

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

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

𐌿 > 𐌿 - Fruits are food.
≈ > 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.

☹ - 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.
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 - The animal drinks the water.
𐌿 >>> 𐌿 - I wash my hands.
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 ✕ after it.

𐌿 𐌿 ✕ - I'm not sleeping.
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 - 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 - I eat with cutlery.
☹ > 𐌿 𐌿 - The rat is in the hall.
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* ✕ *verb*

𐌿 > 𐌿 ✕ 𐌿 - Is she playing?

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

𐌿 - Yes: [she is] playing.
𐌿 ✕ - No: [she is] not playing.
✕ - 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? - 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.

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

Repeat > for 2+ predicates.

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

Repeat >> for 2+ objects.

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

Do the same for prepositional phrases.

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

You can use 𐌿 to mean "or".

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

Interjections

Interjections are common. Add 𐌿 for emphasis.

𐌿 - Good!; Great!; Thanks!
𐌿 - Hello!; Hi!; Greetings!
𐌿 𐌿 - 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.

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

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

𐌿 𐌿 - Listen!

𐌿 𐌿 - Please drink.

You can use 𐌿 after a subject to address them.

𐌿 (𐌿 𐌿 𐌿) 𐌿 - Pape!

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

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

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

☹ (𐌿 𐌿 𐌿) 𐌿 𐌿 - Eat, Ton.

Preverbs

Preverbs go before verbs to modify their meaning.

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

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

Context

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

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

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

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

The preposition 𐌿 can be omitted in this case.

𐌿 𐌿 𐌿 - I sleep [at] night.

Numbers

Combine number words to add them up.

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

The word 𐌿 can be used to mark ordinals.

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

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

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.