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**NCEA Level 3 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 3 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 8. 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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| **L3** | **Gagana Sāmoa** | **English** | **Vocabulary classes** |
| **`A** | `aigofie | old traditional men's game to test their skills and power | noun |
| `ailao | to twirl / flourish a hooked knife while dancing, to formally acknowledge a present | verb |
| `aleu | mistake, error | noun |
| `alititai | sea-bed | noun |
| `anagatā | long lasting, durable | verb |
| `au`afa | stock of fine mats | noun |
| `auomala | be unsuccessful | verb |
| `auomanῡ | be successful, have good luck | verb |
| **`E** | `e`eta`i | be seated to people of high status | verb |
| **`I** | `inisinia | engineer | noun |
| **`O** | `o`otia | (of feelings) be moved, touch, struck, sorrow | adjective |
| `oto`oto | to summarise | adjective |
| **`U** | `u`umau | hold fast, grip, clutch | verb |
| `uti`uti | be inadequate | verb |
| **A** | alapō | be awake at night | verb |
| alausu | early morning start | verb |
| ali`io`āiga | an eldest child (son) of a couple | noun |
| āloa`ia | treat with courtesy | verb |
| alofagia | show affection | verb |
| anofale | what is inside the Samoan fale | noun |
| Ao o le Mālō | Head of State | noun |
| asamo | ask for plantation produce in general | verb |
| atualuma (n, v) | front of the house, be in the front | verb |
| au`ili`ili | go through into | verb |
| **I** | i`ugāfono | resolution, decision of a council | noun |
| ifoga | is an ancient Samoan ritual where the offending party pleads for pardon from the offended party | noun |
| iloiloga | examination, investigation | noun |
| inati | part, portion, share | noun |
| itῡleaga | disadvantage | noun |
| itῡlelei | advantage | noun |
| **O** | o`a | husk a coconut | verb |
| ofo | be astonished, surprised, offer | verb |
| ola lelei | function, work | verb |
| onomea  | becoming, graceful | verb |
| opo | hold, clasp in both hands | verb |
| opogi | to support, to strengthen | adjective |
| osi | make a covenant, enter into a mutual agreement, offer | verb |
| ositaulaga | priest | noun |
| **U** | ūaga | rain | noun |
| uatogi | club, war-club | noun |
| ufi | cover, put a covering over something | verb |
| uigā (v, adj) | be barbed (with remarks), caustic | verb, adjective |
| uigalua (v, adj) | ambiguous, equivocal | verb, adjective |
| ulimasao | proceed cautiously and safely on a journey | verb |
| ulugāli`i | partners, married couple | noun |
| ulumoega | present of mats and ohers from the bride's family to the groom's family | noun |
| uluola (v, adj) | grow well, thrive (plants) | verb |
| umusāga | ceremony to mark the opening of a new house | noun |
| usita`i | obey | verb |
| usoga | fraternity, brotherhood | noun |
| usotaufeagai | be half-sibling | verb |
| usotῡ`ofe | be full siblings | verb |
| usu fa`aaloalo | when the chiefs of the village come together with their kava stick for the `ava ceremony to welcome guests | noun |
| usufono | term used for the passing of an orator | noun |
| ūtaga | wise opinion or decision, wisdom (by the chief) | noun |
| utuvā | happens at intervals | verb |
| **F** | fa`afῑtāuli (n, adj) | controversial, contentious | adjective, noun |
| fa`afualoa | live long | verb |
| fa`afuase`i (v) | to happen suddenly | verb |
| fa`ale`āiga (adj, n) | family activities | adjective, noun |
| fa`aleatunu`u | national, natives | adjective |
| fa`alemālō | public, official | adjective |
| fa`alenu`u (n, adj) | village activities | noun |
| fa`alētonu  | uncertain | verb |
| fa`alupega | a salutation to address representatives of villages in Samoa at a formal gathering | noun |
| fa`amaela (v, adv) | a sarcastic laugh | verb |
| fa`amāepaepa (v) | sit solemnly | verb |
| fa`anatinati (v, adv) | in a hurry | verb |
| fa`aseuapa | sitting sideway esp. when presenting the traditional gift, sua to the receiver | adverb |
| fa`atafiti | the last Samoan dance before the finale or taualuga | noun |
| fa`avevela | (v) to heat or warm up, (n) pit of ripening bananas, (n) package of cooked taro or yam from the Samoan oven | verb |
| faiāvā | male inlaw  | noun |
| felafolafoa`iga  | debate | noun |
| finafinau | strive | verb |
| finagalo | desire, will, command | noun |
| fīnauga | argument | noun |
| foafoaga | creation | noun |
| fotua`i | come into view | verb |
| **G** | gāpatia | be burdened with | verb, adjective |
| gāsesega | preparation of food | noun |
| gaua`i | yield, give into something | verb |
| **H** | helikopa | helicopter | noun |
| **K** | kalama | grammar | noun |
| kolone | colony | noun |
| komesina | commissioner | noun |
| komisi | commission | noun |
| **L** | la`o`ai | platter, dining table | noun |
| lau`ava | funeral feast | noun |
| laualuga | prioritise, (be) uppermost | verb, adjective |
| laulausiva | first part of the traditional song to get people's attention before the main parts are sung | noun |
| lausilafia | well known, be noticed at large | adjective |
| lialia`i | wave | verb |
| ligoligoa (v, adj) | be hushed, silent | verb, adjective |
| lotonu`u | patriotic | verb |
| lupepe | gather together in large numbers | verb |
| **M** | ma`alo | appear suddenly then disappear | verb |
| mā`io`io | specify, delegate | verb |
| māe`a | finished and ready | verb |
| māfutaga | fellowship | noun |
| maleifua | awake (formal term) | verb |
| malele | when a high chief speaks with authority | verb |
| mamae (v, adj) | dry in the heat, of a friend (uō mamae) | verb, adjective |
| manulautī | theme, target | noun |
| mativa | poverty | noun |
| matῡpalapala | destined with | verb |
| **N** | nenefu | blur | verb |
| nonō (v, adj) | borrowed | verb, adjective |
| **P** | puaoa | be misty, foggy | verb |
| pulenu`u | mayor | noun |
| **S** | salalau | spread story/ rumour, scattered items | verb |
| saunoa | when a high chief speaks | verb |
| se`iloga | unless | conjunction |
| segisegi | wary, first light, break of day | verb |
| senetenari | centenary | noun |
| si`osi`omaga | environment, surroundings | noun |
| sosaiete | society (association) | noun |
| **T** | ta`avilivili | spinning | verb |
| ta`igāsua | a way someone shows appreciation to another by presenting them with a sua | noun |
| ta`uta`ua | well known | adjective  |
| talenia | skilful | adjective |
| tama`āiga | title given to the holder of any of the four highest titles in Samoa | noun |
| tu`umālō | the passing of a high chief | verb |
| tupulaga talavou | youth | noun |