

ASTELL WYDN

27 mis Whevrel 2023 (with completed exercises)

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 *tail* it is – one belonging to the dog. And in Cornish there is no special genitive ending.

The result is **lost an ky**.

Exercise One

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	chy an den
the boy's spade	pal an maw
the woman's cushion	pluvak an venyn
the school's cat	cath an scol
the farmer's field	park an tiak
the bird's nest	neyth an edhen
the dog's bone	ascorn an ky
the goose's feather	pluven an woodh
Mathew's pizza	pytsa Mathew
Davyth's football	pel droos Davyth

Exercise Two

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 rock of the cliff	carrek an âls
the bread of the baker	bara an pebor
the door of the bedroom	daras an chambour
the stocking of the woman	loder an venyn
the leg of the frog	garr an qwylkyn
the pen of the friend	pluven an cothman
the beautiful window of the church	fenester deg an eglos
the scarlet bikini of Crysten	bykîny cogh Crysten
the blueberry muffin of Tôny	tesen lus Tôny
the cranberry juice of Peternel	sùgan lus rudh Peternel

Saying 'have' meaning possession in Cornish

'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]'.

Exercise Three

How would you say the following in Cornish?

Crysten has a black wetsuit.	Yma sewt stanch du dhe Crysten.
The sitting-room has three windows.	Yma teyr fenester dhe'n rom esedha (or dhe'n esedhva).
The house has four bedrooms.	Yma peswar chambour dhe'n chy.
The village has a shop.	Yma shoppa dhe'n dreveglos.
Jowan has a tablet computer with him.	Yma amowntyor legh gans Jowan.
Jana has a laptop with her.	Yma amowntyor dêwlin gans Jana.
The farm has two large fields for the farmer's horses.	Yma dew bark brâs dhe'n bargaen tir rag mergh an tiak.
Peternel has a fine horse.	Yma margh brav dhe Peternel.
I have a big file with me.	Yma restryon brâs genef (or genama).
We have a geography class at nine thirty.	Yma class dorydhieth dhyn (or dhe ny) hanter wosa naw.

Numerals 11 to 20

These are **udnek**, **dêwdhek**, **tredhek**, **peswardhek**, **pymthek**, **whêtek**, **seytek**, **êtek**, **nawnjek**, **ugans**.

Exercise Four

Practise numerals by counting down from twenty to zero.