



Gidlinennow Rag An Gerlyver Kernewek Warlinen

Guidelines For The Online Cornish Dictionary

Panel Gerlyver
Dictionary Panel

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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):

n noun *hanow (h.)*

n.m masculine noun *hanow gorow (h.g.)*

n.f feminine noun *hanow benow (h.b.)*

n.m(f) or **n.f(m)** noun; masculine in some versions of Cornish and feminine in others *hanow; gorow yn nebes furvys Kernewek ha benow yn erel.*

n.coll collective noun *hanow kuntellek (h.k.)*

n.pl plural noun *hanow liesplek (h.l.)*

n.dl dual noun *hanow dewel (h.d.)*

prn pronoun *rakhanow (r.h.)*

vb verb *verb (v.)*

adj adjective *hanow gwann (h.gw.)*

adv adverb *adverb (ad.)*

cnj conjunction *mellen (m.)*

prp preposition *arager (a.r.)*

top toponym *hanow tirwedhek (h.t.)*

art article *ger mell*

num numeral *niveren*

part particle *temmik (t.)*

int interjection *goderrer (g.)*

prfx prefix *ragelven (r.e.)*

sffx suffix *lostelven (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.

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'.