

## F) PAST PRESENT & FUTURE

In English we have an elaborate system of indicating the time and circumstance of any action eg. I go, he went, he is going, he will go, he shall go, I speak, I spoke, I have spoken, he shall have spoken, I sing, I sang, I bring, I brought, I fling, I have flung, etc.

In Maori it is all far simpler: -

- (i) The form of the verb is never changed.
- (ii) Only a few little grammatical words are added.
- (iii) The Maori language is more concerned with indicating the nature of the action than whether it was in the past, at the present, or will be in the future. The time of the action is usually clearly evident from the context of what is being said.

Beginners can cover most of the ground by considering the following little grammatical words (particles), to go:

- before the verb - **ka, i, e, kua, kia, me**
- after the verb - **ana**
- before and after - **e.....ana**

### ‘KA’

Some call this the ‘inceptive particle’, quite a good name because it indicates or signals a new action begins, or a change of action. It gives a sense of drama and vividness, when speaking of a rapid succession of actions. It makes no difference if they happened in the past, right now, or in future time.

From an old legend –

Ka rongo a Taranga i te tangi o ngā manu  
Ka maranga, ka oma ki waho.

Best translated as –

*Taranga hears the sound of the birds,  
Gets up, runs outside.*

Or appropriate usage in modern times – a rugby commentator saying –

Ka puta mai ngā tima!  
Ka tangi te wihara a te rewheri!  
Ka timata te kemu.

Best translated as –

*The teams appear!  
The ref’s whistle sounds!  
The game starts!*









## SOME USEFUL PHRASES INDICATING TIME

PAST 'i' is the key word (optionally 'nō').

last night	<i>inapō</i>	yesterday	<i>inanahi</i>
the day before yesterday	<i>i tētahi rā</i>	last Tuesday	<i>i tērā Tūrei</i>
last week	<i>i tērā wiki</i>	last month	<i>i tērā marama</i>
last year	<i>i tērā tau</i>	in the morning	<i>i te ata</i>
in the evening	<i>i te ahiahi</i>	just now	<i>ināiane</i>

FUTURE 'ā' is the key word

this coming night	<i>ā tēnei pō</i>	tomorrow	<i>āpōpō</i>
the day after tomorrow	<i>ā tētahi rā</i>	next Tuesday	<i>ā tērā Tūrei</i>
next week	<i>ā tērā wiki</i>	next month	<i>ā tērā marama</i>
next year	<i>ā tērā tau</i>	in the morning	<i>ā te ata</i>
in the evening	<i>ā te ahiahi</i>	soon	<i>ākuanei</i>

PAST

before	<i>i mua</i>	before Christmas	<i>i mua i te Kirihimete</i>
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FUTURE

before	<i>ā mua</i>	before Christmas	<i>ā mua i te Kirihimete</i>
after something already happened	<i>i muri</i>	after last Christmas	<i>i muri i te Kirihimete</i>
after something yet to happen	<i>ā muri</i>	after next Christmas	<i>ā muri i te Kirihimete</i>
just after (a past event)	<i>i muri iho</i>	just after an event to come	<i>ā mua ake</i>
very recently past	<i>i mua tata ake nei</i>	in coming days	<i>ā ngā rā e tata mai nei</i>
at 6 o'clock (past)	<i>i te ono karaka</i>	at 6 o'clock (coming)	<i>ā te ono karaka</i>