

Māori Words and Phrases for Scientists and Technicians

Guide to Basic Pronunciation of Māori Words



Introduction

This is not a full Māori language self-directed language module. However, it is to help develop the understanding and pronunciation of the words and terms provided in this ‘Guide’. It is important to realise that there are variations in the use of certain words around the country, however none of the words provided in this document would be misunderstood when communicating with a patient.

Language Structure

There are 15 distinct sounds in the Māori alphabet:

Five vowels a.e.i.o.u

Each of these can be pronounced either long or short and the macron (the line above a letter) is used to indicate that the vowel is lengthened: e.g. **ā.ē.ī.ō.ū**.

Using the macron

Short	Long
a as in aunt	ā as in father
e as in pen	ē as ai as in pair
i as in bit	ī as ee as in feet
o as or in for	ō as or as in store
u as in put	ū as oo as in boot

Eight consonants h.k.m.p.r.t.w

Two diagraphs These are letters that combine to make a single sound.

wh. ng. eg whanau (“fanau”)
ng. e.g. as in singer, and not as in finger

Introductions and Greetings	
English	Māori
Hello (informal greeting)	Kia ora
Good morning	Mōrena
Hullo (more than one person)	Tēnā koutou
Hullo (two persons)	Tēnā kōrua
Goodbye (person staying)	E noho ra
Goodbye (person leaving)	Haere ra
What is your name?	Ko wai tou ingoa
My name is (<i>name</i>)	Ko (<i>name</i>) taku ingoa
How are you? (one, two or many)	Kei te pehea (koe, kōrua or koutou)
Very well thank you	Ka nui te pai
I am good	Kei te pai
Speak, tell, say	Kōrero
Welcome, enter	Haere mai
Welcome	Nau mai
Day/sky	Rangi
OK	Pai

Personal Connections	
English	Māori
Tribe	Iwi
Sub-tribe	Hapū
People of the land	Tangata whenua
Land or homeland	Whenua
Region or territory	Rohe
Extended family	Whānau
Relatives	Whanaunga
Genealogy or ancestry	Whakapapa
Elders	Kaumātua
Women /females/wives	Wāhine
Guests or visitors	Manuhiri

Spiritual Considerations	
English	Māori
Authority or power	Mana
Sacred, taboo, must not touch	Tapu
Not sacred or taboo	Noa
Treasures (physical/cultural/physical)	Tāonga
Essential life force	Mauri
Compassion/love/empathy	Aroha
Guardian or trustee	Kaitiaki

General Communication	
English	Māori
Boy	Tama
Child	Pōtiki, tamaiti
Daughter	Tamāhine
Female	Uwha, uha
Male	Tāne
Meeting or to gather	Hui
Words	Kupu
Cry or mourn	Tangi
Funeral ceremony	Tangihana
Good	Ka Pai
Welcoming on marae/ceremony calling	Karanga
Gift or donation	Koha
Food	Kai
Greeting	Mihi
Dining room	Whare kai
Toilet	Wharepaku
Bathroom	Wahre horoi / Wahre kaukau
Chair	Tūru
Sit down	E noho
Pen	Pene
Paper	Pepa
Table	Tēpu
Yes	Āe
No	Kēo
That's Great	Ka tino pai

Food and Location	
English	Māori
Tea	Ti
Coffee	Kawhe
Cup	Kapu
Sugar	Huka
Hungry/Hunger	Hiakai
Thirsty/Thirst	Hiainu
Full	Mak mākona
Café	Wharekai
Restaurant	Whare hokoka
Breakfast	Parakuihi
Mealtime	Wā mō te kai
Lunch	Tina
Sandwich	Hanawite
Packed lunch	Kawenga tina

Terms in the Clinic	
English	Māori
Accident	Aituā
Asthma	Huangō, kume, hiki, tīmohu, ngio
Baby	Pōtiki, pēpi pēpe
Bandage	Tākai
Born/family	Whānau
Cancer	Mate pukupuku
Cough	Maremare
Blood/Bleed	Toto
Die/illness/infection	Mate
Doctor	Tākuta, rata
Drink	Inu
Medicine	Rongoa
Flu	Whurū
Germ	Iroriki
Health	Hauora, waiora, ora
Heart	Manawa, ngākau, whatumanawa, uho
Injection	Wero
Muscle	Uaua, io
Pregnant	Hapū
Urine/urinate	Mimi
Tongue	Arero
Chest	Poho
Breast (wai-u is breast milk)	Ū, uma, poho
Head	Upoko
Foot/feet/legs	Waewae
Eye	Karu/watu
Nose	Ihu
Ears	Taringa
Mouth	Waha/māngai
Arm(s)	Ringaringa
Hands	Ringaringa
Water	Wai
Fasting	Nohopuku
To treat	Rongoā

Terms Relating to Clinical Conditions	
English	Māori
Anaemia	Mate rino
Appendicitis	Mate weu, whēkau kaka
Arteriosclerosis	Pakeke oteia totowhero
Artery	Iaia mai i te Manawa
Arthritis	Mate uruumu pona, mate kaikōiwi
Autopsy	Tirotiro tūpāpaku
Bacteria	Moroiti, kitakita, huakita
Blood bank	Pūtea toto
Blood clot	Katinga toto, kaitoto
Blood group	Tūmomo toto
Blood pressure	Rere ote iatoto, taukapa ote toto
Blood transfusion	Whāngai toto
Cancer	Mate pukupuku
Cancer cervical	Mate pukupuku ote waha taiawa
Cancer therapy	Whakatā mate pukupuku
Cardiac arrest	Manawatū, manawahē
Chicken pox	Koroputu hei
Coronary	Mate Manawa
Cot death	Mate pouraka
Cramp – legs	Kaurapa
Diabetes	Mate huka
Diabetic	Matehuka
Disease	Mate, tahumaero
Gene	Ira
German measles	Kōpukupuku
Glaucoma	Papahewa
Gonorrhoea	Mate paipai
Gout	Koute, porohau, puhipuhi
Haemophilia	Mate toto tepekore
Haemorrhage	Ikura, tahe toto
Heart attack	Manawatū, mate, Manawa, manawahē
Hepatitis	Mate kowhai, mate ate kakā
Hypertension	Takawhita
Infection	Mate
Infertility	Pākoko
Leukemia	Mate ruru toto

Malignant	Kino, whakamate
Melanoma	Kiritona pukupuku, tonapuku
Meningitis	Kiruhi ua kaka
Measles	Karawaka, mītera
Mumps	Mate kōpuku korokoro, mate pupuhirepe
Pneumonia	Niumōnia, pūkaku kaka
Prostate	Repe tātea, repe ure
Respiratory disease	Mate roma hā
Rheumatic fever	Piwa rūmātiki
Rheumatism	Rūmātiki. Kaikōiwi, uhumona
Rheumatoid arthritis	Kaikōiwi
Schizophrenia	Pōauau, wairua tuakoi
Schizophrenic	Wairua tuakoi
Syphilis	Pākwakewa
Tuberculosis	Matekōhi-ā-kiko, kohitu
Urinary tract infection	Mate roma mimi

Useful information	
Numerals	
English	Māori
Number	Word
1	Tahi, kotahi
2	Rua
3	Toru
4	Whā
5	Rima
6	Ono
7	Witu
8	Waru
9	Iwa
10	Teku mā tahi
11	Teku mā rua
12	Teku mā toru
Days of the Week	
Sunday	Rātapu
Monday	Mane, Rātahi
Tuesday	Tūrei, Rārua
Wednesday	Weneri, Rātoru
Thursday	Tāite, Rāwhā
Friday	Paraire, Rārima
Saturday	Hātarei, Rāhoroi
Months of the Year	
January	Hānuere, Kohi tātea
February	Pepuere, Hui tanguru
March	Maeha, Poutū-tr-rangi
April	Āperira. Paengawhāwhā
May	Mei, Htautua
June	Hune, Pipiri
July	Hūrae, Hōngongoi
August	Ākuhata, Here turi kōkā
September	Hepetema, Mahuru
October	Oketopa, Whiringā-nuku
November	Noema, Whiringa-ā-rangi
December	Tihema, Hakihea

Seasons	
Spring	Kōanga
Summer	Raumati
Autumn	Ngahuru
Winter	Hōtoke, takurua, makairi