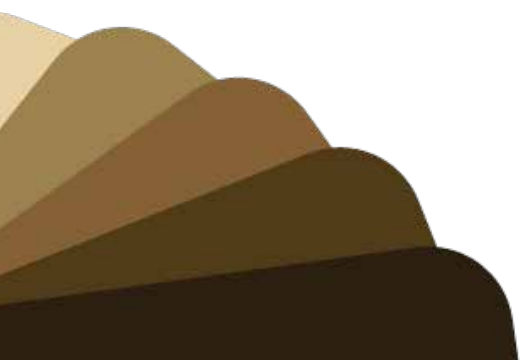


An Outline of the Standard Written Form for Cornish

**Appendix B:
Hyphens and apostrophes**

July 2023



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1. Hyphen style guide

General principles

A hyphen may be used where:

- It helps provide clarity. Example: *jynn-skrifa* 'typewriter'.
- It helps to show the stress of a compound. Example: *penn-bloodh* 'birthday'.
- A word would be hard to read without it. For example: *les-hanow* 'nickname'.

These guidelines will be used in work published by the Akademi Kernewek and the Cornwall Council Translation Service for official, public use of Cornish, but otherwise personal use of hyphens is optional.

Hyphenation within AK documents

In order to determine if a word should be hyphenated within AK documentation, the following guidelines may be considered:

In close compounds

Words that use the first element as a prefix to describe the second element.

- The individual elements are usually same class, but can also be formed as [adj.]+[noun] see above.
- The compound is usually written as one word and receives penultimate stress.
- The second element determines the gender and plural of the compound.
- A close compound is not usually hyphenated.

Possible combinations	Example
[noun]+[noun]	<i>lyverva</i> 'library'; <i>morvleydh</i> 'shark'
[adj.]+[adj.]	<i>gwynnrudh</i> 'pink'
[adj.]+[noun]	<i>kammdybyans</i> 'mistake'

Table 1: Close compounds

In loose compounds

Words that use the second element adjectivally to describe the first element.

- The individual elements can be [noun]+[verb-noun] or [noun]+[noun] or [noun]+[adjective].
- The defining word appears in the second element.
- The second word retains the main stress, with the first word receiving secondary stress.
- The first element determines the gender but either word may be plural.
- A loose compound is usually hyphenated.

Appendix B: Hyphens and apostrophes

Possible combinations	Example
[noun]+[adjective]	<i>tas-gwynn</i> 'grandfather';
[noun]+[verb]	<i>jynn-amontya</i> 'computer'
[noun]+[noun]	<i>penn-bloodh</i> 'anniversary, birthday'; <i>kador-vregh</i> 'armchair';
[prp]+[noun]	<i>dhe-dre</i> 'homewards'

Table 2: Loose compounds

Exceptions

Hyphens are not used in:

- The specific words *ebost* 'email', *erbynn* 'since', and *poslev* 'accent, stress'.
- Numbers.
- Colours.
- Prefixes unless this makes it hard to read.
- Joining enclitic pronouns or demonstratives like **vy* ~ *ve** 'I, me', **va** 'he', **ma** 'this', or **na** 'that' to a preceding element.
- Joining particles to verbs or infixed pronouns.

Sources referenced

- *A Grammar of Modern Cornish*, 3rd Edition (Kesva an Taves Kernewek, 2001: §60–61)
- *AK Management Board Extraordinary meeting minutes* (Akademi Kernewek, 18/12/2021)
- *SWF Review Final Report* (Cornish Language Office, 2014)
- *An Outline of the Standard Written Form for Cornish Appendix B: Hyphens and apostrophes* (Cornish Language Office, 2008)
- *An Outline of the Standard Written Form of Cornish*, 3rd Edition (Akademi Kernewek, 2021:26)

2. Apostrophes

An apostrophe is used to indicate that one or more letters have been omitted. This occurs in the RLC forms of some words like *ene*' 'soul' (RMC *enev*) and *hor' (RMC *hordh*) 'ram', where a word-final consonant which is preserved in the RMC form has been dropped. Similarly, an apostrophe may be used to indicate the loss of original initial <y-> in words like *ehes* (RMC *yeghes*) 'health' and *Edhow* (RMC *Yedhow*) 'Jew'. In RLC forms like *dadn* 'under' or *gan* 'our', the apostrophe shows the loss of an initial syllable which is preserved in the equivalent RMC forms *yn-dann* and *agan*.

Apostrophes are used in compounds and contractions like *wos'tiwedh* 'at last' (from *wosa* 'after' + *diwedh* 'end') and *ha'y* 'and his, and her' (from *hag* + *y* or *ha* + *hy*) to show that one or more letters have been elided. They are also used by convention before the infixed pronouns (*m*, *th*, *n*, *s*, *gan*, and *gas*) and in a few compounds like *a'y* 'of his, from his' (*a* 'of, from' + *y* 'his'), where they help to distinguish the two constituent elements, and in the verbal construction *a'm beus*.