



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 w*

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

	e	i	o	u	a	𐤳
𐤳	𐤳	𐤳	𐤳	𐤳	𐤳	𐤳
p-	𐤳	𐤳	𐤳	𐤳	𐤳	𐤳
t-	𐤳	𐤳	𐤳	𐤳	𐤳	𐤳
k-	𐤳	𐤳	𐤳	𐤳	𐤳	𐤳
m-	𐤳	𐤳	𐤳	𐤳	𐤳	𐤳
n-	𐤳	𐤳	𐤳	𐤳	𐤳	𐤳
l-	𐤳	𐤳	𐤳	𐤳	𐤳	𐤳
s-	𐤳	𐤳	𐤳	𐤳	𐤳	𐤳
j-	𐤳	𐤳	𐤳	𐤳	𐤳	𐤳
w-	𐤳	𐤳	𐤳	𐤳	𐤳	𐤳

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

Basic Sentences

The particle *en* separates the subject from the predicate.

en 𐤳 - The cat is eating.

𐤳 en 𐤳 - People sleep.

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

𐤳 en 𐤳 - Fruits are food.

𐤳 en 𐤳 - Water is good.

If the subject is *en* or *𐤳* alone, the *en* is always omitted.

en 𐤳 - I eat.

𐤳 en 𐤳 - You are good.

Ambiguity

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

en 𐤳 - I am eating, I was eating, or I will be eating.

Many words have multiple or general meanings.

en 𐤳 - A cat, dog, or any land mammal.

𐤳 en 𐤳 - Any fruit or vegetable.

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

𐤳 en 𐤳 - Water, wet, or to wash.

𐤳 en 𐤳 - Good, simple, to improve, or wellness.

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

𐤳 en 𐤳 - A fish, the fish, some fish.

en 𐤳 - I, me, we, or us.

Direct objects

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

en 𐤳 en 𐤳 - The animal drinks the water.

en 𐤳 en 𐤳 - I wash my hands.

𐤳 en 𐤳 en 𐤳 - You enlarge it.

Modifying words

Words can be modified by appending other words.

𐤳 en 𐤳 - Child (small human).

𐤳 en 𐤳 - My house.

𐤳 en 𐤳 - A good feeling.

To negate a word, append *𐤳*.

en 𐤳 en 𐤳 - I'm not sleeping.

𐤳 en 𐤳 en 𐤳 - No one is talking.

With multiple modifiers, they all modify the first word.

𐤳 en 𐤳 en 𐤳 - Two plant lists.

𐤳 en 𐤳 en 𐤳 - A blue and black box.

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

𐤳 en 𐤳 en 𐤳 - A two-plant list.

𐤳 en 𐤳 en 𐤳 - A dark-blue box.

Prepositions

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

en 𐤳 en 𐤳 en 𐤳 - I eat with cutlery.

en 𐤳 en 𐤳 en 𐤳 - The animal is in the house.

𐤳 en 𐤳 en 𐤳 - You sing like a bird!

en 𐤳 en 𐤳 en 𐤳 - I return from work.

𐤳 en 𐤳 en 𐤳 en 𐤳 - They said that to you.

Questions

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

𐤳 en 𐤳 en 𐤳 - Is she playing?

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

𐤳 - Yes: [she is“, script-code) playing.

𐤳 en 𐤳 - No: [she is“, script-code) not playing.

𐤳 en 𐤳 - No: [she is“, script-code) not [playing“, script-code).

If you want to check something, end the sentence with *𐤳 en 𐤳*.

𐤳 en 𐤳 en 𐤳 - Are you making fire?

en 𐤳 en 𐤳 en 𐤳 - Is the cute cat in a box?

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

𐤳 en 𐤳 en 𐤳 en 𐤳 - Who's bringing the drinks?

𐤳 en 𐤳 en 𐤳 - What are you making?

Interjections

Interjections are common. Add *𐤳* for emphasis.

𐤳 en 𐤳 - Good! / Great! / Thanks!

𐤳 en 𐤳 - So powerful!

𐤳 en 𐤳 - Hello! / Hi! / Greetings!

𐤳 en 𐤳 - True! / Correct!

𐤳 en 𐤳 en 𐤳 - Bon appetit!

Conjunctions

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

en 𐤳 en 𐤳 en 𐤳 - You and I are playing a lot.

For 2+ predicates, repeat *en*.

en 𐤳 en 𐤳 en 𐤳 en 𐤳 - This animal is small and cute.

For direct objects, repeat *en*.

𐤳 en 𐤳 en 𐤳 en 𐤳 - She sees a bird and a fish.

For prepositions, repeat the preposition.

en 𐤳 en 𐤳 en 𐤳 en 𐤳 en 𐤳 - I build the house using sticks and stones.

𐤳 en 𐤳 en 𐤳 en 𐤳 - “or.”

en 𐤳 en 𐤳 en 𐤳 en 𐤳 - Is this good or bad?

en 𐤳 en 𐤳 en 𐤳 en 𐤳 - 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.

𐤳 en 𐤳 - A person named Sonja, a.k.a. jan Sonja.

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

𐤳 en 𐤳 - 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 *𐤳* at the end.
- The first syllable in a word may start with a vowel.
- The others must all start with a consonant.
- The combinations *𐤳*, *𐤳*, & *𐤳* are avoided.

The word 𐤳

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

𐤳 en 𐤳 en 𐤳 - Please drink.

You can use *𐤳* after a subject to address them.

𐤳 en 𐤳 - Eten! (Aden)

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

𐤳 en 𐤳 en 𐤳 - Joy to you.

en 𐤳 en 𐤳 - I should be working.

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

en 𐤳 en 𐤳 en 𐤳 - Eat, Sasa. (Sasza)

Preverbs

Preverbs go before verbs to modify their meaning.

en 𐤳 en 𐤳 - I can write.

en 𐤳 en 𐤳 en 𐤳 en 𐤳 - The small bird wants to become big.

The words *𐤳*, *𐤳*, *𐤳*, *𐤳*, *𐤳*, and *𐤳* can be preverbs.

Context

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

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

𐤳 en 𐤳 en 𐤳 en 𐤳 en 𐤳 - When you are by my side, I feel good.

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

𐤳 en 𐤳 en 𐤳 en 𐤳 - Just like me, you know a lot.

en 𐤳 en 𐤳 en 𐤳 - Why are you hot?

The preposition *𐤳* can be omitted in this case.

𐤳 en 𐤳 en 𐤳 en 𐤳 en 𐤳 - I sleep [at“, script-code) night.

Numbers

Combine number words to add them up.

For example, *𐤳* is 1, *𐤳* is 2, *𐤳* is 5, *𐤳* is 20, *𐤳* is 100, *𐤳* is 4, and *𐤳* is 8.

The word *𐤳* can be used to mark ordinals.

en 𐤳 en 𐤳 en 𐤳 en 𐤳 - The first book is good.

en 𐤳 en 𐤳 en 𐤳 en 𐤳 - 26th Street.

people	
	𐌸 person, somebody 人
	𐌺 group, community, company, collection, team 𐌺𐌹𐌸𐌸𐌹
	𐌹 parent, caretaker; creator 𐌹𐌸𐌹
	𐌹 female, feminine 𐌹𐌸𐌹
	𐌹 (1st-person) I, me, we, us 𐌹𐌸𐌹
	𐌹 male, masculine 𐌹𐌸𐌹
	𐌹 (3rd-person) he, she, it, they, ... 𐌹𐌸𐌹
	𐌹 (2nd-person) you, y'all 𐌹𐌸𐌹
	𐌹 nonbinary; transgender 𐌹𐌸𐌹

necessities	
	𐌸 market, shop; trade, buy, sell 𐌸𐌹𐌸𐌹
	𐌹 cloth, fabric; hidden, private 𐌹𐌸𐌹
	𐌹 money, currency; valuables 𐌹𐌸𐌹
	𐌹 medication, medical practice 𐌹𐌸𐌹
	𐌹 eat, drink; food 𐌹𐌸𐌹
	𐌹 bread, grain, potato, pasta, rice 𐌹𐌸𐌹
	𐌹 building, room, tent, shelter 𐌹𐌸𐌹
	𐌹 want, must, need 𐌹𐌸𐌹

state	
	𐌸 different, change, changed, other 𐌸𐌹𐌸𐌹
	𐌹 stay, remain, wait; protect, save; to continue 𐌹𐌸𐌹
	𐌹 arrive, summon; future; become 𐌹𐌸𐌹
	𐌹 can, may, ability; possible; allow, enable; to be able to 𐌹𐌸𐌹
	𐌹 begin, start; turn on; opening 𐌹𐌸𐌹
	𐌹 finish, stop; turn off; close, end, final 𐌹𐌸𐌹
	𐌹 motion, walking, flight, travel; going to, for; from the perspective of 𐌹𐌸𐌹
	𐌹 time, moment, period, duration 𐌹𐌸𐌹
	𐌹 away, absent, distant; remove, rid 𐌹𐌸𐌹

descriptions	
	𐌸 different, change, changed, other 𐌸𐌹𐌸𐌹
	𐌹 bad, negative, unpleasant, cringe, complex, harmful, unneeded 𐌹𐌸𐌹
	𐌹 disgusting, unclear, toxic 𐌹𐌸𐌹
	𐌹 hard object, stone, rock, metal 𐌹𐌸𐌹
	𐌹 clay, dough, something pliable, powder, sand 𐌹𐌸𐌹
	𐌹 head, mind; lead; leader; rule 𐌹𐌸𐌹
	𐌹 little, small, short; few; young 𐌹𐌸𐌹
	𐌹 spice, ornament; extra, additional 𐌹𐌸𐌹
	𐌹 strange, unusual, silly, unexpected; drunk 𐌹𐌸𐌹
	𐌹 good, positive, pleasant, simple, friendly, useful, peaceful, based 𐌹𐌸𐌹
	𐌹 same, similar; sibling, peer; as, like 𐌹𐌸𐌹
	𐌹 new, fresh; another, extra 𐌹𐌸𐌹
	𐌹 big, heavy, large; important; adult 𐌹𐌸𐌹
	𐌹 sweet; cute, innocent, adorable 𐌹𐌸𐌹

locating	
	𐌸 bottom, underside; below; defeat, humble, lowly 𐌸𐌹𐌸𐌹
	𐌹 inside, center, between, middle; organ, stomach 𐌹𐌸𐌹
	𐌹 located at; real, true, exist 𐌹𐌸𐌹
	𐌹 behind, back, rear 𐌹𐌸𐌹
	𐌹 this, that, these, those 𐌹𐌸𐌹
	𐌹 side, hip; next to, near 𐌹𐌸𐌹
	𐌹 container, bag, bowl, box, cup, category 𐌹𐌸𐌹
	𐌹 outer layer, skin, peel, shell, bark; boundary 𐌹𐌸𐌹
	𐌹 up, top, above; divine, sacred, supernatural; awesome, inspiring 𐌹𐌸𐌹
	𐌹 vertical surface, wall; front, face 𐌹𐌸𐌹
	𐌹 away, absent, distant; remove, rid 𐌹𐌸𐌹

body	
	𐌹 inside, center, between, middle; organ, stomach 𐌹𐌸𐌹
	𐌹 ear; hear, listen 𐌹𐌸𐌹
	𐌹 head, mind; lead; leader; rule 𐌹𐌸𐌹
	𐌹 hand, arm; 5 𐌹𐌸𐌹
	𐌹 look, see, examine; eye; try 𐌹𐌸𐌹
	𐌹 behind, back, rear 𐌹𐌸𐌹
	𐌹 nose, bump, hill, button 𐌹𐌸𐌹
	𐌹 foot, leg; roots, lower part 𐌹𐌸𐌹
	𐌹 heart, feeling (emotion, sense) 𐌹𐌸𐌹
	𐌹 outer layer, skin, peel, shell, bark; boundary 𐌹𐌸𐌹
	𐌹 body, physical state, torso 𐌹𐌸𐌹
	𐌹 vertical surface, wall; front, face 𐌹𐌸𐌹
	𐌹 mouth, lips 𐌹𐌸𐌹

sight	
	𐌹 yellow, yellowish color 𐌹𐌸𐌹
	𐌹 color; aspect of sense, timbre, pitch, flavor, texture; queer 𐌹𐌸𐌹
	𐌹 blue, green, turquoise, indigo 𐌹𐌸𐌹
	𐌹 red, reddish color 𐌹𐌸𐌹
	𐌹 look, see, examine; eye; try 𐌹𐌸𐌹
	𐌹 black; dark, unlit; dark color 𐌹𐌸𐌹
	𐌹 image, picture, symbol, writing 𐌹𐌸𐌹
	𐌹 white; light-colored, bright color 𐌹𐌸𐌹

connection	
	𐌹 (possibility marker), or 𐌹𐌸𐌹
	𐌹 (direct object marker) 𐌹𐌸𐌹
	𐌹 (multiple subject marker) 𐌹𐌸𐌹
	𐌹 too, also 𐌹𐌸𐌹
	𐌹 (context marker) 𐌹𐌸𐌹
	𐌹 (predicate marker) 𐌹𐌸𐌹
	𐌹 located at; real, true, exist 𐌹𐌸𐌹
	𐌹 (regroups modifiers) 𐌹𐌸𐌹
	𐌹 (question marker); what, which 𐌹𐌸𐌹
	𐌹 by, from, because; origin, cause 𐌹𐌸𐌹
	𐌹 only, exclusively; but, however 𐌹𐌸𐌹

elements	
	𐌹 plant, vegetation; herb, leaf 𐌹𐌸𐌹
	𐌹 fruit, vegetable 𐌹𐌸𐌹
	𐌹 hard object, stone, rock, metal 𐌹𐌸𐌹
	𐌹 air, breath, wind; spirit, soul 𐌹𐌸𐌹
	𐌹 cold, cool, frozen; raw 𐌹𐌸𐌹
	𐌹 earth, land, soil; country, territory 𐌹𐌸𐌹
	𐌹 moon, night sky object, star 𐌹𐌸𐌹
	𐌹 hot, warm; heat, fire; burn 𐌹𐌸𐌹
	𐌹 mushroom, fungus, lichen 𐌹𐌸𐌹
	𐌹 sun, light source; light, glow 𐌹𐌸𐌹
	𐌹 water, liquids, drinks; to wash, to clean 𐌹𐌸𐌹

ideas	
	𐌹 mirror, reflection, opposite 𐌹𐌸𐌹
	𐌹 death, dead, dying; kill, murder 𐌹𐌸𐌹
	𐌹 monster, fear, scary, threat, danger 𐌹𐌸𐌹
	𐌹 entertainment, fun, game, art, amusing, interesting 𐌹𐌸𐌹
	𐌹 method, doctrine; road, way 𐌹𐌸𐌹
	𐌹 word, name 𐌹𐌸𐌹
	𐌹 love, bond, compassion, respect 𐌹𐌸𐌹
	𐌹 damage, break, harm; mistake 𐌹𐌸𐌹
	𐌹 heart, feeling (emotion, sense) 𐌹𐌸𐌹
	𐌹 up, top, above; divine, sacred, supernatural; awesome, inspiring 𐌹𐌸𐌹
	𐌹 knowledge, information; know; wisdom, skill 𐌹𐌸𐌹
	𐌹 time, moment, period, duration 𐌹𐌸𐌹
	𐌹 fight, compete, battle; challenge 𐌹𐌸𐌹
	𐌹 amazing; power, energy; intense 𐌹𐌸𐌹
	𐌹 want, must, need 𐌹𐌸𐌹

things	
	𐌹 thing, object, matter 𐌹𐌸𐌹
	𐌹 tool, machine, device, instrument 𐌹𐌸𐌹
	𐌹 square, cube, block, brick 𐌹𐌸𐌹
	𐌹 long and flexible thing, rope, hair, line, string 𐌹𐌸𐌹
	𐌹 flat object, paper, document, card, website 𐌹𐌸𐌹
	𐌹 door, window, hole, pit, portal 𐌹𐌸𐌹
	𐌹 spice, ornament; extra, additional 𐌹𐌸𐌹
	𐌹 nose, bump, hill, button 𐌹𐌸𐌹
	𐌹 long hard object, rod, stick 𐌹𐌸𐌹
	𐌹 container, bag, bowl, box, cup, category 𐌹𐌸𐌹
	𐌹 circle, sphere; cycle, orbit, year 𐌹𐌸𐌹
	𐌹 horizontal surface, bed, floor, table, platform, stage 𐌹𐌸𐌹

activity	
	𐌹 hunt, forage, seek, attempt, try 𐌹𐌸𐌹
	𐌹 market, shop; trade, buy, sell 𐌹𐌸𐌹
	𐌹 have, hold, carry, contain 𐌹𐌸𐌹
	𐌹 to make noise; sound 𐌹𐌸𐌹
	𐌹 using, with, by means of 𐌹𐌸𐌹
	𐌹 cut, split, slice; piece, part 𐌹𐌸𐌹
	𐌹 to interact with Toki Pona Dictionary by Sonja Lang 𐌹𐌸𐌹
	𐌹 sleep, rest 𐌹𐌸𐌹
	𐌹 work, create, take action on 𐌹𐌸𐌹
	𐌹 give, send, emit, provide 𐌹𐌸𐌹
	𐌹 to interact with Toki Pona: The Language of Good by Sonja Lang 𐌹𐌸𐌹
	𐌹 image, picture, symbol, writing 𐌹𐌸𐌹
	𐌹 to interact with the illustrated story book series produced by Sonja Lang 𐌹𐌸𐌹
	𐌹 talk, communicate; tale; language 𐌹𐌸𐌹
	𐌹 sex, to have sexual relations 𐌹𐌸𐌹
	𐌹 fight, compete, battle; challenge 𐌹𐌸𐌹

critters	
	𐌹 reptile, amphibian, scaly animal 𐌹𐌸𐌹
	𐌹 fish, marine animal 𐌹𐌸𐌹
	𐌹 raccoon, procyonid, musteloid 𐌹𐌸𐌹
	𐌹 insect, bug, spider, tiny crawling creature 𐌹𐌸𐌹
	𐌹 land animal, beast 𐌹𐌸𐌹
	𐌹 bird, flying animal, winged animal 𐌹𐌸𐌹

evoke	
	𐌹 (emphasis/emotion interjection); ah, oh, haha, eh, um 𐌹𐌸𐌹
	𐌹 (animal noise/onomatopoeia) 𐌹𐌸𐌹
	𐌹 (thinking interjection); hm, uh 𐌹𐌸𐌹
	𐌹 (vocalive/imperative marker), must, ought, should, could, would 𐌹𐌸𐌹

counting	
	𐌹 not, nothing, no; 0; (negation); (yes-no question) 𐌹𐌸𐌹
	𐌹 all, everything, entirety; any; 100 𐌹𐌸𐌹
	𐌹 hand, arm; 5 𐌹𐌸𐌹
	𐌹 many, several; very; 20 𐌹𐌸𐌹
	𐌹 number, -th 𐌹𐌸𐌹
	𐌹 2; separate, divide, split 𐌹𐌸𐌹
	𐌹 1; combine, join, mix 𐌹𐌸𐌹

