



08 ▶ 14  
MAY MAY

# Fäeag Rotuam

## Rotuman Language Week

PACIFIC LANGUAGE WEEKS 2022



Vetākia 'os Fäega ma Ag fak hanua

SUSTAINING OUR LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

Ministry for Pacific Peoples  
Te Manatū mō ngā Iwi o te Moana-nui-ā-Kiwa

# Fäeag Rotuam | Rotuman Language

Fäeag Rotuam ta (The Rotuman Language) has five basic vowels:

**A E I O U**. These basic vowels have the same pronunciation as other Pacific Languages and Te Reo Māori. There are also five variations to these vowels: Ā Ä Å Ö Ü. These are slightly different ways of pronouncing the vowels A, O and U.

Letter	Pronunciation	Letter	Pronunciation
Aa	A sound in FAR / CAR	Āā	A sound PAW (American Eng.)
Ee	E sound in EGG / PET	Ää	Long A sound in CAT / BAT
Ii	EE sound in FEET / SWEET	Åå	Short A sound in CAT / BAT
Oo	O sound in CORE / SHORE	Öö	U sound in FUR (American Eng.)
Uu	OO sound in BOOK / LOOK	Üü	As in German

The basic vowels can be short or long with the long vowel sound indicated by a macron above the vowel. Long vowel sounds are slightly dragged out.

**A, E, I, O, U**

**Ā, Ē, Ī, Ō, Ū,**

It is important to show this distinction as it affects the meaning of words. For example:

**Koko**  
(mischievous / bad)

**Kōkō**  
(thorny / prickly)

**Toto**  
(blood)

**Tōtō**  
(to speak / utter)

These are pronounced as in English with a few differences:  
The G is pronounced as the **NG** sound in **SING**.

The R is slightly rolled.

The J is pronounced like **CH** in **CHURCH** and never as **J** in **JUDGE** or **JUG**.

The [ʔ] glottal stop is the sound made in the middle of the phrase Oh-oh or Uh-oh.

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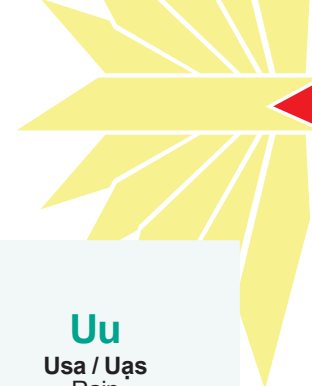


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# Maf Ne Puku | The Alphabet



**Aa**

Ava / Av  
Time

**Ee**

Esu / Es  
Pawpaw

**Ii**

Isu / Is  
Nose

**Oo**

Ono / On  
Six

**Uu**

Usa / Uaş  
Rain

**Aa**

Afaʻu / Afaʻ  
Mist

**Àà**

Àr'aki / Àr'ak  
To Guess

**Ää**

Äfe / Äf  
Thousand / Liver

**Öö**

Ö 'fā  
Father

**Üü**

Ül 'aki / Ül'ak  
To steer

**Pp**

Ponapa / Ponap  
Pineapple

**Tt**

Tanu / Tan  
Water

**Ff**

Fa'puru  
Hat

**Gg**

Gasava / Gasav  
Week

**Hh**

Hefu / Hef  
Stars

**Jj**

Juli / Jül  
Type of Bird

**Kk**

Kalofi / Kalöf  
Eggs

**Ll**

Lā hapa / Lā hap  
Leg

**Mm**

Magkō  
Mangoes

**Nn**

Niu  
Coconut

**Rr**

Rotu / Rot  
Church / Prayer

**Ss**

Solo / Sol  
Mountain / Hill

**Vv**

Vao  
Net

**'[Glottal Stop]**

'Uhi / 'Üh  
Yam

Fa'i / Fä'  
To write

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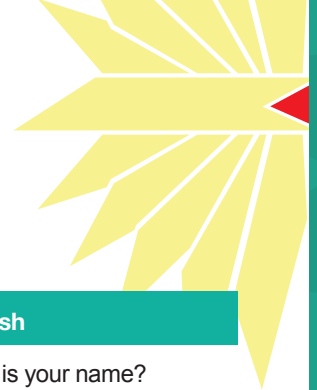


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# Fäeag 'Es'ao | Useful words

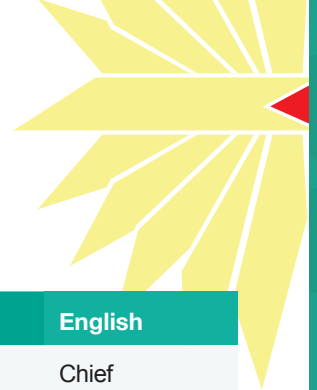


Fäeag Rotuam	English
Noa'ia	Greetings/Hello
Noa'ia 'e ma'uri gagaj 'atakoa	Greetings Everyone
La' ma alalum	Goodbye – to those who are leaving
Fu' ma alalum	Goodbye – to those who are staying
Figalelei	Please
Faiäkse'ea [for-yak-see-yah]	Thank you
Hanis ma röt'äk	Sorry
Turo'	Excuse me

Fäeag Rotuam	English
Ka sei ta ou 'asa?	What is your name?
'Otou asa le _____	My name is _____
Ka 'äe le' ne tei?	Where are you from?
Gou le' ne _____	I am a person from _____
Ka 'äe garue 'e tei?	Where do you work?
Gou garue 'e _____	I work at _____
Ka 'äe tapen?	How are you (singular)?
Ka 'auar tapen?	How are you (dual)?
Ka 'aus tapen?	How are you (plural)?
Gou lelei faiäkse'ea	I am fine, thank you



# Fäeag 'Es'ao | Useful words



Fäeag Rotuam	English
Ka 'äe 'ätē vah? Leu la la' la 'a 'etar te	Have you eaten? Lets go eat
Se fek gou kat hö'äk mijif ra se 'äe	Apologies for the delayed response...
Fak ma se' pukut ne fá' mumuaf	As per my previous email...
Gou 'oaf la haifäegag	Happy to discuss
Av la la' se ut la ös for ta!	It's gym time!
He'em se goua	Call me
'Ua'ua'aki!	Congratulations!
'Aitu ia lelei!	God is good!

Long	Short	English
Gagaj ne hanua		Chief
Fekau ne Rog Hegu	Fekau ne Rog Heg	Church Minister
Le'e	Le'	Child
Ö'fā		Father
O'honi	Ö'hön	Mother
Sasiag hani	Sasiag hán	Sister
Sasiag fā		Brother
Kaumane'aga	Kaumane'ag	Friends



# Faith is an important aspect of the Rotuman culture.

Below is a short prayer and hymn that could be used at the start of your day, to open a meeting or small gathering.

## Rotu | Prayer

Fäeag Rotuam	English
'Is la roa'it	Let us pray
'Otomis Ö'fā fak laḡi	Our heavenly father
'Amis far 'ou aḡalum'ākiga 'e gasav te'	We ask for your blessings this week
Se te' ne 'amis tūtū 'atakoa	To each and every one of us
'E as 'on Jisu Karisto. 'Amen.	In Jesus name we pray. Amen

## Maka | Hymn

Fäeag Rotuam	English
'Aitu hanisim se gou	My God loves me
'E te' ne teraḡi	And all the wonders I see
la pān'āk se 'asisikäet	The rainbow shines through my window
La 'on hanisi.	My God loves me.

