

## NCEA Level 1 Gagana Sāmoa Revised Vocabulary List 2025 Easy-print PDF version

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](#).

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
`I	`ese`esega	difference
	`i`ila	shiny
`O	`ili, tipi, oti	to saw, to cut, chainsaw (n)
	`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
<b>E</b>	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
<b>I</b>	i	here
	ī`a	fish
	ī`inā	over there
	ī`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
<b>O</b>	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
<b>U</b>	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
<b>F</b>	fa	goodbye (short form of tōfā)
	fa`a`ī	throat
	fa`aaauau	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
<b>G</b>	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
<b>K</b>	kāloti	carrot
	kāpisi	cabbage
	ki	to turn on (lights)
	kili	fishing net
	kilia, manino	clear
	kolosi	cross
	komipiuta	computer
	kuka	to cook
<b>L</b>	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
<b>M</b>	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
	mulì`au	after, behind
	mulimuli	to follow, lastly
	musa	to hop
	musu	to refuse
<b>N</b>	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
<b>P</b>	pa	fence
	pa`i, tago	to touch
	pa`ū	to fall, to drop
	paē`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
<b>R</b>	rosa	rose
<b>S</b>	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
<b>T</b>	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 something), 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
tausī	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