

extend the teaching of Irish, or other Celtic languages, more widely among high schools in North America.

## Conclusions

The ethnic origins of high school students studying Irish in Ontario has been examined among a sample of 55 students enrolled in credit courses between 2000 and 2004. The statistics suggest that students of diverse ethnic origins are interested in learning Irish, and that Irish ancestry among high school students does not play a significant part in choosing to enroll.

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# A Comparative Review of Irish Dictionaries

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*A Comparative Review of Irish Dictionaries looks at a variety of Irish-English and English-Irish dictionaries currently available, and details some of their strengths and weaknesses, to facilitate a prospective user's evaluation as to which would benefit him or her. Pocket dictionaries, as well as larger desktop varieties are examined. Sample entries are given for each, and evaluated for content.*

There are more Irish dictionaries available nowadays than ever before. Each of these resources offers a wide variety of features that one must consider when choosing which will be most suitable for the user. I applied the following criteria to narrow down choices and gather just the right resources for my needs. The approach will hopefully be of use to others as well.

Initially, there are some questions that will help refine the scope. What will the dictionary be used for? Is the user a traveler who is on vacation in Ireland, and wants to be able to say a few phrases? Will the resource be used for work in Irish lineage by someone interested in understanding the words encountered as *Gaeilge* in a genealogical quest? Will it be used by a teacher or student of the language—one who is just beginning, or ready to move to the next level after having studied the language for a while? Or someone who writes professionally in Irish? On another note, how important is the manner in which the dictionary is presented typographically, and is price a point that needs to be factored in? Depending on the answers, a variety of dictionaries with fairly different attributes may best suit the situation.

For instance, dictionaries are either of the pocket or the desktop variety. The first is marketed as portable, while the second would not necessarily be. A traveler who happens to be in need of a dictionary would obviously be best off with a pocket dictionary. The same would be true for the genealogist, compiling information from various and sundry locations, and then consulting an older dictionary for those instances of pre-standardization spelling. Additionally, students with limited space, carrying their resources with them to and across campus, may opt for this sort. The larger desktop dictionaries are designed for the serious students, teachers and writers who need a thoroughly comprehensive resource—something to go to rather than to cart along. These details may seem obvious, but it is surprising how often someone will go for the biggest dictionary, because they believe they will be getting everything they require, only to find later that they may have needed some grammar summaries and a pronunciation key, which are not included.

I might also mention that the value of a good dictionary is in its use as a supplement to an Irish language course. It is not to be relied solely upon for guidance in matters of pronunciation and idiom usage. These aspects are only developed properly through interactive study of the language.

Here are some of the dictionaries currently available—a few of what I consider to be the best, and some that contain less than helpful features.

### **Pocket Dictionaries**

At the top of my list for the portables are the *Oxford Pocket Irish Dictionary* by Breandán Ó Cróinín, and the *Foclóir Scoile*, published by An Gúm, the publishing branch of Foras na Gaeilge. For ultra-portability, one may opt for the *Foclóir Póca* in place of the *Foclóir Scoile*, as it has practically the same content but in a smaller form.

The year 2000 edition of the *Pocket Irish Dictionary* from the

Oxford University Press has over one hundred thousand “words, phrases and translations”; by far the most extensive of the pocket dictionaries. It is a bit thicker than the average pocket, but is easily held in one hand. It uses a typographic design which I consider to be the most legible, that being a bold non-serif font for the entries, and a regular transitional serif font in juxtaposition for the corpus text. Grammatical annotation is in italics, and the additional symbology is clear and intuitive. It includes extensive phrasal context examples and complete grammatical categorization of each head word, which means the declensions and genitive forms for nouns as well as irregular verb forms within the corpus are provided. Verb declensions are reiterated conveniently in tables in a section at the center of the book, along with a summary of key grammatical points. There are a few shortcomings in the way that the grammar information is presented, however. Some may take issue, for example, with the statement that, “The letter *b* signifies lenition in Irish” (p. 305), or the exclusively lexical account of mutation, which ignores those cases where mutation is triggered by grammatical environments, such as the past tense, and the genitive case in forms such as ‘cat Sheáin.’ Further comparison of grammar content can be found in the table at the end of this article. Unlike any other dictionary in my list, this one also contains brief notes on the history of the Irish language. I should make a few comments here about the pronunciation guide, which to its credit, is thorough and executed without having to learn extra symbols, International Phonetic Alphabet or otherwise. The guide is found in a section at the front of the dictionary, and acquaints the user with all the sounds of Irish through description of those sounds. It would be preferable that the user be acquainted with place and manner of articulation of speech sounds to fully understand its approach. However, the descriptions are still manageable for the average reader. This dictionary I must therefore recommend to serious students and teachers of the language. Pronunciation is not given in the corpus as it is in some of the other pocket dictionaries, and

this may be seen by some as a drawback.

The 2006 edition of the *Foclóir Scoile* from An Gúm, is the perfect small dictionary for the beginning to mid-level student. Boasting thirty thousand entries, it is not strictly a pocket dictionary, but is portable. Even though it is, in content, practically identical to the *Foclóir Póca*, I prefer this dictionary over the *Póca*, because it is much easier to read, purely because of the font size used. Unlike the Oxford, it employs a transitional serif font throughout, which is not optimal, but hardly a negative. It does give pronunciation for each Irish head word using a standardized phonemic system, which is clearly explained in the front of the book. This system is also used in Mícheál Ó Siadhail's *Learning Irish*, an advantage for those studying from that book. The *Foclóir Scoile* contains adequate phrasal context and usage examples, as well as giving complete grammatical categories for its entries. It includes verb tables and other grammatical overview at the back, and a more complete list of countries and languages than does the *Póca*. A strong selling point is the addition of some new terms that have been recognized in Irish since the publication of the *Foclóir Gaeilge-Béarla* by Niall Ó Dónaill, from which the Irish-English section was abstracted. Examples of these terms would be *veigeatóir* 'vegetarian' along side *feoilseántóir*, and *luibhneach* as 'digital' instead of the outdated form 'digitated'. Additionally, new loan words, such as *yó-yó* and *wigwam* are given entries. If one truly needs a pocket version, then the *Foclóir Póca* will be the alternative, but its list price is currently about twenty percent more than that of the *Foclóir Scoile*.

In case something with a more basic format is in order, one might consider the *Irish-English/English-Irish Practical Dictionary* authored by Ciaran Ó Pronntaigh, compiled by Cló Ruraí, and published by Geddes & Grosset. I looked at the 2001 edition, and found it to be well presented. This book's typography is nicely done, with similar contrastive traits to the *Oxford Pocket Irish Dictionary*, but in content, it is by no means comprehensive. Although it contains twenty thousand head words, their defini-

tions are restricted to one or two words, and there are limited examples in phrasal context. Noun genders are given, but without declension categories, and there is no pronunciation guide. It is basically a well-formatted glossary, which might be useful as a partial supplement to a body of materials, after the language has been studied for a while.

Similarly, regarding an old standard pocket dictionary set, I am inclined to agree with Thomas W. Ihde (1993, p. 116). He remarked of the *Learner's English-Irish Dictionary*, (New Edition), by Mícheál Ó Siochfhradha, from the Talbot Press Ltd., 1971, that "The *Learner's* dictionary was a little more than a glossary, with no examples of words in natural sentence contexts." The set consists of that book and its companion volume, *The Learner's Irish-English Dictionary*. There are no entries for such function words with multiple meanings as *go* and *a*, or any prepositions such as *ag* 'at', *ar* 'on', or *le* 'with'. The entry *má* as a noun meaning 'plain' appears, but not the far more common *má* meaning 'if'. This is what is meant by the set's limitation as a mere glossary. These books do, however, include some useful grammatical rules, verb tables, and a list of "the counties and chief towns of Ireland", which I only encountered as a separate section in one other dictionary I reviewed, namely the *Easy Reference Dictionary* from Roberts Rinehart Publishers (see below). The books do not claim to include "technical terms of a specialist nature", but are marketed to meet the needs of the students of Irish in general. The *Irish-English Dictionary* would have done well to include some information on pronunciation, be that a guide, key or other sort of description, but otherwise, they meet their goals adequately. There is a 1988 edition that combines the two books into one paperback volume.

Here are the details for the Roberts Rinehart Publishers *Irish-English English-Irish Easy Reference Dictionary*, New Edition, 1998. This dictionary was developed by the Educational Company of Ireland with 24,500 entries, adequate phrase examples, and an additional grammar section. It is an all around good resource.

1,600 of the entries are described as “new” and “modern”, reflecting this dictionary’s concentration on the living language as it is currently used. The typography is clear and attractive, employing a font with an uncial quality for the range words at the top of each page. This gives it a distinctly Irish flavor. As mentioned previously, it also includes a well designed section of Irish place names arranged by province and county. This dictionary is easily carried in one hand, but would fit only in a very large pocket.

Lastly in my list of pocket dictionaries, I assessed a book that has some features I appreciated and a few I thought detracted from its merit. *The Irish/English-English/Irish Dictionary and Phrasebook* from the Language Dictionaries Series by Davidović Mladen, and published by Appletree Press Ltd. in 1992, was put together from two books previously published separately as a dictionary and a phrasebook. Though this book is not strictly a dictionary, I feel free to evaluate the phrasebook portion of the recently combined book as well, especially because that’s the part of the current publication I found most useful. As for aesthetics, the typeface used throughout is a non-serif font, which is a good choice for clarity, and the long, narrow form is definitely the most pocketlike of all books in my list. Although there are no grammatical categories, limited illustrations of usage, and only one to two word definitions given in the dictionary section, this is partially ameliorated by the extensive phrasal context examples in the phrase half of the book. The phrasebook is also accessorized by a map of Ireland showing the location of the Gaeltachtaí, and a section on the historical background of the Irish language. The strongest negative, in my opinion, is the uniquely confusing pronunciation guide, which uses a sort of English phonetic spelling, that is intended to be easy and intuitive for English speakers to understand. Given the non-phonetic nature of English spelling, however, the outcome creates more questions than it answers. As an example, the dictionary gives the pronunciation for its Irish section entry of ‘mouse’ *luch*: *luch bheag* as [lɔk

vyog], but represents the same words differently in its English section entry as ‘luch bheag’ [Lɔkɪ vjɔg] *mouse*. This book would be better labeled a phrasebook with an extensive bilingual glossary, rather than a dictionary-phrasebook. Disregarding the cumbersome pronunciation guide, this is a good choice for a traveler, who needs a mixture of culture and language information.

## Desktop Dictionaries

The most extensive and comprehensive of these resources can be defined as dictionaries in the strictest sense. That is to say, they include a large corpus of headwords with broad examples of usage and phrasal context, but don’t include grammar summaries, or cultural content. Two publications in particular stand out currently as the foremost representatives of common usage in the Irish language: *The English-Irish Dictionary With Terminological Additions and Corrections* by Tomás De Bhaldraithe, originally published in 1959; and the *Foclóir Gaeilge-Béarla* by Niall Ó Dónaill, originally published in 1978. They are intended to be used as companion volumes.

I looked over the 2004 edition of De Bhaldraithe’s dictionary, published by An Gúm. Although it’s one of the most thorough dictionaries I have seen, it cautions that it is not to be taken as an “exhaustive word-store” of the language. Additionally, neologisms and older literary language are only included when more commonly used and accepted terms are not to be found. Specifically, it promotes itself as a source of Irish equivalent words and phrases to those used in common English. The difference between that and an exhaustive word-store is sometimes not so obvious, but as is stated in the dictionary, and as I paraphrase here, there are many thousands of words and phrases used in the Gaeltachtaí today for which English versions do not equate directly. This caveat is primarily alleviated by the pairing with Ó Dónaill’s dictionary, since that is where one would look for words and idioms originating from Irish. As for older literary terms and phrases, as well as pre-standardization spellings, they

are best located in Father Patrick S. Dinneen's *Foclóir Gaedhilge agus Béarla: An Irish-English Dictionary* (1967). Another notable feature of De Bhaldraithe's dictionary is that it is the first that incorporates and standardizes the spelling reforms now seen in the official standard, begun in 1948. As is the case with Ó Dónaill, the entries are often sub-categorized by field of knowledge, such as Agriculture, Biology, or Mathematics. These sub-categories serve to clarify variations in definition, such as *tionlacan* 'escort' as opposed to *Mil., Nau.* (*military, nautical*) 'convoy', where meaning differs depending on field of knowledge. An abbreviation list for these sub-categories is given at the front of the book.

De Bhaldraithe also contributed to Niall Ó Dónaill's *Foclóir Gaeilge-Béarla* in the capacity of advisory editor. An Gúm's 1992 edition is the volume I examined. It includes cross-referencing of terms such as "bomaite=nóiméad", and "goidé=cad é", which is a great help with the study of dialect variation. I can't suggest any content improvements above and beyond what the lexicographers have spent decades compiling. Any specific feature advances, such as the addition of neologisms, and some minor typographic changes will undoubtedly be addressed by future editions of the dictionary. For serious students, teachers and writers in the Irish language, both of these dictionaries are an invaluable addition to a complete battery of resources.

An exciting new dictionary project currently in the works is the *Foclóir Stairiúil na Nua-Ghaeilge*, to which De Bhaldraithe was contributing right up to his passing in 1996. The compilation for this all Irish (monolingual) dictionary was begun by the Royal Irish Academy in Dublin in 1976, and is presently under the direction of Dr. Úna Uí Bheirn, Chief Editor. This historical dictionary is intended to span the period from the year 1600 to present day. A preliminary corpus for the first half of this work is available on CD ROM, while the second half is still under development.

The following sample entries are provided so that readers can

compare the kinds of information given in the different dictionaries reviewed here. I chose the words, *right / ceart* and *minute / nóiméad*, because the treatment of the homonyms represented by the English entries would be helpful in evaluating their comprehensiveness. Additionally, *nóiméad* presents a good example of the cross-indexing feature for Ó Dónaill's dictionary.

## Sample Entries

### Irish-English

*ceart* and *nóiméad*

#### 1. Oxford Pocket

**ceart** (*pl cearta*) *nml* **1** right; **ceart agus éigeart** right and wrong; **2** justice; **ag lorg cirt** seeking justice; **3** just claim, right; **ceart a bheith agat ar rud** to have a right to something; **cearta sibhialta** civil rights; **4** due; **chun a cheart a thabhairt dó** to give him his due; **5** fair play, fairness; **an ceart a sheasamh do dhuine** to see that someone gets fair play; **6** (*used with various prepositions*) **de cheart** by right; **bhí sé de cheart agat fanacht** you should have stayed; **i gceart** right, all right; **rud a chur i gceart** to put something right; **ó cheart** properly, originally; **as Cill Dara ó cheart í** she's originally from Kildare. *adjl* **1** right, correct; **an freagra ceart** the right answer; **2** true, real; **an rud ceart** the real thing; **3** proper; **ba cheart dom é a dhéanamh** I should do it; **rud a dhéanamh mar is ceart** to do something properly; **4 ceart go leor** all right, okay.

**nóiméad** *nml* **1** minute; **2** moment.

#### 2. Foclóir Scoile

**ceart** *k'art ml, npl* ~a right, ~ *vótála* franchise, *a cheart a thabhairt do dhuine* to give a person his due, *bhain sé ~ diobh* he held his own against them, *bhí sé de cheart acu sui* they should have sat down, *níl a fhios agam i g ~* I don't really know, *tá sé fuar i g ~* it is quite cold, *duine nach bhfuil i g ~* one who is not in his right mind, *ó cheart* properly, originally *al* right; just proper; true, correct, *ba cheart duit labhairt leis*

you should speak to him, *tá sin mar is* ~ that is as it should be, *bhí fearg cheart uirthi* she was really angry, *níl an fear sin* ~ that man is not right in the head, *~ go leor* right enough; all right

**nóiméad** no:m'e:d *m* minute; moment

3. Foclóir Póca

**ceart**

The entry for *ceart* is identical to that in the *Foclóir Scoile*.

**nóiméad**

The entry for *nóiméad* is identical to that for the *Foclóir Scoile*.

4. Geddes & Grosset I-E/E-I Practical

**ceart** *adj* correct; right. *m* justice; right. *vt* **cuir i gceart** to right.

**nóiméad** *m* instant; moment; minute.

5. Ó Siochfhradha

**ceart**, 1, *iol.* -a, *f.* justice, right.

**ceart**, right, proper.

**nóiméad**, 1*f.* minute.

6. Roberts Rinehart Easy Reference

**ceart** *adj* right, proper *m* right, justice, due **ceart go leor** all right, very well, **ceart agus éigeart** right and wrong, **chun a chearta a thabhairt dó** to give him his due, **cearta sibhialta** civil rights, **nach bhfuil an ceart agam?** amn't I right? **de cheart** by right, **bhí sé de cheart agam é a dhéanamh** I should have done it, **rud a chur ina cheart** to fix something

**nóiméad** *m* minute, moment **beidh mé leat i gceann**

**nóiméad** I'll be with you in a minute, moment.

7. Appletree Dictionary and Phrasebook

**ceart** [*kyart*] right

No entry for *nóiméad*

9. Ó Dónaill

**ceart**

Ó Dónaill gives three separate entries for *ceart* which span multiple pages and contain well over one hundred phrasal examples in context, all of which would be prohibitive to reproduce here. The third entry for *ceart* is a cross reference to the word *ceartán*, which indicates a dialect or usage variation.

**nóiméad**, *m.* (*gs. & npl. -éid, gpl. ~*). Minute; moment, instant.

1. ~ (**na huairé, an chloig**), a minute. **Cúpla ~**, a few minutes. **Deich ~ ó shin**, ten minutes ago. **Fiche ~ tar éis a trí**, twenty minutes past three. **Ar an ~**, on the minute. **Beidh sé anseo ar ~, faoi cheann nóiméid**, he will be here in a minute. **~ ar bith feasta**, at any moment now. **An ~ a tháinig sé**, the moment he came. **Fan ~**, wait a moment. **Ní raibh sé ~ leis**, it didn't take him a minute. 2. *Geom: Astr:* ~ (**de chéim**), minute.

Entry *bomaite* is cross-indexed with *nóiméad*.

### English-Irish

*right* and *minute*

1. Oxford Pocket

**right** *n* 1 (*side, direction*) taobh *m* deas; **on the right** ar an taobh deas; **to the right of the window** ar an taobh deas den fhuinneog; 2 (*in politics*) **the Right** an Eite Dheas; 3 (*moral*) **ceart** *m*1; **right and wrong** ceart agus éigeart; **to be in the right** an ceart a bheith agat; 4 (*just claim*) ceartas *m*1; **to have the right to do something** ceart a bheith agat ar rud a dhéanamh; **civil rights** cearta sibhialta; **in one's own right** i do cháilíocht féin. *adj* 1 (*hand, side*) deas; **my right hand** mo lámh dheas; 2 (*correct*) ceart; **the right answer** an freagra ceart; **you were right** bhí an ceart agat; 3 (*true*) fíor; **that's right** is fíor sin; 4 (*suitable, proper*) cuí; **that's not the right key** ní hí sin an eochair cheart; 5 (*morally acceptable*) ceart; **it's not right to talk like that** ní ceart labhairt mar sin; 6 (*just*) cóir; 7 (*exclamation*) **right!** ceart! *adv* 1 (*direction*); **turn right at the lights** cas ar dheis ag na soilse; 2 (*correctly*) i gceart; **he answered right** d'fhreagair sé i gceart; 3 (*exactly; directly*) díreach; **right beside you** díreach in aice leat; **right**

**away** láithreach bonn; **4** (*completely*) **right at the end** díreach ag an deireadh; **right in the middle of the crowd** i gceartlár an tslua; **right around the factory** thart timpeall na monarchan; **5** (*okay*) ceart go leor; **right, let's go** ceart go leor, téanaigí oraibh.

**minute**<sup>1</sup> *n* **1** nóiméad *m*!; **I'll be there in a minute** beidh mé ann i gceann nóiméid; **wait a minute!** fan nóiméad!; **2 minutes of a meeting** miontuairiscí cruinnithe.

**minute**<sup>2</sup> *adj* **1** (*tiny*) bídeach; **it's a minute little gadget** gléas beag bídeach is ea é; **2** (*detailed*) mion-; **a minute examination** mionscrúdú.

## 2. Foclóir Scoile

**right** *n* ceart, cóir; dliteanas, ceartas, teideal, *on the ~* ar deis, *to turn ~* casadh faoi dheis, *~ of way* ceart slí a ceart, cóir, cruinn; deas, *~ hand* lámh dheas, deasóg, deis, *~ angle* dronuilleann, *not in one's ~ mind* gan a bheith i gceart (sa cheann), gan a bheith ceart *vt* ceartaigh, *to ~ sth* rud a chur i gceart, ina cheart

**minute**<sup>1</sup> *n* nóiméad, *~s of meeting* miontuairiscí cruinnithe

**minute**<sup>2</sup> *a* mion, mionchruinn

## 3. Foclóir Póca

**right**

The entry for *right* is identical to that for the Foclóir Scoile.

**minute**

The entries for *minute* are identical to that for the Foclóir Scoile.

## 4. Geddes & Grosset I-E/E-I Practical

**right** *adj* ceart; (*hand*) deas. *n* ceart *m*; (*side*) deiseal *m*. *vt* cuir i gceart.

**minute** *adj* beag bídeach. *n* bomaite *m*, nóiméad *m*.

## 5. Ó Siochfhradha

**right**, ceart *l*, cóir *3f*: *adj*. ceart, cóir; beacht, cruinn, díreach; (*of side, etc.*) deas.

**minute**, nóiméad *l*.

**minute**, *adj*. mion, bídeach.

## 6. Roberts Rinehart Easy Reference

**right**<sup>1</sup> *adj* ceart, cóir *n* ceart, cóir, ceartas *v* cuir i gceart **right and wrong** ceart agus éigeart, **by right** de cheart, **to be right** an ceart a bheith agat, **civil rights** cearta sibhialta, **right of way** ceart slí, **you are right** is fíor duit, tá an ceart agat

**right**<sup>2</sup> *adj* deas **the right hand** an lámh dheas, **the right-hand side** an taobh deas, **to turn right** casadh ar dheis, **at God's right hand** ar dheis Dé

**minute**<sup>1</sup> *n* nóiméad, bomaite

**minute**<sup>2</sup> *adj* bídeach

## 7. Appletree Dictionary and Phrasebook

**right** ceart [kyart] **all right** ceart go leor [kyart gu—loer] **right hand** lámh dheas [Laaoo yas] **on the right** ar dheis [er—yish]

**minute** móiméid [moemaej], otherwise nóiméad

## 8. De Bhaldraithe

**minute**<sup>1</sup>, *s. I.* (a) Nóiméad *m* (ama). (b) *F:* *A minute's rest*, nóiméad scíthe. **Wait a minute!** fan nóiméad! **He has come in this (very) minute**, tháinig sé isteach anois go díreach. **He was here a minute ago**, bhí sé anseo nóiméad ó shin. *I'll go in in a minute*, rachaidh mé isteach faoi cheann nóiméad; beidh mé isteach anois beag, láithreach. **I shan't be a minute**, (i) ní bheidh mé ach nóiméad leis; (ii) ní bheidh mé amuigh ach nóiméad. **On the minute, to the minute**, go díreach ar an nóiméad. *He appeared at nine to the minute*, tháinig sé ar bhuille an naoi. **I expect him every minute, any minute**, tá mé ag súil leis nóiméad ar bith feasta. **I'll send him to you the minute he arrives**, cuirfidh mé chugat é chomh luath agus a thiocthas sé. **2. Geom: Astr:** Nóiméad *m* (de chéim). **3. Meamram** *m*, dréacht *m* -a. **4. (a)** Tuairisc *f*, nóta *m*. **To make a minute of sth.**, nóta *m* a dhéanamh de rud. (b) **Minutes of a meeting**, miontuairiscí *fp*l cruinnithe.

**minute**<sup>2</sup>...

**minute**<sup>3</sup>...

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## Dictionaries as Numbered for Following Tables:

1. Oxford Pocket
2. Foclóir Scoile
3. Foclóir Póca
4. Geddes & Grosset I-E/E-I Practical
5. Ó Siochfhradha
6. Roberts Rinehart Easy Reference
7. Appletree Dictionary and Phrasebook
8. De Bhaldraithe
9. Ó Dónaill

A–Good, B–Adequate, C–Poor, N–Not Included

## Entry Comparison

	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.
Noun Gender	A	A	A	A	B	A	N	B	B
Noun Decl. Category	A	A	A	N	A	A	N	N	N
Irregular Pl. or Genitive	A	A	A	B	A	B	N	N	A
Irregular Verb Forms	A	B	B	B	A	A	N	B	A
Preposition Declension	A	A	A	A	A	A	B	B	A
Pronunciation Guide	B	A	A	N	N	N	C	N	N
Pronunciation in Corpus	N	A	A	N	N	N	C	N	N
Phrasal Examples	A	A	A	B	C	B	C	A	A
Cross Indexing	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	A



## Grammar Content Comparison

	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.
Lenition and Eclipsis	B	C	C	N	N	N	B	N	N
Noun, Adj. Declension	A	A	A	N	A	A	N	N	N
Verb Conjugation	B	A	A	N	A	A	B	N	N
Preposition Declension	A	N	N	N	A	A	B	N	N
Country List	N	A	B	N	B	A	N	N	N
Irish County List	N	B	B	N	A	A	N	N	N
Cities and Towns	N	B	B	N	A	A	N	N	N
Language List	N	A	B	N	N	A	N	N	N
Language History	B	N	N	N	N	N	B	N	N
Cultural Content	N	N	N	N	N	N	B	N	N

## Teaching Forum

### Integrating Online Collaborative Writing into Celtic Language Teaching

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The “wiki” concept often invites skepticism among teachers who, looking to the content of the popular online Wikipedia, express doubts about the quality and sophistication of the content of that website. Yet at its core the “wiki” idea is no more than an elaborate version of online collaborative editing of publicly accessible documents, a setup that can be exploited profitably by students and teachers alike to further written skills. A “wiki” model has much to offer teachers of Celtic languages, especially in North America where classes are often conducted in less formal settings, students rely on significant outside self-study, and teaching materials may be scarce.

This year, I introduced a simple project based on this idea for the mid-level Irish language community education course that I teach in the evenings in the St. Paul area. The goal was to provide my adult learners with a forum in which they could practice their writing by posting articles in Irish centered on the theme of resources in the Twin Cities—a sort of guidebook to the city. By relying on a “wiki” format, I could correct students’ postings online, students could read the corrections and edit their own postings, and their colleagues could look back through the history of edits to learn from their own and others’ mistakes and successes. Given the part-time nature of Irish study for my students, this project also had the virtue of enabling them to post on their own schedule: writing could be uploaded whenever time permitted, and as the administrator, I could correct and comment on articles in a similarly flexible fashion. The site thus serves as a