

## COORDINATING CONJUNCTIONS

### PÒ

Meaning 'or'. Alternative **bò**. Also **py** but only when two alternatives are 'flip-flop alternative' nouns. Origin of **pò** / **bò**: third person singular, present subjunctive of **bos** 'may it be' – probably originally paired **bo ... bo ...** 'let it be A, let it be B' = either A or B – which developed with shortening and optional (frequent) devoicing to **pò** used alone. Origin of **py**: < **pe**, imperfect subjunctive of **bos** 'might it be' – parallel development with **bò** / **pò** but constrained usage because of homophony with **py** 'which'.

### YTHO

Meaning 'and so'. Origin: PIE \*et- 'still' + proto-Celtic ancestor of **gweyth** 'time'. Continuation regarded as consequence.

### HA

Meaning 'and'. Alternative **hag** is optional (*not* mandatory) before a vowel. Origin: the preposition **ha** 'with'. The preposition is still widely used in Cornish to express *characteristics* and *accompanying circumstances*, but has been displaced by **gans** 'along of' to express accompaniment in other contexts.

### SAW

Meaning 'but'. Origin: the preposition **saw** 'except', which itself originates as the third person singular, present-future indicative of **sawya** 'save'.

### MÈS

Meaning 'but', often marking a stronger contrast than **saw**. Origin: contracted form of preposition **marnas** 'except'. By spelling convention **marnas** is contracted to **ma's** when it is still used prepositionally, and to **mès** when it is a conjunction, but there is no phonetic distinction, and the spelling distinction is not observed by all. In Cornish based on later evidence of idiomatic usage **mès** is blended with English *but* to yield forms **bès** and **bùs**.

### RAG

Meaning 'for' (expressing reason). Origin: preposition **rag** 'for'.