



Irish Language Office

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The Irish Language in Ireland

- Ireland has 2 official languages: *Gaeilge* (Irish) and English.
- English is the first language of the majority of Irish people.
- Irish is Ireland's first official language, and you will often see and hear Irish on signs, publications, TV and radio.
- An area where Irish is the main language of the community is called a *gaeltacht*. Most *gaeltacht* areas are on the west coast.



A Few Facts about Irish



- Irish is a Celtic language that has been influenced by Latin, Norse, French and English.
- The Irish language's spelling system is very different to English.
 - Aoife, Caoimhe, Ciara, Niamh, Aisling
 - Eoin, Oisín, Pádraig, Seán, Ciarán
- Most placenames in Ireland come from an old Irish-language name, e.g. Bally < Baile



Irish in Trinity College

- Irish Language Office (www.tcd.ie/gaeloifig)
 - FREE Irish language classes for all students, from beginners' level
 - Advice on Irish learning materials, visiting the *gaeltacht*, and general queries
- Department of Irish (www.tcd.ie/Irish)
 - Modules on Irish culture and Early Irish language, through the medium of English
- An Cumann Gaelach (www.cumann.ie)
 - Irish cultural events, including Irish set (*céilí*) dancing, Irish traditional music sessions with **Tradsoc**, and Gaelic sports





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