



## DICTIONARIES

***Collins Irish Dictionary.*** By Séamus Mac Mathúna ... et al. 2nd edition. Glasgow : Collins, 2006.

[St. Michael's 1st Floor Reference Area – PB1291 .M336 2006]

This up-to-date dictionary is especially strong in its coverage of Irish and English idioms. It includes irregular verb charts and conjugation aids.

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***Foclóir Bearla-Gaedilge.*** By T. O'Neill Lane, Dublin: Phoenix, 1915.

[St. Michael's 1st Floor Reference Area – PB1291 .L3 1915]

At 1,750 pages, this title is possibly the most comprehensive dictionary of its kind. Tabbed sections make it easy to navigate, and marginalia supplement many entries.

***Foclóir Gaedhilge Agus Bearla.*** By The Irish Texts Society [ Rev. Patrick S. Dineen, ed.]. Dublin: For the Irish Texts Society by the Educational Company of Ireland, 1927.

[St. Michael's 1st Floor Reference Area – PB1291 .D5 1934]

This dictionary was compiled using references from both Irish literature and common speech, as documented by linguists interviewing Irish speakers. It has a strong pronunciation guide.

***Irish Dictionary Online.***

[Available online: <http://irishdictionary.ie>]

This frequently-updated online dictionary is the perfect resource for quick consultation online. It has a separate search field for verbs, which provides complete conjugations.

***Focal.ie***

[Available online: <http://www.focal.ie>]

Maintained by students at University College, Dublin, this online dictionary allows users to translate Irish words or phrases into many different languages, and vice versa. The advanced features allow searching by noun, verb, adjective, etc., as well as phrase and publication-searching.

## SELF-STUDY COURSES & GUIDES

***Gaeilge agus Fáilte: A First Course in Irish Language and Culture for Adults.*** By Annette Byrne. Dublin: Linguistics Institute of Ireland, 2002.

[St. Michael's 2nd Floor – PB1227.5 .E5 B97 2002

[St. Michael's 1st Floor Audio Visual Section – PB1227.5 .E5 B972 2005 CD pt.1 and 2]

This illustrated, beginner-level course-pack contains several interactive exercises as well as companion audio CDs. Exercises can be completed individually or in groups.

***Irish on Your Own!: A Self-guided Course in the Irish Language.*** By Éamonn Ó Dónaill, Deirbhile Ní Churraighín. Lincolnwood, IL: Passport Books, 1998.

[St. Michael's 2nd Floor – PB1227.5 .E5 O36 1998]

[St. Michael's 1st Floor Audio Visual Section – PB1227.5 .E5 O36 1998 cassette 1-5]

Pick up this interactive learner's guide for an introduction to the basics of the language (sound, grammar, common phrases, etc.), along with chapters organized by situation (Arranging a time to meet, Asking someone where they're going, what their interests are, etc.) to teach basics of conversational Irish.

***Learning Irish: An Introductory Self-tutor [w/ sound recording].*** By Mícheál Ó Siadhail. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1988.

[St. Michael's 2nd Floor – PB1227.5 .E5 O85 1988]

[St. Michael's 1st Floor Audio Visual Section – PB1227.5 .E5 O853 1988 ac.1-3]

Written by an experienced teacher and speaker of Irish, this course contains detailed explanations of how the language operates, along with a rich vocabulary section in every chapter. Using this resource, it is easy to build up a sizeable repertoire of Irish words quickly.

***Teastaseorpach na Gaeilge.***

[Available online at: <http://www.teg.ie>]

Learners at all levels can find written and oral exams through this resource. Teachers can even download a complete Irish language curriculum in both Irish and English (roughly 50 pages per course).

***Gaeilge gan Stró.*** By Éamon Ó Dónaill. Dublin: Gaelchultúir, 2010.

[Coming soon to the St. Michael's College Library]

[Sample chapter available online: <http://www.siopa.ie>]

This course is ideal for those who have taken a year or two of Irish at the university level or have gone through the public school system studying the language in Ireland. With two CDs and sample conversations, this book aims to familiarize learners with the sound of the language.

## OTHER REFERENCE SOURCES

***Linguistic Atlas and Survey of Irish Dialects.*** By Heinrich Wagner.  
Dublin : Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies, 1958-  
[St. Michael's 2nd Floor – PB1298 .A1 1958 v.1]

Since the language has three distinct dialects and many regional variations of words and sayings, this is an essential resource for Irish speakers. Every page of the atlas contains a map of Ireland, along with a phonetic spelling of words which have dialectic differences.

***Modern Irish: Grammatical Structure and Dialectal Variation.*** Mícheál Ó Siadhail. Cambridge  
Cambridge University Press, 1989.  
[St. Michael's 2nd Floor – PB1221 .O16 1989]

Part of the *Cambridge Studies In Linguistics* series, O Siadhail's books investigates the grammar of Modern Irish. Comparison of dialects is offered where grammatical conventions are applied differently.

***Briathra na Gaeilge: Regular and Irregular.*** Déagían Ó Murchú & Pádraig Ó Murchú. Tamhlacht  
[Ireland]: Folens Teo, [n.d].  
[St. Michael's 2nd Floor – PB1221 .O48 2005z]

This is one the most easy-to-follow works on Irish grammar due to its organization and focus (the conjugation of verbs). Each verb chart clearly indicates how to conjugate the verb in every tense, and even provides similar verbs. The index allows readers to quickly locate the verb they would like to conjugate.

***Gramadach gan Stró.*** By Éamonn Ó Dónaill. Dublin: Gaelchultúir, 2010.  
[Coming soon to the St. Michael's College Library]  
[Sample chapter available online: <http://www.siopa.ie>]

This book strives to cover only the essential points of Irish grammar, while avoiding academic jargon. The 2 audio CDs allow learners to hear grammatical rules demonstrated aloud.

***RIAN: National University of Ireland's Open Access Portal***  
[Available online: <http://rian.ie>]

The National University of Ireland's open access research repository is a good source for free, current research on the Irish language.

***TG4 Live***  
[Available online: <http://beo.tg4.ie>]

TG4 is Ireland's Official television station. *TG4 Beo* is a great way to hear the sound of the language and to associate the sounds of words with their spellings, thanks to the closed-captioning added to many of the programs.

*faoi nós\**

[Available online: <http://www.nosmag.com>]

This online news source for the arts and entertainment contains brief articles written in accessible language. Many of the contributors are students of Irish themselves.

## LITERATURE

***Táin bó Cúalnge: From the Book of Leinster.*** Edited by Cecile O'Rahilly. Dublin: Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies, 1984.

[St. Michael's 2nd Floor – PB1397 .T3 1984]

Regarded as Ireland's defining epic narrative, the *Tain bo Cuailgne*, or "The Cattle Raid of Cooley", was transcribed in the 7th Century, although scholars believe it was transmitted orally much earlier than this.

***Dánta Aodhagáin Uí Rathaille: The Poems of Egan O'Rahilly.*** Edited by Patrick S. Dinneen. London: Published for the Irish Texts Society by D. Nutt, 1900.

[St. Michael's 2nd Floor – PB1347 .I7 v.3]

O'Rahilly, who wrote scathing political satires following the Restoration, is one of Ireland's most influential poets. O'Rahilly is believed to have started the 'Aisling' (Irish word for 'dream') poetic tradition, wherein Ireland as a nation is personified as a woman in distress.

***An Duanaire 1600-1900: Poems of the Dispossessed.*** Presented by Seán Ó Tuama ; with translations into English verse by Thomas Kinsella. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1981.

[St. Michael's 2nd Floor – PB1424 .D8 1981]

Since the use of the Irish language has declined significantly since the Famine, this book showcases some of Ireland's greatest poets and poems from 1600-1900 to generate enthusiasm for the language.

***Selected Poems: Rogha Dánta.*** By Nuala Ní Dhomhnaill ; translated by Michael Hartnett. Dublin: New Island Books, 1993.

[St. Michael's 2nd Floor – PB1399 .N473 A24 1993]

Nuala Ni Dhomhnaill is among the most widely-read and criticized Irish language poets of this generation. Because the poems are presented in both languages, Irish learners can take note of the translations and build up their vocabulary.

***Homecoming/An bealach 'na Bhaile : Selected Poems / Rogha Dánta.*** By Cathal O'Searcaigh. Indreabhán, Conamara: Cló Iar-Chonnachta, 1993. 2nd ed.

[St. Michael's 2nd Floor – PB1399 .O775 A6 1993]

O'Searcaigh is one of the most celebrated, and controversial, contemporary Irish language poets. Irish and English translations are included to allow the experienced Irish speaker and the learner to access the text.

***Cré Na Cille.*** Mairtin A" Cadhain ; illustrated by Charles Lamb R.H.A. 2nd edition. Conamara, County Galway: Clo Iar-Chonnachta Teo, 2009.  
[St. Michael's 2nd Floor – PB1399 .O28 C74 2009]

The best-known full-length novel in the Irish language (and one of the only ones), this comic work consists of the dialogue between sisters who are buried and begin feuding over why one of them received the better burial plot.

***Poems and a Play in Irish.*** Brendan Behan. Dublin: Gallery Books, 1981.  
[St. Michael's 2nd Floor – PB1399 .B43 A6 1981]

This is one of the earliest plays in the Irish language. Known for his IRA involvement, his love of the drink, and his embodiment of Irish culture in almost every way, Behan learned Irish from O Cadhain, and wrote many of his plays while in jail. Although this text contains only the Irish text, English translations are available in the Kelly Library, and the fact it was written in English first and that Behan's knowledge of Irish is not as advanced as some other authors make it a viable read for Intermediate-level Irish speakers.

## HISTORY OF THE LANGUAGE

***Sloinnte Gaeḍéal is Gall = Irish Names and Surnames.*** By Patrick Woulfe. Dublin: M.H. Gill, 1923.  
[St. Michael's 1st Floor Reference Area – CS2411 .W6]  
[St. Michael's 2nd Floor – CS2411 .W6]

Beyond providing the meaning and origin of Irish names and their Anglocized forms, this study also describes socio-historic factors which influenced the naming system, and examines the geographic dispersal of many lineages.

***The Ogam Inscribed Monuments of the Gaedhil in the British Islands: With a Dissertation on the Ogam Character.*** By Richard Rolt Brash. London: G. Bell and Sons, 1879.  
[St. Michael's 2nd Floor – PB1217 .B7 1879]

Ogam was the first alphabet used by Irish speakers, and it can be found carved into many monuments currently surviving in Ireland. This is an extensive study of this earlier alphabet, with the Irish and English words provided for Ogam inscriptions documented throughout Ireland. This provides insight into early usages of the language, as well as the historic context which can be inferred from the meaning of the inscriptions.

A file listing bookstores that carry Irish language books, both in the US and abroad. There's even a short paper delving into some of the mysteries of Irish verb endings "Verb Suffixes in Irish." You can use the URL-minder to let you know when John T. McCranie adds items of Gaelic interest. Pat Murphy's Twisty Little Maze of Irish and Celtic Thingies. This is the very first site I ever saw on things Celtic, and it is still one of my favorites. It's chock full of resources, including a bibliography of books for beginning learners and a timeline of the Irish language, various common phrases in Irish Gaelic, and a brief guide to spelling and pronunciation of modern Gaelic, among many other features. It uses frames, so I'm not going to link to individual pages, just look for his "Features" list.

Modern Irish dates from about the 16th century. The Irish Language Movement The Irish language was the most widely spoken language on the island of Ireland until the 19th century. The first Bible in Irish was translated by William Bedell, Church of Ireland Bishop of Kilmore in the 17th century. On balance, the overly enthusiastic promotion of Irish by the political and cultural elite from the 1920s did more harm than good to the language's long-term prospects. Instead of winning over people to the concept that they could speak Irish, they attempted to follow a process of saying they must speak Irish. Modern Irish Language Manuscripts. MS 10878/L/3/9 from Barbed Wire by Martín " Cadhain. The Manuscripts and Archives Research Library is building its collection of modern Irish language manuscripts, which includes the papers of Máirtín " Cadhain (1905-1970), Irish language activist, writer and Professor of Irish at Trinity College Dublin. Guide to the Catalogues. Named Collections. Printed Catalogue Online.