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Language



Learning English

Where can I learn English in Ireland?

If you would like to attend an English language course there are a number of different options available:

- Vocational Education Centres (VECs) usually offer courses in English as a second language: www.ivea.ie
- You can also check for private courses with the Advisory Council for English Language Schools: www.acels.ie
- Local community groups sometimes offer free English language classes

You can also:

- Attend a conversation exchange at your local library: www.library.ie
- Place your own advertisement looking for someone to take part in a language exchange. A good place to put the ad is in the local library or on university or college notice boards.

To listen to our English lessons visit our website:

www.livinginireland.ie

Abbreviations

Sending text messages or texting is very popular.

Here are a few common abbreviations that you will see in text messages:

Abbreviation	Meaning
Brb	Be right back
Btw	By the way
Cos	Because
Cu	See you
Defo	Definitely
Fyi	For your information
Gr8	Great
L8r	Later
Lol	Laugh out loud
Msg	Message
Ppl	People
Ttyl	Talk to you later
Txt	Text
Tmrw/2moro	Tomorrow

Abbreviation	Meaning
U	You
Ur	Your
Wot	What
Wud	Would
2day	Today
2nite	Tonight
4get	Forget
4u	For you

It is also common for people to use smileys/emoticons.

The most common ones are:

Smiley/Emoticon	Meaning
:-)	Smiling
:-(Sad
;-)	Winking
:-D	Laugh or grin
:O	Shocked
:-P	Sticking tongue out

Other abbreviations include:

Abbreviation	Meaning
ASAP	As soon as possible
DOB	Date of birth

Hiberno-English

The Irish language influences how English is spoken in Ireland. Hiberno-English or Irish-English is similar to the English spoken in the United Kingdom but has its own unique features. Within Irish-English there are regional variations and accents.

Introduction to the Irish language

Irish (Gaeilge) is one of the official languages in Ireland. While most Irish people do not speak the language on a daily basis, it is still an important part of Irish identity. You will see and hear Irish words and sayings in many different places, for example, most road and street signs are bilingual.



I would like to start learning Irish. Where can I get information on this?

The following organisations provide Irish language classes:

- Conradh na Gaeilge – www.cnag.ie
- Gael Linn – www.gael-linn.ie
- Your local library – www.library.ie
- Online Irish classes – www.ranganna.com
- iMeasc – imeasc@gmail.com

A Brief History of the Irish Language

While English is the language most spoken by the majority of Irish people, Irish or Gaeilge is the First Official Language of the Republic of Ireland and it is an official language of the European Union. Although once spoken commonly across the island of Ireland, nowadays it is generally spoken in the Gaeltacht (Irish speaking areas).

Irish originally stems from Celtic language and so is likely to have been introduced to Ireland at the time of the arrival of Celts in Ireland. Following conquests and plantations from Britain in the 16th and 17th century the status of Irish was seriously undermined. However, through the 1700s and into

the 1800s Irish was the language of the majority of the rural population.

The Great Famine and the introduction of a primary education system where Irish was banned further weakened the status of Irish. The language appeared to be on the point of extinction, but a vigorous restoration movement helped to prevent such a fate.

The Gaelic League, or in Irish, Conradh na Gaeilge, established in 1893, successfully turned support for Irish into a mass movement. With the establishment of the Free State in 1922 some attempts were made to re-establish Irish as the dominant language. However, English was widely used at this time and state institutions continued to operate through English so Irish remained a secondary language.

For more information on Irish language go to the bi-lingual website www.gaeilge.ie

For more about the Language in Ireland visit our website: www.livinginireland.ie

