

CELEBRATIONS

St Patrick's Day

Age: Teenagers/Adults
Level: Intermediate (B1)
Time: 30 minutes +



Key:

Across:

1. whiskey
4. Nobel
6. Bono
8. Pierce
9. genius
10. Patrick
15. European
16. tourism
17. river
18. March
19. Ireland
20. Atlantic
21. shamrock (as in picture)
22. Kennedy
23. United Kingdom

Down:

2. instruments
3. potatoes
5. Ronan
7. Catholic
9. Guinness
11. climate
12. Dublin
13. English
14. population
21. speak

Activity: In this lesson, students will:

1. do a crossword about Ireland for St Patrick's Day (March 17th)
2. match some English sentences with their Irish Gaelic equivalents

Language focus: vocabulary connected with Ireland

Materials: one copy of the worksheet per student


Procedure

1. Write the following names one by one on the board and ask students who or what they are/were:

- George Bernard Shaw
- Bono
- St Patrick
- Guinness
- Ronan Keating
- John F Kennedy
- Westlife
- Oscar Wilde
- Dracula

Ask what they have in common. *Answer: Ireland.*

2. Find out if anyone in the class has been to Ireland and what they thought of it. Then ask what students know about Ireland and write key words on the board.
3. Hand out copies of the worksheet and ask students to complete Exercise 1, the crossword, in pairs or small groups.

 **TECH TIP:** Ask students to try to solve the puzzle first using only their own general knowledge. If they aren't sure of any vocabulary, ask them to try to work it out first in context or ask another pair or group. But if students need further help, tell them it's fine to consult an online dictionary, atlas or encyclopaedia – the only rule is that they must search for the answer in English.

4. Ask students what the traditional Irish language is. *Answer: Gaelic.* (Most people speak English in their daily lives, but there are some communities, especially on the west coast, where Irish Gaelic is spoken.) Ask students to look at Exercise 2 and try to match the English with the Irish Gaelic equivalent. Can they work it out from context? (E.g. only one sentence contains the name Sinéad; two of the Irish sentences contain the word 'Gaeilge', which is likely to be the Irish spelling for Gaelic.)

CELEBRATIONS

St Patrick's Day



TECH TIP: To bring Irish Gaelic to life, you could introduce students to a website like www.abair.tcd.ie/?lang=eng – a language synthesiser. Simply copy and paste in the Irish phrases, then press 'Synthesise', to hear them pronounced accurately.

This exercise could also be a good opportunity to introduce Google Translate (translate.google.co.uk) as a useful tool, although pointing out its flaws may also be a valuable lesson.

Key:

1. g
2. d
3. k
4. c
5. i
6. f
7. b
8. l
9. e
10. a
11. h
12. j

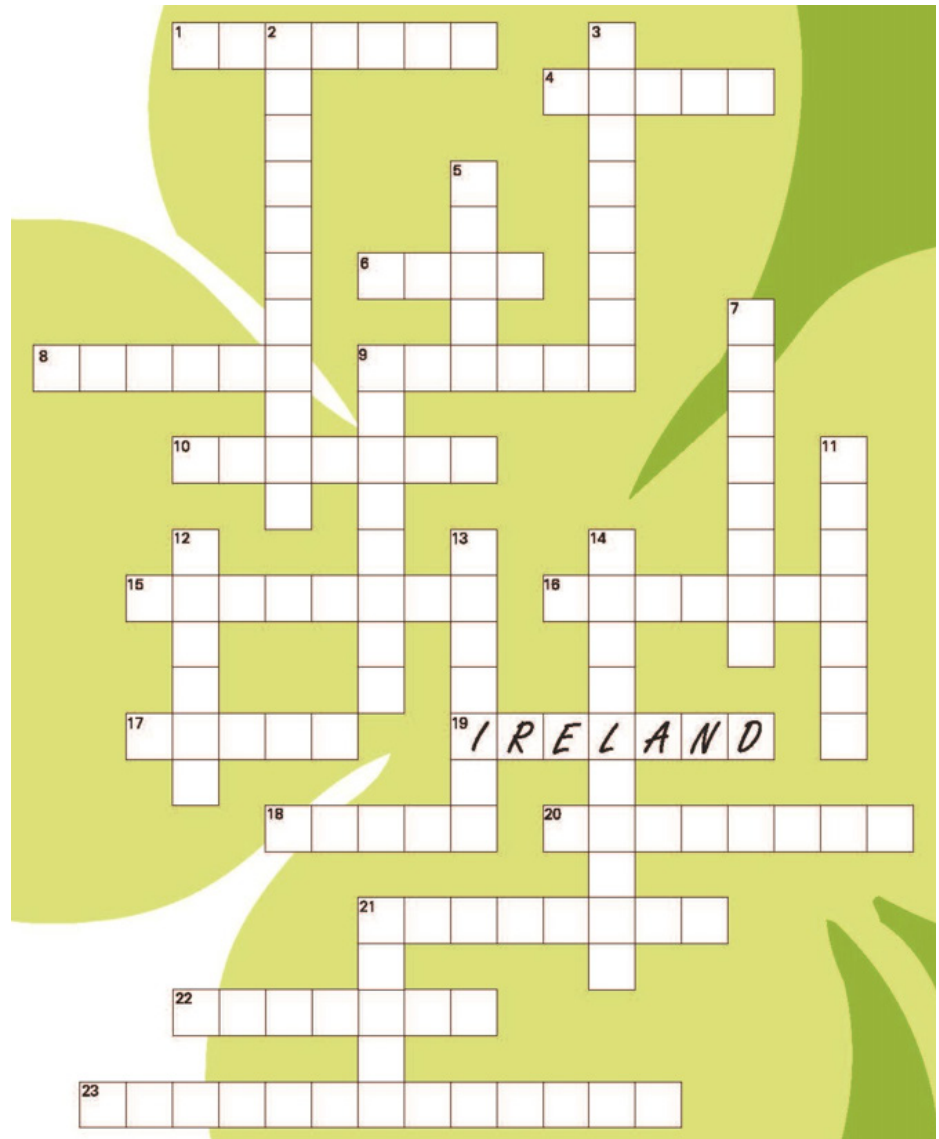
CELEBRATIONS

St Patrick's Day

Exercise 1: Crossword

ACROSS

1. Most people usually associate this drink with Scotland. The Irish version has an additional 'e' in the name.
4. Four Irish writers have won this prize for literature.
6. The singer of Ireland's most famous rock band.
8. Ireland has also produced some popular actors including one who played James Bond. What's the actor's first name?
9. When stopped at US customs, Oscar Wilde said, 'I have nothing to declare except my ____.'
10. The patron saint of Ireland, often credited with bringing Christianity to Ireland.
15. Both parts of the island became part of this union in 1973.
16. Ireland's largest single industry. Each year more than 5.4 million people visit the island.
17. The Shannon is the longest ____ in the British Isles.
18. St Patrick's Day takes place on the 17th of this month.
19. The island that has previously been called the Land at the Limit of the World, Isle of Mists and Hibernia.
20. The ocean that separates Ireland from the United States.
21. The national emblem of Ireland, a green plant that is said to bring good luck. (see image)
22. Several US presidents had Irish ancestors, including this one.
23. Ireland is divided into four provinces. One is part of two countries: the Republic of Ireland and the _____. (two words)



DOWN

2. These include uilleann pipes, the fiddle and accordion, and are used to play traditional dance tunes.
3. The vegetable that is most associated with Ireland. You can boil them, roast them, bake them and mash them.
5. A popular Irish name. This name comes from the Irish word *rón* (pronounced 'rone'), which means 'seal'.
7. The religion of most people in the Republic of Ireland.
9. They say it's good for you! Another drink you'll find in Ireland and in pubs and bars across the world.
11. The ____ is temperate: winters are not very cold and summers not very warm.
12. The capital city.
13. The language used by the vast majority of the population.
14. This is currently around 5 million.
21. They say that if you kiss the famous Blarney Stone you'll be able to do this well.

CELEBRATIONS

St Patrick's Day

Exercise 2: Irish language

1. Yes. a. *Níl agam ach beagáinín Gaeilge.*
2. No. b. *Cad is ainm duit?*
3. Good morning. c. *Go raibh maith agat.*
4. Thank you. d. *Ní hea.*
5. How are you? e. *An labhraíonn tú Gaeilge?*
6. I'm fine, thank you. f. *Tá mé go maith, go raibh maith agat.*
7. What is your name? g. *Is ea.*
8. My name is Sinéad. h. *Ní thuigim.*
9. Do you speak Irish? i. *Cén chaoi a bhfuil tú?*
10. I only speak a little Irish. j. *Cad a dúirt tú?*
11. I don't understand. k. *Dia dhuit ar maidin.*
12. What did you say? l. *Is mise Sinéad.*