

Useful language for the classroom

Welcoming

Nau mai	Welcome
Haere mai	Welcome

Greeting

Tēnā koe	Hello (to one person)
Tēnā kōrua	Hello (to two people)
Tēnā koutou	Hello (to more than two people)
Kia ora	Hi
Mōrena	Good morning
Ata mārie	Good morning
Ahiahi mārie	Good afternoon
Pō mārie	Good evening - Goodnight
... tamariki mā	... children
... e tama mā	... boys and others
... e hine mā	... girls and others
Kei te pēhea koe?	How are you? (to one person)
Kei te pai	Fine

Farewelling

Kua hoki au	I'm off
Ka kite anō	See you again
Hei konā rā	Goodbye for now (said by someone leaving or on the phone)
Hei konei rā	Bye/See you later (said to someone leaving)
Hoki pai atu!	Safe return!
Haere atu rā	Bye (said to someone who is leaving)

Introducing

Ko Mere tēnei	This is Mere
Ko wai tō ingoa?	What's your name?
Ko Hōne	It's Hōne
Nō hea koe?	Where are you from?
Nō Kāi Tahu	From Kāi Tahu
Nō te Tai Tokerau	From Northland

Expressing surprise

E kī!	Well, well!
E kī rā!	You don't say!
Nē?	Is that so?
Nē rā!	You don't say!
Āe mārika!	How about that!
E hika mā!	Oh, boy!
Taukiri e!	Surprise!
Auē!	Oh, no! Oh dear!

Congratulating

Tino pai!	Great stuff!
Tino pai rawa atu!	Excellent!
Ka pai!	Well done!
Ka rawe!	How lovely!
Mīharo!	Wonderful!

Extending good wishes

Kia ū	All the best
Ngā mihi mō tō huritau	Best wishes for your birthday

Commiserating

Ka aroha hoki!	You poor thing!
Aroha mai!	I'm so sorry!

Offering

He aha māu?	What would you like?
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Thanking

Kia ora	Thanks
Kia ora koe!	Thank you!
Aroha ana!	Thank you!

Commenting on the weather

Te makariri hoki o te rangi!	It's really cold!
Tino pai te rangi, nē rā?	Lovely day, isn't it?

Clarifying

Kua mārama?	Understood?
He aha te kupu Māori mō ...?	What is the Māori word for ...?
Kua mutu?	Finished?

Suggesting

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Me tīmata tātou?	Shall we start?
Me haere tāua	Let's go (that is, you and I)
Me hoki koe ki te kāinga	You should go home
Me whakarongo koutou	You should listen
Me kōrero koe ki a ia	You should speak to him/her
Me kai tātou	Let's eat

Expressing likes and dislikes

He pai ki a au te heihei	I like chicken
Kāore e pai ki a au te ika	I don't like fish

Approving

Ātaahua!	Beautiful!
Ka mau te wehi!	Awesome!

Commanding

Titiro (mai)	Look (this way)
Huri mai	Turn this way
Huri atu	Turn away
Kōrero	Speak
Whakarongo mai	Listen here
E tū	Stand
E noho	Sit down
Kia tau	Be still, Settle down
Kōrero Māori mai	Speak to me in Māori
Kimihia	Look for it
Whakahokia tēnei pukapuka	Return this book
Kia rua ngā kape	Make two copies
Kawea atu ki waho!	Take it outside!
Haere ki waho	Go outside
Ināianei tonu	Right now
Kia tere!	Be quick!
Kaua e pēnā!	Don't do that!
Kaua e kōrero!	Be quiet! Don't talk!
Kaua e wareware	Don't forget
Turiturī!	Be quiet!

Hoihoi	Be quiet
Tikina	Fetch
Taihoa	Wait
Rārangi mai	Line up here, near me
Rārangi atu	Line up over there
Rārangi ki waho/roto	Line up outside/inside
Horoia ō ringaringa	Wash your hands
Whakamaua tō potae	Put on your hat
Tangohia ō hū	Take off your shoes
Hoatu ki ...	Give to ...
Huakina te kūaha	Open the door
Katia te kūaha	Shut the door
Kuhu mai ki roto	Come inside
Haere mai ki konei	Come over here
Kohia te rāpihi	Collect the rubbish
Hoki mai ki roto	Come back inside
Hoki atu ki tō tūru	Go back to your seat
Whakapaingia te rūma	Tidy the room
Kia takitoru, takiwhā rānei	Form groups of three or four

Helping

Mā mātou e horoi ngā rīhi	We'll wash the dishes
Māku e āwhina	I'll help
Māku e whakaweto ngā raiti	I'll turn off the lights
Māku e kati te kūaha	I'll shut the door

Negating

Kaua e tuku rāpihi i konei	Don't dump rubbish here
Kāore anō ia kia tae mai	She/He hasn't arrived yet
Kāore a Pita i konei	Pita isn't here
Kāore i te pai	It's no good
Ehara ko au	It's not me
Ehara nāku	It's not mine

Warning

Kia tūpato!	Be careful!
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Kaua e hīkoi i runga i te karaehe	Don't walk on the grass
Kaua e kuhu/puta	Do not enter/exit
Kaua e kai hikareti	Don't smoke
Kaua e huakina/katia	Don't open/shut
Kaua e tū ki konei	Don't stop/stand here
Kaua e kaukau	Don't swim

Agreeing and disagreeing

Ka pai ngā kai, nē?	The food's lovely, isn't it?
Āe. He kai reka	Yes. It's delicious food
He reka ngā ārani, nē rā?	The oranges are sweet, aren't they?
Kāo, he kawa kē!	No, they're sour
Ka tika!	True! Correct!
Karekau!	No!
Ehē!	No!
Kei te hē tēnā	That's wrong
Kāore au e whakaae	I don't agree
Kāore au e mōhio	I don't know
Aua	I don't know

Expressing possibility

Kei te ngaro pea ia	Maybe she's/he's absent
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Encouraging

Kia mau!	Hang in there!
Kia kaha!	Be strong, keep going!
Kia manawanui!	Be stout-hearted!
Kia toa!	Be brave!
Ka taea e koe!	You can do it! (said to one person)
Homai te pakipaki	Let's clap

Questioning

Ko wai?	Who?
He aha?	What?
Kei hea?	Where?
Kei hea tō ...?	Where's your ...?
Ko wai tēnā?	Who is that?

He aha tēnā?	What is that?
Kei hea ia?	Where is she/he?
Kei hea koe?	Where are you? (to one person)
Ko wai te ingoa o tērā kaiako?	What's that teacher's name?
Kei a wai ...?	Who has got ...?
Kei a koe tō pukapuka?	Do you have your book?
Nā wai tēnei pukapuka?	Whose is this book?
Nā wai ēnei pukapuka?	Whose books are these?
Kei te pīrangi koutou ki te haere ki te kaukau?	Do you want to go swimming? (to three or more people)

Miscellaneous

E tangi tonu ana te tamaiti	The child's still crying
Kua haere kē ia	She's/He's already gone
Kua pau katoa ngā pihikete	The biscuits are all gone
Kua reri ngā kai	The food's ready
Kei te mā aku ringa	My hands are clean
He tiamu tāku hanawiti	My sandwich is a jam one
Kua katia te kūaha	The door's been shut
Māku e kati te kūaha	I'll shut the door
Kei te mate ia	She's/He's ill
Nāku tēnei pukapuka	This book's mine
E haere ana mātou ki te whare pukapuka	We're going to the library
Kei te kai ngā manuhiri	The guests are eating
He reka ngā kai katoa	All the food is delicious
Ka waea mai ia āpōpō	She'll/He'll phone you tomorrow
E koa ana ia	She's/He's happy
Kua reri?	Ready?
Kua reri koutou (katoa)?	Are you (all) ready?
He moemoeā!	You're dreaming!
Te uaua hoki!	That's hard!
Kua pau taku hau	I'm tired
Aroha ana!	Tough!
Kua hemo!	I've had it!
Kaitoa!	Serves you right!

Kāti

That's enough

You'll find more expressions you can use in your classroom in *Promoting Positive Attitudes to Māori Language in the Classroom*, which is available on the website of the Māori Language Commission.