

Cuairteoir le hÁine Ní Ghlinn	
“Dhera, foighid ort!” a dúirt mé agus mé ag rith síos an staighre. Cnag! Cnag! Cnag! Ní ba láidre an uair seo. Agus arís eile. Cnag! Cnag! Cnag! D’oscail mé an doras. Cén fáth ar oscail mé é? Mar go raibh duine éigin ag bualadh air agus go hiondúil nuair a bhuaileann duine ar an doras osclaíonn tú é. Is gnáthbhuachaill mé – nó ag an am sin, ar a laghad, thabharfainn gnáthbhuachaill orm féin, spéis agam sa pheil, sa cheol, sa léitheoireacht. Gnáthbhuachaill nach gcuireann trí mhíle ceist air féin gach uair a chloiseann sé cnag ar an doras. B’fhéidir gur chóir na ceisteanna a chur ach pé rud a dhéanfainn anois, an lá áirithe sin ní dhearna mé rud ar bith ach an doras a oscailt... Ní raibh aon ní suntasach ag baint leis an té a bhí romham ar leac an dorais. Fós féin, tá an chéad radharc sin greanta i m’inchinn anois mar a bheadh grianghraf. Ní raibh sé ard – ar comhairde liom féin, sílim – ach bhí údarás le brath air; an cineál sin údaráis a shamhlófá le duine a bheadh i bhfad ní b’airde nó i bhfad ní ba shine ná tú féin agus a bheadh ag breathnú anuas ort. Níl tuairim agam cén aois a bhí aige. Ní raibh mé riamh in ann aois a chur air. Bhí féasóg air a chuirfeadh seandúine i gcuimhne duit ach san am céanna, ní raibh oiread is roc le feiceáil ar a éadan. Bhí mála dubh i lámh amháin aige agus scáth báistí ildaite sa lámh eile, é oscailte in airde os a chionn aige cé go raibh an ghrian ag scoilteadh na gcloch an lá sin. Is cuimhin liom gur fhéach mé i dtreo na spéire nuair a chonaic mé an scáth báistí. Ní raibh oiread is scamall amháin le feiceáil.	

Cuairteoir le hÁine Ní Ghlinn	Visitor by Áine Ní Ghlinn
“Dhera, foighid ort!” a dúirt mé agus mé ag rith síos an staighre. Cnag! Cnag! Cnag! Ní ba láidre an uair seo. Agus arís eile. Cnag! Cnag! Cnag! D’oscail mé an doras. Cén fáth ar oscail mé é? Mar go raibh duine éigin ag bualadh air agus go hiondúil nuair a bhuaileann duine ar an doras osclaíonn tú é. Is gnáthbhuachaill mé – nó ag an am sin, ar a laghad, thabharfainn gnáthbhuachaill orm féin, spéis agam sa pheil, sa cheol, sa léitheoireacht. Gnáthbhuachaill nach gcuireann trí mhíle ceist air féin gach uair a chloiseann sé cnag ar an doras. B’fhéidir gur chóir na ceistanna a chur ach pé rud a dhéanfainn anois, an lá áirithe sin ní dhearna mé rud ar bith ach an doras a oscailt... Ní raibh aon ní suntasach ag baint leis an té a bhí romham ar leac an dorais. Fós féin, tá an chéad radharc sin greanta i m’inchinn anois mar a bheadh grianghraf. Ní raibh sé ard – ar comhairde liom féin, sílim – ach bhí údarás le brath air; an cineál sin údaráis a shamhlófá le duine a bheadh i bhfad ní b’airde nó i bhfad ní ba shine ná tú féin agus a bheadh ag breathnú anuas ort. Níl tuairim agam cén aois a bhí aige. Ní raibh mé riamh in ann aois a chur air. Bhí féasóg air a chuirfeadh seanduine i gcuimhne duit ach san am céanna, ní raibh oiread is roc le feiceáil ar a éadan. Bhí mála dubh i lámh amháin aige agus scáth báistí ildaite sa lámh eile, é oscailte in airde os a chionn aige cé go raibh an ghrian ag scoilteadh na gcloch an lá sin. Is cuimhin liom gur fhéach mé i dtreo na spéire nuair a chonaic mé an scáth báistí. Ní raibh oiread is scamall amháin le feiceáil.	“All right, be patient!” I said as I ran down the stairs. Knock! Knock! Knock! Stronger this time. And once again. Knock! Knock! Knock! I opened the door. Why did I open it? Because someone was knocking on it and usually when a person knocks on the door, you open it. I’m an ordinary boy – or at that time, at least, I would have called myself an ordinary boy, interested in football, in music, in reading. An ordinary boy that doesn’t ask himself three thousand questions every time he hears a knock on the door. Perhaps the questions should be asked but whatever thing I would do now, on that particular day I didn’t do anything but open the door... There wasn’t anything remarkable about the person who was in front of me on the doorstep. All the same, that first sight is carved into my mind now as though it were a photograph. He wasn’t tall – as tall as I myself, I think – but you could sense authority in him; that kind of authority that you would imagine with a person who was much taller or much older than yourself and who was looking down on you. I haven’t an opinion how old he was. I was never able to place his age. He had a beard that would remind you of an old person but at the same time, there wasn’t as much as a wrinkle to see on his forehead. He had a black bag in one hand and a multi-colored umbrella in the other hand, opened up above him although the sun was burning hot that day. I remember that I looked towards the sky when I saw the umbrella. There wasn’t as much as a single cloud to be seen.

cuairteoir – visitor cuairt – visit le – by dhera – yerra foighid – patience foighne – patience ort – on you ar – on dúirt – said abair – say! mé – I, me agus – and ag rith – running rith – run! síos – down staighre – stairs cnag – knock ní ba láidre – stronger (past) níos láidre – stronger láidir – strong uair – time seo – this arís – again eile – other d’oscail – opened oscail – open! doras – door Cén fáth? – Why? ar – that é – him, it mar – because go raibh – that was duine éigin – someone duine – person éigin – some ag bualadh – hitting buail – hit! air – on it go hiondúil – usually nuair – when buaileann – hits osclaíonn – opens tú – you is – is gnáthbhuachaill – ordinary boy gnáth- – common buachaill – boy nó – or ag – at am – time sin – that ar a laghad – at least thabharfainn – I would give tabhair – give!	orm – on me féin – self spéis – interest agam – at me sa – in the peil – football ceol – music léitheoireacht – reading léigh – read! nach – that doesn’t cuireann – puts cuir – put! trí – three míle – thousand ceist – question gach – every cloiseann – hears clois – hear! sé – he, it b’fhéidir – perhaps gur – that would be cóir – proper ceisteanna – questions a chur – to put ach – but pé – whatever rud – thing dhéanfainn – I would do déan – do! anois – now lá – day áirithe – certain ní dhearna – didn’t do ar bith – at all a oscailt – to open ní raibh – wasn’t aon – any ní – thing suntasach – remarkable ag baint leis an – having to do with the ag baint le – having to do with bain – get! té – person bhí – was romham – before me roimh – before leac dorais – doorstep leac – slab dorais – of door fós – still chéad – first radharc – sight greanta – engraved	i – in m’inchinn – my mind mo – my inchinn – mind anois – now mar a bheadh – as though bheadh – would be grianghraf – photograph griain – sun ard – tall comhairde – same height airde – height liom – with me le – with sílim – I think síl – think! údarás – authority le brath air – to be sensed in him braith – sense! cineál – kind údaráis – of authority shamhlófá – you would imagine samhlaigh – imagine! i bhfad – much ní b’airde – taller ní ba shine – older sean – old ná – than ag breathnú – looking breathnaigh – watch! anuas – down ort – on you níl – isn’t tuairim – opinion cén aois – how old cén – what the aois – age a bhí aige – that he had aige – at him ag – at riamh – ever in ann – able féasóg – beard chuirfeadh – would put seanduine – old person cuimhne – memory duit – to you do – to san – in the céanna – same oiread – as much as roc – wrinkle	le feiceáil – to be seen feic – see! a – his éadan – forehead mála – bag dubh – black lámh – hand amháin – one scáth báistí – umbrella scáth – shade báistí – of rain báisteach – rain ildaite – multi-colored oscailte – opened in airde – up os a chionn – above him os cionn – above cé – although ag scoilteadh – splitting scoilt – split! na gcloch – of the stones an chloch – the stone cuimhin – memory gur – that (past) d’fhéach – looked féach – look! i dtreo – towards na spéire – of the sky an spéir – the sky chonaic – saw feic – see! scamall – cloud
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foighid ort – *foighid* or *foighne* (patience) is one of the feelings or states that can be on you in Irish.

Tá slaghdán orm.	I have a cold.
Bíodh foighne ort.	Have patience.
An bhfuil ocras air?	Is he hungry?
An bhfuil tart uirthi?	Is she thirsty?
Tá codladh orainn.	We're sleepy.
An bhfuil fonn oraibh teacht linn?	Do y'all want to come with us?
Bhí drogall orthu dul amach.	They were reluctant to go out.

ní ba láidre – to make the comparative of an adjective (-er in English), a special form of the adjective is used with *níos* in the present or future tense or *ní ba* in the past or conditional: *láidir* (strong), but *níos láidre* (stronger – present tense), *ní ba láidre* (stronger – past tense). *i bhfad* (far) can be used with *níos* or *ní ba* to make them stronger.

Tá mé láidir.	I am strong.
Tá Seán níos láidre.	John is stronger.
Bhí mé láidir.	I was strong.
Bhí Seán ní ba láidre.	John was stronger.
Tá Peadar sean.	Peter is old.
Tá Pól níos sine ná Peadar.	Paul is older than Peter.
Tá Séamas i bhfad níos sine ná Pól.	Jim is much older than Paul.
Bhí Máire ard.	Mary was tall.
Bhí Úna ní b'airde ná Máire.	Una was taller than Mary.
Bhí Aoife i bhfad ní b'airde ná Úna.	Aoife was much taller than Una.

nuair a – the words *nuair a* are equivalent to *when* in English, as in the following examples. *Nuair a* lenites the following verb if possible. Otherwise, there is no change to the verb.

Nuair a théim abhaile, bíonn mo mhadra ag fanacht liom.	When I go home, my dog is waiting for me.
Nuair a chonaic sé mé, rith sé leis.	When he saw me, he ran off.
Nuair a d'oscail sé an doras, tháinig an cat isteach.	When he opened the door, the cat came in.
Nuair a bheidh tú reidh, imeoidimid.	When you'll be ready, we'll leave.

thabhairfinn ... orm féin – there are several ways to specify who someone is in Irish. A form of the verb *tabhair* (give) and the preposition *ar* (on) can be used to specify someone's name or say who they are.

Cé hé tusa?	Who are you?
Is mise Seán.	I'm John.
Cad is ainm duit?	What's your name?
Seán is ainm dom.	My name is John.
Cén t-ainm a thugtar ort?	What are you called?
Tugtar Seán orm.	I am called John.
Thabhairfinn gnáthbhuachaill orm féin.	I would call myself an ordinary boy.

spéis – there are a few ways of saying that you like or are interested in something in Irish.

Tá spéis agam sa cheol.	I'm interested in music.
Tá suim agam sa léitheoireacht.	I'm interested in reading.
Tá dúil agam i gceol tráidisiúnta.	I like traditional music.
Is maith liom snagcheol.	I like jazz music.

a, nach, nár – the relative pronouns *a* (that), *nach* (that not), and *nár* (that not – past) are used to introduce a clause describing a noun from earlier in the sentence. *A* and *nár* lenite the following verb and *nach* eclipses it. *A* and *tá* combine to become *atá*. Note that *a* sometimes corresponds to *who* in English, or is omitted entirely in English.

Cá bhfuil an fear **a** thagann anseo gach lá?
Is é Seán an buachaill **a** chonaic mé aréir.
Is í Máire an bhean **atá** ag obair liom.

Is páiste ciúin é, **nach** mbíonn ag cur ceisteanna.
Is í Áine an cailín **nár** tháinig inné.
Níl duine ar bith anseo **nach** bhfuil ag obair liom.

gnáthbhuachaill **nach** gcuireann ceist air féin
gach uair **a** chloiseann sé cnag
pé rud **a** dhéanfainn anois
an té **a** bhí romham
údarás **a** shamhlófa le duine ní b'airde
féasóg **a** chuirfeadh seandúine i gcuimhne duit

Where is the man **who** comes here every day?
John is the boy **whom** I saw last night.
Mary's the woman **who is** working with me.

He's a quiet child **who** does **not** ask questions.
Anne is the girl **who did not** come yesterday.
There is not anyone here **who is not** working with me.

an ordinary boy **who** does **not** ask himself a question
every time **that** he hears a knock
whatever thing **that** I would do now
the fellow **who** was in front of me
authority **that** you would imagine with a taller person
a beard **that** would remind you of an old person

pé rud – *pé* or *cibé* means *which ever*, and combines with another noun.

Pé rud a dhéanann tú, ní bheidh sé sásta.
Pé duine atá ann, abair leis imeacht.
Pé áit a dtéann sé, bíonn leabhar ina lámh aige.
Pé charr a cheannaím, cliseann sé orm.

Whatever you do, he won't be happy.
Whoever is there, tell him to go.
Wherever he goes, he has a book in his hand.
Whichever car I buy, it breaks down on me.

cé go – the combination *cé go* means *although*.

Cé go bhfuil sé te, rachaidh mé ag rith.
Cé nach n-itheann sé feoil eile, itheann sé iasc.
Cé gur chuala mé do ghuth, ní fhaca mé thú.
Cé gur maith léi glasraí, ní itheann sí iad.
Cé nár mheicneoir é, dheisigh sé mo charr.

Although it's hot, I'll go running.
Although he doesn't eat other meat, he eats fish.
Although I heard your voice, I didn't see you.
Although she likes vegetables, she doesn't eat them.
Although he wasn't a mechanic, he fixed my car.

cuimhne – there are a few different ways in Irish to say that you do (or don't) remember something.

Is cuimhin liom go maith an lá sin.
Ní cuimhin liom go ndúirt tú é sin.
Chuir sé mo dheartháir i gcuimhne dom.
Níor chuimnigh sé go raibh mé ag teacht.
Is cuimhneach liom go raibh madra beag léi.

I remember that day well.
I don't remember that you said that.
He reminded me of my brother.
He didn't remember that I was coming.
I remember that there was a little dog with her.

Rinne mé dearmad é a thabhairt ar ais.
Tá sé dearmadtha agam arís.
Dhearmad sé é a dhéanamh.

I forgot to take it back.
I've forgotten it again.
He forgot to do it.

an modh coinníolach – there are several examples of conditional verbs in this passage.

Thabhairfinn gnáthbhuachaill orm féin.
pé rud a dhéanfainn anois
mar a bheadh grianghraf
údarás a shamhlófa le duine ní b'airde
duine a bheadh i bhfad ní b'airde
féasóg a chuirfeadh seandúine i gcuimhne duit

I would call myself an ordinary boy.
whatever thing I would do now
as though it were a photograph
authority you would imagine with a taller person
a person who would be much taller
a beard that would remind you of an old person