CORNISH SECOND YEAR CLASS ON-LINE

TUESDAY 26 OCTOBER 19:30

Today we'll pull all the ingredients together for saying 'I know', 'I can', 'I like', 'I want to'.

I KNOW

There are two verbs: **godhvos** 'know a fact' and **aswon** (West Cornish **ajon**) 'recognize, acknowledge, be acquainted with'. **Godhvos** retains an inflected present tense **me a wor**, but the periphrastic construction **yth esof vy ow codhvos** may also be used. For questions and negative statements using the inflected present tense we need to know the whole tense of course. Here are the usual colloquial forms:

A wor'vy?	**Ny worama** *or* **Ny wor'vy** *or* **Nor'vy**
A wosta?	**Ny wosta**
A wor ev / hy?	**Ny wor ev / hy**
A woryn ny?	**Ny woryn ny**
A woro'why?	**Ny woro'why**
A wodhons y?	**Ny wodhons y**

Save for a few preterite forms **aswon** does not inflect outside poetical registers.

I CAN

There are two verbs: **gallos** 'be able' (power, opportunity, permission) and **godhvos** 'know how to'. For inflection of **godhvos**, see above. **Gallos** retains an inflected present tense **me a yll**, but there is no periphrastic construction in regular use. For questions and negative statements we need the whole tense of course. Here are the usual colloquial forms:

A allama?	**Ny allama**
A ylta?	**Ny ylta**
A yll ev / hy?	**Ny yll ev / hy**
A yllyn ny?	**Ny yllyn ny**
A yllo'why?	**Ny yllo'why**
A yllons y?	**Ny yllons y**

The **a** particles in this verb are not usually pronounced. An apostrophe may be substituted for them in writing: e.g. **me'yll**.

Godhvos is used instead of **gallos** for skill or mental ability. **Godhvos** may be used colloquially instead of **gallos** in other situations too.

I LIKE

There is the verb **cara** 'love, like' and the expression **dâ yw** … **genef / genama** 'like'. **Cara** retains an inflected present tense **me a gar**, but the periphrastic construction **yth esof vy ow cara** may also be used. For questions and negative statements we need the whole tense of course. Here it is:

A garaf?	Ny garaf
A gerta?	Ny gerta
A gar ev / hy?	Ny gar ev / hy
A geryn ny?	Ny geryn ny
A gero'why?	Ny gero'why
A garons y?	Ny garons y

I WANT TO

There is no verb that expresses this idea in the present tense in ordinary conversational Cornish. We must say **me a garsa gwil neppÿth** 'I would like to do something' using the conditional tense of **cara**. Or **plegys oma dhe wil neppÿth** 'I am inclined to do something' or **whensys oma dhe wil neppÿth** 'I am wishing to do something'. Or **yma whans dhybm gwil neppÿth** 'I have a wish to do something'. Here are the question and negative forms for the first of these methods:

A garsen vy?	Ny garsen vy
A garses jy?	Ny garses jy
A garsa ev / hy?	Ny garsa ev / hy
A garsen ny?	Ny garsen ny
A garso'why?	Ny garso'why
A garsens y?	Ny garsens y

But note that the negative forms **ny garsen vy** etc are too strong for declining polite enquiries because they are antonymic: i.e. the meaning is not 'I don't want to' but 'I would hate to'.

PAST TENSES

Godhvos and **gallos** use the inflected imperfect tense, but periphrastic **yth esen vy ow codhvos** is also possible in the case of **godhvos**. So **me a wodhya** and **me a ylly / me'ylly** for affirmative statements, and here are all the forms for questions and negative statements:

A wodhyen vy?	Ny wodhyen vy	A yllyn vy?	Ny yllyn vy
A wodhyes jy?	Ny wodhyes jy	A yllys jy?	Ny yllys jy
A wodhya ev / hy?	Ny wodhya ev / hy	A ylly ev / hy?	Ny ylly ev / hy
A wodhyen ny?	Ny wodhyen ny	A yllyn ny?	Ny yllyn ny
A wodhyo'why?	Ny wodhyo'why	A ylle'why?	Ny ylle'why
A wodhyens y?	Ny wodhyens y	A yllens y?	Ny yllens y

There is no non-periphrastic past tense for **me a gar** in colloquial Cornish, and no past tense in any register for **me a garsa**. But 'I wanted to do something' can be expressed with the inflected imperfect tense of **mydnas**. So **me a vydna gwil neppÿth**, and here are all the forms for questions and negative statements:

A vydnen vy?	Ny vydnen vy
A vydnes jy?	Ny vydnes jy
A vydna ev / hy?	Ny vydna ev / hy
A vydnen ny?	Ny vydnen ny
A vydne'why?	Ny vydne'why
A vydnens y?	Ny vydnens y