

# Dyskans 1.1

Ref: *Holyewgh An Lergh 1;1-6, Skeul An Yeth 1; 1*

www.learncornishlanguage.co.uk: 1.1\*1/3



## Dydh Da! – Hello!

The first thing to do in any language is to say 'hello'. In Cornish 'hello' is 'dydh da' which literally means 'good day', but you can be a bit more specific if you want to:

- |      |               |                |
|------|---------------|----------------|
| A1)  | Myttin da     | Good morning   |
| B1)  | Dohajydh da   | Good afternoon |
| CH1) | Gorthugher da | Good evening   |



**Myttin Da !!**



**Dohajydh Da**



**Gorthugher Da**

These all mean 'hello', but 'good night' means 'goodbye' as it would in English.

- |     |         |            |
|-----|---------|------------|
| D1) | Nos dha | Good night |
|-----|---------|------------|



**Nos dha**

Having got past the initial ice-breaker, it's polite to ask 'how are you?'

- |     |                |                                    |  |
|-----|----------------|------------------------------------|--|
| E1) | Fatla genes?   | How are you? (How is it with you?) | <i>When speaking to one person</i>           |
| F1) | Fatla genowgh? | How are you? (How is it with you?) | <i>When speaking to more than one person</i> |

As with many languages, Cornish makes a difference between 'you' when speaking to a single person and 'you' when speaking to more than one.

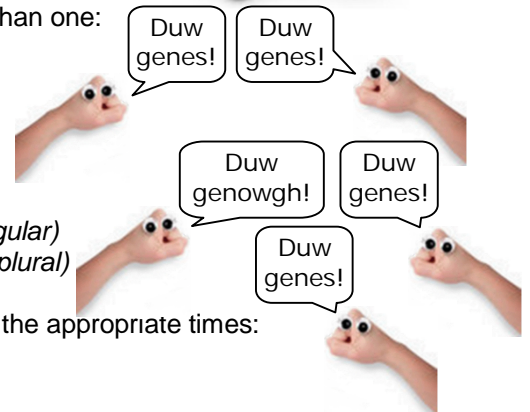
There are several ways of answering this question:

- |     |             |                       |
|-----|-------------|-----------------------|
| G1) | Yn poynt da | Very well             |
| H1) | Da lowr     | Well enough / Alright |



When it comes time to say goodbye there are two different phrases, again depending on whether you're saying it to one person or more than one:

- |     |             |         |                         |
|-----|-------------|---------|-------------------------|
| I1) | Duw genes   | Goodbye | <i>To one person</i>    |
| J1) | Duw genowgh | Goodbye | <i>To more than one</i> |



Or a bit less formally:

- |     |              |          |                                  |
|-----|--------------|----------|----------------------------------|
| K1) | Dha weles!   | See you! | <i>To one person (singular)</i>  |
| L1) | Agas gweles! | See you! | <i>To more than one (plural)</i> |

Politeness also demands an ability to say 'please' and 'thank you' at the appropriate times:

- |     |                 |          |                 |
|-----|-----------------|----------|-----------------|
| M1) | Mar pleg        | Please   |                 |
| N1) | Meur ras        | Thanks   |                 |
| O1) | Meur ras dhis   | Thankyou | <i>singular</i> |
| P1) | Meur ras dhewgh | Thankyou | <i>plural</i>   |

Here again is that difference between 'you' when referring to one person and 'you' when referring to more than one.



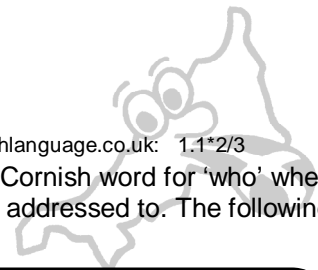
Ty



Hwi

# Who Are You?

Once all the initial politeness is over with, it's useful to know *who* you're talking to. The Cornish word for 'who' when asking a question is 'Piw.....?'. What comes after 'piw' depends on who the question is addressed to. The following 'person-phrases' can be used to identify who is being referred to.



<b>Gerva 1/1 A</b>			
<b>Ov vy</b>	I am	<b>On ni</b>	We are
<b>Os ta</b>	You are	<b>Owgh hwi</b>	You are (plural)
<b>Yw ev</b>	He is	<b>Yns i</b>	They are
<b>Yw hi</b>	She is		



These little phrases can be used to do several things:

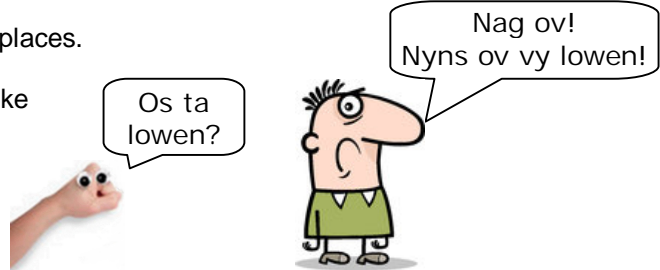
- R1) Piw **os ta?** Who are you?
- S1) Yowann **ov vy** I am John
- T1) **Os ta** lowen? Are you happy?
- U1) **Ov!** I am!
- V1) Lowen **ov vy!** I am happy!



Did you notice U1)? These little phrases are sometimes used without the second bit! Watch out for that happening in other places.

By adding two other small words 'nag' and 'nyns' we can make negative answers and questions instead:

- W1) **Yw ev** Yowann? Is he John?
- Y1) **Nag yw** No
- A2) **Nyns yw ev** Yowann He is not John



Notice what happens when the various phrases are put in different places in the sentences. If we take 'os ta' as an example, when it's placed *after* another word or phrase it makes a statement:

- B2) Margh **os ta** You are Mark

If it's placed at the beginning of a sentence it becomes a question:

- CH2) **Os ta** Margh? Are you Mark?

But if it's in negative form at the beginning of a sentence it makes a statement again:

- D2) **Nyns os ta** Margh You are not Mark

The thing to remember is that if your 'person phrase' (ov vy, os ta, etc...) starts the sentence, then you have a question. If something else starts it then you have a statement.

## Introducing Others

When introducing another person (or thing) to someone, there are two words which are commonly used.

### Ottomma

'Ottomma' means literally 'See!, here is....' and its closest translation into English would be 'This is....', but it only works this way in very specific circumstances like introducing people or things.

- E2) Ottomma Yowann This is John

The word 'ottena' means 'See!, there is....' and is used when you wish to point out someone from a distance.

- F2) Ottena Maria! There is Mary!





### Exercise 1

Translate the following short and extremely polite conversation into Cornish

John: "Hello Paul, how are you"  
 Paul: "Very well thank you, who are you?"  
 John: "I am John, this is Mary"  
 Paul: "Good morning Mary, how are you?"  
 Mary: "Well enough thanks"  
 John: "There is Mark!"  
 Paul: "He is not Mark!"  
 Mary: "Who is he?"  
 John: "Is he Peter?"  
 Paul: "He is Peter"  
 John: "Goodbye Paul"  
 Mary: "Goodbye Paul"  
 Paul: "Goodbye" (*plural*)

### How Are You?

The same sort of short phrases can be combined with descriptive words to describe yourself or other people. If we take the example of the word 'lowen' which means 'happy', we can combine this with some of the previous phrases as follows.

G2)	Os ta lowen?	Are you happy?	K2)	Os!	Yes! (You are!)
H2)	Lowen yw ev	He is happy	L2)	Nag os	No! (You are not!)
I2)	Nyns yw hi lowen	She is not happy	M2)	Nyns ov vy lowen	I am not happy
J2)	Ov vy lowen?	Am I happy?			

### Exercise 2

Use what you've learned so far and the vocabulary at the end to translate the following

Paul: "Hello John, are you awake?"  
 John: "No, I am not awake!"  
 John: "I am not awake yet, goodbye"  
 Paul: "Yes you are"  
 Paul: "You are awake, how are you?"  
 John: "I am tired thank you"  
 Mark: "Hello Paul, are you ready?"  
 Paul: "Hello Mark, I am ready"  
 Paul: "John, here is Mark!"  
 John: "Good morning Mark, how are you?"  
 Mark: "I am sober thank you!"  
 John: "Good, I am asleep, see you!."  
 Mark: "He is not asleep"  
 Paul: "He is not ready!"  
 John: "GOODBYE!" (*plural*)

Gerva 1/1 B

**Yn kosk** Asleep  
**Difun** Awake  
**Drog** Bad  
**Bras** Big  
**Medhow** Drunk  
**Da** Good  
**Lowen** Happy  
**Koth** Old  
**Parys** Ready

**Nag** Negative Particle

**Trist** Sad  
**Berr** Short  
**Byghan** Small  
**Divedhow** Sober  
**Hir** Tall  
**Tew** Thick  
**Tanow** Thin/Scarce  
**Skwith** Tired  
**Hwath** Yet  
**Yowynk** Young

**Nyns** Negative Particle

