



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.

⟩>R - The cat is eating.

⟩>o - People sleep.

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

⟩>R - Fruits are food.

≈>u - Water is good.

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

P R - I eat.

b u - 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.

⟩> - 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.

u - 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.

b V»o - You enlarge it.

Modifying words

Words can be modified by appending other words.

⊖ - Child (small human).

□P - My house.

⊖u - A good feeling.

To negate a word, append x

P-x - I'm not sleeping.

⊖x>⊖ - No one is talking.

With multiple modifiers, they all modify the first word.

□Y|| - Two plant lists.

□⊖A - A blue and black box.

You can change the way the modifiers interact using pi .

□L Y|| - A two-plant list.

□L ⊖A - A dark-blue box.

Prepositions

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

P⊖R⊖ - I eat with cutlery.

⟩>-△ - The animal is in the house.

⊖=⊖ - You sing like a bird!

P△⊖R - I return from work.

⊖>⊖>↓△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×P - Is she playing?

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

⊖ - Yes: [she is] playing.

⊖X - No: [she is] not playing.

X - 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.

⊖?>⊖>R≈ - 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!

⊖u - 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.

⊖!△b - Joy to you.

⊖!R - I should be working.

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

⊖⊖△b - 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⊖u - 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>u - The first book is good.

⊖#|||.n1 - 26th Street.

The word !

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

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

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

		state
	ante different, change, changed, other	ander 
	awen stay, remain, wait; protect, save; to continue	houden 
	kama arrive, summon; future; become	kamap 
	ken can, may, ability; possible; allow, enable; to be able to	ken 
	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	toward 
	tempo	tempo 

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

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

body	
	insa inside, center, between, middle; organ, stomach inside, center, between, middle; organ, stomach
	kute ear; hear, listen écoutier
	lawa head, mind; lead; leader; rule голова, мозг, лидер
	luka hand, arm; 5 рука, рука, пять
	lukin look, see, examine; eye; try глядеть, глаз, пытаться
	monsi behind, back, rear монти
	nena nose, bump, hill, button нос, холм, холм, кнопка
	noka foot, leg; roots, lower part нога, нога, корни, нижняя часть
	pitin heart, feeling (emotion, sense) пилим
	selo outer layer, skin, peel, shell, bark; boundary шело
	sijelo body, physical state, torso тијело
	sinpin vertical surface, wall; front, face перед
	uta mouth, lips уста

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

connection		
Y	anu (possibility marker), or	ø6+
>>	e (direct object marker)	
+	en (multiple subject marker)	en -
—	kin too, also	-kin +
)	la (context marker)	■■■
>	li (predicate marker)	■■■
·	lon located at; real, true, exist	long ■■■
L	pi (regroups modifiers)	bilong ■■■
?	seme (question marker); what, which	什麼 ■■■
↶	tan by, from, because; origin, cause	從 ■■■
+	taso only, exclusively; but, however	tasol ■■■

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

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

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

	to make noise; sound
	kepeken gebruiken using, with, by means of
	kipisi kipisi cut, split, slice; piece, part
	ku to interact with Toki Pona Dictionary by Sonja Lang
	lape slapen sleep, rest
	pali fari work, create, take action on
	pana panna + give, send, emit, provide
	pu 樣 to interact with Toki Pona: The Language of Good by Sonja Lang
	sitelen schilderen 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 ударати fight, compete, battle; challenge

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

counting			
X	ala not, nothing, no; 0; (negation); (yes-no question)	ələ	+
∞	ale all, everything, entirety; any; 100	alle	—
ㄣ	luka hand, arm, 5	рука	FLAG
///	mute many, several; very, 20	мульте	FLAG
#	nampa number, -th	намба	FLAG
	tu 2; separate, divide, split	ду	FLAG
1	wan 1; combine, join, mix	оне	FLAG