



Te Gana Tuvalu

Tuvalu Language

Faka'leoga mo Mataimanu | Pronunciation guide & Alphabet

Five vowels a, e, i, o, u

Aa	Ee	Ii	Oo	Uu
ā	ē	ī	ō	ū
ato	epa	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 “c” 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**”

Eleven consonants (including the diagraph ng)

f, h, k, l, m, n, ng, p, s, t, v

Mataimanu ite gana Tuvalu | The Tuvalu Alphabet

Ff	Gg	Hh	Kk	Ll
fā	gā	hā	kā	Lā
fale	gatu	hau	kitala	Lami
Mm	Gg	Nn	Pp	Ss
mō	gā	nū	pī	sā
moe	gatu	nonu	papa	sopu
Tt	Vv			
tī	vī			
tusi	vakalele			

Pati Aoga | Helpful Words

Te Gana Tuvalu	English
Talofa	Greetings/Hello
Talofa koutou	Greetings Everyone
Tofa	Goodbye – to those who are leaving
Tofa	Goodbye – to those who are staying
Fakamolemole	Please
Fakafetai	Thank you
Fakatoese	Sorry

Te Gana Tuvalu	English
Usually we use “Fakamolemole” or “Tulou”	Excuse me
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 _____

Pati Aoga | Helpful Words

Te Gana Tuvalu	English
Koe e galue i fea?	Where do you work?
Au e galue i te _____	I work at _____
Ea koe?	How are you (singular)?
Ea koulua?	How are you (dual)?
Ea koutou? (three or more people)	How are you (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

Te Gana Tuvalu	English
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!	It's gym time!
Telefoni mai (phone) Kalaga mai (shout)	Call me
Manuia!	Congratulations!
Te Atua e lelei!	God is good!

Pati Aoga | Helpful Words

Te Gana Tuvalu	English
Alik	Chief
Faifeau	Church Minister
Tamaliki	Child
Tamana	Father
Mātua	Mother

Te Gana Tuvalu	English
Matua	Elderly
Tuagaene (girl to a boy and vice versa)	Sister
Taina (boy to a boy and girl to a girl)	Brother
Taugasoa	Friends

Faith is an important aspect of the Tuvalu 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.

Talitonuga se vaega tāua o tuu mo aganuu 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

Te Gana Tuvalu	English
Fai tou 'talo	Let us pray
Te motou tamana tela i te lagi	Our heavenly father
E akai atu matou ki au fakamanuiaga i te vaiaso tenei	We ask for your blessings this week
Mo matou katoa	To each and every one of us
I te igoa o Iesu e 'talo atu ei matou. Amene	In Jesus name we pray. Amen

Pese | Hymn

Te Gana Tuvalu	English
Toku Atua e alofa mai	My God loves me
Mo mea 'gali katoa eu matea	And all the wonders I see
Te nuanua e maina mai i toku famalama	The rainbow shines through my window
Toku Atua e alofa mai	My God loves me