



NCEA Level 2 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 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](#).

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.

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	
	`E	`auala (n)	road
`auala laupapa (n)		bridge	
`aufaigaluega (n)		worker	
`aumai (v)		bring	
`aute (n)		hibiscus	
`autū (v)		centre around, revolving around something	
`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, `la 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
	āmirolelei (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
	itū`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
	taluai (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