



toki pona

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

Kanata (カナタ) uses the Canadian Aboriginal Syllabary to represent the 46 possible consonant vowel pairs:

	e	i	o	u	a	▶
¬	▽	△	▷	▷	◀	
p-	∨	∧	>	>	<	
t-	U	∩	▷	▷	c	
k-	q	p	d	d	b	
m-	⊸	⊸	⊸	⊸	L	
n-	⊸	σ	⊸	⊸	o	○
l-	⊸	⊸	⊸	⊸	⊸	
s-	⊸	⊸	⊸	⊸	⊸	
j-	⊸	⊸	⊸	⊸	⊸	
w-	⊸	⊸	⊸	⊸	⊸	

○ is a naming mark. Light text indicates syllables not allowed in Toki Pona.

Basic Sentences

The particle ⊂ separates the subject from the predicate.

⊂ - The cat is eating.

⊸ ⊂ V - 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 or 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.
- 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).

- My house.

- A good feeling.

To negate a word, append △

△V △ - I'm not sleeping.

⊸ △ - No one is talking.

With multiple modifiers, they all modify the first word.

△> - Two plant lists.

- A blue and black box.

You can change the way the modifiers interact using pi .

△> - A two-plant list.

- A dark-blue box.

Prepositions

, , , and can act as prepositions. They go at the end of a statement.

△ - I eat with cutlery.

subset - The animal is in the house.

- You sing like a bird!

- I return from work.

subset - They said that to you.

Questions

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

subset - Is she playing?

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

- Yes: [she is“) playing.

△ - No: [she is“) not playing.

△ - No: [she is“) not [playing”].

If you want to check something, end the sentence with ▽

▽ ▽ - Are you making fire?

subset ▽ ▽ - 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!

△ - So powerful!

- Hello! / Hi! / Greetings!

- True! / Correct!

- Bon appetit!

Conjunctions

There are many ways to say “and”. Use ▽ for 2+ subjects.

⊸ ⊂ - You and I are playing a lot.

For 2+ predicates, repeat ⊂.

subset ⊂ - This animal is small and cute.

For direct objects, repeat ▽.

subset ▽ - She sees a bird and a fish.

For prepositions, repeat the preposition.

▽ - I build the house using sticks and stones.

△> can be used to mean “or.”

subset ▽ ▽ △> - Is this good or bad?

△> ⊂ ▽ - You or I are going to the store.

Loanwords

Toki Pona uses **proper adjectives**, not nouns. These are marked by a box. Only the first sound of each word is read.

⊸ - Sonja - A person named Sonja, a.k.a. jan Sonja.

Tosi - The language “Tosi” (Deutsch), a.k.a. German.

Mewika ⊂ - The land Mewika (USA) is big.

Loanwords should try to follow Toki Pona’s rules for syllables:

- They have exactly one vowel.

- They may have ○ at the end.

- The first syllable in a word may start with a vowel.

- The others must all start with a consonant.

- The combinations ▲, ▷, ▷, & ▷ are avoided.

The word

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

- Please drink.

You can use after a subject to address them.

⊸ Eten - Eten! (Aden)

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

- Joy to you.

- I should be working.

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

Sasa - Eat, Sasa. (Sasza)

Preverbs

Preverbs go before verbs to modify their meaning.

- I can write.

subset - The small bird wants to become big.

The words , , , , △>, 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.

- 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.

- Just like me, you know a lot.

- Why are you hot?

The preposition can be omitted in this case.

△V - I sleep [at] night.

Numbers

Combine number words to add them up.

For example, is 1, is 2, is 5, is 20, △> is 100, is 4, and is 8.

The word can be used to mark ordinals.

△> ⊂ - The first book is good.

- 26th Street.

people	necessities	state	descriptions	locating
<p>👤 person, somebody 人 </p> <p>👥 group, community, company, collection, team kulupo </p> <p>Ǫ parent, caretaker; creator ծախ </p> <p>Ѻ female, feminine մերի </p> <p>ᴾ (1st-person) I, me, we, us ս </p> <p>Ѻ male, masculine մես </p> <p>Ѻ (3rd-person) he, she, it, they, ... օն </p> <p>ѹ (2nd-person) you, y'all ու </p> <p>Ѻ nonbinary; transgender 同志 </p>	<p>🏪 market, shop; trade, buy, sell edwamu </p> <p>┉ cloth, fabric; hidden, private linge </p> <p>┉ money, currency; valuables money </p> <p>┉ medication, medical practice لրպ </p> <p>┉ eat, drink; food モグモグ </p> <p>┉ bread, grain, potato, pasta, rice パン </p> <p>┉ building, room, tent, shelter δόμος </p> <p>┉ want, must, need willen </p>	<p>┉ different, change, changed, other ander </p> <p>┉ stay, remain, wait; protect, save; to continue houden </p> <p>┉ arrive, summon; future; become kamap </p> <p>┉ can, may, ability; possible; allow, enable; to be able to ken </p> <p>┉ begin, start; turn on; opening 美 </p> <p>┉ finish, stop; turn off; close, end, final 終 </p> <p>┉ toward toward </p> <p>┉ motion, walking, flight, travel; going to, for; from the perspective of tempo </p> <p>┉ away, absent, distant; remove, rid weg </p>	<p>┉ different, change, changed, other ander </p> <p>┉ bad, negative, unpleasant, cringe, complex, harmful, unneeded ilkeä </p> <p>┉ disgusting, unclean, toxic yucky </p> <p>┉ hard object, stone, rock, metal kiven </p> <p>┉ clay, dough, something pliable, powder, sand 青 </p> <p>┉ head, mind; lead; leader; rule մաս </p> <p>┉ little, small, short; few; young liklik </p> <p>┉ spice, ornament; extra, additional նմու </p> <p>┉ strange, unusual, silly, unexpected; drunk nasau </p> <p>┉ good, positive, pleasant, simple, friendly, useful, peaceful, based bona </p> <p>┉ same, similar; sibling, peer; as, like sama </p> <p>┉ new, fresh; another, extra 新 </p> <p>┉ big, heavy, large; important; adult suuri </p> <p>┉ sweet; cute, innocent, adorable swit </p>	<p>┉ bottom, underside; below; defeat, humble, lowly en bas </p> <p>┉ inside, center, between, middle; organ, stomach ինսայ </p> <p>┉ located at; real, true, exist լող </p> <p>┉ behind, back, rear մոն տշու </p> <p>┉ this, that, these, those ու </p> <p>┉ side, hip; next to, near ցոկա </p> <p>┉ container, bag, bowl, box, cup, category բոկիս </p> <p>┉ outer layer, skin, peel, shell, bark; boundary շելօ </p> <p>┉ up, top, above; divine, sacred, supernatural; awesome, inspiring [վայ] թօջօտ </p> <p>┉ vertical surface, wall; front, face 前邊 </p> <p>┉ away, absent, distant; remove, rid weg </p>
body	sight	connection	ideas	
<p>┉ inside, center, between, middle; organ, stomach ինսայ </p> <p>┉ ear; hear, listen զարդ </p> <p>┉ head, mind; lead; leader; rule ղավա </p> <p>┉ hand, arm; 5 րոկա </p> <p>┉ look, see, examine; eye; try լուկիմ </p> <p>┉ behind, back, rear մոն տշու </p> <p>┉ nose, bump, hill, button ռենա </p> <p>┉ foot, leg; roots, lower part հորա </p> <p>┉ heart, feeling (emotion, sense) պլիմ </p> <p>┉ outer layer, skin, peel, shell, bark; boundary շելօ </p> <p>┉ body, physical state, torso տիյոլո </p> <p>┉ vertical surface, wall; front, face 前邊 </p> <p>┉ mouth, lips յստա </p>	<p>┉ yellow, yellowish color զարդ </p> <p>┉ color; aspect of sense, timbre, pitch, flavor, texture; queer գույք </p> <p>┉ blue, green, turquoise, indigo գլաս </p> <p>┉ red, reddish color րուս </p> <p>┉ look, see, examine; eye; try լուկիմ </p> <p>┉ black; dark, unlit; dark color պիմա </p> <p>┉ image, picture, symbol, writing սիրտը </p> <p>┉ white; light-colored, bright color վալկո </p>	<p>┉ (possibility marker), or յօ + </p> <p>┉ (direct object marker) ▶ </p> <p>┉ (multiple subject marker) + </p> <p>┉ too, also -kin </p> <p>┉ (context marker)) </p> <p>┉ (predicate marker) > </p> <p>┉ located at; real, true, exist լոց </p> <p>┉ (regroups modifiers) բիլօն </p> <p>┉ (question marker); what, which սի՞ </p> <p>┉ by, from, because; origin, cause ժամանակ </p> <p>┉ only, exclusively; but, however տաօլ </p>	<p>┉ mirror, reflection, opposite յանսիմակ </p> <p>┉ death, dead, dying; kill, murder մօրիր </p> <p>┉ monster, fear, scary, threat, danger モンスター </p> <p>┉ entertainment, fun, game, art, amusing, interesting ամսիչ </p> <p>┉ method, doctrine; road, way հաճին </p> <p>┉ word, name նիմի </p> <p>┉ love, bond, compassion, respect վոլոմ </p> <p>┉ damage, break, harm; mistake բագարափ </p> <p>┉ heart, feeling (emotion, sense) պլիմ </p> <p>┉ up, top, above; divine, sacred, supernatural; awesome, inspiring [վայ] թօջօտ </p> <p>┉ knowledge, information; know; wisdom, skill լուսնա </p> <p>┉ time, moment, period, duration տեղում </p> <p>┉ fight, compete, battle; challenge սպարագ </p> <p>┉ amazing; power, energy; intense վահա </p> <p>┉ want, must, need willen </p>	
things	activity	critters	elements	
<p>┉ thing, object, matter յօ </p> <p>┉ tool, machine, device, instrument -el </p> <p>┉ square, cube, block, brick լեգ գոդ </p> <p>┉ long and flexible thing, rope, hair, line, string լինջ </p> <p>┉ flat object, paper, document, card, website լիպպ </p> <p>┉ door, window, hole, pit, portal պորտալ </p> <p>┉ spice, ornament; extra, additional նմու </p> <p>┉ nose, bump, hill, button ռենա </p> <p>┉ long hard object, rod, stick պալիցա </p> <p>┉ container, bag, bowl, box, cup, category բոկիս </p> <p>┉ circle, sphere; cycle, orbit, year շրջա </p> <p>┉ horizontal surface, bed, floor, table, platform, stage սրաֆա </p>	<p>┉ hunt, forage, seek, attempt, try à la chasse </p> <p>┉ market, shop; trade, buy, sell edwamu </p> <p>┉ have, hold, carry, contain 有 </p> <p>┉ to make noise; sound ըանա </p> <p>┉ using, with, by means of ցերական </p> <p>┉ cut, split, slice; piece, part կիպիս </p> <p>┉ to interact with Toki Pona Dictionary by Sonja Lang լուսական </p> <p>┉ sleep, rest սլապեն </p> <p>┉ work, create, take action on գործադրություն </p> <p>┉ give, send, emit, provide պանա </p> <p>┉ to interact with Toki Pona: The Language of Good by Sonja Lang լուսական </p> <p>┉ image, picture, symbol, writing սիրտը </p> <p>┉ to interact with the illustrated story book series produced by Sonja Lang լուսական </p> <p>┉ talk, communicate; tale; language լուսական </p> <p>┉ sex, to have sexual relations սեքս </p> <p>┉ fight, compete, battle; challenge սպարագ </p>	<p>┉ reptile, amphibian, scaly animal հագէծ </p> <p>┉ fish, marine animal կալա </p> <p>┉ raccoon, procyonid, musteloid ռակոն </p> <p>┉ insect, bug, spider, tiny crawling creature բիբիթ </p> <p>┉ land animal, beast ցանցալու </p> <p>┉ bird, flying animal, winged animal օւսեա </p>	<p>┉ plant, vegetation; herb, leaf կասվի </p> <p>┉ fruit, vegetable բօցու </p> <p>┉ hard object, stone, rock, metal կiven </p> <p>┉ air, breath, wind; spirit, soul քանչ </p> <p>┉ cold, cool, frozen; raw ֆրետ </p> <p>┉ earth, land, soil; country, territory մաս </p> <p>┉ moon, night sky object, star լուս </p> <p>┉ hot, warm; heat, fire; burn բեղում </p> <p>┉ mushroom, fungus, lichen բուզու </p> <p>┉ sun, light source; light, glow սունու </p> <p>┉ water, liquids, drinks; to wash, to clean դ է օւս </p>	
	evoke		counting	
	<p>┉ (emphasis/emotion interjection); ah, oh, haha, eh, um ահա + </p> <p>┉ (animal noise/ onomatopoeia) կակա </p> <p>┉ (thinking interjection); hm, uh հմ + </p> <p>┉ sex, to have sexual relations սեքս </p> <p>┉ fight, compete, battle; challenge սպարագ </p>		<p>┉ not, nothing, no; 0; (negation); yes-no question ահա + </p> <p>┉ all, everything, entirety; any; 100% ալլ </p> <p>┉ hand, arm; 5 րոկա </p> <p>┉ many, several; very; 20 մուլտ </p> <p>┉ number, -th նման </p> <p>┉ 2; separate, divide, split դու </p> <p>┉ 1; combine, join, mix ունե </p>	

