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**NCEA Level 2 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 2 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 7. 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.

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| **L2** | **Gagana Sāmoa** | **English** |
| **`A** | `a`ami (v) | fetch |
| `a`amu (v) | make fun of |
| `a`o (conj) | but, while |
| `a`oa`o (v) | educate |
| `a`oa`oga (n) | education, teaching, lesson |
| `aemaise (vp) | especially |
| `ailoga (adj) | it is doubtful (whether), it is unlikely |
| `aiseā (adv) | why |
| `aisi (v, adj) | ask for something (money), begging |
| `aiuli (n, v) | male dance |
| `alāfau (n) | cheek |
| `alagā`oa (n) | resources |
| `aluga (n) | pillow |
| `āmata (v) | begin |
| `āmataga (n) | beginning |
| `amu`ia (v) | lucky, fortunate, blessed |
| `aofa`i (v, n, adj) | gather together (v), sum, total (n), general, combine, joint (adj) |
| `aofia (v, n) | be assembled, gathered, be collected |
| `au`āiga (n) | related, relative |
| `auala (n) | road |
| `auala laupapa (n) | bridge |
| `aufaigaluega (n) | worker |
| `aumai (v) | bring |
| `aute (n) | hibiscus |
| `autῡ (v) | centre around, revolving around something |
| **`E** | `efu`efu (v) | grey |
| `elefane (n) | elephant |
| `ēleiga (n) | the process of rubbing a pattern on to bark-cloth |
| `eletise (adj) | electricity |
| `emo (v) | blink of an eye |
| `Eseta (n) | Easter — can be used as a person's name |
| **`I** | `i`inā (adj) | there, in that place |
| `i`inei (adv) | here, in this place |
| `ia (vp) | sign of command The form of *`ioe* is often used with a rising tone — also used as wishing article, eg, `Ia manuia le aso. |
| `iā (v) | command to start |
| `ie (n) | a wrap-around material |
| `ie`afu (n) | bedsheet |
| `ietoga (n) | fine mat |
| `inā (adj) | there |
| `inei (lb) | here |
| `ioe (v) | yes |
| **`O** | `oa (n) | treasure, valuable goods |
| `ofisa (n) | officer, official |
| `ofu (n) | garment |
| `ofutā`ele (n) | swimming togs |
| `ofutino (n) | shirt |
| `ofuvae (n) | trousers, shorts |
| `ogā- (prefix) | appears only in compound words |
| `ogā-`ele`ele (n) | area, tract of land |
| `ogātotonu (n) | centre, middle |
| `okesene (n) | oxygen |
| `Oketopa (n) | October |
| `oli`oli (v) | rejoice |
| `oloa (n) | goods (esp trade goods), wealth, stock supplies, teeth — respectful term for nifo |
| `onosa`i (v, adj) | be patient |
| `ote (v, adj) | scold, tell someone off |
| `oti (v) | cut with scissors, clippers |
| **`U** | `u`u (v) | hold, grip, clutch |
| `ua (vp) | predictable particle used with reference to present or recent past |
| `ulo (n) | pot |
| `uma (v) | be done |
| `umala (n) | kūmara, sweet potato |
| `upega (n) | fishing net |
| `upu (n) | word |
| **A** | a`afiaga (v) | impact |
| a`oa`i (v) | reprove, admonish |
| ā`oga (n) | school |
| afā (n) | storm, gale, hurricane |
| agaifanua (v) | customs |
| agava`a (v) | suitable, ability, experience |
| alagā`upu (n) | proverb |
| alualu i luma (v) | progress forward |
| āmiolelei (v) | (be) good, decent, well-mannered |
| anafea (gph) | when (refers to the past) |
| anapō (gph) | last night |
| anataeao (gph) | this morning |
| aogā (v) | use, useful, value, valuable |
| atamai (v) | wise, clever, intelligent |
| **E** | e lē lelei tele (adv) | not as good |
| e le`i taitai (adv) | not quite |
| eva (v) | walk (or sit about) for pleasure, stroll |
| ēvaga (n) | sitting (or walking) about for pleasure |
| **I** | iai (v) | be placed |
| ina (vp) | so as to, in order to |
| ipu (n) | cup |
| isi (pn) | some |
| itiiti (v) | little, small |
| itῡ`āiga (n) | kind, sort |
| itūāiga (n) | a division or branch of a family |
| itūlā (n) | hour |
| itūlagi (n) | direction |
| itūmālō (n) | district |
| itūtino (n) | part of the body |
| **O** | oge (n) | scarcity of food, famine |
| onapō (n) | those days |
| ono (v) | be fitting, suitable |
| **U** | ua alagātatau, ua tatau ai | well deserved |
| ui (v) | go long |
| ulufafo (v) | go out, exit |
| ulufale (v) | enter, come in |
| umu (n) | stone oven |
| utu(v) | pour into |
| **F** | fa`a (pf) | prefix used with a large number of bases and serving many separate functions |
| fa`aaloalo (v) | respect |
| fa`aaogā (v) | to make use, to bring into use |
| fa`aauau (v) | to continue, to proceed |
| fa`afiafia (v) | to entertain, to perform |
| fa`amāgalo (v) | to forgive |
| fa`amanatu (v) | to remind |
| fa`amanuia (v) | to wish good luck |
| fa`amāoni (v) | honest |
| fa`amuta (v) | to end |
| fa`ata`ita`iga (n) | example, imitation, trial, model |
| falesā (n) | church building |
| fatafata (n) | chest |
| fatupese (n) | composer, songwriter |
| fautua (v) | advise, recommend |
| fesoasoani (n) | help, assistance |
| filifiliga (n) | decision |
| filigā (n) | persevere, perseverance |
| fīnau (v) | to argue, quarrel |
| folafola (v) | to announce publicly, to acknowledge |
| fōliga (n) | face |
| fonotaga (n) | meeting |
| **G** | ga`o (n) | fat, grease, wax |
| gagana (v) | language |
| galue (v) | work, cultivate |
| gāluega (n) | job, employment, occupation |
| gaogao (v) | empty, be deserted |
| gasegase (v) | be sick — respectful term for ma`i |
| gāsese (v) | prepare food — respectful term for tapena |
| gata`aga (n) | end of the world |
| gatasi (adv) | to level |
| gese (v, adj) | slow (v), be slow (adj) |
| goto (v) | to sink, to set (of sun) |
| **L** | la`a (v) | step, march |
| lā`au (n) | plant, tree |
| lā`ei (n) | clothes — respectful term for ofu |
| lā`ei (v) | put on, wear |
| lā (n) | sun |
| lafi (v) | hide |
| lagilelei (v) | fine weather |
| lagolago (n, v) | support |
| lagolago (n) | supporting logs for Samoan oven |
| lagolagoina (n) | supporting others |
| lagona (v) | feel |
| lagonaina (v) | sense |
| lāina (v) | be exposed to the sun |
| lālelei (v, adj) | beautiful (v), be beautiful, attractive (adj) |
| lalolagi (n) | earth, world, region, area |
| lapata`i (v) | warn, words of caution |
| lapata`iga (n) | warning |
| lāpisi (n) | refuse, rubbish |
| lauiloa (v) | well known |
| laumua (n) | capital |
| leipa (n) | labourer, worker |
| leotele (v) | loud |
| lesona (n) | lesson |
| lilo (v) | be lost to view, be concealed from |
| lilofia (v) | be hidden from view, cover up |
| lotu (n) | church service, religious |
| lumana`i (v) | be in the future, in days to come |
| **M** | mā (n) | shame |
| ma`imau (v) | waste |
| māfatia (v) | suffer |
| māfaufau (n, v) | mind, thinking |
| manatu (n) | thought, idea |
| manino (v, adj) | clear |
| manuia (v, adj) | succeed, happy, lucky |
| masalo (v) | maybe, uncertain |
| matā`upu (n) | subject, topic |
| Matā`upu tau i su`esu`ega o `ele`ele ma fa`afanua | Geography (school subject) |
| mausalī (v) | solidify |
| mautū (v, adj) | everything in place |
| mo`omo`oga (n) | wish |
| musumusu (v) | whisper |
| **N** | natura (n) | nature |
| nu`u (n) | village |
| nuti (v) | to break, broken heart |
| **P** | pa`ulua (v) | out of tune |
| paepae (v, n) | scattered, stone pavement |
| paga (n) | partner |
| pagātia (v) | trouble |
| palapala (n) | soil |
| pālota (n) | vote, ballot, election |
| papago (v) | stingy |
| parataiso (n) | paradise |
| pasene (n) | percentage |
| patino (v) | private, personal |
| pe`a (n) | tattoo |
| pea (n) | pair as in clothing, pear |
| peita`i (adv) | unfortunately |
| penina (n) | pearl, someone dear to you |
| **S** | sao mai (adv) | through |
| sei (n) | flower behind ear or in hair |
| so`o se mea (adj) | whatever (you want) |
| so`o se taimi (adv, conj) | whenever, anytime |
| soesā (n) | nuisance |
| **T** | ta`u (v) | tell |
| ta`utino (v) | vow |
| tafatafa (prep) | beside |
| tago (v) | touch |
| talafa`asolopito (n) | History (school subject) |
| talavou (adj) | young |
| talenia (adj) | skilful |
| tali tutusa (adj) | similar |
| talu ai (conj) | whereas |
| tamāo`āiga (n) | wealth, economy |
| tāpua`i (n, v) | worship |
| tauivi (v) | struggle |
| tekenolosi o le aniva (n) | digital technology |
| to`atele (v) | many/lots |
| tō`ese (v) | remove |
| togafiti (v) | manage |
| tūlāfono (n) | rules |
| tūlaga (n) | position |
| tusitusi (v) | write, record |
| **V** | vāapiapi (v) | narrow path |
| vae (n) | leg, foot (o) |
| vae atu! (conj) | if I may say! (expression, polite) |
| vāega (n) | a part of, portion, zone |
| vaevae (n) | to divide into pieces, division |
| vāfeagai (v) | relations (between persons or things) |
| vāfeāloa`i (v) | space relationship |
| vaganā (prep, conj) | except, unless |
| vaiaso (n) | weekly |
| vailā`au (n) | water, medicine |
| vaipuna (n) | well |
| vaitafe (n) | stream, river |
| vaitaimi (v) | week |
| vaitūloto (n) | interval, period |
| vāivai (v) | soft |
| vala`au (v) (pl. vala`au) | to call |
| vala`aulia (v) | call, invite |
| vālatalata (v) | be close, near (to each other) |
| valea (pl. vālelea) (v, adj) | a fool, to be stupid |
| vali (v) | to paint |
| vāmamao (v) | far from each other |
| vānimonimo (n) | sky |
| vanu (n) | valley |
| vasa (n) | ocean |
| vasega (n) | class (a) |
| vātau (v) | be on bad terms |
| veape (n) | verb |
| vela (v) | to be cooked (food) |
| velasia (v) | be warmed, heated |
| vevela (v, adj) | hot (v), be hot (adj) |
| vevesi (v) | agitated, bustle |
| vivi`i (v) | to praise, glorify |