

G) THE PASSIVE FORMS OF MAORI VERBS

If we say in English - “The child is hitting the dog” - that statement is said to be in the ‘**active voice**’ because the **doer of the action is the subject of the sentence**.

If we say – “The dog is being hit by the child” – that statement is said to be in the ‘**passive voice**’ because the **object of the action is the subject of the sentence**.

We can do the same in Maori, using the passive construction to put the emphasis on who or what is on the receiving end of the action rather than who or what is the doer of it.

As in English, we make some changes:

The child is hitting the dog.

E patupatu ana te tamaiti i te kurī.

The dog is being hit by the child.

E patua ana te kurī e te tamaiti.

Hei taura ano: (For ‘by’ use ‘e’).

Rewi embraced Mary.

I awhi a Rewi i a Mere.

Mary was embraced by Rewi.

I awhia a Mere e Rewi.

Rangi has eaten the apples.

Kua kai a Rangi i ngā āporo.

The apples have been eaten by Rangi.

Kua kainga ngā āporo e Rangi.

-The passive form of a Maori verb is made by adding one or another of a number of suffixes (additions) to the active form.

-There are no rigid rules about what suffix to use for any particular verb.

-For some verbs there are alternatives, according to tribal preferences.

-What it boils down to is that a good Maori speaker will add the suffix that sounds best to the Maori ear. Maori is a musical language.

The full set of passive suffixes in the Maori language is as follows, though you will find several of them are rarely used.

a	hanga	hia	kina	ia	ina	kia	kina	mia	na
	nga	ria		rina	tia		whia	whina	

Hei taura:

to hit *patu*

to be hit *patua*

to pour *ringi*

to be poured *ringihia*

to love *aroha*

to be loved *arohaina*

to separate *motu*

to be separated *motukia*

to catch *hopu*

to be caught *hopukina*

to drink *inu*

to be drunk* *inumia*

to barter *hoko*

to be bartered *hokona*

to lift *hāpai*

to be lifted *hāpainga*

to speak *kōrero*

to be spoken *kōrerotia*

* This does not include the meaning of being drunk through too much booze. For that meaning in Maori use “haurangi” eg. “Haurangi koe!” “Your’re drunk!”