

Identifying objects using Pepeke ‘Aike “He”

In this lesson, we will be learning how to identify objects using the pepeke ‘aike “he” sentence pattern. The pepeke ‘aike “he” is used to say, “this is a ____” or “that is a ____.”

He pua kēia.

This is a flower.

Literal translation:

He pua | kēia.

A flower | this.

He ‘āpala kēnā.

That is an apple.

Literal translation:

He ‘āpala | kēnā.

An apple | that (by you).

He hale kēlā.

That is a house.

Literal translation:

He hale | kēlā.

A house | that (not by you).

In the examples above, “he” translates to “a/an.” “He” is followed by the object being identified (pua, ‘āpala, hale, etc.). The final word in the sentence is either “kēia – this,” “kēnā – that (by you),” or “kēlā – that (not by you).”

Kēnā vs. Kēlā

There are two ways to say “that” in Hawaiian. **Kēnā** means “that” (by you, the one I’m addressing). **Kēlā** means “that” (not by you). In order to know which “that” to use, you need to pay attention to the location of the object you are identifying in relation to the person you are addressing. Use “**kēnā**” if the object is near the person you are addressing. Use “**kēlā**” if the object is far from the person you are addressing.

Ha‘awina Pepeke ‘Aike “He”

Work with your partner to translate the following Pepeke ‘Aike “He” sentences. The translation for the object being identified is in italics.

kēia – this

kēnā – that (by you)

kēlā – that (not by you)

1. This is a book. (*puke*)

2. That (by you) is a fish. (*i‘a*)

3. That (not by you) is a student. (*haumāna*)

4. This is a picture. (*ki‘i*)

5. That (not by you) is a tree. (*kumulā‘au*)

6. That (by you) is a chair. (*noho*)

7. He kalipa kēia. (*slipper*)

8. He kīwi kēlā. (*t.v.*)

9. He pahu kēnā. (*box*)

10. He kukui kēia. (*light*)

11. He puka kēnā. (*door*)

12. He mokulele kēlā. (*airplane*)
