

Kernowek Kwyck

A FREE COURSE IN REVIVED TRADITIONAL CORNISH

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FOR KERNOWEKLULYN.COM

PREFACE

Kernowek Kwyck has been written to be a free download from websites relating to the Cornish language, including kernoweklulyn.com. *Kernowek* means ‘Cornish’. *Kwyck* 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. This pdf is a parallel edition in the Standard Written Form.

The most comprehensive textbook is *Desky Kernowek* (Nicholas Williams, Everttype 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, Everttype 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, Everttype 2014) makes an excellent reader for ambitious beginners.

The website kernoweklulyn.com usually carries examples of original and translated work, 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 fifteen 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 pub 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 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 are lenited (Second State), this is the resulting sound. But note dherag 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 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 letter K is spirantized (Third State), this is the resulting sound.

HW hw is the sound spelled as the letter-combination WH in 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 KW 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 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 LINGER, LINGERIE or STRANGER.

NK nk is pronounced as in BANK.

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 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.

Note on pronunciation of the letter U

The letter U is pronounced by some speakers as in French *tu*. This sound is particularly associated with mediaeval Cornish. It is not reflected in the guideline pronunciations in this course.

LESSON ONE

Grammar 1 A noun is masculine or feminine. A few may be both.

Masculine nouns

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

Feminine nouns

9	bottle BO-təl	botel (also masculine)	12	glass (for drinking) GWE-drən	gwedren
10	cat KA:TH	kath	13	seat E-zəth	esedh
11	corner KOɹ-nəl	kornel	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	ottomma
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Grammar 2 There is no word for A in Cornish. So the indefinite sense of a non-countable noun like **korev** is ‘beer’ while for a countable noun like **ki** it is ‘a dog’.

Put into English

- hanaf, gwedren
- koffi, korev, botel
- fenester, daras
- tavern, kerdhfon
- esedh, bord
- agan ki, agas kath
- agas bord, agan kornel

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 esedh.
2. Ottomma gwedren.
3. Ottomma agas koffi.
4. Ot agan kornel.
5. Ot agas korev.

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.

k > g**g > disappears****m > v***but go > wo***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 kerdhfon
2. an wedren, an votel, an esedh
3. Ottomma an tavern.
4. Ot an fenester.
5. Ot an ki, ottomma 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** (or possessive pronoun) + noun. **THIS** is **ma** (pronounced MA: or mə) added in the same way.

Put into English

1. an daras na, an bord ma
2. an wedren na, an votel ma
3. an kerdhfon ma, an esedh na
4. Ot an ki na.
5. Ot agas kath na.

Put back into Cornish

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

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

Put into English

1. an hanaf ma a goffi
2. botel a'n gorev na
3. Ottomma agas gwedren a gorev.

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	20	paper	paper
	LI-vəɹ			PA-pəɹ	

Feminine nouns

21	pen	pluven	22	pencil	pluven blomm
	(also feather)			PLI-vən	BLO(B)M
	PLI-vən				

Adjectives

23	big	bras	28	open	ygerys
	BRŌZ or BRA:Z			ə-GE-riz	
24	black	du	29	red	rudh
	DIW			REEDH	
25	blue	glas	30	small	bian
	GLA:Z or GLE:Z			BEE-ən	
26	closed	degys	31	white	gwynn
	də-GE:Z			GWI(D)N	
27	green	gwer	32	yellow	melyn
	GWEɹ			ME-lən	

Pronouns

33	he (it)	ev	34	she (it)	hi
	E:V			HEE	

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

Put into English

1. An lyver yw bras.
2. An bluven yw glas.
3. An daras yw ygerys.
4. An ki yw du.
5. An paper yw melyn.
6. An votel yw gwer.
7. An daras yw rudh.
8. An gath yw gwynn.
9. An goffi 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 **hi** when referring to a feminine noun.

Put into English

1. An goffi yw du.
2. Ev yw du.
3. An gath yw bian.
4. Hi 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 **ea** (pronounced əA: or YA:) for 'yes' and invariable **na** (pronounced NA:) for 'no'.

Put into English

1. Yw an koffi du?
2. Yw or Ea.
3. Yw an gath bian?
4. Nag yw or Na.

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 blaven blomm rudh.
2. Nyns yw an lyver bras.
3. Yw an tavern ygerys?
4. Nag yw, nyns yw ev ygerys.
5. Nag yw, ev yw degys.
6. Yw an hanaf glas?
7. Yw, ev yw glas.
8. Yw an paper melyn?
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 stressed **ev** with unstressed **va** (pronounced və) *after yw*.

Put into English

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

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	boks	38	inbox	boks-receva
	BOKS			BOKS rə-SE:-və	
36	button	boton	39	message	messach
	(also counter)			ME-səch	
	BO-tən				
37	clip	klypp	40	pot	pott
	KLIP			POT	

Feminine nouns

41	card	karten	42	folder	plegell
	KAɹ-tən			PLE:-gəl	

Adjectives

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

Adverbs

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

Conjunctions

49	and	ha	50	but	mes
		(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 boks o leun.
2. An blegell o bras ha gwag.
3. An lyver o hir.
4. An messach o kott.
5. Agan daras o degys kyns.
6. Ev yw ygerys lemmyn.
7. Mes an fenester yw degys.
8. O an garten gwynn? 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 pott o hanter-gwag, mes ev yw leun lemmyn.

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 boks-receva leun.
3. Yw an pott 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

England yw bras, mes 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 klypp yw gwynn.
2. An garten yw gwer ha melyn.
3. Namnag yw an boks hanter-leun.
4. An pott o leun kyns, mes ev yw gwag lemmyn.
5. Yw an boks hir?
6. Yw, hir. Nyns yw va kott.
7. Yw agas paper gwynn?
8. Nag yw. Ev o gwynn kyns, mes ev yw du lemmyn.

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	onan	56	six HWE:H	hwegh
52	two DIW	dew	57	seven SEYTH	seyth
53	three TREE	tri	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	unn	62	zero MAN	mann
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Prepositions

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

Put into English

1. an tavern, an wedren
2. unn tavern, unn 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 kath
3. hwegh pluven blomm
4. seyth bord
5. deg pott

Put back into Cornish

- four counters
five cats
six pencils
seven tables
ten pots

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

Put into English

dew gy, diw garten, diw esedh

Put back into Cornish

two dogs, two cards, two seats

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

Put into English

1. an dhew gerdfhon
2. an dhiw fenester
3. an dhiw 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 TEYʌ) replaces **tri**. Both **tri** and **teyr** cause *spirantization* (usually called Third State) of the following word. This means certain letters at the beginning of the word are changed as follows. The pronunciation changes accordingly.

k > h

(but **kl**, **kr** do not change)

t > th

kw > hw

p > f

Put into English

1. tri fott, teyr hornel
2. tri thavern, teyr fenester
3. an tri klypp, an teyr flufen

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-dəʌ).

Put into English

peswar boton, peder kath

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); **yn + an** becomes **y'n** (pronounced IN or in).

Put into English

1. Yma dew voton y'n wedren.
2. Yma diw gath war an esedh.
3. Yma tri messach y'n boks.
4. Yma teyr botel y'n gornel.
5. Yma peswar ki y'n tavern.
6. Yma peder plufen y'n pott.

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 **koffiva**
ko-FEE-və

70 church **eglos**
E-gləz

71 girl **mowes**
MOW-əz

72 market **marghas**
MAʁ-həz

Prepositions

77 behind **a-drev**
ə-DRE:V

78 beside **ryb**
RIB

67 shop **shoppa**
SHO-pə

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

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

74 supermarket **gorvarghas**
goʁ-VAʁ-həz

75 town **tre**
TRE:

76 woman **benyn**
BE-nin

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

80 opposite **a-dal**
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 gorvarghas y'n dre.
2. Yma koffiva a-drev an varghas.
3. Yma an venyn y'n goffiva.
4. Yma an eglos a-dal an gorsav.
5. Yma an wedren war an bord.
6. Yma an esedh y'n gornel
7. Yma paper y'n blegell.
8. Yma boks ryb an bord.
9. Yma an bord dherag 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. Y'n varghas yma an goffiva.
2. A-dal an gorsav 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 koffiva y'n worvarghas?
2. Eus korev y'n votel na?
3. Eus paper y'n blegell?

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 **usi** (pronounced I-zi or i-zi). Some people use **uji** (pronounced I-ji or i-ji) instead of **usi**.

Put into English

1. Usi an goffiva y'n shoppa ma?
2. Usi an eglos ryb an gorsav?
3. Usi an sodhva bost a-dal an eglos?
4. Usi Jenefer y'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 **ea**) and 'no' is **nag eus** (colloquially **na**). 'Yes' to an **usi**-question is **usi** (colloquially **ea**), and 'no' is **nag usi** (colloquially **na**). To make a negative statement, we put **nyns** in front of **eus** or **usi** as appropriate.

Put into English

1. Eus gorsav y'n dre?
2. Eus, yma gorsav y'n dre.
3. Nag eus, nyns eus gorsav y'n dre.
4. Yma an maw y'n dre.
5. Usi an maw y'n dre?
6. Usi, yma ev y'n dre.
7. Nag usi, nyns usi an maw y'n dre.
8. Nag usi, nyns usi va y'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	amari	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	gweli dedh

Feminine nouns

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

Adverbs

89	here O-(b)mə	omma	91	right here KNAK O-(b)mə	knakk omma
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 gorsav?
2. Ple'ma va?
3. Yma an gorsav dres ena.
4. Ple'ma an wolghva?
5. Knakk omma yma hi.
6. Ple'ma amari?
7. Yma amari y'n gegin.
Hag yma onan y'n wolghva.
8. Ple'ma an hanaf ha'n wedren.
9. Yma an hanaf ha'n wedren
ryb an boks ha'n votel, war
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 **hi**. (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 Truru?
2. Ple'ma hi?
3. Yma hi yn Kernow.
4. Ple'ma Loundres?
5. Yma hi yn 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 war an bord.
2. Yth esa an ki y'n tavern.
3. Yth esa an esedh ryb an daras.
4. Yth esa an den ha'n venyn dherag an gorsav.

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. Y'n goffiva yth esa an voves.
2. Y'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 **ea**). 'No' is **nag esa** (colloquially **na**). NOT is **nyns** as usual.

1. Esa gweli dedh y'n lowarth?
2. Esa, yth esa gweli dedh ena.
3. Nag esa, y'n lowarth nyns esa gweli dedh.
4. Esa an votel war an estyllen?
5. Esa, yth esa hi war an estyllen.
6. Esa an maw y'n gegin?
7. Nag esa. Nyns esa va y'n gegin, mes y'n rom-esedha.
8. Esa an venyn omma y'n gowasva ma?
9. Esa. Knakk omma yth esa hi.

- 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	gweli	96	dining-room	rom kinnyow
	GWE-lee			RO:M KI(D)N-yow	
94	bedroom	chambour	97	house	chi
	CHAM-boor			(also at home)	
				CHEE	
95	chair	chayr	98	lamp	lugarn
	CHE:r			LI-gaarn or LI-gaarn	

Adverbs

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

Grammar 33 We replace **ple'ma** with **pleth esa** (pronounced PLE:TH E-zə) to ask a question about the location of one or more persons or things *in the past*.

Put into English

1. Pleth esa an tavern?
2. Yth esa an tavern yn Truru, ryb an gorsav.
3. Pleth esa an lugarn?
4. Yth esa ev war an chayr bras y'n gegin.
5. Pleth esa an gweli?
6. Yth esa an gweli ryb an daras y'n rom kinnyow, mes lemmyn yma va arta y'n chambour, ryb an fenester.
7. Pleth esa an maw ha'n voves?
8. Yth esa an maw chi, hag yth esa an voves y'n dre unnweyth arta.
9. Pleth esa an ki? Knakk omma, dherag an chi.

Put back into Cornish

- Where was the pub?
The pub was in Truro, by 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, **botonnow** buttons, **darasow** doors (pronounce da-RA-jow), **esedhow** seats, **estyllennow** (also *estyll*) shelves, **golghvaow** bathrooms, **gorsavow** stations, **gorvarghasow** supermarkets, **gwedrennow** glasses, **gweliow** beds, **gweliow dedh** sofas, **hanafow** cups, **kartennow** cards, **keginow** kitchens, **kerdhfonow** mobiles, **koffivaow** cafés, **kornellow** corners, **kowasvaow** showers, **lyvrow** books, **marghasow** markets, **plegellow** folders, **pluvennow** pens, **pluvennow plomm** pencils, **pottow** pots, **sodhvaow post** post offices, **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. gweli bras, chayr bian
2. An Chi Gwynn, an lyver hir
3. botonnow rudh, pluvennow du
4. an darasow ygerys,
an kartennow melyn
5. agan plegellow glas
6. agas trevow gwag
7. Yma gorvarghasow bras in
Henlys.

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 **s** or **th** (or **dh** after unstressed vowel) and the adjective begins **k p** or **t** or (2) the adjective is *predicative*.

Put into English

1. pluen dhu, estyllen gott
2. an wedren wag
3. an gegin vian
4. an esedh wer, an esedh kott
5. marghas vras, an varghas vras
6. Yw an varghas bras?
7. Yw, an varghas yw bras.
8. Yma dhiw worvarghas vras in
Henlys.

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	desempis	102	today	hedhyw
	(also immediately)				
	də-ZEM-piz			HE-dhiw	

Prepositions

103	from	dhia	104	to	dhe
	(a place or time)			(also for)	
	DHEE-ə			DHE: or dhə	

Grammar 37 Another very common plural ending is **ys** (pronounced iz), used for many (but not all) nouns borrowed from English.

boksys boxes, **bordys** tables, **chayrys** chairs, **klyppys** clips, **messajys** messages, **romys kinnyow** dining-rooms, **romys-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	bos	110	getting	kavos
	BO:Z			(also finding)	
				KA-fəz	
106	bringing	dri	111	giving	ri
	DREE			REE	
107	carrying	don	112	going	mos
	DO:N			MO:Z	
108	coming	dos	113	seeing	gweles
	DO:Z			GWE-ləz	
109	doing	gwul	114	taking	kemeres
	(also making)			kə-ME-rəz	
	GWEEL				

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 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 > k	gw > kw
d > t	b > p

Grammar 42 As the literal meaning is ‘at ...ing’, the construction employs **yma**, **eus**, **usi**, *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 tri dew jayr.
2. Yma an venyn ow kwul an koffi.
3. Hedhyw yma an voves ow mos dhe Druru.
4. Yma ev ow tos dhia'n gorsav.
5. Yma hi ow ton an gwedrennow dhe'n bord.
6. Yma va ow ri hwegh botel a gorev.
7. Yma an den na ow kemeres an lugarn.
8. Ha desempis yma va ow kweles an tavern.
9. Yma an voves ow kavos tri boton hag yma an maw ow kavos 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. Usi an ki ow mos?
2. Nag usi, nyms usi an ki ow mos.
3. Eus korev ow tos?
4. Nag eus, mes yma koffi.
5. Ow tos yma hi.
6. Ow tos nyms usi 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.

amaris cupboards, **benenes** women, **chambours** bedrooms, **eglosyow** churches, **fenestri** (pronounced FE-nəs-tri) windows, **kathes** cats, **keun** dogs (pronounced KEUN), **lugern** lamps, **mebyon** boys (*also* sons), **mowysi** girls, **paperyow** papers, **treven** houses, **tus** men (*also* people).

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

Grammar 45 The second element in some phrase-nouns is so closely associated that it is lenited. When the first element is feminine, this lenition disappears in the plural.

pluvennow plomm pencils (*cf* **pluvennow 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	densydh (densydhyon)	120	passenger trə-MEN-yəz	tremenyas (tremenysi)
116	doctor ME-dhək	medhek (medhygyon)	121	pasty PAS-tee	pasti (pastis)
117	driver LIW-yər	lewyer (lewyoryon)	122	police officer GWETH-yəz KRE:Z	gwithyas kres (gwithysi kres)
118	landlord (of pub) (<i>also</i> host) O:ST	ost (ostys)	123	student STIDH-yəɹ	studhyer (studhyoryon)
119	lawyer (solicitor) ə-TOɹ-Nee	atorni (atornis)	124	teacher dəp-səp-KA-dəɹ	deskador (deskadoryon)

Medhek dens (pronounced ME-dhək DENZ), plural **medhygyon dens**, is often used instead of **densydh**. **Deskador** has variant **deskajor** (pronounced dəp-KA-jəɹ), plural **deskajoryon**.

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 **hi** rather than **ev**. The plural of the masculine noun is always used for a mix of men and women.

deskadores (deskadoresow) female teacher, **lewyades** (lewyadesow) female driver, **ostes** (ostesow) landlady (of pub; also hostess), **gwithyades kres** (gwithyadesow kres) female police officer, **studhyores** (studhyoresow) female student, **tremenyades** (tremenyadesow) female passenger

Verb-nouns

125	drinking E-və	eva	129	singing KA-nə	kana
126	eating DE-bree	dybri	130	speaking KOW-zəl	kowsel
127	hearing (also smelling, tasting, feeling) KLOW-əz	klowes	131	waiting (for) GOʁ-təz	gortos
128	learning DES-kee	dyski	132	walking KEʁ-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 kowsel ha'n deskador ow klowes.
2. Usi an lewyer ow kortos tremenysi?
3. Eus gwithysi kres ow kana?
4. Usi an ostes owth eva?
5. Hedhyw yma va owth eva korev hag ow tybri pasti.
6. Yma hi ow tyski kowsel Kernowek (pronounced kəʁ-NOW-ək).
7. Yma an atorni ow kerdhes dhe'n sodhva bost.
8. Yma an tremenyas owth eva koffi y'n gorsav.

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	keginer (keginoryon)	136	sailor	marnar (marners)
	kə-GI-nəɹ			MAɹ-nəɹ	
134	councillor	konsler (konslers)	137	sandwich	breghtan (breghtanow)
	KON-sləɹ or KON-zləɹ			BREH-tən	
135	crisp	kresik (kresigow)	138	soldier	souder (soudoryon)
	KRE-zik			SOO:-dəɹ	

Feminine nouns

139	Belgian bun	torthen Veljyan (torthennow Beljyan)	141	muffin (American)	tesen vian (tesennow bian)
	TOɹ-thən VEL-jən			TE-zən VEE-ən	
140	doughnut	knowen toos (knowennow toos)	142	sausage roll	rol selsik (rolyow selsik)
	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)	hwilas
				HWE-ləz	
144	listening (to)	goslowes (gəz-LOW-əz)	147	running	ponya
				PON-yə	
145	looking	mires (ME-rəz)	148	selling	gwertha (GWEɹ-thə)

Put into English

1. Yma an studhyoryon ow tybri knowennow (*also* know) toos.
2. Usi an konsler ow koslowes?
3. Yma an souder na ow mires.
4. Usi an shoppa ma ow kwertha torthennow Beljyan?
5. Eus rolyow selsik dhe gavos y'n worvarghas?
6. Otta kath 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* for finding) in the supermarket?
There's a cat running over there.

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

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 vebyon ow prena rolyow selsik.
3. Nyns usi an varners ow mires.
2. Usi an konslers ow ponya dhe'n gorsav?
4. Eus tesennow bian dhe brena y'n shoppa ma?
5. Yw an desen vian na dhe brena?
6. Yma an keginer ow kwul breghtanow.
7. Yma an withysi kres ow hwilas an dus ma.
8. Usi va ow hwilas prena pasti?
9. Nyns eus pastis y'n goffiva ma.

Put back into Cornish

- The boys are buying sausage rolls.
- The sailors are not looking.
- Are the councillors running to the station?
- Are muffins for sale (*literally* for buying) in this shop?
- Is that muffin 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 dremenysi ow kortos.
2. Esa an studhyer ow prena know toos?
3. Esa, yth esa va ow prena know toos y'n dre.
4. Nag esa. Ow prena know toos nyns esa va. Yth esa ow hwilas pastis.
5. Yth esa hi ow mires.

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 **hi** 'she, it' can be omitted after a verb if the sense is already clear.

LESSON ELEVEN

Pronouns

149	I	my	151	you	ty
	MEE			TEE	
150	we	ni	152	you	hwi
	NEE			HWEE	

Grammar 51 Cornish has two words for ‘you’. **Ty** is employed for a single individual who is a relative or a friend; also for a single individual that is a child or an animal. **Hwi** is used in all other situations.

Grammar 52 With these pronouns English switches between ‘am / are / is’ and ‘was / were’ but Cornish uses **yw** and **o** consistently.

Put into English

1. My yw souder.
2. Ty yw an keginer.
3. Ni o studhyoryon kyns.
4. Hwi yw medhygyon.
5. Hwi o konsler.
6. My o atorni.
7. Ty o agan deskador.
8. Ni yw gwithysi kres.

Put back into Cornish

- I am a soldier.
 You are the chef.
 We were once students.
 You are doctors.
 You were a councillor.
 I was a lawyer.
 You were our teacher.
 We are police officers.

Grammar 53 **Yw** and **o** are also used with both singular and plural nouns.

Put into English

1. An boks yw gwag.
2. An amaris yw leun.
3. An gweli dedh o kott.
4. An bordys o hir.
5. An mowysi yw gwag (= hungry).

Put back into Cornish

- The box is empty.
 The cupboards are full.
 The sofa was short.
 The tables were long.
 The girls are hungry.

Grammar 54 When we ask a question involving any of **hwi my ni ty** the verb **yw** does change according to the subject. Note how **my** is lenited to **vy** (pronounced VEE). And **ty** becomes **ta**.

Statement

My yw medhek.
 I am a doctor.

Question

Ov (pronounced OV) vy medhek?
 Am I a doctor?

Ni yw lewyoryon.
We are drivers.

Ty yw densydh.
You are a dentist.

Hwi yw konsler.
You are a councillor.

Hwi yw an dremenysi.
You are the passengers.

On (pronounced ON) ni lewyoryon?
Are we drivers?

Os ta (pronounced OS tə) densydh?
Are you a dentist?

Owgh (pronounced OWH) hwi konsler?
Are you a councillor?

Owgh hwi an dremenysi?
Are you the passengers?

Put into English

1. Os ta studhyer?
2. Owgh hwi an ostes?
3. On ni soudoryon?
4. Owgh hwi marnner?
5. Owgh hwi an deskador?

Put back into Cornish

- Are you a student?
Are you the landlady?
Are we soldiers?
Are you a sailor?
Are you the teacher?

Grammar 55 The relevant verb-form is repeated as the answer for 'yes'. As usual, we can also use invariable **ea** colloquially.

Question

Ov vy medhek?

On ni lewyoryon?

Os ta densydh?

Owgh hwi tremenyas?

Owgh hwi an dremenysi?

Answer

Os, ty yw medhek.
or Owgh, hwi yw medhek.

Owgh, hwi yw lewyoryon.

Ov, my yw densydh.

Ov, my yw tremenyas.

On, ni yw an dremenysi.

Put into English

1. Owgh hwi agan atorni?
2. Ov, my yw an atorni.
3. Os ta gwag?
4. Ov, my yw gwag.
5. Owgh hwi an studhyoryon?
6. On, ni yw agas studhyoryon.
7. Yw an blegell leun?
8. Yw, hi yw leun.

Put back into Cornish

- Are you our lawyer?
Yes, I am the lawyer.
Are you hungry?
Yes, I'm hungry.
Are you the students?
Yes, we are your students.
Is the folder full?
Yes, it's full.

LESSON TWELVE

Adjectives

153	all	oll	155	happy	lowen
	OL or ol			LOW-ən	
154	every	pub	156	ready	parys
	POOB or poob			PA-riz	

Grammar 56 **Oll** is put in front of **an**, but is placed after pronouns. Cornish writes **pub onan** (two words) or **pubonan** (one word), corresponding to English ‘every one’ and ‘everyone’.

Put into English

1. Oll an lyvrow yw bras.
2. Pub pluven yw glas.
3. Pub onan yw glas.
4. Oll an dus yw parys.
5. Oll an dre yw lowen.
6. Pubonan yw lowen.

Put back into Cornish

All the books are big.
 Every pen is blue.
 Every one is blue.
 All the men are ready.
 The whole town is happy.
 Everyone is happy.

Grammar 57 We place **nag** in front of **on os ov owgh** to say ‘no’ to questions involving these words. Or we can use invariable **na** colloquially. We make the negative statement itself by putting **nyns** on the front of the question form.

Question

Ov vy medhek?

On ni lewyoryon?

Os ta densydh?

Owgh hwi tremenyas?

Owgh hwi an dremenysi?

Answer

Nag os, nyns os ta medhek.
 Nag owgh, nyns owgh hwi medhek.

Nag owgh, nyns owgh hwi lewyoryon.

Nag ov, nyns ov vy densydh.

Nag ov, nyns ov vy tremenyas.

Nag on, nyns on ni an dremenysi.

Put into English

2. Os ta gwag?
3. Nag ov, nyns ov vy gwag.
1. Nyns owgh hwi agan atorni.
4. Nyns yw an blegell leun.

Put back into Cornish

Are you hungry?
 No, I’m not hungry.
 You are not our lawyer.
 The folder isn’t full.

Grammar 58 Many prepositions have personal forms in Cornish. Here are the personal forms of **dhe**.

to me	dhymm DHI(B)M	to them	dhedha[ns] or dhodhans DHE-dhə[nz] or DHO-dhənz
to us	dhyn DHIN	to you	dhis DHEEZ or DHIZ
to him / it	dhodho DHO-dho	to you	dhywgh DHIWH
to her / it	dhedhi DHE-dhee		

Dhodho refers to any masculine singular noun. **Dhedhi** refers to any feminine singular noun. Employ **dhis** where **ty** is the appropriate pronoun, use **dhywgh** whenever you would say **hwi**.

Grammar 59 **Yma dhe** is used to mean 'have'. For example, **yma dhymm dew vreghtan** 'I have two sandwiches'.

Put into English

1. Yma dhymm pluken dhu.
2. Yma dhis pymp boton.
3. Yma dhedhi tri hath.
4. Yma ki dhe'n maw.
5. Yma pasti dhodhans oll.
6. Dhis yma an dorthen Veljyan.
7. Yma koffi dhyn.
8. Yma dhywgh korev ha kresigow.
9. Yma dhe'n vowes hanaf gwag.

Put back into Cornish

- I have a black pen.
You have five counters.
She has three cats.
The boy has a dog.
They all have pasties.
You're having the Belgian bun.
We've got coffee.
You've got beer and crisps.
The girl has an empty cup.

Grammar 60 As with other **yma**-sentences, **yth esa** replaces **yma** to make a statement about the past. Questions are asked and answered in the usual way.

Put into English

1. Yth esa ki dhodho kyns.
2. Eus dhis pluken blomm?
3. Eus, yma dhymm dew.
4. Esa paper dhedha?
5. Nag esa.
6. Nyns eus kerdhfon dhedhi.
7. Nyns esa koffi dhymm.

Put back into Cornish

- He used to have a dog.
Have you got a pencil?
Yes, I've got two.
Did they have paper?
No, they didn't.
She doesn't have a mobile.
I didn't have any coffee.

LESSON THIRTEEN

Masculine nouns

157	bag	sagh (seghyer)	159	coat	kota (kotys)
	SA:H			KO:-tə	
158	car	karr (kerri)	160	motorcycle	jynn diwros (jynnys diwros)
	KAɹ			JIN DIW-roz	

Pronouns

161	they	anjei	162	they	i
	ən-JEE			EE	

Prepositions

163	[along] with	gans GANZ or ganz or gen[z]	164	without	heb HE:B or heb
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Grammar 61 Here are the personal forms of **gans**.

[along] with me	genef GE-nəf	[along] with them	gansa[ns] GAN-zə[nz]
[along] with us	genen GE-nən	[along] with you	genes GE-nəz
[along] with him / it	ganso GAN-zo	[along] with you	genowgh GE-nowh
[along] with her / it	gensi GEN-zee		

Grammar 62 **Yma gans** can be used instead of **yma dhe** for things that are with a person at a specific time.

Put into English

1. Yma karr dhymm.
2. Yma botonnow dhe'n kota.
3. Yma tri sagh ganso.
4. Eus dhis jynn diwros?
5. Usi agas karr genowgh?
6. Nyns esa kota dhedhi.
7. Usi an messach gans an lewyores?
8. Dhe'n jynn diwros yma diw esedh.

Put back into Cornish

- I have a car.
The coat has buttons.
He has three bags [with him].
Do you have a motorcycle?
Do you have your car [with you]?
She didn't have a coat [with her].
Does the driver have the message [with her]?
The motorbike has two seats.

Grammar 63 English preposition ‘of’ showing ownership or possession has no equivalent in Cornish. Instead, the possessor is placed immediately after the thing possessed. This automatically marks the thing possessed as definite: **an** is still needed if the *possessor* is definite, but **an** is not used in front of the *thing possessed*.

Put into English

1. karr an konsler
2. kota an venyn
3. rom deskador
4. Yma hi ow kweles ki an den.
5. Yma lyver an maw genef.
6. Esa agas sagh genowgh?

Put back into Cornish

- the car of the councillor
the councillor’s car
the coat of the woman
the woman’s coat
the room of a teacher
a teacher’s room
She can see the man’s dog.
I have the boy’s book [with me].
Did you have your bag with you?

Grammar 64 **Agas** is usually replaced with **dha** (pronounced DHA) when **ty** is the appropriate pronoun. **Dha** triggers Second State of the following word.

Put into English

1. Yth esa hi ow tybri dha vreghtanow.
2. Yw dha wedren gwag?
3. Nyns yw agas rom parys.

Put back into Cornish

- She was eating your sandwiches.
(use **dha**)
Is your glass empty? (use **dha**)
Your room isn’t ready. (use **agas**)

Grammar 65 Cornish has two words for ‘they’. **I** can be employed in any situation. It is most commonly found after verb-forms ending **ens** or **ons**. **Anjei** is not used after such forms.

Grammar 66 **Ymons i** (pronounced [ə-]MOWNZ EE) ‘they are’ corresponds to **yma ev / hi**, while **yth esens i** (pronounced əth EZ-ənz EE) ‘they were’ corresponds to **yth esa ev / hi**. In questions, ‘yes / no’ answers and negative statements we employ **usons** (pronounced IZ-ənz) instead of **ymons**.

Put into English

1. Anjei yw studhyoryon.
2. Ymons i ow tyski.
3. Usons i ow mos heb kota?
4. Esens i y’n rom-esedha?
5. Nag esens, nyns esens i ena.

Put back into Cornish

- They are students.
They are learning.
Are they going without a coat?
Were they in the sitting-room?
No, they weren’t there.

LESSON FOURTEEN

Masculine nouns

165 bank

ar-HAN-tee

arghanti

(arghantiow)

166 month

MEEZ

mis

(misyow)

Feminine nouns

167 week

SEY-thən

seythen

(seythennow)

168 year

BLE-dhən

bledhen

(bledhynnyow)

Adjectives

169 last

də-WE-thə

diwettha

170 next

NE-sə

nessa

Adverbs

171 [in the]

afternoon

do-hə-JE:DH

dohajedh

175 this year

he-VLE-nee

hevleni

172 [in the]

evening

gor-DHI-hwəɹ

gorthugher

176 tomorrow

ə-VO-row

a-vorow

173 [in the]

morning

MI-tin

myttin

177 when

PEUɹ

p'eur

174 last year

war-LE-nee

warleni

178 yesterday

DE:

de

Grammar 67 P'eur asks a question.

Grammar 68 An adverb of time can also be used as a masculine singular noun.

Put into English

1. P'eur usi ev ow mos dhe'n tavern.
2. Gorthugher.
3. P'eur esa hi y'n dre?
4. Diwettha seythen ha de.
5. P'eur usons i ow tos?
6. Hedhyw vyttin (a fixed phrase).
7. P'eur yw an goffiva ygerys?
8. Nessa mis.

Put back into Cornish

When does he go to the pub?

In the evening.

When was she in the town?

Last week and yesterday.

When are they coming?

This morning.

When is the café open?

Next month.

Adjectives

179	what	pana	180	which	py
	PA-n[ə]			PEE	

Grammar 69 Both **pana** and **py** are employed before nouns to ask questions. **Pana** triggers Second State of the following word.

Put into English

1. Pana lyver eus dhis?
2. Py arghanti eus war gornel an stret?
3. Py shoppa eus ow kwertha pastis bras?
4. Pana goffi esa an den owth eva?
5. Pana vreghtan usi an maw ow tybri?
6. Py carr yw dhe brena?
7. Pana bastis o dhe gavos?
8. Py botel yw onan wag?

Put back into Cornish

- What book have you got?
Which bank is on the corner of the street?
Which shop sells large pasties?
What coffee was the man drinking?
What sandwich is the boy eating?
Which car is for sale?
What pasties were available?
Which bottle is an empty one?

Pronouns

181	this [one]	hemma	183	that [one]	henna
	HE-(b)mə			HE-(d)nə	
182	this [one]	homma	184	that [one]	honna
	HO-(b)mə			HO-(d)nə	

Grammar 70 Before **yw** and **o** we abbreviate **hemma homma** to **hemm** (pronounced HEM) **homm** (pronounced HOM). Before **yw** and **o** we abbreviate **henna honna** to **henn** (pronounced HEN) **honn** (pronounced HON).

Put into English

1. Pana basti usi va ow prena?
2. Hemma.
3. Hemm yw leun, henna gwag.
4. Py pluven usi hi ow kemeres?
5. Homma?
6. Na, honna – an bluven las.
7. Honn o seythen hir.
8. Henn yw agan chi, dres ena.
9. Homm yw dha garten.

Put back into Cornish

- What pasty is he buying?
This one.
This one's full, that one's empty.
Which pen is she taking?
This one?
No, that one – the blue pen.
That was a long week.
That's our house, over there.
This is your card.

LESSON FIFTEEN

Masculine nouns

185	bus	kyttrin (kyttrinyow) KI-trin or ki-TREEN	186	train	tren (trenow) TRE:N
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Feminine nouns

187	aircraft	ayren (ayrennow) E:-rən	188	road	fordh (fordhow) FOɹ
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Pronouns

189	these [ones]	an re ma ən-RE:-MA	190	those [ones]	an re na ən-RE:-NA
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Adverbs

191	how	fatel fa-TEL or FA-təl	192	how	fatla FA-tlə
-----	-----	----------------------------------	-----	-----	------------------------

Grammar 71 When we make a statement or ask a question involving any of **hwi i my ni ty** the verb **yma** or **usi** changes according to the subject. We have already encountered **ymons i** and **usons i**. Here are the other verb-forms. **My** lenites to **vy**.

Statement

Yth esov vy y'n lowarth.

[ə]th E-zof VEE

I am in the garden.

Yth eson ni ow mires.

[ə]th E-zon NEE

We are looking.

Yth es'ta war an gweli dedh.

[ə]th ES-tə

You are on the sofa.

Yth esowgh hwi ow koslowes.

[ə]th E-zowh HWEE

You are listening.

Question

Esov vy y'n lowarth?

E-zof VEE

Am I in the garden?

Eson ni ow mires?

E-zon NEE

Are we looking?

Es'ta war an gweli dedh?

ES-tə

Are you on the sofa?

Esowgh hwi ow koslowes?

E-zowh HWEE

Are you listening?

Put into English

1. Yth esov vy ow tybri pasti.
2. Yth eson ni ow tyski.
3. Es'ta owth eva korev?
4. Esowgh hwi ow mos dhe'n dre.

Put back into Cornish

- I am eating a pasty.
We are learning.
Are you drinking beer?
Are you going to town?

Grammar 72 Answers and negative statements are formed as usual.

Grammar 73 The pronouns **hwi ni vy** can always be omitted after a verb. When the pronoun is *not* omitted, the ending of the verb is often pronounced with vowel schwa.

Put into English

1. Esov, yth esov owth eva korev.
2. Nag eson, nyns eson ow mos dhe'n dre.

Put back into Cornish

- Yes, I am drinking beer.
No, we are not going to town.

Grammar 74 There are two interchangeable words for 'how' in questions. Both trigger Second State of the following word. **Fatla** abbreviates to **fatl'** before a vowel in forms of the verb **bos**.

Put into English

1. Fatel es'ta ow mos dhe'n dre?
2. War an kyttrin.
3. Fatl'usi hi ow tos dhia'n dre?
4. War dha jynn diwros.
5. Fatel eson ni ow mos dhe Bow Beljyan?
6. Yn ayren.
7. Fatel usons i ow mos dhe Gambron?
8. War an tren dhia Druru.
9. Fatl'yw an fordh?

Put back into Cornish

- How are you going into town?
On the bus.
How is she coming from town?
On your motorbike.
How are we going to Belgium?
By air.
How are they getting to Camborne?
On the train from Truro.
What's the road like?

First State **Pow Beljyan** pronounced POW BEL-jən
First State **Kambron** pronounced KAM-bron or KAM-boən

Grammar 75 **An re ma** functions as the plural of **hemma / homma**. As the plural of **henna / honna** we use **an re na**.

Put into English

1. Py pluvennow plomm es'ta ow kemeres?
2. An re na yw glas ha gwer.
3. Usi an re ma ow mos dhe Druru?
4. Yth esa an re na ow mos dhe Gambron.

Put back into Cornish

- Which pencils are you taking?
Those are blue and green.
Are these going to Truro?
Those were going to Camborne.

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