



# Gagana Samoa

## Samoa Language

**PACIFIC**  
*LANGUAGE*  
**WEEKS**



**Ministry for  
Pacific  
Peoples**  
Te Manatū mō ngā Iwi o te Moana-nui-ā-Kiwa

# Gagana Samoa | Samoan Language

The core Samoan alphabet is comprised of 14 letters:

The consonants (konesane): **F, G, L, M, N, P, S, T** and **V**

The vowels (vaueli): **A, E, I, O** and **U** (as in the English language: **are, there, three, or, too**).

These vowels have the same pronunciation as other Pacific languages, including te reo Māori (Māori language).

The letters **K, H** and **R** are also used, but usually for foreign loanwords and/or for colloquial language. Vowels can be long or short. Long vowels are marked with a macron (e.g. ā).

ā, ē, ī, ō, ū

(as in the English language: **father, egg, feet, thought, loot**)

It is important that the short and long vowel sounds are used, as they distinguish between different words e.g. **ava** (respect) verses **āvā** (wife).

The glottal stop ( ' ) is also used in Samoan and is treated as a consonant. It creates a pause between two vowels or creates a sharper sound when used at the start of a word, as the sound made in the English word **uh-oh**. Using the glottal stop, distinguishes different words such as **fa'i** (banana) and **fai** (to do), or **'ulu** (breadfruit) and **ulu** (head).

## O le Pi Faitau | The Samoan Alphabet

**Aa**

Ato (Bag)

**Ee**

Elefane (Elephant)

**Ii**

Ipu (Cup)

**Oo**

Ofu (Clothes)

**Uu**

Uati (Watch)

**Ff**

Fagu (Bottle)

**Gg**

Gata (Snake)

**Ll**

Logo (Bell)

**Mm**

Moa (Chicken)

**Nn**

Nofoa (Chair)

**Pp**

Pusi (Cat)

**Ss**

Solofanua (Horse)

**Tt**

Ta'avale (Car)

**Vv**

Va'a (Boat)

**Hh**

Helikopa  
(Helicopter)

**Kk**

Kirikiti (Cricket)

**Rr**

Rāpiti (Rabbit)

**A E I O U**  
**F G L M N P S T V H K R**



# Gagana o aso uma | Everyday phrases

Samoan	English
Tālofa lava	Greetings/Hello
Tōfā	Goodbye
Fa'amolemole	Please
Fa'afetai	Thank you
Malie / Fa'amalie atu / Fa'amālūlū atu	Sorry
Tulou	Excuse me

Samoan	English
O ai lou igoa?	What is your name?
O lo'u igoa o _____	My name is _____
O fea e te sau ai?	Where are you from?
Ou te sau mai _____	I am from _____
O fea e te faigaluega ai?	Where do you work?
Ou te faigaluega i _____	I work at _____



# Gagana o aso uma | Everyday phrases

Samoan	English
<b>O ā mai oe?</b>	How are you (singular)?
<b>O ā mai oulua?</b>	How are you (dual)?
<b>O ā mai outou?</b>	How are you (plural)?
<b>O lea ou te manuia fa'afetai</b>	I am good, thank you
<b>Ua e 'ai? Sau ta a'ai</b>	Have you eaten? Come eat with me
<b>Fa'amalie atu i le tuai atu o se tali...</b>	Apologies for the delayed response...

Samoan	English
<b>I la'u imeli talu ai...</b>	As per my previous email...
<b>Ou te fiafia e fa'atalanoa atili lenei mataupu</b>	Happy to discuss
<b>Uo o'o i le taimi o le fa'amalosi tino!</b>	It's gym time!
<b>Vili mai / Vala'au mai</b>	Call me
<b>Fa'amālō atu!</b>	Congratulations!
<b>E lelei le Atua!</b>	God is good!



# Gagana o aso uma | Everyday phrases

Samoan	English
<b>Matai</b>	Chief/Orator
<b>Faife'au</b>	Church Minister
<b>Tamaitiiti / Teineitiiti</b>	Child
<b>Tamā</b>	Father

Samoan	English
<b>Tinā</b>	Mother
<b>Tuafafine (male to female), Uso (female to female)</b>	Sister
<b>Tuagane (female to male), Uso (male to male)</b>	Brother
<b>Uō</b>	Friends



# Faith is an important aspect of the Samoan 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.

## Tatalo | Prayer

Samoan	English
<b>Tātou tatalo</b>	Let us pray
<b>Lo matou Tamā o i le lagi</b>	Our heavenly father
<b>Ia e fa'amanuia mai, i lenei vaiaso</b>	We ask for your blessings this week
<b>Ia te i matou uma ta'ito'atasi</b>	To each and every one of us
<b>I le suafa o Iesu, Āmene.</b>	In Jesus name we pray, Amen.

## Pese | Hymn

Samoan	English
<b>E alofa le Atua ia te a'u</b>	My God loves me
<b>Ma mea matagofie ua ou va'aia</b>	And all the wonders I see
<b>Le nuanua e susulu mai i lo'u fa'amalama</b>	The rainbow shines through my window
<b>E alofa le Atua ia te a'u</b>	My God loves me

