

## Coping With the Copula: XI

### Indirect Speech with the Copula

About the only constructions that we haven't tackled with the copula to date are the various types of clauses (although there are lots of idioms with the copula to learn, but that's more vocabulary than grammar). We'll start by handling "indirect speech type" sentences.

**Indirect speech** refers to a sentence that *reports* what someone said, as in "She says that he is sick," "It is said that vampires are not nice." In Irish, *Deir sí go bhfuil sé tinn, Deirtear nach mbíonn vaimpírí go deas.*

This is often presented in courses and texts as a very challenging topic, and I have never understood why. The clause is very similar to the original thing said, with a front end added. The only wrinkle is that the "connector" word ("that" in our English sentences) may cause mutations. (And remember, we *always* express the "that" in Irish, even though we often leave it out in English: "She says he's sick.")

### Quick Indirect Speech Review

Basically, you will add a front end -- the "she said" or "they say" or whatever -- and then use:

- ◆ *Go* or *nach* with all tenses of regular verbs *except* the past, and these particles are always followed by eclipsis and the dependent form of the verb, if one is available.
- ◆ *Gur* or *nár* in the past, which is followed by lenition (no d' ).
- ◆ With irregular verbs that have dependent forms, use *go/nach* even in the past.

The **bonus to learning indirect speech** is that you use the same patterns to say "I hope that", "I think that" and so on. So all of your expectations and hopes and opinions follow this pattern.

### The Copula Versions

How do we use the copula in these kinds of constructions? It's rather straightforward.

#### **Present/Future**

For negative "reported statements" or opinions, etc., simply use *nach* to represent the copula. Thus we get things like:

Dúirt sí *nach* carr nua é.      Creidim *nach* dochtúir í Mata Hari.  
Ceapaim *nach* é John Wayne an t-aisteoir sa scannán "Harry Potter."

For affirmative statements, use *gur* where you'd usually see *go*. It is very common to use *gurb* in front of *é, í, iad*, and in front of vowels, although it is not universal. (And some may not add the *b* before a noun, although they will before adjectives and adverbs.)

Dúirt sí *gur* draoi é Harry Potter.      Tá súil agam *gur* dochtúir maith é.  
Creidim *gurb* iad na fir a ghoid an t-airgead.

There are no mutations associated with these particles (note there is no verb following them).

#### **Past/Conditional**

In the past/conditional of the copula, use *gur* and *nár* before consonants, *gurbh* and *nárbh* before vowels, and whatever follows is lenited:

