

Yr wyddor Gymraeg

The Welsh alphabet

There are 29 letters in the Welsh alphabet.

They are:

a b c ch d dd e f ff g ng h i j l ll m n o p ph r rh s t th u w y

In Welsh, there are 22 consonants and 7 vowels.

Consonants

b c ch d dd f ff g ng h j
l ll m n p ph r rh s t th

Vowels

a e i o u w y

Cofiwch

The Welsh word for 'and' depends on what comes after it. The rule is:

- **a** before a consonant, e.g. bachgen a merch
- **ac** before a vowel, e.g. darllen ac ysgrifennu

The Welsh word for 'the' depends on what comes before and after it. The rule is:

- **'r** after a vowel, e.g. Mae'r ffôn ar y llawr. Mae'r afal ar y bwrdd
- **y** before all consonants except h, e.g. y tŷ, y pennaeth
- **yr** before all vowels + h, e.g. yr ystafell, yr haf.

There are 8 double letters in Welsh. They are: ch dd ff ng ll ph rh th

You need to remember this when you use the dictionary, e.g. cwestiwn will come before chwarae.

You also need to remember that ng comes after g not after n, e.g. anghofio comes before allan.



Ynganiad

Pronunciation and intonation

- There are 29 letters in the Welsh alphabet.
- there are 8 double letters in Welsh: ch, dd, ff, ng, ll, ph, rh, th
- there are 7 vowels in Welsh: a e i o u w y
- Welsh is a phonetic language, so the letters always sound the same.

a	b	c	ch	d	dd	e	f	ff	g	ng	h
aa	buh	kuh	chh	duh	th <i>like th in the</i>	eh	vuh	fuh	guh	ung	huh
i	j	l	ll	m	n	o	p	ph	r	rh	s
ee	juh	luh	llu <i>as in Llanelli</i>	muh	nuh	o	puh	fuh	ruh	rrrh	ss
t	th	u	w	y	<i>The stress usually falls on the last syllable but one in Welsh words. Putting stress on a syllable means lengthening the sound with more emphasis in the voice.</i>						
tuh	th <i>as in thin</i>	ee	oo	uh							

Cofiwch !

For example, people with a Welsh accent would pronounce the name, 'Meredith' as Mer-**ed**-ith, with the last sound but one 'ed' stressed. People with an English accent would tend to put equal weight on all three syllables - Mer-ed-ith. Try saying these words:

canol
canolfan
canolfannau

carreg
caregog

darllen
darllennais

Note how the stress moves on each time a unit of sound or syllable is added.



