



Kiwi Speak

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From the dairy to the beach to the hangi — in fact anywhere you find Kiwis — you'll find the following crackers being used. If you're from out of town, however, and you want to make them sound real authentic, do as most Kiwis do: drop a few vowels here and there, and raise the intonation at the end of each word as if you're asking a question.

A few examples: A-medgen (as in the title of the John Lennon song) going straight to 'bid' (what you sleep on) after scoffing all those 'fush and chups' (shark and tatties). Remember, too, if Dr Seuss was a Kiwi his most famous book would be titled *The Cet in the Het*.

In any case, before we get too carried away and go arse over tit, grab your cuz and have a gawk at the grouse words of wisdom that follow. You'll have it sussed in no time, hunky dory, sweet as, home 'n' hosed.

**As we say around here,
'Kick it in the guts, Trev!'**

'How ya garn?'

Kiwis are right into shortening things: jail terms and odds on Bledisloe Cup matches spring to mind. Alas, it's no different with words. After all, why waste your time with, 'Good day, fine sir, how would you be going on this splendiferous morning?' when you could just get away with the above?

'Good as gold.'

As in: 'How's the job?' 'Good as gold.'

Meaning the employment in question is as good as having gold in your pocket. In the old days having gold, as opposed to paper money, meant you could exchange it for goods and services anywhere.

'Ka pai!'

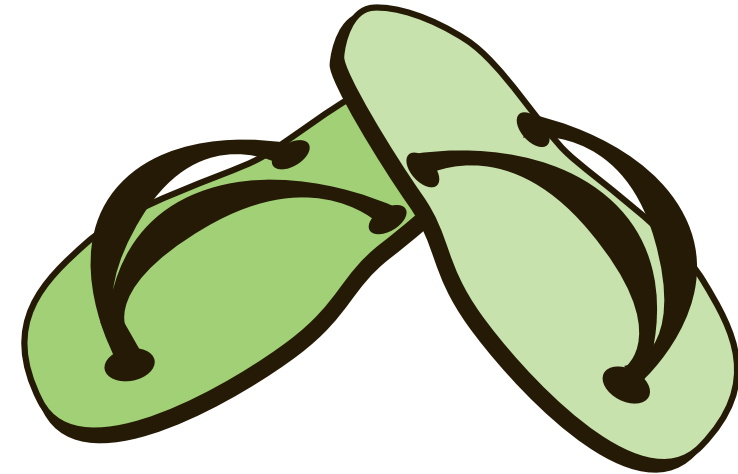
Maori for 'good'. Even your average Palagi or Honky feels confident enough using the above. Indeed some, the daring and reckless Pakeha, even attempt to place it in a full sentence: 'Ka pai kai (food) in my puku (belly).'

'Haven't seen you in yonks!'

A cracker of a word, yonks. Literally meaning 'ages', one theory is that it comes from donkey's years, another is that it's taken from years, months and weeks.

'She'll be right!'

Arguably the most popular Kiwi phrase of all time. Can be used in response to a number of enquiries: 'Shall we lock the car?'; 'Do we have enough petrol to get us to Blenheim?'; 'Are you wearing a condom?'



'You can't handle the jandal!'

I only recently learnt that the common Kiwi jandal got its name from a contraction of 'Japanese sandal'. The above would have been perfect in a New Zealand version of *A Few Good Men*:
'You can't handle . . . the jandal!'