

# ***nimi ale pona***

This is a comprehensive resource of *toki pona* words. Most *toki pona* wordlists are limited to *pu*-only words, or to *pre-pu* words still in common usage, so this lexicon was made to include many words that do not appear in these more common lists, based on usage in online communities including Facebook, Discord, and Twitter. Thank you to all who helped me in making this list!  
– *jan Akuton*, 17 February 2019

## **KEY**

- ~*pre-pu*~ – words created by jan Sonja in the period before the publication of *pu*
- ~*pu*~ – definitions appearing in *pu*
- ~*alt. usage*~ – usages of *pu* words that deviate from their definitions in *pu*
- ~*post-pu*~ – community-invented words with limited use among specific subcommunities
- ~*humorous*~ – words originally created as a joke

## **LEXICON**

***a*** – ~*pu*~ (emphasis, emotion or confirmation)  
← ? onomatopoeia

***akesi*** – ~*pu*~ non-cute animal; reptile, amphibian  
← Dutch *hagedis* ‘lizard’

***ala*** – ~*pu*~ no, not, zero  
← Georgian არა *ara* ‘no’

***alasa*** – ~*pu*~ to hunt, forage | ~*alt. usage*~ (preverb) try {cf. ***lukin***}  
← Acadian French *à la chasse* ‘hunting’ ← French *chasser* ‘to hunt’

***ale/ali*** – ~*pu*~ all; abundant, countless, bountiful, every, plentiful; abundance, everything, life, universe; one hundred | ~*alt. usage*~ twenty  
← Dutch *alle* ‘all’

***anpa*** – ~*pu*~ bowing down, downward, humble, lowly, dependent  
← Acadian French *en bas* ‘below’

***ante*** – ~*pu*~ different, altered changed, other  
← Dutch *ander* ‘other, different’

***anu*** – ~*pu*~ or | ~*alt. usage*~ choose, decide  
← Georgian ან *an* ‘or’

***apeja*** – ~*pre-pu*~ shame, guilt  
← ? Finnish *häpeä* ‘shame, disgrace, dishonor’

***awen*** – ~*pu*~ enduring, kept, protected, safe, waiting, staying; (preverb) to continue to  
← Dutch *houden* ‘keep, care for, hold (in a particular state)’

***e*** – ~*pu*~ (before the direct object)  
← ?

***en*** – ~*pu*~ (between multiple subjects)  
← Dutch *en* ‘and’

**esun** – ~*pu*~ market, shop, fair, bazaar, business transaction  
← ? of Akan origin

**ijo** – ~*pu*~ thing, phenomenon, object, matter  
← Esperanto *io* ‘something’ ← Romance *i-* ‘(relative pronoun root)’

**ike** – ~*pu*~ bad, negative; non-essential, irrelevant | ~*alt. usage*~ complicated, complex  
← Finnish *ilkeä* ‘bad, mean, wicked’

**iki** – ~*pre-pu*~ he, she, it, they {see **ona**}  
← ?

**ilo** – ~*pu*~ tool, implement, machine, device  
← Esperanto *ilo* ‘tool’ ← German *-el* ‘(agent suffix)’ {cf. *Schlüssel* ‘key’ ~ *schließen* ‘lock, shut’}

**insa** – ~*pu*~ centre, content, inside, between; internal organ, stomach  
← Tok Pisin *insait* ‘inside, center, stomach’ ← English *inside*

**jaki** – ~*pu*~ disgusting, obscene, sickly, toxic, unclean, unsanitary  
← English *yucky*

**jaku** – ~*post-pu*~ 100 {see **ale/ali**}  
← Japanese 百 *hyaku* ‘100’

**jan** – ~*pu*~ human being, person, somebody  
← Cantonese 人 *jan* ‘person’

**jasima** – ~*post-pu*~ reflect, resound, mirror, be on the opposite/polar end of  
← Turkish *yansıtma* ‘to reflect, reverberate’

**jelo** – ~*pu*~ yellow, yellowish  
← English *yellow*

**jo** – ~*pu*~ to have, carry, contain, hold  
← Mandarin 有 *yǒu* ‘have’

**kala** – ~*pu*~ fish, marine animal, sea creature  
← Finnish *kala* ‘fish’

**kalama** – ~*pu*~ to produce a sound; recite, utter aloud  
← Serbo-Croatian *galama* галама ‘fuss, noise’

**kama** – ~*pu*~ arriving, coming, future, summoned; (preverb) to become, manage to, succeed in  
← Tok Pisin *kamap* ‘event, arrive, happen, become, bring about, summon’ ← English *come up*

**kamalawala** – ~*post-pu*~ anarchy, uprising, revolt, rebellion  
← toki pona ‘*kama pi lawa ala*’

**kan** – ~pre-pu~ with, among {see **poka**}

← ?Finnish *kanssa* ‘with’ or Esperanto *kun* ‘with’ (← Latin *cum*)

**kapa** – ~pre-pu~ extrusion, protrusion, hill, mountain, button {see **nenā**}

← ?Dutch *kop* ‘head, cup’ or Esperanto *kapo* ‘head’ (← Latin *caput*)

**kapesi** – ~pre-pu~ brown, gray

← Greek *καφές* *kafés* ‘coffee’ or ?French *café* ‘light brown’

**kasi** – ~pu~ plant, vegetation; herb, leaf

← Finnish *kasvi* ‘plant’

**ke** – ~post-pu~ (acknowledgment or acceptance)

← English ’*kay* ← *okay*

**ken** – ~pu~ (preverb) to be able to, be allowed to, can, may; possible

← Tok Pisin *ken* ← English *can*

**kepeken** – ~pu~ to use, with, by means of

← Dutch *gebruiken* ‘to use’

**kijetesantakalu** – ~pre-pu, *humorous*~ any animal from the Procyonidae family, such as raccoons, coatis, kinkajous, olingos, ringtails and cacomistles

← Finnish *kierteishäntäkarhu* ‘kinkajou’ ← *kierteis* ‘spiral’ + *häntä* ‘tail’ + *karhu* ‘bear’

**kili** – ~pu~ fruit, vegetable, mushroom

← Georgian *ხილი* *xili* ‘fruit’

**kin** – ~pu~ {see **a**} | ~alt. *usage*~ too, also, as well

← Finnish *-kin* ‘too, also, still’

**kipisi** – ~pre-pu~ split, cut, slice {see **tu**}

← Swahili *kipisi* ‘sliver, small piece of wood’

**kiwen** – ~pu~ hard object, metal, rock, stone

← Finnish *kiven*, genitive of *kivi* ‘stone’

**ko** – ~pu~ clay, clinging form, dough, semi-solid, paste, powder

← Cantonese 膏 *gou* ‘cream, paste’

**kule** – ~pu~ colourful, pigmented, painted | ~alt. *usage*~ of or relating to the LGBT+ community

← Acadian French *couleur* ‘color’

**kulu** – ~post-pu~ {shortened variant of **kulupu**}; six {particularly in senary base}

← toki pona *kulupu*

**kulupu** – ~pu~ community, company, group, nation, society, tribe

← Tongan *kulupu* ← English *group*

**kuntu** – ~post-*pu*~ laughter, humor {see **musi**}  
← toki pona *k.m.t.u* ← ‘*kalama musi tan uta*’

**kute** – ~*pu*~ ear; to hear, listen; pay attention to, obey  
← Acadian French *écouter* ‘listen’

**la** – ~*pu*~ (between the context phrase and the main sentence)  
← Esperanto *la* ‘(definite article)’ ← Romance *la* ‘(feminine singular definite article)’

**lanpan** – ~post-*pu*~ take, seize, catch, receive {see **jo**, **alasa**}  
← Greek λαμβάνω *lamváo* ‘take, seize, grasp, receive’

**lape** – ~*pu*~ sleeping, resting  
← Dutch *slapen* ‘sleep’

**laso** – ~*pu*~ blue, green  
← Welsh *glas* ‘blue, inexperienced’ ← Proto-Brythonic *glas* ‘green, blue’

**lawá** – ~*pu*~ head, mind; to control, direct, guide, lead, own, plan, regulate, rule  
← Serbo-Croatian *glava* *глава* ‘head’

**leko** – ~pre-*pu*~ stairs, square, block  
← ?English *Lego* (← Danish *Lego* ← ‘*leg godt*’ ‘play well’) or Finnish *lohko* ‘block, section’

**len** – ~*pu*~ cloth, clothing, fabric, textile; cover, layer of privacy  
← Acadian French *linge* ‘clothing’

**lete** – ~*pu*~ cold, cool; uncooked, raw  
← Acadian French *frette* ‘cold’ ← Old French *freit* ‘cold’

**li** – ~*pu*~ (between any subject except *mi* alone or *sina* alone and its verb; also to introduce a new verb for the same subject)  
← Esperanto *li* ‘he’ {cf. Tok Pisin transitive suffix *-im*} ← Latin *ille*

**likujo** – ~post-*pu*~ collection, assortment, menagerie, arrangement, handful, harvest  
{see **kulupu**, **alasa**}; seven  
← Acadian French *recueil* ‘collection, ensemble, anthology’

**lili** – ~*pu*~ little, small, short; few; a bit; young  
← Tok Pisin *liklik* ‘small, little’ ← Ramoaina *liklik*

**linja** – ~*pu*~ long and flexible thing; cord, hair, rope, thread, yarn | ~alt. *usage*~ line, connection  
← Finnish *linja* ‘line’ ← Old Swedish *linia*

**linluwi** – ~post-*pu*~ network(s), internet(s)  
← Welsh *rhyngrwyd* ‘internet’ (← *rhwng* ‘between’ + *rhwyd* ‘net’)

**lipu** – ~*pu*~ flat object; book, document, card, paper, record, website  
← Finnish *lippu* ‘flag, banner, ticket’

**loje** – ~*pu*~ red, reddish

← Dutch *rooie* ‘red (inflected)’ ← *rood* ‘red’

**lokōn** – ~*post-pu*, *humorous*~ {a compromise between **lukin** & **oko**}

← *toki pona lukin* & *oko*

**lon** – ~*pu*~ located at, present at, real, true, existing | ~*alt. usage*~ (affirmative response)

← Tok Pisin *long* ‘at, in, on, (spacial particle)’ ← English *along*

**luka** – ~*pu*~ arm, hand, tactile organ; five | ~*alt. usage*~ touch {physically}, interact, press

← Serbo-Croatian *ruka* *pyka* ‘hand, arm’

**lukin** – ~*pu*~ eye {see **oko**}; look at, see, examine, observe, read, watch; (preverb) to seek, look for, try to

← Tok Pisin *lukim* ‘see, look at’ ← *luk* ‘look’ (← English *look*) + *-im* ‘(transitive suffix)’ (← English *him*, ‘em)

**lupa** – ~*pu*~ door, hole, orifice, window

← Lojban *clupa* ‘loop’ (← Mandarin 圈 *quān*, English *loop*, Hindi पाश *pāś*, Arabic أنشوطة *‘anšūṭa*)

**ma** – ~*pu*~ earth, land; outdoors, world; country, territory; soil

← Finnish *maa* ‘earth, land’

**majuna** – ~*pre-pu*~ old, aged

← Esperanto *maljuna* ‘old’ ← *mal-* ‘(opposite of)’ (← Latin *malus*) + *juna* ‘young’ (← German *jung* & French *jeune*)

**mama** – ~*pu*~ parent, ancestor; creator, originator; caretaker, sustainer

← Georgian მამა *mama* ‘father’

**mani** – ~*pu*~ money, cash, savings, wealth; large domesticated animal

← English *money* {cf. *fee* and *pecuniary* etymologies}

**meli** – ~*pu*~ woman, female, feminine person; wife

← Tok Pisin *meri* ‘woman, wife, feminine’ ← Tolai *mari* ‘pretty’ & English *Mary*

**melome** – ~*post-pu*~ sapphic, lesbian, wlw

← *toki pona ‘meli pi olin meli’*

**mi** – ~*pu*~ I, me, we, us

← Esperanto *mi* ‘I, me’ ← Romance *m-* ‘(1st person singular oblique)’

**mije** – ~*pu*~ man, male, masculine person; husband

← Finnish *mies* ‘man, husband’

**mijomi** – ~*post-pu*~ gay, mlm

← *toki pona ‘mije pi olin mije’*

**moku** – ~pu~ to eat, drink, consume, swallow, ingest  
← Japanese モグ モグ *mogumogu* ‘munching’

**moli** – ~pu~ dead, dying  
← Acadian French *mourir* ‘die’

**monsi** – ~pu~ back, behind, rear  
← Acadian French *mon tchu* ‘{vulgar} my ass’

**monsuta** – ~pre-pu~ fear, monster  
← Japanese モンスター *monsutā* ‘monster’ ← English *monster*

**mu** – ~pu~ (animal noise or communication) | ~alt. usage~ (non-speech vocalization)  
← ? onomatopoeia

**mun** – ~pu~ moon, night sky object, star  
← English *moon*

**musi** – ~pu~ artistic, entertaining, frivolous, playful, recreation  
← Esperanto *amuzi* ‘have fun’ ← French *amuser*

**mute** – ~pu~ many, a lot, more, much, several, very; quantity | ~alt. usage~ three (or more) |  
~post-pu~ thirty six {senary base}  
← Esperanto *multe* ‘a lot’ ← Latin *multus*

**namako** – ~pu~ {see **sin**} | ~alt. usage~ embellishment, spice; extra additional  
← Persian نمک *namak* ‘salt’

**nanpa** – ~pu~ -th (ordinal number); numbers  
← Tok Pisin *namba* ‘number, (ordinal marker)’ ← English *number*

**nasa** – ~pu~ unusual, strange; foolish, crazy; drunk, intoxicated  
← Tok Pisin *nasau* ‘stupid’

**nasin** – ~pu~ way, custom, doctrine, method, path, road  
← Serbo-Croatian *način* начин ‘way, method’

**nenä** – ~pu~ bump, button, hill, mountain, nose, protuberance  
← Finnish *nenä* ‘nose’

**ni** – ~pu~ that, this  
← Cantonese 呢 *ni* ‘this’

**nimi** – ~pu~ name, word  
← Finnish *nimi* ‘name’

**noka** – ~pu~ foot, leg, organ of locomotion; bottom, lower part  
← Serbo-Croatian *noga* нога ‘foot, leg’

**o** – ~*pu*~ hey! O! (vocative or imperative)

← Georgian -ო -o ‘(vocative suffix)’ & English *oh*

**oko** – ~*pu*~ {see **lukin**} | ~*alt. usage*~ eye, ocular, visual {cf. *lukin*}

← Serbo-Croatian *oko* око ‘eye’

**olin** – ~*pu*~ love, have compassion for, respect, show affection to

← Serbo-Croatian *volim* волим ‘I love’

**omen** – ~*post-pu*, *humorous*~ sarcasm, ironic

← toki pona *o.m.e.m.* ← ‘*o moli e mi*’

**ona** – ~*pu*~ he, she, it, they

← Serbo-Croatian *ona* она ‘she’

**open** – ~*pu*~ begin, start; open; turn on

← English *open*

**pakala** – ~*pu*~ botched, broken, damaged, harmed, messed up | ~*alt. usage*~ (curse expletive, e.g. fuck!)

← Tok Pisin *bagarap* ‘accident’ ← English *bugger up*

**pake** – ~*pre-pu*~ stop, cease {see **pini**}

← ? English *block*

**pali** – ~*pu*~ do, take action on, work on; build, make, prepare

← Esperanto *fari* ‘do, make’ ← Italian *fare* & French *faire*

**palisa** – ~*pu*~ long hard thing; branch, rod, stick

← Serbo-Croatian *palica* *nanuša* ‘bat, rod, cane’

**pan** – ~*pu*~ cereal, grain; barley, corn, oat, rice, wheat; bread, pasta

← Romance *pan* ‘bread’ & Japanese パン *pan* (← Portuguese *pão*)

**pana** – ~*pu*~ give, send, emit, provide, put, release

← ? Finnish *panna* ‘put, set, place’ or Swahili *pana* ‘give to each other’

**pasila** – ~*pre-pu*~ good, easy {see **pona**}

← French *facile* ‘easy’

**pata** – ~*pre-pu*~ sibling

← ? Serbo-Croatian *brat* *bram* ‘brother’ or Tok Pisin *brata* ‘sibling or cousin of the same gender’  
(← English *brother*)

**peto** – ~*post-pu*~ cry, tears

← toki pona *p.e.t.o.* ← ‘*pana e telo oko*’

**pi** – ~*pu*~ of [used to divide a second noun group that describes a first noun group]

← Tok Pisin *bilong* ‘of’ ← English *belong*

**pilin** – ~*pu*~ heart (physical or emotional); feeling (an emotion, a direct experience)  
← Tok Pisin *pilim* ‘feel’ ← *pil* (← English *feel*) + *-im* ‘(transitive suffix)’ ← (English *him*, ‘em)

**pimeja** – ~*pu*~ black, dark, unlit  
← Finnish *pimeä* ‘dark’

**pini** – ~*pu*~ ago, completed, ended, finished, past  
← French *fini* ‘finished, completed’ & Tok Pisin *pinis* ‘(perfective aspect)’ ← English *finish*

**pipi** – ~*pu*~ bug, insect, ant, spider  
← Acadian French *bibitte* ‘bug’

**pipo** – ~*post-pu*, *humorous*~ annoy, annoyance, bothersome, boring  
← toki pona *pipi*

**po** – ~*pre-pu*~ four  
← ? English *four*

**poka** – ~*pu*~ hip, side; next to, nearby, vicinity | ~*alt. usage*~ with (comitative), beside  
← Serbo-Croatian *boka* бoкa, genitive of *bok* бoк ‘side, flank’

**poki** – ~*pu*~ container, bag, bowl, box, cup, cupboard, drawer, vessel  
← Tok Pisin *bokis* ‘box, {vulgar} female genitalia’ ← English *box*

**pona** – ~*pu*~ good, positive, useful; friendly, peaceful; simple  
← Esperanto *bona* ‘good’

**powe** – ~*pre-pu*~ unreal, false, untrue, pretend, deceive, trickster  
← ? French *faux* ‘false’

**pu** – ~*pu*~ interacting with the official Toki Pona book  
← ? Mandarin 樸 *pǔ* ‘unworked wood; inherent quality; simple’ & English *book*

**sama** – ~*pu*~ same, similar; each other; sibling, peer, fellow; as, like  
← Finnish *sama* ‘same’ (← PG *\*samaz* ‘same, alike’) & Esperanto *sama* ‘same’ (← English *same*)

**san** – ~*post-pu*~ three {particularly in senary base; see *tuli*}  
← Japanese 三 *san* ‘three’

**seli** – ~*pu*~ fire; cooking element, chemical reaction, heat source  
← Georgian ცხელი *cxeli* ‘hot’

**selo** – ~*pu*~ outer form, outer layer; bark, peel, shell, skin; boundary  
← Esperanto *ŝelo* ‘skin, peel’ ← German *Schale* ‘peel, husk, shell’

**seme** – ~*pu*~ what? which?  
← Mandarin 什麼 *shénme* ‘what, something’



**sewi** – ~*pu*~ area above, highest part, something elevated; awe-inspiring, divine, sacred, supernatural

← Georgian ზევით *zevit* ‘upwards’

**sijelo** – ~*pu*~ body (of person or animal), physical state, torso

← Serbo-Croatian *tijelo muje*no ‘body’

**sike** – ~*pu*~ round or circular thing; ball, circle, cycle; of one year

← English *circle*

**sikomo** – ~*post-pu*, *humorous*~ on a higher tier/plane, enlighten(ed), epic; to an exceedingly great extent

← English *sicko mode* (← Travis Scott song *Sicko Mode*)

**sin** – ~*pu*~ new, fresh; additional, another, extra {see **namako**}

← Mandarin 新 *xīn* ‘new, fresh’

**sina** – ~*pu*~ you, your

← Finnish *sinä* ‘you’

**sinpin** – ~*pu*~ face, foremost, front, wall

← Cantonese 前邊 *tsin bin* ‘in front’

**sitelen** – ~*pu*~ image, picture, representation, symbol, mark, writing

← Dutch *schilderen* ‘paint’

**sona** – ~*pu*~ know, be skilled in, be wise about, have information on; (preverb) know how to

← Georgian ცოდნა *codna* ‘knowledge’

**soweli** – ~*pu*~ animal, beast, land mammal

← Georgian ცხოველი *cxoveli* ‘beastly animal, lively, passionate’

**suli** – ~*pu*~ big, heavy, large, long, tall; important; adult

← Finnish *suuri* ‘big, large, great’

**sunō** – ~*pu*~ sun; light, brightness, glow, radiance, shine; light source

← Esperanto *sunō* ‘sun’

**supa** – ~*pu*~ horizontal surface, thing to put or rest something on

← Esperanto *surfaco* ‘surface’ ← French & English *surface*

**suwi** – ~*pu*~ sweet, fragrant; cute, innocent, adorable

← Tok Pisin *suwi* ← English *sweet*

**tan** – ~*pu*~ by, from, because of; origin, cause

← Cantonese 從 *tsung* ‘from’

**taso** – ~*pu*~ but, however; only

← Tok Pisin *tasol* ‘just, only, but, however’ ← English *that’s all*

**tawa** – ~*pu*~ going to, toward; for; from the perspective of; moving  
← English *towards*

**telo** – ~*pu*~ water, liquid, fluid, wet substance; beverages  
← Acadian French *de l'eau* ‘(some) water’

**ten** – ~*post-pu*~ {shortened variant of **tenpo**}  
← toki pona *tenpo*

**tenpo** – ~*pu*~ time, duration, moment, occasion, period, situation  
← Esperanto *tempo* ‘time’ ← Latin *tempus*

**toki** – ~*pu*~ communicate, say, speak, talk, use language, think  
← Tok Pisin *tok* ← English *talk*

**tu** – ~*pu*~ two | ~*alt. usage*~ separate, cut {see **kipisi**}  
← English *two* & Esperanto *du*

**tuli** – ~*pre-pu*~ three {see **san**}  
← English *three*

**unpa** – ~*pu*~ have sexual or marital relations with  
← ? onomatopoeia

**uta** – ~*pu*~ mouth, lips, oral cavity, jaw  
← Serbo-Croatian *usta ycma* ‘mouth’

**utala** – ~*pu*~ battle, challenge, compete against, struggle against  
← Serbo-Croatian *udarati ydapamu* ‘strike, hit, hurt’

**walo** – ~*pu*~ white, whitish; light-coloured, pale  
← Finnish *valko-* ‘white’

**wan** – ~*pu*~ unique, united; one  
← English *one*

**waso** – ~*pu*~ bird, flying creature, winged animal  
← French *oiseau* ‘bird’

**wawa** – ~*pu*~ strong, powerful; confident, sure; energetic, intense  
← Finnish *vahva* ‘strong, powerful, thick’

**weka** – ~*pu*~ absent, away, ignored  
← Dutch *weg* ‘away, gone’

**wi** – ~*post-pu*, *humorous*~ we (excluding you, i.e. 1<sup>st</sup> person exclusive)  
← English *we*

**wile** – ~*pu*~ must, need, require, should, want, wish  
← Dutch *willen* ‘want, desire’