

Dyskans peswardhek ha dew-ugens (54)

An peswardhegves dyskans ha dew-ugens

Possessive adjectives and pronouns

**** Myrgh an Mer**

Tewdar a igoras y dhiwweus rag leverel, “Ny allav!” mes ny dheuth ger vyth yn-mes a’y anow. Nyns esa disputya gans y das. Ev a gemmeras an gist ha mos yn-mes. Da o mos yn-mes a’n chi yn ayr mygyl an gorthugher. Pandr’a ylli dhe wul? Res o kudha an gist neb le. Yth esa ow klewes hwath geryow y das-gwynn: “Gwith pub eur oll an gist ha’n Penn!” Nyns esa fordh vyth dhe wodhvos gwiryonedh an dra. Martesen nyns esa penn vyth y’n gist. Martesen nyns esa marnas penn ki po penn das. Pan o flogh y das-gwynn re lavarsa dhodho nag assaya nevra igeri an gist. An Penn yn y gist o pur feusik, mes anfeusik o an Penn heb kist po gans y gist shyndys. Y fynna kavoes neb le rag y gudha. Ena, ev a borthas kov a’n krowji gwag ryb fos an ger. Yth esa kals kala gweli y’n krowji ha Tewdar a ylli kudha an gist yn-danno.

Wosa gul hemma, ev a dhallathas kerdhes war-tu ha’n managhti rag kavoes y vamm. Yth esa benyn yowynk ow tos trohag ev. Kolonn Tewdar a dhallathas lemmel yn skav. Aswonnvos an voves a wre. Pan o flogh, ev a wre gwari gensi hag ev ow kortos y das yn-mes a’n merji. Myrgh an mer o hi, ha lemmyn ny wre hy gweles nammenowgh rag bos an merji y’n gwella rann a’n dre, pell dhiworth chioh ha krowjiow byghan an Gernowyon. Byttegyns, ev a’s gweli treweythyow dhe’n Oferenn y’n eglos managhti. Pub torn hi a heveli dhodho tekka ha hwekka es dell heveli an torn kyns. Pupprys hi a wre minhwerthin dhodho, mes ny ylli kewsel gensi rag hy bos pupprys gans hy thas ha’y mamm. Lemmyn yth esa an voves hy honan ow kerdhes trohag ev ha nyns esa denvyth gensi!

Gerva

ger vyth	<i>word at all</i>	<i>See note 3</i>
a’y anow	<i>from his mouth</i>	<i>See note 1</i>
y das-gwynn	<i>his grand father</i>	<i>See note 1</i>
ki	<i>dog</i>	<i>See note 4</i>
davas	<i>sheep</i>	<i>See note 4</i>
rag y gudha	<i>to hide it</i>	<i>See note 1 and 2</i>
kala gweli	<i>bedding straw</i>	
kudha an gist yn-danno	<i>hide the box under it</i>	<i>See note 5</i>
ny wre hy gweles	<i>he didn't see her</i>	<i>See note 1</i>
ev a’s gweli	<i>he used to see her</i>	
tekka ha hwekka	<i>prettier and sweeter</i>	<i>See note 6</i>
rag hy bos	<i>for she was</i>	<i>See note 1</i>

Notennow

1 The possessive adjectives in Cornish cause different mutations.

ow ³ my	dha ² your	y ² his	hy ³ her
agan our	agas your	aga ³ their	

2 nd mutation			3 rd mutation		
b	v	y vara			
ch	j	y ji			
d	dh	y dhavas			
g	- /w	y weli			
k	g	y gador	k	h	ow hador
m	v	y vamm			
p	b	y bluvonn	p	f	ow fluvonn
t	d	y das	t	th	ow thas

When using an auxiliary verb, the object pronouns in Cornish are the same as the possessive adjectives.

Y hwra y dhannvon

I send him/it.

Res yw dhymm dha dhannvon

I must send you.

Res yw dhe Jenifer y redya

Jenifer must read it.

Y hwrussons i aga honvedhes

They understood them.

Y fynna kavoes neb le rag y gudha

He wanted to find a place to hide it

Notice that the object pronoun goes in front of the verb, whereas in English, it follows it.

2 Rag and Dhe with the infinitive.

Both rag and dhe are used with a verb to show purpose:

Tewdar a igoras y dhiwweus dhe gewsel.

Tewdar opened his lips (in order) to speak.

Ev a dhallathas kerdhes war-tu ha'n managhti rag kavoes y vamm.

He began to walk towards the monastery (in order) to find his mother.

Rag seems to emphasise the purpose rather more than dhe so that dhe is probably more commonly used.

3 Negatives. The story contains two examples of words normally used only with ny in a negative sense:

1) Ny dheuth ger vyth yn-mes a'y anow. Not a word came out of his mouth.

Vyth can follow any noun in this way to mean "not at all," but notice that ny must come before the verb also.

Ny allav kavoes arghans vyth. I cannot find any money at all.

Nyns esa bugh vyth y'n pras. There was not a single cow in the field.

Nyns esa denvyth gensi. There was no-one with her.

In the case of denvyth (no one) and travyth (nothing) the two words are written as one.

2) Ny wre hy gweles nammenowgh. He seldom saw her.

"Often" is menowgh, but "not often," or "seldom," is nammenowgh placed after the verb with ny in front of it.

Nyns en nammenowgh. We do not often go.

Ny gews ev Kernewek nammenowgh. He seldom speaks Cornish.

4 Animals

Many animal plurals are irregular

ki	dog	keun	dogs
davas	sheep	deves	sheep
kath	cat	kathes	cats
edhen	bird	ydhyn	birds
margh	horse	mergh	horses

5 Prepositions

Like other prepositions we have met, yn-dann combines with pronouns as follows:

yn-dannov	under me	yn-dannon	under us.
yn-dannos	under you	yn-dannowgh	under you.
yn-danno	under him/it	yn-danna	under them.
yn-danni	under her/it.		

6 Comparative and superlative

Hi a heveli dhodho tekka ha hwekka She seemed fairer and sweeter to him

Tekka and hwekka are the comparative forms of teg and hweg. The final consonant is doubled (and hardened, or devoiced, if appropriate) and “a” is added. To form the superlative put “an” in front. If there are two consonants, as in yowynk there is no doubling, so we get yowynka.

teg fair	tekka fairer	an tekka the fairest.
hweg sweet	hwekka sweeter	an hwekka the sweetest.
bras big	brassa bigger	an brassa the biggest.
pell far	pella farther	an pella the farthest.

The final consonant of adjectives ending in “th” (e.g. koth) and “gh” (e.g. kogh) also double in accordance with this rule. However the doubling is slightly abbreviated to “tth” and “ggh” to avoid the cumbersome appearance of the complete doubling (“thth” and “ghgh”).

koth old	kottha older	an kottha the oldest.
kogh red	koggha redder	an koggha the reddest

The pronunciation will be “koth-tha” and “kogh-gha,” and the vowel before the double consonant will be short as indicated in the pronunciation notes.

The following adjectives in common use employ a different word to form the comparative and superlative forms.

byghan small	byghanna smaller	an byghanna the smallest.
byghan little	le less	an lyha the least
meur great, much	moy greater, more	an moyha the greatest, most.
da good	gwell better	an gwella the best.
drog bad	gweh worse	an gwettha the worst.
ogas near	nes nearer	an nessa the nearest.

Oberenn 1 Exercise 1

Treyl an lavar a syw dhe Gernewek, bydh war gans an trelyansow.
Translate the following into Cornish taking particular care with the mutations.

- | | | | |
|---|-----------------|----|---------------|
| 1 | my house | 6 | your country |
| 2 | your (s) friend | 7 | my father |
| 3 | our father | 8 | their friends |
| 4 | her friend | 9 | their books |
| 5 | your (s) glass | 10 | our car |

Oberenn 2 Exercise 2

Treyl an lavarow a syw dhe Gernewek. *Translate the following into Cornish.
(Use an auxiliary verb to form the past tense.)*

- | | | | |
|---|-------------------|----|------------------------|
| 1 | He must learn it. | 6 | I prefer to send them. |
| 2 | He lost her. | 7 | We prefer to sell it. |
| 3 | She lost him. | 8 | They found us. |
| 4 | I have found you. | 9 | He can find me. |
| 5 | We must send him. | 10 | She cannot find me. |

Oberenn 3 Exercise 3

Treyl hemma dhe Gernewek ow tevnydhya po 'dhe' po 'rag'. *Translate the following into Cornish using either dhe or rag.*

- 1 He came to see his father.
- 2 She came to see us.
- 3 We opened the window to see the trees.
- 4 Tewdar went to the monastery to find a priest.
- 5 Tewdar hid the Head in order to keep it.

Oberenn 4 Exercise 4

Treyl dhe Gernewek. *Translate into Cornish.*

- 1 There was nothing in the box.
- 2 No one could find it.
- 3 There was no cauldron in Ireland.
- 4 Tewdar did not see any woman in the street.
- 5 Tewdar's grandfather seldom went to church.
- 6 His mother could not find a priest at all.
- 7 There was no-one in the house.
- 8 The old man did not say a word.
- 9 He did not smile often.
- 10 The mayor did not have a son.

Oberenn 5 Exercise 5

Red an skrif ha gorthybi an govynnnow a syw yn Sowsnek. *Read the passage and answer the questions which follow in English.*

Gerva verr

¹sputnik, Russek Спутник hag a styr kesvyajyer (*fellow traveller*); ²loerell, *satellite*; ³res-efanvos, *space race*

Kales yw krysi bos gyllys hanterkans blydhen a-ban glewsyn a-dro dhe'n kynsa sputnik¹. An hanow russek ma a veu res dhe'n kynsa tra gwrys gans mabden dhe dhiank a'n planet ma. An loerell² ma a wrug mos a-dro dhe'n bys ma pub eth mynysenn ha peswar-ugens. An jydh o an peswora a vis-Hedra mil naw kans seytek ha dew-ugens.

An res-efanvos³ re dhallathsa yn hwir.

Unn mis a-wosa, dhe'n tressa a vis-Du 1957, Sputnik 2 a wrug doen an kynsa tremenyas byw – ki henwys Laika. Soweth an ki ma a verwis ha'n loerell ow tehweles dhe'n norvys

Yth esa marth bras ha sowdhan serrys dhe wodhonydhyon y'n Statys Unys, dres oll awos aga assays i dhe fyllel.

Hag yth esa moy dhe sywya. An Unyans Sovietek a sewenas unnweyth arta dhe'n 12ves a vis-Ebryl 1961 pan dheuth ha bos Yuri Gagarin an kynsa den dhe nija y'n efanvos.

Ha my maw byghan, yma kov dhymm, gans ow thas, a vires orth an kynsa sputnik ow tremena y'n ebron dhe nos kepar ha sterennik vyghan.

- a) *In which year was the first sputnik launched?*
- b) *What was the name of the dog in Sputnik 2 and what fate befell it?*
- c) *Why were the Americans annoyed?*
- d) *The name of the first man in space will surely be remembered. Who was he?*
- e) *With whom did the writer look at the first sputnik in the night sky?*