

Kernowek Qwyck

A FREE COURSE IN REVIVED TRADITIONAL CORNISH

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FOR KERNOWEKLULYN.COM

PREFACE

Kernowek Qwyck has been written to be a free download from websites relating to the Cornish language, including kernoweklulyn.com. *Kernowek* means ‘Cornish’. *Qwyck* means ‘quick’ in the sense of ‘alive’ as well as ‘rapid’. The course is designed for anyone who wishes to acquire some conversational ability in revived traditional Cornish. It is an unashamedly old-fashioned grammar-based course that is especially suitable for those studying on their own. But a teacher should have no trouble designing effective learning around each lesson for use in the classroom. The course can also serve as a revision aid for those who are learning through the *Skeul an Tavas* programme.

The Cornish taught in this course is based on all the historical sources for the revived language, with particular regard to the texts from the 16th and 17th centuries when the grammar of Cornish had already been simplified and its vocabulary expanded. The course employs the Standard Cornish spelling system, which is the best of the various orthographies developed for revived Cornish.

The most comprehensive textbook is *Desky Kernowek* (Nicholas Williams, Evertype 2012), which is also designed specifically for learning at home. *Gerlyver Kescows* (Ian Jackson, Agan Tavas 2017) is a handy two-way dictionary.

The translation of the Bible (*An Beybel Sans*, Nicholas Williams, Evertype 2011) is regarded as the single most important text in revived traditional Cornish. The translation of J.R.R. Tolkien’s *The Hobbit* (*An Hobys*, Nicholas Williams, Evertype 2014) makes an excellent reader for ambitious beginners.

The website kernoweklulyn.com usually carries examples of original and translated work, all spelled in the Standard Cornish system, and sometimes there is a downloadable glossary too. Such work is the responsibility of the author or translator in each case.

This pdf is a taster comprising the first ten lessons of the course. Each individual lesson is formatted to enable double-sided printing on a single sheet of A4 paper. Further lessons may be uploaded if there is demand. Email if you think it would be useful to have more lessons on the website.

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PRONUNCIATION GUIDANCE

The pronunciation guidance in this course is based on reconstruction by linguists of the probable sounds of Cornish speech in the 16th and 17th centuries, and on the actual pronunciation of modern speakers of traditional Cornish.

General guidance

Guideline pronunciation is provided for every word when it is first introduced. But space does not permit extending this to plurals or every form of a verb, so here is some general guidance.

Most Cornish words are stressed on their penultimate (last but one) syllable. Compound words formed by joining two single-syllable words together usually carry equal stress on each syllable. Certain 'little' words carry no stress: e.g. particles like *yth* and *yn*; single-syllable possessive pronouns like *y* 'his, its'; unemphasized single-syllable prepositions; unemphasized forms of *bos*.

In a stressed syllable a vowel is given its full value. In an unstressed syllable a *e* *o* are very frequently reduced – especially when they follow a stressed syllable – to the weak vowel called schwa, written *ə* in the guideline pronunciations. This is the vowel sound heard in English *THE* when that word is *not* pronounced like *THEE*. Other vowels are also somewhat reduced in unstressed syllables.

Standard Cornish employs diacritical marks ('accents') to make important distinctions. Vowels in stressed single-syllable words are naturally long unless followed by more than one consonant (as written) or marked with a grave accent. Vowels in words of more than one syllable are naturally short unless marked with a circumflex accent. Unaccented *u* has the same sound as unaccented *i*.

Guideline pronunciations

The guideline pronunciations are loosely based on English spellings. They are designed to be practical for learners, so are only approximate, especially for the vowels. Work carefully though the two keys below and apply them to the guideline pronunciations. Not to the spellings of the Cornish words themselves! Keep checking back until the sounds become familiar.

In the guideline pronunciations a syllable spelled in capital letters is stressed, a syllable spelled in 'lower case' letters is unstressed.

Key to saying the consonants in the guideline pronunciations

In this key the *guideline pronunciations* are in bold print to distinguish them from letters as spelled. Names of letters should be understood to include both capitalized and lower case versions.

B b should be given its usual English value. When the letter P is lenited (Second State), this is the resulting sound. But note heb neb pùb ryb: in these words the letter B is pronounced as **P p** when the next word begins with any of the letters C F H K L N P Q S (where not pronounced Z z) or T.

(B)M (b)m is **M m** preceded by a *slight* b sound. This is called 'pre-occlusion'. Some speakers omit the b entirely.

CH ch is pronounced as in CHURCH, not as in CHEMIST.

For **D d N n T t** the tip of the tongue is brought down on to the back of the top teeth in good Cornish pronunciation. When the letter T is lenited (Second State), **D d** is the resulting sound.

Generally **DH dh** is the consonant heard in THE. When the letter D is lenited (Second State), this is the resulting sound.

(D)n (d)n is **N n** preceded by a *slight* d sound. This is another instance of pre-occlusion. Some speakers omit the d entirely.

F f M m SH sh Y y should be given their usual English value. In the guideline pronunciations **Y y** is always a consonant.

G g is always 'hard' as in GIVE. When the letters C K Q are lenited (Second State), this is the resulting sound. But note dhyrag rag: in these words the letter G is pronounced as **K k** when the next word begins with any of the letters C F H K L N P Q S (where not pronounced Z z) or T. Some speakers also pronounce **G g** as **K k** before the suffix va = 'place' or abstract.

H h should be given its usual English value. But it is sounded only lightly; some speakers drop it altogether. When the letters C K are spirantized (Third State), this is the resulting sound.

HW hw is the sound spelled as the letter-combination WH in both Standard Cornish and English. Although in English it is often cut down to a w sound

without aspiration, the aspiration is never lost in Cornish. When the letter-combination QW is spirantized (Third State), this is the resulting sound.

J j should be given its usual English value. When the letter-combination CH is lenited (Second State), this is the resulting sound.

For **K k P p T t** the puff of air that accompanies these sounds in English is absent in good Cornish pronunciation. The puff is also absent in English when s immediately follows, so practise taking the s away without putting the puff in its place. Some accents of English that originated abroad also lack the puff; e.g. the English accent typically associated with France, or English as spoken in South Asia. When the letters B D G are protracted (Fourth State), the resulting sounds are **P p T t K k**. The sound of protracted GW (written QW) is **KW kw**.

L l is always 'light' or 'liquid' as in these very words, whatever its position in the Cornish word, never 'dark' or 'hard' as in COLD.

NG ng in words borrowed from English has the same sound as in the relevant English word. In native Cornish words it is always the sound in SING, *not* in ANGER.

R r should be trilled gently on the tip of the tongue, not rolled strongly.

ʀ indicates a different r sound, with the tip of the tongue slightly curled back ('retroflex') and no trill at all. This is generally a lighter sound, both in Cornish and in English of Cornwall, compared with the similar sound in West Country English as spoken beyond the Tamar.

S s in the guideline pronunciations is always as in THIS, never as in THESE.

TH th is the consonant heard in THIN, *not* in THE. When the letter T is spirantized (Third State), this is the resulting sound.

V v should be given its usual English value. When the letters B F M are lenited (Second State), this is the resulting sound.

W should be given its usual English value. When the letter G is lenited (Second State), the resulting sound is **W w** before an o-vowel.

You should generally pronounce **Z z** in the guideline pronunciations as in English. However, there are two exceptions to this principle.

- (1) When the sound occurs at the end of a word of more than one syllable that is not stressed on the final syllable and the sound is immediately

preceded by a vowel, **Z z** should be pronounced as **S s**. Although this 'rule' has been reconstructed from the historical evidence, modern speakers apply it with a greater or lesser degree of strictness. It is often ignored when the next word in the same utterance begins with a vowel.

- (2) **Z z** should also be pronounced as **S s** at the end of a word when the next word in the same utterance begins with any of the letters C F (unless representing Second State) H K L N P Q S (where not pronounced Z z) or T.

The letter S at the beginning of a word is treated variously. Some speakers always pronounce **S s**, *not Z z*, except in a few loan-words like sebra (which can also be spelled zebra). Some always pronounce **Z z** if the word is preceded by another word in the same utterance. Others grammaticize the **Z z** sound, using it as a Second State of S in the same way that **V v** is employed as lenited F. In practice you may hear a single individual mixing two or even all three approaches.

Key to saying the vowels in the guideline pronunciations

A a is the vowel in CAT.

A: is the vowel in CAT but lengthened.

AW aw is the vowel in OWL.

AY ay is the vowel in HIGH.

E e is the vowel in PET.

E: is the vowel in THERE as pronounced in southern English speech that does not sound r in this word.

EE ee is the vowel in THREE.

EE is the vowel in THREE with the tongue lowered.

ee is the vowel sound at the end of BODY or TEDDY. These two sounds are actually slightly different, influenced by the first vowel sound in their word. The same variation occurs in Cornish.

EU eu is the vowel in FUR as pronounced in southern English speech that does not sound r in this word. Many speakers pronounce as **E:** or half-way between these two sounds. The vowel is shorter when unstressed.

EY ey is half-way between the vowels in HIGH and HAY.

I i is the vowel in PIT.

IW iw is just **I i** + **W w** pronounced as a diphthong.

O o is half-way between the vowels in COT and CUT.

O: is the same vowel lengthened.

Ō ō is the vowel in OR as pronounced in English speech that does not sound the r in this word.

OO oo is the vowel in WOOD.

OO: **oo:** is the vowel in COO.

OO is the vowel in COO but without rounding the lips.

oo is the vowel in WOOD but without rounding the lips.

OW ow is half-way between the vowels in HOW and SHOW. Some speakers pronounce as the vowel in COO.

ow is a *short* version of the vowel in OR as pronounced in southern English speech that does not sound r in this word.

OY oy is the vowel in BOY.

For schwa **ə** see 'General guidance' above.

LESSON ONE

Grammar 1 A noun is masculine or feminine.

Masculine nouns

1	beer KO-rə[f]	coref	5	door DA-rəz	daras
2	coffee KO-fee	coffy	6	mobile KEɹ-VO:N	kerdhôn
3	cup HA-nə[f]	hanaf	7	pub TA-vəɹn	tavern
4	dog KEE	ky	8	table BOɹD	bord

Feminine nouns

9	bottle BO-təl	botel	12	glass (for drinking) GWE-drən	gwedren
10	cat KA:TH	cath	13	seat E-zəth	eseth
11	corner KOɹ-nəl	cornel	14	window FE-nəs-tər	fenester

Pronouns

15	our A-gən or [ə-]gən	agan	16	your A-gəz or [ə-]gəz	agas
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Other vocabulary

17	there is / are (pointing) OT (O-tə)	ot (otta before consonant)	18	here is / are OT O-(b)mə	ot obma
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Grammar 2 There is no word for A in Cornish. So the indefinite sense of a non-countable noun like **coref** is ‘beer’ while for a countable noun like **ky** it is ‘a dog’.

Put into English

- hanaf, gwedren
- coffy, coref, botel
- fenester, daras
- tavern, kerdhôn
- eseth, bord
- agan ky, agas cath
- agas bord, agan cornel

Put back into Cornish

- a cup, a glass
coffee, beer, a bottle
a window, a door
a pub, a mobile
a seat, a table
our dog, your cat
your table, our corner

Put into English

1. Ot eseth.
2. Ot obma gwedren.
3. Ot obma agas coffy.
4. Ot agan cornel.
5. Ot agas coref.

Put back into Cornish

- There's a seat.
 Here's a glass.
 Here is your coffee.
 There is our corner.
 There's your beer.

Grammar 3 THE is **an** (pronounced ən). This word causes *lenition* (usually called Second State) of an immediately following feminine singular noun. This means certain letters at the beginning of the word are changed as follows. The pronunciation changes accordingly.

- | | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| c / k / q > g | g > disappears | m > v |
| | <i>but go > wo</i> | |
| t > d | d > dh | ch > j |
| p > b | b > v | f > f (pronounced as if v) |

Put into English

1. an daras, an bord, an kerdhfôn
2. an wedren, an votel, an eseth
3. Ot obma an tavern.
4. Ot an fenester.
5. Ot an ky, ot obma an gath.

Put back into Cornish

- the door, the table, the mobile
 the glass, the bottle, the seat
 Here is the pub.
 There's the window.
 There's the dog, here's the cat.

Grammar 4 THAT is **-na** (pronounced NA: or nə) added to **an** + noun. THIS is **-ma** (pronounced MA: or mə) added to **an** + noun.

Put into English

1. an daras-na, an bord-ma
2. an wedren-na, an votel-ma
3. an kerdhfôn-ma, an eseth-na
4. Ot an ky-na.

Put back into Cornish

- that door, this table
 that glass, this bottle
 this mobile, that seat
 There's that dog.

Grammar 5 OF after a word of quantity is **a** (pronounced a or ə) with Second State of any immediately following word; **a + an** become **a'n** (pronounced an or ən).

Put into English

1. an hanaf-ma a goffy
2. botel a'n goref-na
3. Ot obma agas gwedren a goref.

Put back into Cornish

- this cup of coffee
 a bottle of that beer
 Here's your glass of beer.

LESSON TWO

Masculine nouns

19 book **lyver**
LI-vəɹ

20 paper **paper**
PA-pəɹ

Feminine nouns

21 pen **pluven**
(also feather)
PLI-vən

22 pencil **pluven blobm**
PLI-vən BLO(B)M

Adjectives

23 big **brâs**
BRŌZ or BRA:Z

28 open **egerys**
ə-GE-riz

24 black **du**
DIW

29 red **rudh**
REEDH

25 blue **glas**
GLA:Z or GLE:Z

30 small **bian**
BEE-ən

26 closed **degës**
də-GE:Z

31 white **gwydn**
GWI(D)N

27 green **gwer**
GWEɹ

32 yellow **melen**
ME-lən

Pronouns

33 he (it) **ev**
E:V or əv

34 she (it) **hy**
HEE or hee

Grammar 6 To specify the characteristics of a person or thing, we use **yw** (pronounced IW or iw) to translate 'is'.

Put into English

1. An lyver yw brâs.
2. An pluven yw glas.
3. An daras yw egerys.
4. An ky yw du.
5. An paper yw melen.
6. An votel yw gwer.
7. An daras yw rudh.
8. An gath yw gwydn.
9. An coffy yw du.

Put back into Cornish

- The book is big.
The pen is blue.
The door is open.
The dog is black.
The paper is yellow.
The bottle is green.
The door is red.
The cat is white.
The coffee is black.

Grammar 7 To translate IT we use **ev** when referring to a masculine noun and **hy** when referring to a feminine noun.

Put into English

1. An coffy yw du.
2. Ev yw du.
3. An gath yw bian.
4. Hy yw bian.

Put back into Cornish

- The coffee is black.
It is black.
The cat is small.
It is small.

Grammar 8 To ask a yes-no question we put **yw** at the front as in English. **Yw** is repeated as the answer for 'yes'. **Nag yw** (pronounced NA:G iw) is 'no'. Colloquially, you can also use invariable **eâ** (pronounced əA: or YA:) for 'yes' and invariable **nâ** (pronounced NA:) for 'no'.

Put into English

1. Yw an coffy du?
2. Yw or Eâ.
3. Yw an gath bian?
4. Nag yw or Nâ.

Put back into Cornish

- Is the coffee black?
Yes.
Is the cat small?
No.

Grammar 9 We use **nyns yw** (pronounced NINZ iw) for IS NOT. This too we put at the front. Some people use **nynj** (pronounced NINJ) instead of **nyns**.

Put into English

1. Nyns yw an bluen blobm rudh.
2. Nyns yw an lyver brâs.
3. Yw an tavern egerys?
4. Nag yw, nyns yw ev egerys.
5. Nag yw, ev yw degës.
6. Yw an hanaf glas?
7. Yw, ev yw glas.
8. Yw an paper melen?
9. Nag yw, an paper yw gwer.

Put back into Cornish

- The pencil is not red.
The book is not a big one.
Is the pub open?
No, it is not open?
No, it is closed.
Is the cup blue?
Yes, the cup is blue.
Is the paper yellow?
No, the paper is green.

Grammar 10 You can optionally replace **ev** with **va** (pronounced və) *after yw*.

Put into English

1. Yw an fenester degës?
2. Yw, an fenester yw degës.
3. Yw, hy yw degës.
4. Yw an daras degës?
5. Yw. or Nag yw.
6. Nag yw, nyns yw va degës.

Put back into Cornish

- Is the window shut?
Yes, the window is shut.
Yes, it is shut.
Is the door shut?
Yes. or No.
No, it is not shut.

LESSON THREE

Masculine nouns

35	box	box	38	inbox	box recêva
		BOKS			BOKS rə-SE:-və
36	button	boton	39	message	messach
	(also counter)				ME-səch
		BO-tən			
37	clip	clyp	40	pot	pot
		KLIP			POT

Feminine nouns

41	card	carten	42	folder	plêgel
		KAɹ-tən			PLE:-gəl

Adjectives

43	empty	gwag	45	long	hir
		GWA:G			HEEɹ
44	full	leun	46	short	cot
		LEUN			KOT

Adverbs

47	before	kyns	48	now	lebmyrn
		KINZ			LE-(b)min

Conjunctions

49	and	ha	50	but	mès
		(hag before vowel)		(contrastive)	
		HA: or ha or hæ (HA:G or hag or hæg)			MEZ or mæz

Grammar 11 To specify the characteristics of a person or thing in the *past*, we replace **yw** with **o** (pronounced O: or o).

Put into English

1. An box o leun.
2. An blêgel o brâs ha gwag.
3. An lyver o hir.
4. An messach o cot.
5. Agan daras o degës kyns.
6. Ev yw egerys lebmyrn.
7. Mès an fenester yw degës.
8. O an garten gwydn? Nag o.
9. O an votel glas? O.

Put back into Cornish

- The box was full.
The folder was large and empty.
The book was long.
The message was short.
Our door was shut before.
It is open now.
But the window is closed.
Was the card white? No.
Was the bottle blue? Yes.

Grammar 12 We can use **hanter** (pronounced HAN-təɹ) meaning HALF just as we do in English.

Put into English

1. An wedren yw hanter-leun.
2. An pot o hanter-gwag, mès ev yw leun lebmyn.

Put back into Cornish

The glass is half-full.
The pot was half-empty, but it is full now.

Grammar 13 One way of saying ALMOST is **namnag** (pronounced NAM-nag or nam-nəg) put with **yw** or **o** (it is not used alone). The resulting phrase goes at the front.

Put into English

1. Namnag o an votel gwag.
2. Namnag yw agas box recêva leun.
3. Yw an pot leun?
4. Namnag yw.

Put back into Cornish

The bottle was almost empty.
Your inbox is almost full.
Is the pot full?
Almost.

Grammar 14 If two or more nouns are joined with **ha(g)** the verb changes in English (is > are, was > were), but not in Cornish.

Put into English

Englond yw brâs, mès Kernow ha Syllan yw bian.

ENG-lənd or ING-lənd

KEɹ-nəw

SI-lən

Put back into Cornish

England is big, but Cornwall and Scilly are small.

Grammar 15 **ha + an** becomes **ha'n** (pronounced han or hən).

Put into English

1. An boton yw glas ha'n clyp yw gwydn.
2. An garten yw gwer ha melen.
3. Namnag yw an box hanter-leun.
4. An pot o leun kyns, mès ev yw gwag lebmyn.
5. Yw an box hir?
6. Yw, hir. Nyns yw va cot.
7. Yw agas paper gwydn?
8. Nag yw. Ev o gwydn kyns, mès ev yw du lebmyn.

Put back into Cornish

The counter is blue and the clip white.
The card is green and yellow.
The box is nearly half-full.
The box was full before, but it is empty now.
Is the box long?
Yes, long. It's not a short one.
Is your paper white?
No. It was white before, but now it is black.

LESSON FOUR

Numerals 1-10

51	one O-nən	onen	56	six HWE:H	whegh
52	two DIW	dew	57	seven SEYTH	seyth
53	three TREE	try	58	eight E:TH	eth
54	four PEZ-wəɹ	peswar	59	nine NAW	naw
55	five PIMP	pymp	60	ten DE:G	deg

Other count words

61	one (+ noun) I(D)N	udn	62	zero MAN	màn
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Prepositions

63	in IN or in	in	64	on WAɹ or wəɹ or wəɹ	wàr
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Grammar 16 Second State is triggered after **udn** as for **an**: that is, only immediately following *feminine* nouns are changed.

Put into English

1. an tavern, an wedren
2. udn tavern, udn wedren

Put back into Cornish

- the pub, the glass
one pub, one glass

Grammar 17 Numerals are always followed by a *singular* noun.

Put into English

1. peswar boton
2. pymp cath
3. whegh pluven blobm
4. seyth bord
5. deg pot

Put back into Cornish

- four counters
five cats
six pencils
seven tables
ten pots

Grammar 18 Before a feminine noun **dyw** (pronounced DIW) replaces **dew**. This is just a spelling rule. Note that the pronunciation does not change. Both **dew** and **dyw** trigger Second State of the immediately following word.

Put into English

dew gy, dyw garten, dyw eseth

Put back into Cornish

two dogs, two cards, two seats

Grammar 19 Second State of **dew** and **dyw** occurs after **an**.

Put into English

1. an dhew gerdhfôn
2. an dhyw fenester
3. an dhyw gornel
4. an dhew vessach

Put back into Cornish

the two mobiles
the two windows
the two corners
the two messages

Grammar 20 With a feminine noun **teyr** (pronounced TEYɹ) replaces **try**. Both **try** and **teyr** cause *spirantization* (usually called Third State) of the immediately following word. This means certain letters at the beginning of the word are changed as follows. The pronunciation changes accordingly.

c / k > h

(but **cl**, **cr** do not change)

t > th

qw > wh

p > f

Put into English

1. try fot, teyr hornel
2. try thavern, teyr fenester
3. an try clyp, an teyr fluven

Put back into Cornish

three pots, three corners
three pubs, three windows
the three clips, the three pens

Grammar 21 With a feminine noun we replace **peswar** with **peder** (pronounced PE-dəɹ).

Put into English

peswar boton, peder cath

Put back into Cornish

four counters, four cats

Grammar 22 For THERE IS or THERE ARE we use **yma** (pronounced ə-MA or just MA); **in + an** becomes **i'n** (pronounced IN or in).

Put into English

1. Yma dew voton i'n wedren.
2. Yma dyw gath wàr an eseth.
3. Yma try messach i'n box.
4. Yma teyr botel i'n gornel.
5. Yma peswar ky i'n tavern.
6. Yma peder pluen i'n pot.

Put back into Cornish

There are two buttons in the glass.
There are two cats on the seat.
There are three messages in the box.
There are three bottles in the corner.
There are four dogs in the pub.
There are four pens in the pot.

LESSON FIVE

Masculine nouns

65 boy **maw**
MAW

66 man **den**
(also person)
DE:N

Feminine nouns

69 café **coffîva**
ko-FEE-və

70 church **eglos**
E-gləz

71 girl **mowes**
MOW-əz

72 market **marhas**
MAʁ-həz

Prepositions

77 behind **adrëv**
ə-DRE:V

78 beside **ryb**
RIB

67 shop **shoppa**
SHO-pə

68 station **gorsaf**
GOʁ-zə[f] or GOʁ-sə[f]

73 post office **sodhva bost**
SODH-və BO:ST

74 supermarket **gorvarhas**
goʁ-VAʁ-həz or gəʁ-VAʁ-həz

75 town **tre**
TRE:

76 woman **benyn**
BE-nin

79 in front of **dhyrag**
dhi-RA:G or dhə-RA:G

80 opposite **adâl**
ə-DÖL or ə-DA:L

Grammar 23 Whenever a *location* is indicated, we translate IS / ARE with **yma**, *not yw*. **Yma** is put at the front, whether the meaning is THERE IS / ARE (see Grammar 22) or just IS / ARE.

Put into English

1. Yma gorvarhas i'n dre.
2. Yma coffîva adrëv an varhas.
3. Yma an venyn i'n goffîva.
4. Yma an eglos adâl an gorsaf.
5. Yma an wedren wàr an bord.
6. Yma an eseth i'n gornel
7. Yma paper i'n blêgel.
8. Yma box ryb an bord.
9. Yma an bord dhyrag an daras.

Put back into Cornish

- There is a supermarket in the town.
There is a café behind the market.
The woman is in the café.
The church is opposite the station.
The glass is on the table.
The seat is in the corner.
There's paper in the folder.
There's a box beside the table.
The table is in front of the door.

Grammar 24 If we wish to put emphasis on the location, we move the location ahead of **yma**. Sometimes this is really more a matter of style, with the emphasis only slight.

Put into English

1. I'n varhas yma an goffiva.
2. Adâl an gorsaf yma an eglos.

Put back into Cornish

- The café is in the *market*.
The church is opposite the *station*.

Grammar 25 When **yma** means THERE IS / ARE, we make a question by replacing it with **eus** (pronounced EUZ or euz). Note that you do not need a word for ANY. The meaning is supplied by the context.

Put into English

1. Eus coffiva i'n worvarhas?
2. Eus coref i'n votel-na?
3. Eus paper i'n blêgel?

Put back into Cornish

- Is there a café in the supermarket?
Is there beer in that bottle?
Is there any paper in the folder?

Grammar 26 When **yma** means just IS / ARE, we make a question by replacing it with **usy** (pronounced I-zi or i-zi). Some people use **ujy** (pronounced I-ji or i-ji) instead of **usy**.

Put into English

1. Usy an goffiva i'n shoppa-ma?
2. Usy an eglos ryb an gorsaf?
3. Usy an sodhva bost adâl an eglos?
4. Usy Jenefer i'n tavern?
(pronounced JE-nə-fəɹ or je-NE-fəɹ)

Put back into Cornish

- Is the café in this shop?
Is the church next to the station?
Is the post office opposite the church?
Is Jennifer in the pub?

Grammar 27 'Yes' to an eus-question is **eus** (colloquially **eâ**) and 'no' is **nag eus** (colloquially **nâ**). 'Yes' to an usy-question is **usy** (colloquially **eâ**), and 'no' is **nag usy** (colloquially **nâ**). To make a negative statement, we put **nyns** in front of **eus** or **usy** as appropriate.

Put into English

1. Eus gorsaf i'n dre?
2. Eus, yma gorsaf i'n dre.
3. Nag eus, nyns eus gorsaf i'n dre.
4. Yma an maw i'n dre.
5. Usy an maw i'n dre?
6. Usy, yma ev i'n dre.
7. Nag usy, nyns usy an maw i'n dre.
8. Nag usy, nyns usy va i'n dre.

Put back into Cornish

- Is there a station in the town?
Yes, there's a station in the town.
No, there's no station in the town.
The boy is in town.
Is the boy in town?
Yes, he's in town.
No, the boy is not in town.
No, he isn't in town.

LESSON SIX

Masculine nouns

81	cupboard A-mə-ree	amary	83	sitting-room RO:M ə-ZE-dhə or ə-SE-dhə	rom esedha
82	garden LOW-əɹth	lowarth	84	sofa GWE-lee DE:DH	gwely dëdh

Feminine nouns

85	bathroom GOLH-və	golghva	87	shelf əs-TI-lən	estyllen
86	kitchen KE-gin	kegyn	88	shower kow-AZ-və	cowasva

Adverbs

89	here O-(b)mə	obma	91	right here KNAK O-(b)mə	knack obma
90	there (= in that place) E-nə	ena	92	over there drez E-nə	dres ena

Grammar 28 To ask a question about the location of one or more persons or things we put **ple ma** (pronounced PLE: ma) at the front.

Put into English

1. Ple ma an gorsaf?
2. Ple ma va?
3. Yma an gorsaf dres ena.
4. Ple ma an wolghva?
5. Knack obma yma hy.
6. Ple ma amary?
7. Yma amary i'n gegyn.
Hag yma onen i'n wolghva.
8. Ple ma an hanaf ha'n wedren.
9. Yma an hanaf ha'n wedren
ryb an box ha'n votel, wàr
an bord.

Put back into Cornish

- Where is the station?
Where is it?
The station is over there.
Where's the bathroom?
It's right here.
Where is there a cupboard?
There is a cupboard in the kitchen.
And there's one in the bathroom.
Where are the cup and the glass?
The cup and the glass are beside
the box and the bottle, on the table.

Grammar 29 IT when referring to a city, town, village, commercial company (not a bank) or voluntary association is **hy**. (This word can also refer to time, weather, circumstance or condition; but it is generally omitted in such cases unless there is a need for emphasis.)

Put into English

1. Ple ma Trûrû?
2. Ple ma hy?
3. Yma hy in Kernow.
4. Ple ma Loundres?
5. Yma hy in England.

TROO:-roo: LOO:N-drez

Put back into Cornish

- Where is Truro?
Where is it?
It is in Cornwall.
Where is London?
It is in England.

Grammar 30 To give the location of one or more persons or things in the past, we replace **yma** with **yth esa** (pronounced ə-THE-zə or just THE-zə).

Put into English

1. Yth esa hanaf wàr an bord.
2. Yth esa an ky i'n tavern.
3. Yth esa an eseth ryb an daras.
4. Yth esa an den ha'n venyn dhyrag an gorsaf.

Put back into Cornish

- There was a cup on the table.
The dog was in the pub.
The seat was by the door.
The man and the woman were in front of the station.

Grammar 31 As with **yma**, the location may be put ahead of **yth esa** for emphasis or style.

Put into English

1. I'n goffiva yth esa an vowes.
2. I'n rom esedha yth esa an gath.

Put back into Cornish

- The girl was in the *café*.
The cat was in the *sitting-room*.

Grammar 32 To ask a yes-no question we change **yth esa** to **esa** alone (pronounced E-zə). 'Yes' is **esa** (colloquially **eâ**). 'No' is **nag esa** (colloquially **nâ**). NOT is **nyns** as usual.

1. Esa gwely dëdh i'n lowarth?
2. Esa, yth esa gwely dëdh ena.
3. Nag esa, i'n lowarth nyns esa gwely dëdh.
4. Esa an votel wàr an estyllen?
5. Esa, yth esa hy wàr an estyllen.
6. Esa an maw i'n gegyn?
7. Nag esa. Nyns esa va i'n gegyn, mès i'n rom esedha.
8. Esa an venyn obma i'n gowasva-ma?
9. Esa. Knack obma yth esa hy.

- Was there a sofa in the garden?
Yes, there was a sofa there.
No, there was no sofa in the *garden*.
Was the bottle on the shelf?
Yes, it was on the shelf.
Was the boy in the kitchen?
No. He wasn't in the kitchen, but in the sitting-room.
Was the woman here in this shower?
Yes, she was right here.

LESSON SEVEN

Masculine nouns

93	bed	gwely	96	dining-room	rom kydneyow
	GWE-lee			RO:M KI(D)N-yow	
94	bedroom	chambour	97	house	chy
	CHAM-boor			(also at home)	
				CHEE	
95	chair	chair	98	lamp	lugarn
	CHE:r			LI-gaarn or LI-gearn	

Adverbs

99	again or back	arta	100	[once] again	unweyth arta
	Aɹ-tə			[EEN-with] Aɹ-tə	

Grammar 33 To ask an open question about the location of one or more persons or things *in the past*, we replace **ple ma** with **pleth esa** (pronounced PLE:TH E-zə).

Put into English

1. Pleth esa an tavern?
2. Yth esa an tavern in Trûrû, ryb an gorsaf.
3. Pleth esa an lugarn?
4. Yth esa ev wàr an chair brâs i'n gegyn.
5. Pleth esa an gwely?
6. Yth esa an gwely ryb an daras i'n rom kydneyow, mès lebmyn yma va arta i'n chambour, ryb an fenester.
7. Pleth esa an maw ha'n voves?
8. Yth esa an maw chy, hag yth esa an voves i'n dre unweyth arta.
9. Pleth esa an ky? Knack obma, dhyrag an chy.

Put back into Cornish

- Where was the pub?
The pub was in Truro, behind the station.
- Where was the lamp?
It was on the big chair in the kitchen.
- Where was the bed?
The bed was by the door in the dining-room, but now it is back in the bedroom, beside the window.
- Where were the boy and the girl?
The boy was at home, and the girl was in the town again.
- Where was the dog? Right here, in front of the house.

Grammar 34 The commonest plural ending for nouns is **ow** (pronounced ow or oo:). Many nouns alter their spelling slightly before a plural ending, and the pronunciation changes accordingly.

Here are nouns we have already met that have a plural in **ow**:

botellow bottles, **botodnow** buttons, **cartednow** cards, **coffivaow** cafés, **cornellow** corners, **cowasvaow** showers, **darajow** doors, **esedhow** seats, **estyllednow** (*also estyll*) shelves, **golghvaow** bathrooms, **gorsavow** stations, **gorvarhajow** supermarkets, **gwedrednow** glasses, **gweliow** beds, **gweliow dëdh** sofas, **hanafow** cups, **kegynow** kitchens, **kerdhfônaw** mobiles, **lyvrow** books, **marhajow** markets, **plêgellow** folders, **pluednow** pens, **pluednow plobm** pencils, **pottow** pots, **tavernow** pubs, **trevow** towns

See if you can spot some *patterns*. Once you have found them, they do recur very frequently. Though there are occasional exceptions, you can guess the plural of a Cornish noun with a surprisingly high degree of probability.

Grammar 35 In English an adjective qualifying a noun precedes the noun, but the adjective *follows* the noun in Cornish (with a few exceptions).

Put into English

1. gwely brâs, chair bian
2. An Chy Gwydn, an lyver hir
3. botodnow rudh, pluednow du
4. an darajow egerys,
an cartednow melen
5. agan plêgellow glas
6. agas trevow gwag
7. Yma gorvarhajow brâs in
Henlÿs.

HE:N-LEEZ or HE-ləz

Put back into Cornish

a big bed, a small chair
The White House, the long book
red counters, black pens
the open doors, the yellow cards

our blue folders
your empty towns
There are big supermarkets in
Helston.

Grammar 36 An adjective immediately following a *feminine singular* noun appear in Second State *unless* (1) the noun ends in **s** or **th** and the adjective begins with any of **c k p q t** or (2) the adjective is *predicative*.

Put into English

1. pluen dhu, estyllen got
2. an wedren wag
3. an gegyn vian
4. an eseth wer, an eseth cot
5. marhas vrâs, an varhas vrâs
6. Yw an varhas brâs?
7. Yw, an varhas yw brâs.
8. Yma dhyw worvarhas vrâs in
Henlÿs.

Put back into Cornish

a black pen, a short shelf
the empty glass
the small kitchen (= the scullery)
the green seat, the short seat
a big market, the big market
Is the market big?
Yes, the market is big.
There are two big supermarkets in
Helston.

LESSON EIGHT

Adverbs

101	suddenly (also immediately) də-ZEM-piz	desempys	102	today	hedhyw HE-dhiw
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Prepositions

103	from (a place or time) DHEE-ə	dhia	104	to (also for) dhə	dhe
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Grammar 37 Another very common plural ending is **ys** (pronounced iz), used for many (but not all) nouns borrowed from English:

bordys tables, **boxys** boxes, **chairys** chairs, **clippys** clips, **messajys** messages, **rômys kydnjow** dining-rooms, **rômys esedha** sitting-rooms, **shoppys** shops

Grammar 38 Every Cornish verb has a form called the ‘verb-noun’. This corresponds to the English gerund: the verb form that *names the sense of* the verb. Here are ten very common Cornish verb-nouns.

105	being BO:Z	bos	110	getting (also finding) KA-fəz	cafos
106	bringing DREE	dry	111	giving REE	ry
107	carrying DO:N	don	112	going MO:Z	mos
108	coming DO:Z	dos	113	seeing GWE-ləz	gweles
109	doing (also making) GWEEL	gwil	114	taking kə-ME-rəz	kemeres

Grammar 39 Under English influence the verb-noun is often regarded as equivalent to an infinitive. But this is *incorrect* and misleading.

Grammar 40 The prepositions **dhe** and **dhia** both trigger Second State of the immediately following word.

Grammar 41 The usual present tense of most verbs in Cornish is formed by a paraphrase meaning ‘is at ...ing’. The word for ‘at’ in this construction is **ow** (pronounced ow). This word causes *provection* (usually called Fourth State)

of the immediately following verb-noun. This means certain letters at the beginning of the word are changed as follows. The pronunciation changes accordingly.

g > **c**

d > **t**

gw > **qw**

b > **p**

Grammar 42 As the literal meaning is ‘at ...ing’, the construction employs **yma**, **eus**, **usy**, *not* **yw**. An adverb or the ‘**ow** + verb-noun’ part of the construction may precede **yma** or **nyns** (cf Grammar 24).

Grammar 43 The verb **bos** itself employs the present tense construction only infrequently. We generally say **ev yw** ‘he is’; **yma ev ow pos** is not a usual expression.

Put into English

1. Yma an maw ha'n voves ow try dew jair.
2. Yma an venyn ow qwil an coffy.
3. Hedhyw yma an voves ow mos dhe Drûrû.
4. Yma ev ow tos dhia'n gorsaf.
5. Yma hy ow ton an gwedrednow dhe'n bord.
6. Yma va ow ry whegh botel a goref.
7. Yma an den-na ow kemeres an lugarn.
8. Ha desempys yma va ow qweles an tavern.
9. Yma an voves ow cafos try boton hag yma an maw ow cafos deg.

Put back into Cornish

- The boy and the girl bring two chairs.
The woman makes the coffee.
Today the girl is going to Truro.
He is coming from the station.
She is carrying the glasses to the table.
He is giving six bottles of beer.
That man is taking the lamp.
And suddenly he sees the pub.
The girls gets three counters and the boy gets ten.

Put into English

1. Usy an ky ow mos?
2. Nag usy, nyns usy an ky ow mos.
3. Eus coref ow tos?
4. Nag eus, mès yma coffy.
5. Ow tos yma hy.
6. Ow tos nyns usy ev.

Put back into Cornish

- Is the dog going?
No, the dog's not going.
Is there any beer coming?
No, but there's coffee.
She's coming.
He is not coming.

LESSON NINE

Grammar 44 Here are the nouns already introduced that do not add **ow** or **ys** but have a plural formed in some other way:

amarys cupboards, **benenes** women, **cathas** cats, **chambours** bedrooms, **eglosyow** churches, **fenestry** (pronounced FE-nēs-tri) windows, **keun** dogs (pronounced KEUN), **lugern** lamps, **mebyon** boys (*also* sons), **mowysy** girls, **paperyow** papers, **treven** houses, **tus** men (*also* people).

Tus (pronounced TEEZ) was once a feminine singular noun meaning ‘people’. The word is therefore used in Second State as for any feminine singular: **an dus** the men *or* the people; **tus vrâs** big men.

Grammar 45 Some feminine singular phrase-nouns have as their second element a noun that is lenited as if it were an adjective. The lenition disappears in the plural.

pluednow plobm pencils (cf **pluednow gwer** green pens)
sodhvaow post post offices

Grammar 46 From now on, the plural form will be specified when a new noun is introduced.

Masculine nouns

115	dentist DEN-zith	densyth (densydhyon)	120	passenger trə-MEN-yəz	tremenyas (tremenysy)
116	doctor ME-dhək	medhek (medhygyon)	121	pasty PAS-tee	pasty (pastys)
117	driver LIW-yər	lewyor (lewyoryon)	122	police officer GWETH-yəz KRE:Z	gwethyas cres (gwethysy cres)
118	landlord (of pub) (<i>also</i> host) O:ST	ost (ôstys)	123	student STIDH-yəɹ	studhyor (studhyoryon)
119	lawyer (solicitor) ə-TOɹ-Nee	atorny (atornys)	124	teacher dəs-KA-dəɹ	descador (descadoryon)

Medhek dens (pronounced ME-dhək DENZ), plural **medhygyon dens**, is often used instead of **densyth**. **Descador** has a variant **descajor** (pronounced dəs-KA-jəɹ), plural **descajoryon**.

Grammar 47 Most words for occupations have a parallel form indicating a female. The masculine form can always be used as a neutral word instead. The specifically feminine forms end in **es**, with stress on the penultimate syllable as usual. Look for the patterns. If the masculine form is used for a female, it may remain masculine or it may be treated as a feminine noun. In either case the pronoun will be **hy** rather than **ev**. The plural of the masculine noun is always used for a mix of men and women.

descadores (descadoresow) female teacher, **lewyades** (lewyadesow) female driver, **ôstes** (ôstesow) landlady (of pub; *also* hostess), **gwethyades cres** (gwethyadesow cres) female police officer, **studhyores** (studhyoresow) female student, **tremenyades** (tremenyadesow) female passenger

Verb-nouns

125	drinking E-və	eva	129	singing KA-nə	cana
126	eating DE-bree	debry	130	speaking KOW-zəl	côwsel
127	hearing (<i>also</i> smelling, tasting, feeling) KLOW-əz	clôwes	131	waiting (for) GOɹ-təz	gortos
128	learning DES-kee	desky	132	walking KEɹ-əz	kerdhes

Grammar 48 **ow** in the present tense construction becomes **owth** before a vowel or h (pronounced owth).

Put into English

1. Yma an studhyores ow côwsel ha'n descador ow clôwes.
2. Usy an lewyor ow cortos tremenysy?
3. Eus gwethysy cres ow cana?
4. Usy an ôstes owth eva?
5. Hedhyw yma va owth eva coref hag ow tebry pasty.
6. Yma hy ow tesky côwsel Kernowek (pronounced kɹ-NOW-ək).
7. Yma an atorny ow kerdhes dhe'n sodhva bost.
8. Yma an tremenyas owth eva coffy i'n gorsaf.

Put back into Cornish

- The [female] student is speaking and the teacher is listening.
Is the driver waiting for passengers?
Do policemen sing?
Is the landlady drinking?
Today he is drinking beer and eating a pasty.
She is learning to speak Cornish.
The lawyer is walking to the post office.
The passenger is drinking coffee in the station.

LESSON TEN

Masculine nouns

133	chef	kegynor (kegynoryon)	136	sandwich	breghtan (breghtanow)
	kə-GI-nəɹ			BREH-tən	
134	councillor	consler (conslers)	137	shop assistant (female)	mowes shoppa (mowysy shoppa)
	KON-sləɹ or KON-zləɹ			MOW-əz SHO-pə	
135	crisp	cresyk (cresygow)	138	soldier	soudor (soudoryon)
	KRE-zik			SOO:-dəɹ	

Feminine nouns

139	Belgian bun	torthen Veljyan (torthednow Beljyan)	141	muffin (American)	tesen vian (tesednow bian)
	TOɹ-thən VEL-jiən			TE-zən VEE-ən	
140	doughnut	knofen toos (knofednow toos)	142	sausage roll	rol selsyk (rôlyow selsyk)
	KNO-fən <u>TOOZ</u>			RO:L SEL-zik or ZEL-zik	

Verb-nouns

143	buying	prena (PRE-nə or PEɹ-nə)	146	looking for (also trying to)	whelas
				HWE-ləz	
144	listening (to)	goslowes (gəz-LOW-əz)	147	running	ponya
				PON-yə	
145	looking	meras (ME-rəz)	148	selling	gwertha (GWEɹ-thə)

Put into English

1. Yma an studhyoryon ow tebry knofednow (*also know*) toos.
2. Usy an consler ow coslowes?
3. Yma an soudor-na ow meras.
4. Usy an shoppa-ma ow qwertha torthednow Beljyan?
5. Eus rôlyow selsyk dhe gafos i'n worvarhas?
6. Otta cath ow ponya dres ena.

Put back into Cornish

- The students are eating doughnuts.
- Does the councillor listen?
- That soldier is watching.
- Does this shop sell Belgian buns?
- Are sausage rolls available (*literally* to finding) in the supermarket?
- There's a cat running over there.

Note how **ow** / **owth** + verb-noun can also be used without **yma** / **eus** / **usy**.

Grammar 49 Second State of plural forms of masculine nouns referring to people is required after **an**. But many loan-words ignore this rule.

Put into English

1. Yma an dhescadoryon ow prena rôlyow selsyk.
2. Usy an conslers ow ponya dhe'n gorsaf?
3. Nyns usy an mowysy shoppa ow meras.
4. Eus tersednow bian dhe brena i'n shoppa-ma?
5. Yw an tersednow bian-na dhe brena?
6. Yma an kegynor ow qwil breghtanow.
7. Yma an wethysy cres ow whelas an dus-ma.
8. Usy va ow whelas prena pasty?
9. Nyns eus pastys i'n goffiva-ma.

Put back into Cornish

- The teachers are buying sausage rolls.
- Are the councillors running to the station?
- The shop assistants are not looking.
- Are muffins for sale (*literally* for buying) in this shop?
- Are those muffins for sale?
- The chef is making sandwiches.
- The police officers are looking for these men.
- Is he trying to buy a pasty?
- There are no pasties in this café.

Grammar 50 Just as the present tense in Cornish is formed with a phrase meaning literally 'is / are at ...ing', the imperfect (past continuous) tense is formed with a phrase meaning 'was / were at ...ing'. Because of the literal sense, we use **esa**, not **o**.

Put into English

1. Yth esa an dremenysy ow cortos.
2. Esa an studhyor ow prena know toos?
3. Esa, yth esa va ow prena know toos i'n dre.
4. Nag esa. Ow prena know toos nyns esa va. Yth esa ow whelas pastys.
5. Yth esa hy ow meras.

Put back into Cornish

- The passengers were waiting.
- Was the student buying doughnuts?
- Yes, he was buying doughnuts in town?
- No. He wasn't buying doughnuts. He was looking for pasties.
- She was watching.

Cornish is a partially 'pro-drop' language. This means **ev** / **va** 'he, it' and **hy** 'she, it' can be omitted after a verb if the sense is already clear.

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