

Polici ha Gidlinennow Gerlyver

Dictionary Policy and Guidelines

Panel Gerlyver
Dictionary Panel

v1.1, March 2022

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Introduction

This guidance is different to the policy documents of the other Akademi Kernewek Panels in that it includes guidance to users of the online dictionary as well as the Dictionary Panel as editors of the dictionary.

- Section 1 contains guidance that has been adopted by the Akademi Kernewek for using the dictionary database.
- Section 2 sets out the methodology for the decision-making of the Dictionary Panel.

SECTION 1 – Guidance

1. How to look up a term

Type the term you are looking for into the search box in the “Search for a Term” section. You can enter the term in either Cornish or English and the dictionary will provide terms in the other language automatically. Every term which contains the individual word is shown as well.

You may also view a list of all the dictionary headwords by clicking on the PDF version of the dictionary elsewhere on the website. Please note that the Akademi adds new terms to the dictionary database throughout the year and makes corrections, but the PDF is only updated once a year so may not reflect the most up to date terms.

2. How parts of speech are shown

Parts of speech are shown after the word in dark red using the following abbreviations (Kernewek in italics):

Part of speech (English)	Abbreviation (English)	Part of Speech (Cornish)	Abbreviation (Cornish)
noun	n	<i>hanow</i>	(h)
collective noun	n.coll	<i>hanow kuntellek</i>	(h.k)
masculine noun	n.m	<i>hanow gorow</i>	(h.g)
feminine noun	n.f	<i>hanow benow</i>	(h.b)
masculine noun in some versions of Cornish and feminine in others	n.m(f) or n.f(m)	<i>hanow; gorow yn nebes furvys Kernewek ha benow yn erel.</i>	(h.g)(b); (h.b)(g)
plural noun	n.pl	<i>hanow liesplek</i>	(h.l)
dual noun	n.dl	<i>hanow dewel</i>	(h.d)
pronoun	prn	<i>rakhanow</i>	(r.h)
verb	vb	<i>verb</i>	(v)
adjective	adj	<i>hanow gwann</i>	(h.gw)
adverb	adv	<i>adverb</i>	(ad)
conjunction	cnj	<i>mellen</i>	(m)
preposition	prp	<i>arager</i>	(a.r)
toponym	top	<i>hanow tirwedhek</i>	(h.t)
article	art	<i>ger mell</i>	—
numeral	num	<i>niveren</i>	—
particle	part	<i>temmik</i>	(t)
interjection	int	<i>goderrer</i>	(g)
prefix	prfx	<i>ragelven</i>	(r.e)
suffix	sffx	<i>lostelven</i>	(l.e)

Where a word has more than one meaning, depending which part of speech is intended, terms are displayed by part of speech in the order shown above.

Dots in the parts of speech abbreviations in EN & KW are only used as separators.

3. Disambiguation

Where a word (with the same part of speech) has more than one meaning, there is a separate entry for each meaning, followed by the disambiguator in brackets and faint grey text. The disambiguator is a short definition which follows the term in order to differentiate between words which look the same but which have different meanings.

4. Criteria for standardisation of terms

Objective criteria are followed by the Akademi Kernewek in compiling the Online Cornish Dictionary. These were based on the standards of the International Standards Organization, including ISO 704 on Standardization of Terms and ISO 860 on Harmonization of Concepts and Terms. These note, among other points, the following:

- a term should be linguistically correct;
- it should reflect, as far as possible, the characteristics of the concept which it represents;
- it should be concise;
- it should be able to generate to other forms;
- there should normally only be one term for a single concept.

5. Standard orthography

The orthography of the Akademi Kernewek Online Cornish Dictionary follows the guidance set out in 'the Specification for the Standard Written Form' (3rd Edition). This was adopted by the Akademi Kernewek in July 2021 and is published on the Akademi Kernewek website.

The Standard Written Form (SWF) / Furv Skrifys Savonek (FSS) accommodates two main forms of spelling:

- SWF Middle – words in this form are followed by an M in superscript, eg. penn M
- SWF Late - words in the form are followed by an L in superscript, eg. pedn L

Where there is no difference in spelling between Middle and Late Cornish, no letter follows the word.

The SWF Specification appendices allow for other forms of spelling to be used by Cornish speakers but these are not intended for official use and are not included in the online dictionary.

6. Understanding the meaning of terms

It is important to understand the conceptual meaning of the terms which are used. Mistranslation can occur when a dictionary is consulted and a term is found which appears to be a translation, but which in reality translates an entirely different concept. A word such as 'back' in English, for example, can have a number of meanings and choosing the wrong meaning can lead to serious errors.

The most important point to remember when translating terms is that it is never possible to translate word for word without understanding the concept being conveyed i.e.

NOT

English term = Cornish term

BUT RATHER

English term = concept = Cornish term.

The disambiguators used in the Online Cornish Dictionary are meant to help choose the correct concept where there is a possibility of confusion. However, some words may have additional meanings not covered in the Online Cornish Dictionary, and readers should use their common sense if the translation suggested does not seem suitable in a particular context. A good monolingual English dictionary can provide guidance as to various possible meanings and concepts, thereby helping to ensure a correct Cornish translation. And the Akademi Kernewek Corpus Search can show Cornish words being used in context as an additional check.

7. Synonyms and different language registers

It is sometimes difficult to choose between two or more terms because their meanings are similar. In everyday language a variety of words can be used as synonyms. However, in technical contexts specialist concepts need accurate terms. The technical name for this language register is 'language for special purposes'. The more technical the context, the more the care needed to ensure that standardised terms are used.

The Akademi Kernewek publishes lists of terms for special purposes, as term lists on the Akademi Kernewek website for consultation and comment for a period of one year. These terms also appear lower down on the results page for a term, with a subheading below the term in faint grey, indicating the subject field, eg 'Terminology: Mining'.

SECTION 2 – Methodology of the Dictionary Panel

The Panel members will discuss, either via email for straightforward matters or at meetings for matters requiring discussion, proposed amendments and additions to the Dictionary. Work will be agreed either by consensus by email, or through discussion at meetings, for recommendation to the Board.

1. Spelling, Spelling Changes – Individual Words

- a) The Dictionary Panel shall correct errors such as typographical errors in the Dictionary.
- b) When individual words are added to the Dictionary, the spelling should be a consensus matter for the Dictionary Panel, decided within the parameters of the Standard Written Form orthographic specification as reviewed in 2014.

2. Spelling Changes – Individual Words & Small Groups of Words

Where a spelling change is suggested for a single word or a small group of words, which arises other than from a mistake, for example from new research, the following process should be applied:-

- a) The proposed linguistic change should be fully researched by the Research Panel, which may offer more than one proposal, and their findings presented to the Board.
- b) The Board should consider the submission, and if approved publish it on the Akademi web-site inviting wider community feedback, including from the language groups, teachers, speakers and learners.
- c) The feedback should be collated and considered by the Research Panel, and conclusions reported to the Board. The Panel report should include any previous recommendations on the issue from, for example the SWF Review Board.
- d) The Board may consider the evidence gathered and agree minor orthographic change for the Dictionary Panel to apply.
- e) The Akademi will publish the result of these deliberations.

3. Orthographic Review

It is not the function of the Dictionary Panel to propose orthographic review. Concerns or suggestions of Dictionary Panel members that could affect a large number of words or could create systemic change in the SWF may be recorded for any future full review.

The experience of the SWF Review 2013/14 indicates that the amount of effort and time taken to achieve such a review should not be underestimated. The need for any future review should consider not only orthographical issues, but impact on language use and learning, and securing sufficient financial resources to carry out the review.