



1.3: Hone had better lie down.

1.3 Nominal prefix If a person is mentioned as the subject of the sentence, their name is preceded by “a” (the nominal prefix). At first it is easy to forget to put this in, because there is no equivalent “word” in the English form. Also take note that this is one of several “a”s.

E karanga ana **a** Hine = Hine is calling

Me takoto **a** Hone = Hone had better lie down*

Ka tu **a** Wiremu = Wiremu stands up, or will stand

“Ma” directly after the person’s name means “and others”.

E mahi ana **a** Kuini **ma** = Kuini **and the others** are working

E tama **ma**! = Boys!

1.4 Pronouns If we don’t want to keep on saying, for example, “the woman” or keep using the same “Hine”, we can use “she” (a pronoun).

E oma ana **ia** = **she** is running

Here are other pronouns in use:

I mahi **ahau** = **I** worked

Kua horoi **ratou** = **they** have washed

Ka haere **taua** = **we** will set off

E inu ana **koe** = **you** are drinking

Note that these pronouns are in the same position in the sentence as the words they have replaced and that the nominal prefix “a” is not generally used when a pronoun is subject of the sentence.

The full set:

One person ahau, or au = - I, me

koe = - you

ia = - he, him/she, her

Two people taua = - we, us (the person spoken to is one of the two people)

maua = - we, us (the person spoken to is not one of the two people)

korua = - you

raua = - they, them

More than two people

tatou = - we, us (the person spoken to is one of the people)

matou = - we, us (the person spoken to is not one of the people)

koutou = - you

ratou = - they, them

Note the dual pronouns used when two people are concerned; also the inclusive forms maua and matou. Referring to more than one person, “and” is expressed in this way:

Rangi **raua ko** Mona = Rangi **and** Mona

Rangi **ratou ko** Mona **ko** Kiri = Rangi, Mona **and** Kiri

If you are a beginner it will take a little while to become completely familiar with the pronouns, so you can move on to the next section when you are sure of half of them.



1.5: I have washed.

1.5 Active and Passive The Maori verb has two forms; the active form is used when the subject (*) of the sentence is carrying out some action, and the passive form is used when the subject is having the action done to it. Active and passive relate to the viewpoint from which a particular action is regarded. Do not confuse with “past” time. The verb sign indicates the time; the ending indicates active or passive.

(a) Active

E kai ana tera taitama* = that young man is **eating**

I patu te tangata* = the man **hit**

Ka waiata tenei kotiro* = this girl **will sing**

Kua horoi ahau* = I have **washed**

(b) Passive

E Kainga ana nga aporo* = the apples **are being eaten**

I patua tera kuri* kino = the bad dog **was hit**

Ka waiatatia te himene* = the hymn **will be sung**

Kua horoia nga pereti* = the plates have **been washed**

The importance of understanding the principle of active and passive cannot be stressed too strongly. When you learn a new verb, learn both forms. In dictionaries the passive ending is shown like this: “waiata-tia”, “mahi-a”. Once this section is mastered the whole subject will become easier to follow.

1.6 The natural development from 1.5(a) is:

E kai ana tera kotiro **i** nga aporo = that girl is eating the apples

I patu te tangata **i** tera kuri kino = the man hit that bad dog

Ka waiata tenei tamaiti **i** te himene = this child will sing the hymn

Kua horoi ahau **i** nga pereti = I have washed the plates

Note that this “i” (the transitive preposition) is not represented by any word in English. We must remember to put it in. The verbs “aroha”, “mohio”, “tatari”, “wareware”, and “mahara” use “ki” as the transitive preposition but, unlike the “ki”s we will deal with next, it does not translate.

Two important rules emerge at this stage:

(a) If a person’s name or a pronoun follow “i” (or “ki”, “Kei/i”) it is preceded by “a” (nominal prefix).

I awhina te kui **i a** Hera = the old lady helped Hera

I awhina te kuia **i a** = the old lady helped her

(b) “He = a, some” is never used after “i” (or “ki”, “kei/I”, “na/no”, “ma/mo”). “Tetahi” (often abbreviated to “te”) and “etahiu = some” are used instead.

E tuhituhi ana ia **i te(tahi)** reta = he is writing **a** letter

E korero ana a Henare **ki** (2.3) **te** kotiro ataahua = Henare is talking to **a** beautiful girl

The natural development of 1.5(b) is:

Kua **kainga** nga aporo **e** tera tama = the apples have been eaten **by** that boy

E **patua** ana te kuri kino **e** te tangata = the bad dog is being hit **by** the man

Ka **waiatatia** te waiata **e** tenei kotiro = the song will be sung **by** this girl

Kua **horoia** nga pereti **e** au = the plates have been washed **by** me

It is much more common in Maori for things to be expressed in