

## THE NEWLYN CORNISH LANGUAGE CLASS

### Weekly lessons by Zoom

For your diary: Monday **8 March** 2021, 19:30; Monday **15 March** 2021, 19:30; further lessons to be announced. For each lesson the Zoom joining details will be emailed several days beforehand.

### MONDAY 8 MARCH 19:30

Lesson plan 19:30 Welcome, 19:40 Revision of present tense of verb 'to be', 20:00 Simple story, 20:30 Chat (in English, with a little Cornish thrown in) about Cornish language and culture

#### PRESENT TENSE OF VERB 'TO BE' (revision)

There are Short Forms and Long Forms. The Short Forms are practised in Lessons 1-4 of the *Skeul an Tavas* coursebook. The Long Forms are introduced in Lesson 5.

##### The Short Forms

**yw** with any subject that comes before it  
**ov vy** 'I am'  
**osta** 'you are'  
**yw ev** 'he is', 'it is' (masculine)  
**yw hy** 'she is', 'it is' (feminine)  
**on ny** 'we are'  
**owgh why** 'you are (plural or polite you)  
**yns y** 'they are'

##### The Long Forms

No equivalent: subject always *follows* verb  
**yth esof vy** 'I am'  
**yth esta** 'you are'  
**yma ev** 'he is'  
**yma hy** 'she is'  
**yth eson ny** 'we are'  
**yth esowgh why** 'you are' (plural or polite you)  
**ymowns y** 'they are'

The Short Forms are used to link a subject to a *noun* or an *adjective*. The Long Forms are used to link a subject to a *place* or an *action* - **yma** is the Long Form used with any noun subject.

Examples of Short Forms, with subject coming first

**My yw benyn.** 'I am a woman.' (yw links subject my to noun benyn)

**Ev yw maw.** 'He is a boy.' (yw links subject ev to noun maw)

**An maw yw tew.** 'The boy is fat.' (yw links subject maw to adjective tew)

**An venyn yw tanow.** 'The woman is thin.' (yw links subject benyn to adjective tanow)

Examples of Short Forms, with subject coming after the verb

**Yw hedna gwely?** 'Is that a bed?'

**Yw hodna cath?** 'Is that a cat?'

**On ny tew?** 'Are we fat?'

**Yns y lowen?** 'Are they happy?'

Examples of Long Forms

**Yth esof vy in class.** 'I am in a class.'

**Yma Lulyn in Kernow.** 'Newlyn is in Cornwall.'

**Yth esta ow redya.** 'You are reading.'

**Yma ev ow cùsca.** 'He is sleeping.'

**Yma an maw ow cùsca.** 'The boy is sleeping.'

## 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 tregys in Trûrû. Hedhyw (in bÿs wosa covyd) yw de Sadorn, hag yma hy ow vysytya Tôny. Yma Tôny tregys in Cambron. Ymowns y ow metya i'n goffyva Costa.**

**TÔNÝ** Dëdh dê, Crysten. Fatla genes?

**CRYSTEN** Dëdh dê, Tôny. Pòr dhâ, gromercy dhys. Ha tejoy?

**TÔNÝ** Wèl, pòr dhâ, saw my yw sqwith. Descador ov vy in scol, ha'n lavur yw poos.

**CRYSTEN** Pëth esta owth eva?

**TÔNÝ** Coffy gans syrop ha dehen. Ev yw dê. Hag yth esof ow tebry tesen lus.

**CRYSTEN** Ha ty yw tew. Yth esof vy owth eva tê pùb termyn, ow tebry salad, ha tanow ov vy whath.

## CHOOSING BETWEEN YW AND YMA

If a particular sentence gives you a choice, you go with the natural emphasis. For example, you can say **Crysten yw tregys in Trûrû**. That means she's resident (adjective) there, not just a stranger in the city. Or you can say **Yma Crysten tregys in Trûrû**. As in the story. That means she lives in Truro (place), not somewhere else.

In idiomatic Cornish yma may replace yw with an adjective even when yw would be more precisely correct. So you can say **Yma Tôny tew** if you like, instead of stricter **Tôny yw tew**. But be careful – this is a one-way street, traffic doesn't go in the other direction: yw can never replace yma.

## VOCABULARY NOT IN THE COURSEBOOK

*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*

**bÿs** *m* world

**Cambron** *place-name* Camborne

**coffyva** *f* cafe

(**va** is a suffix making nouns for places – note alternative **coffygy** *m* from coffy + chy)

**covyd** *m* covid

**lavur** *m* labour, work (for a living)

**lus** *col* blueberries

**salad** *m* salad

**syrop** *m* syrup

**tregys** *adj* resident

**Trûrû** *place-name* Truro

**whath** *adv* still