

# Trafod Plant II / Discussing Children II

In the first lesson in this series, we looked at how to say that we have children. Our syntax there was:

Saesneg English	Cymraeg Y Gogledd North Welsh	Cymraeg Y De South Welsh
I have a son	Mae gen i <u>f</u> ab	Mae mab ‘da fi
I have a daughter	Mae gen i <u>f</u> erch	Mae merch ‘da fi
I have children	Mae gen i <u>b</u> lant	Mae plant ‘da fi
We have a son	Mae gynnon ni <u>f</u> ab	Mae mab ‘da ni
We have a daughter	Mae gynnon ni <u>f</u> erch	Mae merch ‘da ni
We have children	Mae gynnon ni <u>b</u> lant	Mae plant ‘da ni.

**Yn y wers ‘ma** (“in this lesson”), we are going to begin looking at saying how many children we have. We saw a little bit about counting when we were discussing drinks and talking about our telephone numbers. However, in this lesson, we’re going to take it one step further and look at counting children.

## One Potato, Two Potato

Before we can start counting things, we have to know a few simple rules about nouns **yn Gymraeg** (“in Welsh”). Here are the main points we will want to remember:

1. **Yn Gymraeg** (“in Welsh”), just as in French, there are two types of nouns:
  - There are **enwau gwrywaidd** (“masculine nouns”).
  - There are **enwau benywaidd** (“feminine nouns”).



**Masculine nouns?**  
**Feminine nouns?**

Masculine nouns? Feminine nouns? Yes, it's just one more complication we must handle when learning Welsh. However, it's not all that difficult once we get the hang of it.

So how do we tell the gender of a noun? Well, sometimes it's obvious. For example, “**mab**” (“son”) is a masculine noun, while “**merch**” (“daughter”) is a feminine noun. However, sometimes it's not so obvious. For example, “**Plentyn**” (“child”) is also a masculine noun (even when the child is a girl). Unfortunately, there is no hard and fast rule to tell whether a noun is a masculine noun or a feminine noun<sup>1</sup>. Therefore, as we learn new words, we must learn their gender too.

2. **Yn Gymraeg** (“in Welsh”), we count using the singular of the noun (and not the plural as in English). For example, when we count “sons” in Welsh, we are going to count “one son”, “two son”, “three son”, “four son”, “five son”, etc.

With this in mind, let's count sons, daughters and children:

Number	Sons	Daughters	Children
one	mab	merch	plentyn
two	dau <u>fab</u> *	dwy <u>ferch</u> *	dau <u>blentyn</u>
three	tri mab	tair merch	tri plentyn
four	pedwar mab	pedair merch	pedwar plentyn
five	pum mab	pum merch	pum plentyn
six	chwe mab	chwe merch	chwe plentyn
seven	saith mab	saith merch	saith plentyn
eight	wyth mab	wyth merch	wyth plentyn
nine	naw mab	naw merch	naw plentyn

There's a couple things to note when counting in Welsh:

1. There are two ways to say “two”, “three” and “four”. When counting masculine nouns (such as “**mab**”), we use “**dau**”, “**tri**” and “**pedwar**”. When counting feminine nouns (such as “**merch**”), we use “**dwy**”, “**tair**” and “**pedair**”.

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<sup>1</sup> This is further complicated in that some nouns are masculine in one area of Wales and feminine in another.

2. Both “**dau**” and “**dwy**” produce those strange mutations. In our case, “**M**” became “**F**” and “**P**” became “**B**”. That’s why it’s “**dau fab**”, “**dwy ferch**” and “**dau blentyn**”. We have seen this before with “**un deg un**” for “11” but “**dau ddeg un**” for “21”. Again, don’t worry too much about these letter changes.

Now we’re ready to say how many sons, daughters and children we have. Recall that our syntax to say that we “have” something is:

**Mae gen i ...** - I have ... (NW)

**Mae ... ‘da fi**<sup>2</sup> - I have ... (SW)

**Mae gynnon ni ...** - We have ... (NW)

**Mae ... ‘da ni** - We have ... (SW)

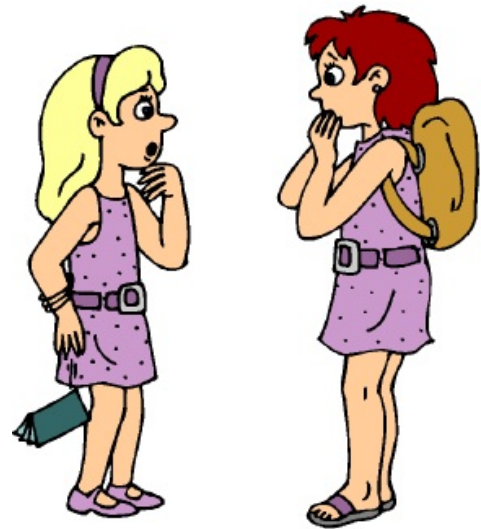
And remember that both “**gen i**” and “**gynnon ni**” can cause one of those strange mutations where the first letter of the word following it can change. We’ll underline all examples of this letter change in the examples below.

## Rhifio Plant / Counting Children

Here are some examples of saying how many children we have.

Mae dau <u>fab</u> ‘da fi.	- I have two sons.
Mae gen i <u>dair</u> merch.	- I have three daughters.
Mae pedair merch ‘da fi.	- I have four daughters.
Mae gen i <u>dri</u> mab.	- I have three sons.
Mae pump mab ‘da fi.	- I have five sons.
Mae gen i <u>bum</u> merch.	- I have five daughters.

And as families can include both sons and daughters, we can get a mixture. Here are a few examples:



**Mae gynnon ni ddwy  
ferch!**

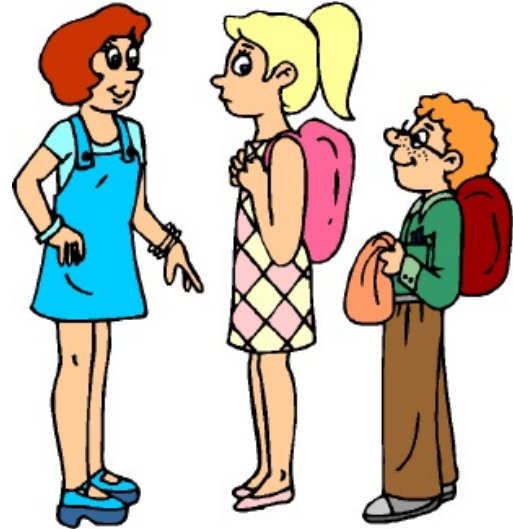
<sup>2</sup> In normal speech, we often contract “**gyda**” to just “**‘da**” and say “**Mae ... ‘da fi**”.

Mae dau fab a tair merch 'da ni.  
Mae gynnon ni dri mab a dwy ferch.  
Mae merch a dau fab 'da fi.  
Mae gen i ferch a mab.

- We have two sons and three daughters.  
- We have three sons and two daughters.  
- I have a daughter and two sons.  
- I have a daughter and a son.

**Tasg:** Cyfieithwch y brawddegau a ganlyn /  
Translate the following sentences:

1. I have two daughters.
2. We have three sons.
3. I have five children.
4. We have two sons.
5. I have a son and a daughter.
6. We have three daughters and two sons.
7. I have a daughter and six sons.
8. We have four sons and four daughters.
9. I have four children.
10. We have two children.



**Mae dwy ferch a mab  
'da ni!**

## Dim Plant / No Children

For those of us who don't have any children, the key phrase here is:

**Does gen i ddim plant** - I don't have any children (NW)  
**Does dim plant gyda fi** - I don't have any children (SW)

**Does gynnon ni ddim plant** - We don't have any children (NW)  
**Does dim plant gyda ni** - We don't have any children (SW)

**Tasg:** Sawl blentyn sy gynnoch chi? / How many children do you have?

# Taflen Waith

**Cyfieithwch** (translate) the following sentences. To make things simple, choose one particular dialect (either North or South) and stick to it.

1. We have a son.
2. I have two daughters.
3. We have three children.
4. I have three sons.
5. We have four children; two sons and two daughters.
6. I have two daughters and a son.
7. We have one daughter and one son.
8. I have nine children: five sons and four daughters.
9. We have three daughters and four sons.
10. I have no children.