

toki pona

Phonology

Consonants	Labial	Coronal	Dorsal
Nasal	m	n	
Plosive	p	t	k
Fricative		s	
Approximant	w	l	j

Vowels	Front	Back
Close	i	u
Mid	e	o
Open	a	

- Stress is on the first syllable
- It is written with the IPA

Dictionary

a/kin [emphasis]	kule color	mute many, very	sewi top, high, holy
akesi reptile, amphibian	kulupu group	nanpa number	sijelo body
ala no, nothing	kute listen, ear	nasa strange, weird	sike circle
alasa hunt, search	la [context]	nasin way, path	sin new, again
ale all, everything	lape sleep	nen bump, nose	sina you
anpa low	laso blue, green	ni this, that	sinpin face, wall
ante different	lawa head, rule	nimi name, word	sitelen picture, write
anu or	len clothing, cover	noka leg, foot	sona know
awen keep, stay	lete cold	o [wish/command]	soweli animal
e [direct object]	li [predicate]	olin love	suli big, important
en [and]	lili small	ona he/she/it/they	suno sun, light
esun shop, trade	linja line	open start, open	supa surface, table
ijo thing	lipu flat, page, book	pakala broken	suwi sweet, cute
ike bad	loje red	pali do, make, work	tan from, because
ilo tool	lon in/at; true	palisa stick, rod	taso but; only
insa inside	luka hand, arm	pan bread, grain	tawa go, move; to
jaki gross, trash	lukin see, eye; try to	pana give	telo water, liquid
jan person	lupa hole	pi [regrouper]	tenpo time
jelo yellow	ma land	pilin heart, feel	toki talk, language
jo have	mama parent	pimeja dark, black	tomo house, room
kala fish	mani money	pini end, finish	tu two
kalama sound	meli female	pipi bug, insect	unpa sex
kama come	mi I, me, we, us	poka side, vicinity	uta mouth
kasi plant	mije male	poki box, container	utala fight, battle
ken can; possible	moku eat, food	pona good, simple	walo white
kepeken using, with (tool)	moli dead, kill	pu (toki pona book)	wan one
kili fruit	monsi back	sama same; like	waso bird
kiwen hard, rock	mu [animal noise]	seli hot, fire	wawa strong, energy
ko paste, powder	mun moon, star	selo layer, skin	weka away
kon air, spirit, essence	musi entertaining	seme [what]	wile want, need

* words may have more possible meanings or parts of speech than listed

Grammar

toki pona does not mark tense, gender, or number.

Basic Particles

li introduces the predicate(s) (except after a subject that is just *mi* or *sina*):

ona li pona = It's good.

mi tawa. = I'm going.

soweli li moku li lape. = Animals eat and sleep.

e marks direct objects:

mi moku e telo. = I'm drinking water.

ona li lukin e mi e sina. = They're looking at me and you.

en introduces new subjects:

mi en sina li toki. = You and I are talking.

soweli en kala en waso li pona. = Animals, fish, and birds are good.

taso is used at the beginning of a sentence to mean "But, ...":

mi wile e moku. taso sina jo e ona. = I want the food, but you have it.

Prepositions come before their objects

mi lon tomo. = I am in the room/I'm at the house.

mi toki kepeken ilo. = I talk using the tool.

ona li pana e moku tawa soweli. = She gave food to the animal.

sina sama mama sina. = You're like your parents.

mi pilin pona tan ni. = I feel good because of that.

Clauses do not fit into each other

***ni*: can be used instead to connect clauses:**

mi wile e ni: sina pana e sona tawa mi. = I want you to teach me. (I want this: you teach me.)

ona li kute tan ni: sina toki. = They listen, because you're talking. (They listen because of this: you're talking.)

All modifiers come after what they describe

soweli lili = small animal

ona li sitelen pona. = She writes well.

ma tomo = land of houses (city)

tomo jan = a person's house

nimi mi = my name

pi regroups modifiers

[tomo telo] nasa = crazy [water room] (crazy bathroom)

tomo pi [telo nasa] = [crazy water] (alcohol room (bar))

Pre-verbs (auxiliary verbs) come before the verb

mi ken toki. = I can speak.

mi wile lape. = I want/need to sleep.

ona li awen tawa. = It keeps going.

mi kama sona toki pona. = I'm learning to speak well/simple. (I'm learning to speak toki pona.)

ona li lukin kama jo e ona. = He's trying to get it.

ala can be used to negate

ona li suli ala. = It's not big/important.

mi sona ala. = I don't know/understand.

seme replaces unknown information in a question

ni li seme? = What is this?

toki! sina pilin seme? = Hello! How do you feel? (How are you?)

jan seme li lon? = Who is here?

sina tan ma seme? = Where are you from?

sina kama sona kepeken nasin seme? = How did you learn? (lit. ...with what method?)

Yes-No questions are formed using "...[verb] ala [verb]?"

sina sona ala sona e toki pona? = Do you know toki pona?

or "...anu seme?"

sina sona e toki Inli anu seme? = Do you know English?

Repeat the verb for yes or say *ala* for no:

***sona* = yes (I know it); *ala* = no**

o is for vocative, wishes, and commands

Vocative:

jan Sonja o, sina pona. = Sonja, you're good.

Commands:

o kama sona e toki pona. = Learn toki pona.

mi o tawa. = Let's go.

jan ale o kute! = Everyone, listen!

Wishes:

sijelo sina o kama pona. = May your body get better.

ale o pona. = May everything be good.

la phrases add context

Time or location:

tenpo suno ni la mi pali. = Today, I am working.

tomo mi la mi lape. = In my room, I sleep.

If clauses:

sina pali la sina kama jo e mani. = If you work, you get money.

telo li kama tan sewi la mi tawa ala. = If water comes from the sky (it's raining), I'm not going.