Day Fifty-one: 4 November

Today's words: llawer = lot; ffordd = road; oeddwn i? = was I?

The masculine noun "lot" is **llawer**, with a rarely-used plural of **llaweroedd**. It is mostly used in the expression **llawer o**[L] something, "a lot of" something, the standard expression for "many". Welsh people often say **lot o**[L] but you probably should avoid the anglicism.

The noun **ffordd**, plural **ffyrdd** (f.), means "road" or "way". It is the most neutral of the many Welsh words for road.

Pronunciation Alert! FF (another single letter) is always like English *ff* (think *off*).

The interrogative form of the imperfect first person singular is **oeddwn i?** = **was I?** This form is just **roeddwn** without the positive particle **yr** (reduced to **r-**). As such, it is also the form used in subordinate clauses: **Y dyn a oeddwn yn gynt. . . "the man I once was"**, lit. **"the man who was-I «particle» earlier"**. This is also the case for all other forms beginning **oedd-**.

Examples:

Oeddwn i'n gynnar?
Was I early?

Mae'r ffordd hon yn arwain i Gymru.
This road leads to Wales.

Mae llawer o ffyrdd yng Ngyhmru.
There are many roads in Wales.

Day Fifty-two: 5 November

Today's words: cyfer = direction; dydd = day; oeddet ti? = were you? (s)

The noun **cyfer** means "direction" in the geographical sense of the word. By far the most common usage, however, is in the compound preposition **ar**[L] **gyfer**: "for" in the sense of "for the benefit of". In this sense it is similar to the preposition **dros**, "for" in the sense of "on behalf of," "for the sake of". [There is also **er mwyn**, "for the sake of," not usually translated as "for"—all are quite similar.] Compound prepositions put the possessive pronoun between the two words, so **ar fy nghyfer** is "for me / on my behalf", **ar ei chyfer** "for her / on her behalf," etc. It is a masculine noun, but there is no plural.

Another masculine noun is **dydd**, plural **dyddiau**. The word means "day," though Welsh does have another word for day, **diwrnod**, which is used when the period of a day is meant. **Dydd** is used with the names of the days of the week, and like many Welsh words it mutates when used adverbially. So **dydd Llun** is "Monday," but **ddydd Llun** is "on Monday". The preposition **ar** is used for a regular occurrence, so **ar ddydd Llyn** is "on Mondays" or "of a Monday".

The interrogative form of the imperfect first person singular is **oeddet ti?** = **were you? (s.)**

Examples:

Oeddet ti yn y gwaith ddydd Llun?
Were you at work on Monday?

Mae'r peth hwn ar gyfer plant.
This thing is for children.

Day Fifty-three: 6 November

Today's words: math = kind / sort; codi = rise; oedd e / o | hi? = was he | she?

The versatile masculine noun **math**, plural **mathau**, means "kind" or "sort" or "type". In the expression **y fath[L]** (note the mutations) it means "such": **y fath beth**, "such a thing".

The verb **codi** or (in more formal registers) **cyfodi** means "rise," "arise," or "get up". This is used both for getting up in the morning and for getting up from a sitting position. Its stem is **cod-** or **cyfod-**.

The most common form of the verb **bod** is **oedd**, "was he?" "was she?" or "was it?"

Examples:

Oedd e'n codi'n gynnar?
Did he use to get up early?

Math o de yw Lapsang-Souchong.
Lapsang-Souchong is a kind of tea.

Beth oedd iaith yr ysgol pan oeddech chi'n blentyn?
What was the language of the school when you were a child?

Day Fifty-four: 7 November

Today's words: gwlad = country; eich = your (pl); oedden ni? = were we?

Welsh has many words for country. The most general is **gwlad**, a feminine noun whose plural is **gwledydd**. It can mean country in the sense of a nation, in the geo-political sense, or country as in countryside. The Welsh national anthem is **Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau**, "My Ancestors' Old Country" (or more conventionally "Land of My Ancestors"—**hen** here is more to indicated strong feeling than age. **Tadau** is literally "fathers" but there is no particular reason to exclude the women. In Welsh, as in French and Spanish, the masculine plural can cover both genders.)

The second person plural possessive pronoun is **eich**. After **o** and other short words ending in a vowel, it is often reduced to **'ch**. In literary Welsh and for emphasis, the possessed word or phrase is often bracketed with the personal pronoun. In the case of **eich**, this is **chi**.

"Were we?" is **oedden ni?**

Examples:

Oedden ni yn eich gwlad chi?
Were we in your country?

Beth oedden ni'n meddwl?
What were we thinking?

Mae eich gwlad chi yn fawr.
Your country is large.

Day Fifty-five: 8 November

Today's words: tro = turn | time; amser = time | weather; oeddech chi? = were you (pl)?

Welsh has many words for time. You have already encountered **gwaith**, "time" in the sense of "occasion." The masculine noun **tro**, plural **troeon**, is similar, but means "time" in the sense of "turn", with the implication that it is in a series. The Welsh for "once, twice, thrice" uses **gwaith**, but "first time, second time, third time" uses **tro**.

Homonym Alert! Note that **tro** can also have other meanings.

A different word for time, feminine this time*, is **amser**, plural **amserau** or **amseroedd**. The former plural has the slight numerical edge, but both are in common use. This word means time in the sense of what the clock measures, and is also the word for weather. When you say "it's raining" in Welsh, the "it" is **hi**, because it refers to **amser,** which is feminine.

* If you were to translate this phrase into Welsh, "this time" would be **y tro hwn**.

"Were you?" in the plural is **oeddech chi?**

Examples:

Oeddech chi'n gallu ei wneud y tro hwn?
Were you able to do it this time?

Ydy'r amser yn dda?
Is the weather good?

Mae hi'n amser mynd.
It's time to go.

Day Fifty-six: 9 November

Today's words: edrych = look; oed = age; oedden nhw? = were they?

The verb **edrych** means "look," and in Welsh one looks **ar** something, when English looks "at". (Compare the old-fashioned "look upon"). The stem is also **edrych-**.

Oed is a masculine noun primarily meaning "age". It doesn't really have a good plural, though **oedau** is in use. (Usually, for "ages", **oedrannau** is used instead, the plural of **oedran**.) The word is most common with numbers in expressing how old someone is, in which case you translate it as "old", but it can also mean "time" in the sense of a large span of time and in some idiomatic uses.

"Were they?" is **oedden nhw?**

Faint ydy ei hoed hi? [Note: More idiomatically, **oedran** is used here]
How old is she? (lit., how-many is her age her?)

Mae hi'n ddwy flwydd oed.
She is two years old.

Mae hi wedi bod yn edrych arnat am amser hir.
She has been looking at you for a long time.

Oedden nhw'n gwybod amdano fe?
Did they know about it?

Day Fifty-seven: 10 November

Today's words: digon = enough; tŷ = house; doeddwn i ddim = I was not

The noun **digon** means "enough," or perhaps "sufficiency" would be better to match the English part of speech. It is masculine, but there is no plural. In older literature you will sometimes see **dichon**. It is usually followed by **o**[L]: **digon o**[L] **fwyd**, "enough food." It can also be used as an adverb: **digon hapus**, "happy enough."

The noun for "house" is also masculine, **tŷ**. The plural is **tai**, but this is one of the rare words with a double diminutive plural: **taios** means something like "housies." You can also add this ending to **plant**—**plantos** means "kiddies," but perhaps a little less silly, so you could use it in ordrinary conversation without feeling self-conscious. ("Children" also has **plantach**, which is a pejorative suffix: "brats".)

In the past tense, the negative is the **d-** from **nid** plus the **oedd-** forms: **doeddwn i ddim** is "I was not."

Examples:

Doeddwn i ddim wedi cael digon.
I didn't get enough.

Oes gennych chi dŷ?
Do you have a house?

Mae digon o dai yma.
There are enough houses here. (lit. **a sufficiency of houses**)

Day Fifty-eight: 11 November

Today's words: allan = out; eto = again | yet; doeddet ti ddim = you were not (s.)

The adverb "out" is **allan** in North Welsh and Literary Welsh; Colloquial South Welsh often uses **mas** instead. (Both come from nouns: **llan** is "church site" and **maes** is "field".)

There are a couple of words for the adverb "again," but by far the most common is **eto**. The word also means "yet" or "still" so sometimes, for clarity, "again" is expressed as **unwaith eto**, literally "once again." **Ydy e'n feddw eto? Is he drunk yet?** vs. **Ydy e'n feddw unwaith eto? Is he drunk again?** The context will make it clear. In any case, **eto** always looks forward in time. For constructions with some tenses such as the imperfect or stressing repetition, **drachefn** is preferred—think of the latter as "back again" since it contains **cefn**, "back".

Doeddet ti ddim is "you were not" in the informal singular.

Examples:

Doeddet ti ddim allan unwaith eto, on'd oeddet?
You weren't out again, were you?

Mae hi'n bwrw glaw eto.
It's raining again.

Mae'r gath tu allan.
The cat is outside.

Day Fifty-nine: 12 November

Today's words: gair = word; unrhyw = any; doedd e / o | hi ddim = he | she was not

The word for "word" is masculine: **gair**, plural **geiriau**. This is the root of **geiriadur**, "dictionary".

You have already seen what happens when **un** meets **rhyw**^L: "one-some" means "any". Like **rhyw**^L, **unrhyw**^L goes before the noun it modifies and so causes lenition.

The negative in the third person is **doedd e / o | hi ddim**, **he / it | she / it was not**.

Examples:

Doedd hi ddim yn dweud unrhyw air wrtha i.
She didn't say a single word to me. (lit. **any word**)

Mae rhaid i chi wybod o leiaf 500 o eiriau o'r iaith Gymraeg.
You must know at least 500 words of Welsh. (lit. **of the Welsh language**)

Bydd e'n dod unrhyw ddydd.
It will come any day.

Day Sixty: 13 November

Today's words: llyfr = book; tua = toward; doedden ni ddim = we were not

"Book" is a masculine noun: **llyfr**, plural **llyfrau**. It comes from Latin *liber*, and so is cognate with French *livre*, Spanish and Italian *libro*, et cetera.

The preposition **tua**^H comes from the word **tu** "side" plus **a**^H "with", and it means "toward" (or "towards" if you like: see, English is as bad as Welsh, you're just used to it). Like **a**^H, the word adds a G before vowels to become **tuag**. When talking about time, it means "about", as in **tua thri o'r gloch**, "about three o'clock".

The negative past of **bod** for the first person plural is **doedden ni ddim**.

Examples:

Doedden ni ddim yn mynd tua'r tŷ.
We weren't going towards the house.

Oedd y llyfr yn dda?
Was the book good?

Oes gen ti ddigon o lyfrau? Nac oes!
Do you have enough books? No!

Day Sixty-one: 14 November

Today's words: angen = need; troi = turn; doeddech chi ddim = you were not (pl.)

Like **rhaid**, the masculine noun **angen** means "need." The meaning of the two is similar; David Llewelyn Williams has usefully contributed his impression of the distinction, that "**rhaid** implies necessity (must have) whereas **angen** implies need (not filled)." **Diolch**! When then two are used in the same sentence, as they often are, translate **rhaid** as "must" and **angen** as "need".* Though **rhaid** uses the preposition **i**^L, **angen** uses **ar**^L. Combined, there is a noun **anghenraid**, "necessity," and an adjective, **angenrheidiol**, "essential." The plural of **angen** is **anghenion**—the extra H is common in Welsh words like this. When MH, NH, and NGH follow the vowel in the stressed syllable, they turn into M, N, and NG. Note the way the Hs come and go in **anghenraid** and **angenrheidiol**, which are both frequently misspelled.

* I had written this sentence *before* I saw David Llewelyn's.

You have seen the noun **tro**, which is also the stem (**tro-**) of the verb **troi**, which means "turn". It is very slightly irregular, notably in the form **troes** or **trodd** ("he / she / it turned").

Homonym Alert! Note that **tro** can also have other meanings.

The negative past of **bod** for the second person plural is **doeddech chi ddim**.

Examples:

Mae angen arna i wneud llawer o bethau.
I must do a bunch of stuff (lit. **many of things**).

Doeddech chi ddim yn eu gweld nhw.
You didn't see them.

Trowch yn eich hôl ac edrychwch!
Turn around and look! (lit. **turn in your wake and look**)

Day Sixty-two: 15 November

Today's words: cyfnod = period; defnyddio = use; doedden nhw ddim = they were not

The masculine noun **cyfnod**, plural **cyfnodau**, means "period" in the sense of "space of time". (The punctuation period is **atalnod llawn** and a woman's monthly period is **mislif**.)

The verb "use" is **defnyddio**, stem **defnydd-**.

Homonym Alert! Note that **defnydd** can also have other meanings.

"They were not" is **doedden nhw ddim**.

Examples:

Doedden nhw ddim yna am gyfnod hir.
They weren't there for a long space of time.

Wyt ti'n defnyddio'r hwnnw?
Are you using that?

Dw i'n defnyddio Cymraeg bob dydd!
I use Welsh every day!

Day Sixty-three: 16 November

Today's words: clywed = hear; enw = name; oeddid = one was

The verb **clywed** "hear" is ultimately formed from **bod** and is thus irregular, especially in its literary forms (a shout-out here to Middle Welsh **cigleu**, "he / she / it heard," no longer used). In the contemporary language most of the forms are created from the stem **clyw-**.

The noun **enw**, plural **enwau**, masculine, means "name" and in fact is ultimately cognate with it.

In the past impersonal, **bod** is **oeddid**. Like **byddir**, **oeddid** is found primarily in literary Welsh.

Examples:

Chlywais i ddim gair ohono fe.
I didn't hear a word from him.
 (Note that here the stem **clyw-** has been aspirated to **chlyw-** by an invisible **ni**[H/L]; **ddim** reinforces the negative).

Beth ydy'ch enw chi?
What is your name? (formal)

Beth ydy'th enw di? *or* **Beth ydy dy enw di?**
What is your name? (informal)

Literary example from Luke 3:21

. . . pan oeddid yn bedyddio'r holl bobl. . . .
. . . when all the people were baptized**. . . .** (KJV); **. . . when all the people were being** baptized**. . . .** (NIV)

Day Sixty-four: 17 November

Today's words: bywyd = life; llaw = hand; byddwn i = I would be

"Life" is masculine, **bywyd**, and its plural is **bywydau**. There was once a near synonym, **buched**, as well, but these days that's found mostly in **Buched Dewi**, "the Life of [Saint] David."

Pronunciation Alert! YWY (and WYW) are tricky. Here, pronounce it as **by·wyd**.

The word for hand is **llaw**, and it is feminine. This is easy to remember if you can remember the plural, which is based on the usual number of hands a person has, two: **dwylo** (from **dwy**[L] + **llaw**). It is cognate with the English word *palm*, as in the palm of the hand, and the Irish cognate, *lámh*, can mean "arm" as well as "hand." "**Gyda llaw**" means "by the way."

Homonym Alert! Note that **law** (mutated) can also have other meanings.

The future stem **bydd-** is also used for the conditional. **Byddwn i** translates as "I would be." Note that this is different from **byddwn ni**! (I won't call a **Homonym Alert!** because both are from the same verb.)

Examples:

Mae'r bywyd yn dda!
Life is good!

Ydych chi'n gallu rhoi llaw i fi?
Can you give me a hand?

Byddwn i'n ddiolchgar.
I would be grateful.

Day Sixty-five: 18 November

Today's words: dyna = there's | that's; arbennig = special; byddet ti = you would be (s.)

Dyna[L], sometimes reduced to **'na**[L], is an adverb that means "there's" or "that's." It comes from the phrase **a weli di yna?** "**do you see there?**" **Mae** can also mean "there is"; compare the following: **Mae llyfr yn y llyfrgell** *or* **Mae 'na lyfr yn y llyfrgell** ("**there's a book in the library**") is general statement. The optional **'na** in the latter sentence is from **yna**. **Dyna'r llyfr, yn y llyfrgell**, on the other hand, means "**there's the book, in the library**," pointing to a specific book in a specific location. **Dyna** is used to make all sorts of observational statements, which in Welsh

English are expressed as "there's" and in North American English are expressed as "that's". As a subordinating conjunction it can mean "then," like **yna**. **A dyna chi!—And there you are!**

Homonym Alert! Note that **'na** can also have other meanings.

The adjective **arbennig**, "special," derives from **ar^L** and **pen**.

The second person singular informal conditional is **byddet ti**.

Examples:

Dyna'r dyn a welais yn ein tŷ ni.
That's the man that I saw in our house.

Beth am roi rhywbeth arbennig iddo fe?
What about giving him something special?

Byddet ti'n ei ddweud wrth ffrindiau da, on'd fyddet?
You'd tell it to good friends, wouldn't you?

Day Sixty-six: 19 November

Today's words: dal = hold; oes = age; byddai e / o | hi = he | she would be

The verb **dal** (stem **dali-**) has a range of meanings. The primary meaning is "catch," as in "catch hold of", and therefore also "hold." Metaphorically, this extends to "continue," holding onto an action as well as an object. **Dal at^L** is to "keep on at" something, and **dal i^L**, followed by a verb, is more like "still".

Oes, a feminine noun whose plural is **oesoedd**, means "age". It is very similar to **cyfnod**, but somewhat longer—if it's more than a couple of generations, use **oes**, but otherwise stick with **cyfnod**.

Homonym Alert! Note that **oes** can also have other meanings.

The thid person singular conditional is **byddai**.

Examples:

Daliwch ati!
Keep at it!

Mae pobl wedi bod yn siarad Cymraeg yng Nghymru ers oes y Rhufeiniaid.
People have been speaking Welsh in Wales since the Roman era.

Byddai hi yma os nad oedd hi wedi mynd.
She would be here if she hadn't gone.

Day Sixty-seven: 20 November

Today's words: cofio = remember; hanes = history; bydden ni = we would be

The stem for the verb "remember", **cofio**, is **cofi-**.

The masculine noun **hanes**, "history", has the plural **hanesion**. The word can mean all sorts of stories, whether factual or not so much, and so it can also sometimes be translated "story" or "legend" depending on context.

"We would be" is **bydden ni**.

Examples:

Dw i'n cofio'r hen ŵr yn iawn.
I remember the old man well.

Maen nhw'n clwyed llawer am hanes yn yr ysgol.
They hear a lot about history in school.

Bydden ni'n mynd, ond nid oes eisiau arnon ni.
We would go, but we don't want to.

Day Sixty-eight: 21 November

Today's words: dyma = here's; unig = only | lonely; byddech chi = you would be (pl.)

Dyma^L, "here's" or "this is", works just like **dyna**^L. The third degree of distance is supplied by **dacw**.

The adjective **unig**, formed from **un**, means "only" when placed before the noun (a position which causes the following noun to lenite), but when following the noun, it means "lonely".

The second person plural conditional is **byddech chi**.

Examples:

Dyma ferch i weithio gyda ni.
Here is a girl to work with us.

Dyma'r unig ffordd i'r dref.
This is the only road into town.

Byddech chi'n unig yno.
You would be lonely there.

Day Sixty-nine: 22 November

Today's words: cadw = keep; tri = three; bydden nhw = they would be

The stem of the verb **cadw** is **cadw-**. It means "keep" or "preserve". The Welsh Heritage organization is called **Cadw**.

The number three, like one and two, has both a masculine form (**tri**^H) and a feminine (**tair**). Note that the masculine form causes the aspirate mutation, but not the feminine: **tri chi** (**three dogs**) but **tair cath** (**three cats**). Techncally, the plural is **trioedd**, more usually translated "triads." **Trioedd Ynys Prydain**, *The Triads of the Island of Britain*, is an important collection of historical lore from medieval Wales.

The third person plural condition is **bydden nhw**.

Examples:

Os oedden nhw'n gallu, bydden nhw yn mynd.
If they could, they would go.

Mae e'n cadw popeth.
He keeps everything.

Mae gennyn ni dri phlentyn yn dal i fynd i'r ysgol.
We have three children still going to school. (note the mutation after the phrase **gennyn ni**)

Day Seventy: 23 November

Today's words: agos = close; holl = all; fyddwn i? = would I be?

The adjective **agos** ("close" or "near") forms its comparative forms on the stem **nes-**: **nesed**, **nes**, and **nesaf**. As in English, the comparative of "near" includes "next"—the older English forms were "nigh," "near" (which is "nigh-er") and "next" (which is "nigh-est"). In colloquial Welsh a new set of forms has arisen based on the stem **agos-**, but these should be avoided.

Holl^L, "all," like **pob**, precedes its noun, and so causes a soft mutation. Both can mean "all," but **pob** is more in the sense of "each" or "every single" while **holl** implies the whole.

The interrogative form of the conditional is **fyddwn i?**

Examples:

Mae'r holl fyd yn arbennig.
The whole world is special.

Dw i'n yma, yn agos i ti.
I'm here, close to you.

Fyddwn i'n meddwl amdano? Na fyddwn.
Would I think about it? No.

Day Seventy-one: 24 November

Today's words: oddi = out of; byw = live; fyddet ti? = would you be? (s.)

The preposition **oddi** is almost never used on its own. The most common combinations are **oddi ar** "off of" (this is Latin *dē* if that helps) and **oddi wrth**, "from" or "away from" (Latin *ab*). Others are **oddi allan** "outward" (Latin *ex*), **oddi mewn** / **oddi fewn** "inward" (Latin *in*^{+ACC}) or "within", and **oddi yno** "thence". There are a few others, but they are uncommon. With a noun, the expression **oddi cartref** is the most widely heard. It means "away from home," but often just "away" or metaphorically "abroad" or "in exile." There is a proverb, **Gorau Cymro, Cymro oddi cartref** "the best Welshman is a Welshman abroad." Be careful not to confuse **oddi** with **ohoni** or **iddi**.

The verb **byw** has the stem **byw-**. It means "live".

Homonym Alert! Note that **byw** can also have other meanings.

The conditional question form for **ti** is **fyddet ti?**

Examples:

Fyddet ti'n byw oddi cartref?
Would you live abroad?

Dw i ar ben y tŷ. Mae rhaid i fi mynd oddi wrtho fe!
I am on top of the house. I need to get down! (lit. **is need to me going from off-it it!**)

Bywodd e yng Nghanada.
He lived in Canada.

Day Seventy-two: 25 November

Today's words: ceisio = seek; gofyn = ask; fyddai e / o | hi? = would he | she be?

The verb **ceisio**, stem **ceisi-**, means "seek," but is very often used for "try" or "attempt". (There are other Welsh words for try: **trio**, from English, and **ymdrechu**, which means "try" or "strive". **Chwilio** is another word for "seek, look for".)

Gofyn is a verb meaning "ask". The stem has an extra N: **gofynn-**. You ask **i**ᴸ someone **am**ᴸ something: **dw i'n gofyn i ti am yr ysgol, I am asking you about school**. (**Am**ᴸ can also be translated "for" in this context, asking someone *for* something: **dw i'n gofyn i ti am rywbeth, I am asking you for something**.)

Fyddai is the third person singular conditional question form.

Examples:

Gofynnais iddo fe am hanes Cymru.
I asked him about the history of Wales.

Beth wyt ti'n ceisio dweud?
What are you trying to say?

Beth fyddai e'n gwneud?
What would he do?

Day Seventy-three: 26 November

Today's words: eglwys = church; cymryd = take; fydden ni? = would we be?

The feminine noun **eglwys**, plural **eglwysi**, means "church". It comes from Latin *ecclesia* and so is cognate with French *église* and Italian *chiesa*. And eccles cakes—English place-names in *Eccles-* are from the Old Welsh.

The verb **cymryd**, more formally **cymeryd**, means "take." The stem is **cymer-**, sometimes colloquially **cymr-**. **Cymryd** is more abstract than **cael**. The implication is that with **cael**, once you have taken it, you have it (thus primarily "get"), but with **cymryd**, it is the taking that is important.

The first person plural interrogative conditional is **fydden ni?**

Examples:

Fydden ni'n ei wneud e? Bydden!
Would we do it? Yes!

Cymerwch hwn!
Take this! (note that in this usage, the definite article is not required)

Roedden ni yn yr eglwys.
We were in the church.

Day Seventy-four: 27 November

Today's words: dy = your (s.); tad = father; fyddech chi? = would you be? (pl.)

The possessive pronoun **dy**ᴸ "your" causes the soft mutation. After vowels, especially in the literary languge, it is **'th**ᴸ. This is easy to remember by the English cognate "thy".

The noun for "father," **tad**, is masculine. The English cognate here is "dad," but Welsh doesn't have separate formal and informal parent words. The plural is **tadau**, which can also mean "ancestors" (metaphorically—there are better words for ancestor, such as **cyndad** "forefather" and **hynafiad** "ancestor").

The conditional interrogative for **chi** is **fyddech chi?**

Examples:

Mae hen wlad fy nhadau yn annwyl i fi.
My ancestors' old country is dear to me.

Ydy hen wlad dy dadau yn annwyl i ti?
Is your ancestors' old country dear to you?

Fyddech chi'n byw yn hen wlad eich tadau?
Would you (pl.) **live in your** (pl.) **ancestors' old country?**

Day Seventy-five: 28 November

Today's words: pawb = everyone; derbyn = receive; fydden nhw? = would they be?

The pronoun **pawb**, meaning "everyone," is just the stressed form of **pob**.

The verb **derbyn**, stem **derbyni-**, means "receive" or "accept." As such, it can sometimes be translated as "take," but from the point of view of the recipient (**cymryd** focuses on the action and **cael** on the status after the exchange).

The interrogative conditional in the third person plural as **fydden nhw?**

Examples:

Mae pawb yn gallu mynd i'r eglwys.
Everyone can go to church.

Ydych chi wedi derbyn y llyfr oddi wrtho fe?
Did you receive the book from him?

Fydden nhw'n cadw llyfr dy dad?
Would they keep your father's book?

Day Seventy-six: 29 November

Today's words: ystod = course; addysg = education; fyddwn i ddim = I would not be

The noun **ystod** is feminine, and its plural is **ystodau**. It means "course" in the sense of the course of a year or the course of one's life, but it is most commonly used as part of a compound preposition **yn^N ystod**, "during". Note also the phrase **ystod eang**, "**wide range**."

Another feminine noun is **addysg**, "education". There is no plural in regular use; according to the dictionaries, **addysgion** means "didactics".

The negative conditional in the first person singular is **fyddwn i ddim**.

Examples:

Yn ystod y flwyddyn i ddod, bydda' i'n mynd i'r ysgol.
During the year to come, I will go to school.

Dw i eisiau cael fy addysg yn Gymraeg.
I want to be educated in Welsh. (lit. "**have my education Welshly**")
[Further note: the way this would actually be said is **drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg**, "through the medium of Welsh"]

Fyddwn i ddim yn gofyn amdano fe i dy dad di!
I wouldn't ask your father about it!

Day Seventy-seven: 30 November

Today's words: modd = way; dysgu = teach | learn; fyddet i ddim = you would not be (s.)

The word **modd** is very versatile. It is a masculine noun meaning "way", "means," "manner," or "mode". There are two plurals: the more common **moddion**, and **moddau**. **Moddion** is also a mass noun meaning "medicine."

Homonym Alert! Note that **modd** and **fodd** can also have other meanings.

The verb **dysgu** (stem **dysg-**) means both "learn" and "teach" (that is, "to cause to learn"). **Dysgwr**, however, is "learner," but not teacher.

The negative conditional for **ti** is **fyddet ti ddim**.

Examples:

Oes modd i ddysgu Cymraeg yn dda?
Is there a way to learn Welsh well?

Oes! Dysgwch ddau air bob dydd, a rhan o ferf "bod".
Yes! Learn two words every day, and part of the verb "bod".

Fyddet ti ddim yn gallu gwneud unrhyw beth sy'n well.
You couldn't do anything better. [lit. **Would you not «particle» be·able**. . . .]

Day Seventy-eight: 1 December

Today's words: merch = girl | daughter; digwydd = happen; fyddai e /o | hi ddim = he / she would not be

The feminine noun **merch** (plural **merched**) is much broader than its English equivalent. Although the primary meaning is "girl," it can mean "young woman" or "woman" without any of the pejorative connotations that come with calling a grown woman "girl" in English. It's the female equivalent of "guy" or "dude". The word also means "daughter," and was once the standard way of forming surnames for women, e.g. (in pre-modern spelling) **Sioned verch Sion ap Tomos ail mab Robert ap Rhisiart**, which is **Janet daughter of John son of Thomas, second son of Robert, son of Richard**. As in Scandinavia, the surname changed every generation: **Janet Jones**, daughter of **John Thomas**, son of **Thomas Roberts**, second son of **Robert Richards**. In parts of Wales, surnames were still based on the father's given name into the mid-19th century, and some people have brought it back in the modern era.

The verb **digwydd** means "happen." The stem is also **digwydd-**.

The conditional in the third person, negative, is **fyddai e / o | hi ddim**.

Examples:

Beth ddigwyddodd?
What happened?

Ydy "Hawys" enw merch? Ydy.

Is "Hawys" a girl's name? Yes.

Fyddai e ddim wedi digwydd mewn byd perffaith.
It wouldn't have happened in a perfect world.

Day Seventy-nine: 2 December

Today's words: cymdeithas = society; mam = mother; fydden ni ddim = we would not be

These words are brought to you **gan y gymdeithas Gymraeg** Vancouver—**by the** Vancouver **Welsh Society**. The feminine noun **cymdeithas** has **cymdeithasau** as its plural.

The word for mother is **mam**, plural **mamau**, and like **merch** it is a feminine noun. This word is also used in English in place of "mum" in parts of Wales.

The conditional in the first person plural, negative, is **fydden ni ddim**.

Examples:

Ydy dy fam yn cymryd rhan yn y Gymdeithas Gymraeg?
Does your mother take part in the Welsh Society?

Mae hi'n fam i ferch fach.
She is the mother of a little girl.

Fydden ni ddim wedi mynd i'r Gymdeithas Gymraeg os oeddwn ni wedi gwybod bod rhaid i ni ddysgu Cymraeg!
We wouldn't have gone to the Welsh Society if we had known we had to learn Welsh!

Day Eighty: 3 December

Today's words: canrif = century; ardal = area; fyddech chi ddim = you would not be (pl.)

Canrif "century" is feminine, and its plural is **canrifoedd**. It comes from **cant**, "hundred," and **rhif**, "number" or "count". Right now we are in the **unfed ganrif ar hugain**, the **twenty-first century.** Literally, that's the "oneth century on twenty"—Welsh numbers, especially those used with time, are very unusual from the perspective of English! For the first century, you would use **cyntaf**, but here you use **un** "one" plus the ordinal suffix -**fed** before the noun, then add "upon twenty".

The masculine noun **ardal** means "area" or "district," and its plural is **ardaloedd**.

The negative conditional for **chi** is **fyddech chi ddim**.

Examples:

Pa ardal ydych chi'n byw ynddo?
What area do you live in?

Dw i eisiau byw am ganrif.
I want to live for a century.

Fyddech chi ddim am fyw am ganrif os oeddech chi'n gwybod beth ydw i'n gwybod.
You wouldn't want to live for a century if you know what I know.

Day Eighty-one: 4 December

Today's words: cwrs = course; gwahanol = different; fydden nhw ddim = they would not be

The noun **cwrs**, like **ystod**, means "course," but it is a much more general word which has all the various senses of the English word. It is a masculine noun, and its plural is **cyrsiau**. This is also used in the phrase **wrth gwrs**, "of course."

The adjective **gwahanol** means "different." In Welsh, something is **gwahanol i**^{L} something, "different from" something.

The negative conditional of the third person plural is **fydden nhw ddim**.

Examples:

Mae'r cwrs hwn yn dda iawn! Dw i'n dysgu llawer o bethau.
This course is very good! I'm learning many things.

Mae'r gair "cwrs" yn wahanol i "ystod."
The word "cwrs [course]" is different from "ystod [course]."

Fydden nhw ddim yn mynd ar y cwrs.
They wouldn't take the course.

Day Eighty-two: 5 December

Today's words: cyngor = council | advice; gadael = let | leave; byddid = one would be

The masculine noun **cyngor** has two plurals. In the sense of "council" (governing body), the plural is generally **cynghorau**. In the sense of "advice" or "counsel," the plural is **cynghorion**. Note the appearance of the H in both plurals.

The verb **gadael** means "let" or "allow" as well as "leave". The stem is **gadaw-**, though the common imperative forms are irregular: **gad!** and **gadewch!** (**gadewch!** isn't terribly irregular, technically, as the raising of A to E in certain verb forms is quite normal). The construction **gadael i**^{L} (*someone*) ^{L} (*something*) means **let** (*someone*) (*something*)—note that both the *someone* and the *something* undergo soft mutation.

The impersonal conditional is **byddid**, and like **byddir** and **oeddid**, it is now only used in the literary language. For example, from 1823:

Byddid yn gosod cig y Môr-loi yn yr oesoedd gynt ar fyrddau pendefigion a chyfoethogion, fel y gwelir yn hanes gwledd gostfawr a roddodd yr Archesgob Neville i'r Brenhin Iorwerth IV.

In former times, seal meat would be set on the princes' and wealthy men's tables, as is seen in the history of the sumptuous feast which Archbishop Neville gave for King Edward IV.

Further examples:

Mae angen arna i am gyngor.
I need advice.

Gad i fi ddweud wrthot ti. . . .
Let me tell you. . . .

Day Eighty-three: 6 December

Today's words: medru = be able; cilydd = fellow; bûm = I was

The verb **medru** "be able, know" is very similar to **gallu**. It is more common in North Wales, while **gallu** is more common in the South. There are a few differences, as **medru** means "know how" (and thus be able to) while **gallu** means "have the ability" (and thus be able to). You can say **dw i'n medru Cymraeg**, "I can speak Welsh" (or **dw i ddim yn medru Gymraeg**, "I can't speak Welsh"), which you would not be do with **gallu**. In most cases, though, the meaning is the same and the difference is a regional one. Its stem is **medr-**.

The masculine noun **cilydd**, "fellow" or "companion," is hardly every used outside of the set expression **ei gilydd** "each other." Because **ei gilydd** is by far the most common, when the word is used with other pronouns the form **gilydd** is usually used regardless of the appropriate mutation or lack thereof. The literary language is sometimes more careful, but **ein gilydd** and **eich gilydd** (for example) are the usual spoken forms. The tanslation is always "each other," but the pronoun can vary according to the context.

Welsh has two kinds of past tense, an imperfect (**roeddwn i**, "I was") and a preterite tense, also known as a perfect tense. This can be expressed periphrastically (**dw i wedi bod**, "I have been"), but in the literary language there is a specific conjugated form, **bûm**, which can be translated with as "I was" or as "I have been". It means that whatever you were doing, it is clear that you're not still doing it. **Roeddwn** doesn't have the latter sense: you might still be doing it, you might not—who cares? The personal pronouns are usually omitted in the literary language, as they are redundant. In the medieval poem "The Battle of the Trees," the poet Taliesin talks about the many different shapes he has taken, e.g. **bûm eryr**, **I have been an eagle**. The interrogative form is **fûm?** and the negative is **ni fûm**. The nice thing about this tense is that there are clear words for "yes" and "no": instead of repeating the verb, "yes" is **do** and "no" is **naddo**.

Examples:

Dych chi'n medru gwneud yr hynny?
Can you do that?

Bûm yn dysgu yn yr ysgol.
I was teaching in the school.

Mae'r hen ddynion edrych ar eu gilydd.
The old men are looking at each other.

Day Eighty-four: 7 December

Today's words: dangos = show; tu = side; buost = you were (s.)

The verb **dangos** means "show", and its stem is **dangos-**.
Pronunciation Alert! This NG is two letters, so DAN·GOS. In parts of the North, though, it is pronounced D·A·NG·O·S.

The noun for "side" is **tu**, a masculine noun with the plural **tuoedd**. It is used in a variety of compound prepositions: **tu mewn**, inside; **tu allan**, outside; **tu ôl i**, behind; with words you have not yet met, **tu mas**, outside (S. Wales); **tu cefn i**, behind; **tu hwnt i**, beyond; and similarly **tu draw i**, beyond.

Buost is the second person singular preterite. Its interrogative is **fuost?** and the negative is **ni fuost**.

Examples:

Cu iawn fuost gennym.
You were very dear to us.
　　(This is a common inscription on Welsh gravestones. This tense is used to imply "while alive".)

Ydy'r plant tu mewn neu du allan?
Are the children inside or outside?

Dangoswch i mi y llyfr hwnnw.
Show me that book.

Day Eighty-five: 8 December

Today's words: sef = that is; tebyg = like; bu = he / she / it was

The conjunction **sef** is really a form of **bod**: **ys ef**, "he is" or "it is". **Ys** is in fact cognate with English **is** (though an obscure form—it's a bit different than **mae e**). It has come to mean "i.e." or "that is," just as Latin "i.e." comes from *id est* "he is" or "it is". (Another way to render "i.e." in Welsh is **h.y.**, for **hynny yw.**)

The adjective **tebyg** means "like" or "similar". The preposition "similar to" is either **at** (people) or **i** (things). The adjective is used in the common expression **mae'n debyg**, "it's likely," "it seems," "apparently," or "probably." As with other adjectives ending in B, D, or G, the final consonant undergoes reverse soft mutation (fortition or hardening) before the comparative endings: **tebyced, tebycach, tebycaf**. I did not mention this for **arbennig** or **unig** only because they tend to form the comparatives periphrastially: **mor unig**, **mwy arbennig**, etc.

The most common form of the preterite tense is the third person singular form **bu** (interrogative **fu?**, negative **ni fu**).

Examps:

Bu farw Mai 31, 1932.
He died May 31, 1932.

(This is another very common inscription on headstones. **Marw** means "die" or "dead". Grammatically, here, **marw** is lenited as the predicate of **bu**, so you know this sentence is not to be read as "Death was. . . ").

Mae'n debyg nad ydy e'n dai i fyw yn y tŷ hwn, 'te.
Apparently he doesn't still live in this house, then.

Sef, dydy e ddim yn byw mewn unrhyw le.
That is, he doesn't live anywhere.

Day Eighty-six: 9 December

Today's words: oherwydd = because; pryd = meal | time | form; buom = we were

There are a lot of Welsh words for "because", and a few prepositions that convey the same meaning. One basic word is **oherwydd**, a conjunction which conjugates like a preposition: **o'm herwydd, o'th herwydd, o'i herwydd** (both masculine and feminine), **o'n herwydd, o'ch herwydd, o'u herwydd**. Don't worry: the conjugations are part of the literary language, and rarely to never heard in speech.

The masculine noun **pryd** has many meanings: "meal," "time," "form," or "complexion." **Pryd** has separate plurals for "meals" (**prydau**) and everything else (**prydiau**). In the sense of "time," it is generally a specific time, as opposed to the general **amser** or an occasion (**gwaith**) or a period (**cyfnod**). It is used in the expression **mewn pryd**, "in time" (*for something*) and **ar hyn o bryd**, "right now."

Homonym Alert! Note that **pryd** can also have other meanings.

The literary past for **ni** is **buom**. Originally, all of the first-person plural forms ended in M, but in the spoken language they have changed to match the N of **ni** (assimilation). All of the conjugated **ni** forms have final M in the most formal registers of the language.

Examples:

Dw i wedi gadael oherwydd fy mod i wedi cael digon.

I left because I had had enough.

Rhaid i fi adael ar hyn o bryd!
I have to leave right now!

Dyna beth y buom yn ei wneud hyd yma.
That is what we have been doing up to now.

Day Eighty-seven: 10 December

Today's words: gwir = true; ifanc = young; buoch = you were (pl.)

The adjective **gwir** means "true" or "real". The motto used in the crowning ceremonies at the National Eisteddfod is **y gwir yn erbyn y byd**, **the truth against the world**. (**Gwirionedd** is the ordinary word for **truth**; **y gwir** is more like "that which is true".) **Gwir** can come before the noun, in which case it means "true, real, authentic," or afterward, in which case it's simply "true".

The adjective **ifanc** is "young," with a common variant **ieuanc**. The two are etymologically the same word and thus their forms are readily mixed and matched. Both have a possible plural form, usually only used in the substantive (that is, a noun meaning "young people"): **ifainc** or **ieuainc**. In both cases, the former is more common–90% of the singular, and 81% of the plural. The equative degree is **ieued** or **ieuenged** (neither shows up in the Bangor study, but the latter is over 90% of the results on google). The comparative is **iau** (88% of the sample, and the one you should use) or **ieuengach** (10%) or sometimes **ifancach** (2%). The superlative is either **ieuaf** (not found in the Bangor study), **ieuengaf** (88%), or **ifancaf** (12%—again, avoid this one). Online, google results show **ieuengaf** at about 53%, **ieuaf** at 46%, and **ifancaf** at 1%. The composite picture is **ifanc**, pl. **ifainc**, eq. **ieuenged**, comp. **iau**, sup. **ieuengaf**.

Homonym Alert! Note that **iau** can also have other meanings ("liver" and "Thursday"—it's a versatile word).

The preterite second person plural is **buoch**.

Examples:

Os buoch chi'n defnyddio cyffuriau. . . (from recovery.org.uk, just to show the form is in current use)
If you have been using drugs. . .

Mae hi'n iau na fi.
She is younger than me / than I am.

Ydy e'n wir?
Is it true?

Day Eighty-eight: 11 December

Today's words: nifer = number; man = place; buont = they were (pl.)

There are two words for "number" in Welsh, **nifer**, a masculine noun from Latin *numerus*, plural **niferoedd**, and **rhif**. The latter is used for a specific number in a series, such as a telephone number or an atomic number or № 1, while **nifer** is the more general sense of "countable mass," with a meaning approaching "many" or "several."

The noun **man** "place" or "spot", plural **mannau**, can be either masculine or feminine. It has two main distinctions from **lle**: **man** tends to be smaller or more specific, so "spot" as compared to "place," and it can be used for time, too: **yn y fan** or **yn y man** means both "on the spot" and "right away." The idiom **man a man i**[L] *someone* means *someone* "might as well".

Homonym Alert! Note that **man** and **fan** and plural **mannau** and **fannau** can also have other meanings.

The literary past for **hwy** (itself literary for **nhw**) is **buont**. Originally, all of the third-person plural forms ended in NT, but in the spoken language they have changed to match the N of **nhw** (assimilation). [Okay, technically, it's slightly more complicated than that: the -NT runs together with the initial H- of the original pronoun, to form the cluster NT·H, triggering nasal mutation of the T to NH. So -NT + H- changes to -N + T·H- which becomes -N + NH-.] All of the conjugated third person plural forms have final NT in the most formal registers of the language, and the pronoun (if expressed) varies with formality.

Examples:

Mae nifer o fannau da iawn yng Nghymru.
There are many very nice places in Wales.

Buont yn byw gyda hynny ers blynyddoedd.
They have lived with that for years.

Byddai man a man i ti ddysgu Cymraeg.
You might as well learn Welsh.

Day Eighty-nine: 12 December

Today's words: aelod = member; uchel = high; buwyd = was / were (impersonal)

"Member" is **aelod**, masculine, plural **aelodau**. **Cofiwch**! Pay your **tâl aelodaeth**, "membership dues," soon!

The adjective **uchel**, "high", also has irregular comparatives. The equative "as high" or "so high" is **cyfuwch** or **cuwch**. Because it already contains the prefix **cyf-**, etymologically for **cuwch** and actually for **cyfuwch**, it does not need **mor** or **cyn** before it. The comparative is **uwch** "higher" and the superlative is **uchaf** "highest".

Homonym Alert! Note that **cuwch** can also have other meanings.

The impersonal preterite is the literary **buwyd**. From 1873, **Yn yr ystafell hon y buwyd yn addoli hyd nes yr adeiladwyd capel Ebenezer: In this room they worshipped until the Ebenezer chapel was built.** Note that **buwyd** is translated with the English impersonal "they" while the same ending in **adeiladwyd** is translated as a passive: both are acceptable in rendering the Welsh. (Side note: this was my translation, but the one given on the webpage is the same except for omitting "the".)

Further examples:

Mae nifer o aeoldau yn cymryd rhan yng Nghymdeithas Gymraeg Vancouver.
There are a number of members taking part in the Vancouver Welsh Society.

Dw i'n byw mewn man uchel.
I live in a high place.

Day Ninety: 13 December

Today's words: awr = hour; neb = no one; buaswn = I would have been

The word **awr** sounds like its English cognate "hour" but both are ultimately borrowed from Latin *hora*, which can be seen in the Welsh plural **oriau**. The noun is feminine. It is at the root of both Southern Welsh **nawr** "now" (from **yn awr**) and Northern Welsh **rŵan** "now" (from **yn yr awr hon**).

The pronoun **neb** means "no one" or "nobody". In Welsh, two negatives don't make a positive. Welsh is quite happy with the double negative, and indeed requires it. It is incorrect to say ****mae neb** for "nobody is"; you must say **does neb.** The phrase does not, however, require **dim**. You can use it optionally, but it reverts to its literal meaning and

does neb dim (sometimes **does neb ddim**) means "nobody at all is".

The pluperfect tense in Welsh is marked with an internal ѕ. "I had been" is **buaswn**. Bear with me, as this is a little confusing. Since the pluperfect is ordinarily expressed as **wedi bod**, **buaswn** is effectively a plurperfect conditional, "I would have been". The tense distinction is often lost, however, and it is commonly used as a conditional, just like **byddwn**, and forms a set of alternative endings for the conditional. In other words, You do need to learn both, and this form can be translated "would have been" or "would be". As this is the most formal form, the personal pronouns are not generally used.

Examples:

Dw wedi bod yma am oriau.
I have been here for hours.

Doedd neb arall yma, neb ond fi.
There was no one else around, nobody but me.

Buaswn wedi meddwl y byddai pobl ifainc yma.
I would have thought that there would be young people here.

Day Ninety-one: 14 December

Today's words: diwedd = end; wedyn = afterwards; baswn i = I would have been

The masculine noun **diwedd**, plural **diweddion**, means "end". There is a temporal sense to **diwedd** which is lacking in **pen**, so that it can be used of the future (**diwedd y byd**, **the end of the world**) or of space when there's a time element to it: **diwedd y ffordd** is **the end of the road** you have been travelling along, but **pen y ffordd** is just one end of the road, neither start nor finish. The expression **o'r diwedd** means "at last."

The adverb **wedyn** means "afterwards" or "and then".

Buaswn is the full form of "I would have been," but it is commonly abbreviated in a variety of ways. An important one is **baswn i**. In the contractions, the personal pronouns are often added for clarity.

Examples:

Ar ôl diwedd y byd, beth sy'n digwydd?
After the end of the world, what happens?

Wedyn, byddwn ni'n dechrau o'r dechrau.
Afterwards, we will begin from the beginning.

Baswn i'n gwneud pethau yn wahanol iawn y tro yna!
I would do things very differently that time around!

Day Ninety-two: 15 December

Today's words: ymlaen = onward; mis = month; buasit = you would have been (s.)

The adverb **ymlaen** means "on" or "onward" in the sense of moving forward, and can also mean "ahead" . It's from **yn^N** + **blaen**, "in front". It is often used to translate English "on" when used with verbs (e.g. carry on, move on, come on). Otherwise, when "on" has the sense of "on top of," it is **ar^L** in Welsh. In the colloquial language, **ymlaen** is often abbreviated **'mlaen or 'mlan**.

The Welsh word for month is **mis**, plural **misoedd**, and it is masculine. Welsh has a word for a two-month period, which is **deufis**, used more rarely because there is no English equivalent.

The past conditional in the second person singular is **buasit**. This is the most formal form. Where the literary language has -IT in the second person singular, the spoken language and more informal writing often has -ET.

Examples:

Ydych yn dysgu Cymraeg? Daliwch ymlaen!
Are you learning Welsh? Carry on! / Keep at it!

Mai rhai misoedd yn well na rhai eraill.
Some months are better than others.

Buasit ti'n dweud wrth dy fam.
You would have told your mother.

Day Ninety-three: 16 December

Today's words: hir = long; pwysig = important; buasai e / o | hi = he | she would have been

The adjective **hir** "long" is another with irregular comparisons: equative **cyhyd**, comparative **hwy**, superlative **hwyaf**. There is also a plural in the literary language, **hirion**. It is from this adjective that the "untranslatable" Welsh noun **hiraeth** ("longing") comes.

Homonym Alert! Note that **hwy** can also have other meanings.

Another adjective is **pwysig**, "important." Its comparative forms change final G to C: **pwysicach**, "more important."

The third person singular conditional with -S- is **buasai**.

Examples:

Mae'n debyg y buasai gennym waith erbyn hyn.
We'd probably have had work by now.

Pwysig iawn yw dysgu Cymraeg.
It's very important to learn Welsh.

Dw i wedi bod yn dysgu Cymraeg am gyfnod hir.
I've been learning Welsh for a long time.

Day Ninety-four: 17 December

Today's words: teimlo = feel; gweithio = work; buasem = we would have been

The verb **teimlo** has the stem **teiml-**, and means "feel". As in English, it means both physical feeling and emotions.

Gweithio is "to work", stem **gweithi-**, the verb that goes with **gwaith**.

The conditional for **ni** is **buasem**.

Examples:

Buasem wrth ein boddau yn clywed ohonot ti.
We would be thrilled to hear from you.

Dw i'n teimlo'n iawn!

I feel fine!

Mae rhaid i chi weithio pan ydych chi yn y gwaith.
You have to work when you're at work.

Day Ninety-five: 18 December

Today's words: teulu = family; galw = call; buasech = you would be (pl.)

The word for "family" is nice and medieval: it comes from **tŷ** and **llu**, which means "host" as in "mass of people, army". **Teulu** originally meant "household" but came to mean "family". It is masculine and the plural is **teuluoedd**.

The verb **galw**, stem **galw-**, means "call", in essentially the same senses as the English.

"You would be" or "you would have been" is **buasech**.

Examples:

Ydy'ch teulu chi yn byw yng Nghymru?
Does your family live in Wales?

Rwyt ti'n gallu galw arna i unrhyw bryd.
You can call me any time.

Buasech yn galw, ond ni fyddwn yma.
You would call, but I would not be here.

Day Ninety-six: 19 December

Today's words: diweddar = recent; gŵr = man | husband; buasent = they would be

The adjective **diweddar** means "recent" or "of late", and thus **yn ddiweddar** means "recently" or "lately". The word for "late" as in "not on time", however, is **hwyr**. When placed before the noun, **diweddar**[L] means "late" in the sense of "deceased".

The word **dyn** means "person" or "man," but when the word "man" refers to a person who is specifically male, the word is **gŵr**, plural **gwŷr**, which is masculine. The spelling of **gwŷr** indicates that it is pronounced like **gwir**, and not the vowel in **rwyt** (which would be spelled ŴY if clarification were needed). The word is frequently attached to another word as an agent, like the English -er (which which it is, in fact, cognate) and -or. The Old English cognate was "wer-", as in *werewolf*. **Gŵr** also means "husband".

Homonym Alert! Note that **gwŷr** and **wŷr** can also have other meanings, among which is **wyr**, "grandson". (To complete the set, **gŵyr** is a form of **gwybod**, "he / she knows." Pay attention to the accents!)

Examples:

Wyt ti wedi mynd i Gymru yn ddiweddar?
Have to been to Wales recently?

Oes llawer o wŷr yn dy deulu di?
Are there a lot of men in your family?

Buasent yn teimlo'n iawn os bydden nhw yn gwneud yn llai.
They would feel better if they did less.

Day Ninety-seven: 20 December

Today's words: defnydd = stuff; sut = how; petaswn = if I were

The masculine noun **defnydd** "stuff" or "material" exists in free variation with **deunydd**. The former is slightly more common, but not much. The plural ends in **-iau**: **defnyddiau** / **deunyddiau**. It is the same root as the verb **defnyddio**.

The question word **sut** "how" also has variant forms. In informal contexts in South Wales, it is **shwd** or **shw**, less commonly but (for Welsh) more regularly spelled **siwd** or **siw**. One of the most common Welsh greetings is **sut mae?** (88%) or **shwmae?** (7%), "how are you?" The percentage numbers are from Google—all five spellings of "how" are in use, and all five are found in this phrase as both one word and two words, but these two are by far the most common. For the **shwd** form, the -D drops in close compounds but should be learned as the default form of the word. In the meaning "what kind of," **sut** causes the soft mutation.

You have already has the word **os** and **byddwn i** or **buaswn**. **Os byddwn** i and **os buaswn** mean "if I am," with the expectation of a positive answer. The contrary-to-fact form, essentially the subjunctive, is forms from **ped** "if" and **buaswn**, which form a bewildering variety of contractions. The form to learn, from which all the others derive, is **petaswn** (**ped** + **buaswn** > **ped·fuaswn** > **ped·faswn** > **petaswn**: in Welsh compounds, two soft-mutated consonants together turn into one consonant with the opposite of the soft mutation, so D + F > T is perfectly regular).

Examples:

Dw i'n mynd i gael defnydd newydd i wneud pethau ar gyfer y teulu.
I'm going to get new material to make things for the family.

Dyma sut i ddefnyddio'r peth hwn.
Here's how to use this thing.

Petaswn i wedi'i weld, ni faswn i'n gwybod beth oedd.
If I had seen it, I wouldn't have known what it was.

Day Ninety-eight: 21 December

Today's words: aros = wait; stori = story; petawn i = if I were

The verb **aros** has the stem **arhos-**. It means "await" or "wait", and sometimes "stop". (**Peidiwch!** is "stop" in the sense of "don't do that" and **Arhoswch!** is "stop" in the sense of "don't move.") It can be transitive (takes a direct object: to await something) or intransitive (no direct object: just wait).

The word for "story" is **stori**, which is feminine. There are two plurals, the more common **straeon** (58%) and the less common **storïau** (42%). **Straeon** is even more common on Google, though there the repetition skews results. Although **hanes** can also mean story, **stori** most closely matches the sense of the English word.

A less formal form of **petaswn** is **petawn i**.

Examples:

Arhoswch yma, os gwelwch chi'n dda.
Wait here, please.

Dweudwch stori wrtha i!
Tell me a story!

Petawn i yn y gwaith, byddwn i'n gweithio.
If I were at work, I would be working.

Day Ninety-nine: 22 December

Today's words: Cymro / Cymraes = Welsh person; dylu = should / ought; petaset ti = if you were (s.)

The word for a Welsh person is **Cymro** if male, **Cymraes** if female. The plural, for men or a mixed group, is **Cymry**, pronounced exactly like the country **Cymru** (and historically the same word). Welsh women can be **Cymraesau**, a variety of other plurals, or just **Cymry** if you're not emphasizing their gender.

The verb **dylu** (stem **dyl-**) is defective. That means it does not exist in all possible Welsh tenses. In fact, giving the form **dylu** is a bit naughty because it's not used in Modern Welsh. The verb only exists in the imperfect (**dylwn**, "I ought" or "I should") and pluperfect (**dylaswn**, "I ought to have" or "I should have").

"If you were", with the implied "but you're not", is **petaset ti**.

Examples:

Wyt ti'n Gymro?
Are you a Welshman?

Dylaswn i feddwl amdano.
I should have thought about it.

Buasit wedi gadael petaset ti wedi gweld fy nheulu i!
You would have left if you had seen my family!

Day One Hunded: 23 December

Today's words: nos = night; cyrraedd = arrive / reach; petasai e / o | hi = if you were (s.)

The feminine noun **nos** means "night" (**noson** is "evening"). Its plural is **nosau**. Normally, feminine nouns mutate the adjective following, but Welsh words ending in -S sometimes block lentition of homorganic voiced sonorants—practically speaking, that means D does not undergo soft mutation after a few words ending in -S, of which **nos** and compounds are the most common. That is why the expression for "good night" is **nos da** and not ****nos dda**. To make it extra complicated, this rule seems to have been dropped in the modern language, so that only common expressions like **nos da** and **yr wythnos diwethaf** "last week" follow the rule anymore.

The verb for "arrive" is **cyrraedd**, and like **aros** there is an -H- in the stem: **cyrrhaedd-**. It takes a direct object, so instead of arriving *at* a place you merely **cyrraedd** a place.

The third person singular (and most common) form of the "if" hypothetical conditional is **petasai**.

Examples:

Petasai wedi dod, ni fyddet ti'n teimlo'n unig.
If he had come, you would not feel lonely.

Ar ôl y dydd, y mae'r nos yn dod.
After day comes night.

Mae rhaid i fi dweud "nos da"—dyn ni wedi cyrraedd 200 o eiriau!

Llongyfarchiadau! / Congratulations!
You have now learned 200 of the most common Welsh words,
65% of all the words used in the Bangor study of contemporary Welsh.