

Welsh

Classroom language

Good morning

bore da

/bo:re:da:/

Very good

da iawn

/da:ja:wn/

Thank you

diolch

/di:olx/

Numbers

un

one

/i:n/

dau

two

/dai/

tri

three

/tri:/

pedwar

four

/pedwa:r/

pump

five

/pɪmp/

Nouns

pensil

pencil

/pensil/

pensiliau

pencils

/pensiliai/

cadair

chair

/kadair/

caeiriau

chairs

/kade:riai/

llyfr

book

/lɛvr/

llyfrau

books

/lɛvrai/

NOTES

Welsh pronunciation is regular and therefore easy; once you know which letters make which sounds, that's how they always are, with no irregularities or silent letters.

Some particular sounds worth noting:

"f" is always pronounced as English "v"

"ff" is always pronounced as English "f"

"c" is always pronounced as English "k"

"d" is always pronounced the same as in English

"dd" is always pronounced as English "th" (voiced, ie as in "this" and "that")

"ch" is always pronounced as in German "Bach", a sound which does not occur in English except in interjections like "Ach!"

It might well be worth struggling with the Welsh "ll" sound; it can be good fun but it's also an illustration of how very tough it can be for a learner (of any language) confronting sounds which are not known in his or her own language - a bit of insight that all language teachers should be reminded of every now and again.

If you want to use the "ll" you will need to practise it first. This is how it's produced:

- curl the tip of the tongue back and place it firmly on the hard palate a little way behind the alveolar ridge
- open the mouth part way, keeping the tongue in place
- expel air making sure it passes through the mouth either side of the tongue; do not allow the voice box to vibrate - this is unvoiced.

Gareth Rodrick-Jones
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