

Irregular Verbs - Past Tense - Examples

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Thuirte e na faclan aig an sgoil.

He said the words at school.

Cuin a thuirte e na faclan?

When did he say the words?

Thuirte e na faclan aig trì uairean.

He said the words at three o' clock.

Bha mi glè thoilichte airson gun thuirte e na faclan. I was very happy because he said the words.

Tha mi glè thoilichte airson nach thuirte e na faclan. I am very happy because he did not say the words.

Dè thuirte e?

What did he say?

Thuirte e nach robh thu modhail.

He said that you were not polite.

An thuirte e sin?

He said that?

Cha thuirte. Thuirte e gun robh thu snog.

No. He said that you were cute.

Cuin a thuirte e sin?

When did he say that?

Thuirte e sin (anns a') sa' mhadainn.

He said that in the morning.

Càit' an thuirte e?

Where did he say it?

Thuirte e e nuair a bha sinn aig sgoil.

He said it when we were at school.

Carson a thuirte e e?

Why did he say it?

Thuirte e e airson gu bheil e a' smaoinicheadh gu bheil thu brèagha.

He said it because he is thinking that you are beautiful.

Cò mheud turas a thuirte e e?

How many times did he say it?

Thuirte e e dà thuras.

He said it two times.

Ciamar a thuirte e e?

How did he say it?

Isd! Òinseach! {Amadan!}

Quiet! Fool (female)! {Fool (male)!}

Cò thuirte sin?

Who said that?

Mise!

ME!

Extra credit - Innis! ag innse

Innis! ag innse (+do) - Tell! telling (regular verb)

The regular verb Innis! is frequently used in conjunction with Abair!/Can!, especially as a command.

Imperative!	Innis!	Tell!
Verbal Noun	ag innse	telling
Past	Dh'innis ____ .	____ told.
	-----	-----
	Cha do innis ____ .	____ did not tell.
	An do innis ____?	Did ____ tell?
	Nach do innis ____?	Didn't ____ tell?
	...gun do innis ____...	...that ____ told...
	...nach do innis ____...	...that ____ did not tell...
Future	Innisidh ____ .	____ will tell.
	-----	-----
	Chan innis ____ .	____ will not tell.
	An innis ____?	Will ____ tell?
	Nach innis ____?	Won't ____ tell?

...gun innis ____... ...that ____ will tell...
...nach innis ____... ...that ____ will not tell...

Relative Future dh'inniseas

Innis! requires the preposition 'do' - 'to'

Do
dhomh to me
dhut to you
dha to him/it
dhi to her/it
dhuinn to us
dhuibh to you
dhaibh to them

Eisimpleirean

Innis domh dè thuirt e! Tell (to) me what he said!
Thuirt e nach fheàrr leis thu! He said that he does not prefer you!
Na can sin! Don't say that!
Na innis dhi sin! Don't tell her that!
Abair rud a ràdh! What a thing to say!

Group 1: Cluinn!

Imperative!	Cluinn!	Hear!
Verbal Noun	a' cluinntinn	hearing
Past	Chuala ____ .	____ heard.
	-----	-----
	Cha chuala ____ .	____ did not hear.
	An cuala ____?	Did ____ hear?
	Nach cuala ____?	Didn't ____ hear?
	...gun cuala ____...	...that ____ heard...
	...nach cuala ____...	...that ____ did not hear...

Eisimpleirean

An cuala tu an òran air an rèidio? Chuala. Bha e glè shnog. Cha chuala. Tha an rèidio agam briste.	Did you hear the song on the radio? Yes. It was very nice. No. My radio is broken.
Càit an cuala tu an t-òran? Chuala mi an t-òran anns a' chàr.	Where did you hear the song? I heard the song in the car.
Cuin a chuala tu an t-òran? Chuala mi an t-òran nuair a bha mi a' dol dhachaidh.	When did you hear the song? I heard the song when I was going home.
Bha mi toilichte airson gun cuala mi an t-òran. Tha mi brònach airson nach cuala mi an t-òran.	I was happy because I heard the song. I was sad because I didn't hear the song.

Group 1: Faic!

Imperative!	Faic!	See!
Verbal Noun	a' faicinn	seeing
Past	Chunnaic ____ .	____ saw.

	Chan fhaca ____ .	____ did not see.
	Am faca ____?	Did ____ see?
	Nach f(h)aca ____?	Didn't ____ see?
	...gum faca ____...	...that ____ saw...
	...nach f(ha)aca ____...	...that ____ did not see...

There's not really a reason for 'faca' to be lenited after 'nach' - except that it's easier to go from the 'ch' sound of the 'nach' into a vowel.

Eisimpleirean

Am faca tu am prògram air an tele?	Did you see the program on the TV?
Chan fhaca. Tha an tele agam briste.	No. My TV is broken.
Chunnaic. Cha toil leam e. (Or) Cha do chòrd mi ris.	Yes. I don't like it. (Or) I didn't enjoy it..

Càit am faca tu am prògram?	Where did you see the program?
Chunnaic mi e aig a' bhàr.	I saw it at the bar.

Cuin a chunnaic thu am prògram?	When did you see the program?
Chunnaic mi am prògram nuair a bha sinn aig a' bhàr airson dinnear.	
I saw the program when we were at the bar for dinner.	

Tha mi toilichte airson gum faca tu am prògram. I am happy because I saw the program.
Chan eil mi toilichte airson nach fhaca tu am prògram.
I am not happy because you didn't see the program.

Group 1: Rach!

Imperative!	Rach! (Thalla!)	Go! (also, Theirig! is used as an imperative)
Verbal Noun	a' dol	going
Past	Chaidh ____ .	____ went.

	Cha deach ____ .	____ did not go.
	An deach ____?	Did ____ go?
	Nach deach ____?	Didn't ____ go?
	...gun deach ____...	...that ____ went...
	...nach deach ____...	...that ____ did not go...

Eisimpleirean

An deach thu riamh a Chanada? Have you ever gone to Canada?
Cha deach. Chan eil airgead againn. No. We don't have money.
Chaidh. Chaidh sinn a Chanada an t-seachdain 's a chaidh.
Yes. We went to Canada last week.

Càit an deach sibh? Where did you go?
Chaidh sinn a Bhancoubhair. We went to Vancouver.

Cuin a chaidh sibh a Bhancoubhair? When did you go to Vancouver?
Chaidh sinn airson dinnear agus an dealbh-cluich. We went for dinner and a play.

Tha mi toilichte airson gun deach sibh a Chanada. I am happy because you went to Canada.
Chan eil mi toilichte airson nach deach sibh a Chanada.
I am not happy because you didn't go to Canada.

Group 1: Thig! a' tighinn

Imperative!	Thig!	Come!
Verbal Noun	a' tighinn	coming
Past	Thàinig ____ .	____ came.

	Cha tàinig ____ .	____ did not come.
	An tàinig ____?	Did ____ come?
	Nach tàinig ____?	Didn't ____ come?
	...gun tàinig ____...	...that ____ came...
	...nach tàinig ____...	...that ____ did not come...

Eisimpleirean

An tàinig an dotair? Did the doctor come?
Cha tàinig. Bha e anns an t-ospadal. No. He was in the hospital.
Thàinig. Yes.

Càit an tàinig an dotair? To where did the doctor come?
Thàinig an dotair dhan goil. The doctor came to the school.

Cuin a thàinig an dotair? When did the doctor come?
Thàinig an dotair anns a' mhadainn. The doctor came in the morning.

Tha mi toilichte airson gun tàinig an dotair. I am happy because the doctor came.
Chan eil mi toilichte airson nach tàinig an dotair. I am not happy because the doctor didn't come.

Verbs of motion frequently work with prepositions and adverbs. Here are some useful prepositions and adverbs to use with verbs of motion.

Prepositions

The form of the preposition is given as indefinite with the definite form in parentheses.

Does not lenite following nouns	Does lenite following nouns
à (às) - out of, from	bho (bhon) - from
gu (gus) - to (the point of)	do (don/dhan) - to, into frequently becomes 'a' before place names prefixes " dh' " before following vowels or 'fh'+vowel
ann an/m (anns an/am/a') - in	tro (tron) - through

Adverbs of Motion

Verb	Up / Down	Over here / there	In / Out
Rach	suas [upwards] (away) / sìos [downwards] (away)	a-null [over there] (away)	a-mach [outwards] (away)
Thig	a-nuas [upwards or downwards] (towards)	a-nall [over here] (towards)	a-steach [inwards] (towards) a-staigh*

Càit' an deach thu?

Chaidh mi a dh'Obar Dheathain.

Carson a chaidh thu a dh'Obar Dheathain?

Where did you go?

Hi went to Aberdeen.

Why did you go to Aberdeen.

Chaidh mi a dh'Obar Dheathain airson gun deach mi dhan dh'oilthigh.

I went to Aberdeen because I went to the university.

Cò às a tha thu?

Tha mi à Canada.

Carson a thàinig thu?

Thàinig mi airson gun deach mi dhan chaisteal.

Where are you from?

I am from (out of) Canada.

Why did you come?

I came because I went to the castle.

Càit' a dh'fhalbh thu?

Where did you go?

Additional Commands and Verbs (Motion)

Thalla dhan làimh chlì!

Thalla air ais!

Siuthad! Siuthada**ibh**! (-aibh makes it plural)

Rach às do bheachd!

Rach air falbh!

Rach mun cuairt!

Gabh cuairt!

Gabh air tìr

Gabh dìreach sìos an rathad seo

Tiugainn! Tiugainn**ibh**! (-ibh makes it plural)

Trobhad! Trobhad**aibh**! (-aibh makes it plural)

Thig a-steach/a-staigh

Go to the left!

Go back!

Go on! On you go! (Defective verb)

Go crazy/out of your mind/lose your mind!

Go away!

Go around!

Go for a walk!

Go ashore

Go straight down this road

Let's go! Come on!

Come here!

Come in

Thig air cabhag!

Come in a hurry!

Theirig! \ This word is often used as the imperative instead of Rach! or Thalla!

Till! a' tilleadh \ Return! returning (regular verb)

Falbh! a' falbh \ Leave! leaving (depart) (regular verb) (Sometimes used for 'go'.)

Fàg! a' fàgail \ Leave! leaving (vacate, abandon) (regular verb)

Group 1: Thoir!

The irregular verb 'Thoir' is quite useful, if you know your prepositional pronouns and adverbs!

Imperative!	Thoir!	Give! Take! Bring!, etc.
Verbal Noun	a' toirt	giving, taking, bringing, etc.
Past	Thug ____ .	____ gave (took, brought, etc).
	-----	-----
	Cha tug ____ .	____ did not give (take, bring, etc.).
	An tug ____?	Did ____ give?
	Nach tug ____?	Didn't ____ give?
	...gun tug ____...	...that ____ gave...
	...nach tug ____...	...that ____ did not give...

Here are the first three prepositions we will explore.

De/Dhe	Off	Do/Don	To	Gu/Gus	To
dhìom	off me	dhomh	to me	thugam	to me
dhìot	off you	dhut	to you	thugad	to you
dheth	off him	dha	to him	thuige	to him
dhith	off her	dhi	to her	thuice	to her
dhinn	off us	dhuinn	to us	thugainn	to us
dhìbh	off you	dhuibh	to you	thugaibh	to you
dhiubh	off them	dhaibh	to them	thuca	to them

Take Off (Thoir + De)

Thoir dhìot do chàta!

Thug e dheth an ad aige.

Take off your coat!

He took off his hat.

Give To (Thoir + Do)

Thoir dhomh cèic!
Tha thu a' toirt cèic dhomh.
Thug sibh cèic do Gheoff.
Cha tug e leabhar dhi.
Tha thu a' dol a thoirt cèic do Gheoff.

Give me a cake!
You are giving me a cake.
You gave a cake to Geoff.
He did not give a book to her.
You are going to give a cake to Geoff.

Bring To (Thoir + Gu)

Thug thu cèic thugam.
Cha tug Spot cèic gu Geoff.

You brought me cake.
Spot will not bring cake to Geoff.

Here are the next two prepositions.

Bho/Bhon	From	Le/Leis	With
bhuam	from me	leam	with me
bhuat	from you	leat	with you
bhuaithe	from him	leis	with him
bhuaipe	from her	leatha	with her
bhuainn	from us	leinn	with us
bhuaibh	from you	leibh	with you
bhuapa	from them	leotha	with them

Take From (Thoir + Bho)

Thug thu bhuam mo cèic.
An tug sibh cèic bho Geoff?

You took from me my cake.
Did you take cake from Geoff?

Take With (Thoir + Le)

An toir thu leat a' cèic?

Will you take the cake (with you)?

Thoir + Adverbs (Commands)

Thoir a-nuas ... \ bring up or down (towards the speaker)
Thoir a-nall ... \ bring over
Thoir sìos ... \ take down
Thoir suas ... \ take up
Thoir a-mach ... \ take or bring out
Thoir a-staigh ... \ take or bring in
Thoir air falbh ... \ take away

Thoir a-nall an cèic agam.
Thoir air falbh an cèic agam.

Bring over my cake.
Take away my cake.

Examples

An tug sibh tuilleadh cèic dha?
Thug. Bha e ag ithe mòran cèic.
Cha tug. Tha e reamhar.

Did you give him more cake?
Yes. He was eating a lot of cake.
No. He is fat.

Càit an tug thu cèic dha?
Thug mi cèic dha aig an taigh aige.

Where did you give him cake?
I gave him cake at his house.

Cuin a thug thu cèic dha?
Thug mi cèic dha nuair a bha latha breith sona aige.
I gave him cake when it was his birthday.

When did you give him cake?

Tha mi toilichte airson gun tug thu cèic dha.
Tha mi toilichte airson nach tug thu cèic dha.

I am happy that you gave him cake.
I am happy that you didn't give him cake.

Group 2: Irregular Verbs Including DO

This group of irregular verbs are still irregular, but they include the past tense marker, DO, as regular verbs do.

Group 2: Beir (+air)

'Beir' means 'to give birth' unless the preposition 'air' is used.

Imperative!	Beir!	Catch!
Verbal Noun	a' breith	a' beirsinn catching
Past	Rug ____ .	____ caught.
	Cha d' rug ____ .	____ did not catch.
	An d' rug ____?	Did ____ catch?
	Nach d' rug ____?	Didn't ____ catch?
	...gun d' rug ____...	...that ____ caught...
	...nach d' rug ____...	...that ____ did not catch...

Eisimpleirean

Rug mi air.
Rug mi oirre.

I caught it (masculine noun). I caught him.
I caught it (feminine noun). I caught her.

Remember: Beir without air means, “to give birth.” So don’t forget the “air” unless you mean to!

Co-latha breith sona dhut!

Happy birthday to you!

An d' rug thu air Seumas anns a' bhaile?
Rug. Bha e anns a' bhùth.
Cha d' rug. Bha e air am bàt' aiseag.

Did you catch James in (the) town?
Yes. He was in the shop.
No. He was on the ferry.

Càit an d' rug thu air Seumas?
Rug mi air Seumas aig a' bhanca.

Where did you catch James?
I caught James at the bank.

Cuin a rug thu air Seumas?
Rug mi air Seumas Diluain.

When did you catch James?
I caught James on Monday.

Bha mi brònach airson nach d' rug mi air Seumas.
I was sad because I did not catch James.

Tha mi toilichte airson gun d' rug Pòl air Seumas aig a' bhanca.
I am happy because Paul caught James at the bank.

Group 2: Dèan

Imperative!	Dèan!	Make! Do!
Verbal Noun	a' dèanamh	making, doing
Past	Rinn ____ .	____ made.

	Cha d' rinn ____ .	____ did not make.
	An d' rinn ____?	Did ____ make?
	Nach d' rinn ____?	Didn't ____ make?
	...gun d' rinn ____...	...that ____ made...
	...nach d' rinn ____...	...that ____ did not make...

Eisimpleirean

An d' rinn thu cèic an-diugh?
Rinn, Rinn mi cèic mhòr.
Cha d' rinn mi cèic, rinn mi aran.

Did you make a cake today?
Yes, I made a big cake.
I did not make cake, I made bread.

Càit an d' rinn thu cèic?
Rinn mi cèic anns a' chidsin.

Where did you make cake?
I made a cake in the kitchen.

Cuin a rinn thu cèic?
Rinn mi cèic madainn an-dè.

When did you make cake?
I made cake yesterday morning.

Tha mi toilichte airson gun d' rinn thu cèic!
Chan eil mi toilichte airson nach d' rinn thu cèic!

I am happy because you made cake.
I am not happy because you didn't make cake.

Group 2: Faigh

Imperative!	Faigh!	Get! Find!
Verbal Noun	a' faighinn	getting, finding
Past	Fhuair ____ .	____ got.

	Cha d' fhuair ____ .	____ did not get.
	An d' fhuair ____?	Did ____ get?
	Nach d' fhuair ____?	Didn't ____ get?
	...gun d' fhuair ____...	...that ____ got...
	...nach d' fhuair ____...	...that ____ did not get...

Eisimpleirean

An d' fhuair thu an leabhar fhathast? Did find the book yet?
Cha d' fhuair. Cha deach mi dhan leabharlann fhathast. No. I didn't go to the library yet.
Fhuair. Yes.

Càit an d' fhuair thu an leabhar? Where did you get the book?
Fhuair mi e aig Bharnes & Noble. I got it at Barnes & Noble.

Cuin a fhuair thu an leabhar? When did you get the book?
Fhuair mi an leabhar a-raoir nuair a bha sinn aig Bharnes & Noble.
I got the book last night when we were at Barnes & Noble.

Tha mi toilichte airson gun d' fhuair mi an leabhar.
I am happy because I got the book.
Chan eil mi toilichte airson nach d' fhuair mi an leabhar.
I am not happy because I did not get the book.

Group 2: Ruig!

Imperative!	Ruig!	Reach! Arrive!
Verbal Noun	a' ruigsinn	reaching, arriving
Past	Ràinig ____ .	____ arrived.

	Cha d' ràinig ____ .	____ did not arrive.
	An d' ràinig ____?	Did ____ arrive?
	Nach d' ràinig ____?	Didn't ____ arrive?
	...gun d' ràinig ____...	...that ____ arrived...
	...nach d' ràinig ____...	...that ____ did not arrive...

Eisimpleirean

An d' ràinig sibh aig an clàs tràth? Did you arrive to class early?
Ràinig. Ràinig mi 'sa mhadainn. Yes. I arrived in the morning.
Cha d' ràinig. Ràinig mi feasgair. No. I arrived in the afternoon.

Càit an d' ràinig thu?
Ràinig mi aig an doras.

Where did you arrive?
I arrived at the door.

Cuin a ràinig thu?
Ràinig mi anns a' mhadainn.

When did you arrive?
I arrived in the morning.

Cuin a ràinig thu?
Ràinig mi aig trì uairean anns an fheasgar.

When did you arrive?
I arrived at 3 PM.

Tha mi toilichte airson gun d' ràinig thu tràth. I am happy because you arrived early.
Chan eil mi toilichte airson nach d' ràinig thu tràth. I am not happy because you didn't arrive early.

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