

## Handout 9 – Nyverow (Numbers)

1 – onen udn<sup>2</sup> (onen is used for counting, udn for decription e.g. udn<sup>2</sup> bluvn - one pen)

2 – dew<sup>2</sup> dyw<sup>2</sup> (f)

3 – try<sup>3</sup> teyr<sup>3</sup> (f)

4 – peswar peder(f)

5 – pypm

6 – whegh

7 – seyth

8 – eth

9 – naw

10 – deg

11 – udnek

12 – dewdhek

13 – tredhek

14 – peswardhek

15 – pymthek

16 - whêtek

17 – seytek

18 - êtek

19 – nawnjek

20- ugans

50 – hanter-cans

100 – cans

1000 – mil

1,000,000 - milvil

**Remember in Cornish unlike English, counting is based on groups of 20 therefore you have 20 (ugans) 40 (dewgans “two twenties”) 60 (try ugans “three twenties”), however 30 is “deg warn ugans” or “10 on the twenty” and 70 is “deg ha try ugans” or “10 and three twenties”.**

“Warn” comes from “War an” meaning “on the” and in this form is only used in counting in other uses it is “war’n” as in “war’n fordh” – on the road.

When counting from 21 to 39 we use warn, for example 25 is “pypm warn ugans”, 35 is “pymthek warn ugans”.

From 40 (dewgans) onwards (except values of twenty- 60,80,100 etc) we use “ha (and)” so 45 is “pypm ha dewgans” and 55 is “pymthek ha dewgans”

**It is important to remember that when using numerals to describe how many objects there are, the objects themselves are always described in the singular so “7 beers” would be “seyth corref” or “seven beer”.**

Gorow ha Benow:

For the numerals 2 ,3 and 4 there are male and female versions depending on the gender of the noun, for example;

Dew<sup>2</sup> linedner(m) – two rulers

Dyw<sup>2</sup> bluyen (Pluyen (f)) – two pens

Try<sup>3</sup> hy (Ky dog (m)) – three dogs

Teyr<sup>3</sup> Thesen (Tesen (f)) – three cakes

Peswar gwely – four beds

Peder davas – four sheep

**Mutations;**

It should be noted that the numbers 1& 2 “udn<sup>2</sup>” & “dew<sup>2</sup>/dyw<sup>2</sup>” cause a second state mutation, and the number 3 “try<sup>3</sup>/teyr<sup>3</sup>” causes a third state mutation,

**Third State Mutation (this mutation is not gender specific)**

**C, K go to H**

**P to F**

**Qw to WH**

**T to TH**

The second mutation rules will apply to “Udn<sup>2</sup>”

Feminine singular or

Masculine plural relating to people

Example;

Udn<sup>2</sup> maw (m) – one boy

Udn<sup>2</sup> venyn (Benyn (f)) – one woman

“Dew/dyw and dhew/dhyw” are exceptions to the rule and apply a 2<sup>nd</sup> mutation regardless of gender

Examples;

Dyw<sup>2</sup> bluvn (pluvn(f) - pen)

Dew<sup>2</sup> vaw (maw (m) – boy)

“Try and teyr” apply 3<sup>rd</sup> state mutations regardless of gender

Examples;

Teyr<sup>3</sup> hath (cath(f) – cat)

Try<sup>3</sup> hy (ky (m) – dog)

If “an” (the) is used with the number 2 “dew or dyw” both are mutated to “an<sup>2</sup> dhew” and “an<sup>2</sup> dhyw” for example “an<sup>2</sup> dhyw venyn” – the two women “an dhew vaw” – the two boys. In these examples “dew and dyw” have been mutated by “an<sup>2</sup>” but “benyn” and “maw” have been mutated by “dhyw and dhew” respectively.

Dyw venyn - two women

Dew vaw – two boys

An<sup>2</sup> dhyw venyn – the two women

An<sup>2</sup> dhew vaw – the two boys

Points to remember;

1. Cornish numerals work in groups of twenty
2. The subject after the numeral is always singular e.g., Deg cath (10 cat)
3. Udn<sup>2</sup>, dew<sup>2</sup>/dhew<sup>2</sup>, dyw<sup>2</sup>/dhyw<sup>2</sup>, try<sup>3</sup> and teyr<sup>3</sup> all cause mutations
4. Dew<sup>2</sup>/dhew<sup>2</sup>, dyw<sup>2</sup>/dhyw<sup>2</sup> create a 2<sup>nd</sup> mutation regardless of gender of the following word.