



toki pona is a **minimalist** language that focuses on the good things of life.

It is designed to express a lot using few words..

The entire language consists of only 120 words.

It's **objetives** are to break down complicated things into small parts, eliminate what is unnecessary, to be fun, to play nice, to live in the present, and to help people live simply and happily.



toki pona was created by **Sonja Elen Kisa** and was published on the internet for the first time in 2001.

As a fan of languages, world traveling, intercultural communications, exploring spirituality and consciousness, a lesbian and a survivor of depression and anxiety, Sonja naturally felt inclined to pool her experience and unique perspective in a creative project that she could share.

Sonja was born in Canada in 1978, speaks luent English, French, Esperanto and German, and has studied dozens of languages. Her other interests include taekwondo, role playing games, develping minority groups and communities and eating sushi.



toki pona (in English, Esperanto and toki pona) the official page. http://www.tokipona.org

> lipu pi jan Pije (in English) an excellent site on toki pona http://toki.co.nr

cursos:

toki pona lessons (in English): http://tokipona.esperanto-ieunes.org/lesson/lesson0.html

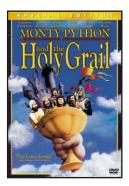
Recursos en Catalá per a toki pona (en Catalán): http://vicerveza.homeunix.net/~viric/tokipona/

Токи Пона (in Russian): http://ixite.ru/toki_pona

Leçons de toki pona (in French): http://lvogel.free.fr/tokipona/

Was ist toki pona? (in German): http://rowa.giso.de/languages/toki-pona/german/index.php

Baza lecionaro de tokipono (in Esperanto): http://vicerveza.homeunix.net/~viric/tokipona/





a full translation in **toki pona** of the dialogues of the British comedy *Monty Python and the Holy Grial* is available at:
http://tokipona.esperanto-jeunes.org/text/mphg.html







comunities of toki pona

on Yahoo! (200+ members):

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/tokipona/, on Livejournal (100+ members):

http://www.livejournal.com/community/tokipona/

and on Wikicities:

http://tokipona.wikicities.com/





several stories in **toki pona**with Daoist teachings, can be found at:
http://tokipona.esperanto-jeunes.org/text/nasin/nasin.html



classes in toki pona in Vermont, United States





more classes of toki pona





shirts with toki pona in Georgia, United States

why learn?



because it is fun, easy to learn and unlike any other language.

everything sounds more sincere.

for a hobby.

to teach your friends and use as a secret language.

to think in another language without having to spend years of studying.

to see all you can say with only 120 words.

because learning languages is a skill that improves the more you learn languages.

because it teaches you to see things differently.

for simple talking.

I think you can learn it on a rainy day or in a week if you take it easy

why not give it a try?

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to convert to toki pona

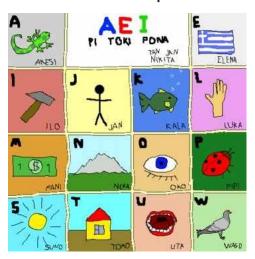
Appendix

examples our father proverbs

more proverbs

pronunciation

all the letters of toki pona:



with the exception of **j**, all the letters are pronounced the same as in Spanish.

The **j** is pronounced like **y**.

The first syllable is stressed when speaking.

first words



mi I sina you ona he, she, it



pona good, simple, to fix...
moku eat, food
kili fruit
pipi insect





2 simple sentences

{mi, sina} + {word}

imi pona! I am good! sina moku you eat



second part of simple sentences

{subject other than mi or sina} + li + {something}

ona li pona she is good
kili li moku fruit is food
pipi li pona the insect is good





that which receives the action is preceded by ${\bf e}$.

{mi, sina} + {verb} + e + {direct object} {subject other than mi or sina} + li + {verb} + e + {direct object}

mi moku e kili I eat the fruit pipi li moku e moku the insect eats the food



more words

```
jo to have
lili small, little, young...
suli big, tall, long, important...
jan person, someone, anyone...
moli killing, dying, death
ilo tool
ijo thing, something
```





if you put 2 words together, the 2nd word describes the first word. **mi**, **sina**, **li** y **e** are exceptions.

> moku pona good food jan lili small person jan suli big person kili lili little fruit

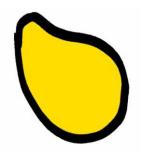
isina moli e pipi lili! you killed a little bug!

pipi li moku e ijo. the insect is eating something



a poem

mi jo e kili ona li pona ona li lili mi moku lili e kili lili I have a fruit.
it is good.
it is small.
I nibble on the little fruit.





in toki pona the verb 'to be' does not exist

Ii and **e** mean nothing by themselves but give structure to the sentence.

The principal function of **li**, for example, is to indicate that the words that come before li are the subject.

When the subject is **mi** o **sina**,
the **li** is understood and not used.

e, on the other hand, usually indicates that what comes before the e is the verb and what comes after is what receives the action.



there are no tenses

mi pona I am good

or I was good or I will be good

sina moku you eat

or you have eatenor you will eat

pipi li moli the bug is dead

or the bug diedor the bug will die

possesives

moku mi m pipi sina yo ilo jan so kili ona hi mi jo e ilo sina.

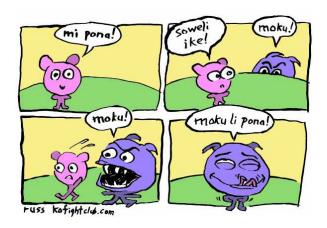
my food your bug somebody's tool his fruit I have your tool.





more 10

water, liquid telo sun, light suno sex, to have sex unpa bad, evil, complicated ike war, to fight utala crazy, weird, stupid nasa olin to love (a person) much, many mute



compound words

many ideas that are expressed using one word in English, are expressed using multiple words in toki pona

ilo moku fork, spoon...

ilo utala gun

jan pona friend

jan utala soldier

jan unpa prostitute, lover jan olin boy friend, girl friend

jan suli adult jan lili child

telo nasa alcoholic drink

mi mute us ona mute they

12 plurals

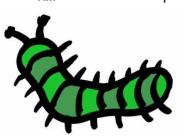
there are no plurals

pipi insect or insects

ilo tool or tools

jan person or people

kili one or multiple fruit



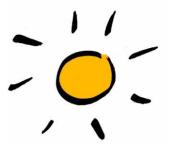
13 compound sentences #1

one subject with multiple verbs

{mi, sina} + {word} + li + {word} {subject other than mi or sina} + li + {word} + li + {word}

sina suli li ike. ona li pona li suli li nasa. suno li suli li pona. pipi li moku e kili li unpa.

jan nasa li jo e ilo utala li moli e jan lili . you are big and bad
he is good, big and crazy
the sun is big and good
the insect eats fruit
and has sex
the crazy person has a gun
and killed the child.



14 examples

we can say many things...

¡mi nasa! mi olin e sina. jan utala li utala e ona li moli e ona. ¡sina jan lili! jan suli li moku e telo nasa. mi jo e jan olin. ¡mi mute li moli! sina ike mute. I am crazy!
I love you
the soldier fought with her
and killed her
you are a child ???.
the adults drink alcohol
I have a girl friend.
we kill or we die
you are very bad

jike! ¡pona! that's wrong ! oh dear ! great ! OK ! yay !

more 15 words

lukin look
 wile want, need, have to, must
 jaki dirty, disgusting, garbage
 tomo house, building, indoors
 ko soft or squishy substance, paste
 ni this, that
 mun moon



nasa = crazy | olin = love | sina = you | jan utala = soldier utala = fight | ona = she, her | telo nasa = alcohol | moli = kill ike = bad | mute = many



in toki pona the word meanings are quite broad

mi telo e mi. mi pona e tomo mi. jan lili li wile e telo kili. pipi li moku e ona. jan ni li pona lukin.

I am washing myself I fix my house. the children want fruit juice

the bug bit him that person is pretty

sina ike lukin. ko jaki ko moku

you are ugly. feces baby food

yuck! ijaki!



compound sentences #2

several direct objects

{mi, sina} + {verb} + e + {object} + e + {object} {subject different from mi or sina} + li + {verb} + e + {object} + e + {object}

mi olin e sina e ona. I love you and her sina moku e kili ike you eat rotten fruit e telo jaki. and dirty water mi lukin e suno e mun. I look at the sun and the moon jan ni li lukin e mi e sina. that person is looking at you and me

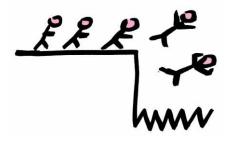


wile can be used as a verb or along with another verb

mi wile moku I wish to eat mi wile e moku. I want food

mi wile moku e telo. I wish to drink water

ona li wile mute e ni. he wants that very much ona li wile jo e tomo. she wishes to have a house mi wile mute lukin e sina. I wish to see you very much ijan nasa li wile moli! crazy people wish to die!



more about adjectives and adverbs

the meaning of compound words is obtained by grouping from left to right

the order is important

jan utala

a soldier

(jan utala) pona ((jan utala) pona) mute ((jan utala) pona) ni a good soldier many good soldiers

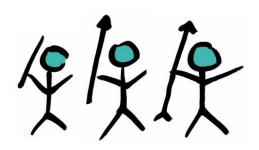
this good soldier

(jan pona) utala

a fighting friend

mi ((lukin) pona) mi ((pona) lukin) I look good

I am good looking



20 more words

musi sona toki ma sewi len fun, play, game, recreation, art knowledge, to know, to understand speak, read talk, language field, country, open space high, holy, heaven, above clothing



meli mije woman man



21 Ion

Ion as a veb means "to be present", "to be there"

mi lon. jan mute li lon. I am present, I exist, I am alive

there are many people

as a preposition, lon means "in"

suno li lon sewi. jan lili li lon tomo sona. ona li musi lon ma. mi wile moli lon telo suli.

the sun is in the sky
the children are in the school
she plays in the field
I wish to die at sea





sama as a preposition means 'as', 'like', 'seem'

jan ni li sama mi. that person is like me len mi li sama len sina my clothes are like your clothes

mi lon tomo sewi. I am in a tall building (skyscraper) jan li lukin sama pipi. the people look like ants

as a noun sama means 'equality' and as an adjective it means 'equal'

meli li wile e sama. women want equality





23 ala

ala negates the previous word

mi musi ala. I am not having fun

mi sona ala. I am not smart

jan ala nobody

jan ala li toki. nobody is speaking

tomo sewi ala li lon ma. there are no tall buildings in the fields

mi jo ala e len. I have no clothes

ala by itself means 'nothing'

ala li jaki. nothing is dirty ala li suli. nothing is important ala li sama. nothing is equal



jan = person | ni = that | len = clothes | lon = in | tomo = building sewi = high | lukin = look | pipi = insect, ant | meli = woman | wile = want musi = fun | sona = knowledge | jan = person | toki = speak tomo sewi = skyscraper | ma = field | jo = have | len = clothes jaki = dirty | sama = equal

ali 24

ali means 'all' ali can be an adjective or a noun

jan ali. jan ali li moku. ma ali li pona. mije ali li sama.

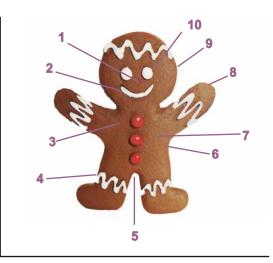
all people, everyone everyone is eating all countries are good all me are the same

ali li pona. ¡mi wile e ali! everything is fine I want everything!



25
sijelo
(body)

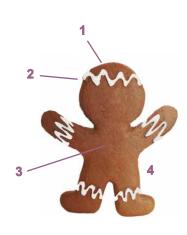
1



```
uta = mouth
2
              ijo uta walo = teeth
      sinpin = chest, abdomen
3
              nena sike (meli) = breasts
4
      noka = leg, foot
               len noka = shoes, pants, etc.
5
      palisa mije = penis | lupa meli = vagina
      poka = hip
      insa = stomach
      luka = arm, hand
               Ien luka = gloves
9
       nena kute = ear
10
      oko = eye
```

nena kon = nose





- 1 lawa = head
- 2 linja lawa = hair
- 3 monsi = back
- selo = skin

some of the above words have additional meanings

nena bump, nose, hill, mountain, button

kon air, wind, smell, soul

lupa hole, orifice, window, door

palisa long cylindrical thing, rod, stick, branch

lawa main, leading, head, control, steer

linja string, rope, hair, cord

selo surface, skin, shell, outside, shape

practice

nena kute li kute. the ears hear lawa sina li suli mute. your head is very big linja lawa mi li jo e telo. my hair is wet

pipi li moku e noka mi. the insect bit my foot oko li lukin. the eyes see insa mi li ike. my stomach is bad luka mi li pona lukin. my arms are good looking mi jo ala e len luka. I do not have gloves





simple questions

questions you can answer with 'yes' or 'no' are formed as follows:

moku li pona ala pona? is this good food?

(the food is good, not good?)

sina pona ala pona? suno li suli ala suli? sina wile ala wile moku? e sina?

are you good? is the sun large? do you wish to eat? ona li olin ala olin does he love you?





responding yes or no

suppose someone asks you:

sina musi ala musi? (are you having fun?)

then the responses could be:

musi yes, I am having fun musi ala no, I am not having fun

another example:

sina lukin ala lukin e soweli lili? (have you seen the hamster?)

lukin yes, I have seen it no, I have not seen it lukin ala





walo pimeja white black, dark

shadows

blue

red

yellow

kule

laso

loje

jelo

color, painting



laso jelo laso loje loje jelo green (blue yellow) purple (reddish blue)

orange (reddish yellow)

laso walo loje pimeja light blue dark red

¡sina jelo! telo jelo

telo loje mi jo e len noka laso. you are yellow! urine

blood

I have blue shoes



kepeken

as a preposition **kepeken** is "with", is in the sense of "using"

mi moku kepeken ilo moku.

¡sina moli e pipi loje kepeken noka sina! I eat using a fork

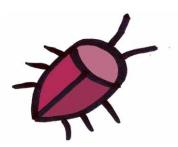
you killed the red bug using your shoe!

kepeken can be used as a verb

ona kepeken e ilo

she uses many tools mute.

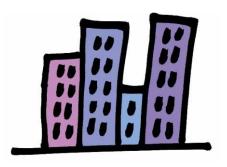
¡sina kepeken ala e lawa! you are not using your head!



32 more compound words

ilo suno candle, lampjan sewi saint, godnasin sewi religionma tomo citytomo telo bathroomjan lawa leader

jan sewi li olin. god is love. nasin sewi li mute. there are many religions. jan lawa li nasa. the leader is crazy.



33 unofficial words

proper names (names of persons, countries, languages, religions, cities, etc.) are called unofficial words in **toki**pona and are used with certain rules.

mi olin e jan Pepe. I love Pepe.
jan Bush li ike. Bush is bad.
mi toki e toki Español. I speak Spanish
mi mute li lon ma México. we are in Mexico.
ma tomo Nueva York li pona.
nasin sewi Budismo li Buddism is good.
pona.

Unofficial words cannot be used alone. They are always treated as adjectives and must follow after a noun. Also, they are the only words in **toki pona** that start with a capital letter.





kama means "to come, to happen"

jan lili li kama ala. ijan laso jelo lili li kama! the children are not coming. the little green people have arrived!

......

kama can be used with other verbs to make a progressive like effect.

kama sona learn (to get knowledge)kama jo to take, to get, to obtainkama moli dying

for example "learning" is a process that ends in "knowing"

mi wile kama sona e I wish to learn French. toki Francés.

more 35

mama father or mother brother, sister

kiwen stone
nasin way, road
lape to sleep
pakala hurt,
damage







tawa represents the idea of "movement" or "direction"

as a verb, it means "going to" or "move"

mi tawa ma tomo kepeken I am going to the city using

jan lili li tawa tomo sona. the children ar going to school. mi wile tawa tomo telo. I wish to go to the bathroom.

nasin ni. this road.

ona li tawa e kiwen ni. she is moving the rock.

as a preposition it means "toward'

mi toki tawa sina. I am talking to you.

jan olin mi li kama tawa ma. my girlfriend is coming to the country.

as an adjective it means "moving"

tomo tawa car (moving construction)

tomo tawa telo boat tomo tawa kon airplane

as a noun it means "movement"

tawa musi dance, ballet (fun motion)

tomo sona = school | tomo telo = bathroom | ma tomo = city kepeken = using | nasin = way, road | kiwen = stone | ni = that | toki = to talk *jan olin* = girlfriend | *ma* = country | *tomo* = construction | *telo* = water kon = air | musi = fun



follow these examples to say that you like or dislike something.

kili li pona tawa mi. I like fruit.

(fruit is good to me)

lape li pona tawa mi. I like sleep.

mama sina li ike tawa mi. I do not like your parents.

(your parents are bad to me)

sina pona tawa mi. I like you.

meli sama mi li ike tawa sina. you do not like my sister.

to say that you like to do something, you use 2 sentences.

mi moku e pipi. I like to eat bugs.

ni li pona tawa mi. (l eat bugs.

this is good to me.)

mi lukin e ma. I like to see the fields.

ni li pona tawa mi.

kili = fruit | tawa = toward | lape = to sleep | mama = parents meli = woman | moku = to eat | pipi = bug | ni = this sama = same | lukin = to look | ma = field





suppose you want to say "bar" in toki pona and you decide to say this:

tomo telo nasa

thinking something like this instead of saying "alcoholic beverage". But the words are grouped from left to right:

((tomo telo) nasa) crazy bathroom.

To say instead "place of alcholic beverages" it is necessary to use Di to group the words that follow.

(tomo pi (telo nasa)) bar.

pi is very important to avoid such confusion

examples of pi

citizen

jan pi ma tomo jan lawa pi jan utala. jan lawa pi tomo tawa

pilot. kon.

jan pi pona lukin tomo pi mi mute jan pakala pi utala

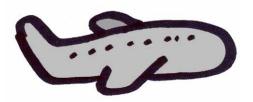
pretty person our house the wounded of the great war

(person of the city)

general (leader of soldiers)

suli jan pi nasin sewi Budismo.

a Buddhist



ma tomo = city | jan lawa = leader | jan utala = soldiers tomo tawa kon = airplane | pona lukin = pretty | tomo = house mi mute = our | jan pakala = injured | utala = war suli = big | nasin sewi = religion



pi does not mean "of"

most times you can think of **pi** as "of" and there is no problem, but **pi** is only used as a parenthesis to avoid confusion.

a danger of thinking of **Di** as "of" is that you will want to use pi when it is not needed. As in:



You probably mean to say here "man of the field" but it is not necessary to use Di because there is no confusion to be avoided. Just say:

man of the fields, peasant jan ma

Usually it is only necesary to use Di if there are 2 or more words after the initial noun.

if in doubt, review lessons 6 and 9.

jan = person | ma = field

living things



waso soweli bird, flying animal. land animal,

cute animal.

kala akesi

fish, under water animal. reptile, anphibian, dinosaur

ugly animal.

insect, bug pipi

plant, trees, flower, fungus. kasi

kasi kule flower kasi suli tree akesi suli dinosaur jan kala mermaid





soweli, waso y kala

also mean the meat of the respective animals.

mi wile moku e soweli. I eat a steak.

kule = color | suli = large | jan = person | wile = to want soweli = mammal, steak

possessives with pi

the possessives of unofficial words require the use of **pi** to avoid confusion

tomo pi jan Lisa kasi pi jan Jorge soweli pi jan Lisa jan lawa pi nasin sewi Cristianismo the house of Lisa the plant of George the dog of Lisa the pope

Warning! tomo Lisa does not mean Lisa's house





en means "and", but is only used to link two subject nouns

mi en sina li jan pona. you and I are friends.

lape en tawa musi li pona sleeping and dancing are good to me
tawa mi.

you can also use with **pi** when 2 people have something

akesi laso jelo pi Daniel and John's green lizard jan Daniela en jan Juan.

but remember when there are multiple direct objects

to use **e not en**

mi wile jo e kala e waso I wish to have an octopus jelo. and a canary

It may be useful to review lessons 13 and 17.





to say that you are doing something with somone you use poka

mi lon poka jan pona mi. I am with my friends.

sina tawa tomo sona poka you go to school with meli sama mi. mi wile tawa musi poka sina. I wish to dance with you. mama meli li tawa telo suli mother went to the ocean poka jan pona ona. with her friends.

my sister.

a verb must always come before poka



great! thanks! OK! pona!

ike! oh no! that's wrong! that hurts!

pakala! damn!

> moo, meow, wow, ruff, ... mu

musi! cool!

> ah! (surprise) а

ha ha ha (laughter) a a a









more words

45

pana give, send, put

pali do, work

pilin touch, feel, think

ijo thing, something, object poki container, glass, box

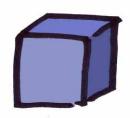
sike circle, sphere, ball...

sike tu jan lili li pana e telo jelo. mi pilin pona. kili li lon poki. mi musi kepeken sike. meli sama mi li jo e sike. bicycle
the child pees.
I feel good.
the fruit is in the basket.
I played with the ball.
my sister has a ball.

ijo li lon oko mi.

something is in my eye.





46 tag



tan represents the idea of "cause", "reason", "origin"

as a preposition "tan" means "because"

mi pilin ike tan ni:

I feel bad because of this:

soweli mi li kama moli.

my cat is dying.

mi moku tan ni:

I eat because of this: I am hungry.

mi wile moku.

and sometimes it means "from" as in "origin"

jan olin mi li kama tan ma Japón. my girlfriend is from Japan.

ma Japon. telo loje li kama tan nena kute mi!

blood is coming from my ear!

as a noun it means "cause" or "reason"

mi sona ala e tan. ali li jo e tan. I do not know the reason everything has a reason

tu = 2 | telo jelo = urine, pee | musi = play | kepeken = with meli sama = sister | lon = in, at, on | oko = eye pilin = to feel | ike = bad | soweli = cat, mammal | kama moli = dying kama = to come | ma = country | telo loje = blood | nena kute = ear sona = to know | ala = no, not | ali = all | jo = to have



use O to call someone or get their attention

jan Bere o! hey Bere!
jan Pedro o, pipi li lon Pedro, there is a mosquito
len sina! on your shirt!
jan Pepe o, mi olin e Pepe, I love you.
sina.
jan Bere o, sina pona Bere, I like you.

tawa mi.

mama meli o, sina pali mother, you work mute mute! too much!





o is used to give an order to another person

o pali! work!
o tawa! go!
o olin e mi! love me!
o pana e ni tawa mi! give that to me!
o lukin e ni! look at that!

to address someone and give them a command place 'o' between the person and the verb

jan lili o toki! child, speak! sina mute o musi! you, have fun! soweli o kama! dog, come!



greetings/ farewell/ courtesy

toki! hello!

suno pona! good day! lape pona! sleep well!

have a good night

moku pona! eat well! (have a good meal)

mi tawa goodbye! (I am going) tawa pona! goodbye! (go well)

kama pona! welcome! musi pona! have fun!



numbers

50

wan 1tu 2luka 5

nanpa

number







tu wan 3

tu tu 4

luka wan 6

luka tu tu 9

luka luka 10

luka luka luka 15

more about numbers

soweli suli wan soweli suli tu soweli suli luka one elephant 2 elephants 5 elephants

in general, avoid using numbers, it is better to use mute

jan mute li kama. jan mute mute mute li kama. jan mute lili li kama. many people come a lot of people come few people come

ordinal numbers:

mi nanpa wan! meli mi pi nanpa wan li nasa. jan Pepe li olin mi pi nanpa wan. ni li soweli lili ona pi nanpa tu.

I am number one! my first girlfriend was mad. Pepe was my first love. this is his 2nd hamster.

other uses for wan and tu

mi mute o wan! unite!

mi en meli mi li wan.

my girlfriend and I were

married.

o tu e palisa ni.

divide this branch into 2

comparisons

for comparisons, you need to use 2 sentences

mi pali mute. sina pali lili. I work more than you.

jan Christina li pona lukin Christina is prettier than mute. jan Britney li pona Britney. lukin lili.

Martha li moku mute. Martha.

jan Julia li moku lili. jan Julia eats less than

pana lili e olin.

mi pana mute e olin. sina I give more love than you.

mi. kasi pi telo ala li pona cactus. lili tawa mi.

kasi suli li pona mute tawa I like pine trees more than





as an adjective or adverb **weka** means "far"

mi weka. I am away. tomo telo li weka. the bathroom is far away.

mi wile tawa weka. I want to go away. ma México li weka tan Mexico is far from Japan. ma Japón. .

ma México li weka ala tan Mexico is close to

ma Canada. Canada.

as a verb it means "to remove" or "to go away"

jan sewi o weka e ike mi! God forgive my sins!

o weka e len sina! remove your clothes! o weka e jan lili tan ni! remove the children from here! God remove my bad!

as a conjunction **taso** means "but"

mi pilin ike.

I feel bad, but I have to

taso mi wile pali. work.

mi wile moku.

I wish to eat, but I have

no food. taso mi jo ala e moku.

> remember you have to use 2 sentences. In English you can use a comma, but not in **toki pona**.

as an adjective or adverb taso means 'only'

mi musi taso. jan Pepe taso li kama. mi wile taso e telo. mi wile ala e ijo.

I am only kidding. Only Pepe is coming. I only want water. I do not want anything.

I am just looking. mi lukin taso.

more words

55

suwi sweet, something sweet

supa any furniture

kalama noise, to make noise

ante change, to change mani money, wealth

lipu sheet, something flat and flexible

kalama musi
o kalama ala!
supa lape
mi jo ala e mani.
ali li ante.
lipu mute.
mi wile e suwi.
mi pilin ike. kalama

music be quiet! bed

I have no money. everything changes.

book

I want a cookie.

I feel bad. There is a lot

mute li lon. of noise.





Seme is the question word of toki pona

it is used with other words to ask what, how, where, when and why.

it is a very versatile word and should be thought of as a question mark.

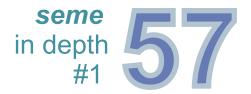
for example the following statement:

ni li waso. that is a bird.

becomes a question by replacing **Waso** with **seme**

ni li seme? what is that? that is (?)?

this idea of replacing **Seme** for "what we are asking" is the key to making questions in **toki pona**.



as 'what'

sina pali e seme? you do what? you do (?)?
seme li pakala e sina? what hit you? (?) hit you?
seme li pona tawa sina? what do you like (?) is good to you?
sina wile e seme? what do you want? you want (?)?

as 'where' along with lon or tawa

sina lon seme? where are you? you are (?)? sina tawa seme? where are you going? you go to (?)?

as 'who' along with ian

jan seme li lon? who is there? person (?) is there?

sina lukin e jan seme? who are you looking for? you look for person (?)?



as 'why' along with tan

sina olin e mi tan seme? why do you love me?
you love me for (?) reason?
sina ike tan seme? why are you bad?
you are bad for (?) reason?

as 'what' but in the sense of 'which'

sina kama tan ma seme? where do you come from?
you come from (?) country?
lipu ni li kule seme? what color is that sheet?
that sheet is (?) color?
nasin sewi seme li pona
tawa sina? religion do you like?
religion (?) is good to you?

together with kepeken means "how" or "with what"

sina tawa kepeken seme? how are you going?
you are going to go in (?)?
sina pali e ni kepeken seme? how do you do that?
you do that with (?)?



maybe **Seme** seems difficult because you are used to changing the order of words in the questions. The truth is that it is very easy and you just need to get accustomed to doing it.

one good trick to check if you made a good question is to replace **Seme** with **ni** and think of the question as a statement.

if the statement does not makes sense it is probably not a good question.

temperature

59

seli heat, warm lete cold, freezing

lete li lon. seli li lon. it's cold. (the cold is present)

it's hot.

ma Groenlandia li lete.

Greenland is cold.

mi lete.

I am cold.

mi pilin lete. moku li lete. I feel cold. (I feel cold)

e. the food is cold.

o seli e moku! mi wile e telo suwi pi lete mute. warm the food!

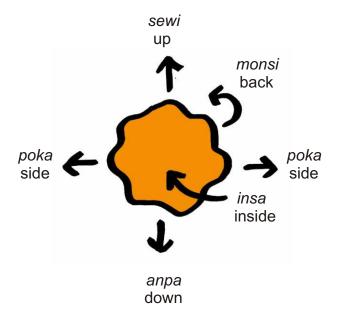
I want a very cold Coke.

this is a good example of using **pi**. understand it well.



directions

60



61 examples

all the direction words have other uses and they are always used as nouns (and not as prepositions) to avoid confusion.

ona li lon sewi mi. he is above me. he is in

my top)

pipi li lon poka sina. the fly is at your side.

mi lon poka telo. I am on the beach (I am

by the sea)

moku li lon insa mi. the food is inside me.

jan lili li lon insa tomo. the children are indoors.

(the children are inside the house).

ilo moku li lon anpa

sina.

the fork is beneath you.

(the fork is at your down)

tomo sona mi li lon monsi pi tomo sina. my school is behind your house.

(my school is at the back of your house)



ken means "can", "to be able to"

sina ken! you can!

jan lili li ken ala moku e children can not drink telo nasa. alcohol.

sina ken tawa. you can go.

mi ken ala lape. I can not sleep.

mi ken ala moku e pipi I can not eat a a loje! jaki! ccockroach! Disgusting!

mi sona e ni: mi ken | know | can do it. pali e ona. (I know this: I can do it.)



jan lili = children | ala = not | telo nasa = alcohol | tawa = to go lape = to sleep | pipi loje = cockroach | jaki = dirty | sona = to know pali = to work | ona = it



anu means "or"

mi wile jo e mani anu I want to have money or moku. food. sina ken moku e kili anu you can eat a trout or a suwi, taso wan taso, cookie, but only one.

sina olin e mi anu ona? do you love me or him? sina toki tawa mi anu tawa do you speak to me or to him?

ala. ni li jan Superman!

ni li waso anu tomo Is that a bird or an airplane? tawa kon? No. This is Superman.

In English sometimes you ask questions like: "are you coming or what"? This can alos be done in toki pona

sina kama anu seme? are you coming or not? sina wile e mani anu do you want money or not? seme?

wile = to want | jo = to have | mani = money | kili = fruit suwi = cookie | taso = only | wan = one olin = to love | toki = to speak | tawa = toward | waso = bird tomo tawa kon = airplane | kama = to come



kin means "also", "still", "indeed"

A: mi tawa ma Europa. B: pona! mi kin tawa ma Europa.

> A: mi mute o tawa. B: mi ken ala. mi kin moku

A: a! sina lukin ala lukin e waso ni? B: mi kin lukin e ona. I went to Europe. Great! I also went to Europe.

we are going.
I can not.
I am still eating.

ah! do you see that bird?

Indeed I saw it.



65 more words

wawa power, strength, energy

spirit

kulupu group, community

awen remain, stay

sitelen image, drawing, writing

pini finish, turn off

open open, start, turn on

nimi word, name



examples



mi wawa ala. kon wawa wawa o lon with sina! telo wawa pi tomo tawa kulupu pi nasin sewi mi awen. sitelen tawa

I am weak. soul, spirit the force be with you! gasoline religious community I remain. movie (moving images)

o pini e ilo pi sitelen tawa! sitelen ma mi wile jo e sitelen ma pi ma México. mi sitelen e sitelen. o open e suno! nimi sina li pona tawa mi. ¿nimi sina li seme? nimi mi li jan Eliazar.

turn off the television! I wish I had a map of Mexico. I am drawing a picture. turn on the light! I like your name. what is your name? My name is Eliza.



wawa = strong | ala = not | kon = air | lon = to be present | poka = with telo = liquid | tomo tawa = car | kulupu = group | nasin sewi = religion awen = stay | sitelen = image | tawa = moving | pini = off ilo =tool | ma = country | open = turn of | suno = light | nimi = name

ante as a verb means "to change"

o ante ala! do not change! ali li ante. everything changes!

as a noun means "change"

ante li pona. change is good. ante li kama. change comes.

as an adjective means "other" or "different"

ante.

jan ante another person sina anu jan ante li were you or the other person moku e suwi mi? eating my cake? mi wile lukin e ma I want to see other countries.

ala = not | ali = everything | kama = to come | jan = person suwi = sweets | ma = country



the "that" we use in English to join sentences does not exist in toki pona

mi sona e ni: sina olin I know that you love me.

e mi. (I know this: you love me.)

mi wile e ni: sina olin I want you to love me.

e mi. (I want this: you love me.)

sina pana e suwi tawa mi. I am eating the cookies

mi moku e suwi sina. that you gave me.

(you gave me cookies. I am eating your cookies.)

sina. ona li jan olin mi. is my boyfriend.

mije li tawa musi kan the boy who danced with you

(a boy danced with you. he is my boyfriend)

It is necessary to separate the idea into 2 sentences using e ni: sometimes it works but sometimes it is necessary to rewrite everything.



sin means "more" or "new"

mi wile e suwi sin!

I want more cookies!

jan sin li kama ala kama? are more people coming?

mi wile e tomo tawa sin! I want a new car!

kalama musi ni li sin ala! this song is old!



creativity

70



you need a lot of creativity and flexibility to say some things in **toki pona**

o pilin e uta mi kepeken uta sina! kiss (touch my mouth with your mouth)

selo mi li pana e telo.

I am sweating (my skin

emits water)

o pana ala e telo oko!

do not cry! (do not emit

eye water)

toki awen

literature (speech that

remains)

toki musi

sing (talk amusingly)

sina pali e ni kepeken nasin seme?

how did you do that?

(you did that using what method?)

pilin = touch | uta = mouth | kepeken = with, using | selo = skin
pana = emit, give | telo = water | oko = eye | toki = to speak
awen = remain | musi = amusement | pali = to do
kepeken = using | nasin = way, method

71 la

la is the last separator word along with **li**, **e** and **pi** that is used in **toki pona**. Like the other separator words, there is no literal translation in English but the separator words are very useful.

the **basic idea** of **la** is that it is used to join 2 sentences, so that the first sentence provides a context for the second sentence.

we will distinguish 3 uses for **la** and will explain each one but the basic idea remains the same.

la with only 1 word before it

ken la ona li lape. maybe he is sleeping. ken la mi nasa. maybe I am crazy. ken la mi ken pali e ni. maybe I can do this.

jan sewi o weka e ike mi. god, forgive my sins. sama la mi weka e ike likewise, I forgive

ante. the sins of others.

mama sina li moli. your parents died.

sama la sina moli. similarly, you will die.

sona.

ken la mi tawa tomo mi. maybe I will go to my house. ante la mi tawa tomo otherwise, I will go to school.

ante la mi ken ala moku. otherwise, I will not eat.

mi wile jo e mani. I want to have money.

the trick is to be **flexible** and extend the meaning of **ken**, **sama** and ante. ken (power to do, be able to, can) become: maybe, possibly, perhaps. **Sama** (equal, similar) become: equally, likewise and ante (other, different) become: otherwise.

> lape = to sleep | nasa = crazy | pali = to do | jan sewi = god weka = to remove | ike = bad | mama = parent | moli = to die tawa = to go | tomo = house | tomo sona = school | jo = to have *mani* = money

tenpo



tenpo represents the idea of "time", "moment" or "occasion"

tenpo pini tenpo kama lili tenpo pimeja ni tonight tenpo suno kama tenpo suno pini tenpo pimeja pini tenpo mute

past (time finished) tenpo kama future (time to come) soon (little future) tenpo pini lili recently (little past) tenpo ni this moment, now tenpo suno day(sun time) tenpo pimeja night (dark time) tenpo suno ni today (this sun time) morning (coming sun time) yesterday (past sun time) last night

mi jo ala e tenpo. I have no time. jan ala li sona e no one knows the future.

many times

tenpo kama. tenpo pini li pini.

let bygones be bygones

(the past is finished)

jo = to have | jan ala = no one | sona = to know | pini = finished, done



using la is the only way in toki pona to express time.

tenpo pini la mi jan lili. in the past, I was a child.

tenpo ni la mi lon. at this time, I am here.

tenpo kama mute la mi in the future, I am going to Japan.

tawa ma Japón.

tenpo suno ni la mi pilin today, I feel good.

pona.

tenpo pimeja pini la mi last night I got drunk. (I became crazy)

kama nasa.

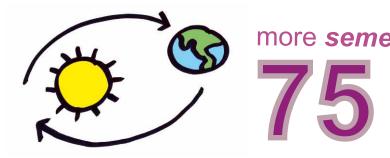
tenpo kama lili la pimeja li soon darkness is coming.

(suddenly, the darkness will come) kama.

recently, Paulina had tenpo pini lili la jan baby.

Paulina li jo e jan lili.

la separates the 2 clauses and indicates



together with pilin, seme acts a little weird

sina pilin seme? how do you feel? sina pilin e seme? what do you think?

together with **tenpo**, it means "when"

when are you coming? te**n**po seme la sina kama?

together with **mute** it means "how much"

sina jo e mani pi mute seme? tenpo pi mute seme sina lon

ma África.

tenpo pi mute seme la sina

sike e suno?

how much money do you have?

How long were you

in Africa?

how old are you? how many times have you gone

around the sun?

tenpo tu tu la mi sike e suno. I am 4 years old.

that the 1st clause provides the context for the 2nd.

pilin = to feel | pilin = to think | tenpo = time kama = to come | mani = money | mute = amount sike = to turn around | suno = sun | tu tu = 4

the 3rd and last use of **a**, returns to the basic idea that the first clause gives the context to the second clause.

if I sleep, then everything mi lape la ali li pona.

is good.

mama mi li moli la mi pilin ike. if my parents died, then I would beel bad.

sina wile open la tempo ali li pona. if you wish to start, then any time is good.

sina moku e telo nasa la sina kama nasa. if you drink alcohol, then you get drunk.

sina pali ala la sina jo ala

if you do not work, then

e mani.

you will not have money.

jan ike li kama la o seli e

if the enemy comes,

lipu ni.

then burn this letter.

sina sona e toki ni la sina sona e toki pona

lape = to sleep | mama = parents | moli = to die | pilin = to feel open = to begin | tempo ali = any time | kama nasa = drunk | pali = to work | ala = no, not | mani = money seli = burn | lipu = letter | toki = talk, language

ilo suno wan li ken pana e suno tawa ilo suno mute mute. wawa pi ilo suno li kama ala lili. jan li pana e sona tawa jan mute la sona li kama ala lili.

-jan Buda



ADDOD DIO



to convert to toki pona

if you wish to say your name in **toki pona** you have to follow these rules:

- use only the alphabet of toki pona (lesson-1). Generally the b translates as p, the d as t, the d as t, the d as d and d and d are d are d and d are d are
- use syllables in the pattern of **toki pona**:

consonant + vowel + n (optional)

for example **na-sin**, **pa-li**, **ke-pe-ken**. that is, you cannot have things like the following: **es-te-ban** o **pau-li-na**.

- the initial consonant my be omitted (as in a-ke-si or a-li).
- vou cannot use the optional **n** if the following consonant is a **m**or **n**. That is, there cannot be combinations such as **pro** or **m**.

examples

jan Joke George
jan Malija María
jan Mata Martha
jan Puta Buda
jan Peto Pedro
jan Pije Peter
jan Palina Paulina
jan Alekanta Alexandra

ma Apika Africa
ma Amelika America
ma Amelika lete North America
ma Amelika seli South America
ma Antasika Antartica
ma Asija Asia
ma Elopa Europe

There is much freedom in translating sounds so **toki pona** may have more than one correct translation.



ap:c

our father

A more or less literal translation to show what can be done with toki pona and because it is a a very well known text.

mama mije pi mi mute o, our father, sina o pana e moku pi give us food tempo suno ali tawa mi. every day.

sina lon sewi kon, you are in the sky, nimi sina o sewi. holy be your name. ma sina o kama. your kingdom come. ian o pali e wile sina lon vour will be done in the sewi kon en lon ma. heaven and on earth. o weka e pali ike mi. remove our bad works. sama la mi weka e pali ike as we pardon the bad deeds pi jan ante. of other people.

> o pana ala e wile ike let us not fall into tawa mi. temptation.

o awen e mi weka tan ike. and deliver us from evil. ni li nasin. Amen.

mama mije = father | mi mute = we | sina = you | sewi kon = sky nimi = name | sewi = holy | ma = kingdomo | kama = to come jan = people | pali = to do | wile = will | pana = to give | moku = food tempo suno ali = every day | tawa = toward | weka = remove pali = actions | ike = bad | ian ante = other people | awen = hold $weka = far \mid tan = from \mid ni = this, that \mid nasin = way$

proverbs

ali li pona. all is good. life is beautiful.

everything will be ok.

ike li kama. bad comes. bad stuff

happens.

ali li jo e tempo. there is a time for everything.

nasin ante li pona different ways are good for

tawa jan ante. different people.

nasin li mute. there are many ways.

sina pana e ike la if you give evil you will

sina kama jo e ike. receive evil.

suno li lon poka light is beside darkness.

pimeia. opposites are interconnected.

Ying Yang.

mi weka e ike jan la when I forgive somebody's wrongdoings

mi weka e ike mi. I cleanse myself of negativity.

jan sona li jan nasa. a wise man is a fool. a genius

thinks unconventually.

ali = all | pona = good | ike = bad | kama = to come | jo = to have tenpo = time | nasin = road | ante = different | tawa = toward jan = people | mute = much | sina = you | pana = to give | kama jo = receive suno = light | pimeja = darkness | weka = to remove | sona = wise | nasa = crazy

more proverbs

wile sona li mute e curiosity feeds wisdom. one

sona. learns from asking questions.

o sona ala. o pali. stop thinking. do stuff.

tempo pini li pini. the past is gone. let bygones

be bygones.

pali li pana e sona. one learns by experience.

sina wile open la if you wish to begin, any

tempo ali li pona. time is good.

lape li pona. sleep and rest are good.

o sona e sina! know thyself!

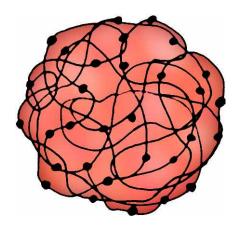
toki pona li toki toki pona is a pona. good language.

Dictionary

Toki Pona to English

0	intariah ha sah ah ah an-	kalomo	ui maka najaa	1:1:	mad small little years a bit
a	interj ah, ha, uh, oh, ooh, aw, well (emotion word)	kalama	<pre>vi make noise vt sound, ring, play (an instrument)</pre>	<u>lili</u>	mod small, little, young, a bit, short, few, less vt reduce, shorten, shrink,
akesi	<i>n</i> non-cute animal, reptile, amphibian	kama	vi come, become, arrive, happen,		lessen
<u>ala</u>	<pre>mod no, not, none, un- n nothing, negation, zero interj no!</pre>	[come up]	pursue actions to arrive to (a certain state), manage to, start to	linja	n long, very thin, floppy thing, e.g. string, rope, hair, thread, cord, chain
ale, ali	(both variants are correct) n everything, anything, life, the		n event, happening, chance, arrival, beginning mod coming, future	lipu	n flat and bendable thing, e.g. paper, card, ticket
	universe <i>mod</i> all, every, complete, whole		vt bring about, summon	loje lon	mod red prep be (located) in/at/on
anpa	n bottom, lower part, under, below, floor, beneath <i>mod</i> low, lower, bottom, down	kasi ken	n plant, leaf, herb, tree, wood vi can, is able to, is allowed to, may, is possible		vi be there, be present, be real/true, exist, be awake
ante	n difference mod different cont otherwise, or else vt change, alter, modify		n possibility, ability, power to do things, permission vt make possible, enable, allow, permit cont it is possible that	lukin [looking]	n hand, armvt see, look at, watch, readvi look, watch out, pay attentionmod visual(ly)
anu awen	conj or vi stay, wait, remain	kepeken	vt use	lupa	<i>n</i> hole, window, door
uwen	vt keep mod remaining, stationary,	<u>kili</u>	prep withn fruit, pulpy vegetable,mushroom	[loop] ma	<i>n</i> land, earth, country, (outdoor) area
e en	permanent, sedentary sep (introduces a direct object) conj and (used to coordinate	kin	<pre>mod also, too, even, indeed (emphasizes the word(s) before it)</pre>	mama [momma]	n parent, mother, father mod of the parent, parental, maternal, fatherly
ijo	head nouns) n thing, something, stuff, anything, object	kiwen	mod hard, solid, stone-like, made of stone or metal	mani [money]	n money, material wealth, currency, dollar, capital
	mod of something vt objectify	ko	n hard thing, rock, stone, metal, mineral, clayn semi-solid or squishy	meli [Mary]	n woman, female, girl, wife, girlfriend mod female, feminine,
ike [icky]	mod bad, negative, wrong, evil, overly complex, (figuratively)		substance, e.g. paste, powder, gum	mi	womanly n I, we
	unhealthy interj oh dear! woe! alas!	<u>kon</u>	<i>n</i> air, wind, smell, soul <i>mod</i> air-like, ethereal, gaseous	[me]	mod my, our
	n negativity, badness, evil vt to make bad, to worsen, to have a negative effect upon	kule	n colour, paint mod colourful	mije <u>moku</u>	n man, male, husband, boyfriendmod male, masculine, manlyn food, meal
<u>ilo</u>	vi to be bad, to suck n tool, device, machine, thing	kute	vt colour, paint vt listen, hear		<i>vt</i> eat, drink, swallow, ingest, consume
	used for a specific purpose	kulupu	mod auditory, hearing n group, community, society,	moli	n death vi die, be dead
insa [inside]	n inside, inner world, centre,stomachmod inner, internal	пшри	company, people <i>mod</i> communal, shared, public,		vt kill mod dead, deadly, fatal
jaki [yucky]	mod dirty, gross, filthyn dirt, pollution, garbage, filthvt pollute, dirty	<u>la</u>	of the society sep (between adverb or phrase of context and sentence)	monsi mu	<pre>n back, rear end, butt, behind mod back, rear interj woof! meow! moo! etc.</pre>
jan	interj ew! yuck!n person, people, human, being,	<u>lape</u>	n, vi sleep, rest mod sleeping, of sleep	[moo]	(cute animal noise)
Jan	somebody, anybody	<u>laso</u>	mod blue, blue-green	mun [moon]	<i>n</i> moon <i>mod</i> lunar
	mod human, somebody's, personal, of people vt personify, humanize, personalize	lawa	n head, mind mod main, leading, in charge vt lead, control, rule, steer	musi	n fun, playing, game, recreation, art, entertainment mod artful, fun, recreational
<u>jelo</u>	mod yellow, light green	len lete	n clothing, cloth, fabric n cold		vi play, have fun vt amuse, entertain
[yellow] jo	vt have, contain	1000	mod cold, uncooked vt cool down, chill	mute [multi]	<i>mod</i> many, very, much, several, a lot, abundant, numerous, more
	n having kama receive, get, take, obtain	li	sep (between any subject except mi and sina and its verb; also		n amount, quantity vt make many or much n number
kala kalama	n fish, sea creaturen sound, noise, voice		used to introduce a new verb for the same subject)	nanpa [number]	oth -th (ordinal numbers)

nasa	mod silly, crazy, foolish, drunk, strange, stupid, weird vt drive crazy, make weird	pona [bonus]	<pre>interj great! good! thanks! OK! cool! yay! vt improve, fix, repair, make</pre>	tenpo [temp	ool duration, situation
nasin	n way, manner, custom, road, path, doctrine, system, method	sama	good mod same, similar, equal, of	toki [talk]	n language, talking, speech,communicationmod talking, verbal
nena	<i>n</i> bump, nose, hill, mountain, button		equal status or position prep like, as, seem		vt say vi talk, chat, communicate
ni	mod this, that	seli	n fire, warmth, heat mod hot, warm, cooked	tomo	interj hello! hi!n indoor constructed space, e.g.
nimi	<i>n</i> word, name		vt heat, warm up, cook	<u>tomo</u>	house, home, room, building
noka o	n leg, footsep O (vocative or imperative)	selo	n outside, surface, skin, shell, bark, shape, peel		mod urban, domestic, household
	<pre>interj hey! (calling somebody's attention)</pre>	seme	oth what, which, wh- (question word)	tu [two]	• •
oko [oculist]	n eye	sewi	<i>n</i> high, up, above, top, over, on <i>mod</i> superior, elevated, religious,		vt double, separate/cut/divide in two
olin	n love		formal	unpa	<i>n</i> sex, sexuality
	mod love vt to love (a person)	sijelo	n body, physical state		
ona	n she, he, it, they	sike	<i>n</i> circle, wheel, sphere, ball,		
V	mod her, his, its, their		cycle <i>mod</i> round, cyclical	uta	<i>n</i> mouth
open	vt open, turn on	<u>sin</u>	mod new, fresh, another, more		mod oral
pakala	n blunder, accident, mistake,	<u>5111</u>	vt renew, renovate, freshen	utala	
	destruction, damage, breaking <i>vt</i> screw up, botch, ruin,	sina	n you		competition, fight, war, battle, attack, blow, argument, physical
	break, hurt, injure, damage,		mod your		or verbal violence
	spoil, ruin	sinpin	<i>n</i> front, chest, torso, face, wall		vt hit, strike, attack, compete
	vi screw up, fall apart, break interj damn!	sitelen	n picture, image vt draw, write	wala	against
pali	n activity, work, deed, project mod active, work-related,	sona	n knowledge, wisdom, intelligence, understanding	walo [wall]	mod white, light (colour) n white thing or part, whiteness, lightness
	operating, working		vt know, understand, know how	wan	mod one, a
	vt do, make, build, create		to	[one]	
	vi act, work, function		vi know, understand kama learn, study		piece vt unite, make one
palisa	<i>n</i> long, mostly hard object, e.g. rod, stick, branch	soweli	<i>n</i> animal, especially land	waso	
pana	vt give, put, send, place, release,	<u>sowen</u>	mammal, lovable animal	wawa	
F *******	emit, cause	suli	mod big, tall, long, adult,	,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,	mod energetic, strong, fierce,
	<i>n</i> giving, transfer, exchange		important		intense, sure, confident
pi 	sep of, belonging to		vt enlarge, lengthen n size		vt strengthen, energize, empower
pilin [feeling]	<i>n</i> feelings, emotion, heart <i>vi</i> feel	suno	n sun, light	weka	_
Deenngl	vt feel, think, sense, touch	<u>supa</u>	<i>n</i> horizontal surface, e.g		n absence
pimeja	mod black, dark	-	furniture, table, chair, pillow,		vt throw away, remove, get rid of
-	n darkness, shadows		floor	<u>wile</u>	vt to want, need, wish, have to, must, will, should
	vt darken	suwi [sweet]	n candy, sweet food mod sweet, cute		n desire, need, will
pini	<i>n</i> end, tip <i>mod</i> completed, finished, past,	Isweeil	vt sweeten		mod necessary
	done, ago	tan	prep from, by, because of, since	Parte	s of Speech
	vt finish, close, end, turn off		n origin, cause	n	head noun
pipi	n bug, insect, spider	taso	mod only, sole	mod	modifier (adjective or adverb)
poka	n side, hip, next to prep in the accompaniment of,	[that's all]	conj but	sep vt	separator verb, transitive (normally used with e)
	with	<u>tawa</u> [towards]	<i>prep</i> to, in order to, towards, for, until	vi	verb, intransitive
	mod neighbouring		vi go to, walk, travel, move,	interj prep	interjection quasi-preposition
poki	n container, box, bowl, cup,		leave	conj	conjuncion
[box]	glass		<i>n</i> movement, transportation <i>mod</i> moving, mobile	kama cont	compound verb preceded by kama context word used before la
pona [bonus]	<i>n</i> good, simplicity, positivity <i>mod</i> good, simple, positive, nice,			conj	conjuncion
[oonus]	correct, right	telo	n water, liquid, juice, sauce	oth	special, other word
	, C		vt water, wash with water	шр:/	//www.tokipona.org



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