



NCEA Level 2 Te Reo Māori Kūki 'Āirani Revised Vocabulary List 2025 Easy-print PDF version

Updated NCEA Level 1, Level 2, and Level 3 Vocabulary Lists for Pacific languages were published on the NCEA Education website in February and March 2025.

Below is the revised Level 2 Te Reo Māori Kūki 'Āirani Vocabulary List that should be used with students in 2025 (and thereafter).

The Vocabulary List supports teaching and learning and helps teachers understand the language appropriate at Curriculum Level 7. Language drawn from this Vocabulary List is used to create external assessments and may be used to support teachers when preparing students for internal assessments.

The vocabulary lists belong to the Ministry of Education. The list in this document has been **formatted by NZALT** to make it easier for teachers to print and photocopy for students. NZALT has provided two versions:

1. A PDF that can be printed and photocopied for students.
2. A Word document for teachers who would like to do further formatting.

This version of the vocabulary list is arranged **alphabetically (Te Reo Māori Kūki 'Āirani to English)**.

Other configurations of this list (eg. English to Te Reo Māori Kūki 'Āirani; by category) can be downloaded [here](#).

Alternatively, you can navigate to the revised vocabulary lists by following this pathway:

ncea.education.govt.nz > New Zealand Curriculum > Learning Languages: Te Reo Māori Kūki 'Āirani > Teaching

Teachers are advised to read the Introduction to the vocabulary lists (downloadable online, as above), as these contain useful context for teaching and learning, and for internal and external assessments.

L2	Te Reo Māori Kūki 'Airani	English
'A	`aitamu	act/perform
	`akaa`u	autumn
	`aka`eva`eva	to grieve/mourn
	`aka`oki	to return
	`akaipoipo	wedding
	`akako`u	gifting, to gift the newly-wed couple
	`akakoro	to intend, to object
	`akangere	to have no share
	`akarua	north
	`akatūkia	to make contact
	`akauto	germination
	`akirāta	dawn
	`ākono`anga	religion, faith, a way of life/culture/practice
	`āpare	ceremony/gathering at house of somebody who died
	`ātava	branch
	`ātea	black tipped cod
'E	`autū	winner
	`āvā	have a gap
	`enemi	medicine
'I	`ere`ere	to tie (bunches of bananas to branches), tether, snare
	`ēumiumi	to deliberate
	`ē	
'O	`īkape	to flick aside
	`iki	to select, to look after (a child)
	`iku	tail, summon
	`iku`iku`anga	last wish
	`īmēre	email
	`īnaki	fish trap
	`īnarere	great, great grandchild
	`īnere	hinge (door)
	`iti	rise (of sun or moon), edge, brink, rim, lace
	`ītiki	fresh water eel, to tie a knot
'U	`ītoro	idol, crawl stealthily
	`ōake	to hand over
	`okirua	second coming, to come again
	`ōniāni	onion
	`ope	hip/end
A	`ōringi/'ō`ini	fishing basket
	`ōtēra	hotel
	`uka`uka	bubble
	`uri`ia	cyclone, to turn over
A	`uritumu	to destroy completely, overthrow
	`uti`uti	to pull, to tug
	a`o	fishing line, good wind, breath
	ama	outrigger float
	amo	to carry (on shoulder)

	amu	chant	
	āngota	a method of fishing/coconut leaves basket	
	ara	way	
	arāpo	phases of the moon	
	ate	liver/organ/guts	
	ātea	wide, broad, width, clear away (mist)	
I	ipukarea	homeland	
	ira	a mark on the skin	
	iringa	spring	
O	ōata	one of the nights of the moon/good night for fishing	
U	uaki	to uncover/open	
	uata	scoop net for catching flying fish	
	uāvare	saliva	
	uiui	to question	
	ukauka	easy to bend	
	ūmere	to be amazed	
	umukai	feast	
	upe/ au	dew	
	uru	to emerge, spring out, poke	
	urunga	a pillow, to lean on	
	uto	a germinating coconut	
	K	ka`atea	show up greyish white
		kanapa	to crate, to flash, to glint, shine
kapa		to flap, copper, to act	
kāpua		to create, to originate	
kāpua`anga		origin, very beginning	
katukatu		containing lumps	
kete		basket	
kīkau		coconut leaves	
kirikiri one		sand/gravel, pebbles	
kiriti		to pull out, to harvest crop	
ko`u		fog, to wrap	
kōmutu		firewood unconsumed by the fire	
kopi		to hem, to pull back	
koropini		to surround, to encircle	
kūmara		sweet potato	
M		mā`uti`uti	to be uprooted
		mae	to wither
	maeva	to shout in triumph, to cheer loudly	
	mākave	a plait or tress (hair), a strand	
	mana	power	
	mangio	to be itchy	
	manuku	to slip out, to slip off	
	māpū	young, teenager	
	marangai	east	
mārangi	full moon /good night to plant		

	mare`ure`u	dusk
	mārei	loop with a running knot
	marō	dry
	mārō	to argue
	māruarua	to be acclaimed /well received
	matakite	to be watchful
	mātau	to be used to
	mate	to die, death
	mātipi	knife, to clean skin off a crop plant
	meri	honey
	mētera	medal
	metua `ōngai	parent (mother/father) in law
	miri	to rub (with hands)
	moni `ātinga	offering
	mōtini	pumpkin
	mou	to yeild a good harvest
	mūmū	to pile up
N	nānā	turn or raise (your eyes), to look at (glance of the eyes)
	navenave	to feel delightful
	nga`u	a common coastal shrub
	ngākau	gut, mood
	ngararā	to make a choking sound
	ngārara	a large lizard
	ngere	short of / in need of
	ngingiti	to catch breath from sudden pain
	ngunguru	to roar, to growl angrily
P	pā`ata	platform
	pae	a share of a fish, to drift, border design
	pai	infertile soil, barren
	pāma	farmer, farmland
	papa	to be ready
	pāpā	a fishing technique, to pound
	pāpāki	share/a portion of a number
	pāpānu	to float
	para`a	to be flat
	parai	paint, smear, apply
	pāraku	to rake, scratch
	pārapu	west
	parau	bible, to be proud
	pārau	pearl shell
	pare rito	hat made from coconut fibre
	paroro	winter
	patapata	flick/shoot (a mobile text message, marbles)
	pateka	slippery
	pāto`i	to protest
	patu	to build a wall

	peka	small intersecting stream
	penetekote	pentecost
	pere`ō	wagon
	pinipini	hide
	piri'anga	relationship, connection, relevance
	pirimou	to have a firm and steadfast relationship
	pītate	various introduced jasmine
	pōkarakara	to clap hands, to applaud
	pōpani	to block/cork, to end, conclude
	poroki	to summon
	pōrokiroki	to instruct someone to do something, last words, parting words
	poroporo	small shrub
	punāvai	well, pool of fresh water
	punua	a young animal
	pure	prayer
	pūroku	veil
R	rama	to search for fish or crab
	rāmepa	lantern
	rapa	tail of fish, to carve, to flash
	raro`ara	very small cream-coloured shell
	raumati	summer
	raurau	numerous, small basket made from coconut leaves
	raverave	to take from others
	re`u	ash
	reru	to strike with a heavy resounding blow
	rito	heart leaves of a coconut tree / essence
	roimata	tear
	rōra	to roll, a roller,
	rori	sea cucumber
	roroi	dish of slice of taro or kumara with coconut sauce
	rōta`i`anga	union, come together
	ruku	to dive underwater
	rupe	bird, pacific pigeon
	rutu	to beat (drums)
T	tā`iki	to change position
	tā`iri	to sway
	tā`okota`i	bring together / to work together, unite
	takakē	to depart
	tākave	to embrace
	tākiri	fishing rod
	takurua	special feast for visitors/special occasions
	tama mua	first born, first child
	tāmarama	on a monthly basis
	tāmarō	to dry
	tāmaru	shade or shelter something
	tāmarū	to soften, to slacken, to reduce (speed, noise etc)

	tāmou	to learn / to hold down
	tāngarongaro	to cause to disappear
	tao/ta`u	to bake in earth oven, roast
	tāora	to set a time
	tāpeka	to promise in marriage, to betroth
	tapere	smaller villages
	tāpiri	to get close to, close something
	tāpoki	to cover
	tapu	to be sacred
	tāpu	bath tub
	tara	method of catching eels, sharp point
	tārava	to lay something down horizontally, beams
	tāreva	to wave to someone
	tāruna	to pile/heap something on
	tātai	to put a loop or handle on something / to add salt
	tātini	dozen
	tauraki	to dry or hang out something
	taurua	a partner or companion
	tautai	fishing
	tekateka	text message
	terēni	to train
	tiaki	keeper, guardian
	tu`anga	a share
	tuātau	period of time
	tukati`anga niuniu	online connection
	tūmatetenga	death
	tuna	fresh water eel
	tunutunu	to barbecue, grill
	tūpāpāku	spirit that is mischievous or troubling
V	vā	gap, free time, amazed
	va`ī	to wrap
	vaerua	spirit
	vai`o	to leave alone
	vaka	canoe
	vaka tangāta	tribe
	vana	sea-urchin with long black spine
	varo	to hollow out
	varu	a shaver, to scrape, dog-tooth tuna
	varuvaru	to scrape off
	verevere	a tassel, lumps hanging under chin of goat
	veri	centipede
	verovero	rays of sunshine
	veruveru	in strips, shred, to rip
	vinivini	to be horrified/scared
	viriviri	to keep on drilling
	viti	lively, energetic