

Understanding English Grammar

Linguistic Problem of the Month, March 2011: Irish Numbers

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Irish, also known as Erse, Gaeilge, or Irish Gaelic, is spoken by approximately 260,000 people in Ireland. There are about 25,870 speakers in the USA, or about one in every 10,000 Americans. It is a Celtic language, distantly related to English.

Below are number phrases in Irish and their English equivalents:

garra amháin	1 garden
gasúr déag	11 boys
ocht mballa is dhá fichid	48 walls
dhá gharra déag is ceithre fichid	92 gardens
trí bhád	3 boats
seacht ndoras déag	17 doors
seacht mbád déag is dhá fichid	57 boats
naoi nduine déag is fiche	39 people
ceithre fichid doras	80 doors
cúig bhalla	5 walls
sé ghasúr is trí fichid	66 boys
deich mbád	10 boats
sé dhuine	6 people
trí dhoras is dhá fichid	43 doors
garra is ceithre fichid	81 gardens

Problem 1. Translate into English:

naoi mbád déag is ceithre fichid

sé dhuine déag

naoi nduine

fiche gasúr

garra déag is fiche

Problem 2. Translate into Irish:

2 boys

38 walls

14 walls

71 doors

21 boats

90 people