

Uimhreacha agus Áireamh - Numbers and Counting

We use certain numbers for recitation, a slightly different version for counting things, and yet another version for counting people.

#	Recitation	Counting Things	Counting People
1	a haon	bád amháin	duine (amháin)
2	a dó	dhá bhád	beirt
3	a trí	trí bhád	triúir
4	a ceathair	ceithre bhád	ceathrar
5	a cúig	cúig bhád	cúigear
6	a sé	sé bhád	seisear / mórsheisear
7	a seacht	seacht mbád	seachtar
8	a hocht	ocht mbád	ochtar
9	a naoi	naoi mbád	naonúr
10	a deich	deich mbád	deichniúr
11	a haon déag	aon bhád déag	aon duine dhéag
12	a do dhéag	dhá bhád déag	dáréag / dháréag
13	a trí déag	trí bhád déag	trí dhuine dhéag
14	a ceathair déag	ceithre bhád déag	ceithre dhuine dhéag
15	a cúig déag	cúig bhád déag	cúig dhuine dhéag
16	a sé déag	sé bhád déag	sé dhuine dhéag
17	a seacht déag	seacht mbád déag	seacht nduine dhéag
18	a hocht déag	ocht mbád déag	ocht nduine dhéag
19	a naoi déag	naoi mbád déag	naoi nduine dhéag
20	fiche	fiche bád	fiche duine
21	fiche haon	aon bhád is fiche	duine (amháin) is fiche
22	fiche (is a) dó	dhá bhád is fiche	beirt is fiche
30	tríocho	tríocho bád	tríocho duine
40	daichead	daichead bád	daichead duine
50	caoga	caoga bád	caoga duine
60	seasca	seasca bád	seasca duine
70	seachtó	seachtó bád	seachtó duine
80	ochtó	ochtó bád	ochtó duine
90	nócha	nócha bád	nócha duine
100	céad	céad bád	céad duine

Patterns

You usually use the singular of the word for the object you're counting. There are a few irregulars that have to do with units of measurement.

Numbers 1 through 6 lenite the object.

Numbers 7 through 10 eclipse the object.

Multiples of 10, except 10 itself, do not change the object.

Anomolies

aon by itself before a noun means 'any', but when used with 'amháin' after it, means 'one'. 'Amháin' can be used alone after the noun to mean 'one'.

dó changes to 'dhá', and 'ceathair' changes to 'ceithre' when counting things. dó changes to 'beirt' and 'dó dhéag' can change to 'dáréag' when counting people.

'mórsheisear' for 'seisear' is common in Munster, and accepted widely elsewhere.

Some variation

Irish, used to officially use a 20's based system, and this system is still to be found in use many places today. Sometimes the word 'scór' is used for 20. 'ceithre fhichid' or 'ceithre scór' = 'ochtó'

'daichead' is the official standard for 40, and is a contraction of 'dá fhichead' - 2 x 20. In Connacht, young people tend to decimalize 40 by using the form, 'ceathracha'. Some older people in Connacht may use 'dhá fhichead' or 'dhá scór.'

'leathchéad' (half hundred), may be used for 'caoga' (50)

Excellent site for numbers, and all things Gaeilge.

<http://www.nualeargais.ie/gnag/zahlen.htm>