

xA en ~ ȶ~ ȶbaC ~ ȶ

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toki pona

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

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

	e	i	o	u	a	ȶ
~	ȶ	Δ	▷	ȶ	ȶ	
p-	V	ʌ	>	ȶ	<	
t-	U	ㄣ	ɔ	ȶ	c	
k-	q	p	d	ȶ	b	
m-	ȶ	ጀ	ጀ	ጀ	ጀ	L
n-	ȶ	ጀ	ጀ	ጀ	ጀ	ጀ
l-	ȶ	ጀ	ጀ	ȶ	ጀ	
s-	ȶ	r	r̄	r̄	ȶ	
j-	ȶ	ȶ	ȶ	ȶ	ȶ	ȶ
w-	ȶ	ȶ	ȶ	ȶ	ȶ	ȶ

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

Basic Sentences

The particle ȶ separates the subject from the predicate.

ȶ - The cat is eating.

ȶ ȶ ȶ V - People sleep.

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

ȶ - Fruits are food.

ȶ - Water is good.

If the subject is or alone, the ȶ 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 ȶ signifies the direct object. This also makes the previous word into a verb.

ȶ ȶ - The animal drinks the water.

ȶ - I wash my hands.

ȶ - You enlarge it.

Modifying words

Words can be modified by appending other words.

ȶ - Child (small human).

- My house.

- A good feeling.

To negate a word, append ȶ

ȶ V ȶ - I'm not sleeping.

ȶ ȶ ȶ - No one is talking.

With multiple modifiers, they all modify the first word.

ȶ - Two plant lists.

- A blue and black box.

You can change the way the modifiers interact using pi .

ȶ - A two-plant list.

- A dark-blue box.

Prepositions

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

ȶ - I eat with cutlery.

ȶ - The animal is in the house.

- You sing like a bird!

- I return from work.

ȶ ȶ - They said that to you.

Questions

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

ȶ ȶ - Is she playing?

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

- Yes: [she is“) playing.

ȶ - No: [she is“) not playing.

ȶ - No: [she is“) not [playing”].

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

ȶ - Are you making fire?

ȶ ȶ - Is the cute cat in a box?

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

ȶ ȶ ȶ - Who's bringing the drinks?

ȶ - What are you making?

Interjections

Interjections are common. Add ȶ for emphasis.

- Good! / Great! / Thanks!

ȶ - So powerful!

- Hello! / Hi! / Greetings!

- True! / Correct!

- Bon appetit!

Conjunctions

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

ȶ ȶ - You and I are playing a lot.

For 2+ predicates, repeat ȶ .

ȶ ȶ - This animal is small and cute.

For direct objects, repeat ȶ .

ȶ ȶ - She sees a bird and a fish.

For prepositions, repeat the preposition.

ȶ - I build the house using sticks and stones.

ȶ ȶ can be used to mean “or.”

ȶ ȶ ȶ - Is this good or bad?

ȶ ȶ ȶ - 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.

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

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

Mewika ȶ - 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 ȶ at the end.
- The first syllable in a word may start with a vowel.
- The others must all start with a consonant.

• The combinations ȶ, ȶ, ȶ, & ȶ 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.

ȶ 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.

ȶ - The small bird wants to become big.

The words , , , , ȶ, and ȶ 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.

ȶ V - I sleep [at] night.

Numbers

Combine number words to add them up.

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

The word can be used to mark ordinals.

ȶ ȶ - The first book is good.

- 26th Street.

people	
👤 person, somebody	人 人
👥 group, community, company, collection, team	kulupo 𠵼
👶 parent, caretaker; creator	ðaða + 𠮶
⚲ female, feminine	meri 𠮶
ᴹ (1st-person) I, me, we, us	吾 𠮶
🚹 male, masculine	mies 𠮶
/fontawesome (3rd-person) he, she, it, they, ...	ohna 𠮶
ඔ (2nd-person) you, y'all	汝 𠮶
⚧ nonbinary; transgender	同志 𠮶

necessities	
🏪 market, shop; trade, buy, sell	edwamu 𠮶
┉ cloth, fabric; hidden, private	linge 𠮶
┉ money, currency; valuables	money 𠮶
┉ medication, medical practice	Lapp 𠮶
┉ eat, drink; food	モグモグ 𠮶
┉ bread, grain, potato, pasta, rice	パン 𠮶
┉ building, room, tent, shelter	δόμος 𠮶
┉ want, must, need	willen 𠮶

state	
┉ different, change, changed, other	ander 𠮶
┉ stay, remain, wait; protect, save; to continue	houden 𠮶
┉ arrive, summon; future; become	kamap 𠮶
┉ can, may, ability; possible; allow, enable; to be able to	ken 𠮶
┉ begin, start; turn on; opening	美国 𠮶
┉ finish, stop; turn off; close, end, final	終了 𠮶
┉ motion, walking, flight, travel; going to, for; from the perspective of	toward 𠮶
┉ time, moment, period, duration	tempo 𠮶
┉ away, absent, distant; remove, rid	weg 𠮶

descriptions	
┉ different, change, changed, other	ander 𠮶
┉ bad, negative, unpleasant, cringe, complex, harmful, unneeded	ilkeä + 𠮶
┉ disgusting, unclean, toxic	yucky 𠮶
┉ hard object, stone, rock, metal	kiven 𠮶
┉ clay, dough, something pliable, powder, sand	粘土 𠮶
┉ head, mind; lead; leader; rule	頭 𠮶
┉ little, small, short; few; young	liklik 𠮶
┉ spice, ornament; extra, additional	namak 𠮶
┉ strange, unusual, silly, unexpected; drunk	nasau 𠮶
┉ good, positive, pleasant, simple, friendly, useful, peaceful, based	bona 𠮶
┉ same, similar; sibling, peer; as, like	sama 𠮶
┉ new, fresh; another, extra	新 𠮶
┉ big, heavy, large; important; adult	suuri + 𠮶
┉ sweet; cute, innocent, adorable	swit 𠮶

locating	
┉ bottom, underside; below; defeat, humble, lowly	en bas 𠮶
┉ inside, center, between, middle; organ, stomach	insait 𠮶
┉ located at; real, true, exist	long 𠮶
┉ behind, back, rear	mon tchu 𠮶
┉ this, that, these, those	呢 𠮶
┉ side, hip; next to, near	6oka 𠮶
┉ container, bag, bowl, box, cup, category	bokis 𠮶
┉ outer layer, skin, peel, shell, bark; boundary	selo 𠮶
┉ up, top, above; divine, sacred, supernatural; awesome, inspiring	[선] 천국 𠮶
┉ vertical surface, wall; front, face	前邊 𠮶
┉ away, absent, distant; remove, rid	weg 𠮶

body	
┉ inside, center, between, middle; organ, stomach	insait 𠮶
┉ ear; hear, listen	écoutier 𠮶
┉ head, mind; lead; leader; rule	глава 𠮶
┉ hand, arm; 5	рука 𠮶
┉ look, see, examine; eye; try	lukim 𠮶
┉ behind, back, rear	mon tchu 𠮶
┉ nose, bump, hill, button	nena + 𠮶
┉ foot, leg; roots, lower part	нога 𠮶
┉ heart, feeling (emotion, sense)	pilim 𠮶
┉ outer layer, skin, peel, shell, bark; boundary	selo 𠮶
┉ body, physical state, torso	тило 𠮶
┉ vertical surface, wall; front, face	前邊 𠮶
┉ mouth, lips	уста 𠮶

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

connection	
┉ (possibility marker), or	so + 𠮶
┉ (direct object marker)	▼ 𠮶
┉ (multiple subject marker)	+ 𠮶
┉ too, also	-kin + 𠮶
┉ (context marker)	） 𠮶
┉ (predicate marker)	> 𠮶
┉ located at; real, true, exist	long 𠮶
┉ (regroups modifiers)	bilong 𠮶
┉ (question marker); what, which	什麼 𠮶
┉ by, from, because; origin, cause	從 𠮶
┉ only, exclusively; but, however	tasol 𠮶

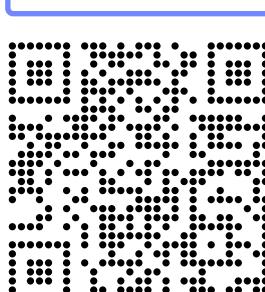
elements	
┉ plant, vegetation; herb, leaf	kasvi 𠮶
┉ fruit, vegetable	boomo + 𠮶
┉ hard object, stone, rock, metal	kiven 𠮶
┉ air, breath, wind; spirit, soul	空氣 𠮶
┉ cold, cool, frozen; raw	frette 𠮶
┉ earth, land, soil; country, territory	maa + 𠮶
┉ moon, night sky object, star	moon 𠮶
┉ hot, warm; heat, fire; burn	高温 𠮶
┉ mushroom, fungus, lichen	بۇزىمۇن + 𠮶
┉ sun, light source; light, glow	suno 𠮶
┉ water, liquids, drinks; to wash, to clean	de l'eau 𠮶

things	
┉ thing, object, matter	io 𠮶
┉ tool, machine, device, instrument	-el 𠮶
┉ square, cube, block, brick	leg godt 𠮶
┉ long and flexible thing, rope, hair, line, string	linja 𠮶
┉ flat object, paper, document, card, website	lippu 𠮶
┉ door, window, hole, pit, portal	窗口 𠮶
┉ spice, ornament; extra, additional	namak 𠮶
┉ nose, bump, hill, button	nena + 𠮶
┉ long hard object, rod, stick	валица 𠮶
┉ container, bag, bowl, box, cup, category	bokis 𠮶
┉ circle, sphere; cycle, orbit, year	circle 𠮶
┉ horizontal surface, bed, floor, table, platform, stage	surface 𠮶

activity	
┉ hunt, forage, seek, attempt, try	à la chasse 𠮶
┉ market, shop; trade, buy, sell	edwamu 𠮶
┉ have, hold, carry, contain	有 𠮶
┉ to make noise; sound	galama 𠮶
┉ using, with, by means of	gebruiken 𠮶
┉ cut, split, slice; piece, part	kipisi 𠮶
┉ to interact with Toki Pona Dictionary by Sonja Lang	slapen 𠮶
┉ sleep, rest	fari 𠮶
┉ work, create, take action on	panna + 𠮶
┉ give, send, emit, provide	schilderen 𠮶
┉ to interact with Toki Pona: The Language of Good by Sonja Lang	oiseau 𠮶
┉ image, picture, symbol, writing	image 𠮶
┉ to interact with the illustrated story book series produced by Sonja Lang	bird, flying animal, winged animal 𠮶
┉ talk, communicate; tale; language	talk 𠮶
┉ sex, to have sexual relations	性交 𠮶
┉ fight, compete, battle; challenge	战斗 𠮶

critters	
┉ reptile, amphibian, scaly animal	hagedis 𠮶
┉ fish, marine animal	kala 𠮶
┉ raccoon, procyonid, musteloid	浣熊 𠮶
┉ insect, bug, spider, tiny crawling creature	bibitte 𠮶
┉ land animal, beast	草原动物 𠮶

evoke	
┉ (emphasis/emotion interjection); ah, oh, haha, eh, um	哦 𠮶
┉ (animal noise/ onomatopoeia)	啊 𠮶
┉ (thinking interjection); hm, uh	嗯 𠮶
┉ (vocative/imperative marker); must, ought, should, could, would	必須 𠮶



ideas	
┉ mirror, reflection, opposite	yansitmak 𠮶
┉ death, dead, dying; kill, murder	mourir 𠮶
┉ monster, fear, scary, threat, danger	モンスター 𠮶
┉ entertainment, fun, game, art, amusing, interesting	amuzi 𠮶
┉ method, doctrine; road, way	начин 𠮶
┉ word, name	nimi 𠮶
┉ love, bond, compassion, respect	воля 𠮶
┉ damage, break, harm; mistake	bagarap 𠮶
┉ heart, feeling (emotion, sense)	pilim 𠮶
┉ up, top, above; divine, sacred, supernatural; awesome, inspiring	[선] 천국 𠮶
┉ knowledge, information; know; wisdom, skill	정보 𠮶
┉ time, moment, period, duration	tempo 𠮶
┉ fight, compete, battle; challenge	уарата 𠮶
┉ amazing; power, energy; intense	vahva 𠮶
┉ want, must, need	willen 𠮶