

Verb Types and Conjugation

There are **two** types of verb conjugations in Irish. Every verb is either a **Type 1** verb or a **Type 2** verb. This makes it more difficult than English in this respect, but much easier than some other European languages, which often have three or more different ways to go about the same thing.

Type 1: *Usually* consists of **one syllable**, **without** the ending **-igh**
e.g. *glan, ól, las, and múch*

Type 2: *Usually* consists of **more than one syllable**, and *usually* ends in **-aigh** or **-igh**, depending on if the last consonant before the ending is broad or slender.
e.g. *ceannaigh, éirigh, teastaigh, and bailigh*

Of course, Irish being as it is, there are always exceptions.

Léigh is a **Type 1** verb, even though it ends in -igh.

Úsáid is a **Type 1** verb, even though it consists of more than one syllable.

Obair is a **Type 2** verb, even though it doesn't have the -igh ending.

What do we mean by verb **conjugation**? This is simply the way verbs change depending on who's doing the action, or being the state of the verb, as well as consideration for tense. **Tense** is the **time**, **mood** or **voice** aspect of a verb: When, and what nuances you wish, or need to express with that verb. **Person** will usually be whoever is the **subject** of the verb. Luckily Irish, like English, is less concerned with changing the verb for other persons in the sentence, such as various objects of the verb, than it is with the subject.

Don't worry though, Irish doesn't require a completely different form needing to be memorized for every possible variation in such a scheme, at least in our Connemara dialect. In fact, the verb doesn't often change for person- Who is doing the action. Like English, which only adds an 's' to the present tense of the 3rd person singular,- 'I eat', 'you eat', but 'she eats'- Irish only changes endings of verbs for a few consistent and predictable persons, in certain tenses.

For all but eleven irregular verbs, Irish also has a consistent and predictable system of verb endings, along with initial mutation, to indicate tense.

The Munster dialect *does* employ a broad variety of endings for person, however. You may choose to go on to learn those on your own, if you are interested in pursuing the Munster dialect, but they are not strictly necessary in order to be understood, and to produce perfectly acceptable Irish.