



Dyskans unnek ha dew ugens (51)

An unnegves dyskans ha dew ugens

Present tense, yn unn

This tale was first written by Ray Edwards for the 1983 Gorsedh Kernow Cornish Language Prose Competition and was awarded first place. It was later serialised to form the story background for the KDL Second/Third Grade Course. It is based on the historical expulsion of the Cornish from Exeter by Athelstan, but all the characters in the story, except Bishop Asser and King Athelstan are fictitious.

****Karesk 936 A.D.**

An Tas gwynn

Ass ova skwith! Tewdar re bia ow konis y'n gwel yn-mes a'n fos a-ban dhrehevis an howl, ha pur domm o an gewer. Res o dhodho kerdhes ryb fos an ger bys y'n yet, hag alena a-hys an stret erna dhrehedhas an chioh ha'n krowjiow may triga an Gernowyon. Chi Tewdar o nebes brassa ages an chioh erel a'n kwartron. Y das o hembrenkyas an bagas a Gernowyon re wrussa triga yn Karesk gans an Sowson dres lies bledhen. Y das gwynn re wrussa dos dhe Garesk nans o dew ugens bledhen yn termyn Epskop Asser drefen bos Kembro an Epskop da na. Kar an Geltyon ha kar an myghtern sowsnek kekeffrys ova. Lemmyn pur goth, ha pur glav o an tas gwynn. Hag ev ow nesa daras an chi, Tewdar a omwovynnas fatel o gans an den koth. Yn sur, nyns esa dhodho lies dydh dhe vewa. Y teuth ev bys y'n daras ha mos a-ji. Pur dewl o a-bervedh. Kales o gweles y das gwynn a'y worwedh yn kornel an stevel, ha'y vamm a'y esedh war skavel rybdho.

“Fatel a ganso?” a wovynnas Tewdar.

Nyns esa gorthyp, mes y vamm a sevis yn lent ha dos war-tu ha'n den yowynk. Wortiwedh hi a gewsis yn unn hwystra.

Yn-medh hi, “Dha das gwynn - yma ev ow merwel. Res yw porres mos dhe'n managhti ha kavos onan a'n brontoryon rag y assoylya kyns hy bos re dhiwedhes.”

“Ass ov vy skwith, mamm,” yn-medh Tewdar. “Gas vy dhe bowes kyns, ha ro dhymm korev dhe eva.”

Troblys o an venyn dha. Pyth o an moyha bysi, enev anvarwel an den koth, po korf skwithys hy mab? Hi a ros hanafas a gorev dhe Dewdar, ha leverel “Well, gwra gortos gans dha das gwynn. Mos ow honan a wrav.

Tewdar a esedhas war an skavel yn le y vamm ha mires orth y das gwynn.

Nyns esa arwodh bewnans war y enep, mes movyans y skevens a dhiskwedhas ev dhe vewa hwath.

Gerva

ova	o ev	See note 2
a-ban	since	See note 3
omwovynnas	wondered	See note 4
Y teuth ev	Ev a dheuth	See note 5
Yn unn hwystra	in a whisper	See note 6
Mos ow honan a wrav	My a wra mos ow honan	See note 7
Karesk	Exeter	
re bia	had been	
ow konis	working	From gonis to work
erna	until	Causes 2 nd mutation
war-tu ha	towards	
may triga	in which were living	
re wrussa triga	had lived	
a'y worwedh	lying	See note 7
a'y esedh	sitting	See note 7
rybdho	by him	See note 8
ros	gave	From ri to give

Notennow

1 Present tense usage in the passage

a	mos	to go	Requires no particle
yma	bos	to be	3 rd p long form
yw	bos	to be	3 rd p short form
ov	bos	to be	1 st p short form
a wrav	gul	to do/make	1 st p

There are 3 forms of the present tense in English

I write simple present
 I do write emphatic present
 I am writing present continuous

Simple present

My a skrif lyther which emphasises I
 Lyther a skrifav (vy) which emphasises letter
 Y skrifav (vy) lyther which emphasises write

Both the second and third form above require the verb to be conjugated and are more formal written styles

1 p s	2 p s	3 p s masc	3 p s fem	1 p pl	2 p pl	3 p pl
skrifav	skrifydh	skrif	skrif	skrifyn	skrifowgh	skrifons

1 p s = 1st person singular (I)
 3 p s masc = 3rd person singular masculine (he)
 3 p s fem = 3rd person singular feminine (she)
 1 p pl = 1st person plural (we)
 3 p pl = 3rd person plural (they)

2 p s = 2nd person singular (you)
 2 p pl = 2nd person plural (you)

these may be distinguished by the use of the pronoun skrif ev / skrif hi

Emphatic present

My a wra skrifa lyther

Lyther a wrav (vy) y skrifa

Y hwrav (vy) skrifa lyther

Both the second and third forms above require the verb to be conjugated and are again more formal, written, literary styles.

1 p s	2 p s	3 p s masc	3 p s fem	1 p pl	2 p pl	3 p pl
gwrav	gwredh	gwra	gwra	gwren	gwrewgh	gwrons

Depending on context this also has a future meaning in Cornish

Present continuous

Yth esov (vy) ow skrifa lyther *I am writing a letter*

This must use the conjugated, long form of bos

1 p s	2 p s	3 p s masc	3 p s fem	1 p pl	2 p pl	3 p pl
esov	esos	yma/usi/eus	yma/usi/eus	eson	esowgh	ymons

This form of the verb uses the present participle ow, or owth before vowels and h, (ow causes a 4th mutation)

b → p d → t g → k

splanna ow splanna; berrhe ow perrhe

dalleth ow talleth; gortos ow kortos

eva owth eva; hanasa owth hanasa

2 Contractions of pronouns

These are usually found with the auxiliary verbs

ova = o ev; ywa = yw ev; also o'ma = ov vy; ymava = yma ev;

a wre'ta = a wredh ta

3 a-ban since

a-ban belongs to the group of subordinating conjunctions which must be followed by the conjugated verb, if an infixed pronoun is used the y particle is used: A-ban wrug hi terri hy garr, ny yll hi ponya yn ta. Since she broke her leg, she can't run well. It causes a 2nd mutation.

A-ban dorras hi hy garr, ny yll hi ponya yn ta

A-ban y's torras hi, ny yll hi ponya yn ta. *Since she broke it, she can't run well.*

The negative is a-ban na

4 Reflexive verbs

The action of these verbs reflects or bends back to the doer, so that the subject does something to himself or herself

e.g. I wash myself. In Cornish the word for self is om², prefixed to the verb:

I wash the car my a wra golghi an karr or my a wolgh an karr

I wash myself my a wra omwolghi or my a omwolgh

Govyn to ask omwovyn to ask oneself (which usually translates as to wonder.)

As in this case, the reflexive sense of the verb is not always obvious in the normal English translation. Some other reflexive verbs

Omguntel to gather one's selves together, i.e. to assemble.

Omrolya to roll oneself, i.e. to enrol.

Omweres to help oneself, i.e. to manage.

Omsona to bless oneself, i.e. to cross oneself.

5 Particles

ev a dheuth is an informal way of saying he came; a more formal, literary style is to use the y particle (and a 5th mutation) y teuth ev

6 yn unn

yn unn is followed by the verb (infinitive) to make an adverbial phrase. It causes a second mutation, and always follows another main verb, describing 'how' that verb is done.

Hi a gewsis yn unn hwystra. She spoke in a whisper.

Ev a dheuth yn unn bonya. He came at a run (He ran up.)

Hi eth yn unn fistena. She went in a hurry. (She hurried off.)

7 Word order

my a wra mos ow honan I will go myself. Remember the most important part of a sentence in Cornish comes first.

The sentence may be said/written in several ways

*my a wra mos ow honan **I shall go myself***

*y hwra mos ow honan **I shall go myself***

*mos ow honan a wra **Go myself** I shall (compare dialect)*

8 Adjectival phrases

gorwedh (also found as growedh), sav, esedh. These 3 have a possessive adjective between a and the other word

a'm gorwedh: yth esov a'm gorwedh lemmyn I am lying down now

a'th sav: yth esos a'th sav you are standing

a'y esedh: yma ev a'y esedh he is seated.

9 Preposition ryb

ryb is declined when used with a pronoun, the usual meaning is beside, by rybov, rybos, rybdho, rybdhi, rybon, rybowgh, rybdha

Oberen 1 Exercise 1 Treyl an lavarow a sew. *Translate the following.*

- 1 *I am going to Truro tomorrow.*
- 2 *You run fast.*
- 3 *He reads well.*
- 4 *She is very happy because her mother has bought the cat.*
- 5 *We want to go to Berlin for our holiday.*
- 6 *You can come to the cinema with us if you wish.*
- 7 *They can swim well now since they had the lessons.*
- 8 *The house is in the middle of town but it is quiet.*
- 9 *It is very early but the people are going to work.*
- 10 *Their parents live in Penzance.*

Oberen 2 Exercise 2 Treyl an lavarow a sew dhe Gernewek, gwra devnydh a yn unn. *Translate the following sentences into Cornish, using an expression with yn unn.*

- 1 *He went into the house at a walk.*
- 2 *He went to Truro in a hurry.*
- 3 *They worked in a tiring way.*
- 4 *He laughed playfully.*
- 5 *They spoke in a whisper.*
- 6 *She talked with a song.*
- 7 *He went down the hill sliding.*
- 8 *They went to New Zealand sailing.*
- 9 *She spoke thoughtfully.*
- 10 *He spoke amusingly.*

Oberen 3 Exercise 3 Gwrewhgh skrif a keskows. *Write a conversation.*

You have gone into town to buy some groceries.

- *You agree that the weather is terrible, and say it was raining and very windy on the way here.*
[The grocer asks how he/she can help you]
- *You would like to buy three kilos of sausages, six onions and a dozen tomatoes.*
[The grocer says that is a lot of sausages for one person]
- *You explain that friends are coming for dinner tonight and that you want to eat in the garden.*
[The grocer says that the weather might be better in the evening]
- *You say you would also like four large saffron cakes and two pints of cream.*
[The grocer tells you the cost of your purchases.]
- *You offer £20 and then say you would like a bag.*
[The grocer says 'yes of course' and gives you your change]
- *You close the conversation appropriately.*

Oberen 4 Exercise 4 Skrif a-dro dhe 100 ger. *Write about 100 words.*

Hwedhel trist A sad story