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**NCEA Level 1 Gagana Tokelau 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 1 Gagana Tokelau 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 Tokelau to English)**.

Other configurations of this list (eg. English to Gagana Tokelau; by category) can be downloaded [here](https://ncea.education.govt.nz/learning-languages/gagana-tokelau?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 Tokelau > 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 Tokelau** | **English** |
| **A** | afa | half |
| afā | hurricane, cyclone, storm |
| afiafi | afternoon |
| agai | about, towards, at; bunch of coconuts |
| aganuku | custom(s), tradition(s), culture |
| agiagi | onion |
| ahiahi | to visit |
| aho | day, date |
| Aho Falaile | Friday |
| aho fanau | birthday |
| Aho Gafua | Monday |
| Aho Hā | Sunday |
| Aho Hā Paepae | White Sunday |
| Aho Hā o Tamaiti | White Sunday (Children’s Sunday) |
| aho i mua (lumanaki) | future |
| Aho Lua | Tuesday |
| Aho Lulu | Wednesday |
| Aho o Mātua | Mother’s Day |
| Aho o Tamana | Father’s Day |
| Aho Tofi | Thursday |
| Aho Tōnai | Saturday |
| ahonei | today |
| ahu | scoop, smoke |
| aiha | ice |
| aiheā | why |
| akau, uga, feo, lapa | reef, coral |
| akoakoga | education, training, learning |
| ākoga | school, college |
| ala, pogai | reason |
| alaiha | rice |
| alo | to paddle, to row |
| alofa | love, affection, kindness |
| alofaaga | greetings, gift |
| aluga | pillow, cushion |
| amanaki | to notice, confident, optimistic |
| ananafi | yesterday |
| ao | cloud, day |
| aoaoa | to be clouded over, cloudy |
| aoauli | midday, afternoon |
| apa | tin, can |
| Apelila | April |
| apu | apple |
| ata | photo |
| ataata | shadow |
| atili | to increase |
| auā | because |
| auala | road, way, method |
| Aukuho | August |
| āva | respect, politeness |
| **E** | ea | air |
| Ēheta | Easter |
| **I** | Iānuali (macron optional) | January |
| Igilihi | English (language, school subject) |
| igoa | name |
| ika | fish |
| ili | fan (n), to fan, saw (n), to saw |
| iloa | knowledge, to know |
| Inati | traditional community distribution system, share of Inati group |
| inu | to drink, to take medicine |
| io | yes |
| ipu | shell (coconut), dishes |
| ipumāfolafola | plate |
| ipumālamalama | tumbler, glass |
| iputī | teacup |
| ita (inoino) | to hate, to dislike |
| ita | angry (adj) |
| itū | side |
| itūkāiga | kind, sort |
| itulā | hour |
| iva | nine |
| iva hefulu/ivahefulu | ninety |
| Iūlai (macron optional) | July |
| Iūni (macron optional) | June |
| **O** | ogaumu | oven |
| oho | to jump |
| oioti | just, only |
| Oketopa | October |
| ola mālōlō | healthy |
| olaga | life, existence |
| ologa | act of going, departing |
| ono | six |
| ono hefulu | sixty |
| ōnomea | to be beautiful, to be nice |
| **U** | ua | rain |
| uafu | wharf |
| uho | sister, brother, cousin |
| uhu | to sing |
| uiga | meaning |
| uka | fishing line |
| uliuli/lanu uliuli | black |
| ulo | pan, pot |
| ulu | breadfruit tree, leader/chief, head (body part), hair, to enter, to lead, admission fee, entrance fee |
| uma/umaga | to finish |
| **F** | fā | four |
| fafagu | to wake |
| fāfanua | map |
| fafao | to pack |
| fafine | woman, female |
| fafo | outside |
| fāgota (pl fāgogota) | to catch fish |
| fā hefulu/fāhefulu | forty |
| fai | to do, to create, to perform, to repair, to bring, to wear (clothes)  banana fruit, plant |
| faiākoga | teacher |
| faifaiva | to go fishing, a group of workers |
| faifeau, patele | pastor, priest |
| faiga | method, way |
| faiga o te meakai | recipe |
| faigāluega | to work, to be employed |
| faigatā | difficult |
| faigofie | easy |
| faikākā | lying, dishonest |
| faili | to make music |
| faimātua | aunt |
| faitamana, tamana, tuātina | uncle |
| faitatagi | to cry |
| faitatala | to speak |
| faitau | to read |
| fāitotoka | door |
| faiva | pursuit, employment, something somebody regularly does |
| fakaali | to show |
| fakaaogāga/fakaaogā | to use |
| fakafanoga | to spend (time) |
| fakafeiloakiga | meeting, welcoming (n) |
| fakafetai | thank you |
| fakafiafia | to entertain, to celebrate |
| fakafītā | to stress, burden |
| fakafoe | to paddle |
| fakahao | to pass; to save, to rescue |
| fakaheheke | to surf, to skateboard |
| fakahīhī | to fish |
| fakahino | to show, to demonstrate |
| fakaifo | to share out |
| fakailoa | to show, to make something known |
| fakalelei | to fix, to improve |
| fakalogo | to pay attention, to listen |
| fakalua | twice |
| fakamaga (pl fakamamaga) | to open, to be open |
| fakamālama | to shine |
| fakamatala | to explain, to describe |
| fakamatalaga | explanation, description |
| fakamautinoa | to make sure, to be certain |
| fakamoemoe | purpose, expectation, to rely, to expect |
| fakamolemole | to say please, to request, to apologise |
| fakamomoli | to send (gift or parcel) |
| fakamua | communal, belonging to the village |
| fakanoanoa | sadness, sadly |
| fakapelepele | to be affectionate, dearly, to value highly |
| fakapipiki | to assemble, to moor a boat, to be close to someone (as a friend) |
| fakatahi | all together, all at once |
| fakatahiga | meeting, gathering |
| fakatakitakiga | example, practice |
| fakatali | to wait (for) |
| fakatau | shopping, trade |
| fakatau atu | to sell |
| fakatau mai | to buy |
| fakatekia | to be surprised, to be shocked |
| fakatele (pl fakatetele) | to sail |
| fakatino | to put into action, to demonstrate |
| fakatinoga | demonstration, action, activity, event, evidence |
| fakatū | to set up |
| fakauma | to finish |
| fakavave | to hurry, to rush |
| falaoa | flour, bread |
| fale | house |
| falē | communal settlement, village, home |
| falehā | church |
| falekoloa | shop |
| falemai | hospital |
| fāmalama | window |
| fanake | to come up, to come with |
| fānau | offspring, children |
| fano (pl olo) | to go |
| fātele | action dance/song (traditional) |
| fatoā | just, recently |
| fātoaga | garden, plantation |
| fatu | stone, heart |
| fehili | question |
| fehoahoani | help, assistance, favour |
| fekau | message |
| fenua | land, country |
| feololo | to be better |
| Fepuali | February |
| fetaui | to meet |
| fetū | star |
| fiafia | entertainment, party, interest in, liking for; to be happy, to like, to enjoy |
| fiafiaga | enjoyment |
| fiainu | thirst |
| fiakai/mole | hunger |
| fifili | fish cooked in a coconut leaf |
| fihiki | Physics (school subject) |
| fili | enemy, to sort out something |
| filifili | to choose |
| filifiliga | choice |
| fitu | seven |
| fitu hefulu/fituhefulu | seventy |
| fiu | to be bored with |
| fofou | to want, to love |
| foki | to return |
| fokotahi | one (except when counting) |
| fola | floor, ship deck |
| fomai | doctor |
| fono | meeting, council |
| fonu | sea turtle |
| fou | new |
| fua | fruit, egg |
| fuaefa | to be large, large size |
| fuāfai | banana |
| fuafua | to plan, to decide |
| fuālākau | vegetables, fruit |
| fuāmoa | egg (chicken’s) |
| fuāulu | breadfruit |
| fufulu | to wash, to clean |
| fulū | flu |
| **G** | gafa | lineage |
| gali (pl gagali) | to be pretty, to be attractive, to be awesome |
| galo | to be lost |
| galu | wave |
| galue (pl gālulue) | to work, to be hardworking |
| gāluega | work, employment |
| gaohi | to make, to prepare |
| gatu | to be old (objects) |
| gāugau | to fold, to be disappointed |
| gehe | slowly |
| **H** | haele | to walk |
| hafia | to understand, to know |
| hahae | east |
| haienihi | Science (school subject) |
| hakeu/heo | to stir, to mix |
| hakili | to search, to look for |
| hakiliga | research, study |
| hako | correct, right |
| haogalēmū | safety |
| hātala | to rummage, to search through things |
| hau (pl ōmai) | to come |
| hāuni | to get ready, to prepare |
| haute | south |
| havali (pl hāvalivali) | walk |
| hēai | absence, to pass away, no |
| hefulu | ten |
| hefelu fā/hefulufā | fourteen |
| hefulu fitu/hefulufitu | seventeen |
| hefulu iva/hefuluiva | nineteen |
| hefulu lima/hefululima | fifteen |
| hefulu ono/hefuluono | sixteen |
| hefulu tahi/hefulutahi | eleven |
| hefulu tolu/hefulutolu | thirteen |
| hefulu valu/hefuluvalu | eighteen |
| helau | one hundred |
| helau afe/afe | one hundred thousand |
| helo | zero, nothing |
| hene | cent, money |
| Hetema | September |
| hēvae | shoes, sandals |
| hiaki | to check, to study |
| hī (pl hīhī) | to fish with hand line or rod |
| hihifo | west |
| hikaki | small fishing rod |
| hiki | to lift |
| hiva (pl hihiva) | dance (n), to dance |
| hohoko | to join, to be connected/next to |
| hoka | to poke, coconut husk, soccer |
| hua (pl huahua) | juice, liquid, soup, drinking coconut |
| huamalie | sweet |
| huhu | milk |
| huhū | water, wetness, dampness, moisture, humid |
| huiga | change, alteration, modification |
| **K** | kāfilo | fishhook |
| kai | to eat, to bite, to take bait (fish) |
| kaiga | meal, feast |
| kāiga | to be related to, home, family, relative, marriage, spouse |
| kakai | village, town, city |
| kakau | to swim |
| kalaga | to shout, to call, shout, call |
| kāmata/kīmata | to begin, to start |
| kāpoti | cupboard |
| kata | laugh (n), to laugh |
| katakata | grin, smile |
| kātoa | to be complete |
| kātoaga | completion |
| kau | team |
| kaulelei | beautiful |
| kaumai | to bring, to pass |
| kauoneone | sandy beach |
| kave | to take, to carry, to give |
| kavea | to become |
| kehe | to be changed, to be different, to be foreign; away, from, off |
| kehekehe | to be different from one another |
| kelekele | land, soil, earth, dirt (n) |
| kemihi | Chemistry (school subject) |
| kie | clothes, textile material |
| kikila | to look, to see, to watch |
| kili/paku | skin |
| Kilihimahi | Christmas |
| kilikiti | cricket |
| kitala | guitar |
| kitea | to see |
| kofe | bamboo, coffee |
| kofu | clothes, to wear |
| kofutino | shirt |
| kofuvae | trousers, pants |
| kofuvaepupuku | shorts |
| kogāloto | middle |
| koi | remaining |
| koleni | training |
| komipiuta | computer |
| kuata | quarter |
| kuku | cooking |
| kukula | red |
| **L** | lā | sun |
| lagona | to hear, to feel, feeling, opinion |
| lahi | big, many, much |
| lakapī | rugby |
| lākau | plant, tree, set, apparatus (eg radio receiving set, tape recorder etc) (n) |
| lalaga | to weave |
| lalolagi | world |
| lanu | colour |
| lanu hehega/hehega | yellow |
| lanu kefukefu/kefukefu | grey |
| lanu kekena | brown |
| lanu meamata/meamata | green |
| lanumoana | blue |
| lanu moli/moli | orange (colour) |
| lanu paepae/paepae | white |
| lanu pīniki/pīniki | pink |
| lanu tahi | all one colour |
| lanu violē/violē | purple |
| laofie | to be fine (day) |
| lapihi | rubbish |
| lāpotopoto | to be round |
| lau | leaf, blade, to read |
| lauefa | width, breadth |
| lāuga | speech |
| laulāvalava | skirt |
| laupapa | blackboard, whiteboard |
| lava | to be enough |
| lavalava | clothes |
| lea | to say, to speak, to tell, to ask |
| lea faka-Tokelau | to say in Gagana Tokelau |
| lele | to fly |
| lelei | good, advantage |
| leva | to take a while, to last a long time |
| liligi | to pour |
| lima | arm, hand |
| lima hefulu/limahefulu | fifty |
| loa (pl loloa) | long, tall |
| logo | to hear, to understand, to tell |
| lolo | coconut cream/oil |
| loloto | to be deep |
| lotofale | inside |
| lototoa | courage |
| lotu | service (worship) |
| lua | two |
| lua hefulu/luahefulu | twenty |
| hefulu lua/hefululua | twelve |
| luga | on, onto, above, top |
| **M** | mā | embarrassment, to be embarrassed, to be ashamed |
| mafai/mafaia | to be able to, can |
| māfanafana | to be warm |
| māfuaga | cause, source, reason |
| mago (pl mamago) | to be dry |
| māhani | to be familiar with, to be used to doing something, habit, practice |
| mahi | biscuits |
| māhima | salt |
| māhina | moon, month |
| makalili | cold, shivering |
| makeke | to be strong |
| makoi | favourite |
| mākona (pl mākokona) | enough, to be full |
| malae lakapī | rugby field |
| mālamalama | to understand |
| mālie | to be slow, to be funny, nice, to be soft, to be quiet, to be touching |
| malie (pl malilie) | satisfaction, to be sweet, to be tasty, to agree, to be satisfied, yummy |
| Mālō! | Hello! Well done! Congratulations! |
| mālohi | to be well, to be fine (informal) |
| mālōlō | rest, to rest, to be well/healthy |
| mālūlū | to be cold |
| mamā | to be clean, neatness |
| māmā | lightness (n), to be light |
| mamae | to be sore (skin), to be precious to someone |
| mamalu | dignity, prestige |
| mānaia | beauty, elegance |
| manakomia | to be needed, to be required |
| manatua | to remember, to recall |
| manogi | smell |
| manu | animal, bird |
| manuia | to be well, to be fine (formal), wellbeing, happiness |
| māopoopo | to be gathered together, to be well organized |
| mapu | rest (n), to rest |
| mata | point, facial expressions, to look, to see, to wear glasses, eye, face (n) |
| matāfaga | beach |
| matafiafia | to smile |
| matagi | wind |
| mataku | to be scared |
| matakupu | subject(s) |
| mataloa | long |
| mātamata | to look at, to observe |
| mate | guess (n), to guess |
| mate (pl mamate) | to die (animals and plants), to go out (lights, fire) |
| Māti (macron optional) | March |
| mātū | north |
| matua | to be grown-up, to be an adult, to be old (people) |
| mātua, mātua hā | aunt (of mother), aunt (of father) |
| matuā | absolutely, completely |
| mātua | mother, parents |
| matuiai | really |
| maua | to get, to find, to catch |
| māualalo (pl māualalalo) | to be low (in height) |
| māualuga | height |
| mauga | mountain |
| mautinoa | sure, I’m sure |
| Mē (macron optional) | May |
| mea | object, area |
| meaika | piece of fish meat, fish (n) |
| meakai | food, meal |
| mealākau | tree, wood |
| meaola | creature, animal |
| meapōvi | meat |
| mimilo | to turn, to change direction |
| minute | minute (time) |
| mitiafu | singlet, vest, T-shirt |
| moa | chicken |
| moana | deep sea, ocean (n) |
| moe (pl momoe) | sleep (n), to sleep |
| moega | bed, sleeping place, mat |
| moli | orange, soap |
| momoli | to send, to bring |
| moni | to be true |
| mōni | to be sincere, to be honest |
| motu | island, islet, crowd |
| mū | fire |
| muamua | to be first, to come first |
| mulimuli | at last, finally, afterwards, to come last |
| mumuni | to hide, to conceal |
| **N** | nafatia | to be able to do |
| namo | lagoon |
| nena | nana, grandmother |
| netipolo | netball |
| ni | some |
| nifo | tooth, teeth |
| Niu Hila | New Zealand |
| nofo (pl nonofo) | to reside, to live, to sit, to stay, stay (n) |
| nofoa | seat |
| nofoaga | residence, home |
| nonoa | to tie up, to bind |
| Nōvema (macron optional) | November |
| nuanua | rainbow |
| nuku | village |
| numela | Maths, Mathematics (school subject) |
| nūmela | number |
| **P** | pā | to arrive, fence, wall, mother of pearl fish lures, touch, come in contact with |
| pāhiketi polo | basketball |
| pakete | bucket |
| palu | to mix |
| papa | dad, father, grandfather; rock (n), to be flat, to be hard |
| papālagi | white man, Caucasian |
| pati | to clap |
| pehe (pl pepehe) | song, to sing |
| pēhini | bowl, basin |
| peleue | jacket, coat |
| penitala | pencil |
| pepa | paper |
| pepe | baby |
| pipiki | to stick, to adhere |
| pito | end (n) |
| pō | night, to be dark |
| polo | ball |
| polokalame | programme, schedule |
| popo | ripe coconut, copra, to ripen (coconut); to be old (objects) |
| pōpō (pl tapōpō) | to pat, to tap |
| poto | clever, bright |
| potu | room, apartment |
| potukofu | top |
| pū | hole, space, gap |
| puipui | wall, to defend, to protect, to prevent |
| puleākoga | principal |
| puli | to forget |
| pūlou | hat |
| **T** | tā | drumming, to strike, to build, to play (musical instrument), to wash, to marry and have children |
| tāeao | morning, a.m., tomorrow |
| tāfao (pl tāfafao) | to play |
| tāfaoga | sport, game |
| tāfaoga komipiuta | video/computer games |
| taga | sack, bag, pocket |
| taga (pl tataga) | to be removed (prohibition) |
| tagata | man, human, person |
| tagi | to cry |
| tago | to pick up, to grab |
| tahi | one |
| tahi afe/tahiafe | one thousand |
| tahi milliona/miliona | one million |
| tai | sea |
| taigole (pl taigogole) | to be small |
| taimi | time |
| taina | brother, sister, brother (of man) (n) |
| taka | sandals, jandals |
| takalo | to play |
| tākaloga | sport, game |
| takitaki hiva | dance instructor |
| taku | to say |
| takua | to be remembered, to be known |
| takuau | shoulder |
| tala | story, news, report, (of money) change, cash (v) |
| tālā | dollar |
| tali | to answer, answer (n), to reply, reply (n), respond, react (v), response, reaction (n) |
| taliga | ear |
| talotalo/talohia | hopefully |
| tama | boy, student, child |
| tamā | small, little |
| tamaiti | child, children |
| tamaiti ākoga | students |
| tamana | father |
| tāne | male, man, husband |
| tāofi/taofiofi | to stop, to hold back |
| tapena | to tidy up, to put away, to get ready |
| tāpuni/tapuni | to shut, to close, to block off |
| tau | to land, to arrive, to compete, price, cost, weather, season, (of a flower or a fruit, with the exception of coconut, and pandanus) pick |
| tāua | important, importance, value (n) |
| tauagavale | left |
| tauale | illness, sick, to be sick |
| taufakalili | to tease |
| taugatā | expensive |
| taugōfie | cheap |
| tauhaga | year |
| tauloto | poem, to remember |
| taumafaiga | effort, attempt (n) |
| taumalo | male youths, older boys |
| taumatau | right |
| tautai | master fisherman, boat captain |
| tautiti | girl, female |
| tāvale | car, cart |
| Tēhema (macron optional) | December |
| teine | girl |
| tēnihi | tennis |
| tiale | flower, bloom (v) |
| tino | body, person |
| tino māopopo | to participate, to meet |
| tipi | to cut |
| tītata | kettle |
| titi | traditional leaf-skirt, to wear a leaf-skirt |
| titina (pl tatina) | eraser, to switch off, to erase |
| tiute | responsibility |
| tōata | west |
| tofi | status |
| toga | south |
| tōgiga | uniform (n), to wear a uniform |
| toho | to pull |
| toli | to pick (fruit) |
| tolu | three |
| tolu hefulu/toluhefulu | thirty |
| tomi | to sample, to taste |
| tōnai | traditional formal meal, Sunday feast |
| tonu | decision, resolution |
| tōtini | socks, stockings |
| totoe | to remain, to stay |
| tū (pl tutū) | to stand, (vehicles) to stop, to land, custom(s) |
| tuafafine | sister (of male) |
| tuagāne | brother (of female) |
| tuātina | aunt |
| tuātuhi | address |
| tufa | to share, to distribute |
| tuhi | book (n), letter, to write, to draw |
| tukituki | to pound (cooking) |
| tuku | to put, to leave, to allow, to move (canoe) |
| tūlaga | location, condition |
| tuli | to chase |
| tulou | respectful expression, excuse me |
| tununga | cooking |
| tupe | money, cash, fund |
| tupu (pl tutupu) | to happen, to grow, growth |
| tupuna | grandparent |
| tupuna mātua | grandmother |
| tupuna tamana | grandfather |
| tuputupu ake | grew up (v) |
| **V** | vāega | portion |
| vahega | class |
| vai | water, medicine |
| vāiaho | week |
| vaivai | tiredness |
| vaka | canoe, boat |
| valakau | to invite |
| valu | eight |
| valu hefulu/valuhefulu | eighty |
| vave | speed |
| vaveao | early morning (before sunrise) |
| vē/vēia | similar, to be the same as |
| vefea | how |
| vēnā | to be so |
| vevela | hot, to be hot |
| vili (pl fetuli, fētutuli and taufetuli) | to run, to escape, to telephone |