



# Te Reo Māori Kūki 'Airani

## Cook Islands Language

**PACIFIC**  
**LANGUAGE**  
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Ministry for  
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Te Manatū mō ngā Iwi o te Moana-nui-ā-Kiwa

# Te Reo Māori Kūki 'Airani | Cook Islands Māori Language

## Te au reo `ō 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 several distinct dialects in the Cook Islands: Mangaia, Rarotonga, Ngāpūtoru (made up of Atiu, Ma'uke and Miti'āro, 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.

## Vōvera – Vowels

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

Using the 2 distinctive signs, the Mākarōna (macron) and 'Āmata (glottal stop), changes the sound and meaning of each word, mākarōna (ā) giving it a long sound and 'Āmata (Glottal Stop) (ʻa), a quick sound - eg. marama (moon) and mārama (daylight/understand).

`a, `e, `i, `o, `u (as in the English: about, express, ink, opt, or put)  
ā, ē, ī, ō, ū (as in the English: father, bed, feet, thought, loot)

## Consonants - Kōnitinena

ng, k, m, n, p, r, t, v

Consonants must always be followed by a vowel and are pronounced like in English. 'Ng' sound is as in the English word 'sing.' 'T' with the vowels a, e, and o added has a slight 'D' sound.

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

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

**Aa**

Anu (Cold)

**Ē'e**

Ēi (Garland)

**Ng**

Ngūtupa (Door)

**Īī**

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)

**Ū'u**

Ūra (Dance)

**Vv**

Vai (Water)

Aa

Ee

Ngng

Ii

Kk

Mm

Nn

Oo

Pp

Rr

Tt

Uu

Vv



# Au Tuatua Rā `Ua Nei | Everyday Phrases

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

Te Reo Māori Kūki 'Airani	Papa'ā - English
Ko _____ tōku ingoa	My name is _____
Nō'ea mai koe?	Where are you from?
'Ē tangata au nō _____ mai.	I am a person from _____
Nō _____ mai au.	I am from _____
'Ē 'anga'anga ana koe ki 'ea?	Where do you work?
'Ē 'anga'anga ana au ki _____	I work at _____
Pē'ea kōrua?	How are you both?
Meitaki ma'ata au	I am very well
Kua kaikai koe? 'Aere mai kaikai	Have you eaten? Come and eat



# Au Tuatua Rā `Ua Nei | Everyday Phrases

Te Reo Māori Kūki 'Airani	Papa'ā - English
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	It's time to stretch out the body/ Its gym time
Rīngi mai iāku	Ring me
'Akararangi'anga / 'Akangateitei'anga	Congratulations!
Meitaki te Atua!	God is good!
Ariki	Chief
'Orometua	Church Minister

Te Reo Māori Kūki 'Airani	Papa'ā - English
Tamāroa	Boy
Tamāine	Girl
Pāpā, `Akapāpā, Pāpā rū'au	Father, uncle, grandfather
Māmā, `Akamāmā, Māmā rū'au	Mother, auntie, grandmother
Tua'ine	Sister to a brother
Tungāne	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 can be used at the start of your day, to open a meeting or small gathering.

## Pure | Prayer

Te Reo Māori Kūki 'Airani	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>Tē pati atu nei mātou `i tā'au 'akameitaki'anga `i teia 'epe-toma.</b>	We ask for your blessings this week
<b>Kia mātou tātakita'i</b>	To each and every one of us
<b>Nā roto `i te ingoa `ō Iesu `i pure atu ei mātou. 'Āmene</b>	In Jesus name we pray. Amen

## ‘Īmene | Hymn

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

