

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 - I eat with cutlery.

𐌿 > 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* 𐌿 *verb*

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.

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

Repeat > for 2+ predicates.

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

Repeat >> for 2+ objects.

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

Do the same for prepositional phrases.

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

You can use ʘ to mean "or".

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

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

Interjections

Interjections are common. Add ʘ for emphasis.

ˆ - Good!; Great!; Thanks!

ʘ - Hello!; Hi!; Greetings!

ˆ 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 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) > 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.

ˆ ʘ ʘ 6 - Joy to you.

Ŧ 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.

Ŧ ʘ ʘ - I can write.

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.

6 ˆ 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.

= Ŧ ʘ 6 ʘ III - Just like me, you know a lot.

ʘ ? ʘ ʘ ʘ - Why are you hot?

The preposition ˆ 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 > ˆ - The first book is good.

ʘ ʘ III II 1 - 23rd Street.

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

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