

Nach/Nar Practice: #2

English to Irish ABC's

Remember, no matter which type of clause we're dealing with, once we get *nach* or *nár* in there, it all works the same. For a quick review:

Types of Clauses	Verbal Particles
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ A: Indirect speech, wishes, opinions, etc. ◆ B: Direct relative. Particle refers to a noun or pronoun that is either the subject or the direct object of the clause that follows. ◆ C: Indirect relative: Particle refers to a noun or pronoun that is either in genitive relation to the subject of the clause, or that is the direct object of a preposition <i>in the clause</i>. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Nach: used for all but the past tense. Followed by eclipsis and the dependent form of the verb, where appropriate. No d'. Irregular verbs that have dependent past forms use <i>nach</i> instead of <i>nár</i>. ◆ Nár: used for the past tense of regular verbs (or irregulars that don't have dependent forms.) Followed by lenition, or, you could say, simply followed by the past tense (already lenited). No d'.

Unlike *go/gur*, *nach/nár* are used with all three types of clauses. Unlike the affirmative forms, *nach/nár* behave the same in all three types of clauses, so that's why we want to get solid on these negative particles before we tackle affirmative statements with clauses.

Practice Exercise:

In the ten pairs of sentences on the next page, the English statements are very close to one another, but they will be translated, technically, by different types of clauses. Within each pair, however, the same verbal particles will always be used. Translate them into Irish, and identify each one as A, B, or C.

Hints:

- ◆ Indirect speech type clauses (A) end up looking exactly like a negative question that is complete in itself ("Didn't he eat the dog biscuit?") *
- ◆ Direct relative (B) clauses end up missing either a subject or an object.
- ◆ Indirect relative (C) clauses repeat the object of the preposition in a way -- the envelope that the letter is in *it* -- or have some kind of "whose" relation as the subject or direct object. (In other words, if you take a direct relative (B) and turn it into a clause about someone's relative or something they own, you end up with an indirect relative (C).)

* **Note:** Indirect relative clauses (C) *can* end up with clauses that make a negative question, but the difference between them and indirect speech (A) clauses is that the former need some context or additional information to make sense. Compare:

- ◆ "I think that the man did not put it in the box." (Indirect speech, A) The clause would be *nár chuir an fear é sa mbosca*, which could be a question in itself.
- ◆ "I see the box the man did not put it in." (Indirect relative, C). The clause would be, *an bosca nár chuir an fear ann é*. You *could* make a question out of that, starting with the *nár*, but the problem is that it isn't a question that makes sense unless you already know what *ann* refers to, and you know that refers to the box because of the part before the clause.
- ◆ "I see the man whose son did not put it in the box." (Also C) *nár chuir a mhac é sa mbosca*. Again, could be a question, but unless you know whose son we're talking about, it doesn't make sense.

Type	
	I believe that car will not break.
	I see the car that will not break.
	He said he does not eat bread.
	What kind of bread doesn't he eat?
	This is the man who did not watch television.
	This is the television the man did not watch.
	Where is the table the cat does not sit on?
	Where is the cat that does not sit on the table?
	Do you know the woman who would not buy my book?
	She said she would not buy my book.
	I saw the man who did not kill his wife.
	I saw the man whose wife did not kill him.
	I hope I don't see a rat in that box.
	That is the box I will not see a rat in.
	I love that song she will not sing.
	She says she will not sing that song.
	They said they did not listen to that radio program.
	What is the radio program that they did not listen to?
	That is the police officer who did not steal money.
	That is the police officer whose son did not steal money.