Welsh 101

Grammar & Workbook
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I constructed this work set after using many different texts for introductory courses. Each of those texts sought to include too many tenses, constructions, grammar elements and lists of vocabulary for a beginning course. The rate of decline in course population, we well as the lack of understanding and retention led me to alter the approach.

In this course we will learn only three (3) tenses, each closely linked to the present tense. We will seek to add to these tenses several useful paradigms and constructions so that simple conversations might be created in real time by the end of the course. While limiting the breadth and diversity, I expect a high level of mastery of all the material presented.

Each lesson will build on the last and assume mastery thereof. Each lesson will begin with the key concept presented in the lesson, then we will work through exercises, both written and verbal. Quizzes will be written and verbal, and each will be cumulative.

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### Present Tense of Bod

#### Affirmative

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>Verb (Bod- to Be) + Pronoun</th>
<th>Yn</th>
<th>Noun-Verb</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I am speaking.</td>
<td>Dw i</td>
<td>‘n</td>
<td>siarad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You are reading.</td>
<td>Wyt ti</td>
<td>‘n</td>
<td>darllen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>He is singing.</td>
<td>Mae e</td>
<td>‘n</td>
<td>canu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>She is learning.</td>
<td>Mae hi</td>
<td>‘n</td>
<td>dysgu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The children are sleeping.</td>
<td>Mae’r plant</td>
<td>yn</td>
<td>cysgu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A car is running.</td>
<td>Mae car</td>
<td>yn</td>
<td>rhedeg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>We are playing.</td>
<td>Dyn ni</td>
<td>‘n</td>
<td>chwarae</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You are working.</td>
<td>Dych chi</td>
<td>‘n</td>
<td>gweithio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>They are going.</td>
<td>Maen nhw</td>
<td>‘n</td>
<td>mynd</td>
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</table>

#### Negative

<table>
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<tr>
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<th>Ddim</th>
<th>Yn</th>
<th>Noun-Verb</th>
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</thead>
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<td>yn</td>
<td>siarad</td>
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<tr>
<td>You are not reading.</td>
<td>Wyt ti</td>
<td>ddim</td>
<td>yn</td>
<td>darllen</td>
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<tr>
<td>He is not singing.</td>
<td>Dydy e</td>
<td>ddim</td>
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<td>canu</td>
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<tr>
<td>She is not learning.</td>
<td>Dydy hi</td>
<td>ddim</td>
<td>yn</td>
<td>dysgu</td>
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<tr>
<td>The children are not sleeping.</td>
<td>Dydy’r plant</td>
<td>ddim</td>
<td>yn</td>
<td>cysgu</td>
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<tr>
<td>The car is not running.</td>
<td>Dydy’r car</td>
<td>ddim</td>
<td>yn</td>
<td>rhedeg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>We are not playing.</td>
<td>Dyn ni</td>
<td>ddim</td>
<td>yn</td>
<td>chwarae</td>
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<tr>
<td>You are not working.</td>
<td>Dych chi</td>
<td>ddim</td>
<td>yn</td>
<td>gweithio</td>
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<tr>
<td>They are not going.</td>
<td>Dyn nhw</td>
<td>ddim</td>
<td>yn</td>
<td>mynd</td>
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#### Interrogative

<table>
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<th>Yn</th>
<th>Noun-Verb</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Am I speaking?</td>
<td>Ydw i</td>
<td>‘n</td>
<td>siarad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Are you reading?</td>
<td>Wyt ti</td>
<td>‘n</td>
<td>darllen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is he singing?</td>
<td>Ydy e</td>
<td>‘n</td>
<td>canu</td>
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<tr>
<td>Is she learning?</td>
<td>Ydy hi</td>
<td>‘n</td>
<td>dysgu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Are the children sleeping?</td>
<td>Ydy’r plant</td>
<td>yn</td>
<td>cysgu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is the car running?</td>
<td>Ydy’r car</td>
<td>yn</td>
<td>rhedeg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Are we playing?</td>
<td>Ydyn ni</td>
<td>‘n</td>
<td>chwarae</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Are you working?</td>
<td>Ydych chi</td>
<td>‘n</td>
<td>gweithio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Are they going?</td>
<td>Ydyn nhw</td>
<td>‘n</td>
<td>mynd</td>
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</table>
## Present Tense – Grammar

### Sentence Structure

Welsh sentences begin with a verb. In this course, we will use the verb “to be” in the initial position of the sentence.

- “Bod” is the verb “to be” in Welsh. It is a highly irregular verb.
- The verb “to be” we will use is a shorter form of the full form.
- The pronoun is in second position. Welsh has seven pronouns: (I, he, she, they, we, you, you (formal). There is no neuter “it.”
- In third position is the connecting particle “yn,” which has no direct translation. It simply connects the verb “to be” to the Noun Verb. “Yn” is not used when the sentence begins with other verbs.

The fourth position goes to the Noun Verb which tells us what is happening. In the sentence: “Dw i’n canu.”, “canu” is the noun verb. The “yn is often shortened to “’n” as is seen in the sentence, “Dw i’n canu.”

- The verb “to be” that we are using is a shorter form of the full form.
- For example, “Dw” is short for “Rydwyf.”

Translations of a present tense Welsh sentence can have two translations. For example, “Dw i’n canu.”, can be translated “I sing.”, or “I am singing.”.
Word Order and Sentence Structure

*Welsh, and all other Celtic languages share a similar type of sentence structure, which sets them apart from other European languages.*

- The verb occupies the first main position in present tense sentences, with the subject following. This is the reverse of the normal situation in languages like English. In English, it is stated, “Fred (subject) arrived (verb).” In Welsh, the sentence reads: “Gyrhaeddodd (verb) Fred (subject).”
- This sentence structure is traditionally known as VSO (verb-subject-object) style. In English the order is SVO (subject-verb-object).

  Examples: 
  - Affirmative – Mae Fred yma. (Fred is here.)
  - Interrogative – Ydy Fred yma? (Is Fred here?)
  - Negative – Dydy Fred ddim yma. (Fred is not here.)
- The verb comes first regardless of whether the sentence is Aff., Int., or Neg., and although it changes from Mae, Ydy, or Dydy, the position at the start is fixed.
- An obvious consequence of the VSO word-order is that the subject of the sentence has nothing to separate it from the object (or complement), because the verb has already preceded it. But in Welsh the boundary between the subject and the object (or complement) is marked by the presence of a SM (soft mutation), creating a VS(sm)O style.
Negative Sentences

- A sentence is negated by adding “ddim” after the pronoun. For example, “Dw i ddim yn canu.”
- Since ddim ends in a consonant, “yn” is always seen in its full form when it follows “ddim.”
- The negative will often begin with a “D”. “Wyt” can become “Dwyt” to signify the sentence will be negative.
- Short forms that already start with “d” do not change. Example: “Dysgais i.”
- In Welsh, there are many contractions. The apostrophe (‘), is a signal that letters have been omitted and a contraction has been formed. Example: “Dw i’n canu.” The apostrophe signals that the full form of “yn” has been replaced to form “i’n” from “Dw i yn canu.”

Interrogative Sentences

- In English, we create questions by bringing the verb to the beginning of the sentence. In Welsh, the verb is already in the first position.
- There are two interrogative markers in Welsh:
  1. The verb “to be” will often manifest itself with a “Y”. For example: “Dyn”, at the beginning of a statement, will shift to “ydyn” to form a question. Example: Dyn ni’n canu – Ydyn ni’n canu?
  2. Without the question mark, a statement looks like a Present Tense statement. Example: “Wyt ti’n rhedeg.”, means “You run” or “You are running.” When the question mark is added, the meaning changes to “Are you running?” or “Do you run?”
Present Tense – Practice

Translate the following into Welsh

A. Affirmative Statements
1. I am running.
2. You are playing. (singular, informal)
3. She is working.
4. He is going.
5. The children are learning.
6. We are singing.
7. You are reading. (plural)
8. They are speaking.

B. Negative Statements
9. I am not running.
10. You are not playing. (singular, informal)
11. He is not working.
12. She is not going.
13. The children are not learning.
14. We are not singing.
15. You are not reading. (plural)
16. They are not speaking.

C. Interrogative (provide an appropriate answer for “yes” and “no.”)
17. Am I running?
18. Are you playing? (singular, informal)
19. Is Mair working?
20. Is Dafydd going?
21. Are the children learning?
22. Are we singing?
23. Are you reading? (plural)
24. Are they speaking?

Quiz
1. S’mae Gareth.
2. S’mae Sian a Meic.
3. Gareth, Mae Meic yn rhedeg heddiw.
4. O, wyt ti’n rhedeg yn Ras Cymru?
5. Ydw. Wyt ti’n mynd nawr?
7. Ydy Sian yn rhedeg?
8. Nag ydy, mae hi’n gweithio.
9. Dw i ddim yn gweithio.
Useful Feminine/Masculine Endings

- Nouns with the following endings are generally masculine:
  - -ad
  - -iad
  - -der
  - -did
  - -dod
  - -dra
  - -eb
  - -edd
  - -had
  - -i
  - -iant
  - -ni
  - -rwydd
  - -wch
  - -wr
  - -ydd
  - -yn

- Nouns with the following endings are usually feminine:
  - -aeth
  - -as
  - -es
  - -fa
  - -en
Past Perfect (Plu-Perfect) Using “Wedi”

- “Wedi” replaces “yn.”
- The prepositions “l” and “o” cause a soft mutation (as do most prepositions) of the word following the preposition. Example: Dw i wedi teithio i dddosbarth.
- Feminine singular nouns mutate after the definite article, except Ll and Rh.
- Feminine singular nouns (“b” meaning benywaidd or feminine) can be determined in many ways, but often the gender must be memorized. (“g” means gwrywaidd or masculine.)
- Most letters are immutable. See Mutation Chart on p. ____ for letters that mutate.
- “yr” is used between a consonant (c) and a verb (v): c “yr” v
- “yr” becomes “’r” when between a vowel and a consonant: v “’r” c/v
- “y” is used between a consonant and a consonant: c “y” c

Vocabulary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Noun/Verb</th>
<th>Translation</th>
<th>Preposition</th>
<th>Translation</th>
<th>Verb/Noun</th>
<th>Translation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>teithio</td>
<td>to travel</td>
<td>o</td>
<td>from</td>
<td>Siop (b)</td>
<td>shop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cerdded</td>
<td>to walk</td>
<td>i</td>
<td>to</td>
<td>Llyfrgell (b)</td>
<td>library</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mynd</td>
<td>to go</td>
<td>i’r</td>
<td>to the</td>
<td>dosbarth</td>
<td>class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dod</td>
<td>to come</td>
<td>o’r</td>
<td>from the</td>
<td>tŷ</td>
<td>house</td>
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<tr>
<td>symud</td>
<td>to move</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>prifysgol* (b)</td>
<td>university</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cyrraedd</td>
<td>to arrive</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>tre* (b)</td>
<td>town</td>
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<tr>
<td>merlota</td>
<td>to pony trek</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Unol Daleithiau</td>
<td>United States</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>olwyndroi</td>
<td>to cartwheel</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Iwerddon</td>
<td>Ireland</td>
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<tr>
<td>olwyno</td>
<td>to bike,wheel</td>
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<td></td>
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Affirmative

<table>
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<tr>
<td>Dw i</td>
<td>wedi</td>
<td>teithio</td>
<td>o’r</td>
<td>siop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wyt ti</td>
<td>wedi</td>
<td>cerdded</td>
<td>i’r</td>
<td>Llyfrgell</td>
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<td>mynd</td>
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<td>dddosbarth*</td>
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<td>Mae hi</td>
<td>wedi</td>
<td>dod</td>
<td>o</td>
<td>Iwerddon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mae’r plant</td>
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<td>merlota</td>
<td>o’r</td>
<td>tŷ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mae Siân</td>
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<td>symud</td>
<td>i’r</td>
<td>dre*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dyn ni</td>
<td>wedi</td>
<td>cyrraedd</td>
<td>o’r</td>
<td>brifysgol*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dych chi</td>
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<td>olwyndroi</td>
<td>i</td>
<td>Lloegr</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maen nhw</td>
<td>wedi</td>
<td>olwyno</td>
<td>o’r</td>
<td>Unol Daleithiau</td>
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### Negative

<table>
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<td>wedi</td>
<td>teithio</td>
<td>o’r</td>
<td>siop*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(D)wyt ti</td>
<td>ddim</td>
<td>wedi</td>
<td>cerdded</td>
<td>i’r</td>
<td>llyfrgell*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dydy e</td>
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<td>wedi</td>
<td>gyrru</td>
<td>i</td>
<td>ddosbarth</td>
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<td>dod</td>
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<td>Dydy’r plant</td>
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<td>merlota</td>
<td>o’r</td>
<td>tŷ</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dydy Siân</td>
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<td>wedi</td>
<td>symud</td>
<td>o’r</td>
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<td>i</td>
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<td>wedi</td>
<td>olwyno</td>
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<td>Unol Daleithiau</td>
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### Interrogative

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<tr>
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<th>Verb</th>
<th>Prep.</th>
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<td>Nag Wyt</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
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<td>cerdded</td>
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<td>o</td>
<td>lwerddon?</td>
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Past Perfect Using Wedi – Grammar

- To form the past perfect tense, replace the connecting particle “yn” with the past particle “wedi.” Example: Dw i wedi mynd i’r llyfrgell y bore ‘ma.
- “Wedi”, like “yn” has no direct translation, but using the word “wedi” makes the entire sentence past tense.
- The use of “wedi” is called a paraphrastic form because it uses the noun verb to let us know what the action is. This form is used more often in conversation.

Past Perfect Using Wedi – Practice

A. Affirmative Statements
   1. I came from the town.
   2. You came from the classroom. (singular, informal)
   3. She went shopping.
   4. He went to the United States.
   5. We traveled to Wales.
   6. You arrived from the university. (plural)
   7. They walked.
   8. The children pony trekked.
   9. John moved to the house.

B. Negative Statements
   10. I didn’t come from the town.
   11. You didn’t arrive from the classroom. (singular, informal)
   12. She didn’t walk from the shop.
   13. He didn’t go to the United States.
   14. We didn’t travel to Wales.
   15. You didn’t arrive to the university. (plural)
   16. They didn’t go swimming.
   17. The children didn’t pony trek.
   18. John didn’t move to the house.

C. Interrogative (provide an appropriate answer for “yes” and “no”)
   19. Have I come from the town?
   20. Have you come from the classroom? (singular, informal)
   21. Has she come from the shop?
   22. Has he gone to the United States?
   23. Have we traveled to Wales?
   24. Have you gone to university? (plural)
   25. Have they gone swimming?
   26. Have the children slept?
Intermediate Level:

There is a short form usage where the noun-verb is conjugated and placed in the first position. The short form is considered more literary, and used in writing (covered in detail in Welsh 102).

Examples: Edrychas i ar y teledu. (I looked at the television.)
Teithias i i Iwerddon. (I traveled to Ireland.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Affirmative</th>
<th>Negative</th>
<th>Interrogative</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dysgais i (I learned)</td>
<td>Ddysgais i ddim</td>
<td>Ddysgais i?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dysgaist ti</td>
<td>Ddysgaist ti ddim</td>
<td>Ddysgaist ti?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dysgodd e/h/i/Gareth/ y plant</td>
<td>Ddysgodd e/h/i/G/plant ddim</td>
<td>Ddysgodd e/h/i/G/plant?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dysgon ni</td>
<td>Ddysgon ni ddim</td>
<td>Ddysgon ni?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dysgoch chi</td>
<td>Ddysgoch chi ddim</td>
<td>Ddysgoch chi?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dysgon nhw</td>
<td>Ddysgon nhw</td>
<td>Ddysgon nhw?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Future Periphrastic Using Mynd - Notes

- The preposition “i” causes a soft mutation in words that will mutate. (See Mutation Chart)
- In English, we say, “I am going to...” to convey an intention to do something in the future. Welsh accomplishes this by using the word “mynd.”
- This is called a paraphrastic form because it uses the noun verb to let us know what the action is. Example: Dw i’n mynd i fwyara.
- There is a short form where the noun verb is conjugated and placed in the first position. The short form is considered more literary, and most often used in writing (covered in Welsh 102). Example: Cana i. (I will sing.)

Vocabulary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>deall</th>
<th>to understand</th>
<th>gwneud</th>
<th>to make or do</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>mwyara</td>
<td>blackberrying</td>
<td>cael</td>
<td>to get or have</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>edrych</td>
<td>to look</td>
<td>gwrando</td>
<td>to listen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>aros</td>
<td>to wait</td>
<td>gweld</td>
<td>to see</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dweud</td>
<td>to say</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Affirmative

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Verb/Pronoun</th>
<th>Connector</th>
<th>Future Marker</th>
<th>Preposition (causes SM)</th>
<th>Mutated noun verb</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dw i</td>
<td>‘n</td>
<td>mynd</td>
<td>i</td>
<td>ddeall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wyt ti</td>
<td>‘n</td>
<td>mynd</td>
<td>i</td>
<td>fwyara</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mae e</td>
<td>‘n</td>
<td>mynd</td>
<td>i</td>
<td>edrych*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mae hi</td>
<td>‘n</td>
<td>mynd</td>
<td>i</td>
<td>aros *</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mae’r plant</td>
<td>‘n</td>
<td>mynd</td>
<td>i</td>
<td>ddweud</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mae Siân</td>
<td>‘n</td>
<td>mynd</td>
<td>i</td>
<td>wneud</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dyn ni</td>
<td>‘n</td>
<td>mynd</td>
<td>i</td>
<td>gael</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dych chi</td>
<td>‘n</td>
<td>mynd</td>
<td>i</td>
<td>wrando</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maen nhw</td>
<td>‘n</td>
<td>mynd</td>
<td>i</td>
<td>weld</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*not mutable

Negative

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Negative Verb/Pronoun</th>
<th>Neg. Marker</th>
<th>Connector</th>
<th>Future Marker</th>
<th>Preposition (causes SM)</th>
<th>Mutated noun verb</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dw i</td>
<td>ddim</td>
<td>yn</td>
<td>mynd</td>
<td>i</td>
<td>ddeall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(D)wyty ti</td>
<td>ddim</td>
<td>yn</td>
<td>mynd</td>
<td>i</td>
<td>fwyara</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dydy e</td>
<td>ddim</td>
<td>yn</td>
<td>mynd</td>
<td>i</td>
<td>edrych*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dydy hi</td>
<td>ddim</td>
<td>yn</td>
<td>mynd</td>
<td>i</td>
<td>aros*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### A. Affirmative Statements
1. I am going blackberrying.
2. You are going to look. (singular, informal)
3. She is going to wait.
4. He is going to talk.
5. The children are going to listen.
6. We are going to see.

### B. You are going to make cake (teisen).

### C. Negative Statements
7. I am not going to get a book.
8. You are not going to make a cake. (singular, informal)
9. He is not going to see.
10. She is not going to listen.
11. The children are not going to talk.
12. We are not going to wait.
D. Interrogative (provide an appropriate answer for “yes” and “no”)

13. Am I going to talk?
14. Are you going to wait? (singular, informal)
15. Is Mair going to look?
16. Is Dafydd going blackberrying?
17. Are the children getting cake?
18. Are we going to make a cake?
19. Are you going to see? (plural)
20. Are they going to listen?

Questions Grammar Memorization

1. Ydy Dafydd yn mynd i fwyara?
2. Nag ydy. Mae’n mynd i ferlota gyda ei ffrindiau.

1. Wyt ti’n mynd gyda nhw?
2. Ydw, dw i’n mynd gyda fe.

Indefinite Nouns

• Welsh has no indefinite articles. Instead, sentences with indefinite nouns are constructed differently as follows:
  Are THE children here? = YDY’R plant yma? (definite)
  Are ANY children here? = OES plant yma? (indefinite)

• The answer to an Oes question is “Oes” (yes), or “Nag oes” (no).
• To form a negative indefinite statement, use “Does dim…”
• Weak “f” ending. When “f” appears at the end of a word, it usually drops off For example: Dw i’n mynd adre(f).
• Remember to use “Oes” for “yes”, and “Nag oes” for “no” when answering an indefinite question.

Vocabulary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Welsh Noun</th>
<th>English</th>
<th>Welsh Noun</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ilaeth (g)</td>
<td>milk</td>
<td>Oergell (b)</td>
<td>fridge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corrach (g)</td>
<td>dwarf</td>
<td>Corraches (b)</td>
<td>dwarves (female)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cawr (g)</td>
<td>giant</td>
<td>Cawres (b)</td>
<td>giantess</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cewri</td>
<td>giants</td>
<td>Anghenfil (g)</td>
<td>monster</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cór y Cewri</td>
<td>Stonehenge</td>
<td>Ogof (b)</td>
<td>cave</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Y tylwythyn teg</td>
<td>The fairy folk,</td>
<td>Un o’r</td>
<td>Single elf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>fairies, elves</td>
<td>tylwythyn teg</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gwâr (g)</td>
<td>man</td>
<td>Gwraig (b)</td>
<td>woman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Llyfrfawr</td>
<td>sorcerer</td>
<td>Gwrach</td>
<td>witch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coed</td>
<td>woods</td>
<td>Craig (b)</td>
<td>stone, crag</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: byw – to live
mynyddoedd – mountains
benywaidd

• (b) benywaidd = feminine
  gwywrwaidd (g) = masculine
Mae – used to make a statement.

1. Mae tylwythyn teg yn byw yn y coed.
2. Mae corrach yn byw yn yr ogof.
3. Mae cawr yn byw yn y mynyddoedd.
4. Mae gwrach yn byw yn y llyfrgell.

Oes – used to ask a question (indefinite).

1. Oes tylwythyn teg yn y coed?
2. Oes corrach yn yr ogof?
3. Oes cawr yn y mynyddoedd?
4. Oes gwrach yn y llyfrgell?

Does dim – used to make a negative statement.

1. Does dim tylwythyn teg yn y mynydd; maen nhw’n byw yn y coed.
2. Does dim gwrach yma, mae hi’n byw yn y llyfrgell.
3. Does dim cawr yna, mae e’n byw yng Nghôr y Cewri.
4. Does dim corraches yma, mae hi’n byw dan yr HFAC.

Indefinite Nouns Practice

Translate the following into Welsh

Affirmative Statements

1. There are children here.
2. That is a car.
3. There is milk in the refrigerator.
4. A giant lives here.
5. A dragon lives there.
6. A frog is in the house.
7. A dog is in the town.
8. A wizard lives in the library.

Negative Statements

9. There are not any children here.
10. There is no car here.
11. There is no milk in the fridge.
12. The fairies do not live in the mountains.
13. There is no dog in the town.
15. A witch does not live in Stonehenge.
16. There is not a frog on Tom’s head.

**Interrogative sentences (provide an appropriate answer for “yes” and “no”)**

17. Are any children here?
18. Is a car here?
19. Is there any milk in the fridge?
20. Is a frog on Tom’s head?
21. Do any fairies live in the woods?
22. Does a dwarf live in the crag?
23. Are there any shoes by the door?
24. Is there a dress in the yard?

**Questions & Grammar Memorization**

1. Oes llyfr gyda ti?
2. Nag oes, dw i’n mynd i brynu llyfr yn y siop Cymreig.
1. Mae siop dda yn ger caddeiriol Llandaf.
2. Oes llyfr barddoniaeth Cymreig yn y siop?
1. Oes mae llawer o lyfrau da gyda nhw.
2. Ardderchog! Wela i ti.
Rhaid: Needs, Must

(Expressing Obligation)

This construction uses the indefinite form of Bod, and a declined form of the Welsh preposition “i”, meaning “to”.

The verb following this construction will mutate softly. Example: Mae rhaid i fi fynd. (softly mutated form of “mynd”)

As with indefinites, the answer to an “oes” question is “oes” (yes) or “nag oes” (no)

When making a statement, the verb “mae” is often dropped. For example: “Mae rhaid i fi fynd” becomes “Rhaid i fi fynd.”

For passive use “mae” is not used. “Rhaid prynu bara.” “Bread must be bought.”

To state the fact that one MUST NOT GO, the very peidio (meaning ‘to refrain from’) is also used. For example: Rhaid i fi beidio mynd. I mustn’t go. Rhaid i chi beidio gwrando. You mustn’t listen.

Declined forms of the preposition “i” are used with “rhaid” as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>to me</th>
<th>i ti</th>
<th>to us</th>
<th>i ni</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>to you</td>
<td>i ti</td>
<td>to you</td>
<td>i chi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to him</td>
<td>iddo fe</td>
<td>to them</td>
<td>iddyn nhw</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to her</td>
<td>iddi hi</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mae rhaid – There is a need for someone to do something.

1. Mae rhaid i fi fynd.
2. Mae rhaid i ti gysgu.
3. Mae rhaid iddi hi ferlota.
4. Mae rhaid iddo fe ddarllen.
5. Mae rhaid i ni weithio.
6. Mae rhaid i chi deithio.
7. Mae rhaid iddyn nhw gerdded.

Does dim rhaid – There is not a need for someone to do something.

1. Does dim rhaid i fi fynd.
2. Does dim rhaid i ti gysgu.
3. Does dim rhaid iddi hi ferlota.
4. Does dim rhaid iddo fe ddarllen.
5. Does dim rhaid i ni weithio.
7. Does dim rhaid iddyn nhw gerdded.

Oes rhaid – Is there a need for someone to do something?

1. Oes rhaid i fi fynd?*
2. Oes rhaid i ti gysgu?
3. Oes rhaid iddi hi ferlota?
4. Oes rhaid iddo fe darllen?
5. Oes rhaid i ni weithio?
6. Oes rhaid i chi deithio?
7. Oes rhaid iddyn nhw gerdded?

*See Mutation Chart for mutation patterns.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Noun</th>
<th>Verb</th>
<th>Softly Mutated Form</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>mynd</td>
<td>fynd</td>
<td>fynd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cysgu</td>
<td>gysgu</td>
<td>gysgu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>merlota</td>
<td>ferlota</td>
<td>ferlota</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>darllen</td>
<td>ddarllen</td>
<td>ddarllen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gweithio</td>
<td>weithio</td>
<td>weithio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>teithio</td>
<td>Deithio</td>
<td>Deithio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cerdded</td>
<td>gerdded</td>
<td>gerdded</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Questions & Grammar Memorization

1. Oes rhaid i ti fynd nawr?
2. Nag oes, mae rhaid i fi gwrdd iddyn nhw i ferlota.
   1. Oes rhaid iddyn nhw talu i ferlota?
   2. Nag oes, does dim rhaid i ni dalu.

Intermediate

To change tense to state that one “had” to do something, the verb “mae” changes to “roedd” the third person singular form of bod. Example: Roedd rhaid i fi fynd. I had to go.

To state that something “must be happening”, the rhaid + bod form is used. Example: Rhaid bod Alun yn ferlota. Alun must be pony-trekking.

Rhaid bod yr haul yn twym. The sun must be warm.

Rhaid bod chi wedi blino. You must be tired.
Rhaid: Needs, Must – Practice

Translate the following into Welsh

**Affirmative Statements.**

1. I must go.
2. You must sleep. (singular, informal)
3. She must pony trek.
4. He must be reading.
5. We must work.
6. You must travel.
7. They must walk.

**Negative Statements**

8. I must not go.
9. You must not sleep. (singular, informal)
10. She must not pony trek.
11. He must not read.
12. We must not work.
13. You must not travel. (plural)
14. They must not walk.

**Interrogative (provide an appropriate answer for “yes” and “no”**

15. Must I go?
16. Must you sleep? (singular, informal)
17. Must she pony trek?
18. Must he read?
19. Must we work?
20. Must you travel? (plural)
21. Must they walk?

**Here, There, Way Over There, Here is, There is**

- To signify that something is here, nearby, use yma
- For there, meaning within your sight, use yna
- Far away out of sight use yno
- Here is: dyma
- There is: dyna
Question Words

Beth*, Ble, Faint, Pa*, Pam, Pan*, Pryd, Pwy*, Sawl, Sut*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question Word</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
<th>Question Word</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ble</td>
<td>Where</td>
<td>Pan*</td>
<td>When</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beth*</td>
<td>What</td>
<td>Pryd</td>
<td>When (time)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faint</td>
<td>How much, how many</td>
<td>Pwy*</td>
<td>Who; Whom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pa*</td>
<td>Which; What</td>
<td>Sawl</td>
<td>How many</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pam</td>
<td>Why</td>
<td>Sut*</td>
<td>How</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*These words will cause a soft mutation in the word following. Example: Beth wyt ti’n mynd i fwyta?

- Each of these words will lead in a question sentence, with the exception of “pan.”
- “Pan” is usually used within a sentence while “pryd” will start a sentence.
  Example: Mae hi wedi mynd pan ei phlant hi wedi gysgu.
  Example: Pryd wyt ti’n gweithio?
- Following each of the question words will be a statement sentence.
  Example: Faint o blant sydd yma?

Present Tense

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Translation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ble wyt ti’n cerdded?</td>
<td>Where are you walking?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sut maen nhw’n deithio?</td>
<td>How are they traveling?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pam dych chi’n siarad?</td>
<td>Why are you speaking?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pwy mae e?</td>
<td>Who is he?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pryd dyn ni’n nofio?</td>
<td>When are we swimming?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beth digwyddodd pan mae e’n cyrraedd?</td>
<td>What happened when he arrived?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pa fath o deisen wyt ti’n hoffi?</td>
<td>What kind of cake do you like?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faint o blant sy gyda chi?</td>
<td>How many children do you have?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sawl person sydd yma?</td>
<td>How many people are here?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mae hi wedi mynd pan ei phlant hi wedi gysgu.</td>
<td>She went when her children had slept.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Future Tense**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Translation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ble wyt ti’n cerdded?</td>
<td>Where are you walking?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ble wyt ti’n mynd i gerdded?</td>
<td>Where are you going to walk?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sut maen nhw’n mynd i deithio?</td>
<td>How are they going to travel?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pam dych chi’n mynd i siarad?</td>
<td>Why are you going to speak?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pwy wyt ti’n mynd i gwrdd?</td>
<td>Who are you going to meet?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pryd dyn ni’n mynd i nofio?</td>
<td>When are we going to swim?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beth dych chi eisiau ei wneud?</td>
<td>What do you want to make?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pa ddyn yn mynd i ganu?</td>
<td>Which man is going to sing?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faint o blant yn mynd i fynd?</td>
<td>How many children are going to go?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wyt ti’n mynd i ferlota pan mae hi’n bwrw?</td>
<td>Are you going to go when it is raining?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sawl car wyt ti’n mynd i brynu?</td>
<td>How many cars are you going to buy?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Past Tense**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Translation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ble wyt ti wedi mynd?</td>
<td>Where did you go?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sut mae hi wedi cyyraedd?</td>
<td>How did she arrive?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pam dyn ni wedi dysgu?</td>
<td>Why did we study?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pwy mae hon/hwn?</td>
<td>Who is that (male)/female?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pryd dych chi wedi rhedeg?</td>
<td>When did you run?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beth dyn nhw wedi gwenud?</td>
<td>What did they make?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ydy hi wedi mynd pan e wedi dod?</td>
<td>Did she go when he came?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sawl car wyt ti wedi brynu?</td>
<td>How many cars did you buy?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faint o blant wedi cyyraedd yma?</td>
<td>How many children have arrived here?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Quiz & Dialog Memorization**

1. Pryd wyt ti’n mynd i ferlota?                          
2. Pump o’r gloch. Ble wyt ti’n mynd i fwyara?           
1. Avon Taf. Faint o bobl yn mynd i ferlota?             
2. Deg. Beth wyt ti’n gwneud gyda mwyar?               

**Intermediate**

- Future and Past short form words can be used following question words. For example:
  1. Ble cerdded Gareth? Where did Gareth walk?           
  2. Beth fydd y tywydd? What will the weather be?
3. Pam gyrroch chi y tractor heno? Why are you driving the tractor tonight?
4. Pryd fwyton ni pwdin? When will we eat dessert?
5. Pwy fydd merlota? Who will be pony trekking?

**Question Words Practice**

Translate the following into Welsh

**A. Present Tense**
1. Where are you walking? (singular, informal)
2. How are they traveling?
3. Why are you speaking? (plural or formal)
4. Who is he?
5. When are we swimming?
6. What happens when he arrives?
7. What kind of cake do you like? (singular, informal)

**B. Future Tense**
8. Where are you going to walk? (singular, informal)
9. How are they going to travel?
10. Why are you going to speak? (plural or formal)
11. Who are you going to meet? (singular, informal)
12. When are we going to swim?
13. What do you want to do? (plural or formal)
14. What is the man going to sing?

**C. Past Tense**
15. Where did you go? (singular, informal)
16. How did she arrive?
17. When did we study?
18. When did you run? (plural or formal)
19. What did they make?
20. Who was that?
21. She went when he arrived.
Words of Desire/Ability

Vocabulary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>mawr – much</th>
<th>hufen iâ – ice cream</th>
<th>codi – to raise</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>arian – money</td>
<td>mynd am dro – take a turn, go for a walk</td>
<td>dringo - climb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>torri ei wallt e – tear his hair</td>
<td>nofio – swim</td>
<td>copa - top</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Welsh</th>
<th>English</th>
<th>Sentence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>mwynhau</td>
<td>enjoy</td>
<td>Dw i’n mwynhau hufen iâ yn fawr iawn.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>eisiau</td>
<td>want</td>
<td>Wyt ti eisiau mynd am dro?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>angen</td>
<td>need</td>
<td>Mae e’n angen torri ei wallt e.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hoffi</td>
<td>like</td>
<td>Mae hi’n hoffi nofio.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bodlon</td>
<td>willing</td>
<td>Dyn ni’n bodlon teithio I Gymru.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hoff o</td>
<td>fond of</td>
<td>Dych chi’n hoff o gwn.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>methu</td>
<td>failed to</td>
<td>Wyt ti’n methu dringo i’r copa.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gallu</td>
<td>able to</td>
<td>Dw i’n gallu darllen Ilyfrau.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Words of Desire and Ability Practice

Translate the following into Welsh

Affirmative

1. I want to travel to Ireland.
2. You enjoy the library.
3. She needs to sing.
4. He likes toffee.
5. They are willing to speak.
6. You are fond of Gareth.
7. We are able to cook.
8. I failed to arrive on time.

Negative

1. I don’t want to travel to Ireland.
2. You don’t enjoy the library.
3. She doesn’t need to sing.
4. He doesn’t like toffee.
5. They are not willing to speak.
6. You are not fond of Gareth.
7. We are not able to cook.
8. I failed to arrive on time.

Interrogative

1. Do I want to travel to Ireland?
2. Do you enjoy the library?
3. Does she need to sing?
4. Does he like toffee?
5. Are they willing to speak?
6. Are you fond of Gareth?
7. Are we able to cook?
8. Did you fail to arrive on time?

Quiz and Dialog Memorization

1. Dw i eisiau gwneud teisen mwyar.
2. Dw i’n hoff iawn o deisen mwyar.
1. Dw i’n gallu pobi yr teisen mwyar gorau yn y byd.
Possessive Paradigm

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>My</th>
<th>Fy (NM) i</th>
<th>Our</th>
<th>Ein (no mutation) ni</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Your</td>
<td>Dy (SM) di</td>
<td>Your</td>
<td>Eich (no mutation) chi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>His</td>
<td>Ei (SM) e</td>
<td>Their</td>
<td>Eu (no mutation) nhw</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Her</td>
<td>Ei (AM) hi</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This Paradigm has Four Uses:

1. To show possession.
   Example: Fy nghar i. = My car. (Literally: My car me.)
2. Dative pronouns.
   Example: Dw i’n mynd ei weld e. = I am going to see him. (Lit.: I am going he see him.)
   Example: Mae’n ddrwg gen i fy mod i’n hwyrs. = I’m sorry that I’m late. (Lit.: There is bad with me that I to be late.)
3. Direct object pronouns.
   Example: Pa fath o esgidiau dych ei heisiau (hi)? = What sort of shoes do you want? (Lit.: What sort of shoes do you she want her?)
4. Two part prepositions.
   Example: Ar ôl = behind.
   Example: Ar dy ôl di = Behind you. (Lit.: After you behind you.)

- “Fy” can also be seen as “fyn,” “yn” or “’n”, or dropped entirely when a significant mutation has taken place.
- Humor can been seen in such questions as: “Is your black house with you?” Which in Welsh would be: “Ydy dy dŷ du di ’da ti?”
- The “^” over a vowel is called a “to-bach” or “little roof”, or formally “circumflex”, which emphasizes the length of the vowel, and may change the meaning of the word.
Possessive Paradigm Practice

Translate the following into Welsh

1. My car.
2. Your dog. (singular, informal)
3. His father.
4. Her cat.
5. Our house.
6. Your shoes. (plural)
7. Their books.
8. I am going to see him.
9. I’m sorry that I’m late.
10. What sort of shoes do you want?

Quiz & Dialogue Memorization
1. Beth am gofyn dy gyfeill di i dod â hufen iâ ar ôl merlota?
2. Syniad da iawn! Fy nghyfeill i yn lwcus iawn!
1. Beth am cwrdd at fy nghŷ i?
2. Iawn. Ydy dy dŷ du ‘da di ar Heol Cyfarthfa?
 Compound Words

• In Welsh, words are often combined for new meaning, grabbing many small words and putting them together. Town names often include a number of descriptions of the place, such as “Llan” meaning “church.” The following is known as the longest name of a town in Wales:

Llanfairpwllygwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwllllantysiliogogogoch.

Break it down this way:

Llan fair pwll gwyn gyll go ger y chwyn dobw llan tysilio go go goch

It means:

St. Mary’s church in the hollow of the while hazel near to the rapid whirlpool and the church of St. Tysilio of the red cave.

• When words are compounded, the words following the first word undergo a soft mutation, although in the case above, “Llanfair...goch” follows this rule sporadically.

For example: Llanfair: “Llan” means “church” or “sacred enclosure”, followed by Mair (meaning Mary), which is mutated into “fair.”

• Proper names do not mutate under normal circumstances, but when they become place names they will mutate. For example: Dw i’n hoff o Mair. (not mutated) compared to: Dw i’n hoff o Llanfair. (A compound word, so “Mair” becomes “fair.”

• Titles will cause a soft mutation, even when following a man’s name. For example: Hywel Dda (meaning Hywel the Good. The title “good” is mutated from “da” to “dda”

• Llan – means church.

• Fair – mutated form of Mair.

• Pwll – should be bwll (meaning hollow).

• Gwyn – should be wyn (meaning white).

• Gyll from cyll, plural noun for Hazel tree.

• Go (here, now, right) and ger (near) should drop the initial “g”, but it is common for short words to retain all letters for understandability.

• Chwyrn – you might think it should be Ghwyrn, but Ch is a digraph and is therefore not a “c”, so is immutable!

• Drobwll from trobwll (whirlpool).
• Llan should be lan (church).
• Tysiliog should be dysilio (St. Tysilio).
• Ogo should be ogo, but who can resist the alliteration of “gogogoch”? Ogo is from Ogof (cave), a final, weak “fi” is dropped.
• Goch from coch (red).

Find and explicate these town names: Nantyffin, Tonypandy, Pontypridd, Dyfnant, Abermaw, Caerwent, Caernarfon, Glyndŵr

Note: Some names can be tough to figure out. For example: Llantwit. You may want to say “The Church of St. Twit,” but in this case, it is the Church of St. Illtud! Llantwit is the Anglicized form of Illtud. The original Welsh name is Llanilltud or Llantud, but has been Anglicized to Llantwit.

Compound Words Practice

A. Define the following words:
   1. Aber – mouth or confluence of a body of water
   2. Afon - river
   3. Bryn - hill
   4. Caer – Roman fortress, or a place where a Roman fort once stood
   5. Cwm – small, narrow valley with steep sides
   6. Dinas – city
   7. Gwyn - white
   8. Llan – sacred enclosure
   9. Mawr - big
   10. Pen – head, terminal point
   11. Pont – bridge
   12. Ystwyth – twisting, winding

B. Decipher the following town names:
   13. Aberystwyth – confluence of a twisting river
   14. Llantrisant – church of three saints
   15. Caerhirfryn (Lancaster) – far away hill fort
   16. Brynmawr – big hill
   17. Hendygwyn – old white house
   18. Llanddewi – Church of St. David
C. Study these common words:

19. Penguin
20. Rhyw un, rhywbeth
21. Penwythnos
22. Pumdegau
23. Popeth
24. Cymaint
25. Cynllun
26. Pendant
27. Mamgu
28. Penbwl

Cymraeg, Cymreig, Cymru, a Chymry

Cymru – Y Wlad – The Country

Cymry – Y bobl – The People

Cymraeg – Welsh (language)

Cymreig – Welsh (pertaining to Wales and all things Welsh)

Felly,
Llyfrau Cymraeg = Welsh language books

Llyfrau Cymreig = Welsh books (not necessarily in Welsh)

Cymro Cymraeg = A Welsh-speaking Welshman

Cig Oen Cymreig = Welsh lamb
# Welsh Mutation Chart

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Original Consonant</th>
<th>Soft</th>
<th>Nasal</th>
<th>Aspirate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>G</td>
<td>Ngh</td>
<td>Ch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>Mh</td>
<td>Ph</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>Nh</td>
<td>Th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Ng</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>M</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>Dd</td>
<td>N</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ll</td>
<td>L</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M</td>
<td>F</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rh</td>
<td>R</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SM triggers: when an adjective modifies a feminine singular noun

NM triggers: when “yn” means “in”, or, when “fy” meaning “my” is followed by a mutable word (called “contact mutation”)

AM triggers: when the letters c, p, t follow the words: a (and), â (with), chwe (6), ei (her), gyda (with), tri (3 –masculine), or tua (about, towards)
Yr Wyddor Gymraeg: The Welsh Alphabet

A B C Ch D Dd E F Ff G Ng I L Ll M N O P Ph R Rh S T Th U W Y

The Welsh alphabet does not contain the following letters: J K Q V X Z

Note: The original Welsh alphabet does not contain the letter “j”. It is now, however, seen in many borrowed words, such as “garej”.

There are 23 consonants in the Welsh alphabet, 8 of which are not seen in the English alphabet:

Ch Dd Ff Ng Ll Ph Rh Th

These letters are called digraphs. They are two letters that symbolize one sound. When they appear together they are considered to be one letter. Their pronunciation can be tricky. Here are some guidelines:

Ch This is a hard sound, like the “ch” in the Scottish “Loch” or German “Bach”
Dd Voiced “th”, as in “that”
Ff A soft “f”, as in “fan”
Ng Usually as in “wing”, sometimes as in “angry”
Ll Place tongue as to say “L”, but just breath out
Ph Soft “f” as in Philadelphia
Rh “rhee”; similar to an “r”, but with a greater expulsion of breath
Th unvoiced “th”, as in “breath” and “death”

The majority of the remaining consonants are pronounced like their English equivalents. The exceptions are:

C Always hard as in “cub”
F Always a “v” sound, as in “of”
G Always a hard “g”, as in “go”
R Almost always rolled

There are 7 vowels in Welsh:

A the “a” sound “ah”
E the “e” sound “elf” or “let”
I the “ee” sound in “keen”
O the “o” sound in “more” or “dog”
U Long: “keen”; short: “hit”
W the “oo” sound in “too” or “put”
Y “uh” or “it”
Glossary Focusing on Verbs

Key:  
(b) = benywaid (feminine) – Remember: feminine singular nouns mutate after definite article

(g) = gwrwaid (masculine)

(sm) = soft mutation

*This word replaces the need for “yn” as a connector.

Word with a minus (-) = The root form of the verb to which an ending is added. Endings such as “ais”, “odd” and others signify past tense and person.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
<th>Endings</th>
<th>Examples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>agor</td>
<td>to open</td>
<td>corraches (b)</td>
<td>dwarf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Côr y Cewri</td>
<td>Stonehenge (Chorus of Giants)</td>
<td>corrach (g)</td>
<td>dwarf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>angen*</td>
<td>to need</td>
<td>craig (b)</td>
<td>rock, crag</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>anghenfil (g)</td>
<td>monster</td>
<td>cwn</td>
<td>dogs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ar ben Tom</td>
<td>on Tom’s head</td>
<td>cymryd (cymer-)</td>
<td>to take</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ar òl</td>
<td>after</td>
<td>cyrraedd (cyrhaedd-)</td>
<td>to arrive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>aros (arhos-)</td>
<td>to wait</td>
<td>cysgu</td>
<td>to sleep</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>barod i (sm)</td>
<td>ready to</td>
<td>chwarae (chwarae-)</td>
<td>to play</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>barod</td>
<td>ready</td>
<td>chwilio</td>
<td>to search, look for</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bod</td>
<td>to be (irregular verb)</td>
<td>darilen (darlen-)</td>
<td>to read</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>broga (g)</td>
<td>frog</td>
<td>dawnsio</td>
<td>to dance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bwrw glaw</td>
<td>to rain</td>
<td>deall</td>
<td>to understand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bwyta (bwyt-)</td>
<td>to eat</td>
<td>dod</td>
<td>to come (irregular verb)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>byw</td>
<td>to live</td>
<td>dosbarth (g)</td>
<td>class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cael</td>
<td>to have (irregular verb)</td>
<td>dweud (dwed-)</td>
<td>to say; to tell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>canu (can-)</td>
<td>to sing</td>
<td>dylwn (dyl-)</td>
<td>should</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cawr (g)</td>
<td>giant</td>
<td>dyma</td>
<td>this</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cawres (b)</td>
<td>giantess</td>
<td>dyna</td>
<td>that</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>casglu</td>
<td>to collect</td>
<td>dysgu</td>
<td>to learn; to study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cerdded (cerdd-)</td>
<td>to walk</td>
<td>edrych</td>
<td>to look</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cewri</td>
<td>giants</td>
<td>eisiau*</td>
<td>to want</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cl (g)</td>
<td>dog</td>
<td>eistedd (eistedd-)</td>
<td>to sit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>colli</td>
<td>to lose</td>
<td>esgidiau</td>
<td>shoes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ffrog (b)</td>
<td>dress/frock</td>
<td>newydd*</td>
<td>just, newly</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
gadael (gadaw-) to leave

nofio to swim
gallu to be able

o (sm) from
gofyn (gofynn-) to ask

ogof (b) cave
gweithio to work

o’r from the
gwel (gwêl-) to see

oergell (b) fridge
gwenu to smile

plant children
gwneud to make or do (irregular verb)

prifysgol (b) university
gwêr (g) man

prynu (pryn-) to buy
gwrach (b) witch

rhedeg (rhed-) to run
gwraig (b) woman

siarad (siarad-) to speak
gwrando (gwrandaw-) to listen

siop (b) shop, store
gwybod to know information

siopa to shop
heb* (sm) without

symud to move
hoff o (sm) fond of

teilmlo to feel
hoffi to like

teisen (b) cake
i (sm) to

teithio to travel
ir to the

tre (b) town
Iwerddon (b) Ireland

trefnu to organize
llaeth (g) milk

ty house
lyfr (g) book

tylwythyn teg fairy folk, fairies, elves
lllyfrau books

un o’r tylwythyn teg one elf
llyfrawr (g) sorcerer

Unol Daleithiau United States
lllyfrgell (b) library

wedi* past perfect tense marker
meddwl (meddyli-) to think

wrth y drws by the door
medru able (northern (gog) word)

wrth (sm) by
merlota to pony trek

yma here
moyn want (northern (gog) word)

ymarfer to practice
mwynhau (mwyneu-) to enjoy

yn y dre in the town
mynd to go (irregular verb)

yn y tŷ in the house
nabod to know people

yn yr ardd in the yard
yn yr oergell in the fridge

yn a there yno way over there, out of sight
Useful Words and Phrases

Tom dw i. I am Tom.
Dw i’n dod o America I come from America.
Beth yw ‘ch enw chi? What is your name?
Dw i’n dysgu Cymraeg. I am learning (studying) Welsh.
Dw i’n siarad Cymraeg. I speak Welsh.
S’mae. Hello; How are you?
lawn. Fine; Good, Okay
Neis cwrdd â chi. Nice to meet you.
Mae’n dda gen i gwrdd â chi. It is good to meet you. (I’m pleased to meet you.)
Bore da. Good morning.
Prynhawn da; P’nawn da. Good afternoon.
Noswaith dda. Good evening.
Nos da. Good night.
Hwyl; Hwyl fawr; Hwyl nawr. Goodbye; See you.
Da boch chi. Goodbye. (Lit.: Good be with you.)
Diolch Thanks; Thank you.
Diolch yn fawr. Thank you very much.
Croeso. Welcome; You’re welcome.
Os gwelwch yn dda. Please. (Lit: If there is good with you.)
Esgusodwch fi. Excuse me.
Mae’n ddrwg gen i. I’m sorry.
Dw i ddim yn deall. I do not understand.
Sut mae dweud hynny yn Gymraeg? How do you say that in Welsh?
Sut mae dweud ‘frog’ yn Gymraeg? How do you say ‘frog’ in Welsh?
Beth yw ‘frog’ yn Gymraeg? What is ‘frog’ in Welsh?
Nadolig Llawen Merry Christmas
Blwydyn Newydd Dda Happy New Year
Cyfarchion y Tymor Season’s Greetings
Pasg Hapus Happy Easter
Penblwydd hapus Happy Birthday
Da iawn!  Well done!
Bendith!  Bless you!
Iechyd da!  Cheers!
I’r dim!  Perfect!
Wir?  Really?
Dim Problem.  No problem.
Dim o gwbl.  Not at all.
Wrth gwrs.  Of course.
Pam lai?  Why not?
Beth bynnag.  Whatever.

Cool Words and Phrases

Cymru am byth!  Wales forever!
Gwell laeth Cymru na chwrw Lloegr.  Better Welsh milk than English beer.
Annibyniaeth  Independence
Ardderchog  Wonderful
Archfarchnad  Supermarket
Bendegedig  Blessed
Gwych  Great
Llongyfarchiadau!  Congratulations!

A Fun Sentence

Ydy dy dŷ du di ‘da ti?  Is your black house with you?
How to say it?  Uh–dee  duh  dee  dee  ‘dah  tee?

Name of a Welsh Town

Llanfairpwllgwyngyll gogerychwyrndrobwllllantysiliogogogoch


What it means:
St. Mary’s Church in the hollow of the white hazel near to the rapid whirlpool and the Church of St. Tysilio of the red cave
Useful Welsh Classroom Phrases

Sefyllwch, os gwelwch chi’n dd.  Eisteddwch!
Canwch yn dda.  Siarad gyda’n gilydd.
Edrych ar eich tudalen.  Gwneud eich llyfr gweithio.
Wn ni ddim.  Cariwch ymlaen.
Darllen eich tudalen.  Agorwch eich llyfrau gweithio.
Troi dy desgiau yn y cylch.  Gweneud eich gwaith cartre.
Dych chi’n barod?  Wyt ti wedi gorffen?
Pwy sy’n nesa?  Pwy ydy e (hi, chi)?
Dw i wedi blino.  Dim diolch.
Ble wyt ti’n mynd ar ôl y dosbarth?  Gweithio Gwych!

Geirfa

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word/ Meaning</th>
<th>Word/ Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sefyll – to stand</td>
<td>Eistedd – to sit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canu – to sing</td>
<td>Siarad – speak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tudalen – page</td>
<td>Gyda’n gilydd – with each other</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Troi – turn</td>
<td>Gweithio – work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Desgiau – desks</td>
<td>Ymlaen – forward, along</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barod – ready</td>
<td>Agor – open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nesa – next</td>
<td>Cwestiwn – question</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grwp – group</td>
<td>Gwaith cartre – homework</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cyntaf – first</td>
<td>Gorffen – to finish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wedi blino – tired</td>
<td>Diweithaf – last (weak “f” usually dropped)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ar ôl – after, behind</td>
<td>Gwych – excellent, well done</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Summary of Tenses

#### Present Tense

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Affirmative</th>
<th>Negative</th>
<th>Interrogative</th>
<th>Yes/No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dw i’n...</td>
<td>Dw i ddim yn...</td>
<td>Ydw i’n...</td>
<td>Wyt/Ydych (Nag...)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wyt ti’n...</td>
<td>Wyt ti ddim yn...</td>
<td>Wyt ti’n...?</td>
<td>Ydw (Nag ydw)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mae e’n...</td>
<td>Dydy e ddim yn...</td>
<td>Ydy e’n...?</td>
<td>Ydy (Nag ydy)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mae hi’n...</td>
<td>Dydy hi ddim yn...</td>
<td>Ydy hi’n...?</td>
<td>Ydy (Nag ydy)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mae Twm yn...</td>
<td>Dydy Twm ddim yn...</td>
<td>Ydy Twm yn...?</td>
<td>Ydy (Nag ydy)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mae’r plant yn...</td>
<td>Dydy’r plant ddim yn...</td>
<td>Ydy’r plant yn...?</td>
<td>Ydy (Nag ydy)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dyn ni’n...</td>
<td>Dyn ni ddim yn...</td>
<td>Ydyn ni’n...?</td>
<td>Ydyn (Nag ydyn)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dych chi’n...</td>
<td>Dych chi ddim yn...</td>
<td>Ydych chi’n...?</td>
<td>Ydyn/Ydw/Nag</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maen nhw’n...</td>
<td>Dyn nhw ddim yn...</td>
<td>Ydyn nhw’n...?</td>
<td>Ydyn/ (Nag ydyn)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Past Perfect Using Wedi

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Affirmative</th>
<th>Negative</th>
<th>Interrogative</th>
<th>Yes/No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dw i wedi...</td>
<td>Dw i ddim wedi...</td>
<td>Ydw i wedi...?</td>
<td>Wyt/Ydych (Nag...)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wyt ti wedi...</td>
<td>Wyt ti ddim wedi...</td>
<td>Wyt ti wedi...?</td>
<td>Ydw (Nag ydw)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mae e wedi...</td>
<td>Dydy e ddim wedi...</td>
<td>Ydy e wedi...?</td>
<td>Ydy (Nag ydy)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mae hi wedi...</td>
<td>Dydy hi ddim wedi...</td>
<td>Ydy hi wedi...?</td>
<td>Ydy (Nag ydy)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mae Twm wedi...</td>
<td>Dydy Twm ddim wedi...</td>
<td>Ydy Twm wedi...?</td>
<td>Ydy (Nag ydy)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mae’r plant wedi...</td>
<td>Dydy’r plant ddim wedi...</td>
<td>Ydy’r plant wedi...?</td>
<td>Ydyn (Nag ydyn)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dyn ni wedi...</td>
<td>Dyn ni ddim wedi...</td>
<td>Ydyn ni wedi...?</td>
<td>Ydyn/ydych (Nag...)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dych chi wedi...</td>
<td>Dych chi ddim wedi...</td>
<td>Ydych chi wedi...?</td>
<td>Ydyn/ydw (Nag...)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maen nhw wedi...</td>
<td>Dyn nhw ddim wedi...</td>
<td>Ydyn nhw wedi...?</td>
<td>Ydyn (Nag ydyn)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Future Periphrastic Using Mynd

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Affirmative</th>
<th>Negative</th>
<th>Interrogative</th>
<th>Yes/No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dw i’n mynd i...</td>
<td>Dw i ddim mynd i...</td>
<td>Ydw i’n mynd i...</td>
<td>Wyt/Ydych (Nag...)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wyt ti’n mynd i...</td>
<td>Wyt ti ddim mynd i...</td>
<td>Wyt ti’n mynd i...?</td>
<td>Ydw (Nag ydw)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mae e’n mynd i...</td>
<td>Dydy e ddim mynd i...</td>
<td>Ydy e’n mynd i...?</td>
<td>Ydy (Nag ydy)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mae hi’n mynd i...</td>
<td>Dydy hi ddim mynd i...</td>
<td>Ydy hi’n mynd i...?</td>
<td>Ydy (Nag ydy)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mae Twm yn mynd i...</td>
<td>Dydy Twm ddim mynd i...</td>
<td>Ydy Twm yn mynd i...?</td>
<td>Ydy (Nag ydy)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mae’r plant yn mynd i...</td>
<td>Dydy’r plant ddim mynd i...</td>
<td>Ydy’r plant mynd i...?</td>
<td>Ydyn (Nag ydyn)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dyn ni’n mynd i...</td>
<td>Dyn ni ddim mynd i...</td>
<td>Ydyn ni’n mynd i...?</td>
<td>Ydyn/Ydych (Nag Ydyn...)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dych chi’n mynd i...</td>
<td>Dych chi ddim mynd i...</td>
<td>Ydych chi’n mynd i...?</td>
<td>Ydyn/Ydw (Nag Ydyn...)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maen nhw’n mynd i...</td>
<td>Dyn nhw ddim mynd i...</td>
<td>Ydyn nhw’n mynd i...?</td>
<td>Ydyn (Yag ydyn)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Indefinite Nouns

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Affirmative</th>
<th>Negative</th>
<th>Interrogative</th>
<th>Yes/No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mae broga...</td>
<td>Does dim broga...</td>
<td>Oes broga...</td>
<td>Oes (Nag oes)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Grammar Definitions

**Adjective:** An adjective describes a noun or pronoun. Examples include: big, red, easy, and French.

**Affirmative or Indicative Statement:** A sentence which is neither negative or interrogative. It states rather than negates or questions. For example, “I am singing.” is an affirmative or indicative sentence.

**Conjunction:** A word used to connect words, phrases and clauses. For example: and, but, if.

**Definite Article:** The word “the” in English. In Welsh, it is “yr” with manifestations of “’r” and “y”.

**Indefinite Article:** The words “a” and “an” in English. Welsh has no indefinite articles. If there is no definite article, the indefinite article is assumed.

**Infinitive:** The basic form of a verb, as in “work” or “to work.” In Welsh, this can be “to work” or “working.” For example: Dw i’n gweithio,” could be translated, “I work”, or “I am working”.

**Interrogative:** A sentence which takes the form of a question. For example: “Am I singing?” is an interrogative sentence.

**Mutation:** A shift in the first letter of the word. This can be caused by contact, or by grammar. The first letter can become a digraph, or in some cases, several letters. (See Mutation chart.)

**Negative:** A sentence that negates an idea. For example, “I am not singing” is a negative sentence.

**Noun:** A word like “table, dog, teacher, America, etc.” A noun is the name of an object, concept, person, or place. A “concrete noun” is something you can see or touch like a person or car. An “abstract noun” is something you cannot see or touch, like a decision or happiness. A “countable noun” is something you can count (for example: bottle, song, dollar). An “uncountable noun” is something you cannot count (for example: water, music, money).

**Preposition:** A word like “at, to, in, over, etc.” Prepositions usually come before a noun and give information about things like time, place, and direction. These usually cause a soft mutation.

**Pronoun:** A word like “I, me, you, he, him, it, etc.” A pronoun replaces a noun.

**Tense:** The form of a verb that shows us when the action or state happens (past, present, or future). Note that the name of a tense is not always a guide to when the action happens. The “present continuous tense,” for example, can be used to talk about the present or the future. We will use “Present, Past (Past Perfect), and Future, or Future Periphrastic (meaning the long way of constructing the future as opposed to the short future).” The short form is more often used in the literary or written language.

**Verb:** A word like “to work”, “to love”, “to begin”. A verb describes an action or state.
Making Statements (with pronunciations)

Part I

Rydw i = I am

*ruh doo ee = I am*

Dw i = I am

*duh oo ee = I am*

Rwyti = You are

*ruh oo tee = You are*

Wyt ti = You are

*oo ee tee = You are*

Mae e = He is

*maheen eh = He is*

Mae hi = She is

*mahee hee = She is*

Mae car = A car is

*mahee kar = A car is*

Mae’r gwr = The husband is

*mahee goo er = The husband is*
Part II

‘n dod = coming
un dod = coming

‘n mynd = going
un mihnd = going

‘n yfed = drinking
un uhved = drinking

‘n yfed = drinking
un uhved = drinking

‘n bwyta = eating
un boo ee ta = eating

‘n cael = having
un kaheel = having

‘n gwneud = doing
un goo naed = doing

‘n cerdded = walking
un ker thed = walking

‘n rhedeg = running
un her ed egg = running

‘n darllen = reading
un dar thlen = reading

‘n prynu = buying
un pruh nee = buying

‘n gwerthu = selling
un goo er thee = selling

‘n glanhau = cleaning
un glan hi ee = cleaning

(“Ti” is used in the singular with relatives and friends.
“Chi” is used in singular and plural for everyone else. )

(‘n reverts to “yn” after consonants.)
**Welsh Surnames**

Bowen – derived from ab Owen or Owain, "son of Owen". It's spread through Wales, except in Anglesey in Caernarfonshire

Crowther - from the Welsh word crythor "a player of the crwth (an early fiddle)". The word also appears in Middle English as crouthes or croude.

Evans - from the Welsh name Ieuan (John), the name originated with the "u" was changed to a "v". Bevan, Evan, Evance, Heavens, Iefan, Ifan, Jeavons, Jevons, Jeavince.

Griffiths - from the Old Welsh name Grippiud, which became Gruffydd. Modern Welsh is Gruffydd. It was frequented as a name of Welsh princes and leaders. Old documents show it commonly abbreviated as Gr'. Griffith, Griffin, Griffies, Griffis, Guto, Gruffydd, Gruffudd.

Morris - the English spelling, derived from the Welsh personal name Meurig and Latin name Mauricius. Morris is the more popular spelling than Maurice. Maurice, Morse, Morus, Morys.

Owen - an old personal name possibly from Latin Eugenius or Audoenus; the name of princes and leaders; common by the 15th C. Owen, Bowen from ap Owen "son of Owen".

Williams — from the German name Wilhelm, a combination of the words "will and "helmet," brought by the Normans. The Welsh adopted it as Guiielm and Gwilym, becoming Gwilliam and Gullam. Guiielm, Gwilym, Gwilliam, Gullam, Wilson.

Taylor - an English occupational name; listed as the 4th most common name in England in Wales in 1853.

**Welsh Given Names**

Dafydd - (DAH-vith) "dearly beloved"; Welsh form of David. St. David is patron saint of Wales. Nicknames: Dafi (DAH-vee); Dai (DII); Deian (DAY-an); Deio (DAY-oh); Dewi (DE-wee).

Donna - (DOHN-ah) Name of a mother goddess in Welsh mythology, similar to Irish Danu. Celtic root of her name shows up in river names across Europe, including the Danube and the Don. Donn, Dona (DOHN-ah).

Glyn - (GLIN) "one who lives in the glen or valley"; from Welsh glyn "valley".

Padrig - (PAHD-rig) Welsh form of Padraig (Patrick), "noble", patron saint of Ireland.