

D. PERSONAL PRONOUNS

There are eleven of these.

The system differs from English in several ways:

- (i) There are no 'cases', no differences for subject or object of a verb. One word covers both 'I' and 'me', 'they' and 'them', etc.
- (ii) There are no distinctions of gender. One word covers 'he' and 'she', 'his' and 'hers' etc.
- (iii) There are separate, single words for referring to two people, ie. for 'we two', 'you two', etc.
- (iv) The words for 'we two' and 'we, more than two' are changed according to whether you are including the person(s) spoken to or not.

This is a simple, very convenient system. But because of the differences from the English system, it does take some getting used to.

Practice makes perfect.

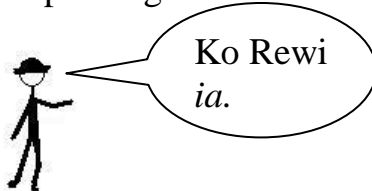
Following are illustrated examples of the system in practice. Imagine as you study these that you are the speaker (the one wearing the hat) in the sketches.

A. When speaking about yourself:

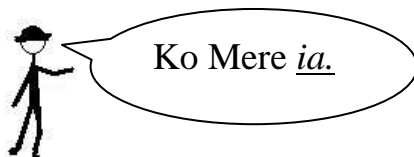


This is *me*.
I belong to Rotorua. (I am from Rotorua).

B. When speaking about others:

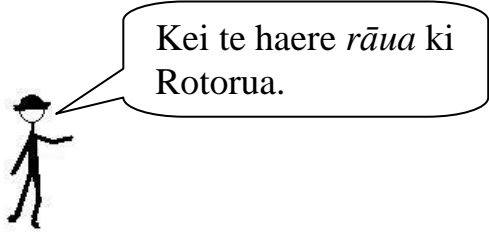


He is Rewi.

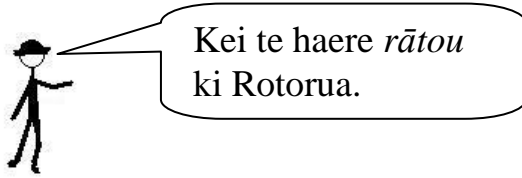


She is Mere.

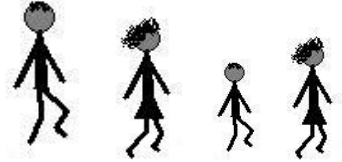




They (two) are going to Rotorua.

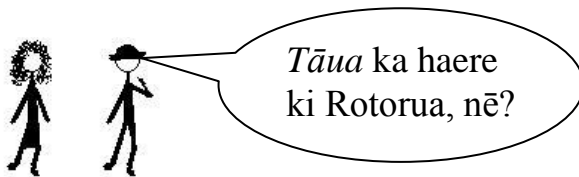


They (>2) are going to Rotorua.

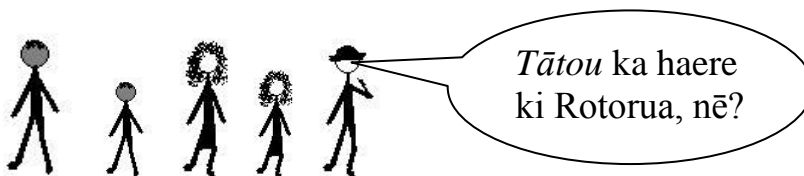


C. When speaking about others and yourself:

- (i) When including the person(s) spoken to:

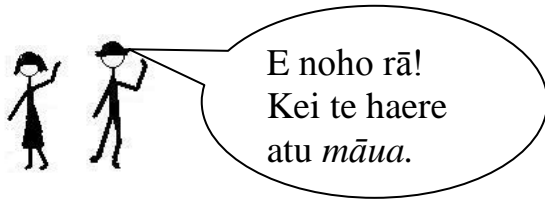


We two go to Rotorua, eh?



We all (>2) go to Rotorua, eh?

(ii) When excluding the person(s) spoken to:



Goodbye! *We two* are going away.



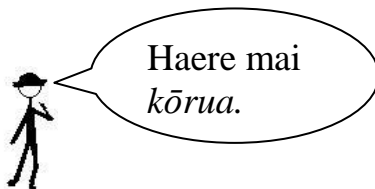
Goodbye! *We all (>2)* are going away.



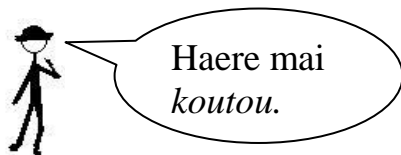
D. When addressing a person or people:



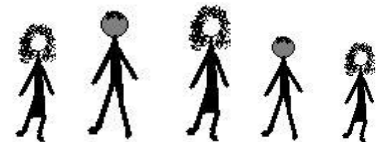
Come here *you* (*One person*).



Come here *you two*.



Come here *all of you (>2)*



POSSESSIVE PERSONAL PRONOUNS

The dog of Hata = *Te kurī a Hata.*
The house of Hata = *Te whare o Hata.*

These are unemphatic phrases. In both the English and the Maori the words of Hata are merely descriptive of which dog, which house.

In English we would be emphatic about whose dog or house by saying:

Hata's dog, Hata's house

In Maori, we turn the descriptive into the emphatic about possession by bringing the phrase, as usual, forward.

So you would expect: Te a Hata kurī

Te o Hata whare

And that is what is done except that always –
'te a' is shortened to 'tā' and 'te o' is shortened to 'tō'

Eg. Hata's dog → *Tā Hata kurī*
Hata's house → *Tō Hata whare*

And plurals, as usual, drop the letter 't'.

Eg. Hata's dogs → *ā Hata kuri*
Hata's houses → *ō Hata whare*

And this emphatic way of indicating whose dog, house or whatever is common to all the personal pronouns.

Using 'ta' or 'to' and 'a' or 'o' we get the equivalents of English 'my, your, his, their' etc.

BUT there is one irregularity:

'au' (I)	becomes	'ku'
'koe' (you)	becomes	'u'
'ia' (he, she, it)	becomes	'na'

Why? Aua hoki! (No idea!)

So - my = *tāku or tōku*
your = *tāu or tōu*
his,her = *tāna or tōna*

Following is a complete table of the possessive pronouns as used, for reference. 'kurī' and 'whare' are used throughout - the first word 'kurī' requires the 'a' form 'tāku' etc. and 'whare' requires the 'o' form, 'tōku' etc.

The reason for words differing in this respect will be explained following the table.

SINGULAR		PLURAL	
my dog	tāku kurī	my dogs	āku kurī
my house	tōku whare	my houses	ōku whare
his/her dog	tāna kurī	his/her dogs	āna kurī
his/her house	tōna whare	his/her houses	ōna whare
their two's dog	tā rāua kurī	their two's dogs	ā rāua kurī
their two's house	tō rāua whare	their two's houses	ō rāua whare
their (>2) dog	tā rātou kurī	their (>2) dogs	ā rātou kurī
their (>2) house	tō rātou whare	their (>2) houses	ō rātou whare
your dog	tāu kurī	your dogs	āu kurī
your house	tōu whare	your houses	ōu whare
your two's dog	tā kōrua kurī	your two's dogs	ā korua kurī
your two's house	tō kōrua whare	your two's houses	ō kōrua whare
your (>2) dog	tā koutou kurī	your (>2) dogs	ā koutou kurī
your (>2) house	tō koutou whare	your (>2) houses	ō koutou whare

When including the person(s) you are speaking to:

SINGULAR		PLURAL	
our two's dog	tā tāua kurī	our two dogs	ā tāua kurī
our two's house	tō tāua whare	our two's houses	ō tāua whare
our (>2) dog	tā tātou kurī	our (>2) dogs	ā tātou kurī
our (>2) house	tō tātou whare	our (>2) houses	ō tātou whare

When excluding the person(s) spoken to:

SINGULAR		PLURAL	
our two's dog (not yours)	tā māua kurī	our two's dogs (not yours)	ā māua kurī
our two's house (not yours)	tō māua whare	our two's houses (not yours)	ō māua whare
our (>2) dog (not yours)	tā mātou kurī	our (>2) dogs (not yours)	ā mātou kurī
our (>2) house (not yours)	tō mātou whare	our (>2) houses (not yours)	ō mātou whare

These possessive pronouns can stand alone, as in English.

Eg. Give me my book. - Hōmai tāku pukapuka.
 Give me mine. - Hōmai tāku.
 Look at theirs (>2). - Titiro ki tō rātou.
 Give him his. - Hoatu tāna ki a ia.