

3.1 Pendant ac Amhendant / Definite and Indefinite

We have already seen (1.6) that there is **no indefinite article** in Welsh (i.e., no word for **a** or **an**). We can tell the difference between **the** and **a** by either including the **definite article** (yr, y or 'r) or omitting it, for example:

Mae'r plentyn yn yr ysgol	<i>The child is in the school</i>
Mae plentyn yn yr ysgol	<i>A child is in the school</i>

The second example has an alternative translation: *There is **a** child in the school*
However, this is a peculiarity of English which does not affect the difference between the definite and indefinite sentences shown above.

Note that, like Welsh, English does not have an indefinite article for plural nouns:

Mae'r plant yn yr ysgol	<i>The children are in the school</i>
Mae plant yn yr ysgol	<i>Children are in the school</i>

This second sentence again has an alternative: *There are children in the school*
The word **some** may be used to show an indefinite: *There are **some** children in the school*

3.2 Cwestiynau Pendant ac Amhendant / Definite and Indefinite Questions

When it comes to asking questions **in the present tense**, a special form of the verb is used for asking indefinite questions. This form is **oes**:

Ydy'r plentyn yn yr ysgol?	<i>Is the child in the school?</i>
Oes plentyn yn yr ysgol?	<i>Is (there) a child in the school?</i>

Oes, like **mae** and **ydy**, is used with both singular and plural nouns:

Ydy'r plant yn yr ysgol?	<i>Are the children in the school?</i>
Oes plant yn yr ysgol?	<i>Are (there) children in the school?</i>

Note, however, the differences in the answer forms for singular and plural:

Ydy'r plentyn yn yr ysgol?	is answered with ydy or nac ydy
Oes plentyn yn yr ysgol?	is answered with oes or nac oes

but the plural: Ydy'r plant yn yr ysgol? is answered with **ydyn** or **nac ydyn**
while: Oes plant yn yr ysgol? is again answered with **oes** or **nac oes**

In short, questions asked with **oes** are **always** answered with **oes** for yes and **nac oes** for no. This is not the case with **ydy** questions which will vary in accordance with whether the noun is singular (in which case **ydy** or **nac ydy** is used) or plural (for which **ydyn** or **nac ydyn** should be chosen).

3.3 Ffuriau negyddol / Negative forms

Just as we saw that the addition of the letter **d** was an indicator of a negative form (2.3.3) with the different persons of the present tense, the same is true of **oes** (this **d** is the last letter of the word **nid** which is not expressed in full in the spoken language). The negative form of **oes** is therefore **does dim**:

Mae plentyn yn yr ysgol	<i>There is a child in the school</i>
Does dim plentyn yn yr ysgol	<i>There isn't a child in the school</i>
Mae plant yn yr ysgol	<i>There are children in the school</i>
Does dim plant yn yr ysgol	<i>There aren't children in the school</i>

Note the difference between the location of **dim** above, and its location with a definite subject, where it mutates to **ddim**.

Mae'r plentyn yn yr ysgol	<i>The child is in the school</i>
Dydy'r plentyn ddim yn yr ysgol	<i>The child isn't in the school</i>
Mae'r plant yn yr ysgol	<i>The children are in the school</i>
Dydy'r plant ddim yn yr ysgol	<i>The children aren't in the school</i>

3.4 Meddiant / Possession

To indicate possession, the preposition **gyda** is used (although **gan** may be used for the same purpose, particularly in North Wales). The constructions shown in the previous sections are often used alongside it in the present tense:

Mae car gyda fi	<i>I have a car (lit. There is a car with me)</i>
Mae brawd gyda fe	<i>He has a brother (There is a brother with him)</i>
Oes cath gyda chi?	<i>Do you have a cat? (Is there a cat with you?)</i>
Oes ci gyda hi?	<i>Does she have a dog? (Is there a dog with her?)</i>
Does dim arian gyda'r dyn	<i>The man doesn't have money</i>
Dydy'r arian ddim gyda'r dyn	<i>The man doesn't have the money</i>

3.5 Rhagor am bwyslais / More about emphasis

We saw in 2.3.2 that emphasis in Welsh affects not only word order but also sometimes the form of the verb used, e.g.:

Mae Tom yn athro	<i>Tom is a teacher</i>
Athro ydy Tom	<i>Tom is a teacher</i>

As illustrated in the examples above, emphasis is normally indicated by **moving the element we wish to emphasise to the front**. We shall now look at this in greater detail.

In the sentence ***Gareth is a doctor***, ***Gareth*** is the **subject** of the sentence, ***is*** is the **verb**, and ***doctor*** is the **complement**. As noted in 3.1 above, there is no word in Welsh for a or an.

In a standard neutral sentence in Welsh (i.e., one without any emphasis), the verb comes first, followed by the subject and then the complement. However, when the complement is a **noun**, the word **yn** is placed before it and causes soft mutation, like so:

Mae Gareth yn feddyg	<i>Gareth is a doctor</i>
----------------------	---------------------------

This exact same pattern is followed if the complement is an **adjective**, for example:

Mae Gareth yn dawel	<i>Gareth is quiet</i>
---------------------	------------------------

As shown above, if we place **emphasis on the complement** by moving it to the front, we no longer use **yn** and the verb changes from **mae** to **ydy** (or **yw**):

Meddyg ydy Gareth	<i>Gareth is a doctor</i>
Tawel ydy Gareth	<i>Gareth is quiet</i>

What we have not yet done is placed **emphasis on the subject** (in this case ***Gareth***). As is the norm in Welsh, we move the emphasised element to the front. However, when we emphasise the subject in the present tense, the verb once again changes. But this time, from **mae** to **sy** (or, less often, its more formal full-length version **sydd**), which is yet another special form of the present tense. Here are some examples:

Mae Gareth yn feddyg	<i>Gareth is a doctor</i> (no emphasis)
Gareth sy'n feddyg	<i>Gareth</i> <i>is a doctor</i> (subject emphasised)
Mae Gareth yn dawel	<i>Gareth is quiet</i> (no emphasis)
Gareth sy'n dawel	<i>Gareth</i> <i>is quiet</i> (subject emphasised)

Where **sy** has been used, this kind of emphasis tells us that *it is Gareth **who is** a doctor* (not someone else) or *it is Gareth **who is** quiet* (not someone else), and **sy** can indeed be used with the meaning **who is** in this way in sentences like:

Dyma'r dyn sy'n gweithio heno	<i>This is the man who is working tonight</i>
-------------------------------	---

As can be seen, it is therefore possible to emphasise virtually any part of a Welsh sentence by moving it to the front:

Mae Gareth yn feddyg	<i>Gareth is a doctor</i>
Meddyg ydy Gareth	<i>Gareth is a doctor</i>
Gareth sy'n feddyg	<i>Gareth</i> <i>is a doctor</i>

Nevertheless, care should be taken when moving words which are not nouns or adjectives to the front, such as verb-nouns or prepositions, as these do **not** cause the verb to change. Look at the examples below which have all moved the parts of the sentence being emphasised from the end to the beginning:

Mae Gareth yn feddyg	<i>Gareth is a doctor</i>
Meddyg yd y Gareth	<i>Gareth is a doctor</i> (noun emphasised)

Mae Gareth yn dawel	<i>Gareth is quiet</i>
Tawel yd y Gareth	<i>Gareth is quiet</i> (adjective emphasised)

but:	Mae Gareth yn gweithio	<i>Gareth is working</i>
becomes:	Gweithio mae Gareth	<i>Gareth is working</i> (verbnoun emphasised)

similarly:	Mae Gareth wrth y drws	<i>Gareth is at the door</i>
becomes:	Wrth y drws mae Gareth	<i>Gareth is at the door</i> (prepositional phrase emphasised)

To summarise, there are **four** present tense forms of the verb to be which can be used with nouns according to circumstances, these are **mae**, **yd**y (or **yw**), **oes** and **sy** (or **sydd**).

3.6 Gofyn ac ateb cwestiynau / Asking and answering questions

When a verb is used to ask a question (i.e. when the first word of the question is a verb) then a verb is also used to answer it, for example:

Ydy Gareth yn feddyg	Ydy / Nac ydy
Ydy'r arian gyda chi?	Ydy / Nac ydy
Oes Ford Fiesta gyda chi?	Oes / Nac oes
Ydyn nhw'n byw yng Nghymru?	Ydyn / Nac ydyn

It can also be seen that the answer form varies to match the person.

Emphatic sentences place words in a particular order for a specific reason, and so that word order must be retained. If we wish to ask an **emphatic question**, the words are kept in the same order as in a statement, but with tone of voice altered in speech, and a question mark added in writing. As no emphatic questions start with a verb, they are all answered with **le** for yes and **Nage** for no. Below are the above questions asked with emphasis and answered:

Meddyg ydy Gareth?	le / Nage
Gyda chi mae'r arian?	le / Nage
Ford Fiesta sy gyda chi?	le / Nage
Yng Nghymru maen nhw'n byw?	le / Nage

To turn emphatic statements into the negative, **nid** (or sometimes **dim**) is placed at the front:

Nid meddyg ydy Gareth	<i>Gareth is not a doctor</i>
Nid yng Nghymru maen nhw'n byw	<i>They don't live in Wales</i>