

I a ia te naihi = she had the knife
Kei nga taitamariki nga kuri = the boys have the dogs
I te kura mahita te kamera = the schoolmaster (teacher) had the camera

There is no verb "to have" in Maori, and this is one way in which "having" can be expressed. Examples given later are used to denote actual ownership. Refer again to 1.6(a) for use of the nominal prefix "a".

5.2 In English we can say either "he is working" or "he is at work", "she is resting" or "she is at rest", "they are playing" or "they are at play" but it is not extended to "he is at sing", etc. In Maori it is, however, and the two forms can be considered as being equivalent.

E waiata ana ia = he is singing
Kei te waiata ia = he is singing
E moe ana te pepi = the baby was sleeping
I te moe te pepi = the baby was sleeping

Note the "e—ana" form is not fixed to any time but is past or present according to context. "Kei te" is always present; "I te" is always past.

6.1 Complex prepositions "in", "on", "under" are not single words, as in English.

Kei roto ia i te whare = she is in the house
Kei raro a Mere i tera rakau nui = Mere is under that big tree
I runga nga kapu i te tepu = the cups were on the table
 Note 'Kei' is used for present; 'I' for past. These are direct statements saying where a person or thing is located. The word order "*Kei roto i te kapata nga pereti = the plates are in the cupboard*" is equally correct.

6.2 Stating what is in a certain location, use "kei (roto) i".
He manu kei runga i te rakau = there is a bird on the tree

He wahine kei roto i te kihini = there are some women in the kitchen
 The same form ("he") is used for one or several things.

6.3 To describe particular items by reference to their location use only "i (roto) i".
Nga kapu i roto i tenei kapata = the cups (that are) in this cupboard
Te rihi nui i runga i te tepu = the big dish (that is) on the table
Nga hu i raro i te turu = the shoes (that are) under the chair

6.4 Where motion "into" or "onto" is involved use "ki (roto) i".
Me haere tatou ki roto i te whare-karakia = we had better go into the church
E piki ana te puihi ki runga i tera rakau = the cat is climbing onto that tree

7.1 Possession; important and widely used form
Te toki a Ropata = Ropata's axe (the axe of Ropata)
Te whare o Ropata = Ropata's house (the house of Ropata)
He toki na Ropata = an axe of Ropata's (belonging to Ropata)
He whare no Ropata = a house of Ropata's (belonging to Ropata)

In this brief outline it can only be said that things over which we have control, authority, or influence take 'a = of', and things which have control, authority or influence over us take 'o = of'. (The underlying principle is one of active and passive relationship.) The only sure way is to note which category a word is in the first time you hear it. It will be consistent in all the others (te—a, taku, naku, maku, etc).

Continued next issue



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