

Reading and speaking

Vosa VakaViti

There are five vowels

Aa Ee Ii Oo Uu

Vowels are mostly pronounced as if they were spoken in Spanish, Italian and German (as in **ah** or father, **error**, 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 pronounced “Na-ndi”

G – “ng” as in finger.

Gauna (time) is pronounced “Nga-una”

Q – “nq” as in finger. Qaravi (to serve)

is pronounced “Nqa-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

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
veiwasei kina

Happy to discuss

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*

People

Turaga/Vunivalu

Chief

Na i Talatala

Church Minister

Gone

Child

Tama

Father

Tina

Mother

Taciqu / Tuakaqu yalewa / Ganequ

Sister

Taciqu / Tuakaqu tagane / Ganequ

Brother

Itokani (singular) / I lawalawa (plural)

Friends

