

## INFLECTED IMPERATIVES

### Second person singular

#### RULES

Bare stem of verb. Epenthetic **e** in final syllable where required. No affection. But regular spelling must be observed, including **h > gh** at end of monosyllable and devoicing of consonant in unstressed auslaut. Any vowel shift **i > e** in verb-noun is reversed in monosyllable. **Cresy** and **pesy** have **ë / ÿ** in monosyllable. In literary Cornish occasionally **e > y** in monosyllable ending in more than one consonant (reflecting older pronunciation). Vowel length (i.e. long or short) is retained in *loan-words from English*. Final **eth** optionally becomes **a**. Consonantal **w** at end of stem is retained, though silent when preceded by a consonant unless it is followed by personal pronoun beginning with a vowel; though silent, this **w** still operates with the preceding consonant to make the vowel of a monosyllabic imperative short. Consonantal **y** at end of stem is lost when preceded by a consonant unless it is followed by personal pronoun beginning with a vowel; the pronoun is then hyphenated with the verb.

Exceptions: **bos** (and **godhvos**), **dos**, **gwil**, **mos**, **ry** (and **dry**); plus **gortos** and **whilas** (**whelas**). **Mydnas** has no imperative forms. **Gwra gwil** will collapse to simple **gwra**. The expression *\*gwra bos* is not used: we always employ the inflected imperative **bëdh**.

And remember that, for all except **bos** (and **godhvos**), **dos**, **mos**, the verb-noun can be used idiomatically in a command instead of the imperative; this is especially the case when the verb-noun has the same number of syllables as the inflected imperative.

Here are some examples.

- 1      **Gwra prena bara!**  
      **Pren bara!**
  
- 2      **Gwra degea an daras!**  
      **Degê an daras!**
  
- 3      **Gwra fia dhe'n fo!**  
      **Fy dhe'n fo!**
  
- 4      **Gwra aga debry!**  
      **Deber y!**
  
- 5      **Gwra ponya!**  
      **Poon!**
  
- 6      **Gwra sevel stag!**  
      **Sav stag!**  
      *usually with elision as **Sa' stag!***

- 7      **Gwra esedha dystowgh!**  
Eseth dystowgh!  
*or* Esa dystowgh!
- 8      **Na wra y drehy!**  
Na drogh e!
- 9      **Gwra grassa an gùssul dhodhans y!**  
Grâss an gùssul dhodhans y!
- 10     **Na wra braggya!**  
Na vràg!
- 11     **Na wra don taclow poos!**  
Na dhog taclow poos!
- 12     **Gwra miras (meras) dy!**  
Mir dy!
- 13     **Gwra whilas (wheles) ken onen!**  
Whila (whela) ken onen!
- 14     **Gwra gortos pols!**  
Gorta pols!
- 15     **Gwra pesy dhe Dhuw!**  
Pës dhe Dhuw!
- 16     **Gwra eger y an fenester!**  
Egor an fenester!
- 17     **Gwra erhy an pytsas!**  
Argh an pytsas!
- 18     **Gwra gelwel dha gothmans dhe'n kyffewy!**  
Galw dha gothmans dhe'n kyffewy!
- 19     **Gwra whythra an dra!**  
Whyther an dra!
- 20     **Na wra hy gweskel! (= Don't hit her!)**  
Na wesk hy!  
*But not Na wask (= Don't press! from **gwasca**) nor Na wysk (= Don't wear! from **gwysca**): this is modern Cornish pragmatics overriding strict rules (and looser historical practice) to eliminate ambiguity.*
- 21     **Na wra cresy pùptra a glôwy!**  
Na grës pùptra a glôwy!

- 22     **Gwra sensy dha glap!**  
**Sens dha glap!**  
*or Syns dha glap!*
- 23     **Gwra desky an rêwlys.**  
**Desk an rêwlys.**  
*or Dysk an rêwlys.*
- 24     **Gwra y lyckya lent!**  
**Lycky-e lent!**
- 25     **Gwra godhvos ow bos serrys lowr!**  
**Godhvyth ow bos serrys lowr!**  
*or Gor ow bos serrys lowr!*
- 26     **Gwra dos alebma!**  
**Deus alebma!**
- 27     **Gwra mos wàr dha gamm!**  
**Kê wàr dha gamm!**  
*No pre-occlusion in this fixed phrase, so you may also write **Kê wàr dha gàm** if you don't like mm.  
Distinguish unaccented **Ke!** from **keas** 'fence, enclose'.*
- 28     **Gwra ry lies present!**  
**Ro lies present!**  
*or Roy lies present!*  
**(Ry lies present!** also possible)
- 29     **Gwra y dhry obma!**  
**Dro e obma!**  
*or Doro e obma!*  
*or Doroy lies present!*  
**(Dry e obma!** also possible)
- 30     **Gwra dysqwedhes dhybm!**  
**Dysqweth dhybm!**  
*or Dysqwa dhybm!*

*Note **kê** has alternative form **â**, which is the only possibility when forming the negative: i.e. **nag â!** 'don't go!'*