

PREPOSITIONS IN CORNISH DOING WORK OF SUBORDINATING CONJUNCTIONS IN ENGLISH

AWOS

Preposition meaning 'because of' does work of English subordinating conjunction *because*. Used with verb-noun or infinitive construction.

awos bos an gewar brav 'because the weather was fine'

awos hy bos brav 'because it was fine'

awos an gewar / hy dhe vos brav 'because the weather / it was fine'

Note **awos** cannot be used to express a negative reason.

DREFEN

Preposition meaning 'because of' does work of English subordinating conjunction *because*. Used with verb-noun **bos**, infinitive construction or sub-clause introduced by subordinating conjunction **na** (**nag** before forms of **bos** and **mos** beginning with a vowel).

drefen bos an gewar brav 'because the weather is / was fine'

drefen hy bos brav 'because it is / was fine'

drefen an gewar (hy) dhe vos brav 'because the weather (it) is / was / will be / would be fine'

drefen nag yw/o / na vëdh/vedha an gewar brav 'because the weather is not / was not / will not be / would not be fine'

*At RD 121 we find **drefen** employed as a subordinating conjunction meaning 'because' with essentially English syntax. In revived Cornish this idiom is regarded as sub-standard.*

DRE RÊSON

Preposition meaning 'because of' does work of English subordinating conjunction *because*. Used with verb-noun **bos**, infinitive construction or sub-clause introduced by subordinating conjunction **na** (**nag** before forms of **bos** and **mos** beginning with a vowel).

dre rêson bos an gewar brav 'because the weather is / was fine'

dre rêson hy bos brav 'because it is / was fine'

dre rêson an gewar (hy) dhe vos brav 'because the weather (it) is / was / will be / would be fine'

dre rêson nag yw/o / na vëdh/vedha an gewar brav ‘because the weather is not / was not / will not be / would not be fine’

*In TH 12 and SA we find **dre rêson** employed as a subordinating conjunction meaning ‘because’ with essentially English syntax. In revived Cornish this idiom is regarded as sub-standard.*

RAG

Preposition meaning ‘for’ does work of English subordinating conjunction *because*. Used with infinitive construction or sub-clause introduced by subordinating conjunction **na** (**nag** before forms of **bos** and **mos** beginning with a vowel).

rag an gewar (hy) dhe vos brav ‘because the weather (it) is / was fine’

rag nag yw/o / na vëdh/vedha an gewar brav ‘because the weather is not / was not / will not be / would not be fine’

Note **rag** cannot be used to mean ‘because’ with verb-noun **bos** because the sense of **rag** in that case is always reason specifically understood as *purpose*.

RAG DOWT

Preposition literally meaning ‘for fear’ does work of English subordinating conjunctions ‘lest, in case’. Used with infinitive construction or sub-clause introduced by subordinating conjunction **na** (**nag** before forms of **bos** and **mos** beginning with a vowel).

rag dowl an gewar (hy) dhe vos brav ‘in case the weather (it) is / was / will be / would be fine’

rag dowl nag yw/o / na vëdh/vedha an gewar brav ‘in case the weather (it) is / was / will not be / would not be fine’

Note **rag dowl** is occasionally clipped colloquially to just **dowl**.

KYNS ÈS

Preposition meaning ‘before – literally, previously than’ does work of English subordinating conjunction *before*. Used with infinitive construction.

kyns ès ev dhe redya an lyver ‘before he reads / has read / had read the book’

WOSA

Preposition meaning ‘after’ does work of English subordinating conjunction *after*. Used with infinitive construction.

wosa ev dhe redya an lyver ‘after he reads / has read / had read the book’

A western variant is **woja**, of which **oja** is a colloquial form.

WARLERGH

Preposition meaning 'after' does work of English subordinating conjunction *after*.
Used with infinitive construction.

warlergh ev dhe redya an lyver 'after he reads / has read / had read the book'

TEREBA

Preposition meaning 'until' does work of English subordinating conjunction *until*.
Used with infinitive construction.

tereba ev dhe redya an lyver 'until he reads / has read / had read the book'

*In relatively colloquial Cornish **erna** is occasionally used as a preposition with infinitive construction, in imitation of **tereba**.*