

CARA KERNOWEK

BOOK ONE

Common European Framework of Reference
for Languages A1 (Breakthrough)

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Illustrations by
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GWELES

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Pùb gwir gwithys. Ny yll rann vjth a'n pùblycacyon-ma naneyl bos copies, sensys aberth in system dascafes na treuscorrys in form vjth oll na dre vain vjth oll, poken electronek, jynweythek, dre fotocopians, dre recordydh pò fordh vjth aral, heb recêva cummyas dhyrag dorn dhyworth an dyllor.

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Foreword

Cara Kernowek Book One is a straightforward grammar-based course designed for motivated adults learning Cornish with a teacher. At present relatively few teachers of Cornish have a professional teaching qualification, and many teachers of beginners may still be learners themselves at a higher level. The course is scaffolded to encourage teachers to be confident of the core material, passing that confidence on to the student, who can then become a confident teacher of further beginners, in a virtuous cycle.

Standard Cornish is the spelling system used throughout. The course is divided for convenience into lessons, but teachers should work through the course at a pace that matches the interest and aptitude of the class. Teachers will no doubt wish to provide much additional opportunity to develop listening, speaking, reading and writing skills within the framework of each printed lesson.

For the sake of clear exposition, the Cornish presented in *Cara Kernowek Book One* is based on the literary language that had evolved to the end of the 16th century. Cornish as actually spoken was certainly rather different. Grammar and pronunciations truer to everyday speech were preserved in records of the 17th and 18th centuries, and from this evidence we can restore a conversational register for use alongside more formal prose styles. The second and third books in the *Cara Kernowek* series gradually introduce truly colloquial alternatives so you can eventually acquire a lively idiom of your own.

Cara Kernowek departs from the typical coursebook convention which has characters using Cornish but not explicitly inhabiting a world where Cornish is a part of everyday life. The various dialogues in this book are set in a slightly modified universe where Cornish is already the language of home and work for a significant minority of people in Cornwall. Students are encouraged to think wisely about the personal, social and political issues that naturally arise in this scenario.

I am indebted to Ray Chubb for his *Skeul an Tavas* course that first established a modern syllabus for beginners in revived traditional Cornish. I am ever grateful to Professor Nicholas Williams and Michael Everson for their advice and support. I am particularly obliged to the enthusiasm of my students, and especially to Carmen Cernadas, Morwenna Fuge, Jamie Howard, Nige Martin, Dominic Ó Ceallaigh, Kyle Odgers, John Riley, Nigel J. Roberts, Dilwyn Roberts-Young, Roberta Spencer, Carolyn Thompson, and Isaac Tutin.

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Lesson Onen

Lesson One

The alphabet

Cornish words are spelled using all 26 letters of the alphabet. But x and z only occur in a few words. Here are the letters with Cornish names. Can you sing them?

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

We also use three accents (sometimes called diacritical marks): the circumflex accent (**aken grobm**), often called **to bian** ‘little roof’; the grave accent (**aken dhieskydnus**); and the diaeresis (**aken dhewboynt**). There is also the apostrophe (**collverk**) and the hyphen (**nos jùnya**).

Pronunciation

To start, you must imitate your teacher carefully. But you should also work through the pronunciation guide in Appendix One at an early opportunity. And then consult it frequently until you are sure of all the sounds of Cornish. It is easy to correct yourself at the beginning. Later it will be much more difficult to unlearn things that are wrong.

Greetings

Lowena dhis! means ‘Hello!’ or ‘Hi!’ If we wish to be more formal, we can say **Dùrda dhe why!** ‘Good day!’ Both these Cornish greetings are traditional. We can also use greetings based on contemporary English, saying **Myttyn dâ!** ‘Good morning!’ (until about 10:00), **Dohajëdh dâ!** ‘Good afternoon!’ (after midday), **Gordhuwher dâ!** ‘Good evening!’ (up to midnight). Some use **Dëdh dâ!** as a modern alternative to **Dùrda dhe why!**

Asking how someone is

Fatla genes? means ‘How are you?’ (literally ‘how [is] along-of you?’) It can be used as a greeting without expecting any reply. If you do wish to reply but without giving anything away, you can just respond with **Fatla genes?** Alternatively you can give a stock answer such as **Pòr dhâ** ‘Fine!’ (literally ‘very good’), **Na dâ na drog!** ‘So-so!’ (literally ‘neither good nor bad’) or **Heb bos yn tâ lowr!** ‘Not too good!’ (literally ‘without being well enough’). If you use one of these answers you can add **Ha tejj?** ‘And you?’ to prompt something in return.

Saying goodbye

Duw genes! means ‘Goodbye!’ (literally ‘God [be] along-of you’). More casually you can say **Dha weles!** ‘[Be] seeing you!’ When it’s quite late in the evening you may use **Nos dâ!** ‘Good night!’

Gender

Cornish nouns are either ‘masculine’ or ‘feminine’. Just one noun, **tra** ‘thing’, is neuter and so does not fit straightforwardly into this scheme (see Lesson Nine). Nouns for specifically female people are always feminine. But the great majority of nouns in Cornish are masculine. Apart from a few nouns that designate males specifically, masculine nouns for people and animals can refer to either a male or a female. A few feminine nouns may likewise refer to either sex.

Vocabulary

Here are some masculine nouns:

chy house, **den** man, **edhen** bird, **glaw** rain, **gwely** bed, **ky** dog, **margh** horse, **maw** boy, **pons** bridge, **porhel** pig

Here are some feminine nouns:

benyn woman, **buwgh** cow, **cath** cat, **davas** sheep, **garr** leg, **gwedhen** tree, **mowes** girl, **pluven** feather *or* pen, **tesen** cake, **tre** town

Number

All of these nouns are ‘singular’. When the noun designates someone or something that is countable, the singular is used for one individual. There is no word in Cornish corresponding to the English indefinite article ‘a, an’. So **benyn** means ‘woman’ or ‘a woman’ depending on the context. (Later we shall learn about nouns that are plural or collective – designating more than one individual.) A noun for something that is not countable has only a singular form. For example **glaw** ‘rain’.

Definite article

The definite article **an** ‘the’ precedes its noun just as in English. But when **an** is used in front of *feminine singular* nouns beginning with certain sounds, it causes a sound-change (mutation). We say that the noun is in First State before this change. After the change it is in Second State. The technical name for the change from First State to Second State is *lenition*.

Mutation is usually reflected in the spelling. Here are the spellings that can change:

c	>	g	p	>	b	t	>	d	ch	>	j
k	>	g	b	>	v	d	>	dh			
q	>	g	m	>	v						
go	>	wo	gu	>	wu						Any other g simply disappears

Practys Onen

Exercise One

Here are two examples: **an venyn** 'the woman', **an arr** 'the leg'. Now give the Cornish for the cow, the cat, the sheep, the tree, the girl, the pen, the cake, the town. Masculine singular nouns do not change after **an**. Give the Cornish for the house, the man, the bird, the rain, the bed, the dog, the horse, the boy, the bridge, the pig.

Optional mutation

A small number of feminine singulars optionally change their sound. So **an fenester** 'the window', **an fordh** 'the road or the way', **an fos** 'the wall' are commonly pronounced with an initial v-sound. But it is possible to retain the f-sound if you prefer. That is why we do not alter the spelling. Likewise you can pronounce **an sarf** 'the snake' with an initial z-sound if you wish. Again, we do not change the spelling.

Attributive adjectives

When an adjective is coupled directly with a noun to describe it we say that the adjective is *attributive*. Attributive adjectives are usually placed after their noun in Cornish. So **coth**, for instance, means 'old'; and we say **den coth** 'an old man' and **an den coth** 'the old man'. But attributive adjectives placed after feminine singular nouns go into Second State. So we say **benyn goth** 'an old woman' and **an venyn goth** 'the old woman'.

Vocabulary

Here are some more adjectives that can be used attributively:

bian small, little, **blou** blue, **brâs** big, large, **du** black, **gwer** green, **gwag** empty, blank (*also* hungry), **gwydn** white, **melen** yellow, **poos** heavy, **rudh** red

Here are some more masculine nouns:

bord table, **chair** chair, **daras** door, **hanaf** cup, **paper** paper

And here are some more feminine nouns:

astell board, **bre** hill, **canstel** basket, **gwedren** glass, tumbler, **padel** pan

Practys Dew

Exercise Two

Give the Cornish for a small boy, a green frog, the black cat, the blue cup, an empty glass, the big hill, the heavy pan, a yellow chair, blank paper, a big table, the red door, the whiteboard (= the white board), the empty bed, a white leg, a large house, the toilet (= the little house), a heavy basket, the yellow wall, the old pig, the green snake.

Saying this and that

An maw means 'the boy' and **an maw-ma** means 'this boy'. **An vowes** means 'the girl' and **an vowes-na** means 'that girl'. **Hebma** means 'this [one]' referring to a masculine noun. **Hobma** means 'this [one]' referring to a feminine noun. **Hedna** means 'that [one]' referring to a masculine noun. **Hodna** means 'that [one]' referring to a feminine noun. If we do not yet know what noun we are dealing with, we use **hebma** and **hedna**.

Open question: What is?

Pëth yw? and **Pandr' yw?** both mean 'what is?' They are interchangeable. So we can ask, for example, **Pëth yw hebma?** 'What is this?' or **Pandr' yw hedna?** 'What is that?'

***Pandr'** stands for **pandra** but the word is always abbreviated before **yw**.*

Here are some specimen replies:

Hèm yw qwylkyn. 'This is a frog.'

Hòm yw padel. 'This is a pan.'

Hèn yw gwely. 'That is a bed.'

Hòn yw tesen. 'That is a cake.'

We always abbreviate **hebma**, **hobma**, **hedna**, **hodna** before **yw** 'is'.

Fronting

It is very common in Cornish to move the most important piece of information in a sentence to the very front. So we can also say:

Qwylkyn yw hebma. 'This is a frog.'

Padel yw hobma. 'This is a pan.'

Gwely yw hedna. 'That is a bed.'

Tesen yw hodna. 'That is a cake.'

When **hebma**, **hobma**, **hedna**, **hodna** do *not* come immediately before **yw**, they are *not* abbreviated.

Practys Try
Exercise Three

Here are some more specimen replies – this time for you to work out the meaning:
Hèm yw chair. Hòn yw canstel. Hanaf yw hedna. Pluven yw hobma. Hòm yw davas.
Hèn yw daras. Fenester yw hodna. An Chy Gwydn yw hebma. An astell wydn yw
hobma. Hòn yw an fordh vrâs.

Closed questions (for a yes/no answer)

With **yw** ‘is’ we can make questions expecting the answer ‘yes’ or ‘no’ just as in English.

Practys Peswar
Exercise Four

What do the following questions mean?

Yw hebma edhen? Yw hobma buwgh? Yw hedna hanaf? Yw hodna gwedren? Yw
hobma sarf? Yw hedna glaw? Yw hodna garr? Yw hebma an chy bian? Yw hedna
den coth? Yw hedna an pons brâs?

Replying to closed questions

Eâ is ‘yes’. **Nâ** is ‘no’. A more formal way of saying ‘yes’ is to repeat the verb. So you could also say **Yw** ‘yes’ (literally ‘[it] is’). A more formal way of saying ‘no’ is to repeat the verb preceded by the general negative particle **na** (which becomes **nag** if the verb is a part of **bos** ‘be’ beginning with a vowel). So you could also say **Nag yw** ‘no’ (literally ‘[it] is not’).

Replying with an affirmative statement

In reply to a question **Yw hebma chair?** for example, we can say **Eâ** (or **Yw**), **hèm yw chair**. Or we can front the important information and say **Eâ** (or **Yw**), **chair yw hebma**.

Replying with a negative statement

To state a negative we use the special negative statement particle **ny** (which becomes **nyns** if the verb is a part of **bos** ‘be’ beginning with a vowel). So we can say, for example, **Nâ** (or **Nag yw**), **nyns yw hebma chair**. In this construction the subject (here **hebma**) always comes after the verb (here **yw**), just like in a question. We could front **chair** and say **Nâ** (or **Nag yw**), **chair nyns yw hebma**. But fronting is not very common in negative statements.

Practys Pymp

Exercise Five

Produce affirmative and negative replies for each of the questions in Exercise Four.

Predicative adjectives

When an adjective is separated from its noun by a part of the verb **bos** 'be' (such as **yw** 'is') we say the adjective is *predicative*. Predicative adjectives are always in First State – they do not mutate, even when they refer to a feminine singular noun.

Practys Whe

Exercise Six

What do the following sentences mean?

An chy yw gwag. An venyn yw coth. Bian yw an dre. Yw an dhavas gwydn? Nyns yw an gath du. Pandr' yw hedna? Hòn yw astell wydn. Yw an astell wydn gwag? Hòm yw bre vrâs. An vre yw brâs.

Practys Seyth

Exercise Seven

If you are learning in a class, you can play a game of mixing nouns with adjectives. Making 'crazy' combinations can actually stimulate your memory for new words. One student picks a noun (with definite article), pronouncing the phrase well and giving the meaning. The next learner picks an adjective in the same way. The teacher then selects a third student to put the two together – either attributively (e.g. **an vuwgh vlou**) or predicatively (e.g. **an vuwgh yw blou** or **blou yw an vuwgh**).

Cornish adjective glas

People often claim that **glas** is the ordinary Cornish word for both blue and green. Which is rather confusing because these colours are obviously not the same! The truth is that **blou** is the basic adjective for blue, and **gwer** is the basic adjective for green. **Glas** means 'having a bright colour' but with the limitation that it is *not* used for the red/yellow end of the spectrum. So **glas** *can* mean blue, referring for example to the sky. Or green, referring for example to verdant pasture. But the word is also used to refer to grey hair.

Blocked mutation

It is sometimes said there is a rule of Cornish grammar that an adjective beginning with any of c t k p or q is not put into Second State if the feminine singular noun preceding it ends in s or th. It is true that the change to Second State may be blocked in these circumstances, but it is only a *tendency*, not a rule.

String of attributive adjectives

You can of course apply more than one adjective to a noun. For instance, **chy gwag brâs** 'a big empty house'. When used with a feminine singular noun every adjective in the string goes into Second State where applicable. So we say, for example, **an wedhen wer vian** 'the little green tree'. Note how the sequence of adjectives in a string is generally the reverse of the English word order.

Lesson Dew

Lesson Two

Vocabulary

Here are some more nouns. From now on we will introduce masculine nouns with the symbol *m*, feminine nouns with the symbol *f*, and plural nouns with the symbol *pl*.

bara *m* bread, **carrek** *f* rock, **keus** *m* cheese, **lyver** *m* book, **pel** *f* ball

Here are some more adjectives:

cales hard (*also* difficult), **cogh** scarlet, **êsy** easy, **nowyth** new, **teg** beautiful, pretty

Two fixed expressions: **bara cogh** brown bread, **bara nowyth** fresh bread

The phrase **bara cogh** gives a clue that Cornish colour words are not precisely aligned with counterparts in English. There is no all-purpose word for 'brown' in Cornish. Both **rudh** and **cogh** are used in this sense. There are other possibilities too.

Practys Eth

Exercise Eight

Answer some questions according to the following example:

Yw an bara-ma cogh?

Eâ (Yw), an bara-ma yw cogh. Yw an bara-na cogh? Nâ (Nag yw), an bara-na yw gwydn.

Yw an bel-ma rudh? Yw an bel-na rudh?

Yw an keus-ma melen? Yw an keus-na melen?

Yw an garrek-ma poos? Yw an garrek-na poos?

Yw an practys-ma êsy? Yw an practys-na êsy?

Yw an lyver-ma nowyth? Yw an lyver-na nowyth?

Pò (occasionally **bò**) means 'or'.

Practys Naw

Exercise Nine

Answer some questions according to the following example:

Yw an bel rudh pò gwer?

An bel yw rudh. Nyns yw an bel gwer.

Yw an keus melen pò gwydn?

Yw an bluen blou pò rudh?

Yw an ganstel brâs pò bian?

Yw an bara nowyth pò coth?

Yw an practys êsy pò cales?

If we put interrogative particle **a** in front of a negative statement, the result is a negative question. For example:

Nyns yw an bel rudh. 'The ball is not red.'

A nyns yw an bel rudh? 'Isn't the ball red?'

This can be answered in the ways we have already learned.

Eâ (Yw), an bel yw rudh. 'Yes, the ball is red.' *i.e.* contradicting

Nâ (Nag yw), nyns yw an bel rudh. 'No, the ball is not red.' *i.e.* confirming

Pronoun subjects

Strictly speaking, **yw** means 'is'. But in fact we can put any personal pronoun in front of it. Like this:

me (or my) yw dyscor 'I am a learner'

ny yw dyscoryon 'we are learners'

te (or ty) yw dyscor 'you are a learner'

why yw dyscoryon 'you are learners'

ev yw dyscor 'he is a learner'

hy yw dyscor 'she is a learner'

anjy (or y) yw dyscoryon 'they are learners'

Dyscor *m* is any learner, male or female. Its plural form is **dyscoryon**. For a female learner we can say **dyscores** *f*, but this is optional. The plural form of **dyscores** is **dyscoresow**.

If on the other hand we front the more important piece of information, we cannot use **yw** in this universal way. There are particular forms for subjects 'I', 'we', 'you', 'they' that must be used instead. Like this:

dyscor ov vy 'I am a learner'

dyscoryon on ny 'we are learners'

dyscor osta 'you are a learner'

dyscoryon owgh why 'you are learners'

dyscoryon yns y 'they are learners'

We must also use these particular forms in questions and with the negative statement particle.

Vocabulary

Here are some more new words:

descador *m* teacher, **lowen** happy, **parys** ready, **sqwith** tired, **trist** sad, **yagh** well (referring to health). **Kernow** *m* refers to a male Cornish person. **Kernow** *f* means Cornwall. **Kernowes** *f* refers to a female Cornish person. **Kernowyon** *pl* is used for males or a mix of males and females. **Kernowesow** *pl* is used specifically for females only.

Practys Deg

Exercise Ten

Answer some questions according to the following example:

Osta dyscor?

Eâ, me yw dyscor. Eâ, dyscor ov vy. Nâ, nyns ov vy dyscor.

Osta mowes?

Osta yagh?

Osta lowen?

Owgh why descadoryon?

Owgh why sqwith?

Yw ev descador?

On ny parys?

Yw hy trist?

Ov vy poos?

Yns y Kernowyon?

Why is also used for 'you' referring to a single person that you do not know well. So to a stranger you should say **Owgh why descador?** rather than **Osta descador?** In fact **why** can be used with friends and family too, interchangeably with **te**. And it is a fixture in some phrases – such as **Dùrda dhe why!** 'Good day!'

Yw, never **yns**, is used when a plural noun is the subject.

Plural nouns referring to male people (or a mix of male and female people) have a tendency to appear in Second State after **an** 'the' (and to cause Second State of accompanying attributive adjectives) – though it is not a very rigid grammatical rule. And it does not usually apply to loan-words from English.

So we say, for example, **an dhyscoryon yw lowen** or **lowen yw an dhyscoryon** 'the learners are happy'. Contrast **an dyscoresow** – feminine *singular* nouns take Second State after **an** 'the', but their plurals stay in First State.

In quite formal Cornish, and also in conversation to save repetition, we can omit the personal pronoun from the particular forms because the sense is already complete without it. So you might find **Kernow ov** 'I am Cornish', instead of **Kernow ov vy**. Even informally we might say **Osta sqwith? Os trist?** 'Are you tired? Are you sad?'

Vocative particle

There are three different particles **a** in Cornish. We have already met 'interrogative **a**' before **nyns**, turning a negative statement into a negative question. 'Vocative **a**' is optionally used before proper names of people when addressing them. Vocative **a** triggers Second State, but any *personal name* remains unchanged.

Practys Udnek

Exercise Eleven

Here is a typical brief exchange between two acquaintances who meet on a street in Truro (Cornish **Trûrû**) one day. Read it aloud several times to be sure you understand it. New words at the end.

Cattern Mundy	Dùrda dhe why, a Vêster Pentreath? Fatla genes?
Perys Pentreath	A Cattern, lowena dhis! Ha lavar Perys mar pleg! Pòr dhâ ov vy. Fatla genes sy? Osta yagh?
Mêstres Mundy	Eâ, yagh lowr, Perys.
Mêster Pentreath	A nyns yw an glaw-ma uthyk?
Mêstres Mundy	Howl avorow martesen?
Mêster Pentreath	Re bo govenek! Dha weles, Cattern!
Mêstres Mundy	Duw genes!

avorow tomorrow, **howl** *m* sun, sunshine, **martesen** maybe, perhaps, **Mêster** Mr, **Mêstres** Mrs, Ms, **uthyk** dreadful. The phrase **lavar Perys mar pleg** means 'please call me Perys' (literally, 'say Perys if it pleases'). **Fatla genes sy?** is a more emphatic form of **fatla genes?** – How are *you*? **Re bo govenek** means 'I hope so' or 'let's hope so' (literally, 'may there be hope').

Talking about the weather

We talk about the weather just as much in Cornish as we do in English. Here are some more useful words: **comolek** cloudy, **glëb** wet, **gwyns** *m* wind, **gwynsak** windy, **howlek** sunny, **kewar** *f* weather, **sëgh** dry, **tobm** warm, hot, **yêyn** cool, cold. If we do not already know what the weather is like we can ask **Fatl' yw an gewar?** or **Fatell yw an gewar?** Both **fatla** and **fatell** mean 'how'. **Fatla** is always used for the question **fatla genes?** Otherwise **fatla** and **fatell** are about equally common. **Fatla** always abbreviates to **fatl'** before **yw**.

Practys Dêwdhek

Exercise Twelve

Make your own conversation based on the following model. Note how Cornish does not generally employ a word for 'it' when talking about the weather. New words at the end.

Fatl' yw an gewar? Yw howlek?

- **Nâ, nyns yw howlek. Nyns yw sêgh. Comolek yw. Glêb yw. Saw nyns yw yêyn.**

A nyns yw yêyn in gwir? Fatell yw an gwyns?

- **Gwyns? Nâ, nyns yw gwynsak.**

Howl avorow?

- **Martesen. Pò glaw unweyth arta!**

in gwir indeed (literally, 'in truth'), **saw** but, **unweyth arta** once again

We often like to compare the weather from day to day. **Hedhyw** is 'today'. **De** is 'yesterday'. When we are talking about the past **yw** 'is' becomes **o** 'was'. When we talk about the future **yw** becomes **vêdh** 'will be'. So we say **an gewar o glêb de** 'the weather was wet yesterday' or (with fronting) **glêb o an gewar de** or just **glêb o de**. Likewise **an gewar a vêdh yêyn avorow** 'the weather will be cold tomorrow' or (with fronting) **yêyn vêdh an gewar avorow** or just **yêyn vêdh avorow**. Note how **vêdh** must be linked to a preceding subject by particle 'relative **a**' (the third of the three particles **a**).

Saying 'yes' and 'no'

We can always say **eâ** and **nâ**. Or we can 'repeat the verb of the question'. But some questions do not contain a verb, so this method cannot be applied to them. And by now we have encountered a number of verb forms: **ov**, **os**, **yw**, **on**, **owgh**, **yys**, **o**, **vêdh**. We must be sure to 'repeat' the right one. It will not always be the exact form used in the question. Consider the following examples:

Osta yagh? Ov, me yw yagh.

Are you well? Yes, I'm well.

On ny parys? Nag on, nyns on ny parys.

Are we ready? No, we're not ready.

Owgh why lowen? On, ny yw lowen.

Are you happy? Yes, we're happy.

O glêb de? Nag o, nyns o an gewar de glêb. Sêgh o.

Was it wet yesterday? No, the weather yesterday wasn't wet. It was dry.

A vêdh tobm avorow? Bêdh, avorow an gewar a vêdh howlek.

Will it be warm tomorrow? Yes, tomorrow the weather will be sunny.

A vëdh glëb avorow? Na vëdh, ny vëdh glëb.

Will it be wet tomorrow? No, it won't be wet.

There's quite a lot to note here. You can see how we must adjust the form of the verb to make sense in the answer. **Osta?** 'are you?' for example is usually answered with **Ov** 'I am'. We employ particle 'interrogative **a**' before **vëdh** in a yes/no question, but **o** (like **yw**) is used without this particle. And **vëdh** becomes **bëdh** when it means 'yes'. As for negatives with **vëdh**, the general negative particle **na** and the negative statement particle **ny** are used in their basic form – in contrast to their extended forms **nag** and **nyns** that must be employed with **yw** and **o**.

It may be best to avoid using the repeat-the-verb method for 'yes' and 'no' until you are fairly confident about your Cornish. But you need to recognize it.

Practys Tredhek

Exercise Thirteen

Make your own conversation based on the following model. Here are some job titles that you might use: **acowntyas** 'accountant', **laghyas** 'lawyer', **clojior** 'nurse', **injynor** 'engineer', **lewyor** 'driver', **medhek** 'doctor', **tiak** 'farmer'. **Pyw** is 'who' in questions.

Pyw owgh why?

- **Mêster Teague ov vy. Saw lavar te mar pleg.**

Gromercy dhis, a Vêster Teague! Ha pëth osta?

- **Descador ov vy.**

Ha pyw yw hy?

- **Descadores yw hy.**

Py hanow yw an dhescadores?

- **Mêstresyk Keverne yw.**

Ha pëth yw hedna? Yw ky martesen?

- **Nâ, nyns yw ky. Hòn yw cath dhu vrâs.**

Gromercy dhis! or **Gromercy dhys!** means 'Thank you'. **Mêstresyk** is 'Miss' for those who still like to use this title. Note how you can substitute **py hanow?** (literally 'which name?') for **pyw?** when you want specifically to know someone's name.

We saw when we met the pair **dyscor** / **dyscores** 'learner' that the masculine **-or** form refers to either a male or a female person, while the feminine **-es** form refers specifically to someone who is female. The pairs **clojior** / **clojiores**, **descador** / **descadores**, **injynor** / **injynores**, **lewyor** / **lewyores**, **medhek** / **medheges**, **tiak** / **tioges** work in the same way. For a masculine **-yas** form there is a corresponding feminine form **-yades**: so we also have the pairs **acowntyas** / **acowntyades** and **laghyas** / **laghyades**.

Counting to ten

Onen, dew, try, peswar, pymp, whe (or whegh), seyth, eth, naw, deg.

Practys Peswardhek

Exercise Fourteen

Do a 'launch countdown' from ten to zero. 'Zero' is **màn**. Keep repeating until you can say the whole sequence, in *both* directions, as quickly as you can in English.

Lesson Try

Lesson Three

Counting people and things

In Cornish the words for numbers are followed by a *singular* noun. So we say, for example, **pymp ky** ‘five dogs’, **seyth dëdh** ‘seven days’, **deg den** ‘ten men’.

For ‘one’ there is a special form **udn** that is used with nouns. This works like **an** ‘the’ – it causes Second State mutation of *feminine* nouns. So we say **udn maw** ‘one boy’ but **udn vowes** ‘one girl’.

Dew has a separate form **dyw** that is used with feminine nouns. Both **dew** and **dyw** cause Second State mutation, so we say **dew vaw** ‘two boys’ and **dyw vowes** ‘two girls’. And both **dew** and **dyw** themselves go into Second State after **an** ‘the’. So we say **an dhew vaw** ‘the two boys’ and **an dhyw vowes** ‘the two girls’.

Try has a separate form **teyr** that is used with feminine nouns. Both **try** and **teyr** cause a mutation we have not met before – we call it Third State. The technical name for the change from First State to Third State is *spirantization*.

Mutation is reflected in the spelling. Here are the spellings that can change:

c > **h** **p** > **f** **t** > **th**

k > **h**

qw > **wh** That’s a lot simpler than Second State mutation!

Here are some examples:

Try hy ‘three dogs’, **an try fons** ‘the three bridges’, **teyr hath** ‘three cats’, **an teyr fluven** ‘the three feathers (*or* pens)’, **try whylkyn** ‘three frogs’, **an teyr thesen** ‘the three cakes’.

Peswar has a separate form **peder** that is used with feminine nouns. But there is no mutation after any of the numbers four to ten. So we say **peswar edhen** ‘four birds’ but **peder buwgh** ‘four cows’.

Saying ‘there is’ etc

Otta means ‘there is’ *or* ‘there are’ when drawing attention to someone or something. For example, **otta chy** ‘there’s a house’ or **otta Kernowyon** ‘there are (some) Cornish people’. If we wish to point specifically we can add **dres ena** ‘over there’ – **otta treven dres ena** ‘there are (some) houses over there’. Note how **chy** ‘house’ has a completely different word as its plural. Before a vowel we reduce **otta** to **ot**. For instance, **ot an**

vergh 'there are the horses'. Note how **mergh** 'horses' is exceptionally put into Second State after **an** 'the' (as if the word referred to male people).

To say 'here is' or 'here are' for something close at hand, Cornish uses **ot obma**. So for example **ot obma chair** 'here's a chair' or **ot obma Kernowyon** 'here are (some) Cornish people'. Any noun always comes after **ot obma**; it is not possible to place the noun between **ot** and **obma**.

There are fixed phrases when **otta is** is used with a personal pronoun. These are **otta vy** 'there I am', **otta sy** 'there you are' (one person), **otta va** 'there he is', **otta hy** 'there she is', **otta ny** 'there we are', **otta why** 'there you are' (plural or stranger), **ottensy** 'there they are'. These can be used with **dres ena** just as for nouns. For example **ottensy dres ena** 'there they are over there'. **Obma** is not generally used with these pronoun phrases, so **otta vy** for instance means 'there I am' or 'here I am' according to context.

Vocabulary

Here are some more nouns.

amowntyor dêwlin *m* laptop (computer), **amowntyor legh** *f* tablet (computer), **blòg** *m* blog, **cargor** *m* charger, **gwiasva** *f* website, **iscarg** *m* download, **kerdhfôn** *m* mobile phone, **lyther** *m* letter (communication), **text** *m* text (all senses)

Rîvbost *m* means 'email'. In the sense of a *message* by email we say **messach** *m* **rîvbost**.

Practys Pymthek

Exercise Fifteen

How would you say the following in Cornish?

Six websites, eight emails, three mobile phones, two blogs, one charger, four tablets, seven laptops, nine papers, ten downloads

Practys Whêtek

Exercise Sixteen

How would you say the following in Cornish?

There's the door. Here's the window. There are two tables over there. Here's a glass. Here are three pens. Here we are. There you are. Here are three farmers. And here are ten lawyers. There's one female teacher over there.

When we are not pointing, but merely saying that someone or something is in a particular place, we use **yma** 'there is/are'. **In** means 'in' (or 'at' when the sense is the same). For 'in the' we say **i'n**, pronounced the same but written with the apostrophe, and causing the same mutations as simple **an**. For example **yma arhanty** *m* **i'n dre**

‘there is a bank in the town’. We also use **yma** (not **yw**) as the introductory word, but meaning just ‘is’ or ‘are’, when we say that a *definite* subject is in a particular place. For example **yma an tiak i’n arhanty** ‘the farmer is in (or at) the bank’ or **yma an vergh i’n park m** ‘the horses are in the field’. Note that **yma an** can optionally become **yma’n**.

Vocabulary

Here are some more nouns:

eglos *f* church, **lyverva** *f* library, **popty** *m* bakery, **shoppa** *m* shop, **tavern** *m* pub

Practys Seytek

Exercise Seventeen

Let’s imagine a small town in West Cornwall. What do the following sentences mean?

Yma dyw eglos i’n dre. Onen yw coth ha teg. Onen yw nowyth. I’n dre yma lyverva spladn. Hag yma peswar tavern i’n dre. Yma Mêstres Pascoe in shoppa bian i’n dre. I’n fenester yma tesen vrâs. Popty yw an shoppa-ma. Yma Mêster Pascoe i’n arhanty. Yma an arhanty i’n Strêt Arâg.

Spladn literally means ‘splendid’. It is used colloquially to mean ‘great’, ‘excellent’, ‘wonderful’, ‘fantastic’ etc. We’ve already encountered **ha** ‘and’. This word optionally (but very frequently) becomes **hag** when the next word begins with a vowel. **I’n Strêt m Arâg** means ‘in the Fore (or High) Street’.

Ple ma? means ‘where is?’

Practys Êtek

Exercise Eighteen

A stranger in our town meets Mr Mundy coming out of the bank. Read their conversation aloud several times to be sure you understand it. See below for help with the meaning.

Stranjer	Mar pleg. Ple ma an lyverva?
Mêster Pascoe	An lyverva? Yma hodna i’n strêt-ma. Otta hy dres ena. Lyverva pòr dhâ yw.
Stranjer	Dùrdala dhe why!
Mêster Pascoe	Owgh stranjer obma in Kernow West?
Stranjer	Eâ. Den a’n Tir Uhel ov vy. Whythror a’n istory a Gernow. Ha dyscor a’n Kernowek.
Mêster Pascoe	Wolcùm osta! Duw genes!
Stranjer	Duw genes! Ha gromercy unweyth arta!

Vocabulary

stranjer *m* stranger, **whythror** *m* explorer or researcher, **west** *m* (also adjective) west, **wolcùm** 'welcome'. **Dùrdala dhe why!** means 'Thank you!' – **why** is appropriate for a stranger to use when he does not know Mr Pascoe, but it is anyway a fixed part of this expression, just as for **Dùrda dhe why** 'Good day!' Note how Mr Pascoe switches to **osta** (familiar) as he welcomes the stranger to his town.

We've learned that there are three *particles* **a**: interrogative, vocative, relative. It is time to meet a fourth word **a** in Cornish: this time a preposition meaning 'from'. The word also means 'of', though its use in that sense is more limited than in English. And just as **i'n** means 'in the', so **a'n** means 'from the' or 'of the'. Therefore **den a'n Tir Uhel** means 'a man from the High Land (that is, North Cornwall)'. **Whythror a'n istory m a Gernow** means 'a researcher of the history of Cornwall'. It also shows us that **a** 'from, of' triggers Second State when the noun directly follows it. **Dyscor a'n Kernowek m** means 'a learner of (the) Cornish (tongue)'.

Saying 'on' and 'under'

Wàr means 'on'. Like **a** 'from, of' this word causes Second State mutation of any noun that follows it directly. For instance **wàr jair** 'on a chair'.

In dadn means 'under'. This too causes Second State mutation of any noun that directly follows it. For instance **in dadn vord** 'under a table'.

Vocabulary

Here are some more nouns:

amary *m* cupboard, **attêsva** *f* toilet, **crow** *m* shed, **kegyn** *f* kitchen, **lowarth** *m* garden

Practys Nawnjek

Exercise Nineteen

How would you say the following in Cornish?

There's a shed in the garden. There's a pretty little cat under the bed. There are two toilets in the house. Here's the kitchen. On the table there's (some) bread – and a cake. Is this cupboard big enough? There's (some) paper under that basket. And a blue pen over there. Where's the laptop? Here it is – on the chair.

Practys Ugans

Exercise Twenty

Read the following summary aloud several times to be sure you understand it. New words at the end.

Ple ma an lyverva? Yma'n lyverva wàr an Strêt Arâg. Ha fatell yw an lyverva? Hy yw lyverva spladn. Ple ma an stranjer? I'n lyverva yma ev. Devedhys yw ev a'n Tir Uhel. Whythror a'n istory a Gernow yw ev. Hag ev yw dyscor a'n Kernowek inwedh. Wolcùm yw an stranjer i'n dre.

Devedhys yw means 'has come' (literally 'is come'). The meaning of **inwedh** is 'also'. Note how **hy** (literally 'she') is used to mean 'it' referring to the library – because **lyverva** is feminine. In the same way we can use **ev** (literally 'he') in the sense 'it' to refer to anything that is a masculine noun.

Lesson Peswar

Lesson Four

Vocabulary

Here are some more new words:

â! ah! **dâ** good, **desînor** *m* designer, **dhe'n lyha** at least, **gwias** *m* web (spider's or the internet), **ogh!** oh! (expressing emotion), **optycyan** *m* optician, **wèl** well (thinking what to say)

Practys Onen warn Ugans

Exercise Twenty One

Jowan and Jana have not met before. They find themselves standing around at Lÿs Kernow (New County Hall) in Truro, waiting for a Cornish language presentation for professionals to begin. Small talk (Cornish, 'man-gows') is called for! What are they saying?

- Jowan **Dëdh dâ! Jowan Pryce ov vy. Pyw owgh why?**
Jana **Dëdh dâ! Jana Bligh ov vy. Optycyan ov. Pëth owgh why?**
Jowan **Ogh, lavar 'osta' mar pleg! Desînor gwias ov vy.**
 (Another man joins them.)
Jowan **Â! Tomas, dëdh dâ! Fatla genes?**
Tomas **Yagh ov vy. Saw sqwith ov. Te yw lowen! Pyw yw hobma? Dürda dhe why, a vëstres!**
Jowan **Hòm yw Jana. Jana Bligh. Tomas Landry yw tiak, Jana.**
Tomas **Fatla genowgh, Mëstres Bligh?**
Jana **Ogh, Jana ov vy, ha lavar 'genes' mar pleg. Me yw dâ lowr. Tobm yw an gewar!**
Tomas **Ha tobm o an gewer de, a nys o? Saw yëyn vëdh avorow. Howlek, saw gwynsak ha yëyn.**
Jowan **Wèl, nys yw an gewar glëb dhe'n lyha! Ha nys yw comolek.**

In **Fatla genes?** the **genes** corresponds to the pronoun **te**. Tomas says **Fatla genowgh?** because he has not met Jana before – the **genowgh** corresponds to the pronoun **why**. **Duw genes!** 'goodbye!' likewise becomes **Duw genowgh!** if said to someone you do not know well. But if you are bidding goodbye to several people together whom you *do* know well, it is better to say **Duw genes** (or **Dha weles**) **kettep pedn!** ('everyone', literally 'every head').

We first encountered **dâ** ‘good’ in the phrase **pòr dhâ** ‘very good’. Now we know First State **dâ**, we can see that **pòr** ‘very’ causes Second State of the adjective after it. **Dâ lowr**, literally ‘good enough’, is the Cornish way of saying ‘okay’.

The local present tense of bos

You’ve already been introduced to **yma**, which is one form of what we call the local or ‘long’ present tense of **bos** ‘be’. We use the local forms whenever we wish to say that the subject ‘is in’ or ‘is at’ a *place*. These forms are distinct from the copula or ‘short’ present tense that we learned first (**yw**, **ov** etc) – we use the copula forms when we are saying that the subject ‘is *something*’ (noun or adjective). Here are all the local forms of the present tense:

yth esof vy ‘I am’	yth eson ny ‘we are’
yth esos jy or yth esta ‘you are’	yth esowgh why ‘you are’ (plural or stranger)
yma ev ‘he is’	ymowns y ‘they are’
yma hy ‘she is’	
yma + definite noun ‘... is/are’	
yma + indefinite noun ‘there is/are ...’	

You will find **yth esta** is more frequent in conversation than **yth esos jy**.

Practys Dew warn Ugans

Exercise Twenty Two

What do the following sentences mean?

Yth esof vy i’n arhanty. Yth esta i’n strêth. Yma ev i’n lyverva. Yma hy i’n shoppa. Yma Mêtres Pascoe i’n popty. Yma tesen vrâs i’n fenester. Yth eson ny i’n dre. Yth esowgh why i’n pow. Ymowns y in Kernow.

Pow *m* means ‘country’ in any sense; here it means the countryside as opposed to the town. Contrast with **gwlas** *f* which means ‘country’ in a political sense.

When we wish to ask a question with local forms of the present tense of **bos** we delete the statement particle **yth**. ‘Yes’, ‘no’ and negative statements follow the scheme we have already learned. Note that only **esos**, not **esta**, is used to reply ‘yes’ or ‘no’. For example:

Esof vy i’n arhanty?	<i>Either (thinking)</i>
	Eâ or Esof, yth esof vy i’n arhanty.
	Nâ or Nag esof, nyns esof vy i’n arhanty.
	<i>Or (replying to question from someone else)</i>
	Eâ or Esos, yth esta i’n arhanty.
	Nâ or Nag esos, nyns esta i’n arhanty.

Esta i'n strê?	<i>Either (thinking)</i> Eâ or Esos, yth esta i'n strê. Nâ or Nag esos, nyns esta i'n strê. <i>Or (replying to question from someone else)</i> Eâ or Esof, yth esof vy i'n strê. Nâ or Nag esof, nyns esof vy i'n arhanty.
Eson ny i'n dre?	<i>Either (thinking)</i> Eâ or Eson, yth eson ny i'n dre. Nâ or Nag eson, nyns eson i'n dre. <i>Or (replying to question from someone else)</i> Eâ or Esowgh, yth esowgh why i'n dre. Nâ or Nag esowgh, nyns esowgh why i'n dre.
Esowgh why i'n pow?	<i>Either (thinking)</i> Eâ or Esowgh, yth esowgh why i'n pow. Nâ or Nag esowgh, nyns esowgh why i'n pow. <i>Or (several people replying to question from someone else)</i> Eâ or Eson, yth eson ny i'n pow. Nâ or Nag eson, nyns eson ny i'n pow. <i>Or (stranger replying to question from someone else)</i> Eâ or Esof, yth esof vy i'n pow. Nâ or Nag esof, nyns esof vy i'n pow.

This looks more complicated than it really is. Work through the examples carefully and you will see it is all quite logical. Do not try to memorize everything all at once. Seek the patterns. Confidence comes with practice.

We do not use **yma** in questions. Nor do we use **yma** to say 'yes' or 'no' or to make negative statements. Instead we use **eus** with an indefinite noun; and **usy** with a definite noun, with **ev**, and with **hy**. For example:

Eus tesen i'n fenester?	Eâ or Eus, yma tesen i'n fenester. Nâ or Nag eus, nyns eus tesen i'n fenester.
Usy an desen i'n fenester?	Eâ or Usy, yma hy i'n fenester? Nâ or Nag usy, nyns usy hy i'n fenester.

Likewise **ymowns** is not used in questions, or to say 'yes' or 'no', or to make negative statements. Instead we use **usons** (or **esons**). For example:

Usons y in Kernow?	Eâ or Usons, ymowns y in Kernow. Nâ or Nag usons, nyns usons y in Kernow.
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Practys Try warn Ugans

Exercise Twenty Three

Reply in Cornish to the following questions. Vary your answers between ‘yes’ and ‘no’, and between thinking and replying to someone else. In every case you should answer with a complete sentence. Note new preposition **ryb** ‘beside’.

Eson ny in Trûrû? Eus bara i’n fenester? Esta i’n tavern? Usy an lyverva ryb an arhanty? Esowgh why in shoppa? Usons y i’n strê? Usy ev i’n park poblek? Esos jy i’n Tir Uhel? Esons y i’n eglos? A nyns esof vy in Kernow?

Cornish **park** means any enclosed field. So **park poblek** (literally ‘public field’) is how we say ‘park’ in the sense of a place for recreation inside a town.

Just as **ov vy** in statements and questions can be shortened to **ov**, etc, so likewise we can shorten **esof vy** to **esof**, etc. So we can say, for instance, **yth esof in Trûrû** or **nyns usons in Kernow**. But **esta** is the exception – it cannot be abbreviated.

Practys Peswar warn Ugans

Exercise Twenty Four

Dilwyn and his partner are visiting from Cardiff. Dilwyn texts his friend Rhodri who belongs to the same Cornish language group back home. This exercise is a mix of sentences using *copula* forms of **bos** and sentences using *local* forms of **bos**. What does it all mean? New words at the end.

Lowena dhis! Yth esof in Kernow, ha Gwen obma inwedh. In degolyow. Pow spladn yw hebma. Ha caradow yw an Gernowyon. Hedhyw yth eson in Trûrû. Cyta vrav yw. Avorow ny a vëdh in Arwednak. Yma’n dre-na onen orth an mor, ha pòr byctùresk.

Arwednak Falmouth (*also called Falmoth, Aberfala, Aberfal*), **brav** fine, **caradow** likeable, friendly, **cyta** *f* city, **degolyow** *pl* holiday, vacation, **mor** *m* sea, **pyctùresk** picturesque

The preposition **orth** literally means ‘up against’. It is used in the sense ‘at’ when that is not the same as ‘in’.

The present tense of **bos** has copula and local forms. So too does the ‘imperfect’ tense of which (so far) we only know one copula form: **o** ‘was’. But other tenses of **bos** do not make any distinction between copula and local meaning. So **vëdh** ‘will be’ is used both when the subject will be ‘something’ (noun or adjective) and also when it will be ‘in’ some place.

Vocabulary

Here are some more new words:

Alter Non 'Altarnun', **amêthyans** *m* 'agriculture', **bargen tir** *m* 'farm', **bysy** 'busy', **dallath** 'begin', **dowt** *m* 'doubt', **heb** 'without', **nefra** 'ever' (with negative statement particle **nyns** the sense of the two together is 'never'), **ogas dhe** 'near to', **practys** *m* 'practice' (any practice, not just one which is an exercise), **presentyans** *m* presentation, **whel** *m* work, **worteweth** 'at last', **ÿst** *m* (also adjective) 'east'

Possessive pronoun **dha** 'your' corresponds to personal pronoun **te** 'you'. Both **dha** and preposition **dhe** 'to' (be careful not to confuse them!) trigger Second State of the following word.

Practys Pymp warn Ugans

Exercise Twenty Five

The presentation at Lÿs Kernow has still not begun. More small talk meanwhile!

Jana	Ple ma dha vargen tir, Tomas?
Tomas	Yma ev in Kernow ÿst, ogas dhe Alter Non. Tir brav yw hedna, saw nefra nyns yw amêthyans whel êsy!
Jowan	Ha ty yw optycyan, a Jana. Ple ma dha bractys?
Jana	Yth esof vy in Arwednak. Yma an dre bysy lowr, ha'n practys yw onen dâ.
Tomas	Heb dowt a hedna. Â worteweth! An presentyans yw parys dhe dhallath.

Bargen tir literally means a 'land bargain'. Like the English word 'farm' the Cornish term originally referred to land that was leased by the farmer from a landowner for a fixed rent in money, as opposed to taking a share of the produce. But nowadays both expressions are used generally to mean any land, freehold or leasehold, that is used for agriculture.

Note that **yma** is occasionally used to link a noun to an adjective, where technically we would expect **yw**. But **yma** requires a different word order. So we can say, for instance, **an dre yw bysy lowr** or, as in the conversation here, **yma an dre bysy lowr**. This idiom is unique to **yma** (and **ymowns**) – it does not extend to any other local form of **bos**.

Lesson Pymp

Lesson Five

The commonest form of most Cornish verbs is what we call the verb-noun. For the verb 'be' the verb-noun is **bos**. For the verb 'begin' it is **dallath**. The verb-noun carries the sense of the verb but 'packaged' as a noun. So **bos** strictly means the state of 'being', and **dallath** strictly means the action of 'beginning'.

The verb **bos** has its own forms for expressing 'I am', 'you are' etc as we have seen. But most verbs do not employ such forms in everyday modern Cornish. Instead we say that the subject is 'at' the action or state of the verb, using the verb-noun. For example, the everyday Cornish for 'I begin' (or 'I am beginning') is **yth esof vy ow tallath**, which *literally* means 'I am *at* beginning'.

You will not be surprised we use the local form of **bos** in expressions like this: because we are saying that the subject is 'at' what is, for Cornish, notionally a place. In origin **ow** (a spelling convention: it is *pronounced* as just a short o) is a worn-down version of preposition **orth**, but we usually treat the word as a separate particle in contemporary grammar because it only occurs in this form with verb-nouns, and because (unlike **orth** itself) it causes another mutation we have not met before – this time, Fourth State. The technical name for the change from First State to Fourth State is *provection*.

Mutation is reflected in the spelling. Here are the spellings that can change:

b	>	p
d	>	t
g	>	k before e, i, y
		q before w
		c before any other letter

Vocabulary

Some more verb-nouns: **cùsca** 'sleep', **danvon** 'send', **debry** 'eat', **desky** 'learn', **gorfedna** 'finish', **gwary** 'play', **mos** 'go', **prena** 'buy', **redya** 'read', **scrifa** 'write'

Practys Whe warn Ugans

Exercise Twenty Six

What do the following sentences mean?

Yth esof vy ow tebry i'n gegyn. Yth esta ow tesky Kernowek. Yma ev ow cùsca i'n gwely. Yma hy ow qwary i'n lowarth. Yth eson ny ow mos dhe'n dre. Yth esowgh

why ow prena bara. Ymowns y ow redya i'n lyverva. Yma Dilwyn ow tanvon text dhe Rhodri. Yma Rhodri ow redya an text. Yth esos jy ow corfedna an practys.

Questions and negative statements with verb-nouns work in just the same way. So we say **Esta ow tallath?** 'Are you beginning?' to which two of the various possible answers would be **Esos, yth esta ow tallath** 'Yes, you are beginning' or **Nâ, nyns esof ow tallath** 'No, I am not beginning'.

Some verb-nouns, according to sense, can take another verb-noun as their direct object; that verb-noun may in turn have its own direct object, which may be a third verb-noun; and so on. We can say, for instance, **ymowns y ow tallath desky redya Kernowek** 'they are beginning to learn to read Cornish'. Only the first verb-noun, the one directly following **ow**, is changed into Fourth State; the others stay in First State.

Practys Seyth warn Ugans

Exercise Twenty Seven

How would you say the following in Cornish? New words at the end.

We are beginning to do the exercise. You are reading a letter. Is she writing an email? No, she is sending a text. They are playing under the tree. The horse is in the field, but it is not eating. The girl is learning Cornish without a book. Are you cooking supper? The man in the shop is buying three pasties and also three cakes. I am going home now.

Vocabulary

From now on we will introduce new verb-nouns with the symbol *v*

gwil *v* make *or* do, **parusy** *v* prepare *or* cook, **pasty** *m* pasty, **soper** *m* supper

To say go 'home' (or go 'back' to some other place) we use **tre** – but as an *adverb* rather than as a noun. And **tre** is also used as an *adjective* meaning 'home' in phrases like **folen f tre** 'homepage'. When used as an adjective or an adverb **tre** is invariable. The original meaning of **tre** was a 'well-ordered settlement', and we can still find many place-names (and surnames) in Cornwall where it means 'farm'. In modern Cornish **tre** is specifically a town, while **bargen tir** is the usual expression for a farm. But you can see how the original sense of **tre** lies behind all its various meanings today, including the sense of going 'home'.

Vocabulary

Here are some more new words:

Cambron Camborne, **coffy** *m* coffee, **coffyva** *f* café, **dehen** *m* cream, **dell wosta** as you know, **eva** *v* drink, **gans** along with, **leverel** *v* say, **lus** *col* bilberries *or* blueberries,

metya *v* meet, **pùb termyn** always, **salad** *m* salad, **scol** *f* school, **tanow** thin, **tê** *m* tea, **tew** thick (*also* fat), **trigys** resident (in a place), **whath** still, **vysytya** *v* visit, **wheg** sweet

Older words for flora and fauna are often collective in meaning. We will introduce collective nouns with the symbol *col*. Our first instance is **lus**. We use plural pronouns to refer to collective nouns, so if **an lus yw wheg** ‘the blueberries are sweet’ we can also say **anjy yw wheg** or **wheg yns y**. If we wish to refer to a single ‘unit’ of the collective, then we form a feminine ‘singulative’ from the collective noun by adding **-en**: therefore **lusen** means a (single) blueberry. But a collective noun itself is neither singular nor plural. So **lus** when used adjectivally in **tesen lus** renders the idea ‘blueberry muffin’ – a muffin characterized by blueberry flavour / blueberries baked into it. We have previously learned a feminine singulative which we can now pair with its collective ‘parent’ word: **gwedhen** is a tree, and **gwëdh** *col* is ‘trees’.

Here are the names of the days of the week, starting with Monday:

Lun, Merth, Merher, Yow, Gwener, Sadorn, Sul

These names are all treated as masculine nouns, but they are not employed on their own. We can either use them with **an** ‘the’ to say ‘the Monday’ etc. Or most frequently we use them with a preceding **de** – this is pronounced with a *very short* vowel-sound, quite different from **de** ‘yesterday’ which has a *long* vowel sound. When we use the names with a preceding **de** the meaning is, according to context, either just ‘Monday’ etc, or ‘on Monday’ etc.

Practys Eth warn Ugans

Exercise Twenty Eight

Yma Crysten trigys in Trûrû. Hedhyw yw de Sadorn, hag yma hy ow vysytya Tôny. Yma Tôny trigys in Cambron. Ymowns y ow metya in coffyva i’n dre. Pandr’usons y ow leverel?

Tôny	Dëdh dê, Crysten. Fatla genes?
Crysten	Dùrdha dhe why, a Tôny. Pòr dhâ, gromercy dhys. Ha tejoy?
Tôny	Wèl, dê lowr, saw sqwith ov vy. Me yw descador obma i’n scol vrâs. Dell wosta. Ha’n whel yw poos.
Crysten	Pëth esta owth eva?
Tôny	Coffy gans dehen wheg. Ev yw dê. Hag yth esof ow tebry tesen lus.
Crysten	Ha ty yw poos! Onen tew osta. Yth esof vy owth eva tê pùb termyn, ow tebry salad, ha tanow ov vy whath.

We learned initially that **pandra** becomes **pandr’** before **yw**. We can now note that it is in fact abbreviated to **pandr’** before any form of **bos** ‘be’ that begins with a vowel.

When a verb-noun begins with a vowel, we substitute **owth** for **ow**. Once again this is a spelling convention: **owth** is *pronounced* as oh – just a short o followed by an h which, in practice, becomes the first sound of the verb-noun. Therefore written **owth eva** is actually pronounced as ‘o heva’.

For learning the numbers higher than ten, you can use the numbers of the exercises in this coursebook as a starting-point. We can quickly see that the next ten numbers are **udnek, dêwdhek, tredhek, peswardhek, pymthek, whêtek, seytek, êtek, nawnjek, ugans**. They are all followed by a singular noun, just like the numbers one to ten.

We need higher numbers in order to tell the time. For this purpose we must also learn **eur** *f* o’clock (literally ‘specific time’), **hanter m** half, **wosa** past (literally ‘after’). We use **dhe** ‘to’ just as in English. **Py eur yw?** means ‘What’s the time?’ For ‘a.m.’ we say **kensêwha** which is abbreviated in writing to **k.e**. For ‘p.m.’ we say **wosa hanter-dêdh** which is abbreviated in writing to **w.h**.

Here are some examples.

udn eur	one o’clock <i>or</i> at one o’clock
dyw eur	two o’clock <i>or</i> at two o’clock
teyr eur	three o’clock <i>or</i> at three o’clock
peder eur	four o’clock <i>or</i> at four o’clock
pymp wosa whe	five past six <i>or</i> at five past six
deg wosa seyth	ten past seven <i>or</i> at ten past seven
pymthek wosa eth	quarter past eight <i>or</i> at quarter past eight
hanter wosa naw	half past nine <i>or</i> at half past nine
pymp warn ugans dhe dheg	twenty five to ten <i>or</i> at twenty five to ten
ugans dhe udnek	twenty to eleven <i>or</i> at twenty to eleven
pymthek dhe dhêwdhek	quarter to twelve <i>or</i> at quarter to twelve

Vocabulary

Here are some more new words:

cara *v* love, **class** *m* class, **côwsel** speak, **dauncya** *v* dance, **dos** *v* come, **kerdhes** *v* walk, **level** *m* level, **lies** many (always with *singular* noun), **marhogeth** *v* ride, **neyja** *v* swim (also fly), **ponya** *v* run, **rag** for, **revya** *v* row, **Sowsnek** *m* English (language), **sport** *m* sport, **studhya** *v* study

When **chy** is used as an *adverb* rather than a noun it means ‘at home’.

Practys Naw warn Ugans

Exercise Twenty Nine

A busy day in the life of a busy student. For reading aloud once you have been through it carefully for meaning. Be sure to say all the clock times in Cornish.

Yma Peternel trigys in Kernow. Yma Peternel ow studhya rag Level A in istory ha Level A in Sowsnek. Dâ yw gans Peternel redya lies lyver ha gwil lies sport. Yma hy ow cōwsel Sowsnek i'n scol ha Kernowek chy.

6.00 k.e.	De Lun yw. Yma Peternel ow cùsca. Yma hy ow cùsca i'n gwely.
6.30 k.e.	Yma Peternel ow neyja i'n mor.
7.45 k.e.	Yma Peternel ow tebry hag owth eva. Yma hy ow tebry hawnsel hag owth eva coffy.
8.15 k.e.	Yma Peternel ow kerdhes. Yma hy ow mos dhe'n scol.
8.30 k.e.	Yma Peternel ow ponya. Yma hy ow mos dhe'n scol.
9.30 k.e.	Yma Peternel ow redya. Yma hy ow redya an lyver <i>Jane Eyre</i> in Sowsnek i'n class Sowsnek.
10.30 k.e.	Yma Peternel ow tauncya. Yma hy ow tauncya i'n class dauncya.
12.30 w.h.	Yma Peternel ow tebry. Yma hy ow tebry bara ha keus.
2.00 w.h.	Yma Peternel ow revya. Yma hy ow revya i'n class sport.
4.00 w.h.	Yma Peternel ow tos tre.
5.00 w.h.	Yma Peternel ow marhogeth. Yma hy ow cara marhogeth.
7.00 w.h.	Yma Peternel ow tebry soper.
8.00 w.h.	Yma Peternel ow redya. Yma hy ow redya <i>Jane Eyre</i> , lebmyn in Kernowek.
10.00 w.h.	Peternel yw sqwith. Yma hy ow cùsca i'n gwely.

Vocabulary

Here are some more new words:

anken *m* adversity, stress, **chocklet** *m* chocolate, **comyck** *m* comic, **coref** *m* beer, **coweth** *m* companion, **dianowy** *v* yawn, **dorydhieth** *f* geography, **gwandra** *v* wander, **in dadn gel** secretly (literally 'under concealment'), **ly** *f* lunch, **mordardhya** *v* surf, **negys** *m* business, **pel droos** *f* football, **spêna** *v* spend, **studhyans** *m* study / studies, **termyn** *m* time, **treth** *m* (sandy) beach

Practys Deg warn Ugans

Exercise Thirty

A different sort of day in the life of a different kind of student. Same again please. Be sure to read everything aloud in Cornish, including all the clock times.

Davyth yw trigys in Kernow. Yma Davyth ow studhya rag Level A in dorydhieth ha Level A in studhyans negys. Dâ yw gans Davyth spêna termyn heb anken.

6.00 k.e.	De Gwener yw. Yma Davyth ow cùsca. Yma ev ow cùsca i'n gwely.
6.30 k.e.	Yma Davyth ow cùsca.
7.45 k.e.	Yma Davyth ow cùsca whath.
8.15 k.e.	Yma Davyth owth eva coffy hag ow tianowy.
8.30 k.e.	Yma Davyth ow ponya. Yma ev ow ponya dhe'n scol.
9:30 k.e.	Yma Davyth ow redya. Yma ev ow redya comyck in dadn gel i'n class dorydhieth.
10.30 k.e.	Yma Davyth ow tebry chocklet.
12.30 w.h.	Yma Davyth ow tebry ly.
2.00 w.h.	Yma Davyth ow qwary pel droos.
4.00 w.h.	Yma Davyth ow tos tre.
5.00 w.h.	Yma Davyth ow mos dhe'n treth. Yma ev ow mordardhya.
7.00 w.h.	Yma Davyth ow tebry soper.
8.00 w.h.	Yma Davyth ow qwandra gans coweth i'n dre. Ymowns y owth eva coref.
11.30 w.h.	Davyth yw sqwith worteweth. Yma ev ow cùsca i'n gwely.

Lesson Whe

Lesson Six

Here are some more prepositions:

adrëv behind, **a-ugh** above, **bys in** up to, all the way to **der** through, **dhia** from, **dhyrag** in front of, **dhywar** off, **dres** across, **in mes a** out of, **in mesk** among, **kyns** before, **ogas ha** almost (with nouns and numbers), **tro ha** towards

Adrëv is mostly limited to expressing position. We use **adhelergh dhe** to express motion behind.

Der is the fifth (and last) simple preposition that causes Second State mutation of any noun which directly follows it. There is an alternative form **dre** that causes the same mutation. There is a tendency in modern Cornish to keep **der** for use before vowels, using **dre** only before consonants. But no hard *rule* exists about it.

Compound prepositions **dhia** and **dhywar** cause Second State of a directly following noun just like **a** and **wàr**. **Dhia** is only used to mean ‘from’ a place or a point in time. To say ‘from’ a person we use another compound preposition **dhyworth**. From this we can note that **worth** is an alternative form of **orth**.

Vocabulary

Here are some more new words:

aral (*pl erel*) other, **aval** *m* apple, **box** *m* box, **cafos** *v* find, get, **chambour** *m* bedroom, **daffar lybm** *m* cutlery, **darn** *m* piece, **don** *v* carry, **dôwys** *v* choose, **esedhva** *f* sitting-room, lounge, **estyll** *col* shelving (compare **astell** ‘shelf’), **hel** *m* hall, **kemeres** *v* take, **kempen** tidy, **leur** *m* floor, **lus rudh** *col* cranberries, **màn** zero (and used with a negative to mean ‘not at all’), **mildir** *f* mile, **new** *f* sink, **oll** all, **pad** *m* pad, **plastyk** *m* plastic, **restryn** *m* file, **sagh** *m* bag, **skyjyow sport** *pl* trainers, **sùgan** *m* juice, **taclow** *pl* things, **trog tedna** *m* drawer, **trùssa** *v* pack, **yêyner** *m* fridge

Practys Udnec warn Ugans

Exercise Thirty One

Work through Peternel’s getting ready for school until you understand all the meaning. Then read aloud.

De Merher yw hedhyw. Yma Peternel ow trùssa sagh kyns mos dhe’n scol. Nyns yw an chy kempen màn. Cales yw cafos oll an taclow. Yma an skyjyow sport i’n chambour adrëv an daras. Yma’n lyver *Jane Eyre* in dadn an gwely. Yma Peternel ow mos der an chy rag cafos an taclow erel. Yma an pad paper i’n esedhva – wàr an

leur dhyrag an bellwolok. Yma Peternel ow mos dres an hel. Yma an restryn Sowsnek i'n gegyn war an bord. Yma an bluven i'n trog tedna in mesk an daffar lybm. Yma Peternel ow kemeres box plastyk dhywar an estyllen a-ugh an new, rag don ly vian. Dâ yw keus gensy pùb termyn. In mes a'n yêyner yma hy ow kemeres try darn bara, ha keus, ha dew aval. Yma hy ow tôwys sùgan lus rudh rag eva gans an ly. Peternel yw parys wosa hedna dhe dhallath tro ha'n scol. Dhia'n chy bys i'n scol yma hy ow kerdhes ogas hag udn vildir.

Preposition **rag** means 'for'. When **rag** is placed in front of a verb-noun the sense is specifically 'for the purpose of' – that is, 'to' in the sense 'in order to'.

Building future tenses with mydnas

Bos is the only Cornish verb that has an ordinary present tense that is not formed with the verb-noun in the way we learned in Lesson Five. It is also the only verb that has an ordinary *future* tense not formed with the help of an auxiliary (see next paragraph).

Other verbs possess an old tense that can express *either* present *or* future, according to context. We call this tense the 'present-future'. For all except a handful of verbs the present-future is employed only in high literary styles of Cornish, especially in poetry. But the present-future of **mydnas** 'wish' is a very common part of the everyday language as an *auxiliary* verb meaning 'will' (a weakening of the original sense of 'wish'). This provides a general method to build ordinary prose futures for other verbs.

For example, **me a vydn dallath** 'I will begin' or 'I shall begin' or 'I am going to begin'. Here the **a** is the relative particle linking preceding subject to verb. We have already encountered this function in **me a vëdh** 'I will be' etc.

Practys Dêwdhek warn Ugans

Exercise Thirty Two

What do the following sentences mean?

Me a vydn mos dhe'n arhanty. Te a vydn prena amowntyor dêwlin. Ev a vydn marhogeth dha vargh. Hy a vydn neyja i'n mor. Ny a vydn vysytya Arwednak. Why a vydn gwil man-gows. Anjy a vydn debry ly. An vowes a vydn gwary pel droos. Davyth a vydn ponya dhe'n scol. An Gernowyon a vydn kerdhes dhe Loundres.

Loundres is London. The famous march was in 1497.

The subject does not precede the verb in questions and negative statements. So for subjects 'I', 'we', 'you', 'they' universal **vydn** is swapped for forms of the present tense of **mydnas** particular to those subjects. Just as we can make a statement **Te yw dyscor** but must ask **Osta dyscor?**

Here is the pattern:

A vydnaf vy dallath?

Shall I begin?

A vydnys jy dallath?

Will you begin?

A vydnyn ny dallath?

Shall we begin?

A vydnough why dallath?

Will you (plural or stranger) begin?

A vydnons y dallath?

Will they begin?

Ny vydnaf vy dallath.

I will not begin.

Ny vydnys jy dallath.

You will not begin.

Ny vydnyn ny dallath.

We will not begin.

Ny vydnough why dallath.

You (plural or stranger) will not begin.

Ny vydnons y dallath.

They will not begin.

Instead of **vydnaf** we can say **vadnaf** – the forms are interchangeable. Instead of **vydnys jy** we can say **vynta** – likewise interchangeable. The subject can optionally be omitted, as we have already seen with present tense forms of **bos**. The option to drop a pronoun subject is always there in Cornish – for any verb at all.

For ‘yes’ and ‘no’ it is always easiest to say just **eâ** and **nâ**. If you wish to use the repeat-the-verb method, then ‘yes’ will be **mydnaf** etc (First State), and ‘no’ will be **na vydnaf** etc.

You may also learn and use **mar mynta** ‘if you want’ or ‘if you like’ – another fixed phrase in which the sense of ‘wishing’ survives.

In phrases like **ny vydnyn ny** containing both the negative statement particle **ny** and the pronoun **ny** ‘we’, it is especially important to give the correct pronunciation to each of them. The vowel in the particle is *short*, the vowel in the pronoun is *long*.

Vocabulary

Here are some more new words:

âls *f* cliff, **barr** *m* bar, **clùb** *m* club, **cothman** *m* friend, **dôtys wâr** mad (passionate) about, **drîvya** *v* drive, **golf** *m* golf, **Kilgoodh** Ust Cape Cornwall, **Lanust** St Just, **poll neyja** *m* swimming-pool, **pùb** every, **pynta** *m* pint (of), **todn** *f* wave, **Tewyn Plustry** Newquay, **Treth Fystral** Fistral Beach

Practys Tredhek warn Ugans

Exercise Thirty Three

Work through Crysten and Tôny’s rather different ideal Sundays until you understand all the meaning. Then read aloud.

Hedhyw yw de Sul. Hedhyw an gewar yw howlek ha tobm. Dâ yw kewar dobm gans Crysten. Trigys 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 Tewyn Plustry rag mordardhya.

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

Many Cornish prepositions have personal forms that are used instead of just putting a personal pronoun after the bare preposition. These personal forms will be introduced gradually. Here is the first of them: **gensy** is used instead of *gans hy* meaning 'along with her' or 'along with it' (feminine reference).

Practys Peswardhek warn Ugans

Exercise Thirty Four

What do the following sentences mean?

A vydn Crysten mos dhe'n dre bò dhe'n treth? Ny vydn Tôny ha'n dhew gothman mordardhya. Ytho pandra vydnons y gwil hedhyw? A vydnough why kerdhes dhe'n lyverva? A vydnys kemeres hanaf a dê? Gromercy na vadnaf. A vynta drîvya dhe Arwednak avorow? Eâ, me a vydn vysytya an optycyan. Ha tejy? Nâ, me a vydn marhogeth i'n pow.

Vocabulary

Here are some more new words:

bykîny *m* bikini, **cana** *m* can (of), **côla** *m* cola, **dehen rew** *m* ice cream, **ès than**, **fylm** *m* film, **gortos** *v* wait (for), **gwelen** *f* stick, **gwysca** *v* put on (clothing), **in le** instead of, **indelma** like this, **moy** more, **munys** tiny, **omhowla** *v* sunbathe, **par hap** perhaps, **pendra** *f* village, **sewt stanch** *m* wetsuit, **tedha** *v* melt, **tybyans** *m* idea, **uskys** quick

Practys Pymthek warn Ugans

Exercise Thirty Five

Yma Crysten ha Tôny wâr an treth in Porth Towan. De Sadorn yw. Pandr'usons y ow leverel?

Crysten	An howl yw tobm, a nyns yw?
Tôny	Eâ, pòr dobm hedhyw.
Crysten	A vydnys jy neyja i'n mor?
Tôny	Martesen. Yw an mor tobm?
Crysten	Nâ, nyns yw tobm. Pùb todn yw pòr yêyn.
Tôny	Me a vydn gortos. Neyja moy adhedwedhes. A vynta mordardhya?

- Crysten Nâ, me a vydn mordardhya avorow. Hedhyw me a vydn omhowla. Dâ in kewar dobm yw gwysca bykîny munys cogh in le sewt stanch du. Ha debry dehen rew par hap.
- Tôny Eâ, hèn yw tybyans dâ. Pò eva cana côla yêyn. A vynta dos genama ha prena dehen rew i'n bendra?
- Crysten Kerdhes bys i'n shoppa? Indelma? Heb moy ès an dhyw gweh vian-ma? Ogh nâ nâ nâ! Nyns eson ny in fylm rag mebyon. My a vydn debry dehen rew knack obma – onen gwydn, wâr welen – ha ty a vydn ponya ha prena hedna. Uskys, kys tedha. Gromercy teg!

Adhewedhes means 'late', generally without any sense of missed deadline. Contrast **holergh** 'late', usually implying that something is after its due time. **Genama** is a personal form of **gans** meaning 'along with me'. **Qweth** *f* means a piece of fabric; it is used to refer to the top (**qweth awartha**) and bottom (**qweth awoles**) of a bikini. **Mebyon** is the plural of **maw**, here in the sense 'lads'. **Knack** adds emphasis to a word or phrase of position – **knack obma** 'right here'.

Lesson Seyth

Lesson Seven

Building future tenses with gwil

The present-future of **gwil** 'make *or* do' provides a second method to build ordinary prose futures for other verbs.

As with **mydnas** we link a preceding subject to forms of **gwil** with relative particle **a**. For example, **me a wra dallath** 'I will begin', 'I shall begin', 'I am going to begin' (literally 'I shall make *or* do beginning').

Vocabulary

Here are some more new words:

convedhes *v* perceive, understand, **gweles** *v* see, **kyttryn** *m* bus, **ûsya** *v* use

Practys Whêtek warn Ugans

Exercise Thirty Six

What do the following sentences mean?

Me a wra debry dehen rew. Te a wra convedhes. Ev a wra ûsya amowntyor legh. Hy a wra cōwsel Kernowek. Ny a wra metya i'n goffyva. Why a wra gweles fylm dê. Anjy a wra ponya tre. An venyn a wra gortos an kyttryn. Peternel a wra gwary sport. An dhyscoryon a wra gwil an practys êsy.

Notice how in the last sentence the present-future of **gwil** is even used as an auxiliary to make the everyday future tense of **gwil** itself.

For questions and negative statements the subjects 'I', 'we', 'you', 'they' adopt forms of the present-future of **gwil** that are particular to them. Just as we can make a statement **Te a vydn dallath** but must ask **A vynta dallath?**

Here is the pattern:

A wrav vy dallath?

Shall I begin?

A wreth jy dallath?

Will you begin?

A wren ny dallath?

Shall we begin?

Ny wrav vy dallath.

I will not begin.

Ny wreth jy dallath.

You will not begin.

Ny wren ny dallath.

We will not begin.

A wrewgh why dallath?

Will you (plural or stranger) begin?

A wrowns y dallath?

Will they begin?

Ny wrewgh why dallath.

You (plural or stranger) will not begin.

Ny wrowns y dallath.

They will not begin.

Instead of **wreth jy** we can say **wrêta** – the forms are interchangeable. The option to drop a personal pronoun subject is always there, so **ny wrav vy**, for instance, can be simplified to **ny wrav** if you like.

For ‘yes’ and ‘no’ we will mostly say just **eâ** and **nâ**. But if you wish to use the repeat-the-verb method, then ‘yes’ will be **Gwra** etc (First State), and ‘no’ will be **Na wrav** etc.

Remember the different vowel lengths in phrases like **ny wren ny** – short vowel for the negative particle, long for the pronoun.

Vocabulary

Here are some more new words:

addys additional, extra, **boosty** *m* restaurant, **cappa** *m* cap (*here* topping), **caprys** *col* capers, **dywros saya** *f* exercise bike, **greun olew** *col* olives, **hâm** *m* ham, **jorna** *m* day, **kig yar** *m* chicken (meat), **kîlomêter** *m* kilometre, **onyon** *col* onion(s), **pînaval** *m* pineapple, **py lies** how many (always with *singular* noun), **pytsa** *m* pizza (*pl* **pytsas**), **radna** *v* divide, share, **Redrudh** Redruth (also called **Ewny Redrudh**), **scavel** [**cronak**] *f* mushroom (literally ‘toadstool’, but the inedible ones are generally called **keus lefans**, literally ‘frog cheese’)

Practys Seytek warn Ugans

Exercise Thirty Seven

Crysten ha Tôny a wra debry ly gans dew gothman, Jenefer ha Mathew, in boosty ogas dhe Redrudh. Anjy a vydn debry pytsas. Pandr’usons y ow leverel?

Crysten Tôny, a wrêta debry udn pytsa? Pò onen genama vy: hanter, hanter?

Tôny Nâ, me a vydn debry udn pytsa. Gwag ov vy. Ytho gans try happa.

Jenefer My a wra radna udn pytsa genes, Crysten. Gans dew gappa martesen.

Mathew Me a vydn debry udn pytsa, ha peswar cappa ganso.

Crysten Peswar! Ha nyns osta tew mân!

Mathew In gwir. Yth esof vy ow marhogeth deg kîlomêter pùb jorna wàr dhywros saya.

Tôny Py lies cappa eus dhe gafos?

Mathew Naw. Pepperoni, hâ, kig yar, scavellow cronak, greun olew, onyon, pînaval, caprys, ha keus addys.

Jenefer	Hàm ha scavellow dhe ny martesen, Crysten?
Crysten	Dâ lowr.
Tôny	My a wra kemeres pepperoni, scavellow, ha greun olew.
Mathew	Pòr dhâ. Ha my a wra dôwys pepperoni, kig yar, onyon, ha keus addys.
Crysten	Ha wosa hedna, deg kêlômêter dywros, ha deg kêlômêter unweyth arta!

We need not put foreign words into Cornish if we accept them in everyday use as they are. So **pepperoni** is ‘pepperoni’, obviously.

By putting **vy** after **genama** we make a more emphatic phrase. We have met **gensy** ‘along with her / it (feminine)’. Now we meet its partner **ganso** ‘along with him / it (masculine)’. We know **genes** ‘along with you’ of course – we have been using it from the outset in **Fatla genes?**

Dhe gafos literally means ‘to get’ and the sense is ‘available’.

Hàm ha scavellow dhe ny: we learned that **rag** is ‘for’. But **dhe** ‘to’ can come close to this sense, according to context.

Ordinal numerals

The words for numbers we have learned up to now are technically called *cardinal numerals*. There are also *ordinal* numeral – these are all adjectives: in English the series is ‘first, second, third’, and so on.

Here are the first ten ordinal numerals in Cornish:

kensa, secùnd, tressa, peswora, pypmes, wheffes, seythves, êthves, nawves, degves

The first six in the series are not very predictable, but then things settle down and suffix **-ves** becomes regular. Note that **nessa** is used instead of **secùnd** when we are enumerating points: **kensa** ‘first (point)’, **nessa** ‘second (point)’, **tressa** ‘third (point)’. And **nessa** is used after a similar fashion in calendar dates and in a few fixed phrases: **dyscans nessa, dyscans tressa** for instance, meaning ‘secondary education’, ‘tertiary education’ (but ‘primary education’ is **dyscans elvednek**, literally ‘elementary’). You should not use **nessa** more generally to mean ‘second’ because this will often conflict with the more common sense of this Cornish word, which is ‘nearest’ or ‘next’.

To put the regularity of suffix **-ves** to the test, let’s try the ordinal numerals from ‘eleventh’ to ‘twentieth’:

unegves, dêwdhegves, tredhegves, peswardhegves, pymthegves, whêtegves, seytegves, êtegves, nawnjegves, ugansves

Not bad. Just a couple of points to watch, stemming from Cornish sound-laws. The final k of the cardinals goes back to the original g that we see in **deg** ‘ten’. And the dn of **udnek** simplifies to n in **unegves** because of the different position of the stress accent.

So while we’re about it, here are the ordinals up to ‘thirty first’. So that we can learn how to say calendar dates. And it is really easy – we just add **warn ugens** to each of the ordinals ‘first’ to ‘eleventh’.

kensa warn ugens, nessa warn ugens (secund warn ugens in all other contexts), tressa warn ugens, peswora warn ugens, pympes warn ugens, wheffes warn ugens, seythves warn ugens, êthves warn ugens, nawves warn ugens, degves warn ugens, unegves warn ugens

The phrase **warn ugens** literally means ‘on the twenty’ – it only occurs in numerals.

The months of the year

Here are the names of the months:

mis Genver, mis Whevrel, mis Merth, mis Ebrel, mis Mê, mis Metheven, mis Gortheren, mis Est, mis Gwydngala, mis Hedra, mis Du, mis Kevardhu

There are a couple of alternative names for optional use: **mis Efen** instead of **mis Metheven**, and **mis Gorefen** instead of **mis Gortheren**.

The names of the months work like the days of the week (where we have learned that **de** precedes each proper name, and the sense is *either* ‘Monday’ *or* ‘on Monday’ etc). So **mis Genver** similarly means either ‘January’ or ‘in January’ according to context. We carefully distinguish **de** preceding the name of a day from **de** meaning ‘yesterday’ by observing the difference in pronunciation. But **mis** *m* is just the ordinary noun meaning ‘month’ – it is pronounced the same in every situation.

Specific dates

To name a specific date, we use an ordinal numeral with definite article **an**, followed by the name of the month. For example:

an kensa, mis Genver	the first of January <i>or</i> on the first of January
an nessa, mis Whevrel	the second of February <i>or</i> on the second of February
an tressa, mis Merth	the third of March <i>or</i> on the third of March

In writing the comma makes that clear we do not just mean ‘the first January’ etc. But when speaking we *may* choose to clarify the sense, if we feel the context alone is not enough, by substituting preposition **a** for the comma, remembering that **a** is one of the

five simple prepositions to cause Second State. And this option is sometimes taken in writing as well. For example:

an peswora a vis Ebrel	the fourth of April <i>or</i> on the fourth of April
an pypmes a vis Mê	the fifth of May <i>or</i> on the fifth of May
an wheffes a vis Metheven	the sixth of June <i>or</i> on the sixth of June

Naming the year

There are several methods in general use for naming the year. These are best explained by giving examples in each of them. So compare:

2023	[an vledhen] dyw vil, try warn ugans <i>or [an vledhen] dew màn dew try</i>
1939	[an vledhen] mil, naw cans, nawnjek warn ugans <i>or [an vledhen] nawnjek cans, nawnjek warn ugans</i> <i>or [an vledhen] onen naw try naw</i>

There is also a hybrid option:

2023	[an vledhen] dyw vil, màn dew try
1939	[an vledhen] mil, naw try naw

You should immediately learn **cans** ‘hundred’ and **mil** ‘thousand’. **Mil** is treated as feminine. Note irregular **dew cans** ‘two hundred’. **Tryhans** ‘three hundred’ is always written as a single word. We say **tremil** ‘three thousand’. Other numbers higher than **nawnjek warn ugans** ‘thirty nine’ will be covered in Lesson Eleven. **Bledhen** *f* means ‘year’. It is common to say **an vledhen** in these expressions, to make it easier to recognize that what follows is the name of a year, but there is no absolute requirement.

Practys Êtek warn Ugans

Exercise Thirty Eight

How might you say the following dates in Cornish, using what you know so far?

27 June 1497	Execution of Michael Joseph ‘An Gov’
5 November 1605	Planned date for blowing up Houses of Parliament
4 July 1776	American Declaration of Independence
26 December 1777	Death of Dolly Pentreath
11 November 1919	Armistice to end First World War
6 August 1945	Detonation of atom bomb over Hiroshima
9 November 1989	Fall of Berlin Wall
9 September 2001	Terrorist attack on Twin Towers in New York
24 February 2022	Start of Russian War against Ukraine
8 September 2022	Death of Queen Elizabeth II

Lesson Eth

Lesson Eight

Vocabulary

Here are some more new words:

ascorn *m* bone, **goodh** *f* goose, **lost** *m* tail (*also* queue), **neyth** *m* nest, **pal** *f* spade, **pluvak** *f* cushion

The genitive construction

In English we say, for example, 'the tail of the dog'. Cornish does not have a construction like that. In Cornish the preposition **a** 'of' *cannot* be used to mean possession.

In English we can also say 'the dog's tail' – that is, 'the dog' + 'tail', using the old genitive ending 's for the dog. In this construction 'the' in front of 'tail' disappears. Cornish tackles possession in the same way.

However, in Cornish we put 'the dog' *after* 'tail' because (just like an adjective) 'the dog' describes what kind of a tail it is – one belonging to the dog. Modern Cornish has no genitive ending.

The result is **lost an ky**.

Practys Nawnjek warn Ugans

Exercise Thirty Nine

See if you can put these phrases into Cornish. The first one has been done for you.

the girl's book

lyver an vowes

the man's house

the boy's spade

the woman's cushion

the school's cat

the farmer's field

the bird's nest

the dog's bone

the goose's feather

Mathew's pizza

Davyth's football

Here are two more new words:

Practys Dêwgans

Now see if you can put these phrases into Cornish. Remember there is no Cornish word for 'of' meaning possession. Just use the same construction as before. The first one has been done for you.

the cranberry juice of Peternel

'Have' meaning possession is expressed in Cornish by the verb 'to be' with preposition **dhe**. So 'the dog has a tail' is **yma lost dhe'n ky**.

Instead of **dhe** you can use **gans**, but the sense is then ‘have something with you’. For example, **yma gans Peternel box ly** means ‘Petronella has a lunch box [with her]’.

Practys Onen ha Dêwgans

How would you say the following in Cornish?

Crysten has a black wetsuit. The sitting-room has three windows. The house has four bedrooms. The village has a shop. Jowan has a tablet computer with him. Jana has a laptop with her. The farm has two large fields for the farmer's horses. Peternel has a fine horse. I have a big file with me. We have a geography class at nine thirty.

The present-future of godhvós

The verb **godhvos** means 'know' a fact. It also means 'know how' to do something.

The present-future of **godhvos** is still part of the everyday language. Most of the time it is used with present sense. But the meaning can be future when the context supports that.

As with **mydnas** and **gwil** we link a preceding subject to forms of **godhvos** with relative particle **a**. For example **me a wor hedna** 'I know that'.

Practys Dew ha Dêwgans

Exercise Forty Two

What do the following sentences mean?

Me a wor oll an lesson. Te a wor istory Kernow. Ev a wor neyja. Hy a wor marhogeth. Ny a wor ple ma Arwednak. Why a wor redya Kernowek. Anjy a wor mordardhya. An tiak a wor amêthyans. Davyth a wor gwary pel droos. An Gernowyon a wor dauncya yn tâ.

For questions and negative statements the subjects 'I', 'we', 'you', 'they' adopt forms of the present-future of **godhvos** that are particular to them. Just as we can make a statement **Te a wra dallath** but must ask **A wrêta dallath?**

Here is the pattern:

A woraf vy?

Do I know?

A wodhes jy?

Do you know?

A wodhyn ny?

Do we know?

A wodhowgh why?

Do you (plural or stranger) know?

A wodhons y?

Do they know?

Ny woraf vy.

I do not know.

Ny wodhes jy.

You do not know..

Ny wodhyn ny.

We do not know.

Ny wodhowgh why.

You (plural or stranger) do not know.

Ny wodhons y.

They do not know.

Instead of **woraf vy** we can say **wòn vy** – the forms are interchangeable. **Ny woraf vy** is frequently condensed in conversation to just **Nor'vy** (compare English 'I dunno'). Instead of **wodhes jy** we can say **wosta** – we have already met this form in **dell wosta** 'as you know'). The option to drop a personal pronoun subject is always there, so **ny wòn vy**, for instance, can be simplified to **ny wòn** if you like.

For 'yes' and 'no' we will mostly say just **eâ** and **nâ**. But if you wish to use the repeat-the-verb method, then 'yes' will be **Goraf** etc (First State), and 'no' will be **Na woraf** etc.

Remember the different vowel lengths in phrases like **ny wodhyn ny** – short vowel for the negative particle, long for the pronoun.

When **godhvos** means ‘know how’ the English equivalent will often be expressed with ‘can’. For example, **A wosta neyja?** ‘Can you swim’, **A wodhons y drîvya** ‘Can they drive?’ But be careful. the English word ‘can’ is very ambiguous. When ‘Can they drive?’ corresponds to **A wodhons y drîvya?** it means ‘Have they passed their driving test?’ But the English might in a different context mean ‘Can they get hold of a car or will they just have to take the bus?’ **Godhvos** does not *always* correspond to ‘can’.

Practys Try ha Dêwgans

Exercise Forty Three

Crysten and surfer friend Kyle are planning to meet up with three of Crysten’s colleagues from the office where she works as an accountant. In Newquay next Saturday. Kyle has not met them before, and is rightly concerned about safety. How would you put the conversation into Cornish?

Kyle	Can they speak Cornish?
Crysten	Oh yes, they all speak Cornish.
Kyle	And can they surf?
Crysten	Gregor surfs well. Elsat’s still a learner. Vyvyan can’t surf, won’t surf. She can’t swim! So she’ll sunbathe and read a book.
Kyle	Do they know where Newquay is?
Crysten	Of course! Stop worrying. We’ll meet on Fistral Beach at half past ten.
Kyle	Okay! See you on the beach.

For ‘of course’ you can use **heb dowt**. The expression for ‘Stop worrying’ is **Gas cavow dhe wandra** (literally ‘leave cares to wander [away]’). You will also need **dha weles** ‘[be] seeing you’ at the end.

Vocabulary

Here are some more new words:

abrës early, **carr** *m* car, **dhana** then, **havysy** *pl* summer tourists, **hudhyk** merry, **joy** *m* joy, **jùnya** *v* join, **know** *col* nuts, **leun** full, **lows** loose, relaxed, **naneyl** neither, **nebes** a little, **parkya** *v* park, **Por’treth** Portreath, **pùptra** everything, **syger** lazy, **toos** *m* dough, **tôwlel** *v* throw, **warbarth** together

Practys Peswar ha Dêwgans

Exercise Forty Four

Yma Tôny ow tôwlel towl rag an Sadorn gans descador aral i’n scol, Lûk. Pandr’usons y ow leverel?

Lûk	Ty ha Crysten, a ny wrewgh spêna termyn warbarth de Sadorn?
Tôny	Nâ. Crysten a vydn mos dhe Tewyn Plustry. Rag mordardhya gans try acowntyas aral.
Lûk	Peswar acowntyas wâr udn treth? Jorna pòr hudhyk!
Tôny	Ogh, nyns on ny descadoryon leun a joy naneyl.
Lûk	In gwir ... Saw otta tybyans. An ragwel wâr an awel de Sadorn yw brav. Ytho my ha ty, ny a wra mos dhe Por'treth rag dëdh lows dhe veyon syger. Omhowla nebes. Neyja nebes. Eva nebes coref yêyn. Jûnya dhe'n havysy.
Tôny	Dëdh êsy lowr. Eâ, tybyans dâ yw hebma. Gwell ès gortos chy in Cambron.
Lûk	Wêl, êsy nyns yw pùptra. Cales vëdh parkya an carr ogas dhe'n treth mar ny vydnyn ny mos abrës.
Tôny	Hawnsel ryb an mor dhana. Saw coffy ganso me a'th pës. Coref moy adhewedhes.
Lûk	Coffy heb dowt in eur abrës. Ha know toos – prag na?

Tôwlel towl (literally 'throw a throw') is an idiom meaning 'make a plan'. But that does not mean **towl** *m* on its own can be used in the sense 'plan' – for the word on its own we use **towlen** *f*, which also means a 'program(me)'.

An ragwel wâr an awel means 'the weather forecast'. Literally 'the preview on the breeze', but **awel** *f* is actually interchangeable with **kewar** as a general word for weather, **kewar** itself originally meant just 'stormy weather'.

Mar means 'if' – we have already met it in fixed phrases **mar pleg** and **mar mynta**. The expression **me a'th pës** means 'please', and is more emphatic than **mar pleg**. Literally it means 'I pray you'.

The singulative formed to **know** 'nuts' is slightly irregular – **knofen** *f* nut.

We have already seen how **martesen** can be added to the end of an idea to show we tentatively support it. We can add **prag na?** 'why not?' to the end of an idea to show we strongly support it.

Lesson Naw

Lesson Nine

Possessive pronouns

The possessive pronouns correspond to the personal pronouns. Here is the basic scheme:

Personal

me 'I'

te 'you'

ev 'he' or 'it' (masculine)

hy 'she' or 'it' (feminine)

ny 'we'

why 'you' (plural or stranger)

anjy or **y** 'they'

Possessive

ow 'my'

dha 'your'

y 'his' or 'its' (masculine)

hy 'her' or 'its' (feminine)

agan 'our'

agas 'your' (plural or stranger)

aga 'their'

ow

This is pronounced as it is spelled (unlike particle **ow**). It is followed by Third State. It is replaced by '**m**' (which does *not* cause mutation) in **a'm** 'from my' or 'of my', **ha'm** 'and my' (also **ha'w** which *does* still trigger Third State), and **i'm** 'in my'. It is worth noting from the outset that *in practice* words beginning with c k q quite frequently remain in First State after **ow** 'my' in spite of the grammar rule requiring Third State.

dha

We have learned this word previously, when we noted that it causes Second State.

y

This is a *short* vowel (whereas **y** 'they' is a long vowel). It is followed by Second State. It merges to leave a single syllable combi-word in **a'y** 'from his' or 'of his', **dh'y** 'to his', **ha'y** 'with his' or 'and his' – the apostrophe marks the merger. Second State still applies. In this note 'his' includes 'its' (masculine).

hy

This is a *short* vowel (whereas **hy** 'she' is a long vowel). It is followed by Third State. It merges to leave a single syllable combi-word in **a'y** 'from her' or 'of her', **dh'y** 'to her', **ha'y** 'with her' or 'and her' – the apostrophe marks the merger – Third State still applies. In this note 'her' includes 'its' (feminine).

agan

This has an unstressed variant **gàn**. And it is replaced by '**gan**' in **a'gan** 'from our' or 'of our', **ha'gan** 'with our' or 'and our'. Also optionally in **i'gan** 'in our'. In the case of

dh'agan 'to our' it is the preposition that elides its vowel. None of these causes any mutation.

agas

This has an unstressed variant **gàs**. And it is replaced by '**gas** in **a'gas** 'from your' or 'of your', **ha'gas** 'with your' or 'and your'. Also optionally in **i'gas** 'in your'. In the case of **dh'agas** 'to your' it is the preposition that elides its vowel. None of these causes any mutation.

aga

This has an unstressed variant **gà**. And it is replaced by '**ga** in **a'ga** 'from their' or 'of their', **ha'ga** 'with their' or 'and their'. Also optionally in **i'ga** 'in their'. In the case of **dh'aga** 'to their' it is the preposition that elides its vowel. All of these are followed by Third State.

kensa

And this is the best place to note that **kensa** 'first' *never* mutates after *any* possessive pronoun (or any other word that normally causes mutation).

Practys Pymp ha Dêwgans

Exercise Forty Five

What do the following phrases mean?

dha baper, ow fluven, hy hath, agan cothman, y gy, aga thermyn, a'y chy, agas boosty, dha dhywros, gàn cyta, ha'm carr, gà lyverva, a'y jair, ha'gan descadoryon, dh'agas park, i'ga thre, gàs chambour, y dowlen, dha kensa dëdh i'n scol, ha'ga kensa degolyow warbarth

Note that **dhia** works just like **a** as far as the possessive pronouns are concerned. So we say for example **yth esof vy ow kerdhes dhia'm chy dhe'n scol** 'I walk from my house to school'. The same goes for prepositions containing **ha** as their second element. So we say for instance **ymowns y ow kerdhes tro ha'y jy** 'they are walking towards his house'.

Practys Whe ha Dêwgans

Exercise Forty Six

How do we say the following in Cornish?

my bus to Truro, our black car, her little dog, their splendid library, your lunch box, his Cornish class, and my red pen, towards their town, on its beach, to its park ('its' meaning in each case 'of the town', so both should be feminine reference)

The present-future of gallos

The verb **gallos** means ‘can’ or ‘be able’ when the ability depends on power, or opportunity, or permission. Not when the ability is based on knowledge or skill, for which we use **godhvos** as we have already seen.

The present-future of **gallos** is still part of the everyday language. Most of the time it is used with present sense. But the meaning can be future when the context supports that.

As with **mydnas**, **gwil**, **godhvos** we link a preceding subject to forms of **gallos** with relative particle **a**. For example **me a yll redya** ‘I can read’ (opportunity or permission). Particle **a** is however only very lightly pronounced in front of forms of **gallos**.

Vocabulary

Here are some more new words:

cres *m* middle, **dama wydn** *f* grandmother, **dasvêwa** revive, **fùgen Dhanek** *f* Danish pastry, **kydnyow** *m* dinner, **mona** *m* money, **ostel** *f* hotel, **pel neyjys** volleyball, **whythra** *v* explore, research

Practys Seyth ha Dêwgans

Exercise Forty Seven

What do the following sentences mean?

Me a yll vysytia ow dama wydn. Te a yll gwary pel neyjys wàr an treth. Ev a yll debry kydnyow i’n ostel in cres an dre. Hy a yll parusy an lesson moy adhwedhes. Ny a yll eva gwedren pò dyw i’n tavern-ma. Why a yll prena fùgen Dhanek i’n popty. Anjy a yll scrifa messach rîvbost der an wiasva pò danvon text. Mêster Pascoe a yll kemeres mona in mes a’n arhanty. An stranjer a yll whythra istory an dre. An Gernowyon a yll dasvêwa aga thavas.

For questions and negative statements the subjects ‘I’, ‘we’, ‘you’, ‘they’ adopt forms of the present-future of **gallos** that are particular to them. Just as we can make a statement **Te a wor hedna** but must ask **A wosta hedna?**

Here is the pattern:

A allaf vy?

Can I?

A yllyth jy?

Can you?

A yllyn ny?

Can we?

Ny allaf vy.

I cannot.

Ny yllyth jy.

You cannot.

Ny yllyn ny.

We cannot.

A yllowgh why?

Can you (plural or stranger)?

A yllons y?

Can they?

Ny yllowgh why.

You (plural or stranger) cannot.

Ny yllons y.

They cannot.

Instead of **yllyth jy** we can say **yllysta** or **ylta** – all three forms are interchangeable. The option to drop a personal pronoun subject is always there, so **ny allaf vy**, for instance, can be simplified to **ny allaf** if you like.

For ‘yes’ and ‘no’ we will mostly say just **eâ** and **nâ**. But if you wish to use the repeat-the-verb method, then ‘yes’ will be **Gallaf** etc (First State), and ‘no’ will be **Na allaf** etc.

Remember the different vowel lengths in phrases like **ny yllyn ny** – short vowel for the negative particle, long for the pronoun.

When **gallos** means indicates having permission, it will often correspond to English ‘may’. For example, **A allaf vy mos dhe’n attêsva mar pleg** ‘Please may I go to the toilet’. But not every case of English ‘may’ is rendered by Cornish **gallos**. When ‘may’ just indicates a possibility, it will usually be more appropriate to combine **martesen** with a future tense. For instance, **An lesson hedhyw a wra martesen gordfedna nebes abrës** ‘The lesson today may finish a little early’.

Vocabulary

Here are some more new words:

broder *m* brother, **cleves clun** *m* sciatica (literally ‘hip illness’), **esedha** *v* sit (down), **goles** *m* bottom, base, **gour** *m* husband, **gwell** better, **gwreg** *f* wife, **keyn** *m* back, **mabm** *f* mother, **nos** *f* night, **pain** *m* pain

Personal forms of dhe

Here are personal forms of the preposition **dhe** ‘to’:

dhybm or **dhe vy** ‘to me’

dhis or **dhys** or **dhe jy** ‘to you’

dhodho or **dhe ev** ‘to him’ or ‘to it’ (masculine reference)

dhedhy or **dhe hy** ‘to her’ or ‘to it’ (feminine reference)

dhyn or **dhe ny** ‘to us’

dhywgh or **dhe why** ‘to you’ (plural or stranger)

dhedha or **dhedhans** or **dhodhans** or **dh’anjy** ‘to them’

Note also the particularly emphatic forms **dhybmo** or **dhybmo vy** ‘to me’ and **dhyso** or **dhyso jy** ‘to you’.

Practys Eth ha Dêwgans

Exercise Forty Eight

Yma Tùbmas ha'y gothman Hecka ow cortos rag gweles an medhek. Ha den aral ow cortos inwedh, Harry. Pandr'usons y ow leverel?

- Tùbmas (Dhe Hecka) Yma pain dhybm i'm garr. Eus pain dhis inwedh.
Hecka Êâ. Yma pain dhybm i'm keyn.
Tùbmas In dha geyn? Wèl, brâs yw an pain i'm garr vy. Saw nyns yw goles ow heyn yn tâ naneyl.
Harry Cleves clun yw hedna, heb dowl.
Hecka Â! Yma pain cleves clun dhe'm mabm inwedh. Uthyk yw.
Tùbmas In gwir. (Dhe Harry) Ha pêth yw gâs cleves why? Eus pain dhe why inwedh?
Harry Nâ, pain vèth nyns eus. Saw ny allaf vy cùsca i'n nos, ytho pòr sqwith ov vy pùb eur oll.
Hecka Ny yll ow gwreg cùsca yn tâ. Yma hy owth esedha i'n gwely hag ow redya, hag ow còwsel inwedh, der oll an nos. Pòr uthyk yw.
Tùbmas Ogh, nyns yw hedna tra dhâ màn. Me a wor! Yma broder dhybm. Saw y wreg, mar ny yll hy cùsca, yma hy ow mos dhe'n gegyn hag ow qwil tesen rag hy gour. Hèn yw gwell rag aga dew.
Harry Ha rag agan try, gwell mar mydn an medhek dallath y whel. Sqwith ov vy. Sqwith a wortos!

The singular noun **tra** 'thing' is the only neuter noun in modern Cornish. It is neither masculine nor feminine. Instead it has some features that *appear* masculine, and some that *appear* feminine. In dictionaries it has historically been marked as feminine, with its apparently masculine features noted as irregularities. It will be better just to learn all the features as they are, without trying to hammer a square peg into round holes.

Attributive adjectives go into Second State after **tra**. But the personal pronoun to use for it is **ev** and the appropriate possessive pronoun is **y**. **Tra** itself will be in Second State after **an** 'the' and **udn** 'one'. But we use **dew**, **try**, **peswar** with it (not **dyw**, **teyr**, **peder**).

Tra has no plural. We have already learned **taclow** meaning 'things'.

Aga dew is literally 'their two'. This is how Cornish says 'both of them'. Likewise we say **agan dew** 'both of us', **agas dew** 'both of you'. **Dew** becomes **dyw** if both of the people or things referred to are female or feminine gender. The phrase can be made more emphatic by adding **oll** at the front. Phrases with larger numbers can be formed in similar fashion – **oll agan try**, for instance, meaning 'all three of us'.

Mar 'if' is always followed directly by a verb in Fourth State. Since Fourth State does not affect words beginning with the letter m, forms of the auxiliary verb **mydnas** appear unmutated. For example **mar mydnyn ny prena** 'if we are going to buy'.

Lesson Deg

Lesson Ten

Plurals of nouns

There are a number of different ways of forming a plural from a singular noun, and most nouns that have a plural in Cornish use only one of them, so you must learn which method is used for each noun at the same time as you learn its singular form and its gender.

This is not as bad as it sounds – for several reasons:

- (1) There are patterns that are easy to identify. For example, every noun in **-or** that designates a person who does something forms its plural in **-yon**. We have already met **dyscoryon** ‘learners’ for instance. If we encounter a new word, **studhyor** *m* ‘student’ for instance, then we immediately know that its plural must be **studhyoryon**.
- (2) Cornish does not use plural nouns as often as happens in English: ‘ten students’ is **deg studhyor**, ‘many students’ is **lies studhyor**.
- (3) Quite a lot of Cornish nouns have no plural form at all. For instance, **pro** *m* is ‘advantage’, but it has no plural. Cornish is able to express the plural notion ‘advantages’, of course; but it uses a phrase **poyntys a brow** (literally ‘points of advantage’) rather than a single word.

The ending **-ow** that we have seen in **taclo** ‘things’ and **Kernowesow** ‘Cornishwomen’ is the commonest plural ending. It has a variant **-yow** that is also widespread – we have seen it in **degolyow** ‘holiday’ (plural in form although singular in meaning). But there are other endings as well. Many animals like **buh** ‘cows’ and **cath** ‘cats’ form their plural in **-as**. This ending has a variant **-es** used for several very common plural words for people: for instance, **benenes** ‘women’, **flehes** ‘children’.

The plural ending **-ys** is used for many words originally borrowed from English: **boxys** ‘boxes’, for example, or **rômys** ‘rooms’. Sometimes this ending is simplified to **-s** as in **chambours** ‘bedrooms’ and **cothmans** ‘friends’; and in words like **cytas** ‘cities’ and **pytsas** ‘pizzas’ **-ys** would not be suitable anyway.

Mastering plural forms does take a while. For beginners it is generally best not to worry too much about all the detail until a slightly later stage of learning. Why does a **d** appear in **pluven** > **pluvednow** ‘feathers or pens’? Why does an **r** disappear in **carrek** > **carygy** ‘rocks’? And why **-ek** > **-ygy**? There are reasons for everything, but not all of them are straightforward. Once you are confident about your Cornish you may discover you do not need to know a lot of technical things after all.

More about possessive pronouns

We have already encountered the use of personal pronouns to add emphasis in prepositional phrases: **Fatla genes sy?** How are *you*? **genama vy** 'along with *me*', **dhybmo vy** 'to *me*'. Personal pronouns are used in similar fashion in conjunction with the possessive pronouns. For example, **ow scol vy** 'my school', **dha scol jy** 'your school'.

So far we have only seen the Cornish possessive pronouns used with ordinary nouns. They also have another important function. They are used in front of a *verb-noun* to express the 'direct object' of the verb.

Here are three examples. Note how particle **ow** is replaced by preposition **orth** before the pronoun.

yth esof vy ow parkya an carr 'I am parking the car'

yth esof vy orth y barkya 'I am parking it (literally 'I am at its parking')

me a vydn parkya an carr 'I will park the car'

me a vydn y barkya 'I will park it'

me a yll parkya an carr obma 'I can park the car here'

me a yll y barkya obma 'I can park it here'

Practys Naw ha Dêwgans

Exercise Forty Nine

On the same pattern, what do the following pairs of sentences mean?

Me a wor cōwsel Kernowek.

Me a wor y gōwsel.

Usy Crysten ow prena hy dehen rew?

Usy Crysten orth y brena?

Te a yll drîvya an carr dhe'n dre.

Te a yll y dhrîvya dhe'n dre.

Yth eson ny ow tebry an know toos wàr an treth.

Yth eson ny orth aga debry wàr an treth.

A wodhowgh why gwary pel neyjys?

A wodhowgh hy gwary?

Usy ev ow tôwlel an bel?

Usy ev orth hy thôwlel?

Ny yll ev vysytya an lyverva avorow.

Ny yll ev hy vysytya avorow.

Hy a vydn eva an coffy i'n lowarth.

Hy a vydn y eva i'n lowarth.

A wra Vyvyan gwysca bykîny rag omhowla?

A wra Vyvyan y wysca rag omhowla?

Nyns usons y ow convedhes istory Kernow.

Nyns usons y orth y gonvedhes.

Note how we often drop a personal pronoun subject to avoid collision with a similar sounding possessive pronoun: so better to say **A wodhowgh hy gwary?** rather than **A wodhowgh why hy gwary?** – the latter is grammatically correct but rather clumsy.

The last sentence of all – **Nyns usons y orth y gonvedhes** – is a good one to learn as a reminder that **y** 'they' is a long vowel, but the possessive pronoun **y** is short.

Vocabulary

Here are some more new words:

checkya *v* check, **comptya** *v* count, **copy** *m* copy, **cudyn** *m* difficulty, problem, **dell hevel** apparently (literally 'as it seems'), **dyberth** *v* depart (literally 'separate'), **erhy** *v* order, **gweres** *m* help, **gyllys wâr stray** missing (literally 'gone astray'), **isel** *adj* low, **lev** *m* voice, **marnas** (often abbreviated to **ma's**) except, **ober** *m* task, job, **otham** *m* need, **packet** *m* packet, **pêsyâ** *v* continue, **plobm** *m* lead (metal), **pluven blobm** *f* pencil, **pryntyor** *m* printer, **seythen** *f* week, **soweth!** oh dear!

Practys Deg ha Dêwgans

Exercise Fifty

Tôny yw descador a Sowsnek. I'n degolyow scol yma ev ha coweth Lûk ow checkya oll an taclow in rom class Tôny. Pandr'usons y ow leverel?

Tôny Py lies copy a *Jane Eyre* eus wâr an estyllen-na?

Lûk Pymthek warn ugans.

Tôny Pymthek warn ugans? A nyns eus dêwgans?

Lûk Nâ. Yma pymthek copy warn ugans. Eus cudyn?

Tôny Cudyn vëth. Pymp copy yw gyllys wâr stray, dell hevel.

Lûk Hag yma box obma a bluednow plobm. Comptya oll an pluvednow?

Tôny Ogh nâ. Nyns eus otham a hedna. Ot obma eth pad paper A4 i'n trog tedna. Eus paper i'n amary inwedh?

Lûk Eâ. I'n amary yma packet a baper rag an pryntyor, pymp cans folen.

Tôny Me a vydn erhy moy. Nyns yw lowr ma's dhe dhyw seythen.

- Lûk (sqwith a'n whel) Py eur yw lebmyn?
 Tôny Udnek eur.
 Lûk Scon me a vydn dyberth. Rag metya gans cothman dêwdhek eur in cres an dre.
 Tôny Soweth! Whath nyns yw an ober gorfednys màn.
 Lûk Ny a yll pêsy a vorow martesen.
 Tôny (ow cōwsel in lev isel) Me a wra pêsy hedhyw heb gweres ...

You can see from **pymthek copy warn ugens** that the noun being counted must be 'tucked inside' the complex numeral.

The plural of **pluven blobm** is **pluednow plobm**. Cornish does not usually put the material out of which something is made into Second State, even when the material appears as an attributive adjective with a feminine singular noun. But pencils have not been made with lead for many years, and there never were any lead *feathers*. Changing First State **plobm** to Second State **blobm** after feminine singular **pluven** is indicative of a *metaphorical* description. In **pluednow plobm** there is no mutation because most plural nouns do not cause mutation anyway.

Nyns yw lowr ma's rag dyw seythen literally means 'It is *not* enough *except* for two weeks'. In English we would more naturally say 'It is *only* enough for two weeks'.

Gorfednys means 'finished' This is a verbal adjective – we shall learn more about them at a later stage. We have met two others already: **devedhys** 'come' (= 'having come') and **gyllys** 'gone'.

Vocabulary

Here are some more new words:

breghtan *m* sandwich, **cras** toasted (literally 'parched'), **dewas** *m* drink, **flapjack** *m* flapjack, **heb namoy** only (literally 'without any more'), **kefrës** too (also), **nahen** otherwise (in a negative sentence), **leth** *m* milk, **neppëth** something, **rol** *f* roll (*also* list), **sehes** *m* thirst, **selsyk** *col* sausage(s), **voydya** *v* avoid, **warlergh** after, **yêhes** *m* health

Personal forms of gans

Here are personal forms of the preposition **gans** 'along with':

- genef** or **gena vy** 'along with me'
genes or **gena jy** 'along with you'
ganso 'along with him' or 'along with it' (masculine reference)
gensy 'along with her' or 'along with it' (feminine reference)
genen or **gena ny** 'along with us'

genowgh or **gena why** ‘along with you’ (plural or stranger)
gansans ‘along with them’

Practys Udnek ha Dêwgans

Exercise Fifty One

Warlergh kerdhes wâr Carn Bre yma Crysten ha Tôny in Cambron arta.

Tôny	Yma sehes dhybm.
Crysten	Eâ, yma otham a dhewas dhe vy kefrës.
Tôny	Res yw dhyn esedha hag eva neppëth. I’n goffyva martesen?
Crysten	Gwell yw gena vy prena dewas in popty. Dâ vëdh gena vy kerdhes nebes moy.
Tôny	I’n goffyva ny a yll debry inwedh.
Crysten	Nyns ov vy gwag.
Tôny	Saw my yw pòr wag.
Crysten	Pùb eur oll, dell hevel. Yma barr chocklet genef. Ny a yll radna hedna.
Tôny	Wèl, in gwir. Saw gwell yw genef debry nebes moy. Mar mydnyn ny prena dewas in popty, my a yll kemeres rol selsyk ganso, ha knofen toos.
Crysten	Ogh, fethys oll ov vy! Gwell vëdh dhe ny mos dhe’n goffyva. Dhe’n lyha yma coffy leth tanow i’n goffyva.
Tôny	Ha coffy gans dehen wheg. Ha breghtan cras. Ha tesen lus.
Crysten	Me a wra debry udn flapjack, heb namoy. Saw gwell dhe’n yêhes yw voydya an popty. Coffyva ytho, ny allaf nahen!

Cornish does not have an adjective equivalent to English ‘thirsty’. **Yma sehes dhybm** is the way we say ‘I am thirsty’ (literally ‘I have thirst’).

Just as **dâ yw genef** (literally ‘good along with me’) is used to mean ‘I like’ something, so **gwell yw genef** (literally ‘better along with me’) is employed in the sense ‘I prefer’.

We have noted already that **eur** means ‘specific time’, and that one of its uses is to express ‘o’clock’ when we tell the time. The word also crops up in the common phrases **i’n eur-ma** ‘now’, **i’n eur-na** ‘then’ (often shortened to **nena**) and **pùb eur oll** ‘always’.

Fethys oll ov vy! (literally ‘I am all defeated’) is a fixed phrase meaning ‘I give up!’

Ytho means ‘(and) so’. But unlike the English phrase it does not have to stand at the beginning of the sentence. In this respect it is more like English ‘therefore’.

Lesson Udnek

Lesson Eleven

*Building past tenses with **gwil***

Nearly all Cornish verbs have a 'simple past' tense. Its formal grammar name is the 'preterite' tense. It indicates that the 'action' of the verb is regarded as a past event rather than a process that stretched over past time. It corresponds to two tenses in English: 'did' and 'had done'. Context usually tells you which is intended. The latter sense can also be clarified with an adverb like **solabrës** 'already' or **kyns** 'previously'.

We have noted that the present-future is only employed for a few verbs except in high literary styles of Cornish, especially in poetry. The inflected preterite tense of most verbs is also relatively uncommon except for a single form: the one that is used with a preceding subject linked by relative particle **a**. We shall be learning this form in Book Two of *Cara Kernowek*, where we shall also learn the preterite of **bos**. But the whole preterite of **gwil** is a very common part of the everyday language as an *auxiliary* verb meaning 'did'. This provides a general method to build preterites without needing to inflect each individual verb. So we shall learn it now.

With a preceding subject and the relative particle we use the form **wrug**. For example, **me a wrug dallath** 'I did begin' or 'I began' or 'I have begun'. See how English here employs three separate forms with different vowels (begin, began, begun – the formal name for this phenomenon is ablaut). The Cornish is more straightforward. And where did the **g** come from in **wrug**? Well, compare the related English word 'wrought' – there you are!

Practys Dêwdhek ha Dêwgans

Exercise Fifty Two

What do the following sentences mean?

Me a wrug metya gans cothman. Te a wrug comptya an pluednow plobm. Ev a wrug debry dehen rew. Hy a wrug mordardhya wâr Treth Fystral. Ny a wrug mos dhe Lanust. Why a wrug erhy pytsas. Anjy a wrug prena pastys. An descador a wrug checkya oll an taclow i'n rom. An gath a wrug esedha dhyrag an daras. An flehes a wrug ponya i'n lowarth.

As usual, the subjects 'I', 'we', 'you', 'they' adopt forms that are particular to them for questions and negative statements.

Here is the pattern for the preterite of **gwil**:

A wrug vy?	Ny wrug vy.
Did I?	I did not.
A wrussys jy?	Ny wrussys jy.
Did you?	You did not.
A wrussyn ny?	Ny wrussyn ny.
Did we?	We did not.
A wrussowgh why?	Ny wrussowgh why.
Did you (plural or stranger)?	You (plural or stranger) did not.
A wrussons y?	Ny wrussons y.
Did they?	They did not.

Instead of **wrussys** we can say **wrusta** – the forms are interchangeable. As usual, the subject can optionally be omitted.

For ‘yes’ and ‘no’ we will mostly say just **eâ** and **nâ**. But if you wish to use the repeat-the-verb method, then ‘yes’ will be **Gwrug** etc (First State), and ‘no’ will be **Na wrug** etc.

Remember the different vowel lengths in phrases like **ny wrussyn ny** – short vowel for the negative particle, long for the pronoun.

Vocabulary

Here are some more new words:

adro dhe around, about, **awartha** at the top, **bêwnans** *m* life, **mellya** *v* interfere, **neb** some, **sur** sure, **top** *m* top, **vu** *m* view

Practys Tredhek ha Dêwgans

Exercise Fifty Three

Yma Jenefer ow covyn orth Crysten adro dh’y dëdh kerdhes gans Tôny.

Jenefer	Fatl’yw kerdhes gans Tôny? A wrusta cafos jorna brav?
Crysten	Eâ, sur. Ny a wrug gwandra dres Carn Bre.
Jenefer	A wrussowgh why mos bys in top an vre?
Crysten	Gwrussyn, ha’n vu awartha o spladn.
Jenefer	Pëth a wrussowgh why gwil wosa hedna?
Crysten	Ny a wrug mos dhe Cambron, rag eva neppëth in coffyva.
Jenefer	A wrusta debry inwedh?
Crysten	Wël, me a wrug kemeres udn flapjack.
Jenefer	Ha pëth a wrug Tôny debry?
Crysten	Ogh, nor’vy. Neb breghtan cras, neb knofen toos ...
Jenefer	Crysten, te a wor – nyns usy Tôny ow tebry taclow dâ. Saw ny yllysta mellya. Y negys y honen yw y vêwnans ev.

We use **orth** after **govyn** to specify the person to whom the question or request is made. It is also the preposition that must be used after **côwsel** 'speak' – in English we 'speak to' someone but Cornish is more intimate: we speak 'up against' someone.

Gwil is used to make both futures and preterites of itself. So we really do say, for instance, **ev a wra gwil hedna** 'he will do that' or, as here, **pëth a wrussowgh why gwil?** Compare English 'did do'.

We have learned that a preceding subject is linked to the verb by relative particle **a**. **Pëth a wrussowgh why gwil?** and **Pëth a wrug Tôny debry** demonstrate that the same applies to a preceding direct object.

Neb means 'some' as an adjective in the sense of 'some individual' (person or thing). Contrast **nebes** which means 'some (small) quantity'. **Neb**, like adjective **pùb** 'every' that we have already met, precedes its noun. None of these words cause any mutation.

Honen *m* means 'self'. So **y honen** means 'himself' (literally 'his self'). And **y negys y honen** means 'his own business' (literally 'his business his self').

Personal forms of orth

Here are personal forms of the preposition **orth** 'up against':

orthyf or **orta vy** 'up against me'

orthys or **ortys** 'up against you'

orto 'up against him' or 'up against it' (masculine reference)

orty 'up against her' or 'up against it' (feminine reference)

orthyn or **orta ny** 'up against us'

orthowgh or **orta why** 'up against you' (plural or stranger)

ortans 'up against them'

Practys Peswardhek ha Dêwgans

Exercise Fifty Four

How do we say the following in Cornish?

I shall speak to the bank tomorrow. He is talking to you. She is asking her friend. We will speak to them. The stranger is asking me.

More about higher numerals

From the numbering of the exercises we can see that we count upwards from twenty using **warn uguns** (literally 'on the twenty') until we reach thirty nine. **Dêwgans** (or **dew uguns**) is forty. Then we count upwards again, until we reach fifty nine. But this time the phrase is simply **ha dêwgans**. 'Fifty' is **deg ha dêwgans** but it is frequently

also expressed as **hanter cans** (literally ‘half a hundred’). **Try ugans** is sixty, and we count upwards from it to seventy nine using **ha try ugans**. Then **peswar ugans** is ‘eighty’, and we count upwards to ninety nine using **ha peswar ugans**.

Vocabulary

Here are two more nouns:

our *m* hour, **stap** *m* step

Practys Pymthek ha Dêwgans

Exercise Fifty Five

What do the following phrases mean?

Peswar our warn ugans, whêtek our warn ugans, eth our ha dêwgans, dêwdhek our ha try ugans, an nawnjek stap warn ugans

Lesson Dêwdhek

Lesson Twelve

In addition to the simple past or preterite tense, most Cornish verbs also have a 'past continuous' tense. Its formal grammar name is the 'imperfect tense'. It is largely confined to written Cornish. But **bos** has an imperfect in very active use (we have met **o** 'was' already). And because knowledge and ability are continuous states we generally use the imperfect of **godhvos** and **gallos** to express the sense of those verbs in the past.

With a preceding subject and the relative particle we use the forms **wodhya** and **ylly**. For example, **me a wodhya pùptra i'n lesson solabrës** 'I already knew everything in the lesson' and **me a ylly parkya an carr** 'I was able to park the car'. It is true the ability to park the car perhaps depended on seizing an opportunity quickly. But we do not in practice find the preterite of **gallos** used very much at all.

Vocabulary

Here are some more new words:

Austol St Austell, **dewetha** last, **Penzans** Penzance, **tecter** *m* beauty, **trigva** *f* address

Practys Whêtek ha Dêwgans

Exercise Fifty Six

What do the following sentences mean?

Me a wodhya hy thrigva rîvbost. Ev a wodhya oll an dra. Ny a wodhya an fordh. Anjy a wodhya tecter an pow. Gwreg broder Tùbmas a wodhya gwil tesen.

Practys Seytek ha Dêwgans

Exercise Fifty Seven

Me a ylly mordardhya in Porth Towan de. Te a ylly mos dhe Austol dewetha seythen. Ev a ylly vysytia y dhama wydñ in Penzans. Hy a ylly prena ly i'n popty. Ny a ylly viajya wàr an kyttryn. Why a ylly desky yn tâ. Anjy a ylly marhogeth dres an treth. Mêster Pascoe a ylly wolcùbma an stranjer. Peternel a ylly eva sùgan lus rudh. An cathas a ylly cùsca in dadn an gwely.

As usual, the subjects 'I', 'we', 'you', 'they' adopt forms that are particular to them for questions and negative statements.

Here is the pattern for the imperfect of **godhvos**:

A wodhyen vy?

Did I know?

A wodhyes jy?

Did you know?

A wodhyen ny?

Did we know?

A wodhyowgh why?

Did you (plural or stranger) know?

A wodhyens y?

Did they know?

Ny wodhyen vy.

I did not know.

Ny wodhyes jy.

You did not know.

Ny wodhyen ny.

We did not know.

Ny wodhyowgh why.

You (plural or stranger) did not know.

Ny wodhyens y.

They did not know.

For 'yes' and 'no' we will mostly say just **eâ** and **nâ**. But if you wish to use the repeat-the-verb method, then 'yes' will be **Godhyen** etc (First State), and 'no' will be **Na wodhyen** etc.

Here is the pattern for the imperfect of **gallos**:

A yllyn vy?

Could I?

A yllys jy?

Could you?

A yllyn ny?

Could we?

A yllewgh why?

Could you (plural or stranger)?

A yllens y?

Could they?

Ny yllyn vy.

I could not.

Ny yllys jy.

You could not.

Ny yllyn ny.

We could not.

Ny yllewgh why.

You (plural or stranger) could not.

Ny yllens y.

They could not

For 'yes' and 'no' we will mostly say just **eâ** and **nâ**. But if you wish to use the repeat-the-verb method, then 'yes' will be **Gyllyn** etc (First State), and 'no' will be **Na yllyn** etc.

Vocabulary

Here are some more new words:

byttele nonetheless, **chaunjya** *v* change, **cùssulya** *v* advise, **demedhy** *v* marry, **fystena** *v* hurry, **gorsaf** *m* station, **gortheby** *v* answer, **govyn** *v* ask, request (also used as a masculine noun meaning 'enquiry' or 'request'), **hast** *m* haste, **inter** between (*also intra*), **kebmyn** common, **kescows** *m* conversation, **manerow** *pl* manners, habits, **neur a** a lot of, **nepprës** sometime, **nowodhow** *pl* news, **pendom** extreme (in attitude), **perthynas** *m* relationship, **Plymoth** Plymouth, **Pow Densher** Devon, **qwestyon** *m*

question, **sad** serious, **tas** *m* father, **testen** *f* subject, topic, **train** *m* train, **tùchyng** about, concerning, **viajya** *v* travel, **vytel** *col* food, **warbydn** against

Practys Êtek ha Dêwgans

Exercise Fifty Eight

Tôny has a meeting with his father. Read their conversation aloud several times to be sure you understand it. See below for help with the meaning.

Tas Tôny yw trigys in Pow Densher. Tôny a wrug viajya dhe Plymoth rag vysytia y das. Ev a ylly viajya wâr an train. Y das a ylly metya ganso i'n gorsaf. Anjy a wrug mos dhe davern in cres an dre. Anjy a ylly còwsel adro dhe oll agan nowodhow. Ha debry ly. Hag eva lies gwedren a goref. Tôny a wrug mencyon dh'y das a'y gothman Crysten. Y das a wrug govyn mars yw perthynas sad.

"Nor'vy, a Das," a wrug Tôny leverel. "Nyns yw an perthynas êsy màn. Martesen nyns eus lowr a daclow kebmyn inter agan dew. Dâ yw gensy mordardhya ha gwil meur a sport. Ha nebes pendom yw hy tùchyng manerow hy vytel."

Tas Tôny a wrug cùssulya warbydn hast. Tôny a wrug leverel, "Awhêr vèth! Ow fystena dhe gafos gwreg nyns esof vy."

"Byttele," y das a wrug gortheby, "res yw dhis nepprës demedhy, a nyns yw?"

"Dar!" Tôny a wrug cria in mes. "A ny yllyn ny còwsel heb qwestyon cales a'n par-na?"

Y das a wrug chaunjya testen an kescows.

Mar 'if' becomes **mars** before forms of **bos** beginning with a vowel.

The preterite of **gwil mencyon** a 'mention' (literally 'make mention of') is usually just **wrug mencyon** a, though **wrug gwil mencyon** a is also possible.

Be careful not to confuse Cornish **sad** 'serious' with **trist** 'sad'.

Awhêr vèth! literally means '[Not] any distress!' This is a common way of saying 'Don't worry!'

Res is technically a masculine noun meaning 'necessity'. But it is only used in the construction **res yw dhe nebonen gwil neppëth** 'it is necessary for someone to do something'. So **res yw dhis demedhy** means 'you must marry' or 'you have to marry'.

Dar! is a fairly harmless exclamation that takes its meaning from the context. It originated as a weakened form of English 'damn!'

Cria *v* means 'call' or 'shout', and **cria in mes** means 'shout out' or 'exclaim'.

Cornish uses the phrases **a'n par-ma** and **a'n par-na** for 'such' or 'like this / that' – so **qwestyon cales a'n par-na** means 'a difficult question like that'.

Forming adverbs with yn

Cornish adjectives are sometimes also used as adverbs. This is especially true when they are preceded by **pòr** 'very'. So **pòr dhâ** means both 'very good' and 'very well'. Particle **yn** can be used to make clear that an adverb is intended. So for 'very well' we can also say **yn pòr dhâ**.

Particle **yn** causes another mutation we have not met before – this time, Fifth State. Technically, this is a mix of spirantization and provection, so it is also called *mixed mutation*.

Mutation is reflected in the spelling. Here are the spellings that can change:

b	>	f	m	>	f	g	>	h
d	>	t				go	>	who
						gw	>	wh

Be careful not to confuse particle **yn** with preposition **in**. The preposition is used in front of nouns, not adjectives. And the preposition does not cause any mutation.

Gwir is both an adjective 'true' and a noun 'truth'. We always say **in gwir** 'in truth' or 'truly' or 'indeed'. We do not use particle **yn** with this word.

Vocabulary

Here are some more adjectives:

Dien entire, **dywysyk** eager, **garow** rough, **gwyls** wild, **men** vigorous, **menowgh** frequent

Practys Nawnjek ha Dêwgans

Exercise Fifty Nine

Using particle **yn**, how do we say the following in Cornish?

happily, entirely, seriously, sadly, frequently, eagerly, roughly, heavily, wildly, vigorously

Bear in mind that a Cornish adverb will not necessarily correspond exactly to English usage. For instance, **ny a wrug debry yn frav** 'we ate splendidly' (literally 'finely').

Lesson Tredhek

Lesson Thirteen

Saying 'wish to' or 'want to'

The present-future tense of **mydnas** originally had the sense 'wish to' or 'want to'. But we have seen that this sense was weakened (save in a few fixed phrases) so that it became an auxiliary verb 'will' forming future tenses for other verbs.

To say 'I wish to do something' or 'I want to do something' in modern Cornish we use the conditional tense of **cara** 'love' followed by the verb-noun. The conditional is one of those tenses that are hardly used by most verbs, outside high literature. But the conditional of **cara** remains very busy, because 'wish to' or 'want to' is such a basic idea. Literally what we are saying is 'I would love to'.

The conditional of **cara** is not present, future or past – it is timeless. We usually understand the sense to be 'I would like' referring to the present. But context or a word like **avorow** 'tomorrow' or **de** 'yesterday' can make it clear we are referring to a desire in the future or in the past.

We link a preceding subject to the conditional of **cara** with relative particle **a**. For example **me a garsa esedha** 'I would like to sit (down)'.

Practys Try Ugans

Exercise Sixty

What do the following sentences mean?

Me a garsa debry pytsa lebmyn. Te a garsa kerdhes gans an ky de. Ev a garsa drîvya dhe'n treth avorow. Hy a garsa cûsca wâr an train. Ny a garsa nejya i'n mor. Why a garsa mos dhe'n tavern. Anjy a garsa redya i'n lyverva. Davyth a garsa gwary pel droos. Crysten a garsa debry flapjack. An dhyscoryon a garsa cōwsel moy Kernowek.

As usual, the subjects 'I', 'we', 'you', 'they' adopt forms that are particular to them for questions and negative statements.

Here is the pattern:

A garsen vy? Ny garsen vy.

Did I want to?

I did not want to.

A garses jy?

Ny garses jy.

Did you want to?

You did not want to.

A garsen ny?

Ny garsen ny.

Did we want to?	We did not want to.
A garsewgh why?	Ny garsewgh why.
Did you (plural or stranger) want to?	You (plural or stranger) did not want to.
A garsens y?	Ny garsens y.
Did they want to?	They did not want to.

For 'yes' and 'no' we will mostly say just **eâ** and **nâ**. But if you wish to use the repeat-the-verb method, then 'yes' will be **Carsen** etc (First State), and 'no' will be **Na garsen** etc.

The seasons

The four seasons are **gwaynten** *m* spring, **hâv** *m* summer, **kydneyaf** *m* autumn, **gwâv** *m* winter. We have already met the word **havyas** *m* summer tourist.

Vocabulary

Here are some more new words:

aval kerenesa *m* tomato (literally 'love apple'), **bryntyn** noble, **cowl** *m* soup, **dowr** *m* water, **dystowgh** immediately, **dry** *v* bring, **gwas** *m* assistant, waiter, **mynysen** *f* (*pl* **mynysow**) minute, **only** only, **sant melys** *m* dessert, **scot** *m* bill

Practys Onen ha Try Ugans

Exercise Sixty One

Crysten has been working late. Before going home she visits a restaurant to eat a simple dinner for one. The staff know her well.

Gwas	Lowena dhis, fatla genes?
Crysten	Gromercy, pòr dhâ. Ha tejy?
Gwas	Bryntyn. Gromercy a'n govyn. Pëth a garses eva?
Crysten	Only dowr, mar pleg.
Gwas	Dâ lowr. Otta rol an vytel. Me a wra dry an dowr dystowgh.
Crysten	Gromercy dhis.
Gwas	Ot obma dha dhowr. Os parys dhe erhy?
Crysten	Nâ, mynysen pò dyw mar pleg.
Gwas	Cudyn vëth. Oll heb hast.
<i>(Warlergh teyr mynysen ...)</i>	
Gwas	Moy termyn whath?
Crysten	Nâ, parys ov vy.
Gwas	Pëth a vynta erhy?
Crysten	Me a garsa kemeres salad gwer a'n gwaynten ha kig yar ganso.

Gwas **Heb mar. Inwedh yma cowl aval kerensa gans an salad. A garses erhy neppëth moy?**

Crysten **Gromercy na vадnaf.**
(Warlergh pymp mynysen ...)

Gwas **Cowl aval kerensa ha salad gwer, ottensy!**

Crysten **Gromercy teg.**

Gwas **Gwra cria, otham mar pëdh.**
(Warlergh deg mynysen ...)

Gwas **Yw gorfednys dhis?**

Crysten **Yw.**

Gwas **A garses gweles rol an sant melys?**

Crysten **Na vадnaf, saw cafos an scot mar pleg.**

Gwas **Otta va.**

Crysten **Dùrdala dhe why.**

Bryntyn is used colloquially like **spladn** to mean ‘great’, ‘excellent’, ‘wonderful’, ‘fantastic’ etc. Another word that can be used in this way is **rial** ‘royal’.

There are quite a lot of different ways to express ‘only’ in Cornish. The word **only** itself is not as common as in English. It is particularly useful in short replies.

The present-future of **mydnas** makes future tenses for other verbs, but it can still have its original force of ‘wish to’ in polite questions such as **Pëth a vynta eva?** Compare English ‘Will you take tea?’ It is frequently heard in replies, even when the question itself has been asked with **cara**. Hence **A garses gweles rol an sant melys? Na vадnaf.** **Na garsen** is possible here of course.

Heb mar means ‘certainly, of course’ (literally ‘without an if’).

Negative sentences using **garsen** etc are not used very much. The standard negative reply to **A garses ...?** is **Na vydnaf** or **Na vадnaf**. In such fixed expressions **mydnas** can still carry its original sense of ‘wish to’.

Telling the time with mynysen

When we are content to tell the time in five minute intervals, we do not usually employ the word **mynysen**. So we generally say, for example, **deg wosa eth** ‘ten past eight’ though **deg mynysen wosa eth** or even **deg mynysen wosa eth eur** are certainly possible. We do however need **mynysen** when we step outside this framework. So for instance, **teyr mynysen wosa eth** ‘three minutes past eight’.

Lesson Peswardhek

Lesson Fourteen

Expressing verbs with particle y

We have encountered three kinds of affirmative statement. One where the subject precedes the verb: **me yw lowen**, **te a vydn kerdhes**, etc. One where important information is fronted: **lowen ov vy**, etc. And one where the verb comes before everything else: **yma an tiak i'n arhanty**, etc. The third of these word orders is most typical of the insular Celtic languages. But in Cornish it now competes with the other two ways of making an affirmative statement. And for sentences of the **me yw lowen** kind or the **te a vydn kerdhes** kind it is not actually very common. But it is possible.

The verb is always introduced by the affirmative statement-forming particle **y** (this is already fixed to the front of **yma** and **ymowns** – with these two verb-forms we do not a separate **y** as well. Particle **y** (when a separate word) becomes **yth** if the next word begins with a vowel; and it is followed by Fifth State mutation of any following consonant that undergoes that mutation. Particle **y** is pronounced differently from both **y** ‘they’ and **y** ‘his’. It is like the first sound in **yma**. And the same sound occurs in **yth**.

So instead of **me yw lowen** we can say **yth ov vy lowen**. This places emphasis on the whole statement. And instead of **anjy a vydn kerdhes** we can say **y fydnons y kerdhes**. This way of expressing the matter is particularly suitable when the sentence begins with an adverb or with another clause: for example, **mar ny vëdh carr dhodhans, y fydnons y kerdhes** ‘if they don’t have a car, they’ll walk’.

Vocabulary

Here are some more new words:

ergh *m* snow, **gwil ergh** snow (verb), **gwil glaw** rain (verb), **gwil keser** hail (verb), **keser** *col* hail

Practys Dew ha Try Ugans

Exercise Sixty Two

What do the following sentences mean?

Yth on ny sqwith. Hedhyw yma ow qwil ergh. De y whrug gwil keser. Avorow y whra gwil glaw. Mars osta parys, y hyllyn ny dallath.

When referring to the weather (**kewar** or **awel** or **ebbron**, all feminine nouns) we can use personal pronoun **hy**. So we could say **Hedhyw yma hy ow qwil ergh**. But the pronoun is usually omitted.

We saw with **gwil mencyon** that we usually say just **me a wrug mencyon** rather than **me a wrug gwil mencyon** – though both are possible. It is the same with the phrasal verbs **gwil ergh**, **gwil glaw**, **gwil keser**. It is more common to say **y whrug** with these verbs than **y whrug gwil**. But **y whra gwil** is the usual form. Retaining **gwil** here makes clear we are using a future tense. Generally, we do not employ **mydnas** with in these weather expressions.

Vocabulary

Here are some more new words:

adhevîs first class, **alebma** from here (*also* ago), **ap** *m* app, **assaya** *v* try (exercise, effort), **clôwes** *v* hear, **codha** *v* fall, **codnek** *m* skill, **cors** *m* course, **cowethyades** *f* female colleague, **cows** *m* talk(ing), **fon** *m* phone, **fylm** *m* (*pl* **fylnys**) film, **golsowes** *v* listen, **gonysegeth** *f* culture, **gwellhe** *v* improve, **gwil gweres** help (verb), **gwydhyô** *m* (*pl* **gwydhyôs**) video, **i'n kettermyn** at the same time, **in gwrioneth** really (literally 'in truthfulness'), **is-** sub-, **Italek** *m* Italian (language), **Italy** Italy, **Italyan** Italian, **Italyans** *pl* Italians, **les** *m* interest, **lînen** *f* line, **miras** *v* look, **podcast** *m* (*pl* **podcastys**), **polyshya** *v* polish, **prag?** why? (we have already met **prag na?** 'why not?'), **prevy** *v* try (test), **son** *m* charm, **tavas** *m* tongue (*also* language), **tîtel** *m* (*pl* **tîtlys**) title, **traweythyow** sometimes, occasionally, **tro** *f* turn, time (occasion), **tylly** *v* pay, **viaj** *m* journey, trip

Practys Try ha Try Ugans

Exercise Sixty Three

Yma Merv ow tesky Italek. Yma ow covyn orth y gowethyades Carolyn fatell yll ev gwellhe y gows in Italek. Pandr'usons y, aga dew, ow leverel?

Merv	Me a garsa gwellhe ow hows Italek.
Carolyn	Te a wor Italek?
Merv	Eâ, nebes.
Carolyn	Otta nowodhow dhybm.
Merv	Me a wrug dallath desky teyr pò peder bledhen alebma.
Carolyn	In gwrioneth? Prag?
Merv	Yth esof ow cara an tavas ha'n wonysegeth. Me a wrug vysytia Italy kensa tro in viaj scol. Hag my lebmy in dadn son an wlas.
Carolyn	Clôwes hedna yw meur dhe'm les. Fatell ylta studhya Italek?
Merv	Yth esof ow qwil cors wâr lînen, hag yma ap dhe vy wâr ow fon. Byttele, heb cōwsel dhe well.

Carolyn	Esta ow miras orth fylmys ha gwydhyôs Italek hag ow colsowes podcastys?
Merv	Traweythyow.
Carolyn	Y coodh dhys spêna moy termyn gansans martesen.
Merv	Me a vydn assaya. Saw cales yw convedhes oll an cows.
Carolyn	Gwra prevy miras orth fylmys gans is-tîtlys Italek warbarth. Indelma y hylta redya Italek ha golsowes i'n kettermyn. Y whra gwil gweres orth dha godnek clôwes ha'n codnek còwsel kefrës.
Merv	Tybyans dâ yw hedna. Pêth aral a dal dhybm gwil?
Carolyn	Esta nepprës ow còwsel orth Italyans in Kernow?
Merv	Nag esof in gwir.
Carolyn	Yma dhybm cothman Italian. Yma hy whath ow polyshya hy Sowsnek, hag ow tesky Kernowek inwedh. Par hap y fynta gwil gweres dhedhy hag assaya còwsel nebes Italek orty hy.
Merv	Ogh, y fêdh adhevîs.

Gwell 'better' does not form an adverb with particle **yn**. Instead we use the phrase **dhe well**. We do the same with **moy** 'more' and **le** 'less': **dhe voy** and **dhe le**.

Golsowes 'listen' is followed by **orth** if we listen to a person, but only optionally by **orth** if we listen to a thing. **Miras** 'look' *must* be followed by **orth** (occasionally **wâr**) whether we are looking at people or things.

You can see that **gwil gweres** 'help' uses **dhe** for the person to whom the help is given and **orth** for the thing with which they are helped.

Y coodh is a present-future form of **codha** 'fall' which is used to mean 'should' or 'ought to' (literally 'it falls to someone to do something'). **Y coodh dhys spêna moy termyn** 'you should spend more time' shows you how the construction works. **Y tal** is a present-future form of **tylly** 'pay' which is used with similar sense (literally it is of value to someone to do something). So we could also say **Y tal dhys spêna moy termyn**. In **Pêth aral a dal dhybm gwil?** we move from a statement to a question. So particle **y** disappears; we use relative particle **a** to link direct object to verb as usual.

Adhevîs is another word, like **spladn**, **bryntyn**, **rial**, that can be used to mean 'great', 'excellent', 'wonderful', 'fantastic' etc.

Personal forms of rag

Here are personal forms of the preposition **rag** 'for':

ragof or **raga vy** 'for me'

ragos or **raga jy** 'for you'

ragtho or **rag ev** 'for him' or 'for it' (masculine reference)

rygthy *or* **rag hy** 'for her' *or* 'for it' (feminine reference)

ragon *or* **raga ny** 'for us'

ragowgh *or* **raga why** 'for you' (plural or stranger)

ragthans *or* **rag anjy** 'for them'

Practys Peswar ha Try Ugans

Exercise Sixty Four

What do the following sentences mean?

Me a wra gwil hedna rygthy. Yth eson ow studhya rag desky Kernowek yn tâ. Raga vy nyns yw hebma meur y les. Ev a wra parusy vytel adhevîs ragowgh. I'n eur-ma yth yw pùptra parys ragos.

Building imperatives with gwil

The (second person) imperative forms of a verb are used to give commands; they can also be coupled with a phrase like **mar pleg** 'please' to make requests.

The imperative forms of **gwil** provide a method to build imperatives for other verbs. The forms are **gwra** for a command or request to one person and **gwrewgh** for a command or request to more than one person or to a stranger. For example, **gwra redya an messach-ma** 'read this message' or **gwrewgh tyllly an scot** 'pay the bill'.

Vocabulary

ajy in(side), **derivas** (orth) *v* report (to), tell, **pobel** *f* people, **ry** *v* give

Practys Pymp ha Try Ugans

Exercise Sixty Five

How do we say the following in Cornish to a single person we know well?

Please sit down. Eat your supper. Go to bed now. Write a letter to your grandmother. Buy me a pasty at the bakery.

And how do we say the following in Cornish to more than one person or to a stranger?

Please come in. Tell me the news. Give this to the people at the bank. Eat healthily. And drink a glass of milk every day.

Negative imperatives

We use the negative imperative forms of **gwil** in the same way to build imperatives for other verbs. The forms are **na wra** and **na wrewgh**. For example, **na wra govyn a hedna** 'don't ask about that' and **na wrewgh kerdhes wàr an gwels** 'don't walk on the grass'

Practys Whe ha Try Ugans

Exercise Sixty Six

How do we say the following in Cornish to a single person we know well?

Don't swim in the sea today. Don't eat that! Don't count the pencils. Please don't go to Falmouth today. Don't speak to them!

And how do we say the following in Cornish to more than one person or to a stranger?

Don't sit there! Please don't hurry. Don't talk in the library. Don't spend all your money. Don't listen to them!

Vocabulary

Here are some more new words:

asen *m* ass, donkey, **askel** *f* (*pl* **eskelly**) wing, **bohes** little, not much, **cabm** crooked (*also* wrong), **caletter** *m* difficulty, **composa** *v* straighten, **corn** *m* (*pl* **kern**) horn, **crowd** *m* violin, **dainty** delicate, **edrek** *m* regret, **fast** firm, **fyf** *m* match (sport), **golok** *f* look (*also* scene), **Golowan** *m* Midsummer, **hunros** *m* dream, **kerens** *pl* close relatives, parents, **kescussulyans** *m* conference, **kevarwedhor** *m* director, **na whath** yet (in a negative sentence), **pedn** *m* head, **performyans** *m* performance, **plegya** *v* bend, **remembra** *v* remember, **spêda** *f* success, **staga** *v* fix, **surhe** *v* ensure, **syra** *m* sir

Practys Seyth ha Try Ugans

Exercise Sixty Seven

Tôny *yw* kevarwedhor rag *Hunros in Nos Golowan*. **Hèn** *yw* gwary dramatek an Gernowegoryon in Bledhen Seyth ha Bledhen Eth y scol ev. **Nyns** *yw* ober êsy! **Pandr'yw** oll an kescows?

- | | |
|---------|--|
| Tôny | Ple ma dha bedn jy, Bottom? Pedn an asen. A ylta y wysca rag assaya an wolok-ma? |
| Bottom | Pôr gales yw gwysca an pedn, syra. Tobm ov vy i'm pedn asen, ha ny allaf vy gweles yn tâ rag redya ow lînednow. |
| Tôny | Dar, nyns esta ow remembra dha lînednow na whath? Ha'n performyans wosa dyw seythen – nâ, wosa deg dëdh! |
| Titania | Syra, ow askel yw stagys cabm. A yllowgh hy homposa? |
| Tôny | Yth esof vy ow composa dha askel pùb termyn! Gwra kemeres with a'n eskelly dainty-ma, heb aga flegya! |
| Oberon | An kern wâr ow fedn vy, th'yngs y lows. Soweth! Me a vydn mos dhe'n rom gwysca rag aga staga arta. |
| Tôny | Nâ, ny vydnys màn. Gwra gortos obma. Ny a wra gorfedna oll agan practys, ha ty a yll staga dha gern moy fast rag an nessa tro. |
| Oberon | An nessa tro? |

Tôny Eâ. Avorow. Ny a vydn assaya pùb dohajëdh bys in dëdh an
performyans.
Oberon Saw avorow yw dëdh ow fyt pel droos!
Titania Saw avorow yw dëdh ow dyscas crowd!
Bottom Saw avorow yw dëdh an kescùssulyans kerens, syra.
Tôny In gwrioneth! Ogh, fatell allaf vy surhe gwary dê? Lies caletter, bohes
spêda. Yma edrek dhybm a dhallath oll an dra!

Lesson Pymthek

Lesson Fifteen

Decimal numbers

The Cornish counted in twenties rather than tens. But modern mathematics is strongly focused on counting in tens. So a new system of decimal numbers has been introduced, running alongside the traditional system once we count past twenty. This is generally employed for arithmetic, including sums of money. It is also useful in sentences like **Gwra prena dhybm udn naw deg naw mar pleg** 'Buy me a ninety nine please' referring to an ice cream cone with a chocolate flake.

Here are the principal numbers, in steps of ten:

deg	ten	whe deg	sixty
dhew deg	twenty	seyth deg	seventy
try deg	thirty	eth deg	eighty
peswar deg	forty	naw deg	ninety
pypm deg	fifty	cans 'a hundred' is unchanged	

All the numbers one to twenty continue to be used as before. But there is a new method of forming numbers twenty one to twenty nine, thirty one to thirty nine, etc. We illustrate it here with the numbers from twenty one:

dew dheg onen	twenty one	dew dheg whe	twenty six
dew dheg dew	twenty two	dew dheg seyth	twenty seven
dew dheg try	twenty three	dew dheg eth	twenty eight
dew dheg peswar	twenty four	dew dheg naw	twenty nine
dew dheg pypm	twenty five		

In the decimal system, once we get past twenty, we do not use **udn** (the alternative form of 'one'). **Whegh** can still be used as an alternative to **whe**. We use the new decimal numbers with a *plural* noun, and we link the number to the noun with preposition **a**. For instance, **try deg onen a dhedhyow** 'thirty one days' corresponds to **udnek dëdh warn ugans** in traditional counting.

Vocabulary

Here are some more new words:

cent *m* (*pl centys*) cent, **degrê** *m* (*pl degrê*s) degree (temperature), **dollar** *m* (*pl dollars*) dollar, **dynar** *m* (*pl denerow*) penny, **ewrô** *m* (*pl ewrô*s) euro, **holyor** *m* (*pl holyoryon*) follower (including social media), **kîlomêtrow** *pl* kilometres, **mildir** *f* (*pl mildiryow*) mile, **pens** *m* (*pl pensow*) pound,

Practys Eth ha Try Ugans

Exercise Sixty Eight

Put the following phrases (traditional numbers) into their equivalent using decimal numbers:

udn vledhen warn ugans, seytek dynar ha dêwgans, try foynt ha try ugans, peder mildir ha peswar ugans, hanter cans degré, pymp ewrô ha try ugans, whêtek dollar warn ugans, udnek holyor ha peswar ugans, eth cent warn ugans, peswar kîlomêter ha dêwgans

Vocabulary

Here are some more new words:

assayva *f* gym, **corf** *m* body, **cowethyas** *m* colleague, **dywweyth** twice, **cot** short, **crev** strong, **hay!** hey! **hir** long, **hùrâ!** hurray! **lent** slow, **lies torn** often, **lyftya** *v* lift, **pel gowel** *f* basketball, **powes** *v* rest, **scant** hardly, **scon** soon, **terweyth** three times

Practys Naw ha Try Ugans

Exercise Sixty Nine

Yma Kylie parys dhe bonya nebes kîlomêtrow wosa gorfedna hy whel de Gwener. Yma hy ow covyn orth hy howethyas Marcus mos gensy. Pandr'usons y ow leverel?

Kylie	A garses ponya gena vy, Marcus?
Marcus	Err ... scant.
Kylie	Prag na?
Marcus	Nyns yw ponya dê genama.
Kylie	Nyns yw dê? Ha ty mar grev i'n corf ...
Marcus	Eâ, th'esof i'n assayva yn fenowgh hag ow lyftya posow. Hag ow qwary pel gowel traweythyow. Saw nyns yw dê genama ponya fordh hir.
Kylie	Mar mynta mos gena vy, ponya lent y hyllyn ha powes lies torn.
Marcus	Hmm ... dê lowr. Me a vydn mos genes.
Kylie	Hùrâ!
Marcus	Py eur fydnyn ny mos?
Kylie	I'n eur-ma.
Marcus	In gwir? Dê lowr. Gas vy dhe wysca ow skyjyow sport.
Kylie	Gwra hedna.
Marcus	Parys!
Kylie	Dallath ytho!
Marcus	Hay, yn moy lent!
Kylie	Hèm yw pòr lent solabrës. Mar mydnyn mos yn moy lent, ow kerdhes y fedhyn ny.

Marcus Ogh, cales yw ponya!
 Kylie Cales i'n kensa mynysow. Saw êsy scon. Te a dal ponya dywweyth
 pò terweyth an seythen, fordh got. Ena y fêdh êsy pùb tro.
 Marcus Dâ lowr. Me a wra prevy hedna.
 Kylie Ha te a yll gwil gweres dhybm rag desky lyftya posow.
 Marcus Bargen yw!

We have met **nebes** meaning 'a little'. With a plural or collective noun it means 'a few'.

We know **poos** 'heavy'. The word is also a masculine noun, plural form **posow**, meaning 'weight'.

Te a dal is another way, more colloquial, of saying **y tal dhis** 'you should'.

In phrases like **dywweyth pò terweyth an seythen** the sense of **an** is 'per'.

To finish the last lesson of this Coursebook here is a conversation between two new friends where the Cornish is just a bit more complex. To give you a flavour of the kind of Cornish we shall be learning in the second Coursebook in this *Cara Kernowek* series.

Practys Deg ha Try Ugans

Exercise Seventy

Yma Oli ha Frances ow metya dhe'n kensa tro. Orth kyffewy a Gernowyon in Loundres. Pandr'usons y ow leverel?

Oli Lowena dhis. Oliver ov vy, saw gwra gelwel Oli.
 Frances Lowena, Oli. Me yw Frances. Metya yw plesour wheg.
 Oli Wheg dhybm kefrës.
 Frances A ble osta devedhys?
 Oli A Bow Rësohen. Saw ow mabm yw devedhys a Gernow. Rag hedna
 yth esof ow cōwsel Kernowek. Ha te jy?
 Frances Me yw devedhys a Gernow hy honen.
 Oli Ancombrus yw! Nyns yw Kernow aswonys dhybm yn pòr dhâ.
 Marnas Essa. Tre ow mabm.
 Frances A ble in Pow Rësohen osta?
 Oli Tyller cries Burford. Deg mildir warn ugans dhia Rësohen hy
 honen.
 Frances In gwir ... Ha fatl' yw Burford?
 Oli Plesont. Wàr an breow yma hy. Nyns yw ma's tre vian, saw onen
 goth. Yma treven a'n pymthegves cansvledhen.
 Frances Ria reva!
 Oli Eâ, an dre yw pòr sêmly. Yma tavernyow dâ inwedh i'n vro.

Frances **Dynyak! Me a garsa hy gweles nepprës a'm bodh!**
 Oli **Y tal vysytia! A ble in Kernow osta jy devedhys?**
 Frances **Lanwedhenek.**
 Oli **Bythqweth ny wrug vy vysytia an dre-na. Py lies eus trigys ena?**
 Frances **Tremil.**
 Oli **Ô! Naneyl nyns yw brâs.**
 Frances **Nag yw màn. Brâs nyns yw tyller vëth in Kernow.**
 Oli **Pana daclow eus dhe'n solas in Lanwedhenek?**
 Frances **Wel, dê yw genef an treth. Th'esof ow mordardhya menowgh. Yma
 hendrajy. Ha pùb Cala' Mê y fëdh an gool 'Obby 'Oss, brâs y
 hanow. Saw ma lies huny ow tos dhe Lanwedhenek rag an
 boostiow, yw uhel gà class.**
 Oli **Eus pyctours genes a'n tyleryow yw moyha kerys dhis?**
 Frances **Eus sur! Wâr ow fôn. Gwra miras!**

Language help with this slightly more difficult passage

dhe'n kensa tro for the first time (literally 'to the first time')

gelwel *v* call (*also* invite)

metya yw plesour wheg nice to meet you (literally 'meeting is sweet pleasure')

a ble? where from?

Pow Rësohen Oxfordshire

rag hedna therefore, that's why

tyller *m* (*pl* tyleryow) place

The sense of **ancombrus** here is 'embarrassing'. It is important to realize a Cornish word does not necessarily correspond exactly with a single word in English. The meaning of **ancombrus** is broader than English 'embarrassing'. In other contexts **ancombrus** can be closer to English 'confusing'.

aswonys known (another verbal adjective)

The plural of **bre** is **breow**.

plesont pleasant

In **onen goth** we see that an adjective takes Second State after **onen** when the reference is to a feminine noun (here Burford which is a **tre** 'town')

cansvledhen *f* century (100 years)

Ria reva! gosh! wow!

sêmly handsome, pretty

The plural of **tavern** is **tavernyow**.

bro *f* area, district (affectionate overtones)

dynyak attractive, tempting

a'm bodh willingly, gladly (literally 'of my will')

Lanwedhenek is Padstow.

Nefra and **bythqweth** both mean 'ever'. With negative statement particle **nyns** the sense is, in each case, 'never'. But **nefra** is used to refer to the present or the future, whereas **bythqweth** always refers to the past.

Pana daclow? means 'What (kind of) things?

By **dhe'n solas** (literally 'to the solace') we mean 'for entertainment'.

hendrajy *m* museum

Cala' Mê is May Day.

gool *m* festival

brâs y hanow literally means 'big its name' – that is, 'famous, renowned'.

lies huny means 'many people'.

The plural of **boosty** is **boostiow**.

Uhel gà class literally means 'high their class' – that is 'high-class'. You can see from this phrase that Third State mutation does not apply to words beginning *cl* (or *cr*).

pyctour *m* (*pl* **pyctours**) picture

moyha kerys literally means 'most loved' – that is 'favourite'.

Stagell Onen – Appendix One

Leverians *Pronunciation*

This guidance is based on Kernowek Standard (KS) spellings. It reflects a plausible reconstruction of Cornish as spoken at the beginning of the seventeenth century.

VOWELS

Including diphthongs

Provided meaning is not obscured, there is a considerable tendency to reduce pure vowel sounds in unstressed syllables to the vowel sound in THE when not rhymed with THEE, though i or u 'colouring' will persist. And stressed short e likewise reduces before retroflex r. When they are not stressed, ow and final u tend to lose the w sound.

a

This is a pure vowel. In a monosyllable it is the vowel sound in CAT but lengthened. But pronounce as for à in a monosyllable ending in two consonant letters if these are not dh, gh, sk, st or th. In a word of more than one syllable, pronounce as for à. Pronounce as for à in words of more than one syllable.

à

This is a pure vowel. It is the vowel sound in CAT.

â

This is a pure vowel. It is the vowel sound in CAT but lengthened. In monosyllables ending in l n single s or v, it is approximately the vowel sound in CORE with silent r - more precisely, the sound represented by the symbol [ɔ:] in the International Phonetic Alphabet.

ai

This is a pure vowel. When it is stressed, pronounce as for ê. Otherwise as for è.

au

This is a pure vowel. When it is stressed, pronounce approximately as the vowel sound in CORE with silent r - more precisely, the sound represented by the symbol [ɔ:] in the International Phonetic Alphabet. When au is unstressed, pronounce approximately as for ò - more precisely, the sound represented by International Phonetic Alphabet [ɒ].

aw

This is a diphthong. It is the vowel sound in COW.

ay

This is a diphthong. It is the vowel sound in FLY.

e

This is a pure vowel. In a monosyllable it is approximately the vowel sound in THEY, but drawn out and lacking the final y-sound. More precisely, this is the sound represented by the symbol [e:] in the International Phonetic Alphabet. But pronounce as for è in a monosyllable ending in two consonant letters if these are not dh, gh, sk, st or th. Pronounce as for è in a word of more than one syllable.

è

This is a pure vowel. It is the vowel sound in PET.

ê

This is a pure vowel. It is approximately the vowel sound in THEY, but drawn out and lacking the final y-sound. More precisely, this is the sound represented by the symbol [e:] in the International Phonetic Alphabet.

ë

This is a pure vowel. Pronounce as for ê or î according to preference.

eu

This is a pure vowel. When it is stressed, pronounce either as the vowel sound represented by the symbol [ø:] in the International Phonetic Alphabet or as for ê. When eu is unstressed, pronounce either as the vowel sound represented by the symbol [œ] in the International Phonetic Alphabet or as for è.

ew

This is a diphthong. Pronounce either as the vowel sound in PET or as the vowel sound in KIT, in each case followed by a w-sound. But ew has the 'yoo' sound of USE in Ewny and in non Celtic loan-words.

êw

This is a diphthong. Pronounce as for ew or yw according to preference.

ey

This is a diphthong. It is the vowel sound in FLY but pronounced further forward in the mouth. In unweyth 'once', dywweyth 'twice' etc it is often reduced to the vowel sound in PET or KIT.

i

This is a pure vowel. When it is stressed, pronounce as the vowel sound in ME. In unstressed syllables it is the vowel sound in KIT.

î

This is a pure vowel. It is the vowel sound in ME.

o

This is a pure vowel. In a monosyllable it is approximately the vowel sound in COY, but drawn out and lacking the final y-sound. More precisely, this is the sound represented by the symbol [o:] in the International Phonetic Alphabet. But pronounce as for ò in a monosyllable ending in two consonant letters if these are not dh, gh, sk, st or th. Pronounce as for ò in a word of more than one syllable.

ò

This is a pure vowel. It is the vowel sound in COT.

ô

This is a pure vowel. In a monosyllable it is approximately the vowel sound in COY, but drawn out and lacking the final y-sound. More precisely, this is the sound represented by the symbol [o:] in the International Phonetic Alphabet.

oo

This is a pure vowel. Some speakers pronounce it as for ô when it is stressed, otherwise as for ò. This is a more easterly pronunciation in historical terms. Some speakers pronounce it as for û when it is stressed, otherwise as for ù. In historical terms this is a more westerly pronunciation.

ou

This is a pure vowel. When it is stressed, pronounce as for û. Otherwise as for ù.

ow

This is a diphthong. Pronounce as the vowel sound in COT followed by a w-sound. Some pronounce as û when it is stressed before a vowel in the same utterance, and as ù when it is unstressed before such a vowel. The spelling of particle ow is a mere convention of writing: it is pronounced as ò. But possessive pronoun ow is pronounced exactly as spelled.

ôw

This is a diphthong. Pronounce as for ow or yw according to preference.

oy

This is a diphthong. It is the vowel sound in COY. But many pronounce it further forward in the mouth.

u

This is a pure vowel. When it is stressed, pronounce as for *î*. An older pronunciation as in German *grün* 'green' is retained when u immediately precedes another vowel in the same word. And some apply this older sound to u more generally. When u is unstressed (and in *auxiliary* gwrug) it is the vowel sound in KIT; some pronounce as in German *grün* but shorter. Always pronounce as for yw word-finally (whether stressed or unstressed). In ugh and derivatives, u is the 'yoo' sound of USE.

ù

This is a pure vowel. It is the vowel sound in COULD.

û

This is a pure vowel. It is the vowel sound in COO. But û in non-Celtic loan-words has the 'yoo' sound of USE wherever that is the sound in the corresponding English word.

y

This is a pure vowel (save when pronounced as ey). At the beginning of a word or alone as a particle, it is the vowel sound in THE when not rhymed with THEE. Alone meaning 'they' or stressed at the end of a word, it is either the vowel sound in ME or pronounced as for ey. Unstressed at the end of a word of more than one syllable, it is the final vowel sound in TEDDY or BODY (slight variation as in English). In other cases pronounce as the vowel sound in KIT.

ÿ

This is a pure vowel. Pronounce as for *î* or *ê* according to preference.

yw

This is a diphthong. Pronounce as the vowel sound in KIT followed by a w-sound.

CONSONANTS

Geminates are pronounced as a single consonant. But note the quality of s is not always the same as ss.

b

Pronounce as in English. But as for p in heb, neb, pùb, ryb when next word begins with a voiceless consonant, l or n.

bm

Pronounce approximately as for English, but the first element is very light (pre-occluded m).

c

Pronounce as in SAT before any e i or y. Otherwise as in CAT.

ch

Pronounce as in CHAT.

ck

Pronounce as for k.

d

Pronounce as in English.

dh

Pronounce as in THAT. But it is often silent in the combination rdh when word-final and occasionally elsewhere.

dn

Pronounce approximately as for English, but the first element is very light (pre-occluded n).

dnh

Pronounce as for dn, but with d tending to t, and nh realized as a voiceless n with slight aspiration.

f

Pronounce as in English. But as English V in fenester and fordh after any word triggering Second State - and some extend this practice to other instances of word-initial f. Word-finally it is pronounced only lightly and may even be silent. It may also be silent in flogh.

g

Pronounce as in English. But as for k in prag, rag (and finally in *auxiliary* gwrug) before a voiceless consonant, l or n.

gh

Pronounce as in LOCH. But the sound is often reduced to h or may even be silent.

h

Pronounce as in English. But it is often reduced or may even be silent between vowels.

j

Pronounce as in English.

k

Pronounce as in English.

l

Pronounce as in English. But as for lh when immediately preceded by f in the same word.

lh

This is a voiceless retroflex l with slight aspiration. But there is no friction, unlike Welsh.

m

Pronounce as in English.

n

Pronounce as in English.

ng

This is a single sound 'ng' when word-final, but a double sound 'ng-g' in non-Celtic loan-words wherever that is the sound in the corresponding English word.

nh

This is a voiceless n with slight aspiration.

p

Pronounce as in English.

q

Pronounce as in English.

r

This sound is trilled gently on the tip of the tongue; it should not be rolled. But it is a retroflex sound (no trill, and the tip of the tongue curled slightly back) when it is preceded by a vowel and followed by a consonant in the same word, or when it is word-final.

rh

This is a voiceless retroflex l with slight aspiration.

s

Pronounce as in SAT. But as in IS (*i.e.* as if z) medially before a vowel, voiced consonant or glide in the same utterance, or when word-final in a stressed syllable. When word-final in an unstressed syllable the sound is often half way between s and

z. Some speakers may pronounce it word-initially as **z** when it is immediately preceded by a vowel or **n** in the same utterance and immediately followed by a vowel.

[s]cy

Only found in non-Celtic loan-words. Pronounce as for **ss** followed by a **y**-glide. In non-Celtic loan-words it may alternatively be pronounced as for **sh** wherever that is the sound in the corresponding English word.

sh

Only found in non-Celtic loan-words. Pronounce as in **SHALL**.

ss

Pronounce as in **KISS**.

[s]sy

Only found in non-Celtic loan-words. Pronounce as for **ss** followed by a **y**-glide. In non-Celtic loan-words it may alternatively be pronounced as for **sh** wherever that is the sound in the corresponding English word.

sy

Only found in non-Celtic loan-words. Pronounce as for **s** followed by a **y**-glide. In non-Celtic loan-words it may alternatively be pronounced as for **sh** or as **S** in **TREASURE** wherever that is the sound in the corresponding English word.

t

Pronounce as in English.

th

Pronounce as in **THIN**. But final **rth** is sometimes pronounced as **rh**. And the spelling of particle **owth** is a mere convention of writing: it is pronounced **oh** - that is, like particle **ow** followed by an **h**-sound (which merges with any **h** at the beginning of the next word).

v

Pronounce as in English. Word-finally it is pronounced only lightly and may even be silent.

w

This is a 'glide' as in English. But it is only lightly pronounced in word-initial **gwr**, **wr** and **qwr**. It may even be silent after **j**.

wh

This is the sound heard in **WHEN** if that word is pronounced precisely: a voiceless **w**-glide with slight aspiration.

x

Only found in non-Celtic loan-words. Pronounce as in TAX.

y

Before a vowel, y is a 'glide' with the same pronunciation as English consonantal y. Initial yê / yêw / yêy may optionally be pronounced as for e / ew / ey respectively.

yh

This is a single sound: a voiceless y-glide with slight aspiration. It only occurs in one word: **moyha**.

z

This letter is used optionally instead of s word-initially in a few non-Celtic loan-words and sometimes to show a preference for a z-sound in a native word.

Stress accent

Cornish words generally have a relatively strong stress accent. Primary stress falls in most cases on the penultimate syllable of a word. Compound words are pronounced with a stress pattern that preserves the identity of the words in the compound. This does not usually apply when the first or second element is (or is treated as) a prefix or suffix, but there are a few exceptions (e.g. kevoos instead of *kev*os 'contemporary'). Monosyllabic prepositions and the definite article are usually unstressed, but a'n is usually pronounced with the same vowel as if it were stressed, to distinguish it from the definite article alone. Particles are always unstressed. Stress is reduced on a few other monosyllabic words qualifying a noun or adjective: e.g. neb, pòr (contrast adjective pur), pùb (contrast pronoun pob).

Here are the words introduced in this coursebook which have a stress accent on one or more unexpected syllables (bold underlined vowels).

Aberfal, Aberfala, amary, dohajëdh, fatell, mildir, Peternel, pùptra, pyctùresk

Stagell Dew – Appendix Two

Stâtys a sondraillyans

Mutation states

Personal names do not mutate. Place-names do not mutate if they are not in a Cornish form. Names of places in Cornish form do mutate, but the mutation is sometimes omitted.

Second State (lenition)

b > v

c > g Optionally no change after s, th

ch > j

d > dh

Occasionally no change after s (*e.g.* after nos, tus)

g > zero

gl, gr often do not change

Monosyllabic loan-words usually do not change

go > wo

goo > wo

gou > wo

gù > wo

gû > wo

gu > wu

gw > w

k > g Optionally no change after s, th

m > v

p > b Optionally no change after s, th

qw > g Optionally no change after s, th

t > d Optionally no change after s, th

In loan-words directly from Welsh or modelled on Welsh **go** sometimes > **o**:

e.g. **gorsaf, an orsaf**

Second State in speech but not in writing

f > v This applies to only a few words, most notably **fenester, fordh,**

fos

fl, fr unchanged

Third State (spirantization)

c > h **cl, cr** do not change
k > h **kn** does not change
qw > wh
p > f
t > th

Fourth State (provection)

b > p
d > t
g > c / k
gw > qw

Fifth State (mixed)

b > f
d > t
g > h **gl, gr** do not change
go > who
gw > wh
m > f

Gerva

Vocabulary

Abbreviations: *abb* abbreviation, *adj* adjective, *adv* adverb, *col* collective noun, *conj* conjunction, *f* feminine noun, *interj* interjection, *m* masculine noun, *part* particle, *phr* phrase, *pl* plural noun, *prep* preposition, *pron* pronoun, *quant* quantifier, *v* verb-noun. Superscript numerals indicate required mutation of following word: ² Second State, etc.

If you wish to extend your vocabulary you might try *Gerlyver Kescows*, a dictionary specifically designed as an aid to conversation.

In entries for ordinary nouns, the plural form is also given; except that for collective nouns it is the singulative that is often added. All singulative nouns in **-en** are feminine with a plural in **-ednow**.

Names of cities, towns and villages can be treated as feminine because **cyta** or **tre** or **pendra** can be understood. Most can equally be regarded as genderless (but **Loundres** is *always* feminine). A few transparent names may be treated as masculine or feminine according to their composition – **Penzans** can thus be considered masculine because **pedn** is masculine or feminine because it is a **tre**.

Cardinal and ordinal numerals are listed up to twenty, together with the cardinals for a hundred and a thousand.

A name of letter A

a² *part* interrogative particle used to mark closed question

a² *part* relative particle used to link preceding subject to verb

a² *part* vocative particle, optional when addressing someone

a² *prep* from; of

â *interj* ah

a'n par-ma *phr* such, like this

a'n par-na *phr* such, like that

a ble *phr* where from

abrës *adv* early

acowntyades *f* acowntyadesow female accountant

acowntyas *m* acowntyasy accountant

addys *adj* additional, extra

adhelergh dhe² *prep* behind

adhevîs *adv* first class

adhewedhes *adv* late

adrëv *prep* behind

adro dhe² *prep* around; about

aga³ (gà³) *possessive pron* their; them (object of verb-noun)

agan (gàn) *possessive pron* our; us (object of verb-noun)

agas (gàs) *possessive pron* your (plural or stranger); you (plural or stranger, object of verb-noun)

ajy *adv* in(side)

aken dhewboynt *f* akednow dewboynt diaeresis

aken dhieskydnus *f aakednow*
dieskydnys grave accent
aken grobm *f aakednow crobm*
 circumflex accent
alebma *adv* from here; ago
âls *f âlsyow* cliff
Alter Non Altarnun
a'm bodh *phr* willingly, gladly
amary *m amarys* cupboard
amêthyans *m* agriculture
amowntyor dêwlin *m amowntyoryon*
 laptop (computer)
amowntyor legh *m amowntyoryon*
 tablet (computer)
an⁽²⁾ *definite article* the
an ragwel wâr an awel *phr* the
 weather forecast
an Tir Uhel North Cornwall
ancombrus *adj* embarrassing
anjy *personal pron* they, them
anken *m* adversity, stress
ap *m appyow* app
aral *adj (pl erel)* other
arhanty *m arhantiow* bank (financial)
arta *adv* [back] again
Arwednak Falmouth
ascorn *m eskern* bone
asen *m asenas* ass, donkey
askel *f eskelly* wing
assaya *v* try (exercise, effort)
assayva *f assayvaow* gym
astell *f* board
attêsva *f attêsvaow* toilet
aswonys *adj* known
a-ugh *prep* above
Austol St Austell
aval *m avallow* apple
aval kerensa *m avallow* tomato
avorow *adv* tomorrow
awartha *adv* at the top

awel *f awellow* breeze; weather
awhêr vêth! *phr* don't worry!
awoles *adv* at the bottom
bara *m* bread
bara cogh *m* brown bread
bara nowyth *m* fresh bread
bargen *m barginys* bargain
bargen tir *m barginys* farm
barr *m barrys* bar
Be name of letter B
benyn *f benenes* woman
bêwnans *m bêwnansow* life
bian *adj* small, little
bledhen *f bledhydneyow* year
blòg *m bloggys* blog
blou *adj* blue
bò > pò
bohes *quant* little, not much
boosty *m boostiow* restaurant, café
bord *m bordys* table
box *m boxys* box
brâs *adj* big, large
brâs y hanow *phr* famous, renowned
brav *adj* fine
bre *f breow* hill
breghtan *m breghtanow* sandwich
bro *f broyow* area, district
broder *m breder* brother
bryntyn *adj* noble
buwgh *f buhas* cow
bykîny *m bykînys* bikini
bys in *prep* up to, all the way to
bysy *adj* busy
bythqweth *adv* ever past reference
byttele *adv* nonetheless
cabm *adj* crooked; wrong
cafes *v* find; get
Cala' Mê *m* May Day
cales *adj* hard; difficult
caletter *m caleterow* difficulty

Cambron *m* Camborne
cana *m* *canys* can (of)
cans *num* [a / one] hundred
canstel *f* *canstellow* basket
cansvledhen *f* *cansvledhydnyow*
 century (100 years)
cappa *m* *cappys* cap; topping
caprys *col* *caprysen* capers
cara *v* love
caradow *adj* likeable, friendly
cargor *m* *cargoryon* charger
carr *m* *kerry* car
carrek *f* *carygy* rock
cath *f* *cathas* cat
Ce name of letter C
cent *m* *centys* cent
chair *m* *chairys* chair
chambour *m* *chambours* bedroom
chaunjya *v* change
checkya *v* check
chocket *m* *chockets* chocolate
chy *adv* at home
chy *m* *treven* house
chy bian *m* toilet, loo (room)
class *m* *classys* class
cleves clun *m* *sciatica*
clojior *m* *clojioryon* nurse
clojiores *f* *clojiores* nurse
clôwes *v* hear
club *m* *clubbys* club
codha *v* fall
codnek *m* skill
coffy *m* coffee
coffyva *f* *coffyvaow* café
cogh *adj* scarlet
côla *m* cola
collverk *m* *collverkys* apostrophe
comolek *adj* cloudy
composa *v* straighten
comptya *v* count

comyck *m* *comycks* comic
convedhes *v* perceive, understand
copy *m* *copiow* copy
coref *m* beer
corf *m* *corfow* body
corn *m* *kern* horn
cors *m* *corsow* course
cot *adj* short
coth *adj* old
cothman *m* *cothmans* friend
coweth *m* *cowetha* companion
cowethyades *f* *cowethyadesow* female
 colleague
cowethyas *m* *cowethysy* colleague
cowl *m* soup
cows *m* talk[ing]
côwsel *v* speak
cras *adj* parched; toasted
cres *m* middle
crev *adj* strong
cria *v* call; shout
cria in mes *phr* shout out; exclaim
crow *m* *crowyow* shed
crowd *m* *crowdys* violin
cudyn *m* *cudydnaw* difficulty, problem
cûsca *v* sleep
cûssulya *v* advise
cyta *f* *cytas* city
dâ *adj* good
dâ lowr *phr* good / well enough, okay
daffar lybm *m* cutlery
dainty *adj* delicate
dallath *v* begin
dama wydn *f* *damyow gwydn*
 grandmother
danvon *v* send
dar *interj* damn (but very mild)
daras *m* *darasow* door
darn *m* *darnow* piece
dasvêwa *v* revive

dauncya *v* dance
davas *f* *deves* sheep
De name of letter D
de *adv* yesterday
de Gwener *adv/m* [on] Friday
de Lun *adv/m* [on] Monday
de Merher *adv/m* [on] Wednesday
de Merth *adv/m* [on] Tuesday
de Sadorn *adv/m* [on] Saturday
de Sul *adv/m* [on] Sunday
de Yow *adv/m* [on] Thursday
debry *v* eat
dëdh *m* *dedhyow* day
deg *num* ten
degolyow *pl* holiday, vacation
degrê *m* *degrês* degree (temperature)
degves *num* tenth
dehen *m* cream
dehen rew *m* ice cream
dell hevel *phr* apparently
dell wosta *phr* as you know
demedhy *v* marry
den *m* *tus* man
der² *prep* through
derivas *v* report, tell
descador *m* *descadoryon* teacher
descadores *f* *descadoresow* female teacher
desînor *m* *desînoryon* designer
desky *v* learn
devedhys *adj* [having] come
dew² *num* two
dew cans *num* two hundred
dewas *m* *dewosow* drink
dêwdhegves *num* twelfth
dêwdheh *num* twelve
dewetha *adj* last
dha² *possessive pron* your *singular*; you *singular* (object of verb-noun)
dha weles *phr* be seeing you

dhana *adv* then
dhe² *prep* to
dhe'n lyha *phr* at least
dhe le *adv* less
dhe voy *adv* more
dhe well *adv* better
dhia² *prep* from (place or point in time)
dhyrag *prep* in front of
dhywar² *prep* off
dhyworth *prep* from (person)
dianowy *v* yawn
dien *adj* entire
dohajëdh *adv/m* [in the] afternoon
dollar *m* *dollars* dollar
don *v* carry
dorydhieth *f* geography
dos *v* come
dôtys wâr² *phr* mad (passionate) about
dowr *m* *dowrow* water
dowt *m* *dowtys* doubt
dôwys *v* choose
dre² > der²
dres *prep* across
dres ena *phr* over there
drîvya *v* drive
dry *v* bring
du *adj* black
Dûrda dhe why! *phr* good day!
Dûrdala dhe why! *phr* thank you!
Duw genes / genowgh *phr* goodbye
dyberth *v* separate; depart
dynar *m* *denerow* penny
dynyak *adj* attractive, tempting
dyscans elvednek *m* primary education
dyscans nessa *m* secondary education
dyscans tressa *m* tertiary education
dyscor *m* *dyscoryon* learner
dyscores *f* *dyscoresow* female learner
dystowgh *adv* immediately

dyw² *num* two (with feminine noun)
dywros *f dywrosow* bicycle
dywros saya *f dywrosow* exercise bike
dywweyth *adv* twice
dywysyk *adj* eager
E name of letter E
eâ *interj* yes
ebron *f* sky; weather
edhen *m ydhyn* bird
edrek *m* regret
Ef name of letter F
eglos *f eglosyow* church
Èl name of letter L
Èm name of letter M
Èn name of letter N
ena *adv* there; then
Èr name of letter R
ergh *m* snow
erhy *v* order; book
Ès name of letter S
ès *prep* than
esedha *v* sit (down)
esedhva *f esedhvaow* sitting-room, lounge
estyll *col estyllen* shelves
êsy *adj* easy
êtegves *num* eighteenth
êtek *num* eighteen
eth *num* eight
êthves *num* eighth
eur *f euryow* time (specific)
ev *pron* he, it (*masculine*)
eva *v* drink
Ewny Redrudh Redruth
ewrô *m ewrôs* euro
Ex name of letter X
fast *adj* firm
fatell *adv* how
fatla *adv* how

fatla genes / genowgh? *phr* how are you?
fenester *f fenestry* window
fethys oll ov vy! *phr* I give up!
flapjack *m flapjackow* flapjack
flogh *m flehes* child
folen *f folednow* page
fon *m fônnow* phone
fordh *f fordhow* way; road
fos *f fosow* wall
fùgen Dhanek *f fùgednow Danek* Danish pastry
fylm *m fylmys* film
fystena *v* hurry
fyt *m fyttys* match (sport)
gallos *v* be able to
gans *prep* along with
garow *adj* rough
garr *f garrow* leg
gas cavow dhe wandra *phr* stop worrying
Ge name of letter G
gelwel *v* call; invite
glas *adj* See note in Lesson One
glaw *m* rain
glëb *adj* wet
godhvos *v* know (facts); know how to
goles *m golesow* bottom, base
golf *m* golf
golok *f* look; scene
Golowan *m* Midsummer
golsowes *v* listen [to]
gonysegeth *f* culture
goodh *f godhow* goose
gool *m golyow* festival
gordhuwher *adv/m* [in the] evening
gorfedna *v* finish
gorfednys *adj* finished
gorsaf *m gorsavow* station
gorthyby *v* answer

gortos *v* wait (for)
gour *m* *gwer* husband
govyn *m* enquiry, request
govyn *v* ask, request
greun olew *col greunen* olives
gromercy *interj* thank you
gwag *adj* empty; blank; hungry
gwandra *v* wander
gwary *v* play
gwas *m* *gwesyon* assistant, waiter
gwâv *m* *gwavow* winter
gwaynten *m* spring (season)
gwëdh *col* *gwedhen* trees
gwedren *f* *gwedrednow* glass, tumbler
gwelen *f* *gwelyny* stick
gweles *v* see
gwell *adj* better
gwellhe *v* improve
gwely *m* *gweliow* bed
gwer *adj* green
gweres *m* help
gwias *m* web; internet
gwiasva *f* *gwiasvaow* website
gwil *v* make; do; *auxiliary forming*
future and preterite tenses
gwil ergh *phr* snow *verb*
gwil glaw *phr* rain *verb*
gwil gweres dhe² *phr* help
gwil keser *phr* hail *verb*
gwil mencyon a² *phr* mention *verb*
gwir *adj/m* true; truth
gwas *f* *gwasow* country (political)
gweg *f* *gwraeth* wife
gwydhyô *m* *gwydhyôs* video
gwydn *adj* white
gwyls *adj* wild
gwyns *m* *gwynsow* wind
gwynsak *adj* windy
gwysca *v* put on (clothing)
gyllys *adj* gone

gyllys wâr stray *phr* missing
Ha name of letter H
ha *prep* with
ha *conj* and
hag > ha
hâm *m* ham
hanaf *m* *hanavow* cup
hanow *m* *henwyn* name
hanter *m* *hanterow* half
hanter-dëdh *m* midday
hast *m* haste
hâv *m* *havow* summer
havysy *pl* summer tourists
hawnsel *m* breakfast
hay *interj* hey
heb *prep* without
heb mar *phr* certainly, of course
heb namoy *phr* only
hebma *pron* this [one] (*masculine*)
hedhyw *adv* today
hedna *pron* that [one] (*masculine*)
hel *m* *helow* hall
hêm > hebma
hên > hedna
hendrajy *m* *hendrajiow* museum
hir *adj* long
hobma this [one] (*feminine*)
hodna that [one] (*feminine*)
holergh *adj* late
holyor *m* *holyoryon* follower
hôm > hobma
hôn > hodna
honen *m* self
howl *m* sun, sunshine
howlek *adj* sunny
hudhyk *adj* merry
hunros *m* *hunrosow* dream
hûrâ *interj* hurray
hy *personal pron* she, it (*feminine*)
hy³ *possessive pron* her

I name of letter I
in *prep* in; into
i'n eur-ma *phr* now
i'n eur-na *phr* then
i'n kettermyn *phr* at the same time
in dadn² *prep* under
in dadn gel *phr* secretly
in gwir *phr* indeed
in gwrioneth *phr* really
in le *prep* instead of
in mes a² *prep* out of
in mesk *prep* among
indelma *adv* like this
injynor *m* *injynoryon* engineer
injynores *f* *injynoresow* female engineer
inter *prep* between
intra > inter
inwedh *adv* also
is- *prefix* sub-
iscarg *m* *iscargow* download
isel *adj* low
istory *m* history
Italek *m* Italian (language)
Italy Italy
Italian *adj/m* *Italians* Italian
Je name of letter J
jorna *m* *jornys* day
joy *m* joy
jùnya *v* join
jy *pron* you *singular* (subject or with inflected preposition)
Ke name of letter K
kebmyn *adj* common
kefrës *adv* too (also)
kegyn *f* *kegynow* kitchen
kemeres *v* take
kempen *adj* tidy
ken *adv* otherwise
kensa *num* first

kensêwha *m* a.m.
kerdhes *v* walk
kerdhfôn *m* *kerdhfônnow* mobile phone
kerens *pl* close relatives, parents
Kernow *m* *Kernowyon* Cornishman
Kernow *f* Cornwall
Kernowek *m* Cornish (language)
Kernowes *f* *Kernowesow* Cornishwoman
kescows *m* conversation
kescùssulyans *m* *kescùssulyansow* conference
keser *col* *keseren* hail
kettep pedn *phr* everyone
keus *m* cheese
keus lefans *m* toadstools
kevarwedhor *m* *kevarwedhoryon* director
kewar *f* weather
keyn *m* *keynow* back
kig yar *m* chicken (meat)
Kilgoodh Ust Cape Cornwall
kîlomêter *m* *kîlomêtro* kilometre
knack *adv* right, just
knack obma *phr* right here
know *col* *knofen* nuts
ky *m* *keun* dog
kydneyaf *m* autumn
kydneyow *m* *kynnyewyow* dinner
kyffewy *col* party
kyns *adv* previously
kyns *prep* before
kyttryn *m* *kyttrynyow* bus
laghyades *f* *laghyadesow* female lawyer
laghyas *m* *lahysy* lawyer
Lanust St Just
Lanwedhenek Padstow
le *quant* less
lebmyn *adv* now
lent *adj* slow

les *m* interest
lesson *m* lessons lesson
leth *m* milk
leun *adj* full
leur *m* leuryow floor
lev *m* levow voice
level *m* levelyow level
leverel *v* say
leveryans *m* pronunciation
lewyor *m* lewyoryon driver
lewyores *f* lewyoresow female driver
lies *quant* many
lies huny *phr* many people
lies torn *phr* often
lînen *f* lînednow line
loder *m* lodrow stocking
lost *m* lostow tail; queue
Loundres *f* London
lowarth *m* lowarthow garden
lowen *adj* happy
lowena dhis / dhywgh! *phr* hello! hi!
lowr *adv* enough
lows *adj* loose, relaxed
lus *col* lusen bilberries, blueberries
lus rudh *col* lusen cranberries
ly *f* lîvyow lunch
lyftya *v* lift
lyther *m* lytherow letter
lyver *m* lyfryow book
lyverva *f* lyvervaow library
'm > ow³
-ma *part* this (with definite article)
mabm *f* mabmow mother
màn *adv* at all (with negative)
màn *num* zero
manerow *pl* manners, habits
mar⁴ *conj* if
mar mynta *phr* if you like
mar pleg *phr* please
margh *m* mergh horse

marhogeth *v* ride
marnas *prep* except
mars > mar⁴
martesen *adv* maybe, perhaps
ma's > marnas
maw *m* mebyon boy, lad
me *personal pron* I
me a'th pës *phr* please
medheges *f* medhegesow female doctor (medical)
medhek *m* medhygyon doctor (medical)
melen *adj* yellow
mellya *v* interfere
men *adj* vigorous
menowgh *adj* frequent
messach *m* messajys message
Mêster *title* Mr
Mêstres *title* Mrs
Mêstresyk *title* Miss
metya *v* meet
neur *adv* much, a lot
neur a² *quant* a lot of
neur ras *phr* thank you
mil *f* [a / one thousand]
mildir *f* mildiryow mile
miras *v* look
mis *m* mîsyow month
mis Du *adv/m* [in] November
mis Ebrel *adv/m* [in] April
mis Efen *adv/m* [in] June
mis Est *adv/m* [in] August
mis Genver *adv/m* [in] January
mis Gorefen *adv/m* [in] July
mis Gortheren *adv/m* [in] July
mis Gwydngala *adv/m* [in] September
mis Hedra *adv/m* [in] October
mis Kevardhu *adv/m* [in] December
mis Mê *adv/m* [in] May
mis Merth *adv/m* [in] March
mis Metheven *adv/m* [in] June

mis Whevrel *adv/m* [in] February
mona *m* money
mor *m* morow sea
mordardhya *v* surf
mos *v* go
mowes *f* mowesow girl
moy *quant* more
moyha kerys *phr* favourite
munys *adj* tiny
my > me
mydnas *v* wish to (only in fixed phrases); *auxiliary forming future tenses*
mynysen *f* mynysow minute
myttyn *adv/m* [in the] morning
na² *part* expresses certain negatives
nâ *interj* no
-na *part* that (with definite article)
na dâ na drog *phr* so-so
na whath *phr* yet (in negative sentence)
nag > na²
nahen *adv* otherwise (in negative sentence)
naneyl *adv* neither
naw *num* nine
nawnjegves *num* nineteenth
nawnjek *num* nineteen
nawves *num* ninth
neb *pron* some
nebes *quant* a little; a few
nebonen *pron* someone
nefra *adv* ever present / future reference
negys *m* negyssyow business
nena > i'n eur-na
neppëth *pron* something
nepprës *adv* sometime
nessa *adj* nearest; next; second (in a series)
new *f* newyow sink
neyja *v* swim; fly

neyth *m* neythow nest
nor'vy > godhvos
nos *f* nosow night
nos dâ *phr* good night
nos jûnya *m* nosow hyphen
nowodhow *pl* news
nowyth *adj* new
ny² *part* expresses negative statements
ny *personal pron* we, us
nyns > ny²
O name of letter O
ober *m* oberow task, job
obma *adv* here
ogas dhe² *prep* near to
ogas ha *prep* almost (with nouns and numbers)
ogh *interj* oh (emotion)
oll *adj* all
omhowla *v* sunbathe
onen *num/pron* one
only *adv* only
onyon *col* onyonen onion(s)
optycyan *m* optycyans optician
orth *prep* up against
ostel *f* ostelyow hotel
ot > otta
ot obma *phr* here is / are (pointing)
otham *m* need
otta *interj* there is, there are (pointing)
our *m* ourys hour
ow³ *possessive pron* my
ow⁴ *part* makes 'present participle'
owth > ow⁴
packet *m* packettys packet
pad *m* paddys pad
padel *f* padellow pan
pain *m* painys pain
pal *f* palyow spade
pana² *adj* what (kind of)
pandra² *pron* what

paper *m paperyow* paper
par hap *phr* perhaps
park *m parcow* enclosed field
park poblek *m parcow* park
parkya *v* park
parusy *v* prepare; cook
parys *adj* ready
pasty *m pastys* pasty
Pe name of letter P
pebor *m peboryon* baker
peder *num* four (with feminine noun)
pedn *m pednow* head
pel *f pelyow* ball
pel droos *f* football
pel gowel *f* basketball
pel neyjys *f* volleyball
pellwolok *f* television
pendom *adj* extreme (in attitude)
pendra *f pendrevow* village
pens *m pensow* pound
Penzans Penzance
performyans *m* performance
perthynas *m perthynasow* relationship
peswar *num* four
peswardhegves *num* fourteenth
peswardhek *num* fourteen
peswora *num* fourth
pêsyä *v* continue
pëth *pron* what
pînaval *m pînavallow* pineapple
plastyk *m* plastic
ple ma *phr* where is
plegyä *v* bend
plesont *adj* pleasant
plobm *m* lead (metal)
pluv *col pluven* feathers
pluvak *f pluvogow* cushion
pluven *f pluvednow* pen
pluven blobm *f pluvednow plobm*
 pencil

Plymoth Plymouth
pò *conj* or
pobel *f* people
podcast *m podcastys* podcast
poll neyja *m pollow* swimming pool
polyshya *v* polish
pons *m ponsow* bridge
ponya *v* run
poos *adj/m posow* heavy; weight
popty *m poptiow* bakery
pòr² *adv* very
porhel *m porhelly* pig
Por'treth Portreath
pow *m powyow* country
Pow Densher Devon
Pow Rësohen Oxfordshire
powes *v* rest
pynt *m pyntyys* point
practys *m practyssyow* practice;
 exercise
prag *adv* why
prag na *phr* why not
prena *v* buy
presentyans *m presentyansow*
 presentation
prevy *v* try (test)
pro *m* advantage
pryntyor *m pryntyoryon* printer
pùb *adj* every
pùb eur oll *phr* always
pùb termyn *phr* always
pùptra *pron* everything
py *adj* what, which
py lies *phr* how many
pyctour *m pyctours* picture
pyctùresk *adj* picturesque
pymp *num* five
pympes *num* fifth
pymthegves *num* fifteenth
pymthek *num* fifteen

pynta *m* pyntys pint (of)
pytsa *m* pytsas pizza
pyw *pron* who
qwestyon *m* qwestyons question
qweth *f* qwethow piece of fabric
Qwo name of letter Q
qwylkyn *m* qwylkydnow frog
radna *v* divide; share
rag *prep* for; in order to
rag *conj* for; for the purpose of, in order to (with verb-noun)
rag hedna *phr* therefore, that's why
re bo govenek *phr* I hope so, let's hope so
Redrudh > Ewny Redrudh
redya *v* read
remembra *v* remember
res *m* necessity
restry *m* restrydnow file
revya *v* row
Ria reva *interj* gosh, wow
rial *adj* royal
rîvbost *m* email
rol *f* rolyow roll; list
rom *m* rômys room
rudh *adj* red
ry *v* give
ryb *prep* beside
sad *adj* serious
sagh *m* seghyer bag
salad *m* saladys salad
sant melys *m* sandys dessert
sarf *f* syrfsnake
saw *conj* but
scant *adv* hardly
scavel [cronak] *f* scavellow mushroom
scol *f* scolyow school
scon *adv* soon
scot *m* bill
scrifa *v* write

secùnd *num* second
sëgh *adj* dry
sehes *m* thirst
selsyk *col* selsygen sausage(s)
sêmly *adj* handsome, pretty
sewt stanch *m* sewtys wetsuit
seytegves *num* seventeenth
seytek *num* seventeen
seyth *num* seven
seythen *f* seythednow week
seythves *num* seventh
shoppa *m* shoppys shop
skyjyow sport *pl* trainers
solabrës *adv* already
solas *m* solace; entertainment
son *m* sonow charm
sondrailyans *m* sondrailyansow sound mutation
soper *m* supper
soweth *interj* oh dear
Sowsnek *m* English (language)
spêda *f* success
spêna *v* spend
spladn *adj* splendid
sport *m* sportys sport
sqwith *adj* tired
staga *v* fix
stagell *f* stagellow appendix
stap *m* stappys step
stât *m* stâtys state
stranjer *m* stranjers stranger
strêt *m* strêtyes street
strêt arâg *m* fore / high street
studhya *v* study
studhyans *m* study, studies
studhyor *m* studhyoryon student
sùgan *m* juice
sur *adj* sure
surhe *v* ensure
syger *adj* lazy

syra *m* sir
taclow *pl* things
tanow *adj* thin
tas *m* *tasow* father
tavas *m* *tavosow* tongue; language
tavern *m* *tavernyow* pub
Te name of letter T
te *personal pron* you
tê *m* tea
tecter *m* beauty
tedha *v* melt
teg *adj* beautiful, pretty
tejy *pron* you (emphatic)
termyn *m* *termynyow* time
terweyth *adv* three times
tesen *f* *tesednow* cake
testen *f* *testednow* subject, topic
tew *adj* thick; fat
Tewyn Plustry Newquay
text *m* *textow* text (all senses)
teyr³ *num* three (with feminine noun)
tiak *m* *tiogow* farmer
tioges *f* *tiogesow* female farmer
tir *m* land
Tir Uhel > an Tir Uhel
tîtel *m* *tîtlys* title
to bian > aken grobm
tobm *adj* warm, hot
todn *f* *todnow* wave
toos *m* dough
top *m* *topyow* top
tôwllel *v* throw
tôwllel towl *phr* make a plan
towlen *f* *towlednow* plan; programme
tra *neuter* thing
train *m* *trainow* train
traweythyow *adv* sometimes, occasionally
tre *adv* home; back
tre *f* *trevow* town

tredhegves *num* thirteenth
tredhek *num* thirteen
tremil *num* three thousand
tressa *num* third
treth *m* *trethow* (sandy) beach
Treth Fystral Fistral Beach
trigva *f* *trigvaow* address
trigys *adj* resident (in a place)
trist *adj* sad
tro *f* *troyow* turn; time (occasion)
tro ha *prep* towards
trog tedna *m* *trogow* drawer
Trûrû Truro
trùssa *v* pack
try³ *num* three
tryhans *num* three hundred
tùchyng *prep* about, concerning
ty > te
tybyans *m* *tybyansow* idea
tyller *m* *tyleryow* place
tylly *v* pay
Û name of letter U
udn⁽²⁾ *num* one (with noun)
udnek *num* eleven
ugans *num* twenty
ugansves *num* twentieth
uhel *adj* high
unegves *num* eleventh
unweyth *adv* once
unweyth arta *phr* [once] again
uskys *adj* quick
ûsya *v* use
uthyk *adj* dreadful
Ve name of letter V
vêth *adj/adv* any (in negative sentence)
viaj *m* *viajys* journey, trip
viajya *v* travel
voydya *v* avoid
vu *m* *vuys* view
vysytia *v* visit

vysel *col* food
‘w³ > ow³
wàr² *prep* on; on to
warbarth *adv* together
warbydn *prep* against
warlergh *prep* after
We name of letter W
wèl *interj* well
west *adj/m* west
whath *adv* still
wheffes *num* sixth
wheg *adj* sweet
whe *num* six
whegh > whe
whel *m* *whelyow* work
whêtegves *num* sixteenth
whêtek *num* sixteen
why *personal pron* you (plural or stranger)
whythra *v* explore, research

whythror *m* *whythroryon* explorer, researcher
wolcùm *adj* welcome
worteweth *adv* at last
worth > orth
wosa *prep* after
y⁵ *part* affirmative statement particle
y *personal pron* they
y² *possessive pron* his, its
‘y² > y²
‘y³ > hy²
yagh *adj* well (referring to health)
Ye name of letter Y
yêhes *m* health
yêyn *adj* cool, cold
yêyner *m* *yêyneryow* refrigerator
yn⁵ *part* forming adverb from adjective
ÿst *adj/m* east
yth > y⁵
ytho *adv* [and] so, therefore
Zèd name of letter Z

