



Disc 2, Part 3: Combining Kikino and ‘A‘ano to Describe Objects

Let’s practise putting some simple phrases together. We’ll only try to change one word at a time to make it easy. Repeat each word or phrase after me. Are you ready? Ho‘omākaukau!

He mukupuni = an island; nui = large. He mukupuni nui = a large island

Notice that in Hawaiian, the item we are going to describe comes first, since it is the most important thing, and then the describing word comes after. In English we say “a large island” but in Hawaiian we say “an island large”. Let’s try that first one again.

He mukupuni = an island; nui = large. He mukupuni nui = a large island

OK. Now remember that the mukupuni is our main word. I’ll just say the ‘a‘ano word from now on.

nui = large; he mukupuni nui = a large island

kaulana = famous; he mukupuni kaulana = a famous island

kahiko = ancient; he mukupuni kahiko = an ancient island

nani = beautiful; he mukupuni nani = a beautiful island

uluwehiwehi = verdant; he mukupuni uluwehiwehi = a verdant island

mālie = calm, tranquil; he mukupuni mālie = a tranquil island

Now it’s your turn to translate into Hawaiian! One way to help yourself is to think like the Hawaiian. For example, when I say “a large island”, you think quickly “an island large”. Then you can just put the Hawaiian words right in! Let’s give it a try!

large (nui). a large island? (he mukupuni nui)

famous (kaulana); a famous island? (he mukupuni kaulana)

ancient (kahiko); an ancient island? (he mukupuni kahiko)

beautiful (nani); a beautiful island? (he mukupuni nani)

verdant (uluwehiwehi); a verdant island (he mukupuni uluwehiwehi)

tranquil (mālie); a tranquil island (he mukupuni mālie)

Now let's try with another kikino main noun and add our 'a'ano descriptive words again. The kikino will be “he hale”, a house. Say it once, “he hale”.

nui = large; he hale nui = a large house
kaulana = famous; he hale kaulana = a famous house
kahiko = ancient; he hale kahiko = an ancient house
nani = beautiful; he hale nani = a beautiful house
uluwehiwehi = verdant; he hale uluwehiwehi = a house adorned with lush plants
mālie = tranquil; he hale mālie = a tranquil house

Now it's your turn again to translate into Hawaiian! Ho'omākaukau, get ready!

large (nui). a large house? (he hale nui)
famous (kaulana); a famous house? (he hale kaulana)
ancient (kahiko); an ancient house? (he hale kahiko)
beautiful (nani); a beautiful house? (he hale nani)
verdant (uluwehiwehi); a house adorned with plants (he hale uluwehiwehi)
tranquil (mālie); a tranquil house (he hale mālie)

It is possible to add 'a'ano one after the other to add further description to the kikino noun. Let's try with “loa”. The kikino will be “he malihini”, a visitor. Say it once, “he malihini”.

kaulana = famous; he malihini kaulana = a famous visitor
kaulana loa = very famous; he malihini kaulana loa = a very famous visitor
nani = beautiful; he malihini nani = a beautiful visitor
nani loa = very beautiful; he malihini nani loa = a very beautiful visitor
huikau = confused; he malihini huikau = a confused visitor
huikau loa = confused; he malihini huikau loa = a very confused visitor
mālie = calm; he malihini mālie = a calm visitor
mālie loa = very calm; he malihini mālie loa = a very calm visitor

Right! Now it's your turn again to translate into Hawaiian! Ho'omākaukau, get ready!

famous (kaulana); a famous visitor? (he malihini kaulana)
very famous (kaulana loa); a very famous visitor? (he malihini kaulana loa)
beautiful (nani); a beautiful visitor? (he malihini nani)
very beautiful (nani loa); a very beautiful visitor? (he malihini nani loa)
confused (huikau); a confused visitor (he malihini huikau)
very confused (huikau loa); a very confused visitor (he malihini huikau loa)
calm (mālie); a calm visitor (he malihini mālie)
very calm (mālie loa); a very calm visitor (he malihini mālie loa)