

# Dweud Yr Amser I / Telling Time I

In our modern world, **y cloc** ("the clock") is very important. It tells us when to get up, when to eat, when to be somewhere, and when to go back to bed. With this in mind, it is important that we learn how to tell the time **yn Gymraeg**. To begin, we will only be looking at saying **yr awr** ("the hour") and the quarter hours.

We often have to ask someone for the time. The basic question we need for this is:

**Faint o'r gloch ydy hi?** - What time is it? (NW)  
**Faint o'r gloch yw hi?** - What time is it? (SW)

**Yn Gymraeg**, we tell the **awr** ("hour") by counting **clychau** ("bells"). This comes from the old days when the only timepiece familiar to most people would have been the town or church clock ringing the **oriau** ("hours"). So it should come as no shock to us that "**Faint o'r gloch ydy hi?**" translates literally as "How many bells is it?".



**Faint o'r gloch ydy hi?**

## Y Clychau / The Bells

Up until now, we have seen counting using the "new" decimal based system. Unfortunately, for times and dates we use the older "base 20" system. Up to ten, there's no difference. However, from eleven on, things change. Let's look at counting the bells using this "old" system:



<b>un o'r gloch</b>	- one o'clock,
<b>dau o'r gloch</b>	- two o'clock,
<b>tri o'r gloch</b>	- three o'clock,
<b>pedwar o'r gloch</b>	- four o'clock,
<b>pump o'r gloch</b>	- five o'clock,
<b>chwech o'r gloch</b>	- six o'clock,
<b>saith o'r gloch</b>	- seven o'clock,
<b>wyth o'r gloch</b>	- eight o'clock,
<b>naw o'r gloch</b>	- nine o'clock,
<b>deg o'r gloch</b>	- ten o'clock,
<b><u>un ar ddeg</u> o'r gloch</b>	- eleven o'clock,
<b><u>deuddeg</u> o'r gloch</b>	- twelve o'clock.

Note that eleven and twelve o'clock do not use the “**un deg un**” and “**un deg dau**” that we have seen when we count most things. When telling time, we must use the older forms “**un ar ddeg**” (literally "one on ten") and “**deuddeg**” ("two on ten"). However, there is a bit of a short cut for “**deuddeg o'r gloch**”. This is:

**hanner dydd** - Noon (literally "half day")  
**hanner nos** - Midnight (literally "half night").

Here are some examples of when we might do things:

- Get up in the morning: **saith o'r gloch**
- Arrive at work: **naw o'r gloch**
- Have lunch: **deuddeg o'r gloch**
- Go home: **pump o'r gloch**
- Have supper: **chwech o'r gloch**
- Watch TV: **wyth o'r gloch**
- Go to bed: **un ar ddeg o'r gloch**



## Hanner dydd

**Tasg:** When do you do the following? Round it off to the nearest hour.

- |                          |                        |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Arrive at work/school | 2. Have a coffee break |
| 3. Leave work/school     | 4. Go to bed           |

## Quarter Hours

Now that we have seen the **awr** (“hour”), let’s take a look at the quarter hours. The quarter hours are fairly straightforward in Welsh. We use “**chwarter**” (“quarter”) for the quarter hours, and “**hanner**” for the half hour. Here is the general pattern:

<b>chwarter wedi</b> + awr	- quarter after/past + hour
<b>hanner wedi</b> + awr	- half past + hour
<b>chwarter i</b> + awr	- quarter to + hour

Unfortunately, there is a minor complication with “**chwarter i**”. The preposition “**i**” causes something called a **treigladd meddal** ("a soft mutation")<sup>1</sup> in the word following it. This is another example of how Welsh can change the first letter of a word. So when we are saying "quarter to", we must remember to make a slight change in the word for the hour. Here’s a handy table showing us how to say “chwarter to” each of the hours.

<b>Awr / Hour</b>	<b>Chwarter I / Quarter To</b>
Un o’r gloch	Chwarter i un o’r gloch
Dau o’r gloch	Chwarter i <u>dd</u> au o’r gloch
Tri o’r gloch	Chwarter i <u>dri</u> o’r gloch
Pedwar o’r gloch	Chwarter i <u>bed</u> war o’r gloch
Pump o’r gloch	Chwarter i <u>bump</u> o’r gloch
Chwech o’r gloch	Chwarter i chwech o’r gloch
Saith o’r gloch	Chwarter i saith o’r gloch
Wyth o’r gloch	Chwarter i wyth o’r gloch
Naw o’r gloch	Chwarter i naw o’r gloch
Deg o’r gloch	Chwarter i <u>ddeg</u> o’r gloch
Un ar ddeg o’r gloch	Chwarter i un ar ddeg o’r gloch
Deuddeg o’r gloch	Chwarter i <u>ddeuddeg</u> o’r gloch

Fortunately for us, “**wedi**” does not cause any mutation. So the words for the hour don’t change after “**chwarter wedi** and “**hanner wedi**”. Lucky us. For example:

- |                                     |                       |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Tri o’r gloch                       | - Three o’clock       |
| Chwarter wedi tri o’r gloch         | - Quarter after three |
| Hanner wedi tri o’r gloch           | - Half past three     |
| Chwarter i <u>bed</u> war o’r gloch | - Quarter to four     |
| Pedwar o’r gloch                    | - Four o’clock        |

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<sup>1</sup> A soft mutation causes “P” to become “B”, “D” to become “Dd”, “T” to become “D” and many other changes besides. We will look at soft mutations in detail later. For the moment, simply learn that we have special forms of the hour when we are saying “**chwarter i**”.



In order to see more clearly how to tell the time, let's have a look at a few simple examples. And watch for the letter change following "i".

chwarter wedi saith o'r gloch  
hanner wedi dau o'r gloch  
chwarter i ddeg o'r gloch  
chwarter wedi tri o'r gloch  
hanner wedi un o'r gloch  
chwarter i dri o'r gloch

- quarter after 7 o'clock  
- half past 2 o'clock  
- quarter to 10 o'clock  
- quarter past 3 o'clock  
- half past 1 o'clock  
- quarter to 3 o'clock

## Hanner wedi saith o'r gloch

**Tasg:** Give the time **yn Gymraeg** when you do the following. If you do not do a task, just make up a time.

**Pryd dach chi'n ... / Pryd dych chi'n ...**

1. **Codi yn y bore**/Get up in the morning.
2. **Cael brecwast**/Have breakfast.
3. **Mynd i'r gwaith**/Go to work.
4. **Cael cinio**/Have lunch.
5. **Cael swper**/Have supper.
6. **Edrych ar eich hoff raglen deledu chi**/Watch your favourite TV show.
7. **Mynd i'r gwely**/Go to bed.

## About & Nearly

We will return in the future to look at the minutes between the quarter hours. This has a few little intricacies that we don't want to worry about at this point. However, there are a few words to get around the problem of not being able to say "25 minutes past three":

<b>tua</b>	- about
<b>bron</b>	- almost/nearly
<b>newydd droi</b>	- just turned
<b>toc wedi</b>	- just past



Let's see how we might use this to get around the need to be exact about the time. Here are a few examples:

### **Tua deg o'r gloch!**

bron hanner wedi pump o'r gloch.  
tua deg o'r gloch.  
newydd droi wyth o'r gloch.  
toc wedi saith o'r gloch

- Almost half past five o'clock  
- About ten o'clock.  
- Just turned eight o'clock.  
- Just after seven o'clock.

**Tasg:** Say when you do the following. Don't be specific (e.g., "about", "just after", etc).

- |    |       |    |      |    |      |
|----|-------|----|------|----|------|
| 1. | 10:02 | 2. | 6:58 | 3. | 4:32 |
| 4. | 8:43  | 5. | 8:47 | 6. | 3:25 |

# Taflen Waith

A. Say when you do the following

1. Get up in the morning
2. Have breakfast
3. Leave for work or school
4. Have a coffee break
5. Have lunch
6. Leave work or school
7. Arrive home
8. Have supper
9. Watch TV
10. Got to bed