

Dyskans trydhek warn ugens (33)

An trydhegves dyskans warn ugens

Comparative and Superlative

***The following conversation is taken from 'Keskowsow Istorek ha Keskowsow' by John Parker. An keskows a syw yw kemmerys dhiworth 'Keskowsow Istorek ha Keskowsow' by John Parker*

- Perghen: Myttin da, syrre.
 Den: Myttin da.
 Perghen: A allav vy gweres dhis?
 Den: Gyllydh. Yma hwans dhymm a brena krys T.
 Perghen: Da lowr. Py par braster a vynn'ta y gavoës?
 Den: Py par braster eus genes?
 Perghen: Yma krysyow T munys, byghan, savonek, bras, brassa, bras dres eghenn, hag oli.
 Den: Dar! Oli? Pyth yw "oli"?
 Perghen: A, henn yw berrheans an ger "olifans", kehaval orth an Sowsnek "jumbo", del grysav.
 Den: Aha, my a wel. Wel, my a vynn assaya krambla yn krys T "brassa".
 Perghen: Da lowr, syrre. Py liw a bleg dhis?
 Den: Gwynn ha du, heb mar.
 Perghen: Ottomma. Hag ottena an stevell wiska yn-hons. (Wosa powes berr)
 Ogh, syrre, fatell yw? Yw ev bras lowr?
 Den: Nag yw, nys yw bras lowr. Stroth yw yn-dann ow diwgasel. Res yw dhymm assaya onan brassa hwath.
 Perghen: "Bras dres eghenn", syrre. Ottomma. (Powes arall) Aha, syrre. Yw an huni na bras lowr?
 Den: Yw. My a vynn prena an huni ma.
 Perghen: Da lowr, syrre. Meur ras.

Gerva

Yma hwans dhymm	<i>I want</i>	<i>Note 2</i>
savonek	<i>standard</i>	
bras, brassa	<i>big, bigger</i>	<i>Note 1</i>
dres eghenn	<i>exceedingly</i>	
berrheans	<i>abbreviation</i>	<i>Note 3</i>
diwgasel	<i>armpits</i>	<i>Note 4</i>
an huni na	<i>that one</i>	<i>Note 5</i>

Notennow

1 comparative and superlative adjectives

bras *big*, brassa *bigger*. Brassa is the comparative form of bras.

a) The general rule is to double the last consonant (if single) and add –a to form the superlative put an in front of the comparative. A long final vowel is shortened:

bras	brassa	an brassa	<i>big, bigger, the biggest</i>
byghan	byghanna	an byghanna	<i>small, smaller, the smallest</i>
moen	moenna	an moenna	<i>slim, slimmer, the slimmest</i>

b) Soft consonants harden:

teg	tekka	an tekka	<i>pretty, prettier, the prettiest</i>
hweg	hwekka	an hwekka	<i>sweet, sweeter, the sweetest</i>
glyb	glyppa	an glyppa	<i>wet, wetter, wettest</i>
krev	kreffa	an kreffa	<i>strong, stronger, the strongest</i>

c) If the end of the adjective has two consonants there is no doubling. This also applies to endings in –w and –y:

yowynk	yowynka	an yowynka	<i>young, younger, the youngest</i>
pell	pella	an pella	<i>far, further, the furthest</i>
tew	tewa	an tew	<i>fat, fatter, fattest</i>
sley	sleya	an sleya	<i>clever, cleverer, the cleverest</i>

d) but although the letters ‘dh’, ‘th’ and ‘gh’ are considered as single in Cornish, the awkward doubling to dhdh, thth and ghgh has been avoided by using ‘tth’ ‘tth’ and ‘ggh’:

nowydh	nowyttha ²	an nowyttha	<i>new, newer, the newest</i>
koth	kottha ²	an kottha	<i>old, older, the oldest</i>
kogh	koggha ²	an koggha	<i>red, redder, the reddest</i>
poeth	poettha ²	an poettha	<i>hot, hotter, the hottest</i>

² The pronunciation will be “nowyth-tha”, “koth-tha”, “kogh-gha” and “poth-tha”. (The vowel before the double consonant is short, -oo- shortening to -o-).

e) adjectives of more than two syllables form the comparative and superlative with *moy* and *an moyha*. This is also used where an adjective ends in a vowel:

boghosek	moy boghosek	an moyha boghosek	<i>poor, poorer, the poorest</i>
bysi	moy bysi	an moyha bysi	<i>busy, busier, the busiest</i>

f) adjectives ending in *-ow* change to *-wa* in the comparative and superlative. Adjectives ending in *-l*, *-n*, *-r* lose their last vowel:

salow	salwa	an salwa	<i>safe, safer, the safest</i>
garow	garwa	an garwa	<i>rough, rougher, the roughest</i>
hwerow	hwerwa	an hwerwa	<i>bitter, more bitter, the most bitter</i>
leven	leffna	an leffna	<i>smooth, smoother, the smoothest</i>
hager	hakkra	an hakkra	<i>ugly, uglier, the ugliest</i>

g) and here are some irregular ones:

byghan	le	an lyha	<i>little, less, the least</i>
meur	moy	an moyha	<i>much, more, the most</i>
da	gwell	an gwella	<i>good, better, the best</i>
drog	gweh	an gwehtha	<i>bad, worse, the worst</i>
ogas	nes	an nessa	<i>near, hearer, the nearest</i>

2 yma hwans dhymm *there are several ways to say I want in Cornish:*

My a vynn *I want*
 my a vynnna *I should like*
 yma hwans dhymm a *I have a desire for*
 yma hireth dhymm a *I have a longing for*

3 By adding the suffix *-he* to an adjective Cornish makes a verb.

By adding the suffix *-ans* to the verb Cornish makes a noun

berr	<i>short</i>	berrhe	<i>to shorten</i>	berrheans	<i>abbreviation</i>
trist	<i>sad</i>	tristhe	<i>to sadden</i>	tristheans	<i>sadness</i>
gwell	<i>better</i>	gwellhe	<i>to improve</i>	gwellheans	<i>improvement</i>
rudh	<i>red</i>	rudhhe	<i>to redden</i>	rudhheans	<i>redness</i>

4 dewlagas. Do you remember the ‘duals’? Parts of the body which occur in pairs have a special form of the plural when referring to parts of the body of one ‘person’, and another plural when generalising.

lagas	<i>eye</i>	lagasow	dewlagas
troes	<i>foot</i>	treys	dewdroes
frig	<i>nostril</i>	frigow	dewfrik
ufern	<i>ankle</i>	ufernnyow	dewufern
skoedh	<i>shoulder</i>	skoedhow	diwskoedh
kasel	<i>armpit</i>	kaselyow	diwgasel

5 more on this and that (demonstratives)

You will remember an gath ma *this* cat; an gath na *that* cat;
an kathes ma *these* cats; an kathes na *those* cats
In addition we have an huni ma *this* one; an huni na *that* one
an re ma *these*; an re na *those*

Exercise 1 Oberenn 1



Use the diagrams to make sentences using the comparative form of the adjective

Ensampel: an hanaf ma yw toemm mes an hanaf na yw toemma

Hanaf—poeth

Hanaf—yeyn

Botell—sygh

Botell—hweg

Kig yar—tew

Kig-yar—moen

Pasti—hweg

Pasti—hwerow

Seth—leun

Seth—gwag

Exercise 2 Oberenn 2 Translate the following into Cornish. Gwra trelyya an lavarow dhe Gernewek

1 Yowann is bigger than (es) Wella.

2 Peder is the biggest.

3 That girl is prettier than Tamsin.

4 Truro is nearer than Exeter.

5 The woman is younger than Tessa.

6 Today is windier than yesterday.

7 Exeter is bigger than Truro.

8 London is farther than Exeter.

9 King Arthur is older than King Harold

10 Brian ran faster than Charles.

11 Exeter is smaller than London.

12 It is the sunniest day of the year.

Exercise 3 Oberenn 3 *Translate into Cornish.* Gwra treylya dhe Gernewek

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| 1 London is the biggest city. | 6 Mars (Meurth) is the reddest planet |
| 2 The oldest man is the grandfather. | 7 This is the worst lesson. |
| 3 The youngest man is Davydh. | 8 That is the better way. |
| 4 The best land is Cornwall. | 9 Edith was the oldest daughter. |
| 5 England is smaller than France. | 10 Cornwall isn't the smallest Celtic country |

Exercise 4 Oberenn 4

You have received this tape from some friends.

Dydh da dhywgh hwi oll. Fatla genowgh? Splann yw genen lemmyn omma yn Statys Unys. Yth esa oberyans yn klavji gans ow gour mis-Hwevrer usi passys mes da lowr yth a pup-tra ganso lemmyn.

Mis-Me ni eth dhe Gylgh Arktek yn gorhel – splann ha marthys dres eghenn o henna, ni a welas Golowys an Kledh hag an menydh-yow rew.

Mis-Est ni a wrug nowydhhe stevell-dhybri agan chi. My a brenas moes ha peder kador nowydh ha ni a liwas an fosow, melyn, ha war-barth gans an kroglennow owr nowydh an stevell ma yw pur vryntin.

Ty a borth kov a Dhavydh neb a studhya doronieth, sur ov. Ev a dheuth gans y wreg nowydh, hi yw niver tri, Sukie hy hanow. Hi yw benyn pur deg ha yowynk. I a spenas unn seythus genen hag o onan splann. Ni eth oll a-dro Kaliforni gansa; henn o an kynsa termyn ragdha yn Statys Unys hag a-wosa i eth dhe vysytia Las Vegas.

Mis-Hedra ni eth dhe Yorkshire yn Pow Sows dhe weles ow broder ha'y deylu. Ni a wra dos dhe Vreten Veur arta wosa diw vlydhen, nessa blydhen ow broder a wra dos omma, ha nessa termyn ervirys ov dhe dhos dhe Gernow rag dha weles arta.

*Answer in **English**.* Gwra gorthybi yn Sowsnek

- 1 *Where does the speaker live?*
- 2 *What happened to her husband in February?*
- 3 *Where did the speaker and her husband go in May?*
- 4 *Name one thing they saw there?*
- 5 *Which room did they renovate in August?*
- 6 *Describe what they did to renovate the room*
- 7 *Who is Sukie?*
- 8 *What is the speaker determined to do the next time she comes to Britain?*