

(Present and Imperfect Tenses of “mynnes.” “Drog yw,” “Gwell yw,” “Da yw.”)

“Megi difennys”

An tri<sup>3</sup> har a<sup>2</sup> wrug mires orth an den esa ow megi, meur aga marth. Yth esa an arwoedh “Megi difennys” yn lytherennow bras a-dherag dewlagas an den, mes ev a besyas megi yn despit dhedhi.

Erwan a<sup>2</sup> vynna krodhvolas, mes ena y<sup>5</sup> hwelas bos lorgh gwynn y'n roes-fardellow a-ugh an den, ha gwedrow tewl a-dherag y<sup>2</sup> dhewlagas. Y konvedhas. “Dall yw ev!” y hwystras yn skovarn René, mes an den a<sup>2</sup> glywas.

“Dhe<sup>2</sup> wir, dall ov vy,” yn-medh ev. “Eus neppyth kamm?”

“Drog yw genev,” a<sup>2</sup> worthybis Erwan. “Nag eus, nyns eus travydh kamm.” Mes René a<sup>2</sup> gewsis kekeffrys,

“Eus, a<sup>2</sup> vester. Kocha heb megi yw hemma. Yma arwoedh<sup>2</sup> vras, “Megi difennys” war an fenester.”

“Dar! Drog yw genev,” yn-medh an den. “Ny<sup>2</sup> welav an arwoedh. Ny<sup>2</sup> vynnnav agas annia. Ow<sup>2</sup> har a<sup>2</sup> dheuth genev dhe'n tren ny<sup>2</sup> dherivis orthiv bos megi difennys y'n kocha ma.” hag ev a<sup>2</sup> wrug difeudhi an sigaret.

“Meur ras dhis, a<sup>2</sup> vester,” yn-medh an tri studhyer.

Gerva.

esa	= was/were.	dall	= blind.
meur aga marth		hwystra	= to whisper.
= to their great surprise.		klywes	= to hear.
lytherenn (f) (p) lytherennow		skovarn (f) (p) diwskovarn	= ears.
= letter of alphabet.		neppyth	= something.
dewlagas	= eyes.	kamm	= wrong.
(lagas	= eye)	drog yw genev	= I am sorry.
pesya	= to continue.	nyns eus travydh	= there is nothing.
megi	= to smoke.	heb	= without.
yn despit dhe <sup>2</sup>	= in spite of a	fenester (f) (p) fenestri	= window
vynna	= wanted		
krodhvolas	= to complain.	mynnes (see “gramasek.”)	
lorgh (p) lorghow		a <sup>2</sup> dheuth	= came.
= (walking) stick.		(dos	= to come)
gwynn	= white.	annia	= to annoy.
a-ugh	= above.	derivas orth	= to inform.
gwedrow	= glasses.	y'n kocha ma	= in this carriage.
(gweder	= glass)	difeudhi	= to put out.
tewl	= dark.		

Notennow.

An den esa ow megi. “The man who was smoking.” The particle “a<sup>2</sup>” is normally used for “who” in this kind of sentence, but is omitted before any part of the verb “bos” which begins with a vowel, in this case “esa”.

dewlagas. “eyes.” Parts of the body which come in pairs are normally singular, but prefixed with the appropriate form of “dew<sup>2</sup>”. Similarly we have “diwskovarn, “ “ears.”

Y<sup>5</sup> hwelas bos lorgh gwynn. “He saw that there was a white stick.”  
ny<sup>2</sup> dherivis orthiv bos megi difennys. “did not tell me that smoking was forbidden.”

These two examples show how sentences of the type “He said that...” “He saw that...” are expressed. They are called Indirect Statements and will be dealt with later.

Ow<sup>3</sup> har a<sup>2</sup> dheuth genev. “My friend who came with me.” As mentioned in the previous note, the particle “a<sup>2</sup>” can sometimes be used to mean “who” or “which.”

Y’n kocha ma. “In the carriage here.” This is the Cornish way of saying “in this carriage.” Similarly we could have “Y’n kocha na,” “In the carriage there” = “In that carriage.” This is the normal way of expressing “this” and “that” when these words are used as adjectives.

#### Govynnadow.

- 1) Piw esa ow megí?
- 2) Pandr’a<sup>2</sup> welas Erwan?
- 3) Pleth esa an lorgh gwynn?
- 4) Prag na<sup>2</sup> welas an den an arwoedh<sup>2</sup> vras? {He was = ova.}
- 5) Pandr’a<sup>2</sup> wrug René?
- 6) Pandr’a leveris an den?
- 7) Prag na<sup>2</sup> wodhya an den bos megí difennys?
- 8) Piw a leveris “Meur ras, a<sup>2</sup> vester.”?
- 9) Pyth yw an henwyn a<sup>2</sup> dhew a’n studhyoryon?
- 10) Pygemmys tus esa y’n kocha?

#### Gramasek.

Mynnes. to wish/will/be willing/intend/want. This important verb is always followed by a verb-noun, not a noun. Here is the present tense in the basic unmutated form:

mynnav	= I will etc.
mynnydh	= You will etc.
mynn	= He/She will etc.
mynnyn	= We will etc.
mynnowgh	= You will etc.
mynnons	= They will etc.

e.g. Y<sup>5</sup> fynnav mos tre. = I want to go home  
Ny<sup>2</sup> vynn ev mos genes. = He does not intend to go with you.

Exercise 1. Using verbal sentences as in the examples, with correct mutations of the verb, translate the following sentences into Cornish. The exercise illustrates possible English renderings of the verb.

- 1) We want to see the University.
- 2) He wishes to go to Truro
- 3) I will not smoke.
- 4) She wants to learn Cornish.
- 5) They do not intend to buy the book.
- 6) Do you want (A<sup>2</sup> vynnydh) to go?
- 7) No, I do not want to go.
- 8) Will you work with me?
- 9) Yes, I will work with you.
- 10) Yann wants to go home.

Mynnes : Imperfect Tense.

mynnen	= I was willing/was intending/used to want etc.
mynnes	= You were willing etc.
mynna	= He/She was willing etc.
mynnen	= We were willing etc.
mynnewgh	= You were willing etc.
mynnens	= They were willing etc.

The Imperfect Tense shows something that was going on continuously or habitually in the past.

e.g. Dre<sup>2</sup> bymp blydhen y<sup>5</sup> fynnen dyski Kernewek =  
For five years I was wanting to learn Cornish.  
Y<sup>5</sup> fynna ev mos dhe<sup>2</sup> Gernow. =  
He used to want to go to Cornwall.

In fact “wanted” is probably better English in both these cases, but the fact that it is possible to use “was wanting” and “used to want” indicates that the imperfect is appropriate in Cornish .

Exercise 2. Translate the following into Cornish using the imperfect tense of “mynnes” in verbal sentences, as in the examples.

- 1) They were willing to travel in the train.
- 2) We wanted to complain.
- 3) She used to want to rest all the time.
- 4) I would not drink coffee.
- 5) Yowann wanted to drink beer.
- 6) You wanted to eat an apple.
- 7) He did not intend to drink wine.
- 8) I would go every day (pub dydh)
- 9) Anjela wanted to drive (lywyas) her 2 C.V.
- 10) The children would not go to school.

“Drog yw genev.” This translates literally as “It is bad with me” but actually means “I am sorry.” “Drog yw gans...” can also be used with a noun in this sense:

e.g. Drog yw gans Yowann = John is sorry.

or with a personal pronoun contraction:

e.g. Drog yw gensi mos dhe<sup>2</sup> ves. = She is sorry to go away.

Exercise 3. Translate the following into Cornish.

- 1) We are sorry to go.
- 2) Anjela and Yann are sorry.
- 3) I am sorry to see that.
- 4) Yowann is sorry to receive the letter.
- 5) The students are sorry to see the blind men.

- 6) You are sorry to lose the book.
- 7) He is sorry to go.
- 8) The fisherman is sorry to lose his fish.
- 9) His wife is sorry also.
- 10) They are sorry to go.

“Da yw genev” = “I am glad”; “Gwell yw genev” = “I prefer.”

These two idioms are used in exactly the same way:

- e.g. Da yw genev dha<sup>2</sup> weles. = I am glad to see you.  
Gwell yw gans Lowena gortos y'n chi. =  
Lowena prefers to stay in the house.

Exercise 4. Translate the following into Cornish.

- 1) We are glad to come home.
- 2) Yann prefers to go fishing.
- 3) She prefers to read.
- 4) They like learning Cornish.
- 5) You like going to Cornwall.
- 6) The children like to work.
- 7) I prefer watching television.
- 8) He likes driving his car.
- 9) They prefer going to the café.
- 10) You like buying books.

(The Cornish verb-noun is used to translate English verbal forms ending in “-ing”

- e.g. Da yw gans Yann mos dhe<sup>2</sup> Gernow = Yann likes going to Cornwall

Skrif.

Write about the rest of the train journey and what happened when the three students and the blind man reached Rennes.