

THE NEWLYN CORNISH LANGUAGE CLASS

Weekly lessons by Zoom

For your diary: Monday **24 May** 2021; further lessons to be announced. For each lesson the Zoom joining details will be emailed several days beforehand.

MONDAY 24 MAY 19:30

Lesson plan 19:30 Welcome, 19:40 Prepositions **dhe** and **gans**, 20:00 Simple story, 20:30 Chat (in English, with a little Cornish thrown in) about Cornish language and culture

We've already learned some of the personal forms of **dhe** and **gans**. Here are all the forms in a single table. Variants in each entry are in increasing order of formality.

dhe vy or dhèm or dhybm or dhybmo [vy] to me	gena vy or genama or genef [vy] with me
dhe jy or dhis or dhys or dhyso [jy] to you (singular familiar)	gena jy or genes [sy] with you (singular familiar)
dhe ev or dhodho [ev] to him or masculine it	gens ev or ganso [ev] with him or masculine it
dhedhy [hy] to her or feminine it	gens hy or gensy with her or feminine it
dhe ny or dhyn [ny] to us	gena ny or genen [ny] with us
dhe why or dhywgh [why] to you (plural or polite)	geno'why or genowgh [why] with you (plural or polite)
dhe anjy or dhodhans or dhedha[ns] [y] to them	gens anjy or gansa[ns] [y] with them

The forms **dhybmo** and **dhyso** are specifically emphatic. You can spell **geno'why** as **gena why** if you prefer, the pronunciation is the same. Forms **dhedha** and **gansa** are literary.

Remember **dhe** triggers Second State of a following word. **Gans** (colloquially **gen**) is followed by First State (*i.e.* no change).

Dhe means 'to'. It occasionally also means 'at'. This is the case with times o'clock, *e.g.* **dhe bymp eur** 'at five o'clock'. And in fixed phrases like **dhe'n lyha** 'at least'. But some speakers also use **dhe** colloquially to mean 'at' of places – compare Cornish dialect of English 'where's it to?'

Neither the E in **dhe** and **gen** nor the A in **gans** is given full pronunciation. The vowel reduces to sound like E in the English word *the* spoken without particular emphasis.

Because **dhe anjy** (stress on second syllable) could easily be confused with **dhe jy** in speech, you will usually hear it as **dhe anjei**, and it may be so written.

Finally, note that **gans** / **gen** also means 'by'. The ancestral sense of the word is floating *down* the Dnieper: you go *with* the flow and are carried along *by* the river.

SIMPLE STORY

Wosa kerdhes wàr Garn Bre (Carn Brea) yma Crysten ha Tòny in Cambron arta.

TÔNY Yma sehes dhybm.

CRYSTEN Eâ, yma otham a dhewas dhe vy kefrÿs.

TÔNY Res yw dhyn esedha hag eva neppëth. In Costa martesen?

CRYSTEN Gwell yw gena vy prena dewas in Greggs. Dâ vëdh genama kerdhes nebes moy.

TÔNY In Costa ny a yll debry inwedh.

CRYSTEN Nyns ov vy gwag.

TÔNY Saw my yw pòr wag.

CRYSTEN Pùb eur oll, dell hevel. Yma barr chocklet genama. Ny a yll radna hedna.

TÔNY Wèl, y hyllyn ny in gwir. Saw gwell yw genef debry nebes moy. Mar mydnyn ny prena dewas in Greggs, my a yll kemeres packet a rolyow selsyk ganso, ha knofen toos.

CRYSTEN Ogh, fethys oll oma! Gwell vëdh dhe ny mos dhe'n goffyva. Dhe'n lyha yma latte tanow ena.

TÔNY Ha coffy gans syrop ha dehen. Ha breghtan cras. Ha tesen lus.

CRYSTEN Me a wra debry udn flapjack, heb namoy. Saw gwell dhe'n yêhes yw voydya vytel Greggs pùb dëdh. Costa ytho, ny allama (= allaf vy) ken!

VOCABULARY NOT IN THE COURSEBOOK

Expanding your vocabulary at a reasonable pace is an important part of learning Cornish. It's a good idea to write new words down in your exercise book as you come across them

sehes *m* thirst (compare **sëgh** 'dry')

otham *m* need

kefrÿs *adv* too

neppëth *pron* something

dewas *m* drink (contrast **eva** *v* drink)

pùb dëdh *and* **pùb eur oll** *phr* always

nebes *quant* a little, a few

mar *conj* if (followed by 4th State)

rol selsyk *f* rolyow sausage roll

knofen toos *f* doughnut

fethys oll oma *phr* I give up (literally, 'defeated all am I')

breghtan cras *m* toastie

heb namoy *phr* nothing else (literally, 'without any more')

yêhes *m* health

voydya *v* avoid (also 'leave in a hurry')

vytel *col* food

ken *adv* otherwise