

English as it is spoken in Ireland

As you probably know, Ireland has two official languages, Irish (Gaelic) and English. Despite their status of equality before the law, English is the mother tongue of more than 95% of the population.

"Irish people use and speak English in a distinctive way. In vocabulary, idiom and pronunciation their speech is identifiable and marked" (Dolan 1998)

However the influence of gaelic on Hiberno-English is still very strongly felt today.

Some noticeable features of Hiberno-English

- ① Singular and plural forms of the second person pronoun. The standard English speaker uses "you" for both forms. Hiberno-English speakers have "ye", "yous" or "yis" as the plural.
- ② In the North of Ireland, constructions such as "I be here everyday" are used to express an habitual action. This is a direct translation from Gaelic. "He is late (now)" "he bes late (always)", "he never bes late", "he does be late, does he"
- ③ People in Ireland don't use the verb "let". The verb "leave" replaces it. E.g;
 - They didn't leave me into the cinema last night.
 - Leave me go to the cinema.
- ④ The present perfect is commonly replaced with the construction "to be after doing something" E.g. I'm after washing the dishes"
- ⑤ "For" is not used with time expressions. With is more common. E.g. I haven't seen him with ages.
- ⑥ Pronunciation: The English "th" [θ] is generally not pronounced in Hiberno-English. Instead it is usually pronounced as a [d] or a [t]. E.g. • I'm tinkin' of de tin man. • Take de dity tree to de pub [take the thirty three (bus) to the pub].
- ⑦ Vocabulary: many gaelic words have entered the English language. Examples of this are galore (plenty of), shamrock (trèfle), bother (ennuis), blarney [blabla, a sweet talk, he is full of blarney, that's a load of blarney, he talks blarney (ces expressions= c'est un beau parlour)], smitherens [it brakes into

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smithereens (cassé en mille morceaux)], craic [what's the craic (quand on rencontre quelqu'un, sans attendre de réponse)], it's grand, it's massive...

🇮🇪 Irish names:

- Corcaigh - Cork
- Duibh Linn - Dublin Black pool
- Beal Feirste - Belfast - mouth of the river Feirste
- Cnoc - Knock - hill
- Cill - Kill - church
- Rath - Rath - fort
- O' Mahony - of the Mahony family
- Mac/mc - Son of
- Ni - daughter of

The Norman influence in Irish names is great. Common Irish/Norman surnames are:

- Fitzgerald - Son of Gerald
- Roche
- Burke
- Butler
- De Brun