

Dyskans Peswar (4)

An Peswora Dyskans

**Part A Reading

Alan: Ow chi yw byghan hag arnowydh. Ynno yma tri chambour hag unn stevell-omwolghi a-ugh. A-woeles yma'n esedhva, an gegin, an bisva ha'n soedhva. Yma lowarth byghan dhyn ha karrji ryb an chi.

Brenda : Bras hag arnowydh yw ow chi, yma peswar chambour ha diw stevell-omwolghi war an nessa leur. Ow chambour yw pur vras gans gweli, jynn-amontya, kador, desk, ha pellwolok. A-woeles yma esedhva, soedhva, kegin, kowasell hag esedhva arall. Ynwedh yma stevell-wari (gans sinema, wii h.e.) bar ha pisva. Yma lowarth bras dhymm hag y'n lowarth yma poll-neuvya.

Gerva

| | | <i>English</i> | <i>plural</i> | <i>notes</i> |
|------------------|----------|---------------------|--------------------|---|
| chi | <i>g</i> | <i>house</i> | chiow | <i>See note 2</i> |
| ow chi | | <i>my house</i> | | |
| ha'n | | <i>and the</i> | | = hag an |
| lowarth | <i>g</i> | <i>garden</i> | lowarthyow | <i>See note 3</i> |
| byghan | | <i>small</i> | | <i>See note 4</i> |
| arnowydh | | <i>modern</i> | | |
| ynno | | <i>in it</i> | | |
| yma | | <i>there is/are</i> | | <i>See note 7</i> |
| chambour | <i>g</i> | <i>bedroom</i> | chambouryow | |
| stevell | <i>b</i> | <i>room</i> | stevellow | |
| stevell-omwolghi | | <i>bathroom</i> | stevellow-omwolghi | |
| a-ugh | | <i>above</i> | | |
| a-woeles | | <i>below</i> | | |
| esedhva | <i>b</i> | <i>sitting room</i> | esedhvaow | <i>See note 1</i> |
| kegin | <i>b</i> | <i>kitchen</i> | keginow | |
| an gegin | | <i>the kitchen</i> | | |
| pisva | <i>b</i> | <i>toilet</i> | pisvaow | <i>See note 1</i> |
| an bisva | | <i>the toilet</i> | | |
| soedhva | <i>b</i> | <i>office</i> | soedhvaow | <i>See note 1</i> |
| lowarth | <i>g</i> | <i>garden</i> | lowarthyow | |
| dhyn | | <i>to us</i> | | <i>See note 6</i> |
| karrji | <i>g</i> | <i>garage</i> | karrjiow | |
| ryb | | <i>by/ beside</i> | | |
| bras | | <i>big</i> | | |
| war | | <i>on</i> | | |
| nessa | | <i>second</i> | | |
| leur | <i>g</i> | <i>floor</i> | leuryow | |
| pur | | <i>very</i> | | <i>causes a 2nd mutation</i> |
| pur vras | | <i>very big</i> | | |
| gans | | <i>with</i> | | |

| | | | | |
|--------------|----------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| gweli | <i>g</i> | <i>bed</i> | gweliow | |
| jynn-amontya | <i>g</i> | <i>computer</i> | jynnow-amontya | |
| kador | <i>b</i> | <i>chair</i> | kadoryow | |
| an gador | | <i>the chair</i> | | |
| pellwolok | <i>b</i> | <i>television</i> | pellwologow | |
| an bellwolok | | <i>the television</i> | | |
| kowasell | <i>b</i> | <i>shower</i> | kowasellow | |
| arall | | <i>other</i> | erell | <i>See note 4</i> |
| ynwedh | | <i>also/as well</i> | | |
| gwari | | <i>to play</i> | | <i>Here 'games room' stevell-wari</i> |
| h.e. | | <i>etc.</i> | <i>Abbreviation for hag erell</i> | |
| dhymm | | <i>to me</i> | | <i>See note 6</i> |
| poll-neuvya | | <i>swimming pool</i> | | |

g = gorow (masculine) b = benow (feminine)

Notennow (Notes)

- 1** *All words ending in -va are feminine (it indicates a place)*
- 2** *There are more masculine than feminine nouns in Cornish*
- 3** *The commonest way of forming the plural in Cornish is by adding -ow, the second most common is to add -yow*
- 4** *arall is the only adjective in Cornish to have a distinct plural erell*

An gador arall the other chair; an kaderyow erell the other chairs

5 *You will have noticed lowarth byghan in the reading, this is 'garden small'; Cornish puts the adjective after the noun with very few exceptions. If the noun is feminine then the adjective is mutated (a 2nd mutation) the same thing will happen after a masculine plural noun of persons*

benyn + teg → benyn deg; studhyoryon + da → studhyoryon dha

6 *Some prepositions in Cornish 'decline' i.e. they combine with the pronouns dhe (to):*

| | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| <i>dhymm to me</i> | <i>dhis to you (sing.)</i> | <i>dhodho to him</i> | <i>dhedhi to her</i> |
| <i>dhyn to us</i> | <i>dhywgh to you (plural)</i> | <i>dhedha to them</i> | |

7 *yma means there is or there are.*

It answers the question Ple'ma ...? Where is ...?

Ple'ma an chi? Yma'n chi yn Truru. Where is the house? There is the house in Truro/The house is in Truro

Yma kador y'n stevell. There is a chair in the room

Yma kadoryow y'n stevell. There are chairs in the room

Note ple'ma'n = ple yma an; yma'n = yma an there is the y'n = yn an in the

Exercise A1 Please answer questions in Cornish

Chi Alan

1 Ple'ma an stevell omwolghi?

2 Ple'ma an bisva?

3 Ple'ma an karrji?

Chi Brenda

4 Ple'ma an stevellow-omwolghi?

5 Ple'ma an soedhva?

6 Ple'ma an bellwolok?

7 Ple'ma an poll-neuvya?

8 Ple'ma an sinema?

Exercise A2 Translate

1 A big house

6 studhyores dha

2 a pretty girl

7 dyskador drog

3 the pretty girl

8 an venyn verr

4 black hair

9 an gador vras

5 a small car

10 an gegin vyghan

Part B To have

Cornish tends to avoid the use of the verb 'to have' instead using the expression 'there (it) is to me' or 'there (it) is with me'.

I have a dog Yma ki dhymm (there is a dog to me)

He has a cat Yma kath dhodho. (there is a cat to him)

The man has a car Yma karr gans an gour (there is a car with the man)

There is a subtle difference between Yma ki dhymm and Yma ki genev. The first implies the dog is owned by me and the latter implies the dog is with me.

Gans with

| | | | |
|---------------|------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| genev with me | genes with you | ganso with him | gensi to her |
| genen with us | genowgh with you | gansa with them | |

Notice the endings

| | | | |
|------------|--------|---------|--|
| 1 p s my | dhymm | genev | <i>The 'm' is unusual</i> |
| 2 p s ty | dhis | genes | <i>usual 2nd person singular ending</i> |
| 3 p s ev | dhodho | ganso | <i>usual 3rd person singular masculine ending</i> |
| 3 p s hi | dhedhi | genshi | <i>usual 3rd person singular feminine ending</i> |
| 1 p pl ni | dhyn | genen | <i>usual 1st person plural ending</i> |
| 2 p pl hwi | dhywgh | genowgh | <i>usual 2nd person plural ending</i> |
| 3 p pl i | dhedha | gansa | <i>usual 3rd person plural ending</i> |

Exercise B1

Translate

1 Yma ki dhedhi.

5 Peter has (owns) a dog.

2 Yma chi dhyn

6 We have a computer

3 Yma flogh genev

7 They have a swimming pool

4 Yma skath dhe Jowan

8 You (sing.) have a book.

Part C To have to

This is rendered in Cornish by 'necessary is to me.' Res yw dhymm

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Res yw dhymm <i>I must</i> | Res yw dhis <i>You must</i> | Res yw dhodho <i>He must</i> | Res yw dhedhi <i>She must</i> |
| Res yw dhyn <i>We must</i> | Res yw dhywgh <i>You must</i> | Res yw dhedha <i>They must</i> | |

So 'I must go to London' is 'Res yw dhymm mos dhe Loundres.'

****Reading**

Read the following passage adapted from Bora Brav Rannas 3 Kynsa Kentel.

Mester Tomas: Dydh da, Andi. Fatla genes?
 Andi: Dydh da, yn poynt da ov, meur ras ha genes jy*?
 Mester Tomas: Da lowr, mes den koth ov, lemmyn.
 Andi: Mes kellys ov. Ple'ma kres an dre, mar pleg?
 Mester Tomas: Arta mar pleg! Nebes bodhar ov.
 Andi: Mes kellys ov. Ple'ma kres an dre?
 Mester Tomas: Ena, yma'n eglos vras yn kres an dre.
 Andi: Meur ras. Usi an eglos ryb an varghas?
 Mester Tomas: Usi, yma'n eglos ryb an varghas.
 Andi: Eus gorvarghas omma yn ogas?
 Mester Tomas: Eus, yma gorvarghas yn Stret Nowydh.
 Andi: Hag eus lytherva ryb an eglos?
 Mester Tomas: Nag eus, nyns eus lytherva ryb an eglos, yma'n lytherva ryb an skol.
 Andi: Meur ras dhis.

*jy merely emphasises the genes and isn't really translatable into English. You will hear people say 'ha ty' instead of 'genes jy'; ha ty is much more common than genes (jy).

Gerva

| | | | |
|----------------|----------------------|--------------|--------|
| koth | <i>old</i> | | |
| lemmyn | <i>now</i> | | |
| kellys | <i>lost</i> | | |
| kres | <i>middle/centre</i> | | |
| ena | <i>there</i> | | |
| tre (b) | <i>town</i> | trevow | an dre |
| arta | <i>again</i> | | |
| nebes | <i>some, a bit</i> | | |
| bodhar | <i>deaf</i> | | |
| eglos (b) | <i>church</i> | eglosyow | |
| bras | <i>big</i> | | Note 1 |
| usi | <i>Is the</i> | | Note 2 |
| ryb | <i>by, beside</i> | | |
| eus | <i>Is there a</i> | | Note 2 |
| gorvarghas (b) | <i>supermarket</i> | gorvarghasow | |
| nowydh | <i>new</i> | | |
| lytherva (b) | <i>post office</i> | lythervaow | |
| skol (b) | <i>school</i> | skolyow | |

Notennow

1 Adjectives

Adjectives mutate (2nd/soft/lenition) after feminine nouns, and after masculine plurals of persons) the table is repeated here:

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

Ki + bras = ki bras (*ki is masculine so the adjective does not mutate*)

Kador + rudh = kador rudh (*words beginning with 'r' never mutate*)

Kador + bras = kador vras (*b → v as shown in the table as kador is feminine*)

Eglos + bras = eglos vras

Studhyoryon + da = studhyoryon dha (*studhyoryon is a masculine plural of people*)

But adjectives beginning with k, p or t do not mutate after nouns ending with s or th

So mowes vras *but* mowes teg

2 yma, usi and eus all these words have the meaning is (as well as yw)
 Yma means there is or there are, and is used to indicate position
 Yma eglos y'n dre *There is a church in the town*
 Yma kadoryow y'n stevell *There are chairs in the room*

But yma is not used in the negative or in questions

(i) *Negatives*

Nyns eus eglos y'n dre *There is not a church in the town*
 (not is church in the town)

Nyns eus kadoryow y'n stevell *There are not chairs in the room*
 (Not is chairs in the room)

Nyns usi an eglos yn Stret Nowydh *The church is not in New Street*
 (Not is the church in New Street)

Nyns usi an kadoryow y'n stevell *The chairs are not in the room*
 (Not is the chairs in the room)

The difference between eus and usi is that the former is indefinite and the latter is definite *nyns eus = not is (a)*
 nyns usi = not is the

(ii) *Interrogatives*

Eus eglos y'n dre? *Is there a church in the town?*

Eus kadoryow y'n stevell? *Are there chairs in the room?*

Usi an eglos yn Stret Nowydh? *Is the church in New Street?*

Usi an kadoryow y'n stevell? *Are the chairs in the room?*

Again *eus = is there (a)*
 usi = is the

(iii) *Answers*

Eus eglos y'n dre? *Eus, yma eglos y'n dre.*
 Yes, there is a church in the town

Nag eus, nyns eus eglos y'n dre.
 No, there is no church in the town

Eus kadoryow y'n stevell? *Eus, yma kadoryow y'n stevell.*
 Yes, there are chairs in the room

Nag eus, nyns eus kadoryow y'n stevell.
 No, there are no chairs in the room.

Usi an eglos yn Stret Nowydh? *Usi, yma'n eglos yn Stret Nowydh.*
 Yes, the church is in New Street.

Nag usi, nyns usi an eglos yn Stret Nowydh.
 No, the church is not in New Street

Usi an kadoryow y'n stevell? *Usi, yma'n kadoryow y'n stevell.*
 Yes, the chairs are in the room.

Nag usi, nyns usi an kadoryow y'n stevell.
 No, the chairs are not in the room.

Exercise C1 Translate

- 1 *The school is in the town (There is the school in the town)*
- 2 *The house is by the river (avon (b))*
- 3 *There is a house on the hill (bre (b))*
- 4 *There are no boats (skath (b)) on the river*
- 5 *The sun is in the sky (ebron (b))*
- 6 *There are no clouds in the sky*
- 7 *Are there houses in the street? (stret (g)). Yes, there are houses in the street.*
- 8 *Is there a doctor (medhek (g)) in the house? No, there is no doctor in the house.*
- 9 *Is the car in the garage? Yes, the car is in the garage.*
- 10 *Is the dog in the house? No, the dog isn't in the house, the dog is in the street.*

Exercise C2

Write a short description of your house. Try to write five to ten sentences.