

Lesson 7

The Irish language around us

Aim:

Students will be encouraged to be aware of the importance of languages and to respect the language rights of others.

Students will be able to make the connection between what they have learned to date and the use of Irish in their own environment.

Learning Outcomes: Students will be able to see the Official Languages Act in force on a daily basis.

Requirements for the Class:

- Coloured markers and white paper for the students.
- A large poster about signage to be hung in the classroom. This poster is in the teacher's box and it is also provided in this booklet.
- A large poster about stationery to be hung in the classroom. This poster is in the teacher's box and it is also provided in this booklet.
- A copy of the Worksheet to be photocopied by the teacher for every student. The Worksheet is provided in this booklet.
- Cards to be given to every group. The cards are provided in this booklet.
- A blackboard or whiteboard for the teacher.

Start of Class:

1. Write the following instructions on the board regarding stationery and signage.

These are the directions for stationery and signage for public bodies under the Official Languages Act:

- The text in Irish shall appear first.
- The text in Irish shall be as prominent as the text in English.
- The letters in the text in Irish shall not be smaller than those in English.
- Do not shorten a word in the Irish text unless you also shorten the word in the English text.
- Spellings must be correct.
- The text can be in Irish only but the text cannot be in English only.
- The text in Irish shall communicate the same information as the text in English.

Instead of writing these directions on the board, the teacher could explain the directions by showing the posters to the students.

Development of Class:

2. Give out the Worksheet to the students and ask them to find the mistakes.
3. Correct the mistakes with the students.
4. Divide the students into groups and ask them to design stationery or signage which would be appropriate for specific public bodies. They must adhere to the directions given to them at the start of the class under the Official Languages Act.
5. Give each group a card which provides information about specific public bodies and for whom they have to design stationery or signage. Examples are given in this booklet regarding particular public bodies but the teacher could decide to use examples of local public bodies, e.g. the hospital, the Vocational Education Committee, the local authority, the Garda station, the library, the courthouse or the students could design stationery or signage for the school.

End of Class:

6. Put the students' work on display in the classroom beside the posters about signage and stationery.

Teacher's Notes:

Irish has been spoken here for about 2,000 years. It is the national language of Ireland and a core part of our identity. Like all other languages, it is an important part of world heritage and like many other lesser used languages, it is in a vulnerable position.

The Official Languages Act was introduced to ensure better availability and a higher standard of services in Irish and to increase its visibility.

The Official Languages Act applies to public bodies. It does not apply to private bodies.

This means that public bodies must adhere to the Official Languages Act. The Office of An Coimisinéir Teanga monitors public bodies to ensure that they are adhering to the Act.

Around 650 public bodies come under the Act, including government departments, local authorities, third level institutions, Vocational Education Committees, An Garda Síochána and the Health Service Executive.

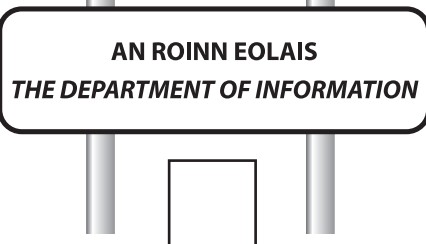
There are particular rules under the Official Languages Act regarding stationery and signage. The reason for this is to ensure that public bodies make prominent use of the Irish language in their stationery and signage.

Worksheet for Lesson 7

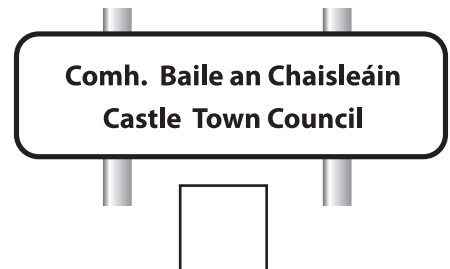
Are these signs correct or incorrect?

Put ✓ in the box if the sign is correct or ✗ if it is incorrect.

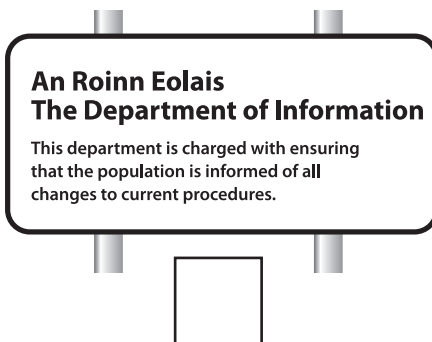
1



2



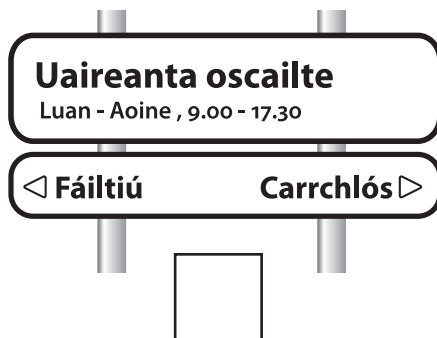
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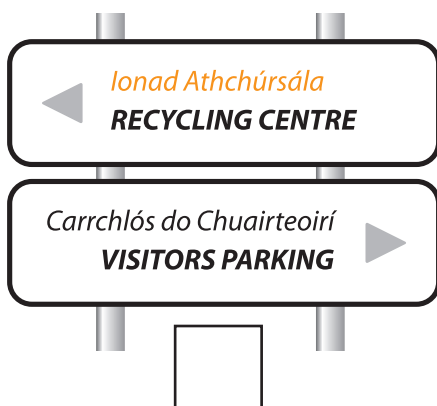
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6



7



8



Answers to worksheet on page 43

1. Correct – The text in Irish appears first; it is as prominent, visible and legible as the text in English and it communicates the same information.
2. Incorrect – A word in the text in Irish is abbreviated while that word is not abbreviated in the text in English (Comh. should read Comhairle)
3. Incorrect – The text in Irish does not convey the same information as the text in English.
4. Incorrect – The text can be in Irish only but the text cannot be in English only.
5. Correct – The text can be in Irish only.
6. Incorrect – Incorrect spelling (the sign should read Bealach Éalaithe not Bealach Éalite).
7. Incorrect - The text in Irish is not as prominent, visible or legible as the text in English.
8. Correct - The text in Irish appears first; it is as prominent, visible and legible as the text in English and it communicates the same information.

Cards for Lesson 7

These cards should be cut up by the teacher and 1 card in Irish and in English should be given to each group so that they can design appropriate stationery and signage for the public body listed on the card.

<p>Cléireach na Dála Tithe an Oireachtais Teach Laighean Baile Átha Cliath 2</p>	<p>The Clerk of the Dáil Houses of the Oireachtas Leinster House Dublin 2</p>
<p>Oifig an Ombudsman do Leanaí Teach na Mílaoise 52-56 Sráid na Trá Móire Baile Átha Cliath 1</p>	<p>Ombudsman for Children's Office Millennium House 52-56 Great Strand Street Dublin 1</p>
<p>Raidió Teilifís Éireann Domhnach Broc Baile Átha Cliath 4</p>	<p>Raidió Teilifís Éireann Donnybrook Dublin 4</p>
<p>An Bainisteoir Contae Comhairle Contae na Gaillimhe Áras an Chontae Cnoc na Radharc Gaillimh</p>	<p>The County Manager Galway County Council County Buildings Prospect Hill Galway</p>
<p>An Phríomh-Oifig Staidrimh Bóthar na Sceiche Airde Corcaigh</p>	<p>Central Statistics Office Skehard Road Cork</p>
<p>Institiúid Teicneolaíochta Bhaile Átha Luain Bóthar Bhaile Átha Cliath Baile Átha Luain Co. na hIarmhí</p>	<p>Athlone Institute of Technology Dublin Road Athlone Co. Westmeath</p>
<p>Ollscoil na hÉireann, Maigh Nuad Maigh Nuad Co. Chill Dara</p>	<p>National University of Ireland, Maynooth Maynooth Co. Kildare</p>

SIGNAGE RULES

UNDER THE OFFICIAL LANGUAGES ACT

Ceacht 7
Lesson 7



STATIONERY RULES

UNDER THE OFFICIAL LANGUAGES ACT

Ceacht
Lesson 7

Name of public body
provided bilingually

Irish appears first

Irish as prominent
as English

Irish text as large
as English text

Comhairle Contae Thiobraid Árann Thuaidh
North Tipperary County Council



Oifigí Cathartha, Bóthar Luimnigh, An tAonach, Contae Thiobraid Árann.
Civic Offices, Limerick Road, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary.

Le dea-mhéin
with compliments

Comhairle Contae Thiobraid Árann Thuaidh
North Tipperary County Council



Oifigí Cathartha, Bóthar Luimnigh, An tAonach,
Co. Thiobraid Árann.
Civic Offices, Limerick Road, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary.

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'ag obair leis an bpobal'

'working with the community'

The same
information
in Irish and
in English

Motto bilingual
or in Irish only