

The Mutations

One of the characteristics of the Celtic languages (which include Irish, Scots Gaelic, Breton, Manx and Cornish as well as Welsh) is that certain initial consonants suffer mutation or letter-changes in certain grammatical contexts. For example the Welsh word for Wales is **Cymru** but Welcome to Wales in Welsh is **Croeso i Gymru** . The 'C' of **Cymru** having been mutated into a 'G' because it comes after the word **i** (to), which causes the soft mutation. There are three different mutations in Welsh - soft, nasal and aspirate, so-called after the phonetic change which takes place.

Er gwybodaeth (*for future reference*):

Y Llythyren Gysefin (<i>Mutable Letter</i>)	Y Treigladd Meddal (<i>Soft Mutation</i>)	Y Treigladd Trwynol (<i>Nasal Mutation</i>)	Y Treigladd Llaes (<i>Aspirate Mutation</i>)
C	G	NGH	CH
P	B	MH	PH
T	D	NH	TH
G	Omit the 'G'	NG	No Mutation
B	F	M	No Mutation
D	DD	N	No Mutation
LL	L	No Mutation	No Mutation
M	F	No Mutation	No Mutation
RH	R	No Mutation	No Mutation