

Copula Review

Gur, Gurb, Gurbh, etc.

Last week we got a little practice with indirect speech around copula classification sentences. That is, where we are quite used to saying things like:

Dúirt tú go bhfuil an teach sin bán.

... it took a little thought to convert that to:

Dúirt tú gur teach bán é sin.

So let's review the use of *gur* and similar forms with the copula.

Present/Future Copula (aimsir láithreach)

For sentences like the above where the copula is in the present, we use:

- ◆ *gur* before words that begin with a consonant;
- ◆ *gur* before **nouns** that begin with a vowel, as well as before *prepositions and prepositional pronouns*: *gur amadán é, gur as Minnesota í, gur agamsa an peann seo*;
- ◆ *gurb* before *é, í, iad*;
- ◆ *gurb* before adjectives that begin with a vowel, *gurb álainn í*;
- ◆ *gurb* before adverbs that begin with a vowel, officially – *gurb annamh, gurb amhlaidh* -- but in practice, the most common adverbs like *ansin, anseo, ann, amach, inniu, istigh* get *gur*.

Past/Conditional Copula (aimsir chaite)

Now, to make things interesting, the past copula *also* uses *gur*, but the rules are a little different:

- ◆ *gur* before words that begin with a consonant, but the consonant is lenited (applies to nouns as well as any other words);
- ◆ *gurbh* before *é, í, iad*, and any words that begin with a vowel;
- ◆ *gurbh* before words that begin with *f and a vowel*. The *f* is lenited, so you end up with things like *gurbh fhéidir*, **but** *gur* is used with *fr/fl*, as in *gur fhreagra ceart é*.

PRACTICE

Put something like *Deir sí, Creidim, Sílim, Is dóigh liom*, etc. in front of these sentences and use the appropriate form of *gur*.

Present

Is árasán an-mhór é.

Is álainn an áit é.

Is áit álainn é.

Is aisteach an bhean í.

Is iontach an duine tú.

Is é an bainisteoir é.

Is iadsan na fir chrua.

Is agamsa atá an ticéad.

Is ag Tomás atá an t-airgead.

Is oráiste deas é.

Is inniu atá sé ag teacht.

Is úsáideach an leabhar é.

Is eolaí an-mhaith í.

Is iasc blasta é.

Is ormsa atá an locht.

Is iadsan na cinn is mó.

Is ar Úna atá an locht.

Is ó Mheiriceá a tháinig siad.

Past

Ba dheas an duine é.

Ba bhainisteoir é.

B'aisteach an scéal é.

B'úll mór é.

B'fhear deas é.

Ba shaighdiúir í.

B'fheirmeoir é.

Ba mhaith leis carr dearg.

B'fhuath leis cait.

Ba chuma leis madraí.

Ba thiomáiní é.

B'iontach an scéal é.