

D) THE PARTICLE “KEI”

This is a particle with quite a range of uses; the most important discussed as follows:

- used to open phrases and indicate present time for location, action or state.

Hei tauira:

LOCATION	Kei te kura ngā tamariki. Kei te kāinga a Mama. Kei Ōwhata tōku kainga.	<i>The children <u>are at</u> school. (now)</i> <i>Mum <u>is at</u> home.</i> <i>My home <u>is at</u> Owhata.</i>
ACTION	Kei te takaro ngā tamariki. Kei te tao kai a Mama.	<i>The children <u>are playing</u>. (at play)</i> <i>Mum <u>is cooking</u> food. (at this moment)</i>
STATE	Kei te pai te koroua. Kei te ngenge a Mama.	<i>The old man <u>is</u> okay.</i> <i>Mum <u>is</u> tired. (feeling tired)</i>

Note again, the main point of a statement is put first in Maori.

The location or action or state is what the speaker wants to emphasise and then adds, if necessary, who it is who's involved.

‘KEI’ WITH THE LOCATION WORDS:

inside (roto) outside (waho) upon, above (runga) underneath, below (raro)

Hei tauira:

Kei roto te kurī	<i>The dog is inside</i>
Kei waho ngā tane	<i>The men are outside</i>
Kei runga te pukapuka	<i>The book is on top (or above)</i>
Kei raro ngā pouaka	<i>The boxes are beneath (below)</i>

Now, to add to these phrases to indicate inside what, on top of what? etc.

- in Maori, do this by tacking on the necessary word, introduced by the particle “i” – in this case used to distinguish the word from the subject of the sentence.

Hei tauira:

Kei roto te kurī i te hēti.	<i>The dog is inside the shed.</i>
Kei waho ngā tāne i te wharenuī.	<i>The men are outside the big house.</i>
Kei runga te pukapuka i te tēpu.	<i>The book is on the table.</i>
Kei raro ngā pouaka i te tēpu.	<i>The boxes are under the table.</i>

Note the difference, in both English and Maori, of the meanings of the following sentences.

The girls are outside the gate.	<i>Kei waho ngā kōtiro i te kēti.</i>
The girls are outside at the gate.	<i>Kei waho ngā kōtiro, kei te kēti.</i>

For **past time** substitute 'i' for **'kei'**.

Hei tauira:

The dog <u>was</u> outside	<u>I</u> roto te kuri.
The men <u>were</u> outside the house.	<u>I</u> waho ngā tāne i te whare.
The book <u>was</u> on the table.	<u>I</u> runga te pukapuka i te tēpu..
The girls <u>were</u> outside, at the gate.	<u>I</u> waho ngā kōtiro, i te kēti.

Further notes re LOCATIVES.

roto	<u>the</u> inside (within)
waho	<u>the</u> outside
runga	<u>the</u> top (above)
raro	<u>the</u> underside
mua	<u>the</u> front (ahead) – time or space
muri	<u>the</u> back (behind) – time or space

NB: That 'the' often has to be used if translating from Maori to English. In Maori 'te' is never used with these "locatives", nor "tenei", "nga" etc.

So to say:

<i>They are going to the top of the hill.</i>	Kei te haere rātou ki runga o te puke.
<i>They are going to the inside.</i>	Kei te haere rātou ki roto.
<i>They were at the top.</i>	I runga rātou.
<i>The girls are at the front of the house.</i>	Kei mua ngā kōtiro i te whare.

NB:	<i>upwards</i>	-	<u>whakarunga</u>
	<i>downwards</i>	-	<u>whakararo</u>
	<i>towards (the) inside</i>	-	<u>whakaroto</u> etc.

Hei tauira:

<i>Look upwards.</i>	Titiro whakarunga.
<i>Go <u>towards</u> the house.</i>	Haere <u>whaka</u> te whare.