



University
of Exeter



Evening language programme 2024/25

Course title: Phonetics and Phonology of Present-Day Cornish language – online

Course descriptor/objectives

The aim of this course is to offer an introduction to the phonetics and phonology of the Present-Day Cornish language.

Participants are introduced to

1. How speech sounds are produced,
2. How speech sounds are transcribed using the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA),
3. How the speech sounds of Cornish form a system,
4. How Cornish speech sounds combine to form sequences,
5. Rhythm and stress,
6. Intonation: how the voice rises and falls over longer stretches of speech.

Participants will develop basic skills through a series of talks, exercises and discussions.

Phonetics is the study of how speech sounds are produced and their acoustic properties. The International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) is an alphabetic system of phonetic notation, used to represent speech sounds. It can be used to represent the sounds of any language. Present-Day Cornish phonology is the study of the sound system of Cornish as it is spoken today.

This course does not prescribe a particular Cornish pronunciation. Rather it adopts a descriptive

approach that encompasses the variation found in the Present-Day Cornish language community.

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:

No previous knowledge of phonetics and phonology is required.

The course will be particularly useful for those who wish to gain an understanding of the pronunciation of the entire Present-Day Cornish language community with all its variation.

Technical requirements:

-PC, laptop or tablet with camera and microphone

-Stable internet connection

Delivery will be via Zoom or Teams

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:

Worksheets, materials and resources provided in class