



That's Interesting!



A worksheet for adults to practise reading, writing, spelling and numbers.

Elections 2024



We have two elections coming up in Ireland on Friday 7 June. The local elections and the European elections.

Local Elections

Local elections are held in Ireland every 5 years. These elections allow people to elect councillors to represent them in their local authorities.

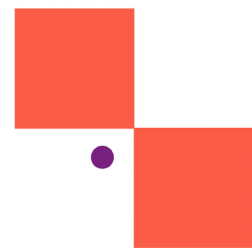
There are 31 local authorities in Ireland, including County Councils and city and town Councils. Each county, city, and town council is divided into local electoral areas. Each local electoral area has a certain number of councillors to elect.



These local councillors work on behalf of their communities to improve the quality of life for residents. Elected councillors attend council meetings where they make decisions related to local services. These include:

Social Housing: Each local authority, managed by councillors, provides houses for people who cannot afford accommodation. They own houses and apartments which they rent out to those who need them.

Planning: Councillors oversee planning permission for new buildings, extensions, and changes in building use. They ensure that all new buildings are built safely and within the planning laws.



Roads: Local authorities are responsible for improving and maintaining regional and local roads. They also look after public car parks, set speed limits and handle drainage and road gritting during icy winter weather.

Fire Service: Local authorities manage the local fire service.

Libraries and other public services: Each local authority manages local public libraries, youth services and sports facilities. They also operate public swimming pools, leisure centres, playgrounds and parks.

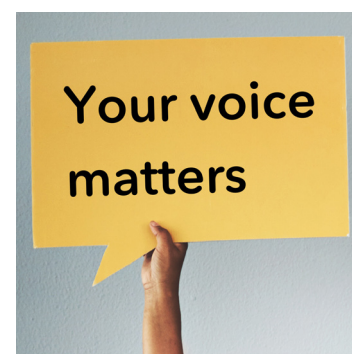
European Election

In the European elections, people in the European Union known as the EU, vote for members to represent them in the European Parliament. Elections take place in all 27 EU countries. These elections take place every 5 years.

The elected members of the European Parliament are called MEPs (Member of European Parliament) and they represent the 450 million people who live in the EU. Their job is to discuss plans for new EU laws, decide on a EU budget, discuss policies that ensure that the EU and its people are protected from war and vote on trade agreements with countries that are outside the EU.

This year 720 MEPs will be elected. Each country in the EU will have no less than 6 members to represent them in the EU parliament. Larger countries will have more members. Ireland currently has 13.

Remember your vote matters, when you vote you are having a say in who represents you at local level and at European level. To vote you must be over 18 years of age and be on the register to vote. You can check the register at any Garda Station, Post Office or Library. You can also check online at checktheregister.ie.



Have you heard the cuckoo yet?

For most of us the first sign of summer is when we hear the cuckoo. The cuckoo visits Ireland between the months of April and August each year and then flies off to the warmer climate of Africa for the other 8 months of the year.

The old poem about the cuckoo tells us this.

In April, come he will.

In May, he sings all day.

In June, he changes his tune.

In July, he prepares to fly.

In August, go he must.



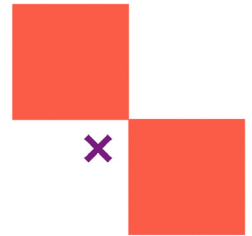
Although we have all heard the cuckoo, very few of us have seen one. She is quite a big bird with a blue/grey head, black and white striped chest, a long tail and wide pointed wings. However, the most remarkable thing about the cuckoo is that she is in fact very selfish.

A cuckoo never builds her own nest. When the time comes for her to lay her eggs she will seek out other birds' nests, wait for an opportunity when the bird is away from the nest then throw out some of that bird's own eggs and lays her own egg. She will do this in several nests.

The cuckoo tricks the other bird into hatching the new baby cuckoos and feeding them as her own. Bird watchers have said that even when the new cuckoos are born they will sometimes push the other baby chicks out of the nest to make more room for themselves.

It has been noted that the cuckoo has become scarce in many parts of Ireland and Britain in the last few years. Many believe that this is due to the use of insect sprays used in farming and gardening which have killed off many of the insects and caterpillars that the cuckoo feeds on.

When to use an apostrophe



An apostrophe looks like this '

1. We use it to show ownership, (use 's) .

Examples:

Mrs. Browne's cat Mary's dog the boy's bike the doctor's bag

When using it with plurals, place the apostrophe **after the s**

Examples:

The girls' bikes My parents' house The lorries' wheels

2. We use it in surnames that contain O. O'Brien, O'Donnell

3. We use it when writing the time. 3 o'clock, six o'clock

4. We use it to shorten words. (The same way as we say the word.)

Remember! Instead of using 2 words we join the 2 words and use ' instead of the missing letters.

I did not	I didn't
I do not	I don't
I can not	I can't
He does not	he doesn't
I could not	I couldn't

I have not	I haven't
I had not	I hadn't
You are not	You aren't
He is not	he isn't
I will not	I won't

I am	I'm
you are	you're
we are	we're
they are	they're
you have	you've

I have	I've
he is	he's
It is	it's
we will	we'll
I will	I'll



Place the apostrophe in the correct place.

1. Johns bike is parked outside.

2. The mans voice is very loud.

3. My car is bigger than Marys.

4. All the girls coats are on the floor.

5. All the lorries tyres are new.

6. The Murphys house is for sale.

Shorten these words by placing the apostrophe in the correct place.

(The first one is done for you.)

• He does not He doesn't I did not _____

• She could not _____ He is not _____

• I will not _____ I am _____

• I have _____ We are _____

• They are _____ I do not _____

Words ending in **ture** (sounds like chur)

picture	fixture	manufacture	structure
adventure	fracture	mixture	sculpture
capture	furniture	nature	posture
future	lecture	puncture	torture

Use this to help you learn to spell each word

Example: **manufacture**

- **Look** at the word closely, what words or pattern can I spot? **ture**
- **Say** the word and count the syllables/parts: **man- u- fac- ture** 4
- **Cover** the word with your hand.
- **Write** it down from the parts you remember in your head.
- **Check** if you have it spelt correctly.

Fill in the blanks using words from the list above.

1. My friend works in a factory where they _____ toys.
2. I got a _____ in the wheel of my bike.
3. I need to buy _____ for my new house.
4. The x-ray showed I had a _____ in my arm.
5. He painted a nice _____ of the countryside.
6. Put the flour, eggs and sugar in a bowl to make a _____.
7. Nobody can tell what will happen in the _____.
8. You need to keep your back straight to have good _____.
9. The teacher gave the class a _____ about poetry.
10. _____ is all about plants and animals.

Word Search



Try and find these words which are hidden in the word search. The words are placed from left to right and top to bottom.

adventure capture furniture future lecture manufacture
mixture nature posture puncture

c a p t u r e j z c s y k v e
d y t k y s u m o b k l a t m
k j g h m i x t u r e j n p i
e f t x h c a m x z p d p b g
p k s p q n d a z n u b v k f
o t l e v a i n p r n p w u a
s p z n l f q u l y c f z i d
t e v v k r m f e c t w f t v
u m f w e d u a c p u v u l e
r l g x p x o c t r r w t u n
e k f u r n i t u r e v u d t
v r e j c c u u r p m o r s u
x b m d o a t r e x t e e y r
f c m h j h w e m k e y g f e
o j q l i n a t u r e e b u g

Notes



Further help is available

If you need help with these worksheets, or with reading, writing, maths or digital skills, you can contact the National Adult Literacy Agency (NALA).



Call us on Freephone 1 800 20 20 65

You can study online on our Learn with NALA website www.learnwithnala.ie or with a tutor over the phone or we can give details of your local Education and Training Board.



National Adult Literacy Agency
Áisíneacht Náisiúnta Litearthachta do Aosaigh

The views expressed in
That's Interesting! are not
necessarily the views of NALA.