

Teaching Forum

Current Events: Readings in Irish

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In order to provide my writing class students with access to articles on current events, I have used "An Teanga Bheo", the Irish language section of the Irish Times, published on-line each Wednesday. (To access these articles one needs to have a subscription to the Irish Times on-line and I have not concerned myself with questions of copyright.)

Using Windows 2000 the procedure is as follows:

- Highlight article (click and drag)
- Via Edit, Copy
- Open Outlook (e-mail system)
- New Message; Insert Addressees
- Via Edit, select Paste Special
- Select Unformatted text
- Paste.
- Run GaelSpell 3, correct spelling and other errors. (see following note)

GaelSpell: An Caighdeán Oifigiúil by Stealth

Wedded as I am to the promotion of the Official Standard (An Caighdeán Oifigiúil), I have noticed with amusement that GaelSpell 3 (available free by download at <http://www.gaelspell.com>) uses only the headwords from Ó Dónaill's dictionary. None of the dialectical or idiosyncratic variants are included, and the presence of such forms will result in the words being underlined. For example "feiscint" is immediately underlined, while "feiceáil" is not. It is possible to include variants in GaelSpell by using the "add" function, but I strongly discourage my own students from following this course of action since my copy of GaelSpell will not accept them. The only functional disadvantage that I have noticed in the spell-checker is that it refuses to recognize most compound words. For example, "donnsúileach" is underlined. It can, of course, be added

to the dictionary. The full version of GaelSpell works with all Windows systems from 2000 onwards. Windows 97 requires that "GaelSpell Light", a smaller word set, be downloaded.