

LOVINGLIVINGCORNISH
ON-LINE BEGINNERS CLASS 2022/23
Towards CEFR A1 (Breakthrough)

Class Monday 5 September 2022

Two ways of saying hello

Lowena dhis	Hello, Hi
Dùrda dhe why	Hello, Good day (<i>more formal</i>)

In modern Cornish, translated English greetings are also commonly heard: **myttyn dâ**, **dëdh dâ**, **dohajëdh dâ**, **gordhuwher dâ**

Asking how someone is

Fatla genes?	How are you? How's it going?
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Possible answers to this question

Pòr dhâ	Very well
Na dâ na drog	So-so
Heb bos yn tâ lowr	Not very well

Saying please

Mar pleg	Please
Me a'th pës	Please (<i>more formal</i>)

Saying thank you

Gromercy dhis	Thank you
Dùrdala dhe why	Thank you (<i>more formal</i>)

There's also what was originally a poetical expression **Meur ras** 'thank you' that was popularized for everyday use by those who revived the language in the 20th century. Like **Gromercy dhis** it can these days be used in any situation.

Saying goodbye

Dha weles	Bye, Be seeing you, Ciao
Duw genes	Goodbye (<i>more formal</i>)

The alphabet

There are various systems for spelling Cornish. The system we use at [lovinglivingcornish](http://lovinglivingcornish.com) is called Kernowek Standard (Standard Cornish or 'KS'). It is the system that gives most information about how a word should be pronounced. So we can say it is the 'most phonetic' spelling.

Kernowek Standard uses all 26 letters of the alphabet. Here they are, with Cornish names. See if you can sing the names off by heart.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
a	be	ce	de	e	ef	ge	ha	i	je	ke	èl	èm
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
èn	o	pe	qwo	èr	ès	te	û	ve	we	ex	ye	zèd

Kernowek Standard also uses three accents (sometimes called diacritical marks): the circumflex accent (**aken grobm** or **to bian**), the grave accent (**aken dhieskydnus**), and the diaeresis (**aken dhewboynt**).

Finding out about new people we meet

Lavar dhym dha hanow, me a'th pës.

What's your name please?

Pleth esta trigys?

Where do you live?

Peur whrusta dallath desky Kernowek?

When did you begin learning Cornish?

Answering the last question

Nowyth agensow, mis Gwydngala hevleny!

Just recently, in September this year!

Practise saying the Cornish nouns on Pages 3 and 4 of the Coursebook.

There is no 'indefinite article' in Cornish, so **den** means either 'man' or 'a man' depending on the context. The Cornish definite article **an** 'the' causes regular sound changes to some letters at the front of feminine nouns. Sound changes like these are a typical feature of all Celtic languages.

Go to *Gerlyver Kescows* for all the most useful words and phrases in conversation, easily browsed, easily searched, free of charge, on the [lovinglivingcornish](http://lovinglivingcornish.com) website.