

K) THE PARTICLES “I” and “KI” as prepositions (goal markers)

When we speak about someone doing some action or feeling some emotion, we often add a word or phrase to indicate the goal or object of the action or emotion.

Now, in English, we use a variety of prepositions to introduce the explanatory word or phrase, or sometimes we do not use any preposition.

Eg.	I am going <u>to</u> Taupo.	She is looking <u>at</u> the cat.
	Mum is angry <u>at</u> the boys.	Rewi is punching - his brother.
	Mary is knocking <u>on</u> the door.	I want – you.
	I long for – you.	The bus has gone <u>along</u> the road. etc. etc.

Now, in Maori, we must always use a preposition. In nearly all cases, there is a choice of only two – either “**i**” or “**ki**”.

1. Use “ki” whenever there is a gap of some sort (physical or in the mind) between the action or feeling and the object or goal – but no arrival or contact or realization.

In short, “**ki**” indicates motion towards.

Hei tauira:

I am going to Taupo.	<i>E haere ana ahau ki Taupō.</i>
Tom is looking at the dog.	<i>E titiro ana a Tame ki te kurī</i>
Mum has got angry towards Mary.	<i>Kua riri a Mama ki a Mere.</i>
Rewi wants (longs for) the apples.	<i>E pīrangī ana a Rewi ki ngā āporo.</i>
Hata is waiting for his friend.	<i>E tātari ana a Hata ki tōna hoa.</i>
The granny is feeling sorry for the baby.	<i>E aroha ana te kuia ki te pepi.</i>

“**Ki**” also gives the meaning of “at” in a general way.

Hei tauira:

I am living at Rotorua.	<i>E noho ana ahau ki Rotorua.</i>
(not indicating a particular place)	

Use “i” whenever there is no gap between the action or feeling and the object or goal. That is to say, when there is no arrival, or contact, or realization.

In short, “i” indicates impact upon.

Hei tauira:

She has sighted the cat.

Kua kite ia i te pōti.

Rewi is hitting the dog.

Kei te patu a Rewi i te kurī.

Tamahae is eating an apple.

E kai ana a Tamahae i tētahi āporo.

Hata has met his friend.

Kua tūtuki a Hata i tōna hoa.

The granny is nursing the baby.

E hikihiki ana te kuia i te pēpi.

The boys are crossing the road.

Kei te whitiwhiti ngā tama i te rōri.

Note that “i” is also used to indicate “from”. (Opposite to “ki” as meaning “to”).

Eg. They are going from Taupo to Turangi. *E haere ana rātou i Taupō ki Tūrangi.*

2. In Maori, these prepositions are repeated if more than one person or thing is mentioned.

Hei tauira:

He is speaking to the men, women and children too.

E kōrero ana a ia ki ngā tāne, ki ngā wāhine, ki ngā tamariki anō hoki.

The cow has kicked the bucket and Rewi also.

Kua whana te kau i te pākete i a Rewi hoki.

4. The particle “a” (not translatable but a Maori convention) is always inserted between “ki” or “i” and a personal name or a personal pronoun.

Hei tauira:

I am looking at you.

Kei te titiro au ki a koe.

Rewi is listening to Hata.

Kei te whakarongo a Rewi ki a Hata.

George is embracing Mary.

E awhi ana a Hori i a Mere.

NB:

William has hit his little brother.

Kua patu a Wiremu i tāna teina.

But:

William has hit him.

Kua patu a Wiremu i a ia.

Note that “a” is a short vowel in pronunciation but is given a strong stress in speaking.