

Toki Pona
the language of good – the simple way of life

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Chapter 1

Lessons

1.1 Introduction

toki! I'm glad you've decided to give these lessons a look. Hopefully this introduction will answer any questions that you might have. If you think you'd like to learn Toki Pona, this intro will also give you a little feel for the task that lies ahead of you.

In all honesty, Toki Pona has a small following, but the Toki Pona community does include at least three fluent speakers (a fact that not very many other constructed language communities can claim). But if you're one of those people whom I encounter every rare once in a while who thinks that Toki Pona has several hundred thousand speakers... well, you're WAY off. – At any rate, I'd urge you to consider Toki Pona not so much for how well it can entertain you or how large of a following it has, but more for the insight it can give into the ideas of simplicity and a more natural way of thinking.

If you're like me, along the path of learning Toki Pona, you might find that the ideas that are introduced by Toki Pona might conflict with your own opinion of things. It's not so easy to adopt the way of thinking that Toki Pona requires. But be patient; eventually, even if you don't agree with the ideas behind Toki Pona, it will at least broaden your mind and help you understand things better. Toki Pona is so much more than just a language.

You should now be able to decide whether or not you'd like to learn Toki Pona. A last word of advice: Don't feel like you're alone in learning the language. I'd be thrilled to help you with anything that is giving you trouble; feel free to instant message me or e-mail me at [5]. I'm also in the Toki Pona chat room fairly often, and if I'm not there the first time you enter the room, just keep trying occasionally and you'll get me eventually.

With that said, enjoy the lessons, and good luck learning Toki Pona! Please see [6, 7], [1] and [2].

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The Verb

And now we're going to study yet another thing that will probably seem weird to you.

mi moku. sina pona.		I eat. / I am food. You are good. / You fix.
------------------------	--	---

Because Toki Pona lacks to be, **the exact meaning is lost**. *moku* in this sentence could be a verb, or it could be a noun; just as *pona* could be an adjective or could be a verb. In situations such as these, the listener must rely on context. After all, how often do you hear someone say "I am food"? I hope not very often! You can be fairly certain that *mi moku* means "I'm eating".

The Lack of Tense

mi pona.		I am/was/will be good.
----------	--	------------------------

This is yet another example of the vagueness of Toki Pona. If it's absolutely necessary, there are ways of saying that something happened in the past, present, or future.

Sentences without *mi* or *sina* as the subject

For sentences that don't use *mi* or *sina* as the subject, there is one small catch that you'll have to learn. Look at how *li* is used:

telo li pona. suno li suli. moku li pona.		Water is good. The sun is big. The food is good.
---	--	--

li is a grammatical word that **separates the subject from its verb**. Remember: **It's only used when the subject is not *mi* or *sina***. Although *li* might seem worthless right now, as you continue to learn Toki Pona you will see that some sentences could be very confusing if *li* weren't there.

Practice 3 (Answers: Page 50)

Try translating these sentences.

People are good. I'm eating. You're tall. Water is simple. The lake is big.		
---	--	--

suno li suli. mi suli. jan li moku.		
---	--	--

1.4 Direct Objects, Compound Sentences

Vocabulary

ona	he, she, it
kili	fruit, vegetable
e	introduces direct object
wile	to want, to need, to have to, desire
ilo	tool, device, machine
ijo	something, anything, stuff, thing
ni	this, that
pipi	bug, insect, spider
ma	land, country, region, outside area
jo	to have, ownership, possession
lukin	to see, to look at, vision, sight
pakala	mess up, destroy, accident
unpa	have sex with, sex, sexual

Direct objects using *e*

We saw how phrases such as *mi moku* could have two potential meanings: "I'm eating" or "I am food". There is one way to specify that you want to say.

mi moku **e** kili. | I eat fruit.

Whatever is getting action done on itself is the "direct object," and in Toki Pona, **we separate the verb and the direct object with *e***.

ona li lukin **e** pipi. | He's watching the bug.

Also we discussed how *sina pona*, like *mi moku*, has two possible meanings: "You are good" or "You're fixing". Normally, it would mean "You are good" simply because no one really says "I'm fixing" without actually telling what it is that they are trying to fix.

ona li pona **e** ilo. | She's fixing the machine.
mi pona **e** ijo. | I'm fixing something.

Direct objects using *e* with *wile*

If you need to say that you want to do something, follow this example:

mi **wile** lukin **e** ma. | I want to see the countryside.
mi **wile** pakala **e** sina. | I must destroy you.
ona li **wile** jo **e** ilo. | He would like to have a tool.

As you can see, *e* **doesn't come until after the infinitive** in these two sentences, rather than before it.

subject, 8, 9	<i>sama</i> , 19
<i>moku</i> , 8	<i>same</i> , 19
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<i>kama</i> , 40	<i>mute</i> , 35
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<i>pona</i> , 8, 23	<i>weka</i> , 45

weka	<i>mod</i> away, absent, missing <i>n</i> absence <i>vt</i> throw away, remove, get rid of
wile	<i>vt</i> to want, need, wish, have to, must, will, should <i>n</i> desire, need, will <i>mod</i> necessary
Parts of Speech	
<i>n</i>	head noun
<i>mod</i>	modifier (adjective or adverb)
<i>sep</i>	separator
<i>vt</i>	verb, transitive (normally used with <i>e</i>)
<i>vi</i>	verb, intransitive
<i>interj</i>	interjection
<i>prep</i>	quasi-preposition
<i>conj</i>	conjunction
<i>kama</i>	compound verb preceded by kama
<i>cont</i>	context word used before <i>la</i>
<i>oth</i>	special, other word

jan lili	child
jan sewi	God
jan suli	adult
jan unpa	lover, prostitute
ma telo	mud, swamp
ma tomo	city, town
mi mute	we, us
ona mute	they, them
telo nasa	alcohol, beer, wine
tomo telo	restroom
tomo toki	chat room, conference room
ilo suno	flashlight

* Note that you can only use *pona lukin* and *ike lukin* by themselves after *li*.

Possessives

You use pronouns (my, your, his, hers, its,) like any other adjective.

tomo mi	my house
ma sina	your country
telo ona	his/her/its water

Other words are treated the same way.

len jan	somebody's clothes
seli suno	the sun's heat

Adverbs

The adverb simply follows the verb that it modifies.

mi lawa pona e jan.	I lead people well.
mi utala ike .	I fight badly.
sina lukin sewi e suno.	You look up at the sun.
ona li wile mute e ni.	He wants that a lot.
mi mute li lukin lili e ona.	We barely saw it.

Practice 5 (Answers: Page 50)

Firstly, see how well you can read the following poem.

mi jo e kili.
ona li pona li lili.
mi moku lili e kili lili.

Try translating these sentences.

The leader drank dirty water.
I need a fork.
An enemy is attacking them.
That bad person has strange
clothes.
We drank a lot of vodka.
Children watch adults.

mi lukin sewi e tomo sulii.
seli suno li seli e tomo mi.
jan lili li wile e telo kili.
ona mute li nasa e jan sulii. *

* Notice how even though *nasa* is typically an adjective, it is used as a verb here.

taso	<i>mod</i> only, sole <i>conj</i> but
tawa	<i>prep</i> to, in order to, towards, for, until <i>n</i> movement, transportation <i>mod</i> moving, mobile <i>vi</i> go, leave, walk, travel, move <i>vt</i> move, displace
telo	<i>n</i> water, liquid, juice, sauce <i>vt</i> water, wash with water
tenpo	<i>n</i> time, period of time, moment, duration, situation
toki	<i>n</i> language, talking, speech, communication <i>vt</i> say <i>vi</i> talk, chat, communicate <i>interj</i> hello! hi! <i>interj</i> hello! hi!
tomo	<i>n</i> indoor constructed space, e.g. house, home, room, building <i>mod</i> urban, domestic, household
tu	<i>mod</i> two <i>n</i> duo, pair <i>vt</i> double, separate/cut/divide in two
unpa	<i>n</i> sex, sexuality <i>mod</i> erotic, sexual <i>vt</i> have sex with, sleep with, fuck <i>vi</i> have sex
uta	<i>n</i> mouth <i>mod</i> oral
utala	<i>n</i> conflict, disharmony, competition, fight, war, battle, attack, blow, argument, physical or verbal violence <i>vt</i> hit, strike, attack, compete against
walo	<i>mod</i> white, light (colour) <i>n</i> white thing/part, whiteness, lightness
wan	<i>mod</i> one, a <i>n</i> unit, element, particle, part, piece <i>vt</i> unite, make one
waso	<i>n</i> bird, winged animal
wawa	<i>n</i> energy, strength, power <i>mod</i> energetic, strong, fierce, intense, sure, confident <i>vt</i> strengthen, energize, empower

mi	<i>n</i> I, we <i>mod</i> my, our
mije	<i>n</i> man, male, husband, boyfriend <i>mod</i> male, masculine, manly
moku	<i>n</i> food, meal <i>vt</i> eat, drink, swallow, ingest, consume
moli	<i>n</i> death <i>mod</i> dead, deadly, fatal <i>vt</i> kill <i>vi</i> die, be dead
monsi	<i>n</i> back, rear end, butt, behind <i>mod</i> back, rear
mu	<i>interj</i> woof! meow! moo! etc. (cute animal noise)
mun	<i>n</i> moon <i>mod</i> lunar
musi	<i>n</i> fun, playing, game, recreation, art, entertainment <i>mod</i> artful, fun, recreational <i>vi</i> play, have fun <i>vt</i> amuse, entertain
mute	<i>mod</i> many, several, very, much, a lot, abundant, numerous, more <i>n</i> amount, quantity <i>vt</i> make many or much
nanpa	<i>n</i> number <i>oth</i> -th (ordinal numbers)
nasa	<i>mod</i> silly, crazy, foolish, drunk, strange, stupid, weird <i>vt</i> drive crazy, make weird
nasin	<i>n</i> way, manner, custom, road, path, doctrine, system, method
nenā	<i>n</i> bump, hill, mountain, button, nose
ni	<i>mod</i> this, that
nimi	<i>n</i> word, name
noka	<i>n</i> leg, foot
o	<i>sep</i> O (vocative or imperative) <i>interj</i> hey! (calling somebody's attention)
oko	<i>n</i> eye

mi lukin e ma. ni li pona **tawa** mi. | I'm watching the countryside. This is good to me.

Of course, you could choose to say this same sentence using other techniques.

ma li pona lukin. | The countryside is good to look at.

Using *tawa* to mean "for"

Okay, so *tawa* essentially means "to go" to or simply "to", right? Not exactly. It can also mean "for", as in this sentence:

mi pona e tomo **tawa** jan pakala. | I fixed the house for the disabled man.

Unfortunately, the trick of letting *tawa* mean both "to" and "for" isn't without its drawbacks. Keep reading to see why.

Using *tawa* as an adjective

tawa is used as an adjective to make the phrase we use for "car", "boat", ...:

tomo tawa	car (moving construction)
tomo tawa telo	boat, ship
tomo tawa kon	airplane, helicopter

Ambiguity of *tawa*

I want you to think about the following sentence for a few moments before continuing on. See if you can think of different meanings that it might have.

mi pana e tomo **tawa** sina. | ?

If *tawa* is used as an adjective, then this sentence says "I gave your car." If it is used as a preposition, though, it could mean, "I gave the house to you." So, how do you tell the difference? You don't! (Insert evil, mocking laugh here.) This is one of those problems inherent in Toki Pona that there is no way to avoid.

tawa as a transitive verb

Do you remember how I said *tawa* doesn't have an *e* after it because nothing is being done to an object? Well, that's true, **but *tawa* can have objects**, like this:

mi tawa e kiwen.	I'm moving the rock.
ona li tawa e len mi.	She moved my clothes.

tawa can be used as an action verb in these situations because there is an object. Something has done an action on something else; that was not the case with *tawa* in other example sentences.

kama**kama as a intransitive verb**

We've already briefly touched on this word, but it is quite common, and so we need to look at it a little more closely. First, **it's used with *tawa***, like this:

ona li **kama tawa** tomo mi. | He came to my house.

kama as a transitive verb

It can also be used as an action verb. It means "to cause" or "to bring about":

mi **kama** e pakala. | I caused an accident.
sina **kama** e ni: mi wile moku. | You caused this: I want to eat.
 | You made me hungry.

kama + Infinitiv

It can also be used with infinitives to make a progressive-like effect. One of the most common infinitives that it is used with is *jo*, so we'll just cover it for now.

kama jo | get
mi **kama jo** e telo. | I got the water.

Practice 6 (Answers: Page 50)

Try translating these sentences.

I fixed the flashlight using a small tool.
I like Toki Pona.
We gave them food. *
This is for my friend.
The tools are in the container.
That bottle is in the dirt.
I want to go to his house using my car.
They are arguing.

sina wile kama tawa tomo toki.
jan li toki kepeken toki pona lon tomo toki.
mi tawa tomo toki. ona li pona tawa mi.
sina kama jo e jan pona lon ni. **

* If you got that one wrong, think of the sentence like this: "We gave food to them." It means the same thing.

** *lon ni* means either "here" or "there". Can you figure out what it literally means?

	<i>mod</i> auditory, hearing
la	<i>sep</i> (between adverb or phrase of context and sentence)
lape	<i>n, vi</i> sleep, rest <i>mod</i> sleeping, of sleep
laso	<i>mod</i> blue, blue-green
lawa	<i>n</i> head, mind <i>mod</i> main, leading, in charge <i>vt</i> lead, control, rule, steer
len	<i>n</i> clothing, cloth, fabric
lete	<i>n</i> cold <i>mod</i> cold, uncooked <i>vt</i> cool down, chill, freeze
li	<i>sep</i> (between any subject except <i>mi</i> and <i>sina</i> and its verb; also used to introduce a new verb for the same subject)
lili	<i>mod</i> small, little, young, a bit, short, fes, less <i>vt</i> reduce, shorten, shrink, lessen
linja	<i>n</i> long, very thin, floppy thing, e.g. string, rope, hair, thread, cord, chain
lipu	<i>n</i> flat and bendable thing, e.g. paper, card, ticket
loje	<i>mod</i> red
lon	<i>prep</i> be located in/at/on <i>vi</i> be there, be present, be real/true, exist, be awake
luka	<i>n</i> hand, arm <i>mod</i> five
lukin	<i>vt</i> see, look at, watch, read <i>vi</i> look, watch out, pay attention <i>mod</i> visual
lupa	<i>n</i> hole, orifice, window, door
ma	<i>n</i> land, earth, country, (outdoor) area
mama	<i>n</i> parent, mother, father <i>mod</i> of the parent, parental, maternal, fatherly
mani	<i>n</i> money, material wealth, currency, dollar, capital
meli	<i>n</i> woman, female, girl, wife, girlfriend <i>mod</i> female, feminine, womanly

mun li pimeja e suno
nena suli li pana e ko seli

solar eclipse
a volcano is erupting

1.8 Negation, Yes/No Questions

Vocabulary

ala	not, none; nothing, negation
ali	everything, all
ken	can, to be able to; possibility
lape	to sleep; sleep
musi	to have fun, to amuse; game, fun
pali	to do, to make, to work; activity, work
wawa	strong, intense; energy, power

Negation

ala as an adverb

In English, you make a verb negative by adding "not" in front of the verb. Toki Pona puts its negative word, *ala*, after the verb.

mi lape ala .	I'm not sleeping.
mi musi ala .	I'm not having fun. / I'm bored.
mi wawa ala .	I'm not strong. / I'm weak.
mi wile ala tawa musi.	I don't want to dance.
tawa musi	dance (move entertainingly)
mi wile ala pali.	I'm lazy.

ala as an adjective

jan ala li toki.	Nobody is talking.
-------------------------	--------------------

There's nothing wrong with putting *ala* after the verb (which is *toki* in this sentence), and in fact that's the more common way of doing it. However, you do have the option of using *ala* after nouns, and so I just wanted to point that out.

However, if you do that, try to remember **not use *ala* with *ijo***: If not behind a verb, *ala* already essentially means nothing by default, and so using *ijo* just doesn't fit in.

ala li jaki.	Nothing is dirty.
---------------------	-------------------

ali

However, despite the differences in meaning, *ala* and *ali* as adjectives are used the same way.

jan ali li wile tawa.	Everybody wants to travel.
ma ali li pona.	All nations are good.
jan utala ali li nasa.	All soldiers are stupid.

Also like *ala*, it's best **not to use *ijo* and *ali* together**. By the way, *ali li pona* is one of the Toki Pona proverbs, if you didn't know that.

Yes/No Questions

To make yes/no questions, you say the **verb**, then **ala**, then repeat the **verb**.

sina pona ala pona ?	Are you okay?
suno li suli ala suli ?	Is the sun big?
len sina li telo ala telo ?	Are your clothes wet?
tomo tawa sina li pakala ala pakala ?	Is your car messed up?
sina ken ala ken lape?	Can you sleep?
ona li lon ala lon tomo?	Is he in the house?
ona li tawa ala tawa ma ike?	Did he go to the evil land?
sina pana ala pana e moku tawa jan lili?	Did you give food to the child?
pipi li moku ala moku e kili?	Are the bugs eating the fruit?

Answering

If you want to say "yes", you simply **repeat the verb** of the sentence. If you want to say "no", you **repeat the verb and add ala** after it.

sina wile ala wile moku?	Do you want to eat?
wile	Yes
wile ala	No
sina lukin ala lukin e kiwen?	Do you see the rock?
lukin	Yes
lukin ala	No
sina sona ala sona e toki mi?	Do you understand what I'm saying?
sona	Yes
sona ala	No

Practice 8 (Answers: Page 51)

Try translating these sentences.

Is that funny? Yes.	
You have to tell me why. *	
Is a bug beside me?	
Do you like me?	
I can't sleep.	
I don't want to talk to you.	
He didn't go to the lake.	
sina wile ala wile pali? wile ala.	
jan utala li seli ala seli e tomo?	
jan lili li ken ala moku e telo nasa.	
sina kepeken ala kepeken e ni?	
sina ken ala ken kama?	

* Think: "You have to tell the reason to me."

ma tomo Towano	Toronto (Canada)
ma tomo Kakawi	Calgary (Canada)
ma tomo Monkela	Montreal (Canada)
ma tomo Alipasi	Halifax (Canada)
ma tomo Sensan	St. John's (Canada)
ma tomo Manten	Moncton (Canada)
ma tomo Sawi	Sackville (Canada)
ma tomo Sesija	Shediac (Canada)
ma tomo Sije	Dieppe (Canada)
ma tomo Wankuwa	Vancouver (Canada)
ma tomo Paki	Paris (France)
ma tomo Akajela	Cairo (Egypt)
ma tomo Mesiko	Mexico City (Mexico)
ma tomo Ele	Los Angeles (USA)
ma tomo Sanpansiko	San Francisco (USA)
ma tomo Kenpisi	Cambridge (USA, GB)
ma tomo Pasen	Boston (USA)
ma tomo Nujoka	New York City (USA)
ma tomo Polan	Portland (USA)
ma tomo Alana	Atlanta (USA)
ma tomo Putapesi	Budapest (Hungary)
ma tomo Ansetan	Amsterdam (Netherlands)
ma tomo Iwesun	Hilversum (Netherlands)
ma tomo Osaka	Osaka (Japan)
ma tomo Tokijo	Tokyo (Japan)
ma tomo Lanten	London (England)
ma tomo Peminan	Birmingham (England)
ma tomo Pesin	Beijing, Peking (China)
ma tomo Esupo	Espoo (Finland)
ma tomo Lesinki	Helsinki (Finland)
ma tomo Tanpele	Tampere (Finland)
ma tomo Tuku	Turku (Finland)
ma tomo Sene	Geneva (Switzerland)
ma tomo Kunte	Bangkok (Thailand)
ma tomo Anpu	Hamburg (Germany)
ma tomo Minsen	Munich (Germany)
ma tomo Pelin	Berlin (Germany)

A.5.18 Weather

kon en sewi	weather
seli li lon	it's warm or hot
lete li lon	it's cold
suno li lon	it's sunny
telo li kama	it's raining
ko lete li kama	it's snowing
telo kiwen lili li kama	it's hailing
tenpo lete	winter
tenpo seli	summer
tenpo telo	rainy season
nasin li jo e telo kiwen	the roads are icy
telo lili li lon kon	it's humid
kon sewi li jo e walo	it's cloudy
mun li sike (ale)	it's full moon
mun li pimeja (ale)	it's new moon

jo e pilin pona	to have positive feelings, be mentally healthy
jo e sijelo pona	to be (physically) healthy
lili	small, short, thin, young
nasa	crazy, foolish
nasa lukin	funny-looking
pona lukin	beautiful, pretty, handsome
suwi	sweet
suwi lukin	cute
sona mute	smart, intelligent, wise
suli	big, tall, fat

A.5.14 Religion

nasin sewi	religions
nasin sewi	religion, spiritual path
nasin pona	Taoism, simple or good path
nasin pona Juju	Unitarian Universalism
nasin pona Lasapali	Rastafarianism
nasin sewi Jawatu	Judaism
nasin sewi Kolisu	Christianity
nasin sewi ma	earth religion, e.g. Native American beliefs
nasin sewi Puta	Buddhism
nasin sewi Silami	Islam

A.5.15 Sex

unpa	sex, to have sex, to fuck
ilo unpa	sex toy
jan pi jan unpa mute	promiscuous person
jan (pi pali) unpa	sex worker
jan unpa	sexual partner
jo ala e selo lon pini palisa	circumcised, cut
jo e selo lon pini palisa	uncircumcised, uncut
lupa	hole, orifice
lupa (meli)	vagina, pussy
lupa monsi	anus
kama	to come
kama jo e lupa meli	to get genital reconstruction surgery as a woman, i.e. vaginoplasty
kama jo e palisa mije	to get genital reconstruction surgery as a man, i.e. metoidioplasty, phalloplasty
kama jo e sinpin lawa meli	to get facial feminization surgery
kama jo e sinpin mije	to get male chest reconstruction surgery
meli (insa)	person who identifies as female, e.g. male-to-female transsexual person
meli li lon sewi mije	woman on top
meli mije	masculine girl, butch, tomboy
meli unpa	female sexual partner
mije (insa)	person who identifies as male, e.g. female-to-male transsexual person
mije li lon sewi meli	missionary position
mije meli	feminine guy
mije unpa	male sexual partner
monsi	butt, ass
nenalili (unpa) meli	clitoris
nenalili meli	breasts

Addressing People

Sometimes you need to **get a person's attention** before you can talk to him. When you want to address someone like that before saying the rest of the sentence, you just follow this same pattern: **jan (name) o (rest of sentence)**.

jan Ken o, pipi li lon len sina.	Ken, a bug is on your shirt.
jan Keli o, sina pona lukin.	Kelly, you are pretty.
jan Mawen o, sina wile ala wile moku?	Marvin, are you hungry?
jan Tepani o, sina ike tawa mi.	Steffany, I don't like you.

Although it's not essential, you should try to remember to put the **comma after the o**. You'll see why in a minute when you learn about making commands.

Toki Pona also has a neat little word *a* which can be used whenever you're addressing people. It's only used when the person makes you feel really emotional. For example, you might use the *a* when you haven't seen the person for a very long time or when having sex.

jan Epi o a!		Oh Abbie!
--------------	--	-----------

Commands

You simply say *o* and then whatever you want the person to do, like this:

o pali!		Work!
o awen.		Wait.
o lukin e ni.		Watch this.
o tawa ma tomo poka jan pona sina.		Go to the city with your friend.

We've learned how to address people and how to make commands; now let's put these two concepts together. Suppose you want to address someone and tell them to do something. Notice how **one of the o's got dropped, as did the comma**.

jan San o, ...		John, ...
... o tawa tomo sina!		... go to your house!
jan San o tawa tomo sina!		John, go to your house!
jan Ta o toki ala tawa mi.		Todd, don't talk to me.
jan Sesi o moku e kili ni.		Jessie, eat this fruit.

This structure can also be used to make sentences like "Let's go":

mi mute o tawa.		Let's go.
mi mute o musi.		Let's have fun.

Interjections

I'm going to split the interjections into two groups so that they're easier to explain. The first group is very straight-forward:

jan Lisa o, toki.	Hello, Lisa.
pona!	Yay! Good! Hoorah!
ike!	Oh no!, Uh oh!, Alas!, etc.
pakala!	f-ck! d-mn!
mu.	Meow. Woof. Grrr. Moo. (sounds made by animals)
a.	Ooh, ahh, unh, oh, etc.
a a a!	Hahaha! (laughter)

The second group of interjections are kind like salutations.

toki!	Hello!, Hi!, etc.
suno pona!	Good sun! Good day!
lape pona!	Sleep well! Have a good night!
moku pona!	Good food! Enjoy your meal!
mi tawa	I'm going. Bye!
tawa pona!	(in reply) Go well! Good bye!
kama pona!	Come well! Welcome!
musi pona!	Good fun! Have fun!

Practice 9 (Answers: Page 51)

Try translating these sentences.

Susan is crazy.	
Go!	
Mama, wait.	
I come from Europe. *	
Hahaha! That's funny.	
My name is Ken.	
Hello, Lisa.	
F-ck!	
I want to go to Australia. **	
Bye! ***	
mu.	
mi wile kama sona e toki Inli. ****	
jan Ana o pana e moku tawa mi.	
o tawa musi poka mi! *****	
jan Mose o lawa e mi mute tawa ma pona.	
tawa pona.	

* Europe = Elopa

* Australia = Oselija

** spoken by the person who's leaving

*** *kama sona* = learn. This is similar to how *kama jo* = "get", like we learned in lesson six.

sitelen e toki	to write
toki sitelen	written language
sitelen toki	writing
toki nanpa wan	primary language

A.5.11 Occupations

pali	occupations
jan pali	worker, employee
jan lawa	leader, boss, master, chairperson, president, director
jan lawa ma	president of country, governor of state, premier of province
jan lawa pi ma tomo	mayor
jan pi kama sona	student
jan pi musi sijelo	athlete
jan (pi pali) moku	chef, cook
jan (pi pali) unpa	sex worker, prostitute
jan pi pana sona	teacher
jan pi pona pilin	good psychotherapist
jan pi pona sijelo	good doctor, healer
jan pi tomo pali	office worker, etc.
jan sona	knowledgeable person, wise person, educated person, academic, specialist
jan sona sijelo	doctor, physician
jan sona nanpa	mathematician
jan sona pilin	psychologist
lon tenpo pi pali ala	to be taking a sabbatical, break from work
lukin jo e pali	to be looking for a job
pali ala	not working
tomo pali	work(place), office, factory, etc.

A.5.12 People

jan	person, people, inhabitant, member
jan ike	bad person, jerk, negative person, enemy
jan kulupu	member of a group
jan lili	small, short, thin or young person, child
jan nasa	strange, foolish, unconventional or crazy person
jan olin	loved one
jan pona	good person, friend, positive person
jan pi ma ante	foreigner
jan pi ma sama	fellow citizen of same country or land
jan pi tomo sama	housemate, roommate
jan sama	similar person, counterpart, peer, person in same situation, sibling
jan suli	big, tall or fat person, adult
jan toki	speaker, messenger, person communicating

A.5.13 Personal Traits

jan li seme	personal traits
(ona) li seme?	what is (she/he) like?
ike lukin	ugly
jo e linja mute	to be hairy
jo e mani mute	to be rich

kasi sona	intoxicating plant used in meditation, e.g. marijuana
telo seli wawa	coffee
tenpo suno sin ale la sina	Every morning I drink coffee.
moku e telo seli pimeja	
telo wawa	energy drink

A.5.6 Family

kulupu mama	family
mama	mother, father, parent
kulupu mama	family
mama meli	mother
mama mije	father
mama mama	grandparent
jan olin	significant other, partner
meli (olin)	wife, girlfriend
mije (olin)	husband, boyfriend
jan sama	sister, brother, sibling
meli sama	sister
mije sama	brother
jan lili	child, daughter, son
meli lili	daughter
mije lili	son

A.5.7 Feelings

pilin	feelings
sina pilin seme?	how are you? how are you feeling?
a a a!	ha ha ha!
ale li pona	all is well, I feel calm, I am at peace
awen pona	patient
kama olin	fall in love with
kepeken e utala	to use violence
lawa e pilin	to master one's feelings, be composed
lukin	aware, attentive
mi olin e sina	I love you
olin	to love (a person)
(ona) li ike	(she/he/it) is bad, I don't like (her/him/it)
(ona) li pona	(he/she/it) is good, I like (him/her/it)
pali e ike tawa	to do bad things to, to show disrespect for
pana e kon (pi pilin) pona	to laugh
pana e pilin pona tawa	to send positivity to, make feel good
pana e telo oko	to cry, weep
pilin	feelings, emotions, to feel, heart
pilin ala	indifferent, unfeeling
pilin e ike jan	to pity somebody, feel bad for somebody
pilin e moli jan	to mourn somebody
pilin e weka jan	to miss somebody
pilin ike	to feel bad, sad, depressed, unhappy, bitter, discontented, grumpy
pilin ike tan	be afraid of, sad because of, regret, be offended by
pilin ike tawa	to have negative feelings for, be upset at, angry at, hate, resent
pilin ike wawa	to have intense negative feelings, be pissed off, furious

Why

seme is also used to make what equals the English word "why". Also, don't forget that *tan* as a preposition means "because of":

sina kama **tan seme?** | Why did you come?

Practice 10 (Answers: Page 51)

What do you want to do?
 Who loves you?
 Is that sweet?
 I'm going to bed.
 Are more people coming?
 Give me a lollipop!
 Who's there?
 Which bug hurt you?
 Whom did you go with?
 He loves to eat. *

jan Ken o, mi olin e sina.
 ni li jan seme?
 sina lon seme?
 mi lon tan seme?
 jan seme li meli sina?
 sina tawa ma tomo tan seme?
 sina wile tawa ma seme?

* Think carefully! This one is tricky.

1.11 *pi*

Vocabulary

pi	essentially means "of" (separator)
kalama	sound, noise; to make noise, to play an instrument
kulupu	group, community, society
nasin	road, way, doctrine, method

pi

pi is probably the most misused word in this language. At any rate, if you get frustrated while trying to learn about this word, just relax, try your best.

Compound words with *pi*

Now, you might remember that *tomo telo* ("water room") is used to mean "restroom". You should also recall that *nasa* means "crazy", "silly", "stupid", and so on. Now, let's look at this sentence:

mi tawa tomo telo nasa. | I went to the crazy restroom.

Okay, I think you'll agree with me when I say that that is just plain weird. It makes me think about some creepy restroom with neon lights lining the floor and a strobe light in every toilet stall. Now, the person who said this sentence had actually been trying to say that he had gone to a bar. As you probably recall, *telo nasa* is used to mean "alcohol". So, a *tomo* with *telo nasa* would be a "bar". The only problem is that you can't fit *tomo* and *telo nasa* together, because it will mean "crazy restroom," as you just studied. The only way to fix this problem is to use *pi*:

tomo **pi** telo nasa | building of alcohol; a bar, pub, etc.

We're going to go over a bunch of examples using *pi*; but, you need to be familiar with some of the compound noun combinations that we've learned.

jan pi ma tomo	person of the city, a city-dweller
kulupu pi toki pona	the Toki Pona community
nasin pi toki pona	the ideology behind Toki Pona
jan lawa pi jan utala	leader of soldiers (commander, general)
jan lawa pi tomo tawa kon	leader of airplanes, a pilot
jan pi nasin sewi Kolisu	person of Christian religion, a Christian
nasin sewi	religion
jan pi pona lukin	an attractive person
jan pi ike lukin	an ugly person
jan utala pi ma Mewika li ike tawa ma ali.	Soldiers of the USA are bad for the world.

pi and possessives

If you wanted to say "my house" you say *tomo mi*. Similarly, "your house" is *tomo sina*. However, **if you want to name a specific person who owns the house**, you have to use *pi*. Note that you can not say *tomo Lisa*. That changes the whole meaning.

A.5.2 Buildings

tomo	buildings
tomo mani	bank
tomo moku	grocery store, restaurant
tomo pi telo en moku pana.	restaurant
tomo pali	work(place), office, factory, etc.
tomo sona	school, university
tomo unpa	brothel, sex house

A.5.3 Clothing

len	clothes, article of clothing, cloth, fabric
len lawa	hat, hood, bonnet, headdress

A.5.4 Colours

kule	colour
walo	white, light
pimeja	black, dark
loje	red
jelo	yellow, light green
laso	blue, blue-green
loje walo	light red, pink
laso pimeja	dark blue
pimeja laso	blueish black
loje laso (pimeja)	(dark) blueish red, purple
len ni li kule seme?	What colour is this article of clothing?

A.5.5 Drugs

ilo nasa	drugs
ilo lape	sleeping pill
ilo lape soweli	animal tranquilizer or anesthetic, e.g. ketamine
ilo nasa wawa	energy-giving drug, e.g. amphetamine
kepeken e kasi nasa	to smoke pot
kepeken ike e ilo nasa	to abuse drugs
kepeken lili e ilo nasa	to use drugs in moderation
ko (walo) wawa	cocaine
moku e telo nasa	to drink alcohol
moku lili	pill
moku lili pi pilin pona mute	strong euphoric drug taken orally, e.g. MDMA
pilin nasa	drunk, high
telo nasa	alcohol, e.g. beer, wine, whisky
telo nasa wawa	vodka, whisky,
telo nasa pi wawa ala	weak beer, US American beer
kasi nasa	intoxicating plant, e.g. marijuana

Pilisin	Palestine
Pisi	Fiji
Piten	Britain, UK
Pokasi	Bulgaria, Bulgarian
Posan	Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bosnian
Posuka	Poland, Polish
Potuke	Portugal, Portugese
Samalino	San Marino
Sameka	Jamaica, Jamaican Patoi
Samowa	Samoa
Sasali	Algeria
Sawa	Java, Javanese
Sawasi	Swaziland
Seki	Czech (Republic)
Seneka	Senegal
Setapika	South Africa
Sile	Chile
Sinita	Trinidad and Tobago
Sipusi	Djibouti
Sonko	China, Chinese
Sopisi	Serbia, Serbian
Sukosi	Scotland, Scots
Sulija	Syria
Sumi	Finland, Finnish
Sutan	Sudan
Suwasi	Switzerland, Swiss
Tansi	Denmark, Danish
Tawi	Thailand, Thai
Toko	Togo
Tominika	Dominican Republic
Tona	Tonga, Tongan
Tosi	Germany, German
Tuki	Turkey, Turkish
Tunisi	Tunisia
Tuvalu	Tuvalu
Tukanta	Uganda
Ukawina	Ukraine, Ukrainian
Ulukawi	Uruguay
Uman	Oman
Utun	Jordan
Wanuwatu	Vanuatu
Wasikano	Vatican
Wensa	Sweden, Swedish
Wije	Vietnam, Vietnamese

If a nation has a * beside it, that means that the word can also be used to describe that nation's language.

1.12 Conjunctions and Temperature

Vocabulary

anu	or
en	and
taso	but, only
kin	indeed, still, too
ante	other, different
pilin	feel, think, touch
lete	cold; to freeze
lipu	paper, sheet, page, ticket, etc.
mani	money, currency

The conjunctions *anu* and *en*

anu

anu is used to make **questions** when there is a **choice** between two different options.

jan Susan anu jan Lisa li moku e suwi?	Susan or Lisa ate the cookies?
sina jo e kili anu telo nasa?	Do you have the fruit, or is it the wine that you have?
sina toki tawa mi anu ona?	Are you talking to me, or are you talking to him?
ona anu jan ante li ike?	Is he bad, or is it the other person who's bad?
sina toki pi mama anu jan lili?	Are you talking about the parent, or is the child that you're talking about?

Do you know how sometimes in English we say stuff like, "So are you coming **or what?**". We can do the same thing in Toki Pona.

sina kama anu seme?	Are you coming or what?
sina wile moku anu seme?	Do you want to eat or what?
sina wile e mani anu seme?	Do you want the money or what?

en

This word simply means "**and**". It is used to **join two nouns in the subject** of a sentence together:

mi en sina li jan pona.	You and I are friends.
jan lili en jan sulji li toki.	The child and the adult are talking.
kalama musi en meli li pona tawa mi.	I like music and girls.

Note that *en* is not intended to connect two direct objects. For that, use the multiple-*e* technique (Page 11).

mi wile e moku e telo.	I want food and water.
------------------------	------------------------

Also note that *en* is **not used to connect two whole sentences**, even though this is common in English. Instead, use the multiple-*li* technique (Page 11) or split the sentence into two sentences:

mi moku e kili li toki kepeken toki pona. / mi moku e kili. mi toki kepeken toki pona.	I'm eating fruit, and I'm speaking in/using Toki Pona. I'm eating fruit, and I'm speaking in/using Toki Pona.
---	--

en can also be used with *pi* if two people own something together:

tomo pi jan Keli en mi je ona li suli. jan lili pi jan Ken en jan Lisa li suwi.	The house of Keli and her boyfriend is big. Ken and Lisa's baby is sweet.
--	--

taso

taso as conjunction

If you don't understand these examples below, it's because you have forgotten other concepts; *taso* itself is common sense. The only thing you need to remember is **to start a new sentence when you want to use *taso*. Do not run everything together with a comma!**

mi wile moku. taso mi jo ala e moku.	I want to eat. But I don't have food.
mi wile lukin e tomo mi. taso mi lon ma ante.	I want to see my house. But I'm in a different country.
mi pona. taso meli mi li pakala.	I'm okay. But my girlfriend is injured.

taso as adjective

jan Lisa taso li kama. mi sona e ni taso .	Only Lisa came. I know only that. (That's all I know.)
---	---

taso as adverb

mi musi taso . mi pali taso . mi lukin taso e meli ni! ali li pona.	I'm just joking. I just work. (All I ever do is work.) I only looked at that girl! Everything's okay.
--	---

kin

A: mi tawa ma Elopa. B: pona! mi kin tawa ma Elopa. A: mi mute o tawa. B: mi ken ala. mi kin moku. A: a! sina lukin ala lukin e ijo nasa ni? B: mi kin lukin e ona.	I went to Europe. Cool! I also went to Europe. Let's go. I can't. I'm still eating. Whoa! Do you see that weird thing? I see it indeed.
---	--

Lanka	Sri Lanka
Lesi	Brittany, Breton
Lipija	Libya
Lisensan	Liechtenstein
Lomani	Romania, Romanian
Losi	Russia, Russian
Lowasi	Croatia, Croatian
Lowenki	Slovakia, Slovak
Lowensina	Slovenia, Slovenian
Lunpan	Lebanon
Lusepu	Luxemburg
Luwanta	Rwanda
Maketonija	Macedonia
Malakasi	Madagascar, Malagasy
Malasija	Malaysia, Malay
Malawi	Malawi
Mali	Mali
Malipe	Morocco
Masija	Hungary, Hungarian
Masu	Egypt
Mesiko	Mexico
Mewika	USA, American
Mijama	Myanmar
Motowa	Moldova
Multanija	Mauritania
Namipija	Namibia
Naselija	Nigeria
Netelan	Netherlands, Dutch
Nijon	Japan, Japanese
Nise	Niger
Nosiki	Norway, Norwegian Bokmål
Nusilan	New Zealand
Ontula	Honduras
Osalasi	Austria
Oselija	Australia
Pakistan	Pakistan
Palakawi	Paraguay
Palani	Bahrein
Palata	India
Panama	Panama
Panla	Bangladesh, Bengali
Papeto	Barbados
Papuwanijukini	Papua New Guinea
Pasila	Brasil
Pawama	Bahamas
Pelalusi	Belarus, Belarussian
Pelu	Peru
Pemuta	Bermuda
Penesuwela	Venezuela
Penin	Benin
Pesije	Belgium
Pilipina	Philippines, Tagalog

A.3 Tokiponization Guidelines

To create the Toki Pona version of a foreign name, you may use the following guidelines. Also see Alphabet and sounds (Page 7) for rules on what Toki Pona syllables and words are possible.

- It is always better to translate the "idea" of a foreign word before attempting to create a new phonetic transcription that may not be recognizable by everyone. (Example: Jean Chrétien, Prime Minister of Canada = jan lawa pi ma Kanata, rather than jan Kesijen)
- Use the native pronunciation as a basis, rather than the spelling.
- If more than one language is spoken locally, use the dominant one.
- If it does not belong to any one language, use an international form. (Example: Atlantik = Alansi)
- Use the colloquial pronunciation that locals actually and commonly use, rather than the "proper" or standard pronunciation. (Example: Toronto = Towano, not Tolonto)
- If a person chooses to have a Toki Pona name, he can choose whatever he wants and does not necessarily have to follow these guidelines.
- Names of nations, languages, religions have already been established. If one is missing from the official list, make a suggestion on the Toki Pona discussion list.
- If possible, find a common root between the name of the nation, the language and the people. (Example: England, English, English(wo)man = Inli)
- Cities and locations can be given a Toki Pona name, but they will only have an official name if they are internationally known.
- If full Tokiponization would compromise intelligibility, you can always leave a foreign name as is.

1.13 Colors

Vocabulary

kule	color, to paint, to color
sitelen	picture, image, to draw, to write
jelo	yellow
laso	blue
loje	red
pimeja	black, dark
walo	white

Color combinations

jelo, laso, loje, pimeja and walo as adjectives

You can **mix different colors**. Toki Pona is about simplicity, so keep it basic.

laso loje	purple (reddish blue)
laso jelo	green (yellowish blue)
loje jelo	orange (yellowish red)
loje walo	pink (whitish red)
walo pimeja	grey (dark white)

Keep in mind that colors by themselves can't really follow any sort of logical pattern, so you're free to mix them around as you like:

laso loje / loje laso	reddish blue (purple)
laso jelo / jelo laso	yellowish blue (green)

Using colors with *pi*

Suppose that you have a shirt that have pattern with different colors (red and blue). However, you can't call it *len loje laso*, because that means "purple shirt". So, we have to **use *en* to separate the two colors**, and then we have to use *pi* to show that the even though there are two different colors, they both modify the word "shirt":

len pi loje en laso	shirt of red and blue
-----------------------------------	-----------------------

kule

kule as a noun

ni li kule seme?	What color is that?
-------------------------	---------------------

kule as a verb

mi kule e lipu	I'm coloring the paper.
-----------------------	-------------------------

Miscellaneous

sitelen

sitelen as a **noun** means "picture" or "image". As a **verb**, it means to "draw" or to "write". *sitelen* is most useful for the **compound nouns** that you can

	sitelen tawa	"Fahrenheit 9/11" li	movie, TV show
	sitelen tawa	"Fahrenheit 9/11" li	I like the movie "Fahrenheit 9/11".
make with it.	sitelen tawa	"Bowling for Columbine" li kin pona.	The movie "Bowling for Columbine" is also good.
	sitelen ma	o pana e sitelen ma tawa mi.	map Give me the map.

Practice 13 (Answers: Page 53)

Try translating these sentences.

I don't see the blue bag.
A little green person came from the sky.
I like the color purple.
The sky is blue.
Look at that red bug.
I want the map.
Do you watch The X-Files?
Which color do you like?*

suno li jelo.
telo suli li laso.
mi wile moku e kili loje.
ona li kule e tomo tawa.

* Think: "Which color is good for you?"

And now try reading this Toki Pona poem.

ma mi li pimeja.
kalama ala li lon
mi lape. mi sona.

A.2 Proverbs

toki sona
nasin ale
nasin pona li mute.
ante li kama.
mi pona e ale mi, la mi pona e mi.
ike li kama.
ale li jo e tenpo.
ale li pona.
nasin ante li pona tawa jan ante.
sina pana e ike, la sina kama jo e ike.
suno li lon poka pimeja.
kili li tawa anpa poka kasi.
pali pona li lawa tawa lon.
tenpo li tawa la sona li kama.
pini li pona la ale li pona.
waso li ken ala lukin la ona li kin ken jo e kili.
jan
o olin e jan poka.
jan li suli mute. mani li suli lili.
jan lili li sona ala e ike.
utala li ike.
mi weka e ike jan, la mi weka e ike mi.
meli en mije
lupa meli li mama ale.
palisa li lawa e mije.
meli li nasa e mije.
olin suli li awen.
mije wan la nimi wan. meli wanla nimi awen.
sona
sin en ante li sin e lawa li pana e sona.
jan sona li jan nasa.
weka lili li pona tawa lawa.
wile sona li mute e sona.
pali
o sona ala. o pali.
pali li pana e sona.
o sona e sina!
toki
toki li pona.
toki pona li toki pona.
ike
nasin mani li ike.
jo ijo li ike e jan.
jan utala ali li nasa
ma
o pana e pona tawa ma.
sijelo
telo li pona.
lape li pona.
wawa li lon insa.
pilin pona li pana e sijelo pona.
tenpo li sijelo e sijelo ike ale.

proverbs

The Way of Life
The good ways are many. There are many right ways of doing things.
Change comes. Times change.
When I improve all areas of my life, I am making myself good.
Bad comes. Shit happens.
There is a time for everything. Everything in its right context.
All is good. Life is beautiful. Everything will be OK.
Different ways are good for different people.
If you give evil, you will receive evil.
Light is beside darkness. Opposites are interconnected. Yin and yang.
The appel drops not far from the tree.
Good work is most important in live. / Order is the half of the live.
Time comes – advice comes.
Is the end good – everything is good.
A blind chicken can find a corn too.

People

Love thy neighbour.
People are more important than money.
Children are innocent.
Conflict is bad.
When I forgive somebody's wrongdoings, I cleanse myself of negativity.
Gender
A woman's womb is the mother of all things.
A man's penis control him.
Women will drive men crazy.
Old love never rusts.
One man one word. One woman one dictionary.

Wisdom

Novelty and change freshen the mind and bring insight.
A wise man is a fool. A genius thinks unconventionally.
Temporary isolation is good for meditation.
Curiosity feeds wisdom. One learns by asking questions.

Work

Stop thinking. Do stuff.
One learns by experience.
Know thyself!

Language

ommunication is good.
Toki Pona is a good language.

Bad

Capitalism is negative.
Possession corrupts.
All soldiers are stupid.

Ecology

Love the earth. Take care of our planet.

Health

Water is good.
Sleep and rest are good.
Energy comes from inside. Youth is all in the heart.
Positive feelings grant good health. Mind over matter.
The time heals every wounds.

A.1 Texts - nimi mute

A.1.1 tenpo pi ma ali

jan Pije li pali e ni.

ni li sona ali. ken la sina pilin e ni: mi toki e lon ala. ken la sona ni li ike tawa nasin sewi sina. taso mi pilin e ni: mi toki e lon.

ali li open.

tenpo pini mute mute la ala li lon. ma li lon ala. kon li lon ala. telo li lon ala. pimeja taso li lon...

A! IJO SULI LI KAMA! kon li kama tan ijo suli ni. kon li mama ali. – tenpo suli li pini. sike kon suli li lon. sike kon suli ni li seli mute li pana e suno. tenpo pimeja la sina ken lukin sewi e sike kon ni!

tenpo suli la sike kon taso li lon. seli mute li lon sike kon ni. seli en kon li kama e ni: kiwen li lon. kiwen mute li wan la ma li lon. pona! – sama la seli en kon li kama e telo.

kasi pi nanpa wan.

kiwen mute li wan li kama e ma ni. telo li kin lon. taso kasi li lon ala. kala en soweli en pipi li lon ala. ike. :(

tenpo suli la ala li kama. suno li tawa sewi. suno li tawa anpa. tenpo suli la ala li ante. waso li kalama ala musi. jan lili li musi ala. kalama ala li lon. ali li ike. tenpo li pini la ijo lili li wan li kama e ijo sin. ijo sin ni li kasi pi nanpa wan! kasi ni li lon telo taso.

tenpo mute li pini. kasi ni li ante mute mute li suli. kala li kin kama. – tenpo li pini la pipi en soweli en ijo sin mute li kama:

ijo mute li moli.

akesi suli li lon. ona li wawa. taso kiwen suli li kama tan sewi li moli e akesi suli ali e ijo sin mute.

kiwen li pakala e ijo mute. jaki li tawa sewi li awen lon kon. jaki ni li kama e ni: kasi li ken ala kepeken e suno. kasi li moli. soweli li ken ala moku e kasi li moli. ijo mute li moli. pipi lili taso en soweli lili li lon.

soweli li suli. jan li kama.

akesi suli li moli la soweli li ken suli. ni li pona tan ni: jan li soweli! o lukin e sitelen ni:

jan li lon! pona! jan li pali e seme? sina wile sona la o tawa lipu ni [5].

1.15 The Body

Vocabulary

ko	semi-solid substance (glue, powder, etc.)
kute	to hear
linja	line, hair
luka	arm, hand
lupa	hole, orifice, door, window
na	bump, hill, extrusion
noka	leg, foot
oko	eye
palisa	rod, stick, pointy thing
selo	skin, external surface of something
sijelo	body
sike	circle, ball
sinpin	wall, chest
uta	mouth

Body Parts

All the words that you see above in the vocabulary list are used to make the name of a body part. However, some of the words have other uses as well.

oko	eye
na	ear
noka	nose
sinpin	mouth
luka	teeth
linja	hair (of head)
lupa	head
na	neck (bottom of head)
luka	hand, arm
lupa	gloves, mittens
lupa	hip
luka	leg, foot
lupa	shoe, pants
sinpin	chest, abdomen, face
na	female breasts
lupa	vagina
lupa	penis
sinpin	man's testicles
selo	a person's back
selo	skin

Bodily Fluids and Wastes

telo walo mijē	The fluid that a man releases during <i>unpa</i> .
telo sijelo loje	blood (red bodily fluid)
telo jelo	urine (yellow fluid)
mi pana e telo jelo.	I peed.
ko jaki	feces
mi pana e ko jaki.	I crapped.

ko is not used very much at all, except to say *ko jaki*. However, you can say "porridge" by saying *ko moku*.

kute can also be used a verb

mi kute e toki sina.	I hear your talking.
mi kute e kalama musi.	I'm listening to music.

Practice 15 (Answers: Page 53)

Try translating these sentences.

Kiss me. *	
I need to pee.	
My hair is wet.	
Something is in my eye.	
I can't hear your talking.	
I need to crap.	
That hole is big.	
a! telo sijelo loje li kama tan nena kute mi!	
selo mi li wile e ni: mi pilin e ona. **	
o pilin e nena.	
o moli e pipi kepeken palisa.	
luka mi li jaki. mi wile telo e ona.	
o pana e sike tawa mi.	
mi pilin e seli sijelo sina.	

* We sorta have an idiom for this. Think: "Touch my mouth using your mouth."

* This sentence is sorta idiomatic. Look at the answer if you can't figure it out.

Appendix A

Appendix

I'm going to bed.
 Are more people coming?
 Give me a lollipop!
 Who's there?
 Which bug hurt you?
 Whom did you go with?
 He loves to eat.
 jan Ken o, mi olin e sina.
 ni li jan seme?
 sina lon seme?

mi lon tan seme?

jan seme li meli sina?
 sina tawa ma tomo tan seme?
 sina wile tawa ma seme?

mi tawa supa lape.
 jan sin li kama ala kama?
 o pana e suwi tawa mi!
 jan seme li lon? / jan seme li lon ni?
 pipi seme li pakala e sina?
 sina tawa poka jan seme?
 moku li pona tawa ona.
 Ken, I love you.
 Who is that?
 Where are you?
 (lit: You in what?)
 Why am I here?
 (lit: I exist because-of what?)
 Who is your girlfriend/wife?
 Why did you go to the city?
 What place do you want to go to?

pi

Keli's child is funny.
 I am a Toki Ponan.
 He is a good musician.
 The captain of the ship is eating.
 Meow.
 Enya's music is good.
 Which people of this group are important?
 Our house is messed up.
 How did she make that?
 kili pi jan Linta li ike.
 len pi jan Susan li jaki.
 mi sona ala e nimi pi ona mute.
 mi wile ala toki pi kalama musi.
 mi wile toki meli.
 sina pakala e ilo kepeken nasin seme?
 jan Wasintan [Washington] li jan lawa pona pi ma Mewika.
 wile pi jan ike li pakala e ijo.

jan lili pi jan Keli li musi.
 mi jan pi toki pona.
 ona li jan pona pi kalama musi.
 jan lawa pi tomo tawa telo li moku.
 mu.
 kalama musi pi jan Enja li pona.
 jan seme pi kulupu ni li sulif?

tomo pi mi mute li pakala.
 ona li pali e ni kepeken nasin seme?
 Linda's fruit is bad.
 Susan's clothes are dirty.
 I don't know their names.
 I don't want to talk about music.
 I want to talk about girls.
 How did you break the tool?

Washington was a good leader of America.

The desires of evil people mess things up.

Conjunctions *kin* Temperature

Do you want to come or what?
 Do you want food, or do you want water?
 I still want to go to my house.
 This paper feels cold.
 I like currency of other nations.
 I want to go, but I can't.
 I'm alone.
 mi kin olin e sina.
 mi pilin e ni: ona li jo ala e mani.
 mi wile lukin e ma ante.
 mi wile ala e ijo. mi lukin taso.
 mi pilin lete.
 sina wile toki tawa mije anu meli?

sina wile kama anu seme?
 sina wile e moku anu telo?

mi kin wile tawa tomo mi.
 lipu ni li pilin lete.
 mani pi ma ante li pona tawa mi.
 mi wile tawa. taso mi ken ala.
 mi taso li lon.
 I still love you. / I love you too.
 I think that he doesn't have money.
 I want to see other countries.
 I don't want anything. I'm just looking.
 I'm cold.
 (lit. "I feel cold.")
 Do you want to talk a male, or a female?

Miscellaneous

Today's word is *weka*. As a verb, it just means "to get rid of", "to remove", etc.

o weka e len sina.	Remove your clothes.
o weka e jan lili tan ni.	Remove the kid from here
ona li wile ala kute e ni.	He shouldn't hear this.

weka is also used very often as an **adjective** and an **adverb**.

mi weka .	I was away.
mi wile tawa weka .	I want to leave.

It can also be used to mean the equivalent of "far" or "distant".

tomo mi li weka tan ni.	My house is away from here.
ma Elopa li weka tan ma Mewika.	Europe is away from the USA.

And add *ala* to mean that it's somewhere **closeby**:

ma Mewika li weka ala tan ma Kupa.	The USA is not away from Cuba.
---	--------------------------------

Practice 16 (Answers: Page 54)

Try translating these sentences.

I saw three birds.	
Many people are coming.	
The first person is here.	
I own two cars.	
Some (but not a lot) of people are coming.	
Unite!	

mi weka e ijo tu ni.	
o tu.	
mi lukin e soweli luka.	
mi weka.	

1.17 la

Vocabulary

la	separates adverb of context from sentence
mun	moon, lunar
open	to open, to begin, to turn on
pini	end; to end, to stop, to turn off
tenpo	time

la

la Preceded by a Single Word

First, let's look at a regular sentence, then we'll look at the same sentence with a *la* phrase attached:

ilo li pakala.	The tool is broken.
ken la ilo li pakala.	Maybe the tool is broken.

So already you can see that *la* phrases come at the beginning of the sentence. The word or phrase that will affect the sentence comes first, then *la*, and then finally comes the main sentence.

I wish I could logically explain why *ken*, when it comes before *la*, means "maybe". However, there's not really a good explanation.

ken la jan Lisa li jo e ona.	Maybe Lisa has it.
ken la ona li lape.	Maybe he's asleep.
ken la mi ken tawa ma Elopa.	Maybe I can go to Europe.

Time and la

Before we can actually learn how to use *tenpo* with *la*, we need to learn about *tenpo* first. It acts just like any other noun.

tenpo suno	day (sun time)
tenpo pimeja	night (dark time)
tenpo ni	the present (this time)
tenpo suno ni	today (this sun time)
tenpo pimeja ni	tonight (this dark time)
tenpo kama	the future (coming time)
tenpo kama lili	soon (little coming time)
tenpo pini	the past (past time)
tenpo suno pini	yesterday (past sun time)
tenpo pimeja pini	last night (past dark time)
tenpo suno kama	tomorrow (coming sun time)
tenpo mute	often (many times)

Now, you can stick these phrases before *la* to tell **when something happened**:

tenpo pini la mi weka.	In the past, I was away.
tenpo ni la mi lon.	At this time, I am here.
tenpo kama la mi lape.	In the future, I'll sleep.
tenpo pimeja pini la mi kama nasa.	Last night, I became drunk.

mi tawa tomo toki. ona li pona tawa mi.	I go the chat room. It is good for me.
---	--

sina kama jo e jan pona lon ni.	I like to go to the chat room.
---------------------------------	--------------------------------

	You will get friends there.
--	-----------------------------

Other Prepositions

My friend is beside me.	jan pona mi li lon poka mi.
The sun is above me.	suno li lon sewi mi.
The land is beneath me.	ma li lon anpa mi.
Bad things are behind me.	ijo ike li lon monsi mi.
I'm okay because I'm alive.	mi pona tan ni: mi lon.
I look at the land with my friend.	mi lukin e ma poka jan pona mi.
I look at the land with my friend.	mi lukin e ma lon poka pi jan pona mi.
People look like ants.	jan li lukin sama pipi.
poka mi li pakala.	My hip hurts.
mi kepeken e poki e ilo moku.	I'm using a bowl and a spoon.
jan li lon insa tomo.	Somebody's inside the house.

Negation Yes/No Questions

Is that funny? Yes.	ni li musi ala musi? musi.
You have to tell me why.	sina wile toki e tan tawa mi.
Is a bug beside me?	pipi li lon ala lon poka mi?
Do you like me?	mi pona ala pona tawa sina?
I can't sleep.	mi ken ala lape.
I don't want to talk to you.	mi wile ala toki tawa sina.
He didn't go to the lake.	ona li tawa ala telo.
sina wile ala wile pali? wile ala.	Do you want to work? No.
jan utala li seli ala seli e tomo?	Is the warrior burning the house?
jan lili li ken ala moku e telo nasa.	Children can't drink beer.
sina kepeken ala kepeken e ni?	Are you using that?
sina ken ala ken kama?	Can you come?

Gender, Unofficial Words, ...

Susan is crazy.	jan Susan li nasa.
Go!	o tawa!
Mama, wait.	mama meli o awen.
I come from Europe.	mi kama tan ma Elopa.
Hahaha! That's funny.	a a a! ni li musi.
My name is Ken.	nimi mi li Ken.
Hello, Lisa.	jan Lisa o, toki.
F-ck!	pakala!
I want to go to Australia.	mi wile tawa ma Oselija.
Bye!	mi tawa!
mu.	meow, woof, moo, etc.
mi wile kama sona e toki Inli.	I want to learn English.
jan Ana o pana e moku tawa mi.	Ana, give me food.
o tawa musi poka mi!	Dance with me!
jan Mose o lawa e mi mute tawa ma pona.	Moses, lead us to the good land.
tawa pona.	

Good bye (spoken by the person who's staying)

Questions using seme

What do you want to do?	sina wile pali e seme?
Who loves you?	jan seme li olin e sina?
Is that sweet?	ni li suwi ala suwi?

Practice 17 (Answers: Page 54)

Try translating these sentences.

Maybe Susan will come.
 Last night I watched X-Files.
 If the enemy comes, burn these papers.
 Maybe he's in school.
 I have to work tomorrow.
 When it's hot, I sweat. *
 Open the door.
 The moon is big tonight.

ken la jan lili li wile moku e telo.
 tenpo ali la o kama sona!
 sina sona e toki ni la sina sona e toki
 pona!

* Think: "Heat is present, I emit fluid from my skin."

1.18 Conclusion

toki awen sona ni li pini.

pona! tenpo ni la sina sona e toki pona mute. toki pona li pona ala pona tawa sina? mi wile e ni: ona li pona tawa sina.

sina sona e toki pona mute. taso sina kin ken kama sona e ijo sin. sina wile sona pona e toki pona la o kama tawa tomo toki pi toki pona. – sina jo e ilo mIRC la o pilin e nena ni. sina lukin e nena Proceed la o pilin e ona. – sina jo ala e ilo mIRC la sina ken pali e ijo tu: sina ken kama jo e ilo mIRC. anu sina ken tawa ijo [1] kepeken ilo sina.

sina wile ala kama tawa tomo toki la o pana e lipu tawa nimi [5]. mi wile mute toki tawa sina! sina ken la o kepeken e toki pona taso.

toki awen pona li lon li kepeken e toki pona. tenpo pini la toki awen ni li kepeken e toki Inli. taso jan li pana e toki pona tawa ona.

"kasi pona"

kasi suli en jan lili li jan pona. taso ali li ante. ni li toki pona.

"jan ike Kin li pakala e tenpo pona Kolisu!"

jan ike Kin li wile pakala e tenpo pona Kolisu. ona li ken ala ken pona e wile ike ni?

"jan Lowe"

jan Wansa li wile moli e kasi. taso jan Lowe li wile ala e ni.

"soweli Kipa li lili. - tenpo suno pi jan moli"

tenpo suno pi jan moli li pona tawa soweli Kipa.

sina wile e toki awen ni la mi jo e ona. sina pana e lipu tawa nimi [5] la mi pana e toki awen tawa sina. o kepeken e toki pona taso!

sina sona e toki pona. pona! tenpo ni la sina ken pali. o pana e sona pi toki pona tawa jan ante. o pali e toki awen. o toki kepeken toki pona! toki pona li toki pona. mi wile e ni: jan mute li sona e ona. sina ken kama e ni.

o pona!

o tawa lipu lawa pi toki awen sona ni.

1.19 Answers

Basic Sentences

People are good.	jan li pona.
I'm eating.	mi moku.
You're tall.	sina suli.
Water is simple.	telo li pona.
The lake is big.	telo li suli.
suno li suli.	The sun is big.
mi suli.	I'm important. / I'm fat.
jan li moku.	Somebody is eating.

Direct Objects, Compound Sentences

I have a tool.	mi jo e ilo.
She's eating fruit.	ona li moku e kili.
Something is watching me.	ijo li lukin e mi.
He wants to squish the spider.	ona li wile pakala e pipi.
Pineapple is a food and is good.	kili li moku li pona.
The bug is thirsty.	pipi li wile moku e telo.
mi lukin e ni.	I am looking at that.
mi wile unpa e ona.	I want to have sex with him/her.
jan li wile jo e ma.	People want to own land.
mi jan li suli.	I am somebody and am important.

Adjectives, Compound Nouns Adverbs

mi jo e kili.	I have a fruit.
ona li pona li lili.	It is good and is small.
mi moku lili e kili lili.	I nibble (eat a little) the small fruit.
The leader drank dirty water.	jan lawa li moku e telo jaki.
I need a fork.	mi wile e ilo moku.
An enemy is attacking them.	jan ike li utala e ona mute.
That bad person has strange clothes.	jan ike ni li jo e len nasa.
We drank a lot of vodka.	mi mute li moku e telo nasa mute.
Children watch adults.	jan lili li lukin e jan suli.
mi lukin sewi e tomo suli.	I am looking up at the big building.
seli suno li seli e tomo mi.	The sun's warmth heats my home.
jan lili li wile e telo kili.	Children want fruit juice.
ona mute li nasa e jan suli.	They drove the adults crazy.

Prepositions I

I fixed the flashlight using a small tool.	mi pona e ilo suno kepeken ilo lili.
I like Toki Pona.	toki pona li pona tawa mi.
We gave them food.	mi mute li pana e moku tawa ona mute.
This is for my friend.	ni li tawa jan pona mi.
The tools are in the container.	ilo li lon poki.
That bottle is in the dirt.	poki ni li lon jaki.
I want to go to his house using my car.	mi wile tawa tomo ona kepeken tomo tawa mi.
They are arguing.	ona mute li utala toki.
sina wile kama tawa tomo toki.	You should come to the chat room.
jan li toki kepeken toki pona lon tomo toki.	People talk in/using Toki Pona in the chat room.

We also use a *tenpo la* phrase to talk about age. Just to warn you, we talk about age using a funny, idiomatic-like expression. "Times of what amount (*la*) you circled the sun?"

tenpo pi mute seme la sina sike e suno?		How old are you?
---	--	------------------

Birthdays come once a year, and each time you have a birthday, you have gone around the sun one complete time. **To answer** and tell someone how old you are, just replace the *pi mute seme* with your age:

tenpo tu tu la mi sike e suno.		Four times (<i>la</i>) I circled the sun.
--------------------------------	--	---

Expressing if/when with *la*

mama mi li moli la mi pilin ike.		My parents die, I feel bad.
----------------------------------	--	-----------------------------

In casual English, we'd translate this as "If my parents were to die, I'd be sad." All *la* phrases follow the same order as that example. If you like formulas and patterns, here's a good way to think about it:

1 la 2.		If/when 1 happens, then 2 happens also.
---------	--	---

mi lape la ali li pona.		When I'm asleep, everything is good.
sina moku e telo nasa la sina nasa.		If you drink beer, you'll be silly.
sina moli la sina ken ala toki.		If you are dead, you can't speak.
mi pali mute la mi pilin ike.		When I work a lot, I feel bad.

Miscellaneous

comparative and superlative

Now to use this concept in Toki Pona, **you have to split your idea up into two separate sentences**. Here's how you'd say "Lisa is better than Susan.":

jan Lisa li pona mute. ...		Lisa is very good. ...
... jan Susan li pona lili.		... Susan is a little good.

Make sense? You say that one thing is very much of something, while you use another object as the basis for comparison and say that it's only a little bit of something.

mi suli mute. sina suli lili.		I'm bigger than you.
mi moku mute. sina moku lili.		I eat more than you.

Use *mute*. Conserve the Numbers.

Okay, so it's a bad idea to use the numbers when you don't absolutely need them. So, instead, we use *mute* for any number higher than two:

jan **mute** li kama. | Many people came.

Of course, this is still pretty vague. *mute* in the above sentence could mean 3 or it could mean 3 000. Fortunately, *mute* is just an adjective, and so we can attach other adjectives after it. Here's what you might say if there were lots and lots of people:

jan **mute mute mute** li kama! | Many, many, many people are coming!

More than likely, that sentence is saying that at least a thousand people are coming. – Now suppose that you had more than two people but still not very many. Let's say that the number is around 4 or 5. Here's how you'd say that:

jan **mute lili** li kama. | A small amount (of) people are coming.

Ordinal Numbers

If you understood how the cardinal numbers work, the ordinal numbers only require one more step. Like I said, if you understood the cardinal numbers, it's easy because you just stick *pi nanpa* in between the noun and the number.

jan **pi nanpa** tu tu | 4th person
ni li jan lili ona **pi nanpa** tu. | This is her second child.
meli mi **pi nanpa** wan li nasa. | My first girlfriend was crazy.

Other Uses of *wan* and *tu*

wan can be used as a **verb**. It means "to unite".

mi en meli mi li **wan**. | My girlfriend and I got married.

tu used as a **verb** means "to split" or "to divide".

o **tu** e palisa ni. | Split this stick.

Colors

I don't see the blue bag.
A little green person came from the sky.
A little green person came from the sky.
I like the color purple.
I like the color purple.
The sky is blue.
Look at that red bug.
I want the map.
Do you watch The X-Files?
Which color do you like?
suno li jelo.
telo suli li laso.
mi wile moku e kili loje.
ona li kule e tomo tawa.
ma mi li pimeja.
kalama ala li lon
mi lape. mi sona.

mi lukin ala e poki laso.
jan laso jelo lili li kama tan sewi. /
jan jelo laso lili li kama tan sewi.
kule loje laso li pona tawa mi. /
kule laso loje li pona tawa mi.
sewi li laso.
o lukin e pipi loje ni.
mi wile e sitelen ma.
sina lukin ala lukin e sitelen tawa X-Files?
kule seme li pona tawa sina?
The sun is yellow.
The big water [ocean] is blue.
I want to eat a red fruit.
He's painting the car.
My land is dark.
No sound exists.
I sleep. I know.

Living Things

I want a puppy.
Ahh! The dinosaur wants to eat me!
The mosquito bit me.
Cows say moo.
Birds fly in air.
Let's eat fish.
Flowers are pretty.
I like plants.
mama ona li kepeken e kasi nasa.
akesi li pana e telo moli.
pipi li moku e kasi.
soweli mi li kama moli.
jan Pawe o, mi wile ala moli.
mi lon ma kasi.

mi wile e soweli lili.
a! akesi li wile moku e mi!
pipi li moku e mi.
soweli li toki e mu.
waso li tawa lon kon.
mi mute o moku e kala.
kasi kule li pona lukin.
kasi li pona tawa mi.
His mother used pot.
The snake emitted venom ("deadly fluid").
Bugs eat plants.
My dog is dying.
Forrest, I don't want to die.
I'm in the forest.

The Body

Kiss me.
I need to pee.
My hair is wet.
Something is in my eye.
I can't hear your talking.
I need to crap.
That hole is big.
a! telo sijelo loje li kama tan nena
kute mi!
selo mi li wile e ni: mi pilin e ona.

o pilin e nena.
o moli e pipi kepeken palisa.
luka mi li jaki. mi wile telo e ona.
o pana e sike tawa mi.

o pilin e uta mi kepeken uta sina.
mi wile pana e telo jelo.
linja mi li telo.
ijo li lon oko mi.
mi ken ala kute e toki sina.
mi wile pana e ko jaki.
lupa ni li suli.
Ahh! Blood is coming from my ear!

My skin wants this: I touch it.
This is how we say that our skin itches.
Touch the button.
Kill the roach with the stick.
My hands are dirty. I want to wash them.
Give the ball to me.

mi pilin e seli sijelo sina.	I feel your bodily warmth.
------------------------------	----------------------------

Numbers

I saw three birds. Many people are coming. The first person is here. I own two cars. Some (but not a lot) of people are coming. Unite! mi weka e ijo tu ni. o tu. mi lukin e soweli luka. mi weka.	mi lukin e waso tu wan. jan mute li kama. jan pi nanpa wan li lon. mi jo e tomo tawa tu. jan mute lili li kama. o wan! I got rid of those two things. Break up. Split apart. I saw five mammals. I was away.
---	---

la

Maybe Susan will come. Last night I watched X-Files. If the enemy comes, burn these papers. Maybe he's in school. I have to work tomorrow. When it's hot, I sweat. Open the door. The moon is big tonight. ken la jan lili li wile moku e telo. tenpo ali la o kama sona! sina sona e toki ni la sina sona e toki pona!	ken la jan Susan li kama. tenpo pimeja pini la mi lukin e sitelen tawa X-Files. jan ike li kama la o seli e lipu ni. ken la ona li lon tomo sona. tenpo suno kama la mi wile pali. seli li lon la mi pana e telo tan selo mi. o open e lupa. tenpo pimeja ni la mun li suli. Maybe the baby is thirsty. Always learn! Figure this one out for yourself. :o)
---	---

1.16 Numbers**Vocabulary**

ala wan tu luka nanpa weka	zero one; to unite two; to divide five number away; to remove, to eliminate
---	--

Use Numbers Sparingly!

Okay, before I even begin this lesson, I want to say something: The method that you're about to learn for making higher numbers should be avoided as much as possible.

Cardinal Numbers

There are only few number words in Toki Pona: *ala*, *wan*, *tu* and *luka*. When we need to make higher numbers, we combine these numbers together.

wan tu tu wan tu tu luka luka wan luka tu luka tu tu luka luka luka luka wan luka luka tu luka luka tu wan luka luka tu tu luka luka luka	1 2 2 + 1 = 3 2 + 2 = 4 5 5 + 1 = 6 5 + 2 = 7 5 + 2 + 1 = 8 5 + 2 + 2 = 9 5 + 5 = 10 5 + 5 + 1 = 11 5 + 5 + 2 = 12 5 + 5 + 2 + 1 = 13 5 + 5 + 2 + 2 = 14 5 + 5 + 5 = 15
--	---

These numbers are added onto nouns just like **adjectives**:

jan luka tu jan lili tu wan	7 people 3 children
--	------------------------

As you can see, it can get very confusing if you want to talk about numbers higher than 14 or so. However, Toki Pona is simply not intended for such high numbers. It is a simple language. If you can't cope with not being able to talk about the number 523 in a language, then Toki Pona is not for you. Maybe you'd be happier with Latin.

kasi

kasi is used to talk about all **plants** and plant-like things. *kasi* goes from the tallest **tree** down to small **fungi**. It's also used to mean "leaf".

kasi kule	flower
kasi suli	trees, big shrubs
kasi lili	little weeds
kasi anpa	grass
ma kasi	forest, jungle
kasi nasa / kasi sona	hemp

moli

It can be used to say that **something is dead**:

pipi li **moli**. | The bug is dead.

If you want to say that **something is dying** but is not yet dead, use *kama moli*.

soweli li **kama moli**. | The cheetah is dying.

And you also use *moli* to talk about one thing **killing another**:

jan li **moli** e waso. | The person killed the bird.

Practice 14 (Answers: Page 53)

Try translating these sentences.

I want a puppy.
Ahh! The dinosaur wants to eat me!
The mosquito bit me.
Cows say moo.
Birds fly in air. *
Let's eat fish.
Flowers are pretty. **
I like plants.

mama ona li kepeken e kasi nasa.
akesi li pana e telo moli.
pipi li moku e kasi.
soweli mi li kama moli.
jan Pawe o, mi wile ala moli.
mi lon ma kasi.

* Think: "Birds go in air."

** Think: "Colorful plants are good to see."

A.1.2 meli pona

jan Pije li pali e ni.

meli pona o a!
sina lape lon poka mi.
linja jelo sina li lon luka mi.

mi pilin e sijelo sina.
mi pilin e seli sina.
mi lukin e oko laso sina.
mi lukin e insa sina.

ike! ike!
suno li kama.
sina wile tawa.
meli mi o, mi olin e sina!
sina pona mute!
meli mi o tawa pona.
o tawa pona.

A.1.3 toki!

jan Pije li pali e ni.

nimi mi li Nikita. ni li lipu mi pi toki pona. sina ken sona e toki ni la sina sona e toki pona. sina ken alaala la o tawa lipu ni. ona li tomo pi toki pona en pi nanpa wan!

jan mute li toki e ni: toki pona li lili ike. ni li lon ala! lon la toki pona li lili. taso ona li lili ike ala. jan li ken toki kepeken toki pona. jan li ken pali e toki musi kepeken ona.

mi pali e toki musi mute. sina ken lukin e ona lon lipu ni.

A.1.4 toki musi pimeja pi jan lili

jan Pije li pali e ni.

pilin ike
mi lon pimeja.
waso ike li tawa sike lon lawa mi.
pipi jaki li moku lili e noka mi.
mi wile e pini.

wan taso

ijo li moku e mi.
mi wile pakala.
pimeja li tawa insa kon mi.
jan ala li ken sona e pilin ike mi.
toki musi o, sina jan pona mi wan taso.
telo pimeja ni li telo loje mi, li ale mi.
tempo ale la pimeja li lon.

A.1.5 jan Kitopokolonpo (Christopher Columbus)

jan Pije li pali e ni.

ni li tenpo suno pi jan Kitopokolonpo (Christopher Columbus). jan Kitopokolonpo li suli li pona tawa ma Elopa.

jan Kitopokolonpo li jo e jan sama mute. jan li pana ala e sona tawa ona. taso ona li lukin sona e toki awen mute li kama sona kepeken nasin ni.

telo suli li pona tawa jan Kolonpo. taso jan li utala lon telo. jan Kolonpo li lon tomo tawa telo la jan Kanse li utala e tomo tawa ona! tomo tawa li tawa anpa. jan Kolonpo li jo ala e tomo tawa li tawa lon telo.

jan Kolonpo li tawa ma tomo Lisbon. ona li pali e sitelen ma. ona li kin tawa ma Elopa mute kepeken tomo tawa telo.

jan Elopa li sona e ni: jan pi ma Asija (Asians) li jo e mani mute. taso ni li ike: jan li wile tawa ma Asija la ona li tawa mute mute. sina tawa lon poka pi ma Apika. ni li ike.

jan Kolonpo li toki e ni: "mi wile ala tawa lon poka pi ma Apika. mi wile ala tawa kepeken nasin ni. mi ken tawa nasin ante."

jan Kolonpo li tawa jan lawa pi ma Potuke li toki e ni: "mi ken tawa ma Asija kepeken nasin ante. mi ken kama jo e mani mute li ken pana e mani tawa sina. taso mi wile e tomo tawa telo. sina pana ala pana e tomo tawa telo tawa mi?" – jan lawa pi ma Potuke li pilin e ni: jan Kolonpo li nasa. ona li pana ala e mani tawa jan Kolonpo.

jan Kolonpo li toki e ijo sama tawa jan lawa pi ma Epanja. jan lawa ni li pana e mani tawa jan Kolonpo. pona! jan Kolonpo li jo e tomo tawa Ninja e tomo tawa Pinta e tomo tawa Santamaliija.

tenpo suli la jan Kolonpo li tawa. "ma Asija li lon anu seme?" jan pali ona li toki e ni: "mi mute li jo ala e moku mute! sina tawa ala ma Elopa la mi mute li moli e sina!" taso jan Kolonpo li tawa...

ona li lukin e ma Amelika! pona mute! jan Elopa mute li kama tawa ma sin ni. jan Kolonpo li suli mute.

1.14 Living Things

Vocabulary

soweli	mammal
waso	bird, bat
akesi	reptile, amphibian
kala	fish or an animal that live in water
pipi	any type of bug
kasi	plant
moli	death; to die, to kill

Ambiguity of Names of Living Things

soweli

soweli is basically for all types of **mammals**. If you're **eating meat** that comes from a *soweli* (such as beef or pork), it is still called *soweli*. There is no separate word for the meat; it's all the same:

soweli ni li pona moku. | This cow is good to eat.

waso

waso includes all **birds** and **flying animals**.

mi wile moku e *waso*. | I want to eat chicken.

akesi

akesi covers all of the **reptiles, amphibians, dinosaurs** and **monsters**.

akesi *pi* telo moli | venomous snakes, poisonous frogs

kala

kala is used to talk about **fish** and **other animals that live in water**. Also, *kala* can be used as an **adjective**.

jan *kala* | mermaid.

pipi

pipi is used for all types of **bugs** (**spiders, ants, roaches, butterflies, ...**).

Practice 12 (Answers: Page 52)

Try translating these sentences.

Do you want to come or what?
 Do you want food, or do you want
 water?
 I still want to go to my house.
 This paper feels cold.
 I like currency of other nations.
 I want to go, but I can't.
 I'm alone. *

mi kin olin e sina.
 mi pilin e ni: ona li jo ala e mani.
 mi wile lukin e ma ante.
 mi wile ala e ijo. mi lukin taso.
 mi pilin lete.
 sina wile toki tawa mije anu meli?

* Think: "Only I am present."

Phonetic Guidelines

- Voiced plosives become voiceless. (Example: b = p, d = t, g = k)
- v becomes w.
- f becomes p.
- The trilled or tapped [r] of most world languages becomes l.
- The approximant r of languages like English becomes w.
- Any uvular or velar consonant becomes k, including the French or German r.
- At the end of a word, The sh sound may be converted to si. (Example: Lush = Lusi)
- The schwa can become any vowel in Toki Pona and is often influenced by neighbouring vowels for cute reduplication.
- It is better to keep the same number of syllables and drop a consonant than add a new vowel. (Example: Chuck = Sa, not Saku)
- When dealing with consonant clusters, the dominant plosive is generally kept, dropping fricatives such as [s] and laterals such as [l] first. (Example: Esperanto = Epelanto) You may also choose to keep the consonant at the head of the new syllable (Example: Atling = Alin).
- Approximants like [j] and [w] in consonant clusters can either be converted into a syllable of their own (Swe = Suwe; Pju = Piju) or dropped entirely (Swe = Se; Pju = Pu).
- In some cases, it is better to change the letter order slightly, rather than dropping a sound. (Ex: Lubnan = Lunpan, not Lupan or Lunan)
- Dental fricatives such as English th can either convert to t or s.
- The illegal syllables ti, wo and wu convert to si, o and u. (Example: Antarktika = Antasika)
- Affricates generally convert to fricatives. (Example: John = San, not Tan)
- Any nasal consonant at the end of a syllable converts to n. (Example: Fam = Pan)
- Nasal vowels (in French and Portuguese) also convert to syllable-final n.
- If necessary to preserve proper syllable structure, the consonant w or j can be inserted as a euphonic glide. (Example: Tai = Tawi; Nihon = Nijon; Eom = Ejon) It may also be possible to relocate a consonant that would have otherwise been dropped in the conversion. (Example: Monkela = Monkeja; Euska = Esuka)
- Voiceless lateral consonants convert to s.
- If necessary, you may want to tweak a word to avoid a potentially misleading homonym. (Example: Allah = jan sewi Ila, not jan sewi Ala no God). If possible, use a related word in the source language rather than introducing an arbitrary change. (In Arabic, Allah actually means the God, whereas Illah means God.)

A.4 Unofficial Words

Continents

ma Amelika	the Americas
ma Amelika lete	North America
ma Amelika seli	South America
ma Antasika	Antarctica
ma Apika	Africa
ma Asija	Asia
ma Elopa	Europe

Countries and National Languages

Akanisan	Afghanistan
Alan	Ireland, Irish Gaelic
Alensina	Argentina
Anku	Korea, Korean
Antola	Andorra
Awisi	Haiti, Haitian Creole
Ekato	Ecuador
Elena	Greece, Greek
Epanja	Spain, Spanish
Esi	Estonia, Estonian
Esuka	Basque Country, Basque
Ilakija	Iraq
Ilan	Iran, Persian
Inli	England, English
Intonesija	Indonesia, Indonesian
Isale	Israel
Isilan	Iceland, Icelandic
Italija	Italy, Italian
Jamanija	Yemen
Kalalinuna	Greenland, Greenlandic
Kana	Ghana
Kanata	Canada
Kanse	France, French
Katala	Qatar
Katelo	Georgia, Georgian
Katemala	Guatemala
Kenata	Grenada
Kepeka	Quebec
Keposi	Cyprus
Kilipasi	Kiribati
Kinla	Wales, Welsh
Konko (pi ma tomo Kinsasa)	Congo, Dem. Rep.
Konko (pi ma tomo Pasawi)	Congo, P. Rep.
Kosalika	Costa Rica
Kosiwa	Côte d'Ivoire
Kupa	Cuba
Kusala	Gujarat, Gujarati
Kuwasi	Kuweit

Temperature and *pilin*

If you've forgotten, *seli* means "hot" or "heat". We can use this word to talk about the weather. In this lesson, you also should have learned that *lete* means "cold". Now the thing about these phrases is that they're only used to talk about the **temperature of the surroundings** in general.

seli li lon.		It's hot.
lete li lon.		It's cold.

You can also use *lili* and *mute* to be more specific.

seli mute li lon.		It's very hot.
seli lili li lon.		It's warm.
lete mute li lon.		It's very cold.
lete lili li lon.		It's cool.

If you're referring to a **certain object** that is cold, irregardless of the surrounding environment, you use *pilin*. Suppose you grab an axe and you discover that the handle is cold.

ilo ni li pilin lete.		This axe feels cold.
------------------------------	--	----------------------

Also, just like with the *lon* phrases, the *pilin* phrases can use *mute* and *lili* to intensify the descriptions:

ni li pilin lete mute.		This is very cold.
ni li pilin seli lili.		This feels warm.

Other uses of *pilin*

You also use *pilin* to describe how you're feeling.

mi pilin pona.		I feel good. / I feel happy.
mi pilin ike.		I feel bad. / I feel sad.
sina pilin seme?		How do you feel?

It can also mean "to think":

mi pilin e ni: sina ike.		I think this: You're bad.
---------------------------------	--	---------------------------

When you ask someone "What are you thinking about?" in Toki Pona, the "about" part is removed:

sina pilin e seme?		What are you thinking?
---------------------------	--	------------------------

However, when you **answer** to say what you're thinking about, the "about" part gets added back in. Use *pi* if needed (see Page 31):

mi pilin ijo.		I'm thinking (about) something.
mi pilin pi meli ni.		I'm thinking about that woman.

Miscellaneous

kalama

Okay, *kalama* is used to mean "sound" or "noise":

kalama ni li seme? | What was that noise?

kalama is usually combined with the word *musi* to mean "music" or "song":

kalama musi li pona tawa mi. | I like music.

kalama musi precedes the **names of specific songs**:

kalama musi pi "Jingle Bells" li pona tawa mi. | I like the song "Jingle Bells".

And we can use *pi* to talk about **music by a certain group or artist**:

kalama musi pi jan Elton-John li nasa. | The music of Elton John is odd.

Finally, *kalama* can be used as a **verb**:

mi **kalama** kepeken ilo. | I make noise using an instrument.
o **kalama** ala! | Don't make noise!

Using *nasin seme* to make "how"

sina pali e ni **kepeken nasin seme**? | **How** did you make this?

Practice 11 (Answers: Page 52)

Keli's child is funny.
I am a Toki Ponan.
He is a good musician.
The captain of the ship is eating.
Meow.
Enya's music is good.
Which people of this group are important?
Our house is messed up.
How did she make that?

kili pi jan Linta li ike.
len pi jan Susan li jaki.
mi sona ala e nimi pi ona mute.
mi wile ala toki pi kalama musi.
mi wile toki meli.
sina pakala e ilo kepeken nasin seme?
jan Wasintan [Washington] li jan lawa pona pi ma Mewika.
wile pi jan ike li pakala e ijo.

Other Languages

These are languages which don't belong to a specific nation, and so they can't be named after the country that they developed from.

toki Alapi	Arabic
toki Apikan	Afrikaans
toki Awasa	Hausa
toki Epelanto	Esperanto
toki Ewantal	Ewantal
toki Inli pona	Basic English
toki Insi	Hindi
toki Intelinka	Interlingua
toki Inu	Inupiaq, Inuktitut, Eskimo
toki Ipo	Igbo
toki Ito	Ido
toki Iwisi	Hebrew
toki Jolupa	Yoruba
toki Kalike	Scots Gaelic
toki Kantun	Cantonese
toki Kisawili	Swahili
toki Kuwenja	Quenya, Elvish
toki Lolan	Loglan
toki Loma	Latin
toki Losupan	Lojban
toki Lunasimi	Quechua
toki Malasi	Marathi
toki Nosiki sin	Norwegian Nynorsk
toki Olapu	Volapük
toki Pansapi	Punjabi
toki Pasiki	Fyksian
toki Pasuto	Pashto
toki pona	Toki Pona
toki Sami	Laplander
toki Sankitu	Sanskrit
toki Sinan	Klingon
toki Tamasiko	Berber, Tamazight
toki Tami	Tamil
toki Teluku	Telugu
toki Utu	Urdu

Religions

nasin sewi Jawatu	Judaism
nasin sewi Kolisu	Christianity
nasin pona Latapali	Rastafarianism
nasin pona	Taoism
nasin sewi Puta	Buddhism
nasin sewi Silami	Islam

A.5 Thematic Vocabulary

A.5.1 Body

sijelo	body
anpa lawa	neck, throat
anpa pi sinpin lawa	chin
ko jaki	shit, feces, pooh
ko jaki lon nena sinpin	boogers
kule lon palisa luka	nail polish
linja (lawa)	hair
linja lili oko	eyebrows, eyelashes
linja sinpin	beard, facial hair
linja uta	moustache
luka	hand, arm
lupa	hole, orifice
lupa jaki	anus
lupa kute	ear
lupa meli	vagina
lupa monsi	anus
lupa nena	nostrils
lupa pi telo jelo	urethra
monsi	back, behind, butt
nena (lawa)	nose
nena lili pi nena mama	nipples
nena lili (unpa) meli	clitoris
nena mama, nena meli	breasts
noka	foot, leg
olin e meli	to love women
olin e mije	to love men
olin e meli e mije	to love women and men
oko	eye
palisa lili noka	toes
palisa luka	finger
palisa mije	penis
palisa uta	tongue
pana e ko jaki	to pooh, to shit
pana e telo jelo	to pee, to urinate
pilin	heart
poki kon	lungs
sewi monsi	upper back, shoulders
sewi pi sinpin lawa	forehead
sinpin (lawa)	face
telo e mi	to shower
telo jaki lon nena sinpin	snot
telo jelo	urine, pee
telo loje	blood
telo (loje) mun	menses
uta	mouth
walo uta	teeth
wan sijelo	body part
oko sina li pona lukin	you have beautiful eyes
oko mi li lukin pona	my eyes see well

tomo pi jan Lisa	Lisa's house
kili mi	my fruit
kili pi jan Susan	Susan's fruit
ma ona	her country
ma pi jan Keli	Keli's country
len jan	somebody's clothes
len pi jan Lisa	Lisa's clothes

Also, if you want to use the **plural pronouns** you have to use *pi*:

nimi pi mi mute	our names
tomo pi ona mute	their house

We also use *pi* to express the opposite of some words:

jan wawa	strong person
jan pi wawa ala	a weak person
jan wawa ala.	No strong people.

Common mistakes with *pi*

People try to use *pi* to mean "about" (as in "We talked about something."). While *pi* can be used in this way, most people use it too much.

mi toki jan.	I talked about people
--------------	-----------------------

The "about" is simply implied by the sentence. Now here's another sentence which is correct and in which *pi* is used to mean "about":

mi toki pi jan ike.	I talked about bad people.
---------------------	----------------------------

The reason that *pi* can be used here is because *jan ike* is its own singular, individual concept, and the combined phrase (*jan ike*) acts on *toki* as one thing; *pi* is simply used to distinguish the *jan ike* phrase. If you left out *pi*, both *jan* and *ike* would become adverbs, and the sentence would mean something really strange like "Humanely, I talked evilly."

The word immediately after the *pi* must have another word that describes it.

Another mistake is that people use *pi* when they should use *tan*:

mi kama tan ma Mewika.	I come from America.
------------------------	----------------------

Questions using *seme*

What – Subject

We talked about how to ask questions that can be answered with a “yes” or “no”. However, we didn’t talk about questions that require more in-depth answers. Well, to ask questions like these in Toki Pona, we have to use the word *seme*.

seme li utala e sina?	What attacked you?
seme li moku e kili mi?	What is eating my fruit?
seme li lon poka mi?	What is beside me?
seme li lon tomo mi?	What is in my house?
seme li pona tawa sina?	What do you like?

What / Where – Object

Okay, this next part is probably going to seem rather confusing at first, and so I’m going to ease you into it by using things that you’ve already learned.

sina lukin e pipi.	You’re watching a bug.
--------------------	------------------------

Now we’re going to turn that sentence into a question.

sina lukin e seme ?	What are you watching?
----------------------------	------------------------

Both *pipi* and *seme* are treated as plain nouns, and the word order of the sentence does not change even when the sentence is a question.

sina pakala e seme ?	What did you hurt?
sina lon seme ?	Where are you?
ona li jo e seme ?	What does he have?

Who(m)

Since you’re asking about a person, you use *jan*, then add *seme* to make into a question word.

jan seme li moku?	Who is eating?
jan seme li tawa poka sina?	Who went with you?
sina lukin e jan seme ?	Whom did you see?
sina toki tawa jan seme ?	Whom are you talking to?

Which

ma seme li pona tawa sina?	Which countries do you like?
sina kama tan ma seme ?	Which country do you come from?

The only reason that this concept might seem difficult is because you’re tempted to move the word orders around, because many languages (including English) do it. **One neat little trick you can do to check a translation is to think of the question as a plain statement, and then replace the word *seme* with *ni*.**

pilin nasa	to feel silly, strange, weird, crazy, drunk, high
pilin pona	to feel good, happy, content, enjoy oneself, comfortable
pilin pona mute	to feel great, amazing, awesome
pilin pona tan	to feel good because of, to enjoy
pilin wawa	to feel strong, energetic, excited, confident, proud
pona e pilin jan	cheer up, make somebody happy
toki ike	to say negative things
toki ike lon	to say bad things about, complain about
toki ike tawa	to say bad things to, insult, speak rudely to
toki pona	to say nice things
toki pona lon	to say good things about, praise
toki pona tawa	to say nice things to, compliment
toki utala tawa	to argue with, criticize
weka e ike jan	forgive somebody
wile	to want, desire, would like, hope
wile e pona tawa jan	to wish somebody well
wile ike	to have negative intentions, malevolent
wile lape	to be tired, sleepy, wanting to rest
wile lawa	to be dominant
wile moku	to be hungry
mile moku e telo	to be thirsty
wile moli	suicidal
wile moli e jan	homicidal, wanting to murder
wile mute	to crave, really want
wile mute ike	to want too much, greedy
wile pali e ijo	bored, wanting to do something
wile pana e pona (tawa jan)	helpful (to someone)
wile pona	to have good intentions, mean well
wile unpa	horny, lustful

A.5.8 Food

moku	food, meal, to eat, to drink
moku e telo	to drink
wile moku	hungry
wile moku e telo	thirsty
ilo moku	utensil, fork, spoon, knife, etc.
kala	fish, seafood
kala lete	raw fish, sushi
kasi	herb, plant
kasi wawa	spice
kili	fruit, vegetable
kili lili kiwen	nut
kili palisa	long fruit or vegetable, e.g. carrot, banana, cucumber
moku lili	snack, small ingestible item
moku suwi	sweets, candy, chocolate, etc.
moku telo	liquid food, e.g. soup
moku walo	whiteish food, e.g. rice
pana e moku tawa	to feed, nourish
poki	glass, cup, bottle, bowl, container
poki lete	refrigerator
poki seli	oven, microwave
tempo moku	mealtime
tomo moku	dining room, kitchen, grocery store, restaurant

kili	vegetable, fruit
kili lili	small vegetable, fruit, e.g. berry, olive
kili loje	reddish fruit or vegetable, e.g. tomato
kili ma	earth vegetable, e.g. potato
kili suwi	(sweet) fruit
pona moku	delicious, tasty
sike mama waso	egg
soweli	meat from a mammal, e.g. beef, pork
supa moku	dinner table
telo	water, beverage, liquid, sauce
telo kili	juice
telo kiwen	ice
telo mama soweli	cow milk
telo nasa	intoxicating liquid, e.g. alcohol
telo seli	hot beverage, e.g. coffee
telo seli jelo	green tea
telo seli wawa	coffee
telo pi lape ala	coffee
telo seli pimeja pi lape ala	coffee
mi wile sin e telo pi lape ala.	I need more coffee.
telo wawa	energy drink
waso	chicken, poultry

A.5.9 Household Things

ijo lon tomo	household things
ilo musi	toy, thing used for entertainment
ilo pi sitelen toki	pen, pencil
ilo pi sitelen tawa	TV
ilo sona	smart tool or machine, e.g. computer
ilo suno	lamp
ilo toki	communications device, e.g. telephone, online chat
kule lon palisa luka	nail polish
lipu toki	paper with written information, document, text, book
lupa (tomo)	window, door
poki lete	refrigerator
poki seli	oven, microwave
poki telo	sink, bathtub
supa lape	bed
supa lawa	pillow
supa monsi	chair, couch
supa pali	work desk
tomo lape	bedroom
tomo telo	bathroom
tomo unpa	bedroom, boudoir

A.5.10 Languages

toki	language
toki lon toki	to speak in a language
toki pona e toki	to speak a language well
sona e toki	to know, speak, understand a language
sona pona e toki	to master a language
lukin e toki	read

1.10 Questions using *seme*

Vocabulary

olin	to love affectionately, as of a person
seme	what, which (used to make question words)
sin	new, another, more
supa	any type of furniture
suwi	sweet, cute; candy, cookie

Miscellaneous

supa

supa means **any type of horizontal surface or furniture**.

supa	table, chair, sofa, ...
supa lape	bed

suwi

suwi means "sweet", "cute", "candy" or some other type of sweet food. It **don't mean that it's sexy, attractive**, or anything like that.

jan lili sina li suwi .	Your baby is cute.
telo kili ni li suwi .	This fruit drink is sweet.
mi wile e suwi !	I want a cookie!

sin

sin as an **adjective** and simply means "another" or "more".

jan sin li kama.	More people are coming.
mi wile e suwi sin !	I want another/more cookie(s)!

olin

This word is used to mean "love". However, it only refers to affectionate love, like **loving people**. For example, you might *olin* your girlfriend or your parents, but you don't *olin* baseball. You can't *olin* things or objects.

mi olin e sina.	I love you.
------------------------	-------------

toki Inli li pona.	The English language is good.
ma Inli li pona.	England is good.
toki Kanse	French language
toki Epelanto	Esperanto

If you want to talk about a **person** who is from a certain place, you just say **jan** and then attach the unofficial word at the end, like this:

jan Kanata	Canadian person
jan Mesiko	Mexican person

Of course, you can use other nouns to describe certain people, too. For example, you can use the **mije** and **meli** that you learned a few minutes ago.

meli Italija	Italian woman
mije Epanja	Spanish man

Now suppose you want to talk about someone using their name. For example, what if you want to say "Lisa is cool"? Well, it's quite simple. To say a **person's name** in Toki Pona, you just say **jan** and then the person's name:

jan Lisa li pona.	Lisa is cool.
--------------------------	---------------

Like for the names of countries, we often adapt a person's name to fit into Toki Pona's phonetic rules. Keep in mind that no one is going to pressure you to adopt a tokiponized name; **it's just for fun**.

jan Pentan li pana e sona tawa mi.	Brandon teaches to me.
jan Mewi li toki tawa mi.	Mary's talking to me.
jan Nesan li musi.	Nathan is funny.
jan Eta li jan unpa.	Heather is a whore.
pana e sona	to teach (give knowledge)

Anyway, there are two ways to tell people who you are:

mi jan Pepe.	I am Pepe.
nimi mi li Pepe.	My name is Pepe.

olin e jan mute	to be polyamorous
palisa	penis-shaped thing, e.g. dildo
palisa (mije)	penis
palisa tawa	vibrating dildo
palisa uta	tongue
pana e palisa lon lupa	to penetrate
pana e palisa uta lon	to lick
pana e telo (walo) mije	to ejaculate
pana e uta (tawa jan, lon ijo)	to kiss
pana e uta lon palisa	to fellate
pana e uta lon lupa (meli)	to perform cunnilingus
pana wawa	BDSM
pilin	to feel, touch
pilin wawa (unpa)	orgasm
pini pi nena mama	nipples
pini palisa	glans, head of the penis
pona unpa	sexy, good in bed
selo lon pini palisa	foreskin
sike mije (tu)	testicles, balls
sitelen unpa	visual erotica, porn
telo (walo) mije	sperm, come
tomo unpa	sex place, e.g. bedroom, boudoir, brothel, etc.
unpa nasa	kinky sex
unpa sama soweli	doggy style
unpa uta	oral sex
wile unpa	horny
wile unpa e meli	to be sexually attracted to women
wile unpa e meli e mije	to be sexually attracted to women and men
wile unpa e mije	to be sexually attracted to men
unpa li pona	sex is good, I like sex
mi wile unpa e sina	I want to have sex with you
palisa sina li kiwen	your cock is hard
mi ken ala ken pilin e monsi	may I touch your butt?
sina?	
(mi meli.) mi olin e meli.	I am a lesbian
(mi mije.) mi olin e mije.	I am gay (male)

A.5.16 Time

tempo	time
tempo seme?	when?
tempo ni	now
tempo suno	day
tempo pimeja	night
tempo suno ni	today
tempo suno kama	tomorrow
tempo suno pini	yesterday
tempo suno sin	morning
tempo lili	soon, moment, briefly
tempo sulii	long time
tempo mute	often, many times
tempo kama	future
tempo pini	past
tempo ale	always, all the time
tempo ala	never

tenpo mun	month
tenpo sike	year
tenpo sin	again
tenpo lete	winter
tenpo seli	summer
tenpo telo	rainy season
suno li lon	it is day
pimeja li lon	it is night
tenpo lili la mi wile weka	I must leave soon
tenpo seme la ona li kama lon	When is he coming to your house?
tomo sina?	
kulupu pi tenpo suno luka tu	days of the week
tenpo suno pi nanpa wan	Monday
tenpo suno pi nanpa tu	Tuesday
tenpo suno pi nanpa tu wan	Wednesday
tenpo suno pi nanpa tu tu	Thursday
tenpo suno pi nanpa luka	Friday
tenpo suno pi nanpa luka wan	Saturday
tenpo suno pi nanpa luka tu	Sunday
kulupu pi tenpo mun	Month
tenpo mun pi nanpa wan	January
tenpo mun pi nanpa tu	February
tenpo mun pi nanpa tu wan	March
tenpo mun pi nanpa tu tu	April
tenpo mun pi nanpa luka	May
tenpo mun pi nanpa luka wan	June
tenpo mun pi nanpa luka tu	July
tenpo mun pi nanpa luka tu wan	August
tenpo mun pi nanpa luka tu tu	September
tenpo mun pi nanpa luka luka	October
tenpo mun pi nanpa luka luka wan	November
tenpo mun pi nanpa luka luka tu	December

A.5.17 Towns

ma tomo	town
ma tomo lawa	capital
sina lon ma tomo seme?	What city do you live in?
sina lon ala lon ma tomo Wankuwa?	Do you live in Vancouver?
mi lon.	Yes, I do.
ma tomo Solu	Seoul (South Korea)
ma tomo Asina	Athens (Greece)
ma tomo Sakata	Jakarta (Indonesia)
ma tomo Telawi	Tel Aviv (Israel)
ma tomo Loma	Rome (Italy)
ma tomo Milano	Milan (Italy)
ma tomo Napoli	Naples (Italy)
ma tomo Pilense	Florence (Italy)
ma tomo Wenesija	Venice (Italy)
ma tomo Alawa	Ottawa (Canada)

1.9 Gender, Unofficial Words, Addressing People, Interjections, Commands

Vocabulary

a	ahh, ha!, umm, hmm, ooh, etc.
awen	to wait, to pause, to stay; remaining
mama	parent
meli	woman, wife, girlfriend, female
mije	man, husband, boyfriend, male
mu	woof, meow, moo, any animal sound
nimi	name, word
o	used for vocative and imperative
pona	yay!, cool, good
toki	language; hey!

Gender

Toki Pona doesn't have any grammatical gender like in most Western languages. However, some words in Toki Pona (such as *mama*) don't tell you which gender a person is, and so we use *mije* and *meli* to distinguish.

mama	a parent in general (mother or father)
mama meli	mother
mama mije	father

Keep in mind, though, that in Toki Pona it's usually best not to specify whether the person you're talking about is male or female unless there's a special reason for doing so.

Unofficial words

Take a moment to look over the Toki Pona dictionary in the Appendix (Page 62). There are no words for the **names of nations**; there are also aren't any words for **religions** or even other **languages**. The reason that these words aren't in the dictionary is because they are "unofficial". Before using an unofficial word, we often **adapt the word to fit into Toki Pona's phonetic rules**. So, for example, America becomes *Mewika*, Canada becomes *Kanata*, and so on. **Now the thing about these unofficial words is that they can never be used by themselves. They are always treated like adjectives**, and so they have to be used with a noun.

ma Kanata li pona.	Canada is good.
ma Italija li pona lukin.	Italy is beautiful.
mi wile tawa ma Tosi.	I want to go to Germany.

Do you remember that *ma tomo* means "city"?

ma tomo Lantan li suli.	London is big.
ma tomo Pelin	Berlin
ma tomo Alenta	Atlanta
ma tomo Loma	Rome
mi kama tan ma tomo Pelin.	I'm from Berlin.

If you want to talk about a **language**, you simply use *toki* and then attach the unofficial word onto it.

ona li lon sewi mi.		He is above me.
pipi li lon anpa mi.		The bug is underneath me.
moku li lon insa mi.		Food is in my stomach.
len li lon poka mi.		The clothes are at my side.

So you see, these words as used here are nouns, and *mi* is a possessive pronoun meaning "my". And since these words are merely nouns, you must still have a verb; in the above examples, *lon* is acting as the verb. **Don't forget to include a verb!**

Since these words aren't prepositions, they are free for other uses, just like any other noun/adjective/verb:

monsi as a body part		
monsi		back, butt
anpa as a verb		
mi anpa e jan utala.		I defeated the warrior.

Practice 7 (Answers: Page 51)

Try translating these sentences.

My friend is beside me.		
The sun is above me.		
The land is beneath me.		
Bad things are behind me.		
I'm okay because I'm alive. *		
I look at the land with my friend.		
People look like ants.		
poka mi li pakala.		
mi kepeken e poki e ilo moku.		
jan li lon insa tomo.		

* *lon* as a verb by itself means to exist, to be real, etc.

A.6 Toki-Pona – English Dictionary

a		<i>interj</i> ah! ha! oh! ooh! aw! (emotion word)
akesi		<i>n</i> non-cute animal, reptile, amphibian, dinosaur, monster
ala		<i>mod</i> no, not, none, un- <i>n</i> nothingness, negation, zero <i>interj</i> no!
ali / (ale)		<i>n</i> everything, anything, life, the universe <i>mod</i> all, every, complete, whole
anpa		<i>n</i> bottom, down, under, below, floor, beneath <i>mod</i> low, lower, bottom <i>vt</i> lower, down, defeat, overcome
ante		<i>n</i> difference <i>mod</i> different <i>conj</i> otherwise, or else <i>vt</i> change, alter, modify
anu		<i>conj</i> or
awen		<i>vi</i> stay, wait, remain <i>vt</i> keep <i>mod</i> remaining, stationary, permanent, sedentary
e		<i>sep</i> (introduces a direct object)
en		<i>conj</i> and (used to coordinate head nouns)
ijo		<i>n</i> thing, something, stuff, anything, object <i>mod</i> of something <i>vt</i> objectify
ike		<i>mod</i> bad, evil, wrong, evil, overly complex, (figuratively) unhealthy <i>interj</i> oh dear! woe! alas! <i>n</i> negativity, evil, badness <i>vt</i> to make bad, to worsen, to have a negative effect upon <i>vi</i> to be bad, to suck
ilo		<i>n</i> tool, device, machine, thing used for a specific purpose
insa		<i>n</i> inside, inner world, centre, stomach <i>mod</i> internal, central
jaki		<i>mod</i> dirty, gross, filthy <i>n</i> dirt, pollution, filth <i>vt</i> pollute, dirty <i>interj</i> ew! yuck!

jan	<i>n</i> person, people, human, being, somebody, anybody <i>mod</i> personal, human, somebody's, of people <i>vt</i> personify, humanize, personalize
jelo	<i>mod</i> yellow, light green
jo	<i>vt</i> have, contain <i>n</i> having <i>kama</i> receive, get, take, obtain
kala	<i>n</i> fish, sea creature
kalama	<i>n</i> sound, noise, voice <i>vi</i> make noise <i>vt</i> sound, ring, play (an instrument)
kama	<i>n</i> event, happening, chance, arrival, beginning <i>mod</i> coming, future <i>vi</i> come, become, arrive, happen, pursue actions to arrive to (a certain state), manage to, start to <i>vt</i> bring about, summon
kasi	<i>n</i> plant, leaf, herb, tree, wood
ken	<i>n</i> possibility, ability, power to do things, permission <i>vi</i> can, is able to, is allowed to, may, is possible <i>vt</i> make possible, enable, allow, permit <i>cont</i> it is possible that
kepeken	<i>vt</i> use <i>prep</i> with
kili	<i>n</i> fruit, pulpy vegetable, mushroom
kin	<i>mod</i> also, too, even, indeed (emphasizes the word that follows)
kiwen	<i>n</i> hard thing, rock, stone, metal, mineral, clay <i>mod</i> hard, solid, stone-like, made of stone or metal
ko	<i>n</i> semi-solid substance (paste, powder, gum, etc.)
kon	<i>n</i> air, wind, odour, soul <i>mod</i> air-like, ethereal, gaseous
kule	<i>n</i> color, paint <i>vt</i> color, paint <i>mod</i> colourful
kulupu	<i>n</i> group, community, society, company <i>mod</i> communal, shared, public, of the society
kute	<i>vt</i> listen, hear

1.7 Other Prepositions

Vocabulary

sama	same, similar
tan	reason, cause; because of, from
sona	to know, to know how to; wisdom
anpa	ground; low, deep; to lower, to defeat
insa	inside, stomach
monsi	rear, back, behind
poka	side, hip, nearby
sewi	high, above, roof, top, sky

sama

jan ni li sama mi.	That person is like me.
ona li lukin sama pipi.	He looks like a bug.
sama li ike.	Equality is bad.

tan

tan as a preposition

mi moku tan ni: mi wile moku.	I eat because I'm hungry.
--------------------------------------	---------------------------

tan as a noun

mi sona ala e tan .	I don't know the reason. / I don't know why.
----------------------------	--

When used as a noun, tan means cause or reason. Of course, that can be helpful when you want to translate a sentence such as "I don't know why". However, you have to rephrase that sentence a little:

poka

poka is rather unique in that it can act both as a noun/adjective and also as a preposition.

poka as a noun/adjective

This use is the same as you saw earlier in anpa, insa, monsi, and sewi.

jan poka	neighbor, someone who is beside you
poka telo	water side, the beach

poka as a preposition

poka can also be used directly as a preposition. These two sentences below have the same meaning, but you go about them in a different way.

mi moku poka jan pona mi.	I ate beside my friend.
mi moku lon poka pi jan pona mi.	I ate at side of my friend.

anpa, insa, monsi and sewi

nouns

Although you might be tempted to use these words as prepositions, but they are not.

kepeken**Using kepeken as a transitive verb**

It's actually easier than *lon* because **you use *e* after it like you've been doing other verbs.**

mi kepeken e ilo.	I'm using tools.
sina wile kepeken e ilo.	You have to use tools.
mi kepeken e poki ni.	I'm using that cup.

Using kepeken as a preposition

mi moku kepeken ilo moku.	I eat using a fork/spoon/ any type of eating utensil.
mi lukin kepeken ilo suno. ilo suno	I look using a flashlight. a tool of light

tawa**Using tawa as a intransitive verb**

Like *lon*, **tawa** as a intransitive verb doesn't have an *e* after it.

mi tawa tomo mi.	I'm going to my house.
ona mute li tawa utala	They're going to the war.
sina wile tawa telo suli.	You want to go to the ocean.
ona li tawa sewi kiwen. *	She's going up the rock.

* Note that *sewi* as used in this sentence is a noun. A more literal translation of that sentence is "She's going to the top (of) the rock."

Using tawa to mean "to"

As I said a moment ago, *tawa* is often used as a **preposition**.

mi toki tawa sina.	I talk to you.
ona li lawa e jan tawa ma pona.	He led people to the good land.
ona li kama tawa ma mi.	He's coming to my country.

In Toki Pona, **to say that you (don't) like something, we have pattern**, and the pattern uses *tawa* as a preposition:

ni li pona tawa mi .	That is good to me. / I like that.
ni li ike tawa mi	That is bad to me. / I don't like that.
kili li pona tawa mi .	I like fruit.
toki li pona tawa mi .	I like talking. / I like languages.
utala li ike tawa mi .	I don't like wars.
telo suli li ike tawa mi .	I don't like the ocean.

Keep in mind that *e* can only come after the verb of the sentence. **Toki Pona does not use clauses**. So for example, if you wanted to say "I like watching the countryside," it's best to split this into two sentences:

olin	<i>n</i> love <i>mod</i> love <i>vt</i> to love (a person)
ona	<i>n</i> he, she, it, they <i>mod</i> his, her, its, their
open	<i>vt</i> open, turn on
pakala	<i>n</i> blunder, accident, mistake, destruction, damage, breaking <i>vt</i> screw up, fuck up, botch, ruin, break, hurt, injure, damage, bungle, spoil, ruin <i>vi</i> screw up, fall apart, break <i>interj</i> damn! fuckk!
pali	<i>n</i> activity, work, deed, project <i>mod</i> active, work-related, operating, working <i>vt</i> do, make, build, create <i>vi</i> act, work, function
palisa	<i>n</i> long, mostly hard object, e.g. rod, stick, branch
pana	<i>vt</i> give, put, send, place, release, emit, cause <i>n</i> giving, transfer, exchange
pi	<i>sep</i> of, belonging to
pilin	<i>n</i> feelings, emotion, heart <i>vi</i> feel <i>vt</i> feel, think, sense, touch
pimeja	<i>mod</i> black, dark <i>n</i> darkness, shadows <i>vt</i> darken
pini	<i>n</i> end, tip <i>mod</i> completed, finished, past, done, ago <i>vt</i> finish, close, end, turn off
pipi	<i>n</i> bug, insect, spider
poka	<i>n</i> side, hip, next to <i>mod</i> neighboring <i>prep</i> in the accompaniment of, with
poki	<i>n</i> container, box, bowl, cup, glass
pona	<i>n</i> good, simplicity, positivity <i>mod</i> good, simple, positive, nice, correct, right <i>interj</i> great! good! thanks! OK! cool! yay! <i>vt</i> improve, fix, repair, make good

sama	<i>mod</i> same, similar, equal, of equal status or position <i>prep</i> like, as, seem <i>cont</i> similarly, in the same way that
seli	<i>n</i> fire, warmth, heat <i>mod</i> hot, warm, cooked <i>vt</i> heat, warm up, cook
selo	<i>n</i> outside, surface, skin, shell, bark, shape, peel
seme	<i>oth</i> what, which, wh- (question word)
sewi	<i>n</i> high, up, above, top, over, on <i>mod</i> superior, elevated, religious, formal
sijelo	<i>n</i> body, physical state
sike	<i>n</i> circle, wheel, sphere, ball, cycle <i>mod</i> round, cyclical
sin	<i>mod</i> new, fresh, another, more <i>vt</i> renew, renovate, freshen
sina	<i>n</i> you <i>mod</i> your
sinpin	<i>n</i> front, chest, torso, wall
sitelen	<i>n</i> picture, image <i>vt</i> draw, write
sona	<i>n</i> knowledge, wisdom, intelligence, understanding <i>vt</i> know, understand, know how to <i>vi</i> know, understand <i>kama</i> learn, study
soweli	<i>n</i> animal, especially land mammal, lovable animal
suli	<i>mod</i> big, tall, long, adult, important <i>vt</i> enlarge, lengthen <i>n</i> size
suno	<i>n</i> sun, light
supa	<i>n</i> horizontal surface, e.g furniture, table, chair, pillow, floor
suwi	<i>n</i> candy, sweet food <i>mod</i> sweet, cute <i>vt</i> sweeten
tan	<i>prep</i> from, by, because of, since <i>n</i> origin, cause

1.6 Prepositions I: *lon*, *kepeken*, *tawa*,

Vocabulary

lon	to be in/at/on, to exist; in, at, on
kepeken	to use, with, using
tawa	to go to, to move, to, for
kama	to come, to happen, to cause
kiwen	stone, rock, hard like a rock
kon	air, atmosphere, spirit, wind
pana	to give, to send, to release, to emit
poki	container, bowl, glass, cup, box, etc.
toki	language, to talk, to speak

Transitive Verbs vs. Intransitive Verbs

In the sentence "I'm going to my house," the speaker simply went home. He did not do anything to his house. "go" is an intransitive verb here. In the sentence "I'm building a house." is an **object** (house) and "build" is an transitive verb. In Toki Pona an *e* follow a transitive verb.

lon

mi lon tomo.	I'm in the house.
mi moku lon tomo.	I eat in the house.

In the first example, *lon* is used as the verb; in the second, it is used as a preposition. *lon* can be used as both a **verb** and a **preposition**.

suno li lon sewi.	The sun is in the sky.
mi telo e mi lon tomo telo.	I bathe myself in the restroom.
kili li lon poki.	The fruit is in the basket.

Using *lon* with *wile*

Because *lon* can be used as either a preposition or a intransitive verb, the meaning of the sentence can be a bit confusing when used with *wile*.

mi wile lon tomo.	I want to be at home. / I want in a house.
--------------------------	--

The sentence has two possible translations. The first translation states that the speaker wishes he were at home. The second translation states that the speaker wants to do something in a house. **It's best to split this sentence up to avoid confusion:**

mi wile e ni: mi lon tomo.	I want this: I'm at home.
--	---------------------------

Toki Pona often uses this *e ni*: trick.

sina toki e ni tawa mi: sina moku.	You told me that you are eating.
---	----------------------------------

1.5 Adjectives, Compound Nouns Adverbs

Vocabulary

ike	bad, evil, complicated
jaki	dirty, nasty, trash
lawa	main, leading, head; to lead
len	clothing, clothe
lili	little
mute	many, a lot
nasa	crazy, stupid, silly, weird, drunk, strange
seli	warm, hot, to burn
sewi	high, superior, sky
tomo	house, building, construction
utala	war, battle, to fight

Adjectives and compound nouns

Toki Pona has a very minimal vocabulary. Many words do not exist in this language. Therefore, we often have to combine various words together. For example, there is no word that means "friend".

jan pona	friend (good person)
----------	----------------------

As you can see, the describing noun(s) and **the adjective** (which was *pona* in the above example) **goes after the main noun**. This will undoubtedly seem incredibly awkward to you if you only speak English. However, many, many languages do this.

Many of the verbs are often used as adjectives.

jan pakala	an injured person, victim, etc.
ilo moku	an eating utensil (fork/spoon/knife)

You can add more than just one word onto a noun to reach the meaning that you want:

jan utala	soldier
jan utala nasa	stupid soldier
jan utala nasa mute	many stupid soldiers
jan utala nasa ni	this stupid soldier

As you might have noticed, ***ni* and *mute* as adjectives come at the end of the phrase**. This occurs almost always. The reason for this is that the phrases build as you go along, so the adjectives must be put into an organized, logical order. Notice the differences in these two phrases:

jan utala nasa	stupid soldier
jan nasa utala	fighting fool

Here are some handy adjective combinations using words that you've already learned and that are fairly common.

ike lukin*	ugly
pona lukin *	pretty, attractive
jan ni li pona lukin	That person is pretty.
jan ike	enemy
jan lawa	leader

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Compound sentences

multiple *li* technique

There are **two ways** to make compound sentences in Toki Pona; one way involves using *li*, and the other way involves using *e*. Since you've now studied both of these words, we'll cover how to use both of them to make compound sentences.

pipi li lukin li unpa. | The bug looks and has sex.

By putting *li* before each verb, you can show how the subject, which is *pipi* in this case, does more than one thing.

mi moku li pakala. | I eat and destroy.

While *li* is still omitted before *moku* because the subject of the sentence is *mi*, we still use it before the second verb, *pakala*. Without the *li* there, the sentence would be chaotic and confusing. Compound sentences with *sina* follow this same pattern.

multiple *e* technique

The other type of compound sentence is used when there are several direct objects of the same verb.

mi moku e kili e telo. | I eat/drink fruit and water.

e is used multiple times because *kili* and *telo* are both direct objects, and so *e* must precede them both.

mi wile lukin e ma e suno. | I want to see the land and the sun.

Practice 4 (Answers: Page 50)

Try translating these sentences.

I have a tool.
 She's eating fruit.
 Something is watching me.
 He wants to squish the spider.
 Pineapple is a food and is good.
 The bug is thirsty.

mi lukin e ni.
 mi wile unpa e ona.
 jan li wile jo e ma.
 mi jan li suli.

1.3 Basic Sentences

Vocabulary

mi	I, we, me, our
sina	you, your
jan	somebody, anybody, person, etc.
li	separates a 3rd person subject from its verb
pona	good, simple, to fix, to repair
moku	food, eat, drink
suno	sun, light
telo	water, liquid
suli	big, tall, long, important

Sentences with *mi* or *sina* as the subject

One of the first principles you'll need to learn about Toki Pona is that there is **no form of the verb "to be"** like there is in English.

mi pona.	I (am) good.
sina suli.	you (are) big/important.

Simply state *mi* or *sina*, then complete the sentence with a verb or adjective. These are the absolute simplest type of sentences in Toki Pona.

The Ambiguity of Toki Pona

Do you see how several of **the words** in the vocabulary **have multiple meanings**? For example, *suli* can mean either "long" or "tall" or "big" or "important". By now, you might be wondering, "What's going on? How can one word mean so many different things?" Well, welcome to the world of Toki Pona! The truth is that lots of words are like this in Toki Pona. Because the language has such a small vocabulary and is so basic, the ambiguity is inevitable. However, this vagueness is not necessarily a bad thing: Because of the vagueness, a speaker of Toki Pona is forced to focus on the very basic, unaltered aspect of things, rather than focusing on many minute details.

Another way that Toki Pona is ambiguous is that it **can not specify** whether a word is **singular** or **plural**. For example, *jan* can mean either "person" or "people". – If you've decided that Toki Pona is too arbitrary and that not having plurals is simply the final straw, don't be so hasty. Toki Pona is not the only language that doesn't specify whether a noun is plural or not. Japanese, for example, does the same thing.

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1.2 Pronunciation and the Alphabet

There are **fourteen letters** in the Toki Pona alphabet.

Consonants (9)

Except for *j*, all the consonants are pronounced like any person who speaks a European language would expect them to be. As you might have noticed, *j* in Toki Pona isn't pronounced like the English *j*. Instead, it's always pronounced just like the letter *y* in English.

letter	pronounced as in
k	kill
l	let
m	met
n	net
p	pit
s	sink
t	too
w	wet
j	yet

Vowels (5)

Toki Pona's vowels are quite unlike English's. Whereas vowels in English are quite arbitrary and can be pronounced tons of different ways depending on the word, Toki Pona's vowels are all regular and never change pronunciation. If you're familiar with Italian, Spanish, Esperanto, or certain other languages, then your work is already cut out for you. The vowels are the same in Toki Pona as they are in these languages.

letter	pronounced as in
a	father
e	met
i	peel
o	more
u	food

The More Advanced Stuff

All official Toki Pona words are never capitalized. (Yes, they are lowercase even at the beginning of the sentence!) The only time that capital letters are used is when you are using unofficial words, like the names of people or places or religions.

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