Welsh mutants are getting stressed   *Babette Newsome*

Welsh is one of the surviving original Celtic languages, where it is spoken as a first language by approximately 20% of the population of Wales. In North Wales especially, you can hear Welsh being spoken all around. Unlike English (which has no official status in the UK), Welsh is one of the three official languages of the UK (the remaining two are the other Celtic languages, Irish in Northern Ireland and Scottish Gaelic).

All Celtic languages have what is known as "mutations" – this is where the initial letter of a word changes depending on how it is used in a sentence. Welsh's mutations can be challenging for a learner – however, there is a logic to mutations, as you'll (hopefully) see. For example, when using the Welsh word for 'to', *i* to say 'to a place' as in 'we went to Bangor, the place name Bangor [a city in North Wales] would undergo a soft mutation: *Aethom i Fangor* 'We went to Bangor'.

Here are some Welsh nouns – in their unmutated forms – with their English translations:

Welsh	English	Welsh	English
ceffyl	horse	*darlun*	picture
tad	father	*beic*	bicycle
meddyg	doctor	*dyn*	man
bachgen	boy	*Cymru*	Wales
cath	cat	*draig*	dragon
ci	dog	*theatr*	theatre
dafad	sheep	*gardd*	garden
llyfr	book		

Here are some Welsh sentences with their English translations:

Welsh: English:

	Welsh	English
a	*Aeth Megan i Fangor.*	Megan went to Bangor.
b	*Aeth Emrys i Aberystwyth.*	Emrys went to Aberystwyth.
c	*Mae dafad yn yr ardd.*	A sheep is in the garden.
d	*Mae yn yr ardd ddafad.*	In the garden is a sheep!
e	*Mae yn Aberystwyth dad.*	In Aberystwyth is father!
f	*Mae yn Dolgellau Fegan.*	In Dolgellau is Megan!
g	*Mae Megan yn Dolgellau.*	Megan is in Dolgellau.
h	*Gwelodd Megan ddarlun.*	Megan saw a picture.
i	*Gwelodd Emrys y lyfr.*	Emrys saw the book.
j	*Gwelodd y dyn gath.*	The man saw a cat.

Note: Megan and Emrys are person's names. Aberystwyth and Dolgellau are place names.

Task 1. Below are multiple Welsh sentences for one English translation. Identify thecorrect Welsh sentence for each of the English sentences.

	English sentence	Welsh
1	In the theatre she saw a horse	a Gwelodd yn y theatr geffyl. b Gwelodd ceffyl yn y theatr. c Gwelodd yn y theatr ceffyl. d Gwelodd geffyl yn y theatr.
2	In the street, he saw a bicycle!	a Gwelodd yn y stryd beic. b Gwelodd beic yn y stryd. c Gwelodd yn y stryd feic. d Gwelodd feic yn y stryd
3	He saw a bicycle in the street.	a. Gwelodd beic yn y stryd. b Gwelodd feic yn y stryd. c Gwelodd yn y stryd beic. d Gwelodd yn y stryd feic.
4	The father saw a dog.	a Gwelodd dad gi. b Gwelodd tad gi. c Gwelodd tad ci. d Gwelodd dad ci.

Task 2. Translate the following sentences into Welsh.
Note: there is no Welsh word for 'a'.

    a. In the garden is [a] dragon!
    b. The boy saw [a] cat.
    c. The man saw [a] doctor.
    d. [A] doctor went to Wales.
    e. [A] dragon saw [a] doctor.
    f. [A] garden is in the book.