

**KŌRERO MĀORI GIVE IT A GO!**

**Ka rawe te  
kōrero Māori**

**Speaking Māori  
is awesome**

*Take the time to learn*

*He whetū koe*  
you are a star

**GIVE IT A GO!**

*speaking Māori is FUN*



**Kōrero Māori**  
*Give it a go!*

[www.koreromaori.co.nz](http://www.koreromaori.co.nz)

TAKE THE TIME  
TO LEARN

“ KEI TE PAI ”

“ He whetū koe ”  
YOU'RE A STAR

“ GIVE  
IT  
A GO ”

KA TĀWĀPĀ TE Kōrero Māori



**Kōrero Māori**

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[www.koreromaori.co.nz](http://www.koreromaori.co.nz)

what this book is about

“**MĀORI LANGUAGE** is intrinsic to New Zealand’s culture and history. It contributes to our distinct and unique cultural identity.

This booklet is designed to help you become comfortable with the basics of the language. It’s not a text book, simply a guide to the first steps. You may not be aware that you are probably already using Māori words and phrases without even thinking about it.

Everyone knows the extremely versatile, ‘kia ora’. Words like haka, kauri, koru, marae, kūmara and kai are for many, part of our everyday language. There are Māori place names, the Māori rendition of our National Anthem, the list goes on and on.

Māori was made an official language of Aotearoa/New Zealand in 1987 and is becoming more common in greetings, official functions and in education.

This booklet will help you with some useful words and phrases. It won’t make you fluent overnight. Don’t be afraid of making mistakes – it’s all part of the process. In te reo, we have a rich

and valuable cultural resource and by using it – even in simple ways – we are sharing in a rich tradition that provides much of the background to our kiwi culture.

KIA ORA HI

TAU KĒ awesome

SO GO ON

**GIVE IT A GO!**

Kōrero  
Māori

tahi

Beside which, it's fun.

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# BASIC PRONUNCIATION

## VOWELS

There are 5 vowel sounds in Māori; they can be pronounced 'short' or 'long'. In written form, the long vowel is usually marked with a macron eg a/ā

<b>a</b>	<i>As in putt</i>	<b>ā</b>	<i>As in car</i>
<b>e</b>	<i>As in pencil</i>	<b>ē</b>	<i>As in measure</i>
<b>i</b>	<i>As in eat</i>	<b>ī</b>	<i>As in heel</i>
<b>o</b>	<i>As in fork</i>	<b>ō</b>	<i>As in your</i>
<b>u</b>	<i>As in you</i>	<b>ū</b>	<i>As in roof</i>

Where two different vowels appear together, they each retain their basic sound but are run together to create a smooth sounding transition. Māori words always end in a vowel.

## CONSONANTS

The consonant sounds are:  
p, t, k, m, n, ng, wh, r, h, w.

## STRESS

Is usually on the long vowel (as indicated by a macron eg: ā) or the first syllable

<b>ng</b>	<i>As in singer</i>
<b>wh</b>	<i>As the f in feather</i>
<b>r</b>	<i>Pronounced quite close to the English l, with the tongue near the front of the mouth</i>

ive it a go

TORU

# MIHIMIHI INTRODUCTION

A *mihimihi* is a basic introduction to let people know a little bit about yourself. It can be expanded to include as much information as you like.

<b>Kia ora</b> tātou	<i>Hello everybody</i>
<b>Ko</b> (name) ahau	<i>I'm (name)</i>
or - <b>Ko</b> (name) <b>tōku</b> ingoa	<i>My name is (name)</i>
<b>Nō Te Whanganui-a-Tara</b> ahau	<i>I'm from Wellington</i>
<b>He Pākehā</b> ahau	<i>I'm a Pākehā</i>
<b>Kei</b> (organisation) ahau e mahi ana	<i>I work at (organisation)</i>
<b>Tēnā</b> koutou katoa	<i>Greetings to you all</i>

## MEET AND GREET

<b>Kia ora</b>	<i>Hello / Thank you</i>
<b>Kei te pēhea</b> koe?	<i>How are you?</i>
<b>Kei te pai</b>	<i>Good</i>
<b>Ka nui te pai</b>	<i>Very well</i>
<b>Mōrena e Hone</b>	<i>Good morning, John</i>
<b>Kuhu mai e Pita</b>	<i>Come in, Peter</i>
<b>Aroha mai</b>	<i>I'm sorry / excuse me</i>
<b>Kia kaha</b>	<i>Be strong / Give it heaps</i>
<b>Ka pai</b>	<i>Well done</i>
<b>Ka pai tō mahi</b>	<i>You're doing well</i>

Kei te pēhea koe i tēnei ata?	<i>How are you this morning?</i>
Kōrero mai anō	<i>Please repeat that</i>
I pēhea tō rā?	<i>How was your day?</i>
Pai mārika taku rā	<i>I had a great day</i>
Piro rawa atū	<i>Really stink!</i>
Tētahi rā kino, koia tēnei	<i>What a terrible day</i>
Tō hātakēhi hoki	<i>You're a hard case</i>
He pia māku	<i>I'd like a beer</i>
He wai noa iho māku	<i>Just water for me</i>
Kei te aha koe ā te pō?	<i>What are you doing tonight?</i>
Kua kai koe?	<i>Have you had something to eat?</i>
E matekai ana koe?	<i>Are you hungry?</i>
Kei te tika?	<i>Is that right?</i>
Ka kite anō	<i>See you later</i>
Ka kite anō āpōpō	<i>See you tomorrow</i>
Kia pai ō rā whakatā	<i>Have a good break</i>
Nōku te hē	<i>Sorry, my mistake</i>
Kia pai tō rā	<i>Have a great day</i>
Haere rā	<i>Goodbye, to someone leaving</i>
E noho rā	<i>Goodbye, to someone staying</i>

“**Hōmai te kihi**”  
GIVE US A KISS

# What, what

Tēnā koe	<i>Greetings to you (one person)</i>
Tēnā kōrua	<i>Greetings to two people</i>
Tēnā koutou	<i>Greetings to several people</i>

GO”

Kei te pēhea koe?	<i>How are you?</i>
Kei te pai ahau	<i>I'm fine</i>
Kei te hiamoe ahau	<i>I'm sleepy</i>
Kei te pokea e te mahi	<i>Extremely busy</i>
Kei te hiakai ahau	<i>I'm hungry</i>
Kei te hainu ahau	<i>I'm thirsty</i>
Taua āhua anō	<i>Same as ever</i>
Ka pai	<i>That's good</i>
He aha te mate?	<i>What's wrong?</i>
Koia anō?	<i>Is that so?</i>
Ka aroha koe	<i>How sad for you</i>
He inu kawhe māu?	<i>Do you want a coffee?</i>
Kia pai tō wiki mutunga	<i>Have a good weekend</i>
Haere rā	<i>Goodbye</i>
Ka kite anō	<i>See you later</i>
Hei konei rā	<i>Goodbye</i>
Haere tātou	<i>Let's go</i>

Ka aha

“ E HIKA, E  
AHA ANA KOE? ”

ono

HEY FRIEND, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

# UP, WHY?

**Ko wai? Ko ahau**  
**WHO? ME**

Ko wai ia?	<i>Who is he/she?</i>
Ko wai tēnā?	<i>Who is that?</i>
Ko (name) ia	<i>He/she is (name)</i>
Ko wai tērā?	<i>Who is that over there?</i>
Nō whea koe?	<i>Where are you from?</i>
He aha tēnei?	<i>What's this?</i>
He aha tēna?	<i>What's that?</i>
He aha tērā?	<i>What's that over there?</i>
Kei whea tō (...)	<i>Where is your (...)</i>
Kei konei taku (...)	<i>Here is my (...)</i>
He pukapuka tēnei	<i>This is a book</i>
He tūru tēnā	<i>That's a chair</i>
He maunga tērā	<i>That's a mountain over there</i>

Hoatu te ipu ki a Pita	<i>Give the cup to Peter</i>
Hōmai te pene whero	<i>Give (me) the red pen</i>
Tīkina taku pukapuka kākārīki	<i>Get my green book</i>

**koe āpōpō?** WHAT ARE YOU DOING TOMORROW?

WHITU

# Kai FOOD

Hāngi	<i>Earth oven</i>
Heihei	<i>Chicken</i>
Ika	<i>Fish</i>
Kaimoana	<i>Seafood</i>
Mīti	<i>Meat</i>
Parāoa	<i>Bread</i>
Kūmara	<i>Sweet potato</i>
Rīwai	<i>Potato</i>
Poaka	<i>Pork</i>
Tihi	<i>Cheese</i>
Tio	<i>Oyster</i>
Aihikirīmi	<i>Ice Cream</i>
Miraka	<i>Milk</i>
Hēki	<i>Egg</i>
Pata	<i>Butter</i>
Pihikete	<i>Biscuit</i>

*Haere mai ki te kai  
come and eat*

He aha māu?	<i>What would you like?</i>
He heihei māku	<i>I'd like some chicken</i>
Kainga te ika	<i>Eat the fish</i>
Hoatu te parāoa ki tō whaea	<i>Pass the bread to your mother</i>

“

*give it a go*

# Kia Kaha

## BE STRONG

Ngā mihi mō tō rā whānau	<i>Happy Birthday</i>
Ngā mihi o te Kirihimete me te Tau Hōu	<i>Merry Christmas and Happy New Year</i>
Kia pai te haere	<i>Have a good trip</i>
Ngā mihi mō tō manaakitanga mai	<i>Thanks for your kindness</i>
Nau mai ki te wā kāinga	<i>Welcome home</i>
Āe	<i>Yes</i>
Kāo, kāhore	<i>No</i>
Auē	<i>Alas</i>
Kia ora	<i>Hi, hello, thanks</i>
Mōrena	<i>Good morning</i>
Haere mai	<i>Welcome, come here</i>
E noho	<i>Sit down</i>
Ngā mihi nui	<i>With best wishes</i>
Ka pai tō mahi	<i>You're doing great</i>
Taku aroha nui ki a koe	<i>Love you heaps</i>
He rā tino ātaahua tēnei	<i>It's a great day</i>
Tino pai rawa atu koe	<i>You're the best</i>
Ka rawe	<i>How neat</i>
Tino koa ana i te rongopai kua hau mai	<i>Thrilled with your news</i>
Ngā mihi nui me te aroha nā (name)	<i>Congratulations and love from (name)</i>

HE PAI RAWA ATU TĒNĀ  
THAT'S FANTASTIC

CELEBRATE

# PLACE NAMES

# INGOA WĀHI

Aotearoa	<i>New Zealand</i>
Te Ika a Māui	<i>North Island</i>
Te Waipounamu	<i>South Island</i>
Rakiura	<i>Stewart Island</i>
Tāmaki-makau-rau	<i>Auckland</i>
Kirikiriroa	<i>Hamilton</i>
Te Tai Hauāuru	<i>West Coast (Nth Is)</i>
Te Tai Rāwhiti	<i>East Coast (Nth Is)</i>
Te Whanganui-a-Tara	<i>Wellington</i>
Ōtautahi	<i>Christchurch</i>
Te Tihi-o-Marū	<i>Timaru</i>
Ōtepoti	<i>Dunedin</i>
Te Tai Tokerau	<i>Northland</i>
Te Rohe Potae	<i>King Country</i>
Te Matau a Māui	<i>Hawke's Bay</i>
Te Tai Poutini	<i>West Coast (Sth Is)</i>
Ngāmotu	<i>New Plymouth</i>
Papaioea	<i>Palmerston North</i>

Nō hea koe? *Where are you from?*

Nō (...) ahau *I'm from (...)*

Nō hea ia? *Where is he/she from?*

Nō (...) ia *She/he is from (...)*

tekau

Haere pai atu, hoki pai ma

TRAVEL SAFELY, AND RETURN SAFELY

# Inanahi, tēnei rā, āpōpō

days **NGĀ RĀ**

<i>Days</i>	<b>Ngā rā</b>
<i>Monday</i>	<b>Rāhina</b>
<i>Tuesday</i>	<b>Rātū</b>
<i>Wednesday</i>	<b>Rāapa</b>
<i>Thursday</i>	<b>Rāpare</b>
<i>Friday</i>	<b>Rāmere</b>
<i>Saturday</i>	<b>Rāhoroi</b>
<i>Sunday</i>	<b>Rātapu</b>

**Ngā wā o te tau**  
seasons

<i>Seasons</i>	<b>Ngā wā o te tau</b>
<i>Spring</i>	<b>Koanga</b>
<i>Summer</i>	<b>Raumati</b>
<i>Autumn</i>	<b>Ngahuru</b>
<i>Winter</i>	<b>Hōtoke, makariki</b>

<i>Months</i>	<b>Ngā marama</b>
<i>January</i>	<b>Kohi-tātea</b>
<i>February</i>	<b>Hui-tanguru</b>
<i>March</i>	<b>Poutū-te-rangi</b>
<i>April</i>	<b>Paenga-whāwhā</b>
<i>May</i>	<b>Haratua</b>
<i>June</i>	<b>Pipiri</b>
<i>July</i>	<b>Hōngongoi</b>
<i>August</i>	<b>Here-turi-kōkā</b>
<i>September</i>	<b>Mahuru</b>
<i>October</i>	<b>Whiringa-ā-nuku</b>
<i>November</i>	<b>Whiringa-ā-rangi</b>
<i>December</i>	<b>Hakihea</b>

**Ngā marama**  
months

**Ko te aha tēnei rā?**

**Ko te Rāhoroi**

**Ko te aha tēnei marama?**

**Ko te Hōngongoi**

**I tēnei tau**

**I tēnei wiki**

**I tēnei rā**

**Hei tērā tau**

**Hei tērā marama**

*What day is it?*

*It's Saturday*

*What month is it?*

*It's July*

*This year*

*This week*

*Today*

*Next year*

*Next month*

**Whakarongo  
mai  
Listen**

**INANAHI** yesterday

tekau mā tāhi

# NGĀ TAU

## NUMBERS

tahi	Tahi	One
	Rua	Two
TORU	Toru	Three
	Whā	Four
whā	Rima	Five
rima	Ono	Six
ono	Whitu	Seven
WHITU	Waru	Eight
Waru	Iwa	Nine
iwa	Tekau	Ten
	Tekau mā tahi	Eleven
tekau	Tekau mā rua	Twelve
	Rua tekau	Twenty
	Toru tekau	Thirty
	Whā tekau mā ono	Forty six
	Waru tekau mā whitu	Eighty seven
	Kotahi rau	One hundred
	Kotahi mano	One thousand

E hia? *How many?*

E ono *Six of them*

Tokohia ngā tāngata? *How many people are there?*

Tokomaha ngā tāngata *There are lots of people*

tekau mā rua

Tokohia ngā tāngata?  
how many

# Ngā Tae

# colours

Mangu / Pango	Black
Mā	White
Whero	Red
Karaka	Orange
Kōwhai	Yellow
Kākāriki	Green
Kikorangi	Blue
Tawa	Purple
Parauri	Brown
Kiwikiwi	Grey

He  
tawa te  
tae o  
tēnei

*It's purple*

He aha te tae o tēnei?	<i>What colour is this?</i>
He (...) te tae o tēnā.	<i>It is (...)</i>

## Wā time

He aha te wā?	<i>What's the time?</i>
Kotahi karaka te wā	<i>It's one o'clock</i>
Haurua mai i te toru te wā	<i>It's half past three</i>
Hauwhā ki te iwa te wā	<i>Quarter to nine</i>
Poupoutanga o te rā	<i>It's midday</i>
Rima mai i te ono te wā	<i>It's five past six</i>

... people are there?

tekau mā toru

“

# Everyday objects

He aha tēnei?	<i>What is this?</i>
He aha tēnā?	<i>What is that?</i>
He pōtae tēnei	<i>This is a hat</i>
He kurī pango tēnā	<i>That is a black dog</i>
He tēpu iti tēnei	<i>This is a small table</i>
He whare mā tērā	<i>That is a white house over there</i>

Tūru	<i>Chair</i>
Tēpu tuhi	<i>Desk</i>
Motukā	<i>Car</i>
Pukapuka	<i>Book</i>
Rorohiko	<i>Computer</i>
Tiwharawhara	<i>Stereo</i>
Hanawiti	<i>Sandwich</i>
Ngeru	<i>Cat</i>
Kūaha	<i>Door</i>
Karaehe	<i>Glass</i>
Waka rererangi	<i>Aeroplane</i>
Pouaka whakaata	<i>Television</i>
Manu	<i>Bird</i>
Waea	<i>Telephone</i>
Kākahu	<i>Clothes</i>
Rāiti	<i>Light</i>

Pereti	<i>Plate</i>
Rākau	<i>Tree</i>
Matapihi	<i>Window</i>
Whare	<i>House</i>
Rūma moe	<i>Bedroom</i>
Kāuta	<i>Kitchen</i>
Whakaahua	<i>Picture</i>
Pātara	<i>Bottle</i>
Pōro	<i>Ball</i>

Roa	<i>Long</i>
Teitei	<i>Tall</i>
Poto	<i>Short</i>
Pai	<i>Good</i>
Kino	<i>Bad</i>

# body parts

<b>Te tinana</b>	<i>The body</i>
<b>Māhunga</b>	<i>Head</i>
<b>Karu</b>	<i>Eye</i>
<b>Ihu</b>	<i>Nose</i>
<b>Waha</b>	<i>Mouth</i>
<b>Taringa</b>	<i>Ear</i>
<b>Makawe</b>	<i>Hair</i>
<b>Puku</b>	<i>Stomach</i>
<b>Ringa</b>	<i>Arm/hand</i>
<b>Matikara</b>	<i>Finger</i>
<b>Waewae</b>	<i>Leg/foot</i>
<b>Turi</b>	<i>Knee</i>

## FAMILY

<b>Whaea</b>	<i>Mother</i>
<b>Matua</b>	<i>Father</i>
<b>Tamaiti</b>	<i>Child</i>
<b>Tama</b>	<i>Son</i>
<b>Tamāhine</b>	<i>Daughter</i>
<b>Kuia</b>	<i>Grandmother</i>
<b>Koroua</b>	<i>Grandfather</i>
<b>Mokopuna</b>	<i>Grandchild</i>
<b>Tāne</b>	<i>Man</i>
<b>Wahine</b>	<i>Woman</i>
<b>Pēpē</b>	<i>Baby</i>

Hoki mai  
ki te  
kāinga

come back / return home

tekau mā  
rima



# ANTHEM NGARINGARI

## The Anthem

E Ihoa Atua  
O ngā iwi mātou rā  
Āta whakarongona  
Me aroha noa  
Kia hua ko te pai  
Kia tau tō atawhai  
Manaakitia mai  
Aotearoa

God of nations at thy feet  
In the bonds of love we meet  
Hear our voices we entreat  
God defend our free land  
Guard Pacific's triple star  
From the shafts of  
strife and war  
Make her praises heard afar  
God defend New Zealand

*Maiatatia te waiata* sing the song

## Haka

Ka Mate! Ka Mate!  
Ka Ora! Ka Ora!  
Tēnei te tangata pūhuru  
Nāna nei i tiki mai  
(I) whakawhiti te rā  
Ā upane ka upane!  
Ā upane ka upane!  
Whiti te rā! Hi!

a go”

*tekau mā ono*

**Kia Kaha**  
BE STRONG

*He whetū koe*  
you are a star

## resources

To read, listen or view te reo Māori on-line visit:

<a href="http://www.koreromaori.co.nz">www.koreromaori.co.nz</a>	<i>a reo Māori interactive website</i>
<a href="http://www.maorilanguage.net">www.maorilanguage.net</a>	<i>on-line Māori language lessons</i>
<a href="http://www.nzhistory.net.nz">www.nzhistory.net.nz</a>	<i>“100 Māori words every New Zealander should know”</i>
<a href="http://tewhanake.otago.ac.nz/kakano/home.html">http://tewhanake.otago.ac.nz/kakano/home.html</a>	<i>15 short cartoons introduce you to Māori dialogue</i>
<a href="http://www.irirangi.net">www.irirangi.net</a>	<i>listen to your local Māori radio station live</i>
<a href="http://www.maoritelevision.com">www.maoritelevision.com</a>	<i>daily Māori news bulletins – click on Te Kaea</i>
<a href="http://www.tvnz.co.nz">www.tvnz.co.nz</a>	<i>keyword: Te Karere</i>
<a href="http://www.tpk.govt.nz">www.tpk.govt.nz</a>	<i>Te Puni Kōkiri information</i>
<a href="http://www.hrc.co.nz">www.hrc.co.nz</a>	<i>Human Rights information</i>
<a href="http://www.kohanga.ac.nz">www.kohanga.ac.nz</a>	<i>Immersion reo Māori website</i>
<a href="http://www.matariki.net.nz">www.matariki.net.nz</a>	<i>Information about the Māori New Year</i>

**Order further copies of this booklet and other resources at our website: [www.koreromaori.co.nz](http://www.koreromaori.co.nz)**

*‘Kia ita!’*

*Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori*  
MĀORI LANGUAGE COMMISSION



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