

# TE'GANA TUVALU

A brief guide to reading and speaking the Tuvaluan language

PACIFIC LANGUAGE WEEKS



## Reading and speaking Te 'Gana Tuvalu

**Five vowels** 

Aa	Ee	li	Оо	Uu
Āā	Ēē	Īī	Ōō	Ūū
ato	ера	ipu	olesi	utanu

Each vowel has a long and a short duration and each consonant may be held or dwelt on in such a way as to give the succeeding vowel a slight explosive sound. Every word ends in a vowel.

- Short a sound: mata eye, face.
  Both vowels sounded as "u" in "butter"
- Long a sound: fanau offspring. a sounded as "a" in "father"
- Short e sound: pepe butterfly, moth. Both vowels sounded as "e" in "bet"
- Long e sound: pefea how. e sounded as "e" in "send"
- Short i sound: titi woman's kilt.
  Both vowels sounded as "i" in "tin"

- Long i sound: sili to ask.
  i sounded as "i" in "litre"
- Short o sound: popo copra.
  Both vowels sounded as "o" in "pot"
- Long o sound: po night.
  o sounded as "o" in "north"
- Short u sound: tuku put, give.
  Both vowels sounded as "u" in "pull"
- Long u sound: pula shine. u sounded as "u" in "rule"

#### Consonants

Ff	Gg	Hh	Kk	LI	Mm
fā	gā	hā	kā	lā	mō
fale	gatu	hau	kitala	lami	moe
	-	•	<b>—</b> .		
Nn	Рр	Ss	Tt	Vv	
<b>Nn</b> nū	<b>Рр</b> pī	<b>Ss</b> sā	<b>Tt</b> tī	<b>Vv</b> ∨ī	
					le

## Pati Aoga Helpful Words

Common Phrases	
Talofa	Greetings / Hello
Talofa koutou	Greetings everyone
Tofa - Fano La	Goodbye – to those who are leaving
Tofa - Nofo La	Goodbye – to those who are staying
Fakamolemole	Please
Fakafetai	Thank you
Fakatoese	Sorry
Fakamolemole / Tulou	Excuse me

#### Pleasantries

Ko oi tou igoa?	What is your name?
Toku igoa ko	My name is
Koe se tino mai fea?	Where are you from?
Au se tino mai	I am a person from
Koe e galue i fea?	Where do you work?
Au e galue i te	I work at

## Pati Aoga Helpful Words

In Conversation	
Ea koe?	How are you (singular)?
Ea koulua?	How are you (dual)?
Ea koutou?	How are you (three or more / plural)?
Au e malosi, fakafetai.	I am fine, thank you
Ko oti koe ne kai? Ta olo o 'kai	Have you eaten? Let's go eat
Fakatoese atu mo te tuai o tali atu	Apologies for the delayed response
Pela loa mo taku meli taluai	As per my previous email
Fiafia o faimanatu	Happy to discuss
Taimi o te gym!	lt's gym time
Telefoni mai (phone) Kalaga mai (shout)	Call me
Manuia!	Congratulations!
Te Atua e lelei!	God is good!

## Pati Aoga Helpful Words

People	
i copie	
Matai	Chief
Faifeau	Church Minister
Tamaliki	Child
Tamana	Father
Mātua	Mother
Tino Matua	Elderly
Tuagaene	Sister / Brother (different gender)
Taina	Sister / Brother (same gender)
Taugasoa	Friends



## Faith is an important aspect of the Tuvalu 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.

Talitonuga se vaega tāua o tuu mo aganuku Tuvalu. E isi se talosaga mo te pese lotu 'toetoe' mai lalo kola e mafai o fakaaoga o kamata ki ei tou aso, io me 'tala ki ei se fonotaga io me se maopoopoga foliki.

#### Ta losaga io me se Lotu Prayer

#### Fai tou 'talo

Te motou Tamana tela i te lagi

A matou ko akai atu ki tau fakamanuiaga i te vaiaso tenei

Mo matou katoa

I te igoa o lesu e 'talo atu ei matou. Amene. Let us pray

Our heavenly father

We ask for your blessings this week

To each and every one of us

In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

#### Pese Hymn

Te Atua e alofa ki a au I mea katoa e lavea ne au

Te nuanua e maina ki toku faamalama

Te Atua e alofa ki a au

My God loves me And all the wonders I see The rainbow shines through my window

My God loves me.



