

A guide to pronunciation

The Welsh alphabet is a bit different to the English with some extra letters and a few which are missing. Most significantly you will see several double-character letters. These take up one space in a crossword or wordsearch square, and you'll need to take care when looking them up in the dictionary too.

The language is phonetic, which means that once you have practiced the sounds, you can be confident of how to pronounce individual letters and combinations when you read a new word. Use the guide below to help.

b as in ball c always hard – never as in cypher ch like bach or loch, never as in challenge d as in den dd like these, those, that not as in thanks e open, like air f pronounced as v as in vehicle ff hard f as in fabulous g always hard as in garden, never soft as in gentle ng a sound like the ng in singing h as in handle i as in pig and peek, not as in crime j as in jam l as in lamb ll place tip of tongue behind the front top teeth, keep it there, and blow softly out! m as in night o as in orange not as in blow p as in pin ph as in elephant r rolled if possible rh as r, but instead of sound behind made by the vocal chords, it is made by the breath s as in sound t as in tiger th as in thanks not as in these				
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t as in <i>tiger</i> th as in <i>thanks</i> not as in <i>these</i>		breath		
th as in thanks not as in these	S	as in sound		
	t	as in tiger		
u as in pin or teen	th	as in thanks not as in these		
	u	as in <i>pin</i> or teen		
w as in blue	W	as in blue		
y as in cut, kit or keen	у	as in cut, kit or keen		



Here are the vowels by themselves

A	as in mam rather than ate
E	open, like <i>air</i>
I	as in <i>pig</i> and <i>peek</i> , not as in <i>crime</i>
0	as in <i>orange</i> not as in <i>blow</i>
U	as in <i>pin</i> or teen
W	as in blue
Y	as in cut, kit or keen

Sometimes we find two vowels next to each other – a diphthong. The best way to try to pronounce these is to take the individual letters and say them clearly but seamlessly moving into each other. See below for a guide

ai, ae, au	as in <i>cry</i>
aw	as in <i>proud</i>
eu, ei, ey	as in <i>pay</i>
ew	as in <i>oh no!</i> with a Scouse accent.
oe, oi, ou	as in toy
ow	as in own
uw	as in <i>you</i>
wy	as in oi! said by a Cockney
yw	as in you or ew!

Don't let uncertainty about pronunciation put you off having a go at saying something in Welsh to another person. The best way to get used to the sounds is by practicing saying them and listening to lots of spoken Welsh on radio, television or your daily life.

Pob lwc!