

Basic Cornish affixes and clitics

1. Affixes

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| <i>Affixes</i> | = Syllables you add to a word in order to nuance its meaning. |
| <i>Prefixes</i> | = Go in front of the word you combine them with. |
| <i>Suffixes</i> | = Come after the word you combine them with. |
| e.g. | |
| gwel | = sight |
| das- + gwel | → daswel = again + see → review; das- is a <i>prefix</i> . |
| gwel + -es | → gweles = to see, verbal noun; -es is a <i>suffix</i> . |
| Affixes can be stressed if they land in penultimate position (some, like -he , even in other positions). | |
| This document focuses mainly on <i>derivational affixes</i> , i.e. those which help you construct new words from existing roots. | |
| Expect initial mutations to happen to the modified word after a proclitic or a prefix. | |

Common prefixes:

| | | |
|------------------------|---|---------------------|
| das- | = | again |
| dis- | = | un- |
| gor- | = | super-, over- |
| kes- | = | together, co- |
| kamm- | = | wrong(ly) |
| meur- | = | much, greatly |
| oll- | = | all |
| om²- | = | self-; one another |
| rag- | = | before, fore-, pre- |

Examples:

| | | |
|---------------|---|--------------------------------|
| das + dalleth | → | dastalleth , restart |
| dis + gul | → | diswul , undo |
| gor + marhas | → | gorvarhas , supermarket |
| kes + oberi | → | kesoberi , cooperate |
| kamm + gul | → | kammwul , do wrong |
| meur + kerys | → | meurgerys , much loved |
| oll + kemmyn | → | ollgemmyn , universal |
| om + tewlel | → | omdewlel , wrestle |
| rag + gwel | → | ragwel , preview |

Common suffixes:

| | | |
|------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| -ans | = | -ment, -ing (<i>abstract</i>) |
| -der/-ter | = | -ness (<i>abstract</i>) |
| -ek | = | -y, "has big ..." |
| -el | = | tool, means |
| -en | = | <i>singulative (f.)</i> |
| -er | = | -er, person who (<i>m.</i>) |
| -es | = | -ess, woman who |
| -he | = | -ify, -icise |
| -ji/-ti | = | building |
| -va | = | area, space, place |
| -ya | = | <i>loan verb</i> |
| -yas | = | person who (<i>m.</i>) |
| -ydh | = | person who (<i>m. or f.</i>) |

Examples:

| | | |
|-----------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| movya + -ans | → | movyans , movement |
| pell + -der | → | pellder , distance |
| lagas + -ek | → | lagasek , big-eyed |
| chanj + -el | → | chanjyel , editing tool |
| ster + -en | → | steren , single star |
| rewl + -er | → | rewler , boss |
| tiek + -es | → | tioges , farmer (<i>f.</i>) |
| Sowsnek + -he | → | Sowsnekhe , Anglicise |
| arhans + -ti | → | arhantti , bank |
| gwari + -va | → | gwariva , theatre |
| Engl. use + -ya | → | usya , use |
| gwith- + -yas | → | gwithyas , guardian |
| lew + -ydh | → | lewydh , president |

Some derivational suffixes can be combined, as in:

gwel + yek + he + ans → **gwelyekheans**, visualisation, lit. "sight+y+ise+ment"

2. Clitics

Clitics = Structure words you put beside another word in order to nuance its meaning.
Proclitics = Go in front of the modified word.
Enclitics = Come after the modified word.

e.g.

ow(th) + gweles → **ow kweles** = seeing, ~ present participle. **ow(th)** is a *proclitic*.
an + gwel + ma → **an gwel ma** = this sight here, demonstrative. **ma** is an *enclitic* whereas the article **an** is a *proclitic*.

Clitics are not normally stressed in speech, e.g. **an den ma** is stressed on **den** and not on **an** or **ma**.

Common proclitics (incl. verbal particles): Examples:

| | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|---|--|----------------|---|------------------------------|
| a ² | = | <i>verb after subject or direct object</i> | a + miras | → | a viras , saw |
| ow ⁴ (th) | = | <i>-ing (cont. form)</i> | ow(th) + dybri | → | ow tybri , eating |
| pur ² | = | <i>very, completely</i> | pur + da | → | pur dha , very good |
| yn ⁵ | = | <i>adverb marker</i> | yn + da | → | yn ta , well |
| y ⁵ (th) | = | <i>verb before subject and direct object</i> | yth + yw | → | Yth yw... , he/she is |

Common enclitics:

Examples:

| | | | | | |
|-----------|---|--------------|-------------|---|--------------------------------|
| ma | = | this (here) | an gwari ma | → | an gwari ma , this game |
| na | = | that (there) | an gwari na | → | an gwari na , that game |

Personal pronouns may also be used as enclitics. In Middle Cornish, they are used for emphasis: Take care: enclitic pronouns appear in lenited (2nd state) form! **My** → **vy** etc.

ow hath vy = *my* cat (but: **ow hath** = my cat, without special emphasis)

In Late Cornish, enclitic pronouns tend to replace the older possessive pronouns **ow**, **dha** etc.:

an gath vy = my cat, lit. "the cat of me"