



## NCEA Level 3 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 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](#).

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.

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
	`auomanū	be successful, have good luck	verb
`E	`e`eta`i	be seated to people of high status	verb
`I	`inisia	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
	alausū	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
	itūleaga	disadvantage	noun
	itūlelei	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 others 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
	usotū`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
<b>F</b>	fa`aftāuli (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 sideways esp. when presenting the traditional gift, sua to the receiver	adverb
	fa`atafiti	the last Samoan dance before the finale or tualuga	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
<b>G</b>	gāpatia	be burdened with	verb, adjective
	gāsesega	preparation of food	noun
	gaua`i	yield, give into something	verb
<b>H</b>	helikopa	helicopter	noun
<b>K</b>	kalama	grammar	noun
	kolone	colony	noun

	komesina	commissioner	noun
	komisi	commission	noun

<b>L</b>	la`o`ai	platter, dining table	noun
	lau`ava	funeral feast	noun
	lualuga	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
<b>M</b>	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
	manulauti	theme, target	noun
	mativa	poverty	noun
	matūpalapala	destined with	verb
<b>N</b>	nenefu	blur	verb
	nonō (v, adj)	borrowed	verb, adjective
<b>P</b>	puaoa	be misty, foggy	verb
	pulenu`u	mayor	noun
<b>S</b>	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
<b>T</b>	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	
	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