

## Back to Basics

### Number Review #2

#### Déag

You are familiar with the teens in Irish:

a haon déag	a sé déag
a dó dhéag	a seacht déag
a trí déag	a hocht déag
a ceathair déag	a naoi déag
a cúig déag	fiche

As you will remember, in English we say “seventeen boats,” but in Irish we say something like “seven boats teen”. The usual mutations apply, and *déag* is lenited following a noun that ends in a vowel.

*seacht mbád déag    trí charr déag    ocht gcóta dhéag    cúig gheata dhéag*

For people, we do not use those personal numbers with *déag*, we don't say *cúigear déag*. Instead, we use *duine* like any other noun: *cúig dhuine dhéag*, *naoi nduine dhéag* (and *trí shagart déag*).

#### Nouns & Adjectives

Some funky things go on with numbers when they are used with noun-adjective phrases.

- ◆ “One” isn't a problem since *amháin* follows the noun, everything behaves as usual: *bád mór amháin*, *fuinneog bheag amháin*.
- ◆ With the other numerals, the noun is in the singular but the adjective is in the plural, with lenition: *trí fhuinneog mhóra*,
- ◆ *Déag* comes between the noun and the adjective: *cúig charr déag dhearga*.

#### Special Noun Forms

Several measurement or quantity nouns have special plural forms that are used with numbers, namely:

<i>bliana</i>	<i>seachtaine</i>	<i>uaire</i>	<i>scóir</i>	<i>fichid</i>
<i>slata</i>	<i>orlaí</i>	<i>troithe</i>	<i>pingine</i>	<i>galúin</i>

As with *ceann/cinn*, these forms are only used above “two.” There's no mutation (*tri bliana*), but the numbers that end in a vowel – *trí*, *ceithre*, and *sé* – prefix an *h* to vowels: *trí horlaí*. Note that *trí slata* is “three yards” but that *trí shlat* is “three rods or sticks”. Same with *cloch* (“stone” as a thing) and *clocha* (“stone” as a measurement of weight). And when you do something three times, that's *trí huair*, but when you do something for three hours, that's *trí uair an chloig*.

The special forms that end in a vowel do **not** lenite *déag*: *seacht bliana déag*.

And then there is what is sometimes called a “dual”, a special form of certain words used after *dhá*. These include *bois*, *cois*, *láimh*, *bróig*, and *cluais*.

#### De Construction

Especially with modified nouns, you may encounter constructions like these, where the nouns and adjectives behave normally: *seacht gcinn de charranna dearga*, *trí cinn déag de bhuidéil mhóra*.

## Number Quiz #2

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Translate the following phrases into Irish:

1. 11 boats
2. 12 cars
3. 16 clever dogs
4. 13 teachers
5. 18 white houses
6. 14 times
7. 15 people
8. 12 shoes
9. 13 weeks
10. 17 boys
11. 18 years
12. 2 ears
13. 17 little pockets
14. 19 blue boats
15. 1 long street
16. 13 months
17. 2 long stories
18. 5 stones (rocks)
19. 17 yards
20. 2 women