AONAD 1

Ag Bualadh le Daoine | Meeting People

Greeting Someone

The most common greeting is:

Cad é mar atá tú? How are you?

Responding to a Greeting

Tá mé go maith I’m fine

or simply

Go maith.

People often add:

... go raibh maith agat. ... thank you.
Agus tú féin? And yourself?

When responding to Agus tú féin? people generally avoid repeating Tá mé go maith and use instead Tá mé go breá. Listen to some of the recorded examples.

—Cad é mar atá tú?
—Go maith, go raibh maith agat.
    Agus tú féin?
—Tá mé go breá.

—Cad é mar atá tú?
—Tá mé go maith. Agus tú féin?
—Go breá.
1. Imagine that you meet a friend in the street. Listen to the tape and respond in the appropriate way.

—Cad é mar atá tú?
*Say you’re fine and ask how she is.*

—Go breá.

This time you meet a friend called Allan. Greet him.

—Á, go maith. Agus tú féin?
*Say you’re fine.*

**Dia duit** (literally ‘God be with you’) is also used as a greeting but is regarded as quite formal by native speakers and is rarely used in the Gaeltacht.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Faisnéis</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The words mé and tú are called <strong>pronouns</strong> and are used when you don’t need to or want to repeat a noun. Here is a list of pronouns, accompanied by the present tense of the verb bí (be).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Tá mé (I am) | Tá muid (we are) |
| Tá tú (you are) | Tá sibh (you are) |
| Tá sé /sí (he /she is) | Tá siad (they are) |

We’ll be dealing with pronouns in more details in Aonad 5.

**Talking About The Weather**

People often comment on the weather after they’ve exchanged greetings.

| Tá lá breá ann.. | It’s a fine day. |
| Tá drochlá ann inniu. | It’s a bad day today. |
| Tá sé fuar. | It’s cold. |
| Tá sé te. | It’s hot/warm. |
Tá sé flíuch.  It’s wet.
Tá, cinnte.  It is indeed.

**Buíochas le Dia** (Thank God) is used quite frequently in this context.

Tá lá brea ann inniu, **buíochas le Dia.**  It’s a fine day today, thank God.

Listen to the short sequences on the tape and say what the weather is like in each case.

3. Write a comment on the weather in each of the following three pictures.
4. You’ve just been given a part in a new soap opera, but the script has had coffee spilled on it. See if you can fill in the gaps.

Pól: Haló. Cad é mar atá tú?
Áine: Go maith, _ _ _ _ _ _ maith agat. Agus tú féin?
Pól: Go _ _ _ _. Tá _ _ _ _ _ _ ann inniu.
Áine: Tá _ _ _ _ _ _ .

5. Imagine you bump into a friend on your way to work. Listen to the tape and participate in the conversation.

—Cad é mar atá tú?
*Say you’re fine and ask how she is.*

—Go breá. Tá lá breá ann inniu.
*Say, ‘It is indeed, thank God.’*

### Saying Goodbye

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Slán</th>
<th>Goodbye</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Slán go fóill</td>
<td>Goodbye for now</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

You can respond to Slán with another Slán, or with Slán go fóill. If, however, the first person say Slán go fóill, the second person simply says Slán. You also hear the following:

Chífidh mé tú.  
*I’ll see you.*

6. Listen to the tape and try responding to the goodbyes.

1. —Slán go fóill.
   *Say, ‘Goodbye, Edna.’*

2. —Slán.
Say, ‘Goodbye for now.’

3  —Slán go fóill.
    Say, ‘Goodbye. I’ll see you.’