

**FIRST LESSONS IN THE
MAORI LANGUAGE
OF NEW ZEALAND; WITH
A SHORT VOCABULARY**

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First Lessons in the Maori Language of New Zealand; With a Short Vocabulary by W. L. Williams

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BY

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PART I.

ON READING.

§ 1. **The Alphabet** consists of the following fifteen letters :

FORM.	NAME.	SOUND.
A a	a	father.
E e	e	send.
H h	ha	
I i	i	hit, feet.
K k	ka	
M m	ma	
N n	na	
Ng ng	nga	singing.
O o	o	obey, without the <i>w</i> sound
P p	pa	generally connected with
R r	ra	o in English.
T t	ta	
U u	u	boot.
W w	wa	
Wh wh	wha	

§ 2. **Pronunciation.** Those letters which have not the pronunciation marked in the above table may be pronounced as in English: *t* and *r*, however are articulated farther forward in the mouth in Maori than they are in English; and *wh* is not, as it is written, a compound of *w* and *h*, but a simple consonant, the effect of breath emitted smartly between the lips; the same sound, in short, as is made in blowing from the mouth.

Ng, as used in Maori to begin a syllable, is found difficult by some people; but the difficulty may soon be overcome by bearing in mind that the position of the organs of speech is the same for this letter as for *g* and *k*, to which it stands in the same relation that *m* does to *b* and *p*, and *n* to *d* and *t*. Pronounce the three letters successively with the Maori vowel *a*, thus: *ka*, *ga*, *nga*, and practise this till the letter is mastered.

The vowels have each but one sound, though they may all vary in length in different words. When two stand together in a word, the first of the two is generally pronounced more strongly than the other. The doubling of a vowel amounts simply to a lengthening of it.

The consonants always stand singly, and every syllable ends with a vowel.

§ 3. **Caution.** Be careful always to give each vowel its own sound, and so to avoid confusion between *ae* and *ai*, as in the words *waewae* and *wai*; between *ao* and *au*, as in the words *tao* and *tau*; between *ou* and *u*, as in the words *koutou* and *mutu*.

II. NOUNS & PERSONAL PRONOUNS.

§ 4. The nouns have no **Inflections**,

nor any distinctions of **Gender** which affect grammatical construction.

Obs. The common interrogative pronoun, *aha*, *what*, is treated as a common noun.

§ 4. The **Number** of a common noun is denoted generally by the number of the definitive in connexion with it. See §§ 17, 18. The following words have one vowel lengthened in the plural, thus :

SINGULAR.	PLURAL.
Mātua, <i>parent</i> .	Mātua, <i>parents</i> .
Tūpuna, <i>ancestor</i> .	Tūpuna, <i>ancestors</i> .
Tāngata, <i>man</i> .	Tāngata, <i>men</i> .
Wāhine, <i>woman</i> .	Wāhine, <i>women</i> .
Tuāhine, <i>sister (of a man)</i> .	Tuāhine, <i>sisters</i> .
Tuākana, <i>elder brother</i> .	Tuākana, <i>elder brothers</i> .
Tēina, <i>younger brother</i> .	Tēina, <i>younger brothers</i> .

The word *tamaiti*, *child*, is used in the singular only, *tamariki* being always used for the plural.

§ 6. The **personal pronouns** have three numbers, Singular, Dual, and Plural, as shewn by the following table.

TABLE OF PERSONAL PRONOUNS.

	SINGULAR.	DUAL.	PLURAL.
1st Person	Ahau, or au	Maua	Matou
1st includ. 2nd		Taua	Tatou
2nd Person	Koe	Koua	Koutou
3rd Person	Ia	Raua	Ratou
Interrog.	Wai?	Wai ma?	Wai ma?
Indef.	Mea	Méa ma	Mea ma

Of the dual and plural pronouns of the first person, taua and tatou include the person or persons spoken to, while maua and matou exclude them. The personal pronouns are not used in speaking of inanimate things.

§ 7. **Local Nouns**, which are treated like proper names.

Hea, *what place.*

Ko, *that place (at a distance), yonder.*

Konei, *this place (near the speaker).*