



# Lea Faka-Tonga

## Tongan Language

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# 'Alafapeti Faka-Tonga | Pronunciation guide & alphabet

It is important that the short and long vowel sounds are used, as they distinguish between different words – e.g. kākā (to cheat) or kaka (to climb).

Fakau'a always comes before a vowel sound.

This changes the vowel to a shorter, sharper sound.

This also distinguishes between different words – e.g. anga (behaviour) and 'anga (shark).

**'a, 'e, 'i, 'o, 'u**

(as in the English: **ah** ha, **elephant**, **inn**, **orange**, **oooh** la la)

**'ā, 'ē, 'ī, 'ō, 'ū**

(as in the English: **Amen**, **egg**, **easy**, **oh** no, **soup**)

Lea Faka-Tonga has twelve konisonānite (consonants):

**f h k l m n ng p s t v** and **[ʔ]** fakau'a (glottal stop)

The consonants are pronounced like in English.

The 'ng' blend is like the 'nga' sound in te reo Māori, or the 'ng' sound from the English word 'song'.

The Tongan language also uses fakamamafa he Lea Fiepipiki (stress marks). This mark at the end of a word tells us to make the vowel sound more exaggerated.

For example, when we say the word Tonga' it tells us to emphasise the 'a' sound at the end.

## 'Alafapeti Faka-Tonga | Tongan Alphabet

**Aa**

'Apele (Apple)

**Ee**

'Elefānite (Elephant)

**Ii**

Ī (Fan)

**Oo**

Ono (Six)

**Uu**

Ukamea (Iron)

**Ff**

Fale (House)

**Hh**

Hala (Road)

**Kk**

Kahoa (Necklace)

**Ll**

Letio (Radio)

**Mm**

Mango (Mango)

**Nn**

Niu (Coconut)

**Ng/ng**

Ngatu (Tapa)

**Pp**

Peleti (Plate)

**Ss**

Sote (Shirt)

**Tt**

Tamai (Father)

**Vv**

Vaka (Canoe)

**[ʔ]**

'Umata (Rainbow)

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

# Ngaahi Lea Faka-Tonga 'e anonga kiate koe

## Useful / Everyday words

Tongan / Lea Faka-Tonga	English / Lea Faka-Pilitania
<b>Mālō e lelei</b>	Greetings/Hello
<b>Mālō e lelei</b>	Greetings Everyone
<b>Alu ā</b>	Goodbye – to those who are leaving (only if it applies)
<b>Nofo ā</b>	Goodbye – to those who are staying/Goodbye on the phone
<b>Fakamolemole</b>	Please
<b>Mālō ‘aupito</b>	Thank you
<b>Kātaki fakamolemole</b>	Sorry
<b>Tulou or Kātaki fakamolemole</b>	Excuse me
<b>Ko hai ho hingoa?</b>	What is your name?
<b>Ko hoku hingoa ko</b>	My name is _____
<b>‘Oku ke lele mai mei fe?</b>	Where are you from?
<b>‘Oku ou lele mei ...</b>	I am a person from _____
<b>‘Oku ke ngāue ‘i fe?</b>	Where do you work?

Tongan / Lea Faka-Tonga	English / Lea Faka-Pilitania
<b>‘Oku ou ngāue ‘i ...</b>	I work at _____
<b>‘Oku ke fēfē hake?</b>	How are you (singular)?
<b>‘Oku mo fēfē hake?</b>	How are you (dual)?
<b>‘Oku mou fēfē hake?</b>	How are you (plural)?
<b>‘Oku ou sai pē, mālō</b>	I am fine, thank you
<b>Ke osi kai? Ta alu ‘o kai</b>	Have you eaten? Let's go eat
<b>Fakamolemole ‘i he tuai ‘eku fetu‘utaki atu’</b>	Apologies for the delayed response...
<b>Hangē pe ko ‘eku ‘imeli ki mu’a</b>	As per my previous email...
<b>‘Oku ou fiefia ke tā talanoa</b>	I'm happy to discuss
<b>Taimi fakamālohisino</b>	It's gym time!
<b>Tā mai</b>	Call me
<b>Fakafeta’i</b>	Congratulations!
<b>‘Oku lelei ‘a e ‘Otua</b>	God is good!

# Ngaahi Lea Faka-Tonga 'e anonga kiate koe

Useful / Everyday words

Tongan / Lea Faka-Tonga	English / Lea Faka-Pilitania	Tongan / Lea Faka-Tonga	English / Lea Faka-Pilitania
<b>Matāpule</b>	Chief	<b>Fa'e</b>	Mother
<b>Faifekau</b>	Church Minister	<b>Tuofine</b>	Sister
<b>Tama</b>	Child	<b>Tuonga'ane</b>	Brother
<b>Tamai</b>	Father	<b>Kaungāme'a</b>	Friends

# Faith is an important aspect of the Tongan 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.

## Lotu | Prayer

Tongan / Lea Faka-Tonga	English / Lea Faka-Pilitania
<b>Ke tau lotu</b>	Let us pray
<b>Ko 'emau Tamai 'oku 'i hēvani</b>	Our heavenly father
<b>'Oku mau kole ke ke tapuaki'i ae uike ni</b>	We ask for your blessings this week
<b>Mo kimautolu hono kotoa</b>	Each and every one of us
<b>Ko 'emau lotu ia, 'ia Sisu Kalaisi ko ho mau 'Eiki, 'Emeni</b>	In Jesus name we pray. Amen

## Himi | Hymn

Tongan / Lea Faka-Tonga	English / Lea Faka-Pilitania
<b>'Ofa'i au 'ehe 'Otua</b>	My God loves me
<b>Mo e me'a kotoa 'oku 'iai</b>	And all the wonders I see
<b>Hulu mai 'a e huelo 'o 'ene 'ofa</b>	The rainbow shines through my window
<b>'Ofa'i au 'ehe 'Otua</b>	My God loves me