

# Tá sé chomh crua le cloch

Comhrá

Milis



Coilteáct an Oileáin Úir  
Cnuasac Tascarta / Non-Lending

## Comparison of Adjectives Céimeanna Comparáide na hAidiachta

Comparisons are usually divided into three groupings:

- (1) comparisons of equality
- (2) comparisons of inequality
- (3) superlatives

### 1. Comparisons of equality

Comparisons of equality state that the two elements being compared are the same. For example:

- My car is as old as yours.
- This book was as expensive as the course.
- Her sister is as talkative as ever.
- Their health is the same as it was last year.

The formula for comparisons of equality consists of  
.... **as** ..... **as** .....

In Irish, the comparison of equality is expressed with the formula ....**chomh** ..... **le**, when the elements are the same part of speech and with ... **chomh** ....**agus** when the second element is a clause or phrase.

Study these examples:

- Tá Micheál chomh láidir le capall.**  
*Michael is as strong as a horse.*

**Bhí an baincéir sin chomh saibhir le rí.**

*The banker was as rich as a king.*

**Bhí an bia chomh blasta agus a bhi sé riamh.**

*The food was as tasty as ever.*

**Tá sé ag obair chomh mall anois agus a bhíonn sé ag obair i gcónaí.**

*He's working as slow now as he always does.*

**Níl na rudaí sin chomh tábhachtach agus a chreideann muid (chreidimid).**

*Those things are not as important as we think.*

**Tá an teach chomh hard le crann.**

*The house is as tall as a tree.*

### **Cleachtadh**

**Write sentences comparing the elements given using the adjective(s) provided.**

m'uncail / m'aintín / óg

**Tá (níl) m'uncail chomh hóg le m'aintín**

**Tá (níl) m'aintín chomh hóg le m'uncail**

1. Máire / Siobhan / fionn
2. Mise / tusa/ ard
3. an rang staire / an rang tíreolaíochta / suimiúil
4. úll / oráiste / slaintiúil
5. mise / tusa / oibrigh / cruá
6. muid / siad / dul go dtí na pictiúir / minic
7. na húrscéalta / na drámaí / cáiliúil
8. an t-eitleán / an traein / turas / compordach

9. feoil / cáis / daor
10. tíogar / leon / fíochmhar
11. páiste / gaoth / tapa
12. Mícheál / Tomás / leisciúil
13. Nóra / Gráinne / éirimiúil
14. muid / gnóthach / anuraidh
15. na buachaillí / dána / an tseachtain seo caite
16. stúrtóir / tiarnúil / i gcónaí
17. grá / tábhachtach / an t-airgead
18. beoir / fion / iocshláinteach
19. an tsráid / bóthar mór / díreach
20. Liam/ bhí a athair / glic
21. mo mháthair / (tá) m'aintín Nóra / cáinteach
22. do Mhamó / mo Daideo / flathiúil
23. fianaise / áititheach / finné
24. Ceanada / an tSín/ mór
24. na Stáit Aontaithe / an Eoraip / cumhachtach
25. Londain / Páras / plódaithe
26. buidéal / gloine / folamh
27. dornálaí / peileadóir / fearúil
28. mo dheartháir / siad / macánta
29. Máire / dílis / tusa
30. Cóc / Pepsi / blasta
31. muiceoil / caoireoil / úscach
32. sicín / mairteoil / coitianta
33. na cailíní / na buachaillí / ildánach
34. gealach / réaltaí / geal
35. aimsir / an mhí seo chugainn / fliuch
36. iarann / luaidhe / trom
37. mil / siúcra / milis
38. mo chara / mo dheirfiúr / ciallmhar

## Comparisons of Inequality

To express differences in degree, English makes use of the formula **more/less ... than** or by adding **-er** to the positive form of the adjective. For example:

**Jim is taller than his father now.**

**She is more energetic than ever.**

**Billy is less talkative than he used to be.**

In Irish, degrees of inequality are expressed with the following formula: [ **is** or **tá** ]... **níos (lú) .... ná**.

The adjective in this structure is in the comparative degree. This form is the same as the form for the genitive singular of feminine adjectives; it is used for all adjectives, masculine, feminine, as well as plural.

The genitive singular feminine is formed according to the following patterns:

1. Adjectives ending in a **broad consonant** are made slender before the ending **-e** is added: *ach - aī*

**ard - airde**

**bán - báine**

**beag - bige**

**dubh - duibhe**

*Tabhachtach - Tabhachtai*

Adjectives ending in a slender consonant just add **-e**.  
On occasion, a syllable may be lost when this is added.

**láidir - láidre**

**saibhir - saibhre**

**mín - míne**

**milis - milse**

2. Adjectives ending in **-úil** (and a few ending in **-ir**) add an **-a** after the stem has been made broad:

<b>suimiúla - suimúla</b>	<b>socair - socra</b>
<b>cóir- córa</b>	<b>croíúil - croiúla</b>

3. Adjectives ending in a vowel are normally unchanged.

Note the following list of exceptional forms:

<b>mór - mó</b>	<b>tréan - treise</b>
<b>te - teo</b>	<b>olc - measa</b>
<b>maith - fearr</b>	<b>beag - lú</b>
<b>breá - breátha</b>	<b>dócha - dóichí</b>
<b>fada - faide</b>	<b>fogus - foisce</b>
<b>furasta - fusa</b>	<b>iomaí - lia</b>
<b>ionúin - ansa</b>	<b>álainn- áille</b>

Study the following examples:

**Structures using tá:**

**Tá m'uncail níos sine ná m'athair.**

*My uncle is older than my father.*

**Tá Julia Roberts níos áille ná Linda Hunt**

*Julia Roberts is prettier than Linda Hunt.*

**Bíonn sé níos teo sa samhradh.**

*It's usually warmer in summer.*

**Structures using 'is':**

**Is áille Julia Roberts ná Linda Hunt.**

*Julia Roberts is prettier than Linda Hunt.*

**Is sine Tomás ná mise.**

*Tomás is older than me.*

**Is dóichí go bhfuil sí tinn.**

*It's more likely that she's sick.*

**Note the following structures:**

**Níl sé chomh sean sin.**

*He's not as old as that.*

*He's not all that old.*

**An raibh se chomh leisciúil sin anuraidh?**

*Was he that lazy last year?*

*Was he as lazy as that last year?*

**Ní raibh a chómhaith de chocaire ann.**

*There wasn't a cook as good as he was.*

*His equal as cook was not to be found.*

**Is comhionann an dá carr.**

*The two cars are identical.*

## Cleachtadh

Write sentences comparing the elements given using the adjective(s) provided.

m'uncail / m'aintín / óg

**Tá (níl) m'uncail níos óige ná m'aintín**

**Tá (níl) m'aintín níos lú crosta ná m'uncail**

1. Máire / Siobhan / fionn
2. Mise / tusa/ ard
3. an rang staire / an rang tíreolaíochta / suimiúil
4. úll / oráiste / slaintiúil
5. mise / tusa / oibrigh / crua
6. muid / siad / dul go dtí na pictiúir / minic
7. na húrscéalta / na drámaí / cáiliúil
8. an t-eitleán / an traein / turas / compordach
9. feoil / cáis / daor
10. tíogar / leon / fíochmhar
11. páiste / gaoth / tapa
12. Mícheál / Tomás / leisciúil
13. Nóra / Gráinne / éirimiúil
14. muid / gnóthach / anuraidh
15. na buachailli / dána / an tseachtain seo caite
16. stúrthóir / tairnúil / i gcónaí
17. grá / tábhachtach / an t-airgead
18. beoir / fion / iocshláinteach
19. an tsráid / bóthar mór / díreach
20. Liam/ bhí a athair / glic
21. mo mháthair / (tá) m'aintín Nóra / cáinteach
22. do Mhamó / mo Daideo / flathiúil



23. fianaise / áititheach / finné
24. Ceanada / an tSín/ mór
24. na Stáit Aontaithe / an Eoraip / cumhachtach
25. Londain / Páras / plódaithe
26. buidéal / gloine / folamh
27. dornálaí / peileadóir / fearúil
28. mo dheartháir / siad / macánta
29. Máire / dílis / tusa
30. Cóc / Pepsi / blasta
31. muiceoil / caoireoil / úscach
32. sicín / mairteoil / coitianta
33. na cailíní / na buachaillí / ildánach
34. gealach / réaltaí / geal
35. aimsir / an mhí seo chugainn / fliuch
36. iarann / luaidhe / trom
37. míl / siúcra / milis
38. mo chara / mo dheirfiúr / ciallmhar
39. sionnach / madra / glic
40. capall/ leon / tapa
41. Cadillac / Volkswagen / cumhachtach
42. 'Titanic' / Scream 2 / fada
43. Do sciorta / gearr/ an ceann atá agam.
44. caife / tae/ maith
45. ceol traidisiúnta / popcheol / suaimhneach
46. an bóthar/ go Toronto / go Nua Eabhrac / fada
47. dalta/ mo rang / do rang/ iomaí
48. Maidhc / Liam / olc
49. Cupán / crúisce / beag
50. feirmoir / saibhir / baincéir

### **Cuir Gaeilge air seo:**

1. 'The Green Mile' was a very long film but 'Titanic' was longer still.
2. The weather was hotter in July than in August.
3. Do you prefer tea or coffe?
4. He goes to the movies more often than to concerts.
5. Sean Connery is a better James Bond than Timothy Dalton.
6. Woll is heavier than cotton.
7. The teacher was not as angry as all that.
8. He's not as clever as he likes to think.
9. The girls did better work than the boys.
10. This essay was easier that the previous one.
11. Next week, the weather will be better than it was this week.
12. Jane is more energetic than her sister.
13. These students are less athletic than we were.
14. I take less sugar in my tea than you do.
15. Money is less important than love.
16. I find history less interesting than geography.
17. The captain was less courageous than his crewmen.
18. Jim's story was less humourous than Tom's.
19. Her skirt was short, but the waitress's skirt was shorter still.
20. The lecture was longer and more boring than ever.
21. We don't go downtown all that often.
22. Butter was less expensive this week.
23. They serve meat less frequently than fish.
24. I prefer movies to TV shows.
25. Which do you prefer?

## The Superlative

The superlative indicates the highest degree of some quality. In English, it is expressed by adding **-est** to the adjective, or by adding **most** before the adjective. For example:

Jim is the **tallest** boy in the class and Tom is the **most talkative**.

In Irish, the superlative is expressed as follows:

**Is é Seán an buachaill is airde sa rang.**

Sean is the tallest boy in the class.

**Is é an t-úrscéal is greannmhair a léigh mé riamh.**

*That's the funniest novel I ever read.*

**Tá Halifax ar na cathracha is deise sa tír.**

*Halifax is one of the nicest cities in the country.*

**Creideann siad go bhfuil Halifax ar an chathair is deise sa tír.**

*They think Halifax is the nicest city in the country.*

**Is í Máire an cailín is amhrasaí san oifig.**

*Mary is the most forgetful girl in the office.*

Note the past tense structure:

**B'é Seán an mac ba shine agam.**

*Sean was my oldest son.*

**... an focal ba thúisce chugam**

*...the first word that came to me...*

### **Cleachtadh**

**Cuir Gaeilge air seo:**

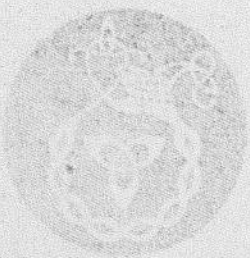
1. Séamas is the most mischevious boy in the class.
2. What's the earliest date for the party?
3. That's the latest date for the party.
4. What's the most direct road to the village?
5. 'Titanic' was the longest movie of the year.
6. I think he's the most level-headed man in the group.
7. The most important thing to do is to pay the bills on time.
8. This was the coldest summer ever.
9. He bought the most expensive painting in the gallery.
10. That was the least important detail in the story.
11. The teacher picked the least interesting story in the anthology.
12. Your dog is the laziest hound I've ever seen.
13. My mother is the kindest person I know.
14. When I won a million dollars, I thought I was the luckiest person alive.
15. The bravest soldier is not always the best leader.
16. Which is the brightest star in the night sky?
17. Jupiter is the largest of the planets and Mercury is the smallest.
18. Who are the oldest students in the class?
19. Tell me which books were the hardest.

20. Which words are the most important in the poem?
21. Which newspaper is most influential?
22. The Romans created the largest and most famous empire in the Ancient World.
23. Antarctica is the coldest place on the planet.
24. The Sahara Desert is the driest place on earth.
25. The Pacific is the deepest ocean.
26. This is the best car to be found.
27. Northern Dancer was the fastest horse around.
28. James Joyce is perhaps the most famous Irish novelist ever.
29. The genitive case is the hardest aspect of Irish grammar.
30. I think Yeats is the greatest Irish poet of this age.

### Some Anomalous Forms

Common s	g/ mas. s.	g/ fem s.	Common pl.
gearr	gearr	giorra	gearra
beacht	beacht	beaichte	beachta
lách	lách	láí	lácha
tapaidh	tapaidh	tapai	tapái
te	te	te	teo
breá	breá	breá	breátha
fionn	fionn	finne	fionna
deas	deas	deise	deasa
fliuch	fliuch	fliche	fliucha
mall	mall	maille	malla
trom	trom	troime	troma
buíoch	buíoch	buihí	buíocha
gnách	gnách	gnáthai	gnácha

**Copyright 2000  
John Donahue**



© 2000 John Donahue  
All rights reserved.