

Māori for Beginners

Practical Learning with SynapseLingo

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This interactive trainer includes:

- Full audio version of this book
- Audio pronunciation guides
- Interactive exercises

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- Additional vocabulary practice
 - Progress tracking

Simply click the link or enter the URL in your web browser to access these supplementary materials.

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Lesson 1

Lesson 1: English – Māori: have = whai; say “I/you/we have” with kei a

Level up your English – Māori skills by mastering the verb “have” in Te Reo Māori: whai for “to have/need” and the possession pattern kei a for forms like “I have” and “you have.” We’ll cover key phrases: have, I have kei a au, you have kei a koe/kei a koutou, he has/she has/it has kei a ia, we have kei a mātou, and they have kei a rātou. Fun drills, quick dialogues, and culture tips make grammar stick while you laugh and learn. Perfect for learners searching “Learn Māori,” “English to Māori,” “Te Reo Māori grammar,” and “verb have meaning.

Welcome to SynapseLingo

Hey you, great to have you here! This episode is brought to you by SynapseLingo – grab more resources and freebies at www.synapse-lingo.com.

- Today you'll master the English verb "have" in Māori: whai and the possession pattern kei a. We'll keep it fast, fun, and friendly.
- Quick joke to warm up: a seagull yells "Mine!" – it's just practicing how to whai chips.

Your learning goal today

By the end, you'll say every common form of "have" with confidence. Let's lock in the targets.

- have = whai
- I have = kei a au
- you have (singular) = kei a koe
- he has = kei a ia
- she has = kei a ia
- it has = kei a ia
- we have (exclusive) = kei a mātou
- you have (plural) = kei a koutou
- they have = kei a rātou

Pattern in a nutshell

Two tools, one superpower: action vs possession. You've got this!

- Use whai for the action/requirement “to have/need”:
“We must have a plan.” → “Me whai tātou i tētahi mahere.”
- Use kei a + person for possession “X has (with them)”:
“I have a book.” → “Kei a au tētahi pukapuka.”
- More snap examples:
 - “You have the keys.” → “Kei a koe ngā kī.”
 - “He has the map.” → “Kei a ia te mahere.”
 - “We have the tickets.” → “Kei a mātou ngā tīkiti.”
 - “You (plural) have the homework.” → “Kei a koutou te mahi kāinga.”
 - “They have the ball.” → “Kei a rātou te pōro.”

Mini dialogue at the gate

Listen in and echo the key phrases out loud – yes, out loud.

- Guard: Tickets, please! Do you have them?
- You: Yes, we have them. → “Kei a mātou ngā tīkiti.”
- Friend: Wait, who has the ID?
- You: He has it. → “Kei a ia te kāri tuakiri.”
- Guard: And the map?

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- Group: You (plural) have the map! → “Kei a koutou te mahere.”
 - Narrator wink: If you don’t have something, flip it: “I don’t have money.” → “Kāore au e whai moni.”

Call-and-response drills

Rapid-fire time. I cue in English; you answer with Māori. Go!

- I have → say: kei a au
- you have (singular) → say: kei a koe
- he has → say: kei a ia
- she has → say: kei a ia
- it has → say: kei a ia
- we have (exclusive) → say: kei a mātou
- you have (plural) → say: kei a koutou
- they have → say: kei a rātou
- Bonus: have (as a requirement) → say: whai (e.g., “We must have a plan” → “Me whai tātou i tētahi mahere.”)

Speed quiz

Quick quiz – answer fast, then I’ll confirm.

- Q: How do you say “have” (the verb to have/need)?
A: whai.

- Q: “I have the keys.” A: Kei a au ngā kī.
- Q: “You (singular) have the book.” A: Kei a koe te pukapuka.
- Q: “He has the map.” A: Kei a ia te mahere.
- Q: “We have the tickets.” A: Kei a mātou ngā tīkiti.
- Q: “You (plural) have the phone.” A: Kei a koutou te waea pūkoro.
- Q: “They have time.” A: Kei a rātou te wā.

Culture tip

Sound natural with a neat Māori habit.

- In everyday Māori, possession is often framed as location: the thing is “at/with” someone using kei a. That’s why “he has/she has/it has” all use kei a ia.
- You’ll hear it in sports too: “They have the ball” → “Kei a rātou te pōro.” Next time you watch a game, try calling it like a commentator.

Final challenge and goodbye

Your turn – string them together. You’ve got this!

- Say these out loud:
- 1) I have a book. → Kei a au tētahi pukapuka.
- 2) You have the keys. → Kei a koe ngā kī.
- 3) She has the map. → Kei a ia te mahere.

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- 4) We have tickets. → Kei a mātou ngā tīkiti.
 - 5) You (plural) have the phone. → Kei a koutou te waea pūkoro.
 - 6) They have time. → Kei a rātou te wā.
 - 7) We must have a plan. → Me whai tātou i tētahi mahere.
 - Thanks for learning with SynapseLingo! Keep practicing, have fun with whai and kei a forms, and visit www.synapse-lingo.com for more lessons, drills, and freebies. Ka rawe!

Lesson 2

Lesson 2: Be in Māori: be kia, I am ko au

Learn essential Māori patterns for the verb 'be' in a lively, talk-along mini show. Practice kia for states, ko for identity (ko au, ko koe, ko ia, ko tātou, ko rātou), and he for classification, plus greetings with koutou. Through jokes, drills, a dialogue, and culture tips, you'll build natural phrases and quick confidence.

Kia ora – welcome!

You're here, you're awesome, and you're about to level up your Māori. Let's keep it light, fast, and fun!

This podcast is brought to you by SynapseLingo – your friendly language sidekick. Visit www.synapse-lingo.com for guides, printables, and extra audio. Today you'll learn how to say be kia, I am ko au, you are ko koe, he/she is ko ia, it is he, we are ko tātou, you (plural) are koutou, and they are ko rātou. Buckle in – your mouth is about to do push-ups.

Your mission today

By the end, you'll introduce people, label things, and cheer on a team – without spraining your tongue.

- State/imperative 'be' uses *kia*: "Be strong!" → *Kia kaha*.
- Identity uses 'ko': "I am" → *ko au*; "you are (sing.)" → *ko koe*; "he/she is" → *ko ia*; "they are" → *ko rātou*; "we are (inclusive)" → *ko tātou*.
- Classification 'it is (a/an)...' starts with *he*: "It is a book." → *He pukapuka tēnei*.
- Address a group with *koutou*, and for identity you'll often hear *Ko koutou* + role, e.g., *Ko koutou ngā kaiārahi* (you are the leaders).

Cheat sheet: quick forms

Repeat after me – short, punchy, and memorable.

- be → *kia* (as in *Kia mārie* = be calm)
- I am → *ko au* (e.g., *Ko au te kaiako*)
- you are (sing.) → *ko koe* (*Ko koe te toa*)
- he is → *Ko ia*; she is → *ko ia* (*Ko ia te kaiārahi*)
- it is (a/an) → *he* (*He whakaaro pai tēnei*)
- we are (inclusive) → *ko tātou* (*Ko tātou te tīma*)
- you are (plural) → greet/mark group with *koutou*; identity often *Ko koutou* + noun (*Ko koutou ngā manuhiri*)
- they are → *ko rātou* (*Ko rātou ngā toa*)

Dialogue: locker-room pep talk

Act it out with me – point, cheer, and grin. You’ve got this!

- Coach: Team, listen up! We are the team → Ko tātou te tīma.
- Coach: You (singular), yes you – “you are the captain” → Ko koe te kapene.
- Coach: And our star striker – “he is ready” → Ko ia kua rite.
- Teammates (whisper): “She is the leader” → ko ia te kaiārahi.
- Coach (to visitors): “Welcome, everyone!” → Tēnā koutou. “You (plural) are the guests” → Ko koutou ngā manuhiri.
- Crowd: “They are the champions!” → Ko rātou ngā toa.
- Announcer: “It is a good idea to hydrate” → He whakaaro pai tēnei!

Drills: flip the ‘be’ switch

Say it out loud – micro-pauses are your friend. Ready?

- Be calm → Kia mārie. Be strong → Kia kaha. Be ready → Kia rite.
- I am the teacher → Ko au te kaiako. You are the winner → Ko koe te toa.
- He is the leader → Ko ia te rangatira. She is the speaker → ko ia te kaikōrero.

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- We are the family → Ko tātou te whānau. They are from the city → Ko rātou nō te tāone.
 - It is a book → He pukapuka tēnei. You (plural) are friends → He hoa koutou.

Culture tip: ko vs he

Tiny words, mighty meaning – here's how you sound natural.

- Use ko for identity/focus: point to who/which. Example: Ko au te kaikōrero (I am the speaker).
- Use he for classification: 'it is a/an'. Example: He rorohiko tēnei (It is a computer).
- On a marae, you'll often hear group greetings with koutou (e.g., Tēnā koutou) and identities with ko (e.g., Ko rātou ngā manuhiri).
- Fun reminder: Don't mix the car brand with the grammar – kia means 'be', not "Vroom."

Pop quiz time

Answer out loud. If your plant looks confused, you're doing it right.

- 1) Say "Be brave!" → Answer: Kia māia.
- 2) Translate: "I am the winner." → Ko au te toa.
- 3) Which word starts 'it is (a/an)...'? Answer: he. Give an example: He whakaaro pai tēnei.

- 4) Say “You (singular) are the leader.” → Ko koe te kaiārahi. Now “You (plural) are the leaders.” → Ko koutou ngā kaiārahi.
- 5) Point to a group and say: “They are ready.” → Ko rātou kua rite.
- Bonus check: Name her as the captain → ko ia te kapene or Ko ia te kapene.

Challenge + wrap-up

Your turn – mini speech mode activated!

- Challenge: In 10 seconds, say a three-line chant: “We are the team” → Ko tātou te tīma; “Be strong” → Kia kaha; “They are the champions” → Ko rātou ngā toa.
- Extra credit: Introduce yourself and a friend – “I am the speaker” → Ko au te kaikōrero; “He is my friend” → Ko ia taku hoa.
- Thanks for listening! Keep practicing your kia, ko au, ko koe, ko ia, he, ko tātou, koutou, and ko rātou. This episode was brought to you by SynapseLingo – grab more lessons at www.synapse-lingo.com. Ka pai!

Lesson 3

Lesson 3: English – Māori: Learn “go” = haere – Fast, Fun, and Memorable

Level up your English – Māori verb power with a funny, learner-friendly mini-podcast on the verb “go” and its core forms: go, I go, you go, he goes, she goes, it goes, we go, you go (plural), they go. Master key Māori phrases like haere, Ka haere au, Ka haere ia, Ka haere koutou, Ka haere rātou, and the idiomatic status phrase kei te pai (“it goes/it’s okay”). You’ll hear bite-size dialogues, drills, a speed quiz, and culture tips. Perfect for beginners and busy learners who want clear English explanations and authentic Māori examples.

Kia ora and welcome!

Hey you, good to have you here – let's make “go” unforgettable today.

This episode is brought to you by SynapseLingo – visit www.synapse-lingo.com for more resources and free practice tools. Our mission: link English “go” to Māori haere with smiles, speed, and a few giggles.

Your goal today

You'll nail the essential forms so you can actually use them right away.

Target checklist – say them out loud with me: go, I go, you go, he goes, she goes, it goes, we go, you go (plural), they go. By the end, you'll map them to Māori: haere, Ka haere au, Ka haere koe, Ka haere ia, Ka haere ia, kei te pai, Ka haere mātou or Ka haere tātou, Ka haere koutou, Ka haere rātou.

Forms you'll master

Quick mappings – short, sweet, and sticky for your memory.

- go → haere
- I go → Ka haere au
- you go (singular) → Ka haere koe
- he goes → Ka haere ia
- she goes → Ka haere ia
- it goes (meaning “it's okay/it works”) → kei te pai