

## Copula Review

### Past/Conditional Copula Forms

You are all familiar with the past/conditional of the copula, in the sense that you recognize it and sometimes use it. But a little summary of the forms would not go amiss.

First, we only have context to help us decide whether to translate these forms with a past tense or a conditional mood in English. In practice, a sentence that starts with *Ba mhaith liom* is almost always a conditional ("would like"), whereas a sentence like *Ba mhúinteoir í* is generally translated with "was", past tense.

Here are how the forms of the past copula correspond to the present/future forms we've been using:

Present	Past
Is	Ba
Ní	Níor/Níorbh
An	Ar/Arbh
Nach	Nár/Nárbh
Gur/Gurb	Gur/Gurbh

As far as I know, all past forms lenite following consonants, and –bh forms are used with all following vowels. B' is used before vowels and fh, but NOT before é, í, etc. (Ba é ...).

### PRACTICE

For each of the sentences below, convert into the past tense.

Is árasán an-mhór é.

Is teach deas é.

Ní álainn an áit é.

An inniu atá sé ag teacht?

Nach áit álainn é?

Deirtear gurb úsáideach an leabhar é.

Is múinteoir an-mhaith í.

Ní bia blasta é.

An é an bainisteoir é?

Nach iadsan na fir chrua?

Deirtear gurb iadsan na cinn is mó.

Ní dalta glic é.

### HOMEWORK

Create ten pairs of past copula utterances, along the following lines:

- ◆ In five of the pairs, make the first item a statement, in the other five, make the first item a question.
- ◆ Use both affirmative and negative forms.
- ◆ They can all be in the form of the *copula + noun + subject* classification sentences we have been doing, but you can try other things if you want.
- ◆ The word following the copula should start with a vowel for some of them and with a consonant for some of them.
- ◆ If the first item is a statement, follow it with a *Deirtear ...* sentence.
- ◆ If the first item is a question, answer the question (as briefly as possible, no full statement).