



NCEA Level 3 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 3 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 8. 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.

L3	Te Reo Māori Kūki 'Āirani	English	Vocabulary classes
`A	`a`aki	to confess	verb
	`akama`u	to heal up, to recover	verb
	`akameremere, `akaperepere	to cherish, to care for	verb
	`akapaŋi	to splash, to splatter	verb
	`akapetetue	swelled	adjective
	`akapo`epo`e	to dim or lower the light or flame	verb
	`akatapu	to make holy or sacred	verb
	`akatoro	to extend, to stretch out	verb
	`akaū	to bump into, to collide, to barge into	verb
	`ākia	ache of a limb	adjective
	`āpakāti	a person whose parents are of different races	adjective
	`āpikēpikē	feeble, weak	verb
	`ārarau	to grab hold of	verb
	`ārōrō	to peep	verb
	`atamira	ceremonial litter, carved seat or throne of a chief	noun
	`ātoro	to go and see, to visit	verb
	`ātui	to connect, to hang something onto a nail	verb
`E	`ēi	said when passing something to someone	verb
	`ei`ei	trapped in a net, to wear a necklace garland or wreath	verb
	`eru	rummage, shuffle things about	verb
	`eru`eru	scratch around, scrabble, rummage	verb
	`ētū rere	shooting star	noun
`I	`inapō	last night	noun
	`inu`inu	greasy, oily (state), fatty	noun
	`iora	just then, right then, there upon	verb
	`īpana	to prise up/out/off, to flick away	verb
	`ītoatoa	to strive bravely	adverb
`O	`ō`ō	to show friendship, to show respect, round spot or dot	noun. verb
	`ōmingi	curl up (knees to chin), stoop, bend back (on knees), tuck your legs in	verb
	`ona mirioni	rich person, millionaire	adjective
	`ōngā	surplus, extra, additional, excess	adjective
	`ono	to replace a cord/thread to repair something (eg, repair a ripped fishing net with thread, to replace leaves in a plaited mat)	verb
	`ōrurē`au	rebellion/rebel, revolt, mutiny, riot, revolution, breach of peace	adjective
	`ōu`anga	time, state of youth, newness	noun
`U	`uapou	assemble, congregate	verb
	`ukarere	ukulele	noun
	`une`une	scab, sores, the core of breadfruit	noun
	`uru`urungā	tangled, untidy	adjective
A	ara matangi	wind direction	noun
	aranga	appear on surface	verb

I	ika miti	sun dried fish	noun
	iki`anga	a selection, process of selecting	verb. noun
	inana`i	yesterday	noun
	iro	maggot, threadworm	noun
	ivi kaokao	rib	noun
	ivi mokotua	backbone	noun
O	otaota	tasting dry and gritty (of a juiceless fruit)	verb
U	uāti	watch, wristwatch	noun
	uira	electric, electricity	noun
	uira	lightning, wheel	noun
	uki	generation	noun
	una`i	to scale the fish	verb
	ungaunga	to send someone off, small hermit crabs	verb. noun
	urua	trevally (fish)	noun
K	kākapu	fill a container	verb
	kākave	tentacle of the octopus	noun
	kāmutamuta	to mutter (under one's breath)	verb
	kāoa	coral, coral rock in the lagoon	noun
	kaokao	side of (person or thing)	noun
	kape	to dodge	verb
	karakarātio	a burnt offering	noun
	karakia	a prayer	noun
	keokeo	sharp pointed, fine pointed or sharp point	verb
	kerēti	to grade something (oranges, fruits)	adjective
	kōmono	representative or deputy of the mata`iapo, the younger brother of the mata`iapo	noun
	kōmutu	stub of firewood unconsumed by the fire	noun
	kūpiti	cubit (unit of length)	noun
	kuriri	a shore bird, the Wandering Tattler	noun
M	ma`aki	to break off	verb
	mama`u	kapok or kapok tree	noun
	māngaro	bland and mild (flavours), not salty or savoury	adjective
	marae	clear (vegetation)	adjective
	matapō	blind	adjective
	mātoru	thick through	adjective
	mono	to fill a place or gap with a substitute, replace(ment), substitute	adjective
	monomono	to put in a replacement, push things in to fill / plug / block up a hole	verb
N	nākirokiro	to realise, to make sense	verb
	nati	to bind, tie tightly around, twisted, looped snare (noun)	noun. verb
	nāti	nut (to screw on to bolt).	noun
	neke āere	not use the legs when moving around	adverb
	nōku	belonging to me	verb
Ng	nga`ae	rip, torn, a tear	verb
	ngakau aroa	kindheartedness	adjective

	ngaki	to care for, to look after, to bring up (a child)	verb
	ngarepu	to be rough	verb
	ngārepurepu	to be continuously disturbed	verb
	ngari ake, ngari mai	be better, improved	adjective
	ngāruerue	quake, shake (of the ground)	verb
	ngote	evaporate, to suck up, suck in, absorb	verb
P	pa`ī	ship	noun
	paepae	the grounds around the house of an ariki, mata`iapo, or other notable	noun
	pakari	strong, tough, sturdy, firm, strength	verb
	pākau	thing	noun
	pange	to support (including support of ideas)	verb
	pāngika	bank	noun
	paopao	chip out (a hollow or holes), crack open with blows, to sting, to peck	verb
	parāka	pulley	noun
	paruparu	weak/weary, slack	adjective
	patere	slip or to slide along	verb
	pātere	to peel off	verb
	pātū	to stand something upright, to erect a post	verb
	pētini	basin	noun
	piriārangi	horizon	noun
	po`o	corner	noun
	pō`ue	a creeping plant used for medicine	noun
	pōkai	roll up, coil up	verb
	popoki	to pat, to cover over, to overtake	verb
	puā`io`io	tornado, whirlwind	noun
	pūkakā	very hot and bright	adjective
	pūngāvereverere	cobweb	noun
	pupuru	to cling wetly, to stick	adjective
R	ra roroa	long days	noun
	ra`ira`i	large numbers/amounts of, numerous	adjective
	rau`ao	leaves of the hibiscus tiliaceus	noun
	rei	stem of a canoe, a flat platform	noun
	rūketekete	to shiver, shake, tremble, vibrate; shivering	verb
T	tā`ata	to lay something on or across	verb
	tāinamu	mosquito net	noun
	takaānini	to feel dizzy, whirl giddily, reel	verb
	takere o te moana	at the bottom of the ocean	adjective
	tāmanako`anga	to estimate, to guess	verb
	tāparāka	to use a pulley	noun
	tāruri kē	disturb, shift, to alter position of something	verb
	tatari	to await, to wait in hope	verb
	tātīmēni	cement the floor	verb
	tauī	to exchange, replace somebody, change over	verb

	tauī`anga reva	climate change	adjective
	taumārō	to argue, to debate	verb
	taurua	partner, fellow (of a pair), companion	noun
	tautai akau	reef fishing	adjective
	tautai kupenga moana	purse seine fishing	adjective
	tautopa	to invoke, to call upon	verb
	tētimara	decimal	noun
	tukutuku taime	take alternate turns	verb
V	va`e`au	soldier, warrior	noun
	va`ie	dry sticks for fire	noun
	vairākau	treat (with medicine etc), fumigate	verb
	vaitata	draw close, be near (of time and place)	verb
	vāitoito	to ration (eg, food)	verb
	vāniti	vanish	noun
	vao`o	to put, to postpone, to leave	verb
	ve`u, ve`uve`u	disturbed, churned up (of water)	verb