

## An Chopail



### 10 Point Summary (It may look long...but it won't be 10)

1. Okay so the Copail translates to the copula in English...and don't worry, we have no idea what that is either...but basically it operates as a way of linking words together in sentences.

2. These are the main words used in the Copail in the present tense.

The questions (?)	an/nach
Positive answer(✓)	is
Negative answer (x)	ní
Positive answer(✓)	gur/gurb
Negative answer (x)	nach

3. The Copail is used for 'abaití aicme' which are when a person or thing is mentioned in reference to a class/category or group. This is the structure for these type of sentences:

	An Chopail	Information	Subject
Positive(✓)	Is	múinteoir	Laoise.
Negative (x)	Ní	polaiteoir	é.
Question (?)	An	Garda	í?
Question (?)	Nach	peileadóir	Caoimhín?

3. We don't have to but it is not incorrect to place a personal pronoun before 'an tAinmní'.

4. If a verb such as 'Deir' or 'Dúirt' are at the beginning of the sentence, we use the indirect form of the Copail by using the words 'gur, gurb or nach'. This is the structure for these type of sentences:

	Verb	An Chopail	Information	Subject
Positive(✓)	Deir sí	gur	múinteoir	Laoise.
Negative (x)	Deir sé	nach	peileadóir	Caoimhín.

5. 'Gurb' is used in the present tense in the following cases

- before adjectives that begin with vowels
- before adverbs that begin with vowels



6. 'Gur' is used in the present tense in the following cases

- before nouns that begin with vowels
- before prepositions that begin with vowels
- before forainmneacha réamhfhoclacha that begin with vowels

7. The Copail is also used to express identity in sentences, or 'abairtí ionannais'.

This is the structure for these type of sentences:

	An Chopail	Pronoun	Subject	Information
Positive (✓)	Is	í	Laoise	an múinteoir bunscoile.
Negative (x)	Ní	hí	Máire	an Garda aitiúla.
Question (?)	Nach	é	Caoimhín	an príomhoide.
Question (?)	An	é	Liam	léachtóir ollscoile.

8. Similarly, we use the indirect form if 'Deir' or 'Dúirt' are at the beginning of the sentence.

It may be two pages but still not the full ten points!