

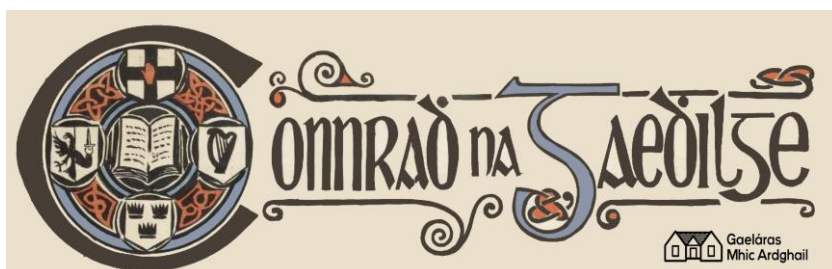


FAIGH FÁINNE CAITH FÁINNE

Simple Steps to Silver Fáinne
Booklet with Audio Support

Aithníonn Fáinneoir Fáinneoir eile...

A PDF copy of this booklet is available for online purchase from
gaelarasmhicardghail@gmail.com



CEISTEANNA – QUESTIONS

The suggested questions are an amalgam of GCSE types (courtesy of Caitríona Bn. de Bléine, Coláiste Chaitríona, Ard Mhacha), Lófa questions, and a Craobh an Lúir/Newry.ie self-learning resource. Adults and pupils are therefore broadly accommodated with pick & mix questions. That there are 33 optional questions is random and is not based on any structured programme. We just want to get a value for money or free resource into Early Learners' hands. So expect a cottage-industry production that is marked more by enthusiasm than slick finish or marketing. That Newry Gaelic League has circulated over 3000 Fáinne question booklets however shows that there's an appetite for a supported, affordable, introductory route into spoken Irish. Our own view is that the earning and wearing of the Fáinne is more important now than ever given the renewed interest in, and increasingly confident daily use of Irish across the whole island. Aithníonn Fáinneoir Fáinneoir Eile. Our challenge and request might indeed be Faigh Fáinne - Caith Fáinne though the personal satisfaction gained in beginning to speak "Ár dTeanga - Our Language" is what really matters. If required, a Fáinne Airgid test by phone or Zoom can be arranged through contacting gaelarasmhicardghail@gmail.com. Those under 16 must book this through a parent or teacher. A small fee to cover the costs of the Fáinne, certificate and postage applies. For those who disapprove of wearing badges or who do not wish to undertake an informal test, the questions and answers on our You Tube sound files let you commence learning to speak some Irish on your own terms.

BITESIZE UNITS

Aonad 1	Cad é an t-ainm atá ort?
Aonad 2	Cad é mar atá tú?
Aonad 3	Cá bhfuil tú i do chónaí?
Aonad 4	Cén aois thú?
Aonad 5	Cuir síos ort féin.
Aonad 6	An bhfuil caitheamh aimsire ar bith agat?
Aonad 7	Cuir síos ar do theach
Aonad 8	Cad é a rinne tú ar maidin?
Aonad 9	Cén sórt bia/clár teilifíse is fearr leat?
Aonad 10	Cad é mar atá an aimsir inniu?
Aonad 11	Cad é an t-am é?
Aonad 12	Ainmnigh laethanta na seachtaine, míonna/séasúir na bliana
Aonad 13	Cad é an dath atá ar..?
Aonad 14	Cá bhfuil an..?
Aonad 15	Cá háit ar rugadh agus tógadh thú?
Aonad 16	Cén sórt duine thú?
Aonad 17	Cá mhéad duine atá i do theaghlach?
Aonad 18	An réitíonn tú go maith le daoine?
Aonad 19	An bhfuil jab agat?
Aonad 20	Cén cineál oibre a dhéanann tú?
Aonad 21	Cén saghas ceoil is fearr leat?
Aonad 22	Cad é a rinne tú i ndiaidh am tae inné?
Aonad 23	Cad é a dhéanfaidh tú i rith an tSamhraidh seo chugainn?
Aonad 24	Cá háit a ndeachaigh tú ar laethanta saoire anuraidh?
Aonad 25	An bhfuil dúil agat sa spórt?
Aonad 26	An maith leat ríomhairí?
Aonad 27	An bhfuil peata agat? Cuir síos air/uirthi.
Aonad 28	Cad é mar a bhíonn an aimsir i rith an tSamhraidh?
Aonad 29	Cad é an dáta atá ann inniu?
Aonad 30	Cad é a dhéanfaidh tú anocht/amárach?
Aonad 31	Cén séasúr is fearr leat agus cad chuige?
Aonad 32	Cá mhéad airgid atá agam?
Aonad 33	Cad chuige a ba mhaith leat Fáinne Airgid?

Gléas náisiúntaí orrm-sa agus an gléas Breataín
 de cur mór aca-san. Ó am go ham do glao
 tucanna amac: Vive la Bretagne, Vive les

Bretons, Vive l'Irlande. Stuas do na Parisiens
 (fearda uisce) bí ag amarc orainne.

Mise, do cara,
 mac siolla bríoe.

Bunu an Fháinne

I ngeimhreadh na bliana 1915 bhí droch-
 dheallramh ar obair na Gaedhilge—agus ar gach
 rud a bhain le náisiúntacht. Bhí an Connradh
 go lag agus gannachúis airgid ag goilleamhaint
 air. Bhí a lán desna Gaedhalaibh do bhearr
 scáithe i n-obair na n-Oglách agus dearmhad dá
 dheunamh aca de labhairt na Gaedhilge. Bhí
 mí-mhisneach ag teacht ar a lán de lucht na
 Gaedhilge.

Le na linn sin do ráinig dom aiste sgríobhadh
 don *Leader* ag moladh do Ghaedhilgeóiríbh
 cumann a chur ar bun de dhaoineibh a bheadh fé
 mhóid sholamhanta gan ach Gaedhilg a labhairt
 ar ócáidibh áirithe nó le Gaedhilgeóiríbh eile,
 agus comhartha soiléir a bheith le caitheamh
 aca. Bhrathas gur ghá rud éigin den tsórt son a
 dheunamh. Do sgríobh daoine eile leitreacha i
 geóir an *Leader*, cuid aca ag moladh an phlean
 agus cuid aca ag cur i n-a choinnibh. Do mhol
 Liam Ó Rinn go mór é agus thug cabhair dom.
 Annsin tháinig Tadhg Ó Sganaill agus Colm Ó
 Murchadha chugam agus d'iarradar orm tionól a
 fhabhairt le chéile d'fonn an chomhairle a chur i
 bhfeidhm. An bheirt sin do thionnscaim an obair
 ar fad. Chuadhás chum cainte le "Cú Uladh"
 agus do mhol seisean an plan go mór agus do
 gheall cabhair agus congnamh dúinn.

Do shocarúimair ar tionól a bheith againn i
 Craoibh an Chéitinnigh lá éigin i nEarrach na
 bliana 1916—ní cuimhin liom an dáta. Chuamair
 go dtí an Árd-Chraobh ar dtús an oíche úd mar
 bhí "seanchus" ar siubhal ag Gaedhilgeóirí na
 hÁrd Craoibhe agus do chuireamair ar bplean fé
 na mbrághaid. Thánadar go léir i n-ár dteannta
 go dtí Craobh an Chéitinnigh. Bhí "Cú Uladh"
 ann romhainn. Do cuireadh an tionól ar siubhal
 agus do cinneadh ar an geumann do bhunú.

Bhí teidiol an chumainn ar iarraidh fós. Do
 mhol Colm Ó Murchadha dhúinn "An Fháinne
 Gaedhalach" a thabhairt air. Do ghlac an
 tionól leis "an bhFháinne" ach dfágadar an chuid

eile den teidiol ar lár. Do ceapadh Comhaltus
 chun an obair a chur i dtreó. Bé ceud chúram
 do cuireadh ar an gComhaltus ná comhartha do
 cheapadh i geóir an Fháinne. Is dóich liom



gurbh é Tadhg Ó Sganaill do cheud chuimhnigh
 ar an "Fháinne" a bheith mar chomhartha,
 aguinn. Inspioráid ab eadh é. Sambluigheann
 a lán daoine gur ceapadh an comhartha ar dtús
 agus teidiol an chumainn i n-a dhiaidh; ach ní
 mar sin do bhí. D'fás an comhartha as an
 dteidiol; agus nuair do cheap Colm Ó Murchadha
 an teidiol ní raibh éan chuimhneamh againn ar an
 gcomhartha.

Is ar éigin a bhí tosnuithe ar obair an Fháinne
 nuair a tháinig "Seachtain na Cásca" agus do
 sgiobhadh chun siubhail cuid den dream beag a
 bhí ag baint leis; ach do leanadh den obair, agus
 tá fhios ag an saoghal cionnus mar éirigh leis ó
 shin.

PIARAS BEASLAÍ.

Ár dTeanga – Do Rogha

Our Language – Your Choice

The 'Líofa' programme gave a welcome and renewed impetus to the wearing of a popular badge that shows a person's willingness to speak Irish and to be recognised as a chooser/user of the language at a particular level of fluency. The 'Líofa' badges are proudly worn by hundreds of pupils in schools and by thousands of adults who are learning the language in their own communities. The badges are the latest in a line of badge designs worn by Irish speakers, starting with one first proposed in America in the early twentieth century and moving on to the Fáinne itself, as introduced by Piaras Béaslaí in a lecture entitled 'An Fáinne' and delivered in March 1916 in the Gaelic League Hall, 25 Parnell Square, Dublin. 'An Fáinne' for Béaslaí of course was always intended to be both a badge and an organisation. Its organisational rules were strict in the extreme and included:

- upon joining An Fáinne, the taking of a promise to use Irish, witnessed by two others, that ran: Dearbhaighim nach labharfad feasta acht Gaedhlig le héinne de lucht an Fháinne, acht amháin nuair a beidh gabhadh mór éigin fá leith leis
- the stipulation that Fáinne members could only speak English with each other in the most exceptional of circumstances
- the requirement that the Fáinne be worn conspicuously (the first brass/ 'gold' Fáinne cost two shillings while the gold Fáinne cost 7s 6d)
- the Fáinne Executive could expel a member from the organisation
- the advice that a spirit of fraternity should be encouraged among all Fáinne members
- the recommendation that 6 or more Fáinne members could form a local 'Gasra' and register with Head Office in Dublin
- the warning that no Fáinne member could give her/his badge to anyone else and that in the event of a Fáinne being lost a special case had to be made to Head Office to get it replaced.

From day one therefore the new organisation was heavily and rigidly rule-bound. Additional guidelines were proposed three years later at the 1919 Gaelic League Ard Fheis:

- the wearer of the Badge (Fáinne) must attend a local Irish class for at least once a week for six months every year
- the wearer must display the Badge obviously on his dress so that all may in future know at a glance Gaodhal from Gall
- the wearer must give preference in business to all persons wearing the Badge provided they sell Irish manufacture
- school-going wearers must be over 12 years of age and must attend Irish classes apart from their school work
- a roll-call will be made each week and absence without cause for two consecutive classes will deprive any member of the right to wear the Badge
- the teacher is expected to enforce the rules in the strictest manner possible.

It is no surprise that the Fáinne organisation, under the direction of Piaras Béaslaí and in the political circumstances of the period, attracted only the most zealous of language revivalists. Over time, tensions surfaced between individual Gaelic League Branches and Gasra/Fáinne Committees. Discord became apparent too when some Fáinne groups relaxed their rules and issued Fáinní to those less than fluent. In the 1930s the more doctrinaire Fáinne members lamented the shift to the Fáinne becoming something of a fashion-bauble rather than a symbol of commitment and linguistic competence. In Newry however, the 1930s witnessed the heyday of the Fáinne organisation. Newry novelist Séamus Mac Conmara had established a Gasra while at QUB and subsequently founded one that used to meet weekly in the Grand Central Hotel, Hill Street, Newry. The indefatigable Father Larry Murray promoted the Fáinne throughout County Louth in particular. The tradition of holding Fáinne examinations has continued in Newry, largely led by the Christian Brothers of whom Brothers Beausang, Begley and Nolan were the most active. Brother Beausang was replaced by Séamus Mac Dhaibhéid of Newry Branch Gaelic League on the then Comhdháil Náisiúnta na Gaeilge Fáinne Sub-Committee in the mid 1980s and the Branch has continued with annual Fáinne tests.

Our business with this little publication though is not to narrate the history of the Fáinne (though we include a selection of Fáinne related items), nor to chart its changing designs, declines and relaunches. No one, we imagine, would revert to strict rules and solemn promises in the awarding of competency badges for Irish learners and speakers. It is useful however that some type of graduated, optional spoken tests are available covering the fluency spectrum from beginners' Cúpla Focal/Líofa badges, through to Fáinne Airgid and Fáinne Óir. A degree of stretch and challenge as language learners progress through the grades is desirable in most cases and the awarding of certificates of attainment is recommended. Students should ideally receive positive feedback on their performance in tests from an experienced examiner who is sensitive to learners' dispositions. This is important especially for adult returners to education who can thrive on confidence-building experiences. To that end, Comhaltas Uladh offers lists of appropriate questions divided into broad ability levels. These provide exemplar questions only and can be merged with some of the questions available from CCEA for GCSE Irish. Our objective is to provide ready-made question banks and suggested answers for Gaelic League Branches and for schools. We are acutely conscious of the need to inspire pupils early on their language-learning journey and at key ages – Year 7 before they transfer to secondary level, and in Years 10 and 12 so that pupils might be encouraged to choose GCSE and A Level Irish. Given the worrying decline in the numbers choosing to study Modern Languages in secondary schools and the loading and promoting of the curriculum towards STEM subjects, it is crucial that pupils' interest in languages is excited as early as possible. Professionally produced and age-appropriate CCEA resources are now available online and training for primary teachers is occurring in various centres. These resources could easily be linked with an incentivising Líofa/Gaelic League oral test. There is of course no compulsion to go through the formality of entering for Fáinne or other badge examinations, there is no agreed syllabus or fixed format – Líofa badges indeed are available free of charge, Cúpla Focal badges can be purchased from Gael Linn, Fáinní can be bought online or from Conradh na Gaeilge. It is much preferable in our

view to earn the badge and to wear it with pride, to converse with other badge-wearers in a spirit of mutual support and solidarity to the best of our ability, and to attain increasing fluency through confident practice. Déanann cleachtadh máistreacht.

From our own Gaelic League perspective, the promotion of the Fáinne is central to our voluntary educational work. We recall that the aptly-named newspaper 'Fáinne an Lae' in its editorial of 23 Lúnasa 1919 praised the work of the new Fáinne organisation and its rapid progress in attracting more than 2000 members:

'Is féidir a rádh gurb é an Fáinne toradh oibre an Chonnartha, comh-líonadh an tsoisgéil atá á chraobhsgaoileadh le cúig bliana fichead anois.'

The same editorial touched on the core work of every Branch of the Gaelic League – that is, the consistent, reliable, year on year provision of quality Irish classes:

'..ní foláir an Chonnradh bheith go láidir; ní foláir na Craobhacha bheith go maith agus gan faillighe a thabhairt i múineadh na teangan; agus thar gach ní eile, ní foláir leanmhaint den obair do shíor. Is fearr síor-obair ná sár-obair. Dheineadh an Chonnradh an ithir agus féachfaidh an Fáinne i ndiaidh na mbarraí.'

This booklet of suggested questions and answers is available from Craobh an Iúir de Chomhaltas Uladh which is based in Gaeláras Mhic Ardghail, 6b Upper Chapel Street, Newry, BT34 2DS. It makes no claims to being a course and is mainly an incentive with bitesize speaking targets for Early Learners. The number of questions for the test can of course be augmented or reduced. The booklet is supported by sound files on You Tube and the links for these are available from gaelarasmhicardghail@gmail.com. The publication is supported by The Community Foundation (Ultach Trust), Foras na Gaeilge and An tUltach.



An Fáinne Airgid

Aonad 1 Unit 1

Unit 1 looks at learning how to ask someone's name and answering with a name.

If you wish to find out someone's name, the normal question used where Irish is spoken in Ulster is

Cad é an t-ainm atá ort?

Cad é an t-ainm atá ort?

which translates as "what is the name that is on you? ("ort" meaning "on you")

Cad é an t-ainm atá ort?

Try it – cad é an t-ainm atá ort?

Depending on your name, the answer might be:

Colm an t-ainm atá orm

(meaning, Colm is the name that is on me)

Here are other sample answers:

Máire an t-ainm atá orm.

Gráinne an t-ainm atá orm.

Pádraig an t-ainm atá orm.

Síle an t-ainm atá orm.

When someone asks your name, out of politeness or curiosity or forgetfulness, you very often want to know the speaker's name in return. You might reply to them by asking

Agus cad é an t-ainm atá ort?

And what is your name?

Agus cad é an t-ainm atá ort?

Or for greater emphasis, agus cad é an t-ainm atá **ortsa**?

And what is your name?

Agus cad é an t-ainm atá **ortsa**?

Note the emphatic **sa** sound in **ortsa**

Agus cad é an t-ainm atá **ortsa**?

And what is **your** name?

So let's listen to two speakers asking each other's names:

Cad é an t-ainm atá ort?

_____ an t-ainm atá orm. Agus cad é an t-ainm atá **ortsa**?

_____ an t-ainm atá orm.

And again:

Cad é an t-ainm atá ort?

_____ an t-ainm atá orm. Agus cad é an t-ainm atá **ortsa**?

_____ an t-ainm atá orm.

There is no guarantee of course that you will meet the main Ulster version of asking someone their name.

It is useful therefore to briefly look at two other ways of finding out someone's name.

One of these is very widely used and it is

Cad is ainm duit?

Cad is ainm duit?

Cad is ainm duit?

To which the reply might be:

Máirtín is ainm dom

Máirtín is ainm dom

(in Ulster you will more likely hear the word 'dom' pronounced as 'do' and we'll stick with it)

Mairtín is ainm dom ('do')

Peadar is ainm dom.

Michelle is ainm dom.

Áine is ainm dom.

The return question in this case is

Agus cad is ainm duit?

And what is your name?

Agus cad is ainm duit?

Agus cad is ainm duit?

Let's listen to an example of this exchange:

Cad is ainm duit?

_____ is ainm dom. Agus cad is ainm duit?

_____ is ainm dom.

And again:

Cad is ainm duit?

_____ is ainm dom. Agus cad is ainm duit?

_____ is ainm dom.

A simpler way sometimes used to find out someone's name is the informal

Cé thusa?

Who are you?

Cé thusa?

Cé thusa?

The answer again is straightforward:

Is mise Conall.

Is mise Deirdre.

Is mise Anna.

Is mise Caoimhín.

Let's listen to an example of this exchange:

Cé thusa?

Is mise _____.

Agus arís, and again

Cé thusa?

Is mise _____.

You should now practise out loud three of the ways you can ask someone their name in Irish.

Cad é an t-ainm atá ort?

Cad is ainm duit?

Cé thusa?

An Fáinne Airgid

Aonad 2 Unit 2

Learning to ask how someone is feeling and giving a variety of responses.

A key social courtesy is to ask how someone is. We inquire about someone in Irish usually by asking:

Cad é mar atá tú?

How are you?

Cad é mar atá tú?

Cad é mar atá tú?

You try it

Cad é mar atá tú?

Most people are positive in their replies, regardless of how they actually feel and might typically say in Irish

Tá mé go maith go raibh maith agat

I am well thank you

Tá mé go maith go raibh maith agat

Tá mé go maith go raibh maith agat

You try it

Tá mé go maith go raibh maith agat

If you feel really good you might say, in a particularly Ulster Irish way

Tá mé ar dóigh

I am great

Tá mé ar dóigh

Tá mé ar dóigh

You try it

Tá mé ar dóigh

Other responses could be

Tá mé go measartha

I'm middling or fairly good

Tá mé go measartha

Tá mé go measartha

You try it

Tá mé go measartha

Or ní mé ach go measartha, I'm only middling

Níl mé ach go measartha

Níl mé ach go measartha

You could also say, more idiomatically, ní caill ar bith orm

I can't complain

Níl caill ar bith orm

And if you happen to be in tiptop form, the answer to Cad é mar atá tú? could be

Tá mé ar mhuin na muice

I'm on the pig's back

Tá mé ar mhuin na muice

You try it

Tá mé ar mhuin na muice

When you reply by saying how you are, you would usually add

Agus cad é mar atá tú féin? And how are you? Note the words tú féin

Agus cad é mar atá tú féin?

Agus cad é mar atá tú féin?

tú féin can also be pronounced as tú féin

Agus cad é mar atá tú féin?

Listen to the following two exchanges.

Exchange 1

Cad é mar atá tú a Phóil?

Tá mé go maith go raibh maith agat. Agus cad é mar atá tú féin?

Níl caill ar bith orm.

Agus arís, and again

Cad é mar atá tú a Phóil?

Tá mé go maith go raibh maith agat. Agus cad é mar atá tú féin?

Níl caill ar bith orm.

Exchange 2

Cad é mar atá tú?

Níl mé ach go measartha? Cad é mar atá tú féin?

Tá mé ar dóigh!

Agus arís, and again

Cad é mar atá tú?

Níl mé ach go measartha? Cad é mar atá tú féin?

Tá mé ar dóigh!

How are you? or cad é mar atá tú? is often expressed as Cad é an dóigh atá ort? in Ulster.

Cad é an dóigh atá ort?

Cad é an dóigh ata ort?

Listen to the following exchange:

Bhuel a Phóil. Cad é an dóigh atá ort?

Tá mé go hiontach go raibh maith agat. Agus cad é an dóigh atá ort?

Níl caill ar bith orm

Did you hear? Tá mé go hiontach – I am great

Tá mé go hiontach

Éist arís

Bhuel a Phóil. Cad é an dóigh atá ort?

Tá mé go hiontach go raibh maith agat. Agus cad é an dóigh atá ort?

Níl caill ar bith orm

An Fáinne Airgid

Aonad 3 Unit 3

Learning to ask where someone lives and counting to twenty.

We inquire about where someone lives in Irish usually by asking:

Cá bhfuil tú i do chónaí?

Cá bhfuil tú i do chónaí?

(literally, where are you in your living?)

Cá bhfuil tú i do chónaí?

Cá bhfuil tú i do chónaí?

To achieve the Fáinne Airgid it is sufficient to reply with an answer like one of the following:

Tá mé i mo chónaí in Iúr Chinn Trá

I live in Newry, literally, I am in my living in Newry

Tá mé i mo chónaí in Iúr Chinn Trá

Tá mé i mo chónaí i lár na cathrach

I live in the centre of the city

Tá mé i mo chónaí i lár na cathrach

Tá mé i mo chónaí i lár na cathrach

Tá mé i mo chónaí ar imeall na cathrach

I live on the outskirts of the city

Tá mé i mo chónaí ar imeall na cathrach

Tá mé i mo chónaí ar imeall na cathrach

Tá mé i mo chónaí faoin tuath

I live in the countryside

Tá mé i mo chónaí faoin tuath

Tá mé i mo chónaí faoin tuath

Tá mé i mo chónaí i gContae an Dúin

I live in County Down

Tá mé i mo chónaí i gContae an Dúin

Tá mé i mo chónaí i gContae an Dúin

Tá mé i mo chónaí i gContae Ard Mhacha

I live in County Armagh

Tá mé i mo chónaí i gContae Ard Mhacha

Tá mé i mo chónaí i gContae Ard Mhacha

Listen to the following exchange where some of the details are combined.

Cá bhfuil tú i do chónaí?

Tá mé i mo chónaí in Iúr Chinn Trá – ar imeall na cathrach.

Agus arís, and again:

Cá bhfuil tú i do chónaí?

Tá mé i mo chónaí in Iúr Chinn Trá – ar imeall na cathrach.

In a Fáinne Airgid test you would likely be asked to count up to twenty.

Listen carefully to the numbers and then learn them off by heart:

aon
dó
trí
ceathair
cúig
sé
seacht
ocht
naoi
deich
aon déag
dó dhéag
trí déag
ceathar déag
cúig déag
sé déag
seacht déag
ocht déag
naoi déag
fiche.

Agus arís, and again:

aon
dó
trí
ceathair
cúig
sé
seacht
ocht
naoi
deich
aon déag
dó dhéag
trí déag
ceathar déag
cúig déag
sé déag
seacht déag
ocht déag
naoi déag
fiche.

The Irish word for zero/nought is náid or more commonly neamhní in Ulster.

Listen to someone asking for a phone number:

Cad é an uimhir ghutháin atá agat?
Literally, what is the phone number at you (agat, at you)?
Cad é an uimhir ghutháin atá agat?
Cad é an uimhir ghutháin atá agat?

Listen to some of the sample answers to the question, Cad é an uimhir ghutháin atá agat?
Note that we insert the word 'a' before the numbers:

A náid, a dó, a hocht, a trí, a náid, a dó, a seacht, a cúig, a haon

Agus arís:

A náid, a dó, a hocht, a trí, a náid, a dó, a seacht, a cúig, a haon

Or this one, cad é an uimhir ghutháin atá agat?

A neamhní, a seacht, a seacht, a sé, a cúig, a ceathair, a haon, a dó, a neamhní, a trí

Agus arís:

A neamhní, a seacht, a seacht, a sé, a cúig, a ceathair, a haon, a dó, a neamhní, a trí



Ag cruinniú den
Chraobh Bhéal
Feirste den
Chomhchaid-
reamh, san
Ostalann
Wellington Pk.,
An Bráthair
Beausang ag
bronnadh an
Fháinne Nua ar
Eilis Ní
Chinnéide.
Sa phictiúr
fosta, Aine Bean
de Napier agus
Lionard
Ó Coigligh, Iar-
Uachtarán an
Chomhchaid-
rimh.

Pictiúr ó An tUltach 1966

An Fáinne Airgid

Aonad 4 Unit 4

Learning to ask what age someone is and giving an answer.

We inquire about someone's age by asking:

Cén aois thú?

What age are you? Or, how old are you?

Cén aois thú?

Cén aois thú?

We will go through a variety of answers.

Listen carefully for the variations on the word bliain:

Cén aois thú?

Tá mé aon bhliain déag d'aois

I am 11

Tá mé aon bhliain déag d'aois

Tá mé aon bhliain déag d'aois

Cén aois thú?

Tá mé cúig bliana déag d'aois

I am 15

Tá mé cúig bliana déag d'aois

Tá mé cúig bliana déag d'aois

Cén aois thú?

Tá mé ocht mbliana déag d'aois

I am 18

Tá mé ocht mbliana déag d'aois

Tá mé ocht mbliana déag d'aois

Cén aois thú?

Tá mé fiche bliain d'aois

I am 20

Tá mé fiche bliain d'aois

Tá mé fiche bliain d'aois

You can also say, Tá mé scór bliain d'aois (I am a score or twenty years old)

Tá mé scór bliain d'aois

Tá mé scór bliain d'aois

Cén aois thú?

Tá mé óg go fóill

I am still young

Tá mé óg go fóill

Tá mé óg go fóill

Cén aois thú?

Tá mé níos mó ná fiche 's a haon bliain d'aois

I am over 21 years old

Tá mé níos mó ná fiche 's a haon bliain d'aois

Tá mé níos mó ná fiche 's a haon bliain d'aois

Cén aois thú?

Níor mhaith liom a rá

I wouldn't care to say

Níor mhaith liom a rá

Níor mhaith liom a rá

Cén aois thú?

Tá mé níos óige ná tusa

I am younger than you

Tá mé níos óige ná tusa

Tá mé níos óige ná tusa

Cén aois thú?

Tá mé níos sine ná tusa (note again the emphatic tusa)

I am older than you

Tá mé níos sine ná tusa

Tá mé níos sine ná tusa

Cén aois thú?

Ná bí fiosrach!

Don't be nosey!

Ná bí fiosrach!

Ná bí fiosrach!

AN FÁINNE

Seo triúr a labhraíonn Gaeilge!

How are you? Fine thanks!

MÁS AIT É, IS FÍOR É

Is minic cainteoirí Gaeilge ag labhairt Béarla le chéile. Cén fáth? Mar nach fios dóibh go bhfuil Gaeilge ag an duine eile.

Anois, dá mbeadh Fáinne á chaitheamh acu . . .

Cuir fios ar gach eolas ó —

 **an fáinne**

ARAS NA COMHDHÁLA,
86 SR. GHARDNAR IOCHT.,
BAILE ATHA CLIATH 1.

TEIL. (01) 365572
FACS. (01) 366846

Fógra ó na 1980í

An Fáinne Airgid

Aonad 5 Unit 5

Learning to describe yourself.

The Fáinne Airgid oral examiner, and a test is of course optional, will ask you to describe yourself by saying

Cuir síos ort féin

Describe yourself

Cuir síos ort féin

Cuir síos ort féin

This will normally require a simple physical description of yourself and a little bit about your personality.

A useful strategy is to start at the top, your head, and work your way down.

In describing your hair you might say:

Tá gruaig dhubh orm

I have black hair

Tá gruaig dhubh orm

Tá gruaig rua orm

I am red-haired

Tá gruaig rua orm

Tá gruaig rua orm

Tá gruaig liath orm

I have grey hair

Tá gruaig liath orm

Tá gruaig liath orm

Tá gruaig fhionn orm

I am fair-haired

Tá gruaig fhionn orm

Tá gruaig fhionn orm

Tá gruaig chatach orm

I have curly hair

Tá gruaig chatach orm

Tá gruaig chatach orm

Tá gruaig dhíreach orm

I have straight hair

Tá gruaig dhíreach orm

Tá gruaig dhíreach orm

Tá gruaig spíceach orm

I have spikey hair

Tá gruaig spíceach orm

Tá gruaig spíceach orm

Tá gruaig ildáite orm
I have multi-coloured hair
Tá gruaig ildáite orm
Tá gruaig ildáite orm

Tá mé maol
I am bald
Tá mé maol

And moving on to describe your eyes:

Tá mo chuid súile glas
My eyes are green (literally, my share of eyes are green)
Tá mo chuid súile glas
Tá mo chuid súile glas

Tá mo chuid súile gorm
My eyes are blue
Tá mo chuid súile gorm
Tá mo chuid súile gorm

Tá mo chuid súile donn
My eyes are brown
Tá mo chuid súile donn
Tá mo chuid súile donn

Caithim spéaclaí
I wear glasses
Caithim spéaclaí
Caithim spéaclaí

Caithim spéaclaí faiseanta
I wear fashionable spectacles
Caithim spéaclaí faiseanta
Caithim spéaclaí faiseanta

Caithim spéaclaí léitheoireachta
I wear reading glasses
Caithim spéaclaí léitheoireachta
Caithim spéaclaí léitheoireachta

Any now to describe your physique:

Tá mé ard
I am tall
Tá mé ard

Tá mé beag
I am little
Tá mé beag

Tá mé measartha ard
I am fairly tall
Tá mé measartha ard
Tá mé measartha ard

Tá mé tanaí
I am thin
Tá mé tanaí

Níl mé tanaí
I'm not thin
Níl mé tanaí

Tá mé ramhar
I am fat
Tá mé ramhar

If you wish to describe aspects of your personality it is useful to learn adjectives in sequences of threes

Tá mé cineálta cairdiúil cainteach
I am kind, friendly, chatty
Tá mé cineálta cairdiúil cainteach
Tá mé cineálta cairdiúil cainteach

Tá mé ciúin deas múinte
I am quiet, nice, polite
Tá mé ciúin deas múinte
Tá mé ciúin deas múinte

Tá mé fial falsa ceanndána
I am generous, lazy, stubborn
Tá mé fial falsa ceanndána
Tá mé fial falsa ceanndána