

# Toki Pona

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

The shows uses Latin spellings. Pronounce these per IPA standards. The alphabet is: a e i j k l m n o p s t u w

## Basic Sentences

The particle > separates the subject from the predicate.

𐌿 > 𐌿 - The cat is eating.

𐌿 > 𐌿 - People sleep.

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

𐌿 > 𐌿 - Fruits are food.

𐌿 > 𐌿 - Water is good.

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

𐌿 𐌿 - I eat.

𐌿 𐌿 - You are good.

## Ambiguity

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

𐌿 𐌿 - 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.

𐌿 - Water, wet, or to wash.

𐌿 - Good, to improve, or wellness.

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

𐌿 - 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 > 𐌿 >> 𐌿 - The animal drinks the water.

𐌿 > 𐌿 >> 𐌿 - I wash my hands.

𐌿 > 𐌿 >> 𐌿 - You enlarge it.

## Modifying Words

Words can be modified adding other words directly after them.

𐌿 𐌿 - My house.

𐌿 𐌿 - A good feeling.

To negate a word, put 𐌿 after it.

𐌿 𐌿 𐌿 - I'm not sleeping.

𐌿 𐌿 > 𐌿 - No one responded.

Each additional modifier affects the very first word.

𐌿 𐌿 𐌿 - Two plant lists.

𐌿 𐌿 𐌿 - A blue and black box.

You can insert 𐌿 between words to change this behavior.

𐌿 𐌿 𐌿 𐌿 - A two-plant list.

𐌿 𐌿 𐌿 - A dark-blue box.

## Prepositions

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

𐌿 𐌿 𐌿 𐌿 - I eat with cutlery.

𐌿 > 𐌿 𐌿 - The rat is in the hall.

𐌿 𐌿 𐌿 𐌿 - You sing like birds!

𐌿 𐌿 𐌿 - I'm back from work.

𐌿 > 𐌿 >> 𐌿 𐌿 - They said that to you.

## Questions

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

𐌿 > 𐌿 𐌿 𐌿 - Is she playing?

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

𐌿 - Yes: [she is] playing.

𐌿 𐌿 - No: [she is] not playing.

𐌿 - No: [she is] not [playing].

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

𐌿 𐌿 𐌿? - Are you making fire?

𐌿 𐌿 > 𐌿 𐌿? - Is the cute cat in a box?

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

𐌿? > 𐌿 >> 𐌿 𐌿 - Who's bringing the drinks?

𐌿 𐌿 >>? - What are you making?

# Conjunctions

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

ŀ + 6 > ʘ III - You and I are playing a lot.

Repeat > for 2+ predicates.

𐌶𐌵 > ʘ > ʘ - This animal is small and cute.

Repeat >> for 2+ objects.

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

Do the same for prepositional phrases.

ŀ ʘ >> ʘ ʘ ʘ ʘ - I built the hut with sticks and stones.

You can use ʘ to mean "or".

ŀ ʘ ʘ ʘ ʘ - We'll either go to the store or to the park.

𐌶 ʘ ʘ > ʘ - That's either an insect or a lizard.

# Interjections

Interjections are common. Add ʘ for emphasis.

ʘ - Good!; Great!; Thanks!

ʘ - Hello!; Hi!; Greetings!

ʘ ʘ - True!; Correct!

# Loanwords

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

ʘ (ʘ ʘ ʘ ʘ) - A person named Sonja, a.k.a. jan Sonja.

ʘ (ʘ ʘ ʘ ʘ) - The language "Tosi" (Deutsch), a.k.a. German.

ʘ (ʘ ʘ ʘ ʘ) > ʘ - 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 ʘ

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

ʘ ʘ - Listen!

ʘ ʘ - Please drink.

You can use ʘ after a subject to address them.

ʘ (ʘ ʘ ʘ ʘ) ʘ - Pape!

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

ʘ ʘ ʘ ʘ - Joy to you.

ŀ ʘ ʘ - I should be working.

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

𐌶 (ʘ ʘ ʘ) ʘ ʘ - Eat, Ton.

# Preverbs

Preverbs go before verbs to modify their meaning.

ŀ ʘ ʘ - I can write.

ʘ ʘ > ʘ ʘ ʘ - The small bird wants to become big.

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

# Context

The word ʘ can be used to mark the context of a sentence: *a ʘ b* means: In the context of *a*, *b*. This can mean time, cause, topic, etc.

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

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

ʘ ʘ ʘ ʘ III - Just like me, you know a lot.

ʘ ? ʘ ʘ ʘ - Why are you hot?

The preposition ʘ can be omitted in this case.

ʘ ʘ ʘ ʘ - I sleep [at] night.

# Numbers

Combine number words to add them up.

For example, 1 is 1, II is 2, ʘ is 5, III is 20, ʘ is 100, II II is 4, and ʘ II 1 is 8.

The word ʘ can be used to mark ordinals.

ʘ ʘ 1 > ʘ - The first book is good.

ʘ ʘ III II 1 - 23rd Street.

<b>a</b> 𐀀	marks emphasis, emotion	<b>kalama</b> 𐀂	sound, to make a sound, to utter	<b>lete</b> 𐀄	cool, cold, raw
<b>akesi</b> 𐀆	reptile, amphibian	<b>kama</b> 𐀈	arriving, coming, future, to become	<b>li</b> 𐀊	marks the predicate
<b>ala</b> 𐀌	no, not, nothing, zero	<b>kasi</b> 𐀎	plant, vegetation, grass, leaf	<b>lili</b> 𐀐	small, little, few, a bit, young
<b>alasa</b> 𐀒	to hunt, forage, seek, try	<b>ken</b> 𐀔	to be able to, can, may, possible	<b>linja</b> 𐀖	long and flexible thing, string, cord, hair, thread
<b>ale (ali)</b> 𐀘	all, every, 100	<b>kepeken</b> 𐀚	to use, with, by means of	<b>lipu</b> 𐀜	flat object, paper, card, document, website
<b>anpa</b> 𐀞	downward, humble, lowly	<b>kijete-santakalu</b> 𐀠	Musteloid, raccoon	<b>loje</b> 𐀢	red, reddish
<b>ante</b> 𐀠	different, other, changed	<b>kili</b> 𐀣	fruit, vegetable	<b>lon</b> 𐀤	located at, present at, true
<b>anu</b> 𐀡	connects phrases with "or"	<b>kin</b> 𐀥	also, too	<b>luka</b> 𐀦	arm, hand, five
<b>awen</b> 𐀣	enduring, kept, protected, to continue to	<b>*kipisi</b> 𐀧	to cut, to divide, part, division	<b>lukin</b> 𐀨	to see, examine
<b>e</b> 𐀥	marks direct objects	<b>kiwen</b> 𐀩	hard object, metal, stone, rock	<b>lupa</b> 𐀪	door, hole, orifice
<b>en</b> 𐀦	connects multiple subjects	<b>ko</b> 𐀫	clay, semi-solid, paste, powder	<b>ma</b> 𐀬	earth, land, outdoors, soil
<b>*epiku</b> 𐀨	epic, cool, awesome, amazing	<b>kon</b> 𐀭	air, spirit, essence, unseen agent	<b>mama</b> 𐀮	parent, creator, caretaker
<b>esun</b> 𐀰	store, to trade	<b>ku</b> 𐀯	interact with <i>Toki Pona Dictionary</i>	<b>mani</b> 𐀲	money, cash, currency item
<b>ijo</b> 𐀲	thing, object, phenomenon	<b>kule</b> 𐀱	color, colorful	<b>meli</b> 𐀴	female
<b>ike</b> 𐀴	bad, negative, irrelevant	<b>kulupu</b> 𐀳	community, group, company, nation	<b>*meso</b> 𐀶	midpoint, medium, neither one nor the other
<b>ilo</b> 𐀶	tool, device, instrument	<b>kute</b> 𐀵	ear, to hear	<b>mi</b> 𐀸	first-person pronoun
<b>insa</b> 𐀸	center, inside, content, organ, stomach	<b>la</b> 𐀷	marks context	<b>mije</b> 𐀺	male
<b>jaki</b> 𐀺	disgusting, unclean, toxic	<b>lape</b> 𐀻	sleeping, resting	<b>*misikeke</b> 𐀼	medicine, medical
<b>jan</b> 𐀻	person, someone	<b>laso</b> 𐀽	blue, green	<b>moku</b> 𐀿	to eat, to drink, food
<b>*jasima</b> 𐀽	mirror, reflection, opposite	<b>*lanpan</b> 𐀿	take, seize catch, receive, get	<b>moli</b> 𐁀	dead, dying
<b>jelo</b> 𐁀	yellow, yellowish	<b>lawa</b> 𐁁	head, mind, ruler, to lead, to regulate	<b>monsi</b> 𐁂	back, behind, rear
<b>jo</b> 𐁁	to have, carry, contain, hold	<b>leko</b> 𐁃	square, block	<b>monsuta</b> 𐁄	fear, monster, scary
<b>kala</b> 𐁃	sea creature	<b>len</b> 𐁅	cloth, fabric, cover, layer of privacy	<b>mu</b> 𐁆	an animal noise
				<b>mun</b> 𐁇	night sky object
				<b>musi</b> 𐁈	entertaining, fun, recreational

<b>mute</b>		many, a lot, very, quantity	<b>pipi</b>	𐀢	bug, insect	<b>supa</b>	𐀡	horizontal surface, thing to put objects on
<b>n</b>	𐀠	indicates thinking, recognition	<b>poka</b>	𐀣	hip, side, nearby	<b>suwi</b>	𐀥	sweet, cute
<b>namako</b>	𐀦	spice, additional	<b>poki</b>	𐀤	container, bag, box, bowl, cup	<b>tan</b>	𐀧	from, by, because of
<b>nanpa</b>	𐀨	-th, number	<b>pona</b>	𐀥	good, useful, simple, positive	<b>taso</b>	𐀩	but, however, only
<b>nasa</b>	𐀪	strange, unusual, foolish, silly	<b>pu</b>	𐀫	interacting with <i>Toki Pona: The Language of Good</i>	<b>tawa</b>	𐀭	going to, for, moving
<b>nasin</b>	𐀬	way, read, doctrine, method	<b>sama</b>	𐀮	similar, as, like	<b>telo</b>	𐀰	liquid, water, beverage
<b>nenā</b>	𐀯	bump, hill, nose	<b>seli</b>	𐀲	fire, heat source	<b>tenpo</b>	𐀴	time, duration, moment, period
<b>ni</b>	𐀱	this, that	<b>selo</b>	𐀴	outer form or layer, skin, peel	<b>toki</b>	𐀶	to say, language
<b>nimi</b>	𐀳	word, name	<b>seme</b>	?	what? which?	<b>tomo</b>	𐀸	indoor space, building, home
<b>noka</b>	𐀵	foot, leg, lower part	<b>sewi</b>	𐀺	area above, highest part, divine, sacred	<b>tonsi</b>	𐀼	non-binary, trans
<b>o</b>	𐀻	marks command or address	<b>sijelo</b>	𐀽	body, torso, physical state	<b>tu</b>		two
<b>*oko</b>	𐀽	eye, ocular, visual	<b>sike</b>	𐀿	circular object, cycle, of one year	<b>unpa</b>	𐀻	sex, to have sexual relations
<b>olin</b>	𐀿	to love, to respect	<b>sin</b>	𐀻	new, another, fresh	<b>uta</b>	𐀻	mouth, lips, oral
<b>ona</b>	𐀻	third-person pronoun	<b>sina</b>	𐀻	second-person pronoun	<b>utala</b>	𐀻	to battle, challenge
<b>open</b>	𐀻	to begin, to start, opening	<b>sinpin</b>	𐀻	face, front, wall	<b>walo</b>	𐀻	white, light-colored, pale
<b>pakala</b>	𐀻	broken, damaged, to mess up	<b>sitelen</b>	𐀻	image, picture, writing, symbol	<b>wan</b>	1	one, unique
<b>pali</b>	𐀻	to do, to work on	<b>*soko</b>	𐀻	mushroom	<b>waso</b>	𐀻	flying creature
<b>palisa</b>	0	long hard object, rod, stick	<b>sona</b>	𐀻	to know, wisdom, knowledge, info	<b>wawa</b>	𐀻	strong, powerful, confident, energetic
<b>pan</b>	𐀻	grain, pasta, bread, rice	<b>soweli</b>	𐀻	land mammal	<b>weka</b>	𐀻	absent, away
<b>pana</b>	𐀻	to give, to emit, to send	<b>*su</b>	𐀻	interacting with the illustrated story books	<b>wile</b>	𐀻	must, need, want
<b>pi</b>	𐀻	regroups modifiers	<b>suli</b>	𐀻	big, heavy, large			
<b>pilin</b>	𐀻	to feel, heart, feeling	<b>suno</b>	𐀻	light source, sun, bright			
<b>pimeja</b>	𐀻	black, dark, unlit						
<b>pini</b>	I	finished, past, end						

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

\*These words are less common, and beginners should avoid them.