

NCEA Level 2 Gagana Tokelau 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 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](#).

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.

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
	fakatakitalaki	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
	fuitino	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, resemblance, 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
	meamoā	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
T	pulu	coconut husk, lead
	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 <i>tala</i> or true accounts, and <i>kakai</i> fictitious tales
	tāleni	(Bible) talent, ability, skills.
	tali	go out and meet someone, to receive guests, to host
	talū, 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	

	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 pokihī	team of pokihī (large box drum), drummers
	vaitafe	river
	valakaulia	invitation
	vao	forest
	vāvā, gātai	toilet, lavatory