



How do I start learning Welsh?

So you're interested in the Welsh language, but aren't sure where to start? Read on for some suggestions.

The best way to learn another language is in the classroom, where you can receive instruction from a reliable teacher and practice with your fellow students.

...in Wales If you live in Wales, finding a class is easy—check with local colleges, adult continuing education programs, regional Welsh centers, and organizations such as Cymdeithas y Dysgwyr.

...in the U.K. and North America Though it won't be quite as widespread as in Wales, colleges and Welsh societies are still the way to go. In addition, you can check for national organizations such as Cymdeithas Madog (U.S./Canada) or Cymdeithas y Dysgwyr (U.K.), which organize classes and services for learners on a larger scale. You can also enroll in a residential course in Wales and immerse yourself in the language!

...in other countries Local Welsh societies are as widespread as Dubai and Japan. Look around; you might find a Welsh society in your area. Local universities and colleges may offer Welsh courses in Linguistics or Celtic Studies departments. You can also visit the nearest British Council office—they provide information about local resources, studying in the U.K., and more. They can also help you research distance learning—courses by mail or computer—and residential courses in Wales.

What if I don't have access to classes?

If you don't have access to classes, there are a handful of ways to learn Welsh on your own—and you may want to avail yourself of more than one of them!

...distance learning As mentioned above, there are a few Welsh courses available by mail or via the computer, one of the most notable from the University of Lampeter in South West Wales. You can earn college credit for some distance learning courses.

...**online learning** If you have internet access there are free online lessons available from the BBC and a few Welsh universities. Online resources can be quite comprehensive and include sound files, bulletin boards, and even homework! And don't forget all the practice you can get reading websites in Welsh or listening to Radio Cymru.

...**CD-ROM software** Several companies sell interactive Welsh programs for the beginning student. All you need is a computer!

...**books and audio** If you don't have a computer or regular online access, you can still order books and CDs or cassettes—online, by mail-order, or via a local bookseller. Book lists with ISBN numbers can be found on several websites. You can also use the resources of the British Council office to obtain catalogs from the Welsh Books Council.

This document is for general guidance only, to help you get started learning Welsh. The suggestions herein do not constitute endorsement by Cymdeithas Madog of the books or web sites included.

Pob hwyl gyda'r dysgu! ~ Good luck studying!

Resources for Learning Welsh

Books

Basic Welsh by Gareth King. Routledge, London, 1996
ISBN 0-415-12096-9

Beginner's Welsh by Heini Gruffudd. Hippocrene Books, New York, 1998
ISBN 0-7818-0589-9

Pocket Modern Welsh Dictionary ed. by Gareth King. Oxford University Press, 2000.
ISBN 0-19-864531-7

Y Geiriadur Mawr: The Complete Welsh–English English–Welsh Dictionary by H. Meurig Evans and W. O. Thomas. Llandysul: Gwasg Gomer, 1958, revised 1968.
ISBN 0-85088-462-4
or Swansea: Christopher Davies, ISBN 0-7154-0543-8

Teach Yourself Welsh by Julie Brake and Christine Jones. London: Hodder and Stoughton (*Teach Yourself* series), 2000.
ISBN 0-340-77969-1
2 Cassettes: ISBN 0-340-77971-3
Book and 2 Cassettes: ISBN 0-340-77970-5

Useful Websites

Gwybodiadur

<http://www.gwybodiadur.co.uk/>

An excellent place to find lists of books, software, online resources, mailing lists, and tips on getting started learning Welsh.

Cymdeithas Madog

<http://www.madog.org/>

The Welsh Studies Institute in North America, Inc., provides online information for Welsh learners throughout the world and holds a yearly week-long course in North America.

The British Council

<http://www.britishcouncil.org/>

With offices in numerous countries worldwide, the British Council can help you find Welsh-language resources and explore different options for learning.

BBC Learn Welsh

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/wales/learnwelsh/>

This comprehensive site has a huge database of online lessons, sound files, a dictionary, online vocab tools, and much more for learners from beginning to advanced.

Clwb Malu Cachu

<http://www.clwbmalucachu.co.uk/>

Here you can find fun grammar "cheat sheets", learning resources, and a lively online community of learners.

Online Welsh Classes from University of Wales, Lampeter

<http://welsh.lamp.ac.uk/Department/English/>

Find out how to take university-level Welsh courses from anywhere in the world.

E-Wlpan Course from University of Wales, Swansea

<http://www.swan.ac.uk/dace/e-wlpan/>

An online interactive course with sound files, quizzes, and more.

Clic Clic Cymraeg

<http://www.menai.ac.uk/clicclic/>

Another online introductory course, this time from Coleg Menai in North Wales.

Gwales – Welsh Books Council

<http://www.gwales.com/>

From this site, you can browse and order books in Welsh and English—it's a great place to find your beginning Welsh books.

Mark Nodine's Welsh Course

<http://www.cs.cf.ac.uk/fun/welsh/>

A free online course for beginners with a searchable lexicon of vocabulary.

Welsh for Adults

<http://www.bangor.ac.uk/ced/wfa/index.htm>

Welsh classes from the Dept. of Lifelong Learning at the University of Wales, Bangor.