the rest add the pronoun. The verbal noun (v.n.) is what you use for "I am *doing* X" — e.g. *Tá mé ag dul*. The example phrases dip into the imperative, past, and future to show the verb in real use.

Bí <i>to be</i>	<i>v.n. bheith</i>		
<i>I</i>	tá mé / táim	<i>you</i>	tá tú
<i>he / she</i>	tá sé / tá sí	<i>we</i>	táimid
<i>you (pl)</i>	tá sibh	<i>they</i>	tá siad
Tá mé tuirseach. <i>I'm tired.</i>			
An bhfuil tú réidh? <i>Are you ready?</i>			
Bíonn sé fuar anseo. <i>It's usually cold here. (habitual)</i>			

Téigh <i>to go</i>	<i>v.n. dul</i>		
<i>I</i>	téim	<i>you</i>	téann tú
<i>he / she</i>	téann sé / sí	<i>we</i>	téimid
<i>you (pl)</i>	téann sibh	<i>they</i>	téann siad
Téim ar scoil. <i>I go to school.</i>			
Rachaidh mé abhaile. <i>I'll go home. (future)</i>			
Chuaigh sí ann. <i>She went there. (past)</i>			

Tar <i>to come</i>		<i>v.n. teacht</i>	
<i>I</i>	tagaim	<i>you</i>	tagann tú
<i>he / she</i>	tagann sé / sí	<i>we</i>	tagaimid
<i>you (pl)</i>	tagann sibh	<i>they</i>	tagann siad
Tar isteach! <i>Come in! (imperative)</i>			
Tagann sí gach lá. <i>She comes every day.</i>			
Tháinig siad aréir. <i>They came last night. (past)</i>			

Déan <i>to do / make</i>		<i>v.n. déanamh</i>	
<i>I</i>	déanaim	<i>you</i>	déanann tú
<i>he / she</i>	déanann sé / sí	<i>we</i>	déanaimid
<i>you (pl)</i>	déanann sibh	<i>they</i>	déanann siad
Déanaim mo dhícheall. <i>I do my best.</i>			
Cad atá tú a dhéanamh? <i>What are you doing?</i>			
Rinne mé dearmad. <i>I forgot. (past)</i>			

Tóg <i>to take / lift</i>		<i>v.n. tógáil</i>	
<i>I</i>	tógaim	<i>you</i>	tógann tú
<i>he / she</i>	tógann sé / sí	<i>we</i>	tógaimid
<i>you (pl)</i>	tógann sibh	<i>they</i>	tógann siad
Tóg go bog é! <i>Take it easy!</i>			
Tógaim sos. <i>I take a break.</i>			
Thóg sé an bus. <i>He took the bus. (past)</i>			

Caith <i>to throw (also spend / wear / must)</i>		<i>v.n. caitheamh</i>	
<i>I</i>	caithim	<i>you</i>	caitheann tú
<i>he / she</i>	caitheann sé / sí	<i>we</i>	caithimid
<i>you (pl)</i>	caitheann sibh	<i>they</i>	caitheann siad
Chaith sé an liathróid. <i>He threw the ball. (past)</i>			
Caithfidh mé imeacht. <i>I must go. (future sense)</i>			
Caithim an iomarca ama air. <i>I spend too much time on it.</i>			

Tabhair

to give

v.n. tabhairt

I	tugaim	you	tugann tú
he / she	tugann sé / sí	we	tugaimid
you (pl)	tugann sibh	they	tugann siad

Tabhair dom é. *Give it to me. (imperative)*

Tugaim cabhair dó. *I give him help.*

Thug sí bronn­tan­as dom. *She gave me a present. (past)*

Abair

to say

v.n. rá

I	deirim	you	deir tú
he / she	deir sé / sí	we	deirimid
you (pl)	deir sibh	they	deir siad

Abair arís é. *Say it again. (imperative)*

Deir sé go bhfuil sé tinn. *He says he's sick.*

Dúirt mé leat! *I told you! (past)*

Faigh

to get / find

v.n. fáil

I	faighim	you	faigheann tú
he / she	faigheann sé / sí	we	faighimid
you (pl)	faigheann sibh	they	faigheann siad

Faighim an bus ar a hocht. *I get the bus at eight.*

Fuair mé é. *I got it. (past)*

Gheobhaidh mé amárach é. *I'll get it tomorrow. (future)*