Free to mix.
A remix is nothing more than a new work made from one or more old works. This new work can take almost any form. Some remix works are songs, stories or films; others are scientific articles or educational resources.

The word is new, but the practice is as old as culture itself. Ancient Greek tragedians like Sophocles adapted common myths—such as Oedipus the King and Helen of Troy—for their Athenian audience. Closer to our time, Walt Disney remixed over two dozen common fairy tales for his animated films, including Sleeping Beauty, Aladdin and The Little Mermaid.

These days, though, when most people hear the word remix, they think of music. In the 1980s, musicians mixed and mashed old jazz, blues, and reggae records, before adding their own beats and raps to create a whole new sound – Hip Hop. Since then, thousands of musicians have built on these early experiments, creating an extraordinarily rich global culture of remix music that includes many of the most popular artists in the world.

Because culture always builds on the past, just about all creative work is a kind of remix. What other remixes can you think of?

Did you know?

For his 2010 film Boy, director Taika Waititi reused the Patea Maori Club’s hit Poi E, with the video featuring an unexpected combination of traditional Maori haka and Michael Jackson inspired dance moves.
It’s not only culture that is constantly being shared, reused and remixed, but science and education too. Scientists, artists and teachers all build on the past, to create new works and make new discoveries.

With the Internet, this extraordinary range of materials available for remix and reuse is larger than ever. And with increasingly pervasive consumer electronics, it has become much easier to make innovative new works.

In fact, according to a 2011 Creative NZ survey, “Digital art has emerged as the artform that young people most want to be more involved with.”

Of course, this can cause problems when it comes to keeping track of who made what—and who owns what. Some people think that anything on the internet is free to copy and use, but this is not the case.

Source: Creative NZ. “New Zealanders in the arts: attitudes, attendance and participation in 2011.”
Copyright means that certain works cannot be shared, remixed or reused without permission from the copyright holder—usually the author.

Copyright applies to all original works, including films, songs, images, books, dramas, sounds recordings, TV and radio broadcasts and Internet publications and transmissions.

For literary, dramatic, musical and artistic works, copyright lasts for the lifetime of the creator, and then an extra 50 years following their death.

Copyright is automatic, and is granted to new works when they are recorded in a material form, such as being written down or saved in a computer. It doesn’t matter if you can’t see the © symbol, or if the site is non-commercial.

If you are unsure of a work’s copyright status, don’t copy, reuse or remix the work without getting the permission of the copyright holder.

Did you know?

The world’s first copyright legislation, the Statute of Anne, was made law in 1710. Back then, copyright lasted for only 14 years. In most countries today, copyright lasts for the life of the author, plus 70 years—though in New Zealand, it’s only life plus 50 years.
Works in the public domain are part of the Commons. They can be shared, remixed and reused by everyone. You can use these works to inspire your new creation!

When the period of copyright in a work is over, the creator’s work goes into the public domain. This means anyone is free to use and profit from the work as they please.

The complete works of William Shakespeare are in the public domain, which has lead to countless creative performances and adaptations. In 2012, the Ngakau Toa theatre company wowed British audiences with their adaptation of Shakespeare’s Troilus and Cressida, performing the entire play in Te Reo Māori.

Other examples of writers with literary works in the public domain include:

Jane Austen:
Author of Sense and Sensibility.

Hans Christian Anderson:
Author of Thumbelina.

Katherine Mansfield:
Author of The Doll’s House.

Lewis Carroll:
Author of Alice in Wonderland.

Charles Dickens:
Author of Oliver Twist.

Did you know?

Under New Zealand law, most published literary works produced by an author who died at least fifty years ago are in the public domain.
Creative Commons provides free licences that copyright holders can use to allow others to share, reuse and remix their material, legally.

The Creative Commons licences give users permission to share, remix and reuse copyright works, without having to ask the copyright holder.

Their licences are easy to understand and legally robust. The suite of six Creative Commons licences provides a range of options between full ‘All Rights Reserved’ copyright and the public domain.

Each licence has different rules and grants a different range of freedoms. All Creative Commons licenses require that you credit the original creator when re-using their work in any way.

Note: any work that uses one of the two “No Derivatives” licences cannot be used in a remix

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THE LICENCES

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Users will have to name you as the creator and link back to your work

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Users who remix your work must use the same Creative Commons licence as you

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Users cannot make money from your work

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Users cannot change or remix your work

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**New Zealand**
DigitalNZ has a fascinating range of Kiwi content. Click ‘Open Filters’ and under ‘Usage’ select ‘Modify’ to find digital content you can add to or change: digitalnz.org.nz

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As you are finding and downloading content to remix, bookmark the link or write down the source – you are going to need this later.
Use these tools to adapt and remix content that has an open licence or is in the public domain. There are many more tools out there, but these are some of the best.

**Video**
- Windows Movie Maker - free to download to Windows
- Apple iMovie - free on some Apple computers
- YouTube Video Editor - www.youtube.com/editor
- Vimeo Enhancer - add music to your video: www.vimeo.com/musicstore/enhancer

**Audio**
- Audacity - a free-to-download, open source software for recording, editing, and converting audio files: http://audacity.sourceforge.net/
- Download free sound effects - www.mediacollege.com/downloads/sound-effects/

**Images**
- Pixlr - free online photo editor: www.pixlr.com
- Fotoflexer - distort and retouch photos online: www.fotoflexer.com
- GIMP - open source photo-editing program, free to download to your computer: www.gimp.org
- Slideshare - make a presentation using your remixed images: www.slideshare.net

**Youtube Downloader**
- Download videos online: www.youtubedownloaderhd.com/

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Before you distribute your work, make sure you have the permission of anyone who took part in your work, or maybe modelled for a photo you took.

You can share your work on a variety of free websites, including Vimeo, Youtube, Blogspot, Wordpress and many more.

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Make sure to link back to the appropriate Creative Commons licence page, so other people know exactly what they’re allowed to do.
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**Example:**

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Find out more information about Creative Commons and the ‘Free to Mix’ guide, visit the following:

On copyright:
Visit The Copyright Council: copyright.org.nz.

On Creative Commons:
Go to www.creativecommons.org.nz to find out about Creative Commons and join our email list.
While you’re there, check out our great Creative Commons Kiwi Video!

Get in touch with Creative Commons
Facebook: facebook.org/creativecommonsnz
Twitter: @cc_aotearoa
Email: admin@creativecommons.org.nz

On Remix:
Read the original Free to Mix Guide by Digital NZ and the National Library of New Zealand here:
http://goo.gl/ILjgl

Watch this remix video to learn more about the remix culture:
‘Everything is a Remix,’
http://vimeo.com/14912890

For examples of kiwi remix works, visit: mixandmash.org.nz

For a more detailed guide to copyright and remix, check out DigitalNZ’s Make It Digital guide:
digitalnz.org/make-it-digital

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