

THE NEWLYN CORNISH LANGUAGE CLASS

Weekly lessons by Zoom

For your diary: Monday **14 June** 2021, 19:30; **21 June** 2021, 19:30; **28 June** 2021, 19:30. For each lesson the Zoom joining details will be emailed several days beforehand.

MONDAY 14 JUNE 19:30

Lesson plan 19:30 Welcome, 19:40 Simple past: affirmative statements, 20:00 Simple story, 20:30 Chat (in English, with a little Cornish thrown in) about Cornish language and culture

We've already learned how to use verbs in present tense and the future tense. Now it is time to learn how to use them in the simple past tense, sometimes called the 'preterite' tense.

There are two ways to form the simple past tense. It can be done by adding endings to the verb – this method is only common for affirmative statements, not questions or negative statements. For now you should just learn to recognize it. Some verbs use the ending -as. Some use the ending -ys. Some use both. Sometimes there are vowel changes.

For example:

me a brenas dehen rew 'I bought an ice cream' (**prena** 'to buy')

me a dorras ow garr 'I broke my leg' (**terry** 'to break')

me a erhys pytsa 'I ordered a pizza' (**erhy** 'to order')

me a lavaras or me a leverys 'I said' (**leverel** 'to say')

The second way to make affirmative statements in the simple past tense is much more common. This works just like the future tense made with **wra**, but this time we use **wrug**.

For example:

me a wrug prena dehen rew 'I bought an ice cream'

me a wrug terry ow garr 'I broke my leg'

me a wrug erhy pytsa 'I ordered a pizza'

me a wrug leverel 'I said'

Here are some for you to try. Put each present tense or future tense statement into the simple past using **wrug**.

yth esof vy ow neyja i'n mor

me a vydn omhowla

yma Davyth ow cùsca gans y garores

ny a wra mos dhe'n treth

ymowns y ow kerdhes tre

yma hy ow qwertha hy harr

ev a vydn vysytya y das in Plymouth

SIMPLE STORY

This story mixes the two ways of making the simple past tense. This is typical of good written Cornish. Some mixing occurs in spoken Cornish too, but past tenses formed with **wrug** predominate in speech, except for a few *irregular* past tense forms like **êth** 'went', **dheuth** 'came', **ros** 'gave'.

Tas Tôny yw tregys in Pow Densher. Tôny êth dhe Plymoth rag vysytya y das. Ev a wrug viajya wâr an train. Y das a vetyas ganso i'n gorsaf. Y a wrug mos dhe davern in cres an dre. Ena y a wrug còwsel adro dhe oll agan nowodhow. Ha debry prës ly. Hag eva nebes gwedrednow a goref. Tôny a wrug mencyon dh'y das a'y gowethes Crysten. Y das a wovydnas mars yw perthynas sad.

“Ny worama, Tas,” a wrug Tôny gortheby. “An perthynas nyns yw êsy màn. Martesen nyns eus lowr a daclow kemmyn inter agan dew. Dâ yw gensy mordardhya ha gwil meur a sport. Ha nebes pendom yw hy tùchyng manerow hy boos.”

Tas Tôny a ros cùssul warbydn hast. Tôny a lavaras, “Awhêr vèth! Ow fystena dhe gafos gwreg nyns esof vy.”

“Byttele,” y das a leverys, “res yw dhis neprës demedhy, a nyns yw?”

“Dar!” Tôny a grias in mes. “Ny yllyn ny còwsel heb qwestyon cales a'n par-na?”

Y das a wrug chaunjya testen an kescows.

VOCABULARY NOT IN THE COURSEBOOK OR PREVIOUS WORKSHEETS

Pow Densher *place-name* Devon

Plymoth *place-name* Plymouth

gorsaf *m* station

nowodhow *pl* news

mencyon *m* mention

govyn *v* ask

perthynas *m* relationship

gortheby *v* answer

kemmyn *adj* common

pendom *adj* extreme (referring to someone's views)

maner *f* *manerow* manner

cùssul *f* [piece of] advice

hast *m* haste

awhêr vèth *phr* don't worry (literally, [not] any worry)

byttele *adv* nonetheless

demedhy *v* marry

cria in mes *phr* exclaim (literally, 'cry out')

testen *f* topic, subject

a'n par-na *phr* of that kind

chaunjya *v* change