

PRONOUNCING WELSH

The ideal way for a non-Welsh speaker to sing *Blodwen* with the original Welsh lyrics would be to learn how to pronounce the sound of each consonant and vowel. Welsh is mostly a phonetic language, so this is relatively easily – there are innumerable books and websites devoted to Welsh pronunciation. If possible, practice with a Welsh-speaker.

CONSONANTS

Welsh	IPA symbol	EPV	As in + Comment
c	k	<i>k</i>	key
ch	χ	<i>CH</i>	loch - as in Scottish/German pronunciation
dd	ð	<i>th</i>	this – ‘voiced th (see also ‘th’ below)
f	v	<i>v</i>	van
ff/ph	f	<i>f</i>	far
ll	l̪	<i>LL</i>	<i>place tongue behind top teeth & blow gently</i>
ng	ŋ	<i>ng</i>	thing
ngh	ŋ̊	<i>ngh</i>	Shanghai
r	r	<i>r</i>	<i>always rolled or trilled</i>
rh	r̥	<i>HR</i>	h is aspirated before r
s	s	<i>s</i>	<i>always ‘hard’ as in ‘see’</i>
si	ʃ	<i>SH</i>	shop
th	θ	<i>TH</i>	thin - ‘unvoiced’ th (see also ‘dd’ above)
w	w	<i>w</i>	win - ‘short’ w (see also w in VOWELS below)

VOWELS (some have two slightly different sounds – see DIALECT below)

Welsh	IPA symbol	EPV	As in + Comment
a	a	<i>a</i>	can - ‘short’ a
a/â	a:	<i>ah</i>	far - ‘long’ a
e	ɛ	<i>e</i>	men
e	e:	<i>eh</i>	air
i	ɪ	<i>i</i>	pin - ‘short’ i
i/u	i:/i:	<i>ee</i>	peel - ‘long’ i + see DIALECT below
o	ɔ	<i>o</i>	top
o	o:	<i>oh</i>	raw
ô	ʊ	<i>oo</i>	moo - ‘long’ w (see also w in CONSONANTS above)
w	u	<i>u</i>	butcher
y	ə	<i>uh</i>	bun
y	ɪ:	<i>ee</i>	peel - as i/u above