

(12) Insne/Uimhir – Agreement

Every **noun** (person/place/thing) in Irish is either **masculine** or **feminine**. Of course, a dictionary can tell you which is which.

This mostly depends on the **end** of the noun:

Masculine: Words that finish:

- án (milseán)
- ín (sicín)
- eoir/éir/úir/óir (feirmeoir)
- acht 1 syllable (ceacht)
- with a **vowel** (siopa)
- with a **broad consonant** (roth)

Feminine: Words that finish:

- íocht (tíreolaíocht)
- lann (pictiúrlann)
- acht +1 syllable (Gaeltacht)
- og (fuinneog)
- with a **slender consonant** (scoil)

Note: A **broad consonant** is just a consonant with a broad vowel (**a, o, u**) in front. **Eg.** Cnoc, leabhar, fear.

A **slender consonant** is just a consonant with a slender vowel (**i, e**) in front. **Eg.** Feoil, páirc, litir.

There are some **spelling** issues to watch out for when dealing with nouns. The first few follow the definite article **the** (an).

1) **An** puts a **h** onto **feminine** nouns:

Eg. An fhuinneog, an chathaoir.

2) Also, watch out for words that begin with a **vowel**.

An puts a **t-** before **masculine** nouns that begin with a **vowel**:

Eg. An t-ospidéal, an t-úll.

3) **An** puts a **t** in front of **feminine** nouns beginning with **s**.

Eg. An tsráid, an tseachtain.

Note: Most countries and languages are feminine.

Eg. An Fhrainc, an Ghréig.

Most careers are masculine.

Eg. An búsáistí, an t-aisteoir.

- 4) Also, adjectives (describing words) have to **agree** with the noun they are describing. ie. If the singular noun being described is **feminine**, we have to make the adjective **feminine** too, by adding a h.

Eg. An fhuinneog mhór, an chathaoir ghorm.

If you do French you'll know **agreement** works the same way.

Ceacht 1:

*Decide if the following nouns are **masculine** or **feminine**.*

*Rewrite each noun with the article **an** (the) in front -*

Eg. An Ghaeilge (fem), An mala (masc).

An Ghaeilge F.

An Litríocht F.

An Leabhar M.

An tSíocháin F.

An Fearn M.

An Múinteoir M.

An t-Uaigneas M.

An Liathróid F.

An Bhainis F.

An Baile M.

An Pointe M.

An Coinín M.

An Sagart M.

An Obair F.

An Milleán M.

An t-osna M.

An Rang M.

An Fuacht M.

An Béarla M.

An Ríomhaire M.

An Chumhacht F.

An Chlann F.

An Sliabh M.

An Chearnóg F.

An Loch M.

An Abairt F.

An Peileadóir M.

An Rinceoir M.

An Scéal M.

An t-áthas M.

Ceacht 2:

Now do the same, but with the **adjectives** provided -

Eg. carr/gorm = An carr gorm

bróg/donn = An bhróg dhonn

1) balla/fada = an balla fada

2) hata/mór = an hata mór

3) mála/dubh = an mála dubh

4) gruaig/fionn = an ghruaig fhionn

5) fear/cliste = an fear cliste

6) seomra/beag = an seomra beag

7) máthair/cineálta = an mháthair chineálta

8) múinteoir/crosta = an múinteoir cliste

9) dochtíir/díograiseach = an dochtíir cneasta

10) trácht/trom = an trácht trom

11) focal/garbh = an focal garbh

12) ócáid/tábhachtach = an ócáid thábhachtach

13) scéal/suimiúil = an scéal suimiúil

14) paidir/deas = an phaidir dheas

15) guth/ciúin = an guth ciúin

16) gunna/dáinséarach = an gunna dáinséarach

17) moill/millteanach = an mhoill mhillteanach

18) cuisneoir/bán = an cuisneoir bán

19) rang/múinte = an rang múinte

20) tolg/dearg = an tolg dearg

Agreement also needs dealt with in **plurals** as well.

If the noun being described is plural, we have to make the adjective plural too, usually by adding an **a**.

Eg. Súile glasa, Siopaí móra.

Note: Only add **a** to adjectives ending in a **broad** consonant.
Nouns ending in a **slender** consonant are handled differently

For nouns that end in a **slender l**, drop the **last** vowel so it ends in a **broad** consonant, then go ahead and add the **a**.

Eg. scéalta/suimiúil = scéalta suimiúla
siopaí/áitiúil = siopaí áitiúla

For nouns ending in other **slender** consonants, add **e** instead

Eg. torthaí/maith = torthaí maithe
focail/séimh = focail séimhe

Ceacht 3:

Write out the following plural descriptions -

Eg. daoine/cairdiúil = daoine cairdiúla

1) bóithre/cúng = bóithre cúngra

2) páistí/ciúin = páistí ciúine

3) leabhair/suimiúil = leabhair suimiúla

4) oícheanta/maith = oícheanta maihe

5) pinn/dearg = pinn dearga

6) filí/éirimiúil = filí éirimiúla

7) ainmhithe/bagrach = ainmhithe bagracha

8) dioscónna/áitiúil = dioscónna áitiúla

9) déagóirí/glic = déagóirí glice

10) cúrsaí/tábhachtach = cúrsaí tábhachtacha

Let's put the 2 together - Agreement in gender **and** number.

Ceacht 4:

Scríobh amach as Gaeilge -

Eg. cearnóg/deas = **An** chearnóg dheas
scoileanna/millteanach = **Na** scoileanna millteanacha

1) spéir/gorm = an spéir ghorm

2) léinte/bán = na léinte bána

3) litreacha/fadalach = na litreacha fadalacha

4) tithe/mór = na tithe móra

5) cathair/gnóthach = an chathair ghnóthach

6) páirceanna/glas = na páirceanna glasa

7) bean/cineálta = an bhean chineálta

8) radharcanna/deas = na radharcanna deasa

9) bábóga/beag = na bábóga beaga

10) áis/tábhachtach = na háiseanna tábhachtacha

11) malaí/trom = na malaí troma

12) amharclanna/suntasach = na hamharclanna suntasacha

13) grian/geal = an ghrian gheal

14) athair/freagrach = an t-athair freagrach

15) feoil blasta = an fheoil bhlasta

16) ceisteanna/suimiúil = na ceisteanna suimiúla

17) fuinneog/glan = an fhuinneog ghlan

18) aislingí/polaitiúil = na haislingí polaitiúla

19) carranna/glas = na carranna glasa

20) páiste/béasach = an páiste béasach
