

THE NEWLYN CORNISH LANGUAGE CLASS

Weekly lessons by Zoom

For your diary: Monday **17 May** 2021; Monday **24 May** 2021; further lessons to be announced. For each lesson the Zoom joining details will be emailed several days beforehand.

MONDAY 17 MAY 19:30

Lesson plan 19:30 Welcome, 19:40 Future tense: questions and negatives, 20:00 Conversation (coursebook pages 50-51 – prepare ahead of lesson), 20:30 Small talk (overleaf)

We've already learnt **a wra** and **a vydn** as ways of making positive statements about the future. To make questions and negative statements we need more forms:

For questions:

a wrav vy	a vydnaf vy or a vadnaf vy
a wrêta	a vynta
a wra ev	a vydn ev
a wra hy	a vydn hy
a wra + noun subject	a vydn + noun subject
a wren ny	a vydnyn ny
a wrewgh why	a vydnough why
a wrowns y	a vydnons y

Here are a couple of examples:

A wrêta mos hedhyw dhe'n dre? Will you be going into town today?

A vydnons y vysytya an shoppys? Will they visit the shops?

For negatives

To make negative statements we simply replace the question particle **a** at the front of each question form with the negative particle **ny**. To make negative questions we combine the two particles as **a ny**.

For example:

Ny wrav vy mos dhe'n dre hedhyw. 'I won't go into town today.'

A ny vydnons y vysytya an shoppys? 'Won't they be visiting the shops?'

Simplifying written -wgh why

There is only a single wh-sound here, so it is common to abbreviate the full written form accordingly. For instance, **ny vydnough why** can be written **ny vydno'why**.

Saying please and thank you

We use **mar pleg** (literally, 'if [it] pleases') to mean both 'please' to make a request and 'pardon' when we have not heard something clearly or wish someone to repeat what has just been said. Some pronounce **mar pleg** as **mar plêk**, and it may be spelled either way.

We use **gromercy dhis / dhe why** to say 'thank you'. Formally, especially to strangers, we may say **meur ras**. If someone offers us something we do not want, we say **gromercy ny vydna'** or **gromercy ny vadna'** (literally, 'thank you I will not'), meaning 'will not take' or 'will not accept'. The apostrophe stands for final **-f**: this sound generally disappears when it comes at the end of a phrase.

SMALL TALK

Read this dialogue quietly before the lesson 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 dialogue aloud as well, to practise your pronunciation. The dialogue illustrates the difference between familiar and polite ways of saying 'you'.

*Jowan and Jana have not met before. They find themselves standing together while waiting for a Cornish language presentation to begin at Lÿs Kernow (New County Hall) in Truro. Small talk (Cornish, **man-gows**) is called for.*

- JOWAN (extending his hand) **Dëdh dâ! Jowan Penprase ov vy. Pyw owgh why?**
- JANA (taking the hand and shaking it) **Dëdh dâ! Jana Bligh ov vy. Descadores scol nessa ov vy in Austol. Pëth owgh why?**
- JOWAN **Ogh, lavar osta mar pleg! Pebor ov vy in Arwednak.** (To a another man who joins them) **Â! Tomas, dëdh dâ! Fatla genes?**
- TOMAS **Yagh ov vy. Mès sqwith ov. Te yw lowen! Pyw yw homma? Dëdh dâ, mêstres.**
- JOWAN **Hòm yw Jana. Jana Bligh. Tomas Pascoe yw tiak, Jana.**
- TOMAS **Eâ, bargen tir in Rÿslegh. Viajya hir hedhyw! Fatla genowgh why, Mêstres Bligh?**
- JANA **Ogh, Jana ov vy, ha lavar genes mar pleg. Me yw dâ lowr. Tomm yw an gewer!**
- TOMAS **Ha tomm o de, a nyns yw? Mès yêyn vÿdh avorow. Howlek, mès gwynsak ha yêyn.**
- JOWAN **Wèl, nynj yw an awel lëb, dhe'n lyha! Ha nynj yw comolek. Ebron las!**

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.

pyw *pron* who

scol nessa *f* secondary school

Austol *place-name* St Austell

pëth *pron* what

ogh *interj* oh (whenever some emotion is involved, not necessarily 'alas')

lavar say – familiar imperative form of **leverel**

Arwednak *place-name* Falmouth

â *interj* ah

bargen tir *m* farm

Rÿslegh *place-name* East Wivelshire

viajya *v* travel

a nyns yw? *phr* isn't it? etc

awel *f* weather (literally, 'gale')

dhe'n lyha *phr* at least

ebron *f* sky

glas *adj* blue, bright (of sky)