



## The Welsh Vocabulary Builder 4

(words 301–400)  
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Day One Hundred and Fifty-One: 12 February

**Today's words:** **tra** = while; **bwyd** = food; **ŷnt** = they are

The conjunction **tra** means “while.” It can take the indicative (normal) or subjunctive (contrary-to-fact) mood. The subjunctive is mostly not found in Colloquial Welsh, but **tra** is one of those exceptions where it does show up: **tra bo**, as in the song **Tra Bo Dau** (**While There Are Two**, often rather nonsensically rendered as “While Two Hearts”). It's also part of the chorus of the national anthem, **tra mor yn fur**, **while the sea is a wall**.

**Homonym Alert!** Note that **tra** can also have other meanings (e.g. in the national anthem's **tra mad**).

The word for “food” is **bwyd**, plural **bwydydd**. It is masculine. In Welsh, there's no specific adjective for “hungry,” and no verb for “be hungry.” Both are expressed by **eisiau bwyd**, “want of food” or “lack of food.” If want of food is upon (**ar<sup>l</sup>**) you, then you are hungry.

The contracted form of **rdynt** is **ŷnt**. A line from a fifteenth-century poem by Hywel Swrdwal reads, **traeturiad ŷnt i'r tarw du** (**they are traitors to the black bull**—the traitors here are **Lolardiaid** [Lollards] and the “black bull” is Edward IV).

Futher examples:

**Tra byddech chi'n aros, bydda' i'n gwneud y gwaith.**  
**While you wait, I'll do the work.**

**Mae eisiau bwyd arna' i.**  
**I am hungry.**

**Dw i eisiau bwyd.**  
**I am hungry.**

(This second version is not uncommon, but is considered less correct. Native speakers can say it, but you probably shouldn't.)

Day One Hundred and Fifty-Two: 13 February

**Today's words:** **cyd** = joint / united / common; **ers** = since; **rwy** = I am

The adjective **cyd** is usually joined to another adjective, and is probably best translated as “co-”. This is a very versatile word as both noun and adjective. Because the Bangor study counted words, not compound words, I am going to assume they included **i' gyd** here, which means “all” and follows the noun it modifies: **y plant i gyd** = **all the children**. This also works with pronouns: **chi i gyd**, **all of you**.

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

**Ers** means “since.” It is not exactly the same as **er**, though there is quite a lot of overlap, especially in the literary language. Rule of thumb: use **er** for a specific time in the past, and **ers** for a more general time in the past. **Ers** can also be translated as “for” as in **ers pryd** “for how long” / “since when”. As with many other preposition, **i'** is added before the pronouns: **ers i mi ddechrau**, **since I began**.

Another way to say **dw i** is **rwy**, again ultimately reduced from the formal **yr ydwyf**.

Examples:

**Dyn ni i gyd yma.**  
**We are all here / All of us are here.**

**Ers pryd oeddet ti yma?**  
**How long were you here?**

**Rwy'n dod i'r ysgol.**  
**I'm going to school.**

Day One Hundred and Fifty-Three: 14 February

**Today's words: trafod = discuss; papur = paper; sa i = I am not**

The verb **trafod** means “discuss” or “handle” with the stem **trafod-**. Almost all other verbs in **-fod** are compounds of **bod** and thus irregular, but **trafod** is nice and regular. Older dictionaries list the form **trafodi**. It can also mean “stir up, intermeddle.”

Another comparatively easy word is the masculine noun **papur**, plural **papurau**. It means “paper.”

A South Wales way of expressing **dw i ddim** is **sa i**. It comes from **nid oes ohona i**. Forms of **bod** starting with **s-** are usually impossible to find in dictionaries and nearly so in grammars, so beware! **Sa** is sometimes used with other persons, as well, depending on dialect.

Examples:

**Ydych chi am drafod y peth?**  
**Do you want to discuss the matter?**

**Wyt ti wedi gweld y papur newyddion?**  
**Did you see the newspaper?**

**Sa i'n credu bod y newyddion yn dda.**  
**I don't think the news is good.**

Day One Hundred and Fifty-Four: 15 February

**Today's words: sefyllfa = situation; sicrháu = secure / confirm; so ti / fe | fo / hi / ni / chi / nhw = isn't / aren't**

The noun **sefyllfa** is formed from **sefyll** and the suffix meaning “place” or “location,” **-fa** (itself from **man**). **Sefyllfa** means “situation” and is feminine. It has two plurals: **sefyllfaoedd**, and **sefyllfeydd**. This is not an uncommon situation (so to speak) with nouns ending in **-fa**. In the Bangor study, only the former occurs, but in Google the latter is by far the most common. There are quite a few documents that use both plurals interchangeably.

The verb **sicrháu** is one of a series of verbs formed from an adjective, in this case **sicr**, and the suffix **-háu**. In Welsh, the accent over the **A** is usually not written, but I am adding it here to show that the final syllable is stressed, contrary to ordinary Welsh rules. In addition to the final stress, **-háu** verbs always have their stem in **-há: sicrhá-**. **Sicr** means “sure” and the suffix originally meant “seek.” Thus, the basic meaning is “ensure,” “make sure,” with the logical extensions “secure,” “confirm,” “assure,” and even “affix, fasten.”

Although **sa i** means “I am not,” the other persons all use **so: so ti, so fe, so hi, so ni, so chi, so nhw**.

Examples:

**Beth yw'r sefyllfa ynglŷn â'r Gymdeithas Gymraeg?**

### What's the situation with the Welsh Society?

**Mae rhaid i mi sicrháu lle cyn dechrau gwaith.**  
**I have to secure a place before starting work.**

**So chi'n gallu dod i mewn.**  
**You can't come in.**

Day One Hundred and Fifty-Five: 16 February

**Today's words:** **cwmpas** = circuit; **parod** = ready; **smo** = am not / isn't / aren't

The noun **cwmpas** means, unsurprisingly, “compass,” but in its broadest sense of “circuit” or “scope.” It is a masculine noun with two possible plurals, both about equally common: **cwmpasoedd** or **cwmpasau**. By far the most common use of the word, though, is in the compound preposition **o gwmpas**, “around” or “about” in a physical sense.

The adjective **parod** means “ready”. As with other adjectives ending in D, the (really rare) equative is **paroted**, comparative is **parotach** and the superlative **parotaf**.

While some areas of South Wales use **sa** / **so** for the negative, others use **smo** (from **does dim ohon-**) for all persons. It does not conjugate further, either as a verb or a pronoun.

Examples:

**Mae'r plant yn cerdded o gwmpas y llŷn.**  
**The children are walking around the lake.**

**Wyt ti'n barod?**  
**Are you ready?**

**Smo fi'n gallu'i wneud.**  
**I cannot do it.**

Day One Hundred and Fifty-Six: 17 February

**Today's words:** **canu** = sing / play (*instrument*); **car** = car; **dan** = are

The verb “sing” is **canu**, stem **can-**. It is also the verb used for making music with a musical instrument, that is, “play”: **dw i'n canu'r piano**, **I play the piano**. Because this is not parallel to English, it is gradually being replaced in Welsh with **chwarae**, which historically means “play,” but as in playing a game.

The noun **car**, plural **ceir**, might look like a borrowing from English, but it isn't. If anything, it's the other way around! This masculine noun is possibly a borrowing from Latin *carrus*, which in turn is borrowed from Gaulish *carros* (where it meant “wagon” and / or “chariot”). Most likely, the Welsh word is the continuation of the native British word *carros*, a linguistic relative of the Gaulish word.

Colloquial North Welsh uses **dan** for the first and third person plural of the present tense, that is, with **ni** and **nhw**.

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

Examples:

**Beth am ganu “Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau”?**  
**What about singing “Old Land of My Ancestors”?**

**Oes car 'da chi?**  
**Do you have a car?**

**Dan ni'n byw ym Mangor.**  
**We live in Bangor.**

Day One Hundred and Fifty-Seven: 18 February

**Today's words:** **rhywun** = someone; **môr** = sea; **dach chi** = you are (pl.) (N)

The words **rhyw** + **un** become the pronoun **rhywun**, “someone”.

The masculine noun **môr** means “sea”. Its plural is **moroedd**. There is a separate word for “ocean,” but **môr** can also be used.

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

The North Welsh form of **dych chi** is **dach chi**.

Examples:

**Mae rhaid i rywun ei wneud.**  
**Somebody needs to do it.**

**Rwy'n byw ar draws y môr.**  
**I live across the sea.**

**Dach chi'n gallu byw yma ym Mhwillheli.**  
**You can live here in Pwllheli.**

Day One Hundred and Fifty-Eight: 19 February

**Today's words:** **tref** = town; **enedl** = nation | gender; **ti** = you are (s.)

The feminine noun for “town” is **tref**, often (as with many Welsh words) pronounced and sometimes spelled without final -F. The plural is **treffi**. Remember that in Wales, unlike North America, a large population isn't enough to make it a “city” (**dinas**)—there are large towns and small cities.

The word **enedl** means “nation” in the sense of the people that make up a country rather than the political unit that represents them. So the “Six Nations” of rugby are the **Chwe Gwlad**. In grammar, the word is used for “gender,” and since grammatical gender is an arbitrary grouping, **enedl** makes as much sense as anything else. The plural is **cenhedloedd**, and the word is also feminine—**yr un genedl â “tref”** (the same gender as “tref”).

In spoken Welsh, **rwy't ti** is often reduced to **ti**, with the verb implied but not stated.

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

Examples:

**Mae'r dref yn fach, ond yn bwysig.**  
**The town is small, but important.**

**Hen genedl yw'r Cymry.**  
**The Welsh are an old nation.**

**Ti'n gweld?**

### Do you see?

Day One Hundred and Fifty-Nine: 20 February

**Today's words:** **dull** = style / manner; **Cymreig** = Welsh; **ma** = is

The word **dull** has many meanings, all in the range of “form,” “manner,” “way,” “style.” There is some overlap with other common words here. **Dull**'s root sense is “form,” and thus it refers to the style or pattern of approach, while **ffordd** is the literal “road, way” taken metaphorically. **Modd** is from Latin *modus*, meaning “method.” Often the difference is only that **modd** has many idiomatic uses, and **dull** is clearer. **Dull** is masculine, and its plural is **dulliau**.

The adjective **Cymreig** means “Welsh” in every context except with regard to the language. The “Welsh Society” should be **Y Gymdeithas Gymreig**, since most of the activities take place in English—probably why the wrong adjective was used in the first place!

In the spoken language, **mae** often gets shortened to **ma**.

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

Examples:

**Defnyddiwch eich dull eich hunain.**  
**Use your own style.**

**Mae gen i rywbeth Cymreig i ti.**  
**I have something Welsh for you.**

**Ma o'n mynd.**  
**He is going.**

Day One Hundred and Sixty: 21 February

**Today's words:** **swyddog** = officer / official; **tipyn** = bit; **chi** = you are (pl.)

Anyone who holds an office (**swydd**), either an “officer” or an “official,” is a **swyddog**. **Swyddogion** is the plural of this masculine noun.

The noun for “bit, small amount” is **tipyn**, and the fact that it is masculine is easily remembered by the common expression **tipyn bach**, “a little bit.” As with many words in -YN, the plural drops this ending. In this case, the plural is added to the bare stem: **tipiau**.

As with **ti**, the spoken language sometimes uses a bare **chi** for the fuller **dych chi**.

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

Examples:

**Oes rhestr o swyddogion y Gymdeithas Gymreig?**  
**Is there a list of the Welsh Society's officers?**

**Wyt ti'n deall Cymraeg? Ydw, ond dim ond tipyn bach!**  
**Do you understand Welsh? Yes, but only a little bit!**

**Chi'n mynd i fwyta hynny?**  
**Are you going to eat that?**

Day One Hundred and Sixty-One: 22 February

**Today's words:** **bron** = breast | hill; **arian** = money | silver; **oeddit** = you were (s.)

**Bron** represents two feminine nouns that are etymologically related. The first, meaning “breast,” has the plural **bronnau**. The second, meaning the breast of a hill, has the plural **bronnydd**, though there is some alternation between the two. The noun is also used metaphorically as an adverb meaning “almost” or “nearly” (think “abreast of”). It takes a variety of prepositions. By default, it is followed by **â<sup>h</sup>**. However, when *someone* almost does something, the construction is **bron i<sup>l</sup> someone**. The **â<sup>h</sup>** tends to be omitted in speech, especially before **yn<sup>l</sup>**. Before verb-nouns, **â<sup>h</sup>** replaces the **yn** but is replaced by other prepositions that can precede verb-nouns (**wedi**, **am**, **gan**, **wrth**).

For most of the history of Wales, coins were made of silver. For that reason, the word for the metal and the colour of “silver” (**arian**) has also become the word for “money”. It is a masculine noun, and as a mass noun there is no plural. It is cognate with the Latin word for silver, *argentum*, and for that reason the country of Argentina is known in Welsh as **Yr Ariannin**. Another famous compound in Welsh is **ariangarwch**, from **arian** and **car-** “love”. The phrase occurs in the Welsh Bible in 1 Timothy 6:10:

**Canys gwreiddyn pob drwg yw ariangarwch**

**For the love of money is the root of all evil** (King James Version)

Note that the common English abbreviation “money is the root of all evil” doesn’t have the same resonance in Welsh, since it doesn’t occur as such in the Bible: “love of money” is a single Welsh word.

A more formal form of **roeddet** is **yr oeddit**. As with the other formal forms, the pronoun is rarely expressed. A 1909 guide to learning Welsh gives the sentence:

**Yr oeddit yn sefyll yn yr eira.**

**You were standing in the snow.**

Further examples:

**Oes 'da chi arian?**

**Do you have any money?**

**Nac ydw. Dw i bron yn cardota.**

**No. I'm almost begging.**

Day One Hundred and Sixty-Two: 23 February

**Today's words:** **gwerth** = value / worth; **disgybl** = pupil (student); **rydw i** = I am

The masculine noun **gwerth** “value” or “worth” has the plural **gwerthoedd**. As in English, this refers to both monetary value and more general values.

There are a few Welsh words for student. The standard word is **myfyriwr** (m.), **myfyriwraig** (f.), but this is what French refers to as an *étudiant*, primarily a grown-up whose occupation is “student.” The word for a “pupil” (French *élève*) is **disgybl**, which is masculine with the plural **disgyblion**. It comes from Latin *discipulus*, from the verb for “learn” (remember that in Wales, schools were in Latin from the time of the Roman occupation on). They are interchangeable to a degree, but think of **disgybl** always in relation to an **athro** or **athrawes**, and **myfyriwr** / **myfyriwraig** in relation to the activity of studying.

The formal Welsh literary language is very archaic, very distant from spoken Welsh. The spoken Welsh dialects can be quite different from one another. Imagine the distance between ancient Latin and modern French or Spanish. Up to the nineteenth century, almost all people learning to read and write Welsh were already fluent speakers. They learned spoken Welsh at home, and if they had to write the way they talked, they just spelled it like it sounded. This situation is known as *diglossia* and occurs in every language. You write “I am going to go to Welsh class tonight”

but you *say* something like “I’m gunna gudda Welsh class t’nite.” Except only a North American could make sense of “gunna gudda”; a British person would never say that. You see the problem?

So in the twentieth century, when English speakers wanted to learn Welsh, they found literary Welsh useless for spoken communication. A debate arose about what form of Welsh to teach. Imagine that the Roman Empire never broke up: should a visiting Irishman learn French, Italian, or Spanish? If it’s all one country, how do you choose?

The debate peaked in the 1960s with the invention or recognition (depending on your perspective) of **Cymraeg Byw, Living Welsh**. This language was adopted alongside the literary language as a less formal written and spoken version that was nevertheless unified, pulling more or less authentic forms from the different dialects to create a living dialect for all of Wales, rather than privileging one dialect from the North or from the South—a non-starter, as you can imagine! This involved the creation of some new forms such as **rydw i, I am**, that nobody ever *said* but were close enough to the various forms that people did say to be understood. **Cymraeg Byw** was taught until the 1990s.

The great experiment with **Cymraeg Byw** is over. Now, people more or less learn the dialect from their specific region of Wales, and don’t worry about us **dysgwyr tramor (learners abroad)**. Still, some of the forms remain on the lips of those who learned them in school, and in a language which embraces as much variety as Welsh, they will no doubt continue.

Examples:

**Beth ydy gwerth eich car chi?**  
**What is your car worth?**

**Faint o ddysgyblion sydd gan Mr Jones?**  
**How many pupils does Mr Jones have?** (lit. **how-many of pupils which-are with Mr Jones**)

**Yn lle Cymraeg, rydw i’n meddwl am ddsygu iaith syml, fel Sumerian!**  
**Instead of Welsh, I’m thinking of studying a simple language, like Sumerian!**

Day One Hundred and Sixty-Three: 24 February

**Today’s words: na = and not / nor; llall = other; rydyn ni = we are**

The opposite of the Welsh conjunction **a<sup>h</sup>** “and” is **na<sup>M</sup>** “and not” or “nor”. The superscript M means this word takes the mixed mutation: spirant **na<sup>h</sup>** when possible, otherwise soft **na<sup>L</sup>**. Before vowels, it is **nac**, pronounced as if spelled **nag**. (**Ac, nac, ei, and eu** are the only exceptions to Welsh pronounce-it-like-you-spell-it rules, and even these are often hypercorrected by native speakers to the spelling pronunciation, just like some English speakers now pronounce the T in “often”.) This is the same word that is used in the various Welsh words for “no,” and in fact is the stand-alone word for “no” if a question is asked that does not begin with a verb or if you need to refer to the abstract concept of “no.”

**Homonym Alert!** Note that **na** can also have other meanings, with different mutations.

The Welsh adjective for “other” or “another” is **arall**, but the pronoun “other” is **llall**, plural **lleill**.

The **Cymraeg Byw** form of “we are” is **rydyn ni**.

Examples:

**Wyt ti’n deall sut i ddweud “na” yn Gymraeg erbyn hyn? Nac ydw!**  
**Do you understand how to say “no” in Welsh yet? No!**

**Dw i wedi gweld y ferch ar y chwith o’r blaen, ond pwy ydy’r llall?**  
**I have seen the woman on the left before, but who is the other one?**

**Rydyn ni'n darllen y papur.**  
**We are reading the paper.**

Day One Hundred and Sixty-Four: 25 February

**Today's words:** **adeg** = period / time; **mynnu** = will (v.); **rydych chi** = you are (pl.)

Yet another time word is **adeg**, a feminine noun with the plural of **adegau**. According to Gareth King, it is very similar in meaning to **pryd**, i.e. “period,” a short space of time. It is often used adverbially to convey the idea of “during.”

The verb **mynnu** (stem **mynn-**) means to “will” or “have a strong desire,” and logically following from that, “insist” or “demand”. It can also be just “want” but usually there is an indication that you want it rather badly.

The **Cymraeg Byw** form of “you are” (pl.) is **rydych chi**.

**Examples:**

**Ble oeddech chi'n byw yn adeg y Rhyfel?**  
**Where did you live during the War?** (lit. **in the period of the War**)

**Dw i'n mynnu dysgu Cymraeg.**  
**I intend to learn Welsh.**

**Rydych chi'n edrych yn dda heddiw.**  
**You are looking good today / You look well today.**

Day One Hundred and Sixty-Five: 26 February

**Today's words:** **mab** = boy | son; **cynnig** = propose; **rôn i** = I was

The word for “boy” is also the word for “son,” **mab**, and logically enough it is also masculine. Its plural is **meibion**, and like **merch** it is not restricted to under-21s, so you could also translate it as “guy” or even “man” (as in **côr meibion**, “male voice choir,” which is literally “choir of guys”). Its original form was probably *mapos*, which is the Gaulish word for “boy” or “son.” The words are cognate with Irish *mac* and Scottish Gaelic *mac*, and like them it was commonly used to form Welsh patronymic surnames. In these names, the word was often lenited to **fab**, and since Welsh F is often weakly articulated, it became **ab** or, in compound with the word following, **ap**. After a while, the unstressed A fell away, too, leaving only the central consonant of the initial five-sound word! It shows up in such common Welsh surnames as Price (**ap Rhys**), Powell (**ap Hywel**), Parry (**ap Harri**), Pritchard (**ap Rhisiart**), Pugh (**ap Huw**), Bowen (**ab Owain**), and Bevan (**ab Ifan**).

The verb “propose” or “offer” is **cynnig**, and its stem is **cynigi-**. One N, no H. This doesn't mean that you don't find examples with two Ns or an H, of course! The word is more abstract than some of the other words like **rhoi** meaning “give” or “offer”: with **cynnig** the offering tends to be less concrete.

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

In the informal language, **roeddw i** is often reduced to **rôn i**, sometimes with an apostrophe: **rô'n i**. Sometimes the **to bach** over the O is omitted. Variety is the spice of life!

**Examples:**

**Oes gennyh chi fab neu ferch?**  
**Do you have a son or a daughter?**

**Mae gen i bump ohonyn nhw. Ga' i gynnig un neu ddau i chi?**  
**I have five of them. May I offer you one or two?**

**Rôn i'n gweithio trwy'r dydd ddoe.**  
**I was working all day yesterday.**

Day One Hundred and Sixty-Six: 27 February

**Today's words: mater = matter; capel = chapel; ôn i? = was I?**

Today's words are both easily recognizable from their English cognates. **Mater**, plural **materion**, is a masculine noun meaning "matter," both the substance and an affair under discussion.

**Capel**, plural **capeli**, means "chapel," though unlike **eglwys** it is a masculine noun. **Annibynwyr (nonconformists)** go to chapel.

The interrogative short form of **oeddwn i** is **ôn i** (or **ô'n i**).

**Homonym Alert!** Note that **o'n** (without the **to bach**) can also have other meanings.

Examples:

**Arhoswch tan y cyfarfod: bydd y mater yn cael ei drafod yno.**  
**Wait until the meeting: the matter will be discussed then.**

**Ydych chi'n mynd i'r capel ar ddydd Sul?**  
**Do you go to chapel on Sundays?**

**Ôn i'n i fod i'w wneud, neu beidio?**  
**Was I supposed to do it, or not?**

Day One Hundred and Sixty-Seven: 28 February

**Today's words: trefnu = organize; sefydlu = establish; dôn i ddim = I was not**

The Welsh for "organize" or "arrange" is the verb **trefnu**, stem **trefn-**. The basic meaning is "put in order" and so it has a wide variety of meanings, including "set out" and "put in order."

Another foundational word is the verb **sefydlu**, stem **sefydl-**. The **sef-** root means "stand," and this verb can also mean "set out," but in the sense of "found" or "establish."

The negative short form of **doeddwn i ddim** is **dôn i ddim**.

Examples:

**Pwy sy'n trefnu'r cinio heno?**  
**Who is organizing the dinner tonight?**

**Pryd oedd y Gymdeithas Gymreig yn cael ei sefydlu?**  
**When was the Welsh Society founded?**

**Dôn i ddim yn cerdded am amser hir.**  
**I wasn't walking for a long time.** (i.e. my walk was a short one)

Day One Hundred and Sixty-Eight: 1 March

Today's words: **ennill** = win | earn | gain; **cyfeiriad** = address | direction; **byddys** = it usually is

The verb **ennill** means “gain,” and by extension “win” or “earn”. A similar range of meaning is found in French *gagner*. Its stem is **ennill-**.

Again parallel to French *direction*, the Welsh masculine noun **cyfeiriad** means both “direction” and “address.” Its plural is **cyfeiriadau**.

The **bydd-** forms of **bod** are used for two tenses. Most commonly, for the future, where the impersonal form is **byddir**. Less often, the tense is used as a consuetudinal or habitual present, where the impersonal is **byddys**. The consuetudinal present is used for regular activities, and is often translated with “would” in English. Today's example comes from a chapter called **Hanes Môn, The History of Anglesey**, from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century:

**Nid claddu meirwon fel y byddys gyda ni yr oeddynt, eithr eu llosgi ac adeiladu tomenau, neu grugiau ardderchog ar eu llwch.**

They **didn't** bury their dead **as we would**, but burned **them and** built tumuli **or** superb barrows **upon their** dust.

Further examples:

**Ennillodd y Cymry y gêm rygbi? Wrth gwrs!**  
**Did the Welsh win the rugby game? Of course!**

**Beth ydy eich cyfeiriad e-bost?**  
**What's your email address?**

Day One Hundred and Sixty-Nine: 2 March

Today's words: **troed** = foot; **union** = exact; **buasid** = it usually is

The noun for “foot” is **troed**, which is usually feminine, though for some speakers it is masculine. The plural is **traed**, as in the idiom **traed moch, pigs' feet**, which means “a real mess.” The unit of measure, however, is a **troedfedd**.

The adjective **union** means “exact,” most commonly in the phrase **yn union**, “exactly.” It has a range of other meanings clustered around the idea of correctness or precision, such as “direct,” “right” or “straight.” As a prefix, it means “right” or “rect-.”

The pluperfect impersonal of **bod** is **buasid**, to be translated something like “one had been” or “it had been being.” The example comes from an 1839 life of the Reverend Christmas Evans: **Pe buasai Mr. Jones wedi gwrandaw ar Mr. Evans yn hyn, buasid wedi attal, o leiaf, lawer o anfrawdgarwch rhwng llawer ag oeddent o'r blaen yn gyfeillion.**

**If Mr. Jones had listened to Mr. Evans in this, a lot of disharmony among many who had formerly been friends would have been prevented, at the least.**

A special shout-out to **anfrawdgarwch**, here translated as “disharmony.” It actually means “a lack of brotherly love,” from **an-**, a negative prefix, plus **frawd**, from **brawd** “brother”, plus **gar-** from **caru** “love,” plus the abstract suffix **-wch**.

Further examples:

**Mae gen i esgidiau newydd am fy nhraed.**  
**I have new shoes on my feet.**

**Dw i'n gwybod yn union beth dych chi'n dweud.**

**I know exactly what you are saying.**

Day One Hundred and Seventy: 3 March

**Today's words: llong = ship; deall = understand; byddem = we would be**

The word for “ship,” **llong**, is feminine, and its plural is **llongau**. As in English, the word can be used of any large vessel used for transit—note the Irish cognate *Aer Lingus* (Irish spelling *Aer Loingeas*). The Irish word *loingeas* means “fleet,” based on the Irish word *long*, meaning “ship.”

**Deall** is “understand,” with the stem **deall-**. In some dialects you find **dallt**.

The conditional form **baem** has a fuller literary form **byddem**, “we would be.” From **Y gwladgarwr: sef Cylchgrawn Gwybodaeth, Ysgrythyrol, Hanesiol, ac Amrywiaethol (The Patriot: That Is, A Journal of Scriptural, Historical, and Various Knowledge, 1838)** comes the sentence:

**Byddem yn corddi dair gwaith yn yr wythnos yn yr haf, a dwywaith yn y gauaf.**

**We would churn thrice a week in the summer, and twice in the winter.**

Further Examples:

**Mae llongau yn hwylio dros y môr.**

**Ships are sailing across the sea.**

**Wyt ti'n fy neall i?**

**Do you understand me?**

Day One Hundred and Seventy-One: 4 March

**Today's words: Lloegr = England; noson = evening; po = [that] it be**

Nobody knows where the Welsh word for England came from. The best guess is that it's some sort of tribal or regional name originally referring to part of central or western England. It certainly has nothing to do with the word for the English people or their language. **Lloegr** is feminine, though in practice it doesn't much matter because it is rarely followed by an adjective.

There are two words for “evening” in Welsh, both derived from **nos** “night.” One is **noswaith**, and the other is the feminine noun **noson**. Since **noson** doesn't really have a plural, they share one: **nosweithiau**. To remember the difference, think of the expressions **noson llawen** (**happy evening**, that is, a social gathering with performances, usually musical; what the Irish call a *céili*) and **noswaith dda** (**good evening**). **Noson**, like **diwrnod**, is the space of an evening, French *soirée* or Italian *serata*. **Noswaith**, on the other hand, is just the generic word for evening, like French *soir* or Italian *sera*. Because the word **noswaith** is literally a compound of the words “night” and “time,” though, this distinction isn't quite as rigid as with **dydd** and **diwrnod**, and you can also use **noswaith** for the space of an evening.

A form of the subjuncting **bo** is **po<sup>l</sup>**, usually now found only in set expressions such as **gorau po gyntaf**, “the sooner the better.” Whenever you are expressing “the X-er, the Y-er,” Welsh uses **po**. Note that it is not used with the comparative degree (-er) as in English, but the superlative (English -est), and that there is soft mutation.

Examples:

**Llundain yw prifddinas Lloegr.**

**London is the capital of England.**

**Ydych chi'n gwybod am Noson y Cylyll Hirion yn ystod yr Ail Ryfel Byd?**

**Do you know about the Night of the Long Knives during World War II?**

**Po fwyaf y byddwch yn ymarfer, cyflymaf y byddoch yn dysgu.**  
**The more you practise, the quicker you will learn.**

Day One Hundred and Seventy-Two: 5 March

**Today's words:** sawl = how many / so many; mwyn = sake, enjoyment | mine; baset = [that] you be (s.)

The adjective **sawl** means, at root, “many,” but it can also be used interrogatively (“how many”), equivalent to **faint o<sup>l</sup>**. It generally takes a singular noun, and it might help to think of it as “many a” or “many an” in English. It can also be used as a pronoun. **Sawl un?** means **how many** [people / things], equivalent to **faint?** Similarly, **y sawl** means **those**, in the sense of (all) **those** (that).

The masculine noun **mwyn** means “enjoyment” or “use” or “sake.” It is most commonly found in the compound preposition **er mwyn**, “for the sake of,” and the conjunction **er mwyn**, “in order to.” Pay attention to their use with personal pronouns: **er fy mwyn i** is **for my sake**, while **er mwyn i fi wneud rhywbeth** is **in order for me to do something**. There is no plural. **Mwyn** is also the word for “mineral,” in which case the plural is **mwynau**. The latter is sometimes spelled **mŵn**, and can be used to mean “mine” (the place where minerals are dug from the earth) as well.

A more colloquial form of **buasit** is **baset**, usually with an expressed pronoun **ti**. The example comes from a script published online called **Ahoy Angylion (Ahoy Angels)** by Catrin Roberts:

**Baset ti'n dioddef o stress petait ti'n gorfod gwneud beth rydw i'n gorfod ei wneud.**  
**You would suffer from stress if you had to do what I have to do.**

Examples:

**Sawl cath sydd gen ti?**  
**How many cats do you have?**

**Mae mwynau pwysig ym mhigoglys.**  
**There are important minerals in spinach.**

Day One Hundred and Seventy-Three: 6 March

**Today's words:** prin = rare; bachgen = boy

The adjective for “rare” is **prin**. The comparative stem doubles the N, so “rarer” is **prinnach**.

One of the many Welsh words for “boy” is **bachgen**, which is masculine. Unlike **mab**, this does not also mean “son,” and it is the most common word in the language for “boy.” It can also be used for adults, and so might reasonably be translated “guy,” especially in the plural, **bechgyn**.

While we haven't quite run out of forms of the verb **bod**, after 172 of them we are down to the nubs and strange dialectal forms. For that reason, it is increasingly useless to list them one by one, so I'll just point out patterns and then cease with the verbs. In South Wales, the conditional is often reduced to an initial S: **sen i, set ti, se fe, se hi, sen ni, sech chi, sen nhw**.

Examples:

**Prin yw'r cyfle i ddysgu Cymraeg!**  
**The opportunity to learn Welsh is rare!**

**Mae'r bechgyn yn gweithio yn galed.**  
**The boys are working hard.**

Day One Hundred and Seventy-Four: 7 March

**Today's words: pum = five; hanner = half**

The full form of the word for “five” is **pump**, but before nouns it becomes **pum**. Historically speaking, **pump** should not cause any mutations, but it can't resist. In the medieval language, it sometimes lenited, sometimes nasalized, but mostly didn't do anything, which is exactly how it behaves in the modern language. **Pum** causes the nasal mutation before **blynedd**, **blwydd**, and sometimes **diwrnod**. Geiriadur yr Academi says it causes soft mutation of feminine adjectives behaving like substantives, that is “five tall” meaning “five tall [women],” but this is very rare.

The noun **hanner** means “half.” Its plural is **haneri**, and it is masculine. The fractions in Welsh are as follows:

$\frac{1}{2}$ , **hanner**

$\frac{1}{3}$ , **traean**;  $\frac{2}{3}$  **dau draean**

$\frac{1}{4}$ , **chwarter**,  $\frac{3}{4}$  **tri chwarter**

$\frac{1}{5}$ , **pumed**,  $\frac{2}{5}$  **dau bumed**,  $\frac{3}{5}$  **tri phumed**,  $\frac{4}{5}$  **pedwar pumed**

From five on, the word used for the **enwadur** (**denominator**) of the fraction is the same as the ordinal number.

**Example:**

**Mae pum llyfr gen i, ond dw i ddim ond wedi darllen hanner o'r llyfr cyntaf.**  
**I have five books, but I've only read half of the first book.**

Day One Hundred and Seventy-Five: 8 March

**Today's words: rheswm = reason; gwyn = white**

The word for “reason” is masculine. In the singular, it is **rheswm**, and in the plural **rhesymau**. It is used as in English.

The adjective for “white” has both a masculine, **gwyn**, and a feminine form, **gwen**. It is also found in the plural in the literary language, **gwynion**. Because the word has strongly positive connotations, these elements are found very frequently in names and can be used to mean “blessed” or “holy” as well as “fair” (in the sense of a fair complexion). This usage goes back to medieval times. The idiom **gwyn ei fyd** literally means **his world is white**, but is a common expression for “he is blessed” or “all is well with him.” It is used in several places in the Bible, e.g. in Psalm 1:

**Gwyn ei fyd y sawl nad yw'n dilyn cyngor y drygionus**

**Blessed those\* who do not follow the counsel of the evil one**

(remember that **sawl** is singular in Welsh)

(KJV **Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly**)

Examples:

**Beth yw'r rheswm amdano?**

**What is the reason for it?**

**Ar lan y môr, mae lilis gwynion.**

**By the sea, there are white lilies.**

Day One Hundred and Seventy-Six: 9 March

**Today's words: natur = nature; pwnc = subject**

The Welsh word for “nature” is, like its ultimate Latin source, feminine: **natur**. There is no plural, as this is properly “nature” as in “the natural world.” The other meanings of “nature” in English, “essential quality,” is better represented in Welsh by **anian**. Nevertheless, under the influence of English, **natur** is also being used in the latter meaning, with both **naturau** and **naturuodd** as plurals.

The word for “subject,” as in the subject of a conversation or a field of inquiry, is **pwnc**, plural **pynCIAU**. The various other types of subjects (grammatical, dependent, etc.) are different words. **Pwnc** is masculine.

Examples:

**Roeddwn i'n cerdded ar draws y wlad i weld natur.**  
**I walked across the country to see nature.**

**Beth yw pwnc eich llyfr?**  
**What is your book about?** (Lit. **What is the subject of your book?**)

Day One Hundred and Seventy-Seven: 10 March

**Today's words: rhaglen = program; talu = pay**

The noun **rhaglen** “program” comes from **rhag** “before” and **llen** “curtain; sheet”. Like **llen**, it is feminine and its plural is **rhaglenni**. It is used for both printed programs and television programs.

The verb **tal** is also straightforward. It has the stem **tal-** and means “pay.” To pay for is **tal** **am**<sup>L</sup>.

Examples:

**Oes rhaglen dda ar y teledu? Nag oes.**  
**Is there a good program on television? No.**

**Faint dych chi'n talu am y gwasanaeth cabl?**  
**How much do you pay for cable?**

Day One Hundred and Seventy-Eight: 11 March

**Today's words: cwbl = whole / total / all; ogystal = further / additional(ly)**

There are several Welsh words for “all”. As a modifier, use the adjective **holl** (before the noun) or **i<sup>L</sup> gyd** (after); as an adverb, **oll** (which can also be a pronoun) or **yn hollol**, which means “wholly, entirely”. The noun **cyfan** is “the whole” or “total” (**cyfanswm** is the mathematical term, “total” + “sum”). “Everything” is **popeth**, and “everyone” is **pawb**. These all have the sense of being a collective whole. **Cwbl**, on the other hand, has the sense of “whole,” “all,” or “total,” when you are speaking in terms of something complete, an entire unit. It is usually masculine but in a few dialects is feminine, and has no plural. The idiomatic phrase **o<sup>L</sup> gwbl** means “at all.”

The adjective **ogystal** is formed similarly to **o<sup>L</sup> gwbl**. It comes from **o<sup>L</sup>** and **cystal**, the equative degree of **da**, meaning “as well”, in the sense of “additionally.” For this reason, when it is “as well as” something, it takes the following preposition **a<sup>H</sup>**.

Examples:

**Ble ydyn ni'n mynd i osod y cwbl?**  
**Where are we going to put everything?** (all of it)

**Ble ydyn ni'n mynd i osod popeth?**  
**Where are we going to put everything?** (each and every piece)

**Meddyliwch am yr ysbryd yn ogystal â'r corff.**  
**Think about the spirit as well as the body.**

Day One Hundred and Seventy-Nine: 12 March

**Today's words:** **pe + bod** = if-were; **barn** = judgement / opinion

The various compounds of **pe + bod** fall here in terms of their frequency; I couldn't decide whether to count them as a part of **pe** or **bod**, so I counted them separately. There are a bewildering variety of forms, which we have looked at above, and they are difficult to classify in terms of parts of speech: verb? conjunction? The most common is **petai**, "if he / she / it were."

This isn't the clearest example of the use of the word, but it's so cute I had to include it. It's from the Bank of England website

([http://www.bankofengland.co.uk/education/Documents/poundsandpence/welsh/activity\\_cards/5b.pdf](http://www.bankofengland.co.uk/education/Documents/poundsandpence/welsh/activity_cards/5b.pdf)).

**BETH PETAI? Rydych chi'n llwgu. Mae gennych chi £3.50. Rydych chi'n mynd i gaffi i brynu brechdan gaws am £3.50. Daw anghenfil i mewn a llowcio'r brechdanau caws bron i gyd. Nawr mae pris y brechdanau caws yn codi i £5. Beth fydddech chi'n ei wneud gyda'ch £3.50?**

**What if? You are starving. You have £3.50. You go to a café to buy a cheese sandwich for £3.50. A monster comes in and gobbles up almost all the cheese sandwiches. Now the price of the cheese sandwiches rises to £5. What would you do with your £3.50?**

The feminine noun **barn** means "judgement" or "opinion," along with related meanings. The plural is **barnau**. One who judges (i.e. a judge) is a **barnwr** (m) or **barnwraig** (f), and "doomsday" is **Dydd y Farn**.

Further example:

**Yn fy marn i, mae dysgu iaith yn llawer o waith!**  
**In my opinion, learning a language is a lot of work!**

Day One Hundred and Eighty: 13 March

**Today's words:** **golygu** = edit | mean; **hawdd** = easy

The versatile verb **golygu** (stem **golyg-**) derives from **golwg**, "view, sight." The verb means "mean," as in the meaning of a word, but also "edit" and, occasionally, "imply." Even rarer is the more literal meaning, "behold" or "view."

The adjective for "easy" is **hawdd**, which has irregular comparatives. "As easy" is **mor hawdd** or **cyn hawsed**, but "easier" is **haws** and "easiest" is **hawsaf**. The opposite, "difficult" or "hard," is the negative **an-** plus **hawdd**, which makes **anodd**, **mor anodd**, **anhaws**, and **anhawsaf**.

Examples:

**Dw i ddim yn deall. Beth dych chi'n golygu?**  
**I don't understand. What do you mean?**

**Mor hawdd yw dysgu Cymraeg!**  
**Learning Welsh is so easy!**

Day One Hundred and Eighty-One: 14 March

**Today's words:** **na** = which . . . not | that . . . na; **chwarae** = play

The particle **na**<sup>HL</sup> (**nad** before vowels) causes the mixed mutation: P, T, and C aspirate to PH, TH, and CH, while the other consonants lenite if they can. It is the negative of the relative particle **a**<sup>L</sup>. It can also be used in place of **peidio** to form the negative imperative.

**Homonym Alert!** Note that **na** can also have other meanings, potentially with different mutations.

The verb **chwarae** (stem **chwarae-**) means “play,” but only games and sports—it not historically used with musical instruments, though it is now under influence of English. It has a historical variant **gwarae**, and a number of dialectal variants somewhere between the two: **hware**, **gware**, etc. The expression **chwarae teg** “fair play” is quite common in Welsh.

Examples:

**Chi yw’r athro na ysgrifennodd y geiriau ddoe, nac ydych?**  
**You’re the teacher who didn’t write the words yesterday, aren’t you?**

**Dw i’n chwarae pêldroed ddydd Llun.**  
**I’m playing soccer on Monday.**

Day One Hundred and Eighty-Two: 15 March

**Today’s words: **fyny** = up; **cyffredinol** = general**

The word **fyny** is one of the rare Welsh words that starts with a single F. The reason, of course, is that it didn’t use to. It is most commonly found in the compound preposition **i’l fyny**, “up”, and it has become permanently mutated. It is originally from **mynydd**, “mountain”—in Wales, unless you’re on the summit of Snowdon, the mountains are up from you. There are other metaphorical ways to say “up” in Welsh (e.g. **lan**, **i’r lan**, **i’l riw**), but **i’l fyny** is the most common.

The adjective **cyffredinol** “general” derives from **cyffredin**, “common.”

Examples:

**Mae rhaid i chi fynd i fyny’r bryn i gyrraedd ein tŷ ni.**  
**You have to go up the hill to get to our house.**

**Does dim cyfarfod cyffredinol y mis hwn.**  
**There’s no general meeting this month.**

Day One Hundred and Eighty-Three: 16 March

**Today’s words: **ambell** = occasional; **trefn** = order**

The adjective **ambell**<sup>L</sup> means “occasional” or “the odd”. It is always used with a singular noun, but if you like you may translate **ambell** X as “a few Xs.” The word lenites the following noun, and sometimes the preposition **i’l** is inserted between them, though it’s not really necessary and doesn’t change the meaning.

The feminine noun **trefn** means “order” in the sense of “not disorder” or “result of organization.” (It doesn’t work for commercial orders, which are **gorchmynion**.) The plural is **trefnau**.

Examples:

**Mae ambell ddysgwr yn darllen i waelod y geiriau beunyddol.**  
**A few learners read to the bottom of the daily words.**

**Beth yw gwahaniaeth rhwng trefn y wyddor Gymraeg a threfn y wyddor Saesneg?**

**What is the difference between Welsh alphabetical order and English alphabetical order?**

Day One Hundred and Eighty-Four: 17 March

**Today's words:** **dewis** = choose; **problem** = problem

The verb “choose” is **dewis**, whose stem is also **dewis-**.

The noun **problem** “problem” is feminine, with a plural **problemau**. A common idiom for “no problem” is **dim probs** (the -s is actually the English diminutive -s, used to convey affectionate informality).

Examples:

**Oes rhaid i mi ddewis rhyngddoch chi?**  
**Must I choose between you?**

**Beth yw'r problem?**  
**What's the problem?**

Day One Hundred and Eighty-Five: 18 March

**Today's words:** **gwely** = bed; **pam** = why

The masculine noun **gwely** means “bed.” Its plural is **gwelyau**.

**Pronunciation Alert!** The plural is an exception to the normal rules for Y. Pronounce as if spelled **gwelïau** (GWEL-í-AU).

The question word for “why” is **pam**. It derives from an older **paham**, which you occasionally see. There is some argument as to which verb is the best to use with **pam**. In the negative, it is **pam nad**, with the relative particle (which suggests a relative construction is necessary). In the positive, **pam mae** is common, but **pam fod** is also encountered. Stick with **mae** unless you're sure you're starting a subordinate clause.

Examples:

**Pryd wyt ti'n mynd i'r gwely?** (note the definite article)  
**When are you going to bed?**

**Pam wyt ti'n mynd i'r gwely?**  
**Why are you going to bed?**

Day One Hundred and Eighty-Six: 19 March

**Today's words:** **ai** = is it that / whether; **arfer** = custom / use / habit

The word **ai** is a particle, and it means something like “is it so, that. . . ?” It cannot be followed by a verb, and it is not a verb, so conveniently this is one of the few occasions in Welsh where you can use the words **ie** “yes” and **nage** “no” to answer a question. It is used to rearrange the word order to place more emphasis on the word following **ai**.

It can also be doubled, in which case the first one is translated by “whether” or “either” or left untranslated, and the second one is translated as “or.”

This would be clearer with some examples. David Thorne's excellent *Comprehensive Welsh Grammar* has dug up a few relevant quotes (§341, pp. 354–5):

**Ai sumbol o waed y Cymry yw'r Môr Coch?** (from *Y Faner*, 4 Oct 1991)

**Is the Red Sea a symbol of the blood of the Welsh?**

or, reflecting the emphasis,

**The Red Sea—is it a symbol of the blood of the Welsh?**

From 1 Kings 2:13,

**Ai mewn heddwch yr wyt yn dod?**

**Do you come in peace?** (but with an emphasis to contrast with come in war)

Compare:

**Wyt ti'n dod mewn heddwch?**

**Do you come in peace?** (No special emphasis; just wondering)

From 1 Corinthians 12:13

**O herwydd trwy un Ysbryd y bedyddiwyd ni oll yn un corff, pa un bynnag ai Iuddewon ai Groegwyr, ai caethion ai rhyddion.**

**Because it's through one Spirit that we are all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or freemen.**

Today's other word is much more straightforward. **Arfer** means a habitual action, whether a “custom,” “habit,” or “use.” With the reflexive YM-, **ymarfer** means “exercise.” It is masculine, and the plural is **arferion**.

Further example:

**Ddiddorol iawn yw hen arferion y Cymry.**

**The old customs of the Welsh are very interesting.**

Day One Hundred and Eighty-Seven: 20 March

**Today's words: rhy = too; llais = voice**

The adverb **rhy<sup>l</sup>** means “too”, as in “too much”. It precedes the adjective it modifies, and so causes the soft mutation.

The noun for “voice” is masculine, **llais**, plural **lleisiau**. Combined with **plaid**, it becomes the word for “vote,” **pleidlais**. Note that both words end up changing AI to EI when it is no longer stressed. This is a common internal vowel change in Welsh.

Examples:

**Mae'r wlad yn rhy fach i'r ddau ohonon ni.**

**This country is too small for the both of us.**

**Pa faint o leisiau sydd yn ein côr meibion ni?**

**How many voices are there in our male voice choir?**

Day One Hundred and Eighty-Eight: 21 March

**Today's words: mudiad = movement; anodd = difficult**

The noun **mudiad** (m., pl. **mudiadau**) means “movement” in an abstract sense, such as a social, political, or artistic movement. Movement in the physical sense of motion is **symudiad**.

The adjective **anodd** comes from negative **an-** plus **hawdd**. The original form is seen in the comparative degrees **anhawsed**, **anhaws**, and **anhawsaf**. It means “hard” (in the sense of “not easy”) or “difficult”.

Examples:

**Wyt ti'n gwybod hanes Mudiad Llafur yng Nghymru?**  
**Do you know the history of the Labour Movement in Wales?**

**Roedd gweithio dan y ddaear yn anodd iawn.**  
**Working underground was very difficult.**

Day One Hundred and Eighty-Nine: 22 March

**Today's words: bwrdd = table | board; llywodraeth = government**

The word for “table” comes from the word for “board,” the thing tables are made of: **bwrdd**, plural **byrddau**. The word is masculine. It is also used for the metaphorical use of “board” as a group of people running something.

The actual government is a feminine noun, **llywodraeth**, plural **llywodraethau**. It is based on the root **llyw**, “guide, leader, ruler,” the same that appears in the name **Llywelyn**.

Examples:

**Gwnewch i'r plant osod y bwrdd.**  
**Make the children set the table.**

**Pwy sy'n arwain y llywodraeth?**  
**Who leads the government?**

Day One Hundred and Ninety: 23 March

**Today's words: nodi = note | indicate; eistedd = sit**

Two verbs today. The first is **nodi**, stem **nod-**, which means “note,” but is quite widely used in the sense of “mark,” “specify,” or “indicate.”

The verb **eistedd** has the stem **eistedd-**. It means “sit.” Combined with **bod**, the word **eisteddfod** (sitting + being) means “session,” but since it has become a cultural institution the word has been borrowed into English.

Examples:

**Rhaid i chi nodi'r rheswm dros hynny.**  
**You have to indicate the reason for that.**

**Eisteddwch!**  
**Sit!**

Day One Hundred and Ninety-One: 24 March

**Today's words: canlyniad = consequence / result; llwyddo = succeed**

The noun for “consequence” or “result,” **canlyniad**, derives from the verb **canlyn**, “follow”. It is masculine, and the plural is **canlyniadau**.

The verb for “succeed” is **llwyddo**, stem **llwydd-**.

Examples:

**Beth yw canlyniadau methu myfyrio? Does dim gair Cymraeg cynddrwg â hynny.**

**What are the consequences of failing to study? There's no Welsh word as bad as that.**

**Beth yw canlyniadau myfyrio? Byddi di'n llwyddo i ddysgu!**  
**What are the consequences of studying? You'll succeed in learning!**

Day One Hundred and Ninety-Two: 25 March

**Today's words: megis = such as; du = black**

**Megis** is exactly like **fel**, meaning “like” or “as”. The only difference is that **megis** belongs to a more formal register.

The adjective **du** means “black,” though in certain contexts it is best translated as “dark” for English-speakers. It has a plural in the literary language, **duon**:

**Paham mae dicter, O Myfanwy,**  
**Yn llenwi'th lygaid duon di?**

**Why does anger, O Myfanwy,**  
**Fill your dark eyes?**

Futher Examples:

**Mae llygaid du gan rai pobl, megis Myfanwy.**  
**Some people have dark eyes, such as Myfanwy.**

Day One Hundred and Ninety-Three: 26 March

**Today's words: eisteddfod = eisteddfod | session; pwys = pound (weight)**

The Welsh word for “session,” **eisteddfod**, is also the name of a unique Welsh cultural institution. The OED defines it as “a congress of (Welsh) bards,” a definition taken from its first citation of the word in English, from 1822. Leaving aside what they mean by “bard,” a better translation might be the one the American Heritage Dictionary uses, “An annual competitive festival of Welsh poets and musicians.” It is a feminine noun, and the plural is **eisteddfodau**.

The Welsh pre-metric unit of weight, the pound, is **pwys**, plural **pwysau**. It is masculine. The **pwys** is divided into **ownsiau**. Fourteen **pwys** make a **stôn**. Note that Welsh uses different words for weight (**pwys**) and money (**punt**), and different words for “stone”—**stôn** (weight) and **carreg** (object).

**Homonym Alert!** Note that **pwys** can also have other meanings, notably **ar bwys** “next to”.

Examples:

**Ydych chi'n mynd i'r eisteddfod?**  
**Are you going to the eisteddfod?**

**Faint o bwysau mewn cilogram?**  
**How many pounds in a kilogram?**

Day One Hundred and Ninety-Four: 27 March

**Today's words: taith = journey / trip; hytrach = rather**

The noun for a “trip” or “journey” or “voyage” or any sort of travelling is **taith**, plural **teithiau**, which is feminine.

The adverb for “rather” is **hytrach**, usually in the expression **yn hytrach na(g)**, “rather than” something. It can also be translated “instead,” but in both cases when you are expressing contrast, as in “let’s do this rather than that” or “instead, let’s do this”. Otherwise, “instead of” is **yn lle**, and “rather” (as in “rather long” or “rather deep”) is **go<sup>l</sup>** or **braidd**.

Examples:

**Dw i’n meddwl am daith i Loegr.**  
**I am thinking about a trip to England.**

**Beth am fynd i Gymru yn hytrach na Lloegr?**  
**What about going to Wales rather than England?**

Day One Hundred and Ninety-Five: 28 March

**Today’s words: ychydig = little / few; cymorth = assistance / help**

The adjective **ychydig** means “few” or “little” in the sense of a small portion. (It is also a masculine noun meaning “a little” or “a few.”) It often precedes the noun it modifies, in which case it causes the soft mutation by its position. The construction **ychydig o<sup>l</sup> noun** is also common; whether the following noun is singular or plural determines whether you translate it as “a little *noun*” or “a few *nouns*.”

The masculine noun **cymorth** means “help” or “assistance.” You can also just say **help** in Welsh, but why not use the native word? It is masculine, and its plural is **cymhorthion**. Confusingly, a similar verb meaning to aid or assist is **cynorthwyo**, with an N instead of an M.

Example:

**Mae gen i ychydig o brofiad; ga’ i roi cymorth i chi?**  
**I have a little experience; may I help you?**

Day One Hundred and Ninety-Six: 29 March

**Today’s words: arwain = lead; canolfan = centre**

The verb **arwain** means “lead,” with the stem **arweini-**.

The feminine noun **canolfan**, plural **canolfannau**, means “centre” in the sense of an institution which houses, coordinates, organizes, or serves as a clearinghouse for something. Many Welsh towns have a **canolfan hamdden** or “leisure centre.” The word is composed of **canol**, “centre” (in the physical sense) and **man** “place.”

Examples:

**Pwy sy’n arwain y Gymdeithas Cymreig?**  
**Who leads the Welsh Society?**

**Canolfan ddiwylliannol ydy Cymdeithas Gymreig Vancouver.**  
**The Vancouver Welsh Society is a cultural centre.**

Day One Hundred and Ninety-Seven: 30 March

**Today’s words: datblygiad = development; pen = main / major**

The noun for “development” is masculine: **datblygiad**, plural **datblygiadau**. It should be no surprise to find it comes from the verb **datblygu**, “develop,” but that comes from the verb **plygu** “fold” with the prefix **dat-** “un-,” so a “development” in Welsh is an “unfolding.”

The adjective **pen** comes from the noun, but as an adjective it means “main,” “major,” or “chief.” This is used mostly in the superlative degree, though the others are also found. The superlative can also mean “utmost,” “topmost,” or “highest.”

Examples:

**Ydych chi wedi clywed am y datblygiadau newydd yn Nwyrain Ewrop?**  
**Have you heard about the new developments in Eastern Europe?**

**Mae Eryri yn bennaf ymhlith mynyddoedd Cymru.**  
**Snowden is the most important of the mountains of Wales.**

Day One Hundred and Ninety-Eight: 31 March

**Today’s words: ystafell = room; cychwyn = set out / set off / begin**

The word for “room” is feminine, **ystafell**. Both the singular and the plural, **ystafelloedd**, often drop the initial Y-, a common feature of words beginning YS-. Because it is feminine, it mutates the following modifier, e.g. **ystafell wely** “bedroom.”

The verb **cychwyn** means “set out” or “start off” on a journey or a project, and thus also “begin.” It implies that whatever is begun is the first part of a longer process, unlike the more neutral **dechrau**. The most famous usage is the phrase **Y ddraig goch ddyry gychwyn**, explained on Day 25. **Ddyry gychwyn**, literally “it will give beginning,” is often rendered “will lead the way” to translate the notion that what is given is the start off. The stem is **cychwynn-**.

Examples:

**Ydych chi’n dal i aros am y stafell ’molchi?**  
**Are you still waiting for the washroom?**

**Pryd wyt ti’n cychwyn ar dy daith di i Gymru?**  
**When are you setting out on your trip to Wales?**

Day One Hundred and Ninety-Nine: 1 April

**Today’s words: blaen = front; cais = attempt / application**

The noun **blaen** is masculine, and means “front,” or “tip.” With regard to geography, **blaen** can be the edge of a valley or the source of a river, seen in the plural (**blaenau**) in the placenames **Blaenau Gwent** (“the edge of Gwent”) and **Blaenau Ffestiniog**. There is some overlap in meaning with **pen**, as **blaen** can mean “top,” “end,” or “head” in the metaphorical or geographical senses. The difference is that **blaen** refers to the topmost or foremost edge, without reference to the other side, while **pen** refers more to one end of a continuum. The compound preposition **o<sup>l</sup> flaen** means “in front (of)” or “ahead (of).”

The masculine noun **cais**, plural **ceisiadau**, is a noun meaning “attempt” or “try,” and “application” in the sense of a job application.

Examples:

**Arhoswch! Mae rhywbeth mawr o’ch blaen!**  
**Wait! There’s something large ahead of you!**

**Wyt ti’n rhoi cais i mewn am y swydd newydd?**  
**Are you putting in an application for the new job?**

Day Two Hundred: 2 April

**Today's words:** **sylweddoli** = realize; **darn** = part / piece

The verb “realize” (in the sense of “come to know” rather than “reify”) is **sylweddoli**. The stem drops the final i: **sylweddol-**.

The masculine noun meaning “part” or “piece” or “portion” is **darn**, plural **darnau**. It is a much more versatile word in Welsh than in English. Welsh doesn't have a great word for “coin,” for example. You can say **bathodyn** (“badge, medal”), but more commonly people say **darn o arian**. For “a clove of garlic,” you can say **ewin garleg**, but you can also say **darn o arllwg**.

Examples:

**Doeddwn i ddim yn sylweddoli bod rhaid i mi fyfyrto!**  
**I didn't realize I had to study!**

**Oes gennych chi ddarn o bapur?**  
**Do you have a piece of paper?**

## Llongyfarchiadau! / Congratulations!

You have now learned 400 of the most common Welsh words,  
72½ % of all the words used in the Bangor study of contemporary Welsh.