

## Dyskans Onan (1)

## An Kynsa Dyskans

### Part A

**\*\*Reading** Dynnargh dhe'n klass Kernewek

- 1 Mestresik Marner: Dydh da.
- 2 An klass: Dydh da.
- 3 Mestresik Marner: Mestresik Marner ov. Piw os ta?
- 4 Mester Tomas: Mester Tomas ov vy.
- 5 Mestresik Marner: Pur dha. Dyskadores ov vy ha studhyer os ta. Pyth owgh hwi?
- 6 Andi: Studhyer ov vy.
- 7 Estelle: Studhyores ov vy.
- 8 Mestresik Marner: Ha Stefano hag Andi, pyth owgh hwi?
- 9 Stefano + Andi: Studhyoryon on ni.
- 10 Mestresik Marner: Pur dha. Ha py klass yw hemma, mar pleg?
- 11 Mestresik Choak: An klass Kernewek yw hemma.
- 12 Mestresik Marner: Ple'th os ta trigys, Estelle?
- 13 Estelle: Trigys ov vy yn Kernow, lemmyn.
- 14 Mestresik Marner: Ha fatel yw an gewer hedhyw?
- 15 Syvi: Nyns yw da an gewer hedhyw! Drog yw hi.
- 16 Mestresik Marner: Ha fatla genowgh hwi?
- 17 Mestres Pengelli: Yn poynt da, meurastajy.
- 18 Stefano: Ha my ynwedh, yn poynt da.
- 19 Andi: Skwith ov vy!

(kemerys dhyworth Bora Brav gans Polin Prys)

*A full translation is given below*

- 1 *Miss Marner: Hello*
- 2 *The class: Hello*
- 3 *Miss Marner: I am Miss Marner. Who are you?*
- 4 *Mr Tomas: I am Mr Tomas.*
- 5 *Miss Marner: Very good. I am a teacher and you are a student. What are you?*
- 6 *Andi: I am a student.*
- 7 *Estelle: I am a student.*
- 8 *Miss Marner: And Stephano and Andi, what are you?*
- 9 *Estelle: We are students.*
- 10 *Miss Marner: Very good. And what class is this, please?*
- 11 *Miss Choak: This is the Cornish class.*
- 12 *Miss Marner: Where do you live, Estelle?*
- 13 *Estelle: I live in Cornwall, now.*
- 14 *Miss Marner: And what's the weather like today?*
- 15 *Syvi: The weather is not good today! It's bad.*
- 16 *Miss Marner: And how are you?*
- 17 *Mrs Pengelli: Well, thank you.*
- 18 *Stefano: And me also, well.*
- 19 *Andi: I'm tired!*

## Grammar Notes

### Greetings

Lines 1 and 2

Dydh da literally means good day but is usually used in a more general way to mean 'hello'

Myttin da	good morning
Dohajydh da	good afternoon
Gorthugher da	good evening
Nos dha/nos da	good night (you will hear both being used)
Duw genes	good bye (to one person)
Duw genowgh	good bye (to more than one person)

The verb to be Bos

Lines 3 – 15, 19

Positive statement		Negative statement		interrogative	
.. ov (vy)	I am ..	Nyns ov (vy)..	I am not ..	Ov (vy)...?	Am I ...?
.. os (ta)	You are ..	Nyns os (ta)..	You are not..	Os (ta)...?	Are you ...?
.. yw (ev)	He is ..	Nyns yw ev..	He isn't ..	Yw ev ..?	Is he ..?
.. yw (hi)	She is ..	Nyns yw hi..	She isn't ..	Yw hi ..?	Is she ..?
.. on (ni)	We are ..	Nyns on (ni)..	We aren't ..	On (ni) ..?	Are we ..?
.. owgh (hwi)	You are ..	Nyns owgh (hwi)..	You aren't ..	Owgh (hwi) ..?	Are you ...?
.. yns (i)	They are .	Nyns yns (i)..	They aren't ..	Yns (i) ..?	Are they ..?

The pronouns in brackets may be omitted, but ev and hi are usually used to avoid confusion.

### Mutations

Some words change the first letter after certain words in some circumstances!

The unchanged state is found in the dictionary

The soft or second state is given in the table

	b	ch	d	ga	ge	gi	gl	gr	gw	gy	go	gu	gro	gru	k	m	p	t
2 <sup>nd</sup>	v	j	dh	a	e	i	l	r	w	y	wo	wu	wro	wru	g	v	b	d

The first line shows that words beginning with 'd', like 'da' (good) are found in the dictionary under the letter 'd', but sometimes they change the 'd' to 'dh' as shown in the second line. Or that, for example, words beginning with 'm' sometimes change the 'm' to a 'v'. This is called 'mutation'.

Line 5, 10 good da very good pur dha

The word pur (very) causes the next word to mutate as above

Line 14, 15 *weather*    *kewer*    *the weather*    *an gewer*

*The word an (the) causes a following feminine singular noun to mutate as above. So because 'kewer' is feminine when we put 'an' (the) before it the 'k' changes to a 'g'. This does not happen to 'klass' which is masculine, so 'an klass' (the class).*

*Gender*

*Many masculine nouns make the feminine by adding '-es', there is sometimes a vowel change and the stress changes; most words in Cornish have the stress on the penultimate syllable*

**studhyer**                  studhy**ores**  
**dyskador**                dyskado**res**

*Questions like Os ta studhyer? Require yes or no answers*

*In Cornish we have to repeat the verb, as there are no words for yes and no, and say 'I am' or 'she is not', for example. But remember, that's only the literal meaning – you should think of them as meaning 'yes' and 'no'.*

Os ta studhyer?	Ov, studhyer ov (vy)	Yes, I am a student
	Nag ov, nyns ov (vy) studhyer	No, I'm not a student
Yw ev dyskador?	Yw, dyskador yw ev.	Yes, he is a teacher.
	Nag yw, nyns yw ev dyskador	No, he isn't a teacher.

*Ha (and) becomes hag when followed by a vowel*

*Nag (no) is usually na except when followed by a vowel (in the verb bos)*

*Nyns (not) is usually ny except when followed by a vowel (in the verb bos)*

*You will have noticed that dyskadores has been translated as 'a teacher' and studhyer has been translated as 'a student' this is because Cornish has no word for the English indefinite article 'a' or 'an' so dyskadores may be translated as 'teacher' or 'a teacher' depending on context.*

**Exercise A1** *Questions on the conversation.*

1 Mestresik Marner says to Tomas 'Piw os ta?' What does he reply?

2 Py klass yw hemma?

3 Yw hemma an klass Kernewek?

4 Ple'th yw Estelle trigys?

5 Fatel yw an gewer hedhyw?

6 Yw an gewer drog?

7 Yw Mestresik Marner studhyores?

8 Yw Andi dyskador?

*And answer these about yourself*

9 Os ta studhyer/studhyores?

10 Os ta dyskador/dyskadores?

## Exercise A2

Translate the following (example: Lowena is a student Studhyores yw Lowena)

1 Ann is a teacher

2 Brian is a teacher

3 Charles is a student

4 Dianne is a woman<sup>2</sup>

5 Edward is a student

6 Faith is a student

7 George is a man<sup>1</sup>

8 Benyn yw Helen

9 Flogh<sup>3</sup> yw Isaac

10 Studhyoryon yw Jessica ha Keith\*










<sup>1</sup> Man gour – an gour

<sup>2</sup> Woman benyn – an venyn

<sup>3</sup> flogh child

\* this is good Cornish! (the reason for it will be explained later)

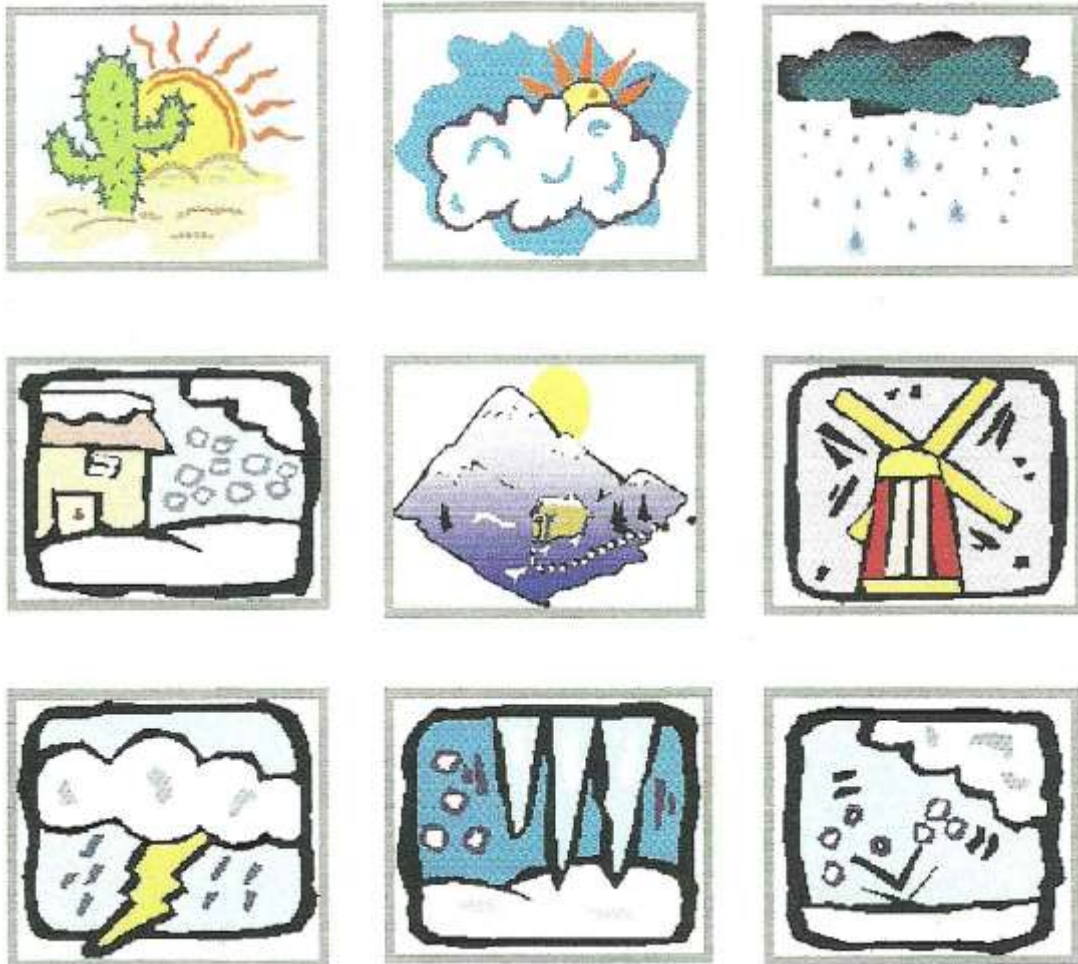
### Part B An Gewer

		
<p>An howl <i>the sun</i> Howlyek yw. <i>It's sunny</i> Tomm yw. <i>It's warm</i> Sygh yw. <i>It's dry</i></p>	<p>An glaw <i>the rain</i> Yeyn yw. <i>It's cold</i> Glyb yw. <i>It's wet</i></p>	<p>An kommel <i>the clouds</i> Komolek yw. <i>It's cloudy</i></p>
		
<p>An gwyns <i>the wind</i> Gwynsek yw. <i>It's windy</i></p>	<p>An ergh <i>the snow</i> Erghek yw <i>It's snowy</i> Oor yw. <i>It's bitterly cold</i></p>	<p>An tewedh <i>the storm</i> Hager-awel yw. <i>It's a gale</i> Euthyk yw. <i>It's horrible</i></p>
		
<p>An gammneves <i>the rainbow</i> Teg yw. <i>It's pretty</i></p>	<p>An niwl <i>the fog</i> Niwlek yw. <i>It's foggy</i></p>	<p>Ass yw tomm an gewer! <i>How warm the weather is!</i></p>

To ask what the weather is like we use the word 'fatel', which means 'how'. So 'fatel yw an gewer?' is 'how is the weather?' or 'what is the weather like?'

### Exercise B3

Fatel yw an gewer omma? *What is the weather like, here?*



*(PS The weather in the centre looks very mixed. You can decide if it's cold, warm, pretty, horrible or whatever you think!)*

## Gerva (Vocabulary)

<i>noun</i>	<i>gender</i>	<i>plural</i>	<i>meaning</i>
dyskador	g	dyskatoryon	(male) teacher
dyskadores	b	dyskadoresow	(female) teacher
studhyer	g	studhyoryon	(male) student
studhyores	b	studhyoresow	(female) student
klass	g	klassow	class
kewer	b		weather
gour	g	gwer	man
benyn	b	benenes	woman
maw	g	mebyon	boy
mowes	b	mowysi	girl
flogh	g	fleghes	child
chi	g	chiow	house

g = gorow (masculine)

b = benow (feminine)

### Exercise B4

In English we might say 'the house is bitterly cold', but in Cornish we usually start with what it is we want to say about something. Here what we want to say about the house ('an chi') is that it is bitterly cold ('oor'), so that's what we start with – 'oor yw an chi'.

Translate

- 1 The (male) teacher is wet
- 2 The student (male) is cold
- 3 We are warm
- 4 The (female) teacher is good
- 5 They are bad
- 6 The weather is hot
- 7 The house is bitterly cold
- 8 I live in a house in Cornwall.
- 9 The class is good
- 10 You are a student.

### Part C Negatives

When we make a negative statement 'it isn't' or 'I'm not', for example, we always start with the negative word 'nyns' and then the verb. So 'it isn't bitterly cold' is 'nyns yw oer'. To make the negative question we simply put a in front so 'Isn't it bitterly cold?' is 'A nyns yw oer?'

### Exercise C5

- 1 We aren't good
- 2 He isn't bad
- 3 Are you cold?
- 4 Aren't they warm?
- 5 They aren't happy (lowen).
- 6 I am happy
- 7 She is happy.
- 8 She isn't happy
- 9 Isn't she happy?
- 10 We aren't bad!