

[philoprogress1-15b] PII Lesson 05 Assignments and Grammar
Welcome to lesson five of Progress in Irish by Máiréad Ní Ghráda.

Read the lesson on page 7 of your book and listen to the audio file (Lesson05.mp3) which is available in the Audio folder of our Files section.

Homework: Complete the eight exercises in the "Cuir Gaeilge air seo" section on page 7 of the book and forward to me for evaluation.

Any questions on this or previous lessons, just ask :-)
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Grammar:

There are 8 nouns introduced in this week's lesson. I have listed them here under gender:

Masculine:

dúch - ink,
rothar - a bicycle,
carr - a car,
oráiste - an orange,
punt - a pound,
airgead - money.

Feminine:

cailc - chalk,
pingin - a penny.

As I mentioned in lesson 1, there is no *indefinite* article in Irish. The noun "carr" can mean either "car" or "a car" and you will be able to identify its precise meaning from context. As a masculine noun, the definite article would have no effect on the initial consonant of this noun:

carr - (a) car
an carr - the car.

Remember that a FEMININE noun, such as "pingin" (penny) would be subject to lenition following the definite article:

pingin - (a) penny
an phingin - the penny.

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Prepositional pronouns: The preposition "ag", introduced to us in lesson 1, has a basic meaning of "at." We combine this preposition with the personal pronouns which were introduced in lesson 4 to form the following *prepositional pronouns*:

ag + mé = agam (at me),
ag + tú = agat (at you - singular),
ag + sé = aige (at him),
ag + sí = aici (at her),
ag + muid/sinn = againn (at us),
ag + sibh = agaibh (at you - plural),
ag + siad = acu (at them).

See the file "Prepositional pronouns.pdf" in our Files section.

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"have" : There is no separate word for "have" in Irish. To say that somebody "has" something in their possession we use a construction containing the verb "tá" and the preposition "ag" and say that something is "at" somebody:

[tá] + [noun] + [ag] + [person (or thing) possessing the noun]

[Tá] + [leabhar] + [ag] + [Brian] - Brian *has* a book. Literally, "a book is at Brian"

[Níl] + [oráiste] + [ag] + [Nóra] - Nora does not have an orange.
Literally, "an orange is not at Nora"

[An bhfuil] + [peann] + [agat?] - Do you have a pen? Literally, "Is a pen at you?"

[Cad] + [tá] + [agat?] - What do you have? Literally, "What is at you?"

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Tá leabhar ag an múinteoir (The teacher has a book): In this sentence we are saying that *the* teacher has a book. We are identifying a particular teacher by using the definite article "an". Although it is not demonstrated in this week's lesson you should be aware that the article "an", when immediately preceded by the preposition "ag", causes ECLIPSIS to nouns beginning with B, C, D, F, G, P or T:

buachaill - (a) boy

an buachaill - the boy

Tá leabhar ag an mbuachaill - The boy has a book.

See the file "The Article.pdf" in our Files section.

I have taken this opportunity to mention this rule because you will notice item #7 in the "Cuir Gaeilge air seo" on page 7 asks you to translate "The teacher has chalk." Máiréad Ní Ghráda chose to use "the teacher" because a noun beginning with M is not affected. However, when you try to construct your own sentences using some of the other nouns and vocabulary we have covered so far in this course you need to be aware of the rule.

This construction using "tá...ag..." is used to express *temporary possession*, rather than ownership. We express *ownership* with a slightly different construction and we will deal with that later in this course.