



A MINI MAORI COURSE

Here is the second of a three-part course for all of you wishing to learn to speak Maori. It does not claim to provide all the answers or any short cuts, and it's not a dictionary. But it does outline the basic structures which you will need to be familiar with, and it offers examples and models from which you can form your own sentences.

The course is designed as a reference or "ready-reckoner" to help you to learn the vital sentence pattern of conversational Maori, and should prove useful to those who have perhaps lost what they learned and wish to brush up their ability. It is designed also to complement the best teaching programme of all — regular practice.

John Foster

7.2 The possessive adjectives.

Ko tenei **taku** pene = *this is my pen*

He tino nui **to raua** whare = *their house is very big*

Homai ana pukapuka = *give me his books*

Tikina au kuri = *fetch your dogs.*

The full set:

	Singular (one thing)	Plural (several things)
one person		
My	Taku, toku	aku, oku
Your	tau, tou	au, ou
His, her	tana, tona	ana, ona
two people		
Our (inclusive)	ta taua, to taua	a taua, o taua
Our (exclusive)	ta maua, to maua	a maua, o maua
Your	ta korua, to korua	a korua, o korua
Their	ta raua, to raua	a raua, o raua
several people		
Our (inclusive)	ta tatou, to tatou	a tatou, o tatou
Our (exclusive)	ta matou, to matou	a matou, o matou
Your	ta koutou, to koutou	a koutou, o koutou
Their	ta ratou, to ratou	a ratou, o ratou

7.3 Statements of actual ownership

He pene taku — *I have a pen*

He potae tona = *she has a hat*

He poi a korua = *you have pois*

He wahine ta Ropata = *Ropata has a wife*

He tamariki a raua = *they have children*

Note how "he" is used in conjunction with the possessive adjectives in 7.2, and the way in which one or several things may be referred to.

7.4 "belongs to". Another choice for expressing ownership.

Na taku hoa tena pu = *that gun belong to my friend*

No Rua tera whare = *that house belongs to Rua*

Naku tenei wati = *this watch belongs to me (is mine)*

No raua era hoiho = *those horses belong to them (are theirs)*



7:4 That house belongs to Rua

Note: a. the same form is used whether one thing or several are referred to;

b. the full set of the pronoun form is the same as the **singular** column in table 7.2, but with "n" replacing the first "t".

7.5 "is for (someone to have)"

Mo nga tamariki enei kakahu = *these clothes are for the kids*

Ma Paki tena keke = *that cake is for Paki*

Mana tenei reta — *this letter is for him/her*