

Basic Cornish affixes and clitics

1. Affixes

<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"