

THE NEWLYN CORNISH LANGUAGE CLASS

Weekly lessons by Zoom

For your diary: Monday **22 March** 2021, 19:30; Monday **29 March** 2021, 19:30; further lessons to be announced. For each lesson the Zoom joining details will be emailed several days beforehand.

MONDAY 22 MARCH 19:30

Lesson plan 19:30 Welcome, 19:40 Revision of yes/no questions and answers, 20:00 Simple story, 20:30 Chat (in English, with a little Cornish thrown in) about Cornish language and culture

YES/NO QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS (revision, possibly with a few things that are new)

A yes/no question is one that expects the answer yes or no. In Cornish, as in English, the verb comes first in such a question. For the verb 'to be', the verb is the very first word of all (without **yth** that only appears in positive statements). For other verbs the particle **a** is the first word, followed immediately by the verb itself. The verb mutates after particle **a** into Second State. Particle **a** itself is often omitted in rapid speech.

To answer 'yes' we say **eâ**. To answer 'no' we say **nâ**. There is a more formal way that involves repeating the verb (rather like saying 'I do' when getting married). You can find out how to use the more formal response from your coursebook.

'Not' in a negative statement is **nyns** in front of the verb when you're using the verb 'to be'.

Question

Answer (first short, then long)

Osta sqwith?

Eâ. or Nâ.

Eâ, me yw sqwith. or Nâ, nyns ov vy sqwith.

Esta owth eva coffy?

Eâ. or Nâ.

Eâ, yth esof vy owth eva coffy. or

Nâ, nyns esof vy owth eva coffy.

Remember that we write formal Cornish to show all the grammar. In rapid speech things simplify quite a lot. This is typical of Celtic languages. Until you are confident, it will be best to pronounce every syllable. Later you will find you can go quicker. So **yth esof vy owth eva coffy**, for example, can be reduced to **th'eso'vy h'eva coffy**.

Here are some questions for you to try for yourself.

Osta trist?

A wrêta marhogeth?

Esta ow redya?

Yw ev poos ha tew?

Yw an galtor gwag?

Yw hy scav ha tanow?

Yw an desen rônd?

A ylta dos avorow?

Yns y glëb?

Yw hebma coffy gans dehen?

A vynta debry ly?

Ov vy lowen?

Eson ny ow cafos lesson?

Yw an sagh leun?

Osta an descador?

Yw dyw bluen blobm lowr?

Esta i'n gwely?

Esof vy i'n parra?

SIMPLE STORY

In preparation for the lesson, check the revision grammar above, then read the story quietly until you think you've got the hang of it. Use the Vocabulary at the back of the coursebook to look up words. Read the story aloud as well, to practise your pronunciation.

Yma Crysten ha Tôny wâr an treth in Porth Towan. Ymowns y owth assaya 'qwestyon ha gorthyp' in Kernowek.

- CRYSTEN **Tôny, yw an gewar tobm?**
TÔNY **Eâ, an gewar yw tobm. Pòr dobm yw an gewar hedhyw.**
CRYSTEN **A vynta neyja i'n mor?**
TÔNY **Martesen. Yw an dowr tobm?**
CRYSTEN **Nâ, nyns yw tobm. Pùb todn yw pòr yêyn.**
TÔNY **Me a wra gortos wâr an treth. A vynta mordardhya?**
CRYSTEN **Nâ, me a yll mordardhya avorow. Hedhyw me a vydn omhowla. Dâ yw gwysca bykîny in le sewt stanch. Ha debry dehen rew martesen.**
TÔNY **Eâ, hèn yw tybyans dâ. Pò eva cana còla yêyn. A wrêta dos genama ha prena dehen rew i'n shoppa i'n bendra?**
CRYSTEN **Ha me i'n bykîny munys du-ma! Nâ nâ nâ! Nyns eson ny in fylm rag mebyon. My a vydn debry udn *Magnum* gwydn ha ty a yll ponya ha prena hedna. Uskys, kyns tedha. Gromercy milweyth!**

VOCABULARY NOT IN THE COURSEBOOK OR THE PREVIOUS WORKSHEETS

Expanding your vocabulary at a reasonable pace is an important part of learning Cornish. It's a good idea to write new words down in your exercise book as you come across them.

- assaya** *v* try, practice
gorthyp *m* answer
martesen *adv* perhaps
gortos *v* wait, stay
omhowla *v* sunbathe
bykîny *m* bikini
in le *prep* instead of
sewt stanch *m* wetsuit
dehen rew *m* ice cream
tybyans *m* idea
cana *m* can [of]
còla *m* cola
genama *prep + pron* with me
shoppa *m* shop
pendra *f* village
munys *adj* tiny
fylm *m* film, movie
mebyon *pl* boys, lads
kyns *prep* before
tedha *v* melt
gromercy *interj* thank you
milweyth *adv* a thousand times