

# Bitesize Beo, 2017-03-11

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## Automatic and Almost-Automatic resources

Focal an Lae: TransparentLanguage: <https://www.transparent.com/word-of-the-day/today/irish.html>

Their daily word-of-the-day email includes audio of the word and of the word being used in a sentence.

Frása an Lae, Gaelchultúr: [http://www.gaelchultur.com/ga/frasa\\_an\\_lae.aspx](http://www.gaelchultur.com/ga/frasa_an_lae.aspx)

A new phrase is featured on this page every day of the year. Follow them on Twitter for a more-automatic experience: <https://twitter.com/gaelchultur>

GaelChultúr is the publisher of the popular Gaeilge Gan Stró textbooks.

PEIG newsletter: <http://www.peig.ie/ple-an-lae-nuachtlitir>

A daily all-Irish collection of the major Irish language news, commentary, and happenings of the prior couple of days.

Bitesize Irish Gaelic podcast: <http://www.bitesize.irish/blog/subscribe-to-podcast/>

GaelMinn Gazette (Gaeltacht Minnesota), monthly: <http://www.gaelminn.org/mailform.htm>

Their all-English monthly newsletter always includes thoughtful and useful tips for learners.

On Duolingo, choose "Settings", then "Notifications", then check the "Email me when I forget to practice Irish" box.

In your Facebook settings, you go to your account settings for notifications and click group activity ("Gníomhaíocht ghrúpa" if Irish is your language on Facebook), at which point you can control how much notification you get for activity in your groups. Back on your main settings page, you can then click into your Email settings and choose "All notifications, except the ones you unsubscribe from" to have notifications sent to you by email, making Facebook a pretty automatic way to encounter Irish.

Insert Irish language tracks into your various music playlists: songs, poetry, tracks from CDs accompanying learning material, etc.

## Habits

Set aside the same times every week to study, talk with people, etc.

Tune into Raidió na Gaeltachta when you wake up or when a favorite show is on. If you have an Internet radio with an alarm you may even be able to make Raidió na Gaeltachta your alarm.

I listen to Raidió na Gaeltachta on my commute, by running the Raidió na Gaeltachta app on my phone and plugging the phone into my car's stereo system.

Some sources of habits:

"The Secrets to Practicing Irish Gaelic Every Day" (Audrey Nickel)

"50 Ways to use your Irish", from Gaeltacht Minnesota: <http://www.gaelminn.org/pdf/fifty%20ways.pdf>

Ciarán Ó Feinneadha presented an ambitious list--his first suggestion is "Raise a family through Irish", e.g.--of 40 ways to use Irish in your life at the 2014 Oireachtas na Gaeilge. The talk, an edited version of which is available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sVAUH0nFczs>, is all in Irish and given more from the point of view of a language supporter who lives in Ireland than a language learner. Nevertheless, there are a number of useful habits that might suit you. Here are his 40 items, with my translation into English:

1. Clann a thógáil le Gaeilge  
raise a family with Irish.
2. Éist le Raidió na Gaeltachta, breathnaigh ar TG4. Raidió na Life, Raidió Fáilte  
Listen to Raidió na Gaeltachta, Raidió na Life, Raidió Fáilte. Watch TG4.
3. Freastal ar sheirbhísí eaglasta i nGaeilge, más duine thú a téann ar Aifreann  
If you're a person who goes, attend religious services in Irish.
4. Téigh isteach i gclub drámaíochta, freastal ar dhrámaí Gaeilge  
Join a drama club, attend Irish language drama.
5. Imir spóirt trí Ghaeilge, glac páirt sna Gaeil Óga, Gael Taca, Laochra Loch Laoi, CLG  
Play sports through Irish. Take part in Gaeil Óga, Gael Taca, Laochra Loch Laoi, GAA.
6. Cruthaigh ócáidí [sóisialta] Gaeilge: Téigh amach ag ól deoch, gabh amach ag béile le cairde, téigh go tithe a chéile. (Is rud deacair é a bheith i gcomhlúadar Gaeilge má tá Béarlóirí ann. Mar sin, cruthaigh an suíomh sin daoibh féin.)  
Create Irish language [social] events: go out for drinks, go out for a meal with friends, go to each others' homes. (It's hard to be in Irish language company if there are English speakers there.)
7. Cláraigh le clubanna Gaeilge: eagraíochtaí Gaeilge, Conradh na Gaeilge, club cnocadóireachta, srl.  
Sign up for Irish language clubs: Irish organizations, Conradh na Gaeilge, hillclimbing club, etc.
8. Más ceannaire thú, bunaigh na rudaí seo [in #7]  
If you're a leader, start up these those things.
9. Bíodh muid buíoch: cártaí buíochais, cártaí Aifrinn, cártaí lá breithe, cártaí d'ócáidí éagsúla, cártaí le Gaeilge orthu  
Let us be thankful: thank you cards, Mass cards, birthday cards, cards for various occasions.
10. Úsáid Gaeilge i gcónaí  
Use Irish always.
11. Freastal ar fhéilte Gaeilge agus Gaeltachta: An tOireachtas, Scoil Mherriman, Éigse Dhiarmuidín  
Attend Irish Irish language and Gaeltacht festivals: The Oireachtas, Merriman School,

- Éigse Dhiarmuidín.
12. Cum amhrán  
Compose a song.
  13. Tabhair tacaíocht d'amhránaithe a chanann trí Ghaeilge.  
Support singers who sing in Irish.
  14. Cum dán  
Compose a poem.
  15. Gaeilge agus grá: téigh amach le duine a bhfuil suim acu sa teanga  
Irish and love: go out with a person with interest in the language
  16. Scríobh i nGaeilge: dialann lae, do chuid nótaí  
Write in Irish: diary, your notes.
  17. Comharthaí - bileoga eolais, póstaer, srl.  
Signs - information leaflets, posters, etc.
  18. Feachtais - bileoga eolais, póstaer, srl.  
Campaigns - information leaflets, posters, etc.
  19. Smaoinigh i nGaeilge  
Think in Irish
  20. Suimigh i nGaeilge  
Do arithmetic in Irish.
  21. Léigh an Ghaeilge  
Read Irish.
  22. Labhair Gaeilge leis na hainmhithe  
Speak Irish with animals.
  23. T-léinte - Spailpín Fánach, m. sh.  
T-shirts: [from] Spailpín Fánach, e.g.
  24. Tumoideachas: naíonra, gaelscoil, gaelcholáiste  
Immersion education: nursery, Irish-medium school, Irish academy
  25. Leabhra Gaeilge - léigh, ceannaigh  
Irish books - read, buy
  26. Facebook/Straoisleabhar - póstaíl i nGaeilge ar FB, Twitter, srl.  
Facebook - post in Irish on Facebook, Twitter, etc.
  27. Gaelaigh do Ghlórphost, nó dátheangach ar a laghad  
Make your voicemail message Irish, or at least bilingual
  28. Cúrsaí teicniúla: nascanna.com, Nós, Tuairisc - bain úsáid astu  
Technology: nascanna.com, Nós, Tuairisc - use them.
  29. Socraithe sochraide: cuir do chuid mianta in iúil. Déan socrú go mbeidh an tseirbhís trí Ghaeilge, nó dhátheangach ar a laghad, de réir do thoil féin.  
Funeral arrangements: make your wishes known. Arrange for the service to be in Irish, or bilingual at least, according to your will.
  30. Déileáil leis an Stát trí Ghaeilge: an oifig cánach  
Deal with the State in Irish: the tax office
  31. Déileáil leis an Stát trí Ghaeilge: Bord Soláthair Leictreachas  
Deal with the State in Irish: electricity board
  32. Déileáil leis an Stát trí Ghaeilge: Gás  
Deal with the state in Irish: gas
  33. Déileáil leis an Stát trí Ghaeilge: Mótar Cháin  
Deal with the state in Irish: vehicle taxes
  34. Déileáil leis an Stát trí Ghaeilge: Uisce  
Deal with the state in Irish: water

35. Labhair leis na nGardaí i nGaeilge  
Speak with police in Irish.
36. Cuir feabhas ar do chuid Gaeilge  
Improve your Irish.
37. Bíodh an léarscáil cuimhne i nGaeilge  
Do mind maps in Irish
38. Ainmneacha agus Seolta i nGaeilge  
Names and addresses in Irish.
39. An Cnaipe Gaeilge: ATM, ticéad traenach, LUAS  
[Press] The Gaeilge button: ATMs, train tickets, LUAS (rail)
40. Vótáil ar son na Gaeilge  
Vote in favor of Irish

Always use Irish. Always use Irish. Always use Irish.

## Speaking to Children (and Pets)

Even if you're not a fluent speaker, you can still speak to children in Irish. It won't bother them, and it's great for you.

Speak Irish with your animals, too. It's the same sort of sentences and interaction for both-- how are you, what are you doing, do this, do that, etc., speaking to pets being a small subset of what you'd say to children. Just go through resources for parent/child interaction and take what's useful to you.

(Some of the links below are to the excellent online Irish language bookstore Litriocht. Their website is currently (2017-03-11) being updated, but it should be back in a few days.)

"Gaschaint" - [http://www.litriocht.com/shop/product\\_info.php?products\\_id=3883](http://www.litriocht.com/shop/product_info.php?products_id=3883)

"A handbook of 2000 phrases, together with a complete CD recording, for parents who wish their children to grow up able to speak Irish." This is the best resource I've seen for everyday communication with children. The CDs contain the same phrases in all three major dialects.

BunGhaeilge do Thuismitheoiri (Basic Irish for Parents):

[http://www.litriocht.com/shop/product\\_info.php?products\\_id=6574](http://www.litriocht.com/shop/product_info.php?products_id=6574) - Canúint Mumhan (Munster Irish)

Basic phrases for interaction between parent and child, with CD.

BunGhaeilge do Thuismitheoiri (Basic Irish for Parents):

[http://www.litriocht.com/shop/product\\_info.php?products\\_id=6576](http://www.litriocht.com/shop/product_info.php?products_id=6576) - Canúint Chonnacht (Connaught Irish)

Basic phrases for interaction between parent and child, with CD.

Irish language support pack materials: <http://www.ahrrga.gov.ie/app/uploads/2015/09/bileog-eolais-21.pdf>

Available free from the Irish government. I believe that they've been willing to send the material to families in the US

Seán Mór on YouTube explaining things you can say to young children:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ELO6OmssX\\_U](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ELO6OmssX_U)

# Finding People

Here are some Facebook groups for Irish users and learners in various regions.

Try searching Facebook for phrases like "<my town> Gaeilge" and "Irish Language <my state>" and "Irish Gaelic in <my country>". If there's anything at all nearby--e.g.: you're in New Mexico and the group is for Arizona--sign up. Regardless of how busy the group is, it's a way to connect with other people and to get news. Introduce yourself in the group.

There's a non-region specific group called Irish Language Learners' Forum that's worth joining because it's so large. It's a good place to look for people in your area. The group's location is here: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/181687471883682/> but the group is set up as "secret" in Facebook, so you may not be able to see it, and may need someone to add you to it. (Any member, all of the Bitesize Beo presenters, for instance, can add you.) Another large group to ask around in is Irish for Beginners, which you can see no problem: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1512602925693071/>

It's easy and free to start a group yourself. No reason for you hold back doing that. Other people will be looking for Irish language groups in your area, so give them something to find.

Ciorcail Chomhrá Thorontó: <https://www.facebook.com/Ciorcail-Chomhr%C3%A1-Thorontó-382476325848/>

Gaeilgeoirí Toronto: <https://www.facebook.com/GaeilgeoiriToronto/>

Comhrá Montreal: <https://www.facebook.com/ComhraMontreal/>

Gaeilge mo Chroí: <https://www.facebook.com/Gaeilge-mo-Chro%C3%AD-503125313059405/>  
(Hudson Valley, NY)

Gaeilge i Nua Eabhrac, Irish language in NYC:  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/306583062177/>

Appleton Irish Language Learners Shamrock Club Fox Cities:  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/660328880725047/>

Colorado Irish Language Speakers: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1662788123951297/>

Irish West Indies: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/irishwestindies/>

Bloomington Irish Language Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/114570365250277/>

Valparaiso Irish League: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1628278584095812/>

Arizona Irish Language Learners: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1062982760401359/>

Rang Gaeilge Az: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/135617543442101/>

Aiséirí: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/243766472647756/>

Iowa Irish: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/139342399411582/>

Learn Irish Des Moines: <https://www.facebook.com/Learn-Irish-Des-Moines-169539249756345>

Gaeilago Irish Language in the South Side of Chicago:

<https://www.facebook.com/SouthSideIrishLanguage/>

Dallas-Fort Worth Gaelic League: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/DFWGaelicLeague/>

Ellis County Irish Study Group: <https://www.facebook.com/ECIRISH/> -

<https://www.facebook.com/gaeilgesinger> - Ellis County Irish Language Study Group most Tuesdays, (now @ DeSoto Public Library, DeSoto, Texas) 5:30ish pm - 7:00pm. Contact me to confirm in case we need to cancel the evening or move location.

Gaeltacht na nEasanna (Portland): <https://www.facebook.com/groups/gaeltacht.cascades/>

Foghlaimoirí na Gaeilge sa Ghearmáin:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1638212066451303/>