

Fáilte – Welcome to Ireland

Worksheet

A little toolbox for you

Here is an [online dictionary](#) for you. It gives you definitions in English. You just click on the dictionary, type in the word that you do not understand and then get a definition in English. The [next dictionary](#) gives you an English-German translation. You have to download it first. But then it will always be on your computer and ready to help you when you are online.

Getting There

Imagine you are in Holyhead, Wales and you want to travel by ferry to Dublin, Ireland. Find out [details](#) about sailing departure and arrival times. Click on *timetables*. You would like to travel in the afternoon.

Details about sailing departure and arrival times:

Some Basic Facts

As a visitor to the Republic of Ireland you should learn about [some basic facts](#) about the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland.

Which country is bigger – the Republic of Ireland or Northern Ireland?

What are the capitals of Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland?

What does Northern Ireland have to do with the United Kingdom of Great Britain?

Make some notes about Ireland's troubled history (what role religion plays and has played, the IRA). With the help of your notes, give a short summary.

What do the colours in the Republic of Ireland's [flag](#) stand for?

Irish Voices and Pictures

Read the following texts and listen to members of a farmer's family in Northern Ireland. The farmer and his family live on a small farm. This is a problem because the farmer needs another part-time job to earn enough money for his family and himself. We can listen to all the members of the family and also read what they say about their life in Northern Ireland. [The farmer's daughter](#) tells us what the government offers the farmers to improve their situation. Read the text and listen to what she says. What did the daughter do after she had left school?

What kind of workshops are organised for the farmers and why?

Now read and listen to what the [farmer's son](#) tells us about his life and his work. Don't worry about unknown words. It is enough to read only the first chapter and get the main idea of what

he says. Read and listen to the text two or three times. Then note three points that you have understood.

Have a look at the beautiful [photos offered on this website](#). Choose five pictures which you think are ‘typically Irish’. Describe shortly what these five pictures show and give reasons why you chose them.

Picture 1

Picture 2

Picture 3

Picture 4

Picture 5

Irish Music

Let's begin with the very famous song [The Wild Rover](#). This song has also been turned into a German version which most of you will know once you start listening to the audio file. Read the text while you here the melody being played.

What is the song all about? Who is the *wild rover*? What happens when he orders a drink in the pub?

The next piece of music is very short. You listen to the beginning of Chris De Burgh's song [The Power of Peace](#). Listen a few times and then try to fill in the gaps:

How many _____ of war

W _____ what they've been _____ for

When will our _____ cease

Until we _____ the power of _____ .

A final song, also by Chris de Burgh, is about a soldier who has to leave his 'loved one': *Borderline*.

Read the [lyrics](#) and listen to the [melody](#) of the song. It will be useful to also print the lyrics so you can read the text carefully.

Where is the speaker "I" and where does he want to go?

How does he feel during his train journey?

What does his country expect him to do?

What makes him so sad?

The [Riverdance Company](#) offers a very fresh and modern type of Irish music and dancing. You will soon see why it has become a world-wide success story.

- [Read and listen](#) to what people say who saw a show of this great dance company.
- Have a look at the merchandising products and choose one you would like to buy.
- If you wanted to visit a show of Riverdance here in Germany you could [check for places and tickets](#) on the website.