



Lea Faka-Tonga

Tongan Language

'Alafapeti Faka-Tonga | Guide & alphabet

It is important that the short and long vowel sounds are used, as they distinguish between different words – e.g. kākā (to cheat) or kaka (to climb).

Fakau 'a always comes before a vowel sound. This changes the vowel to a shorter, sharper sound. This also distinguishes between different words – e.g. anga (behaviour) and 'anga (shark).

'a, 'e, 'i, 'o, 'u

(as in the English: **ah** ha, **e**lephant, **inn**, **o**range, **oo**h la la)

'ā, 'ē, 'ī, 'ō, 'ū

(as in the English: **A**men, **e**gg, **e**asy, **o**h no, **sou**p)

Lea Faka-Tonga has twelve konisonānite (consonants):

f h k l m n ng p s t v and **[']** fakau'a (glottal stop)

The consonants are pronounced like in English.

The 'ng' blend is like the 'nga' sound in te reo Māori, or the 'ng' sound from the English word 'song'.

The Tongan language also uses fakamamafa he Lea Fiepipiki (stress marks). This mark at the end of a word tells us to make the vowel sound more exaggerated.

For example, when we say the word Tonga' it tells us to emphasise the 'a' sound at the end.

'Alafapeti Faka-Tonga | Tongan Alphabet

Aa

'Āpele (Apple)

Ee

'Elefānite (Elephant)

Ii

Ī (Fan)

Oo

Ono (Six)

Uu

Ukamea (Iron)

Ff

Fale (House)

Hh

Hala (Road)

Kk

Kahoa (Necklace)

Ll

Letiō (Radio)

Mm

Mango (Mango)

Nn

Niu (Coconut)

Ng/ng

Ngatu (Tapa)

Pp

Peleti (Plate)

Ss

Sote (Shirt)

Tt

Tamai (Father)

Vv

Vaka (Canoe)

[']

'Umata (Rainbow)

A E I O U

F H K L M N N G P S T V '

Ngaahi Lea Faka-Tonga 'e 'aonga kiate koe

Useful / Everyday words

Tongan / Lea Faka-Tonga	English / Lea Faka-Pilitānia
Mālō e lelei	Greetings/Hello
Mālō e lelei	Greetings Everyone
'Alu ā	Goodbye – to those who are leaving (only if it applies)
Nofo ā	Goodbye – to those who are staying/Goodbye on the phone
Fakamolemole	Please
Mālō 'aupito	Thank you

Tongan / Lea Faka-Tonga	English / Lea Faka-Pilitānia
Kātaki fakamolemole	Sorry
Tulou or Kātaki fakamolemole	Excuse me
Ko hai ho hingoa?	What is your name?
Ko hoku hingoa ko	My name is _____
'Oku ke ha'u mei fe?	Where do you come from?
Ko ho'o ha'u mei fe?	
'Oku ou ha'u mei ...	I am a person from _____

Ngaahi Lea Faka-Tonga 'e 'aonga kiate koe

Useful / Everyday words

Tongan / Lea Faka-Tonga	English / Lea Faka-Pilitānia
'Oku ke ngāue 'i fe?	Where do you work?
'Oku ou ngāue 'i ...	I work at _____
'Oku ke fēfē hake?	How are you (singular)?
'Oku mo fēfē hake?	How are you (dual)?

Tongan / Lea Faka-Tonga	English / Lea Faka-Pilitānia
'Oku mou fēfē hake?	How are you (plural)?
'Oku ou sai pē, mālō	I am fine, thank you
'Oku ke 'osi kai?	Have you eaten?
Ta 'alu 'o kai	Let's go eat

Ngaahi Lea Faka-Tonga 'e 'aonga kiate koe

Useful / Everyday words

Tongan / Lea Faka-Tonga	English / Lea Faka-Pilitānia
Fakamolemole 'i he tuai 'eku fetu'utaki atu'	Apologies for the delayed response...
Hangē pe ko 'eku 'imeli ki mu'a	As per my previous email...
'Oku ou fiefia ke ta talanoa	I'm happy to discuss
Taimi fakamālohisisino	It's gym time! It's exercise/training time
Tā mai	Call me
Fakafeta'i	Thanksgiving, Giving praise
'Oku lelei 'a e 'Otua	God is good!

Tongan / Lea Faka-Tonga	English / Lea Faka-Pilitānia
Matāpule	Talking Chief or Orator
Faifekau	Church Minister
Tama	Child
Tamai	Father
Fa'ē	Mother
Tuofefine	Sister
Tuonga'ane	Brother
Kaungāme'a	Friends

Faith is an important aspect of the Tongan 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.

Lotu | Prayer

Tongan / Lea Faka-Tonga	English / Lea Faka-Pilitānia
Ke tau lotu	Let us pray
Ko 'emau Tamai 'oku 'i hēvani	Our heavenly father
'Oku mau kole ke ke tāpuaki'i 'ae uike ni	We ask for your blessings this week
Mo kimautilu hono kotoa	Each and every one of us
Ko 'emau lotu ia, 'ia Sisu Kalaisi ko homau 'Eiki, 'Emeni	That is our prayer, In Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Himi 114 | Hymn 114

Tongan / Lea Faka-Tonga	English / Lea Faka-Pilitānia
'Eiki ko e 'ofa 'a 'au	Lord your love
Ko e moana loloto	is the deep ocean
Pea ngalo hifo ki ai	and buried in it
'Eku ngaahi angahia	are my sins
Pea kuo 'ufi'ufi	and covered
'Eku kovi kotoa pe	are my transgressions