

Accents Two

The *therapist and client* are in their first live therapy session, sat at right angles in a comfy, small room.

M: Well, Layo, sorry, I'm not sure quite how to say your name?... (pause)

Ll: (stares into her hands in her lap)

M: (shuffles through her notes).....What would you like me to call you?

Ll: You can call me Lizzie if you like. I don't really care anymore.

M: Ok Lizzie...

Ll: (cuts across) It's Llio! LL-I-O (spelled out Welsh way). LL like Llanelli, Llanilltud, llawr and llwch. LL. Stick your tongues at the top of your mouth and blow..

M: (tries)... Clio. OK. Such a beautiful Welsh name. I'm sorry I'm struggling. Clio. Better? (really tries).

Ll: Yeah yeah no worries.

M: OK so what brings you here (tries) Llio?

LL: (stares at her hands again. Sighs.)

M: I have so much to learn about your beautiful Welsh country – and you have such a lovely Welsh accent..

Ll: (cuts across) - yes but that's just it isn't it? You spotted me straight away!

M: What do you mean?

Ll: Uh! (rolls eyes slightly)

M: (looks puzzled, pauses). I mean, your accent is beautiful, lilting, you speak like you're singing...

Ll: (cuts across) there you go again! Singing! Why is it that everybody associates Welsh people with singing? Uh! (rolls eyes again)

M: (pause). I'm sorry. I didn't mean to offend you. It's just...

LL: You with your posh English accent, looking down your noses on us poor Welsh people, sheep shaggers, living in caves....

M: (puzzled)... that's not what I meant at all...

M: Do you think we could start again? (pause)

Ll: (says nothing. Stares into her hands)

M: (Deep breath). Tell me what brings you here today. What is it about your accent and my comments about your accent that led you to react in the way you did?