

## Coping With the Copula: IX

### Linking Nouns: Comprehensive Summary

The graphic on the back is an attempt to provide a compact "cheat sheet" for how nouns are linked with the copula. It doesn't cover adjectives and some other situations, but it does pull together a lot of information in one space.

These brief notes are just reminders, rather than a complete explanation, the real explanation took place in class. And all the basic information to help you interpret the copula can be found in a previous handouts in this copula series.

Here are the highlights of what is represented in this diagram:

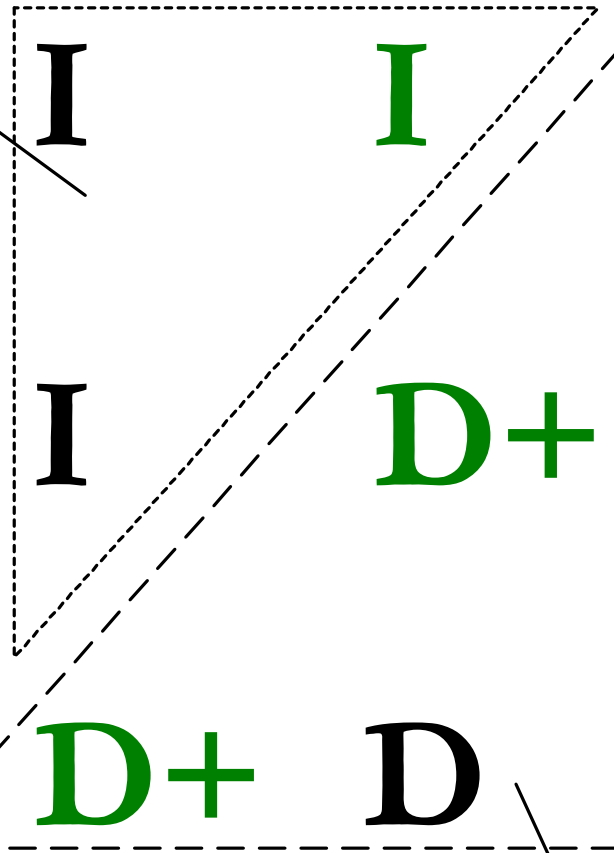
1. You have to know the difference between a definite noun and an indefinite noun.
  - a) An indefinite noun is just a noun by itself, or modified by one or more adjectives.
  - b) A noun becomes definite when it is preceded by the definite article; modified by a possessive (*mo charr*); when it is a genitive phrase (*mac an tsagairt*).
  - c) Any of the personal pronouns like *mé*, *é*, *iad*, and so on are definite, and so are proper nouns, like a name.
2. The only time an indefinite noun can show up at the end of a copula statement is if another indefinite noun precedes it. These are the fairly uncommon sentences of the form, *is éan spideog*, "A robin is a bird." An indefinite noun can never end a copula sentence with a definite in front of it.
3. Copula questions that start with an indefinite noun are all answered with forms of *ea*, no matter what kind of noun is in "second place."
4. When a copula statement starts with an indefinite, the *second* thing in the sentence is the subject (subjects are marked in green in the diagram). *is éan spideog*, "A robin is a bird. *Ní banríon í*, "She is not a queen."
5. When a copula statement starts with a definite noun, a pronoun is included in front of the noun, and that first noun is the subject of the sentence: *Is é Henry an rí*, "Henry is the king."
6. Copula questions that start with pronoun + definite noun will be answered with things like 'sé, 'siad, etc., or with *is mé*, *is tú*, of course.
7. When a copula statement includes a definite noun that is the subject, it will have the pronoun inserted as part of the phrase. (If *mé* or *muid* or something like that is the definite subject, it does not need an extra pronoun, but if it includes a separate noun, it must be a phrase with a third person pronoun in front of it).
8. There is a maximum of one pronoun + definite noun phrase per sentence. In other words, you do not add the pronoun in front of both nouns in a copula statement if they are both definite.

To tell the truth, not everyone puts the pronoun in front of definite noun when it is preceded by an indefinite. But use of the pronoun insertion is widespread and widely understood, and if it probably easier to do it this way, fewer separate rules to think about.

## Indefinite Noun

Not Preceded by Anything  
Not a Proper Noun  
Not a Pronoun

COPULA
An
Nach
Is
Ní
etc.



'sea, etc.

'sé, 'sí,  
'siad

## Definite Noun/Noun Phrase

Definite Article  
Possessive  
Personal Pronoun (mé, etc.)  
Proper Noun/Phrase

⊕ = must *include* pronoun,  
alone, or before definite noun

### I-I:

Is éan spideog

### I-D (+):

Is aisteoir é

Is duine mise

Is aisteoir é an fear sin

Is aisteoir é John Wayne

### D(+) - D:

Is é an t-aisteoir John Wayne

Is é John Wayne an t-aisteoir

Is í an bhean is áille í

Is í an bhean is airde an múinteoir

Is tusa an duine is glíce

## LINKING NOUNS: PATTERN RECOGNITION

Simply circle the pattern demonstrated by the sentence. *NOTE:* you generally do not need to know what the words mean to recognize the pattern!

Then, write several sentences of your own in each of the patterns.

1.	I-I I-D+ D+-D	An comhlacht mór saibhir é Microsoft?	15.	I-I I-D+ D+-D	Ní hé mac an mhúinteora an dalta is gllice sa rang.
2.	I-I I-D+ D+-D	An í Michele Bachmann an tUachtarán SAM?	16.	I-I I-D+ D+-D	Ní hí Angelina Jolie an bhean is sine sa scannán.
3.	I-I I-D+ D+-D	Is aisteoir í Sissy Spacek	17.	I-I I-D+ D+-D	Ní hiad na daoine amaideacha na múinteoirí.
4.	I-I I-D+ D+-D	Is fostóir comhionannas deiseanna í Ollscoil na hÉireann, Gaillimh.	18.	I-I I-D+ D+-D	Ní hiad seo na chéad chéimeanna dóibh siúd.
5.	I-I I-D+ D+-D	Is gadaí í an cailín a chonaic mé ag éalú ó na Gardaí.	19.	I-I I-D+ D+-D	Ní planda eilifint.
6.	I-I I-D+ D+-D	Is grúpa beag de chúigear iad 'Ealaíontóirí Chois Fharraige'	20.	I-I I-D+ D+-D	An buntáiste indíreach don Stát é?
7.	I-I I-D+ D+-D	Is iasc bradán.	21.	I-I I-D+ D+-D	An éan cat?
8.	I-I I-D+ D+-D	Is mise an múinteoir.	22.	I-I I-D+ D+-D	An éan nó iasc nó ainmhí é an créatúr sin?
9.	I-I I-D+ D+-D	Is pacáiste eolais é	23.	I-I I-D+ D+-D	Is ainmhí madra.
10.	I-I I-D+ D+-D	Is tionscnamh é Cnoc Suain atá bunaithe ag Dearbhaill Standún agus Charlie Troy	24.	I-I I-D+ D+-D	Is carr é sin
11.	I-I I-D+ D+-D	Nach deamhan polaiteoir?	25.	I-I I-D+ D+-D	Is clog eibhear.
12.	I-I I-D+ D+-D	Nach fadhb bochtas?	26.	I-I I-D+ D+-D	Is duaiseanna iad atá fíordheacair a bhuachan
13.	I-I I-D+ D+-D	Nach iad baill an ghrúpa Larry, Moe, 's Curly?	27.	I-I I-D+ D+-D	Is é an file Cróiteach Mile Pešorda a thug dom í i gCill Dara ar fhéile
14.	I-I I-D+ D+-D	Nach sagart as Conamara é?	28.	I-I I-D+ D+-D	Is é an t-aisteoir é.

29.	I-I I-D+ D+-D	Is eagraíocht phobail nuabhunaithe é Comharchumann Mhic Dara Teo
30.	I-I I-D+ D+-D	Is sampla iontach é Bioshell
31.	I-I I-D+ D+-D	Is sibhse an grúpa is fearr a bhí agam ariamh.
32.	I-I I-D+ D+-D	Is stráinséirí iad thart ar 25% den phobal
33.	I-I I-D+ D+-D	Nach buachaillí dána iad?
34.	I-I I-D+ D+-D	Nach an bhean bheag sin in éadaí corcra banríon Shasana?
35.	I-I I-D+ D+-D	Ní hé an t-ainmhí aisteach seo mo pheata.
36.	I-I I-D+ D+-D	Ní hí mo mháthair í.
37.	I-I I-D+ D+-D	Ní múinteoir mise.
38.	I-I I-D+ D+-D	An duine olc é John Doe?
39.	I-I I-D+ D+-D	An éan faoileán?
40.	I-I I-D+ D+-D	An tusa an dochtúr nó an bhanaltra?
41.	I-I I-D+ D+-D	An tusa Angelina Jolie?
42.	I-I I-D+ D+-D	Is dalta an-ghlic tusa.
43.	I-I I-D+ D+-D	Is é Pádraig Ó hAoláin Príomhfheidhmeannach Údarás na Gaeltachta
44.	I-I I-D+ D+-D	Is earnáil é atá ag fás iontach tapa ar fad
45.	I-I I-D+ D+-D	Is í an bhean ard sin an t-aisteoir.

46.	I-I I-D+ D+-D	Is sáróiliúnóir é Páidí
47.	I-I I-D+ D+-D	Is Scoil lán-Ghaeilge é FIONTAR
48.	I-I I-D+ D+-D	Is údar misnigh é an bua a fuair muid orthu.
49.	I-I I-D+ D+-D	Nach clár deonach é "Cothú"?
50.	I-I I-D+ D+-D	Nach dath dearg?
51.	I-I I-D+ D+-D	Nach í do dheirfiúr an cailín atá ag canadh an t-amhrán álainn sin?
52.	I-I I-D+ D+-D	Nach í Katie Taylor Seaimpín na hEorpa?
53.	I-I I-D+ D+-D	Ní bean rí
54.	I-I I-D+ D+-D	Ní fear gan locht é an Pápa.
55.	I-I I-D+ D+-D	Ní hé sin an freagra ceart.