<1>Welsh mutants are getting stressed[1]

Welsh is one of the surviving original Celtic languages of Britain, 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 and Scottish Gaelic). All UK passports feature these three official languages on the title page (before the photo page).

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	ardd	garden

Here are some Welsh sentences with their English translations:

	Welsh:	English:
a	Aeth Megan i Fangor.	Megan went to Bangor.
b	Aeth Emrys i Aberystwyth.	Emrys went to Aberystwyth [city on central Welsh coast].
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 [town in North Wales] is Megan!
g	Mae Megan yn Dolgellau.	Megan is in Dolgellau.
h	Gwelodd Megan ddarlun.	Megan saw a picture.
i	Gwelodd darlun.	She saw a picture.
j	Gwelodd y dyn gath.	The man saw a cat.

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[1] Created by Babette Newsome.

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Task 1. Below are multiple Welsh sentences for one English translation. Can you identify the correct Welsh sentence for each of the English sentences?

	English sentence	Welsh translations		Correct Welsh translation: a, b, c, or d?
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 boy's father saw a dog.	a	Gwelodd dad y bachgen gi.	
		b	Gwelodd tad y bachgen gi.	
		c	Gwelodd tad y bachgen ci.	
		d	Gwelodd dad y bachgen ci.	

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

	English:	Welsh translation:
1	In the garden is [a] dragon!	
2	The boy saw [a] cat.	
3	The man saw [a] doctor.	
4	[A] doctor went to Wales.	
5	[A] dragon saw [a] doctor.	
6	[A] doctor saw [a] dragon.	