

Conjugating Regular Irish Verbs

PART ONE — Present Tense of First Conjugation

The regular verbs in Irish come in two types — 1st Conjugation and 2nd Conjugation verbs. Generally speaking, 1st Conjugation verbs have only one syllable. 2nd Conjugation verbs have two or more. It is important to remember this, as it affects the way you will conjugate the verb.

Spell it correctly!

In Irish, vowels are either slender or broad, and can change the sound of nearby consonants. E and I are slender vowels, and A, O, and U are broad. Remember the following phrase in order to spell your conjugated verbs correctly if they have more than one syllable:

Broad with Broad, and Slender with Slender.

To be precise, the first vowel used in the second syllable must be of the same type (Broad or slender) as the last vowel used in the first syllable. We will demonstrate this principle below.

THE PRESENT TENSE

1st Conjugation

The root forms of 1st Conjugation verbs have only one syllable. A few verbs which belong in this category are: **rith**, **dún**, **bris**, and **fan**. Below you will find the appropriate endings for the present tense of most 1st Conjugation verbs.

Present tense endings for the 1st Conjugation:

SLENDER ENDINGS: im, eann, imid	BROAD ENDINGS: aim, ann, aimid
<i>for example:</i> rith rithim, ritheann tú/sé/sí, rithimid, ritheann sibh/siad	<i>for example:</i> dún dúnaim, dúnann tú/sé/sí, dúnaimid, dúnann sibh/siad
bris brisim, briseann tú/sé/sí, brisimid, briseann sibh/siad	fan fanaim, fanann tú/sé/sí, fanaimid, fanann sibh/siad

***** Some exceptions *****

Several 1st Conjugation verbs don't follow the pattern shown above for the present tense. If the verb has a long vowel (a vowel with a 'fada') and ends with **igh**, drop **igh** from the spelling before adding the endings. A good example of this type of exception is **léigh**:

léigh + im = léim léigh + eann = léann léigh + imid = léimid
(**léim, léann tú/sé/sí, léimid, léann sibh/siad.**)

A handful of 1st Conjugation verbs have a long 'i' sound to them without a 'fada' present to indicate it. A few of them like this: **suigh**, **guigh**, **nigh**, and **luigh**. For these, drop the **igh**, then use the endings given below. These use a set of endings normally associated with 2nd Conjugation verbs:

First Conjugation "Long-I-sound" Endings: **ím, íonn, ímid**

for example:

suigh + ím = suím suigh + íonn = suíonn suigh + ímid = suímid
(**suím, suíonn tú/sé/sí, suímid, suíonn sibh/siad.**)

and:

nigh + ím = ním nigh + íonn = níonn nigh + ímid = nímid
(**ním, níonn tú/sé/sí, nímid, níonn sibh/siad.**)

Conjugating Regular Irish Verbs

PART TWO — Present Tense of Second Conjugation

The regular verbs in Irish come in two types — 1st Conjugation and 2nd Conjugation verbs. Generally speaking, 1st Conjugation verbs have only one syllable. 2nd Conjugation verbs have two or more. It is important to remember this, as it affects the way you will conjugate the verb.

Spell it correctly!

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Broad with Broad, and Slender with Slender.

To be precise, the first vowel used in the second syllable must be of the same type (Broad or slender) as the last vowel used in the first syllable. We will demonstrate this principle below.

THE PRESENT TENSE

2nd Conjugation

These verbs have two or more syllables. If they end in **igh**, or **aigh**, drop off those letters, and tack on endings from the appropriate list below. If they end in **il**, **ir**, **in**, or **is**, the second syllable is often syncopated, or condensed, before adding the appropriate ending. See below for some examples, or consult a grammar text or verb book. A few verbs which belong in this category are: **éirigh**, **ceannaigh**, **eitil**, **freagair**.

Present tense endings for 2nd Conjugation:

SLENDER ENDINGS: <i>ím, íonn, ímid</i>	BROAD ENDINGS: <i>aím, aíonn, aímid</i>
<i>for example:</i> éirigh éirím, éiríonn tú/sé/sí, éirímid, éiríonn sibh/siad	<i>for example:</i> ceannaigh ceannaím, ceannaíonn tú/sé/sí, ceannaímid, ceannaíonn sibh/siad
eitil eitlím, eitlíonn tú/sé/sí, eitlímid, eitlíonn sibh/siad	freagair freagraím, freagraíonn tú/sé/sí, freagraímid, freagraíonn sibh/siad

(**Eitil** and **freagair** are also examples of syncopation. **Eitil** is shortened to “**eitl**” before adding the ending. **Freagair** gets shortened to “**freagr**.”)

OTHER NOTEWORTHY ITEMS ABOUT THE PRESENT TENSE:

An is the generic question particle in the present tense. Adding it before the verb causes *eclipsis*.

For example: an ndúnann tú? an gceannaíonn sibh?

Nach is the negative question particle in the present tense. Adding it before the verb causes *eclipsis*.

For example: nach ndúnaim? nach gceannaíonn tú?

Ní is the negative statement particle for the present tense. Adding it before the verb causes *lenition*.

For example: ní dhúnaim. ní cheannaímid.

Conjugating Regular Irish Verbs

PART THREE — Past Tense of First Conjugation

The regular verbs in Irish come in two types — 1st Conjugation and 2nd Conjugation verbs. Generally speaking, 1st Conjugation verbs have only one syllable. 2nd Conjugation verbs have two or more. It is important to remember this, as it affects the way you will conjugate the verb.

Spell it correctly!

In Irish, vowels are either slender or broad, and can change the sound of nearby consonants. E and I are slender vowels, and A, O, and U are broad. Remember the following phrase in order to spell your conjugated verbs correctly if they have more than one syllable:

Broad with Broad, and Slender with Slender.

To be precise, the first vowel used in the second syllable must be of the same type (Broad or slender) as the last vowel used in the first syllable. We will demonstrate this principle below.

THE PAST TENSE

First Conjugation

The past tense is probably the easiest tense to conjugate. To form the past tense for first conjugation verbs, just follow all of the following four steps that apply to the verb you wish to conjugate, and do so in this order:

- Start with the spelling of the root/command form;
- Lenite the initial consonant if lenitable;
- Add **d'** before those verbs starting with vowels or **fh** (which is silent anyway);
- Use the separate pronoun forms, except in the first person plural (see below).

A few verbs from this category which will illustrate the above instructions are: cuir, dún, éist, fan.

Past tense endings for 1st Conjugation:

SLENDER ENDING: eamar (1st person plural)	BROAD ENDING: amar (1st person plural)
<i>for example:</i> cuir chuir mé/tú/sé/sí, chuireamar, chuir sibh/siad	<i>for example:</i> dún dhún mé/tú/sé/sí, dhúnamar, dhún sibh/siad
éist d'éist mé/tú/sé/sí, d'éisteamar, d'éist sibh/siad	fan d'fhan mé/tú/sé/sí, d'fhanamar, d'fhan sibh/siad

Other noteworthy items about the Past Tense:

Ar forms the generic question form in the past tense. Note, however, that verbs starting with **d'** in this tense will drop this in question forms. For example: **ar dhún tú?** but **ar éist sibh?**

Nar forms the negative question form in the past tense. Note, however, that verbs starting with **d'** in this tense will drop this in negative question forms. For example: **nar dhún sé? nar éist sí?**

Níor forms the negative statement for the past tense. Note, however, that verbs starting with **d'** in this tense will drop this in negative statement forms. For example: **níor dhún mé; níor éisteamar**

Conjugating Regular Irish Verbs

PART FOUR — Past Tense of Second Conjugation

The regular verbs in Irish come in two types — 1st Conjugation and 2nd Conjugation verbs. Generally speaking, 1st Conjugation verbs have only one syllable. 2nd Conjugation verbs have two or more. It is important to remember this, as it affects the way you will conjugate the verb.

Spell it correctly!

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Broad with Broad, and Slender with Slender.

To be precise, the first vowel used in the second syllable must be of the same type (Broad or slender) as the last vowel used in the first syllable. We will demonstrate this principle below.

THE PAST TENSE

Second Conjugation

The past tense is probably the easiest tense to conjugate. To form the past tense for second conjugation verbs, just follow all of the following four steps that apply to the verb you wish to conjugate, and do so in this order:

- Start with the spelling of the root/command form;
- Lenite the initial consonant if lenitable;
- Add **d'** before those verbs starting with vowels or **fh** (which is silent anyway);
- Use the separate pronoun forms, except in the first person plural (see below).

A few verbs from this category which will illustrate the above instructions are: **éirigh**, **ceannaigh**, **deisigh**, **freagair**.

Past tense endings for 2nd Conjugation:

SLENDER ENDING: íomar (1st person plural)	BROAD ENDING: aíomar (1st person plural)
<i>for example:</i> éirigh d'éirigh mé/tú/sé/sí, d'éiríomar, d'éirigh sibh/siad	<i>for example:</i> ceannaigh cheannaigh mé/tú/sé/sí, cheannaíomar, cheannaigh sibh/siad
deisigh dheisigh mé/tú/sé/sí, dheisíomar, dheisigh sibh/siad	freagair d'fhreagair mé/tú/sé/sí, d'fhreagraíomar*, d'fhreagair sibh/siad

**demonstrates syncopation - see part two.*

Other noteworthy items about the Past Tense:

Ar forms the generic question form in the past tense. Note, however, that verbs starting with **d'** in this tense will drop this in question forms. For example: **ar dheisigh tú?** but **ar éirigh sibh?**

Nar forms the negative question form in the past tense. Note, however, that verbs starting with **d'** in this tense will drop this in negative question forms. For example: **nar dheisigh sé? nar éirigh sí?**

Níor forms the negative statement for the past tense. Note, however, that verbs starting with **d'** in this tense will drop this in negative statement forms. For example: **níor dheisigh mé; níor éiríomar**

Conjugating Regular Irish Verbs

PART FIVE — Future Tense of First Conjugation

The regular verbs in Irish come in two types — 1st Conjugation and 2nd Conjugation verbs. Generally speaking, 1st Conjugation verbs have only one syllable. 2nd Conjugation verbs have two or more. It is important to remember this, as it affects the way you will conjugate the verb.

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To be precise, the first vowel used in the second syllable must be of the same type (Broad or slender) as the last vowel used in the first syllable. We will demonstrate this principle below.

THE FUTURE TENSE

First Conjugation

Start with the spelling of the root form of 1st Conjugation verbs; with most of these, just add the appropriate ending to make the future tense. If the verb ends with **gh**, drop those letters from the spelling before adding the endings. A few verbs which belong in this category are: **cuir**, **tóg**, **léigh**, **glan**.

Future tense endings for 1st Conjugation:

SLENDER ENDINGS: fidh, fimid	BROAD ENDINGS: faidh, faimid
<i>for example:</i> cuir cuirfidh mé/tú/sé/sí, cuirfidh sibh/siad léigh léifidh mé/tú/sé/sí, léifidh sibh/siad	<i>for example:</i> tóg tógfaidh mé/tú/sé/sí, tógfaidh sibh/siad glan glanfaidh mé/tú/sé/sí, glanfaidh sibh/siad

******* Some exceptions *******

Several 1st Conjugation verbs don't follow the pattern shown above for the present tense. If the verb has a long vowel (a vowel with a 'fada') and ends with **igh**, drop **igh** from the spelling before adding the endings. A good example of this type of exception is **léigh**:

léigh + fidh = léifidh léigh + fimid = léifimid (léifidh mé/tú/sé/sí, léifimid, léifidh sibh/siad.)

A handful of 1st Conjugation verbs have a long 'i' sound to them without a 'fada' present to indicate it. A few of them like this: **suigh**, **guigh**, **nigh**, and **luigh**. For these, drop the **igh**, then use the endings given below:

First Conjugation "Long-I-sound" Endings: **ífidh, ífimid**

for example:

suigh + ífidh = suífidh suigh + ífimid = suífidh (suífidh mé/tú/sé/sí, suífidh sibh/siad.)

and:

nigh + ífidh = nífidh nigh + ífimid = nífidh (nífidh mé/tú/sé/sí, nífidh sibh/siad.)

Other noteworthy items about the Future Tense:

An forms the generic question form in the future tense. Adding it before the verb causes eclipsis.

For example: **an ndúnfaidh tú? an gcuirfidh sibh?**

Nach forms the negative question form in the future tense. Adding it before the verb causes eclipsis.

For example: **nach mbrisfidh sé? nach gcuirfidh?**

Ní forms the negative statement for the future tense. Adding it before the verb causes lenition.

For example: **ní bhrisfidh sí ní ghlanfaidh sé**

Conjugating Regular Irish Verbs

PART SIX — Future Tense of Second Conjugation

The regular verbs in Irish come in two types — 1st Conjugation and 2nd Conjugation verbs. Generally speaking, 1st Conjugation verbs have only one syllable. 2nd Conjugation verbs have two or more. It is important to remember this, as it affects the way you will conjugate the verb.

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To be precise, the first vowel used in the second syllable must be of the same type (Broad or slender) as the last vowel used in the first syllable. We will demonstrate this principle below.

THE FUTURE TENSE

Second Conjugation

Start with the spelling of the root form of 2nd Conjugation verbs; if they end in **igh**, or **aigh**, drop off those letters, and tack on endings from the appropriate list below. If they end in **il**, **ir**, **in**, or **is**, the second syllable is often syncopated, or condensed, before adding the appropriate ending*. A few verbs which belong in this category: **éirigh**, **ceannaigh**, **eitil**, **freagair**.

Future tense endings for 2nd Conjugation:

SLENDER ENDINGS: eoidh , eoimid	BROAD ENDINGS: óidh , óimid
<i>for example:</i> éirigh éireoidh mé/tú/sé/sí, éireoimid, éireoidh sibh/siad	<i>for example:</i> ceannaigh ceannóidh mé/tú/sé/sí, ceannóimid, ceannóidh sibh/siad
eitil eitleoidh mé/tú/sé/sí, eitleoimid, eitleoidh sibh/siad	freagair freagróidh mé/tú/sé/sí, freagróimid, freagróidh sibh/siad

*2nd conjugation verbs whose **second syllable** starts with an “l” and ends with an “m” will not syncopate prior to adding endings.

Other noteworthy items about the Future Tense:

An forms the generic question form in the future tense. Adding it before the verb causes eclipsis.

For example: **an ndeiseoidh tú? an gceannóidh sibh?**

Nach forms the negative question form in the future tense. Adding it before the verb causes eclipsis.

For example: **nach mbeannóidh sé? nach gceannóimid?**

Ní forms the negative statement for the future tense. Adding it before the verb causes lenition.

For example: **ní mharóidh sí ní osclóidh sé**

Conjugating Regular Irish Verbs

PART SEVEN — Imperfect Tense of First Conjugation

The regular verbs in Irish come in two types — 1st Conjugation and 2nd Conjugation verbs. Generally speaking, 1st Conjugation verbs have only one syllable. 2nd Conjugation verbs have two or more. It is important to remember this, as it affects the way you will conjugate the verb.

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In Irish, vowels are either slender or broad, and can change the sound of nearby consonants. E and I are slender vowels, and A, O, and U are broad. Remember the following phrase in order to spell your conjugated verbs correctly if they have more than one syllable:

Broad with Broad, and Slender with Slender.

To be precise, the first vowel used in the second syllable must be of the same type (Broad or slender) as the last vowel used in the first syllable. We will demonstrate this principle below.

THE IMPERFECT TENSE

First Conjugation

To form the imperfect tense for first conjugation verbs, just follow all of the following steps below that apply to the verb you wish to conjugate, and do so in this order:

- Start with the spelling of the root/command form;
- Lenite the initial consonant if lenitable;
- Add **d'** before those verbs starting with vowels or **fh** (which is silent anyway);
- Add the appropriate ending (see below).

Imperfect tense endings for the 1st Conjugation:

SLENDER ENDINGS: inn, teá, eadh, imis, idís	BROAD ENDINGS: ainn, tá, adh, aimis, aidís
<i>for example:</i> rith rithinn, rithteá, ritheadh sé/sí rithimis, ritheadh sibh, rithidís	<i>for example:</i> dún dhúnainn, dhúntá, dhúnadh sé/sí dhúnaimis, dhúnadh sibh, dhúnaidís
bris bhrisinn, bhristeá, bhriseadh sé/sí bhrisimis, bhriseadh sibh, brisidís	fan d'fhanainn, d'fhantá, d'fhanadh sé/sí d'fhanaimis, d'fhanadh sibh, d'fhanaidís

Other noteworthy items about the Imperfect Tense:

An forms the generic question form in the imperfect tense. Adding it before the verb causes eclipsis (you must “un-lenite” the initial consonant first).

For example: **an mbristeá? an ndúnadh sibh?**

Nach forms the negative question form in the imperfect tense. Adding it before the verb causes eclipsis (you must “un-lenite” the initial consonant first).

For example: **nach mbriseadh sé? nach ndúnaimis?**

Ní forms the negative statement for the imperfect tense. No change necessary to the verb (already lenited).

For example: **ní ritheadh sí ní dhúntá**

Conjugating Regular Irish Verbs

PART EIGHT — Imperfect Tense of Second Conjugation

The regular verbs in Irish come in two types — 1st Conjugation and 2nd Conjugation verbs. Generally speaking, 1st Conjugation verbs have only one syllable. 2nd Conjugation verbs have two or more. It is important to remember this, as it affects the way you will conjugate the verb.

Spell it correctly!

In Irish, vowels are either slender or broad, and can change the sound of nearby consonants. E and I are slender vowels, and A, O, and U are broad. Remember the following phrase in order to spell your conjugated verbs correctly if they have more than one syllable:

Broad with Broad, and Slender with Slender.

To be precise, the first vowel used in the second syllable must be of the same type (Broad or slender) as the last vowel used in the first syllable. We will demonstrate this principle below.

THE IMPERFECT TENSE

Second Conjugation

To form the imperfect tense for second conjugation verbs, just follow all of the following steps below that apply to the verb you wish to conjugate, and do so in this order:

- Start with the spelling of the root/command form;
- Lenite the initial consonant if lenitable;
- Add **d'** before those verbs starting with vowels or **fh** (which is silent anyway);
- Remove any **igh** or **aigh** endings, or;
- Syncopate (remove vowels from) the last syllable of non-**igh/aigh** ending verbs;
- Add the appropriate ending (see below).

A few verbs which belong in this category: **éirigh**, **ceannaigh**, **eitil**, **freagair**.

Imperfect tense endings for 2nd Conjugation:

SLENDER ENDINGS: ínn, íteá, íodh, ímis, ídís	BROAD ENDINGS: aínn, aíteá, aíodh, aímis, aídís
<p><i>for example:</i></p> <p>éirigh</p> <p>d'éirínn, d'éiríteá, d'éiríodh sé/sí d'éirímis, d'éiríodh sibh, d'éirídís</p> <p>eitil</p> <p>d'eitlínn, d'eitlíteá, d'eitlíodh sé/sí d'eitlímis, d'eitlíodh sibh, d'eitlídís</p>	<p><i>for example:</i></p> <p>ceannaigh</p> <p>cheannaínn, cheannaíteá, cheannaíodh sé/sí cheannaímis, cheannaíodh sibh, cheannaídís</p> <p>freagair</p> <p>d'fhreagraínn, d'fhreagraíteá, d'fhreagraíodh sé/sí d'fhreagraímis, d'fhreagraíodh sibh, d'fhreagraídís</p>

Other noteworthy items about the Imperfect Tense:

An forms the generic question form in the imperfect tense. Adding it before the verb causes eclipsis (you must “un-lenite” the initial consonant first).

For example: **an gceannaíteá? an ndeisímis?**

Nach forms the negative question form in the imperfect tense. Adding it before the verb causes eclipsis (you must “un-lenite” the initial consonant first).

For example: **nach gceannaíodh sé? nach ndeisíodh sibh?**

Ní forms the negative statement for the imperfect tense. No change necessary to the verb (already lenited).

For example: **ní cheannaíodh sí ní dheisíteá**

Conjugating Regular Irish Verbs

PART NINE — Conditional Mood of First Conjugation

The regular verbs in Irish come in two types — 1st Conjugation and 2nd Conjugation verbs. Generally speaking, 1st Conjugation verbs have only one syllable. 2nd Conjugation verbs have two or more. It is important to remember this, as it affects the way you will conjugate the verb.

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To be precise, the first vowel used in the second syllable must be of the same type (Broad or slender) as the last vowel used in the first syllable. We will demonstrate this principle below.

THE CONDITIONAL MOOD

First Conjugation

To form the conditional mood for first conjugation verbs, just follow all of the following steps below that apply to the verb you wish to conjugate, and do so in this order:

- Start with the spelling of the root/command form;
- Lenite the initial consonant if lenitable;
- Add **d'** before those verbs starting with vowels or **fh** (which is silent anyway);
- Add the appropriate ending (see below).

Conditional Mood endings for the 1st Conjugation:

SLENDER ENDINGS: finn, feá, feadh, fimis, fidís	BROAD ENDINGS: fainn, fá, fadh, faimis, faidís
<i>for example:</i> rith rithfinn, rithfeá, rithfeadh sé/sí rithfimis, rithfeadh sibh, rithfidís bris bhrisfinn, bhrisfeá, bhrisfeadh sé/sí bhrisfimis, bhrisfeadh sibh, bhrisfidís	<i>for example:</i> dún dhúnfainn, dhúnfá, dhúnfadh sé/sí dhúnfaimis, dhúnfadh sibh, dhúnfaidís fan d'fhanfainn, d'fhanfá, d'fhanfadh sé/sí d'fhanfaimis, d'fhanfadh sibh, d'fhanfaidís

Other noteworthy items about the Conditional Mood:

An forms the generic question form in the imperfect tense. Adding it before the verb causes eclipsis (you must “un-lenite” the initial consonant first).

For example: **an mbrisfeá? an ndúnfadh sibh?**

Nach forms the negative question form in the conditional mood. Adding it before the verb causes eclipsis (you must “un-lenite” the initial consonant first).

For example: **nach mbrisfeadh sé? nach ndúnfaimís?**

Ní forms the negative statement for the conditional mood. No change necessary to the verb (already lenited).

For example: **ní rithfeadh sí ní dhúnfá**

Conjugating Regular Irish Verbs

PART TEN — Conditional Mood of Second Conjugation

The regular verbs in Irish come in two types — 1st Conjugation and 2nd Conjugation verbs. Generally speaking, 1st Conjugation verbs have only one syllable. 2nd Conjugation verbs have two or more. It is important to remember this, as it affects the way you will conjugate the verb.

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Broad with Broad, and Slender with Slender.

To be precise, the first vowel used in the second syllable must be of the same type (Broad or slender) as the last vowel used in the first syllable. We will demonstrate this principle below.

THE CONDITIONAL MOOD

Second Conjugation

To form the conditional mood for second conjugation verbs, just follow all of the following steps below that apply to the verb you wish to conjugate, and do so in this order:

- Start with the spelling of the root/command form;
- Lenite the initial consonant if lenitable;
- Add **d'** before those verbs starting with vowels or **fh** (which is silent anyway);
- Remove any **igh** or **aigh** endings, or;
- Syncopate (remove vowels from) the last syllable of non-**igh/aigh** ending verbs;
- Add the appropriate ending (see below).

A few verbs which belong in this category: **éirigh**, **ceannaigh**, **eitil**, **freagair**.

Conditional Mood endings for 2nd Conjugation:

SLENDER ENDINGS: eoinn, eofá, eodh, eois, eoidís	BROAD ENDINGS: óinn, ófá, ódh, óimis, óidís
<i>for example:</i> éirigh d'éireoinn, d'éireofá, d'éireodh sé/sí d'éireois, d'éireodh sibh, d'éireoidís	<i>for example:</i> ceannaigh cheannóinn, cheannofá, cheannódh sé/sí cheannóimis, cheannódh sibh, cheannóidís
eitil d'eitleoinn, d'eitleofá, d'eitleodh sé/sí d'eitleois, d'eitleodh sibh, d'eitleoidís	freagair d'fhreagróinn, d'fhreagrófá, d'fhreagródh sé/sí d'fhreagróimis, d'fhreagródh sibh, d'fhreagróidís

Other noteworthy items about the Conditional Mood:

An forms the generic question form in the conditional mood. Adding it before the verb causes eclipsis (you must “un-lenite” the initial consonant first).

For example: **an gceannófá? an ndeisóimis?**

Nach forms the negative question form in the conditional mood. Adding it before the verb causes eclipsis (you must “un-lenite” the initial consonant first).

For example: **nach gceannódh sé? nach ndeisódh sibh?**

Ní forms the negative statement for the conditional mood. No change necessary to the verb (already lenited).

For example: **ní cheannódh sí ní dheiseofá**