

KERNEWEK DRE LYTHER

Course Introduction

Dyskansow

Structure

Each “dyskans” (lesson) in the first and second/third grade courses consists of a reading passage in Kernewek (Cornish) with a “gerva” and a number of “govynnadow” (questions), usually ten. Following this is a grammar section (“gramasek”). Each new point to be learned has an exercise which will help you to understand and learn it. Don’t be frightened by the word “grammar.” There is a glossary of all the grammatical terms used, with examples in English. At the end of most of the lessons is a “skrif,” that is a topic on which to write a composition or essay. Every fifth lesson is a revision lesson with revision exercises. The reading passage and the “govynnadow” have been recorded and are on the website.

Procedure

Each lesson will give you a fair amount of work which cannot be rushed through, and will take a fair amount of time.

- Step 1 Study the reading passage and the “gerva.” In lesson I (Dyskans onan) all the words are listed and you will have little difficulty in working out the meaning of the passage. In subsequent lessons, all new words are listed in the “gerva.”
- Step 2 When you understand the passage fairly well, play only the passage on the sound file two or three times, following the text, and practise reading it yourself.
- Step 3 Copy the “gerva” alphabetically into your own vocabulary book or file.
- Step 4 Translate the reading passage carefully on to a new word or text file.
- Step 5 After a rest, or, better still, the next day, re-translate your English back into “Kernewek”, typing it in your new file but not looking at the original. The only help you are allowed for this is your own vocabulary books, so put everything else away. When you have finished (and only then) check and mark your re-translation with the original. You may, of course, discover errors in your first “trelyans” (translation) into “Sowsnek” (English). It is better to regard your “trelyansow” (translations) and “dastrelyansow” (re-translations) as your own private study. However, if you find difficulty or feel you need to have them checked, use loose leaf folders instead of books, you can send them to KDL with your other work. It is possible to have different versions from the original, which are both good “Kernewek” and without change of meaning.
- Step 6 Look at the “govynnadow.” In the early lessons these are very easy. The answer can usually be copied word for word from the reading passage. Answer these on an e-mail or file.
- Step 7 Play the questions and answers on the sound file. A gap is left before and after each answer. Try to say each answer aloud, or read your written answer after

hearing the question, and again after the recorded answer, imitating the pronunciation in the sound file. Do this several times until the questions and the answers are familiar.

- Step 8 Study the “Gramasek,” and do the exercises and e-mail to KDL with your answers to the “govynnadow” (step 6).

These eight steps should be followed for every first and second/third grade lesson, except the revision lessons which have no reading passage, “govynnadow” or corresponding recording. Beginning at lesson five (“Dyskans pyp”) most lessons have a “skrif” to write at the end. This should be at least ten sentences long, and longer as you gain confidence. Write it on alternate lines to leave room for comments and/or corrections.

When you have completed the eight steps for “Dyskans onan”, e-mail your work to your KDL tutor and get on with “Dyskans dew” (lesson 2). “Dyskans onan” will be returned to you as soon as possible.

If you have any problem, explain it to KDL and we will give you all the help we can.

Stationery

You will need three substantial exercise books or loose leaf folders, plus a quantity of loose leaf paper in another folder. Two of the books are for a Cornish-English and English-Cornish “gerva” (vocabulary). Do not use the small note books sometimes used in schools as “vocabulary books”: they are far too small. If you use fixed sheet books, you will need to divide them into alphabetical sections. If you enter words alphabetically according to the first two letters, you will reach the fourth grade before your “gervaow” become too cumbersome to use efficiently. The table below shows the percentage of pages we suggest you allow for each letter.

Cornish-English (Q, X and Z are not in use.)

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	R	S	T	U	V	W	Y
7	4	1	8	4	2	9	5	1	1	12	5	6	3	3	7	2	7	5	1	1	3	3

English-Cornish

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	XYZ
6	6	7	6	2	6	2	6	2	2	2	4	4	2	2	6	2	4	8	6	2	6	6	2

The third book is for translation and re-translation as explained below. On the remaining loose leaf sheets you will use for your lesson work sent to KDL who will return it to you marked, to study and to file in your folder.

Of course you can use similar files on your computer instead.

A note on Oral Examinations

From 2005-8, Kesva an Taves Kernewek gives “equal weight” to both parts of the examination, the written and the oral. The oral exam consists of Listening Comprehension, 2 short Role Plays, Unprepared Spoken and Prepared Spoken. Obviously an Gesva encourages all to attend an exam centre, but it recognises that this is not always possible and so therefore the Listening Comprehension will be on a tape and an answer booklet forwarded to a candidate’s invigilator. The other parts will be conducted **by telephone**.

It is recognised that a candidate that can see (and hear clearly) their examiner will have an advantage over one who cannot. Marking and time given will take the disadvantage into account. (This already occurs with people with speech and learning difficulties). It is likely that the examiner will be someone with experience of distance learning, for example a KDL teacher. Suitable subjects for telephone use will be chosen for the role-plays as well, such as booking a table in a restaurant. (Something that a KDL 1st Grade Student will be able to do with ease!) Unprepared Spoken will consist of easy questions, like “who are you?, do you have a car?” etc. The prepared spoken will be on a simple subject like “My House”, questions will be asked during and after the candidate’s presentation.

It is recommended that KDL students make good use of the recording supplied and also any other listening material available, perhaps via the internet such as the news in Cornish from www.bbc.co.uk/cornwall (found in the Cornwall Connected section) and items of news and general interest at Radyo an Gernewegva (see <http://radyo.kernewegva.com/index.html>).

Of course if you have any concerns or questions please let your teacher know.