

PRONUNCIATION Cheat Sheets FOR Irish Gaelic

By

Saša Novak Uí Chonchúir



PRONUNCIATION Cheat Sheets FOR Irish Gaelic

The keys to deciphering Irish Gaelic pronunciation.



Author: Saša Novak Uí Chonchúir
Copyright © 2011 eTeanga. All rights reserved.

www.bitesizeirishgaelic.com

info@bitesizeirishgaelic.com

First Edition

Introduction

I'll keep this introduction short and sweet, just like the cheat sheets.

Over the years, many people have said to me “Irish Gaelic isn't pronounced like it's written!”. That's simply not true. Before trying to decipher how Irish Gaelic (just call it “Irish”), that's the first thing I want you to understand. Irish uses letters of the alphabet with a different set of rules. It uses combinations of letters to represent a different range of sounds. Embrace it.

It's all approximate

This set of cheat sheets is here to guide you in the right direction of pronunciation. Hopefully you'll learn a lot from it. But this is only a starting point for you. The pronunciation offered here is as general as possible, but it still leans towards the Munster (southern) dialect where I'm from. Don't let that be a problem for you. Regardless of dialect differences, it's difficult to portray the sounds of the language through English-language letters. This set of cheat sheets is not a bible, it is a guide.

In the columns ‘sounds like’, we provide you with the approximate phonetic pronunciation of the word. This column uses English spelling rules to give you an idea how the word is pronounced. For example, for the word “cás” we spell it out phonetically as “cawss” to give you a better idea of how to pronounce it. In places where the “sound like” word is written in capital letters, this means that this syllable is emphasized. For example, for the word “baile” we say that it ‘sounds like’ “BOL-ya”. This tells you that the emphasis is on the first part of the word.

Listen to Raidió na Gaeltachta online, and watch live TG4. Learn from the native speakers, in whatever way you can access them. Practice your pronunciation at home, with your dog, with your family. It's a journey, it's an adventure. Learn a little at a time, and don't get frustrated with it. Just be sure that you're improving a little each week and each month.

Bain taithneamh as – enjoy it!

Dr. Eoin Ó Conchúir