



## 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.

↪>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.

↪ - 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≈>u - I wash my hands.

bV>>-o - You enlarge it.

## Modifying words

Words can be modified by appending other words.

↪ - small human, child ?

△P - My house.

♡u - A good feeling.

To negate a word, append ×

P×oX - I’m not sleeping.

↪X>o - 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.

↪X甲 - I eat with cutlery.

↪>△ - The animal is in the house.

↪=△ - You sing like a bird!

↪△>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 × verb.

↪BXXP - 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?

↪X>△Y? - Is the cute cat in a box?

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

↪?>X>R≈ - Who’s bringing the drinks?

↪R>? - What are you making?

## Interjections

Interjections are common. Add ↩ for emphasis.

↪ - Good! / Great! / Thanks!

↪! - So powerful!

↪ - Hello! / Hi! / Greetings!

↪ - True! / Correct!

↪u - Bon appetit!

## Conjunctions

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

P+b>XIII - You and I are playing a lot.

For 2+ predicates, repeat >.

↪>v>^ - This animal is small and cute.

For direct objects, repeat >>.

↪>○>△>> - She sees a bird and a fish.

For prepositions, repeat the preposition.

↪R>△R&gt; - I build the house using sticks and stones.

Y can be used to mean “or”

↪>Y~ - Is this good or bad?

↪Yb>A&gt; - 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.

↪[Sona] - A person named Sonja, a.k.a. jan Sonja.

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

↪[USA] - 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 n at the end.
- The first syllable in a word may start with a vowel.
- The others must all start with a consonant.
- The combinations wu, wo, ji, ti, nm and nn are avoided.

## The word !

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

!? - Listen!

!R≈ - Please drink.

You can use ! after a subject to address them.

↪[Eten+]! - Eten! (Aiden Aden)

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

↪!A&gt; - Joy to you.

P!R - I should be working.

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

↪[Sasza]! - Eat, Sasa. (Sasza)

## Preverbs

Preverbs go before verbs to modify their meaning.

PK□ - I can write.

↪>WΛV - The small bird wants to become big.

The words ω, Δ, ♀, ⊖, K, Λ, and Δ 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&gt; - 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&gt; - Just like me, you know a lot.

↪?> - Why are you hot?

The preposition - can be omitted in this case.

↪A&gt; - I sleep [at] night.

## Numbers

Combine number words to add them up.

For example, 1 is 1, || is 2, ∠ is 5, III is 20, ∞ is 100, IIII is 4, and OII is 8.

The word # can be used to mark ordinals.

↪#1>u - The first book is good.  
↪#III|I - 23rd Street.

<b>people</b>	<b>necessities</b>	<b>state</b>	<b>descriptions</b>	<b>locating</b>
<p>jan person, somebody 人 </p> <p>kulpu group, community, company, collection, team </p> <p>mama parent, caretaker; creator </p> <p>meli female, feminine </p> <p>mi (1st-person) I, me, we, us </p> <p>mije male, masculine </p> <p>ona (3rd-person) he, she, it, they, ... </p> <p>sina (2nd-person) you, y'all </p> <p>tonsi nonbinary; transgender </p>	<p>esun market, shop; trade, buy, sell </p> <p>len cloth, fabric; hidden, private </p> <p>mani money, currency; </p> <p>misikeke medication, medical practice </p> <p>moku eat, drink; food </p> <p>pan bread, grain, potato, pasta, rice </p> <p>tomo building, room, tent, shelter </p> <p>wile want, must, need </p>	<p>ante different, change, changed, other </p> <p>awen stay, remain, wait; protect, save; to continue </p> <p>kama arrive, summon; future; become </p> <p>ken can, may, ability; possible; allow, enable; to be able to </p> <p>open begin, start; turn on; opening </p> <p>pini finish, stop; turn off; close, end, final </p> <p>tawa motion, walking, flight, travel; going to, for; from the perspective of </p> <p>tempo time, moment, period, duration </p> <p>weka away, absent, distant; remove, rid </p>	<p>ante different, change, ander </p> <p>ike bad, negative, unpleasant, cringe, complex, harmful, unneeded </p> <p>jaki disgusting, unclean, toxic </p> <p>kiwen hard object, stone, rock, metal </p> <p>ko clay, dough, something pliable, powder, sand </p> <p>lawa head, mind; lead; leader; rule </p> <p>titi little, small, short; few; young </p> <p>namako spice, ornament; extra, additional </p> <p>nasa strange, unusual, silly, unexpected; drunk </p> <p>pona good, positive, pleasant, simple, friendly, useful, peaceful, based </p> <p>sama same, similar; sibling, peer; as, like </p> <p>sin new, fresh; another, extra </p> <p>suli big, heavy, large; important; adult </p> <p>suwi sweet; cute, innocent, adorable </p>	<p>anpa bottom, underside; below; defeat, humble, lowly </p> <p>insa inside, center, between, middle; organ, stomach </p> <p>lon located at; real, true, exist </p> <p>monsi behind, back, rear </p> <p>ni this, that, these, those </p> <p>poka side, hip; next to, near </p> <p>poki container, bag, bowl, box, cup, category </p> <p>selo outer layer, skin, peel, shell, bark; boundary </p> <p>sewi up, top, above; divine, sacred, supernatural; awesome, inspiring </p> <p>sinpin vertical surface, wall; front, face </p> <p>weka away, absent, distant; remove, rid </p>
<b>body</b>	<b>sight</b>	<b>connection</b>	<b>ideas</b>	
<p>insa inside, center, between, middle; organ, stomach </p> <p>kute ear; hear, listen </p> <p>lawa head, mind; lead; leader; rule </p> <p>luka hand, arm; 5 </p> <p>lukin look, see, examine; eye; try </p> <p>monsi behind, back, rear </p> <p>nena nose, bump, hill, button </p> <p>noka foot, leg; roots, lower part </p> <p>pilin heart, feeling (emotion, sense) </p> <p>selo outer layer, skin, peel, shell, bark; boundary </p> <p>sijelo body, physical state, torso </p> <p>sinpin vertical surface, wall; front, face </p> <p>uta mouth, lips </p>	<p>jelo yellow, yellowish color </p> <p>kule color; aspect of sense, timbre, pitch, flavor, texture; queer </p> <p>laso blue, green, turquoise, indigo </p> <p>loje red, reddish color </p> <p>lukin look, see, examine; eye; try </p> <p>pimeja black; dark, unlit; dark color </p> <p>sitelen image, picture, symbol, writing </p> <p>walo white; light-colored, bright color </p>	<p>anu (possibility marker), or </p> <p>e (direct object marker) </p> <p>en (multiple subject marker) </p> <p>kin too, also </p> <p>la (context marker) </p> <p>li (predicate marker) </p> <p>lon located at; real, true, exist </p> <p>pi (regroups modifiers) </p> <p>seme (question marker); what, which </p> <p>tan by, from, because; origin, cause </p> <p>taso only, exclusively; but, however </p>	<p>jasima mirror, reflection, opposite </p> <p>moli death, dead, dying; kill, murder </p> <p>monsuta monster, fear, scary, threat, danger </p> <p>musi amusement, fun, game, art, amusing, interesting </p> <p>nasin method, doctrine; road, way </p> <p>nimi word, name </p> <p>olin love, bond, compassion, respect </p> <p>pakala damage, break, harm; mistake </p> <p>pilin heart, feeling (emotion, sense) </p> <p>sewi up, top, above; divine, sacred, supernatural; awesome, inspiring </p> <p>sona knowledge, information; know; wisdom, skill </p> <p>tempo time, moment, period, duration </p> <p>utala fight, compete, battle; challenge </p> <p>wawa amazing; power, energy; intense </p> <p>wile want, must, need </p>	
<b>things</b>	<b>activity</b>	<b>critters</b>	<b>elements</b>	<b>counting</b>
<p>ijo thing, object, matter </p> <p>ilo tool, machine, device, instrument </p> <p>leko leg godt </p> <p>linja long and flexible thing, rope, hair, line, string </p> <p>lipu flat object, paper, document, card, website </p> <p>lupa door, window, hole, pit, portal </p> <p>namako spice, ornament; extra, additional </p> <p>nena nose, bump, hill, button </p> <p>palisa long hard object, rod, stick </p> <p>poki container, bag, bowl, box, cup, category </p> <p>sike circle, sphere; cycle, orbit, year </p> <p>supa horizontal surface, bed, floor, table, platform, stage </p>	<p>alasa hunt, forage, seek, attempt, try </p> <p>esun market, shop; trade, buy, sell </p> <p>jo have, hold, carry, contain </p> <p>kalama to make noise; sound </p> <p>kepeken using, with, by means of </p> <p>kipisi cut, split, slice; piece, part </p> <p>ku to interact with Toki Pona Dictionary by Sonja Lang </p> <p>lape sleep, rest </p> <p>pali work, create, take action on </p> <p>pana give, send, emit, provide </p> <p>pu to interact with Toki Pona: The Language of Good by Sonja Lang </p> <p>sitelen image, picture, symbol, writing </p> <p>su to interact with the illustrated story book series produced by Sonja Lang </p> <p>toki talk, communicate; tale; language </p> <p>unpa sex, to have sexual relations </p> <p>utala fight, compete, battle; challenge </p>	<p>akesi reptile, amphibian, scaly animal </p> <p>kala fish, marine animal </p> <p>kijetesantakalu raccoon, procyonid, musteloid </p> <p>pipi insect, bug, spider, tiny crawling creature </p> <p>soweli land animal, beast </p> <p>waso bird, flying animal, winged animal </p>	<p>kasi plant, vegetation; herb, leaf </p> <p>kili fruit, vegetable </p> <p>kiwen hard object, stone, rock, metal </p> <p>kon air, breath, wind; spirit, soul </p> <p>lete cold, cool, frozen; raw </p> <p>ma earth, land, soil; country, territory </p> <p>mun moon, night sky object, star </p> <p>seli hot, warm; heat, fire; burn </p> <p>soko mushroom, fungus, lichen </p> <p>suno sun, light source; light, glow </p> <p>telo water, liquids, drinks; to wash, to clean </p>	<p>ala not, nothing, no; 0; (negation); yes-no question </p> <p>ale all, everything, entirety; any; 100 </p> <p>luka hand, arm; 5 </p> <p>mute many, several; very; 20 </p> <p>nanpa number, -th </p> <p>tu 2; separate, divide, split </p> <p>wan 1; combine, join, mix </p>
	<b>evoke</b>			
	<p>a (emphasis/emotion interjection); ah, oh, haha, eh, um </p> <p>mu (animal noise/ onomatopoeia) </p> <p>n (thinking interjection); hm, uh </p> <p>o (vocative/imperative marker); must, ought, should, could, would </p>			