



## toki pona

Developed by linguist Sonja Lang, toki pona is a language with ~130 words.

It uses only 14 IPA phonemes: a e i o u j k l m n p s t u w

## Basic Sentences

The particle > separates the subject from the predicate.

↗>↘ - The cat is eating.

↗>◦ - People sleep.

There is no verb “to be.” The part after > (predicate) can be a noun or an adjective.

↙>↘ - Fruits are food.

≈>◦ - Water is good.

If the subject is P or b alone, the > is always omitted.

↗> - I eat.

◦ - You are good.

## Ambiguity

Toki Pona words are less specific than English words, so one-to-one translation is not as easy.

↗> - I am eating, I was eating, or I will be eating.

Many words have multiple or general meanings.

↗ - A cat, dog, or any land mammal.

◦ - Any fruit or vegetable.

Most words can act as nouns, verbs, adjectives, or adverbs.

≈ - Water, wet, or to wash.

◦ - Good, simple, to improve, or wellness.

Nouns have no number and there is no “a” or “the”.

↗ - A fish, the fish, some fish.

P - I, me, we, or us.

## Direct objects

The particle » signifies the direct object. This also makes the previous word into a verb.

↗>»≈ - The animal drinks the water.

↗≈»◦ - I wash my hands.

◦»≈ - You enlarge it.

## Modifying words

Words can be modified by appending other words.

↘ - Child (small human).

△P - My house.

◦ - A good feeling.

To negate a word, append ×

×◦ - I'm not sleeping.

↗X>◦ - No one is talking.

With multiple modifiers, they all modify the first word.

□Y|| - Two plant lists.

□Z△ - A blue and black box.

You can change the way the modifiers interact using pi .

□L Y|| - A two-plant list.

□L Z△ - A dark-blue box.

## Prepositions

↗, ◦, =, △, and ▲ can act as prepositions. They go at the end of a statement.

↗R△ - I eat with cutlery.

↗>-△ - The animal is in the house.

◦=△ - You sing like a bird!

↗△◦ - I return from work.

↗>»△◦ - They said that to you.

## Questions

There are three ways to form a question. If you want a yes-or-no answer, use verb × verb.

→ZXZ - Is she playing?

This will usually result in one of three types of replies:

◦ - Yes: [she is] playing.

◦X - No: [she is] not playing.

× - No: [she is] not [playing].

If you want to check something, end the sentence with Y?

△Y? - Are you making fire?

△^>-△Y? - Is the cute cat in a box?

Replace unknown info with ? to form an open-ended question.

↗?»»≈ - Who's bringing the drinks?

△?»? - What are you making?

## Interjections

Interjections are common.

Add ! for emphasis.

◦ - Good! / Great! / Thanks!

!W! - So powerful!

↗ - Hello! / Hi! / Greetings!

△ - True! / Correct!

↘ - Bon appetit!

!? - Listen!

!≈ - Please drink.

You can use ! after a subject to address them.

↗!≈+○! - Eten! (Aden)

You can place ! between subject and predicate to express a wish, desire, request, etc.

△!△! - Joy to you.

!P!R - I should be working.

Or it can also be a contraction of the first two uses.

↗!△!△! - Eat, Sasa. (Sasza)

## Preverbs

Preverbs go before verbs to modify their meaning.

PK△ - I can write.

△>W△V - The small bird wants to become big.

The words W, △, □, ◦, K, ▲, and ▷ can be preverbs.

## Context

The word ) can be used to mark the context of a sentence:

a ) b means: In the context of a, b. This can mean time, cause, topic, etc.

△-△.P)P△ - When you are by my side, I feel good.

The word ) is often used to move a prepositional phrase to the front of the sentence.

=P)b|| - Just like me, you know a lot.

△?bΨ - Why are you hot?

The preposition △ can be omitted in this case.

△△P~ - I sleep [at] night.

## Numbers

Combine number words to add them up.

For example, 1 is 1, || is 2, △ is 5, !!! is 20, ≈ is 100, !!! is 4, and □||1 is 8.

The word # can be used to mark ordinals.

□#1> - The first book is good.

↑#!!!.n1 - 26th Street.

## The word !

You can use ! before a verb to turn it into a command.

people		
	<b>jan</b> person, somebody	人
	<b>kulupu</b> group, community, company, collection, team	
	<b>mama</b> parent, caretaker; creator	媽咪
	<b>meli</b> female, feminine	美利
	<b>mi</b> (1st-person) I, me, we, us	
	<b>mije</b> male, masculine	美斯
	<b>ona</b> (3rd-person) he, she, it, they, ...	она
	<b>sina</b> (2nd-person) you, y'all	
	<b>tonsi</b> nonbinary; transgender	同志

necessities		
	<b>esun</b> market, shop; trade, buy, sell	edwamu 
	<b>len</b> cloth, fabric; hidden, private	linge 
	<b>mani</b> money, currency; valuables	money 
	<b>misikeke</b> medicalization, medical practice	L'pp
	<b>moku</b> eat, drink; food	モグモグ • 
	<b>pan</b> bread, grain, potato, pasta, rice	パン •
	<b>tomo</b> building, room, tent, shelter	δόμος 
	<b>wile</b> want, must, need	willen 

state		
	<b>ante</b> different, change, changed, other	ander
	<b>awen</b> stay, remain, wait; protect, save; to continue	houden
	<b>kama</b> arrive, summon; future; become	kamap
	<b>ken</b> can, may, ability; possible; allow, enable; to be able to	ken
	<b>open</b> begin, start; turn on; opening	
	<b>pini</b> finish, stop; turn off; close, end, final	
	<b>tawa</b> motion, walking, flight, travel; going to, for; from the perspective of	toward
	<b>tempo</b>	tempo

descriptions		
	<b>ante</b> different, change, changed, other	ander
	<b>ike</b> bad, negative, unpleasant, cringe, complex, harmful, unneeded	ilekka +
	<b>jaki</b> disgusting, unclean, toxic	yucky
	<b>kiwen</b> hard object, stone, rock, metal	kiven +
	<b>ko</b> clay, dough, something pliable, powder, sand	ku
	<b>lawa</b> head, mind; lead; leader; rule	rnava
	<b>lili</b> little, small, short; few; young	liklik
	<b>namako</b> spice, ornament; extra, additional	namak

locating			
•	<b>anpa</b>	en bas	❶❷❸
	bottom, underside; below; defeat, humble, lowly		
•	<b>insa</b>	insait	❶❷❸
	inside, center, between, middle; organ, stomach		
•	<b>ion</b>	long	❶❷❸
	located at; real, true, exist		
•	<b>monsi</b>	mon tchu	❶❷❸
	behind, back, rear		
↓	<b>ni</b>	呢	❶❷❸
	this, that, these, those		
•	<b>poka</b>	бока	❶❷❸
	side, hip; next to, near		
•	<b>poki</b>	bokis	❶❷❸
	container, bag, bowl, box, cup, category		
•	<b>selo</b>	šelo	❶❷❸
	outer layer, skin, peel, shell, bark; boundary		
•	<b>sewi</b>	[sə'wi] សេវិ	❶❷❸
	up, top, above; divine, sacred, supernatural; awesome, inspiring		
•	<b>sinpin</b>	前邊	❶❷❸
	vertical surface, wall; front, face		
•	<b>wela</b>	weg	❶❷❸
	away, absent, distant; remove, rid		

body	
↪ insa	insait
↪ inside, center, between, middle; organ, stomach	
⌚ kute	écoutenter
⌚ ear; hear, listen	
ଓ lawa	глava
ଓ head, mind; lead; leader; rule	
ଓ luka	pyka
ଓ hand, arm; 5	
ଓ lukin	lukim
ଓ look, see, examine; eye; try	
↤ monsi	mon tchu
↤ behind, back, rear	
ଓ nena	nëna +
ଓ nose, bump, hill, button	
ଓ noka	hora
ଓ foot, leg; roots, lower part	
ଓ pilin	pilim
ଓ heart, feeling (emotion, sense)	
ଓ selo	šelo
ଓ outer layer, skin, peel, shell, bark; boundary	
ଓ sijelo	тijeno
ଓ body, physical state, torso	
ଓ sinpin	перед
ଓ vertical surface, wall; front, face	
ଓ uta	уста
ଓ mouth, lips	

<b>sight</b>	
	<b>jelo</b> yellow, yellowish color
	<b>kule</b> couleur color; aspect of sense, timbre, pitch, flavor, texture; queer
	<b>laso</b> glas blue, green, turquoise, indigo
	<b>loje</b> rooie red, reddish color
	<b>lukin</b> lukim look, see, examine; eye; try
	<b>pimeja</b> pimeä black; dark, unlit; dark color
	<b>sitelen</b> schilderen image, picture, symbol, writing
	<b>walo</b> valko white; light-colored, bright color

connection		
Y	<b>anu</b> (possibility marker), or	øø+
>>	<b>e</b> (direct object marker)	
+	<b>en</b> (multiple subject marker)	en-
-	<b>kin</b> too, also	-kin +
)	<b>la</b> (context marker)	■■■
>	<b>li</b> (predicate marker)	■■■
·	<b>lon</b> located at; real, true, exist	long ■■■
L	<b>pi</b> (regroups modifiers)	bilong ■■■
?	<b>seme</b> (question marker); what, which	什麼 ■■■
⤒	<b>tan</b> by, from, because; origin, cause	從 ■■■
+	<b>taso</b> only, exclusively; but, however	tasol ■■■

elements	
	<b>kasi</b> kasvi + plant, vegetation; herb, leaf
	<b>kili</b> bomen + fruit, vegetable
	<b>kiwen</b> kiven + hard object, stone, rock, metal
	<b>kon</b> 空氣 - air, breath, wind; spirit, soul
	<b>lete</b> frette - cold, cool, frozen; raw
	<b>ma</b> maa + earth, land, soil; country, territory
	<b>mun</b> moon - moon, night sky object, star
	<b>seli</b> სელი + hot, warm; heat, fire; burn
	<b>soko</b> სოკო + mushroom, fungus, lichen
	<b>suno</b> სუნო - sun, light source; light, glow
	<b>telo</b> de l'eau - water, liquids, drinks; to wash, to clean

ideas			
	<b>jasima</b> mirror, reflection, opposite	yansıtmak	国旗
	<b>moli</b> death, dead, dying; kill, murder	mourir	国旗
	<b>monsuta</b> monster, fear, scary, threat, danger	モンスター	国旗
	<b>musi</b> entertainment, fun, game, art, amusing, interesting	amuzı	国旗
	<b>nasin</b> method, doctrine; road, way	начин	国旗
	<b>nimi</b> word, name	nimi	国旗
	<b>olin</b> love, bond, compassion, respect	волим	国旗
	<b>pakala</b> damage, break, harm; mistake	bagarap	国旗
	<b>pilin</b> heart, feeling (emotion, sense)	pilim	国旗
	<b>sewi</b> up, top, above; divine, sacred, supernatural; awesome, inspiring	[sə'vi] үзүүлэх +	国旗
	<b>sona</b> knowledge, information; know; wisdom, skill	чигүү	国旗
	<b>tempo</b> time, moment, period, duration	tempo	国旗
	<b>utala</b> fight, compete, battle; challenge	ударыгы	国旗
	<b>wawa</b> amazing; power, energy; intense	vahva	国旗
	<b>wile</b> want, must, need	willen	国旗

things			
	<b>ijo</b> thing, object, matter	io	
	<b>ilo</b> tool, machine, device, instrument	-el	
	<b>leko</b> square, cube, block, brick	leg rotu	
	<b>linja</b> long and flexible thing, rope, hair, line, string	linja +	
	<b>lipu</b> flat object, paper, document, card, website	lippu +	
	<b>lupa</b> door, window, hole, pit, portal		
	<b>namako</b> spice, ornament; extra, additional	नमक	
	<b>nena</b> nose, bump, hill, button	неня +	
	<b>palisa</b> long hard object, rod, stick	палица	
	<b>poki</b> container, bag, bowl, box, cup, category	bokis	
	<b>sike</b> circle, sphere; cycle, orbit, year	circle	
	<b>supa</b> horizontal surface, bed, floor, table, platform, stage	surfaço	

	<b>to make noise; sound</b>
	<b>kepeken</b> gebruiken using, with, by means of
	<b>kipisi</b> kipisi cut, split, slice; piece, part
	<b>ku</b> to interact with Toki Pona Dictionary by Sonja Lang
	<b>lape</b> slapen sleep, rest
	<b>pali</b> fari work, create, take action on
	<b>pana</b> panna give, send, emit, provide
	<b>pu</b> 樣 to interact with Toki Pona: The Language of Good by Sonja Lang
	<b>sitelen</b> schilderen image, picture, symbol, writing
	<b>su</b> to interact with the illustrated story book series produced by Sonja Lang
	<b>toki</b> talk, communicate; tale; language
	<b>unpa</b> sex, to have sexual relations
	<b>utala</b> ударати fight, compete, battle; challenge

critters		
	<b>akesi</b> reptile, amphibian, scaly animal	hagedis -
	<b>kala</b> fish, marine animal	kala +
	<b>kijetsantakalu</b> raccoon, procyonid, musteloid	
	<b>pipi</b> insect, bug, spider, tiny crawling creature	bibitte ■■■
	<b>soweli</b> land animal, beast	gbomgomo +
	<b>waso</b> bird, flying animal, winged animal	oiseau

counting	
X	<b>ala</b> not, nothing, no; 0; (negation); (yes-no question)
∞	<b>ale</b> all, everything, entirety; any; 100
ㄣ	<b>luka</b> hand, arm; 5
☰	<b>mute</b> many, several; very; 20
#	<b>nampa</b> number, -th
	<b>tu</b> 2; separate, divide, split
1	<b>wan</b> 1; combine, join, mix