



## 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 *li* separates the subject from the predicate.

*⟩>R* – The cat is eating.

*R>~* – People sleep.

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

*ɔ>R* – Fruits are food.

*≈>~* – Water is good.

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

*P R* – I eat.

*b~* – You are good.

### Ambiguity

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

*P R* – I am eating, I was eating, or I will be eating.

Many words have multiple or general meanings.

*⟩P* – A cat, dog, or any land mammal.

*ɔ* – 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.

*⟩>R>>≈* – The animal drinks the water.

*P≈>>N* – I wash my hands.

*bV>>o* – You enlarge it.

### Modifying words

Words can be modified by appending other words.

*Q~* – small human, child ?

*ΔP* – My house.

*♡~* – A good feeling.

To negate a word, append *X*

*P~X* – I’m not sleeping.

*QX>ɔ* – No one is talking. ?

With multiple modifiers, they all modify the first word.

*□Y||* – Two plant lists.

*□X△* – A blue and black box.

You can change the way the modifiers interact using *pi*.

*□L Y||* – A two-plant list.

*□L X△* – A dark-blue box.

### Prepositions

*↗, ←, =, ↗,* and *↖* can act as prepositions. They go at the end of a statement.

*PX↗P* – I eat with cutlery.

*P>←△* – The animal is in the house.

*ɔ>=↗P* – You sing like a bird!

*P↖→R* – I return from work.

*→o>>↖A b* – They said that to you.

### Questions

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

*→P X P* – Is she playing?

### Interjections

Interjections are common. Add *↓* for emphasis.

*~* – Good! / Great! / Thanks!

*↙/↓* – So powerful!

*ɔ* – Hello! / Hi! / Greetings!

*↓* – True! / Correct!

*R~* – Bon appetit!

### Conjunctions

### Loanwords

### The word !

### Preverbs

### Context

### Numbers

## body

- insa inside, center, between, middle; organ, stomach  
kute ear; hear, listen  
lawa head, mind; lead; leader; rule  
luka hand, arm; 5  
lukin look, see, examine; eye; try  
monsi behind, back, rear  
nena nose, bump, hill, button  
noka foot, leg; roots, lower part  
pitin heart, feeling (emotion, sense)  
selo outer layer, skin, peel, shell, bark; boundary  
sijelo body, physical state, torso  
sinpin vertical surface, wall; front, face  
uta mouth, lips

## people

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

## necessities

- esun market, shop; trade, buy, sell  
len cloth, fabric; hidden, private  
mani money, currency; valuables  
misikeke medication, medical practice  
moku eat, drink; food  
pan bread, grain, potato, pasta, rice  
tomo building, room, tent, shelter  
wile want, must, need

## critters

- akesi reptile, amphibian, scaly animal  
kala fish, marine animal  
kijetesantakalu raccoon, procyonid, musteloid

 **pipi** insect, bug, spider, tiny crawling creature

 **soweli** land animal, beast

 **waso** bird, flying animal, winged animal

## sight

-  **jelo** yellow, yellowish color  
 **kule** color; aspect of sense, timbre, pitch, flavor, texture; queer  
 **laso** blue, green, turquoise, indigo  
 **loje** red, reddish color  
 **lukin** look, see, examine; eye; try  
 **pimeja** black; dark, unlit; dark color  
 **sitelen** image, picture, symbol, writing  
 **walo** white; light-colored, bright color

 **sitelen** image, picture, symbol, writing

 **su** to interact with the illustrated story book series produced by Sonja Lang

 **toki** talk, communicate; tale; language

 **unpa** sex, to have sexual relations

 **utala** fight, compete, battle; challenge

## elements

-  **kasi** plant, vegetation; herb, leaf  
 **kili** fruit, vegetable  
 **kiwen** hard object, stone, rock, metal  
 **kon** air, breath, wind; spirit, soul  
 **lete** cold, cool, frozen; raw  
 **ma** earth, land, soil; country, territory  
 **mun** moon, night sky object, star  
 **seli** hot, warm; heat, fire; burn  
 **soko** mushroom, fungus, lichen  
 **suno** sun, light source; light, glow  
 **telo** water, liquids, drinks; to wash, to clean

## state

-  **ante** different, change, changed, other  
 **awen** stay, remain, wait; protect, save; to continue  
 **kama** arrive, summon; future; become  
 **ken** can, may, ability; possible; allow, enable; to be able to  
 **open** begin, start; turn on; opening  
 **pini** finish, stop; turn off; close, end, final  
 **tawa** motion, walking, flight, travel; going to, for; from the perspective of  
 **tempo** time, moment, period, duration  
 **weka** away, absent, distant; remove, rid

## things

-  **ijo** thing, object, matter  
 **ilo** tool, machine, device, instrument  
 **leko** square, cube, block, brick  
 **linja** long and flexible thing, rope, hair, line, string  
 **lipu** flat object, paper, document, card, website  
 **lupa** door, window, hole, pit, portal  
 **namako** spice, ornament; extra, additional  
 **nena** nose, bump, hill, button  
 **palisa** long hard object, rod, stick  
 **poki** container, bag, bowl, box, cup  
 **sike** circle, sphere; cycle, orbit, year  
 **supa** horizontal surface, bed, floor, table, platform, stage

## activity

-  **alasa** hunt, forage, seek, attempt, try  
 **esun** market, shop; trade, buy, sell  
 **jo** have, hold, carry, contain  
 **kalama** to make noise; sound  
 **kepeken** using, with, by means of  
 **kipisi** cut, split, slice; piece, part  
 **ku** to interact with Toki Pona Dictionary by Sonja Lang  
 **laape** sleep, rest  
 **pali** work, create, take action on  
 **pana** give, send, emit, provide  
 **pu** to interact with Toki Pona: The Language of Good by Sonja Lang

## ideas

-  **jasima** mirror, reflection, opposite  
 **moli** death, dead, dying; kill, murder  
 **monsuta** monster, fear, scary, threat, danger

 **musi** entertainment, fun, game, art, amusing, interesting

 **nasin** method, doctrine; road, way

 **nimi** word, name

 **olin** love, bond, compassion, respect

 **pakala** damage, break, harm; mistake

 **pitin** heart, feeling (emotion, sense)

 **sewi** up, top, above; divine, sacred, supernatural; awesome, inspiring

 **sona** knowledge, information; know; wisdom, skill

 **tempo** time, moment, period, duration

 **utala** fight, compete, battle; challenge

 **wawa** amazing; power, energy; intense

 **wile** want, must, need

 **pona** good, positive, pleasant, simple, friendly, useful, peaceful, based

 **sama** same, similar; sibling, peer; as, like

 **sin** new, fresh; another, extra

 **suli** big, heavy, large; important; adult

 **suwi** sweet; cute, innocent, adorable

## counting

-  **ala** not, nothing, no; 0; (negation); (yes-no question)
-  **ale** all, everything, entirety; any; 100
-  **luka** hand, arm; 5
-  **mute** many, several; very; 20
-  **nanpa** number, -th
-  **tu** 2; separate, divide, split
-  **wan** 1; combine, join, mix

## connection

-  **anu** (possibility marker), or
-  **e** (direct object marker)
-  **en** (multiple subject marker)
-  **kin** too, also
-  **la** (context marker)
-  **li** (predicate marker)
-  **lon** located at; real, true, exist
-  **pi** (regroups modifiers)
-  **same** (question marker); what, which
-  **tan** by, from, because; origin, cause
-  **taso** only, exclusively; but, however

## descriptions

-  **ante** different, change, changed, other
-  **ike** bad, negative, unpleasant, cringe, complex, harmful, unneeded
-  **jaki** disgusting, unclean, toxic
-  **kiwen** hard object, stone, rock, metal
-  **ko** clay, dough, something pliable, powder, sand
-  **lawa** head, mind; lead; leader; rule
-  **lili** little, small, short; few; young
-  **namako** spice, ornament; extra, additional
-  **nasa** strange, unusual, silly, unexpected; drunk

## evoke

-  **a** (emphasis/emotion interjection); ah, oh, haha, eh, um
-  **mu** (animal noise / onomatopoeia)
-  **n** (thinking interjection); hm, uh
-  **o** (vocative/imperative marker), must, ought, should, could, would