

Possession, yw and yma; to have)

Yowann ha Jenifer

Yowann a<sup>2</sup> drig yn Truru gans y<sup>2</sup> wreg ha'y<sup>2</sup> deylu. Hanow y<sup>2</sup> wreg yw Jenifer. Yma dhedha mab, Peder y hanow, ha myrgh, Lowena hy hanow. Lowena yw pymthek bloedh, ha Peder yw dewdhek bloedh. Yma aga skol yn Truru. Yowann yw gwerther lyvrow. Yma dhodho gwerthji y'n<sup>2</sup> dre. Ev a<sup>2</sup> werth lyvrow kernewek ha keltek. Jenifer yw skrifennyades. Yma soedhva Jenifer y'n<sup>2</sup> dre ogas dhe<sup>2</sup> werthji Yowann. Hi a ober rag kowethas-surheans. Teylu pur lowen yns i !

Gerva

ha	= and	dhodho	= with him
Truru	= Truro	yma dhodho	= he has
gwreg (f.)	= wife	gwerthji	= shop
teylu	= family	y'n	= in the
hanow	= name	ev a <sup>2</sup> werth	= he sells
yma (see grammar)	= is, there is	lyvrow	= books
dhedha	= with them	skrifennyades	= secretary (f.)
yma dhedha	= they have	dhedhi	= with her
mab	= son	yma dhedhi	= she has
myrgh (f.)	= daughter	soedhva (f)	= office
hy <sup>3</sup>	= her	ogas dhe <sup>2</sup>	= near
pymthek	= fifteen	hi a ober	= she works
bloedh	= years old	rag	= for
dewdhek	= twelve	kowethas-surheans	= insurance company
aga <sup>3</sup>	= their	pur <sup>2</sup>	= very
skol (f)=	school	lowen	= happy
gwerther-lyvrow	= book-seller	yns i	= they are

Govynnadow

All the answers except 3 and 4 can be copied from the passage. 3 and 4 should be modelled on 2.

- |   |                                    |
|---|------------------------------------|
| 1) Ple trig Yowann?                     | 5) Ple'ma (where is) aga skol ?    |
| 2) Pyth yw hanow y <sup>2</sup> wreg ?  | 6) Pyth yw Yowann ?                |
| 3) Pyth yw hanow y <sup>2</sup> vab ?   | 7) Pandr'a <sup>2</sup> werth ev ? |
| 4) Pyth yw hanow y <sup>2</sup> vyrgh ? | 8) Pyth yw Jenifer ?               |
|   | 9) Ple'ma hy soedhva ?             |

Gramasek.

Possession This is usually shown in English by an apostrophe s,

e.g. his wife's name, Jenifer's office, Yowann's shop; though sometimes the word "of" is used,

e.g. a seller of books, the Queen of England.

This second English method is the best guide to the Cornish way of showing possession. The thing possessed is placed before the person/thing that possesses it, but there is no word for "of".

e.g. hanow y<sup>2</sup> wreg = his wife's name (name (of) his wife)

soedhva Jenifer = Jenifer’s office (office Jenifer)  
gwerthji Yowann = Yowann’s shop (shop Yowann)

Exercise 1 Translate the following into Cornish:

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|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 1) Yowann’s shop      | 6) Yann’s friend    |
| 2) Yowann’s wife      | 7) Lowena’s name    |
| 3) Jenifer’s son      | 8) Lowena’s letters |
| 4) Jenifer’s daughter | 9) Peder’s office   |
| 5) Yann’s books       | 10) Peder’s town    |

yw and yma *Yw* means ‘is’. *Yma* means ‘is’ or ‘there is’. *Yma* must be used to show where a thing/person is. *Yw* shows who, what, or how it is. *Yma* usually starts the sentence.

e.g. *Yma aga skol yn Truro.* = There is their school in Truro;  
(or, in more natural English), Their school is in Truro  
*Yma soedhva Jenifer y’n<sup>2</sup> dre.* = There is Jenifer’s office in the town.  
(Jenifer’s office is in the town.)

Exercise 2 Translate the following into Cornish:

- |                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| 1) Yowann is in Cornwall.   | 6) Truro is in Cornwall.                |
| 2) Yann is in Brittany.     | 7) There is a Cornishman in the school. |
| 3) Jenifer is in Truro      | 8) There is a school in Truro           |
| 4) Lowena is in the school. | 9) Rennes is in Brittany.               |
| 5) Peder is in the shop.    | 10) Cornwall is in Britain.             |

‘To have’ A common way of expressing ‘have’ in Cornish is to use *yma* followed by *dhe*<sup>2</sup> followed by the English subject, i.e. the person/thing that has something.

e.g. *Yma gwreg dhe Yowann.* = Yowann has a wife (There is a wife to Y.)  
*Yma soedhva dhe Jenifer* = Jenifer has an office (There is an office to J.)

Exercise 3 Translate the following into Cornish

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|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1) Yowann has a wife.       | 6) The secretary has some books. |
| 2) Jenifer has an office.   | 7) Yowann has a shop.            |
| 3) Yann has (some) letters. | 8) Yann has a friend.            |
| 4) Peder has a school.      | 9) Yowann has a pen-friend.      |
| 5) Lowena has a mother.     | 10) Jenifer has a son.           |

The word ‘some’ is omitted in Cornish

*dhe* combines with the words for ‘he’, ‘she’ and ‘they’ to form:

dhodho = to him  
dhedhi = to her  
dhedha = to them

so that ‘he has’ becomes *yma dhodho*, ‘she has’ becomes *yma dhedhi*,  
‘they have’ becomes *yma dhedha*,

e.g. he has a daughter = *yma myrgh dhodho*.

Exercise 4 Translate the following into Cornish.

- |                            |                               |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1) He has a daughter.      | 4) He has a shop.             |
| 2) She has a friend.       | 5) She has an office.         |
| 3) They have (some) books. | 6) They have a correspondent. |