

Abbreviations, phonetic symbols and data presentation

nom.	– nominative
gen.	– genitive
dat.	– dative
acc.	– accusative
sg.	– singular
pl.	– plural
fut.	– future
fem.	– feminine
masc.	– masculine
deut.	– deuterotonic form in compound verbs (stressed on the second syllable), e.g. [do 'b ⁱ er ⁱ] <i>do:beir</i> – ‘(he) gives’, such forms occur independently
prot.	– prototonic form in compound verbs (stressed on the first syllable) e.g. [‘tavər ⁱ] <i>:tabair</i> – ‘(he) gives’, such forms occur only after particles, (e.g. negative or interrogative)
conj.	– conjunct form in simple verbs e.g. [b ⁱ er ⁱ] <i>:beir</i> – ‘(he) bears’, 3sg. of the verb <i>beirid</i> , such forms occur only after particles (e.g. negative or interrogative)
[ɣ]	– voiced velar fricative
[χ]	– voiceless velar fricative
[ð]	– voiced dental fricative
[θ]	– voiceless dental fricative
[N]	– tense dental nasal
[L], [R]	– tense liquids
[ṽ]	– labial nasal fricative
[ⁱ]	– palatalization
[']	– stress

Prehistoric word-forms

Old Irish word-forms

non-attested form		later non-attested form	phonetic transcription	spelling	gloss
↓		↓	↓	↓	↓
*rendu	→	*RiNdu	[R ⁱ iNd]	<i>rind</i>	– ‘star’

Orthography and pronunciation of Old Irish consonants

SYMBOLS	PRONUNCIATION		
	WORD-INITIALLY	WORD-MEDIALY	WORD-FINALLY
<i>p, t, c</i>	[p, t, k]	[b, d, g] or [p, t, k]	[b, d, g] or [p, t, k]
<i>b, d, g</i>	[b, d, g]	[v, ð, ɣ] or [b, d, g]	[v, ð, ɣ] or [b, d, g]
<i>m</i>	[m]	[v̥] or [m]	[v̥] or [m]

In order to indicate word-initial lenition, the symbols *p, t, c* are spelt as *ph, th, ch* and represent [f, θ, χ], e.g. [tʰeɣ] *teg* – ‘house’ vs. [ə ʰtʰeɣ] *a theg* – ‘his house’. Lenition is not orthographically specified in the case of *b, d, g* although in a leniting context these letters represent [v, ð, ɣ], e.g. [baL] *ball* – ‘limb’ vs. [ə ʰvaL] *a ball* – ‘his limb’.

So as to mark eclipsis, the radical *b, d, g* are spelt as *mb, nd, ng* and represent [m, N, ŋ], e.g. [bo:] *bó* – ‘cow’ vs. [ə ʰmo:] *a mbó* – ‘their cow’. No indication of nasalization occurs in the voiceless stop symbols, although they are realized as [b, d, g] in a nasalization environment, e.g. [kol] *col* – ‘sin’ vs. [ə ʰgol] *a col* – ‘their sin’.

Other relevant details of pronunciation as well as possible exceptions to these rules will be mentioned whenever necessary.