

# 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.

𐄎 > 𐄏 - The cat is eating.

𐄑 > 𐄐 - People sleep.

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

𐄒 > 𐄏 - Fruits are food.

𐄓 > 𐄑 - Water is good.

If the subject is 𐄐 or 𐄑 alone, > is always omitted.

𐄐 𐄏 - I eat.

𐄑 𐄑 - You are good.

## Ambiguity

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

𐄐 𐄏 - I am eating, I was eating, or I will be eating.

Many words have multiple or general meanings.

𐄎 - A cat, dog, or any land mammal.

𐄒 - Any fruit or vegetable.

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

𐄓 - Water, wet, or to wash.

𐄑 - Good, to improve, or wellness.

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

𐄑 - A fish, the fish, some fish.

𐄐 - I, me, we, or us.

## Direct objects

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

𐄎 > 𐄏 >> 𐄓 - The animal drinks the water.

𐄐 >> 𐄎 >> 𐄓 - I wash the cat, or I apply water to the cat.

𐄑 >> 𐄑 >> 𐄐 - You enlarge it.

## Modifying Words

Words can be modified adding other words directly after them.

𐄒 𐄐 - My house.

𐄑 𐄑 - A good feeling.

To negate a word, put 𐄑 after it.

𐄐 𐄑 𐄑 - I'm not sleeping.

𐄑 𐄑 > 𐄐 - No one responded.

Each additional modifier affects the very first word.

𐄒 𐄑 𐄑 𐄑 - Two plant lists.

𐄒 𐄑 𐄑 - A blue and black box.

You can insert 𐄒 between words to change this behavior.

𐄒 𐄒 𐄑 𐄑 𐄑 - A two-plant list.

𐄒 𐄒 𐄑 𐄑 - A dark-blue box.

## Prepositions

The words 𐄑, 𐄒, 𐄓, 𐄔, and 𐄕 can start prepositional phrases at the end of a sentence.

𐄐 𐄑 𐄑 𐄑 - I eat with cutlery.

𐄎 > 𐄒 𐄑 - The rat is in the hall.

𐄑 𐄑 𐄓 𐄑 - You sing like birds!

𐄐 𐄑 𐄑 𐄑 - I'm back from work.

𐄐 > 𐄐 >> 𐄑 𐄑 𐄑 - They said that to you.

## Conjunctions

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

𐄐 𐄑 𐄑 > 𐄑 𐄑 𐄑 - You and I are playing a lot.

Repeat > for 2+ predicates.

𐄎 > 𐄑 > 𐄑 > 𐄑 - This animal is small and cute.

Repeat >> for 2+ objects.

𐄐 > 𐄑 >> 𐄑 >> 𐄑 - She sees the birds and fish.

Do the same for prepositional phrases.

𐄐 𐄑 >> 𐄒 𐄑 𐄑 𐄑 - I built the hut with sticks and stones.

You can use 𐄑 to mean "or".

𐄐 𐄑 𐄑 𐄑 𐄑 - We'll either go to the store or to the park.

𐄑 𐄑 𐄑 > 𐄒 - That's either an insect or a lizard.

## Loanwords

Toki Pona uses proper *adjectives*, not nouns. These are marked by a



<b>a</b> 𐤀	marks emphasis, emotion	<b>kasi</b> 𐤓	plant, vegetation, grass, leaf	<b>lipu</b> 𐤋	flat object, paper, card, document, website
<b>akesi</b> 𐤀𐤓	reptile, amphibian	<b>ken</b> 𐤓	to be able to, can, may, possible	<b>loje</b> 𐤋𐤔	red, reddish
<b>ala</b> 𐤀𐤋	no, not, nothing, zero	<b>kepeken</b> 𐤓𐤔	to use, with, by means of	<b>lon</b> 𐤋𐤔	located at, present at, true
<b>alasa</b> 𐤀𐤋𐤔	to hunt, forage, seek, try	<b>*kijete-</b> 𐤓𐤔	Musteloid, raccoon	<b>luka</b> 𐤋𐤔	arm, hand, five
<b>ale (ali)</b> 𐤀𐤋	all, every, 100	<b>santakalu</b> 𐤓𐤔𐤀𐤋𐤋𐤓		<b>lukin</b> 𐤋𐤔𐤓	to see, examine
<b>anpa</b> 𐤀𐤋𐤔	downward, humble, lowly	<b>kili</b> 𐤓𐤔	fruit, vegetable	<b>lupa</b> 𐤋𐤔𐤓	door, hole, orifice
<b>ante</b> 𐤀𐤋𐤔	different, other, changed	<b>*kin</b> 𐤓𐤔	also, too	<b>ma</b> 𐤓𐤔	earth, land, outdoors, soil
<b>anu</b> 𐤀𐤋𐤔	connects phrases with "or"	<b>*kipisi</b> 𐤓𐤔𐤓	to cut, to divide, part, division	<b>mama</b> 𐤓𐤔𐤓	parent, creator, caretaker
<b>awen</b> 𐤀𐤋𐤔	enduring, kept, protected, to continue to	<b>kiwen</b> 𐤓𐤔𐤓	hard object, metal, stone, rock	<b>mani</b> 𐤓𐤔𐤓	money, cash, currency item
<b>e</b> 𐤀𐤋𐤔	marks direct objects	<b>ko</b> 𐤓𐤔𐤓	clay, semi-solid, paste, powder	<b>*meli</b> 𐤓𐤔𐤓	female
<b>en</b> 𐤀𐤋𐤔	connects multiple subjects	<b>kon</b> 𐤓𐤔𐤓	air, spirit, essence, unseen agent	<b>*meso</b> 𐤓𐤔𐤓	midpoint, medium, neither one nor the other
<b>*epiku</b> 𐤀𐤋𐤔𐤓	epic, cool, awesome, amazing	<b>*ku</b> 𐤓𐤔𐤓	interact with <i>Toki Pona Dictionary</i>	<b>mi</b> 𐤓𐤔𐤓	first-person pronoun
<b>esun</b> 𐤀𐤋𐤔𐤓	store, to trade	<b>kule</b> 𐤓𐤔𐤓	color, colorful	<b>*mije</b> 𐤓𐤔𐤓	male
<b>ijo</b> 𐤀𐤋𐤔𐤓	thing, object, phenomenon	<b>kulupu</b> 𐤓𐤔𐤓	community, group, company, nation	<b>*misikeke</b> 𐤓𐤔𐤓	medicine, medical
<b>ike</b> 𐤀𐤋𐤔𐤓	bad, negative, irrelevant	<b>kute</b> 𐤓𐤔𐤓	ear, to hear	<b>moku</b> 𐤓𐤔𐤓	to eat, to drink, food
<b>ilo</b> 𐤀𐤋𐤔𐤓	tool, device, instrument	<b>la</b> 𐤓𐤔𐤓	marks context	<b>moli</b> 𐤓𐤔𐤓	dead, dying
<b>insa</b> 𐤀𐤋𐤔𐤓	center, inside, content, organ, stomach	<b>lape</b> 𐤓𐤔𐤓	sleeping, resting	<b>monsi</b> 𐤓𐤔𐤓	back, behind, rear
<b>jaki</b> 𐤀𐤋𐤔𐤓	disgusting, unclean, toxic	<b>laso</b> 𐤓𐤔𐤓	blue, green	<b>*monsuta</b> 𐤓𐤔𐤓	fear, monster, scary
<b>jan</b> 𐤀𐤋𐤔𐤓	person, someone	<b>*lanpan</b> 𐤓𐤔𐤓	take, seize catch, receive, get	<b>mu</b> 𐤓𐤔𐤓	an animal noise
<b>*jasima</b> 𐤀𐤋𐤔𐤓	mirror, reflection, opposite	<b>lawa</b> 𐤓𐤔𐤓	head, mind, ruler, to lead, to regulate	<b>mun</b> 𐤓𐤔𐤓	night sky object
<b>jelo</b> 𐤀𐤋𐤔𐤓	yellow, yellowish	<b>*leko</b> 𐤓𐤔𐤓	square, block	<b>musi</b> 𐤓𐤔𐤓	entertaining, fun, recreational
<b>jo</b> 𐤀𐤋𐤔𐤓	to have, carry, contain, hold	<b>len</b> 𐤓𐤔𐤓	cloth, fabric, cover, layer of privacy	<b>mute</b> 𐤓𐤔𐤓	many, a lot, very, quantity
<b>kala</b> 𐤀𐤋𐤔𐤓	sea creature	<b>lete</b> 𐤓𐤔𐤓	cool, cold, raw	<b>*n</b> 𐤓𐤔𐤓	indicates thinking, recognition
<b>kalama</b> 𐤀𐤋𐤔𐤓	sound, to make a sound, to utter	<b>li</b> 𐤓𐤔𐤓	marks the predicate	<b>*namako</b> 𐤓𐤔𐤓	spice, additional
<b>kama</b> 𐤀𐤋𐤔𐤓	arriving, coming, future, to become	<b>lili</b> 𐤓𐤔𐤓	small, little, few, a bit, young	<b>nanpa</b> 𐤓𐤔𐤓	-th, number
		<b>linja</b> 𐤓𐤔𐤓	long and flexible thing, string, cord, hair, thread	<b>nasa</b> 𐤓𐤔𐤓	strange, unusual, foolish, silly
				<b>nasin</b> 𐤓𐤔𐤓	way, read, doctrine, method

<b>nen</b>	𐀀	bump, hill, nose		interacting with	<b>suwi</b>	𐀁	sweet, cute	
<b>ni</b>	𐀁	this, that		<i>Toki Pona: The Language of Good</i>	<b>tan</b>	𐀂	from, by, because of	
<b>nimi</b>	𐀃	word, name			<b>taso</b>	𐀃	but, however, only	
<b>noka</b>	𐀄	foot, leg, lower part	<b>sama</b>	𐀄	similar, as, like	<b>tawa</b>	𐀅	going to, for, moving
<b>o</b>	𐀅	marks command or address	<b>seli</b>	𐀆	fire, heat source	<b>telo</b>	𐀆	liquid, water, beverage
<b>*oko</b>	𐀇	eye, ocular, visual	<b>selo</b>	𐀇	outer form or layer, skin, peel	<b>tenpo</b>	𐀇	time, duration, moment, period
<b>olin</b>	𐀈	to love, to respect	<b>seme</b>	𐀈	what? which?	<b>toki</b>	𐀈	to say, language
<b>ona</b>	𐀉	third-person pronoun	<b>sewi</b>	𐀉	area above, highest part, divine, sacred	<b>tomo</b>	𐀉	indoor space, building, home
<b>open</b>	𐀊	to begin, to start, opening	<b>sijelo</b>	𐀊	body, torso, physical state	<b>*tonsi</b>	𐀊	non-binary, trans
<b>pakala</b>	𐀋	broken, damaged, to mess up	<b>sike</b>	𐀋	circular object, cycle, of one year	<b>tu</b>	𐀋	two
<b>pali</b>	𐀌	to do, to work on	<b>sin</b>	𐀌	new, another, fresh	<b>unpa</b>	𐀌	sex, to have sexual relations
<b>palisa</b>	𐀍	long hard object, rod, stick	<b>sina</b>	𐀍	second-person pronoun	<b>uta</b>	𐀍	mouth, lips, oral
<b>pan</b>	𐀎	grain, pasta, bread, rice	<b>sinpin</b>	𐀎	face, front, wall	<b>utala</b>	𐀎	to battle, challenge
<b>pana</b>	𐀏	to give, to emit, to send	<b>sitelen</b>	𐀏	image, picture, writing, symbol	<b>walo</b>	𐀏	white, light-colored, pale
<b>pi</b>	𐀐	regroups modifiers	<b>*soko</b>	𐀐	mushroom	<b>wan</b>	𐀐	one, unique
<b>pilin</b>	𐀑	to feel, heart, feeling	<b>sona</b>	𐀑	to know, wisdom, knowledge, info	<b>waso</b>	𐀑	flying creature
<b>pimeja</b>	𐀒	black, dark, unlit	<b>soweli</b>	𐀒	land mammal	<b>wawa</b>	𐀒	strong, powerful, confident, energetic
<b>pini</b>	𐀓	finished, past, end	<b>*su</b>	𐀓	interacting with the illustrated story books	<b>weka</b>	𐀓	absent, away
<b>pipi</b>	𐀔	bug, insect	<b>suli</b>	𐀔	big, heavy, large	<b>wile</b>	𐀔	must, need, want
<b>poka</b>	𐀕	hip, side, nearby	<b>suno</b>	𐀕	light source, sun, bright			
<b>poki</b>	𐀖	container, bag, box, bowl, cup	<b>supa</b>	𐀖	horizontal surface, thing to put objects on			
<b>pona</b>	𐀗	good, useful, simple, positive						
<b>pu</b>	𐀘							

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

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

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.

This sheet is very simplified. For more, visit <https://tokipona.org>. This version by jan Suko ([CC0 1.0](#)) is based on originals by [blinry](#) and [jan Sa](#)