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**NCEA Level 1 Gagana Sāmoa Revised Vocabulary List 2025**

**Editable Word doc**

Updated NCEA Level 1, Level 2, and Level 3 Vocabulary Lists for Pacific languages were published on the NCEA Education website in February and March 2025.

Below is the revised Level 1 Gagana Sāmoa Vocabulary List that should be used with students in 2025 (and thereafter).

The Vocabulary List supports teaching and learning and helps teachers understand the language appropriate at Curriculum Level 6. Language drawn from this Vocabulary List is used to create external assessments and may be used to support teachers when preparing students for internal assessments.

The vocabulary lists belong to the Ministry of Education. The list in this document has been **formatted by NZALT** to make it easier for teachers to print and photocopy for students. NZALT has provided two versions:

1. A PDF that can be printed and photocopied for students.
2. A Word document for teachers who would like to do further formatting.

This version of the vocabulary list is arranged **alphabetically (Gagana Sāmoa to English)**.

Other configurations of this list (eg. English to Gagana Sāmoa; by category) can be downloaded [here](https://ncea.education.govt.nz/learning-languages/gagana-samoa?view=teaching).

Alternatively, you can navigate to the revised vocabulary lists by following this pathway:   
ncea.education.govt.nz > New Zealand Curriculum > Learning Languages: Gagana Sāmoa > Teaching

Teachers are advised to read the Introduction to the vocabulary lists (downloadable online, as above), as these contain useful context for teaching and learning, and for internal and external assessments.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **L1** | **Gagana Sāmoa** | **English** |
| **`A** | `a`a | roots |
| `a`ai, nu`u | village, city |
| `a`au | to swim |
| `afa | sinnet (plaited fibre or grass), half |
| `ai (pl `a`ai) | to eat |
| `aiga | feast |
| `āiga | family |
| `āiga potopoto | extended family |
| `aisa | ice |
| `alaga | to call, calling (n) |
| `ana | if, unless |
| `ata | to laugh, ava roots |
| `au ālova`a | rowers |
| `au`auna | servant, to be served |
| `aufa`afiafia | performance group |
| `aufaipese | choir |
| `aufitafita | soldiers |
| `aufōlau | travellers via boat or canoe |
| `aufusu | boxing team |
| `aukilikiti | cricket team |
| `aulakapī | rugby team |
| `aulotu | congregation |
| `aumaga | untitled men in a village |
| `ause`epapa | weavers |
| `ausiva | dancers or dance group |
| `ausoka | football team |
| `auta`a`alo | players |
| `autalavou | youth |
| `autautua | service people |
| `auva`a | ship crew |
| `auvoli | volleyball team |
| `ave | to take |
| **`E** | `ea | air |
| `ela | to miss (in kilikiti), to fail to hit something |
| `ele | rust |
| `ele`ele, palapala | soil |
| `ele`elea | dirty |
| `elea | rusty |
| `ēlei | tapa design |
| `eli | to dig |
| `ese`esega | difference |
| **`I** | `i`ila | shiny |
| `ili, tipi, oti | to saw, to cut, chainsaw (n) |
| **`O** | `oe | you, second person singular |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **`U** | `ula | necklace |
| `ulu | breadfruit |
| `umi | long (time) |
| `umī | long (length), tall |
| `umī atu | longer, taller (comparison) |
| **A** | a uma | afterwards |
| a`a, kiki | to kick |
| a`e | to climb |
| ā`ega | slope |
| a`o | to teach |
| a`o, ma | and |
| a`o le`i | before |
| a`oa`i | and |
| a`oa`o | to learn, to teach |
| afafine | father’s daughter |
| afai | if, when |
| afiafi | evening |
| afiafipō | early evening |
| āga | action |
| agalelei | kind, caring |
| aganu`u | culture |
| agasala | sins |
| ai, ufiufi | to cover |
| ai`ū | stingy |
| ala (pl feala) | to wake up |
| ālaga pua`a | pig’s leg |
| alalafaga | respectful term for village |
| alo | to paddle |
| aloalo | lagoon |
| alofa | to love |
| alofa`aga | best wishes, regards |
| alu | to go |
| aluga | pillows |
| āna | cave |
| ana leilā | earlier |
| ananafi | yesterday |
| ananei/nei | now, today |
| ao | to collect, daylight, cloud |
| aoauli | afternoon |
| āsa | to go through |
| āsi | to visit |
| asiasiga | visit |
| aso uma | every day |
| ata | picture |
| ata tifaga | movie |
| atali`i | father’s son |
| auā, ona | because |
| āualuma | female group in a village |
| auleaga | ugly |
| aulelei | beautiful, handsome |
| aulelei atu | more beautiful, handsome |
| aumai | to bring |
| autafa, tafatafa | beside |
| āvā | wife |
| ave atu, avatu | to take it |
| **E** | e lava, e tele | it’s enough |
| e lē lava | it’s not enough |
| e lē tele | it’s not many |
| e leai nisi | there is no one |
| e tumu | it’s full |
| elo | to stink |
| esi | pawpaw |
| **I** | i | here |
| i`a | fish |
| i`inā | over there |
| i`inei | over here |
| ifo | to bow (head) |
| ila | mark |
| ili | to blow (an instrument), fan (n) |
| iloa | to know, to appear |
| iloga | notice, memorable |
| ina | when |
| ina ua uma | after |
| ini | to pinch |
| inu | to drink |
| isiisi, tipitipi | to cut (into pieces) |
| isu | nose |
| isumu | mouse |
| itū agavale | left side |
| itū taumatau | right side |
| **O** | o | there |
| o lea | so |
| o lea la | therefore |
| o leisi | next |
| o lona uiga la | this means |
| o nisi aso | some days |
| o tala ane, o le isi | beside, next |
| ōfaga | bird net |
| ofu | clothes |
| ogāniu | coconut stem, trunk |
| ogātotonu | middle |
| oka | raw fish |
| ola | to give birth |
| ola, olaga | life |
| olo | to scrub |
| oso | to jump, to overflow |
| osooso | jumping |
| **U** | u`u | to hold |
| ua | neck |
| ua, uāga | rain |
| ua a`e | trend |
| ua fa`aopopoina | increasingly |
| uāfu | wharf |
| uāti | clock |
| uī`i | youngest child |
| uila | bicycle |
| ula | to tease, to mock |
| ulavale | naughty |
| ulu | head |
| ulumatua | oldest child |
| uō | friend |
| uō tama | boyfriend |
| uō teine | girlfriend |
| uso | sister’s sister or brother’s brother |
| uso o lo`u tamā | father’s brother, uncle |
| uso o lo`u tinā | mother’s sister, aunty |
| usu | to sing |
| ūsuga | marriage |
| uta | farm area |
| **F** | fa | goodbye (short form of tōfā) |
| fa`a`ī | throat |
| fa`aauau | to continue |
| fa`afetai, tai lava | thanks |
| fa`afiafiaga | performance |
| fa`ailoga | award, sign |
| fa`aipoipo | to get married |
| fa`aipoipoga | wedding |
| fa`alogo | to listen |
| fa`amālō atu | congratulations |
| fa`amamā | to clean, to clear |
| fa`amatala | to describe |
| fa`amaualuga | overbearing |
| fa`amolemole | please |
| fa`anoanoa | sad |
| fa`asi`usi`uga | at the end |
| fa`asinomaga | identity |
| fa`atau atu | to sell |
| fa`atau mai | to buy |
| fa`atusatusa | to compare |
| fa`avae | foundation |
| fa`i | banana |
| fafaga | to feed |
| fafine | woman |
| fafo | outside |
| fai | to do |
| fai atu, ta`u | to tell |
| faiā | relationship |
| faife`au | church minister |
| faiga | building |
| faigatā | difficult, hard |
| faigofie | easy |
| failauga | preachers, speech makers |
| faipule | member of parliament, respectful term for orators |
| fale | house |
| fale`aiga | restaurant |
| fale`ese | toilet |
| fale`ia | fish shop |
| fale`oloa | shop, dairy |
| falea`oga | school building |
| falefaigaluega | working place, industry |
| falefalaoa | breadhouse, bakery |
| falefono | meeting house |
| falegaosimea | factory |
| falema`i | hospital |
| faleo`o | shed, hut |
| faleoti | funeral home |
| falepovi | butcher’s shop |
| faleta`alo | gymnasium |
| faleta`avale | garage |
| faletā`ele | shower |
| faletalavai | pharmacy |
| faletālimālō | hotel |
| faletifaga | cinema, movie theatre |
| faletoleni, fale fa`amalositino | training gym |
| faletua | high chief’s or minister’s wife |
| faletupe | bank |
| faletusi | bookshop, library |
| faleuila | toilet |
| fānau | children |
| fatu | to compose, to make, heart |
| fau | to make, to construct |
| fe`au | chores |
| fefe | to be afraid |
| felesi | fresh |
| fesili | to ask |
| feula | to blow (candle, fire, or food) |
| fiafia | happy, joy |
| filifili | to select, to choose |
| fola | floor (n), to spread |
| folafolaga | acknowledgement |
| fou | new |
| fua | flower (n), to bloom, to produce |
| fua, fuala`au aina suamalie | fruit |
| fusi | to tie up |
| fusu | to fight |
| **G** | ga`o | dripping, fat, oil, wax |
| ga`uta | inland plantation, farm area |
| gafa | genealogy |
| gagana | language |
| gali, u | to bite |
| galo | to forget, stingray |
| galu | waves |
| gaogao | empty, scarce |
| gaosi | to make, to build |
| gaosiga | making |
| gasu | messy, untidy |
| gata | snake (n), to end |
| gātai | seaside, village |
| gau, gagau, nuti | to break |
| gāuta | inland |
| gogo | seagull |
| gutu | mouth |
| **K** | kāloti | carrot |
| kāpisi | cabbage |
| ki | to turn on (lights) |
| kili | fishing net |
| kilia, manino | clear |
| kolosi | cross |
| komipiuta | computer |
| kuka | to cook |
| **L** | la`asaga | level |
| la`itiiti | young, smaller, less than |
| la`ititi | small |
| la`u | to carry |
| la`umiumi | long (object) |
| lafo | to send |
| lakapī | rugby |
| lakapī liki | rugby league |
| lakapī pa`i | touch rugby |
| lalaga | to weave |
| lale | that, over there |
| lalo | down |
| lapo`a | big, bigger |
| latalata | near |
| lau | to read out, leaf |
| lauga | speech |
| lauitiiti | narrower |
| laulau | to serve the food |
| launiu | coconut leaves |
| lautele | wider |
| le lā, lele | that |
| lea | this |
| leaga | worse |
| lelei | better |
| leo | voice |
| li`o | circle |
| lima | hand |
| loloto | deep |
| lonalua | secondly |
| lonatolu (fa, lima) | thirdly |
| loto | soul |
| loto maualalo | humble |
| lotoifale | internal environment (refers to aiga) |
| lototele | brave |
| luga a`e | above, up |
| luma | in front |
| **M** | ma`ai | sharp |
| ma`i | sickness |
| mafanafana | warm |
| mafiafia | thick |
| mafua`aga | origins, reasons |
| mala | curse |
| malaga | to go (on a trip), trip |
| maligi | to drop (tears) |
| mālō | hi |
| mālō lava | hi, well done |
| mālō le soifua, mālō le soifua manuia | good health (formal) |
| mālosi | strong, darker |
| malūlū | cold |
| mama | mother, grandmother |
| mamao | far |
| mana | power, strength |
| mana`o | to want |
| manaia | nice |
| manifi, manifinifi | thin |
| manogi | to smell |
| mao`ae | super |
| maoluma | further front |
| maotua | further back |
| māsaga | last two people (in kilikiti), twins |
| māsani | usually, tendency |
| masi | biscuits |
| masoa | muscular |
| matai | chief |
| matai ali`i | high chief |
| matai tulāfale | orator |
| matamata | to watch |
| matua | old (person) |
| matuā | very |
| mātua o mātua | grandparents |
| maua | to receive |
| maualalo | low |
| maualalo ifo | lower |
| maualuga | high |
| maualuga atu | higher |
| mea`ai | food |
| measina | treasure |
| misia | to miss (someone) |
| moa | chicken, centre |
| moana | ocean |
| moe | to sleep |
| molimau | testimony |
| mou | to disappear |
| muā`au | before, in front |
| muamua | firstly |
| muli`au | after, behind |
| mulimuli | to follow, lastly |
| musa | to hop |
| musu | to refuse |
| **N** | nafa | duties, responsibilities |
| nanā | to hide |
| nānei | tonight |
| nanu | to speak English |
| naunau | to need, to want, desire |
| ne`i | just in case, expressing doubt or fear |
| nifo | teeth |
| nini | to rub in or on |
| niu | coconut palm tree, coconut |
| noa, avanoa | space |
| nofo | to sit, to live |
| nofoaga | place, location |
| nonoa | to tie |
| **P** | pa | fence |
| pa`i, tago | to touch |
| pa`ū | to fall, to drop |
| pae`e ifo, atu | skinnier, thinner |
| pālagi | European |
| palakarafa | paragraph |
| palasi | to fall |
| palu | to mix |
| paluga | mixer |
| papa | father, grandfather |
| papa`u | shallow |
| pasi | to pass, bus |
| patupatu | bumpy, uneven (surface) |
| pe afai, ae `afai | if |
| pepe | baby |
| pia | beer |
| piki | to pick |
| pito | side |
| po | to hit (ball) |
| pō | night |
| pō nei | this night |
| po`o | or |
| popo | copra, coconut |
| popole | nervous, worry, not sure |
| potu`ai | dining room |
| potumālōlō | sitting room |
| potumoe | bedroom |
| potutā`ele | bathroom |
| pou | post |
| pou tū | main post |
| pu`e | to catch |
| pu`upu`u | short, shorter |
| puipui | to protect |
| puta | chubby, fat |
| **R** | rosa | rose |
| **S** | sā | curfew, sacred |
| sa`asa`a | short (person) |
| sa`eu | to stir |
| sa`olotoga | freedom |
| saka | to cook, to boil |
| sala | punishment |
| salo | to wipe |
| salu | broom, to sweep |
| sami | to celebrate |
| sao | to collect, to save |
| sasa`a | to pour |
| sasala | smell |
| sau | to come |
| sauniga | preparation, church service |
| savali | to walk |
| se`ia | until |
| seāseā | seldom, hardly ever |
| sili atu | it’s better |
| sili le aulelei atu | most beautiful |
| sili ona leaga | much worse |
| sili ona lelei | much better |
| sioa | to stare |
| sisi | to raise |
| sisina | to drip |
| siva | dance |
| so`otaga | connection |
| sola | to escape |
| solo | to erase, to wipe, poetry |
| sui | to change |
| **T** | ta | to hit (sport) |
| ta`alo | to play |
| ta`aloga | sports |
| ta`avale | car |
| ta`oto | to lie down |
| ta`usaga lea | next year |
| taeao | morning, tomorrow |
| taeao āfua | next morning |
| taeao pō | early morning |
| tafafā tutusa | square |
| tafatolu | triangle |
| tagata | people |
| tagata tautua | person who performs service |
| tagi | to cry |
| taimi lea | that time |
| taimi lenei | now, this time |
| taimi uma | every time |
| tala | story |
| tala`aga | history |
| talafatai | seaside |
| talane (spoken), tala ane (written) | next |
| talanoa | to discuss, to converse |
| tālatāla | prickly |
| talatu ananafi | day before yesterday |
| talatu taeao | day after tomorrow |
| tali | response, answer, to answer, to reply |
| talitonu | to believe, to agree |
| talitonuga | belief |
| tālo | to wave |
| tālofa, tālofa lava | hello |
| tama | boy |
| tamā | father |
| tamā matua | old man, grandfather |
| tamā o lo`u tamā | my father’s father, paternal grandfather |
| tamā o lo`u tinā | my mother’s father, maternal grandfather |
| tama tama | mother’s son |
| tama teine | mother’s daughter |
| tamafai | adopted child (outside family) |
| tamāloa, tane | man, husband |
| tamavavae | adopted child (from family) |
| tamo`e | to run |
| tamua | first (batter in kilikiti) |
| tamuli | last (batter in kilikiti) |
| tanu | to bury |
| tapa | designs |
| tapu | sacred |
| tātā | to bang on the drum |
| tatala | to open |
| tatalo | prayer, to pray |
| tau | to pick (as in fruit), cost (price of somthing), season (as in weather) |
| taulaga | offering, capital city |
| taumua | front/bow of a boat |
| taumuli | back/stern of a boat |
| taunu`u | to arrive |
| tausaga fou | new year |
| tausaga i tua atu | the year before last year |
| tausaga ua te`a | last year |
| tausi | orator’s wife |
| tausoga | cousin |
| tautala | to talk, to speak |
| tei | nephews, nieces, relatives |
| teine | girl |
| tele, to`atele | many |
| telefoni | to call |
| teu | to tidy up |
| tīgā | sore |
| tilotilo | to see, to look |
| tinā | mother |
| tinā matua | old lady, grandmother |
| tinā o lo`u tamā | my father’s mother, paternal grandmother |
| tinā o lo`u tinā | my mother’s mother, maternal grandmother |
| tino | body |
| to`a | confident, calm |
| to`aitiiti | little |
| to`alua | spouse, husband, wife, couple, two people |
| toea`ina | old man |
| tōfā | goodbye |
| tōfā soifua | goodbye (respectful term) |
| togi | to throw |
| toleni | to train |
| toli (le popo/niu/`ulu) | to bring down |
| tosi | to scribble, to scratch |
| toso | to pull |
| toto`a | clearly |
| totonu | inside |
| tū | to stand |
| tū tonu o le lā, aoaui | midday |
| tu`ua | to leave |
| tua | back, behind |
| tuafafine | brother’s sister |
| tuafafine o lo`u tamā | my father’s sister, aunty |
| tuagane | sister’s brother |
| tuagane o lo`u tinā | my mother’s brother, uncle |
| tuai | old (object, eg, house) |
| tula`i i luga | to stand up |
| tulei | to push |
| tuli | to chase, to suspend |
| tulimanu | corner |
| tupu so`o | always |
| tupu`aga | ancestry, origin |
| tusi | to write, book (n) |
| tutulu | to leak, to cry (respectful term for tagi) |
| **V** | vā | space, relationship |
| va`a | boat |
| va`ai | to look |
| va`aiga | view |
| vai | water |
| vaivai | weak, lighter, puddle |
| valuāpo | midnight |
| vao | grass |
| vase | to draw a line |
| vave | to hurry |
| vaveao | dawn |
| vele | to weed |
| vevela | hot |
| vi’iga | praise |
| viga | to nag |
| vili | to drill, to call |