

# Toki Pona

Developed by linguist Sonja Lang, Toki Pona is a language with around 130 words.

## Basic Sentences

The particle > separates the subject from the predicate.

- 𐌿 > 𐌺 - The cat is eating.
- 𐌺 > 𐍺 - People sleep.

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

- 𐌿 > 𐌺 - Fruits are food.
- 𐍺 > 𐍺 - Water is good.

If the subject is 𐌿 or 𐍺 alone, > is always omitted.

- 𐌿 𐌺 - I eat.
- 𐍺 𐍺 - You are good.

## Ambiguity

Toki Pona words are less specific than English, so direct translation is challenging.

- 𐌿 𐌺 - I am eating, I was eating, or I will be eating.

Many words have multiple or general meanings.

- 𐌿 - A cat, dog, or any land mammal.
- 𐌿 - Any fruit or vegetable.

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

- 𐍺 - Water, wet, or to wash.
- 𐍺 - Good, to improve, or wellness.

Nouns have no number and there is no "a" or "the".

- 𐌺 - A fish, the fish, some fish.
- 𐌿 - I, me, we, or us.

## Direct objects

The particle >> signifies the direct object. This also makes the word before a verb.

- 𐌿 > 𐌺 >> 𐌺 - The animal drinks the water.
- 𐌿 > 𐌺 >> 𐌿 - I wash the cat, or I apply water to the cat.
- 𐍺 > 𐍺 >> 𐍺 - You enlarge it.

## Modifying Words

Words can be modified adding other words directly after them.

- 𐌿 𐍺 - My house.
- 𐍺 𐍺 - A good feeling.

To negate a word, put 𐌹 after it.

- 𐌿 𐌹 𐌹 - I'm not sleeping.
- 𐌹 𐌹 > 𐌹 - No one responded.

Each additional modifier affects the very first word.

- 𐌿 𐌹 𐌹 - Two plant lists.
- 𐌿 𐌹 𐌹 - A blue and black box.

You can insert 𐌹 between words to change this behavior.

- 𐌿 𐌹 𐌹 - A two-plant list.
- 𐌿 𐌹 𐌹 - A dark-blue box.

## Prepositions

The words 𐌹, 𐌹, 𐌹, 𐌹, and 𐌹 can start prepositional phrases at the end of a sentence.

- 𐌿 𐌹 𐌹 𐌹 - I eat with cutlery.
- 𐌿 > 𐌹 𐌹 - The rat is in the hall.
- 𐌹 𐌹 𐌹 - You sing like birds!
- 𐌿 𐌹 𐌹 - I'm back from work.
- 𐌹 > 𐌹 >> 𐌹 𐌹 - They said that to you.

## Conjunctions

There are many ways to say "and". Use 𐌹 for 2+ subjects.

- 𐌿 𐌹 𐌹 > 𐌹 𐌹 - You and I are playing a lot.

Repeat > for 2+ predicates.

- 𐌿 > 𐌹 > 𐌹 > 𐌹 - This animal is small and cute.

Repeat >> for 2+ objects.

- 𐌹 > 𐌹 >> 𐌹 >> 𐌹 - She sees the birds and fish.

Do the same for prepositional phrases.

- 𐌿 𐌹 >> 𐌹 𐌹 𐌹 - I built the hut with sticks and stones.

You can use 𐌹 to mean "or".

- 𐌿 𐌹 𐌹 𐌹 𐌹 - We'll either go to the store or to the park.
- 𐌹 𐌹 𐌹 > 𐌹 - That's either an insect or a lizard.

## Loanwords

Toki Pona uses proper *adjectives*, not nouns. These are marked by a box. Only the first sound of each word is read.

- 𐌹 𐌹 𐌹 - A person named Sonja, a.k.a. jan Sonja.
- 𐌹 𐌹 𐌹 - The language "Tosi" (Deutsch), a.k.a. German.
- 𐌹 𐌹 𐌹 > 𐌹 - 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 𐌹

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

- 𐌹 𐌹 - Listen!
- 𐌹 𐌹 - Please drink.

You can use 𐌹 after a subject to address them.

- 𐌹 𐌹 𐌹 - Pape!

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

- 𐌹 𐌹 𐌹 - Joy to you.
- 𐌹 𐌹 𐌹 - I should be working.

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

- 𐌹 𐌹 𐌹 - Eat, Ton.

## Interjections

Interjections are common. Add 𐌹 for emphasis.

- 𐌹 - Good!; Great!; Thanks!
- 𐌹 - Hello!; Hi!; Greetings!
- 𐌹 - True!; Correct!

## Questions

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

- 𐌹 > 𐌹 𐌹 - Is she playing?

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

- 𐌹 - Yes: [she is] playing.

- 𐌹 𐌹 - No: [she is] not playing.
- 𐌹 - No: [she is] not [playing].

If you want to check something, end the sentence with 𐌹 ?

- 𐌹 𐌹 𐌹 ? - Are you making fire?
- 𐌹 𐌹 > 𐌹 𐌹 ? - Is the cute cat in a box?

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

- 𐌹 ? > 𐌹 >> 𐌹 𐌹 - Who's bringing the drinks?
- 𐌹 𐌹 > ? - What's he making?

## Preverbs

Preverbs go before verbs to modify their meaning.

- 𐌿 𐌹 𐌹 - I can write.
- 𐌹 𐌹 > 𐌹 𐌹 - The small bird wants to become big.

The words 𐌹, 𐌹, 𐌹, 𐌹, 𐌹, and 𐌹 can be preverbs.

## Context

The word 𐌹 can be used to mark the context of a sentence: *a* 𐌹 *b* means: In the context of *a*, *b*. This can mean time, cause, topic or any other relationship to the main sentence.

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

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

- 𐌹 𐌹 𐌹 𐌹 𐌹 - Just like me, you know a lot.
- 𐌹 𐌹 > 𐌹 𐌹 - Why are you hot?

The preposition 𐌹 can be omitted in this case.

- 𐌹 𐌹 𐌹 - I sleep [at] night.

## Numbers

Combine number words to add them up.

- For example, 1 is 1, 11 is 2, 11 is 5, 111 is 20, 1111 is 100, 11111 is 4, and 111111 is 8.

The word 𐌹 can be used to mark ordinals.

- 𐌹 𐌹 1 > 𐌹 - The first book is good.
- 𐌹 𐌹 11111 1 - 23rd Street.

<b>a</b> 𐤀 marks emphasis, emotion	<b>kon</b> 𐤏 air, spirit, essence, unseen agent	<b>mun</b> 𐤎 night sky object	<b>sijelo</b> 𐤑 body, torso, physical state
<b>akesi</b> 𐤀𐤓 reptile, amphibian	<b>*ku</b> 𐤏 interact with <i>Toki Pona Dictionary</i>	<b>musi</b> 𐤎 entertaining, fun, recreational	<b>sike</b> 𐤑 circular object, cycle, of one year
<b>ala</b> 𐤀 no, not, nothing, zero	<b>kule</b> 𐤏 color, colorful	<b>mute</b> 𐤎 many, a lot, very, quantity	<b>sin</b> 𐤑 new, another, fresh
<b>alasa</b> 𐤀 to hunt, forage, seek, try	<b>kulupu</b> 𐤏 community, group, company, nation	<b>*n</b> 𐤎 indicates thinking, recognition	<b>sina</b> 𐤑 second-person pronoun
<b>ale (ali)</b> 𐤀 all, every, 100	<b>kute</b> 𐤏 ear, to hear	<b>*namako</b> 𐤎 spice, additional	<b>sinpin</b> 𐤑 face, front, wall
<b>anpa</b> 𐤀 downward, humble, lowly	<b>la</b> 𐤀 marks context	<b>nanpa</b> 𐤎 -th, number	<b>sitelen</b> 𐤑 image, picture, writing, symbol
<b>ante</b> 𐤀 different, other, changed	<b>lape</b> 𐤀 sleeping, resting	<b>nasa</b> 𐤑 strange, unusual, foolish, silly	<b>*soko</b> 𐤎 mushroom
<b>anu</b> 𐤀 connects phrases with "or"	<b>laso</b> 𐤀 blue, green	<b>nasin</b> 𐤀 way, read, doctrine, method	<b>sona</b> 𐤑 to know, wisdom, knowledge, info
<b>awen</b> 𐤀 enduring, kept, protected, to continue to	<b>*lanpan</b> 𐤀 take, seize catch, receive, get	<b>nena</b> 𐤀 bump, hill, nose	<b>soweli</b> 𐤑 land mammal
<b>e</b> 𐤀 marks direct objects	<b>lawa</b> 𐤀 head, mind, ruler, to lead, to regulate	<b>ni</b> 𐤀 this, that	<b>*su</b> 𐤑 interacting with the illustrated story books
<b>en</b> 𐤀 connects multiple subjects	<b>*leko</b> 𐤑 square, block	<b>nimi</b> 𐤀 word, name	<b>suli</b> 𐤀 big, heavy, large
<b>*epiku</b> 𐤀 epic, cool, awesome, amazing	<b>len</b> 𐤑 cloth, fabric, cover, layer of privacy	<b>noka</b> 𐤑 foot, leg, lower part	<b>suno</b> 𐤀 light source, sun, bright
<b>esun</b> 𐤀 store, to trade	<b>lete</b> 𐤀 cool, cold, raw	<b>o</b> 𐤀 marks command or address	<b>supa</b> 𐤀 horizontal surface, thing to put objects on
<b>ijo</b> 𐤀 thing, object, phenomenon	<b>li</b> 𐤀 marks the predicate	<b>*oko</b> 𐤀 eye, ocular, visual	<b>suwi</b> 𐤀 sweet, cute
<b>ike</b> 𐤀 bad, negative, irrelevant	<b>lili</b> 𐤀 small, little, few, a bit, young	<b>olin</b> 𐤀 to love, to respect	<b>tan</b> 𐤀 from, by, because of
<b>ilo</b> 𐤀 tool, device, instrument	<b>linja</b> 𐤀 long and flexible thing, string, cord, hair, thread	<b>ona</b> 𐤀 third-person pronoun	<b>taso</b> 𐤀 but, however, only
<b>insa</b> 𐤀 center, inside, content, organ, stomach	<b>lipu</b> 𐤀 flat object, paper, card, document, website	<b>open</b> 𐤀 to begin, to start, opening	<b>tawa</b> 𐤀 going to, for, moving
<b>jaki</b> 𐤀 disgusting, unclean, toxic	<b>loje</b> 𐤀 red, reddish	<b>pakala</b> 𐤀 broken, damaged, to mess up	<b>telo</b> 𐤀 liquid, water, beverage
<b>jan</b> 𐤀 person, someone	<b>lon</b> 𐤀 located at, present at, true	<b>pali</b> 𐤀 to do, to work on	<b>tenpo</b> 𐤀 time, duration, moment, period
<b>*jasima</b> 𐤀 mirror, reflection, opposite	<b>luka</b> 𐤀 arm, hand, five	<b>palisa</b> 𐤀 long hard object, rod, stick	<b>toki</b> 𐤀 to say, language
<b>jelo</b> 𐤀 yellow, yellowish	<b>lukin</b> 𐤀 to see, examine	<b>pan</b> 𐤀 grain, pasta, bread, rice	<b>tomo</b> 𐤀 indoor space, building, home
<b>jo</b> 𐤀 to have, carry, contain, hold	<b>lupa</b> 𐤀 door, hole, orifice	<b>pana</b> 𐤀 to give, to emit, to send	<b>*tonsi</b> 𐤀 non-binary, trans
<b>kala</b> 𐤀 sea creature	<b>ma</b> 𐤀 earth, land, outdoors, soil	<b>pi</b> 𐤀 regroupers modifiers	<b>tu</b> 𐤀 two
<b>kalama</b> 𐤀 sound, to make a sound, to utter	<b>mama</b> 𐤀 parent, creator, caretaker	<b>pilin</b> 𐤀 to feel, heart, feeling	<b>unpa</b> 𐤀 sex, to have sexual relations
<b>kama</b> 𐤀 arriving, coming, future, to become	<b>mani</b> 𐤀 money, cash, currency item	<b>pimeja</b> 𐤀 black, dark, unlit	<b>uta</b> 𐤀 mouth, lips, oral
<b>kasi</b> 𐤀 plant, vegetation, grass, leaf	<b>*meli</b> 𐤀 female	<b>pini</b> 𐤀 finished, past, end	<b>utala</b> 𐤀 to battle, challenge
<b>ken</b> 𐤀 to be able to, can, may, possible	<b>*meso</b> 𐤀 midpoint, medium, neither one nor the other	<b>pipi</b> 𐤀 bug, insect	<b>walo</b> 𐤀 white, light-colored, pale
<b>kepeken</b> 𐤀 to use, with, by means of	<b>mi</b> 𐤀 first-person pronoun	<b>poka</b> 𐤀 hip, side, nearby	<b>wan</b> 𐤀 one, unique
<b>*kijete-santakalu</b> 𐤀 Musteloid, raccoon	<b>*mije</b> 𐤀 male	<b>poki</b> 𐤀 container, bag, box, bowl, cup	<b>waso</b> 𐤀 flying creature
<b>kili</b> 𐤀 fruit, vegetable	<b>*misikeke</b> 𐤀 medicine, medicinal	<b>pona</b> 𐤀 good, useful, simple, positive	<b>wawa</b> 𐤀 strong, powerful, confident, energetic
<b>*kin</b> 𐤀 also, too	<b>moku</b> 𐤀 to eat, to drink, food	<b>pu</b> 𐤀 interacting with <i>Toki Pona: The Language of Good</i>	<b>weka</b> 𐤀 absent, away
<b>*kipisi</b> 𐤀 to cut, to divide, part, division	<b>moli</b> 𐤀 dead, dying	<b>sama</b> 𐤀 similar, as, like	<b>wile</b> 𐤀 must, need, want
<b>kiwen</b> 𐤀 hard object, metal, stone, rock	<b>monsi</b> 𐤀 back, behind, rear	<b>seli</b> 𐤀 fire, heat source	
<b>ko</b> 𐤀 clay, semi-solid, paste, powder	<b>*monsuta</b> 𐤀 fear, monster, scary	<b>selo</b> 𐤀 outer form or layer, skin, peel	
	<b>mu</b> 𐤀 an animal noise	<b>seme</b> 𐤀 what? which?	
		<b>sewi</b> 𐤀 area above, highest part, di-vine, sacred	

These definitions are shortened to fit one page. For thorough definitions and usage, use [lipu Linku](#).

\*These words are less common. Avoid them with beginners.