



Fäeag Rotuam

Rotuman Language

Fäeag Rotuam | Rotuman Language

Fäeag Rotuam ta (The Rotuman Language) has five basic vowels:

A E I O U. These basic vowels have the same pronunciation as other Pacific Languages and Te Reo Māori. There are also five variations to these vowels: **Ā Ā Ā Ö Ü**. These are slightly different ways of pronouncing the vowels A, O and U.

Letter	Pronunciation	Letter	Pronunciation
Aa	A sound in FAR / CAR	Āā	A sound PAW (American Eng.)
Ee	E sound in EGG / PET	Āā	Long A sound in CAT / BAT
Ii	EE sound in FEET / SWEET	Āā	Short A sound in CAT / BAT
Oo	O sound in CORE / SHORE	Öö	U sound in FUR (American Eng.)
Uu	OO sound in BOOK / LOOK	Üü	As in German

The basic vowels can be short or long with the long vowel sound indicated by a macron above the vowel. Long vowel sounds are slightly dragged out.

A, E, I, O, U

Ā, Ē, Ī, Ō, Ū

It is important to show this distinction as it affects the meaning of words. For example:

Koko
(mischievous / bad)

Kōkō
(thorny / prickly)

Toto
(blood)

Tōtō
(to speak / utter)

These are pronounced as in English with a few differences:

The G is pronounced as the **NG** sound in **SING**.

The R is slightly rolled.

The J is pronounced like **CH** in **CHURCH** and never as **J** in **JUDGE** or **JUG**.

The [ʔ] glottal stop is the sound made in the middle of the phrase Oh-oh or Uh-oh.

Maf Ne Puku | The Alphabet

Aa

Ava / Av
Time

Ee

Esu / Es
Pawpaw

Ii

Isu / Is
Nose

Oo

Ono / On
Six

Uu

Usa / Uaş
Rain

Aa

Afafu / Afaʻ
Mist

Àà

Àr'aki / Àr'ák
To Guess

Ää

Äfe / Äf
Thousand / Liver

Öö

Ö'fa
Father

Üü

Ül'aki / Ül'ák
To steer

Pp

Ponapa / Ponap
Pineapple

Tt

Tanu / Tan
Water

Ff

Fa'purou
Hat

Gg

Gasava / Gasav
Week

Hh

Hefu / Hef
Stars

Jj

Juli / Jül
Type of Bird

Kk

Kalofi / Kalöf
Eggs

Ll

Lā hapa / Lā hap
Leg

Mm

Magkō
Mangoes

Nn

Niu
Coconut

Rr

Rotu / Rot
Church / Prayer

Ss

Solo / Sol
Mountain / Hill

Vv

Vao
Net

' [Glottal Stop]

'Uhi / 'Uh
Yam

Fa'i / Fa'
To write

Fäeag 'Es'ao | Useful words

Fäeag Rotuam	English
Noa'ia	Greetings/Hello
Noa'ia 'e mauri gagaj 'atakoa	Greetings Everyone
Hö'/La' ma alalum	Goodbye – to those who are leaving
Fu' ma alalum	Goodbye – to those who are staying
Figalelei	Please
Faiäkse'ea [for-yak-see-yah]	Thank you
Hanis ma röt'äk	Sorry
Turo'	Excuse me
Ka sei ta 'ou asa?	What is your name?
'Otu asa le _____	My name is _____

Fäeag Rotuam	English
Ka 'äe le' ne tei?	Where are you from?
Gou le' ne _____	I am a person from _____
Ka 'äe garue 'e tei?	Where do you work?
Gou garue 'e _____	I work at _____
Ka 'äe tapen?	How are you (singular)?
Ka 'auar tapen?	How are you (dual)?
Ka 'aus tapen?	How are you (plural)?
Gou lelei faiäkse'ea	I am fine, thank you
Ka 'äe 'ätē vah? Leu la la' la 'a 'etar te	Have you eaten? Lets go eat
Se fek gou kat hö'äk mijif ra se 'äe	Apologies for the delayed response...
Fak ma se' pukut ne fä' mumuaf	As per my previous email...

Fäeag 'Es'ao | Useful words

Fäeag Rotuam	English
Gou 'oaf la haifäeagag	Happy to discuss
Av la la' se ut la ös for ta!	It's gym time!
He'em se goua	Call me
'Ua'ua'aki!	Congratulations!
'Aitu ia lelei!	God is good!

Long	Short	English
Gagaj ne hanua		Chief
Fekau ne Rog Hegu	Fekau ne Rog Heg	Church Minister
Le'e	Le'	Child
Ö'fä		Father
O'honi	Ö'hön	Mother
Sasiag hani	Sasiag han	Sister
Sasiag fä		Brother
Kaumane'aga	Kaumane'ag	Friends

Faith is an important aspect of the Rotuman 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.

Rotu | Prayer

Fäeag Rotuam	English
'Is la roa'it	Let us pray
'Otomis Ö'fā fak laḡi	Our heavenly father
'Amis far 'ou aḷalum 'ākiga 'e gasav te'	We ask for your blessings this week
Se te' ne 'amis tūtū 'atakoa	To each and every one of us
'E as 'on Jisu Karisto. 'Amen.	In Jesus name we pray. Amen

Maka | Hymn

Fäeag Rotuam	English
'Aitu hanisim se gou	My God loves me
'E te' ne terani	And all the wonders I see
la pān'āk se 'asisikāet	The rainbow shines through my window
La 'on hanisi.	My God loves me.