

NCEA Level 3 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 3 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 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 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.

L3	Tokelau	English	Vocabulary classes
A	akau fakapaepae	coral bleaching	noun
	āmio	manners, ways	noun
	auataga o he fale	occasion for the first use of a new house	noun
	auataga o he vaka	occasion for first using a new canoe or net	noun
I	ī	to be winded, knocked out, feel empty in the stomach, soprano	verb, noun
	iētahi	some, the others	adjective
	iloilo	examine, investigate, study, sort out, diagnose, evaluation, review	verb, noun
	ioimata	pupil of your eye	noun
O	oloto	alto	noun
U	ufimata	masks	noun
	umuhā – fai he vaka	to get blessings from the community for a new boat	verb
F	fai mea mafai, he tino tokaga	able	adjective
	faifai mālie, mālie	gradually	adjective
	faigatā	difficult	adjective
	fakaaligā Tauhala	show of girls and young women	noun
	fakafanua	mapping	noun
	fakakupuga	phrases, words used to express something	noun
	fakalanu	to wash with fresh water to get rid of salt	verb
	fakalāpotopotoga	society	noun
	fakalupega	to speak politely using ceremonial style (includes the most important titles or kin-groups in strict order of precedence)	verb
	fakamāoni	honest	adjective
	fakamaumauga	statistics /collected information	noun
	fakapaia e na toeaina	blessed by the elders	noun
	fakapitoa	to refer particularly to, be specifically concerned with, to be specially for something, to specialise in	verb
	fakapukupuku	summary, abbreviation, shorten the length of time	noun
	fakatakitaki	to enact	verb
	fakatuha	symmetry	noun
	fakaulufalega	dedication of a new church building	noun
	fala	pandanus (used for weaving)	noun
	fala vao	a variety of pandanus	noun
	falemoa	hen roost, hen house	noun
	fatu paepae	large paving stones that form the outer foundation of a traditional house	noun
	feagaiga	the relationship between a church leader and their congregation, contract, agreement, treaty, the special traditional kinship between the tama tāne (a man including his descendants) and tamafafine (his sister including her descendants.)	noun
	Feagaiga o te Tōkehega	Treaty of Tokehega	
fekai	anger, rage, to be fierce, to be in a rage, to be savage	verb, noun	

	fenuātai	area of reef owned by a family	noun
	fōliga	(used only in plural) features, looks, appearance, image, shape or form, to resemble, to seem to be like, to look like	verb, noun
	fuafua na vai	water restrictions	noun
G	gaea	busy	noun
	gagie	a species of tree that grows on coral rock	noun
	gahu	salt bush	noun
H	haka	to dance vigorously (as in the climax towards the end of an action song)	verb
	he pahala	mistake, unintended fault, to make a mistake	verb, noun
	heāheā	hardly	adverb
	hētahi	another	adjective
	hikolahipi	scholarship, grant, award	noun
	hikuuli	dark section of mother of pearl shell	noun
	hiva fakafeiloaki	welcome dance	noun
	hiva fakatofa	farewell dance	noun
	hiva tutū	standing dance	noun
	hoko	resemblance, likeness	noun
	hokotaga	something by which two sides are bound together	noun
	hone fagota fakapitoa	exclusive fishing zone	noun
	hui	to thin down a mixture with water or other liquids, successor	verb, noun
	huihui, hui	to sew, to stitch	verb
K	kānava	an evergreen tree	noun
	katiga	the scooped out slice of matured coconut meat, to bite	verb, noun
	kaukumete	ceremony to bless a new tautai, a Tokelau traditional graduation ceremony to mark the village council of elders accepting a fisherman	noun
	ke fulifuli/fufuli na mea	to flip things	verb
	kie holoholo	cloths with flowers printed on them	noun
	kino, fakakino	badly	adverb
	koli	a dish prepared from grated ripe coconut and cooked with kaleve	noun
	konihepi	concept	noun
	kupu fakailoga taimi	tenses	noun
L	lakau	skipjack fishing rod, musical instrument	noun
	lalo	to dance eagerly and vigorously in bent knee position at climax of a fātele (plural lalalo)	verb
	lanu	to wash with fresh water to get rid of salt	verb
	laukatafa	graceful	adjective
	lelei atu, e hili atu	better	adjective
	lolo	withdraw opinion in a discussion, give way	verb
	loto malie	willingly	adverb
M	māfafau	common sense, initiative	noun
	mafuaga fakapitoa	special cause, source or reasons	noun

	malaga	coconuts gathered from outlying islets during a trip (includes ripe, green, and germinating nuts)	noun
	mālie	sweetly	adverb
	manatu	to be homesick	verb
	mata	the point from which a new canoe or house is checked and corrected	noun
	matua	themes	noun
N	niufalala	coconut leaning over the sea	noun
	nofomau	a settled or official resident	noun
	nonu	species of shrub or small plant	noun
P	pā	to break out in loud weeping (plural papā)	verb
	paepae	pavement made of stones around a house	noun
	pale	wreath (generally a long string of artificial flowers)	noun
	papa	board for weaving mats and hats on, school of fish or certain species	noun
	pōkihi	box used used as a wooden drum in traditional dancing	noun
	pola	blind/thatch made of woven coconut fronds	noun
	pola vai	roof	noun
	pou	post (of a house), pole, to be supported	noun, verb
	poutū	main post, pillar	noun
	pua	a tree with sweet-scented flowers	noun
	puaoa	to be misty, to be foggy	verb
	pula o te vao	flower or blossom of the bush, forest	noun
	pulaka	elephant ear taro	noun
	pulotu	song composer	noun
	pulu	to join two planks of timber together by laying one on top of the other in canoe building, to be watertight, to be waterproof, bull (animal)	verb, noun
T	tafoe	traditional Tokelau men's paddle dance	noun
	tala	the gable ends of a traditional house, to thin down or dilute (eg, soup or drinks), thorn/spine/barb of a fish or plant, to strip the prickly thorns of pandanas leaf	verb, noun
	talaaga, talāga	history, background, genealogy	noun
	tali	await (keeping watch for schools of fish), to fetch or collect (water), to cover ground (with gravel or sand), to offer resistance by answering back	verb
	talifehili	interview	noun
	tamāmanu	orphan, widowed woman, alien resident	noun
	Tapuāfenua	protocols and sacredness of the land	noun
	tau	(plural tatau) anchor, moor, secure, become stationary or settle down (of school of fish), point at which the flat keel of a traditional canoe meets the curve of the bow or stern	verb, noun
	taulima i na lima	arm bands with flowers or kanava	noun
	te kau uhu pehe	choir	noun
	te makalilia/vevela/te fuluhā	to be really cold/hot, it's cold/hot/uncomfortable	verb, adjective

	te taki	trail something by following its tracks	verb
	telegehe	slowly	adverb
	tētahi	other	adjective
	teuga fakapito	special ornaments, decorations	noun
	tino kehe	stranger(s)	noun
	toe fai	repetition	noun
	toe fakamatala mai	recount	verb
	toe manatunatu ki ei	reflection	noun
	toe maua ai he fenua	reclaimed land	noun
	toe nonofo	resettlement	noun
	togo	dye or stain	noun
	tuhi ki lalo	to transcribe	verb
	tumutumu	top, summit, peak	noun
V	ve he mauga	mountain-like	adjective