

Tuvaluan Phonology and Alphabet

A E I O U

F	fa		fa	fe	fi	fo	fu
G	ga		ga	ge	gi	go	gu
K	ka		ka	ke	ki	ko	ku
L	la		la	le	li	lo	lu
M	mo		ma	me	mi	mo	mu
N	nu		na	ne	ni	no	nu
P	pi		pa	pe	pi	po	pu
S	sa		sa	se	si	so	su
T	ti		ta	te	ti	to	tu
V	vi		va	ve	vi	vo	vu

uai sounds like "why"

oi sounds like "oy"

ei sounds like "ay"

uiga sounds like "winger"

aua sounds like "au-wha"

GRAMMAR NOTES

* Since there are limited letters and words in Tuvaluan, vowels can be lengthened and consonants can be stressed to change the meaning of a word.

* Words always end in a vowel.

* All vowels are "pure" and thus pronounced. Sometimes each vowel is its own syllable.

* Usually a sentence starts with a verb marker and a verb followed by the subject. The exception is when using the first person pronouns and personal names.

Ne olo atu matou kite sitoa.

Went we to the store.

Au ne fano kite sitoa.

I went to the store.

A loane ne fanatu kite sitoa.

John went to the store.

A Petelu ne vau anafi.

Peter came yesterday.

Ne fai ne loane te galuega.

Did John the work.

Ne faite ne ia te moega.

Was built by him the bed.

* to make a verb into a noun add **-ga**.

fakamoemoe	to hope
fakamoemoega	hope
galue	to work
galuega	work
fakamafanafana	to comfort
fakamafanafanaga	comfort
ola	to live
olaga	life
tafao	to play
tafaoga	game

* The adjective always comes after the noun. "**kei**" is used as "and" for adjectives.

Te fale lasi The house large

Se vaka lei The boat good

Te tamataene taulekaleka kae poto
The handsome and clever youth.

DEFINITE ARTICLES

"Te" refers to something known and "Se" refers to something unspecified. (EXAMPLE: the man vs. any man)

	DEFINITE	INDEFINITE
SINGULAR	te (tagata) the man	se (tagata) a man
PLURAL	tagata men	ne (tagata) some men

te tagata tena	that man over near you
te tagata tela	that man away from us
te tagata tenei	that man near me here

a tagata konei	those men near me here
a tagata kona	those men over near you
a tagata kola	those men away from us

DEMONSTRATIVE PRONOUNS

SINGULAR

tenei	this, here near me
tena	that, there near you
tela	that over there, away from us

PLURAL

konei	these, here near me
kona	those, there near you
kola	those over there, away from us

VERBS

* Verbs never change form due to tense. Instead it is shown by verb markers - e, ko, ne, ka, se, seki.

PAST - ne
Ne oko mai te vaka.
The ship has arrived.

PRESENT - e
E oko mai te vaka.
The ship is coming.

FUTURE - ka
Ka oko mai te vaka.
The ship will come.

IMPERATIVE - ke / ke na
Ke vau koe! Ke na vau!
You should come! Please come!

URGENCY - na
Na vau!
Come now!

SO THAT - ke
A Samalu ne vau ke faipati mai ki a au.
Samalu came so that he could speak to me.

JUST CHANGED - ko
Ko oko mai te vaka.
The ship just arrived.

STILL - koi
Koi talavou a ia.
He is still young.

TOO - ko to

Ko to moko!
It's too cold!

AND / TO - o

A loane ne vau o faipati mai ki a au.
John came to speak to me.

LEST - ma

Nofo filemu ma ala mai te pepe.
Be quiet lest you rouse the baby.

IF ONLY - moi

Moi oko mai te vaka.
If only the ship comes.

* **"Faka"** intensifies the active form of a verb, adjective, or noun.

galue	to work
fakagalue	to make work
mau	fixed
fakamau	to fix
oti	finished
fakaoti	to complete
lei	good
fakalei	to make good
atamai	skillful
fakatamai	skillfully
tele	to run
fakatele	to operate
iloa	to know
fakailoa	to inform / make known
ka	to shine
faka	to burn
lalolagi	world
faka te lalolagi	worldly
tau	must / should
fakatau	appropriately

* "-gata" and ;"gofie" added to verbs mean difficult or easy.

faigata	difficult to do
faigofie	easy to do
talagata	difficult to open
talagofie	easy to open
mauagata	difficult to get
mauagofie	easy to get

* Adjectives can be used as verbs. They are in a state of "being".

E gali te fale. The house is beautiful.
(rather than ... **Te fale gali** - the beautiful house)
E gali te aso. The day is beautiful.
(rather than ... **Te aso gali** - the beautiful day)

* **TO GO** and **TO COME** change form when plural.

ano	to go (singular)
olo	to go (plural)
vau	to come (singular)
omai	to come (plural)

* **"A and Ko"** are similar to "To be" and markers for nouns, pronouns, and names.

A te kovana ko Tomasi.
The governor is Tomasi.
A Tomasi ko te kovana.
Tomasi is the governor.
Ko Tomasi te kovana.
It is Tomasi who is the governor.

Do not use **"ko"** if subject follows a verb.

Ne faipati mai a ia.
He spoke.
Ko ia ne faipati mai.
He was the one who spoke.
WRONG - Ne faipati mai ko ia.

ADVERBS

REALLY / VERY - eiloa

Ne tupu eiloa!
It really happened.

EXTREMELY / VERY - faka

Ko gali faka te galuega.
The work is very good.

ALWAYS - faeloa

Ne tupu faeloa.
It always happens.

ANNOYINGLY - fakafiufiu

Ne faipati fakafiufiu mai.
(He) spoke annoyingly.

PROPERLY - fakalei

Ne fai fakalei.
It was done properly.

APPROPRIATELY - fakatau

Ne fai fakatau.
It was done appropriately.

QUICKLY - fakavave

Ne tupu fakavave.
It happened quickly.

JUST RECENTLY - ftoa

Ne ftoa tupu.
It just happened.

BEGRUDGINGLY - fitoi

Ne fai fitoi te lotou mealofa.
They gave their gift begrudgingly.

AGAIN / ALSO - foki

Ne toe faipati foki a ia.
He spoke again.
Ne fai foki ne ia.
He also did it.

ONLY / JUST - fua **not related to time

Ne fai fua ne ia a au noa mo se pati.
He did it only without saying a word.

HARD / DIFFICULTY - fui

E fui tala.
It is hard to open.

SLOWLY / GRADUALLY - malie

Ne tupu malie.
It gradually happened.

EXTREMELY - matua

Ne matua fakatonu mai.
It was extremely instructed.

USUALLY - sale / ti

Ne tupu sale.

It usually happened.
E se ti fai sale ne ia.
He doesn't usually do it.

RARELY - seasea
Seasea ko faipati mai tou tagata.
Rarely does he speak to me.

OFTEN - soko
Ne tupu soko.
It happened often.

CARELESSLY - sona
Ne sona faipati mai fua tou tagata.
He spoke carelessly to me.

NEARLY / ALMOST - tai
Ko tai oti.
It is almost finished.

AGAIN - toe
Ne toe fai foki ne ia.
He did it again.

INDIVIDUALLY - tokotasi
Ne fai tokotasi ne ia.
She did it to herself.

ACTUALLY - tonu
Ne tupu tonu.
It actually happened.

INDISCRIMINATELY - valevale
Ne fai valevale fua.
It was done without thought.

SOFTENERS - to add politeness
Fai mai aka! Please tell me.
Fai mai ia! Please tell me.

katoa	all / entire / every / complete
taki	each
ka oti	already / finished / completed
lasi	big
lei	good / well / acceptable

NEGATIVES

* "se" acts as "un-" does in English.

ma	clean
se ma	unclean

* "ikai" means "no" and "seai" is "none".

E isi ne tusi i konei?	Seai.
Are there any books here?	None.

Ne maua no koe te tusi fou?	Ikai.
Did you get the new book?	No.

* "kae" is "and" for using more than one negatives. Or you can use "o".

* The negative word changes with tense :

PAST - e seki
E seki oko mai te vaka.
The ship has not arrived.

PRESENT - e se
E se oko mai te vaka.
The ship is not coming.

FUTURE - ka se
Ka se oko mai te vaka.
The ship will not arrive.

JUST CHANGED - ko se
ko se oko mai te vaka.
The ship isn't coming now.

LEST NOT - ma se
Nofo filemu ma se fagai koe.
Be quite lest you will not be fed.

IF ONLY ... NOT - moi se / seki
Moi se vau koe, penei ko se ita a ia.
If only you had not come, he would not have been angry.

COMMANDS - ke se / ke se toe
Ke se fai! Ke se toe fai!
Should not do! Should stop that!

STOP - fakagata
Fakagata te mea tena!
Stop doing that!

DON'T - ke mo a ma
Ke mo a ma fai ne koe a ia ke ma.
Don't make him embarrassed.

DON'T - sa
Sa vau!
Don't come!

CONDITIONAL

OR NOT io me ikai
E se iloa ne au me e tonu io me ikai.
I don't know if it is true or not.

OR ELSE / OTHERWISE i te mea ma
Sa moe kae talo, i te mea ma oko mai a fakaosoosoga ki a koutou.
Don't sleep, but pray, otherwise temptation may overtake you.

AT THE TIME i te taimi
Ne moe a tino katoa i te taimi ne oko mai ei te vaka.
Everyone was asleep at the time the ship arrived.

IF, WHEN kafai
Kafai au e se masaki, au e fanatu e iloa.
If I am not sick, I will go.

LEST ma
Nofo filemu ma ala mai te pepe.
Be quiet lest you rouse the baby.

IF, BUT, WHEN manafai
E se fano olotou lima manafai e kai.
They do not wash their hands when they eat.

WHILE THERE IS TIME manu
Fai te galuega manu seki oko mai te afa.
Do the work while there is still time before the westerlies arrive.

WHETHER ... OR NOT me ... me se

Fakatuanaki ki te Atua.

Have faith to God.

Kai ki te ika.

Eat to the fish

ki a to

Ave ki a ia. Tuku ato ki a loane.

Take it to him. The bag belongs to John.

i lalo down / under / below

Ne tuku i lalo ite moega.

(It's) under the bed.

i luga up / upwards

Sau aka ki luga te pokisi.

Lift up the box.

i loto inside

Ne tuku i loto toku ulu.

(It's) inside my head.

mai from

Ne maua mai fea?

From where did (you) get (it)?

mo for

Ne aumai ne au mo koe. Mo a?

I brought it for you. For what?

i mua before / in front of

Mai mua atu i ei. Ne taku valea a ia i mua o te fenua.

Before that. Ke appeared foolish before the whole island.

i tafa beside

Ne tuku i tafa o te taipola.

(It's) beside the table.

i tua back / outside

Ne tuku i tua ite ato.

(It's) outside the bag.

e tiga even though / although / despite / nevertheless

E tiga eiloa ne masaki a ia, ne vau eiloa a ia.

Even though sick he was, came he did.

e ui even though / although / despite

E ui eiloa ne fanoanoa a ia, ne faipati faka lei mai a ia.

Even though dejected she was, spoke properly she did.

CONJUNCTIONS

ako but / however

aua because / for / since / on account of / in view of

kea e a but what?

kae atea and not only that / as well as

kae maise and especially

mo for

kae and / but

** used for combining sentences, clauses, and adjectives but NOT NOUNS.*

i a because / for

Ne seki vau a ia i a ia ne masaki.
He didn't come because he was sick.

i te mea because

Ne foki mai matou i te mea ko po.
We returned because it was getting dark.

ka ko and / but / however

Ka ko au ka fai pefea?
But what will I do?

me whether / if

E se iloa ne au me e vau a ia me ikai.
I don't know if he is coming or not.
Sa ua me ko moe.
Don't be noisy because (he's) asleep.

seiloga ke unless / not until if / only if

Ka se fakamagalo ne au a ia seiloga ke vau o fakatoese mai.
I won't forgive her unless she comes and apologizes.

vagana ke unless / not until / except / excepting

E se ti pati masei a ia vagana ke kaitaua malosi.
He doesn't usually swear unless he is really angry.

PRONOUNS

au I - singular, exclusive
maua we - dual, exclusive
matou we - plural, exclusive

taua we - dual, inclusive
tatou we - plural, inclusive

koe you - singular
koulua you - dual
koutou you - plural

ana / aia he / she / it - singular (question word / answer word)
la / laua they / them - dual (question word / answer word)
olotou / latou they / them - plural (question word / answer word)

Koutou e olo ki fea? **Matou e olo kite pikiniki.**
What are you (all) going to do? We (all) are going to the picnic.

Nea olotou mea e fai? **Latou e kai.**
What are they (all) doing? They are eating.

Nea ana mea e fai? **Aia e moe.**
What is he doing? He is sleeping.

Nea la mea e fai? **Laua e olo kite sitoa.**
What are they (2) doing? They (2) are going to the store.

POSSESSIVE PRONOUNS

* **A** class - active relationship, non-personal.

taku tusi my book
taku letio my radio
taku galuega my work

taku faiga	my actions
taku lauga	my speech
taku meakai	my food
taku puaka	my pig

* **O** class - non-active relationship, personal.

toku foitino	my body
toku vae	my leg
toku lagona	my feeling
toku gatu	my dress
toku vaka	my boat
toku fenua	my island
toku mokopuna	my grandchild

* When in doubt, use the **A** class as most items are not considered personal as you share with the entire community.

Below is the list of **DEFINITE** personal pronouns used when item possessed is **SINGULAR**.

	SINGULAR	DUAL	PLURAL
1st incl.	taku (toku) my, mine	te ta our (2)	te tou our (3+)
1st excl.		te ma our (2)	te moutou our (3+)
2nd	tau (tou) your, yours	te lu (olua) your (2)	te otou your (3+)
3rd	tena (tona) his, hers	te la their (2)	te lotou their (3+)

Below is the list of **DEFINITE** personal pronouns used when items possessed are **PLURAL**. The plural form removes the definite article "te".

	SINGULAR	DUAL	PLURAL
1st incl.	aku (oku) my, mine	ta our (2)	tou our (3+)
1st excl.		ma our (2)	omoutou our (3+)
2nd	au (ou) your, yours	lu (olua) your (2)	otou your (3+)
3rd	ana (ona) his, hers	la their (2)	olotou their (3+)

Below is the list of **INDEFINITE** personal pronouns used when item possessed is **SINGULAR**.

	SINGULAR	DUAL	PLURAL
1st incl.	saku (soku) my, mine	se ta our (2)	se tou our (3+)
1st excl.		se ma our (2)	se moutou our (3+)
2nd	sau (sou) your, yours	se lu (olua) your (2)	se otou your (3+)
3rd	sena (sona) his, hers	se la their (2)	se lotou their (3+)

Below is the list of **INDEFINITE** personal pronouns used when items possessed are **PLURAL**. The plural form removes the definite article "te".

	SINGULAR	DUAL	PLURAL
1st incl.	ne aku (ne oku) my, mine	ne ta our (2)	ne tou our (3+)

1st excl.	ne aku (ne oku) my, mine	ne ma our (2)	ne moutou our (3+)
2nd	ne au (ne ou) your, yours	ne lu (olua) your (2)	ne otou your (3+)
3rd	ne ana (ona) his, hers	ne la their (2)	ne olotou their (3+)

I ai te mea tenei?
Whose is this? **I a aku.**
It is mine.

I oi te vaka?
Whose canoe is this? **I o oku.**
It is mine.

Ko te fale o oi?
Whose house is this? **I o loane.**
It is John's.

Ko te tamaliki a ai?
Whose child is this? **I a laua.**
It is theirs.

BASIC PHRASES

Talofa!
Hello

Tofa!
Goodbye

Fesoasoani!
Help

Ao
Yes

Ikai
No

ko lei la
Ok

Fakamolemole
Please

Fakatoese
Sorry

Tulou
Excuse me

Ko oi tou igoa?
What is your name?

Toku igoa ko ...
My name is ...

Koe mum.
You're crazy. (*slang*)

Ko oi tena igoa?
What is his/her name?

Tena igoa ko ...
His/her name is ...

Au sei se tourist.
I am not a tourist.

Au se Peace Corps Volunteer.
I am a Peace Corps Volunteer.

Au se tino Kioa, mai ite fakai o Salia.
I stay in Kioa, from the village of Salia.

Ne a au pati?
What did you say?

Fakafoki fakamolemole.
Repeat please.

Toe fai mai, fakamolemole.
Say it again, please.

Au e se malamalama.
I don't understand.

Faipati malie, fakamolemole.
Please speak slowly.

E iloa ne koe o faipati faka palagi?
Do you speak English?

Se a te pati *toilet* i te gana Tuvalu?
What is the word for toilet in Tuvaluan?

Tauloto te gana Tuvalu.
I am learning Tuvaluan.

E se iloa ne au o faipati faka-Tuvalu.
I don't know how to speak Tuvaluan.

Pena foki koe.
You as well.

Ea koe?
How are you?

Ea koulua?
How are you two?

Ea koutou?
How are you all?

Au te pole.
I am happy.

E lei, fakafetai.
Good, thanks!

Au te fiafia.
I am happy.

Ea e malosi koe?
Are you well?

Koe ko oti ne avaga?
Are you already married?

E tokofia au tama?
How many children do you have?

Ao, e malosi. Fakafetai.
Yes, I am well. Thank you.

Ao, au ko oti ne avaga.
Yes, I am already married.

Seai, koi tuai.
None, not yet.

E fia ou tausaga?
How old are you?

Au ko tolu-sefulu oku tausaga.
I am 30 years old.

Ako koe?
And you?

Mafea tou aso fanau?
When is your birthday?

Toku aso fanau ite po lua sefulu lima o Setema.
My birthday is the 25th of September.

Nea mea e fiafia koe o fai?
What do you like to do?

Au e fiafia o faitau, pei ata, mo lomi ata.
I like to read, photograph, and draw.

E mafai ne au o pei tou ata?
May I take a photo?

Ao e mafai.
Yes you can.

Ea, e fano koe ki fea?
Where are you going?

Ea, e olo koulua ki fea?
Where are you two going?

Ea, e olo koutou ki fea?
Where are you all going?

Au e fano o galue.
I am going to work.

Au ka mua.
I'll take the lead (go first).

Au ka fanatu fakamuli.
I'll come later.

Au e fano kite sitoa.
I go to the store

Maua e olo kite sitoa.
We two go to the store

Matou e olo kite sitoa.
We all go to the store.

Ne a au mea efai?
What are you doing?

Ne a lua mea efai?
What are you two doing?

Ne a otou mea efai?
What are you all doing?

E seai.
Nothing much.

Au e kai.
I am eating.

Maua e kai.
We two are eating.

Matou e kai.
We all are eating.

Ne a ana mea efai?
What is he/she/it doing?

Ne a olotou mea efai?
What are they doing?

A ia e kai.
He/she/it is eating.

Latou e kai.
They are eating.

E tonu.
It is true.

Ao, pe.
Yes, probably.

E se iloa (ne au.)
(I) don't know.

Fai mai.
Tell me.

Nea foki?
What else?

Se a te mea tena?
What is that?

E fano o a?
What are you going to do?

Se a tena uiga?
What does that mean?

Sa daga ki ei.
Don't worry.

Au e loi fua.
I am joking.

Ko pono.
It's closed / shut.

Ko tala.
It's open.

E tokofia ou taina mo tuagane?
How many siblings are you?

E tokofia fafine?
How many girls?

Maua e tokolua.
We are two.

E tokotasi te tagata kae tokotasi te fafine.
One boy and one girl.

Ko foki mai te malaga?
You back from your trip?

E maua neau o puke kite fale.
I can take it to the house.

E fiafia koe o kai keke?
Do you want some cake?

Nea au mea ka fai ite aso nei?
What are you going to do today?

A koe te fakalavelave!
You are so busy!

Se katoa.
Not really.

Au e mafaufau o fano ki ...
I am thinking about going to ...

A koe e olo mo oi?
Who are you going with?

Au e olo mo toku avaga mo toku taugasoa.
I am going with my spouse and my friend.

E isi se fesili?

Ko sali te paipa?

Do you have a question?

Is the pipe open? (water on)

QUESTION WORDS

mafea?	when (in the future)?
maifea?	where from?
anafea?	when (in the past)?
i fea?	where?
tefea?	where? (singular)
kofea?	where? (plural)
ko oi?	who?
i oi?	whose?
ki ai?	to whom?
i ai?	with whom?
te fea?	which?
a?	what?
e a?	what?
ki te a?	to / about what?
i te a?	for what?
mo te a?	for what?
pefea?	how?
e fia?	how many?
aia?	why?
se ate mea?	why?
kaia?	why?
ne?	is it not so?
kae a?	don't you agree?
e mata	is it likely? is it so?
i ne?	isn't it?

tokofia?	how many people?
toko + #	persons
tokolua	2 persons

fea?	what place? time?
nei	the present, here
ko	distant place, time

Se a te mea tenei?	Ne a mea kona?
What is this?	What are those things?

Ne aumai mo a?	Ne tuku mai ki a ai?
Why was it brought?	To whom was it given?

Ne fakatoka mo oi?	Kaia ne fai ei pena?
For whom was it prepared?	Why was it done like that?

Ne tupu anafea te mea tena?	Ka tupu mafea te mea tena?
When did that happen?	When will that happen?

E mata, e tau o fai pena?	E tonu, i ne?
Is it so, it be done like that?	That is true, isn't it?

E tokofia tamaliki e o mai?	Ne tuku i fea te tusi tena?
How many children are coming?	Where was that book put?

Kofea a tamaliki?	Ko te tusi fea?
Where are the children?	Which book?

Ko oi tela?	Ko oi ne vau konei?
Who is that?	Who is going there?

Maifea tou gatu?	Mafea tou aso fanau?
Where is your dress from?	When is your birthday?

A koe e fano mafea ki Kioa?	Kaia ne tuai ei koe?
When will you go to Kioa?	Why were you late?

Ne maua i te a?
What was it found in?

E nofo koe i a ai?
With whom do you live?

E foliga mai pefea?
What does it look like?

Ne tupu te mea tena i te taimi fea?
At what time will / did that happen?

E fia tusi e tau o togi?
How many books should be bought?

Tefea tena fale?
Where is his house?

Sea tena?
What's that?

Ko oi e fano?
Who can go?

A koe ne vau anafea?
When did you go?

Me i au e masaki.
Because I was sick.

DECLARATIONS

E!	Hey, there!
Tapa!	<i>surprise</i>
Au e!	<i>satisfaction</i>
Ai aue!	<i>sadness</i>
Ko foki!	<i>delight</i>
Te!	Nonsense!
Kiloke!	Listen!

KEY WORDS

ote	of
mo	for / and
mote	also
fia ? manako ke	to want
ne!	really
nei loa nei	immediately
ma ne	immediately
i loa	then "ee lo"
io meko	or
fua	only
masani sale	usually
masani loao	usually
fakatasi	together
ona la	because
kafai	if
i luga	on
ite	at
kite	to the
kia	to (someone)
a te	it
se	it
a te	the
i loto	in
e mafai	possible
kafai	but

MISC PHRASES

Fano kite sitoa. Go to the shop.	Tou olo kite fale. We go to the house.	Vau, taka olo. Come, we go.
A Samalu e tele. Samalu is running.	Onoono kite fafine. Look to the woman.	Kilo kite kuli. Look to the dog.
Koe te matagali. You are beautiful.	Koe e se. You are wrong.	
Ko oi? Who's there?	Ko ... It's ...	
Ia, pena loa. Yes, like that.	Ko ia eiloa. That is it.	E tonu ki. Very true.
E isi ne nai mea se. Do things properly.	Fai faka lei au mea. There are just a few mistakes.	E seai se mea. There is nothing.
E o ai te mea nei? Who's is this?	Nu tuku ne koe ki ai? To whom did you give it?	Se a te mea nei? What is this?
Ko ai te tama tena? Who is that person?	Se a tou taofi? What is your thought?	Ne fai pefea ne ia? How did he / she do it?
E oti mafea? When will it be finished?	Ailoga! I doubt it! / Unlikely!	

Ko oi tou matua/tamana?
Who is your mom/dad?

Sau tafaoga tena?
What game is that?

Oti te pai!
Stop being cheeky!

FOOD

Ke fai to talo : Fakafetai te Atua mo meakai mo meainu ko oti ne tuku mai ne koe. Koe ke alofa ke fakamanuia mai ne koe, a latou kola ne fakatoka mai ne latou. Ite igoa o Iesu ko talo atu iei matou. Amene.

Vau o kai.
Come and eat.

Vau o inu.
Come and drink.

Kai malosi.
Eat alot.

Au e fia kai.
I want to eat. (*hungry*)

Au e fia inu.
I want to drink. (*thirsty*)

Te meakai tenei e gali.
This food is good.

E gali a meakai.
The food is delicious.

E gali a ika.
The fish is delicious.

Fakamolemole mai aka te ...
Please pass the ...

Ikai, au e makona.
No, I am full.

E kai koe i ai?
With whom are you eating?

E a ai te meakai na?
Who's food is that?

E a koe.
It is yours.

E a ana.
It is his.

Tou meakai nei...
Our food today is ...

Tou inutii nei ...
Our breakfast today is ...

Sea tou meakai ite tutonu nei? Tou meakai ite nei se tapioka mo ika.
What is our food for lunch today? Our food today is cassava and fish.

meakai	food
inutii	breakfast
se inu tii ite sefulu	10 o'clock tea
fakatutonu	lunch
tunu	to cook
fakaafiafi	dinner
fakatoka	to prepare / cook
pia	beer
meleni	melon
pi	coconut juice
mala	overcooked
tele	tray
kaiga	meal
fuamoa	hen's egg
makona	satisfied / full
masi	biscuits
pani	bun
sikoni	scone
kopai	dough in lolo
pulini	pudding
keke	cake
pai	pie
valuvalu	plantain porridge
tapioka	cassava
bele	green leaves
laisi	rice
falaoa	flour
suka	sugar
apolo	apple
olesi	papaya
kumala	sweet potato
pulaka	large dalo
talo	dalo
ufi	yam
vudi	plantain
futi	banana

kapeti	cabbage
paegani	eggplant
kiukapa	cucumber
tii	tea
kofe	coffee
letisi	lettuce
tolo	sugar cane
olenisi	orange
kule pe	grapes
panikeni	pumpkin
lau talo	dalo leaves
painapolo	pineapple
mago	mango
pata	avocado
tomato	tomato
aniani	onion
kaliki	garlic
pateta	potato
mei	breadfruit
falaoa	bread
susu	milk
loketi	chili pepper
vinega	vinegar
pata	butter
tiamu	jam
sinusinu	oil
masima	salt
kale	curry
loti	roti
fau niu	coconut
popo	coconut
supu	soup
koko	chocolate
lau moli	lemon leaf
puta papa	pancakes
puta pukupuku	fried do-nut
polesi	porridge
lole	lollipop
pinati	peanut
pini	bean
pululole	gum
kapa ika	tin fish
kapa pulumakau	tin beef
kasitati	custard
paketi masi	crackers
masi keke	cookies
fekei	cassava dish
suasua	dalo dish
fakapa	cassava or dalo dish
fausi	flour dish
fakatea	traditional dish
falifu	traditional dish
vai vela	hot water
vai puna	boiled water
vai mafanafana	warm water
vai moko	cold water
vai lei	good water
vai masei	bad water
tagu	bottle
kapa	tin
kele	porcelain
kilasi	glass (bottle, etc)
pola	bowl
tifa	plate
naifi	large knife
tama naifi	small knife
naifi pata	butter knife
sepuni	spoon

sepuni asuasu
tui
ipu
ulo
falai
taega umu
fafie
masiesi
titata
tipoti
sasa
ato
kete
taipola
vai fano
solo lima
laulau kai
soke
pelesitiki
tisi

large spoon
fork
cup
pot
pan
fire for cooking
firewood
match
kettle
tea pot
saucer
basket made from voivoi
coconut leaf basket
table
bowl of water for washing
dish towel
table cloth
pitcher / jug
plastic
basin

ANIMALS

lapiti
ika
kuli
fonu
gata
manu
pusi
moa
puaka
taki
ose
kaipea
tupa
makusi
lulu
maina
moa tagata
pili
mogamoga
lo
molokau
fasua
mago
namu
lago
sipaita
ilo
lane
feke
ula tai
ula vaitafe
uga
me
pulumakau
mamoe
tama mamoe
tafola
koke
lupe
palemago
pepe

rabbit
fish
dog
turtle
snake
bird
cat
chicken
pig
duck
horse
crab
crab
mongoose
owl
bird
rooster
gecko
roach
ant
milipede
clam
shark
mosquito
fly
spider
worm
frog
octopus
lobster
prawn
snail
goat
cow / beef
sheep
lamb
whale
parrot
pigeon
large sea crab
butterfly / moth

BODY PARTS

toku
my

foitino
mata
ulu
laulu
lae
taliga
isu
gutu
nifo
alelo
kauae
katiua
lima
poko
fatafata
u
tinae
vae
tua
matikao lima
matikao vae
mata
papamuli
mania lima
mania vae
lafi lima
lafi vae
tuli vae
tuli lima
laugutu
kauaga
tega
fatu
ate
faiai
puisu
putaliga
fulumata
fifimata
pakili
mata vele
vele

tou
your

body
face
head
hair
forehead
ear
nose
mouth
teeth
tongue
chin
neck
arm
arm pit
chest
breast
stomach
leg
back
fingers
toes
eye
butt
fingernails
toenails
hand
foot
knee
elbow
lips
thigh
hips
heart
liver
brain
nostril
ear hole
eyebrow
eyelash
skin
razor blade
to shave

olotou
his/her

HEALTH

Tou ulu e mae?
Your head is sore?

Toku ulu e mae.
My head is sore.

Fakamolemole telefoni aka kite tokita!
Please call the doctor.

Au e masaki.
I am sick.

nesi
tokita
mae
fati
mafu
pakia
sana
toto
ulu mae
lua
meapala

Fesoasoani!
Help!

nurse
doctor
pain/sore
broken
healed
injured
diarehha
blood
head ache
to vomit
sores

fakafoa	boils on lower part of body
patu	boils on upper part of body
logomae	aches
gaegae	asthma
tale	to cough
isu sali	runny nose
tinae mae	stomach ache
taliga mae	ear ache
fai tama	pregnant
magiso	itchy
paie	lazy
mafolefole	peeling skin
pakiaga	infection
matafai	eye disease
kivi	blind
tuli	deaf
motu	cut
fakavalevale	crazy
fati lima	broken arm
pakapaka	skinny
putaputa	fat
fula	big
toetoe	short
loa	tall
maluga	tall
vai la kau	medicine

SAFETY

Fakamolemole telefoni aka kite polisimani!

Please call the police!

Olo keatea!

Go away!

fatiotio

tuli

tio

Sa fatiotio!

Stop peeping!

to peep

to chase

to stare

Sa tuli au!

Stop chasing me!

CLOTHING

E gali tou sulu.

Your sulu is beautiful.

pei	to wear
ke togi	to shop
togi	to buy
togitogi	shopping
pulou	hat
taka	sandals
gatu	dress
ato	bag
te lasi	size
lasi	big
foliki	small
lavalava	skirt
sulu	sulu
mitiofu	tshirt
mitiofu fai kola	collared shirt
tilima	shirt
tilima lima loa	long-sleeved shirt
tilima lima mutu	short-sleeved shirt
gatu loa	mumu - long dress
gatu lotu	church clothes
tivae loa	trousers
tivae mutu	shorts
pale	underpants

palegatu
meafai ulu
selu
tau lima
ligi
malele
tio mata
mata kilasi
mama
mama faipoipoi
fusia
sulu fiti
solosolo
itula
mitiofu seai ne lima
fakamalu
gatu moko
gatu faaua
totine
se vae
totine lima
titi
tao
napenape
fou
tui misa
togiga
ato pau
pausi tupe
fusi

slip
hairbands
comb
bracelet
earrings
necklace
eye glasses
eye glasses
ring
wedding ring
necktie
pocket sulu
hankerchief
watch / clock
vest
umbrella
jacket
rain jacket
socks
shoes
gloves
inside grass skirt
outside grass skirt
arm garland
head garland
shell necklace
uniform
suitcase
purse / wallet
belt

COLORS

lanu
kula
launiu
uli
sega
violeti
lega
felo
kena
piniki
pefu
siliva
aulo
patilotilo
mafa
mama
solosolo
valavala
pulepule
kie
velaveta
matolutolu
manifinifi
masae

color
red
green
black
yellow
purple
orange
blue
white
pink
brown
silver
gold
shiny
dark
light
white + another color
transparent
mixed colors
very
shiny
thick
thin
torn

E lanu a tou gatu?
What color is your dress?

Toku sulu e launiu.
My sulu is green.

HOUSEHOLD

kaiga
ili
fale
manafa

rubbish
fan
house
land

umaga	garden
fatoaga	farm
moega	bed
a	fence
umu	kitchen
nofoaga	chair / seat
taipola	table
potu	room
potumoe	bedroom
tisi ta gatu	clothes basin
kalani	bucket
paelo	barrel
kilo	mirror
mataloa	door
famalama	window
pui	wall
tuafale	ceiling
faletiko	toilet
falekougou	bathroom
paipa	shower / tap
loka	lock
latilati	curtain
moli	light
molimatagi	lantern
moligaka	candle
kasa	lamp
molisulu	flashlight
tivi	TV
papa	plain floor mat
mekei	colored, designed mat
vai tane	water tank / rain catchment
sameni	cement
lakai	wood / tree
tama lakau	stick
amoka	hammock
tagaaluga	pillowcase
aluga	pillow
sulukafu	sheet
pulaketi	blanket
mae tuetuevae	doormat
ata	framed picture
matafale	yard + house
afi	fire
vele	to weed
pusa	trunk
sefe	kitchen cabinet
solo	towel
kafa	clothes line
tautau	to hang clothes

OFFICE

ofisa	office
taipa	typewriter
faoao	exercise book
penitala	pencil
peni	pen
polopeni	pen
lula	ruler
lapa	eraser
pepa	paper
kamu	scissors
komipiuta	computer
fakatoka	to organize / to prepare
mafai	to manage
fai	to do
ke faite	to build

OCCUPATION

faiakoga	teacher
aliki	chief
tinofaika	fisherman
takitaki	leader
tokolua takitaki	vice - leader
pelesitene	leader
kamupane	company
polisimani	policeman
nesi	nurse
tokita	doctor
kamuta	carpenter
tino fai fatoaga	farmer

FAMILY

tamu	children
matua	parents
fafine	female
tagata	male
tamaliki tagata	boy
tamataene	boy
tamaliki fafine	girl
tamafine	girl
pepe	baby
paipi	baby
kaiga	family
fanau	offspring
tupuna tagata	grandfather
tupuna fafine	grandmother
tauavaga	husband / wife
avaga fafine	wife
avaga tagata	husband
tapuna	ancestors
tautaina	same sex siblings
tautaugane	opposite sex siblings
tapuna	grandparents
mokopuna	grandchildren
sa matua	aunt (same sex)
se aniti	aunt (opposite sex)
tuatina	uncle
mokupuna fafine	granddaughter
mokupuna tagata	grandson
fakatau taina	cousin (same sex)
fakatau tuagane	cousin (opposite sex)
tamafafine	mother
tamatagata	father
loo matua	old woman
toeaina	old man

HOBBIES

lakapi	rugby
voli	volleyball
futupolo	soccer
kilikili	cricket
polo	ball
piukila	trumpet
kitala	guitar
ukalele	ukulele
faili	harmonica
okani	piano
taimi pese	conductor

CHURCH

pese	song
usu	sing
faletapu	church
talalei	good news
folafola	to declare
viki	praise
fakamanuia	to bless
talo	prayer
faifeau	pastor
talosaga	devotion (Kioa bell rings at 6.30pm)
mafaufauga	children's devotion (Kioa bell rings at 5.30pm)
Atua	God
lesu	Jesus
amene	amen
tavini	servant
faifekau	pastor
tinoga	devotion
lotu talo	prayer service
lotu lasi	big service
lotu afiafi	afternoon service
lotu aso tolu	Wednesday service
kini	to ring
te pele muaua	the 1st bell
mataupu	chapter
e	chapter
faitau	verse
fuaiupu	verse
faitau	to read
kaimata	start
fakagata	end
ko oko	up to
too leva	too long
too toetoe	too short
too vave	too quick

Ko kini te lua o pele.
The 2nd bell is ringing.

Tusi faitau ite Tusi Tapu.
The reading from the Bible.

Ke fai tou talo.
Let us pray.

Kote Feagaiga Fou

Kenese
Esoto
Levitiko
Numela
Teutelonome
Iosua
Famasino
Luta
1 Samuelu
2 Samuelu
1 Tupu
2 Tupu
1 Nofokigatupu
2 Nofokigatupu
Esele
Nemia
Eseta
Iopu
Salamo
Faigamuna
Failauga
Pese o Solomona
Isaia
Ielemia
Tagiga
Esekiela
Tanielu
Osea

Old Testament

Genesis
Exodus
Leviticus
Numbers
Deuteronomy
Joshua
Judges
Ruth
1 Samuel
2 Samuel
1 Kings
2 Kings
1 Chronicles
2 Chronicles
Ezra
Nehemiah
Esther
Job
Psalms
Proverbs
Ecclesiastes
Song of Solomon
Isaiah
Jeremiah
Lamentation
Ezekiel
Daniel
Hosea

Ioelu
Amosa
Opetaiā
Iona
Mika
Nauma
Apakuka
Sefanaia
Akai
Sakalia
Malaki

Joel
Amos
Obadiah
Jonah
Micah
Nahum
Habakuk
Zephaniah
Haggai
Zechariah
Malachi

Kote Feagaiga Fou

Mataio
Maleko
Luka
Ioane
Galuega
Loma
1 Kolinito
2 Kolinito
Kalatia
Efeso
Filipi
Kolose
1 Tesalonia
2 Tesalonia
1 Timoteo
2 Timoteo
Tito
Filemoni
Epelu
Iakopo
1 Peteulu
2 Peteulu
1 Ioane
2 Ioane
3 Ioane
Iuta
Fakasiga

New Testament

Matthew
Mark
Luka
John
Acts
Romans
1 Corinthians
2 Corinthians
Galations
Ephesians
Phillippians
Colossians
1 Thessalonians
2 Thessalonians
1 Timothy
2 Timothy
Titus
Philemon
Hebrews
James
1 Peter
2 Peter
1 John
2 John
3 John
Jude
Revelation

NUMBERS

male

and (for #s only)

leai	0
tasi	1
lua	2
tolu	3
fa	4
lima	5
ono	6
fitu	7
valu	8
iva	9
sefulu	10

sefulu tasi	11
lua sefulu	20
tolu sefulu tasi	31
tolu lima	35
ono tasi	61

selau	100
selau tasi	101
lua selau	200

afe	1,000
-----	-------

afe male tasi	1,001
afe selau ono tasi	1,161
lua te afe	2,000
lua afe male iva	2009
miliona	million
e tasi te miliona	1 million

TIME and DATE

itula	clock
itula	hour
minute	minute
sekone	second
taimi	time
po	date
ao	day
nei	today
taeao	tomorrow
anafi	yesterday
po	night
ite po	last night
ite taeao anafi	yesterday morning
ite taeao ma taeao	tomorrow morning
ite taeao nei	this morning
tau muli	late
vave	early
ke vave	hurry up
vaiaso	week
masina	month
tausaga	year
vaiaso ko teka	last week
vaiaso ko oti	finished week
<i>* te + # (te tolu)</i>	<i>2nd (3rd)</i>
<i>muamua</i>	<i>1st</i>
<i>* fakasefulu taimi</i>	<i>ten times</i>
<i>fakalua</i>	<i>twice</i>
<i>* takitasi</i>	<i>each, one at a time</i>
<i>takilua</i>	<i>two each</i>
<i>takitolu</i>	<i>three each</i>
teaga	after
toe	before
afa	1/2
kauta	1/4
tolu kuata	3/4
pasene	percent
kilomita	kilometer
mita	meter
milimita	millimeter
senitemita	centimeter
kilokalame	gram
kalame	gram
maila	mile
futu	foot (measurement)
iata	yard
inisi	inch
pauna	pound
aunese	ounce
tupu	over

** E lua sefulu tupu - more than 20*

te tau vela
te tau e to ei a lau
te tau moko
te tau e somo aka ei a lau

summer
autumn
winter
spring

Ianuali
Fepuali
Mati
Apelila
Me
Iune
Iulai
Aukuso
Setema
Oketopa
Novema
Tesema

January "ya-newali"
February
March
April
May
June "you-knee"
July "you-lie"
August
September
October
November
December

** Ne olo atu matou i a Tesema. "a" occurs before months in a sentence.*

Aso Ga Fua
Aso Lua
Aso Tolu
Aso Fa
Aso Lima
Aso Ono
Aso Tapu

Monday
Tuesday
Wednesday
Thursday
Friday
Saturday
Sunday

** Ne olo atu matou i te Aso Ono. "Te" occurs before days in a sentence.*

vaveao
tafataeao
taeao
tutonu
fakatutonu
fakafiafi
afiafi
afiafipo
po
valuapo

4-5am
5-6am / dawn
6-11am / morning
12 noon
11am-1pm
2-4pm / afternoon
4-6pm
6-8pm / evening
8pm-4am / night
12 midnight

Kote po fia nei?
What is the date today?

Kote po fa o Iulai.
It is the 4 of July.

Ko ta te fia?
What time is it?

Ko ta te ono ite afiafi.
It is 6 o'clock in the evening.

Ko ta te lua.
It is 2 o'clock.

Ko afa te lua.
It is half past 2 o'clock.

Toe kuata kite lua.
It is a quarter to 2.

Ko lima ite teaga ote lua.
It is 5 minutes past 2 o'clock.

Toe lima kite lua.
It is 5 minutes to 2 o'clock.

Tai pili kite sefulu.
It is near 10.

E oko mai ite fia?
What time will he arrive?

E oko mai ite ono ite afiafi.
He will come at 6 o'clock in the evening.

Ko oti te sefulu.
It is after 10.

Teaga te sefulu.
It is past 10.

Te taimi e se. Ko vave taku taimi.
The time is wrong. My time is early.

E tuai taku taimi.
My time is late.

DIRECTIONS

mai
atu
ake
aka
ifo

towards the speaker
away from the speaker
upwards
upwards
downwards

iluga	up
ilalo	down
luga	top
lalo	bottom
iloto	inside
itua	outside
mua	front
muli	rear
tua	behind
va	space between items
matu	south
sasae	east
toga	north
sisifo	west
mao	far
pili	near
mai lalo	down low
fakamaui	left
fakaata	right
ite tua	back
tami lo	turn around
fuli tonu	go straight
fano tonu	go straight
tonu kisikisi	straight
galoto	middle
alopapa	underneath
pakini	fast
tuai	slow
malielie	slowly
toe faka foki	return
i	in, at, on, with, from, because of, by

AROUND THE VILLAGE

vaitafe	river
puliti	bridge
punavai	spring
mauga	mountain
tafatai	beach
tai	sea
moana	ocean
one	sand
fatu	rock
kilikili	gravel
mouku	grass
auala	path / road
fatoaga	garden / farm
fakasufaga	trash dump
tanu	to bury
taisoko	high tide
taimasa	low tide
maneapa	community hall
falekaupule	house of leaders
malae	playground
akoga	school
faleakoga	school building
faletapu	church building
fakamasaki	hospital
sitoa	store
falemeli	post office
ofisa	office
laukele	land
fenua	island
fakai	village
pele	church bell
lali	community drum
fakaala	feast
fakatagi te pu	community call (conch shell)

fakapulaga o mataupu

telling of decisions

TRAVELING

Tefea te pasi?
Where is the bus?

E pili mai?
Is it close?

E fia te pasese?
What is the fare?

vaka
paopao
pasi
poti
motoka
pasikati
vakalele
okomai
okomaiga
fanatu
fanatuga
eva
evaga

Tefea te vaka?
Where is the boat?

Koi mao?
Is it far?

Tu!
Stop!

boat
canoe
bus
boat
car
motorbike
plane
to come
arrival
to depart
departure
to fly
flight

Tefea te fale foliki?
Where is the toilet?

Au e fano ki ...
I want to go to...

Au e manako ke fano nei.
I want to go now.

WEATHER

E vela ki, i ne?
It's hot, isn't it?

Ko to te vaiua.
It's raining.

E gali te matagi.
The breeze is nice.

E kaumana te aso.
It's cloudy today.

siu
vaiua
la
vela
moko
tau ote aso
agiagi te matagi
matagi
kaumana
fatili
uila
alikeneni
lofia
tafe
sou te tai
tau malo
tau siusiu
mafuie
galu

Ka kasa mai te la!
The sun is really hot!

Ko laufie te vaiua.
It's stopped raining.

Ate la ite vela.
The sun is hot.

Te tai e malu.
The sea is calm.

wet
rain
sun
hot
cold
weather
windy
wind
cloud
thunder
lightning
hurricane
flood
flood
rough sea
dry season
wet season
earthquake
tsunami

E gali te aso.
It's a nice day.

E ai mai te matagi.
The wind is blowing.

Aso vela!
Hot today!

FEELINGS

Au e fiafia ki ...
I am happy with (like) ...

Au e fiafia.

Au e se fiafia ki ...
I am not happy with (dislike)...

Au e ita.

I am happy.

lagona
manatu
tagi
loi mata
fanaoana
fiafia
katakata
ita
kaitaua
ma
se mautinoa
se iloa tonu
pole
fita
gafuia

I am angry.

feeling
thought
to cry
tears
sad
happy
to laugh
angry
angry
embarrassed
confused
confused
happy
tired
lazy

MISC VERBS

faipati
uga
nofo
kau
fakalogo
tafau
iogoa
fakafiafia
mafaufau
sagasaga
puke
tunu
tagatu
fakama
sautala
sasale
tele
toki

to speak
to stand
to stay
to swim
to hear
to play
to make noise
to entertain
to think
to sit
to take
to cook
to wash
to clean
to converse
to walk
to run
to plant

PROPER NAMES

MALE NAMES

Lapauila
Apelu
Loto
Samalu
Asaeli
Paki
Petueli
Apa
Mika
Tafiula
Falaimo
Sili
Sua
Vaifua
Vovo
Maka
Tanile
Teakau
Kenimalava
Tomasi
Tomu
Nika
Foua
Talapai
Lutelu

FEMALE NAMES

Ba
Pauline
Sui Lai
Lisi
Faioa
Lei
Lauto
Talita
Tamala
Vao
Timaima
Tegale
Siliva
Kanesa
Asenati
Maina
Taupea
Luapine
Susana
Susi
Sepola
Kauata
Kaimalie
Saumali
Teise

Vakafa
Fale
Levita
Kailopa
Tanile
Lenesi
Opeteia
Fousaga
Maeli
Lavalua
Moulogo
Papa
Vatu
Mino (Domino)

Kalalaini
Tealiki
Siapo
Sei
Siliva
Kanilupe
Tiagina
Lotana
Mamao
Akanisi
Lipola
Lisi
Tesogi
Tenamo
Pena
Matapula
Simolo

VOCABULARY

* See Tuvaluan Vocabulary Sheet...