

Module One / Te Wāhanga Tuatahi - Getting Started

LEARNING OUTCOME

On completion of Module One you will be able to:

- Start, navigate around and quit Te Rito
- Pronounce correctly the basic building blocks of Te Reo Māori (the Māori language)
- Pronounce some key Māori words correctly.

ACTIVITY

Double click on the Te Rito icon on your desktop to start Te Rito.

- Open and close Te Rito several times. Find the 'Menu Translation' button at the top of the screen. Click on it and you will see the titles of all the menu and submenu categories in te reo Maori (the Maori language). Navigating around using this feature can help extend your knowledge of te reo, when you are ready for it. Hover over each of the five menu categories at the top to see the list of submenu topics each one contains.
- To get used to navigating your way around, go to 'The Marae' menu and click on the 'Welcome Ceremony' submenu. On the page that comes up, click on 'The Challenge' (known in Maori as the wero). Play the video clip illustrating the wero. Then go to the 'Maori Language' menu and select 'Formalities' from the menu. From the four sub-menu tabs, click on 'Songs'. Play any two waiata (songs) from the list on the left so you get used to the 'karaoke' teaching feature that is used. This section will teach you songs, blessings and how to introduce yourself in Maori.
- Spend a few moments clicking on any menu topics that take your interest and investigating the various options within them. Do not read content at this stage, just familiarise yourself with the way the software works.

General Notes

If you are using headphones or speakers make sure they are plugged in and working. Adjust the volume on your computer to suit you.

Check that the screen brightness is adjusted properly. It should be bright enough for you to see the details of the flax background when the application is maximised.

You can view Te Rito in full screen (which looks better) or minimise it so that it is a smaller box. We recommend you start with Te Rito maximised to get the full visual experience, but feel free to minimise the screen if you need to.

**PRONUNCIATION
TUTORIAL**

In this pronunciation tutorial you will look at short and long vowel sounds and the pronunciation of consonants.

**Navigation
Instruction**

Enter Te Rito.

Click on the section “Māori Language”.

Under the category “Pronunciation” click “Basic Sounds”.

Click on the audio and listen as your guide takes you through how to use this section.

Tutorial 1

Click on the letter ‘a’ in the top row. Listen to the pronunciation, then attempt to copy the sound yourself, then click the letter again and listen for the narrator’s pronunciation to check your own against it. Now move through the vowel sounds one by one to your right, trying each one several times.

When you feel you are confidently pronouncing the short vowel sounds, click on the ‘macron’ button at the bottom of the table and try it again with the longer vowel sound. On the last time, make the sound yourself first and then click to check your pronunciation was right.

Now, turn the macron button off, and work your way across the consonant sounds below the vowels from left to right repeating the pronunciation as you go then checking it immediately as before. Do this several times.

Now turn on the macron button again, and work your way across the table from left to right, double-clicking to get the long vowel sound.

On the last time, make the sound yourself first and then click to check your pronunciation was right.

Tutorial 2

In every lesson we are going to learn the correct pronunciation of some important and frequently used Māori words.

We are going to start with words that use basic vowel sounds. The basic vowel sounds we will focus on today are:

➤ **Short 'a' and 'i' sounds.**

The words you will concentrate on today featuring these sounds are:

- **tama** (son, boy or child)
- **mana** (integrity or prestige) and
- **tiriti** (treaty).

You can learn the basic sound of these words using the pronunciation table you have in front of you in Te Rito. You can make the words by clicking on syllables. It will sound somewhat robotic and slow but if you imitate it slowly at first and then speed it up you will have the correct sound. Remember that for words with macrons you need to activate the macron button at the bottom for that syllable.

Once you have practiced each word three times, write them on flash cards and practice them as often as you can, sometimes checking your pronunciation by saying it first and then hearing them said in Te Rito. You will be adding three words in eleven of the twelve modules so make thirty-three blank flashcards.

**PRONUNCIATION
TASK FOR THE
WEEK AHEAD**

(Complete before your
next Pronunciation
Tutorial)

Make five 'short' and 'long' vowel sound flash cards (say 6cm x 3cm) for each of the vowels a, e, i, o, u. On one side print in one colour the short vowel sound and on the reverse side in a different colour the long vowel sound (using a macron).

Keep your cards at your workstation and practice your 'short' and 'long' vowel sound pronunciation at least once a day.

Make thirty three more flashcards and write out your new words (tama, mana, tiriti) on them. Look up the meanings and write them on the reverse. Practice them once a day as well, using these flash cards.

Module One / Te Wāhanga Tuatahi

Commenced _____

Completed _____

Responses noted by _____

NEXT STEP

Module Two / Te Wāhanga Tuarua - Spirituality

Read the instructions for this session several times before commencing.