



Welsh (solutions)

-Anand Natarajan

Below are given some sentences in the Welsh language¹ along with their translations in English. Using these sentences, complete the assignments below. Remember to show your work.

- | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Mae e'n siarad Cymraeg. | <i>He speaks Welsh.</i> |
| 2. Oes cyfrifiadur gyda ti? | <i>Do you have a computer?</i> |
| 3. Mae hi wedi clywed yr araith. | <i>She has heard the speech.</i> |
| 4. Dw i'n dysgu Sbaeneg | <i>I am learning Spanish.</i> |
| 5. Mae car newydd gyda hi. | <i>She has a new car.</i> |
| 6. Wyt ti wedi clywed y newyddion? | <i>Have you heard the news?</i> |
| 7. Mae Owain ar siarad. | <i>Owain is about to speak.</i> |
| 8. Wyt ti'n astudio ffiseg. | <i>You are studying physics.</i> |
| 9. Yw e'n bywta caws? | <i>Is he eating cheese?</i> |
| 10. Dw i heb siarad. | <i>I haven't spoken</i> |

Assignment 1: Translate the following sentences into Welsh:

- Are you learning Welsh?
 - Wyt ti'n dysgu Cymraeg?*
- He has not studied Spanish.
 - Mae e heb astudio Sbaeneg.*
- She is listening to the news.
 - Mae hi'n clywed y newyddion.*

Assignment 2: How are verb tenses expressed in Welsh?

In the given sentences, verb tenses are expressed not through endings on the verbs but through words called “tense markers” placed before the verb. Each of the given Welsh sentences has the following word order: *Auxiliary Pronoun Tense Verb Object*. The auxiliary verb and pronoun express the person and gender of the subject. The forms are:

Dw i – 1st person singular

Wyt ti – 2nd person singular

Mae e – 3rd person singular masculine

Mae hi – 3rd person singular feminine

The auxiliary also has a special form in the third person for questions – *yw*.

¹ The Welsh language is a member of the Celtic branch of the Indo-European family. It is spoken by about 744,000 people in the United Kingdom and 25,000 in Argentina.



World Language Club

The tense markers are *n* – present progressive (“I am doing”), *wedi* – perfect tense (“I have done”), *ar* – future tense (“I am about to do”), *heb* – negation of *wedi* (“I have not done”)

Assignment 3 (Extra credit): What do you think the word “gyda” might mean?

The word *gyda* literally means “with.” Thus, the sentence *Mae car newydd gyda hi* literally means “There exists a new car with her.” In this case, the auxiliary verb *mae* literally means “it exists.” In this meaning, it has a special form used in questions – *oes*. This type of construction to express “have” is fairly common among the world’s languages.