

Irish Day by Day by A.J. Hughes

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English translations of stories in the book *An Ghaeilge Ó Lá go Lá*

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1 Excuse me, who are you?

'Excuse me, but who are you?'

'I am Mary. Who are you?'

'I am Martin. Where are you from, Mary?'

'I am from Gaoth Dobhair (Gweedore), Martin.
Where are you from?'

'I am from Newry.'

'What is your job, Martin?'

'I am a cook. What is your job?'

'I am a secretary.'

'Do you like your job, Mary?'

'I do. Do you like your job, Martin?'

'No. I'd like another job.'

Questions

- 1 Who are you?
- 2 Where are you from?
- 3 What is your job?
- 4 Do you like your job?
- 5 Where is Mary from?
- 6 What is her job?
- 7 Where is Martin from?
- 8 What is his job?
- 9 Does Mary like her job?
- 10 Does Martin like his job?

Answers (to be put in the correct order)

- a I am _____
- b I am from _____
- c I am a _____
- d Yes. Or No.
- e He is from Newry.
- f she is from Gaoth Dobhair.
- g He is a chef.
- h She is a secretary.
- i Yes..
- j No.

Proverb of the day:

Speak it (the Irish language) and it will live!

2 I am Paul and I am from Cork.

I am Paul. I am from Cork. I am a lawyer.

I am Una. I am from Bangor. I am a dentist.

This is Joe. He's from Belfast. He's a doctor.

This is Peggy. She's from Galway. She's a teacher.

This is Tom. He's from Dublin. He is a postman.

This is Mary. She's from Limerick. She is a nurse.

You may not have met. John, this is Bríd. She's from Derry and she is a secretary.

Bríd, this is John. He's from Derry and he is a builder.

'How are you, John?'

'Well, Bríd. How are you?'

'Fine, thank you. Nice to meet you.'

'It is (nice), of course. We'll talk again.'

Questions

- 1 Where is Paul from?
- 2 What is his job?
- 3 Where is Úna from?
- 4 What is her job?
- 5 What is Joe's occupation?
- 6 What is Peggy's job?
- 7 Is Tom an electrician?
- 8 Is Mary a nurse?
- 9 How is John?
- 10 How is Bríd?

Answers (to be put in the correct order)

- a He is a lawyer.
- b She is a dentist.
- c He is from Cork.
- d She is from Bangor.
- e Yes.
- f No.
- g She is a teacher..
- h He is a doctor.
- i She is fine.
- j He is well.

Proverb of the day:

A handful of craft is better than a handful of gold.

3 I am from Ireland, so I am Irish.

I am Conall. I am a farmer. I am from Ireland, so I am Irish.

I am Pamela. I am an accountant. I am from England, so I am English.

That is Angus. He is a pilot. He is from Scotland. That means he is Scottish.

That is Bronwen. She is a secretary. She is from Wales. That means she is Welsh.

This is Pierre. He is a waiter. He is from France. That is the same as saying he is French.

This is Maria. She is a teacher. She is from Spain. That is the same as saying she is Spanish.

This is Hans. He is an architect. He is from Germany. That is the same as saying he is German.

That is Chuck. He is a manager. He is from America. That makes him American.

That is Nancy. She is a social worker. She is from Canada. That makes her Canadian.

This is Paolo and Claudia. They are musicians. They are from Italy. That makes them Italian.

Questions

- 1 What is Conall's job?
- 2 What country is Palmela from?
- 3 Is Angus a Scotsman?
- 4 Is Bronwen an Englishwoman?
- 5 What country is Pierre from?
- 6 What is Maria's job?
- 7 What is the name of the architect?
- 8 What is Chuck's occupation?
- 9 What is the name of the social worker?
- 10 Where are the musicians from?

Answers (to be put in the correct order)

- a She is from England.
- b He is from France.
- c They are from Italy.
- d Yes.
- e No, but a Welsh woman.
- f He is a farmer.
- g He is a manager.
- h She is a teacher.
- i Hans (is his name).
- j Nancy (her name).
- is

Proverb of the day:

- 3 People meet each other (in such unexpected places) but mountains and hills do not.

4 Things Clár Ní Dhónaill likes

I am Clár Ní Dhónaill.

I am from Gaoth Dobhair.

I am a school teacher.

I have a friend. His name is Seán.

He says he is from Belfast and that he is a musician.

I like classical music but I prefer traditional music to it.

I don't like rock music at all.

I hate it. I can't stand it.

Seán likes traditional music but he prefers classical music to any other music. He loves it.

I remember when I met Seán but Seán doesn't remember when he met me. I am surprised he doesn't remember!

I like Chinese and Italian food but I don't like fast food.

Although Seán likes Spanish food, he prefers French food to any other food.

Questions

- 1 Is Clare Ní Dhónaill from Derry?
- 2 Is she from Gaoth Dobhair?
- 3 Is Sean from Cork? He says ...
- 4 Is Sean a musician? He says ...
- 5 Does Clare like rock music?
- 6 Does Sean like traditional music?
- 7 Does Sean prefer classical music to any other music?
- 8 Does Sean remember when he met Clare?
- 9 Does Clare remember when she met Sean?
- 10 Does Sean prefer Spanish food to any other food?

Answers (to be put in the correct order)

- a Yes.
- b No.
- c He says yes.
- d He says no.
- e Yes.
- f No..
- g Yes.
- h No.
- i Yes (remembers).
- j No. (does not remember).

Proverb of the day:

You are no worse than the teacher who taught you.

5 What is your name?

I met a new boy at school a few days ago. This is how we spoke to each other:

‘What is your name?’ - ‘John.

What is your name?’ - ‘David.

How are you, John?’

‘I am fine, David.

How are you?’

‘I am fine, thank you.’

‘You have a brother at school, don’t you?’ ‘Yes, of course. He’s in tenth grade.’

‘What is his name?’ ‘Pádraig.’

‘How is he?’ ‘He’s quite good. I have a sister in year twelve.’ ‘What is her name?’ ‘Sorcha.’

‘How is she?’ ‘She’s fine.’

‘Do you see those two over there?’

‘Yes. (= I see).’

‘What are their names?’

‘Fionnuala and Gearóid.’

‘How are they?’ ‘They are not well. They are sick. They are going home.’

‘What is wrong with them?’ ‘They have a cold.’

‘That is terrible.’ ‘I know.’

‘Goodbye, David’ ‘Goodbye for now, John.

It is nice to meet you. I will see you again.’

Questions

- 1 Have they met recently?
- 2 What is the name of the new boy?
- 3 How is he?
- 4 How is Daithí (David)?
- 5 How is Pádraig (Patrick)?
- 6 Is Pádraig older than Sorchá?
- 7 Is Sorchá okay?
- 8 Why are Fionnuala and Gearóid going home?
- 9 What is the name of the school?
- 10 Will Daithí see Seán again soon?

Answers (to be put in the correct order)

- a Seán (his name).
- b He is fine.
- c He is fairlywell.
- d He is well.
- e Yes.
- f They have a cold.
- g Yes. (See you. (Ulster *tcífidh*. Std *feicfidh*).
- h We don't know. The name is not mentioned.
- i Yes.
No.

Proverb of the day:

It takes one to know one (A beetle recognizes another beetle).

6 Do you speak Irish?

'Do you speak Irish?'

'Yes, a little. I am just learning.'

'Where are you learning?'

'At an evening class.'

'Where?'

'At the University of Ulster in Belfast.'

'Who is your teacher?'

'Say that again, please.
I didn't understand you.'

'Who is your teacher?'

'Colm Ó Néill'.

'You speak good Irish. (=You have good Irish.)'

'Thank you. I don't have much now but I want to be fluent.'

'Keep going. You'll have great Irish in the future. You have good accent.'

'Do you speak Irish?'

'Yes. (I have a lot of Irish). I was brought up with Irish. I am a native speaker.'

Questions

- 1 Does she speak Irish?
- 2 Where is she learning?
- 3 Who is her teacher?
- 4 Does she want to be fluent?
- 5 Does the man speak Irish?
- 6 Do you speak Irish?
- 7 When did you start learning?
- 8 Why did you start learning?
- 9 Where did you start learning?
- 10 Will you speak good Irish in the future?

Answers (to be put in the correct order)

- a Yes (she would like).
- b No. She only knows a little bit. She is just learning. But she is interested in Irish.
- c Yes. He knows a lot of Irish. He is a native speaker. He has had it since birth.
- d She is learning at an evening class in Belfast.
- e Her teacher is Colm Ó Néill.
- f I started learning a few months ago.
- g I started learning at an evening class.
- h I hope so.
- i I started learning because I am interested in Irish.
- j Yes. I speak a little bit anyhow.

Proverb of the day:

(Even) A wise man is seldom without fault.

7 My first night at an Irish class.

I was out walking one day.

I heard people talking.

They were talking in Irish.

‘I would like to speak (= have) Irish myself’ I said to myself.

I came home and ate my dinner. I enjoyed it.

My friend called me on the phone.

‘John’ she said, ‘would you like to go to an Irish class tonight?’

‘Yes, Síle,’ I said.

We went out that night.

The class started at seven.

I learned a few things in class:

‘Who are you?’ ‘Where are you from?’

‘How are you?’ ‘Well.’

‘Bye.’ ‘Bye for now.’ ‘Good night.’

‘Sorry, I don’t understand that.’

‘Please say that again.’

‘Thank you.’ ‘Good luck.’

‘I’ll see you.’ ‘I’ll see you, definitely.’

I enjoyed the class. I can’t wait until the next class.

I like Irish. It’s a great language and I have a good teacher.

Questions

- 1 Who are you?
- 2 Where are you from?
- 3 How are you?
- 4 Was John out running?
- 5 What language did the people speak?
- 6 What did John do when he got home?
- 7 Did John shout at Síle?
- 8 Did John enjoy the class?
- 9 Does he like Irish?
- 10 Does he have a good teacher?

Answers (to be put in the correct order)

- a I am from Belfast.
- b Well, thank you. How are you?
- c I am Seán Ó Néill.
- d Irish.
- e No.
- f No.
- g He ate his dinner.
- h Yes. He says yes.
- i Yes. He enjoyed it very much.
- j Yes.

Proverb of the day:

Plenty of a little amount is better than a lot of nothing.

8 Where were you born and brought up?

I was born in Belfast. I was brought up there too. I still live in Belfast. I will stay here from now on.

Seán was born in Cork but he was not brought up there. He was brought up in Dublin. He does not live in Dublin now. He left when he was twenty. He has lived in Galway for the past six years.

Máire was born in Leeds but she was not brought up there. She was brought up in Derry. She lived in Derry until she was eighteen. She now lives in London.

I believe Peadar and Póilín were born in Armagh. I know they were brought up there. They do not live in Armagh, not for the past ten years. Peadar lives in Dundalk and Póilín lives in New York.

Pól lives in Limerick. I do not know where he is from. He said he was not born or brought up in Ireland. I think he is English. He has been living in Ireland for a long time.

We live in Tralee but we were born in England and brought up in Scotland.

Questions

- 1 Where were you born?
- 2 Where were you brought up?
- 3 Where do you live?
- 4 Where does John live?
- 5 Where does Mary live?
- 6 Was John born in Cork?
- 7 Was Mary brought in Leeds?
- 8 How long has John lived in Galway?
- 9 Where is Peter working?
- 10 Where is Paul working?

Answers (to be put in the correct order)

- a Yes. (I was born).
- b Yes (I was raised).
- c Yes..
- d Yes (Was born).
- e No. (Was not raised).
- f He is working in Dundalk.
- g She is working in New York.
- h He has been living there for the past six years.
- i He lives in Galway.
- j She now lives in London.

Proverb of the day:

What the child sees, the child does.

9 John out shopping

I woke up on Saturday morning at nine but didn't get up until ten. I washed myself and put on my clothes. I went into the kitchen. Then I made my breakfast. I had a cup of tea and ate a piece of toast.

I left the house at half past ten. It was a beautiful day. It was dry and warm. I walked into the city centre. The walk took twenty minutes.

I stopped at a clothes shop. I took a coat, a pair of trousers, a couple of shirts, a tie, a sweater and a hat. I put them on. I liked them. I kept the coat, the pair of trousers, one shirt and the sweater. I bought them. I didn't have any money but I wrote a cheque. I signed it. I didn't bother with the other things.

I got a lot of other things that day. I bought food at the supermarket. I bought a CD and a DVD at the music store. I borrowed a book from the library. I didn't walk home. I got home in a taxi. I spent a lot of money but I was happy.

Questions

- 1 Did John wake up at nine?
- 2 Did he wash himself before he put on his clothes?
- 3 Did he drink coffee that morning?
- 4 Did he drive into the city centre?
- 5 Did the walk take him half-hour?
- 6 Did he lift a belt, a cap and a scarf?
- 7 Did he keep the hat?
- 8 Did he write a cheque at the clothes shop?
- 9 Did he buy a DVD while out shopping?
- 10 Did he walk home?

Answers (to be put in the correct order)

- a No. (Didn't drink).
- b No. (Didn't drive).
- c Yes (Woke up).
- d Yes. (Washed).
- e No. (Didn't lift).
- f No. (Didn't take).
- g No. (Didn't walk).
- h Yes (Wrote).
- i Yes (Bought).
- j No. (Didn't keep).

Proverb of the day:

Listen a lot and say little.

10 Síle cleaning the apartment

I am Síle. I am from Derry but I live in Belfast. I have an apartment. I bought it last year. I really like it. It's nice and comfortable.

I didn't go out on Friday night. I stayed in. I cleaned the apartment from top to bottom. I took my clothes and washed them. That was the first thing I did. I kept on going.

I tidied up my bedroom. I made my bed. I took everything that was lying on the floor and put it in the wardrobe.

Then I went out to the living room. I swept the floor and polished the table. I got tired and hungry. I sat down and took my rest. I drank a little drop of tea and had a snack (a quick bite).

Unfortunately, I didn't stay sitting for long. I couldn't. I had too much to do. I went into the bathroom and the kitchen. I cleaned those two rooms. I was tired. I went to bed early and slept soundly. I was very pleased with myself that I had managed to get so much done.

Questions

- 1 Is she from Derry?
- 2 Does she live in Belfast?
- 3 Did she buy the flat a few years ago?
- 4 Did she finally go out the other night?
- 5 Did she make the bed before washing her clothes?
- 6 What did she do in the living room?
- 7 Did she get hungry while working?
- 8 Did she take a long break in the middle of cleaning?
- 9 Was she tired at bedtime?
- 10 Did she sleep well that night?

Answers (to be put in the correct order)

- a No. (Didn't buy).
- b Yes.
- c Yes.
- d No. (Didn't make).
- e She swept the floor and polished the table.
- f No. (Didn't go). She stayed in all night.
- g No. (Didn't).
- h Yes.(Did. She was exhausted.
- i Yes. (Slept).
- j Yes. She was exhausted.

Proverb of the day:

Cold water will burn a lazy person.

11 Conn complaining and giving off

I went on holiday last year but I wasn't happy. I was really disappointed.

I went to Spain in the summer but I didn't go at the right time. There were too many people and the weather was really hot – too hot, actually.

I saw a lot of the 'new' Spain – nightclubs, fast food and pop music – but I didn't see enough of the old Spain.

I did a lot of things early in the morning and late at night. I didn't do much in the afternoon. The heat was getting to me. I felt weak and sick.

We rented an apartment for a week but didn't get a car. I visited a castle one day. I really enjoyed that trip. I heard what the guide had to say and I was interested – but the trip didn't last long enough. I told the guide that but he didn't say anything to me. To make matters worse, I lost my coat at the airport on my way back and my camera was stolen. Such a bad time!

Questions

- 1 Was Conn happy with the holidays?
- 2 Was the sun shining in Spain?
- 3 Did he go to France?
- 4 Did he go to (visit) a castle one day?
- 5 Did he see too much of the new Spain?
- 6 Did he see enough of the old Spain?
- 7 Did he rent a car?
- 8 Did he do a lot in the evening?
- 9 Did he do a lot in the morning?
- 10 Would you like to go to Spain with Conn?

Answers (to be put in the correct order)

- a Yes (Went).
- B No (Didn't go).
- c Yes (Was).
- d No (Was not).
- e No (Didn't get).
- f Yes (Saw).
- g No. (Didn't see.)
- h No (Would not want to!) Or Yes (Would like to).
- i Yes (Did).
- jNo(Didn't).

Proverb of the day:

He who does not pity your case (dilemma), do not make your complaint to him.

12 My first journey by aeroplane

I was overjoyed when my son told me we were going on holiday but worried when he said we were going on a plane. I am afraid of flying – or was at that time. ‘Don’t worry, Mum, you’ll be fine.’

The day came. I woke up late. I was in a hurry to get to the airport. The taxi driver was angry because I hadn’t called him sooner. I was just in time for the flight. I showed my passport and boarding pass to the flight attendant at the gate. We eventually boarded the plane. I sat down, I was tired.

I had a headache but the flight attendant gave me a pill and a drink of water.

The plane took off. I was relieved then. I didn’t feel nervous and that surprised me. We had a small meal. I was hungry and thirsty by now. I ate a snack (= quick bite) and drank coffee and orange juice.

The passengers had to wait half an hour for their luggage. The bags finally arrived safely. I was sorry about the delay.

Questions

- 1 Was she happy when her son told her they were leaving?
- 2 Why did she feel hesitant when she heard about the plane trip?
- 3 What did her son ask her?
- 4 Did she get up early enough that morning?
- 5 Why was the (taxi) driver angry?
- 6 Did she have a lot of time to spare at the airport?
- 7 What did she have to show before boarding the plane?
- 8 What was the cure (offered) for the headache?
- 9 What did she have to drink with the meal?
- 10 Was the luggage delayed?

Answers (to be put in the correct order)

- a She was afraid of flying.
- b He asked her not to be sad.
- c She didn't.
- d She was invited.
- e She didn't call him in time enough.
- f Yes.
- g No.
- h A pill and a drink of water.
- i Coffee and orange juice.
- j Passport and boarding pass.

Proverb of the day:

There are very few things that do not turn out not to be helpful.

13 I was lying in bed on Halloween night ...

I was lying on my bed but I wasn't asleep. I had just had a terrible dream. It was a strange dream – a nightmare.

I was sitting at a table and a big, fierce, black dog was standing at one door. An old gray woman was standing at another door. The old woman and the dog lived in the house. I lived on the top of the house. I wanted to escape but I stayed silent.

The dog was the old woman's guard dog. It seemed that I was her servant boy. She was the mistress of the house. Even though we lived in the house and slept there every night, I wasn't allowed to leave it. I felt like a prisoner. Wherever I went, both of them walked behind me, following me.

Suddenly, the old woman turned into a cat and I turned into a mouse. She jumped on top of me. She opened her mouth. I saw her long, sharp, white teeth. She was about to eat me but I woke up.

Questions

- 1 Was anyone helping him in this strange dream?
- 2 Who was watching him as he sat at the table?
- 3 Where were the old woman and the dog sitting?
- 4 Did he talk to either of them?
- 5 What was his job in the dream?
- 6 Was he allowed to leave the big house?
- 7 How did he feel in the house?
- 8 Were the old woman and the dog following him?
- 9 Did the old woman turn into a cat?
- 10 Did he turn into a mouse?

Answers (to be put in the correct order)

- a Yes.
- b No.
- c They were living in the big house.
- d The dog and the old woman.
- e He was the old woman's servant boy.
- f No.
- g It seems he was.
- h Yes.
- i He felt like a prisoner there.
- j He did not speak.

Proverb of the day:

Leave me alone and I will leave you alone.

14 Phone, fax and email

‘What is your phone number?’

If someone asks me that question, I say: ‘Which one? Which phone (do you mean)?’

I have a couple of phones – three, actually. I have a phone at home. Here’s the number: nine, seven, five, three, zero, four, one, six.

I also have a mobile phone. Here’s the number for that. Write it down. Zero, seven, five, six, nine, two, one, seven, seven, four, three. Don’t lose it!

I have a work phone. Write down this number: seven, eight, five, three, six, nine, zero, four.

I also have a fax machine at work: seven, eight, five, six, zero three, nine, seven. I rarely send faxes.

I also have an email. Here is my address for that (all lowercase): c.macsuibhne@gael.com.ie

I used to have a ‘pay and collect’ card for my mobile phone but now I have a contract phone. I send texts often.

I am on the internet almost every day.

Questions

- 1 How many phones does he have?
- 2 What is his home number?
- 3 What is his mobile number?
- 4 What is his work number?
- 5 Does he have a fax number? Give it to me, please.
- 6 Does he send texts often?
- 7 Could someone send him an email?
- 8 Does he still have a 'pay and collect' card for his mobile phone?
- 9 Is he on the internet almost every day?
- 10 What is your own phone number?

Answers (to be put in the correct order)

- a 78536943
- b 97530416
- c 07549217743
- d Three. (Or Three.)
- e Yes. Wait a minute, please. This is: 78540397.
- f Yes.
- g No.
- h No.
- i Yes.
- j Make up a number and write it out in words. Make up a number and write it out in words.

Proverb of the day:

People survive in each other's shadow.

15 My Family

I am Mánas Mag Uidhir.(Maguire) I am from Enniskillen. There are seven people in my family: me, my parents, three sisters and one brother.

My father is the oldest in the family. He is forty-two. My mother is thirty-nine. Daddy is three years older than Mammyí but he prefers to say that Mammy is three years younger than him.

Máire is the oldest of the children, she is eighteen years old. Aodh(Hugh) is the youngest in the family. He is five years old. I am the middle child. I am twelve years old. Úna is thirteen years old – one year older than me. That leaves Méabh. She is eight years old – four years younger than me. I have many other relatives.

I have ten uncles and seven aunts. My father has six brothers and two sisters and Mum has four brothers and five sisters. Both of my grandfathers and grandmothers are still alive. I have twenty cousins but no nephews or nieces.

Questions

- 1 Is Mánas from County Fermanagh?
- 2 How many sons and daughters do Mánas's parents have.
- 3 How old will Mánas's mother be on her next birthday?
- 4 Who is the oldest of the children?
- 5 Who is the youngest?
- 6 How many years are there between Máire and Aodh?
- 7 Is Mánas the middle child in the family?
- 8 Is Máebh a teenager?
- 9 Does Mánas have more aunts than uncles?
- 10 Are both grandfathers and both grandmothers still alive?

Answers (to be put in the correct order)

- a She will be forty years old.
- b Yes.
- c No.
- d Yes.
- e Yes.
- f No.
- g They are twelve years between them.
- h They have two sons and three daughters.
- i Mary is the oldest of the children.
- j Hugh is the youngest.

Proverb of the day:

Blood is be thicker than water. (Family is more important than strangers).

16 I have long black hair

I am sixteen years old. I am tall and thin. I have blue eyes and brown hair. I am five feet three inches tall. I weigh nine stone. I am shy, quiet and lazy.

I have a sister. She is eighteen years old. She is like me in the face. Her eyes are blue. She has red hair. Her hair is long and curly but mine is short and straight. She is pretty, talkative, lively and funny.

My mother is thirty-eight years old. She is not very tall, five feet one inch. She is not thin or fat. She weighs ten stone three pounds. Her eyes are brown. She has long blond hair. She is sensible and extremely generous.

My father is forty-two years old. He is quite short, five feet six inches. He is heavy - thirteen stone nine pounds. He has black hair, but it is turning grey. His eyes are green. He is capable, handsome but quiet. He is a calm person. He has no beard or mustache. He has a sense of humour and patience.

Questions

- 1 Is the first speaker a teenager?
- 2 Is he small, fat?
- 3 What colour are his eyes?
- 4 Is he taller than his mother?
- 5 Is he lazy?
- 6 How old is the sister?
(= How old is the sister?)
- 7 When will his mother be forty? (When will?)
- 8 Who is taller, the mother or the father?
- 9 Does the father have a lot to say?
- 10 Does he shave himself regularly?

Answers (to be put in the correct order)

- a Yes.
- b No.
- c Yes.
- d No.
- e Yes.
- f No.
- g Blue.
- h The father.
- i She is eighteen years old.
- j In two years.

Proverb of the day

If related, not similar.

17 Happy birthday to you, but on what date?

I was finally given a calendar. I took it home with me. I hung it up in the kitchen. I wrote down when everyone in the family had a birthday. I did this so that I would remember those dates.

No one in the house has a birthday in January or February. Mary's birthday is on the fifth of March and John's is on the tenth of April. May, June and July are free.

Caitlin's birthday is on the twenty-fourth of September. James's birthday is next, which falls on the third of October. Paul's big day is on the thirtieth of November. He will be eighteen. That must be celebrated.

Before I forget, my own birthday is on the eighth of December. I will write that in block letters - just in case. I don't want to be forgotten! I hope I get a present.

Questions

- 1 Did she have to buy the calendar?
- 2 Where did she hang the calendar?
- 3 Why did she write everyone's birthday on the calendar?
- 4 Will she have to buy a present in January?
- 5 Was Mary born in the autumn?
- 6 When is John's birthday?
- 7 Who was born on the last day of November?
- 8 How will she write her own birthday on the calendar?
- 9 Why will she do that?
- 10 When do you think she will get (= will she get) another present that month?

Answers (to be put in the correct order)

- a Paul.
- b No.
- c No. She got it for free.
- d She hung it up in the kitchen.
- e In block letters.
- f So that she would remember everyone's birthday in the house.
- g So that her own birthday would not be forgotten.
- h On the twenty-fifth, Christmas day.
- i No (Not born).
- j On the tenth of April.

Proverb of the day:

Out of sight, out of mind.

- 18 The vessel only holds its fill.

18 The week's shopping

I had to get a pen and write a list of the things I needed. I drove to the supermarket, parked the car and took a trolley with me.

We needed food. Chicken, fish and meat – sausages, pork, ham, steak and chips. We also needed vegetables: potatoes, tomatoes, lettuce, cucumber, carrots, peas, beans, kale, mushrooms and onions.

We also needed fruit: apples, oranges, lemons, pears, plums, bananas, grapes and strawberries.

I walked over to the fridges. I took out milk, butter, fresh cream, eggs, orange juice, yoghurt, cheese, ice cream and truffles. The trolley was almost full but I wasn't finished yet – don't worry.

I got bread – croissants, rolls, buns, cake and biscuits. I looked for sauce, salt, pepper, vinegar, tea, coffee and sugar. There was also soap, razors, shaving foam, toothpaste and washing powder to buy. The bill was very expensive – no wonder! I paid it with a credit card.

Questions

- 1 Did she remember everything she needed in her head?
- 2 How did she get to the supermarket?
- 3 Did she carry the food in a basket?
- 4 Did she buy the meat before she bought the vegetables?
- 5 Did she look for sauce before she went to the fridge?
- 6 Why are things like milk and butter kept in the fridge?
- 7 Did she buy duck or lamb?
- 8 If you were in the queue behind this woman, would you have waited long?
- 9 Would you be surprised (to learn) that she spent an hour in the supermarket?
- 10 Did the shopping cost a lot?

Answers (to be put in the correct order)

- a Yes (Bought).
- b No. (Didn't buy.)
- c No (Didn't keep). She had a lot more to buy.
- d No (Didn't carry).
- e She drove to it in the car.
- f Yes (Would).
- g No (Would not).
- h No (Didn't look for).
- i Yes. (Walked).
- j They won't get lost so quickly there.

Proverb of the day:

The vessel only holds its fill.

19 Post Office: A stamp is needed

When I had eaten my breakfast and washed and dried the dishes, I went out to the post office.

I had written a letter to a friend of mine but I didn't have an envelope or a stamp for it. I bought three first-class stamps and two second-class. I also bought a few postcards. I then posted the letter.

I had to collect the pension for my grandmother. The postmistress knows us well.

My sister needed a phone card and my father needed euros. I changed one hundred pounds Sterling and got one hundred and forty euros – minus the commission, of course, three per cent.

My mother had a parcel to send to her aunt. I put that on the scales. I then had to pay the postage. I also had a bill to pay. I had intended to write a cheque but I forgot to bring my cheque book. I went over to the 'hole in the wall' (cash dispenser) and withdrew the money.

Questions

- 1 Had she got everything ready before she left the house?
- 2 Where was she going?
- 3 What did she need for the letter?
- 4 How many stamps did she buy?
- 5 How do you know that her grandmother left her job?
- 6 What did her sister need?
- 7 What did her father need?
- 8 Did she weigh the bag?
- 9 Did she bring her cheque book.
- 10 Did she pay the bill with cash?

Answers (to be put in the correct order)

- a She was going to the post office.
- b She needed an envelope and a stamp.
- c She needed a phone card.
- d She wanted euros.
- e Yes (Had).
- f Yes (Paid).
- g Yes (Weighed).
- h No (Didn't give).
- i Five. (Or Five.)
- j She was going to collect her pension.

Proverb of the day:

The pen is mightier than the sword!

20 Turn right and then left

I got a job in an information (tourist) office during the summer. I gave people a lot of directions during my working day. Here are a few examples.

‘Where is the bank, sir?’ ‘Go out, turn left, walk to the corner turn right and you will see (Ulster = you will see Standard) the bank is in front of you.’

‘Excuse me, please, I am lost. Where is the post office?’

‘Go out, turn right and walk straight ahead. Take the third street on the right and walk down a little. Turn left and there will be a theatre. The post office is next to that.’

‘Where is the restaurant, please?’

‘Take the stairs to the second floor. Turn right and go down the passage to the first door on the left’.

‘Is there a lift?’

‘Yes. It’s behind you - under the stairs.’

‘Where is the museum?’ ‘Go out and walk across the street. Go down a little lane next to the church. You’ll come out at the museum. Here’s a map.’

Questions

- 1 Where did he work during the summer?
- 2 Did he help a lot of people while doing the job?
- 3 Where would you go to change euros into sterling?
- 4 Where would you go to buy stamps?
- 5 Are the theatre and the post office next to each other?
- 6 Is the restaurant on the ground floor?
- 7 Where is the lift located?
- 8 Was one visitor trying to find the museum?
- 9 Did that visitor have to walk down a path to reach the museum?
- 10 Was that visitor given a map?

Answers (to be put in the correct order)

- a Yes (Helped).
- b Yes.
- c He was employed in a tourist office.
- d I would go to the bank.
- e I would go to the post office.
- f Yes (Was given).
- g Under the stairs.
- h Yes (Had to).
- i Yes.
- j No.

Proverb of the day:

- 20 Asking (a question) is the door to knowledge.

21 The weather: It is a nice day.

We have had mixed weather this past week. I have never seen anything like it. The weather has been upside down!

It was a nice day on Monday. It was warm and the sun was shining. Tuesday changed. It was dry but cloudy. There was no wind or rain.

It was wet on Wednesday. There was fog and showers in the morning. It got worse in the afternoon. It was raining heavily. Thursday was a bad day. It was raining. It did not stop raining at all that day. I was drenched to the skin – soaked!

Things got worse on Friday morning. There was frost and hail. It was snowing at lunchtime. By tea time, it was snowing. The roads were slippery. That didn't last long. A thaw came on Saturday.

It was a very stormy Sunday. The wind was blowing hard. There was thunder and lightning. The storm lasted all night. I didn't leave the house. I stayed inside. I hope it will be a fine day tomorrow.

Questions

- 1 Was the weather tempremental last week?
- 2 Was there frost on Monday?
- 3 Did the temperature drop on Wednesday?
- 4 Did the rain last all morning on Wednesday?
- 5 Did the rain last all day on Thursday?
- 6 Was it wet on Thursday?
- 7 Did the weather improve on Friday morning?
- 8 Why didn't he drive his car after tea on Friday?
- 9 Did the temperature drop on Saturday?
- 10 On which day was there a storm or gale?

Answers (to be put in the correct order)

- a Yes (Fell).
- b No (Did not fall).
- c Yes (Lasted).
- d No (Didn't last).
- e Yes (Was).
- f No (Wasn't).
- g Sunday.
- h The roads were slippery and dangerous.
- i No (Didn't).
- j Yes (Got wet).

Proverb of the day:

There is no flood however great that does not subside.

22 I drank tea before I ate food

I got up yesterday - but I woke up before I got up of course! I ate a big breakfast but I drank a cup of tea before I ate food. I washed myself before I put on my clothes. I put my bag in the car before I drove to the office.

I went into the director's office before I went into my own office. He saw me before I saw him. 'Late again?' 'Oh, not at all. I was here before anyone else was.' He asked me to sit down. Which I did.

He sat down to discuss figures with me, but he made a phone call before he did that. That gave me a chance to go out and have a little cup of coffee before the meeting started. The meeting started at a quarter past nine but it was over before ten – fortunately.

I had to write a letter. I gave a copy to my colleague. She read it to me before I posted it. I had an appointment with the lawyer at eleven. I read the emails before I left the office. I got back before lunch.

Questions

- 1 Did she get up before she woke up yesterday?
- 2 Did she eat a light breakfast?
- 3 Did she dress before she washed?
- 4 Was she in the office before the director came in?
- 5 Did she tell him the truth?
- 6 Did she sit down before he asked her to sit down?
- 7 Did the director talk on the phone just before he discussed the figures with her?
- 8 Did she get a chance to go out and have a cup of coffee before the meeting?
- 9 Did her colleague read the letter she had written before she posted it?
- 10 Did she read the emails before he went to see the lawyer?

Answers (to be put in the correct order)

- a Yes.
- b No.
- c No, she woke up early.
- d No, (she didn't eat).
- e No, (she didn't sit).
- f No, (she didn't tell).
- g No, (she didn't dress).
- h Yes (Got).
- i Yes (Read).
- J Yes (Spoke).

Proverb of the day:

Hunger is good sauce.

23 Choice of food and choice of drink

We recently had a big event - a celebration. We booked a table at a local restaurant. We had a large group of people there. There were four people sitting at each table.

The waiter came around and gave everyone a menu. We took our time. Everyone ordered a starter, a main course and a dessert.

I started with smoked salmon. I then had chicken, potatoes and cabbage. I had pudding and cream for dessert. My colleague had soup and then steak, chips and carrots. He chose apple tart and ice cream as dessert.

Two strangers were sitting with us. One of them had a salad and goats cheese; duck, champ (mashed potatoes with spring onions) and turnips. He had chocolate cake for his third course. The other chose an omelette; lamb, garlic potatoes and peas. She finished with a fruit salad and a cup of coffee.

The meal was delicious and the service was excellent. We paid the bill and gave the waiter a generous tip.

Questions

- 1 Did they go out a long time ago?
- 2 Was there a large crowd at the meal?
- 3 Were they in a hurry ordering (their food)?
- 4 Was it a self-service restaurant?
- 5 Was there cabbage on the menu?
- 6 What did the first stranger eat?
- 7 How do you know the second stranger liked eggs?
- 8 Did everyone in the company enjoy the meal?
- 9 How was the service?
- 10 Was the waiter given anything at the end of the night?

Answers (to be put in the correct order)

- a Yes.
- b No.
- c Yes.
- d No.
- e She was fine.
- f Yes.
- g Yes. A tip was left on the table for him.
- h No.
- i She ordered an egg as a starter.
- j He ate a salad and goat's cheese first, then duck, champ and turnips. He had a chocolate cake for dessert.

Proverb of the day:

- 23 Eat it or it will be eaten after you.

24 How did you break the camera?

‘How did you break the camera, son? And where did you break it?’ my father asked me. ‘It fell out of my hand while I was buying new film for it’, I said.

‘When did you buy the film?’ ‘Yesterday morning.’ ‘Why did you buy a new one?’ ‘The old one was full.’ ‘Where did you buy the film?’ ‘At the shopping mall.’

‘How did you get out there?’ ‘My friend gave me a lift.’ ‘Why did you go there?’ ‘I needed a few things from the other shops.’

‘What did you need?’ ‘Sports shoes and a raincoat.’ ‘Why did you need a coat like that? Didn’t you buy one a month ago?’ ‘I bought one, but it was lost.’

‘Who lost it?’ ‘Me, of course.’ ‘Where did you lose it?’ ‘At school?’ ‘What did you do with it?’ ‘I left it in the sports hall.’ ‘Why did you do that?’ ‘I had a game and I left without it.’ ‘How did you leave without it?’ ‘I don’t know.’ ‘Where did you go?’ ‘To the party.’

Questions

- 1 How did he break the camera?
- 2 Did he take any photos with the camera before he broke it?
- 3 If today is Saturday, when did he buy the new film?
- 4 Why did he buy the new film?
- 5 Where did he buy the film?
- 6 What else did the son need besides the new film?
- 7 What happened to his coat?
- 8 How did he lose it?
- 9 How did he forget it?
- 10 Where did he go after the game? (**i ndiaidh** 'after' Ulster = **tar éis** other dialects).

Answers (to be put in the correct order)

- a On Friday.
- b He obviously needed another one.
- c He also needed sports shoes and a raincoat.
- d It seems to have been lost.
- e It slipped out of his hand while he was buying a new film.
- f In the shopping centre.
- g He was so excited after the game that he forgot all about the coat (= the coat went out off his head).
- h He went to the gym.
- i He certainly did (= definitely took), for the old film was full.
- j He left it behind in the sports hall.

Proverb of the day:

It is not a fence in the sky (i.e. It is not an insurmountable problem).

25 Health, illness and treatment

I had a cold a few days ago. I had a headache and I was hoarse. I took a few pills and drank a hot drink.

We had a terrible year last year. Almost everyone in the house was sick.

My wife had an accident. She fell. She broke her arm and hurt her leg. She had to stay in bed for a few months. We looked after her at home and she recovered. She is back to normal now, thank God.

The youngest child had a tooth extraction in July. I made an appointment with the dentist. She was given an injection and the tooth was extracted. She is fine now.

My son was playing outside in the street. He was hit by a car. I called an ambulance. He was taken to the hospital. He was badly injured. The nurses and doctors were very good. They got him out of danger. He is recovering well.

The twins had measles but that didn't last long. My father cut his finger. It received six stitches. His finger was bandaged and it healed.

Questions

- 1 Did he have a bad cold?
- 2 What did it take to cure it?
- 3 Was everyone in good health?
- 4 What happened to his wife?
- 5 How long was she in bed?
- 6 Was she cared for in the hospital during that time?
- 7 Who in the house had a toothache?
- 8 How did the son get to the hospital?
- 9 Was the son badly injured?
- 10 Why was his father bleeding?

Answers (to be put in the correct order)

- a Tablets and a hot drink.
- b Yes.
- c No, unfortunately.
- d She had to stay in bed for a few months.
- e Yes (Was injured).
- f No (Not given).
- g She had an accident.
- h Because he cut his finger.
- i The youngest child.
- j He was taken there in the ambulance.

Proverb of the day:

A shoulder is bare without a brother.

26 The treasure that was kept in the attic

I was told something the other day that surprised me. A house was sold to a couple and they moved (went) in. Treasure was hidden in bags and kept up in the attic. Gold and jewels were found in them.

An old man was seen approaching (pulling up to) the house years ago but his face was never seen. It was thought that he was the one who left the bags there, but it was not certain. It was never found who he was and he was not heard from again.

When the treasure was found, the police were called. The bags were taken down to the station and locked up there. A major investigation was carried out but the owner of this wealth was never found.

The treasure was not touched for a year and then an email was sent to the couple. They were asked to come to the station. They were told that they could take the stuff home with them.

The bags were taken home. They were left up in the attic again. In the middle of the night they were stolen! An old man was seen carrying them on his back - but that story was not believed.

Questions

- 1 Was this story told to her a long time ago?
- 2 Was she alarmed when she heard the story?
- 3 Was the house sold to one person?
- 4 Was the treasure hidden outside the house?
- 5 Was the old man's face ever seen?
- 6 Were the bags taken to the police station?
- 7 Was the treasure investigated?
- 8 Were the couple allowed to keep the treasure when the year was up?
- 9 Was the house broken into in the middle of the night?
- 10 Were the bags pinched from the attic?

Answers (to be put in the correct order)

- a Yes (Was removed).
- b No (Not sold).
- c No (Not invited).
- d No (Not told).
- e No (Not seen).
- f Yes (Was broken).
- g Yes (Was brought).
- h Yes (Was stolen).
- i Yes (They were let).
- j Yes (Was done).

Proverb of the day:

An eye avoids what it does not see.

27 John Doherty during the week

John Doherty gets up early in the morning. The clock strikes and he gets up right away (= he is in his sitting on the minute). He washes himself and puts on his clothes.

He comes downstairs and prepares his breakfast. He spends a little time watching the news at half past seven. He leaves for work ten minutes later.

He usually drives to the office in his own car. Occasionally, if the weather is good - and if he has the time - he walks into the office.

He brings sandwiches and a bottle of water for lunch. He stops the car at a small shop. The small shop is located between his house and the office. He buys sweets and a newspaper or magazine in that shop.

He eats the sandwiches, drinks the water and reads the paper at lunchtime. He sits down and talks to his friends. He enjoys the fun and the company. He stops for lunch at one o'clock. He starts work again at two.

Questions

- 1 Does Seán get up late every day?
- 2 Does he get up right away when the [alarm] clock goes off (= strikes) in the morning?
- 3 Does he live in a bungalow?
- 4 Does he watch television in the morning?
- 5 Does he leave the house before eight?
- 6 Does he have a driving licence?
- 7 Does he bring his own lunch?
- 8 Does the shopkeeper give him the newspaper for free?
- 9 Does he play football at lunchtime?
- 10 Does he have an hour for lunch?

Answers (to be put in the correct order)

- a Yes.
- b No.
- c Yes (Gets up).
- d No (Doesn't get up).
- e Yes (Gives).
- f No (Doesn't give).
- g Yes (Leaves).
- h Yes (Watches).
- i Yes.
- j No (Doesn't play).

Proverb of the day:

27 The fox (= red dog) never got a better messenger than himself.

28 A Day with Bríd Ní Dhochartaigh

Bríd Ní Dhochartaigh (Briget Doherty) is a nurse. She is originally from Gaoth Dobhair but lives in Dublin. She visits Gaoth Dobhair once a month.

She spends half the year on nightshift (= working at night) and the other half working on the dayshift (= during the day). She works during the day these days. She likes that better.

She starts her work at nine o'clock and usually finishes at half past four. When the day is over she gives her friend Síle a lift home.

Bríd drops Síle off at her own house and then drives home. She goes out to the supermarket every Thursday night. She buys food and supplies for the week there. She fills the car!

She usually comes home at half past five. She doesn't watch TV when she gets home. She listens to music. She plays a CD or tape. She enjoys classical music because it relaxes her. It is an escape from the pressures of life for her.

Questions

- 1 Is Bríd from Dublin?
- 2 Is Bríd a nurse?
- 3 Does she go to Gaoth Dobhair during the year?
- 4 Does she go to the supermarket on Wednesday nights?
- 5 Does she buy a lot of things at the supermarket?
- 6 Does Nuala walk home every day?
- 7 Does Bríd watch television when she gets home?
- 8 Does she leave the house before five?
- 9 Does she enjoy music?
- 10 Does music put her in a good mood?

Answers (to be put in the correct order)

- a Yes.
- b No.
- c Yes.
- d No.
- e No (Doesn't walk).
- f No (Doesn't watch 'look on').
- g Yes (Buys).
- h Yes (Puts).
- i Yes (Does).
- j No (Doesn't reach).

Proverb of the day:

28 Health is better than wealth.

29 I get up, do a day's work and go to bed

I get up in the morning at eight. I wash myself, put on my clothes and eat my breakfast. I leave the house at half past eight and arrive at my work half an hour later. I start straight away and do a fair day's work. I finish at four.

I spend half an hour travelling from the office to the house. When I'm finished with dinner, I go out for a walk. I come back and sit down for a while. If I hear the children fighting I tell them to stop. I talk to them and listen to both sides of the story. I then try to resolve the situation.

If it's not too late, I play a game with them or tell them a story. I put them to bed at nine. I watch TV for a while. If there is anything interesting on, I watch it. If not, I listen to the radio or read the newspaper.

I get fairly tired around half past ten. If I get a chance, I leave my clothes out and prepare lunch for the next day. But if I feel too tired, I undress and go to bed.

Questions

- 1 Do you get dressed before breakfast?
- 2 Do you spend three hours getting the house ready in the morning?
- 3 What time do you usually finish your work?
- 4 Does the workday end before five?
- 5 What do you ask the children to do if you hear them fighting?
- 6 Do you try to keep the children peaceful?
- 7 Do you play a game with the children if you have the chance?
- 8 Do the children go to bed before ten?
- 9 Do you sometimes read the newspaper?
- 10 Do you go to bed if you have a headache?

Answers (to be put in the correct order)

- a At nine o'clock.
- b Yes (Comes).
- c Yes (I get dressed).
- d I don't wear.
- e No (I do. Or *Ghním*. Ulster.)
- f Yes (There is).
- g Yes. (I go).
- h I ask them to get up.
- i Yes (I play.)
- j Yes (I jump).

Proverb of the day:

Up for a while, down for a while. (= Life has its ups and downs).

30 Clíona Ní Eara (C. O'Hara) from Thornhill (school in Derry)

I am Clíona Ní Eara. I am a school student. I attend Thornhill College in Derry. I am in year eleven. I arrive at school every morning shortly before nine. I come to school by bus – with my friend Úna.

The school day starts at a quarter past nine. Here is my timetable for Tuesday. Home Economics, Technology and Spanish.

I have a break then – and I need it! I have Irish, Latin and English afterwards I eat my lunch in the school canteen every day. It is delicious.

After lunch, I have Computing, Maths, Science and History. Thursday is my favourite day at school because I have Music and Physical Education that day. Music is my favourite subject and Physics is my worst subject. I love Irish and Spanish. I am passionate about languages. I am very interested in them.

Although I like Science, I prefer Maths. I like my school.

Questions

- 1 What school does she attend?
- 2 What time does she leave (the house) for school?
- 3 How does she get to school?
- 4 What subject does she have in second class on Tuesday?
- 5 Does she look forward to the morning break?
- 6 Where does she eat her lunch every day?
- 7 What day of the week is her favourite?
- 8 What is her favourite subject?
- 9 What is her least favourite subject?
- 10 Which does she prefer Science or Maths?

Answers (to be put in the correct order)

- a She reaches school shortly before nine.
- b She goes to school by bus.
- c She attends Thornhill College in Derry.
- d Yes. She really looks forward to it.
- e She has Technology at that time.
- f Physics is her least favourite (worst) subject.
- g Music is her preferred (best) subject.
- h She eats her lunch in the school canteen.
- i (She prefers) Maths.
- j Thursday is her best day of the week.

Proverb of the day:

- 30 If you don't sow in the spring, you won't reap in the autumn.

31 Micheál Ó Baoill from St. Patrick's College

My name is Micheál Ó Baoill (Michael Boyle). I am a school student. I attend St. Patrick's College, Belfast. I am in year ten. I get to school every morning at ten to nine. My father gives me a lift to school.

Classes start at nine. This is my timetable for Monday. English, Irish, Maths and then a break. Chemistry, Physics, Biology and then I have lunch. I bring sandwiches and fruit and eat them. I also drink a bottle of water.

In the afternoon, I have History, French, Religious Studies and Geography. Tuesday is my favourite day of the week. I have Physical Education and Drama on that day. I love those subjects. Irish is my favourite subject but Maths is my worst subject.

Although I like Geography and English, I prefer History to them. I like the college. The teachers are nice and kind. I have good friends at school. I am proud of my school. I am involved in everything. I enjoy that.

Questions

- 1 Where is Micheál at school?
- 2 What year is he in?
- 3 What time does he get to school every morning?
- 4 How does he get to school?
- 5 What time does the school day start?
- 6 Does he have an Irish class before his Chemistry class?
- 7 What does he eat at lunchtime?
- 8 What is his favourite day of the week?
- 9 What is his favourite subject at school?
- 10 Does he prefer History to English?

Answers (to be put in the correct order)

- a He arrives at school at ten and nine.
- b He attends St. Patrick's College in Belfast.
- c He is in year ten.
- d School starts at nine o'clock.
- e His father gives him a lift in the car.
- f He eats sandwiches and fruit.
- g Yes.
- h Yes (prefers).
- i Tuesday is his favourite day.
- j Irish is his favourite subject.

Proverb of the day:

- 31 A good beginning is half the work.

32 Anna Ní Anluain from Scoil Chaitríona (Anna O'Hanlon from St Catherine's)

I attend Saint Catherine's in Armagh. I am in year fifteen. The school day ends at half past three. I come home on my bike.

I always have a lot of homework to do. My mother is always nagging me because she thinks I don't study enough. 'Get down to work, daughter!' 'How can you study and watch TV at the same time?'

I don't study much before tea time. I call friends from school or they call me. Then I sit down in the living room and spend a while watching TV.

After dinner, I go to my bedroom and study for a couple of hours. If I get tired, I stop for a while. I usually go ahead and finish my homework. After that I don't feel pressured. I spend the rest of the night playing games on the computer – that is, or talking to my brother. I go to bed early.

Questions

- 1 What is Anna's occupation?
- 2 Is she an active person? Why?
- 3 Does Anna get a lift home?
- 4 Does her mother give out to her out to do her homework?
- 5 Does she use the phone before tea time?
- 6 Can a person study and watch TV at the same time?
- 7 When does she do her homework?
- 8 Does she feel relieved when she finishes her homework?
- 9 Is Anna skilled with computers?
- 10 Does she sit still?

Answers (to be put in the correct order)

- a Yes. She rides her bicycle every day.
- b She is a school student.
- c She is.
- d She is not.
- e She gives. (Or *Bheir*. (as opposed to Std *Tugann* Ulster.)
- f She does her homework after dinner.
- g Yes.
- h Yes.
- i No.
- j No (Can't). (a parent would say). Yes (Can) (a schoolgirl would say).

Proverb of the day:

- 32 Better is the donkey that carries you than the horse that throws you.

33 Paul Maguire relaxing (taking his rest).

Paul Maguire comes home from work at six. He takes off his coat and puts the kettle on (down). He cleans the house a little. He then drinks a cup of tea and eats a few biscuits. He enjoys that. He enjoys the little break.

He prepares his dinner at half past six. He doesn't go out on Tuesday night. He stays in. He washes the dishes, dries them and puts them in the cupboard. His friend visits him. They sit down and talk to them. They spend the night talking. They have a good, stimulating conversation together.

They discuss a lot of topics together: current affairs, politics, music, sport and films. They play a game of scrabble now and then but Pól always loses. He doesn't care. 'It's just a game,' he says – and he's right!

They rent a video sometimes but this only happens once a month. His friend writes short stories. Pól reads them and tells her what he thinks of them. He usually highly recommends them.

Questions

- 1 What time does Pól get home?
- 2 Does he keep his coat on in the house?
- 3 Does he have a cup of tea when he comes in? (coming in for him?)
- 4 Does Pól enjoy tea?
- 5 Is there a television and radio in the house?
- 6 Is the house empty on Tuesday nights?
- 7 Do they have long, interesting conversations together?
- 8 Does Paul win the game of scrabble?
- 9 Does he mind if he loses?
- 10 Do they rent a video every week?

Answers (to be put in the correct order)

- a Yes.
- b No.
- c Yes.
- d No.
- e He comes home at six (o'clock).
- f No.
- g No.
- h I'm not sure, he doesn't mention either.
- i Yes. They spend a few hours talking to each other.
- j No.

Proverb of the day:

- 33 Spill your drink (wastefully) and you will be thirsty.

34 Máire Ní Bhaoill's (Mary Boyle's) Pastimes

Máire Ní Bhaoill is a busy woman. She is a bank manager. She enjoys her work but she also enjoys her hobbies.

She is very fond of sports: she plays tennis and golf. She swims once a week and also goes for a walk every night. She has a yoga class on Mondays. Her friend Róise comes with her.

She is interested in music. She plays the guitar and sings. She composes songs. Róise listens to them. Róise plays the violin. The two of them practice regularly together at Máire's house.

Máire spends a lot of time reading. She reads the newspaper every day and a novel once a fortnight. She is interested in drama and is an excellent actress! They are currently preparing for a drama festival. That takes up a lot of time.

She has a lot going on. She doesn't have a minute to spare because she's so busy. That's how she likes it. She lives a full life. She's always going for it. She never stops.

Questions

- 1 Is Máire Ní Bhaoill a lazy woman?
- 2 Is she a bank manager?
- 3 Does she like sports?
- 4 What does she do on Monday nights?
- 5 Does she go to yoga class by herself?
- 6 What instrument does Róise play?
- 7 Do the two of them often play music together?
- 8 Does Máire read a magazine every day?
- 9 Does she take part in drama?
- 10 Does she have too much going on?

Answers (to be put in the correct order)

- a Yes.
- b No.
- c She goes out to yoga class.
- d She plays the fiddle.
- e Yes. She adores it.
- f Yes. Or No.
- g No.(Róise accompanies her.)
- h Yes (Accepts).
- i No (Does not study).
- j Yes. (Plays.)

Proverb of the day:

- 34 A loser has a say.

35 Colm Mac Maoláin: worker and hurler

My name is Colm Mac Maoláin (Colm McMulla) and I am from County Antrim. I am a mechanic. I work hard during the week. At the end of the week I like to relax.

I have a few hobbies. I play hurling. I train a few nights a week and I have a game every Sunday afternoon. The training and playing keep me very fit.

I go fishing every Saturday morning. I take my rod with me and sit at the pier. I spend at least a few hours there. I only catch a fish occasionally, but I don't mind that because I like the peace and quiet.

I usually read a lot. I read the newspaper every day and a sports magazine once a week. I read a couple of novels a month. I listen to the radio during the day while I work in the garage. I watch TV at night. I enjoy sports programmes, films and 'soap operas'.

I am lucky or I enjoy my work and my hobbies.

Questions

- 1 Is Colm a lorry driver?
- 2 Is he from County Antrim?
- 3 Does he work hard from Monday to Friday?
- 4 Does he play golf often?
- 5 Does he play a game every Sunday?
- 6 Does he think that training and playing do him good?
- 7 Will you see him at the seaside on Saturday?
- 8 Is the garage quiet during the day?
- 9 Does he spend a lot of time reading?
- 10 Does he like sports programmes?

Answers (to be put in the correct order)

- a Yes.
- b No, just a mechanic.
- c Yes (Plays).
- d No (Doesn't play).
- e Yes.
- f No.
- g Yes Will see. (Or *tChífidh*. Ulster Irish, as opposed to Standard Irish *Feicfidh*.)
- h Yes. He is very keen on them.
- i Yes (He spends).
- j Yes (He thinks_.

Proverb of the day:

The one (standing) on the sideline is a good hurler.

36 What are you doing?

Everyone in our house is always doing something - even if it's just relaxing!

I spend a lot of time studying - reading, writing, taking notes and learning things off by heart. My brother is very musical. He plays music and practices a few hours a day. He also listens to music.

My father loves sports - when he's not playing games, he is sitting around watching sports. He plays football, runs and swims. He cleans and fixes broken things inside and outside the house.

My mother prefers to work in the garden. She cooks and shops a lot. My younger brother and I help her. She likes to create new things. She paints and sculpts sometimes.

We have a dog. He likes to eat, drink and spend his time lying by the fire – either that, or outside fighting!

Questions

- 1 Are they an active family?
- 2 What does she do when she is studying?
- 3 Who practices music?
- 4 Does the father play golf or row?
- 5 Does the father do little jobs outside and inside the house?
- 6 Who looks after the garden?
- 7 Who does the shopping?
- 8 Is their pet a calm animal?
- 9 Name two things that you yourself do at home.
- 10 Suppose you have a friend called Síle. Name three things that she does.

Answers (to be put in the correct order)

- a She reads, takes notes and learns things by heart.
- b Her brother.
- c Her mother.
- d Herself, her brother and her mother.
- e Yes.
- f No, but a rogue (running chaser).
- g Yes.
- h No, as far as I know.
- i I _____ and _____.
- j Síle _____ and _____.

Proverb of the day:

Everyone has his own worries.

37 A semi-detached house in the centre of town

I live in a semi-detached house in the centre of Dunpatrick. The house was built fifty years ago. Downstairs, there are a couple of living rooms and a kitchen. Upstairs, there are three bedrooms and a bathroom. There is also a loft – which is used as storage.

Outside, there is a garden at the front of the house and a fairly large garden at the back of the house. There is no garage. (Although) I own the house but there are bills to pay every month: electricity, mortgage, rates, insurance, heating and so on. The money doesn't go far!

The living room is furnished with a TV, a sofa, a few chairs, a fire, a table and a lamp. The kitchen has a cooker, a fridge, a washing machine, a dishwasher, a table and chairs. There is an oil tank and a shed in the garden. The house also has central heating and an alarm.

Upstairs, one of the bedrooms is used as a study. There is a desk, a chair, a computer, a telephone and a bookcase. My bedroom has a chest of drawers, a bed, a wardrobe and a mirror. The bathroom has a bathtub, a shower, a toilet, a sink and a mirror.

Questions

- 1 What kind of house does this person have?
- 2 When was the house built?
- 3 How many rooms are on the ground floor?
- 4 How many rooms are on the first floor?
- 5 How many rooms are on the second floor?
- 6 Does she own the house?
- 7 Is there gas heating in this house?
- 8 Are the dishes washed by hand in this house?
- 9 Is one of the rooms upstairs used as a study?
- 10 Do you think it is connected to the internet?

Answers (to be put in the correct order)

- a Fifty years ago.
- b Yes (Used).
- c No (Not washed).
- d A semi-detached house. (*leathscartha* and *leathscoite* both can mean 'semi-detached'.)
- e I think it is (for she has a computer).
- f No, it is an oil-heated system.
- g She does (but she is paying a mortgage for it).
- h One.
- i Three. (Or Three.)
- j Four. (Or Four.)

Proverb of the day:

Every dog is tight at his own threshold.

38 Detached house on the outskirts of the city

I am living in a detached house on the outskirts of the city. It is a large old house. Downstairs, there is a large hall, three living rooms, a kitchen, a laundry room and a conservatory. It is a three-storey house. On the first floor there are five bedrooms, a bathroom and a toilet. There are two attics on the second floor – they are playrooms.

We have a garage. Sometimes I use the garage but I usually park the car in the driveway (inside the gate). There is a huge garden. There is a lawn, trees, bushes, flowers and vegetables growing there. I don't do any work in the garden myself. We have a gardener. He comes to us once a month.

We had to do a lot of work on the house. It was falling apart when we bought it but we gradually fixed it up. It is well fixed up now. The work cost a pretty penny – but it was worth it.

The day will come when the children will leave. The house will be too big for two people. I don't want to sell it but it cannot be helped.

Questions

- 1 Is it a terraced house?
- 2 Was this house built recently?
- 3 How many rooms are on the ground floor?
- 4 How many rooms are on the first floor?
- 5 How many rooms are on the second floor?
- 6 Are the attics used as playrooms?
- 7 Is the garage used every night?
- 8 Does the gardener come to the house once a week?
- 9 Was the house in good condition when they first bought it?
- 10 Will they stay in this house for the rest of their lives?

Answers (to be put in the correct order)

- a No (It wasn't built) – it was built a long time ago (= it is long the day it is on the sod).
- b Yes (is used).
- c No (is not used).
- d No (does not come).
- e No, it was in a bad condition.
- f They will hardly stay. (It will be no greater than they will stay).
- g No (but a detached house).
- h Two.
- i Five.
- j Seven.

Proverb of the day:

There is no hearth like your own hearth.

39 A flat in a skyscraper

My mother and I live in an apartment block in the city centre. We are up on the tenth floor. We have a great view from this flat but we have little other advantage apart from that. We would really prefer to get a house.

We have to use a lift to get in and out. Sometimes the lift is broken. If that is the case, we struggle to get up the stairs - with bags to carry!

We have two bedrooms, a living room, a kitchen, a bathroom and a balcony. It is quite comfortable. We have a pet, a small spotted dog. He sleeps outside on the balcony.

These apartments are too high, too dirty and too noisy. Too many people are crammed together. They don't get to know each other properly. I would recommend demolishing them and replacing them with a housing scheme. People should have a good standard of living, but these apartments don't have that. I would get rid of them in the morning.

Questions

- 1 Do they live on the outskirts of the city?
- 2 What is the biggest advantage about the apartment?
- 3 Would they prefer to stay where they are or move?
- 4 Does the lift usually work?
- 5 How many rooms are there in the apartment?
- 6 Where does the dog sleep?
- 7 What are the biggest faults with the apartments?
- 8 Do the neighbours meet (each other) often?
- 9 Do they want the apartments to stay as they are?
- 10 Are they happy or unhappy with them?

Answers (to be put in the correct order)

- a It has a nice view.
- b Unhappy. They don't like them at all.
- c No. They are in the city centre.
- d Five.
- e They would rather move.
- f No.
- g No. It rarely happens.
- h They are too loud, too noisy and too dirty.
- i Yes, but it gets out of order from time to time.
- j Out on the balcony.

Proverb of the day:

Acquaintance does not come until you live (share a house) with someone.

40 North Belfast

I live on the Antrim Road in North Belfast. It is a nice area. It is not far from the city centre. There is a bus service - although the same buses are often late! I must say that there are good facilities in this area.

There are plenty of nurseries, primary schools and secondary schools. There are also a few universities and training colleges in Belfast. It is no lie to say that parents can get an excellent education for their children in this city. That is a great advantage.

There are good public parks and sports facilities. The area is at the foot of Cavehill (*Beann Mhadagáin*, 'The Cliff of Little Dog. A former chieftain), a large, majestic, green hill that stands above Belfast.

There are good houses in this area, both old and new. There are shops of all kinds and a few large shopping centres. There are good roads, community halls, churches, libraries, restaurants, hotels and many other facilities.

Many people who were raised here stay and raise their own families there.

Questions

- 1 Does she live in South Belfast?
- 2 Is she from East or West Belfast?
- 3 Is the area close enough to the city centre?
- 4 What mode of transport does she use to get to the city centre?
- 5 Can the bus timetable be relied upon?
- 6 Does she believe that there is a shortage of educational facilities in this city?
- 7 Is education well provided for in Belfast at third level?
- 8 What hill overlooks the city?
- 9 Can you find a good house here?
- 10 Do many people stay in North Belfast throughout their lives?

Answers (to be put in the correct order)

- a Yes.
- b No, unfortunately!
- c Yes.
- d No, but in the North of the city.
- e No. I assume she is from the North of the city.
- f She uses the bus – if one comes on time!
- g Cavehill (*Beann Mhadagáin*).
- h Yes.
- i Yes (Std Ir. *Déantar* or *Ghnítheas*, Ultser.)
- j Not at all.

Proverb of the day:

People pass on (die) but the hills remain.

41 Out in the countryside

I live near a small village in County Tyrone. My house is located a few miles outside the village. There are about eight hundred people living there. There are advantages and disadvantages to the place.

There are many facilities: a nursery and a primary school but no secondary school. There is a health centre but no hospital. There is a youth club, community hall, library and sports club but no gym, swimming pool, cinema or theatre. There are a few shops, a bank, a post office and a garage but no large shops or a supermarket.

Although we are isolated from the big town and the city, we still enjoy comfort, peace and quiet. There is a large garden around every house and there is no traffic congestion. A car is a must.

Unfortunately, there is not much employment. Many young people leave school in search of work. Many young people go to university but, unfortunately, few of them return home (afterwards). This problem must be solved.

Questions

- 1 Does this person live next to the village?
- 2 What county is the village located in?
- 3 What is the population of the village?
- 4 Will children receive education here over the age of eleven?
- 5 Is there a hospital in the village?
- 6 Can the villagers borrow books here?
- 7 Can you learn to swim here?
- 8 Would a car be necessary to live in this area?
- 9 Is it a noisy place?
- 10 How can young people be attracted back to this area?

Answers (to be put in the correct order)

- a Around Eight hundred people ('In and out of ...).
- b No.
- c Yes.
- d No.
- e Yes.
- f In County Tyrone.
- g No.
- h More jobs need to be created for them.
- i Yes.
- j No.

Proverb of the day:

- 41 A small full hovel is better than a large empty castle.

42 Going to France

Pól likes France. He was in France last year. He went to France with his family. He speaks French.

Síle loves Germany. She spent a week in Germany a few years ago. She will go to Germany again. She doesn't speak German and that's a shame.

Críostóir likes Spain. He goes to Spain a lot and often. I heard he went to Spain at Christmas. He speaks Spanish very well.

Nóra likes Italy. She speaks a little Italian. She spent a month in Italy last year. She says she will go to Italy for a week at Easter. She will be back in time for school.

Tomás likes Wales. He was in Wales years ago. His friend spoke Welsh. He will go to Wales to see the country again.

Ciara doesn't remember Japan. She was in Japan when she was a child. She would like to go over to Japan one day to learn Japanese.

Questions

- 1 Does Pól like France?
- 2 Who went to France with him?
- 3 Where did Síle go on holiday a few years ago?
- 4 How long did she spend there?
- 5 Which country did Críostóir visit?
- 6 Where did Nóra spend her holiday?
- 7 If this is December, will she go back there before the summer?
- 8 Why is Tomás going to Wales?
- 9 Does Ciara speak Japanese?
- 10 Where will you go on holiday this year?

Answers (to be put in the correct order)

- a He will go to see his friend (*le* in Ulster, *chun* Munster).
- b Yes. He is very interested in that country.
- c He visited Spain.
- d She went over to Germany.
- e Yes (Will go), or intends to go there.
- f No, but she would like to learn it.
- g His family.
- h Yes *will go) . (I won't go anywhere, I'll just stay at home.)
- i She spent a (whole) week there.
- j She spent them in Italy.

Proverb of the day:

A friend's eye is a good mirror.

43 Going to America

Hans likes Ireland. He was in Ireland in the autumn. He came to Ireland alone. He is learning Irish. He speaks English.

Maria loves England. She spent two weeks in England in the summer. She will go over to England in the spring. She speaks English, but the English don't understand her accent. She has to speak slowly over in England.

Liam loves Scotland. He is over in Scotland as often as he can. He visits Scotland once a quarter. He goes over by boat.

America is Gráinne's favourite country. She spent some time over in America this winter. She came over from America recently. She will go over to America again at the beginning of the year.

Pierre loves Canada. He was born and raised over in Canada. He lives in France but goes over to Canada every summer. He was raised in Quebec. He speaks French and English, but French is his favourite language.

Questions

- 1 When did Hans come to Ireland?
- 2 Where did Maria go on holiday?
- 3 How long did she spend there?
- 4 Where did Liam spend his holidays?
- 5 How often does he go to Scotland?
- 6 How does he get over?
- 7 When did Gráinne go to America?
- 8 Did she come over from America a short time ago?
- 9 Will she be back soon after Christmas?
- 10 Does Paul visit Canada during the summer?

Answers (to be put in the correct order)

- a He goes over by ship.
- b Once in three months.
- c He came to this country during the autumn.
- d Yes (Came). She has just come back.
- e She went over during the winter.
- f Yes (Brings). (Or *Bheir*. Ulster.)
- g He spent them over in Scotland.
- h She went over to England.
- i She spent a few weeks there.
- j Yes (Will be), or intends to be.

Proverb of the day:

The hills are green from afar.

44 West in Connemara and Donegal

I would like to tell you about my holidays last year. I spent a weekend in Connemara in March. I stayed in a guesthouse. I got bed and breakfast for two nights. I caught a train from Belfast to Galway and a bus from Galway out west to Ros Muc (Rosmuck). I loved the trip and the people.

In September I rented a house for a week in Gaoth Dobhair (Gweedore). The weather was moderate. It rained for three days but it was dry the rest of the time. When the weather was good I went to the beach and sunbathed. I swam in the sea and often went for a walk on the hilltops.

At night I usually cooked a meal at home, but I went out to a restaurant in the hotel a few nights. The house was clean and comfortable and it was close to the sea. I prefer renting a house to staying in a hotel.

Both of these places are in the Gaeltacht ('Gaelic-speaking region'). I was able to understand and speak Irish the whole time. That was great.

Questions

- 1 Where did she go in March?
- 2 How long did she stay there?
- 3 Where did she stay that time?
- 4 How did she get there?
- 5 Where did she stay in Gaoth Dobhair?
- 6 Did she go to Gaoth Dobhair during the autumn?
- 7 Was it bright and sunny all week?
- 8 Which would she prefer, renting a house or staying in a hotel?
- 9 Was she happy with the house?
- 10 Did she like the Gaeltacht?

Answers (to be put in the correct order)

- a Just a weekend.
- b She got a train and a bus.
- c She went west to Galway.
- d She stayed in a boarding house.
- e Yes (Went).
- f To rent a house.
- g She rented a house.
- h It seems that she did.
- i She seemed to like it.
- j No, it rained for a few days.

Proverb of the day:

There are many twists and turns in life.

45 Provinces and counties of Ireland

The province of Ulster is in the north of Ireland, there are nine counties: County Fermanagh, County Donegal, County Antrim, Armagh, County Down, County Monaghan, County Derry, County Tyrone and County Cavan.

The province of Connacht is in the west of the country. There are five counties, County Galway, County Mayo, County Roscommon, County Leitrim and County Sligo.

The province of Leinster is in the east of Ireland. There are twelve counties. County Waterford, Louth, Offaly, County Wicklow, Kilkenny, County Carlow. County Dublin, County Meath, County Westmeath, County Longford, County Kildare, County Wexford and County Laois.

Munster is in the south of the country. It has six counties. County Kerry, County Cork, County Waterford, County Clare. County Tipperary and County Limerick.

That is now Ireland, from end to end - north, south, east and west. Four provinces and thirty-two counties.

Questions

- 1 Is someone from County Fermanagh an Ulster person (*Ultach*) ?
- 2 Is someone from County Louth? A Connaught person (*Connachtach*)?
- 3 What (provincially) would you call a person from County Cork?
- 4 What (provincially) would you call a person from County Kilkenny?
- 5 How many counties are there in Ulster?
- 6 How many counties are there in Connacht?
- 7 How many counties are there in Leinster?
- 8 How many counties are there in Munster?
- 9 How many provinces are there in Ireland?
- 10 How many counties are there?

Answers (to be put in the correct order)

- a You would call that person Munster man/Munster woman (*Muimhneach*).
- b You would call that person a Leinster man/Leinster woman (*Laighneach*).
- c Yes.
- d No (but a native of Leinster, *Laighneach*).
- e Four. (Or Four.)
- f Thirty-two.
- g Twelve.
- h Nine. (Or Nine.)
- i Five. (Or Five.)
- j Six (Or Six.)

Proverb of the day:

A country without a language, is a country without a soul.

46 General Background of Irish

Irish is a Celtic language. Irish has been spoken in Ireland for the past two thousand years. The Irish language declined significantly between the 17th and 19th centuries. Before that, the language of the Gaels was spoken throughout Ireland.

Irish continues to be an everyday language in the Gaeltacht. Gaeltacht areas can be found in the following counties: Donegal, Mayo, Galway, Kerry, Cork and Waterford. There are now all-Irish schools in the cities and large towns of Ireland.

There was a strong tradition of folklore in the Gaeltacht. Songs, stories, poetry and folklore were in the mouths of the people.

Conradh na Gaeilge ('The Gaelic League') was founded in 1893. The Irish language was in decline at the time. The League brought the language to the fore in Irish-speaking Ireland (*an Ghaeltacht*) and English-speaking Ireland (*An Ghalltacht*). The Gaelic League did not solve all the problems, but it is because of the League that we have a literary tradition in Modern Irish. There are also Gaelic languages in Scotland and the Isle of Man.

Questions

- 1 Is Irish a Germanic language?
- 2 How long has Irish been spoken in Ireland
- 3 When did Irish decline?
- 4 Where does Irish survive as a common community language?
- 5 How do we know that there is a revival in the big towns?
- 6 Has the tradition of storytelling survived in the Gaeltacht?
- 7 When did the Gaelic League come into being?
- 8 Has the League helped the language?
- 9 Are there still difficulties to overcome?
- 10 Is Gaelic spoken in any other country?

Answers (to be put in the correct order)

- a For at least a few thousand years.
- b Yes. There is Gaelic in Scotland (*Gàidhlig*) and Manx (or *Gaelg*) in the Isle of Man.
- c No.
- d Yes, but it is hoped they will be overcome.
- e There are Irish-medium schools in them.
- f In 1893.
- g It helped, a lot.
- h Between the 17th and 19th centuries.
- i It survives in the Gaeltacht.
- j Yes (It survived), although that era is almost over.

Proverb of the day:

- 46 A short visit (to a friend's house) and make it rarely.

47 Junk Food and 'Couch Potatoes'

Today, unrestrained consumerism is affecting the health of society. Young people do not exercise enough and eat too much 'junk food.'

Young people do not walk as much as they used to. Too many of them sit in front of screens - playing on computers, watching TV, DVDs or videos. They are called 'Couch Potatoes' because they get much too fat, too quickly. Let an end be put to this! Let it be stopped now!

'A little is more delicious' - a proverb and a true saying. It would be better to listen to that advice. Let an education programme on what constitutes healthy food and a healthy lifestyle be implemented (for both children and parents). Let this be done immediately!

Let more vegetables and fruit be eaten and let excess sugar and salt be cut out of our diets. Let sport be taken up or basic exercise such as walking and running on a daily basis in our lives. The health of young people (and the health of the future) depends on changes like this to improve and extend our lives.

Questions

- 1 Does unrestrained consumerism have a positive impact on health?
- 2 Should people eat healthier food?
- 3 Should we not overdo it with sweet food?
- 4 Should junk food be available in school cafeterias?
- 5 How can weight be lost?
- 6 Is too much TV watched?
- 7 Do people need advice on eating and living a healthy lifestyle?
- 8 What types of food are healthy?
- 9 What should be cut out, or reduced?
- 10 Will walking help in this campaign?

Answers (to be put in the correct order)

- a No. It should be banned!
- b Yes (Should).
- c No.
- d Yes (It would be better.)
- e Yes (is watched).
- f To eat less and exercise more.
- g It will definitely help.
- h Yes. There is a great need for information leaflets on these topics.
- i Vegetables and fruit.
- j Sweet and salty foods.

Proverb of the day:

A little of something tastes (better).

48 Christmas: a shopping festival?

Too many useless things are sold (and bought) at Christmas. Children are given toys and more time is spent playing with the box than with the toy itself. The toy is taken up for half an hour and then put aside. It is never taken up again.

They try to sell us everything at Christmas. Little thought is given to the baby born in the stable. He is completely forgotten. It is ignored.

There is also excessive drinking and eating at that time of year. The refrigerators in the houses are filled and the shelves in the shops are emptied. The question is not asked often enough: Why is this done? People are put under great pressure to spend money but the reason behind it is not questioned. Nothing is said about it. The spending continues and goes to excess.

Years ago, the Christmas tree used to be put in the living room. But now, lights are lit all over the house, on the roof and out in the garden.

We hear talk of Christmas right after Halloween. We are not given a break.

Questions

- 1 Is too much bought at Christmas?
- 2 Are toys put away after a while?
- 3 Are children given too many presents?
- 4 Is advertising used to entice people?
- 5 Is there pressure applied upon us to buy things?
- 6 Who was 'the baby born in the stable'?
- 7 Are the shelves emptied?
- 8 Is this spending questioned?
- 9 Are Christmas decorations being cut back?
- 10 Is Christmas advertising starting far too early?

Answers (to be put in the correct order)

- a Yes (Are left).
- b Yes (is given). Or No (Is not given.)
- c Yes (is used).
- d Yes (is bought.)
- e Jesus Christ.
- f Yes.
- g It seems that there is not.
- h Yes (is started).
- i Yes (are emptied).
- j Yes (It is questioned). Or No. (It is not questioned.)

Proverb of the day:

The burden of ignorance is heavy.

49 I will get up early tomorrow

I will go to bed early tonight. I will have to get up early tomorrow morning. I will hear the clock strike and I will immediately get up. I will prepare my breakfast. I will eat bread and fruit and drink a cup of tea.

I will wash myself and put on my clothes. I will leave the house at eight. I will bring a lunch with me.

I will get a bus into the city centre. I will stand at the bus stop. It will arrive at a quarter after eight. I will jump on board and pay the fare. The journey will take about twenty minutes. I will walk to the office.

I will start work at nine. I will stop at half past four. I will come home and leave the house at five. I will eat dinner. I will stay in. I will clean the whole house. I will put it in order and order.

I will go for a walk with my friend. I will come back home again. I will sit and watch TV for a while.

Questions

- 1 Will she stay up late tonight?
- 2 Will she get up early tomorrow morning?
- 3 Will she hear the alarm clock go off?
- 4 Will she eat fried food for breakfast?
- 5 Will she leave the house around eight?
- 6 Will she buy her lunch at a restaurant?
- 7 Will she get a taxi into the city centre?
- 8 Will the journey take her an hour?
- 9 Will she go for a walk with her friend?
- 10 Will she watch TV for a while?

Answers (to be put in the correct order)

- a Yes (Will get up).
- b Yes (Will hear_. (*Cluinfidh* 'Will hear', Ulster *Cloisfidh* elsewhere).
- c Yes (Will leave).
- d No (Will not buy).
- e No (Will not stay up).
- f No (Will not eat).
- g No (Will not take).
- h Yes (Will watch).
- i Yes (Will go).
- j No (Will not get).

Proverb of the day:

49 Patience finds reward.

50 A meeting, an appointments and an invitation

Monday morning will come very quickly. I'll set aside a few minutes on Sunday night. I'll take a look at my diary to see what I have in store for the week ahead. I'll have a lot on my hands, I'd say. There always is. Now (then) ...

There's a board meeting at three on Monday. There won't be anything [out of the ordinary] on Tuesday. I'll have a normal working day. I have a dentist's appointment from a quarter to eleven on Wednesday.

There's a training day in the office all day on Thursday. I'll have to attend that. There's no way out! I'll prepare for it on Wednesday evening. I'll have to sit down then on Friday morning and write a report on the training day. That's it.

My son has a football match on Saturday morning and my daughter has drama practice in the afternoon. I'll have to give them a lift. My wife and I are invited to dinner on Saturday night. There will be nothing going on on Sunday. I will have a rest.

Questions

- 1 Does he believe that Monday morning sometimes comes to him in the morning?
- 2 Where does he keep a note of the things he has to do?
- 3 When does he look at his diary?
- 4 Will the board meeting be in the evening?
- 5 Will he have anything special going on Tuesday?
- 6 Does he have a doctor's appointment on Wednesday?
- 7 Is there training planned for Thursday?
- 8 What will he have to do on Friday? (= What will he have to ...?)
- 9 Do you think he will have dinner at home on Saturday night?
- 10 When will he let his chopsticks run?

Answers (to be put in the correct order)

- a Yes.
- b No.
- c Yes (Will).
- d No (Will not).
- e Yes (Believes).
- f He has to write a report.
- g Sunday night.
- h Sunday.
- i He writes them in his diary.
- j No (Will not eat).

Proverb of the day:

- 50 The man who made time, made plenty of it.

51 Single ticket or return ticket?

I reached the train station but there was a queue. There were a few people ahead of me. An old lady asked for a single ticket from Belfast to Derry. 'Five pounds, fifty, please. The train will leave at half past ten. It will arrive in Derry at five to one. Platform two.'

A young man asked for a return ticket from Belfast to Cork. 'That's fifty-six pounds. The train will leave from platform one at a quarter past ten. You will arrive in Dublin at half past twelve. You will change stations in Dublin. The train to Cork leaves at five to two. The journey will take two and a half hours. There will be a dining car on the train.'

'Give me a single ticket to Dundalk, please. I only have euros.' 'Never mind, I'll take them. That's sixteen euros.' When I reached Dundalk I got a bus to a small town five miles away. I had planned a lift from there but my friend couldn't come. I got a taxi. I paid the fare. The journey was quite expensive.

Questions

- 1 Were there people waiting to buy tickets at the station?
- 2 What time did the train leave Belfast for Derry?
- 3 What was the change the old woman got for ten pounds?
- 4 Was the passenger travelling to Cork older than the old woman?
- 5 What was the change he got from sixty pounds?
- 6 Will he reach Dublin before noon?
- 7 Will he reach Cork before six?
- 8 Could he buy something to eat on the train, if he wanted to?
- 9 Could his friend give the third passenger a lift?
- 10 Why was the journey very expensive?

Answers (to be put in the correct order)

- a At half past ten.
- b Yes.
- c No.
- d Yes (Will arrive).
- e No (Will not arrive).
- f Yes.
- g No, because his car broke down.
- h He had to get a train ticket, a bus ticket and a taxi.
- i Four pounds.
- j Four pounds fifty – Or: four and a half pounds.

Proverb of the day:

- 51 A traveller picks up stories (to tell).

52 I'm going abroad this year

I'm going on holiday this year. I'm going over to France for two weeks. My wife and the kids will come. We'll leave in mid-July and return home at the beginning of August.

We'll drive to Cork and get a boat to France. I've never been to France but lots of people tell me it's a beautiful country.

The weather is great, the French are friendly and the food is delicious – and cheap. There are nice beaches and there's lots to see for young and old. We can't wait until July!

We'll rent a house for a week in Bordeaux. We'll stop at a campsite in Brittany for the second week. The kids will leave in the morning and spend the day swimming and playing games. They'll enjoy that.

We'll visit museums, galleries and castles. We'll see and do lots. We will take a lot of photos on the trip. We will spend a lot of money, but it doesn't matter.

Questions

- 1 Will they be on the European continent this year?
- 2 How long will they spend in France?
(= How long will they spend in France?)
- 3 Will they leave in the middle of summer?
- 4 Will they go to Cork by train?
- 5 Is this his first time in France?
- 6 Has he heard good things about France?
- 7 Will they stay in a hotel in France?
- 8 Will they stay half the time in Bordeaux?
- 9 What will the children do during the day while they are at the campsite?
- 10 Will they see a lot during the holidays?

Answers (to be put in the correct order)

- a They will spend two weeks there.
- b No (They will not go).
- c They will.
- d Yes (They will go).
- e It seems they will spend the day swimming and playing games.
- f Is.
- g Yes (will stay).
- h No (won't stay).
- i Yes (heard). He heard good things about that country.
- j Yes (*tchífidh* ,will see;. Ulster = *feicfidh* Standard).

Proverb of the day:

52 Cows abroad have long horns. = Far off hills are green.

53 I will go to America this year.

I will be going overseas this year on my holidays. I will have ten days off. I will go to America. I will spend a weekend staying with friends in Boston. After that, I will stay in a hotel in New York for a week.

I will get a plane from Dublin to New York. I will leave at the end of May and return at the beginning of June.

I will pack my bags and take my passport, my money and my credit card with me. In New York I will watch a film or a play almost every night. I will also go to some concerts.

During the day, I will walk around the city and look at the sites and wonders. I will buy tickets for the museums and galleries.

I will see as much as I can. I hope I will like the food, the weather, the people and the social events. I will send a few postcards home to my friends.

Questions

- 1 Is she going abroad?
- 2 How long will she have her holidays? (*a bheas* Future rel. = *a bheidh* Standard Irish).
- 3 Will she spend all her time in New York?
- 4 How will she go from Dublin to New York? (*a rachas* Future rel. = *a rachaidh* Standard Irish).
- 5 When will she leave? (*a imeos* Future rel. = *a imeoidh* Standard Irish).
- 6 When will she come back? (*a thiocfas* Future rel. = *a thiocfaidh* Standard Irish).
- 7 Apart from her luggage, what else will she take with her?
- 8 Will she spend time in a cinema or theatre while she is over in America?
- 9 Will she walk during the day?
- 10 Will she see art while she is on holiday?

Answers (to be put in the correct order)

- a Yes (will spend).
 - b No (will not spend).
 - c Yes (will walk).
 - d No (Will not).
 - e She will go over by plane.
 - f Yes (*tChífidh* 'will see'. U or *feicfidh* ;will see' Std Ir.)
 - g She will have ten days in total.
 - h She will return at the beginning of June.
 - i She will leave at the end of May.
 - j She will take her passport, money and credit card with her.
- Continue here 52, 53

Proverb of the day:

Look before you leap.

54 Our house will be rennovated

A major job will be done on our house this year. An architect will be asked to draw up plans. The plans will be drawn up and looked at. A builder will then be approached and a price will be agreed with him.

The work will not start in the wet weather. One will wait for good weather. The old kitchen will be demolished and a new one will be built. The heating system will also be changed. A conservatory may be built at the back of the house, but that depends on the cost. We will see.

New furniture will be bought for the rest of the house. The old furniture will be moved out to the garage. An advertisement will be placed in the paper. It will be sold and a few pounds will be earned from (the sale of) it.

The old wallpaper will be taken down in every room in the rest of the house and new stuff will be chosen. The house will also be painted from top to bottom. Everything will be got in advance and the decoration will begin when the construction work is finished. A fair penny (of money) will be spent on the house.

The end of the work will be awaited. A big party will be held in the house and a celebration will be held. You will be invited.

Questions

- 1 Will major work be done on their house this year?
- 2 Will plans be drawn for the house?
- 3 Will an engineer be asked to draw the plans?
- 4 Do you think the work will start during the winter?
- 5 Will the old kitchen be kept?
- 6 Will the heating system not be changed?
- 7 Where will the old furniture be stored?
- 8 Will the house be painted?
- 9 Will everything for the decoration be bought in advance?
- 10 Will there be a celebration when the house is (= will be) ready?

Answers (to be put in the correct order)

- a Yes (Will be put).
- b No (Will not be put).
- c Yes (Will be drawn).
- d Yes (Will be made).
- e Yes (Will be changed).
- f No (Will not be kept).
- g No (Will not be asked).
- h Yes (Will be bought).
- i Yes (Will be taken).
- j It will be stored outside in the garage.

Proverb of the day:

Castles are built gradually (Rome was not built in a day).

55 Paul had to drive to Derry

Paul had to drive to Derry yesterday. Mary asked him to stay there. He had to talk to a few people in the middle of the morning. He had to meet someone else at six.

Róisín wants to go to London. She wants to walk around and see the sights. She would rather not stay in a hotel near the airport. She would rather stay in the city centre. She has asked her friend to come with her. Her friend needs to talk to her manager first. She will definitely be allowed to go, for she has a few days (leave) to take.

Brian is due in Dublin on Tuesday morning. Liam suggested he drive up, but Síle told him to take the train. If he goes by car he can leave and come back at any time. He would rather go back than stay overnight, but he would rather not drive back in the dark.

I have to tell Treasa that she has to get up at six tomorrow morning. She has to wait for the seven o'clock bus and then leave for Galway. She can stay there or she can come back on the late bus. She has a choice to make.

Questions

- 1 Did Pól have to drive to Galway?
- 2 If today is Wednesday, what day did he have to drive to Derry?
- 3 Who asked him to stay there?
- 4 Does Róisín want to go to England?
- 5 Would she rather stay at the airport or stay in a hotel in the city centre?
- 6 Will her friend have to talk to her manager?
- 7 Where does Brian need to be on Tuesday morning?
- 8 Does Brian prefer to drive in daylight?
- 9 Does Treasa have to get up early tomorrow?
- 10 Can she stop overnight if she wants to?

Answers (to be put in the correct order)

- a Monday.
- b Mary.
- c Yes.
- d No.
- e Yes.
- f Yes, definitely.
- g Yes.
- h Yes.
- i She would prefer to stay in the city centre.
- j He has to be in Dublin.

Proverb of the day:

Be the road crooked (or) straight, the highway is the shortcut.

56 Paul had to clean his room

Paul had to clean his room on Saturday morning. He wanted to get money from his mother to go down to the city centre. He wanted to buy a few things in the shops. 'You won't get a penny from me until you clean and tidy your room,' said his mother.

She asked him to pick up the clothes from the floor, put the books on the shelves, make the bed and empty the bin. She suggested that he put the CDs in their cases. 'They're not mine, mother', said Paul. 'Whose are they?' 'They're Mary's.' 'Well, tell her to come here now and tidy them up.'

When he had finished his work, Paul's mother had to give him money. He went to the corner of the street to get a bus. He went into a shop to buy a pen. He had to buy a new exercise book for Chemistry class. He went to see his friend James at lunchtime. He had to go home then.

As he came in, his mother told him not to leave his coat lying on the sofa!

Questions

- 1 Did Paul have to tidy his room?
- 2 Did his mother want to give him money when the room was dirty?
- 3 What did Paul have to buy in the shops in the city centre?
- 4 Did he manage to see his friend James?
- 5 Who owns the bedroom?
- 6 Does Paul own the CDs?
- 7 Who owns them?
- 8 Does Mary own the coat lying on the sofa?
- 9 Who owns it?
- 10 Did he have to move his coat?

Answers (to be put in the correct order)

- a Yes (He did).
- b Yes (He had to).
- c Yes (Was).
- d No (Was not).
- e He had to buy a pen and an exercise book.
- f It belongs to Paul.
- g It belonged to Paul.
- h No (She did not own).
- i No (It does not belong to him).
- j It does not belong to her.

Proverb of the day:

A fight is better than solitude.

57 What colour shoes go with these shoes?

Lisa was going on holiday with the youth club for a week. She had to pack her things. She borrowed a big blue trolley and a red trolley from her mother.

She took black shoes, brown boots and a couple of pairs of trainers - a grey pair and a white pair. She put blue, green and purple trousers in the trolley. She had two skirts, a yellow one and a pink one. She packed a black dress, a navy jumper and then lots of t-shirts: white, green, red, purple, orange and yellow ones.

She had a couple of coats, of course, a green anorak and a blue jacket. She packed (put in) a red scarf, a black hat and blue gloves.

She put everything else she needed in the case - and she put a few more things in the trolley: a pink towel and a yellow one. In (along) with that, there was a black toiletry bag with everything in it to keep her clean, dry, neat and comfortable for the week. She got a black taxi down to the city centre. She was lucky enough (= 'the red luck was on her') to meet her friend. She was given a lift to the bus station.

Questions

- 1 Who was Lisa going on holiday with?
- 2 Did she have to pack her case?
- 3 What colour was the trolley?
- 4 What footwear did she bring with her?
- 5 How many pairs of trousers did she bring with her?
- 6 Which item of clothing was pink?
- 7 How many coats did she bring with her?
- 8 What did she bring with her to keep her hands warm?
- 9 How did she get to the city centre?
- 10 Was she given a lift to the bus station?

Answers (to be put in the correct order)

- a Yes.
- b Black shoes, brown boots and a few pairs of trainers.
- c With the youth club.
- d Blue.
- e One of the skirts.
- f She got a black taxi.
- g Yes (Was given).
- h Three.
- i Two.
- j A pair of blue gloves.

Proverb of the day:

57 A hen is heavy (carried) over a long distance.

58 Is the cheapest the best?

When I need a new coat, I look at a few. I look at the cheapest coat and the most expensive coat. Then I try to pick the best coat - and the nicest coat.

If the cheap coat is as nice and as good as the expensive coat, I take that. But if the expensive coat is nicer and better than the cheap coat, I buy the expensive coat. I think that's the best way to choose a new coat.

The biggest thing is not always the best, sometimes the smallest thing is the best. If you buy a big box of washing powder cheaper than a small box, the bigger box may not be the most effective - even though it is the cheapest. The clothes may be cleaner and softer if you use the more expensive powder - who knows? It's hard to say.

That's the worst thing about shopping, it's hard to always do the smart thing. But it's not that bad. We usually try things out and we're better informed next time.

Questions

- 1 Does he look at more than one coat when he wants a new one?
- 2 Does he try to pick the most attractive coat?
- 3 If the cheaper coat is better than the expensive coat, will he buy it?
- 4 Does he always choose the more expensive coat?
- 5 When does he buy the more expensive coat?
- 6 Will he always buy the biggest box?
- 7 Is the smallest box sometimes the best box?
- 8 Is the biggest box always the best box?
- 9 What is the best washing powder?
- 10 What is the biggest disadvantage of shopping?

Answers (to be put in the correct order)

- a Yes (Does).
- b Yes (Looks).
- c No (Doesn't choose).
- d Yes (Will buy).
- e No (Won't buy).
- f The one that makes the clothes look the cleanest and smell the freshest.
- g It's hard to make the best choice sometimes.
- h When it is better and nicer than the cheapest one.
- i Yes.
- j No.

Proverb of the day:

- 58 If my coat is close to me, my shirt is closer.

59 What do you think?

People have many opinions on different things – no more people than opinions!

I don't respect politicians because most of them (before an election!) promise to do this, that and the other. But when they are elected, they forget the promises. They don't remember them. That's why I don't trust them. I don't care about them.

I respect nurses and doctors because they try to save or improve people's lives. We have faith in them - they are trustworthy people. They do their best for people they don't even know. They work hard for us. I like people like that.

I think a lot of professional soccer players are spoiled. They don't take pride in their jerseys sometimes. They are paid too much money. I feel sorry for the young people who spend so much money because of this marketing and for people who don't care at all about them!

Questions

- 1 Do different people have different opinions?
- 2 Why doesn't she respect politicians?
- 3 Can she rely on them?
- 4 Can she rely on nurses?
- 5 Does she like people like doctors?
- 6 Are they fake people?
- 7 Are some footballers greedy?
- 8 Do they always take pride in their jersey?
- 9 Do some footballers get paid too much?
- 10 Are they sometimes indifferent about their fans?

Answers (to be put in the correct order)

- a Because they don't live up to their words.
- b Yes.
- c No.
- d Yes.
- e No.
- f Yes.
- g No.
- h Yes (she likes).
- i It doesn't matter. (Or It doesn't matter.)
- j Yes.

Proverb of the day:

However shrewd the fox is, it will be caught eventually.

60 The environment

The world and the environment are in great danger. We will have to do something before it is too late.

We must save energy. The ozone layer is being damaged. The ice cap is melting and sea levels are rising because the temperature is rising all the time. We must change, or much of the world will be submerged.

We are using too much petrol. This is damaging the environment. We will have to reduce the number of private cars and encourage (put an emphasis) on public transport. Traffic congestion is getting worse day by day in cities, towns and even in the countryside. Let's change our ways!

Energy must be provided, of course, but nuclear energy is dangerous, as was seen in places like Chernobyl. We could use natural sources such as the wind, the sea or the heat of the sun. If we want to preserve the world for future generations, let's do something now, let's wake up!

Questions

- 1 Is humanity careful enough about the environment?
- 2 What is wrong with the ozone layer?
- 3 What happens when the temperature rises?
- 4 Should we cut back on petrol?
- 5 Does the use of petrol cause long-term damage to the environment?
- 6 Why is a bus more environmentally friendly than a car?
- 7 Where has the danger of nuclear energy been seen?
- 8 Name three sources of natural energy.
- 9 Can we save the environment?
- 10 Can the environment withstand constant pollution?

Answers (to be put in the correct order)

- a Yes - if we do it right.
- b No.
- c In Chernobyl, where there was an explosion.
- d The wind, the sea and the heat of the sun.
- e No (not at all!)
- f The ice cap melts and the sea level rises.
- g It carries more people on a journey.
- h A hole is being put in it.
- i It must.
- j It does.

Proverb of the day:

60 The water is not missed until the well runs dry!

61 Recycling; the way forward

We cannot continue to move forward without listening to groups like the Green Party. Nor can we continue to pile up rubbish and waste resources without thinking about the damage it causes to the environment.

Although this point is not often thought about, the earth's natural resources: oil, metal, trees, stones, sand and so on, are limited. We need to rethink the way we constantly waste these resources. Let us conserve our natural resources!

If we go to the supermarket, we come home with plastic bags, eight or so. Why don't we take the empty bags with us next time? Let's be more frugal in the future!

We shouldn't use just one bin. We can recycle and reuse glass, paper, plastic, cloth and many other materials. This makes sense, but it's not just that, it's necessary. 'The hills are far away' - but will they stay that way for much longer?

Questions

- 1 Can we continue to ignore the problem of litter?
- 2 Can we implement effective strategies to reduce the problem?
- 3 Will natural resources last forever?
- 4 Do we need to reexamine the use and sustainability of natural resources?
- 5 Could we reuse bags?
- 6 Will we have to be more frugal in the future?
- 7 Is one bin enough?
- 8 Is recycling worth it?
- 9 Will recycling benefit the environment?
- 10 Do you do anything to recycle things yourself?

Answers (to be put in the correct order)

- a No (won't last).
- b One will have to.
- c It can.
- d It can't.
- e It would.
- f It is not enough.
- g It's definitely worth it.
- h I do – *Ghním* Ulster, *Déanaim* Standard.
(Give a few examples.)
- i Yes..
- j Yes (will go).

Proverb of the day:

61 Not everything that is used lasts forever.

62 We'd rather leave

I'm Úna. I have a friend, Síle, and we work in a factory. We don't like our work but we like the fun and the company. We buy a ticket for the national lottery between the two of us every week. We would love to win! We would dearly love that.

If I won a big pile of money I'd like a new house, but Síle wouldn't like that. Síle would rather buy an apartment in New York. She said she'd rather live in America than Ireland. I'd rather have a big new house in Ireland and then go on holiday often. I'd like to stay in Ireland.

I've known Síle for a long time. Síle's mother was a teacher and my mother was a secretary. They worked together at the same school. That was years ago. Síle remembered both of them leaving every morning but I didn't remember that at all.

Questions

- 1 Don't Úna and Síle like their work?
- 2 Do they like the sport and fun in the factory?
- 3 Doesn't Úna like a new house?
- 4 Does Síle like a big house in France?
- 5 Wouldn't Síle prefer to live in America than in Ireland?
- 6 Would Úna prefer to live in America?
- 7 Is Úna's mother a school teacher?
- 8 Is Síle's mother a school teacher?
- 9 Does Úna remember both mothers leaving every morning?
- 10 Does Síle remember that?

Answers (to be put in the correct order)

- a Yes (would like).
- b No (would not like).
- c Yes (likes).
- d No (does not like).
- e Yes (was).
- f No (was not).
- g Yes (would prefer)
- h No(would not prefer).
- i Yes (remembere.
- j No (did not remember).

Proverb of the day:

A friend in court is better than a coin in the purse.

63 If I won five million pounds

If I won five million pounds I would do a lot of things. I wouldn't tell everyone I had won it. I would tell my family but I would ask them not to tell anyone.

I would give money to everyone in my family. I would definitely give some of the money to the Third World. I would build a school or a hospital in Africa or Asia. I would take time and think about how I would spend the money.

I would buy a new house and probably get a new car too. I don't know whether I would stay in my job or quit. I would definitely go on holiday and travel around the world. I would come back in a year and settle down again.

I would have a big party in the new house. All my relatives and friends would come. We would have a big night. I would organize a big meal and a band. Everyone would get their fill of food and I would give a gift to every guest present. It would be a big night until the morning.

Questions

- 1 Would you do a lot if you won?
- 2 Would you tell everyone the news?
- 3 Would you ask your family not to spread the news?
- 4 Would everyone in the family get some of the money?
- 5 Would you give some of the money to the Third World?
- 6 Would you spend the money in a hurry without thinking?
- 7 Would you buy a new house?
- 8 When would you come back?
- 9 What would you organize for the big night?
- 10 Would you be generous to the guests?

Answers (to be put in the correct order)

- a Yes (Would get). Answers can be in bare form of 3 sg, or in 1 sg.
- b Yes. (Would do.)
- c Yes (Would give, *bhéarfadh* Ulster, *thabharfadh* Standard.)
- d Yes. (Would ask.)
- e No (Would not spend).
- f No. (Would not tell.)
- g I Would come back in a year.
- h Yes (Would be.)
- i Yes. (Would buy.)
- j I would organize a big dinner and a musical concert.

Proverb of the day:

63 Better late than never.

64 The career my son would like

If my son had his way in life, he would want to be an architect. He would go to university and do a degree in architecture. When he finished university, he would spend a few years working in an office to gain experience.

He would then set up his own company. He would be very careful about the environment. He would build houses and offices but would try to recycle when building them. He would use the heat of the sun, natural materials and insulation as much as possible.

People would come to him when they heard about his work and when they saw (= would see) his work. They would say that they would like houses like that too. He would listen to them.

When he would be very famous, he would buy a large piece of land and build 'The Green Village' on it. People would grow their own food and live organically. They would respect nature. They would protect the environment. I would help make this happen.

Questions

- 1 What career would their son want?
- 2 Where will he do his degree?
- 3 Where will he gain a few years of experience as an architect?
- 4 Does he plan to become an independent architect in the future?
- 5 Will the environment be a top priority for him?
- 6 Will his reputation and renown spread?
- 7 Will he listen to his customers?
- 8 Will they sow crops in the village?
- 9 Has 'The Green Village' been built yet?
- 10 Will his mother support him?

Answers (to be put in the correct order)

- a It seems so.
- b No – but they are thinking about it.
- c It definitely will.
- d He will get that in the office.
- e It is hoped that he will be successful.
- f He will listen, and he will learn a lot from the suggestions.
- g Yes (Will sow).
- H Yes (Will give). (*Bhéafraidh* Ulster, *Tabharfaidh* Std).
- i He would like to be an architect.
- j He will graduate from university.

Proverb of the day:

Reputation is more lasting than life.

65 Money would be spent if it were found.

If a second-hand car was bought for a thousand pounds and if four thousand pounds were offered for it, it would be sold. Three thousand pounds would be made as a profit. It would be said that it was a good decision. The money would be kept and something affordable would be bought. One would be happy.

One would go to the shops and look at the things available there. If a good deal were found, it would be got. It would be taken home and it would be used.

A lot could be done with the money. One could go to a restaurant, for example. A nice meal would be ordered. Food would be eaten and coffee would be drunk after the meal. The bill would be paid and the party would leave. Afterwards, one would be full, but one would return home very happy.

One would not spend all the money on the meal, of course. Some of it would be put in the bank. Some of it would be saved and the rest would be spent. One would sit down and think about how best to spend the money. Advice would be listened to if it were given. One would hear a lot of suggestions, of course. Only the best ones would be chosen.

Questions

- 1 Would a second-hand car be bought for a thousand pounds?
- 2 Could one call a second-hand car a brand new car?
- 3 Would the car be sold for a profit?
- 4 Would one look at things in the shops?
- 5 Would some of the money be spent in the restaurant?
- 6 Would all the money be spent at the restaurant?
- 7 Would another car be bought with the money?
- 8 Would one leave without paying the bill?
- 9 Would a lot of suggestions be heard?
- 10 Would each one of them be chosen?

Answers (to be put in the correct order)

- a Yes (Would be sold).
- b Yes (Would be bought).
- c Yes (Would be looked at).
- d Yes (Would be spent).
- e No (Would not be spent).
- f No (Could not be).
- g It seems that one would not buy.
- h No (Would not be chosen). Only the good ones would be considered.
- i No (One not go). It would be sold before one would leave.
- j Yes (Would be heard). (*Chluinfí* Ulster also *Chloisfí*, elsewhere).

Proverb of the day:

Buy something old and be left with nothing.

66 When I was (= used to be) at school

When I was in primary school I used to have a great time. The teacher used to come in every morning and I used to learn a lot from him. He used to talk about many things and I used to listen to him carefully. He used to tell funny stories from time to time. I used to laugh when I heard them. He used to laugh too.

The teacher used to take us for walks. I used go out and I was very happy to be outside. He used to tell us about nature and I used to always understand him for he used to explain everything very clearly. He was a gentleman.

When I used to play a game, he used to give me great advice. When I used to write an essay he used to read it and discuss the piece with me. He never used to raise his voice or hit anyone. I used to often sit and say to myself that I was very lucky to have such a teacher. I used to never miss a day when I was in his class. He used to always encourage and praised us. We used to really respect that.

Questions

- 1 Did she used to have a good time at school?
- 2 Did she used to learn a lot from the teacher?
- 3 Did she used to listen carefully (= did she used to put an eaer on herself to listen?)
- 4 Did they often used to go out of the classroom?
- 5 Did the children used to enjoy the walks?
- 6 Was this teacher a gentle person?
- 7 Did they used to play sports at this school?
- 8 Did the teacher used to correct the essays?
- 9 Did she used to come to school every day?
- 10 Did the children used to get frustrated with this teacher?

Answers (to be put in the correct order)

- a Yes (used to put).
- b Yes (used to go).
- c Yes (used to like).
- d Yes (used to come).
- e Yes (used to correct).
- f Yes (used to have).
- g No (used not to be).
- h Yes (used to learn).
- i He was.
- j Yes (used to be played).

Proverb of the day:

Praise youth and it will come.

67 He used to escape to Donegal

When the weekend used to come, Peadar used to drive home from work. He used to go into the house, drink a cup of tea and used to eat a snack (= quick bite). He used to take his bags, pack the car and then used to hit the road.

He used to leave for Donegal. He used to leave Belfast at five and reach Gaoth Dobhair at eight. He used to stay in Gaoth Dobhair on Friday and Saturday nights. He used to return home late on Sunday afternoon.

If the weather was good, he used to take his fishing rod with him. He used to sit by the river fishing. If he was raining (= 'putting'), he used to stay in. He used to read a book or listen to the radio.

He used to wake up and get up early on Saturday morning. He used to buy food at the supermarket. He used to visit his friend. They used to play a leisurely game of golf. They used to go back to Peter's house. They used to eat a meal together. They used to discuss politics, literature, sport and current affairs during the meal.

Questions

- 1 Did Peter used to travel to work in his car?
- 2 Did Peter used travel to Donegal in the middle of the week?
- 3 Did he used to drive to Donegal on an empty stomach?
- 4 How long did the trip used to take?
- 5 Did he used to stay two nights in Gaoth Dobhair?
- 6 Didn't he used to stay three nights there?
- 7 Did he used to try and catch trout or salmon?
- 8 Did he used to lie down until noon on Saturday morning?
- 9 Did he used to play cards, backgammon or chess?
- 10 What did they used to talk about while they ate?

Answers (to be put in the correct order)

- a Yes (used to be).
- b No (used not to be).
- c Yes (used to travel).
- d No (used not to travel).
- e Used to stay.
- f No (used not to stay).
- g No (used not to play).
- h No (used not to lie).
- i They used to talk about politics, literature, sport and current affairs.
- j Usually three hours.

Proverb of the day:

- 67 Listen to the sound of the river and you will catch a trout.

68 I used to be an actor

I used to play basketball when I was at school. Although I used to play it, I didn't play it regularly. The reason I didn't use to do that was because I used to have a lot of other things going on.

I used to go to drama school. I was tall for my age and a good actor. Because of that, the drama teacher used to always gave me the lead role.

I didn't use to refuse it but the rehearsals used to take a lot of time. My mother used to give out to me all the time:

'Didn't you use to do a lot more work, daughter?' she said to me. 'Yes (= It was usual), mother,' I said, 'but the play will be staged in a month.'

'You used not to be so far away from your studies, my dear.' (= It was not usual for you ...)

'No (It was not usual), Mum, but this is the last play. I'll give up basketball and drama soon. I'll get ready for the exams.'

Questions

- 1 Did she used to play hurling/camogie or Gaelic football in secondary school?
- 2 Did she use to take part in plays when she was at school?
- 3 Was she a tiny girl for her age?
- 4 Was she a good actress?
- 5 Did important parts used to be given to her in plays?
- 6 Did her mother used to give out to her?
- 7 If this is March, when will the play be on stage?
- 8 Is this the last play for a while?
- 9 Will she have a break from drama after this play?
- 10 Will she concentrate on her exams when the play is over? (= direct her attention on her exams?)

Answers (to be put in the correct order)

- a Used to.
- b Did not used to.
- c Yes (Used to be given, Thugtaí Standard, or *Bheirtí* Ulster.)
- d Yes (Used to give. *Thugadh* Std, or *Bheireadh* Ulster.)
- e She was.
- f She was not.
- g Yes (It is).
- h Yes. She will knuckle down to some work (= She will bend on the work).
- i It will take place in April.
- j Yes..

Proverb of the day:

Many hands win the battle.

69 Things that used to be done on St. Brigid's Day

A big day in the life of the old Gaels, was St. Brigid's Day – the first day of February. Rushes used to be cut and brought home. They used to be left it at the door but one used to wait until tea time before they used to be brought it into the house.

The door used to be knocked at tea time and the following words used to beshouted:

'Get on your knees,
Open your eyes,
And let Brigid in'.

In response, one used to say:

'Hail, hail,
hail the life of the noble lady'

One used to come in with the rushes crosses used to be made. When the crosses used to be made, they used to be blessed the next day – Candlemas (2nd February). The crosses used to be hung up in the houses in honour of Saint Brigid.

Another custom used to be 'Brigid's Mantle'. A piece of cloth used to left out overnight and it used to be believed that Brigid used to bless it. A piece of that cloth used to be sewn onto people's clothes and it used to said that the Brigid Blanket used to protect those people for the whole year.

Questions

- 1 Was St. Brigid's Day a big day in the life of the old Gaels?
- 2 Did grass used to be cut on that day?
- 3 Did rushes used to be cut?
- 4 Was rushes left at the door?
- 5 Did it used to be left outside for a month?
- 6 Did it used to be brought in at tea time?
- 7 Did crosses used to be made from the rushes?
- 8 Did they used to be blessed the next day?
- 9 Did it used to be believed that the cloth that used to be left outside overnight used to be blessed by Brigid?
- 10 What used to be done with the (St) Brigid's Mantle?

Answers (to be put in the correct order)

- a Yes (used to be cut).
- b No (used not to be cut).
- c Yes (used to be left).
- d No (used not to be left).
- e Yes (It was).
- f Yes (used to be blessed).
- g It seems it used to be believed.
- h It used to be sewn onto people's clothing to protect them throughout the year.
- i Yes (used to be made, *Dhéantaí*. Std or *Ghníthí* Ulster).
- j Yes (used to be taken in, *Thugtaí*. Std, or *Bheirtí* Ulster).

Proverb of the day:

The mantle of St. Brigid upon us!

70 Mowing the grass at the O'Boyle house

I was walking by the O'Boyle house the other day. Almost everyone in the family was working around the house. Mary, Mrs. O'Boyle, and her daughter, Síle Ní Bhaoill, were cleaning the house.

Mr. O'Boyle was wanting to paint the house but had to wait until the women were ready. Mr. O'Boyle's sons were working outside. Cathal was mowing the grass, Éamann was sweeping the path and Aodh was washing the windows. God bless the work!

I looked across the street towards the MacDonald's house. Mr. MacDonalad was trying to mow the grass but the lawnmower was broken. Mrs. MacDonald was fixing it. The daughter of the house, Úna Nic Dhónaill, was washing the doors.

James and John MacDonald were building a stone wall. James was lifting the stones and John was putting them in place. 'We'll have a break,' said John, 'my back is hurting me.' His back must have been hurting him because the stones were heavy. 'This work is tiring me out,' said James.

Questions

- 1 Was it true that almost everyone in the O'Boyle house was working?
- 2 What were the two women doing in the house?
- 3 Was Mr. O'Boyle painting the house?
- 4 What was Éamann doing on the driveway?
- 5 Will the windows look cleaner when Hugh is done with them?
- 6 Do the O'Boyles live opposite the MacDonalds?
- 7 Who was responsible for mowing the lawn at the MacDonalds' house?
- 8 We are told that the lawnmower was broken, but who was fixing it?
- 9 If John MacDonald was setting the stones in place, who was lifting them?
- 10 Was John's back hurting him?

Answers (to be put in the correct order)

- a They were cleaning it.
- b True.
- c No – but he was about to start.
- d Yes. They are directly opposite each other.
- e Mr MacDonald.
- f Mrs MacDonald.
- g James.
- h He was sweeping it.
- i Yes, unfortunately. The pain was killing him.
- j Yes – or hopefully it will be!

Proverb of the day:

70 Unity makes strength. (No strength until we all pull together).