

Clausology Review #2

Three More Reliables: go/gur/nár

Last time, we took pleasure in the fact that *nach* is spectacularly well behaved, as a verbal particle:

1. It is *always* followed by eclipsis, and by the dependent form of the verb (when available).
2. It works exactly the same for all three types of clauses: A (indirect speech/opinion/wish), B (direct relative: subject or direct object of clause), C (indirect relative: possession/genitive, or object of preposition).
3. It is used for all tenses of irregular verbs that have dependent forms, and it is used for everything but the past with regular verbs.

Fortunately, most of the other particles we need are also pretty consistent. It is only that pesky *a* (and its friend from the past, *ar*, in some situations) that makes like difficult.

But, as I said, since the books and usual lessons always start with *a*, we get all confused with the tricky part, and these stable particles kind of get lost in the mix. So we're working backwards, building a solid foundation on the reliable particles, and we'll tackle *a* and variations last, this fall.

GO

Very simply, here is how *go* compares to *nach*:

- ◆ **In form**, it behaves *exactly the same as nach!* It is always followed by eclipsis, and by the dependent form of the verb where available, and it is used in the past with the same irregular verbs as *nach*.
- ◆ **In function**, *go* is more limited. It is only used with those Type A: indirect speech/opinion kinds of clauses.

So, comparing *nach* and *go*:

Dúirt sé nach bhfuil sé tinn.	Dúirt sé go bhfuil sé tinn.
Deir sí nach bhfuil an fear sin tinn.	Deir sí go bhfuil an fear sin tinn.
Is dóigh liom nach bhfuil sí tinn, dáiríre.	Is dóigh liom go bhfuil sí tinn, dáiríre.
Deirtear nach gciceálann sise a cat.	Deirtear go gciceálann sise a cat.
Ní chreidim nach mbreathnaíonn sé ar an teilifís ariamh.	Ní chreidim go mbreathnaíonn sé ar an teilifís ariamh.
Tá súil agam nach dtabharfaidh siad dom é.	Tá súil agam go dtabharfaidh siad dom é.
Ceapaim nach bhfaca an cailín an carr.	Ceapaim go bhfaca an cailín an carr.

GUR

Gur is simply the past tense form of *go*:

- ◆ It is always followed by lenition (except for the autonomous past). No *d'* is used before vowels or *fh* (the vowel is "covered" by a consonant, if you will, with the *r*.)
- ◆ It is used in the same situations as *go*, Type A clauses only, and not with those irregular verbs that have dependent forms (which will use *go* instead).

So, for example:

Deirtear gur chiceáil sise a cat.

Ní chreidim gur bhreathnaigh sé ar an teilifís aréir.

Ní dóigh liom gur ghoid siad an t-airgead.

Tá súil agam gur ól tú do leigheas.

Dúirt sé liom gur imir sé peil blianta ó shin.

B'fhéidir gur bhris an carr.

NÁR

Now we come full circle to *nár*, which is the past tense form of *nach*. Compared to what we have been talking about:

- ◆ **In form**, *nár* behaves exactly the same as *gur*: lenition followed by the past tense of the verb, with no *d'*.
- ◆ **In function**, *nár* is used in all three clause types. In other words, it is used exactly the same way *nach* is, except that it is used only for the past tense of regular verbs (and irregulars that don't have dependent forms).

Thus:

Type A: Indirect Speech/Opinion/Wish

gur	nár
Deirtear gur chiceáil sise a cat.	Deirtear nár chiceáil sise a cat.
Ní chreidim gur bhreathnaigh sé ar an teilifís aréir.	Ní chreidim nár bhreathnaigh sé ar an teilifís aréir.
Ní dóigh liom gur ghoid siad an t-airgead.	Ní dóigh liom nár ghoid siad an t-airgead.
Tá súil agam gur ól tú do leigheas.	Tá súil agam nár ól tú do leigheas.
Dúirt sé liom gur imir sé peil blianta ó shin.	Dúirt sé liom nár imir sé peil blianta ó shin.
B'fhéidir gur bhris an carr.	B'fhéidir nár bhris an carr.

Type B: Direct Relative Clauses

nach	nár
Sin é an cailín nach gciceálfaidh a cat.	Sin é an cailín nár chiceáil a cat.
Cé acu an cat nach gciceálann sí?	Cé acu an cat nár chiceáil sí?
Labhair mé leis an bhfear nach mbreathnaíonn ar an teilifís.	Labhair mé leis an bhfear nár bhreathnaigh ar an teilifís.

Type C: Indirect Relative Clauses

nach	nár
Cé acu an clár teilifíse nach mbreathnaíonn an fear sin air?	Cé acu an clár teilifíse nár bhreathnaigh an fear sin air?
Sin é an bosca nach gcoinníonn muid ár mbia ann.	Sin é an bosca nár choinnigh muid ár mbia ann.
Is é Seán an fear nach labhraím leis.	Is é Seán an fear nár labhair mé leis.

Recognizing Clause Types

- ◆ if either *go* or *gur* is in there, it has to be indirect speech/opinions, etc., they are not used for anything else. (Well, they are used to express "until", but they still behave the same way.)
- ◆ for *nár*, treat it just like *nach*. That is, figure out if the clause has a subject, could be a question on its own, involves a preposition, and so on.

A LITTLE PRACTICE

We'll cycle through the particles, in pairs, in the order we've covered them in these two handouts. We are concentrating on *form* in this exercise, so we will only use Type A (indirect speech) clauses.

Go back and forth in this pattern:

1. Working down the list of sentences on the right below, pick any phrase from the left column and
2. Make a sentence using *nach*. You'll have some mutation to handle, etc.
3. The other person then repeats the sentence, but with *go*.
4. Now, put it in the past with *gur*.
5. And then repeat that sentence with *nár*.

<i>Deir siad</i>	Tá sé tinn.
<i>Is dóigh liom</i>	Rithfidh sí go sciobtha.
<i>Tá mé cinnte</i>	Itheann siad an iomarca bia.
<i>B'fhéidir</i>	Ciceálann sé an madra.
<i>Creidim</i>	Bheadh muid an-ghlic.
<i>Ceapaim</i>	Briseann tú fuinneóga.
<i>Chuala mé</i>	Goideann sí an t-airgead.
<i>Is é mo bhárúil féin</i>	Breathnaím ar an bpictiúr.
	Pógfaidh sí aon duine.
	Ólann sé pionta.
	Fásann sibh plandaí.
	Ceannódh muid carr nua.