



# Te Reo Māori Kuki 'Airani

## Cook Islands Māori Language

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## Te au reo o te Kūku 'Airani – The languages of the Cook Islands

Cook Islands Māori is an Eastern Polynesian language belonging to the same language family as New Zealand Māori, Hawai'i and Tahiti.

Pukapuka of the Cook Islands is western Polynesian language belonging to the same language family as the languages of Samoa, Tuvalu and Tokelau.

Palmerston Island has its own distinctive mixture of Cook Islands Māori and English

English is an official language of the Cook Islands.

## Te au reo enua tātakita'i – Dialects

There are a number of distinct dialects in the Cook Islands: Mangaia, Rarotonga, Ngāpūtoru (made up of Atiu, Mauke and Mitiaro, Aitutaki, Manihiki, Rakahanga, Tongareva, Pukapuka and Palmerston), however the main dialect being taught is the Rarotongan dialect - Rarotonga being the capital of the Cook Islands.

## Vouvera – Vowels

These have the same pronunciation as other Pacific languages, including te reo Māori (NZ Māori language).

Vouvera can be short or long (the long vowel sound is indicated with a macron).

**a, e, i, o, u** (as in the English: are, there, three or two)

**ā, ē, ī, ō, ū** (as in the English: father, egg, feet, thought, loot)

It is important that the short and long vowel sounds are used, as they distinguish between different words – eg. marama (moon) and mārama (daylight).

## Consonants - no Maori

**ng, k, m, n, p, r, t, v** and [ʔ] (glottal stop)

The Tongareva alphabet has two additional consonants: s and h; the Manihiki and Rakahanga dialects also have a f and h. Pukapuka is amore distinctive language, having the letters l, w, and y in its alphabet.

The consonants are pronounced like in English. The 'ng' blend is like the 'nga' sound in te reo Māori, or the 'ng' sound from the English word 'song'.

## Te Au Ara Reta – The Alphabet

There are 13 letters in the Alphabet:

**Aa Ee NGng Ii Kk Mm Nn Oo Pp Rr Tt Uu Vv**

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## Te Au Ara Reta Māori Kūki 'Airani | Cook Islands Māori Alphabet

**Aa**

Anu (Cold)

**Ee**

'Ei (Garland)

**NGng**

Ngūtupa (Door)

**li**

'Īmene (Song)

**Kk**

Kerekere (Black)

**Mm**

Marama (Moon)

**Nn**

Nira (Needle)

**Oo**

Ora kanga (Play time)

**Pp**

Pereue (Coat)

**Rr**

Rekareka (Happy)

**Tt**

Tāne (Man / Husband)

**Uu**

'Ura (Dance)

**Vv**

Vai (Water)

Aa

Ee

NGng

li

Kk

Mm

Nn

Oo

Pp

Rr

Tt

Uu

Vv

# Tuatua Purapura | Everyday Phrases

Te Reo Māori Kuki 'Āirani	English
Kia Orāna	Greetings / Hello
Kia Orāna kōtou kātoatoa	Greetings Everyone
'Aere rā/ 'Aere atu ra	Goodbye to those who are leaving (only if it applies)
'Ē no'o rā/'Ē no'o ake rā	Goodbye – to those who are staying (only if it applies)
'Inē?	Please
Meitaki	Thank you
Tatarā'ara	Sorry
Inā or Inā ake ana	Excuse me
Ko'ai tō'ou ingoa?	What is your name?

Te Reo Māori Kuki 'Āirani	English
Ko ____ tōku ingoa.	My name is _____
Nō 'ea mai koe?	Where are you from?
E tangata au no ____ mai.	I am a person from _____
Nō ____ mai au.	I am from _____
'Ē 'anga'anga ana	Where do you work?
'Ē 'anga'anga ana au ki	I work at _____
How are you both?	Pē'ea kōrua?
Meitaki ma'ata au.	I am very fine
Kua kaikai koe? 'Aere mai	Have you eaten? Let's go eat

# Tuatua Purapura | Everyday Phrases

Te Reo Māori Kuki 'Āirani	English
Te tatarā'ara atu nei nō te tāroaroa i tāku pa'u'anga	Apologies for the delayed response...
Mei tāku imēre i tuku atu i mua ake...	As per my previous email...
Ka mataora au i te 'uri'uri tuatua	Happy to discuss
'E taimē 'akaketaketa kōpapa teia	Its time to stretch out the body/ Its gym time
Ringi mai iaku	Ring me
'Akararangi'anga / 'Akangateitei'anga	Congratulations!
Meitaki te Atua!	God is good!

Papa'ā	English
Ariki	Chief
'Orometua	Church Minister
Tamāroa	Boy
Tamāine	Girl
Pāpā	Father, uncle, grandfather,
Māmā	Mother, auntie, grandmother,
Tua'ine	Sister to a brother
Tungane	Brother to a sister
Au 'Oa	Friends

# Faith is an important aspect of the Cook Islands culture.

Below is a short prayer and hymn that could be used at the start of your day, to open a meeting or small gathering.

## Pure | Prayer

Te Reo Māori Kuki 'Āirani	English
<b>Ka pure tātou</b>	Let us pray
<b>'Ē to mātou Metua i runga i te rangi teitei</b>	Our heavenly father
<b>Te pati atu nei mātou i tā'au 'akameitaki'anga i teia 'epetoma.</b>	We ask for your blessings this week
<b>Ki runga 'ia mātou tātakita'i</b>	To each and every one of us
<b>Na roto i te ingoa o Iesu i pure atu ei mātou. 'Āmene</b>	In Jesus name we pray. Amen

## 'Īmene | Hymn

Te Reo Māori Kuki 'Āirani	English
<b>My God loves me</b>	Aro'a mai te Atua iaku
<b>And all the wonders I see</b>	I te au mea tāku e kite nei
<b>The rainbow shines through my window</b>	Te anuanua kua iti mai ki roto iāku
<b>My God loves me</b>	Aro'a mai te Atua iaku.