

Cymraeg (Welsh)



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Intro to Welsh

Welsh is a celtic language both spoken and originating in Wales

Welsh in Welsh is Cymraeg [k^həmra:ig]

538,000 fluent speakers in UK and +550,000 worldwide

900,000 total speakers (fluent and non-fluent) (Welsh Gov 2022)

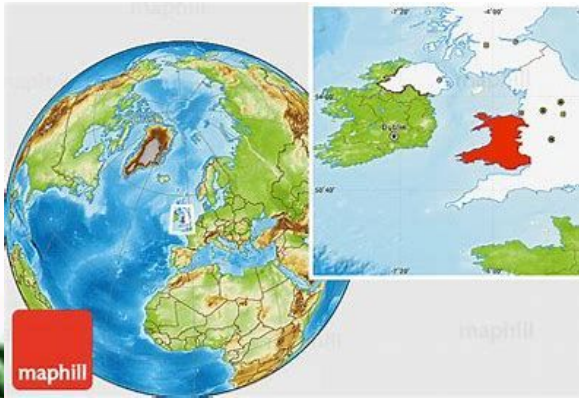
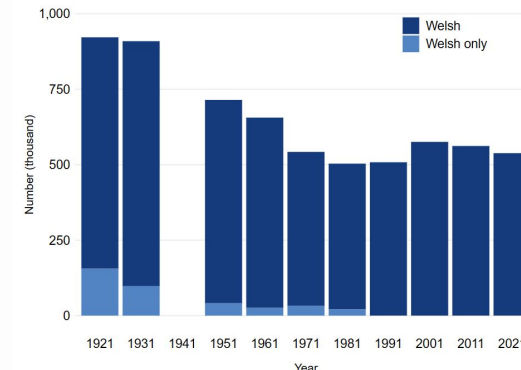


Chart 2: Number of people aged three years or older able to speak Welsh, 1921 to 2021



Dialects of Cymraeg

Gwyndodeg - north-west Wales

Powyseg - northern mid Wales and north-east Wales

Dyfedeg - south-west Wales

Gwenhwyseg - south-east Wales

Main divide is North (Gog) and South (Hwntw) but has become more blurred in recent years

(Ethnologue)(Omniglot)

Phonology

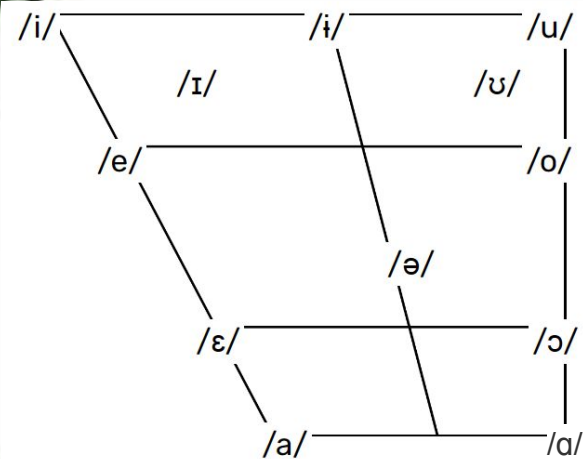
Diphthongs (*Deuseiniau*)

	ae	ai	au	aw	ei	eu	ew	ey
North	[ɑi]	[ai]	[ai]	[au/ɑu]	[ɛi]	[ɛi]	[ɛu/ɛu]	[ɛi]
South	[ai]	[ai]	[ai]	[au]	[ɛi]	[ɛi]	[ɛu]	[ɛi]
	iw	oe	oi	ou	ow	uw	wy	yw
North	[iu]	[ɔi/ɔi]	[ɔi]	[ɔi/ɔi]	[ɔu]	[iu]	[ui/u:i]	[iu/əu]
South	[iu]	[ɔi]	[ɔi]	[ɔi]	[ɔu]	[iu]	[ui]	[iu/əu]

		Bilabial	Labiodental	Dental	Alveolar	Postalveolar	Palatal	Velar	Glottal
Stops	voiceless	p			t			k	
	voiced	b			d			g	
Fricatives	voiceless		f	θ	s	ʃ		x	h
	voiced		v	ð	z				
Affricates	voiceless					tʃ			
	voiced					dʒ			
Nasals	voiceless							ŋ	
	voiced	m			n				
Lateral	fricative				ɬ				
	approximant				l				
Trill	voiceless				ʀ				
	voiced				r				
Approximant		w					j		

(Omniglot)(Must Go)(King 2015)(BBC 2002)

Vowels



(Must go)(Omniglot)

Short vowels (*Llafariaid fyr*)

	a	e	i	o	u	w	y
North	[a]	[ɛ]	[ɪ]	[ɔ]	[i]	[ʊ]	[i/ə]
South	[a]	[ɛ]	[ɪ]	[ɔ]	[ɪ]	[ʊ]	[ɪ/ə]

Long vowels (*Llafariaid hir*)

	â	ê	î	ô	û	ŵ	ŷ
North	[ɑ:]	[e:]	[i:]	[o:]	[i:]	[u:]	[i/ə]
South	[ɑ:]	[e:]	[i:]	[o:]	[i:]	[u:]	[i/ə]

Morphology

Morpheme based morphology

Free morphemes and bound morphemes

Mae-'ch	llyfr-au	ar	y	bwrdd
is.AUX.PRS-2SG.POSS.ADJ	Book-PL	on	DET.ART	table
Your books are on the table				

Cas is the free morpheme with -ed, -ach, -af the bound

cas, nasty; cased, as nasty; casach, nastier; casaf, nastiest

(BBC 2002)(King 2015)(Geiriadur yr Academi)

Mutations

(King 2015)

(BBC 2002)

Initial	Soft (<i>meddal</i>)	Nasal (<i>tnwynol</i>)	Aspirate (<i>llaes</i>)
c [k]	g [g]	ngh [ŋ̊]	ch [χ]
p [p]	b [b]	mh [m̥]	ph [f]
t [t]	d [d]	nh [n̥]	th [θ]
g [g]	(disappears)	ng [ŋ]	
b [b]	f [v]	m [m]	
d [d]	dd [ð]	n [n]	
ll [l̪]	l [l]		
m [m]	f [v]		
rh [r̥]	r [r]		

Syntax

Welsh follows Verb-Subject-Object sentence order

The man	opened	the door
[subj.]	[verb]	[obj.]
Agorodd	y dyn	y drws
<i>Opened</i>	<i>the man</i>	<i>the door</i>
[verb]	[subj.]	[obj.]

1	2	3	
(a) Mae	'ch llyfrau	ar y bwrdd	
Your books are on the table			[neutral statement]
1	2	3	
(b) Ar y bwrdd mae	'ch llyfrau		
Your books are <i>on the table</i>			[focused element italic]

Agor-odd	y	dyn	y	drws
open-PL	DET.ART	Man	DET.ART	door
Opened	the	man	the	door

(King 2015)(BBC 2002)

Sociolinguistics and History

6th century origins

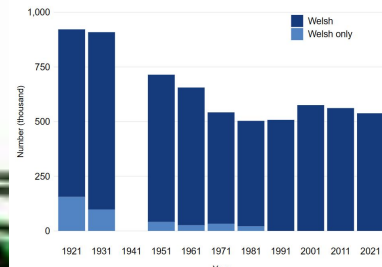
Not an equal language

Frowned upon

Welsh language education (Gov.Wales 2022)(Gov.Wales 2020)



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Sources

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