

THE NEWLYN CORNISH LANGUAGE CLASS

Weekly lessons by Zoom

For your diary: Monday **26 April** 2021, 19:30; Monday **5 May** 2021 (to be confirmed); Monday **12 May** 2021; further lessons to be announced. For each lesson the Zoom joining details will be emailed several days beforehand.

MONDAY 26 APRIL 19:30

Lesson plan 19:30 Welcome, 19:40 Possession, 20:00 Playlet, 20:30 Chat (in English, with a little Cornish thrown in) about Cornish language and culture

In English we say, for example, 'the tail of the dog'. Cornish does not have a construction like that. In Cornish the preposition a 'of' *cannot* be used to mean possession.

In English we can also say 'the dog's tail' – that is, the dog + tail, using the old 'genitive' ending 's for the dog. In this construction 'the' in front of 'tail' disappears. Cornish tackles possession in the same way.

However, in Cornish we put 'the dog' *after* 'tail' because (just like an adjective) 'the dog' describes what kind of a tail it is – one belonging to the dog. (Cornish has no genitive ending.)

The result is **lost an ky**.

See if you can put these further examples into Cornish. The first one has been done for you.

the girl's book	lyver an vovew
the man's house	
the boy's spade	
the woman's cushion	
the school's cat	
the farmer's tractor	
the dog's bone	
the goose's feather	
Matthew's pizza	
David's football	

Here are some examples using English 'of'. Remember in Cornish there is no word for 'of' meaning possession. Just use the same construction as before. The first one has been done for you.

the rock of the cliff	carrek an âls
the bread of the baker	
the door of the bedroom	
the stocking of the woman	
the leg of the frog	
the window of the church	
the pen of the friend	
the wetsuit of Christine	
the blueberry muffin of Tony	
the cranberry juice of Petronella	

SAYING 'HAVE' IN CORNISH

Cafos means 'have' in the sense 'get, receive'. But 'have' meaning possession is expressed by the verb 'to be' with preposition **dhe**. So 'the dog has a tail' is **yma lost dhe'n ky**.

Instead of **dhe** you can use **gans**, but the sense is then 'have something with you'. So **yma gans Peternel kysten ly** (or **kysten croust**) means 'Petronella has a lunch box [with her]'.

PLAYLET

In preparation for the lesson, check the grammar above, then read the playlet 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.

The playlet has been adapted from page 37 of the coursebook.

Yma presentyor radyô 'i'th vro' ('down your way', literally 'in your locality') **in chy Wella ha Tamsyn.**

PRESENTYOR

Yth esof vy in chy Wella ha Tamsyn. Esowgh why obma, Wella ha Tamsyn?

WELLA / TAMSYN

Eâ, yth eson ny i'n esedhva.

PRESENTYOR

I'n esedhva yma strayl wâr an leur ha flourys wâr an bord. Inwedh, yma lywans wâr an fos. Yma ky dhe Wella ha Tamsyn. Usy an ky obma?

WELLA

Eâ, yma ev ryb an gwely dëdh.

PRESENTYOR

Pëth yw hanow an ky?

TAMSYN

Hanow an ky yw Lostek.

PRESENTYOR

(Dhe vabm Wella ha Tamsyn:) Eus cath dhe Wella ha Tamsyn?

MABM

Eâ, yma cath in dadn an bord.

TAMSYN

Yma an gath ow cùsca ena.

WELLA

Yma lyver wâr an bord ha Tamsyn a vydn redya an lyver.

TAMSYN

Wella yw trist, ny yll ev mos in mes hedhyw, glëb yw an gewar. Wella a garsa gwary pel droos.

VOCABULARY NOT IN THE COURSEBOOK OR THE PREVIOUS WORKSHEETS

presentyor radyô *m* radio presenter

lostek *m* fox (literally, 'taily one'), also used as a dog's name