

**NCEA Level 3 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 3 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 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 (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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| **L3** | **Lea Faka-Tonga** | **English** | **Vocabulary classes** |
| **‘A** | ‘afua | clear weather | adjective |
| ‘aikona | carrying in the fold of one's clothes around the waist | verb |
| ‘alotāmaki | bad weather | adjective |
| ‘ange‘ange | to be surpassed by, even more | verb |
| **‘E** | ‘efihi | to carry under your arms | verb |
| ‘efihia | to be stuck between something | verb |
| ‘ehe‘ehē | to laugh loudly | verb |
| ‘emo | to lick | verb |
| **‘I** | ‘i he tafa‘aki ‘e tahá | on the other hand | conjunction |
| ‘ilo fakaikiiki | thorough knowledge | noun |
| ‘ilo pau | clear knowledge | noun |
| **A** | a‘usia | to have reached (v), experience (n) | verb, noun |
| afāngia | being whipped about by a hurricane | adjective |
| alea | debate, to discuss | verb |
| angafai | method | noun |
| **I** | ikuna | winning | noun |
| ikuna‘i | to conquer | verb |
| **O** | ofongi | to call out | verb |
| ongosia | exhausted | adjective |
| **U** | utu | to harvest | verb |
| **F** | faaki | to hold against | verb |
| faha‘i | faction, side  | noun |
| fai‘aki | to do with | verb |
| faifai | as time goes on | verb |
| faikava | to sit around and drink kava | verb |
| failā | to set sail | verb |
| faka‘ai‘ai | to goad someone to do something | verb |
| faka‘amu | to long for | verb |
| faka‘ofa | pathetic | adjective |
| faka‘uto‘uta | estimation, advice | noun |
| fakaanga | criticism | noun |
| fakaemāmani | worldly | adjective |
| fakafaingofua‘i | to simplify | verb |
| fakafekiki | to argue | verb |
| fakafo‘ou | to restore, to renew | verb |
| fakafuofua | to approximate (v), approximate (adj) | adjective, verb |
| fakahaofi | to save | verb |
| fakahekeheke | to flatter | verb |
| fakakalasi | to classify (v), pertaining to class or social status (adj) | adjective, verb |
| fakakātoa | in sum | conjunction |
| fakalaka | to progress, to pass over or across | verb |
| fakalata | to feel at home | verb |
| fakaloloma | sorrowful | adjective |
| fakama‘ama‘a | to reduce the price | verb |
| fakamohe | to put to sleep | verb |
| fakamoleki | to lose | verb |
| fakangalongata‘a | unforgettable | noun |
| fakanofonofo | to seat people in an orderly manner | verb |
| fakapa‘anga | to finance, providing funds | noun. Verb |
| fakatatau | according to | verb |
| fakatonuhia‘i | to justify | verb |
| fakatotolo | to research | verb |
| fakatou | both | adverb |
| fakatulou | to excuse oneself | verb |
| felāngaaki | to ache all over | verb |
| felelei | to run together | verb |
| feliuliuaki e ‘ea | climate change | noun |
| feohi | to associate with | verb |
| fepikitaki | to be related/connected, holding hands | verb |
| fesiofaki | to look at one another | verb |
| fetaki | hand in hand, to work cooperatively | verb |
| fetuli | to rush | verb |
| **H** | hako | descendants | noun |
| haveki | destroyed | verb |
| hilifaki | to place on top of something | verb |
| hoka‘i | to poke | verb |
| hopo | hold court, lawsuit, to jump | verb |
| hou | when the sea is rough | adjective |
| hu‘a | come in (of the tide) | verb |
| huki | to sit on someone's lap | verb |
| **K** | kai‘anga | place where eating occurs | noun |
| kaunoa | sticking one's nose in another's business | noun |
| kautaha | company | noun |
| kava toho | large kava plant presented | noun |
| kavenga | burden | noun |
| kele | muddy water | adjective |
| **L** | lāngilangi | honour, dignity | noun |
| laukau‘anga | place of pride | noun |
| laulaunoa | stupid talking, talking nonsense | adjective |
| lea fakatōkilalo | to speak in the humble language | verb |
| lelei‘ia | to be impressed | verb |
| leva | immediately | adverb |
| **M** | mā‘imoa | regal for king's involvement in any activity | verb |
| ma‘uma‘uluta | well established | adjective |
| ma‘ungofua | easy to get | adjective |
| māfana ange ‘a māmani | global warming | noun |
| makatu‘u | bedrock at sea | noun |
| mamulu | to be scratched | verb |
| mātu‘aki | exceedingly | adverb |
| me‘apango | misfortune, unfortunately | noun |
| mo‘usioa | to stare | verb |
| mo‘utalia | to wait a long time | adverb |
| molumalu | solemn | adjective |
| mu‘aki | the principal one, to be first | adverb |
| muka | young leaves | noun |
| **N** | ne‘ine‘i | little wonder, no wonder | adverb |
| nēkeneka | exceeding joy | adjective |
| nimasi | to put one's hands to do work, to speed things up | verb |
| numi | to make smaller | verb |
| **Ng** | ngalingali | to look as if | adverb |
| **P** | paki‘i | to snap, to pick flowers | verb |
| patō | a thump, sharp tapping noise | adjective |
| pongia | to faint | verb |
| pupuha | humidity | adjective |
| pupula | to swell | verb |
| **S** | sīpinga‘aki | to use as an example | adjective |
| sola | foreigner, stranger | noun |
| **T** | tafa‘aki | perspectives | noun |
| tāfea | flooding | noun |
| tapeva | a sprain | adjective |
| tataka | afraid | noun |
| tatangi | to ring | verb |
| tēkina | to drift | verb |
| tofuhia | sharing with everyone | adverb |
| tokaange | it will come to pass, no doubt | adjective |
| tu‘utāmaki | extreme poverty | adjective |
| tu‘uvala | wedding costume of fine mats | noun |
| tuhu‘i | to identify | verb |
| tuifio | mixed and mingle | adjective |
| tukuhāusia | abandoned, lacking the means to provide for oneself | adjective |
| **V** | vāhenga | salary | noun |
| vākai | ceremonial waist mat worn on special occasions  | noun |
| vakai‘i | to explore | verb |
| valoki | to rebuke, scold | verb |
| vaotā | forest | noun |
| vātamaki | poor human relations | adjective |
| ve‘efua | swollen legs | adjective |
| vevea | littered with rubbish | adjective |