



Te Wiki o te Reo

at Te Puna

Some simple phrases for beginners. Give some of these a try

Whakahuatanga - Pronunciation

There are five vowels and ten consonants in the Māori alphabet. Listen to their sounds by clicking on the letters below.

five vowels: [a](#), [e](#), [i](#), [o](#), [u](#)

eight consonants: [h](#), [k](#), [m](#), [n](#), [p](#), [r](#), [t](#), [w](#)

two digraphs (two letters that combine to form one sound) :

[wh](#), [ng](#).

Vowels

While there are five vowels, combinations of vowels (diphthongs) are common.

A vowel can be long or short. A long sound is shown by a macron (a bar appearing over a vowel e.g. 'ā' in motokā).

Kua kai anō koe?

Have you had something to eat?

He aha māu?

What would you like?

He wai ārani māku.

I would like an orange juice.

He wai reka māku.

I would like a soft drink.

He wai noa iho māku.

Just water for me.

He aha tō mahi?

What do you do for a job?

Kei hea koe e mahi ana?

Where do you work?

He kaimahi ahau nā Te Puna Hauora

I work at Te Puna Hauora

Nō konei ake koe?

Are you from around here?

Ae, nō konei ake au.

Yes, I'm from here.

Ehara au nō konei.

No, I'm not from here.

He aha ō mahi i tēnei rā?

What did you do today?

I pēhea tō rā?

How was your day?

Piro rawa atu!

It sucked!

Pai mārika taku rā!

I had a great day!

E aha ana koe ā te pō?

Kei te aha koe ā te pō?

What are you doing tonight?

Hei aha māu?

What's it to you?

Kāhore kau.

He kore noa iho.

Nothing.

He aha ai?

Why?

E mate kai ana koe?

Are you hungry?

Ka rawe!

Tino pai kē!

Too much!

Te pai hoki o tō hanga.

Tō ātaahua hoki rā

You look good.

Vowel Pronunciation

| | | Short | Long |
|----------|-------|-------|-------|
| a | as in | about | far |
| e | as in | enter | bed |
| i | as in | eat | sheep |
| o | as in | awful | pork |
| u | as in | put | boot |

Me āta inu koe.

Go easy on the drinking.

E āta inu ana au

I'm just taking it easy (i.e. drinking).

Ka rawe te kōrero Māori.

Gee speaking Maori is good fun.

Ka rawe.

Choice, awesome.

Ehara mai!

Ka mau te wehi!

Awesome!

He aha pea he mahi mā tāua?

Shall we do something?

Kua haere au.

Okay, I'm off.

Ka kite anō.

See you again.

