

Tarot Kernow – The Cornish Tarot

UCR Edition 2005

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Please note for the 11 and 12 of each suit the Kemmyn and the UCR editions have completely different ideas incorporated into the designs and as such the meanings of the cards are different. For ease of use I have included both sets of notes clearly noting which edition they belong to.

Suit of Swords – The mind & intellect

Ace of Swords
Byd a Gledhedhyow

A new way of thinking.

Strength, stillness and purity, being at one with the source of life. Feeling the wind in your hair and the sun on your face and having the confidence and inner strength to do what work lies ahead of you.

2 of Swords
Dew a Gledhedhyow

A difficult choice to make.

You are being torn apart by conflicting ideas. You have two choices and you cannot make up your mind. All around you are people giving you advice, but they are of no help at all, merely adding to the confusion. Only you can make the right choice by going to some quiet place within yourself or in nature and in that calm silence you will find the answer.

3 of Swords
Try a Gledhedhyow

The need to move on.

You don't wish to move on, you like it far too much where you are, but you have no choice you have stayed too long and now you are being pushed forwards. You have to accept that things are changing and that there is no choice in the immediate future. You either walk that straight and narrow path ahead now and at your own pace, or you wait and are forced down it later on. There is no other option but to walk that path and in that direction.

4 of Swords
Peswar a Gledhedhyow

A time to stop and think.

On life's journey occasionally we are granted a chance to stop, think, relax and recover in a sacred space. Here you are at a place of rest in life and you are being given that chance to take it easy and make the most of life's gift in recharging your batteries.

5 of Swords
Pymp a Gledhedhyow

Your views face opposition.

If you try and attack an opponent's castle single-handed you will get a shower of arrows aimed at your head. Even if you put a protection around yourself you will still get seriously hurt. Don't go ahead with your plans at the moment, stand your ground and wait for the battlefield to clear. To do otherwise would be a big mistake and just be plain stubborn.

6 of Swords
Whegh a Gledhedhyow

Success and moving on.

All around you everything is moving on and you are moving on with it. You are flying free and moving forwards in your life. The sun is shining and there isn't a cloud in the sky. You may not know where you are going but you might as well enjoy the ride, because it's going to be better than where you were.

7 of Swords
Seyth a Gledhedhyow

The need to leave things behind before moving on.

You need to examine the emotional and physical baggage you are carrying. Something in that baggage is holding you back. You may think that you have cleared all that stuff or that you haven't got anything that needs clearing, but have you been honest with yourself, or are you trying to hide something?

8 of Swords
Eth a Gledhedhyow

You are being prevented from moving forwards.

Ahead of you is a fence or is it a gate? Is it locked or is it unlocked? You need to be careful because those swords are sharp and they cannot be broken or bent out of shape. Look around the gate, look at the hinges, the lock, the wall or fence around. Is there a gap, or another way around? Perhaps there is a time lock on the gate and it is a matter of waiting. You have to stop and look around you before you can move on.

9 of Swords
Naw a Gledhedhyow

Coming to the end of a difficult phase.

Ahead of you is the outside, freedom from all the gloom that is in your life. But immediately in front of you is a portcullis that could come down at any second. Do you try and rush for the light or do you wait until you feel the time is right to move forward.

10 of Swords
Deg a Gledhedhyow

A major turning point now you have reached rock bottom.

There is a row of swords in front blocking your way. The swords are only a low fence though and if you are careful you can either step over them or move them out of your way and walk towards the light that is showing you the way out of all this mess.

11 of Swords
Unnek a Gledhedhyow

UCR Edition:

Divine Revelation

You have reached a point in your life where you are really beginning to see things clearly; you know where you need to go and what you have to do. The time is ready for you to prepare to undertake this great quest in your life that you have been waiting for.

Kemmyn Edition:

You are strong and confident and at one with the self.

This is a case of the intellectual meeting the magickal. Working in a ritual with pure masculine energy. A man embracing his masculine side. This is a very positive aspect not a typical laddish aspect. Being a lad is not working with the true male side, it is work with the idiotic side. Working with the male side is embracing the warrior / magician / shaman within. Being at one with the male in nature.

12 of Swords
Dewdhek a Gledhedhyow

UCR Edition:

Imperfect Harmony

Recently in your life there has been conflict and discordant energies, here all these energies are for once working in your favour. You have been given a unique chance to use these energies for the better. Seize the opportunity and don't let it go to waste.

Kemmyn Edition:

Insight, Knowing what you want and going for it.

The intellect at peace and in harmony with the life-force. The pure element of Air

Maid of Swords
Maghteth a Gledhedhyow

News of an intellectual / mental nature

Young / unmarried woman or a young man in touch with his more feminine / creative side. Even though this is a male suit the maid can be a young intellectual male who is working with his feminine side.

Knight of Swords
Marghek a Gledhedhyow

Intellectual movement.

Young / unmarried man or woman who is working with their more masculine intellectual and analytical side, such as a young woman who is more interested in a scientific approach and can be sceptical rather than open minded.

Queen of Swords
Myternes a Gledhedhyow

An intellectual adult woman who is usually married or in a relationship.

Adult here means someone is over 30 rather than over 18. Always female, when signifying a person it always represents an adult female who is working with their intellect and the mind.

King of Swords
Mytern a Kledhedhyow

Intellectual man, again over 30 (or an 'old soul' if referring to someone younger) usually married or in a relationship.

Always male and someone who is constantly searching for the truth, often in books rather than in life.

Suit of Wands – Work & Related affairs

Ace of Wands
Byd a Wel

A new job, or new phase at work.

The wands are linked to the element of fire and are connected to work. Here the phallic wand stands beside the Sapphic men and is ready to penetrate in an actual of sexual union. However the act of creation has not yet happened, it is about to happen, this is the start of the process, the planning stage. You know what you are going to do, you just have started doing it yet.

2 of Wands
Dew a Wel

A non-romantic partner who would help you through the dark times

The heath land has been burned, the sky is dark and the light seems distant and the way ahead is blackened and appears blocked by debris. But beside you is a friend who will help you through this difficult period. You must remember that here you are taller than the problems that appear before you. They seem to be a lot worse than they actually are and with the help of a trusted friend or colleague beside you they will be revealed in their true light as you overcome them. Looking back you will wonder what you were afraid of.

3 of Wands
Try a Wel

A 3rd Party helping you move forwards

In front of you is a gateway clear marked out and the path is clear. Someone is showing you the way and urging to move through the gateway. The time for decision is now, you have to move forward, and avoidance will only mean delaying the inevitable and perhaps even missing the train. This is what you need to do as soon as is possible.

4 of Wands
Peswar a Wel

Laying the foundations of a new plan.

The plans have been laid out for the future. The foundations have been dug and there is now a solid base on which to build. You have an idea of what you want to create, a picture in your mind's eye, but now is not the time to proceed. You must wait before continuing.

5 of Wands

Pymp a Wel

Differing opinions, probably at work, are holding you back

There are several boats in the harbour, anyone of which could take you away from this current tricky situation. The sea appears to be calm but there is a fence blocking your path. The conflicting energies around you at the moment cannot be ignored, however you have choices in how you handle these dissenters. Be careful for if you deal with this situation badly it could make this worse. Tread carefully and take your time over it.

6 of Wands
Whegh a Wel

Success after a hard fought battle.

Relief after a long struggle. A chance for a breather and a rest after travelling a long way. The journey has been long and hard but success has been achieved. You may be exhausted and have collapsed on to the ground but as you look up you can see the end of your journey ahead. You may need to rest for a little while long though before continuing on. The rest of the journey may be easier, but it is better to do it having fully rested.

7 of Wands
Seyth a Wel

Take your problems on one at a time to overcome them.

A portcullis bars your way; it consists of seven bars, each one representing a problem or an issue that needs to be overcome. Each bar you have created yourself and you cannot continue to ignore them, you must clear them from your path, but you have to do it one at a time. To try to remove them all at once is beyond your strength and capabilities at the present time.

8 of Wands
Eth a Wel

Rapid movement forward

There are no obstacles in front of you, there is nothing that can hold you back. Everything is moving forward quite rapidly at the moment, in front of you may be a path way that leads across the lake without a boat, but your movement forward is so rapid at the moment you don't need a boat you can practically walk on water, or if you feel unable to do the impossible you could fly or even swim

9 of Wands
Naw a Wel

Waiting for the next phase to begin.

There is a star that is waiting for the light to reach it. You are that star. You have worked hard and have enormous potential but you are still hidden in the dark. Time will reveal all and show you in your true light, but for now you must wait. Soon all will be revealed and the next stage of your work can begin.

10 of Wands
Deg a Wel

Be careful of taking on too much work.

The building work has been completed and the goal has been accomplished. However it is not all over, for now you have finished that part of the plan you must continue to administer and work at your job. Creating an empire is all very well but you then have to continue to rule it. Be very wary of taking too much on your shoulders. You can delegate if you wish.

11 of Wands
Unnek a Wel

UCR Edition:
Awareness

You are aware on a subtle level of something around you, yet unable to determine its exact nature. It feels like you are walking in circles trying to find that elusive answer yet walking around the very thing you are searching for.

Kemmyn Edition:
Sexual union. The Great Rite. Imbolc/Beltane.

A new relationship. A male and female sexual relationship, or the symbolic act of sexual union within a ritual. The sacred creation of life.

12 of Wands
Dewdhek a Wel

UCR:
A mysterious and magical time

Working with the elemental energies and the spirits of nature your life is currently totally focussed on spiritual matters. Go with these energies and use this opportunity to create something wonderful!

Kemmyn
Element of Fire / Magickal work / Sacred energies / South

Being at one with the element of fire. Working in harmony with the sun and the ritualistic use of wands. The casting of a circle. Inner strength and confidence, feeling the (masculine) fire within.

Maid of Wands
Maghteth a Wel

Young / unmarried woman / Work related news / New Relationship

The Ace of Wands revisited with an added young feminine energy. This is a young sexual female and with her possible beginnings of a relationship. The work related news is not big news but it is news, on its own this card represents pleasant news rather than negative or amazing developments. Life at work is moving on but at a slow pace.

Knight of Wands
Marghek a Wel

Work related Travel, perhaps overseas / Young / unmarried man

Life at work is becoming interesting, developments are a foot. Promotion or a new job, travel overseas even. This is going to be an exciting time for the immediate future. On a relationship front this could be a new man in your life.

Queen of Wands
Myternes a Wel

An older / married woman / A businesswoman

The Queen of wands is often a hard-nosed independent strong willed businesswoman who knows what she wants and will stop at nothing to get it. She sees herself definitely as the boss and she makes sure you know it too. Relationship wise she could be a very domineering woman in your life.

King of Wands
Mytern a Wel

A business man / older married man

The King of Wands is a businessman in charge of a company or a head of a division. However he is more relaxed and easy going than the Queen is. This is because traditionally it is more of a man's world and he has an easier journey than she has and this shows in his handling of the situation. Ironically the King of wands can be gentler and less harsh than the Queen.

Pentacles – Earth Energies, Esoteric Knowledge and Financial Affairs

Ace of Pentacles

Byd a Bentacles

New financial level / Income

The sowing of the seed in the ground is the start of a new cycle of life. Here you have planted the seed and you are waiting for the results. However some seeds grow slowly and need constant nurturing before they grow to maturity whilst others can be forgotten about and will quite happily grow on their own like a wild flower. The seed has indeed been planted and life is going to change but as yet we may not know what we have planted.

2 of Pentacles Dew a Bentacles

A Balancing act with finances.

You have a guide in your life who is inspiring you and providing you with a path to follow. Or alternatively a mundane level you need to do a careful balancing act with your finances.

3 of Pentacles Try a Bentacles

Plans for the future.

You have a strong idea what the future holds for you or rather what you hope it holds for you. There are plans on your drawing board and many ideas to work with. The sun is shining and showing you the way forward but it is tricky underfoot and you will have to tread carefully to avoid falling down.

4 of Pentacles Peswar a Pentakles

Financial stagnation

The flow of energy and / or money has temporarily dried up. It is a stagnant period for you, but it can be used constructively as a time of reflection and preparation for the next stage in your life's journey. How do you see your job continuing, is this stagnation permanent or do you see it improving soon? A time for making decisions not a time for acting upon them.

5 of Pentacles Pymp a Pentakles

A financial setback

Sometimes a pretty picture is just that, a pretty picture and not a guide for life. Plans have been set back and may have cost you financially or emotionally. This is often a karmic situation and may be as a result of poor planning or a lack of foresight.

6 of Pentacles
Whegh a Bentacles

Generosity

Life has been good to you financially and you celebrate your good fortune by helping others, those around you or those in need.

7 of Pentacles
Seyth a Bentacles

Hard work has paid of, reaping the rewards of your labours.

All the work that you have put in over a long period of time has paid off and now you are in a good strong confident and secure position. You can now start to see the future clearly as if you were looking in a crystal ball.

8 of Pentacles
Eth a Bentacles

The apprentice working towards their goal

Slowly but steadily you are working towards a long held goal. The hours may be long and the years may have passed whilst you are continuing your labours but the long hours will pay off handsomely. True wisdom comes from long hours of study over many years not from a weekend workshop. You have almost finished your project; you need to keep going for just a little while longer.

9 of Pentacles
Naw a Bentacles

Being independent

Independence has often been your weakness. A stubborn determined single-minded approach has been a problem in the past, but now this trait of yours has paid off. You are strong, independent, self-reliant and self-made.

10 of Pentacles
Deg a Bentacles

Financial success, Wealth

Wealth often is not financial it is intellectual and emotional as well as spiritual. Here it can be attaining a wealth of knowledge rather than a financial gain. Within Tarot Pentacles are associated with the element of earth, but in the wider world they are associated with all the elements. Ten is a number of completion and of success.

11 of Pentacles
Unnek a Bentacles

UCR Edition:

Can't see the wood for the trees

Often you are so close to a painting you can't see the picture. By letting go of what you are searching for, you begin to see things much clearer.

Kemmyn Edition

Elements of Earth and Air - Esoteric Work

This eleven is a blend of the male/ intellectual (swords) and the female earth energies (pentacles). Can symbolise the combination of energies within a ritual or the struggle of two different faiths within a relationship. The pentacles representing faith and the sword representing scepticism within a relationship.

12 of Pentacles
Dewdhek a Bentacles

UCR Edition

Greater than the sum of the parts

When we come together in a group, whether as friends, soul mates or people with similar interests, the power of the group is greater than the sum of all its parts. You need now to be part of a group energy rather than work alone.

Kemmyn Edition

In perfect harmony with nature.

Here there is no conflict within a relationship, for the relationship is one with the self and the natural world

Maid of Pentacles
Maghteth a Bentacles

A young / unmarried woman / Financial news

The maid revisits the ace but here the seed is sown within rather than without, It is the birth of a new idea or a new faith / belief. Maybe even a pregnancy.

Knight of Pentacles
Marghek a Bentacles

Financial movement / young / unmarried man

The Knight has freedom and often has the money to be able to make the most of it.

He is independent and loves to travel. Even without the money he will rough it and make the best of a bad situation.

Queen of Pentacles
Myrnes a Bentacles

An older / married / down to earth woman

The Queen has a very no nonsense approach to life. Not interested in money or status symbols she prefers nature and the outdoors life. She would never be at home in the city choosing the countryside, herbal medicine, holistic and organic ways.
A Healer, Shaman, Witch or Pagan.

King of Pentacles
Mytern a Pentakles

A down to Earth man

The King is like the Queen, he is a follower of old country ways, knowing all about the herbs, crystals and at one with the cycles of life. A Healer, Shaman, Witch or Pagan.

Cups – Intuition, and Emotional Affairs

Ace of Cups
Byd a Hanavow

A new relationship or a new level within an existing one.

The sun rises on a new day in your emotional life. There is wonderful news ahead, a new relationship or a higher level in an existing one. Perhaps there is a proposal, engagement or a wedding coming up?

2 of Cups
Dew a Hanavow

A romantic couple

Romance is in the air as two people are in love with each other. A happy and successful emotional relationship.

3 of Cups
Try a Hanavow

A Family celebration

A family celebration, a wedding or some other happy event, such as a birth or an anniversary.

4 of Cups

Peswar a Hanavow

Emotional stagnation

The view from your window is dim as it is dark outside. The window is locked and you cannot get outside and move forward. Presently you are emotionally trapped and you feel neither down nor happy, just frustrated. Emotionally, creatively and intuitively you are going through a very difficult phase and often you feel like it is other people holding you back with their lack of effort. But it is not them it is just part of life and soon things will move forward and you will have a chance to obtain your desires.

5 of Cups

Pymp a Hanavow

An emotional setback. You need to forget the past and move on.

Tears have been shared, arguments have raged and you are now looking at all the broken pieces. But the pieces are not as broken as they seemed and they can be repaired. What was thought a major disaster has turned out to be a minor setback.

6 of Cups

Whegh a Hanavow

Reunion with an old friend / friends

You have been lifted up to a new level in life thanks to the generous help of an old friend or friends.

7 of Cups

Seyth a Hanavow

You have a choice to make, one that you subconsciously you have already made

Within this choice are options that are totally unsuitable for you but which appear glamorous. Make the right decision and be true to yourself when you do it. Often the most attractive options are wrapped up in unattractive parcels.

8 of Cups

Eth a Hanavow

Moving on and upwards

The 8 is part of the final 3, you are moving up to the higher levels emotionally, creatively, intuitively or spiritually. From out of the darkness and into the light.

9 of Cups
Naw a Hanavow

Happiness, what you wished for has come true

Wishes can come true if you ask in the right direction and you are sensible in what you wish for.

10 of Cups
Deg a Hanavow

True Happiness

This is all about being happy, totally happy. Loving family and friends surround you. All united in one happy group.

11 of Cups
Unnek a Hanavow

UCR Edition:

Often the way to find the answer is to stop looking.

In front of you are ten silver cups and one gold, but the gold cup does not stand out very much and in poor light would blend in with the others. Trying hard to find the elusive answer we sometimes overlook the obvious. By letting go of our attachment to the outcome of a situation we may find the answers we seek.

Kemmyn Edition:

The Grail of the Goddess

Working with your feminine side. This is a purely feminine card. Female energy is doubled here to produce a wonderfully pure creative and grounded energy. This is a cup to be at one with to feel a part of and to be totally creative and work with your intuition rather than your intellect. To just be and accept who you are with no conditions or hang ups.

12 of Cups
Dewdhek a Hanavow

UCR Edition

Seeing the pattern in life

Life can be like a jigsaw full of strange ideas, feelings, people etc that seem unrelated, then one day suddenly you see that it is all part of a greater pattern and that each individual part of your life fits together like a jigsaw

Kemmyn Edition

Emotional contentment, in a meditative state

Element of Water. This is being at peace and in harmony with the self and the world.
Meditation and / or pathworking.

Maid of Cups
Maghteth a Hanavow

A glorious celebration of life.

Young / unmarried woman. The young creative energies are free from the restrictions we place upon them later in life. A love of life. News of an emotional / romantic / creative / intuitive / spiritual nature.

Knight of Cups
Marghek a Hanavow

Moving forward in a relationship.

Young / unmarried man. A proposal or proposition. A creative offer. The Knight is a sensitive creative young man who paints, writes poetry or expresses himself creatively in some other way.

Queen of Cups
Myternes a Hanavow

An emotionally sensitive woman

Older / married woman. A housewife or someone who puts her family first in all things. Is very caring and devoted and has no or little interest in her own career.

King of Cups
Mytern a Hanavow

An emotionally sensitive man.

Older married man. The King has a career but it is not his main interest in life, that his is family and his hobbies. Often unable to be creative at work he becomes creative in his spare time.

The Major Arcana

0 The Fool
An Fol

New beginnings, new phase of life's journey

The fool is more intelligent than people give him credit. He has travelled far on life's journey and is merely beginning a new part of that journey.

1 The Magician
An Pystryor

Putting your skills into practice for the first time

The magician has lots of skills but for a long time they either been dormant or ignored. Now is the time to use your skills that you have been blessed with.

2 The High Priestess
An Gwithyas Kevrin

The unknown secrets

The keeper of secrets knows many things but is not always keen to let us know, for she knows when the secrets should be revealed.

3 Empress
Dorvam

Rebirth, springtime, new life / Earth Mother

New life springing forth. The Spring / pregnancy / abundant growth. A creative time

4 Emperor
Emperour

The boss, employer, government

The boss tells you what to do whether you like it or not. Very orthodox and traditional.

5 Emperor
Tas Ebrenn

Religious Orthodoxy / An Orthodox Viewpoint

This is the state church, the official faiths of the masses rather than the beliefs of the individual. Traditional ideas opposing new innovative or unorthodox ways / beliefs.

Following the path without thinking why you are doing so. Sometimes you see more of the divine by looking at the reflection of the sky in the church windows than inside of the building itself.

6 The Tree of Life Gwydhennyw

Decisions to made at this crossroads in life, usually connected with relationships.

The lovers is connected to the tree of life (Kabbalah). The story of Adam and Eve and the tree of knowledge is representative of the search for knowledge. What path are you going to take now that there is a choice? Can also mean a sexual relationship and a choice between people.

7 The Chariot An Charet

A bumpy ride on the road ahead

The emotional / spiritual road ahead of you is free from traffic but is full of potholes and other obstacles. It will be tricky and you will have to hold on tight if you wish to get to the end of the road.

8 Strength Omborth

A need to find the balance between inner and outer strength.

The strength to remain calm in a crisis.

9 The Hermit An Ancar

The solitary pathworker / hedgewitch / druid.

Sometimes we have to be alone to find our dreams even if our dream is to be within a likeminded group. Often the answers are to be found within.

10 Wheel of Fortune Ros a fortun

Time moves forward and changes your life.

The seasons change and with it your life. You cannot move the seasons back and right now you cannot undo the changes in your life.

11 Justice
Ewnder

Karma / Natural Justice.

Whatever we do comes back to us (some say three times the power). Eventually we have to pay off our debts to ourselves, to others and to society. Payment cannot be delayed nor can be avoided.

12 The Guardian
An Gwithyas

The guardian blocks your way for you to re-examine

your life and the path that you have recently been taking.
The mermaid carved into the door is holding a gold disc in one hand representing money and in the other a book representing knowledge. Which one are you going to choose? Your life is in a state of suspension until you make the right decision.

13 Renewal
Nowydha

Rebirth.

Something in your life has come to a final end so that something else may take its place. Some things die so that others can be born in their place. This is a process of renewal, of the replacing of old, outdated energies.

14 Temperance
An Porth

A time to rest and take it easy

Caught between the devil and death this is peace between two personal battles. It is not the time for planning or taking on new projects it is for resting and healing. A personal haven or sanctuary.

15 The Devil
Den a Skeusow

Beware of your own negativity that could be holding you or others back.

Within the tradition of paganism there is no devil. Here he represents the materialistic aspects within us.

16 The Tower
An Tour

The often destructive removal of old negative energies in order to replace them with positive energies.

If you build something badly it will fall down or If you build it in the wrong place it will be pulled down. To build something new you need a place to build it and often that place is currently occupied by something that is holding you back and needs to be knocked down.

17 The Moon
An Lor

Psychic affairs. Seeing beyond the normal world / beyond the surface.

The second part of the celestial trinity. The moon is the mother aspect and is linked to the intuition and the 3rd eye. In some packs it is linked to illusion, this is only because at night you cannot see so clearly as you can during the daytime, however with the magickal aspect of the moon you can see aspects that you cannot see otherwise.

18 The Star
An Steren

Good times are on their way. The future looks good.

The first part of the celestial trinity. The star is the child aspect and when the star is shining all will be well. The future is bright and is on its way.

19 The Sun
An Howl

Good times are here.

Life is wonderful right now. The final part of the celestial trinity. The sun is the father aspect and when the sun is shining all is well.

20 Judgment
Breus

Time to make decisions about your life before moving on to the next phase.

This is your own personal judgment day. A time to re-examine what you want out of life and what you have or haven't achieved.

21 The World
An Nor

Travel. Attaining your goals.

All four elements are working harmoniously together in your life. You have either

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achieved what you set out to do or you are planning to travel. Maybe you are on holiday or are going away on a business trip.

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