



PRONUNCIATION OF WELSH

There are some sounds in spoken Welsh which are very different from their English equivalents. The following is a basic guide:

WELSH ENGLISH EQUIVALENT

c	cath = <i>cat</i>	cat (never as in receive)
ch	chwaer = <i>sister</i>	loch
dd	yn dda = <i>good</i>	them
f	y fam = <i>the mother</i>	of
ff	ffenestr = <i>window</i>	off
g	gardd = <i>garden</i>	garden (never as in George)
h	het = <i>hat</i>	hat (never silent as in honest)
ll	llaw = <i>hand</i>	There is no equivalent sound. Place the tongue on the upper roof of the mouth near the upper teeth, ready to pronounce l; then blow rather than voice the l.
th	byth = <i>ever</i>	Three (never as in English the)

The vowels in Welsh are aeioüwy; all except 'y' can be long or short:

long a	tad <i>father</i>	similar to English hard
short a	mam <i>mother</i>	similar to English ham
long e	hen <i>old</i>	similar to English sane

short e	pen <i>head</i>	similar to English ten
long i	mis <i>month</i>	Similar to English geese
short i	prin <i>scarce</i>	similar to English tin
long o	môr <i>sea</i>	similar to English more
short o	ffon <i>walking-stick</i>	similar to English fond
long w	swn <i>sound</i>	similar to English moon
short w	gwn <i>gun</i>	similar to English look
y has two sounds:		

1 CLEAR

dyn	man,	a long 'ee' sound almost like English geese
cyn	before,	a short 'i' sound almost like English tin

2 OBSCURE

something like the sound in English run
Examples:

y the; yn in; dynion men.

It is well to remember that in Welsh the accent usually falls on the last-syllable-but-one of a word, e.g. cādair *chair*.

WALES

DID YOU KNOW... ?

- Wales is 159 miles (256 kms) long x 56 miles (96 kms) wide covering an area of 8,897 miles² (20,720 kms²).
- Welsh (Cymraeg) is one of the oldest living languages in Europe.
- St. David (Dewi Sant) is the Patron Saint of Wales. His death on 1st March became the national celebration of St. David's Day (Dydd Gŵyl Dewi Sant).
- The Welsh National emblems are the Daffodil and the Leek.
- The National flag is the Red Dragon passant on a green and white field.
- The Welsh National Anthem was sung in public for the first time in 1856.
- Cardiff is one of the youngest capital cities in Europe.
- Rugby is the national sport of Wales
- Wales has some 400 castles - over 100 of which are open to the public. Conwy, Caernarfon, Beaumaris and Harlech are UNESCO World Heritage Sites.
- Snowdon (Yr Wyddfa) is the highest mountain in Wales and England at 3560ft (1085m).
- The population of Wales is approximately 3 million.

WELSH PLACE NAMES & GREETINGS

The Welsh language has been in daily use in Wales for centuries, but, don't worry about encountering any language difficulties - Everybody in Wales speaks English, the road signs are bilingual and you'll frequently come across dual place-names eg Swansea/Abertawe, Cardiff/Caerdydd.

A FEW GREETINGS		Sut mae?	How are you?	Da	Good
Bore da	Good morning	Hwyl	Cheers	Da iawn	Very good
Dydd da	Good day	Diolch	Thanks	Iechyd dal	Good health
Prynhawn da	Good afternoon	Diolch yn fawr iawn	Thanks very much	Dymuniadau gorau	Best wishes
Noswaith dda	Good evening	Croeso	Welcome	Cyfarchion	Greetings
Nos da	Good night	Croeso i Gymru	Welcome to Wales		

ABER

This denotes the mouth or confluence of a river, or a small stream. It is usually followed by the name of the river. Example:

Aberystwyth mouth of the river
Ystwyth

BETWS

A house of prayer.

This is usually followed by the location of the prayer house or by its founder's name.
Example:

Betws-y-Coed prayer house in the wood

BLAEN

The source of a river, or the head of a valley.

Blaenau Ffestiniog Heads of the Valleys in the land of Ffestin.

BACH/FACH

Small/little

BRYN

a hill.

Bryncastell

castle hill.

BWLCH

a pass or gap.

CAPEL

a chapel.

Capel Dewi

chapel of David, the patron Saint of Wales

CASTELL

castle.

Castell Coch

red castle.

CAER/GAER

a fort

COED

a wood.

FFYNNON

a well or spring.

Ffynnon Taf

Taf's well.

GLAN

a river or water bank

GLYN

a glen or valley.

HAFOD

a summer dwelling or summer pasture.

LLAN

a church or parish

This is usually followed by the name of the saint to whom the church is dedicated.

Llandudno

Church of St Tudno

Llanddewi

Church of St David

LLYN

a lake or pool.

MŶNYDD

a mountain.

NANT

a stream.

PEN

top or end.

PENTRE

a village.

PONT

a bridge.

TRE

a homestead or town

TŶ

a house.