



The position of the Welsh Language today





Around **43%** of the world's population is **bilingual**.

Almost **20%** of the world's population is **multilingual**.



**Discussion
work**

How many of
you can speak more
than one language?
If so, what are
they?



**Discussion
work**

If you can
speak more than one
language, how does
that make you
feel?



**Discussion
work**

If you only
speak one language,
would you like to be
able to speak more
than one language?
Why?



**Discussion
work**

What could the
advantages of
bilingualism be,
in your opinion?



Bilingual people tend to be able to focus more easily on a range of tasks at the same time (multitasking).

Bilingual people tend to be more flexible, sensitive and creative (cognitive skills).





Bilingual people tend to have a better ear for other languages and learn additional languages more easily.

Speaking two languages provides more career opportunities and can increase your chances of getting a job.





Speaking two languages gives you another skill to put on your CV or job application form.

Research shows that bilingualism delays the onset of Dementia and other symptoms of Alzheimer's disease later in life.





Bilingual people tend to show more empathy than those who only speak one language.

Speaking two languages broadens your horizons and can open doors to more than one culture, history, identity and community.





Being able to switch confidently from one language to another nurtures confidence and a sense of pride in the individual.

Speaking more than one language can offer more study options – e.g. a wider choice of college or university courses.





Speaking more than one language helps people to be more open-minded and show more appreciation and tolerance for other cultures and backgrounds.

Bilingual people tend to get better results in intelligence tests.





**People who speak two languages
tend to do better when working
under pressure.**

**Speaking more than one language
offers a wider range of social
activities.**





Bilingual people are often better communicators in both languages.

A bilingual person can communicate with a wider range of people than someone who only speaks one language.





Speaking two languages increases your opportunities to socialise and make friends.

Speaking two languages improves your concentration and memory.





Research shows that bilingual people have lower levels of stress than people who only speak one language.

Bilingualism improves your understanding of how language works (i.e. grammar etc.).





Being bilingual offers more opportunities in terms of hobbies and interests.

Speaking two languages improves, rather than limits, your opportunities.



On average,
one language
dies somewhere in the
world every **14 days**.

Two languages
every month.

24 languages
every year.

Around **half** of
the **7,000 minority**
languages spoken
around the world will
have died by the turn
of the next
century.

The Welsh
language is one of
the **oldest living**
languages in Europe.

What needs to be
done to **protect** and
strengthen the
language?





2021 Census

– a **small increase** in the percentage of people who are able to speak Welsh amongst the **young adult** age groups (**16 to 19 years** and **20 to 44 years**).





However...

the percentage of the population aged **5 to 15 years** who stated that they can speak Welsh **fell** between **2011** and **2021**, from **40.3%** in **2011** to **34.3%** in **2021**, a **decrease** of **6.0** percentage points.

The **biggest decrease** in any age group.





538,000 of the Welsh population **aged over 3 years old** (**17.8%** of the total population) reported that they are able to speak Welsh - a decrease of around **23,700** people compared to the **2011 Census**.





**Discussion
work**

How do these
figures make you feel?

Why do you think that **fewer people**
in general reported that they can
speak Welsh in the **2021 Census**
compared to the **2011 Census**?

2017



– Welsh Government's

Cymraeg 2050: A Million Welsh Speakers strategy.

- Address the **decrease** in the number of Welsh speakers in Wales;
- **Promote** and **facilitate** the use of Welsh;
- **Encourage** more people to **speak and use** their Welsh;
- Reach the target of **a million Welsh speakers** by **2050**.

“ The Welsh language is one of the treasures of Wales. It is part of what defines us as people and as a nation. Our ambition as Welsh Government is to see the number of people able to enjoy speaking and using Welsh reach a million by 2050. ”

Cymraeg 2050, Welsh Government





“ The challenge of achieving a million Welsh speakers by 2050 calls for far-reaching changes. Boundaries need to be pushed and ambitious action taken to enable more people to learn and use Welsh. ”

**Cymraeg 2050,
Welsh Government**



Three themes to achieving the aim of the Welsh Government's **Cymraeg 2050** strategy:

- 1 Increasing the number of Welsh speakers.
- 2 Increasing the use of Welsh.
- 3 Creating **favourable conditions** for speaking and using Welsh.





**Discussion
work**

How many of you here can speak, or understand, some Welsh?

If you can speak some Welsh, how much of it do you use in your everyday life? Where? And with who? Do you make as much use of your Welsh as you could? If not, why?



**Discussion
work**

If you don't speak any Welsh, do you wish that you could? Why?

How would your life be different if you could speak Welsh, in your opinion?



Discussion
work

Do you think that
Welsh Government's
Cymraeg 2050
strategy is important?
Why?





A large number of organisations in Wales have a role to play in helping to achieve the Welsh Government's aim of reaching a million Welsh speakers by 2050, and the Welsh Language Commissioner is one of those.



Shwmae?



Helô



However...

The Welsh language **belongs to everyone in Wales.**

Protecting the Welsh language is not down to **one individual or organisation.**

We all have a responsibility to help and play our part in order to ensure the future of the language, **whether we speak Welsh or not.**

Quiz



**Around what
percentage of the
global population
is bilingual?**

43%



On average, how many languages die somewhere in the world each year?

24 – 1 every 14 days





Can you think of three advantages of being bilingual?

See the statements
on slides 7 to 17



In the 2021 Census, what percentage of the total population of Wales aged over 3 years old reported that they can speak Welsh?

17.8%





The aim of Welsh
Government's **A Million
Welsh Speakers** strategy
is to reach a million Welsh
speakers by which year?



