



Gagana Samoa

Samoan Language

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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: **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: **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) versus **āvā** (wife).

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

Samoaan	English
Tālofa lava	Greetings/Hello
Tōfā	Goodbye
Fa'amolemole	Please
Fa'afetai	Thank you
Malie / Fa'amalie atu / Fa'amalulu atu	Sorry
Tulou	Excuse me
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 _____
O ā mai oe?	How are you (singular)?
O ā mai oulua?	How are you (dual)?
O ā mai outou?	How are you (plural)?
O lea ou te manuia fa'afetai	I am good, thank you
Ua e 'ai? Sau ta a'ai	Have you eaten? Come eat with me
Fa'amalie atu i le tuai atu o se tali...	Apologies for the delayed response...

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

Samoaan	English
Matai	Chief/Orator
Faife'au	Church Minister
Tamaitiiti / Teineitiiti	Child
Tamā	Father
Tinā	Mother
Tuafafine (male to female), Uso (female to female)	Sister
Tuagane (female to male), Uso (male to male)	Brother
Uō	Friends

Faith is an important aspect of the Samoan 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.

Tatalo | Prayer

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

Pese | Hymn

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