

Toki Pona
The Simplest Language in the World
Grammar and Vocabulary Lessons

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These lessons are based on the lessons of jan Pije (2015) and
the official Toki Pona book (first English edition 2014) of Sonja Lang [\[15\]](#)

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1.2 Alphabet, Punctuation Marks

Consonants

Except for *j*, all the consonants are pronounced like in English. *j* is always pronounced just like the letter *y*.

letter	pronounced as in
k	kill
l	let
m	met
n	net
p	pit
s	sink
t	too
w	wet
j	yet

Vowels

Toki Pona's vowels are quite unlike English's. Whereas vowels in English are quite arbitrary and can be pronounced tons of different ways depending on the word, Toki Pona's vowels are all regular and never change pronunciation. If you're familiar with Italian, Spanish, Esperanto, or certain other languages, then your work is already cut out for you. The vowels are the same in Toki Pona as they are in these languages.

letter	pronounced as in
a	father
e	met
i	peel
o	more
u	food

The More Advanced Stuff

All official Toki Pona words are never capitalized. They are lowercase even at the beginning of the sentence! The only time that capital letters are used is when you are using unofficial words, like the names of people or places or religions.

Special Characters

.	<i>separator:</i> A declarative sentence ends with a full stop.
!	<i>separator:</i> An imperative or an interjection sentence ends with an exclamation mark.
?	<i>separator:</i> An questions always ends in a question mark.
:	<i>separator:</i> A colon is between an hint sentences and a sentences.
,	<i>separator:</i> A comma is used after an 'o' to addressing people. Optionally, it can be inserted before a preposition.

Separators

In these lessons, special characters are referred to as separators. Separators separate phrases from each other. For example, a dot separates a sentence from the next sentence. In Toki Pona also special words serve as separators.

Types of Sentences

Toki Pona has how many languages, different types of sentences.

Most sentences are declarative sentences and end with a period. Declarative sentences make statements or an assumptions.

Question sentences are interrogative sentences that formulate a question. They end with a question mark.

Imperative sentences are sentences that formulate a command. They end with an exclamation mark.

Exclamatory sentences (interjections) are sentences that express admiration or astonishment. This also includes greetings. They end with an exclamation mark or a period.

Headlines (titles) are usually not complete sentences and do not end with a punctuation mark.

Please always pay attention to correct punctuation marks. Wrong or missing Punctuation marks impair the intelligibility.

A.7 Hieroglyphs

The standard for writing texts in *toki pona* is the Latin alphabet. However, writing systems based on hieroglyphics were also developed. Depending on the system, the symbols represent letters, syllables or words. A system that uses a symbol for each word is *sitelen pona* [14]. Jonathan Gabel has developed a very nice hieroglyphic script. *sitelen sitelen* [2] looks similar to Mayan hieroglyphics.

Unfortunately, most of these systems has not punctuation marks or special characters. A system that also has symbols for punctuation marks is *sitelen pona pi jan Makuwe* [6]. This hieroglyphic script represents syllables.