

C. Ansoddeiriau - Adjectives

1. Nearly all adjectives **follow** the noun in Welsh.
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| e.g. a small / little boy | - | bachgen bach |
| a big / large car | - | car mawr |
| a high mountain | - | mynydd uchel |
| a long film | - | ffilm hir |

There are a few exceptions to this rule - '**hen**' (*old*), '**hoff**' (*favourite*) and '**prif**' (*main / chief*) are three of them.

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| e.g. an old man | - | hen ddyn |
| favourite food | - | hoff fwyd |
| main character | - | prif gymeriad |

You'll notice that by standing in front of the noun they cause the noun to undergo a Soft Mutation. See *S.M. rule 8*.

2. When an adjective follows a singular, feminine noun it undergoes a Soft Mutation. See *S.M. rule 7*.

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| e.g. merch fach | - | a little girl |
| cadair fawr | - | a large chair |
| siop dd iddorol | - | an interesting shop |
| ysgol dda | - | a good school |

Sometimes another noun can be used as an adjective or a descriptive word

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| e.g. siop fara | - | bread shop (baker's) |
| siop gig | - | meat shop (butcher's) |

3. When an adjective stands alone in a sentence (i.e. it doesn't stand next to the noun it describes) the linking word '**yn**' is used in front of it.

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| e.g. The bus is early . | - | Mae'r bws yn gynnar . |
| The car isn't old . | - | Dydy'r car ddim yn hen . |
| The children were cold . | - | Roedd y plant yn oer . |

This word '**yn**' causes the adjective to undergo a Soft Mutation. See *S.M. rule 12*.

- e.g. The castle is **big**. - Mae'r castell **yn fawr**.
 The film is **interesting**. - Mae'r ffilm **yn ddiddorol**.
 We were **hot**. - Roedden ni'n **boeth**.

4. We can qualify our adjectives by placing '**rhy**' (*too*), '**gweddol**' (*quite / fairly*), '**eitha**' (*quite / fairly*) or '**lled**' (*quite / fairly*) between '**yn**' and the adjective. '**Gweddol**' will undergo a Soft Mutation after '**yn**' but '**rhy**' and '**lled**' will not (as **rh** and **ll** are exceptions to the rule).

The full form is '**eithaf**' but the final '**f**' is normally dropped in the spoken language. This happens in most words which end in '**f**'.

All except '**eitha**' cause the adjective which follows to undertake a Soft Mutation. See *S.M. rule 9*.

- e.g. yn **weddol dd**iddorol - fairly interesting
 yn **rhy boeth** - too hot
 yn **lled dal** - quite tall
 yn **eitha tew** - quite fat

5. Comparison of adjectives

As in English there are three methods of comparing adjectives in Welsh.

(a) The largest group - to which appropriate endings are added

tall	as tall as	taller than	the tallest
tal	mor dal â	yn dalach na	y tala (m + pl) y dala (f)
red	as red as	redder than	the reddest
coch	mor goch â	yn gochach na	y cocha (m + pl) y gocha (f)

The Equative degree can also be formed by adding the ending **-ed** to these 'short' adjectives and by placing the word '**cyn**' in front.

- e.g. mor dal â - cyn daled â
 mor goch â - cyn goched â

- (i) Notice the Soft Mutation after '**mor**' and '**cyn**'. See *S.M. rule 27*.
Note also that we do not place '**yn**' in front of either '**mor**' or '**cyn**'.

e.g. mae hi mor dal â fi
mae hi cyn daled â fi

- (ii) Notice the Soft Mutation after '**yn**'. See *S.M. rule 28*.

e.g. mae hi'n dalach na fi
mae rum yn gryfach na gwin

- (iii) Notice the Soft Mutation after '**y**' in the Superlative degree when it refers to a feminine noun. See *S.M. rule 29*.

John oedd y tala
Ann oedd y dala

- (iv) Notice the Aspirate Mutation after both '**â**' and '**na**'.
See *A.M. rules 8 and 9*.

e.g. mor dal **â ch**oeden / cyn daled **â ch**oeden - as tall as a tree
yn gochach **na than** - redder than fire

- (v) You'll notice a change of spelling in some adjectives when endings are added to them.

w > y

e.g. trwm (heavy)
cyn drymed â yn drymach na y tryma

- (vi) Some consonants harden

d > t g > c b > p

e.g. drud (expensive)
cyn ddruted â yn ddrutach na y druta

rhad (cheap)
cyn rhated â yn rhatach na y rhata

Also: gwlyb > gwlypach (wetter)

pwysig > pwysicach (more important)

(b) Adjectives which are too long to accommodate endings.

Most of them end in -ol, -og, -us or -gar, but not all.

interesting diddorol	as interesting as mor ddiddorol â	more interesting than yn fwy diddorol na	the most interesting y mwya diddorol (m + pl) y fwya diddorol (f)
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tasty blasus	as tasty as mor flaus â	tastier than yn fwy blasus na	the tastiest y mwya blasus (m + pl) y fwya blasus (f)
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(i) You'll notice 'long' Welsh adjectives are not necessarily 'long' in English and vice versa

(ii) One or two adjectives will follow this pattern although they are short.

e.g. swil (shy)	mor swil â	yn fwy swil na	y mwya swil (m + pl) y fwya swil (f)
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Also: gwyllt (wild), diflas (miserable, boring), gwyntog (windy)

(c) Irregular adjectives

The following are the main irregular adjectives

big great much mawr	as big as as great as as much as cymaint â	bigger than greater than more than yn fwy na	the biggest the greatest the most y mwya (m + pl) y fwya (f)
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small little bach	as small as as little as cyn lleied â	smaller than less than yn llai na	the smallest the least y lleia (m + f + pl)
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good da	as good as cystal â	better than yn well na	the best y gorau (m + pl) yr orau (f)
bad drwg	as bad as cynddrwg â	worse than yn waeth na	the worst y gwaetha (m + pl) y waetha (f)
high uchel	as high as cyfuwch â	higher than yn uwch na	the highest yr ucha (m + f + pl)
low isel	as low as cyn ised â	lower than yn is na	the lowest yr isa (m + f + pl)
near agos	as near as cyn agosed â	nearer than yn nes na	the nearest yr agosa (m + f + pl)

(i) In the Equative degree the following forms are also acceptable

cymaint â	-	mor fawr â
cyn lleied â	-	mor fach â
cynddrwg â	-	mor ddrwg â
cyfuwch â	-	mor uchel â
cyn ised â	-	mor isel â
cyn agosed â	-	mor agos â

(ii) In the Comparative degree the following form is also acceptable

yn nes na	-	yn agosach na
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(d) Notice that we use **'â'** and **'na'** in front of words which begin with a consonant and **'ag'** and **'nag'** in front of words which begin with a vowel.

e.g.	cyn dewed â mochyn	-	as fat as a pig
	cyn dewed ag eliffant	-	as fat as an elephant

	yn fwy cymylog na ddoe	-	cloudier than yesterday
	yn fwy cymylog nag echdoe	-	cloudier than the day before yesterday

There is an Aspirate Mutation after both **'â'** and **'na'**.
See *A.M. rules 8 and 9*.

e.g. mor fynyddig â Chymru - as mountainous as Wales
 yn dalach na choeden - taller than a tree

- (e) Sentences containing either the Comparative and Equative degree follow the normal sentence pattern, with the verb at the beginning of the sentence.

e.g. Mae'r llyfrgell mor bell (cyn belled) â'r orsaf.
 - The library is as far as the station.
 Ydy tŷ Tom cymaint â thy Bill?
 - Is Tom's house as big as Bill's house?

Roedd Tom yn dalach na Bill.
 - Tom is taller than Bill.
 Mae'r ferch yn dewach na'r bachgen.
 - The girl is fatter than the boy.

But when we use the Superlative degree of the adjective we must use the **emphatic** pattern - i.e. the verb doesn't come at the beginning of the sentence.

e.g. Efrog Newydd ydy'r pella.
 - New York is the farthest.
 Castell Windsor ydy'r mwya ym Mhrydain? - Ie/Ia
 - Windsor Castle is the largest in Britain? - Yes
 Muhammed Ali oedd y gorau.
 - Muhammed Ali was the best.

Note that the verb will always be in the third person singular:

e.g. Fi ydy'r gorau. - I am the best.
 Chi ydy'r tala. - You are the tallest.
 Nhw ydy'r gwaetha. - They are the worst.
 Nhw oedd y gwaetha. - They were the worst.

In English we cannot use the Superlative degree when comparing only 2 things. We must use the Comparative degree.

e.g. Tom and Paul. Tom is **the taller**. (not 'tallest')

This rule doesn't apply in Welsh.

e.g. Tom a Paul. Tom ydy'r **tala**.