

NEW ZEALAND DICTIONARY CENTRE

WORD CHALLENGE

New Zealand English language is a unique variety of English; both it and New Zealand Maori contain some fun and fabulous words spoken nowhere else in the world.

The following exercises require answers with New Zealand English words (English and Maori). You will need to verify them in a New Zealand English Dictionary such as:

- ❖ Orsman, W.H. (ed.) (1997) *The Dictionary of New Zealand English*
- ❖ Deverson, T and Kennedy, G (eds.) (2005) *The New Zealand Oxford Dictionary*
- ❖ Macalister, J (ed.) (2005) *A Dictionary of Maori Words in New Zealand English*
- ❖ Bardsley, Dianne (ed.) (2006) *The New Zealand Oxford School Dictionary*

- 1 Find at least 1 other word for **bach**
- 2 Find at least 3 other words for saying **broken**
- 3 Find at least 5 native trees that begin with the letter **K**
- 4 **Eponyms** are terms named after a person. For example: Hobson's choice.
-Find at least 5 New Zealand eponyms.
- 5 Find at least 6 names that can be used for **greenstone** (there are at least 11 in the *Dictionary of New Zealand English!*)
- 6 Find 3 **men's national sports teams** with the word black or white in their name and find 3 **women's national sports teams** with the word black or white in their name
- 7 How many **consonants** are in the Maori alphabet?
-list them
- 8 **Solve this Riddle:** What is usually green and set aside for special or public use, but if you swap just two of its letters, it goes backwards?
-clue: one word answer only

- 9 What do **native** and **introduced** mean?
-Find at least 6 native or introduced New Zealand birds that begin with the letter **K**
- 10 Find at least 4 objects or activities that **originated** in New Zealand
- 11 **Toponyms** include objects or elements named after a place; usually they originate or were invented in that place, or named after a particular event there.
Example: Onehunga weed
-Find at least 2 toponyms
- 12 What do you call the lines put above letters of the **Maori alphabet**?
-What 5 letters can they be found above?
-What do they mean?
- 13 An **isogram** is word or phrase in which each letter occurs the same number of times.
(though its use in this sense is slang restricted to those who enjoy recreational linguistics, and not commonly found in dictionaries).
In New Zealand Maori there are many examples, such as **piupiu** (the traditional flax skirt of the Maori) and **pipi** (a shellfish)
-Find 20 Maori isograms OR find 6 of more than 3 letters each

