

Kernowek Qwyck

A FREE COURSE IN REVIVED TRADITIONAL CORNISH

Ian Jackson

THE FIRST 15 LESSONS

SECOND EDITION, LOVINGLIVINGCORNISH, SEPTEMBER 2022

PREFACE

Kernowek Qwyck has been written to be a free download from websites relating to the Cornish language. *Kernowek* means ‘Cornish’. *Qwyck* means ‘quick’ in the sense of ‘alive’ as well as ‘rapid’. The course is designed for anyone who wishes to acquire some conversational ability in revived traditional Cornish. It is an unashamedly old-fashioned grammar-based course that is especially suitable for those studying on their own. But a teacher should have no trouble designing effective learning around each lesson for use in the classroom.

The surviving Cornish texts from the 16th and 17th centuries provide the base for the Cornish in this course. These are the last texts in which the historical language was fully expressive. It had by then simplified some of the grammar associated with mediaeval Cornish and accepted many English loan-words.

The course employs the Standard Cornish spelling system. This takes account of the Standard Written Form (SWF) published in 2008. Standard Cornish is more phonetic than the SWF, so more suitable for learners.

The best textbook is *Desky Kernowek* (Nicholas Williams, Evertype 2012). *Gerlyver Kescows* (Ian Jackson) is a two-way conversational dictionary. You can find it (open access) at skeulantavas.com, along with many other written and audio resources for learners of Cornish. The translation of the Bible (*An Beybel Sans*, Nicholas Williams, Evertype 2011) is regarded as the single most important Cornish text to be published in modern times. The Cornish translation of J.R.R. Tolkien’s *The Hobbit* (*An Hobys*, Nicholas Williams, Evertype 2014) makes an excellent reader for ambitious beginners.

Cornish spelled in Standard Cornish may be read in *Gweles*, the independent magazine about people, culture, heritage of Cornwall. Go to gweles.com for more information. Many books in Cornish are available at Amazon UK, but care is needed when purchasing because this seller does not always make clear what spelling is used.

Here you have the first fifteen lessons of the course. Each individual lesson is formatted to enable double-sided printing on a single sheet of A4 paper.

Ian Jackson

MA (Cantab), MA (Oxon), QTS
An Dhyw Rës, mis Gwydngala 2022

PRONUNCIATION GUIDANCE

The pronunciation guidance in this course is based on reconstruction by linguists of the probable sounds of Cornish speech in the 16th and 17th centuries, and on the actual pronunciation of modern speakers of traditional Cornish.

General guidance

Guideline pronunciation is provided for every word when it is first introduced. But space does not permit extending this to plurals or every form of a verb, so here is some general guidance.

Most Cornish words are stressed on their penultimate (last but one) syllable. Compound words formed by joining two single-syllable words together usually carry equal stress on each syllable. Certain 'little' words carry no stress: e.g. particles like *yth* and *yn*; single-syllable possessive pronouns like *y* 'his, its'; unemphasized single-syllable prepositions; unemphasized forms of *bos*.

In a stressed syllable a vowel is given its full value. In an unstressed syllable a *e* *o* are very frequently reduced – especially when they follow a stressed syllable – to the weak vowel called schwa, written *ə* in the guideline pronunciations. This is the vowel sound heard in English *THE* when that word is *not* pronounced like *THEE*. Other vowels are also somewhat reduced in unstressed syllables.

Standard Cornish employs diacritical marks ('accents') to make important distinctions. Pure vowels in stressed single-syllable words are naturally long unless (1) they are followed by more than one consonant (as written – but *DH GH SK ST TH* are treated as a single consonant for this purpose); or (2) they are followed by a single consonant which is *P* or *T*; or (3) they are marked with a grave accent. Vowels in words of more than one syllable are naturally short unless they are marked with a circumflex accent or a diaeresis. Unaccented *U* has the same sound as unaccented *I* (long or short).

Guideline pronunciations

The guideline pronunciations are loosely based on English spellings. They are designed to be practical for learners, so are only approximate, especially for the vowels. Work carefully though the two keys below and apply them to

the guideline pronunciations. Not to the spellings of the Cornish words themselves! Keep checking back until the sounds become familiar.

In the guideline pronunciations a syllable spelled in capital letters is stressed, a syllable spelled in 'lower case' letters is unstressed.

Key to saying the consonants in the guideline pronunciations

In this key the *guideline pronunciations* are in bold print to distinguish them from letters as spelled. Names of letters should be understood to include both capitalized and lower case versions.

B b should be given its usual English value. When the letter P is lenited (Second State), this is the resulting sound. But note heb neb pùb ryb: in these words the letter B is pronounced as **P p** when the next word begins with any of the letters C F H K L N P Q S (where not pronounced Z z) or T.

(B)M (b)m is **M m** preceded by a *slight b* sound. This is called 'pre-occlusion'. Some speakers omit the b entirely.

CH ch is pronounced as in CHURCH, not as in CHEMIST.

D d should be given its usual English value. When the letter T is lenited (Second State), this is the resulting sound.

DH dh is the consonant heard in THE. When the letter D is lenited (Second State), this is the resulting sound.

(D)n (d)n is **N n** preceded by a *slight d* sound. This is another instance of pre-occlusion. Some speakers omit the d entirely.

F f should be given its usual English value. When the letter P is spirantized (Third State), this is the resulting sound.

G g is always 'hard' as in GIVE. When the letters C K Q are lenited (Second State), this is the resulting sound. But note dhyrag rag: in these words the letter G is pronounced as **K k** when the next word begins with any of the letters C F H K L N P Q S (where not pronounced Z z) or T.

H h should be given its usual English value. But it is sounded only lightly; some speakers drop it altogether. When the letters C K are spirantized (Third State), this is the resulting sound.

HW hw is the sound spelled as the letter-combination WH in both Standard Cornish and English. Although in English it is often cut down to a w sound

without aspiration, the aspiration is never lost in Cornish. When the letter-combination QW is spirantized (Third State), this is the resulting sound.

J j should be given its usual English value. When the letter-combination CH is lenited (Second State), this is the resulting sound.

K k should be given its usual English value. When the letter G is protracted (Fourth State), this is the resulting sound.

L l should be given its usual English value, except that for some speakers it is always 'light' or 'liquid', as in these very words, never 'dark' or 'hard' as in COLD.

M m and **N n** should be given their usual English values.

NG ng in words borrowed from English has the same sound as in the relevant English word. In native Cornish words it is always the sound in SING, *not* in LINGER, LINGERIE or STRANGER.

NK nk is pronounced as in BANK.

P p should be given its usual English value. When the letter B is protracted (Fourth State), this is the resulting sound.

R r should be trilled gently on the tip of the tongue, not rolled strongly.

ʀ indicates a different r sound, with the tip of the tongue slightly curled back ('retroflex') and no trill at all. This is generally a lighter sound, both in Cornish and in English of Cornwall, compared with the similar sound in West Country English as spoken beyond the Tamar.

S s in the guideline pronunciations is always as in THIS, never as in THESE.

SH sh should be given its usual English value.

T t should be given its usual English value. When the letter D is protracted (Fourth State), this is the resulting sound.

TH th is the consonant heard in THIN, *not* in THE. When the letter T is spirantized (Third State), this is the resulting sound.

V v should be given its usual English value. When the letters B M are lenited (Second State), this is the resulting sound.

W w should be given its usual English value. When the letter G is lenited (Second State), the resulting sound is **W w** before an o-vowel.

Y y in the guideline pronunciations is always a consonant with its usual English value.

You should generally pronounce **Z z** in the guideline pronunciations as in English. However, there are two exceptions to this principle.

- (1) When the sound occurs at the end of a word of more than one syllable that is not stressed on the final syllable and the sound is immediately preceded by a vowel, **Z z** should be pronounced as **S s**. Although this 'rule' has been reconstructed from the historical evidence, modern speakers apply it with a greater or lesser degree of strictness. It is often ignored when the next word in the same utterance begins with a vowel.
- (2) **Z z** should also be pronounced as **S s** at the end of a word when the next word in the same utterance begins with any of the letters C F (unless representing Second State) H K L N P Q S (where not pronounced Z z) or T.

The letter S at the beginning of a word is treated variously. Some speakers always pronounce **S s**, *not Z z*, except in a few loan-words like sebra (which can also be spelled zebra). Some may pronounce **Z z** if the word is preceded by another word ending in a 'voiced' sound in the same utterance. Some always pronounce **Z z** for a few words (e.g. seythen).

Key to saying the vowels in the guideline pronunciations

A a is the vowel in CAT.

A: is the vowel in CAT but lengthened.

AW aw is the vowel in OWL.

AY ay is the vowel in HIGH.

E e is the vowel in PET.

E: is like the vowel in southern English THERE, but less open.

EE ee is the vowel in THREE. At the end of a word it is the vowel sound we hear in the second syllable of BODY or TEDDY.

EE is the vowel in THREE with the tongue lowered.

EU eu is the vowel in FUR as pronounced in southern British English speech that does not sound r in this word. Many speakers pronounce as **E:** or half-way between these two sounds. The vowel is shorter when unstressed.

EY ey is half-way between the vowels in HIGH and HAY.

I i is the vowel in PIT.

IW iw is just **I i** + **W w** pronounced as a diphthong.

O o is the vowel in DOT.

O: is like the vowel in southern English SORE, but less open.

Ō ō is the vowel in *American* English ALL. The vowel is shorter when unstressed.

OO oo is the vowel in WOOD.

OO: oo: is the vowel in COO.

OW ow is half-way between the vowels in HOW and SHOW. When it is followed by another vowel some speakers pronounce it as in COO if long or WOOD if short.

OY oy is the vowel in BOY.

For schwa ə see 'General guidance' above.

Note on pronunciation of the letter U

The letter U is pronounced by some speakers as in French *tu*. This sound is particularly associated with mediaeval Cornish. It is not reflected in the guideline pronunciations in this course.

LESSON ONE

Grammar 1 A noun is masculine or feminine. A few may be both.

Masculine nouns

1	beer KO-rə[f]	coref	5	door DA-rəz	daras
2	coffee KO-fee	coffy	6	mobile KEɹ-FO:N	kerdhôn
3	cup HA-nə[f]	hanaf	7	pub TA-vəɹn	tavern
4	dog KEE	ky	8	table BOɹD	bord

Feminine nouns

9	bottle BO-təl	botel (also masculine)	12	glass (for drinking) GWE-drən	gwedren
10	cat KA:TH	cath	13	seat E-zəth	eseth
11	corner KOɹ-nəl	cornel	14	window fə-NES-tər	fenester

Pronouns

15	our A-gən or [ə-]gən	agan	16	your A-gəz or [ə-]gəz	agas
----	-------------------------	-------------	----	--------------------------	-------------

Other vocabulary

17	there is / are (pointing) OT (O-tə)	ot (otta before consonant)	18	here is / are OT O-(b)mə	ot obma
----	---	--	----	-----------------------------	----------------

Grammar 2 There is no word for A in Cornish. So the indefinite sense of a non-countable noun like **coref** is ‘beer’ while for a countable noun like **ky** it is ‘a dog’.

Put into English

- hanaf, gwedren
- coffy, coref, botel
- fenester, daras
- tavern, kerdhôn
- eseth, bord
- agan ky, agas cath
- agas bord, agan cornel

Put back into Cornish

- a cup, a glass
coffee, beer, a bottle
a window, a door
a pub, a mobile
a seat, a table
our dog, your cat
your table, our corner

Put into English

1. Ot eseth.
2. Ot obma gwedren.
3. Ot obma agas coffy.
4. Ot agan cornel.
5. Ot agas coref.

Put back into Cornish

- There's a seat.
Here's a glass.
Here is your coffee.
There is our corner.
There's your beer.

Grammar 3 THE is **an** (pronounced ən). This word causes *lenition* (usually called Second State) of an immediately following feminine singular noun. Certain letters at the beginning of the word are changed as follows. The pronunciation changes accordingly. And **f** is sometimes pronounced as **v**.

c / k / q > g**g > disappears****m > v***but go > wo***t > d****d > dh****ch > j****p > b****b > v***Put into English*

1. an daras, an bord, an kerdhfôn
2. an wedren, an votel, an eseth
3. Ot obma an tavern.
4. Ot an fenester.
5. Ot an ky, ot obma an gath.

Put back into Cornish

- the door, the table, the mobile
the glass, the bottle, the seat
Here is the pub.
There's the window.
There's the dog, here's the cat.

Grammar 4 THAT is **-na** (pronounced NA: or nə) added to **an** (or possessive pronoun) + noun. **THIS** is **-ma** (pronounced MA: or mə) added in the same way.

Put into English

1. an daras-na, an bord-ma
2. an wedren-na, an votel-ma
3. an kerdhfôn-ma, an eseth-na
4. Ot an ky-na.
5. Ot agas cath-na.

Put back into Cornish

- that door, this table
that glass, this bottle
this mobile, that seat
There's that dog.
There's that cat of yours.

Grammar 5 OF after a word of quantity is **a** (pronounced a or ə) with Second State of the following word; **a + an** become **a'n** (pronounced an or ən).

Put into English

1. an hanaf-ma a goffy
2. botel a'n goref-na
3. Ot obma agas gwedren a goref.

Put back into Cornish

- this cup of coffee
a bottle of that beer
Here's your glass of beer.

LESSON TWO

Masculine nouns

19	book	lyver	20	paper	paper
	LI-vəɹ			PA-pəɹ	

Feminine nouns

21	pen (also feather)	pluven	22	pencil	pluven blobm
	PLI-vən			PLI-vən BLO(B)M	

Adjectives

23	big	brâs	28	open	egerys
	BRŌZ			ə-GE-riz	
24	black	du	29	red	rudh
	DIW			REEDH	
25	blue	glas	30	small	bian
	GLA:Z or GLE:Z			BEE-ən	
26	closed	degës	31	white	gwydn
	də-GE:Z			GWI(D)N	
27	green	gwer	32	yellow	melen
	GWEɹ			ME-lən	

Pronouns

33	he (it)	ev	34	she (it)	hy
	E:V			HEE	

Grammar 6 To specify the identity or characteristics of a person or thing, we use **yw** (pronounced IW or iw) to translate 'is'.

Put into English

1. An lyver yw brâs.
2. An pluven yw glas.
3. An daras yw egerys.
4. An ky yw du.
5. An paper yw melen.
6. An votel yw gwer.
7. An daras yw rudh.
8. An gath yw gwydn.
9. An coffy yw du.

Put back into Cornish

- The book is big.
The pen is blue.
The door is open.
The dog is black.
The paper is yellow.
The bottle is green.
The door is red.
The cat is white.
The coffee is black.

Grammar 7 To translate IT we use **ev** when referring to a masculine noun and **hy** when referring to a feminine noun.

Put into English

1. An coffy yw du.
2. Ev yw du.
3. An gath yw bian.
4. Hy yw bian.

Put back into Cornish

- The coffee is black.
It is black.
The cat is small.
It is small.

Grammar 8 To ask a yes-no question we put **yw** at the front as in English. **Yw** is repeated as the answer for 'yes'. **Nag yw** (pronounced NA:G iw) is 'no'. Colloquially, you can also use invariable **eâ** (pronounced əA: or YA:) for 'yes' and invariable **nâ** (pronounced NA:) for 'no'.

Put into English

1. Yw an coffy du?
2. Yw or Eâ.
3. Yw an gath bian?
4. Nag yw or Nâ.

Put back into Cornish

- Is the coffee black?
Yes.
Is the cat small?
No.

Grammar 9 We use **nyns yw** (pronounced NINZ iw) for IS NOT. This too we put at the front. Some people use **nynj** (pronounced NINJ) instead of **nyns**.

Put into English

1. Nyns yw an blaven blobm rudh.
2. Nyns yw an lyver brâs.
3. Yw an tavern egerys?
4. Nag yw, nyns yw ev egerys.
5. Nag yw, ev yw degës.
6. Yw an hanaf glas?
7. Yw, ev yw glas.
8. Yw an paper melen?
9. Nag yw, an paper yw gwer.

Put back into Cornish

- The pencil is not red.
The book is not a big one.
Is the pub open?
No, it is not open?
No, it is closed.
Is the cup blue?
Yes, the cup is blue.
Is the paper yellow?
No, the paper is green.

Grammar 10 You can optionally replace stressed **ev** with unstressed **va** (pronounced və) *after yw*.

Put into English

1. Yw an fenester degës?
2. Yw, an fenester yw degës.
3. Yw, hy yw degës.
4. Yw an daras degës?
5. Yw. or Nag yw.
6. Nag yw, nyns yw va degës.

Put back into Cornish

- Is the window shut?
Yes, the window is shut.
Yes, it is shut.
Is the door shut?
Yes. or No.
No, it is not shut.

LESSON THREE

Masculine nouns

35	box	box	38	inbox	box recêva
		BOKS			BOKS rə-SE:-və
36	button	boton	39	message	messach
	(also counter)				ME-səch
		BO-tən			
37	clip	clyp	40	pot	pot
		KLIP			POT

Feminine nouns

41	card	carten	42	folder	plegel
		KAɹ-tən			PLE-gəl

Adjectives

43	empty	gwag	45	long	hir
		GWA:G			HEEɹ
44	full	leun	46	short	cot
		LEUN			KOT

Adverbs

47	before	kyns	48	now	lebmyrn
		KINZ			LE-(b)min

Conjunctions

49	and	ha	50	but	mès
		(hag before vowel)			(contrastive)
		HA: or ha or hæ (HA:G or hag or hæg)			MEZ or mæz

Grammar 11 To specify the characteristics of a person or thing in the *past*, we replace **yw** with **o** (pronounced O: or o).

Put into English

1. An box o leun.
2. An blegel o brâs ha gwag.
3. An lyver o hir.
4. An messach o cot.
5. Agan daras o degës kyns.
6. Ev yw egerys lebmyrn.
7. Mès an fenester yw degës.
8. O an garten gwydn? Nag o.
9. O an votel glas? O.

Put back into Cornish

- The box was full.
 The folder was large and empty.
 The book was long.
 The message was short.
 Our door was shut before.
 It is open now.
 But the window is closed.
 Was the card white? No.
 Was the bottle blue? Yes.

Grammar 12 We can use **hanter** (pronounced HAN-təɹ) meaning HALF just as we do in English.

Put into English

1. An wedren yw hanter-leun.
2. An pot o hanter-gwag, mès ev yw leun lebmyn.

Put back into Cornish

The glass is half-full.
The pot was half-empty, but it is full now.

Grammar 13 One way of saying ALMOST is **namnag** (pronounced NAM-nag or nam-nəg) put with **yw** or **o** (it is not used alone). The resulting phrase goes at the front.

Put into English

1. Namnag o an votel gwag.
2. Namnag yw agas box recêva leun.
3. Yw an pot leun?
4. Namnag yw.

Put back into Cornish

The bottle was almost empty.
Your inbox is almost full.
Is the pot full?
Almost.

Grammar 14 If two or more nouns are joined with **ha(g)** the verb changes in English (is > are, was > were), but not in Cornish.

Put into English

Englond yw brâs, mès Kernow ha Syllan yw bian.

ENG-lənd or ING-lənd

KEɹ-nəw

SI-lən

Put back into Cornish

England is big, but Cornwall and Scilly are small.

Grammar 15 **ha + an** becomes **ha'n** (pronounced han or hən).

Put into English

1. An boton yw glas ha'n clyp yw gwydn.
2. An garten yw gwer ha melen.
3. Namnag yw an box hanter-leun.
4. An pot o leun kyns, mès ev yw gwag lebmyn.
5. Yw an box hir?
6. Yw, hir. Nyns yw va cot.
7. Yw agas paper gwydn?
8. Nag yw. Ev o gwydn kyns, mès ev yw du lebmyn.

Put back into Cornish

The counter is blue and the clip white.
The card is green and yellow.
The box is nearly half-full.
The box was full before, but it is empty now.
Is the box long?
Yes, long. It's not a short one.
Is your paper white?
No. It was white before, but now it is black.

LESSON FOUR

Numerals 1-10

51	one O-nən	onen	56	six HWE:	whe
52	two DIW	dew	57	seven SEYTH	seyth
53	three TREE	try	58	eight E:TH	eth
54	four PEZ-wəɹ	peswar	59	nine NAW	naw
55	five PIMP	pymp	60	ten DE:G	deg

Other count words

61	one (+ noun) I(D)N	udn	62	zero MAN	màn
----	--------------------------	------------	----	-------------	------------

Prepositions

63	in IN or in	in	64	on WAɹ or wəɹ or wəɹ	wàr
----	----------------	-----------	----	-------------------------	------------

Grammar 16 Second State is triggered after **udn** as for **an**: that is, only immediately following *feminine* nouns are changed.

Put into English

1. an tavern, an wedren
2. udn tavern, udn wedren

Put back into Cornish

- the pub, the glass
one pub, one glass

Grammar 17 Numerals are always followed by a *singular* noun.

Put into English

1. peswar boton
2. pymp cath
3. whe pluven blobm
4. seyth bord
5. deg pot

Put back into Cornish

- four counters
five cats
six pencils
seven tables
ten pots

Grammar 18 Before a feminine noun **dyw** (pronounced DIW) replaces **dew**. This is just a spelling rule. Note that the pronunciation does not change. Both **dew** and **dyw** trigger Second State of the following word.

Put into English

dew gy, dyw garten, dyw eseth

Put back into Cornish

two dogs, two cards, two seats

Grammar 19 Second State of **dew** and **dyw** occurs after **an**.

Put into English

1. an dhew gerdhfôn
2. an dhyw fenester
3. an dhyw gornel
4. an dhew vessach

Put back into Cornish

the two mobiles
the two windows
the two corners
the two messages

Grammar 20 With a feminine noun **teyr** (pronounced TEYɹ) replaces **try**. Both **try** and **teyr** cause *spirantization* (usually called Third State) of the following word. This means certain letters at the beginning of the word are changed as follows. The pronunciation changes accordingly.

c / k > h

(but **cl**, **cr** do not change)

t > th

qw > wh

p > f

Put into English

1. try fot, teyr hornel
2. try thavern, teyr fenester
3. an try clyp, an teyr fluven

Put back into Cornish

three pots, three corners
three pubs, three windows
the three clips, the three pens

Grammar 21 With a feminine noun we replace **peswar** with **peder** (pronounced PE-dəɹ).

Put into English

peswar boton, peder cath

Put back into Cornish

four counters, four cats

Grammar 22 For THERE IS or THERE ARE we use **yma** (pronounced ə-MA or just MA); **in + an** becomes **i'n** (pronounced IN or in).

Put into English

1. Yma dew voton i'n wedren.
2. Yma dyw gath wàr an eseth.
3. Yma try messach i'n box.
4. Yma teyr botel i'n gornel.
5. Yma peswar ky i'n tavern.
6. Yma peder pluken i'n pot.

Put back into Cornish

There are two buttons in the glass.
There are two cats on the seat.
There are three messages in the box.
There are three bottles in the corner.
There are four dogs in the pub.
There are four pens in the pot.

LESSON FIVE

Masculine nouns

65 boy **maw**
MAW

66 man **den**
(also person)
DE:N

Feminine nouns

69 café **coffyva**
ko-FI-və or kə-FI-və

70 church **eglos**
E-gləz

71 girl **mowes**
MOW-əz

72 market **marhas**
MAʁ-həz

Prepositions

77 behind **adrëv**
ə-DRE:V

78 beside **ryb**
RIB

67 shop **shoppa**
SHO-pə

68 station **gorsaf**
GOʁ-zə[f] or GOʁ-sə[f]

73 post office **sodhva bost**
SODH-və BO:ST

74 supermarket **gorvarhas**
goʁ-VAʁ-həz

75 town **tre**
TRE:

76 woman **benyn**
BE-nin

79 in front of **dhyrag**
dhi-RA:G or dhə-RA:G

80 opposite **adâl**
ə-DÖL

Grammar 23 Whenever a *location* is indicated, we translate IS / ARE with **yma**, *not yw*. **Yma** is put at the front, whether the meaning is THERE IS / ARE (see Grammar 22) or just IS / ARE.

Put into English

1. Yma gorvarhas i'n dre.
2. Yma coffyva adrëv an varhas.
3. Yma an venyn i'n goffyva.
4. Yma an eglos adâl an gorsaf.
5. Yma an wedren wàr an bord.
6. Yma an eseth i'n gornel
7. Yma paper i'n blêgel.
8. Yma box ryb an bord.
9. Yma an bord dhyrag an daras.

Put back into Cornish

- There is a supermarket in the town.
There is a café behind the market.
The woman is in the café.
The church is opposite the station.
The glass is on the table.
The seat is in the corner.
There's paper in the folder.
There's a box beside the table.
The table is in front of the door.

Grammar 24 If we wish to put emphasis on the location, we move the location ahead of **yma**. Sometimes this is really more a matter of style, with the emphasis only slight.

Put into English

1. I'n varhas yma an goffyva.
2. Adâl an gorsaf yma an eglos.

Put back into Cornish

- The café is in the *market*.
The church is opposite the *station*.

Grammar 25 When **yma** means THERE IS / ARE, we make a question by replacing it with **eus** (pronounced EUZ *or* euz). Note that you do not need a word for ANY. The meaning is supplied by the context.

Put into English

1. Eus coffyva i'n worvarhas?
2. Eus coref i'n votel-na?
3. Eus paper i'n blegel?

Put back into Cornish

- Is there a café in the supermarket?
Is there beer in that bottle?
Is there any paper in the folder?

Grammar 26 When **yma** means just IS / ARE, we make a question by replacing it with **usy** (pronounced I-zi *or* i-zi). Some people use **ujy** (pronounced I-ji *or* i-ji) instead of **usy**.

Put into English

1. Usy an goffyva i'n shoppa-ma?
2. Usy an eglos ryb an gorsaf?
3. Usy an sodhva bost adâl an eglos?
4. Usy Jenefer i'n tavern?
(pronounced JE-nə-fəɹ *or* je-NE-fəɹ)

Put back into Cornish

- Is the café in this shop?
Is the church next to the station?
Is the post office opposite the church?
Is Jennifer in the pub?

Grammar 27 'Yes' to an **eus**-question is **eus** (colloquially **eâ**) and 'no' is **nag eus** (colloquially **nâ**). 'Yes' to an **usy**-question is **usy** (colloquially **eâ**), and 'no' is **nag usy** (colloquially **nâ**). To make a negative statement, we put **nyns** in front of **eus** or **usy** as appropriate.

Put into English

1. Eus gorsaf i'n dre?
2. Eus, yma gorsaf i'n dre.
3. Nag eus, nyns eus gorsaf i'n dre.
4. Yma an maw i'n dre.
5. Usy an maw i'n dre?
6. Usy, yma ev i'n dre.
7. Nag usy, nyns usy an maw i'n dre.
8. Nag usy, nyns usy va i'n dre.

Put back into Cornish

- Is there a station in the town?
Yes, there's a station in the town.
No, there's no station in the town.
The boy is in town.
Is the boy in town?
Yes, he's in town.
No, the boy is not in town.
No, he isn't in town.

LESSON SIX

Masculine nouns

81	cupboard A-mə-ree	amary	83	sitting-room RO:M ə-ZE-dhə or ə-SE-dhə	rom esedha
82	garden LOW-əʔh	lowarth	84	sofa GWE-lee DE:DH	gwely dëdh

Feminine nouns

85	bathroom GOLH-və	golghva	87	shelf əs-TI-lən	estyllen
86	kitchen KE-gin	kegyn	88	shower kow-AZ-və	cowasva

Adverbs

89	here O-(b)mə	obma	91	right here KNAK O-(b)mə	knack obma
90	there (= in that place) E-nə	ena	92	over there drez E-nə	dres ena

Grammar 28 To ask a question about the location of one or more persons or things we put **ple ma** (pronounced PLE: ma) at the front.

Put into English

1. Ple ma an gorsaf?
2. Ple ma va?
3. Yma an gorsaf dres ena.
4. Ple ma an wolghva?
5. Knack obma yma hy.
6. Ple ma amary?
7. Yma amary i'n gegyn.
Hag yma onen i'n wolghva.
8. Ple ma an hanaf ha'n wedren.
9. Yma an hanaf ha'n wedren
ryb an box ha'n votel, wàr
an bord.

Put back into Cornish

- Where is the station?
Where is it?
The station is over there.
Where's the bathroom?
It's right here.
Where is there a cupboard?
There is a cupboard in the kitchen.
And there's one in the bathroom.
Where are the cup and the glass?
The cup and the glass are beside
the box and the bottle, on the table.

Grammar 29 IT when referring to a city, town, village, commercial company (not a bank) or voluntary association is **hy**. (This word can also refer to time, weather, circumstance or condition; but it is generally omitted in such cases unless there is a need for emphasis.)

Put into English

1. Ple ma Trûrû?
2. Ple ma hy?
3. Yma hy in Kernow.
4. Ple ma Loundres?
5. Yma hy in England.

TROO:-roo: LOO:N-drez

Put back into Cornish

- Where is Truro?
Where is it?
It is in Cornwall.
Where is London?
It is in England.

Grammar 30 To give the location of one or more persons or things in the past, we replace **yma** with **yth esa** (pronounced ə-THE-zə or just THE-zə).

Put into English

1. Yth esa hanaf wàr an bord.
2. Yth esa an ky i'n tavern.
3. Yth esa an eseth ryb an daras.
4. Yth esa an den ha'n venyn dhyrag an gorsaf.

Put back into Cornish

- There was a cup on the table.
The dog was in the pub.
The seat was by the door.
The man and the woman were in front of the station.

Grammar 31 As with **yma**, the location may be put ahead of **yth esa** for emphasis or style.

Put into English

1. I'n goffyva yth esa an vowes.
2. I'n rom esedha yth esa an gath.

Put back into Cornish

- The girl was in the *café*.
The cat was in the *sitting-room*.

Grammar 32 To ask a yes-no question we change **yth esa** to **esa** alone (pronounced E-zə). 'Yes' is **esa** (colloquially **eâ**). 'No' is **nag esa** (colloquially **nâ**). NOT is **nyns** as usual.

1. Esa gwely dëdh i'n lowarth?
2. Esa, yth esa gwely dëdh ena.
3. Nag esa, i'n lowarth nyns esa gwely dëdh.
4. Esa an votel wàr an estyllen?
5. Esa, yth esa hy wàr an estyllen.
6. Esa an maw i'n gegyn?
7. Nag esa. Nyns esa va i'n gegyn, mès i'n rom esedha.
8. Esa an venyn obma i'n gowasva-ma?
9. Esa. Knack obma yth esa hy.

- Was there a sofa in the garden?
Yes, there was a sofa there.
No, there was no sofa in the garden.
Was the bottle on the shelf?
Yes, it was on the shelf.
Was the boy in the kitchen?
No. He wasn't in the kitchen, but in the sitting-room.
Was the woman here in this shower?
Yes, she was right here.

LESSON SEVEN

Masculine nouns

93	bed	gwely	96	dining-room	rom kydneyow
	GWE-lee			RO:M KI(D)N-yow	
94	bedroom	chambour	97	house	chy
	CHAM-boor			(also at home)	
				CHEE	
95	chair	chair	98	lamp	lugarn
	CHE:r			LI-gaarn or LI-gaarn	

Adverbs

99	again or back	arta	100	[once] again	unweyth arta
	Aɹ-tə			[EEN-with] Aɹ-tə	

Grammar 33 We replace **ple ma** with **pleth esa** (pronounced PLE:TH E-zə) to ask a question about the location of one or more persons or things *in the past*.

Put into English

1. Pleth esa an tavern?
2. Yth esa an tavern in Trûrû, ryb an gorsaf.
3. Pleth esa an lugarn?
4. Yth esa ev wàr an chair brâs i'n gegyn.
5. Pleth esa an gwely?
6. Yth esa an gwely ryb an daras i'n rom kydneyow, mès lebmyn yma va arta i'n chambour, ryb an fenester.
7. Pleth esa an maw ha'n voves?
8. Yth esa an maw chy, hag yth esa an voves i'n dre unweyth arta.
9. Pleth esa an ky? Knack obma, dhyrag an chy.

Put back into Cornish

- Where was the pub?
The pub was in Truro, by the station.
- Where was the lamp?
It was on the big chair in the kitchen.
- Where was the bed?
The bed was by the door in the dining-room, but now it is back in the bedroom, beside the window.
- Where were the boy and the girl?
The boy was at home, and the girl was in the town again.
- Where was the dog? Right here, in front of the house.

Grammar 34 The commonest plural ending for nouns is **ow** (pronounced ow or o). Many nouns alter their spelling slightly before a plural ending, and the pronunciation changes accordingly.

Here are nouns we have already met that have a plural in **ow**.

botellow bottles, **botodnow** buttons, **cartednow** cards, **coffyvaow** cafés, **cornellow** corners, **cowasvaow** showers, **darajow** doors, **eglosyow** churches, **esedhow** seats, **estyllednow** (also **estyll**) shelves, **golghvaow** bathrooms, **gorsavow** stations, **gorvarhajow** supermarkets, **gwedrednow** glasses, **gweliow** beds, **gweliow dëdh** sofas, **hanavow** cups, **kegynow** kitchens, **kerdhfônôw** mobiles, **lyfryow** books, **marhajow** markets, **paperyow** papers, **plegellow** folders, **pluednow** pens, **pottow** pots, **tavernow** pubs, **trevow** towns

See if you can spot some *patterns*. Once you have found them, they do recur very frequently. Though there are occasional exceptions, you can guess the plural of a Cornish noun with a surprisingly high degree of probability.

Grammar 35 In English an adjective qualifying a noun precedes the noun, but the adjective *follows* the noun in Cornish (with a few exceptions).

Put into English

1. gwely brâs, chair bian
2. An Chy Gwydn, an lyver hir
3. botodnow rudh, pluednow du
4. an darajow egerys,
an cartednow melen
5. agan plegellow glas
6. agas trevow gwag
7. Yma gorvarhajow brâs in
Henlÿs.

HE:N-LEEZ or HE-ləz

Put back into Cornish

a big bed, a small chair
The White House, the long book
red counters, black pens
the open doors, the yellow cards

our blue folders
your empty towns
There are big supermarkets in
Helston.

Grammar 36 An adjective immediately following a *feminine singular* noun undergoes lenition. But only optionally if the noun ends in **s** or **th** and the adjective begins with **c d k p q** or **t**. And not if the adjective is *predicative*.

Put into English

1. pluen dhu, estyllen got
2. an wedren wag
3. an gegyn vian
4. an eseth wer, an eseth cot
5. marhas vrâs, an varhas vrâs
6. Yw an varhas brâs?
7. Yw, an varhas yw brâs.
8. Yma dhyw worvarhas vrâs in
Henlÿs.

Put back into Cornish

a black pen, a short shelf
the empty glass
the small kitchen (= the scullery)
the green seat, the short seat
a big market, the big market
Is the market big?
Yes, the market is big.
There are two big supermarkets in
Helston.

LESSON EIGHT

Adverbs

101	suddenly (also immediately) də-ZEM-piz	desempys	102	today	hedhyw HE-dhiw
-----	--	-----------------	-----	-------	--------------------------

Prepositions

103	from (a place or time) DHEE-ə	dhia	104	to (also for) DHE: or dhə	dhe
-----	-------------------------------------	-------------	-----	---------------------------------	------------

Grammar 37 Another very common plural ending is **ys** (pronounced iz), used for many (but not all) nouns borrowed from English.

amarys (A-mə-riz) cupboards, **bordys** tables, **boxys** boxes, **chairys** (CHE-riz) chairs, **clypys** clips, **messajys** (mə-SA-jiz) messages, **rômys kydnyow** dining-rooms, **rômys esedha** sitting-rooms, **shoppys** shops

Grammar 38 Every Cornish verb has a form called the ‘verb-noun’. This corresponds to the English gerund: the verb form that *names the sense of the verb*. Here are ten very common Cornish verb-nouns.

105	being BO:Z	bos	110	getting (also finding) KA-fəz	cafos
106	bringing DREE	dry	111	giving REE	ry
107	carrying DO:N	don	112	going MO:Z	mos
108	coming DO:Z	dos	113	seeing GWE-ləz	gweles
109	doing (also making) GWEEL	gwil	114	taking kə-ME-rəz	kemeres

Grammar 39 Under English influence the verb-noun is often regarded as equivalent to an infinitive. But this is *incorrect* and misleading.

Grammar 40 The prepositions **dhe** and **dhia** both trigger Second State of the following word.

Grammar 41 The usual present tense of most verbs in Cornish is formed by a paraphrase meaning ‘is at ...ing’. The word for ‘at’ in this construction is

ow (pronounced o). This word causes *provection* (usually called Fourth State) of the immediately following verb-noun. This means certain letters at the beginning of the word are changed as follows. The pronunciation changes accordingly.

g > c

d > t

gw > qw

b > p

Grammar 42 As the literal meaning is ‘at ...ing’, the construction employs **yma**, **eus**, **usy**, *not* **yw**. An adverb or the ‘**ow** + verb-noun’ part of the construction may precede **yma** or **nyns** (cf Grammar 24).

Grammar 43 The verb **bos** itself employs the present tense construction only infrequently. We generally say **ev yw** ‘he is’, not **yma ev ow pos**.

Put into English

1. Yma an maw ha'n vowes ow try dew jair.
2. Yma an venyn ow qwil an coffy.
3. Hedhyw yma an vowes ow mos dhe Drûrû (*or* dhe Trûrû – place-names often stay unchanged).
4. Yma ev ow tos dhia'n gorsaf.
5. Yma hy ow ton an gwedrednow dhe'n bord.
6. Yma va ow ry whe botel a goref.
7. Yma an den-na ow kemeres an lugarn.
8. Ha desempys yma va ow qweles an tavern.
9. Yma an vowes ow cafos try boton hag yma an maw ow cafos deg.

Put back into Cornish

- The boy and the girl bring two chairs.
The woman makes the coffee.
Today the girl is going to Truro.
He is coming from the station.
She is carrying the glasses to the table.
He is giving six bottles of beer.
That man is taking the lamp.
And suddenly he sees the pub.
The girls gets three counters and the boy gets ten.

Put into English

1. Usy an ky ow mos?
2. Nag usy, nyns usy an ky ow mos.
3. Eus coref ow tos?
4. Nag eus, mès yma coffy.
5. Ow tos yma hy.
6. Ow tos nyns usy ev.

Put back into Cornish

- Is the dog going?
No, the dog's not going.
Is there any beer coming?
No, but there's coffee.
She's coming.
He is not coming.

LESSON NINE

Grammar 44 Here are the nouns already introduced that do not add **ow** or **ys** but have a plural formed in some other way.

benenes (bə-NE-nəz) women, **cathas** (KA-thəz) cats, **chambours** (CHAM-boʊʊz) bedrooms, **fenestry** (fə-NES-tree) windows, **keun** (KEUN) dogs, **lugern** (LI-gəʊn) lamps, **mebyon** (MEB-yon) boys (*also* sons), **mowysy** girls (mow-I-zee), **treven** (TRE-vən) houses, **tus** (TEEZ) men.

Tus was once a feminine singular noun meaning ‘people’. Second State is therefore employed as for any feminine singular: **an dus** the men *or* the people; **tus vrâs** big men.

Grammar 45 The second element in some phrase-nouns is so closely associated that it is lenited. When the first element is feminine, this lenition disappears in the plural.

pluednow plobm pencils (*cf* **pluednow gwer** green pens)
sodhvaow post post offices

Grammar 46 From now on, the plural form will be specified when a new noun is introduced.

Masculine nouns

115	dentist	densyth (densydhon)	120	passenger	tremenyas (tremenysy)
	DEN-zith			trə-MEN-yəz	
116	doctor	medhek (medhygyon)	121	pasty	pasty (pastys)
	ME-dhək			PAS-tee	
117	driver	lewyor (lewyoryon)	122	police officer	gwehyas cres (gwehysy cres)
	LIW-yər			GWETH-yəz KRE:Z	
118	landlord (of pub) (<i>also</i> host)	ost (ôstys)	123	student	studhyor (studhyoryon)
	O:ST			STIDH-yəʊ	
119	lawyer (solicitor)	atorny (atornys)	124	teacher	descador (descadoryon)
	ə-TOʊ-Nee			dəs-KA-dəʊ	

Medhek dens (pronounced ME-dhək DENZ), plural **medhygyon dens**, is often used instead of **densyth**. **Descador** has variant **descajor** (pronounced dəs-KA-jəʊ), plural **descajoryon**.

Grammar 47 Most words for occupations have a parallel form indicating a female. The masculine form can always be used as a neutral word instead. The specifically feminine forms end in **es**, with stress on the penultimate syllable as usual. Look for the patterns. If the masculine form is used for a female, it may remain masculine or it may be treated as a feminine noun. In either case the pronoun will be **hy** rather than **ev**. The plural of the masculine noun is always used for a mix of men and women.

descadores (descadoresow) teacher, **lewyores** (lewyoresow) driver, **ôstes** (ostesow) landlady, **gwethyades cres** (gwethyadesow cres) police officer, **studhyores** (studhyoresow) student, **tremenyades** (tremenyadesow) passenger

Verb-nouns

125	drinking E-və	eva	129	singing KA-nə	cana
126	eating DE-bree	debry	130	speaking KOW-zəl	côwsel
127	hearing (also smelling, tasting, feeling) KLOW-əz	clôwes	131	waiting (for) GOɹ-təz	gortos
128	learning DES-kee	desky	132	walking KEɹ-əz	kerdhes

Grammar 48 **ow** in the present tense construction becomes **owth** before a vowel or h (pronounced oth *or* oh).

Put into English

1. Yma an studhyores ow côwsel ha'n descador ow clôwes.
2. Usy an lewyor ow cortos tremenysy?
3. Eus gwethysy cres ow cana?
4. Usy an ôstes owth eva?
5. Hedhyw yma va owth eva coref hag ow tebry pasty.
6. Yma hy ow tesky côwsel Kernowek (pronounced kɹɹ-NOW-ək).
7. Yma an atorny ow kerdhes dhe'n sodhva bost.
8. Yma an tremenyas owth eva coffy i'n gorsaf.

Put back into Cornish

- The [female] student is speaking and the teacher hears [her].
- Is the driver waiting for passengers?
- Do policemen sing?
- Is the landlady drinking?
- Today he is drinking beer and eating a pasty.
- She is learning to speak Cornish.
- The lawyer is walking to the post office.
- The passenger is drinking coffee in the station.

LESSON TEN

Masculine nouns

133	chef	kegynor (kegynoryon)	136	sailor	marnor (marners)
	kə-GI-nəɹ			MAɹ-Nəɹ	
134	councillor	consler (conslers)	137	sandwich	breghtan (breghtanow)
	KON-sləɹ or KON-zləɹ			BREH-tən	
135	crisp	cresyk (cresygow)	138	soldier	soudor (soudoryon)
	KRE-zik			SOO:-dəɹ	

Feminine nouns

139	Belgian bun	torthen Veljan (torthednow Beljan)	141	muffin (American)	tesen vian (tesednow bian)
	TOɹ-thən VEL-jən			TE-zən VEE-ən	
140	doughnut	knofen toos (knofednow toos)	142	sausage roll	rol selsyk (rolyow selsyk)
	KNO-fən <u>TOOZ</u>			RO:L SEL-zik or ZEL-zik	

Verb-nouns

143	buying	prena	146	looking for (also trying to)	whelas
	PRE-nə or PEɹ-nə			HWE-ləz	
144	listening	goslowes	147	running	ponya
	gəz-LOW-əz			PON-yə	
145	looking	meras	148	selling	gwertha
	ME-rəz			GWEɹ-thə	

Put into English

1. Yma an studhyoryon ow tebry knofednow (*also* know) toos.
2. Usy an consler ow coslowes?
3. Yma an soudor-na ow meras.
4. Usy an shoppa-ma ow qwertha torthednow Beljan?
5. Eus rolyow selsyk dhe gafos i'n worvarhas?
6. Otta cath ow ponya dres ena.

Put back into Cornish

- The students are eating doughnuts.
- Does the councillor listen?
- That soldier is watching.
- Does this shop sell Belgian buns?
- Are sausage rolls available (*literally* for finding) in the supermarket?
- There's a cat running over there.

Note how **ow** / **owth** + verb-noun can also be used without **yma** / **eus** / **usy**.

Grammar 49 Lenition of plural nouns referring to males or a group of mixed gender (persons, also horses) is common after **an** but not an absolute rule.

Put into English

1. Yma an vebyon ow prena rolyow selyk.
2. Nyns usy an marners ow meras.
3. Usy an conslers ow ponya dhe'n gorsaf?
4. Eus tersednow bian dhe brena i'n shoppa-ma?
5. Yw an desen vian-na dhe brena?
6. Yma an kegynor ow qwil breghtanow.
7. Yma an wethysy cres ow whelas an dus-ma.
8. Usy va ow whelas prena pasty?
9. Nyns eus pastys i'n goffyva-ma.

Put back into Cornish

- The boys are buying sausage rolls.
The sailors are not looking.
Are the councillors running to the station?
Are muffins for sale (*literally* for buying) in this shop?
Is that muffin for sale?
The chef is making sandwiches.
The police officers are looking for these men.
Is he trying to buy a pasty?
There are no pasties in this café.

Grammar 50 Just as the present tense in Cornish is formed with a phrase meaning literally 'is / are at ...ing', the imperfect (past continuous) tense is formed with a phrase meaning 'was / were at ...ing'. Because of the literal sense, we use **esa**, not **o**.

Put into English

1. Yth esa an dremenysy ow cortos.
2. Esa an studhyor ow prena know toos?
3. Esa, yth esa va ow prena know toos i'n dre.
4. Nag esa. Ow prena know toos nyns esa va. Yth esa ow whelas pastys.
5. Yth esa hy ow meras.

Put back into Cornish

- The passengers were waiting.
Was the student buying doughnuts?
Yes, he was buying doughnuts in town?
No. He wasn't buying doughnuts. He was looking for pasties.
She was watching.

Cornish is a partially 'pro-drop' language. This means **ev** / **va** 'he, it' and **hy** 'she, it' can be omitted after a verb if the sense is already clear.

LESSON ELEVEN

Pronouns

149	I	my (or me)	151	you	ty (or te)
		MEE or MEE (or ME:)			TEE or TEE (or TE:)
150	we	ny	152	you	why
		NEE		HWEE	

Grammar 51 Cornish has two words for ‘you’. **Ty** is employed for a single individual who is a relative or a friend; also for a single individual that is a child or an animal. **Why** is used in all other situations.

Grammar 52 With these pronouns English switches between ‘am / are / is’ and ‘was / were’ but Cornish uses **yw** and **o** consistently.

Put into English

1. My yw soudor.
2. Ty yw an kegynor.
3. Ny o studhyoryon kyns.
4. Why yw medhygyon.
5. Why o consler.
6. Me o atorny.
7. Te o agan descador.
8. Ny yw gwethysy cres.

Put back into Cornish

- I am a soldier.
 You are the chef.
 We were once students.
 You are doctors.
 You were a councillor.
 I was a lawyer.
 You were our teacher.
 We are police officers.

Grammar 53 **Yw** and **o** are also used with both singular and plural nouns.

Put into English

1. An box yw gwag.
2. An amarys yw leun.
3. An gwely dëdh o cot.
4. An bordys o hir.
5. An mowysy yw gwag (= hungry).

Put back into Cornish

- The box is empty.
 The cupboards are full.
 The sofa was short.
 The tables were long.
 The girls are hungry.

Grammar 54 When we ask a question involving any of **my ny ty why** the verb **yw** does change according to the subject. And note how **my** becomes **vy** (pronounced VEE or VEE).

Statement

My yw medhek.
 I am a doctor.

Question

Ov (pronounced OV) vy medhek?
 Am I a doctor?

Ny yw lewyoryon.
We are drivers.

Ty yw densyth.
You are a dentist.

Why yw consler.
You are a councillor.

Why yw an dremenysy.
You are the passengers.

On (pronounced ON) ny lewyoryon?
Are we drivers?

Osta (pronounced OS-tə) densyth?
Are you a dentist?

Owgh (pronounced OWH) why consler?
Are you a councillor?

Owgh why an dremenysy?
Are you the passengers?

Put into English

1. Osta studhyor?
2. Owgh why an ôstes?
3. On ny soudoryon?
4. Owgh why marnner?
5. Owgh why an descador?

Put back into Cornish

- Are you a student?
Are you the landlady?
Are we soldiers?
Are you a sailor?
Are you the teacher?

Grammar 55 The relevant verb-form is repeated as the answer for 'yes'. We change **osta** to **os** (pronounced OS). As usual, we can also use invariable **eâ** colloquially.

Question
Ov vy medhek?

On ny lewyoryon?

Osta densyth?

Owgh why tremenyas?

Owgh why an dremenysy?

Answer
Os, ty yw medhek.
or Owgh, why yw medhek.

Owgh, why yw lewyoryon.

Ov, my yw densyth.

Ov, my yw tremenyas.

On, ny yw an dremenysy.

Put into English

1. Owgh why agan atorny?
2. Ov, my yw an atorny.
3. Osta gwag?
4. Ov, me yw gwag.
5. Owgh why an studhyoryon?
6. On, ny yw agas studhyoryon.
7. Yw an blegel leun?
8. Yw, hy yw leun.

Put back into Cornish

- Are you our lawyer?
Yes, I am the lawyer.
Are you hungry?
Yes, I'm hungry.
Are you the students?
Yes, we are your students.
Is the folder full?
Yes, it's full.

LESSON TWELVE

Adjectives

153 all **oll**
OL or ol

154 every **pùb**
POOB or poob

155 happy **lowen**
LOW-ən

156 ready **parys**
PA-riz

Grammar 56 **Oll** is put in front of **an**, but is placed after pronouns. Cornish writes **pùbonen** ‘everyone’ as a single word.

Put into English

1. Oll an lyvrow yw brâs.
2. Pùb pluven yw glas.
3. Oll an dus yw parys.
4. Oll an dre yw lowen.
5. Pùbonen yw lowen.

Put back into Cornish

- All the books are big.
Every pen is blue.
All the men are ready.
The whole town is happy.
Everyone is happy.

Grammar 57 We place **nag** in front of **on os ov owgh** to say ‘no’ to questions involving these words. Or we can use invariable **nâ** colloquially. We make the negative statement itself by putting **nyns** on the front of the question form.

Question

Ov vy medhek?

On ny lewyoryon?

Osta densyth?

Owgh why tremenyas?

Owgh why an dremenysy?

Answer

Nag os, nyns osta medhek.

Nag owgh, nyns owgh why medhek.

Nag owgh, nyns owgh why lewyoryon.

Nag ov, nyns ov vy densyth.

Nag ov, nyns ov vy tremenyas.

Nag on, nyns on ny an dremenysy.

Put into English

1. Osta gwag?
2. Nag ov, nyns ov vy gwag.
3. Nyns owgh why agan atorny.
4. Nyns yw an blegel leun.
5. Nâ, nyns on ny medhygyon.
6. Osta lowen? Nag osta!

Put back into Cornish

Are you hungry?

No, I’m not hungry.

You are not our lawyer.

The folder isn’t full.

No, we aren’t doctors.

Are you happy? No!

Grammar 58 Many prepositions have personal forms in Cornish. Here are the personal forms of **dhe**.

to me	dhybm or dhèm DHI(B)M or DHEM	to them	dhedha[ns] or dhodhans DHE-dhə[nz] or DHO-dhənz
to us	dhyn DHIN	to you	dhis or dhys DHEEZ or DHIZ
to him / it	dhodho DHO-dho	to you	dhywgh DHIWH
to her / it	dhedhy DHE-dhee		

Dhodho refers to any masculine singular noun. **Dhedhy** refers to any feminine singular noun. Employ **dhis** / **dhys** where **ty** is the appropriate pronoun, use **dhywgh** whenever you would say **why**.

Grammar 59 **Yma dhe** is used to mean 'have'. For example, **yma dhybm dew vreghtan** 'I have two sandwiches'.

Put into English

1. Yma dhybm pluen dhu.
2. Yma dhis pypm boton.
3. Yma dhedhy try hath.
4. Yma ky dhe'n maw.
5. Yma pasty dhodhans oll.
6. Dhis yma an dorthen Veljan.
7. Yma coffy dhyn.
8. Yma dhywgh coref ha cresygow.
9. Yma dhe'n vowes hanaf gwag.

Put back into Cornish

- I have a black pen.
You have five counters.
She has three cats.
The boy has a dog.
They all have pasties.
You're having the Belgian bun.
We've got coffee.
You've got beer and crisps.
The girl has an empty cup.

Grammar 60 As with other **yma**-sentences, **yth esa** replaces **yma** to make a statement about the past. Questions are asked and answered in the usual way.

Put into English

1. Yth esa ky dhodho kyns.
2. Eus dhys pluen blobm?
3. Eus, yma dhybm dew.
4. Esa paper dhedha?
5. Nag esa.
6. Nyns eus kerdhfôn dhedhy.
7. Nyns esa plegellow dhèm.

Put back into Cornish

- He used to have a dog.
Have you got a pencil?
Yes, I've got two.
Did they have paper?
No, they didn't.
She doesn't have a mobile.
I didn't have any folders.

LESSON THIRTEEN

Masculine nouns

157	bag	sagh (seghyer)	159	coat	côta (côtys)
	SA:H			KO:-tə	
158	car	carr (kerry)	160	motorcycle	jyn dywros (jynys dywros)
	KAɹ			JIN DIW-roz	

Pronouns

161	they	anjy	162	they	y
	ən-JEE			EE	

Prepositions

163	[along] with	gans	164	without	heb
	GANZ or ganz			HE:B or heb	

Grammar 61 Here are the personal forms of **gans**.

[along] with me	genef GE-nəf	[along] with them	gansa[ns] GAN-zə[nz]
[along] with us	genen GE-nən	[along] with you	genes GE-nəz
[along] with him / it	ganso GAN-zo	[along] with you	genowgh GE-nowh
[along] with her / it	gensy GEN-zee		

Grammar 62 **Yma gans** can be used instead of **yma dhe** for things that are with a person at a specific time.

Put into English

1. Yma carr dhybm.
2. Yma botodnow dhe'n côta.
3. Yma try sagh ganso.
4. Eus dhis jyn dywros?
5. Usy agas carr genowgh?
6. Nyns esa côta dhedhy.
7. Usy an messach gans an lewyores?
8. Dhe'n jyn dywros yma dyw eseth.

Put back into Cornish

- I have a car.
The coat has buttons.
He has three bags [with him].
Do you have a motorcycle?
Do you have your car [with you]?
She didn't have a coat [with her].
Does the driver have the message [with her]?
The motorbike has two seats.

Grammar 63 English preposition ‘of’ showing ownership or possession has no equivalent in Cornish. Instead, the possessor is placed immediately after the thing possessed. This automatically marks the thing possessed as definite: **an** is still needed if the *possessor* is definite, but **an** is not used in front of the *thing possessed*.

Put into English

1. carr an consler
2. côta an venyn
3. rom descador
4. Yma hy ow qweles ky an den.
5. Yma lyver an maw genef.
6. Esa agas sagh genowgh?

Put back into Cornish

- the car of the councillor
the councillor’s car
the coat of the woman
the woman’s coat
the room of a teacher
a teacher’s room
She can see the man’s dog.
I have the boy’s book [with me].
Did you have your bag with you?

Grammar 64 **Agas** is usually replaced with **dha** (pronounced DHA) when **ty** is the appropriate pronoun. **Dha** triggers Second State of the following word.

Put into English

1. Yth esa hy ow tebry dha vreghtanow.
2. Yw dha wedren gwag?
3. Nyns yw agas rom parys.

Put back into Cornish

- She was eating your sandwiches.
(use **dha**)
Is your glass empty? (use **dha**)
Your room isn’t ready. (use **agas**)

Grammar 65 Cornish has two words for ‘they’. **Y** can be employed in any situation. It is most commonly found after forms of verbs and prepositions ending **ans ens (êns) ons** or **owns**. **Anjy** is not used after such forms.

Grammar 66 **Ymowns y** (pronounced [ə-]MOWNZ EE) ‘they are’ corresponds to **yma ev / hy**, while **yth esens y** (pronounced əth EZ-ənz EE) ‘they were’ corresponds to **yth esa ev / hy**. In questions, ‘yes / no’ answers and negative statements we employ **usons** (pronounced IZ-ənz) instead of **ymowns**.

Put into English

1. Anjy yw studhyoryon.
2. Ymowns y ow tesky.
3. Usons y ow mos heb côta?
4. Esens y i’n rom esedha?
5. Nag esens, nyns esens y ena.

Put back into Cornish

- They are students.
They are learning.
Are they going without a coat?
Were they in the sitting-room?
No, they weren’t there.

LESSON FOURTEEN

Masculine nouns

165 bank
aɹ-HAN-tee

arhanty
(arhantiow)

166 month
MEEZ

mis
(mîsyow)

Feminine nouns

167 week
SEY-thən

seythen
(seythednow)

168 year
BLE-dhən

bledhen
(bledhydnyow)

Adjectives

169 last
də-WE-thə

dewetha

170 next
NE-sə

nessa

Adverbs

171 [in the]
afternoon
do-hə-JE:DH

dohajëdh

175 this year
he-VLE-nee

hevleny

172 [in the]
evening
goɹ-DHI-hwəɹ

gordhuwher

176 tomorrow
ə-VO-row

avorow

173 [in the]
morning
MI-tin

myttyn

177 when
PEUɹ

peur

174 last year
waɹ-LE-nee

warleny

178 yesterday
DE:

de

Grammar 67 **Peur** asks a question.

Grammar 68 An adverb of time can also be used as a masculine singular noun.

Put into English

1. Peur usy ev ow mos dhe'n tavern.
2. Gordhuwher.
3. Peur esa hy i'n dre?
4. Dewetha seythen ha de.
5. Peur usons y ow tos?
6. Hedhyw vyttyn (a fixed phrase).
7. Peur yw an goffyva egerys?
8. Nessa mis.

Put back into Cornish

When does he go to the pub?

In the evening.

When was she in the town?

Last week and yesterday.

When are they coming?

This morning.

When is the café open?

Next month.

Adjectives

179	what	pana	180	which	py
	PA-nə			PI	

Grammar 69 Both **pana** and **py** are employed before nouns to ask questions. **Pana** triggers Second State of the following word.

Put into English

1. Pana lyver eus dhis?
2. Py arhanty eus wàr gornel an strêth?
3. Py shoppa eus ow qwertha pastys brâs?
4. Pana goffy esa an den owth eva?
5. Pana vreghtan usy an maw ow tebry?
6. Py carr yw dhe brena?
7. Pana bastys o dhe gafos?
8. Py botel yw onen wag?

Put back into Cornish

- What book have you got?
Which bank is on the corner of the street?
Which shop sells large pasties?
What coffee was the man drinking?
What sandwich is the boy eating?
Which car is for sale?
What pasties were available?
Which bottle is an empty one?

Pronouns

181	this [one]	hebma	183	that [one]	hedna
	HE-(b)mə			HE-(d)nə	
182	this [one]	hobma	184	that [one]	hodna
	HO-(b)mə			HO-(d)nə	

Grammar 70 Before **yw** and **o** we abbreviate **hebma** **hobma** to **hèm** (pronounced HEM) **hòm** (pronounced HOM). Before **yw** and **o** we abbreviate **hedna** **hodna** to **hèn** (pronounced HEN) **hòn** (pronounced HON).

Put into English

1. Pana basty usy va ow prena?
2. Hebma.
3. Hèm yw leun, hedna gwag.
4. Py pluven usy hy ow kemeres?
5. Hobma?
6. Nâ, hodna – an bluven las.
7. Hòn o seythen hir.
8. Hèn yw agan chy, dres ena.
9. Hòm yw dha garten.

Put back into Cornish

- What pasty is he buying?
This one.
This one's full, that one's empty.
Which pen is she taking?
This one?
No, that one – the blue pen.
That was a long week.
That's our house, over there.
This is your card.

LESSON FIFTEEN

Masculine nouns

185 bus

Kl-trin

kyttryn

(kyttrynyow)

186 train

TRE:N

train

(trainow)

Feminine nouns

187 aircraft

E:-rən

airen

(airednow)

188 road

FOɹ (VOɹ after an 'the')

fordh

(fordhow)

Pronouns

189 these [ones]

ən-RE:-MA

an re-ma

190 those [ones]

ən-RE:-NA

an re-na

Adverbs

191 how

fa-TEL or FA-təl

fatell

192 how

FA-tlə

fatla

Grammar 71 When we make a statement or ask a question involving any of **my ny ty why y** the verb **yma** or **usy** changes according to the subject. We have already encountered **ymowns y** and **usons y**. Here are the other verb-forms.

Statement

Yth esof vy i'n lowarth.

[ə]th E-zof VEE or VEE

I am in the garden.

Yth eson ny ow meras.

[ə]th E-zon NEE

We are looking.

Yth esta wàr an gwely dëdh.

[ə]th ES-tə

You are on the sofa.

Yth esowgh why ow coslowes.

[ə]th E-zowh HWE

You are listening.

Question

Esof vy i'n lowarth?

E-zof VEE or VEE

Am I in the garden?

Eson ny ow meras?

E-zon NEE

Are we looking?

Esta wàr an gwely dëdh?

ES-tə

Are you on the sofa?

Esofgh why ow coslowes?

E-zowh HWE

Are you listening?

Put into English

1. Yth esof vy ow tebry pasty.
2. Yth eson ny ow tesky.
3. Esta owth eva coref?
4. Esowgh why ow mos dhe'n dre.

Put back into Cornish

- I am eating a pasty.
We are learning.
Are you drinking beer?
Are you going to town?

Grammar 72 Answers and negative statements are formed as usual.

Grammar 73 The pronouns **vy ny why** can always be omitted after a verb. When the pronoun is *not* omitted, the ending of the verb is often pronounced with vowel schwa.

Put into English

1. Esow, yth esow owth eva coref.
2. Nag eson, nyns eson ow mos dhe'n dre.

Put back into Cornish

- Yes, I am drinking beer.
No, we are not going to town.

Grammar 74 There are two interchangeable words for 'how' in questions. Both trigger Second State of the following word. **Fatla** abbreviates to **fatl'** before a vowel in forms of the verb **bos**.

Put into English

1. Fatell esta ow mos dhe'n dre?
2. Wàr an kyttryn.
3. Fatl'usy hy ow tos dhia'n dre?
4. Wàr dha jyn dywros.
5. Fatell eson ny ow mos dhe Bow Beljan?
6. In airen.
7. Fatell usons y ow mos dhe Gambron?
8. Wàr an train dhia Drûrû.
9. Fatl'yw an fordh?

Put back into Cornish

- How are you going into town?
On the bus.
How is she coming from town?
On your motorbike.
How are we going to Belgium?
By air.
How are they getting to Camborne?
On the train from Truro.
What's the road like?

First State **Pow Beljan** pronounced POW BEL-jən

First State **Cambron** pronounced KAM-bron

Grammar 75 **An re-ma** functions as the plural of **hebma / hobma**. As the plural of **hedna / hodna** we use **an re-na**.

Put into English

1. Py pluednow plobm esta ow kemeres?
2. An re-na yw glas ha gwer.
3. Usy an re-ma ow mos dhe Drûrû?
4. Yth esa an re-na ow mos dhe Gambron.

Put back into Cornish

- Which pencils are you taking?
Those are blue and green.
Are these going to Truro?
Those were going to Camborne.

INDEX TO THE LESSON-BY-LESSON VOCABULARY LISTS

- afternoon 171
 again 99, 100
 aircraft 187
 all 153
 along with 163
 and 49
 at home 97
 back 99
 bag 157
 bank 165
 bathroom 85
 bed 93
 bedroom 94
 beer 1
 before 47
 behind 77
 being 105
 Belgian bun 139
 beside 78
 big 23
 black 24
 blue 25
 book 19
 bottle 9
 box 35
 boy 65
 bringing 106
 bus 185
 but 50
 button 36
 buying 143
 café 69
 car 158
 card 41
 carrying 107
 cat 10
 chair 95
 chef 133
 church 70
 clip 37
 closed 26
 coat 159
 coffee 2
 coming 108
 corner 11
 councillor 134
 counter 36
 crisp 135
 cup 3
 cupboard 81
 dentist 115
 dining-room 96
 doctor 116
 dog 4
 doing 109
 door 5
 doughnut 140
 drinking 125
 driver 117
 eating 126
 eight 58
 empty 43
 evening 172
 every 154
 feather 21
 feeling 127
 finding 110
 five 55
 folder 42
 for 104
 four 54
 from 103
 full 44
 garden 82
 getting 110
 girl 71
 giving 111
 glass 12
 going 112
 green 27
 happy 155
 he 33
 hearing 127
 here 89
 here is / are 18
 host 118
 house 97
 how 191, 192
 I 149
 immediately 101
 in 63
 in front of 79
 in the afternoon 171
 in the evening 172
 in the morning 173
 inbox 38
 it 33, 34
 kitchen 86
 landlord 118
 last 169
 last year 174
 lawyer 119
 learning 128
 listening 144
 long 45
 looking 145
 looking for 146
 making 109
 man 66
 market 72
 message 39
 mobile 6
 month 166
 morning 173
 motorcycle 160
 muffin 141
 next 170
 nine 59
 now 48
 on 64
 once again 100
 one 51, 61
 open 28
 opposite 80
 our 15
 over there 92
 paper 20
 passenger 120
 pasty 121
 pen 21
 pencil 22
 person 66
 police officer 122
 post office 73
 pot 40
 pub 7
 ready 156
 red 29
 right here 91
 road 188
 running 147
 sailor 136
 sandwich 137
 sausage roll 142
 seat 13
 seeing 113
 selling 148
 seven 57
 she 34
 shelf 87
 shop 67
 short 46
 shower 88
 singing 129
 sitting-room 83
 six 56
 small 30
 smelling 127
 sofa 84
 soldier 138
 solicitor 117
 speaking 130
 station 68
 student 123
 suddenly 101
 supermarket 74
 table 8
 taking 114
 tasting 127
 teacher 124
 ten 60
 that 183, 184

that one 183,
184
there 90
there is / are 17
these 189
these ones 189
they 161, 162
this 181, 182
this one 181,
182

this year 175
those 190
those ones 190
three 53
to 104
today 102
tomorrow 176
town 75
train 186
trying to 146

two 52
waiting (for) 131
walking 132
we 150
week 167
what 179
when 177
which 180
white 31
window 14

with 163
without 164
woman 76
year 168
yellow 32
yesterday 178
you 151, 152
your 16
zero 62