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**NCEA Level 2 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 2 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 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 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.

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| **L2** | **Gagana Tokelau** | **English** |
| **A** | afa | half |
| āhiahiga | visit (n) |
| Aho Fakamanatu | Memorial Day |
| Aho Fakapitoa | special day, life celebrations |
| Aho Maliu, Aho Falaile Lelei | Good Friday |
| Aho o te Tōkehega | Olohega Day |
| akoakoga | education, training (n) |
| āmio | actions, manners, behaviour, to conduct oneself |
| **E** | e hēki . . . Lele, toe afe | never |
| ehi | pawpaw or papaya |
| **I** | i iētahi aho | occasionally |
| ilāmutu | a kin term denoting 1. a man's sister’s child. 2. descendants of his sister’s children. 3. any relative of a male who is an offspring of a female sibling of any male forebear. |
| iloiloga ma fautuaga lelei | examination, investigation, diagnosis, critiquing |
| i te taimi nei lava | immediately |
| itūmalo | district |
| **O** | ogevai | no rain, drought |
| oko, taunuku | eventually |
| ola | to live, to be alive |
| ola pe nofo | living, staying |
| oneone | sand |
| ōnomea | be graceful, be beautiful, be very pretty, suitable, appropriate |
| **U** | ua | rain |
| ua aiha | hail |
| ua-toka | frost |
| uhu taulelea | male leader of dancers and singers, male voice that leads in the tune and raises the key |
| uiga | nature, habit, character, image, be about, regarding, concerning (v) |
| uila | lightning, electricity, power, bicycle |
| umu, umukuka | kitchen, room to cook food |
| unumua | first row, best dancers |
| **F** | fāili | band, orchestra, whistle |
| fakaaloalo | respect, politeness, courtesy |
| fakahinomaga | calling, identity, heritage |
| fakahoa | sharing, manner of sharing |
| fakahologa | order, list, programme, sequence |
| fakailo | landmark |
| fakaliliu | translate, interpret, to make something/someone go back/return |
| fakamamā | dismiss from one’s mind, wash up, rinse, tidy, make clean |
| fakamanuiaga | blessing, good wishes |
| fakanauga | aspirations |
| fakatakitaki | try, test, practice (n), to imitate, to copy, to demonstrate |
| fakatalanoa | drawing out, to discuss, to talk, to interview |
| fakatomuaga | introductions |
| fakatuhatuha | compare one with another, to match |
| fakauiga | explain |
| fakauku | to graduate |
| falepa/falefono | meeting house |
| fātuga | a set of songs composed within a certain period of time |
| fau | plan, devise, be heaped up, pile (of things), build, construct |
| feagaiga | relationship, affiliation |
| fekau tuhituhia | text message |
| filo | thread, reel of thread (eg, cotton/silk), to mix with, associate with |
| folau | cruise, sailing voyage, to make a voyage, to travel (by sea) |
| fua | products and fruit (of one’s work), measuring apparatus, to bear fruit |
| fuaikupu | sentence, statement, remark, phrase |
| fuainumela | figure (in arithmetic), numeral, statistics |
| fuaitino | body or form |
| futu | foot (unit of length) |
| **G** | gagana, na gagana | languages |
| gahue | (plural gāhuhue) to be disturbed (physically or mentally), boisterous |
| gaoioi | movements |
| gatahi | be uniform (for groups performing actions), be correctly timed, be of same height, to be level, to be in line |
| **H** | hā | be prohibited, be forbidden, be banned |
| haka | (plural hahaka) to dance, food (especially starchy foods) cooked by boiling |
| hāuniga | act of setting something ready, preparation, ceremony, social function, church service |
| heāheā | infrequently |
| hikimi ola mālōlō | health scheme |
| hikomaga | surrounding, environment |
| hipuni | spoon |
| hiva | ball (as in a dance event) |
| hohaiete | society |
| hoko | be completely covered, be covered all over, resemblence, likeness |
| hokotaga | connections, relationships, something by which two sides are bound together, relation |
| hua | traditional food presentation to honoured guest |
| huātai, vaitai | sea water |
| **K** | kai | run (in a game of cricket), goal, point, score |
| kakaha/kaha | sharp(ness), heat, extremely hot |
| kākega | an ascent, rise, slope, ladder, to climb, to go up |
| kāmataga | beginning |
| kapihi | cabbage |
| kau malaga | visitors |
| kaufaipehe | choir |
| kauhaki | characteristics/ traits |
| kautā | drum stick, gong stick, bell clapper |
| kehekehega | difference |
| kie elei | cloths with the printed elei design on them |
| kiekafu | sheet, bedsheet |
| kiona | snow |
| kiona aiha | icy snow, hail, sleet (n) |
| kogāfenua | area of land |
| koli | dance (with excitement), lower oneself while dancing to the song |
| komiuniti | community |
| kupega o te vateatea | website |
| kupu | word, statement, remark |
| kupu fakaaloalo | formal |
| kupu māhani, takalahi | informal |
| **L** | lahiga | nearly or almost all, the majority, quantities |
| lalo | down, below, under, beneath, bottom (locative noun) |
| lape | entertainment of singing and dancing by batting side in a cricket match, intended to encourage the batsmen and distract the fielders |
| laulau | food mat, table, village food sharing area, to serve (food), to be wide |
| laumua | the capital city, or town, of a country |
| lauulu | hair |
| lolomi | print |
| lue | shake, swing (hips), nod (the head) |
| lumanaki, taimi i mua | future, time to come |
| **M** | māfaufau | brain, mind, memory, ideas, thoughts, to think |
| mago | mango |
| mahani lava, he mauha | normally |
| makupuna | grandchild, great-grandchildren |
| malaga | journey, voyage, trip, travel, party, the weekly trip across the lagoon for villagers to gather food from their lands |
| mālamalama | comprehension, to comprehend, light |
| maliu, oti, hauniga | funeral |
| malo | wear (a loin cloth), loin cloth |
| matāfaioi kehekehe | different roles |
| mate | (plural mamate) be out (in a game), to go out, stop (engines) |
| matike | high ground, rise, small hill, to be raised or high, to be frightened away (birds from nest), to be startled |
| matua | text, age |
| mea e tutuha | commonalities |
| mea taulima | handicraft |
| mea tutupu | event, experiences |
| meamoa | chicken |
| meatau | weapons |
| mihi | to miss, to fail |
| momoko | to wish, to hope |
| mutia | grass |
| **N** | nā aho kua teka, anamua, na aho o te kaloā, taimi kua teka | past (distant past) |
| naifi | knife |
| niu | coconut cream, coconut tree, wood or timber (taken from the coconut tree) |
| nuhipepa | newspaper |
| **P** | pā | used impersonally to mean "until", (plural papā) (of the body) lose weight |
| Pāhefika | Pacific |
| palahitika | plastic |
| pātē | drums |
| peka | woven food tray, tray of food |
| pitonuku | suburb |
| polapola | basket |
| pulu | coconut husk, lead |
| **T** | tāga | (of a fātele or traditional action song) action, movement |
| tagatāfenua, tagatānuku | citizens of a land, indigenous people |
| tagipalau | drums |
| tahi piliona | one billion |
| tahi tiliona | one trillion |
| tahi vae fa | one quarter |
| tahi vae tolu | one third |
| tāi, tāli | nearly, almost, soon |
| taimi lava tenei | present |
| takalo | play |
| taki | to lead, to guide |
| takoto | (plural tākokoto) to lie, to be operated on |
| tala | to tell, to relate, to state, to pull down, to take, undo, open, to draw, to take something seriously, rumour, gossip, tale, legend, play, novel, account, a statement |
| talā | be much talked about in the community |
| tala fakaholopito | history |
| talanoa | discuss, talk, speak |
| talanoaga | discussion, conversation |
| talatuku/ tala tuku | oral narrative passed from one generation to another, including *tala* or true accounts, and *kakai* ficticious tales |
| tāleni | (Bible) talent, ability, skills. |
| tali | go out and meet someone, to receive guests, to host |
| talu, hē mahani | ever |
| tapuāfenua | protocols of the land, way of living in the given context |
| tau | to count |
| tau kua kāmata mālūlū | autumn |
| tau māfanafana | summer |
| tau mālūlū | winter |
| tau totogo | spring |
| taualofa | special gift received from someone or given to someone |

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|  | tauave | to carry, to bear, perform (a duty, responsibility) |
| tauhaga takitahi, takitauhaga | annually |
| taulaga | township |
| taulima | bracelet, bangle |
| tautali | to respond |
| tauvāga | competition |
| tehi helo helo tahi | point zero zero one (0.001) |
| tehi helo tahi | point zero one (0.01) |
| tehi tahi | point one (0.1) |
| tēuga | ornaments, decorations (n.b. always plural) |
| tifa | mother of pearl shell |
| tino atunuku | foreigner |
| tino malaga | migrants, travellers |
| tino takitahi | each (numeral prefix) |
| tiute | duties |
| tiute taukave | responsibilities |
| toeaina, tino mātutua | elders |
| tofi | heritage, calling, being, duty, capacity |
| tolo | sugar cane, to postpone |
| totogi | wages, salary, pay |
| tuagane o toku mātua, uho o toku tamana | uncle (mother's brother or father's brother) |
| tuanaki | past |
| tuātina | one's mother's brother |
| tuhi ata | graphing (v) |
| tuhiata | artist who paints pictures, painter |
| tui | fork |
| tukufakatahi | integrated |
| tulaga hē lelei | disadvantages |
| tulaga lelei | good condition, state, situation, advantages |
| tumamā | hygienic |
| tutuha | look alike, be identical |
| tutuhaga | be alike, be the same, similarities |
| **V** | vā | space, distance or room between two points/things etc, relationship between two people, to be apart, to be separated |
| vaega o te pokihi | team of pokihi (large box drum), drummers |
| vaitafe | river |
| valakaulia | invitation |
| vao | forest |
| vāvā, gātai | toilet, lavatory |