

**NCEA Level 1 Lea Faka-Tonga 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 Lea Faka-Tonga 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 (Lea Faka-Tonga to English)**.

Other configurations of this list (eg. English to Lea Faka-Tonga; by category) can be downloaded [here](https://ncea.education.govt.nz/learning-languages/lea-faka-tonga?view=teaching).

Alternatively, you can navigate to the revised vocabulary lists by following this pathway:
ncea.education.govt.nz > New Zealand Curriculum > Learning Languages: Lea Faka-Tonga > 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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| **L1** | **Lea Faka-Tonga** | **English** |
| **‘A** | ‘a‘ahi | to visit  |
| ‘a‘aku | mine |
| ‘a‘au | yours |
| ‘ahi‘ahi‘i  | to taste  |
| ‘aho | day |
| ‘aka  | to kick  |
| ‘akapulu | rugby |
| ‘akapulu liiki | rugby league |
| ‘akau | trees |
| ‘Ākosi, ‘Aokosi | August  |
| ‘alu  | to go (singular) |
| ‘alu ā e | goodbye (to someone going)  |
| ‘Amelika | the United States of America, USA |
| ‘ao | cloud |
| ‘āpele | apple |
| ‘api | home |
| ‘Asitelēlia, ‘Aositelēlia | Australia  |
| ‘ave atu, ‘oatu  | to send, to give  |
| **‘E** | ‘eiki | chief |
| ‘eke  | to ask |
| ‘elelo | tongue |
| ‘emo  | to lick  |
| ‘Epeleli | April  |
| **‘I** | ‘ilamutu  | male’s sister’s child |
| ‘ilo  | to know, to find  |
| ‘ita | angry |
| **‘O** | ‘ofa | love (n), to love, kind |
| ‘ōfefine | male’s daughter |
| ‘ōfisi | office |
| ‘Okatopa | October  |
| **‘U** | ‘ufi‘ufi  | to cover |
| ‘uha | rain |
| ‘uhila | electric |
| ‘ulu | head |
| ‘uluaki | firstly |
| ‘ulumotu‘a | head of extended family |
| ‘uma | kiss |
| **A** | a‘u mai, tau mai  | to arrive  |
| afā | storm |
| afi | fire |
| aka | roots |
| ako  | to learn, to study, to train, school (n) |
| akonaki  | to advise  |
| ala  | to touch |
| angakovi | rude |
| ano | lake |
| **E** | efiafi | afternoon |
| efiafi po‘uli | dusk, time when it is becoming dark |
| **F** | fa‘ahita‘u failau | spring |
| fa‘ahita‘u fakatōlau | autumn |
| fa‘ahita‘u māfana | summer  |
| fa‘ahita‘u momoko | winter |
| fa‘ē ‘eku fa‘eé | mother’s mother |
| fa‘ē, fine‘eiki, mami | mother |
| fa‘ē, fa‘ē‘aki | mother’s sister |
| fā‘ele  | to give birth |
| fa‘ētangata | mother’s brother |
| fa‘u  | to create, to compose  |
| fafanga  | to feed |
| fahu | highest-ranking relative of the deceased at a funeral |
| fai  | to do |
| fai‘aho | birthday |
| faiako  | teacher |
| faingofua | easy |
| faka‘aa‘i  | to wake up  |
| faka‘ai‘ai  | to encourage  |
| faka‘ali  | to show  |
| faka‘amu  | to wish |
| faka‘aonga‘i  | to use  |
| faka‘apa‘apa  | respect  |
| faka‘au ā | goodbye (formal, said to an older person) |
| faka‘ilonga  | to mark |
| faka‘ofo‘ofa | beautiful |
| faka‘osi  | to finish |
| fakaafe‘i  | to invite |
| fakaai  | to satisfy  |
| fakaava  | to open  |
| fakafeta‘i | thanks (said to a chief or God) |
| fakafiefia‘i  | to entertain  |
| fakafo‘ou  | to renew  |
| fakafonu  | to fill |
| fakafotu | female’s brother’s child |
| fakahinohino  | to direct, to guide  |
| fakainu  | to make someone drink  |
| fakalakalaka  | to progress  |
| fakalili  | to boil water |
| fakama‘a  | to clean, to clear  |
| fakamafana  | to warm up food  |
| fakamālō atu | thanks (formal) |
| fakamālohisino | exercise |
| fakamāsima  | to add salt |
| fakamatala  | to describe  |
| fakamatalili‘i  | to tease  |
| fakamo‘ui  | to cure, to heal  |
| fakamokomoko  | to cool  |
| fakamole  | to spend |
| fakamōmoa  | to dry  |
| fakaoli | funny |
| fakapaku  | to fry  |
| fakapikopiko | lazy |
| fakasi‘isi‘i  | to reduce  |
| fakataha‘i  | to combine  |
| fakatau  | to buy, to sell, to shop |
| fala | mat |
| fālahi | wide |
| Falaite  | Friday  |
| falala  | to trust |
| Falanisē  | France  |
| fale | house |
| fale fungavaka | house with more than one storey |
| fale sipoti, fale fakamālohisino | gymnasium |
| fale talavai, kēmisi | pharmacy |
| faleako | school building |
| falefaiva | cinema |
| faleika | fish shop |
| falekā | garage |
| falekai | restaurant |
| falekaukau | bathroom |
| falekoloa | shop |
| falelotu | church |
| falemā | bakery |
| falemahaki | hospital |
| falemālōlō  | toilet |
| falengāue | factory |
| falepapa | wooden house |
| falepiliki | brick house |
| faletohi | bookshop |
| fāmili | family |
| fānau, tamaiki | children |
| fānauako  | students |
| fanofano  | to wash hands |
| fanongo  | to listen |
| fefine  | woman |
| fehi‘a  | to hate  |
| feihaka, haka | to cook  |
| Fepueli  | February  |
| fiefia | happy |
| fieinua | thirsty |
| fiekaia | hungry |
| fiema‘u | to want to, to need to |
| fika | Maths, Mathematics (school subject) |
| fika‘i  | to calculate  |
| fili  | to choose  |
| finemotu‘a, fine‘eiki | old lady |
| fio  | to mix  |
| Fisi | Fiji  |
| fiu  | to have enough to eat  |
| fō  | to wash clothes  |
| fo‘i  | fruit (singular) |
| fo‘i hina | bottle |
| fofola  | to spread out  |
| foha | male’s son |
| foki  | to return  |
| fokotu‘unga  | pile, stack |
| folau  | to go on a boat or plane |
| folo  | to swallow |
| fu‘u lahi  | very big |
| fu‘u lahi ‘aupito | huge |
| fu‘u si‘isi‘i  | very small |
| fu‘u si‘isi‘i ‘aupito  | tiny |
| fua  | to weigh  |
| fufulu  | to wash  |
| fufuu‘i  | to hide  |
| fusi  | to pull  |
| **H** | Ha‘amoa | Samoa  |
| ha‘i  | to tie up  |
| ha‘u  | to come  |
| hae‘i  | to tear  |
| hala | road, wrong |
| hapo  | to catch |
| Hauai‘i | Hawaii  |
| havili  | windy |
| hela‘ia | tired |
| hele | knife |
| hengihengi | early morning |
| heu  | to stir |
| hiki  | to raise, to migrate, to lift  |
| hingoa | name |
| hiva  | to sing |
| ho‘atā | midday |
| ho‘atā efiafi | early part of the afternoon |
| hoa | spouse |
| hola  | to escape  |
| holoholo  | to wipe  |
| homueka | homework  |
| hopo  | to jump  |
| hū  | to enter  |
| hua‘i, lingi | to pour  |
| husepāniti  | husband |
| **I** | ihu | nose |
| ilifia | afraid, scared |
| inu  | to drink  |
| ipu | cup |
| **K** | ka | but |
| kā | car |
| kai  | to eat  |
| kaka  | to climb  |
| kakau  | to swim |
| kamata  | to start  |
| kapau | if |
| kata  | to laugh  |
| kātoanga‘i  | to celebrate  |
| kaukau  | to bathe  |
| kaume‘a  | friend, boyfriend, girlfriend |
| kelekele | soil |
| kemo | eyebrow |
| kenitini | canteen |
| kia | neck |
| kili | skin |
| ko hono ua | secondly |
| koe‘uhi | because |
| kofu | dress |
| kolo | town, city |
| kolosi  | to cross  |
| komipiuta | computer |
| konga | piece of |
| kou‘ahe | cheeks |
| kovi | bad  |
| kui fefine | grandmother |
| kui tangata | grandfather |
| Kuki ‘Ailani  | Cook Islands |
| kulo | pot |
| kulupu | group |
| kumukumu | chin |
| **L** | la‘ā | sun |
| la‘e | forehead |
| laipeli | library |
| lala‘u  | to pinch  |
| langa  | to build  |
| langi | sky |
| lanu ‘uli‘uli | black |
| lanu engeenga | yellow |
| lanu hinehina | white |
| lanu koula | gold |
| lanu kulokula | red |
| lanu mata | green |
| lanu melomelo | brown |
| lanu moli | orange |
| lanu pingikī | pink |
| lanu pulū | blue |
| lanu siliva | silver |
| lanu vāleti | violet |
| lau  | to read  |
| lea  | to speak  |
| Lea Faka-Pālangi | English (language, school subject) |
| lele  | to run  |
| lēlue | train |
| lepitopu | laptop |
| lī, tolongi | to throw  |
| li‘aki  | to throw away  |
| liliu, fetongi  | to change |
| liongi | lowest-ranking relatives of the deceased at a funeral |
| loi | to lie |
| loki | room |
| lokiako | classroom |
| lōloa | long |
| loto | agree |
| loto kolo | town centre |
| lotu  | to pray  |
| louhi‘i nima | fingers |
| louhi‘i va‘e | toes |
| lue  | to walk  |
| lulu‘i  | to shake  |
| Lūsia  | Russia  |
| **M** | ma‘a  | clean, pure |
| ma‘ama‘a | light, cheap |
| Mā‘asi | March  |
| ma‘u  | to receive  |
| maama | light |
| māfana | warm |
| māhanga | twins |
| māhina | moon |
| mahua  | to spill  |
| maka | stones |
| mala‘e | field |
| mala‘evakapuna | airport |
| malemale | touch (game) |
| mali  | to marry, wedding, spouse (n) |
| malimali | smiling |
| mālō | thank you |
| mālō ‘aupito | thank you very much |
| mālō ‘etau ma‘u e ‘ahó ni | hello (formal) |
| mālō e lelei | hello |
| mālōlō  | to rest  |
| malu‘i  | to save, to protect |
| mamafa | hard, heavy, expensive |
| manutotolo | animal |
| masiva | poor |
| mata | eyes |
| matāpule | orator |
| matātahi | beach |
| maumau‘i  | to break |
| Mē  | May  |
| me‘a ā | goodbye (said to a chief) |
| me‘akai | food |
| me‘alele | vehicle |
| me‘angāu | device |
| mehekitanga, mehikitanga | father’s sister |
| mo | with, and |
| mo‘ui | health |
| mo‘unga | mountain |
| mo‘usioa  | to stare  |
| mohe  | to sleep  |
| mohe‘anga | bed |
| mokopuna | grandchild/great grandchild, male or female |
| Mōnite  | Monday  |
| mopaila | mobile phone |
| motu‘a, tangata‘eiki | old man |
| muimui  | to follow  |
| musie | grass |
| **N** | nanamu  | to smell  |
| natu  | to knead  |
| natula | nature |
| naunau ako | stationery |
| neesi | nurse |
| nena | grandmother |
| neongo | although |
| ngaahi  | to make  |
| ngata | snake |
| ngatu | tapa |
| ngāue | work (n), to work |
| ngutu | mouth |
| nifo | tooth, teeth |
| nima | hand, arm |
| niu | coconut |
| Niuē  | Niue  |
| nofo  | to stay, to live, to sit |
| nofo ā e | goodbye (to someone staying) |
| nōpele | noble |
| nounou | short |
| Nōvema  | November  |
| Nu‘usila | New Zealand |
| **O** | ō  | to go (dual or plural) |
| olo  | to scrub |
| ongo  | to feel  |
| ongo kui | grandparents |
| **P** | pā | father, grandfather |
| paasi, lava  | to pass  |
| palakū | ugly |
| pasi | bus |
| pasiketipolo | basketball |
| pau‘u | naughty, ill mannered  |
| pea | and |
| pekia | deceased |
| peleti | plate |
| pēpē | baby |
| Pilitānia  | the United Kingdom, UK |
| piva | skirt |
| po‘uli | night |
| pongipongi | morning |
| pōtalanoa  | to converse  |
| poto | clever |
| puke  | to hold |
| pula | balloon |
| puleako | principal |
| Pulelulu  | Wednesday  |
| pulia  | to disappear |
| pulu | ball |
| puna  | to jump, to fly  |
| punou  | to bow (head)  |
| pusiaki | adopted child  |
| putu | funeral |
| **S** | sai | good |
| saienisi | Science (school subject) |
| Sanuali | January |
| saoa | shower |
| sea | chair |
| Sepitema  | September  |
| Siaina  | China  |
| Siapani  | Japan  |
| sio  | to see, to look |
| sipoti | sports |
| sitou | stove |
| Siulai  | July  |
| sivi  | to examine |
| soka | soccer |
| sote | shirt |
| Sune  | June  |
| **T** | tā fakatātā | drawing |
| tā telefoni  | to call (phone)  |
| tā valivali | art |
| ta‘ahine | girl |
| ta‘alo  | to wave  |
| ta‘eloto  | to disagree  |
| ta‘okete | male’s older brother, female’s older sister |
| tafi  | to sweep  |
| tahi | sea |
| taki  | to lead  |
| tala  | to tell  |
| talanoa  | to talk, to discuss  |
| talausese | pants |
| tali  | to answer, to reply  |
| tama fefine | female’s daughter |
| tama tangata | female’s son |
| tamai ‘eku fa‘eé | mother’s father |
| tamai tamai‘aki | father’s brother, uncle |
| tamai, tangata‘eiki | father |
| tamasi‘i | boy |
| tāmate‘i  | to erase  |
| tānaki  | to collect  |
| tangata | man |
| tangi  | to cry  |
| tangutu  | to sit  |
| tanu  | to bury  |
| tātā  | to bang on something |
| tau‘olunga | female solo dance |
| tauhi laipeli | librarian |
| tehina | male’s younger brother, female’s younger sister |
| teke‘i  | to push  |
| tēpile | table |
| teuli | dairy |
| teuteu  | to get ready |
| tīpota | teapot |
| Tīsema  | December  |
| to‘o hifo  | to bring down  |
| to‘o, ‘ave  | to take  |
| to‘o, fua, fafa  | to carry  |
| tohi  | to write, book (n) |
| tokanga  | to pay attention  |
| toketā | doctor |
| Tokonaki  | Saturday |
| tokoni  | to help  |
| tokoua | female’s sister/male’s brother  |
| tokoua, tokoua‘aki, kāsini | cousin |
| Tonga  | Tonga  |
| topu | tub |
| tu‘apō mālie | right on midnight |
| Tu‘apulelulu  | Thursday  |
| tu‘u  | to stand |
| tu‘usi  | to cut  |
| tu‘utu‘uni | rules, regulations |
| tufa e me‘akai  | to serve food  |
| tui  | to believe, knee, belief (n) |
| tui‘i  | to tackle (sports) |
| tui‘i nima | elbow |
| tukituki  | to knock  |
| tuli  | to suspend |
| tuofefine | male’s sister |
| tuonga‘ane | female’s brother |
| Tūsite  | Tuesday  |
| **U** | u‘u  | to bite  |
| uaifi  | wife |
| ui  | to call  |
| uma | shoulder |
| **V** | va‘e | feet, legs |
| va‘inga  | to play  |
| vaeua‘i  | to divide equally in two parts  |
| vahevahe  | to share  |
| vaitafe | river |
| vaka | boat |
| vakapuna | aeroplane |
| vesitapolo | vegetable |
| volipolo | volleyball |