

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

First Conjugation

The root forms of *most* 1st Conjugation verbs have 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
<p><i>slender-ending examples:</i></p> <p>rith rithim, ritheann tú/sé/sí, rithimid, ritheann sibh/siad</p> <p>bris brisim, briseann tú/sé/sí, brisimid, briseann sibh/siad</p>	<p><i>broad-ending examples:</i></p> <p>dún dúnaim, dúnann tú/sé/sí, dúnaimid, dúnann sibh/siad</p> <p>fan fanaim, fanann tú/sé/sí, fanaimid, fanann sibh/siad</p>

Spelling Exceptions created by the *Caighdeán Oifigiúil* (Official Standard)

In some verb conjugations, the *Caighdeán Oifigiúil* (c. 1950) eliminated in spelling certain letters which had been unpronounced in conjugated verbs. This had the unintended consequence of creating two categories of spelling exceptions for the first conjugation, shown below.

Spelling Exception CATEGORY ONE for Present Tense, 1st Conjugation

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 (tú/sé/sí/sibh/siad) • léigh + imid = léimid
léim, léann tú, léann sé/sí, léimid, léann sibh, léann siad

Spelling Exception CATEGORY TWO for Present Tense, 1st Conjugation

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, suíonn sé/sí, suímid, suíonn sibh, suíonn siad

and:

nigh + ím = níim • nigh + íonn = níonn • nigh + ímid = níimid
níim, níir, níonn sé/sí, níimid, níonn sibh, níonn siad

PRESENT TENSE VERBAL PARTICLES & MUTATIONS

(applies to both First & Second Conjugation — note **lenition**, **eclipsis** and **n-prefix**)

an is the question particle in the present tense. It causes **eclipsis**.
For example: **an ndúnann sé?** **an ólann tú?**

nach is the negative question particle in the present tense. It causes **eclipsis**.
For example: **nach ndúnaim?** **nach bhfanann sibh?**

ní is the negative statement particle for the present tense. It causes **lenition**.
For example: **ní dhúnaim.** **ní rithimid.**

go is the affirmative relative clause particle in the present tense. It causes **eclipsis** or **n-**. **nach** is the negative relative clause particle in the present tense. It causes **eclipsis** or **n-**.
For example: **Deir sé go ndúnaim.** **Deir sé go n-ólann sé.** **Deir sé nach mbrisim.** **Deir sé nach n-ólaimid.**

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!

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

Second 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: ím , íonn , ímid	BROAD ENDINGS: aím , aíonn , aímid
<p><i>slender-ending examples:</i></p> <p>éirigh éirím, éiríonn tú/sé/sí, éirímid, éiríonn sibh/siad</p> <p>eitil eitím, eitíonn tú/sé/sí, eitímid, eitíonn sibh/siad</p>	<p><i>broad-ending examples:</i></p> <p>ceannaigh ceannaaím, ceannaaíonn tú/sé/sí, ceannaaímid, ceannaaíonn sibh/siad</p> <p>freagair freagraaím, freagraaíonn tú/sé/sí, freagraaímid, freagraaíonn sibh/siad</p>

Root Inflexion: Syncope

The term *Syncope* in Irish grammar refers to a phenomenon where the vowels in the final syllable of a multi-syllable root-word are removed before adding a suffix. These vowels would have gone unpronounced in the newly-formed word created by the addition of the suffix, and thus are unnecessary.

In the verb examples shown above, **Eitil** is shortened to “**eit**” by syncope before adding the various verb endings. **Freagair** is shortened to “**freagr**” in the same way.

A small group of second conjugation verbs resist syncope and make up a small category of exceptions to the rule of syncope:
aithris • foghlaim • fulaing • freastail • taistil • tarraing • tuirling.

PRESENT TENSE VERBAL PARTICLES & MUTATIONS

(applies to both First & Second Conjugation)

an is the question particle in the present tense. It causes *eclipsis*.
For example: **an** éiríonn sé? **an** gceannaíonn sí?

nach is the negative question particle in the present tense. It causes *eclipsis*.
For example: **nach** eitím? **nach** bhfreagraímid?

ní is the negative statement particle for the present tense. It causes *lenition*.
For example: **ní** dheisím. **ní** cheannaímid.

go is the affirmative relative clause particle in the present tense. It causes *eclipsis*.
For example: Deir sé **go** ndeisímid. Deir sé **go** gceannaíonn sí.

nach is the negative relative clause particle in the present tense. It causes *eclipsis*.
For example: Deir sé **nach** bhfreagraíonn sí. Deir sé **nach** gceannaíonn sibh.

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.

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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 PAST TENSE

First Conjugation

The past tense is considered by many to be 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>slender-ending examples:</i> cuir chuir mé/tú/sé/sí, chuireamar, chuir sibh/siad éist d' éist mé/tú/sé/sí, d' éisteamar, d' éist sibh/siad	<i>broad-ending examples:</i> dún dhún mé/tú/sé/sí, dhúnamar, dhún sibh/siad fan d' fhan mé/tú/sé/sí, d' fhanamar, d' fhan sibh/siad

About past tense lenition and d'

The learner will note in the instructions above that standard Irish prescribes *lenition* for consonant-fronted verbs in the past tense, and the addition of **d'** for those which start with a vowel or **fh**.

Historically, Irish once placed a particle **do** before past tense verbs (shortened to **d'** before vowels and **fh**), a particle which caused *lenition*. The **do** is now omitted in all dialects except Munster and only the **d'** remains. When adding verbal particles (see below) the **d'** is omitted.

PAST TENSE VERBAL PARTICLES & MUTATIONS

(applies to both First & Second Conjugation — **lenition** stays intact while **d'** is omitted)

ar is the question particle in the past tense.
For example: **ar dhún sé?** **ar éist sí?**

nár is the negative question particle in the past tense.
For example: **nár chuir mé?** **nár fhanamar?**

níor is the negative statement particle for the past tense.
For example: **níor dhún sibh.** **níor chuireamar.**

gur is the affirmative relative clause particle in the past tense.
For example: **Deir sé gur ól sibh.** **Deir sé gur chuir sí.**

nár is the negative relative clause particle in the past tense.
For example: **Deir sé nár dhúnamar.** **Deir sé nár éist sibh.**

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!

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

Second Conjugation

The procedure for conjugating the past tense of regular second conjugation verbs is very similar to that used for the first conjugation, the difference being the endings used for 1st-person plural and the use of **syncope** (introduced in part two) for verbs ending in **il**, **ir**, **in**, or **is**. 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)
<p><i>slender-ending examples:</i></p> <p>éirigh</p> <p>d'éirigh mé/tú/sé/sí, d'éiríomar, d'éirigh sibh/siad</p> <p>deisigh</p> <p>dheisigh mé/tú/sé/sí, dheisíomar, dheisigh sibh/siad</p>	<p><i>broad-ending examples:</i></p> <p>ceannaigh</p> <p>cheannaigh mé/tú/sé/sí, cheannaíomar, cheannaigh sibh/siad</p> <p>freagair</p> <p>d'fhreagair mé/tú/sé/sí, d'fhreagraíomar*, d'fhreagair sibh/siad</p>

About past tense lenition and d'

The learner will note in the instructions above that standard Irish prescribes lenition for consonant-fronted verbs in the past tense, and the addition of **d'** for those which start with a vowel or **fh**.

Historically, Irish once placed a particle **do** before past tense verbs (shortened to **d'** before vowels and **fh**), a particle which caused lenition. The **do** is now omitted in all dialects except Munster and only the **d'** remains. When adding verbal particles (see below) the **d'** is omitted.

* Syncope Reminder

The term *Syncope* in Irish grammar refers to a phenomenon where the vowels in the final syllable of a multi-syllable root-word are removed before adding a suffix, as a way of removing unpronounced syllables. **Eitil** is shortened to "eitl" by syncope before adding the various verb endings. **Freagair** is shortened to "freagr" in the same way. Verbs which resist syncope: aithris • foghlaim • fulaing • freastail • taistil • tarraing • tuirling.

PAST TENSE VERBAL PARTICLES & MUTATIONS

(applies to both First & Second Conjugation — lenition stays intact while **d'** is omitted)

ar is the question particle in the past tense.
For example: **ar** dheisigh sé? **ar** éirigh sí?

nár is the negative question particle in the past tense.
For example: **nár** cheannaigh mé? **nár** fhreagraíomar?

níor is the negative statement particle for the past tense.
For example: **níor** éirigh sibh. **níor** dheisigh siad.

gur is the affirmative relative clause particle in the past tense.
For example: Deir sé **gur** éirigh sé. Deir sé **gur** cheannaíomar.

nár is the negative relative clause particle in the past tense.
For example: Deir sé **nár** éirigh tú. Deir sé **nár** fhreagair sibh.

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 ENDING: fidh, fimid	BROAD ENDING: faidh, faimid
<p><i>slender-ending examples:</i></p> <p>cuir cuirfidh mé/tú/sé/sí, cuirfidh sibh/siad</p> <p>léigh léifidh mé/tú/sé/sí, léifidh sibh/siad</p>	<p><i>broad-ending examples:</i></p> <p>tóg tógfaidh mé/tú/sé/sí, tógfaidh sibh/siad</p> <p>glan glanfaidh mé/tú/sé/sí, glanfaidh sibh/siad</p>

Spelling Exceptions created by the *Caighdeán Oifigiúil* (Official Standard)

In some verb conjugations, the *Caighdeán Oifigiúil* (c. 1950) eliminated in spelling certain letters which had been unpronounced in conjugated verbs. This had the unintended consequence of creating two categories of spelling exceptions for the first conjugation, shown below.

Spelling Exception CATEGORY ONE for Future Tense, 1st Conjugation

Several 1st Conjugation verbs don't follow the pattern shown above for the future 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 (mé/tú/sé/sí/sibh/siad) • léigh + **fidh** = léifimid

Spelling Exception CATEGORY TWO for Future Tense, 1st Conjugation

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 (mé/tú/sé/sí/sibh/siad) suigh + **ífidh** = suífidh

and:

nigh + **ífidh** = nífidh (mé/tú/sé/sí/sibh/siad) • nigh + **ífidh** = nífidh

FUTURE TENSE VERBAL PARTICLES & MUTATIONS

(applies to both First & Second Conjugation — note **lenition**, **eclipsis** and **n-prefix**)

an is the question particle in the future tense. It causes **eclipsis**.

For example: **an ndúnfaidh sé? an ólfaidh tú?**

nach is the negative question particle in the future tense. It causes **eclipsis**.

For example: **nach ndúnfaidh sí? nach bhfanfaidh sibh?**

ní is the negative statement particle for the future tense. It causes **lenition**.

For example: **ní dhúnfaidh mé. ní rithfidh.**

go is the affirmative relative clause particle in the future tense. It causes **eclipsis** or **n-**.

For example: **Deir sé go ndúnfaidh mé. Deir sé go n-ólfaidh sé.**

nach is the negative relative clause particle in the future tense. It causes **eclipsis** or **n-**.

For example: **Deir sé nach mbrisfidh. Deir sé nach n-ólfaimid.**

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 ENDING: eoidh, eoimid	BROAD ENDING: óidh, óimid
<p><i>slender-ending examples:</i></p> <p>éirigh éireoidh mé/tú/sé/sí, éireoimid, éireoidh sibh/siad</p> <p>eitil eitleoidh mé/tú/sé/sí, eitleoimid, eitleoidh sibh/siad</p>	<p><i>broad-ending examples:</i></p> <p>ceannaigh ceannóidh mé/tú/sé/sí, ceannóimid, ceannóidh sibh/siad</p> <p>freagair freagróidh mé/tú/sé/sí, freagróimid, freagróidh sibh/siad</p>

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

Root Inflexion: Syncope

The term *Syncope* in Irish grammar refers to a phenomenon where the vowels in the final syllable of a multi-syllable root-word are removed before adding a suffix. These vowels would have gone unpronounced in the newly-formed word created by the addition of the suffix, and thus are unnecessary.

In the verb examples shown above, **Eitil** is shortened to “**eitl**” by syncope before adding the various verb endings. **Freagair** is shortened to “**freagr**” in the same way.

A small group of second conjugation verbs resist syncope and make up a small category of exceptions to the rule of syncope: aithris • foghlaim • fulaing • freastail • taistil • tarraing • tuirling.

FUTURE TENSE VERBAL PARTICLES & MUTATIONS

(applies to both First & Second Conjugation)

an is the question particle in the future tense. It causes *eclipsis*.

For example: **an** éireoidh sé? **an** gceannóidh sí?

nach is the negative question particle in the future tense. It causes *eclipsis*.

For example: **nach** eitleoidh mé? **nach** bhfreagroimid?

ní is the negative statement particle for the future tense. It causes *lenition*.

For example: **ní** dheiseoidh sí. **ní** cheannóimid.

go is the affirmative relative clause particle in the future tense. It causes *eclipsis*.

For example: Deir sé **go** ndeiseoimid. Deir sé **go** gceannóidh sí.

nach is the negative relative clause particle in the future tense. It causes *eclipsis*.

For example: Deir sé **nach** bhfreagróidh sí. Deir sé **nach** gceannóidh sibh.

Conjugating Regular Irish Verbs

PART SEVEN — Imperfect (Past Habitual) 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 (PAST HABITUAL) 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 1st Conjugation:

SLENDER ENDING: inn, teá, eadh, imis, idís	BROAD ENDING: ainn, tá, adh, aimis, aidís
<p><i>slender-ending examples:</i></p> <p>rith rithinn, rithteá, ritheadh sé/sí rithimis, ritheadh sibh, rithidís</p> <p>bris bhrisinn, bhristeá, bhriseadh sé/sí bhrisimis, bhriseadh sibh, bhrisidís</p>	<p><i>broad-ending examples:</i></p> <p>dún dhúnainn, dhúntá, dhúnadh sé/sí dhúnaimis, dhúnadh sibh, dhúnaidís</p> <p>fan d'fhanainn, d'fhantá, d'fhanadh sé/sí d'fhanaimis, d'fhanadh sibh, d'fhanaidís</p>

About Imperfect (Past Habitual) Tense lenition and d'

The learner will note in the instructions above that standard Irish prescribes *lenition* for consonant-fronted verbs in the imperfect tense, and the addition of **d'** for those which start with a vowel or **fh**.

Historically, Irish once placed a particle **do** before imperfect tense verbs (shortened to **d'** before vowels and **fh**), a particle which caused *lenition*. The **do** is now omitted in all dialects except Munster and only the **d'** remains. When adding verbal particles (see below) the **d'** is omitted.

IMPERFECT TENSE VERBAL PARTICLES & MUTATIONS

(applies to both First & Second Conjugation — any **d'** prefix is omitted and *lenition* is removed where *eclipsis* is prescribed)

an is the question particle in the imperfect tense. It causes *eclipsis*.

For example: **an mbrisinn?** **an ndúnadh sí?**

nach is the negative question particle in the imperfect tense. It causes *eclipsis*.

For example: **nach mbristeá?** **nach ndúnaidís?**

ní is the negative statement particle for the imperfect tense. It causes *lenition*.

For example: **ní bhriseadh sibh.** **ní dhúntá.**

go is the affirmative relative clause particle in the imperfect tense. It causes *eclipsis*.

For example: **Deir sé go mbrisimis.** **Deir sé go ndúnadh sí.**

nach is the negative relative clause particle in the imperfect tense. It causes *eclipsis*.

For example: **Deir sé nach mbristeá.** **Deir sé nach ndúnadh sé.**

Conjugating Regular Irish Verbs

PART EIGHT — Imperfect (Past Habitual) 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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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 (PAST HABITUAL) TENSE

Second Conjugation

The procedure for conjugating the imperfect tense of regular second conjugation verbs is very similar to that used for the first conjugation, the differences being the endings used, and the use of **syncope** (introduced in part two) for verbs ending in **il**, **ir**, **in**, or **is**. To form the imperfect tense for second conjugation verbs, just follow all of the following 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);
- 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 from this category which will illustrate the above instructions are: **bailigh**, **ceannaigh**, **eitil**, **freagair**.
Imperfect tense endings for 2nd Conjugation:

SLENDER ENDING: ínn, íteá, íodh, ímis, ídís	BROAD ENDING: ínn, íteá, íodh, ímis, ídís
<p><i>slender-ending examples:</i></p> <p>bailigh</p> <p>bhailínn, bhailíteá, bhailíodh sé/sí bhailímis, bhailíodh sibh, bhailídís</p> <p>eitil</p> <p>d'eitlín, d'eitlíteá, d'eitlíodh sé/sí d'eitlímis, d'eitlíodh sibh, d'eitlídís</p>	<p><i>broad-ending examples:</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>

About imperfect tense lenition and d'

The learner will note in the instructions above that standard Irish prescribes **lenition** for consonant-fronted verbs in the imperfect tense, and the addition of **d'** for those which start with a vowel or **fh**.
Historically, Irish once placed a particle **do** before imperfect tense verbs (shortened to **d'** before vowels and **fh**), a particle which caused **lenition**. The **do** is now omitted in all dialects except Munster and only the **d'** remains. When adding verbal particles (see below) the **d'** is omitted.

* Syncope Reminder

The term **Syncope** in Irish grammar refers to a phenomenon where the vowels in the final syllable of a multi-syllable root-word are removed before adding a suffix, as a way of removing unpronounced syllables. **Eitil** is shortened to “**eitil**” by syncope before adding the various verb endings. **Freagair** is shortened to “**freagr**” in the same way. Verbs which resist syncope: aithris • foghlaim • fulaing • freastail • taistil • tarraing • tuirling.

IMPERFECT TENSE VERBAL PARTICLES & MUTATIONS

(applies to both First & Second Conjugation — any **d'** prefix is omitted and **lenition** is removed where **eclipsis** is prescribed)

an is the question particle in the imperfect tense. It causes **eclipsis**.

For example: **an mbailínn?** **an gceannaíteá?**

nach is the negative question particle in the imperfect tense. It causes **eclipsis**.

For example: **nach mbailídís?** **nach gceannaíodh sibh?**

ní is the negative statement particle for the imperfect tense. It causes **lenition**.

For example: **ní bhailíodh sibh.** **ní cheannaíteá.**

go is the affirmative relative clause particle in the imperfect tense. It causes **eclipsis**.

For example: **Deir sé go mbailímis.** **Deir sé go gceannaíodh sí.**

nach is the negative relative clause particle in the imperfect tense. It causes **eclipsis**.

For example: **Deir sé nach mbailínn.** **Deir sé nach gceannaíodh sé.**

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.

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 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 1st Conjugation:

SLENDER ENDING: finn, feá, feadh, fimis, fidís	BROAD ENDING: fainn, fá, fadh, faimis, faidís
<p><i>slender-ending examples:</i></p> <p>rith rithfinn, rithfeá, rithfeadh sé/sí rithfimis, rithfeadh sibh, rithfidís</p> <p>bris bhrisfinn, bhrisfeá, bhrisfeadh sé/sí bhrisfimis, bhrisfeadh sibh, bhrisfidís</p>	<p><i>broad-ending examples:</i></p> <p>dún dhúnfainn, dhúnfá, dhúnfadh sé/sí dhúnfaimis, dhúnfadh sibh, dhúnfaidís</p> <p>fan d'hanfainn, d'hanfá, d'hanfadh sé/sí d'hanfaimis, d'hanfadh sibh, d'hanfaidís</p>

About Conditional Mood lenition and d'

The learner will note in the instructions above that standard Irish prescribes *lenition* for consonant-fronted verbs in the conditional mood, and the addition of **d'** for those which start with a vowel or **fh**.

Historically, Irish once placed a particle **do** before conditional mood verbs (shortened to **d'** before vowels and **fh**), a particle which caused *lenition*. The **do** is now omitted in all dialects except Munster and only the **d'** remains. When adding verbal particles (see below) the **d'** is omitted.

CONDITIONAL MOOD VERBAL PARTICLES & MUTATIONS

(applies to both First & Second Conjugation — any **d'** prefix is omitted and *lenition* is removed where *eclipsis* is prescribed)

an is the question particle in the imperfect tense. It causes *eclipsis*.
For example: **an mbrisfinn?** **an ndúnfadh sí?**

nach is the negative question particle in the imperfect tense. It causes *eclipsis*.
For example: **nach mbrisfeá?** **nach ndúnfaidís?**

ní is the negative statement particle for the imperfect tense. It causes *lenition*.
For example: **ní bhrisfeadh sibh.** **ní dhúnfá.**

go is the affirmative relative clause particle in the imperfect tense. It causes *eclipsis*.
For example: **Deir sé go mbrisfimis.** **Deir sé go ndúnfadh sí.**

nach is the negative relative clause particle in the imperfect tense. It causes *eclipsis*.
For example: **Deir sé nach mbrisfeá.** **Deir sé nach ndúnfadh sé.**

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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THE CONDITIONAL MOOD

Second Conjugation

The procedure for conjugating the conditional mood of regular second conjugation verbs is very similar to that used for the first conjugation, the differences being the endings used, and the use of **syncope** (introduced in part two) for verbs ending in **il**, **ir**, **in**, or **is**. To form the conditional mood for second conjugation verbs, just follow all of the following steps that apply to the verb you wish to conjugate, and do so in this order:

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- Remove any **igh** or **aigh** endings, or;
- Syncope** (remove vowels from) the last syllable of non-**igh/aigh** ending verbs;
- Add the appropriate ending (see below).

A few verbs from this category which will illustrate the above instructions are: **bailigh**, **ceannaigh**, **eitil**, **freagair**.
Imperfect tense endings for 2nd Conjugation:

SLENDER ENDING: eoinn, eofá, eodh, eomis, eoidís	BROAD ENDING: óinn, ófá, ódh, óimis, óidís
<p><i>slender-ending examples:</i></p> <p>bailigh</p> <p>bhaileoinn, bhaileofá, bhaileodh sé/sí bhaileomis, bhaileodh sibh, bhaileoidís</p> <p>eitil</p> <p>d'eitleoinn, d'eitleofá, d'eitleodh sé/sí d'eileomis, d'eileodh sibh, d'éitleoidís</p>	<p><i>broad-ending examples:</i></p> <p>ceannaigh</p> <p>cheannóinn, cheannófá, cheannódh sé/sí cheannóimis, cheannódh sibh, cheannóidís</p> <p>freagair</p> <p>d'fhreagróinn, d'fhreagrófá, d'fhreagródh sé/sí d'fhreagróimis, d'fhreagródh sibh, d'fhreagróidís</p>

About conditional mood lenition and d'

The learner will note in the instructions above that standard Irish prescribes *lenition* for consonant-fronted verbs in the conditional mood and the addition of **d'** for those which start with a vowel or **fh**. Historically, Irish once placed a particle **do** before conditional mood verbs (shortened to **d'** before vowels and **fh**), a particle which caused lenition. The **do** is now omitted in all dialects except Munster and only the **d'** remains. When adding verbal particles (see below) the **d'** is omitted.

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For example: **an mbaileoinn?** **an gceanneofá?**

nach is the negative question particle in the imperfect tense. It causes **eclipsis**.

For example: **nach mbaileoidís?** **nach gceannódh sibh?**

ní is the negative statement particle for the imperfect tense. It causes **lenition**.

For example: **ní bhaileodh sibh.** **ní cheannófá.**

go is the affirmative relative clause particle in the imperfect tense. It causes **eclipsis**.

For example: **Deir sé go mbaileomis.** **Deir sé go gceannódh sí.**

nach is the negative relative clause particle in the imperfect tense. It causes **eclipsis**.

For example: **Deir sé nach mbaileoinn.** **Deir sé nach gceannódh sé.**