



Croeso: beginners' Welsh
Welsh speakers from Patagonia

You may well have heard of the Welsh community in the south of Argentina where there are still fluent speakers of Welsh, most of whom have never visited Wales. Here is part of a conversation with two ladies from Patagonia who were in Wales recently. You're not expected to understand much of the following, but see if you can pick out a few things. As is characteristic of normal, unscripted speech, not every sentence is finished, and there are a few loose ends. Dewi asked them what they did during the year, how it is that they could speak Welsh, and what they thought of Wales and its weather. He started by asking their names and where they came from.

- E: Wel, Elvira Roberts dw i, o Esquel.
L: Ie, a Lizzie Lloyd dw i o Esquel.
D: Lle mae Esquel?
L: Mae Esquel yn Chubut, Argentina.
D: Argentina¹.
L: Yn y Patagonia² dych chi'n ddweud, yntê?
D: Ie, ie. A sut le ydy o? Ydy o ar lan y môr?
E: Nac ydy, mae o yn ... ganol y mynyddau. Ac mae o'n le tlws³ iawn. Mae o'n wyrdd. Mae'n debyg i Gymru.
D: Debyg i Gymru.
E: Mae pobl yn mynd i sgio yn y gaea.
D: A beth dych chi'n wneud yn ystod y flwyddyn yn Esquel?
L: Dyn ni wedi ymddeol
E: ... gallu mynd i'r pwll nofio. Dyn ni'n cael gwersi Cymraeg. Mae gyda ni gôr.
L: Côr o bobl wedi ymddeol.
D: A sut bod chi'n medru siarad Cymraeg a chithau'n byw mor bell?
E: Y rhan fwyaf, amser oedden ni'n fach, Cymraeg oedden nhw'n siarad yn y tŷ. Roedd nhad wedi cael ei eni fan hyn yn Gymru⁴. A wedyn pan oedden ni'n dechrau mynd i'r ysgol, roedden ni'n dysgu'r iaith Sbaeneg.
D: A beth dych chi'n feddwl o Gymru, mor bell oddi adre?
L: Wel, dyn ni'n gweld o'n wlad hyfryd. Pob peth mwy modern. (E: Ie)
... a mwy o ...
E: Pob man yn wyrdd.

L: Y bobl yn byw yn well na ... (E: siŵr o fod) na maen nhw'n byw yn yr Ariannin, dw i'n meddwl.

E: Mae'r tai i'w weld mwy cyfforddus.

L: Ydyn, ydyn.

D: A'r tywydd yn well?

L: Wel, mae'r tywydd rhywbeth tebyg i Esquel, (E: Tywydd...) ... digon o law.

E: Tywydd drwg dyn ni'n gael y tro yma. Cael mis o law.

L: Ond dyn ni'n cael lot o law yn Esquel hefyd.

This is just to give you a feel of what Welsh sounds like spoken by South Americans. We have included a translation and a few additional notes in the transcript if you're curious.

¹ This is the Spanish, not the Welsh name of the country! The Welsh name – **yr Ariannin** – comes later on in the conversation.

² The use of the article here is due to Spanish influence. In Wales you would hear **ym Mhatagonia**.

³ **tlws** is here pronounced as 'clws', as is common in Wales also.

⁴ **yn Gymru**. The soft mutation instead of the nasal one after **yn** is not uncommon in informal speech