

Revision

Grammar Summary Lessons 1 – 6

1 Articles

Indefinite: does not exist kador = a chair or chair

Definite: the = an used with masculine, feminine, singular and plural

2 Nouns

Nouns are either masculine or feminine

Nouns ending –va are feminine,

nouns for female persons are feminine e.g. benyn, mowes, modrep etc

Feminine singular nouns mutate (2nd) after an and unn: benyn, an venyn; kador, unn gador

nouns for male persons are masculine e.g. den, maw, mab etc

masculine plural nouns of persons mutate (2nd) after an: mab, mebyon, an vebyon

The most common way to form the plural is to add –ow or –yow, but there are many exceptions

3 Adjectives

Adjectives generally follow the noun

Benyn hir a tall woman

Adjectives following a feminine singular noun or a masculine plural noun of persons mutate (2nd): kador + bras = kador vras, mebyon + da = mebyon dha

Note the exception to the rule: adjectives beginning with ‘g’, ‘p’ or ‘t’ do not mutate after ‘s’ or ‘th’ so eglos teg even though eglos is feminine.

4 Particles

a used (i) as an interrogative particle A vynn’ta mos? Do you want to go?

(ii) as a verbal particle, my a vynn I want

na(g)is a negative particle nag is used before parts of the verb bos beginning with a vowel

nag yw – no; na vynnav no

ny(ns) is a negative particle, nyns is used before parts of the verb bos beginning with a vowel

nyns ov trist I’m not sad; ny vynnav mos I don’t want to go

y(th) this is used to begin a statement if you want to start with the verb,

yth occurs before parts of the verb bos beginning with a vowel

yth ov vy trist I am sad

5 Prepositions many prepositions in Cornish combine with pronouns

dhe Jowan *to John* gans an ki *with the dog*

dhe		gans	
dhymm	<i>to me</i>	gene v	<i>with me</i>
dhis	<i>to you</i>	genes	<i>with you</i>
dhodho	<i>to him</i>	gans o	<i>with him</i>
dhedhi	<i>to her</i>	gens i	<i>with her</i>
dhyn	<i>to us</i>	genen	<i>with us</i>
dhy wgh	<i>to you</i>	genow gh	<i>with you</i>
dhedha	<i>to them</i>	gansa	<i>with them</i>

6 Verbs

Present tense - conjugation

Bos short	Bos long	gul	galloes	mynnes	
..ov	..esov	a wrav	a allav	a vynnav	vy
..os	..esos	a wredh	a yllydh	a vynnydh	ta
..yw	yma/usi/eus	a wra	a yll	a vynn	ev
..yw	yma/usi/eus	a wra	a yll	a vynn	hi
..on	..eson	a wren	a yllyn	a vynnyn	ni
..owgh	..esowgh	a wrewgh	a yllowgh	a vynnnowgh	hwi
..yns	..ymons/esons	a wrons	a yllons	a vynnons	i

Remember: a wredhta is usually a wre'ta; a yllydhta is usually a yll'ta; a vynnydhta is usually a vynn'ta

Ta is usually found attached to the verb Osta lowen? Benyn osta?

7 Mutations there are five (or even six) mutations, the most common of which is the second, also known as the soft mutation or lenition

2nd mutation

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

benyn an venyn davas an dhavas mamm an vamm *etc*

Causes of the second mutation met so far

- (i) *Feminine singular nouns after an and unn*
- (ii) *Masculine plural nouns of persons after an*
- (iii) *Verbs after the particles a, ny and na*
- (iv) *Adjectives after feminine singular nouns and masculine plurals of persons*
- (v) *Nouns following the numbers dew and diw (and dew and diw themselves after an)*
- (vi) *Words after dhe*

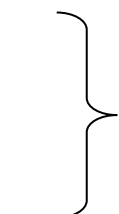
3rd mutation also known as the breathed mutation or spirate

	b	ch	d	ga	ge	gi	gl	gr	gw	gy	go	gu	gro	gru	k	m	p	t
3 rd															h		f	th

Causes of the third mutation met so far

- (i) *After the masculine number tri*
- (ii) *After the feminine number teyr*

8 Numbers *Cornish counts in twenties, so far we have only met the first ten numbers*

0	mann	
1	onan	<i>When counting but unn in front of a noun, causes a 2nd mutation of following feminine singular nouns: unn lyver, unn gath</i>
2	dew	<i>But diw with feminine nouns, both dew and diw cause a second mutation dew dhen, diw venyn</i>
3	tri	<i>But teyr with feminine nouns. Both tri and teyr cause a different mutation (3rd) tri thas, teyr fluvenn</i>
4	peswar	<i>But peder before feminine nouns. Neither peswar nor peder cause a mutation. peswar den, peder benyn</i>
5	pymp	 <p><i>No other number has a feminine form</i></p> <p><i>No other number causes a mutation</i></p>
6	hwegh	
7	seyth	
8	eth	
9	naw	
10	deg	

Remember all numbers in Cornish are followed by a singular noun

There follows a list of suitable books (these are a suggestion and are not compulsory)

- 1 Holyewgh an Lergh book 1 a student friendly book for 1st grade students, with good vocabulary list
 - 2 Bora Brav suitable for 1st grade students, with good vocabulary list
 - 3 Gerlyvrik a pocket sized dictionary
- Skeul an Yeth 1 is available on the Kesva web-site www.kesva.org*
- Information on these books and others may be obtained from the web-sites www.kesva.org and www.cornish-language.com*

Revision Exercise 1

- 1 *The tall man is wet*
- 2 *The short woman is pretty*
- 3 *I live in a house in Cornwall*
- 4 *You are a student*
- 5 *The blue bedroom is bitterly cold*
- 6 *This boy isn't small*
- 7 *That big house is new*
- 8 *Is this Cornish book good?*

Revision Exercise 2

- 1 *An ki yw du*
- 2 *Melyn yw ow gols.*
- 3 *Gell ha gwynn yw an gath.*
- 4 *Rudh ha gwyrddh yw an kota.*
- 5 *The butterfly is red and green*
- 6 *The car is black and red*
- 7 *This cat is white but that cat is grey.*
- 8 *My eyes are green*

Revision Exercise 3

- 1 *Unn logosenn yw loes ha du*
- 2 *Yowynk yw an dhiw vowes.*
- 3 *The man writes a letter*
- 4 *She buys the beer*
- 5 *Do you sing? Yes I sing*
- 6 *Does she write a book? No, she doesn't write a book*
- 7 *Yma ki gell dhedhi.*
- 8 *There is a dog in the river*

Revision Exercise 4

- 1 *There are no dogs in the river*
- 2 *Is there a church in the town? Yes, there is a church in the town.*
- 3 *Is the boy in the house? No the boy isn't in the house, he is in the school*
- 4 *I am in the church*
- 5 *Where are the pens? They're in the house.*
- 6 *Is Maria in the post office? No, Maria is in the school.*
- 7 *Yth esov ow skrifa lyther hir.*
- 8 *Yth eson ni ow mos dhe Aberfalaa.*

Revision Exercise 5

- 1 *I want to read*
- 2 *He wants to go to Truro*
- 3 *They can read*
- 4 *We want to buy the old house*
- 5 *Can you read the book?*
- 6 *Do you want to go to Truro?*
- 7 *Does he want to write?*
- 8 *Can she buy the car?*

Revision Exercise 6

- 1 *A allav mos dhe Londres?*
- 2 *A vynnons redya an paper?*
- 3 *A vynn'ta skrifa lyther?*
- 4 *A yll ev redya? Gyll, ev a yll redya.*
- 5 *A vynnyn prena chi nowydh? Mynnyn, ni a vynn prena chi nowydh.*
- 6 *Do they want to eat the bread? No they don't want to eat the bread.*
- 7 *Can I go to Truro now? Yes, I can go to Truro now.*
- 8 *Do you want to drink milk? No, you don't want to drink milk, you want to drink water.*