

Irish Idiosyncrasies, Collected by Dublin 2019

Topic	Explanation
First floor	Irish floor numbering starts at ground then 1st, then 2nd. In other countries 1st floor is ground floor (except in occasional hotels, usually US owned)
Swearing	It's common and normal, Irish people don't notice how often they swear
Sambo	In Dublin this means sandwich and is common slang, in other countries particularly North America it is a racist slur.
Chips	These are also known as french fries, crisps are chips. As with everything in life, the sooner you make a mistake about it when you place an order, the faster you learn.
Luas	Local tram in Dublin, you must have a Leap card to tap on and tap off
The weather	One of the main topics of conversation, it's always changeable so people talk about it a lot. Recommend checking regularly, it will change, wear layers.
Irish language	The language that some Irish people speak, do not refer to it as Gaelic
Driving	Most Irish people drive so there are lots of cars on the road, be wary of traffic, we drive on the left hand side of the road
Giving out	In an Irish context, this means scolding or reprimanding
Two queues for buses	Left for paying a partial fare with Leap card, or for cash. Right for flat fare Leap card like a Visitors card.
Two part pour	Guinness (and all other stouts) take two separate pours, don't be surprised when your bar tender puts your drink down and walks away
Irish humor	Irish humor often involves mockery. This is not meant to be hurtful, but can offend
Irish toilet names	Mná means woman, Fir means man
Sorry	Irish people say sorry a lot, often just as a way of saying excuse me
Craic	Irish for fun/good times. Sounds like "crack." Not to be mistaken with anything related to cocaine or glutes
Leap card caps	€40 is the limit you can be charged on your Leap card in Dublin from Mon-Sun. Or €10 per day. Or just get a €40 Visitors Leap card for 7 days so you don't have to worry about this if you're using mass transit every day.

Topic	Explanation
Irish language on street signs	The text in <i>italics</i> on street signs is in Irish
Beer measures	Pints=big glass (20 oz not 16 oz). (€6ish) Half or a glass=small glass (10 oz). (€4ish)
Pints	Collectively, means alcoholic drinks. "Fancy some pints?" In terms of sizes, an Irish pint is 20 oz (US pint = 16 oz) or 568mL.
No table service in bars	Most bars/pubs do not have any table service.
Tipping in bars	Tipping in bars is not expected unless there is table service. It's still not expected for table service in the same way as in the US. All tipping here is voluntary and uncommon outside restaurants. Even in a restaurant, it is not compulsory. Here's what TripSavvy recommends: https://www.tripsavvy.com/tipping-in-ireland-1542784
The spire	The spire is in the center of O'Connell street, and can be seen from far away. This is a useful monument if you are a bit lost. Aka Bertie Ahern's middle finger to the country, or the stiffy by the Liffey
Grand	Contextually used as a synonym for anything ranging from "it's okay," "that's awesome" to "you're forgiven."
How's things?	Irish way of saying hello, often not expecting a response. Irish people will mostly respond with "grand" or "not too bad."
Top of the morning to ya	Say this if you want to be thrown into the Liffey. It's not something we say around here.
Crisps	Known as chips in America. Fried potato snacks - in an amazing number of flavors compared to the States
Jay walking	Irish people do this a lot, don't be surprised
Paying for taxis with card	A lot of Irish taxis don't take credit/debit cards. So check first or have cash, and remember that not all taxis have change for 50 EUR notes. Download the myTaxi app from https://mytaxi.com/ie/ , if you have an Android or Apple smart phone. This allows you to order a car and pay by card.

Topic	Explanation
Where are you from?	If you ask someone this question, remember the first answer is always the right one. People want to know where you live now, where you used to live, where your family is and was from. They may try to establish if they know the place or people from the place
No, we do not know Mary	Ireland is a relatively big place, we do not know everyone. So don't ask if we know your relative. Having said that - after a couple of minutes we will probably try to figure out if we do know your relatives - we'll ask counties and names to try establish this. Watch us, we do it with everyone. Surprisingly we often find someone in common.
How're ya?	Greeting, not a question, no one cares.
Grand	Traditional response. If you're not grand no one cares
Fairies	Are awful, they are nothing like Tinkerbell
Leprechaun	Also awful and are only a topic of conversation while at the Leprechaun Museum
Black and Tan	Not a drink, committed brutal atrocities, don't try to order one in a pub
Irish car bomb	Also not a drink, just don't
Any craic	They are not accusing you of being a drug dealer
What's the story	Neither asking what you are reading nor what floor you are on. Basically Dublin synonym for "what up?"
Queue	A line. You stand and wait in it and then people skip you anyway. Especially if you appear distracted. People will remain behind you if you appear alert but lose focus for a minute and they will be in front of you...
Irish rail	You can book a seat but a little old lady will sit in it anyway (Never actually happened to me...)
Rule of 3	When offered food or a drink, it's seen as impolite to accept on the first offer, or refuse more than 3 times
Asking for the bill	At a restaurant you have to ask for the bill, they will let you sit there otherwise and you can often just go to the counter to pay when you are ready to go. Just notice if you have a table number - it helps..

Topic	Explanation
Story, bud?	Dublin synonym for "what up?" If your answer begins with "once upon a time", refer to the definition of "top of the morning to ya"
Idjit	Stupid person
Cute Hoor	A beer, but also a person who is pushing their advantage to the limits
Mixers are not free	Mixers (<i>i.e.</i> : Coke, 7-Up etc to be mixed with a spirit) are not typically free in bars
Cork	The real capital of Ireland according to some. Kilkenny actually has been the capital of Ireland.
Flagging buses	If the bus you want to take is coming up, stick your hand out to get them to stop. Thank the driver especially when getting off the bus.
Pronouncing Ireland	It should be pronounced like "Arr Land," not actually "Ire land"
Stick shift	Most Irish cars are manual, if you are renting a car and need an automatic then you have to specifically book one
Empty glass	Bringing your empty glasses back to the bar is much appreciated
Langer	A rude word for male anatomy
Bags	A rude word for ladies or gents under pants
Pants	Sometimes trousers, sometimes underwear
Fanny	Mildly rude word for ladies' genitalia - as opposed to bum
Arse	Bum
Langered	A state of inebriation
Yeah, no	No
No, yeah	Yes
I will, Yeah	Not a hope.
Feck off you mad bollix great to see ya	Hello old friend
Your Ma	Something rude
Five lamps	Don't hang anything off these

Topic	Explanation
Mé Féiner	Self interested or self serving greed
Cot	Only for babies. Camp beds are for adults.
Yous, ye, yer	Can be either singular or plural
Gaybo, Sambo etc	Don't panic - these are not insults. Gaybo is an Irish tv presenter Gay Byrne. Sambo is a Dublin sandwich. Dublin slang tends to give words an "o" ending. Declan will become Deco, Anthony, Anto and so on. Gay became Gaybo and sandwich Sambo. Oddly Decko can also mean to go take a look at something.
Fag	Cigarette more often than not though it could be a derogatory term. Best identified in context.
10 minute walk from here	Probably means it is no closer than 15 minutes and may be over a half hour away on foot.
Telling time	In Ireland "Half two" means Half past two or two thirty not half to two.
Temperature	Weather reports use Celcius. In Ireland, 20 Celsius is a warm day (about 68F)
A couple/a few	Either could be used to mean more than two of a thing - probably not as many as five.
Time keeping	At the con events will be on time but in social life Irish people are not often on time for parties- if someone tells you the party is at 8 they do not expect you to turn up at their door at 8. They may not yet be dressed.
Tayto's	Tayto is a type of crisp, and the main brand in Ireland.
Washcloths	Hotels generally do not provide these - bring your own. Also known as Flannels.