

THE NEWLYN CORNISH LANGUAGE CLASS

Weekly lessons by Zoom

For your diary: Monday **15 March** 2021, 19:30; Monday **22 March** 2021, 19:30; further lessons to be announced. For each lesson the Zoom joining details will be emailed several days beforehand.

MONDAY 15 MARCH 19:30

Lesson plan 19:30 Welcome, 19:40 Revision of nouns and adjectives, 20:00 Simple story, 20:30 Chat (in English, with a little Cornish thrown in) about Cornish language and culture

NOUNS AND ADJECTIVES (revision)

Nouns are either masculine or feminine. Male people are usually masculine, female people are usually feminine. But for animals and things the gender must be learned with the noun. **Ky** 'dog' is always masculine, **cath** 'cat' is always feminine; **gwely** 'bed' is masculine, **caltor** 'kettle' is feminine.

If a noun is masculine, the beginning of the noun does not change if **an** 'the' is put in front of it. But the beginning of a feminine noun changes to what is called 'Second State' after **an**. When this happens, we call the process 'mutation'.

Masculine

den > **an den** 'the man'
gwely > **an gwely** 'the bed'

Feminine

davas > **an dhavas** 'the sheep'
gwelen > **an welen** 'the stick'

Not every letter is affected by mutation. Here are all the possible Second State changes.

B > V CH > J F > F (pronounced V) K > G P > B T > D
C > G D > DH G > disappears M > V Q > G

It's also worth noting that S is unstable after **an**. You may hear S > S (pronounced Z). But that can happen with any noun, it does not depend on whether the noun is masculine or feminine.

Masculine

an sagh 'the bag'
s optionally pronounced z

Feminine

an sarf 'the snake'
s optionally pronounced z

Here are some nouns to try for yourself. Be careful – not all of them are feminine!

coffy > an _____	qwylkyn > an _____	fordh > an _____
coffyva > an _____	pal > an _____	mowes > an _____
tê > an _____	garr > an _____	morthol > an _____
tesen > an _____	gwedren > an _____	kewar > an _____

If an adjective is used with a feminine noun, the adjective mutates in the same way, **except** that C K P Q T do not change when the noun ends in S or TH. Try these. All are feminine.

an venyn + trist > _____	an gath + gwydn > _____
an bluvak + pedrak > _____	an gath + poos > _____
an fenester + glëb > _____	an logosen + bian > _____
an dorth + fresk ('fresh') > _____	an fos + tanow > _____

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.

Hedhyw yw de Sul. Hedhyw an gewar yw howlek ha tobm. Dâ yw kewar dobm gans Crysten. Tregys yw hy in Trûrû, saw dôtyys yw hy wâr an treth. Dâ yw gans Crysten pùb todn vrâs. Dâ yw gensy mordardhya. Ytho, hedhyw Crysten a vydn vysytya Treth Fystral in Towan Plustry rag mordardhya.

Dâ yw kewar howlek gans Tôny inwedh. Tregys yw ev in Cambron, saw dôtyys yw ev wâr golf. Hedhyw ev a wra lewyas dhe Lanust rag gwary golf wâr an âls ryb Kilgoodh Ust gans cothman. Wosa hedna, y a vydn neyja i'n poll neyja i'n clùb. Ha debry ly i'n barr. Hag eva pynta coref gensy.

VOCABULARY NOT IN THE COURSEBOOK OR THE PREVIOUS WORKSHEET

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

dôtyys wâr *adj* very fond of, crazy about

Treth Fystral Fistral Beach

Towan Plustry Newquay

golf *m* golf

lewyas *v* steer; drive (vehicle)

Lanust St Just

Kilgoodh Ust Cape Cornwall

poll *m* pool

ly *f* lunch

barr *m* bar

pynta *m* pint [of]

gensy means 'with her' or 'with it' referring to a feminine noun. It is derived from the basic preposition **gans** 'with'. If you want to say 'with him' or 'with it' referring to a masculine noun, that is **ganso**. You already know **genes** 'with you', as in **Fatla genes?** 'How are you?' (literally, 'how with you?')

RESOURCES

You are particularly encouraged to make use of these on-line resources.

<https://www.skeulantavas.com/vocabulary/gerlyver-kescows-2nd-edition>

Complete draft of the second edition of Ian Jackson's *Gerlyver Kescows* – A Cornish Dictionary for Conversation: Cornish-English, English-Cornish

<https://www.skeulantavas.com/audio>

More than 200 short podcast articles written and spoken by Nicholas Williams, with accompanying text so you can listen and read at the same time

Here you'll also find links to Radyô an Gernowegva, weekly radio podcasts produced by Matthi ab Dewi. Listen in and let fluent Cornish wash over you for a while. This will help you pick up the natural rhythm of the language.