

An Saorbhriathar

Comhrá

Milis



Gaeltaocht an Oileáin Úir
Cnuasac tasta / Non-Lending

An Saorbhriathar

Irish has a verb form known in English as the 'autonomous form' or in Irish, *an saorbhriathar*, the 'free form'. This form corresponds roughly to the English passive voice and to impersonal verb forms such as found in 'one says ...', 'they sell...' 'you take the #5 to get downtown'. This booklet presents the basic morphology of the **saorbhriathar** and exercises to practice the forms.

There is a form for the saorbhriathar corresponding to each of the main tenses, present, past, imperfect, future and conditional.

1. The **present** tense form uses the endings **-tar -tear** according to the broad or slender stem of the verb.

Dúntar na siopaí ar a cúig a chloig gach lá.

The stores close at five o'clock every day.

Óltar cupán tae le brioscaí.

One drinks a cup of tea with some biscuits.

Múintear Gaeilge san ollscoil.

Irish is taught at the university.

Ceannaítear bainne sa siopa grósaera.

People can buy milk at the grocery store.

2. The **past** tense form of the saorbhriathar is formed by adding **-(e)adh** to first conjugation verbs, and **-odh** to second conjugation verbs. The initial

consonant of the verb is not lenited.

Dúnadh na siopaí ar a cúig a chloig.

The stores closed at five o'clock.

Óladh cupán tae le brioscaí.

One drank a cup of tea with biscuits.

Múineadh Gaeilge san ollscoil.

Irish was taught at the university.

Ceannaíodh bainne sa siopa grósaera.

People bought milk at the grocery store.

3. The **Imperfect** (aimsir ghnáthchaite) past tense forms the saorbhriathar by adding the ending **-t(a)í** to the root of the verb. The initial consonant of the verb itself is lenited as for the past tense. **D'** precedes verbs beginning with a vowel as for the past tense.

Dhúntaí na siopaí ar a cúig a chloig.

The shops used to close at 5 o'clock.

D'óltaí cupán tae le brioscaí.

One used to drink a cup of tea with biscuits

Mhúintí Gaeilge san ollscoil.

Irish used to be taught at the university.

Ceannaítí bainne sa siopa grósaera.

People used to buy milk at the grocery store.

4. The **Future** tense forms the saorbhriathar by adding the ending **-f(e)ar** to the root of the verb for first conjugation verbs, and **-ófar -eofar** for second

conjugation verbs:

Dúnfar na siopaí ar a cúig a chloig amárach.

The stores will close at five o'clock tomorrow.

Ólfar cupán tae le brioscaí.

One will drink a cup of tea with some biscuits.

Múinfear Gaeilge san ollscoil.

Irish will be taught at the university.

Ceannófar bainne sa siopa grósaera.

People will buy milk at the grocery store.

5. The **Conditional** tense forms the saorbhriathar by adding the endings **-f(a)í** to the stem of first conjugation verbs and **-ófaí -eofaí** to the stem of second conjugation verbs. The initial consonant of the verb is lenited as for past tense forms. **D'** precedes verbs beginning with a vowel as for the past tense.

Dhúnfaí na siopaí ar a cúig a chloig.

The stores would close at five o'clock.

D'ólfáí cupan tae le brioscaí.

One would drink a cup of tea with some biscuits.

Mhúinfi Gaeilge san ollscoil.

Irish would be taught at the university.

Cheannófaí bainne sa siopa grósaera.

People could buy milk at the grocery store.

Remember that the irregular verbs have changes in the form of the root in some tenses. Review them before attempting the following exercises.

Cleachtadh

Give the 5 saorbhriathar forms for the following verbs:

**verb present past imperfect future
conditional**

abair,
ainmnigh,
aithnigh,
ardaigh,
bac,
bailigh,
beannaigh,
béic,
blais,
braith,
buail,
cail,
cáin,
caith,
caoin,
cas,
cedaigh,
ceap,
cleacht,
clois,
codail,
coimeád,
crith,

crom,
cuidigh,
cuir,
déan,
díol,
doirt,
druid,
dún,
éalaigh,
éirigh,
éist,
eitel,
fág,
faigh,
fan,
fás,
feic,
fill,
fiuch,
foghlaim,
fostaigh,
freagair,
glac,
glan,
gortaigh,
imigh,
imir,
íoc,
ith,
labhair,
leag,

léigh,
lion,
mair,
maraigh,
mill,
mol,
múch,
ól,
pioc,
pós,
rith,
roghnaigh,
scríobh,
scuab,
seas,
séid,
siúil,
suigh,
sleamhnaigh,
smaoinigh,
snámh,
stop,
tabhair,
taispeáin,
tar,
téigh,
teip,
tiomáin,
tosaigh,
tóg,
tuig.

Cleachtadh

An Saorbhriathar, Aimsir Láithreach

Change the verb in the following sentences into the **saorbhriathar** making all the necessary adjustments in the rest of the sentence. Write the sentence in the affirmative, the negative and the interrogative forms.

1. Múineann an scoil seo teangacha.
2. Déanann na feirmeoirí an cháis seo.
3. Caitheann na buachaillí tobac amuigh.
4. Díolann na siopaí toitíní.
5. Ceannaíonn muintir a lán prátaí.
6. Ní chreideann siad é sin níos mó.
7. Imríonn na páistí cluiche cartaí anois is arís.
8. Freagraíonn na daltaí na ceisteanna.
9. Cuireann na daltaí a lán ceisteanna.
10. Labhríonn na daoine Gaeilge.
11. Léimid a lán leabhair.
12. Scíobhann na páistí litreacha.
13. Téann muintir go dtí an pub.
14. Feicimid go minic ann é.
15. Tá sé fuair i gCeanada sa gheimhreadh.
16. Siúilimid ar an trá tráthnóna.
17. Ithimid feoil le glasraí gach lá.
18. Ritheann na h-imreoirí timpeall na páirce.
19. Tagann daoine go dtí an pub ar an Aoine.
20. Deir m'athair é sin go minic.
21. Snámhaim san abhainn sa samhradh.
22. Tuigimid go bhfuil an ceart aige.
23. Glanann tú an árasán gach seachtain.
24. Nímid na soithí tar éis an dinnéir.

Cuir Gaeilge air seo:

1. Questions are being put to the politician.
2. Where are the answers to be found?
3. Letters are sent to everyone.
4. The apples are gathered in September.
5. Furniture is sold on the fourth floor.
6. Spanish is spoken here.
7. Checks are accepted.
8. Houses are built quickly these days.
9. The shops open at 10.
10. Meals are prepared in the kitchen.
11. Soccer is played in the park.
12. Jockeys ride horses.
13. This horse has never been ridden.
14. Letters are written to friends.
15. Such things are read daily in the newspapers.
16. He is being appointed chairman.
17. Mary was nominated.
18. People from Peru are called Peruvian.
19. They call him Mike.
20. It seems to me that ...
21. Coffee and tea are sold here.
22. The car is washed every week.
23. The prize is awarded to James.
24. The incident is mentioned in his book.
25. These things are recommended.
26. Medicine is taken according to directions.
27. Children are taught in schools.
28. A lot of pasta is eaten in Italy.

An Saorbhriathar, Aimisir Chaite

Rephrase these sentences to use the saorbhriathar in the simple past. Make all necessary changes in the sentence to accommodate the tense.

1. D'ith muid sa bhialann anocht.
2. Rinne mé an obair go tapa.
3. Labhair sé linn.
4. D'fhéach said ar an gclár.
5. Thug sé na leabhair dóibh.
6. Bhris na páistí an fhuinneog.
7. Dhún sí an doras.
8. D'fhill sibh go Nua Eabhrac.
9. Ghearr Máire a lámh.
10. Ghlan mé an teach.
11. Líon mé an gloine arís.
12. Mhúch tú an solas.
13. Mhúin an múinteoir Gaeilge.
14. Scuab muid an t-urlár.
15. Cheannaigh mé na leabhair sa siopa leabhar.
16. Dhíol m'athair an fheirm.
17. Dúirt an sagart é inné.
18. Chuala mé é sin fós.
19. Fuair mé an nuachtán ar maidin.
20. Thug Brian an bille dom.
21. Léigh na daltaí an nuachtán ar maidin.
22. Sciobh siad an litir.
23. Dúirt Tomás liom é.
24. Chonaic mé an carr ar an mbóthar.
25. D'fhoghlaim tú an ceacht.

26. D'imir siad peile ar an Satharn.
27. Mharaigh sé sa timpiste.
28. Bhunaigh Liam Mac an Chnuic an comhlacht anuraidh.
29. Chaill mé mo chuid airgid.
30. Chuidigh sé liom an t-airgead a chomhaireamh.
31. Léigh siad an fógra.
32. Chaith mé dhá bhliain i dToronto.
33. Ghoid siad an gluaisrothar.
34. Chuir sé glaoch teileafóin orm.
35. Ghlaoigh sé ar a h-athair.

Change these impersonal forms to the negative and interrogative forms making all necessary changes.

1. Bunaíodh i 1925 é.
2. Saolaíodh i 1985 í.
3. Rinne anuraidh é.
4. Léadh 'The Gazette' .
5. Scríobhadh turascáil láithreach.
6. Goideadh rothar nua Mhíchíl.
7. Ceannaíodh teach ceann tuí faoin tuath.
8. Rugadh i Vancouver iad.
9. Cailleadh m'athair anuraidh.
10. Rinneadh é.
11. Ceapadh príomhoide.
12. Briseadh na plátaí.
13. Díoladh an capall.
14. Tógadh teach nua dóibh.
15. Oibríodh go dian san oifig sin.

Cuir Gaeilge air seo:

1. I was told not to go there.
2. They were born in Vancouver and raised in Halifax.
3. The report was written last week.
4. The chair is broken; the chair got broken..
5. He was bought a new car by the company.
6. A lot of beer was drunk at the party.
7. The light was turned on.
8. They were seen talking in the street.
9. Lots of people attended the concert.
10. Was nothing done about that?
11. He was named president.
12. Was the package opened immediately?
13. Why wasn't I given the report?
14. Weren't the kittens born last month?
15. The shops were closed on Sundays.
16. Were people told that?
17. It was believed by many.
18. The house wasn't sold last year.
19. Many soldiers were killed in the war.
20. The radio got broken.
21. The evening was spent telling stories.
22. Many old songs were sung.
23. That song is hear often on the radio.
24. People bump into him everywhere.
25. He was drowned last summer.
26. People swam there all week.
27. People walked along the beach.
28. Cheques were accepted.

An Saorbhriathar, Aimsir Gháthchaite

Rephrase these sentences to use the saorbhriathar in the imperfect past. Make all necessary changes in the sentence to accommodate the tense

1. D'ithimis sa bhialann ar an Aoine..
2. Dhéanainn an obair go tapa.
3. Labhairíodh linn.
4. D'fhéachaidís le clár teiliúise.
5. Thugadh na leabhair dóibh.
6. Bhrisidís na páistí an fhuinneog.
7. Dhúnadh sí an doras.
8. D'fhilleadh sibh go Nua Eabhrac.
9. Ghearradh Máire a lámh go minic.
10. Ghlanainn an teach go rialta.
11. Líonainn an gloine arís is arís.
12. Mhúchtá an solas roimh dul a chodladh duit.
13. Mhúineadh an múinteoir Gaeilge sa meánscoil.
14. Scuabaimis an t-urlár ar maidin.
15. Cheannainn na labhair sa siopa leabharna hollscoile.
16. Dhíoladh m'athair bainne.
17. Deireadh an sagart é sin go minic.
18. Chloisinn mé an scéal sin o am go ham.
19. D'fhaighinn an nuachtán ar maidin.
20. Thugadh Brian an bille dom sa bhialann.
21. Léidís na daltaí an nuachtán ar scoil.
22. Scíobhaidís litir gach seachtain.
23. Deireadh Tomás liom é i gcónaí.
24. D'fheicinn a charr ar an mbóthar anuraidh.

25. D'fhoghlaimiteá an ceacht.
26. D'imrídís peile ar an Satharn.
27. Mharaíodh saighdiúirí i gcathanna fuilteacha.
28. Bhunaíodh Liam Mac an Chnuic comhlacht
gach bliain.
29. Chaillinn mo chuid airgid go minic.
30. Chuidíodh sé liom an t-airgead a chomhaireamh.
31. Léidís na fógraí sa nuachtán.
32. Chaithinn dhá sheachtain i dToronto gach
bliain.
33. Ghoidís gluaisrothair.
34. Chuireadh glaoch teileafóin orm trathnóna.
35. Ghlaodh sí ar a máthair gach lá.
36. Bhuailimis le Liam sa phub go minic.
37. D'óladh sé uisce beatha de ghnáth.
38. D'fhanainn leo nuair a théinn go Londain.
39. Shiúilinn ar an trá in aice le mo theachsa.
40. D'fhágadh an bád ar a seacht a chloig.
41. Leanaimis iad go dtí oifig an phoist.
42. Cheannódh sí cóta nua gach geimhreadh.
43. D'fhaigheadh sibh leabhair ón leabharlann áitiúil.
44. Thagaidís na páistí abhaile tar éis na scoile.
45. Théadh Máire go dtí an pub lena cairde.
46. Théinn go hAifreann ar an Domhnach.
47. Chuirinn litir do Shíle.
48. Chíochnaídís an obair ar a cúig a chloig.
49. Thosnaídís na ranganna in am i gcónaí.
50. Athraíodh an aimsir go tapa san fhómhair.

An Saoarbhriathar - An Aimsir Fháistineach

Change these sentences to use the saorbhriathar in the future tense making all necessary changes.

1. Cuirfidh na páistí litir abhaile.
2. Caithfidh seachtain ann mí Iúil.
3. Fanfaidh Liam sa bhaile amárach.
4. Leanfaidh siad mise.
5. An gcríochnóidh an rang go luath?
6. Tabhairfaidh sibh cabhair dúinn.
7. Nach gceannóidh Liam an nuachtán?
8. Scríobhfaimid scéal duitse.
9. Imeoidh na daltaí abhaile ag am lóin.
10. Íosfaidh sibh go tapa.
11. Ní éireimid go luath.
12. Tuigfidh siad an ceacht.
13. Fanfaidh siad linn ag an stáisiún traenach.
14. Tosóidh an rás ag meánlae.
15. Ní chosnóidh sé ach deich ndollar.
16. Múinfidh Mícheál cúrsa staire.
17. Baileoimid stampaí.
18. Canfaidh Nóra amhrán deas.
19. Creidfidh siad an scéal.
20. Scrúdóidh siad na páistí.
21. Foghlaimeoidh said Gaeilge.
22. Goidfidh an buachaill an rothar.
23. Cuirfidh tú scairt fóin orm.
24. Imreoidh na foirne sa pháirc tráthnóna.
25. Bunfaidh Liam comhlacht nua.

An Saorbhriathar- An Aimsir Choinníollach

Put the verb in these sentences into the **conditional** tense.

1. D'ithimis sa bhialann ar an Aoine..
2. Dhéanainn an obair go tapa.
3. Labhairíodh linn.
4. D'fhéachaidís le clár teiliíse.
5. Thugadh na leabhair dóibh.
6. Bhrisidís na páistí an fhuinneog.
7. Dhúnadh sí an doras.
8. D'fhilleadh sibh go Nua Eabhrac.
9. Ghearradh Máire a lámh go minic.
10. Ghlanainn an teach go rialta.
11. Líonainn an gloine arís is arís.
12. Mhúchtá an solas roimh dul a chodladh duit.
13. Mhúineadh an múinteoir Gaeilge sa meánscoil.
14. Scuabaimís an t-urlár ar maidin.
15. Cheannaínn na leabhair sa siopa leabharna hollscoile.
16. Dhíoladh m'athair bainne.
17. Deireadh an sagart é sin go minic.
18. Chloisinn mé an scéal sin o am go ham.
19. D'fhaighinn an nuachtán ar maidin.
20. Thugadh Brian an bille dom sa bhialann.
21. Léidís na daltaí an nuachtán ar scoil.
22. Sciobhaidís litir gach seachtain.
23. Deireadh Tomás liom é i gcónaí.
24. D'fheicinn a charr ar an mbóthar anuraidh.
25. D'fhoghlaimíteá an ceacht.

26. D'imrídís peile ar an Satharn.
27. Mharaíodh saighdiúirí i gcathanna fuilteacha.
28. Bhunaíodh Liam Mac an Chnuic comhlacht
gach bliain.
29. Chaillinn mo chuid airgid go minic.
30. Chuidíodh sé liom an t-airgead a chomhaireamh.
31. Léidís na fógraí sa nuachtán.
32. Chaithinn dhá sheachtain i dToronto gach
bliain.
33. Ghoidís gluaisrothair.
34. Chuireadh glooch teileafóin orm trathnóna.
35. Ghlaodh sí ar a máthair gach lá.
36. Bhuailimis le Liam sa phub go minic.
37. D'óladh sé uisce beatha de ghnáth.
38. D'fhanainn leo nuair a théinn go Londain.
39. Shiúilinn ar an trá in aice le mo theachsa.
40. D'fhágadh an bád ar a seacht a chloig.
41. Leanaimis iad go dtí oifig an phoist.
42. Cheannódh sí cóta nua gach geimhreadh.
43. D'fhaigheadh sibh leabhair ón leabharlann áitiúil.
44. Thagaidís na páistí abhaile tar éis na scoile.
45. Théadh Máire go dtí an pub lena cairde.
46. Théinn go hAifreann ar an Domhnach.
47. Chuirinn litir do Shile.
48. Chíochnaídís an obair ar a cúig a chloig.
49. Thosnaídís na ranganna in am i gcónaí.
50. Athraíodh an aimsir go tapa san fhómhair.

Rewrite the sentences in the following exercise using the saorbhriathar in the **conditional** tense and make all changes required by the context.

1. D'ithimis sa bhialann ar an Aoine..
2. Dhéanainn an obair go tapa.
3. Labhairíodh linn.
4. D'fhéachaidís le clár teiliúise.
5. Thugadh na leabhair dóibh.
6. Bhrisidís na páistí an fhuinneog.
7. Dhúnadh sí an doras.
8. D'fhilleadh sibh go Nua Eabhrac.
9. Ghearradh Máire a lámh go minic.
10. Ghlanainn an teach go rialta.
11. Líonainn an gloine arís is arís.
12. Mhúchtá an solas roimh dul a chodladh duit.
13. Mhúineadh an múinteoir Gaeilge sa meánscoil.
14. Scuabaimis an t-urlár ar maidin.
15. Cheannainn na leabhair sa siopa leabharna hollscoile.
16. Dhíoladh m'athair bainne.
17. Deireadh an sagart é sin go minic.
18. Chloisinn mé an scéal sin o am go ham.
19. D'fhaighinn an nuachtán ar maidin.
20. Thugadh Brian an bille dom sa bhialann.
21. Léidís na daltaí an nuachtán ar scoil.
22. Sciobhaidís litir gach seachtain.
23. Deireadh Tomás liom é i gcónaí.
24. D'fheicinn a charr ar an mbóthar anuraidh.
25. D'fhoghlaimiteá an ceacht.
26. D'imridís peile ar an Satharn.

27. Mharaíodh saighdiúirí i gcathanna fuilteacha.
28. Bhunaíodh Liam Mac an Chnuic comhlacht gach bliain.
29. Chaillinn mo chuid airgid go minic.
30. Chuidíodh sé liom an t-airgead a chomhaireamh.
31. Léidís na fógraí sa nuachtán.
32. Chaithinn dhá sheachtain i dToronto gach bliain.
33. Ghoidís gluaisrothair.
34. Chuireadh glooch teileafóin orm trathnóna.
35. Ghlaódh sí ar a máthair gach lá.
36. Bhuailimis le Liam sa phub go minic.
37. D'óladh sé uisce beatha de ghnáth.
38. D'fhanainn leo nuair a théinn go Londain.
39. Shiúilinn ar an trá in aice le mo theachsa.
40. D'fhágadh an bád ar a seacht a chloig.
41. Leanaimis iad go dtí oifig an phoist.
42. Cheannódh sí cóta nua gach geimhreadh.
43. D'fhaigheadh sibh leabhair ón leabharlann áitiúil.
44. Thagaidís na páistí abhaile tar éis na scoile.
45. Théadh Máire go dtí an pub lena cairde.
46. Théinn go hAifreann ar an Domhnach.
47. Chuirinn litir do Shíle.
48. Chíochnaídís an obair ar a cúig a chloig.
49. Thosnaídís na ranganna in am i gcónaí.
50. Athraíodh an aimsir go tapa san fhómhair.

Cuir Gaeilge air seo:

1. The report will be accepted.
2. The report was accepted.
3. The report would be accepted.
4. These records are played on every station.
5. These records used to be played on every station.
6. These records will be played on every station.
7. These records would be played on every station.
8. I am told the same thing day after day.
9. I used to be told the same thing regularly.
10. I was told the same story yesterday.
11. I will be told the same story time and again.
12. I would be told the same story.
13. The announcements will be published in
the local papers.
14. The announcements were always published
in the local papers.
15. The announcements will be published in the
local papers.
16. The announcements would be published in the
local papers.
17. A letter is sent to every customer.
18. A letter was always sent to every customer.
19. A letter was sent to every customer.
20. A letter will be sent to every customer.
21. A letter would be sent to every customer.
22. He is often seen in the pub.
23. He used to be seen in the pub.
24. He was seen on the street.
25. He will be seen in the street.

26. He wouldn't be seen in a pub.
27. Everyone is phoned a week in advance.
28. You will be phoned a week in advance.
29. You were phoned a week in advance.
30. He was born and raised in Halifax.
31. The truth will be revealed.
32. That custom was abandoned long ago.
33. The potatoes were picked last month.
34. The apples will be sold next week.
35. Potatoes used to be planted in May.
36. Meals are prepared in the hospital kitchen.
37. Meals used to be prepared in the hospital kitchen.
38. The meals were prepared by the hospital staff.
39. It is being done right now.
40. It will be done soon.
41. How will it be reported in the newspapers?
42. People showed up in droves.
43. Lots of people used to drive along the coast.
44. The tree was climbed by many kids.
45. The coat was bought in Sears.
46. Household appliances are sold on the seventh floor.
47. The furniture was delivered yesterday.
48. The boxes were transported by truck.
49. Houses used to be built in the summer but now they are built in any season.
50. If it rained hard, the coast road would be flooded.

Rewrite these sentences changing the verb to the **saorbhriathar - aimsir láithreach** and make all the necessary changes.

1. Rinne anuraidh é.
2. Léadh ‘The Gazette’.
3. Scríobah turascáil láithreach.
4. Goideadh rothar nua Mhíchíl.
5. Ceannaíodh teach ceann tuí faoin tuath.
6. Rugadh i Vancouver iad.
7. Cailleadh m’athair anuraidh.
8. Rinneadh é.
9. Ceapadh príomhoide.
10. Briseadh na plátaí.
11. Dioladh an capall.
12. Tógadh teach nua dóibh.
13. Oibríodh go dian san oifig sin.

Rewrite these putting the verb in the **saorbhriathar - aimsir ghnáthchaite** making all the necessary changes.

1. Rinne anuraidh é.
2. Léadh ‘The Gazette’.
3. Scríobah turascáil láithreach.
4. Goideadh rothar nua Mhíchíl.
5. Ceannaíodh teach ceann tuí faoin tuath.
6. Rugadh i Vancouver iad.
7. Cailleadh m’athair anuraidh.
8. Rinneadh é.
9. Ceapadh príomhoide.

10. Briseadh na plátaí.
11. Díoladh an capall.
12. Tógadh teach nua dóibh.
13. Oibríodh go dian san oifig sin.

Rewrite these sentences putting the verb in the **saorbhriathar - aimsir fháistineach** making all the necessary changes.

1. Rinne anuraidh é.
2. Léadh ‘The Gazette’ .
3. Scríobah turascáil láithreach.
4. Goideadh rothar nua Mhíchíl.
5. Ceannaíodh teach ceann tuí faoin tuath.
6. Rugadh i Vancouver iad.
7. Cailleadh m’athair anuraidh.
8. Rinneadh é.
9. Ceapadh príomhoide.
10. Briseadh na plátaí.
11. Díoladh an capall.
12. Tógadh teach nua dóibh.
13. Oibríodh go dian san oifig sin.

Go back to the list of verbs at the beginning of the booklet and select ten verbs. Write an original sentence using the verb in each of the forms of the saorbhriathar.

verb 1

1

2

3

4

5

verb 2

1

2

3

4

5

verb 3

1

2

3

4

5

verb 4

1

2

3

4

5

verb 5

1

2

3

4

5

verb 6

1

2

3

4

5

verb 7

1

2

3

4

5

verb 8

1

2

3

4

5

verb 9

1

2

3

4

5

verb 10

1

2

3

4

5

Copyright 2000
John Donahue

