

VOSA VAKAVITI

A brief guide to reading and speaking the Fijian language

PACIFIC LANGUAGE WEEKS



Reading and speaking Vosa VakaViti

There are five vowels

Aa Ee li Oo Uu

Vowels are mostly pronounced as if they were spoken in Spanish, Italian and German (as in **ah** or father, **e**rror, sit, toll, food or too).

Consonants

Bb Cc Dd Ff Gg Jj Kk Ll Mm Nn Oo Pp Qq Rr Ss Tt Uu Vv Ww Yy

Pronouncing Consonants:

Most of the consonants are pronounced the same as they are in English, except for the letters b, c, d, g and q.

B - "mb" as in lumbar. Bula is pronounced "Mbu-la"

C – "th" as in father. Yacata is pronounced "Ya-tha-ta"

D - "nd" as in Sunday. Nadi is pronounce "Na-ndi"

G - "ng" as in finger. Gauna (time) is pronounced "Nga-una"

Q -"nq" as in finger. Qaravi (to serve) is pronounced "Nga-ra-vi"

Note letters like k, p and t, are generally pronounced the same as they are in English, except there is not the sound of a slight breath that usually follows, so "t" would sound like "ch" when it is behind the letter "i." Also, "j" is pronounced like the "ch" as in touch and "v" is pronounced with a short "ve" sound. like in vein.

Stress:

In most cases, unless with long vowels, the stress tends to be on the NEXT to last syllable.

Examples:

Ka u ta – bring, vi naka – thank you, good.

For long vowels, stress is applied wherever it appears.

Examples:

Ki-la, know, macawa - sky, week.

Malanivosa kei na Vosa Phrases and words

Common Phrases	
Ni sa bula vinaka	Greetings / Hello
Ni sa bula vinaka kece sara	Greetings everyone
Ni sa moce	Goodbye
Kerekere	Please
Vinaka vakalevu	Thank you
Vosota	Sorry
Vosoti au	My apologies

∼ Pleasantries —————————		
	1100001111100	
	O cei na yacamu?	What is your name?
	Na yacaqu ko	My name is
	O kemuni mai vei?	Where are you from?
	Au cavu tu mai	I am a person from
	O cakacaka tiko e vei?	Where do you work?
	Au cakacaka tiko e	I work at

Malanivosa kei na Vosa Phrases and words

In Conversation

O sa vakacava tiko? How are you (singular)?

Drau sa vakacava tiko? How are you (dual)?

Dou sa vakacava tiko? How are you (plural)?

Au daumaka tiko, vinaka

I am fine, thank you

O sa kana? Daru lai kana Have you eaten? Let's go eat

Vosota ni bera na veitaratara... Apologies for the delayed response...

Me vaka na imeli sa oti... As per my previous email...

Au marautaka medatou Happy to discuss

veiwasei kina

Sa gauna ni vakaukauwa yago It's gym time!

Qiriti au Call me

Vakanuinui vinaka Congratulations!

Na Kalou e vinaka God is good!

Malanivosa kei na Vosa Phrases and words

Itokani (singular) / I lawalawa (plural)

People —————		
. 00		
Turaga/Vunivalu	Chief	
Na i Talatala	Church Minister	
Gone	Child	
Tama	Father	
Tina	Mother	
Taciqu / Tuakaqu yalewa / Ganequ	Sister	
Taciqu / Tuakaqu tagane / Ganequ	Brother	

Friends

Faith is an important aspect of Fijian culture.

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

Na lotu e dua na ka bibi ena i vakarau vaka Viti. E toka era e dua na masu lekaleka kei na sere ni lotu ka rawa ni vakayagataki me tekivuna na nomu siga, me dola kina na bose se dua na soqo lailai.

Masu Prayer

Meda masu mada Let us pray

Tamai Keimami mai lomalagi Our heavenly father

Keimami kerea na nomuni We ask for your blessings

veivakalougatataki ena macawa oqo this week

Vei keimami yadudua sara To each and every one of us

Am_i

Sere ni lotu Hymn

Emeni

E Iomani au na nogu Kalou My God Ioves me

Kei na veika kece au raica

And all the wonders I see

Drodrolagi e cilava mai na The rainbow shines

katubaleka through my window

E Iomani au na nogu Kalou My God Ioves me

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