A Primer of Colloquial Cornish

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An introduction to Colloquial Cornish (TOC)

Contrary to the motivations prevalent in the scholarship of much of Modern Cornish, Colloquial Cornish is not, in fact, intended to be a reinterpretation of the textual attestations of many periods of the Cornish language. Colloquial Cornish is a mask, and can be considered something of an extention to the varieties and dialects currently in existence. As a result, it is in fact the only variety of Cornish currently in existence not bound by its textual attestations, nor bound to a particular orthography. It is a set of grammar and and processes

which can be applied to any dialect or standard which invariably results in either the simplification of standardised grammar, or the focus on already-present colloquialised aspects of grammar present within certain standards. As such, every present dialect, whether standard or not, can be made Colloquial, and Colloquial is as non-specific a term as is demanded by the sheer variety of the Cornish language.

It is a necessity, to select an orthography for the purposes of compiling this primer. I will hereafter use Standard Written form to detail Collquial Cornish, and to provide an example of how a standard can be adapted in a colloquial fashion. It is of course worth mentioning, though, that users are not obliged to use SWF as the basis for their Colloquial writing or speech. In reading this primer and gaining a full understanding of the differences of Colloquial Cornish, any written form or spoken idiolect may be adapted thereto. I personally use an adapted form of Kernewek Kemmyn, which I will write out and explain in full at the end of this primer.

The aim of this primer and the features contained herein is the introduction of features which allow for more natural, divergent, expressive and concise speech, which is not bound by phonology or text, but rather on the natural development of the speech community. It also serves as a source to provide the speaking community with the means to pick and choose means with which they can vary their own speech, even beyond the limits of what is discussed in this primer! As a result, please feel free, as readers and proponents of a living, breathing language, the most important message is to define the manner of your own speech yourselves; feel free to adopt or ignore whichever parts of this primer appeal to you, and by all means feels free to experiment with the features contained herein.

I have separated this primer into multiple sections for ease of navigation. The first, **section A**, is concerned with presenting features which already exist in colloquial speech, as well as presenting minor variations on such features; **section B** presents radically new vocabulary and grammar thaty may not be present within the language already, though a posteriori features are prioritised; **section C** is devoted to discussions of orthography.

Section A: Descriptions; close experimentation with features existent in colloquial form (TOC)

§A.1 Consonant mutations (TOC)

§A.1.1 Table of mutations (TOC)

1: Unmutated[1]	2: Soft[1]	3: Breathed[1]	4: Hard[1]	5: Mixed[1]
b-	v-	—	p-	v-; f- only in isolation
ch-	j-	—	—	—
d-	dh-	—	t-	t-
ga-	Ø	—	ka-	Ø-; ha- only in isolation
ge-	Ø	—	ke-	Ø-; he- only in isolation
gi-	Ø	—	ki-	Ø-; hi- only in isolation
gy-	Ø	—	ky-	Ø-; hy- only in isolation
go-	wo-	—	ko-	wo-; ho- only in isolation
gu-	wu-	—	ku-	wu-; hu- only in isolation
gro-	wro-	—	kro-	wro-
gru-	wru-	—	kru-	wru-
k-	g-	h-	—	—
m-	v-	—	—	v-; f- only in isolation
p-	b-	f-	—	—
t-	d-	th-	—	—
f-[2]	*v-*	—	—	—
s-[2]	*s-*	—	—	—

§A.1.2 Notes on consonant mutation (TOC)

1. Alternative, more scientific, names exist for each mutation; the soft may be called "lenition"; the breathed may be called "aspiration" or "spirantisation"; the hard may be called "provection".
2. The final two entries, *f-* and *s-*, are entered in italics because their mutation is optional. This is found in the specification for Kernowak Standard, and so has been appropriated

for use in Colloquial Cornish as well. It was defined in that standard as being optional in colloquial registers, so its inclusion here is appropriate.

3. The mutations for the radicals *go-* and *gu-* are listed as *wo-* and *wu-* as is present in the vast majority of the spoken language, similarly to the presentation of the soft mutations of the radicals *gro-* and *gru-*. However, there are language varieties present in which the mutations of the latter, namely *wro-* and *wru-* are presented without the initial *w-*. So, to mimic this, and to extend the pattern initiated by *g-* preceding unrounded non-back vowels, some speakers may prefer to present the soft mutation of *g-* overall, regardless of the following letter, as simply Ø, or the absence of any letter; that is, the complete deletion of the initial *g-* without replacing it with anything else.

4. Point **3.** may extend to the isolated forms in mixed (5th) mutation of *g-*. Separate forms are given for this mutation because of the different functions which this mutation carries out. The desire for simplification has led to the mixed mutation being engineered to mimic lenition in most circumstances, such as after particles which demand the mixed mutation. In isolation, however, it is preferred *ga-*, *ge-*, *gi-* and *gy-* have those forms which set them apart quite distinctly from the second mutation, given the important grammatical implications which may be present if the two were to be confused. The forms of rounded back vowels preceded by *gr-* may either be preceded in mutation by *hr-* (to mimic the pattern of mixed mutation up until that point) or *wr-* (for a more euphonic pronunciation.)

5. Because there is a lack of mutation present for many letters in the mixed mutation, and because of the importance of this mutation grammatically, some speakers may prefer to engineer further mutations in the mixed; a recommendation might be to apply aspirate mutation wherever it is possible (i.e. to *k-*, *p-* and *t-*) and soft mutation otherwise (i.e. to *ch-* and optionally *f-* and *s-*,) specifically to provide as much variety as possible to disambiguate this mutation from lenition, or even soft mutation across the board. Feel free, as speakers, to explore the possibilities here, and create whatever feels euphonic and distinctive enough for you!

§A.1.3 Caveat on consonant mutations (TOC)

It is important to mention that, while mutations are grammatically prescribed in Cornish, and are important to its grammar, some speakers may prefer to vary the precise mutations which they use in certain circumstances. Particularly with such complex and erratic mutations as the mixed, however, perhaps there will be speakers who might prefer to substitute this either with the simpler interpretation of mixed mutation outlined in the notes above, or perhaps even with the soft mutation! The choice is, as has been said, very much yours.

§A.2 Pronouns (TOC)

The system of pronouns has been changed quite radically, mainly to conform to the phenomenon of particle-dropping, which will be discussed in greater detail later. The result of this, in this primer, is that there is a new set of pronouns created. In addition, this primer makes use of the neologism *hynn* and terms related thereto, as the newly coined gender-neutral 3rd person singular pronoun.

§A.2.1 Personal independent pronouns (TOC)

Person and number	Pronoun
1st singular	my
2nd singular	ty
3rd masculine singular	ev
3rd feminine singular	hi
3rd neutral singular	hynn
1st plural	ni
2nd plural	hwi
3rd plural	i

These are the forms which are used independently of verbs or prepositions.

§A.2.1.1 Notes on independent pronouns (TOC)

1. **My** and **ty** both can be respelt with final -*e*, as **me** and **te**.
2. **Ty** can be respelt and pronounced with *ch-* in place of *t-*.
3. **Ev** can, and very commonly will, drop its final -*v*.
4. **Hynn** can be spelt with only a single final -*n*, as **hyn**.
5. **I** can be rewritten as the result of reanalysis present in Late dialects, as **anji**, **ansi**, **ji**, **si**, or many variants thereof.

§A.2.2 Personal dependent pronouns (TOC)

Person and number	Pronoun
1st singular	vy
2nd singular	jy
3rd masculine singular	e(v)
3rd feminine singular	hi
3rd neutral singular	hynn
1st plural	ni
2nd plural	hwi
3rd plural	i

These are the forms which are used to indicate pronouns as objects, or to be used with verbs and prepositions.

§A.2.2.1 Notes on dependent pronouns (TOC)

1. As with their independent variants, **vy** and **jy** can be respelt with final -*e*, as **ve** and **je**.
2. **Vy** has a major variant **ma**
3. **Jy** has a major variant **sy**, which can be subject to rule **1.**, and therefore can be respelt as **se**.
4. The rest of these pronouns are subject to the same rules as their independent counterparts.

§A.2.3 Verbal dependent pronouns (TOC)

Person and number	Pronoun
1st singular	ma^2
2nd singular	ta^2
3rd masculine singular	va^2
3rd feminine singular	hi^2
3rd neutral singular	$hynn^2$

Person and number	Pronoun
1st plural	ni^2
2nd plural	hwi^2
3rd plural	i^2

This is the set of pronouns which was mentioned in the introduction to this section. Although most of these are the same as their independent/dependent counterparts, the most divergent ones explicitly incorporate the verbal particle **a^2**. That particle is otherwise implied in every other pronoun, because the rest all implicitly cause lenition as though their corresponding **a^2** particle were included with them.

§A.2.3.1 Notes on verbal dependent pronouns (TOC)

This set of pronouns is the newest introduction to the language, and the forms **ma^2**, **ta^2** and **va^2** are a reflection of the pronunciation of these particles in quick colloquial speech. As a result, they somewhat reflect the practice of idiolect, and so can be subject to change based on personal preference. The most common variation may simply be to revert these pronouns to their independent forms, while maintaining the necessary mutation, giving **my^2**, **ty^2** and **e(v)^2**.

Because of these pronouns having subsumed the particle **a^2**, they can *only* be used prior to conjugated verbs in the 3rd person singular in the appropriate tense, as is demanded by the combination (which this pronoun set effectively replaces) of [personal pronoun] + **a^2** in the literary language.

Also as a result of subsuming the particle **a^2**, most of these particles can be combined with infixed pronouns to indicate the direct object of the verb in question.

§A.2.4 Possessive adjectives (TOC)

Person and number	Pronoun
1st singular	ow^3
2nd singular	dha^2
3rd masculine singular	y^2

Person and number	Pronoun
3rd feminine singular	hy^3
3rd neutral singular	ho^2
1st plural	agan
2nd plural	agas
3rd plural	aga^3

This set of pronouns is the means of describing possession of an item, such as "my", "your", etc.

§A.2.4.1 Notes on possessive adjectives (TOC)

Possessive adjectives are also subject to considerable variation.

1. **Ow^3** may be reduced to **o^3** or **a^3**. These may be written with or without a trailing apostrophe after the adjectives, to indicate their status as something which is reduced.
2. Alternatively, **ow^3** has a major variation **ma^3**.
3. Finally, **ow^3** may reduce to **m'** before words beginning with a vowel.
4. **Dha^2** may reduce to **da^2**, and even further to **d'** before words beginning with a vowel.
5. **Y^2** and **hy^3** may lower their -*y* vowels to -*e*.
6. **Y^2** and **hy^3** may both reduce to simply **y^2/y^3**; this may also be subject to rule **5.** which may render each adjective instead as **e^2/e^3**.
7. **Agan**, **agas** and **aga^3** may all drop their initial *a*-, giving **gan**—**gas**—**ga^3**.

§A.2.4.2 Usage of possessive adjectives (TOC)

There is also in fact some variation on how, and even whether, possessive adjectives are used within the language. This can be described across several stages, from most standard/formal to most divergent/informal:

1. The full form and mutation are used. There may optionally be a reduplicated personal dependent pronoun after the noun or verbnoun in question.
2. The full form is used, but without the relevant mutation. There may optionally be a reduplicated personal dependent pronoun after the noun or verbnoun in question.
3. No possessive adjective is used, but the relevant mutation is applied to the noun and personal dependent pronoun compulsorily placed after the noun.

4. Finally, most informally, no possessive adjective is used, no mutation is applied to the noun, and the personal dependent pronoun is compulsorily placed after the noun.

§A.2.5 Infixed direct and possessive pronouns (TOC)

§A.2.5.1 Infixed direct pronouns (TOC)

This is the pronoun set which is used to indicate the direct object of a verb.

Person and number	Pronoun
1st singular	'm
2nd singular	'th[5]
3rd masculine singular	'n
3rd feminine singular	's
3rd neutral singular	'gh
1st plural	'gan
2nd plural	'gas
3rd plural	's

These are fairly straightforward, and remain the same as in the standard language for the most part. **'gan** and **'gas** may vary to **'n** and **'s**, though this might cause confusion with other forms. In such cases, it might be good practice to insert the relevant direct dependent pronoun after the verb to disambiguate the infixed form.

§A.2.5.2 Infixed possessive pronouns (TOC)

This is the pronoun set which is used to contract a possessive adjective to attach it to a particle or verbal dependent pronoun.

Person and number	Pronoun
1st singular	'm[(3)]
2nd singular	'th[5]

Person and number	Pronoun
3rd masculine singular	'y[2]
3rd feminine singular	'y[3]
3rd neutral singular	'gh[(2/4)]
1st plural	'gan
2nd plural	'gas
3rd plural	'ga[3]

These forms are almost the same as the direct pronouns, apart from where most of the 3rd person forms become more representative of their respective possessive adjectives. The two forms **'m** and **'gh** with mutations in brackets indicate that mutation is completely optional after these.

§A.3 Prepositions (TOC)

Prepositions are used in four various levels of formality. The basis of prepositions in the colloquial language is the concept of *analytic* prepositions. These are forms of the prepositions which are reduced from the way in which they are formed in the literary language. This usually involves some pronunciation-based alterations of the pronunciations of these prepositions within the literary language in colloquial speech. These are to be presented as part of the standard practice here, though "standard practice" as a whole outlines a large system of variation encompassing different registers of speech. These are, in order of most to least formal, using *gans* as an example:

1. The full conjugated preposition that is present in the literary language (e.g. *genev*)
2. A full "analytic preposition" (e.g. *gena vy*)
3. A reduced "analytic preposition" (e.g. *gen vy*)
4. A completely unconjugated preposition (e.g. *gan vy*)

The most common prepositions will be presented below with their respective conjugations, and the list above will be used as the basis for the system of classification below. Where some prepositions only have three forms, there is no distinction between the full and reduced analytic preposition. Where some prepositions only have two forms, there is no

analytic pronoun at all.

Analytic prepositions are **only used with personal pronoun subjects**.

§A.3.1 Common preposition endings (TOC)

Person	Preposition
1sg	-v (-ov / -iv / -av) / -am
2sg	-s (-os / -is / -as)
3sg masculine	-o
3sg feminine	-i
3sg neutral	-m (-om)
1pl	-n (-yn / -an)
2pl	-wgh (-owgh)
3pl	-a / -ans

The figures in brackets indicate particularly common endings within the paradigm of certain conjugations. The following major variations can occur:

1. **-v** in first person conjugation endings can often disappear, to leave only a trailing vowel at the end of a preposition. Where this might cause confusion, reduplicate the direct dependent pronoun after the preposition
2. **-am** is the alternative first-person ending, and can be considered slightly more colloquial than **-v**
3. **-owgh** can reduce to simply **-ow**, with or without a trailing apostrophe at the end (as **-ow'**) to indicate elision of the full ending
4. **-ans** is the form to be preferred when there is no reduplicated pronoun after the preposition

The lists below will detail prepositions that can be conjugated.

§A.3.2 a²

Person	Preposition
1sg	ahanav/ahanam; ahana vy; ana vy; a vy

Person	Preposition
2sg	ahanas; ahana jy/sy; ana jy/sy; a jy/sy
3sg masculine	anodho; nodho (v)e; ana (v)e; a (v)e
3sg feminine	anedhi; nedhi hi; ana hi; a hi
3sg neutral	anodhom; nodho hynn; ana hynn; a hynn
1pl	ahanan; ahana ni; ana ni; a ni
2pl	ahanow(gh); ahana hwi; ana hwi; a hwi
3pl	anedha(ns); nedha i/nedhans; ana i; a i

§A.3.3 dann[2]

The literary form of this preposition is **yn-dann**.

Person	Preposition
1sg	dannov/dannam; danna vy; dann vy
2sg	dannos; danna jy/sy; dann jy/sy
3sg masculine	danno; danna (v)e; dann e(v)
3sg feminine	danni; danna hi; dann hi
3sg neutral	dannom; danna hynn; dann hynn
1pl	dannon; danna ni; dann ni
2pl	dannow(gh); danna hwi; dann hwi
3pl	danna(ns); danna i; dann i

§A.3.4 dhe[2]

Person	Preposition
1sg	dhymm; dhe vy
2sg	dhis; dhe jy

Person	Preposition
3sg masculine	dhodho; dhe (v)e
3sg feminine	dhedhi; dhe hi
3sg neutral	dhodhom; dhe hynn
1pl	dhyn; dhe ni
2pl	dhyw(gh); dhe hwi
3pl	dhedha(ns); dhe i

§A.3.5 dre[2]

Person	Preposition
1sg	dredhov/dredham; dredha vy; dre vy
2sg	dredhos; dredha jy/sy; dre jy/sy
3sg masculine	dredho; dredha (v)e; dre (v)e
3sg feminine	dredhi; dredha hi; dre hi
3sg neutral	dredhom; dredha hynn; dre hynn
1pl	dredhon; dredha ni; dre ni
2pl	dredhow(gh); dredha hwi; dre hwi
3pl	dredha(ns); dredha i; der i

§A.3.6 dres

Person	Preposition
1sg	drestov/drestam; dresta vy; dres vy
2sg	drestos; dresta jy/sy; dres jy/sy
3sg masculine	dresto; dresta (v)e; dres ev
3sg feminine	dresti; dresta hi; dres hi

Person	Preposition
3sg neutral	drestom; dresta hynn; dres hynn
1pl	dreston; dresta ni; dres ni
2pl	drestow(gh); dresta hwi; dres hwi
3pl	dresta(ns); dresta i; dres i

§A.3.7 gan

The literary form of this preposition is **gans**.

Person	Preposition
1sg	genev/genam; gena vy; gen vy; gan vy
2sg	genes; gena jy/sy; gen jy/sy; gan jy/sy
3sg masculine	ganso; gena (v)e; gen ev; gan ev
3sg feminine	gensi; gena hi; gen hi; gan hi
3sg neutral	gansom; gena hynn; gen hynn; gan hynn
1pl	genen; gena ni; gen ni; gan ni
2pl	genow(gh); gena hwi; gen hwi; gan hwi
3pl	gansa(ns); genans/gena i; gen i/ gan i

§A.3.8 heb

Person	Preposition
1sg	hebov/hebdham; heb vy
2sg	hebos; heb jy/sy
3sg masculine	hebdho; heb ev
3sg feminine	hebdhi; heb hi
3sg neutral	hebdhom; heb hynn

Person	Preposition
1pl	hebon; heb ni
2pl	hebow(gh); heb hwi
3pl	hebdha(ns); heb i

§A.3.9 ort(h)

Using *-t* or *-th* as the final consonant of this preposition is completely optional.

Person	Preposition
1sg	orthiv/ortam; orta vy; ort(h) vy
2sg	orthis; orta jy/sy; ort(h) jy/sy
3sg masculine	orto; orta (v)e; ort(h) ev
3sg feminine	orti; orta hi; ort(h) hi
3sg neutral	ortom; orta hynn; ort(h) hynn
1pl	orthyn; orta ni; ort(h) ni
2pl	orthow(gh); orta hwi; ort(h) hwi
3pl	orta(ns); orta i; ort(h) i

This conjugation can also be used for the prepositions **dyworth**, **a-dhyworth**, and **dhyworth**, in any of their various forms.

§A.3.10 rag

Person	Preposition
1sg	ragov/ragam; raga vy; rag vy
2sg	ragos; raga jy/sy; rag jy/sy
3sg masculine	ragdho; raga (v)e; rag ev
3sg feminine	rygdhi; raga hi; rag hi
3sg neutral	ragdhom; raga hynn; rag hynn

Person	Preposition
1pl	ragon; raga ni; rag ni
2pl	ragow(gh); raga hwi; rag hwi
3pl	ragdha(ns); ragans/raga i; rag i

§A.3.11 war^2

Person	Preposition
1sg	warnav/warnam; warna vy; wara vy; war vy
2sg	warnas; warna jy/sy; wara jy/sy; war jy/sy
3sg masculine	warnodho; warna (v)e; wara (v)e; war ev
3sg feminine	warnedhi; warna hi; wara hi; war hi
3sg neutral	warnodhom; warna hynn; wara hynn; war hynn
1pl	warnan; warna ni; wara ni; war ni
2pl	warnow(gh); warna hwi; wara hwi; war hwi
3pl	warna(ns); warna i; warans/wara i; war i

§A.3.12 yn

Person	Preposition
1sg	ynnov/ynnam; ynna vy; yn vy
2sg	ynnos; ynna jy/sy; yn jy/sy
3sg masculine	ynno; ynna (v)e; yn ev
3sg feminine	ynni; ynna hi; yn hi
3sg neutral	ynnom; ynna hynn; yn hynn
1pl	ynnon; ynna ni; yn ni
2pl	ynnow(gh); ynna hwi; yn hwi

Person	Preposition
3pl	ynna(ns); ynna i; yn i

§A.4 Verbs and conjugation (TOC)

Colloquial Cornish specifies systems of tense which are relatively close to the literary language. Four tenses are specified: the present, preterite, imperfect, and conditional/pluperfect, and two moods: the indicative and the subjunctive, positive and negative polarity, and a dedicated form for the interrogative mood. The usage of the subjunctive is limited to only one tense, however, following conventions established in such dialects as Kernowak Standard. Verbs also inflect according to polarity (positive — negative).

§A.4.1 Tense (TOC)

The four tenses in Cornish are used very regularly. The usual endings are:

Person	Present	Imperfect	Preterite	Conditional
1st singular	-av / -am	-en	-is	-sen
2nd singular	-ydh	-es	-sys	-ses
3rd singular	-Ø	-a	-as	-sa
1st plural	-yn	-en	-syn	-sen
2nd plural	-owgh	-ewgh	-sowgh	-sewgh
3rd plural	-on / -onsi	-en / -ensi	-son / -sonsi	-sen / -sensi

§A.4.1.1 Present tense (TOC)

1. **-av** can reduce to **-a**, with or without a trailing apostrophe to indicate the elided -v. In such cases, it would be best to reduplicate a direct dependent pronoun
2. **-ydh** can reduce to **-i**, with or without a trailing apostrophe to indicate the elided -dh. In such cases, it would be advisable, but not necessary, to reduplicate a direct dependent pronoun
3. The 3rd singular can, for a masculine subject, take a suffix **-(a)va**

4. **-yn** can reduce to **-a**, with no apostrophe thereafter, and an obligatory reduplicated direct dependent pronoun.
5. **-owgh** may either reduce to **-ow**, with or without a trailing apostrophe to indicate the elided *-gh*; or it can become **-a** with a trailing apostrophe, an optional space, and obligatory direct dependent pronoun (thus giving **-a' hwi** or **-a'hwi**)
6. **-on** is a form best taken so as not to include the pronoun after the verbal ending. Both the vowels in this ending can reduce to **-a-** when the endings are unstressed

§A.4.1.2 Imperfect tense (TOC)

1. The vowel **-e-** in all of these endings can reduce to **-a-** in an unstressed position
2. It is best practice not to reduce these endings, so as not to cause excessive confusion with the present, but they can be reduced following the rules of the present if so desired

§A.4.1.3 Preterite tense (TOC)

1. **-is** can reduce to **-ys**
2. **-as** replaces all instances of **-is** in the 3rd person singular in the literary language; this is consistent with features present in some registers of the literary language
3. **-sowgh** can reduce to **-sow**, with or without a trailing apostrophe to indicate the elision of *-gh*
4. **-syn** and **-sowgh** can both reduce to **-sa**, with their respective direct dependent pronouns obligatorily reduplicated

§A.4.1.4 Conditional/pluperfect tense (TOC)

1. The vowel **-e-** in all of these endings can reduce to **-a-** in an unstressed position
2. It is best practice not to reduce these endings, so as not to cause excessive confusion with the preterite, but they can be reduced following the rules of the preterite and present (as applicable) if so desired

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§A.4.2 Subjunctive mood (TOC)

The endings above correspond to the **indicative** mood. Below is the table for the **subjunctive**:

Person	Subjunctive
1st singular	-en

Person	Subjunctive
2nd singular	-es
3rd singular	-a
1st plural	-en
2nd plural	-ewgh
3rd plural	-en / -ensi

These correspond exactly to the endings of the imperfect tense, which reflects the fact that these endings are meant to represent the original *imperfect subjunctive* of the literary language, which is the only subjunctive present in even some forms of the literary language. The difference in the two moods is the fact that the ablaut in the final consonant of the verb's stem, as can be found in the literary language, is also present here too.

§A.4.3 Colloquial Cornish and verbal particles (TOC)

Literary Cornish possesses two very important verbal particles: y^5 and a^2. These are used to indicate the precise nature and position of a verb within a sentence. Colloquial Cornish follows attested behaviours of certain Literary varieties, and extends these, so that neither of these particles is used in the majority of situations. However, verbs will retain the mutations caused by these particles, thereby helping at least in part to disambiguate the situations in which these verbs occur.

Cornish verbs occur within two major types of environment: the verbal and the nominal. Verbal environments are head-initial, whereas nominal environments are not; therefore verbal environments will usually begin with a verbal particle and a verb; nominal environments will usually begin with either the subject or the object of the verb.

§A.4.4 Indicative verbs (TOC)

Indicative verbs are marked with y^5 in verbal environments, and a^2.

§A.4.3.1 Indicative verbs in verbal environments (TOC)

Being preceded by y^5 in the literary language, indicative verbs in verbal environments are marked with a dangling 5th (mixed) mutation preceding the verb, e.g.

> Lit. **dalleth** > Coll. **dalla**
>
> infinitive **dalla** > 3rd person singular present **dalla** > [5]**talla**
>
> [5]Talla'n hwarvos dh'eth eur
>
> *"The event starts at eight o'clock"*

§A.4.3.2 Indicative verbs in nominal environments (TOC)

Being preceded by **a**[2] in the literary language, indicative verbs in nominal environments are marked with a dangling 2nd (soft) mutation preceding the verb, e.g.

> Lit. **gweles** > Coll. **gweles**
>
> infinitive **gweles** > 3rd person singular present **gwel** > [2]**wel**
>
> Ma [2]wel an den — My [2]wel an den
>
> *"I see the person"*

§A.4.5 Interrogative verbs (TOC)

Verbs can be specially inflected to indicate the verb being posed as a question, rather than a statement. Interrogative verbs are usually found in verbal environments, meaning they usually start phrases or sentences. They are usually preceded in the literary language by the particle **a**[2], so they are marked here with a dangling 2nd (soft) mutation preceding the verb, e.g.

> Lit. **gweles** > Coll. **gweles**
>
> infinitive **gweles** > 2nd person singular present **gweli** > [2]**weli**
>
> [2]Weli'n den?
>
> *Do you see the person?*

§A.4.6 Negative verbs (TOC)

Verbs are inflected with the negative particle **na**[2], which shortens to **n'** before verbs beginning with a vowel. Parts of *bos* and *mos* that begin with a vowel take the particle **nag** instead.

§A.4.7 Interrogative-negative verbs (TOC)

These verbs translate as a negative within a question, as in e.g. "Do you not eat?"
This is achieved by using the negative particle described above and ending the question with a question mark in writing, or with questioning intonation in speech;
Alternatively, speakers may use the particle **ny^2** appropriated from the construction **a ny^2...?** in the literary language. This particle becomes **nyns** before parts of *bos* and *mos* that begin with a vowel. Therefore, the interrogative example in §A.4.5 above may be rephrased into an interrogative negative as:

> Na weli'n den?
> Ny weli'n den?
> "*Do you not see the man?*"

Section B: New and experimental forms (TOC)

hwer my dhe [verb] — i usually...
hwer dhe vy [verb] — same but passive sense

§B.1 Consonant mutations (TOC)

§B.1.1 Alternative notation (TOC)

Because of sentiments from learners of the language regarding the difficulty in discerning between similarly-formed mutations of vastly different letters, a system of notating mutations in an alternative fashion is being proposed here. It is complex, and potentially even impractical for many, however it may find good use by some in an educational context, which I personally also believe is the best application for it. Another drawback is that it requires theuse of a custom keyboard layout, though several have been produced already; one a native macOS keyboard layout and another a downloadable layout for Keyman Desktop, which is available on all major operating systems.
All of these are formed by using the overdot (̇) symbol. It is for this reason that a custom keyboard is necessary, but one can easily be provided, as mentioned.

§B.1.1.1 Lenition (TOC)

This is the simplest notation, in which words are written with their radicals, with an overdot written above the radical. This results in the following:

Radical	Lenited variant
b	ḃ
ch	ċh
d	ḋ
g	ġ
k	k̇
m	ṁ
p	ṗ
t	ṫ
f	ḟ
s	ṡ

Note carefully that in the case of *ch-* the overdot is written above *c*, so as to avoid confusion with the notation of the following mutation, spirantisation.

§B.1.1.2 Spirantisation (TOC)

This notation is quite simple as well, and mostly involves the letter *ḣ* (*h* with overdot.)

Radical	Spirantised variant
k	kḣ
p	pḣ
t	tḣ

This only involves the use of the modified letter *ḣ* after the relevant radical. The notation above has been suggested because it is the simplest in terms of its production, though please experiment and make improvements on it!

§B.1.1.3 Provection and mixed mutation (TOC)

This and mixed mutation are notated in a somewhat more complex manner. They involve placing the overdot on the initial letter of the sound in question, and writing the mutated letter thereafter:

Radical	Provection	Mixed
b-	ḃp-	ḃv-; ḃf- only in isolation
ch-	—	—
d-	ḋt-	ḋt-
ga-	ġk-	Ø-; ġha- only in isolation
ge-	ġke-	Ø-; ġhe- only in isolation
gi-	ġki-	Ø-; ġhi- only in isolation
gy-	ġky-	Ø-; ġhy- only in isolation
go-	ġko-	ġwo-; ġho- only in isolation
gu-	ġku-	ġwu-; ġhu- only in isolation
gro-	ġkro-	ġwro-
gru-	ġkru-	ġwru-
k-	—	—
m-	—	ṁv-; ṁf- only in isolation
p-	—	—
t-	—	—
f-[2]	—	—
s-[2]	—	—

Although these may seem unwieldy to some users, the central tenet of this primer must be mentioned again: *experiment!* If there is a notation which seems to be more practical and clear, please make the suggestion! The central qualities of the decisions made and presented thus far in this primer have been consistency, practicality and clarity, so keep this in mind for yourselves too.

§B.3 Prepositions (TOC)

§B.3.1 am

This preposition does not already exist independently in Cornish, though it does in Welsh. However, the element which is the exact same source for the Welsh preposition *am* does, in fact, exist in Cornish too, as the prefix *am-* in the word *ambos*. This is the basis for the decision to introduce this preposition, with an equivalent meaning of "about", "concerning", "around", all in a metaphorical sense. Since there is no basis in Cornish to introduce conjugations, however, this primer will not do so, but keen users might wish to attempt it!

§B.3.2 orth

Orth may vary majorly to **at** in all positions, and may be conjugated as below:

Person	Preposition
1sg	ativ/atam; ata vy; at vy
2sg	atis; ata jy/sy; at jy/sy
3sg masculine	ato; ata (v)e; at ev
3sg feminine	ati; ata hi; at hi
3sg neutral	atom; ata hynn; at hynn
1pl	atyn; ata ni; at ni
2pl	atow(gh); ata hwi; at hwi
3pl	ata(ns); ata i; at i

§B.3.3 war

War may vary majorly to **oar** in all positions, but is conjugated exactly the same as war.

§B.3.4 yn

Yn may vary majorly to **et** before all vowels as opposed to only some, and will only be used as such in its unconjugated form.

Section C: Orthography