

Bitesize Beo Dialects

Overcoming differences - May 2017

Is mise Siobhán.

I'm Siobhán, language assistant at Bitesize Irish Gaelic.

I'm a daily Irish Gaelic speaker, and have experience of teaching Irish Gaelic to people outside of Ireland online.

If you ever have any questions, send me an email!

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What we'll cover

- The various Irish dialects
- What is a dialect?
- Some differences between the dialects
- How to understand other dialects
- Should I choose a particular dialect?
- Questions

Don't let it be daunting!

- It's all the same language
- Different accents
- Different terms and phrases
- Mixed dialects

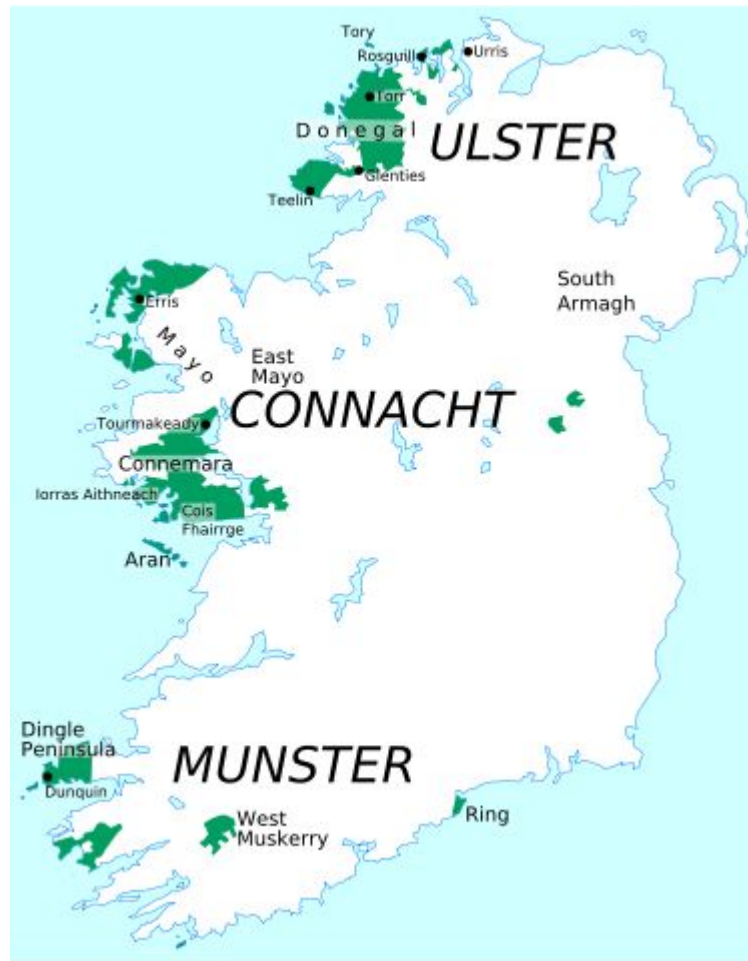
CHIPS
FRIES

**8 major
American dialects!**

British English
North American English
Hiberno-English
Australian English
South African English
and many others!

The three main dialects

- The Ulster dialect
 - Donegal Gaeltacht
- The Connacht dialect
 - Galway Gaeltacht
 - Mayo Gaeltacht
- The Munster dialect
 - Kerry Gaeltacht
 - Cork Gaeltacht
 - Waterford Gaeltacht



Urban Gaeltachts



“In an urban gaeltacht, Irish has a strong presence as a spoken language but is not part of the officially defined or traditional Gaeltacht areas”

- Belfast
- Dublin
- Galway
- Derry
- Cork

Common differences

Asking “how are you?”

Ulster dialect

Cad é mar atá tú?

Connacht dialect

Cén chaoi a bhfuil tú?

Munster dialect

Conas atá tú?

*WHAT'S UP? HOW ARE THINGS? HOW A' YA?
HOW ARE YOU KEEPING?*

Different words, same meaning

- boy** buachail (every dialect), garsún (M), stócach (U)
- girl** cailín (every dialect) gearrchaile (M), girseach (U)
- also** fosta / chomh maith (U) freisin / chomh maith (C)
leis / chomh maith (M)
- sick** tinn (U) (C), breoite (M)

Same word, different pronunciation

poll powl (M) (C), pol (U)

crann kran (U) kraan (C), krown (M)

tinn chin (U) cheen (C) tynn (M)

Different grammar

Munster: **ag an ndoras** instead of **ag an doras**

Ulster: **cha dtug** instead of **níor thug**

Connacht: **sa mbaile** instead of **sa bhaile**

Getting a hang of dialects

- Listen to as many dialects as you can, even if you don't understand everything.
- One day, the meaning will click or you might just happen to stumble upon it, just like how you learn the meaning of some English language word or phrase.
- Don't forget, each dialect has its own pronunciation patterns. If you can pronounce one word, chances are you'll pronounce a similarly spelled word the same way.

Practice makes perfect!

Listen!

Radio na Gaeltachta

Munster dialect 'An Saol ó Dheas'

Ulster dialect 'Barrscéalta'

Connacht dialect 'Iris Aniar'

rnag.ie

Watch!

TG4 television station

Subtitles available in Irish for many shows on the online player

tg4.ie

Should I choose a particular dialect?

- Do you have a connection to one area over another?
- Does any dialect take your fancy?
- **Focus on learning Irish, adopt a dialect later.**
- Don't worry about having a mixed dialect, we all do!

Ceisteanna? | Questions?
