

KERNEWEK DRE LYTHER

Dyskans Hwetek

Hwetegves Dyskans

Present and Imperfect Tenses of *mynnes*, *Drog yw*, *Gwell yw*, *Da yw*.

“MEGI DIFENNYS”

An tri³ hothman a² wrug mires orth an den esa ow megî, meur aga marth. Yth esa an arwoedh “Megî difennys” yn lytherennow bras a-dherag dewlagas an den, mes ev a besyas megî yn despit dhedhi.

Erwan a² vynna krodhvolas, mes ena y⁵ hwelas bos lorgh wynn y’n roes-fardellow a-ugh an den, ha gwedrow tewl a-dherag y² dhewlagas. Y konvedhas.

“Dall yw ev!” y hwystras yn skovarn René, mes an den a² glywas.

“Dhe² wir, dall ov vy,” yn-medh ev. “Eus neppyth kamm?”

“Drog yw genev,” a² worthybis Erwan. “Nag eus, nys eus travydh kamm.” Mes René a² gewsis kekeffrys,

“Eus, a² vester. Kocha heb megî yw hemma. Yma arwoedh² vras, “Megî difennys” war an fenester.”

“Dar! Drog yw genev,” yn-medh an den. “Ny² welav an arwoedh. Ny² vynnav agas annia. Ow³ howeth a² dheuth genev dhe’n tren ny² dherivis orthiv bos megî difennys y’n kocha ma.” hag ev a² wrug difeudhi an sigaret.

“Meur ras dhis, a² vester,” yn-medh an tri studhyer.

Gerva

kothman (p) kothmans friend

meur aga marth

to their great surprise

lytherenn (f) (p) lytherennow

letter of alphabet

lagas (p) dewlagas eye

pesya to continue

megî to smoke

yn despit dhe² in spite of

a² vynna wanted

krodhvolas to complain

lorgh(f) (p) lorghow (walking) stick.

gwynn white

a-ugh above

gwedrow glasses

(gweder glass)

tewl dark

prena to buy

dall blind

hwystra to whisper

klywes to hear

skovarn (f) (p) diwskovarn ears

neppyth something

kamm wrong.

drog yw genev I am sorry

nys eus travydh there is nothing

heb without

fenester (f) (p) fenestri window

mynnes *see “gramasek”*

a² dheuth came

(dos to come

annia to annoy

derivas orth to inform

y’n kocha ma in this carriage

difeudhi to put out

powes to rest

prag na² wodhya why didn’t he know

Notennow

An den esa ow meg¹ “The man who was smoking.” The particle **a**² is normally used for “who” in this kind of sentence, but is omitted before any part of the verb **bos** which begins with a vowel, in this case **esa**.

dewlagas “eyes.” Parts of the body which come in pairs are normally singular, but prefixed with the appropriate form of **dew**². Similarly we have **diwskovarn**, “ears.”

Y⁵ **hwelas bos lorgh wynn** “He saw that there was a white stick.”

ny² **dherivis orthiv bos meg difennys** “did not tell me that smoking was forbidden”

These two examples show how sentences of the type “He said that...” “He saw that...” are expressed. They are called Indirect Statements and will be dealt with later.

Ow³ **howeth a**² **dheuth genev** “My friend who came with me.” As mentioned in the previous note, the particle **a**² can sometimes be used to mean “who” or “which.”

Y’n kocha ma “In the carriage here.” This is the Cornish way of saying “in this carriage.” Similarly we could have **Y’n kocha na**, (In the carriage there = In that carriage). This is the normal way of expressing “this” and “that” when these words are used as adjectives.

Govynnow

- 1) **Piw esa ow meg?**
- 2) **Pandr’a**² **welas Erwan?**
- 3) **Pleth esa an lorgh wynn?**
- 4) **Prag na**² **welas an den an arwoedh**² **vras?** (He was = **ova**.)
- 5) **Pandr’a**² **wrug René?**
- 6) **Pandr’a leveris an den?**
- 7) **Prag na**² **wodhya an den bos meg difennys?**
- 8) **Piw a leveris** “Meur ras, **a**² **vester.”?**
- 9) **Pyth yw an henwyn a**² **dhew a’n studhyoryon?**
- 10) **Pygemmys tus esa y’n kocha?**

Gramasek

A. Mynnes - Present Tense. **Mynnes** means to wish/will/be willing/intend/want. This important verb is always followed by a verb-noun, not a noun. Here is the present tense in the basic unmutated form:

mynnav	I will etc.
mynnydh	You will etc.
mynn	He/She will etc.
mynnyn	We will etc.
mynnogh	You will etc.
mynnons	They will etc.

e.g. **Y**⁵ **fynnav mos tre.** I want to go home
Ny² **vynn ev mos genes.** He does not intend to go with you.

Exercise 1. Using verbal sentences as in the examples, with correct mutations of the verb, translate the following sentences into Cornish. The exercise illustrates possible English renderings of the verb.

- 1) We want to see the University.
- 2) He wishes to go to Truro
- 3) I will not smoke.
- 4) She wants to learn Cornish.
- 5) They do not intend to buy the book.
- 6) Do you want (A² vynnydh) to go?
- 7) No, I do not want to go.
- 8) Will you work with me?
- 9) Yes, I will work with you.
- 10) Yann wants to go home.

B. Mynnes - Imperfect Tense.

mynnen	I was willing/was intending/used to want etc.
mynnes	You were willing etc.
mynna	He/She was willing etc.
mynnen	We were willing etc.
mynnewgh	You were willing etc.
mynnens	They were willing etc.

The Imperfect Tense shows something that was going on continuously or habitually in the past.

- e.g. **Dre² bymp blydhen y⁵ fynnen dyski Kernewek**
For five years I was wanting to learn Cornish.
Y⁵ fynna ev mos dhe² Gernow.
He used to want to go to Cornwall.

In fact “wanted” is probably better English in both these cases, but the fact that it is possible to use “was wanting” and “used to want” indicates that the imperfect is appropriate in Cornish .

Exercise 2. Translate the following into Cornish using the imperfect tense of “mynnes” in verbal sentences, as in the examples.

- 1) They were willing to travel in the train.
- 2) We wanted to complain.
- 3) She used to want to rest all the time.
- 4) I would not drink coffee.
- 5) Yowann wanted to drink beer.
- 6) You wanted to eat an apple.
- 7) He did not intend to drink wine.
- 8) I would go every day (pub dydh)
- 9) Anjela wanted to drive (**lywya**) her 2CV.
- 10) The children would not go to school.

C. Drog yw genev. This translates literally as “It is bad with me” but actually means “I am sorry.”

“**Drog yw gans...**” can also be used with a noun in this sense:

e.g. **Drog yw gans Yowann** = John is sorry.

or with a personal pronoun contraction:

e.g. **Drog yw gensi mos dhe² -ves.** = She is sorry to go away.

Exercise 3. Translate the following into Cornish.

- 1) We are sorry to go.
- 2) Anjela and Yann are sorry.
- 3) I am sorry to see that.
- 4) Yowann is sorry to receive the letter.
- 5) The students are sorry to see the blind men.
- 6) You are sorry to lose the book.
- 7) He is sorry to go.
- 8) The fisherman is sorry to lose his fish.
- 9) His wife is sorry also.
- 10) They are sorry to go.

D. Da yw genev (I am glad, I like); Gwell yw genev (I prefer).

These two idioms are used in exactly the same way:

e.g. **Da yw genev dha² weles.**

I am glad to see you.

Gwell yw gans Lowena gortos y'n chi.

Lowena prefers to stay in the house.

Exercise 4. Translate the following into Cornish.

- 1) We are glad to come home.
- 2) Yann prefers to go fishing.
- 3) She prefers to read.
- 4) They like learning Cornish.
- 5) You like going to Cornwall.
- 6) The children like to work.
- 7) I prefer watching television.
- 8) He likes driving his car.
- 9) They prefer going to the café.
- 10) You like buying books.

Note. The Cornish verb-noun is used to translate English verbal forms ending in “-ing” e.g. **Da yw gans Yann mos dhe² Gernow** (Yann likes going to Cornwall)

Skrif

Write about the rest of the train journey and what happened when the three students and the blind man reached Rennes.