

How to find your way through the textbook “Progress In Irish”

The book “**Progress In Irish**” contains 72 lessons covering all of the main features of grammar in the Irish Language but unfortunately it has no subject index. Many students work sequentially through all the lessons but still find it hard to see how it all comes together and how the various lessons relate to each other. This table lets you see how all the contents can be viewed as separate streams, and using it you can find all the related material more easily.

There are some points worth noting:-

- Regular verbs are often explained in different ways. Some books use the designations type 1 and 2, and others use the terms first and second conjugation and some books just call them short and long verbs. Progress in Irish seems to prefer the terms short and long, but either way you still need to know how to tell them apart so you can use the correct set of verb endings.
- All verbs have a number of tenses but the copula is very different and is not really counted as a verb for this reason. It has one form that is used for both the past and conditional and another that is used for the present.
- The verb bí, whose present tense is tá, is counted as one of the irregular verbs. It is the only verb with both a present tense and a present habitual tense (bím).
- Prepositions and pronouns are two separate things in all languages but Irish **also** has a combined form known as a prepositional pronoun (e.g. agam) which is used instead of two separate words.
- The book uses the terms “definite and indefinite” in its discussion of the copula. Some books call this “identity and classification” respectively, and some other books refer to “certainty and uncertainty”. Again, the terminology itself is not the issue, but you must be able to clearly differentiate between the two situations.
- Irish uses the genitive case for nouns much more frequently than other languages, eg after verbal nouns and also after compound prepositions. This is in addition to the normal use of the genitive to denote possession.
- In the lessons it’s very easy to miss details like the definite/indefinite use of the copula, indirect speech (sometimes called reported speech), dependent forms of verbs, weak and strong plurals, or the various types of relative clauses. Ask your teacher to explain or point these out if necessary.
- You can use this document as part of your study plan, just highlight the lessons that you are currently working on. Aim for around 24 lessons per year, split equally over the number of terms or semesters at your place of study. (eg 3 terms of 8 lessons, or 4 terms of 6 lessons)

Overall the book is still one of the best for learners and you can now get extra help from these other sources:-

- Another useful index for the book, compiled by the Minnesota Gaeltacht in the USA, is available on our website at www.gaeilgesanastrail.com/docs/progress.pdf
- The answers to all the exercises in the book are available at www.gaeilge.org/PII-ak.html
- Mp3 sound files of readings for all the lessons and exercises are available at www.philo-celtic.com/PII/Progress.htm

	Adjectives	Nouns	Regular verbs	Irregular verbs	The copula	Prepositions & pronouns	Other points of grammar
1			Ag + verbal noun	Present tense (of bí)			Basic word order
2	Adjective used as a predicate			Present tense (of bí)			
3	Verbal adjectives			Present tense (of bí)			
4			Ag + verbal noun	Negative statements			
5						Ag + pronoun used to express possession	No indefinite article
6	Adjective follows the noun						Colours
7			Imperatives (singular) List of common verbs				
8				Past tense (of bí)		i (sa)	
9				Future tense (of bí)			Days of the week
10			Present tense				
11							Numbers, time, clock
12			Present tense				
13			Past tense				
14						Ar + pronoun	Possessives -singular
15						Le + pronoun and used to express ownership	
16			Future tense	Future tense			
17						ar an + eclipsis (aka dative case)	Possessives -plural
18							Táim i mo..... Yes / no replies
19			x...has done...y				
20				Present habitual (of bí)			
21				Past tense			
22				Past tense (negative)			
23		Some examples of plurals					
24	Effect of noun plurals on adjectives	Some examples of plurals					
25				Future tense			
26	Effect of noun gender on adjectives	Effect of article with masc and fem nouns					
27				Present tense			
28			Imperatives (singular)	Imperatives (singular)			Greetings / replies

	Adjectives	Nouns	Regular verbs	Irregular verbs	The copula	Prepositions & pronouns	Other points of grammar
29			The imperative (singular+plural)				Greetings / replies
30				Bí vs. copula	Bí vs. copula	Emphatic pronouns	
31						Do + pronoun	
32						De + pronoun	Two verbs "to ask"
33					Definite & indefinite		Possessives when used before vowels
34	Comparative forms of adjectives				Copula in comparisons (present tense)		Chomh ... le...
35			Indirect speech Go / nach	Indirect speech Go / nach			
36			Future tense with indirect speech	Future tense with indirect speech			
37						Chuig, faoi, roimh, ó + pronoun	
38			Conditional	Conditional (of bí)			
39				Conditional of the other irregular verbs			Arsa, ar used when quoting exact words
40			Past tense with indirect speech	Past tense with indirect speech			
41			Verbal nouns				Transitive vs intransitive usage of verbs and word order
42					Indirect speech (indefinite)		
43					Indirect speech (definite)		Changed word order
44							Counting, months, days, time Go + adjective
45			Past habitual tense	Past habitual tense			
46		Introduction to cases Fourth declension nouns					
47		The article when used before nouns					Sa / sna / leis
48		First declension nouns					
49		Verbal nouns	Verbal nouns				Verbal nouns are followed by genitive
50		Second declension nouns				Some compound prepositions	Compound prepositions are followed by genitive

