

Ki te tēpu kai

At the dinner table

Here are some words and phrases to use during a meal or when teaching your child to set the table or clear up afterwards. As always, be sure to praise their good work and they'll want to do it again.



He Rārangi Kupu (Vocab List)

Taumata 1 (Level 1)		Taumata 2 (Level 2)		Taumata 3 (Level 3)	
1. a table	tēpu	1. to go and get, bring	tiki atu (tikina atu)	1. to be finished, exhausted, used up, consumed	pau mahiti
2. to leave, put, place	waiho (tia)	2. to come and get	tiki mai (tikina mai)	2. to clear away	whakawātea (hia)
3. to leave, depart	wehe (a)	3. be straight, correct, right, stiff, vertical	tōtika / torotika	3. energy, spirit	korou
4. to wipe. a cloth (for wiping)	muku (a)	4. to wipe. a cloth (for wiping)	ūkui (a)	4. lid	taupoki
5. a relish, sauce, complement; to add ingredients; to eat one kind of food with another;	kīnaki	5. table cloth	papa-kai	5. chatter (as in a bird)	ketekete
6. a cupboard	kāpata	6. to make good, set in order, bless, prepare, set (a table)	whakapai (ngia)	6. lies, untruths	kōrero parau
7. a bowl, vessel for holding liquids (eg glass, jug)	ipu	7. fridge	pouaka-mātao	7. to open	huaki (na)
8. root vegetables	hua whenua	8. leafy vegetables (e.g. lettuce)	poke	8. strength	ngoi / ngao
9. fruit	hua rākau	9. spill, flow	maringi	9. joy, happiness, to be glad, happy, a word used with requests to make them more polite.	koa
10. clean, white	mā	10. be dropped, fallen, fall off. (also, to prepare food)	taka	10. well arranged, in good order.	nahanaha

He Rerenga Kōrero (Example Sentences)

1. First thing is to clear / wipe down the table. OK?	1. Tuatahi, kia whakawāteahia / mukua te tēpu. Kai te pai?
2. Sweetheart, get the plates from the cupboard please.	2. E te tau, tikina atu ngā pereti mai i te kāpata.
3. Set the table properly please.	3. Kia nahanaha koe i te tēpu kia tika .
4. Who's going to (give me a hand tonight / bless the food / clear the table)?	4. Mā wai e (awhina i ahau / whakapai te kai / whakawātea te tēpu)? *

He Rerenga Kōrero (Example Sentences) (cont.)

5. Can you wipe the table please?	5. Kia mukua te tēpu e koe. *
6. Would you like (a drink / some sauce / another helping)?	6. He (unu / kīnaki / kai anō) māhau? *
7. Yes, I would like (a drink / some sauce / another helping) please.	7. Āe, he (unu / kīnaki / kai anō) māku. *
8. Sit up straight boy/girl. Eat your meal properly.	8. Kia tōtika te noho e Aki / e Kō. E kai kia tika.
9. That's enough chatter .	9. Ka nui te ketekete .
10. Finish all your food and then you can leave the table.	10. Kia pau katoa tō kai i a koe , kātahi ka wehe i te tēpu.

* The intonation of your voice will convey whether you are asking a question, making a statement or giving direction. Intonation will also convey pleasantries such as 'please'.

Kīwaha / Kīrehu (Colloquialisms / Idioms)

1. He tamaiti ringa raupā koe	1. You're a hard working kid
2. Koinā te hāngai	2. That's right / you're on the right track
3. Kua pau tō hau	3. You're all worn out
4. Me te waha kahawai koe!	4. You are "like the mouth of the kahawai" – <i>The kahawai was a voracious feeder and is used in this saying to model a gluttonous eater.</i>
5. Kua mahora te kai.	5. The food has been laid out (i.e. dinner is ready).

Whakataukī (Proverbs)

1. He kai he kai "Some food, some food" – a reference to the traditional barter system. The saying comes from an occasion when a coastal tribe went inland to obtain preserved birds, rats and eels to relieve their seafood diet. However, they did not take any seafood with them to exchange with their neighbours and when they asked for supplies were answered by this saying.
2. I hea koe i te ao o te kōwhai? ¹ "Where were you when the kōwhai was in bud?" – a question asked of those who are absent at the time the work is being done and only turn up when it is time to enjoy the fruits of other people's labour. This, and other such sayings (e.g. <i>I hea koe i te tangihanga o te riroriro?</i>), illustrate how traditional work seasons were identified with natural phenomena.
3. Kotahi te karanga ki te tangata, e rua ki te kuri. "One call for people, two for dogs" – Said to those who do not respond the first time to the call to come and eat.
4. He taringa muhukai. "Ears inattentive except to the dinner call." – This is a comment on the nature of people with very limited interests and who only respond to the call for food.
5. He kiore kai kete "A rat who eats the basket." – a person who is so greedy that they eat the basket of that the food came in.

Kīnaki (A Little Something Extra)

He karakia mō te kai
Tēnei te kai kua taka i te ringa wera Kia hikina te ngao, Kia hapaingia te korou Nā Tāne, nā Tangaroa, Ko Ranginui e tū iho nei Ko Papatuanuku e takoto nei. Tiakina, kia tupu, kia ora Whano. Whano. Hare mai te toki. Haumi e. Hui e. Tāiki e!

(Footnotes)

1) "Te ao o te kōwhai" (*The buds of the kōwhai tree*) is a metaphor for spring.