

## CORNISH SECOND YEAR CLASS ON-LINE

TUESDAY 19 OCTOBER 19:30

*Here is the dialogue from Lesson Seventeen of the coursebook. It is presented in colloquial Cornish free of anglicisms and consistent with a 1600 base. In particular godhvos has been substituted for gallos to mean 'can' (knowledge, skill).*

- LOWENA           Pandra wrussys gwil dres pedn seythen Cala' Mê, Jory?
- JORY               Wèl, me a wrug mos dhe Wydhyan rag pyskessa. Ny a wrug skydynya dhe woles an âls ha'gan gwelyny pyskessa genen, dhana pyskessa dew our.
- LOWENA           A wrusso'why cachya neppëth?
- JORY               Gwrussyn. Ny a wrug cachya dew vrithel hag udn yawn. Ny a wrug crambla bys i'n carr termyn cot kyns morlanow. Ena ny a wrug mos tre dhe Vabm ha me ow leverel: "Ot obma pùscas dhis. Y hyllyn ny debry an pùscas rag soper." Mabm o lowen, heb otham dhedhy prena pytsa i'gan shoppa.
- Pandra wrussys jy gwil dres pedn an seythen, Lowena?
- LOWENA           Ô, me a wrug marhogeth wâr geyn merhyk, eus dhe gowethes dhybm.
- JORY               Te yw marhak? Ny wodhyen vy hedna!
- LOWENA           Ogh eâ. Yth esof vy ow marhogeth yn tâ.
- JORY               Yw marhogeth tra gales?
- LOWENA           Res yw spêna termyn hir rag desky pùptra. Res yw dhis desky fatla wrêta settya an dyber ha'n hernes i'n tyller ewn kyns oll, ha wosa hedna res yw desky kerdhes gans an margh.
- JORY               Yw merhyk dha gowethes dov?
- LOWENA           Eâ, ev yw mar dhov avell colyn ha dâ in daromres.
- JORY               Esta ow mos dhe glùb, Lowena?
- LOWENA           Nâ. Esta jy?
- JORY               Eâ, yth esof vy ow mos dhe'n clùb gwèdhpoll. Y fèdh sensys hedhyw.
- LOWENA           A wosta gwary yn tâ, Jory?
- JORY               Ogh, me a wor gwary yn tâ lowr. Me a wrug fetha ow descador. Cowlardak in deg môvyans.
- LOWENA           Yma ow thas ow cara gwary gwèdhpoll. Cowlardak in deg môvyans, pòr dhâ! Hay Jory! Ot obma barr chocklet dhys.
- JORY               Ô, gromercy dhis, Lowena. Ot obma an kyttryn lebmyn raga ny.

## Particle **y** (**yth**) + verb (Fifth State mutation after **y**) in colloquial Cornish

This construction survives, to some extent, in literary Cornish. Though it is much more common in poetry than in prose. In colloquial Cornish we generally find the construction only in the following situations:

- (1) With the verb **bos** 'to be'. The construction is compulsory for the sense 'there is ...' etc. And for 'long' (local) forms' like **esof**. Otherwise it is a stylistic alternative.
- (2) For the main verb of a sentence (in practice, this will usually be an auxiliary or a modal) when it is preceded by a sub-clause, a conditional clause, an adverbial phrase, or a strongly emphasized fronted subject.
- (3) In fixed phrase **y hyllyn ny** 'we can / we could' – this is preferred in spoken Cornish to avoid the ambiguity of **ny a yll** 'we can', pronounced 'ny yll', which might be misunderstood as a negative verb.