

The GAA

Introduction



The worksheets in this chapter are based on the following areas:

- reading about Croke Park,
- compound words,
- sentences,
- writing informal letters,
- vowels, and
- consonants.

For help with the worksheets, you can:

- call the NALA Freephone support line at 1800 20 20 65 on Monday to Friday between 10am and 4pm, or
- check out the Really Useful Guide to Words and Numbers Web site on www.rug.ie

Reading : Croke Park

Croke Park: Home of the Gaelic Athletic Association

Welcome to Croke Park stadiums for today's match, the All-Ireland Senior Hurling Championship Quarter-Final between Tipperary and Waterford.

Croke Park has been at the heart of Irish sporting life for over one hundred years, and is the headquarters of the Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA). Croke Park is named after the first patron, or supporter, of the GAA, Dr. Thomas Croke.

It is now the largest venue in Ireland and one of the largest stadiums in Europe, with a capacity of over 80,000 people. Almost two million people visited Croke Park in 2005.

To find out more about Croke Park and the GAA, why not visit the GAA Museum under the Cusack Stand after the match? Here you'll find jerseys and hurleys of famous players along with lots of other pieces of interest.

TIP: When you phone the GAA headquarters at Croke Park, Dublin 3, the operator will answer with the Irish for the Gaelic Athletic Association: Cumann Lúthchleas Gael.

Reading : Croke Park

**See if you can answer these questions.
The first one is done for you.**

1. What match is being played at Croke Park?

The All-Ireland Senior Hurling Championship Quarter-Final.

2. What do the letters 'GAA' stand for?

3. Who was Croke Park named after?

4. How many people can fit into Croke Park?

5. How many people visited Croke Park in 2005?

6. Where is the GAA Museum?

7. What sort of things can you see in the GAA Museum?

Spelling: compound words

Many English words are made by putting together two or more smaller words. These are called compound words. Let's have a look at some examples.

The word 'football' is made up of the smaller words **'foot'** and **'ball'**.

See if you can make up new words by adding one word from the list on the left with a word from the list on the right. Then write out the word in the space provided. The first one is done for you.

<u>handball</u>	hand	field
_____	break	works
_____	half	ball
_____	head	side
_____	fire	ford
_____	shoe	time
_____	champion	tray
_____	river	quarters
_____	mid	ship
_____	Water	through
_____	ash	lace

Spelling: compound words

Sometimes, a small word can be added to more than one other word. For example, the word 'time' can be added to 'half', 'full' and 'tea' to give the new words 'halftime', 'fulltime' and 'teatime'.

What word can be added to each of the following groups of word to make new words? The first one is done for you.

tea	foot	black
horse	board	post

1. teapot

teatime

teacloth

2. cup_____

over_____

_____ room

3. _____man

_____ card

_____ box

4. _____board

_____ berry

_____ out

5. _____path

_____ ball

_____ print

6. _____shoe

_____ power

race_____

Writing: sentences

A sentence is a group of words that make sense. Every sentence starts with a capital letter and ends with a full stop.

These are the capital letters in the English alphabet:

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

The opposite of capital letters is small letters:

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

Sometimes, you will hear people call capital letters ‘uppercase letters’ and sometimes small letters are called ‘lowercase letters’.

A full stop is a dot which is put after the last word in a sentence.

Here’s an example of two sentences taken from the reading at the beginning of this chapter.

It is now the largest venue in Ireland and one of the largest stadiums in Europe, with a capacity of over 80,000 people. Almost two million people visited Croke Park stadiums in 2005.

You can see that the first sentence begins with the capital letter ‘I’ and ends with a full stop after the word ‘people’. The second sentence begins with the capital letter ‘A’ and ends with a full stop after the number 2005.

Writing: sentences

Write out the sentences, putting in the capital letters and full stops.
Each of the following can be made into two sentences.
The first one is done for you.

1. the tickets for the match went on sale early they were sold out in two hours

The tickets for the match went on sale early. They were sold out in two hours.

2. patrick took the train to the match it is the easiest way to travel

3. patrick bought his ticket it cost €25.00

4. the stadium was full of people there was a lot of noise and excitement

5. a cheer went up when the teams appeared on the field patrick felt very excited

TIP: A person's name always gets a capital letter.

Writing: informal letters

An informal letter is a letter to a friend. The language used is like the language you would use in a conversation. Informal letters don't need any special formatting, but it's a good idea to lay them out like the one shown below.

This is a short informal letter Miguel wrote to his English teacher back home in Brazil after visiting Croke Park.

Your address and the date you're writing the letter	3 Dolphin's Avenue, Dublin 2 4th August 2006
Dear + name of person you're writing to	
Dear Patrick,	
I arrived safely in Dublin. It's a very interesting place, with all the museums, old buildings and pubs. But the most interesting thing for me is the sport they play in Ireland. I've just been to visit a stadium called Croke Park. It's huge, the biggest stadium in Ireland. It can hold 82,500 people. The stands are very high and have three levels, so you have a really good view of the pitch. I read that it's the fourth largest stadium in Europe.	
I have to go now, but I'll write a longer letter next week to tell you about the crazy Irish game of 'hurling'.	
Bye for now,	Informal finish, such as 'bye for now', 'take care', 'talk to you soon',
<i>Miguel</i>	Your signature

Writing: informal letters

See if you can fill in the blanks in the informal letter below using words from the box.

Take care,	29th August 2006	Dear Mavis,
14 Main Street	Nenagh	Jack

Thank you for your thoughtful card. You will be delighted to hear that I passed my test and can now drive on my own. To celebrate, I'm taking some friends up to Dublin for the All Ireland. It will be my first long drive but it will be worth it if we manage to win!

I'll write you a longer note when I get back to tell you all about the match.

Spelling: vowels

Words are made from the letters of the alphabet.
The alphabet is made up of 26 letters.

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z
a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o p q r s t u v w x y z

There are two types of letters in the alphabet – vowels and consonants.
The five vowels are:

A E I O U
a e i o u

Fill in the vowels in the following words.

1. t i c k _ t
2. s t _ d i u m
3. C r o k _ P _ r k
4. A l l I r _ l a n d
5. p r _ g r a m m e
6. m _ t c h
7. s c _ r e
8. h _ r l i n g
9. f o o t b _ l l
10. m _ s e u m

Spelling: consonants

There are 21 consonants in the alphabet. These are:

B C D F G H J K L M N P Q R S T V W X Y Z

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

See if you can fill in the consonants in the following letter.

14 Main Street

Nenagh

12th September 2006

Dear Mavis,

I ho_e you _ot to _atch _he match on tele_ision. It was ama_ing, wa_n't it? We met so_e of the _ads from the _lub in _uinn's _efore the matc_ and then e_ded up in Boland's a_terwards. We didn't get back to our B&B until 2am. I'm so happ_ I took Mon_ay off wo_k so I could recover and rela_.

I have to go because the team are coming to Nenagh with the cup. I'll write again in a day or two to tell you all about it.

Bye for now,

Jack

GAA county nicknames quiz

Every county has a nickname. See how many you know. You may need to do a bit of research to find out the answers! The first one is done for you.

TIP: The names of counties always get a capital letter.

1. Tipperary is also known as the Premier county.
2. The _____ county is another name for Meath.
3. Some people refer to Clare as the _____ county.
4. If you're from Cork, you might be called a _____ .
5. A man from Galway is called a _____ .
6. Offaly is also known as the _____ county.
7. The _____ is another name for Kerry.
8. Dublin supporters are known as _____ .
9. The Decies come from county _____ .
10. DJ Carey is a famous Kilkenny _____ .

Now see if you can find out the nicknames for all the other counties.

TIP: The answers are at the back of the workbook.