



University
of Exeter



Evening language programme 2025/26

Course title: Introduction to Cornish Part I – online

Course descriptor/objectives

The aim of this course is to bring together a wide variety of people, who are interested in learning Cornish, and to gain an understanding about the culture of Cornish-speakers. Participants will be introduced to the words, sounds, sentences, and meanings of the target language that will lead to an increased awareness of the idioms and nuances of spoken and written Cornish.

The course offers an introduction to the basics of Cornish for communication purposes. Therefore, by the end of the course (Part I and II) participants will be able to:

1. Understand very simple messages, for example notices, leaflets and place names, etc.
2. Understand simple phrases about themselves or people they know.
3. Conduct very short dialogues in a range of everyday situations and talk about themselves and people they know
4. Write very short simple notes and fill in registration forms with personal details

Participants will develop some basic reading, listening, speaking and writing skills through a series of task-oriented sessions and will be provided with informal formative feedback during contact hours. In

seminars, participants will have to engage in practical exercises and group interaction, in order to develop relevant language-specific learning strategies. The role of the instructor is to facilitate this process, provide useful tools and encourage participants to become independent learners and basic users of the language, too.

Language-specific information:

Derived from the Celtic language family, Cornish is one of the ancient languages of the British Isles.

It is widely believed the language became extinct as a first language in Cornwall in the late 18th century, although there is evidence of continued use after this date.

The Cornish language plays an important part in preserving Cornish heritage and culture. As of 2022, Cornwall Council told the BBC that there were over 4000 children learning the language for free in schools. This effort on the part of Cornwall is not just an attempt to revive the language, but the cultural identity that goes with it.

Prerequisite:

This non-credit bearing weekly course is intended for complete beginners who wish to explore Cornish for the first time.

Technical requirements:

-PC, laptop or tablet with camera and microphone

-Stable internet connection

Delivery will be via Zoom

<https://zoom.us/download>

Once the course is confirmed, your teacher will send you an invitation for the first online session. You can expect to receive this invitation one day before the first session.

Coursebook and/or learning resources:

For reference only: Polin Prys: Bora Brav Book 1

Worksheets, materials and resources provided in class