

Pepeha is a traditional form of introduction in te ao Māori. It foregrounds important connections to whenua and whakapapa, before introducing the individual. It is important that teachers are comfortable with this form of introduction as they enter schools and begin working with Māori communities.

There are some variations in the form of pepeha. There are many templates available for new language learners to use, to develop their pepeha, however it is worth being mindful that whilst templates can be a useful tool, pepeha is a deeper and more complex activity than "fill-in-the-blanks". There are also considerations for Pākehā and tauwiwi engaging in pepeha, which I will address here also.

[This radio interview](#) from RNZ/Moana Radio that addresses some of the deeper kōrero around pepeha and is worth taking time to read. It encourages Pākehā and tauwiwi to use pepeha within the language learning context, but to take care how we use it beyond that.

Here is a basic template for pepeha:

Ko _____ te māunga
Ko _____ te awa/roto/moana
Ko _____ te waka
Ko _____ tōku tīpuna
Ko _____ tōku iwi
Ko _____ tōku hapū
Ko _____ tōku marae
Nō _____ ahau
Ko _____ rāua ko _____ ōku mātua
Ko _____ tōku ingoa

The mountain that I affiliate to is _____

The river/lake/sea that I affiliate to is _____

The waka that I affiliate to is _____

My (founding) ancestor is _____

My tribe is _____

My sub-tribe is _____

My marae is _____

I am from _____

My parents are _____ and _____

My name is _____

These frameworks for pepeha have been shared from the Auckland City Libraries' facebook page. They offer options for different contexts:

He kōrero mōku Introducing yourself

Tēnā koutou kua huihui mai nei
Greetings everyone gathered here

E mihi ana ki ngā mana whenua
I acknowledge the mana whenua

Ko _____ tōku ingoa
My name is _____

Nō _____ ahau
I am from _____

E mahi ana au hei _____ (profession)
I am a _____ (e.g. teacher)

ki _____ (Organisation/Company)
for _____ (Organisation/Company)

Nō reira, tēnā koutou katoa
So, greetings to you all.

Pepeha for Māori

Ko _____ tōku maunga (mountain)

Ko _____ tōku moana (lake/body of water)

Ko _____ tōku awa (river)

Ko _____ tōku waka (canoe)

Ko _____ tōku rohe (district)

Ko _____ tōku iwi (tribe)

Ko _____ tōku hapu (subtribe)

Ko _____ tōku marae (marae)

Ko _____ rāua ko _____ ōku matua
(parents' names)

Ko _____ tōku ingoa (name)

Pepeha for Pākehā and Tāuiwi

Ko _____ te maunga e rū nei taku
ngākau
_____ is the mountain that speaks to my heart

Ko _____ te awa e mahea nei aku
māharahara
_____ is the river that alleviates my worries

Nō _____ ahau
I am from _____

E mihi ana ki ngā tohu o nehe, o _____
e noho nei au
I recognise the ancestral and spiritual landmarks of _____ where I live

Nō reira, tēnā koutou katoa
Thus, my acknowledgement to you all

Pepeha for Pākehā and Tāuiwi in Aotearoa

Nō _____ ōku tipuna
My ancestors are from _____

I tae mai ōku tipuna ki Aotearoa i te tau _____
My ancestors arrived in NZ in the year _____

Ko _____ rāua ko _____ ōku kaumatua
_____ and _____ are my grandparents

I tipu ake au ki _____
I grew up in _____

E noho ana au ki _____
I live in _____

Ka tēnei taku mihi ki ngā tāngata whenua o te rohe nei
I acknowledge the indigenous people of this area

Ka mihi hoki au ki ngā tohu o te rohe nei
I acknowledge the important landmarks of this area

Nō reira, tēnā koutou katoa
Thus, my acknowledgement to you all

Here are some further examples of pepeha for non-Māori te reo learners:

This template has been shared quite widely on facebook along with [this helpful discussion of pepeha](#).



This was developed by Shay Wright and [retweeted by Felicity Bright](#)

I whānau mai au i te taha o te awa o _____

I was born and raised beside the river _____

I raro i te maru o te maunga o _____

Under the shelter of the mountain _____

He uri ahau nō _____

I descend from _____

Kei te noho ahau kei _____

I live in _____

Ko _____ toku ingoa

My name is _____

Tēnā koutou katoa

Greetings everyone

For example:

I whānau mai au i te taha o te awa o Fiume

- I was born and raised in the city of Fiume

I raro i te maru o te maunga o Monte Maggiore

- under the shelter of the mountain Monte Maggiore

He uri ahau no Croatia, no Italy, no Fiume

- I descend from Croatia, Italy and from Fiume

Kei te noho au kei Tamaki Makaurau

- I live in Auckland (Tamaki, the place of many lovers)

Ko Manuela Klevisser toku ingoa

- My name is Manuela Klevisser

Tena koutou katoa

- Greetings everyone

