

LANGUAGE COURSE

Toki Pona 1

Learn the 120-word language of good: sounds, sentences, questions, numbers and a first conversation.

10 Chapters

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Generated with Claude

TOKI PONA 1

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Toki Pona 1

Chapter 1 · Hello, Toki Pona

👋 Hello, Toki Pona — toki! pona!

*Toki Pona is a very small language. It has about 120 core words, fourteen sounds and a handful of grammar rules, and you can learn enough in a few weeks to hold a real conversation. It was made by the Canadian linguist and translator Sonja Lang, who first published it online in 2001 and wrote the official book, Toki Pona: The Language of Good (known as pu), in 2014. The name means "good language" or "simple language": **toki** is "language" or "talk", and **pona** is "good" or "simple". You met it briefly in Constructed Languages 4; this course teaches you to use it. By the end of this chapter you will know how to say and spell the sounds, greet someone, say that you are well, say yes and no, and admit that you do not know.*

> **The Big Idea — Few Words, Broad Meanings**
>
> Toki Pona does not try to name everything. Each word covers a wide area, and context narrows it down. **pona** means good, simple, friendly, fixed, positive; **toki** means language, talk, say, hello. To say something precise you combine words: "talk good" or "good talk". The aim, as its creator describes it, is to think simply and to look for the good in things. Expect to pause and decide what you mean, rather than to look up a word.

🔤 Sounds and Spelling — kalama

The language has nine consonants and five vowels. Every letter has exactly one sound, so you can read any word the moment you know the table.

LETTERS	SOUND	LIKE ENGLISH
a	*ah*	"a" in *father*
e	*eh*	"e" in *bed*
i	*ee*	"ee" in *see*
o	*oh*	"o" in *go*, without the glide

LETTERS	SOUND	LIKE ENGLISH
u	*oo*	"oo" in *moon*
p t k s m n l		as in English
j	*y*	"y" in *yes*
w	*w*	"w" in *water*

*A syllable is a consonant (optional), a vowel, and an **n** (optional): to-ki, po-na, jan, a. So there are no clusters like "str" and no silent letters. A few sound combinations are not used (for example ji, wu, wo, ti), and an n at the end of a syllable never sits before another m or n. **Stress** always falls on the first syllable: TO-ki, PO-na, SO-na.*

Say It Out Loud

Say *toki pona* slowly: TO-ki PO-na. Then *jan* (yan), *mute* (MOO-te), *ala* (A-la), *wile* (WEE-le). Remember that *j* is an English "y", so *jan* starts like "yawn" or "yarn". Compare Esperanto, where stress falls on the next-to-last syllable (Constructed Languages 8).

Five Short Dialogs

Every sentence uses only words from this chapter. Toki Pona has no ending for plural or tense, so the same short sentence covers many meanings; the English line shows the most natural one.

① Hello — toki!

A:

toki!

Hello!

B:

toki! mi jan Mali.

Hello! I am Mali. (literally "I person Mali")

A:

mi jan Teku.

② How Are You — sina pona ala pona?

A:

sina pona ala pona?

Are you well? (literally "you good not good?")

B:

mi pona.

I am well.

B:

sina pona ala pona?

I am Teku.

And are you well?

A:

mi pona.

I am well.

③ Thanks — pona!

A:

sina pona!

You are kind! (you are good)

B:

pona!

Thanks! (or "good!")

A:

pona!

Good!

④ I Know, I Don't Know — mi sona

A:

sina sona ala sona?

Do you know? (literally "you know not know?")

B:

mi sona ala.

I don't know.

B:

mi wile sona.

I want to know.

⑤ Goodbye — tawa pona

A:

mi tawa.

I'm going.

B:

tawa pona!

Go well! (to the one who leaves)

A:

lon pona!

Stay well! (to the one who stays)

🔑 Key Phrases — nimi pona

Toki Pona has no formal and informal "you", so there is no formal column. Questions like "sina pona ala pona?" use a pattern you will build yourself in Chapter 5; for now learn them as whole phrases.

SITUATION	TOKI PONA	SAY IT	NOTE
Hello	**toki!**	*TO-ki*	the usual greeting; *toki* also means "talk"
I am well	**mi pona.**	*mi PO-na*	"I (am) good"; there is no verb "to be" here
Are you well?	**sina pona ala pona?**	*SI-na PO-na A-la PO-na*	the "X not X" question, explained in Chapter 5
Thanks / good	**pona!**	*PO-na*	used as thanks by the community; *pona* also just means "good"
You are kind	**sina pona.**	*SI-na PO-na*	"you (are) good"
I am (a person called) Mali	**mi jan Mali.**	*mi yan MA-li*	*jan* "person" + name; names start with a capital letter
I know	**mi sona.**	*mi SO-na*	
I don't know	**mi sona ala.**	*mi SO-na A-la*	*ala* after the word means "not"
I'm going	**mi tawa.**	*mi TA-wa*	
Go well (to one leaving)	**tawa pona!**	*TA-wa PO-na*	
Stay well (to one staying)	**lon pona!**	*lon PO-na*	*lon* "be present"
Yes	**lon.**	*lon*	"true, so"
No	**ala.**	*A-la*	

Watch Out — Different Roles, Same Word

toki is "hello", "talk" and "language" depending on how you use it; **pona** is "good", "kind" and "thanks"; **tawa** is "go", "to" and "move". Beginners often try to find the one correct English translation. Do not. Read the whole sentence, decide the role, and accept that a good-enough answer is a good answer in Toki Pona.

Why No Plurals, No Tenses?

jan means one person or many; **mi tawa** means "I go", "I went" or "I will go". Time and number are added only when they matter, with words you will meet in later chapters. This is the isolating style described in Constructed Languages 4: words never change, and small words do the work.

📖 Vocabulary — nimi

20 words from the official 120. Most can play several roles; the Type column gives the main one for this chapter.

#	TOKI PONA	SAY IT	MEANING	TYPE
1	**toki**	*TO-ki*	language, talk, hello	noun / verb
2	**pona**	*PO-na*	good, simple, kind, thanks	adj
3	**ike**	*I-ke*	bad, complicated	adj
4	**mi**	*mi*	I, me, we	pron
5	**sina**	*SI-na*	you	pron
6	**ona**	*O-na*	he, she, it, they	pron
7	**jan**	*yan*	person, people	noun
8	**ala**	*A-la*	no, not, nothing	particle
9	**lon**	*lon*	be present, true, yes	verb
10	**sona**	*SO-na*	know, knowledge	verb
11	**wile**	*WI-le*	want, need	verb

#	TOKI PONA	SAY IT	MEANING	TYPE
12	**tawa**	*TA-wa*	go, move; to	verb
13	**kama**	*KA-ma*	come, become	verb
14	**pilin**	*PI-lin*	feel, feeling	verb
15	**nimi**	*NI-mi*	word, name	noun
16	**ijo**	*I-yo*	thing	noun
17	**tomo**	*TO-mo*	house, room, building	noun
18	**mute**	*MU-te*	many, much	adj
19	**suli**	*SU-li*	big, important	adj
20	**ale**	*A-le*	all, everything (also written *ali*)	adj

Real Toki Pona Tip — The Name of the Language

toki pona is itself a phrase: "language" + "good". Since describing words follow the word they describe, the order is "talk good", the opposite of English "good talk". You will use this ordering in every chapter, so notice it now: **jan pona** is "good person", i.e. "friend"; **jan ike** is "bad person".

📜 Reading — lukin

A short text using only words you know.

toki! mi jan Mali. mi pona. mi wile sona. mi sona ala. tawa pona!

Hello! I am Mali. I am well. I want to know. I don't know. Go well!

True or false? (a) The speaker is called Mali. (b) The speaker is unwell. (c) The speaker knows everything. (d) The text ends with a farewell.

▼ Show answers

(a) True: **mi jan Mali**. (b) False: **mi pona**. (c) False: **mi sona ala**. (d) True: **tawa pona!** is a farewell.

✍️ Try It Yourself — pali

Say each answer out loud first, then click to check.

1. Say hello, then say that you are called Mali.

▼ Show answer

toki! · **mi jan Mali.**

2. Ask someone how they are, and answer that you are well.

▼ Show answer

sina pona ala pona? · **mi pona.**

3. Which of these fit the sound rules, and which do not: *kasi, tlan, jinu, mama, wuka*?

▼ Show answer

kasi and **mama** fit the sound rules. **tlan** has a consonant cluster. **jinu** uses *ji*, and **wuka** uses *wu*, both unused syllables. (Whether a possible word has a meaning is a separate question.)

4. Say "I don't know" and "I want to know".

▼ Show answer

mi sona ala. · **mi wile sona.**

5. You are leaving and your friend is staying. Say "I'm going", then wish your friend well, and imagine their reply.

▼ Show answer

mi tawa. · **lon pona!** (their reply to you: **tawa pona!**)

6. Which syllable is stressed in *toki, pilin, ijo*? What does **jan pona** mean?

▼ Show answer

The first syllable of each: TO-ki, PI-lin, I-yo. **jan pona** means "friend" (literally "good person").

Coming Up in Chapter 2

First sentences in full: the pronouns **mi, sina, ona**, the particle **li** that joins other subjects to what they do, and how to say things like "the person is good" and "the house is big".

🧱 First Sentences — mi pona, jan li pona

*Chapter 1 gave you short sentences with **mi** and **sina**. This chapter shows the pattern behind them, and the one small word that joins everything else together: **li**. By the end you will build sentences about people, animals and things, and say what they are, what they are like and what they do. Everything here is a sentence with a subject and a predicate and no object; objects arrive in Chapter 4.*

> **The Pattern — Subject, li, Predicate**
>
> A basic sentence has two parts: the **subject** (who or what) and the **predicate** (what is said about it). The word **li** sits between them. There is no verb "to be", so the predicate can be a describing word, a noun or a verb:
>
> **jan li pona.** "The person is good."
>
> **ona li jan.** "She is a person."
>
> **soweli li moku.** "The animal eats."

👤 Three Pronouns — mi, sina, ona

WORD	SAY IT	MEANING
mi	*mi*	I, me, we, us
sina	*SI-na*	you (one or many)
ona	*O-na*	he, she, it, they

*There is no "he" versus "she", no singular versus plural, and no "it" as a separate word. To be specific, add a word: **mi mute** "we" (literally "I many"), **ona mute** "they".*

✂️ The Rule for li

*Use **li** after the subject, with one exception: when the subject is **exactly** mi or sina on its own, **li** is dropped.*

SUBJECT	PATTERN	EXAMPLE	ENGLISH
mi	no li	**mi pona.**	I am well.
sina	no li	**sina suli.**	You are big (important).
ona	li	**ona li pona.**	He / she / they are good.
any noun	li	**tomo li suli.**	The house is big.
mi mute	li	**mi mute li pona.**	We are well.

Watch Out — "mi mute" Needs li

mi li pona is wrong, and so is **mi mute pona**. The exception is for *mi* and *sina* standing alone. As soon as another word joins the subject (*mi mute*, *sina wan*), **li** comes back. A good habit: look at the subject; if it is just *mi* or *sina*, leave out *li*; otherwise put it in.

🏷️ Three Kinds of Predicate

THE PREDICATE IS …	EXAMPLE	ENGLISH
a describing word	**kasi li suli.**	The plant is big.
a noun	**mi jan pona.**	I am a friend.
a verb on its own	**waso li kalama.**	The bird makes a sound.

*Notice that **jan pona** is one noun phrase: the first word is the head and the second describes it. The same word can be a describing word in one sentence and a noun in the next; the position tells you which.*

💬 Five Short Dialogs

① Who Is That — jan

A:

② The Animal — soweli

A:

ona li jan pona mi.

She is my friend.

B:

ona li pona.

She is good.

soweli li suli.

The animal is big.

B:

soweli li moku.

The animal is eating.

A:

ona li pona.

It is good.

③ At Home — tomo

A:

tomo mi li sin.

My house is new.

B:

tomo sina li suli.

Your house is big.

A:

mi pona.

I am happy.

④ A Child — jan lili

A:

jan lili li lape.

The child is sleeping.

B:

mi lape ala.

I am not sleeping.

B:

mi pali.

I am working.

⑤ Birds and Trees — waso, kasi

A:

waso li kalama.

The bird is singing (making sound).

B:

kasi li suli. waso li pona.

The tree is big. The bird is good.

*Two forms above are previews: **tomo mi** "my house" and **jan pona mi** "my friend" put the pronoun after the noun like any describing word (Chapter 3 explains this). **ala** after a verb makes it negative:*

***mi lape ala**, "I am not sleeping".*

📖 Vocabulary — nimi

20 words from the official 120. Many can play more than one role.

#	TOKI PONA	SAY IT	MEANING	TYPE
1	**li**	*li*	(links the subject to its predicate)	particle
2	**soweli**	*SO-we-li*	land animal	noun
3	**waso**	*WA-so*	bird, flying creature	noun
4	**kasi**	*KA-si*	plant, tree	noun
5	**telo**	*TE-lo*	water, liquid	noun
6	**moku**	*MO-ku*	eat, drink; food	verb
7	**lape**	*LA-pe*	sleep, rest	verb
8	**pali**	*PA-li*	do, make, work	verb
9	**kalama**	*KA-la-ma*	make a sound, noise	verb
10	**lili**	*LI-li*	small, young	adj
11	**sin**	*sin*	new, fresh, another	adj
12	**wan**	*wan*	one, unique	adj
13	**mama**	*MA-ma*	parent, ancestor, creator	noun
14	**meli**	*ME-li*	woman, female	noun
15	**mije**	*MI-je*	man, male	noun
16	**tomo**	*TO-mo*	house, room	noun

#	TOKI PONA	SAY IT	MEANING	TYPE
17	jan	*yan*	person	noun
18	mute	*MU-te*	many, much	adj
19	suli	*SU-li*	big, important	adj
20	ala	*A-la*	not, no, none	particle

Real Toki Pona Tip — Compound Meanings

A noun plus a describing word often gives a new, specific meaning: **jan lili** "small person" is "child"; **jan sin** "new person" is "newcomer"; **meli** + **mama** would be "mother". The community calls this building a meaning from parts, and good speakers prefer it to inventing new words. Compare how Constructed Languages 10 describes growing a vocabulary from a small core.

📜 Reading — lukin

tomo mi li suli. jan mute li lon. soweli li moku. waso li kalama. mi pona.

My house is big. Many people are here. The animal is eating. The bird is singing. I am happy.

True or false? (a) The house is small. (b) The animal is sleeping. (c) The speaker is well. (d) There are no people.

▼ Show answers

(a) False: **tomo mi li suli**. (b) False: **soweli li moku**. (c) True: **mi pona**. (d) False: **jan mute li lon**.

✍️ Try It Yourself — pali

Say each answer out loud first, then click to check.

1. Say "I am working" and "You are sleeping".

▼ Show answer

mi pali. · **sina lape.** (no *li* after *mi* or *sina*)

2. Say "The bird is small" and "The woman is big".

▼ Show answer

waso li lili. · **meli li suli.**

3. Which of these has a mistake, and how do you fix it: *mi li moku*, *ona pona*, *jan li pona*?

▼ Show answer

mi li moku should be **mi moku** (no *li* after bare *mi*). **ona pona** should be **ona li pona** (*ona* needs *li*). **jan li pona** is correct.

4. Say "We are well" and "They are well".

▼ Show answer

mi mute li pona. · **ona li pona.** (*mi mute* is not bare *mi*, so it keeps *li*.)

5. Say "My friend is a child" and "The child is not eating".

▼ Show answer

jan pona mi li jan lili. · **jan lili li moku ala.**

6. What does **jan sin** mean literally and naturally? What does **soweli lili** mean?

▼ Show answer

jan sin: "new person", i.e. a newcomer. **soweli lili**: "small animal".

Coming Up in Chapter 3

Words that do many jobs: how one word is a noun, a verb and a describing word, and how to build longer phrases such as **jan pona mi** and **tomo telo** by stacking describing words after the head word.

🔧 Words With Many Jobs — nimi mute, pali mute

In English, "work" can be a noun ("a work of art") or a verb ("I work"), but most words keep one job. In Toki Pona nearly every word can be a noun, a verb or a describing word, and only its position in the sentence tells you which. This is how 120 words stretch to cover a whole language. By the end of this chapter you will read a word's job from its place, build phrases of two, three or more words, and use a pronoun or a noun to describe another noun.

🎭 One Word, Three Jobs

WORD	AS A NOUN	AS A VERB	AS A DESCRIBING WORD
moku	**moku li pona.** The food is good.	**mi moku.** I eat.	**tomo moku** eating-house (restaurant)
pali	**pali li suli.** The work is big.	**mi pali.** I work.	**jan pali** worker
toki	**toki li pona.** The talk is good.	**mi toki.** I talk.	**jan toki** speaker
tawa	**tawa li pona.** The trip is good.	**mi tawa.** I go.	**tomo tawa** moving-house (vehicle)
pona	**pona li suli.** Goodness is important.	(rare: to fix, to improve)	**jan pona** friend

*The rule is simple. A word **before** li (or directly after mi or sina) is the subject or the verb. A word **after** another word describes it. A word at the **start of a phrase** is the head, the main thing being talked about.*

> **Watch Out — Do Not Hunt for "the" Meaning**
>
> **moku** in *mi moku* is not a noun that has been turned into a verb; it is simply the same word doing a verb's job. Learners who keep asking "is this the noun or the verb?" waste time. Ask instead "what is it doing in this sentence?" The position answers, and the English word you choose follows from it.

🧩 The Head Word Comes First

*In a phrase the **head word** comes first, and each word after it describes it. This is the opposite of English, where the describer comes first.*

TOKI PONA	WORD BY WORD	ENGLISH
jan pona	person good	friend
tomo suli	house big	a big house
tomo suli sin	house big new	a new big house
soweli lili	animal small	a small animal
kili mute	fruit many	much fruit, many fruits
tomo telo	house water	bathroom

📚 Stacking Describers

*Describers can be piled up, and each one narrows down the whole phrase to its left. **tomo suli sin** is "a new one of the big houses", not "a big one of the new houses"; the difference is slight, and good speakers keep stacks short. More than three words in a row and you should probably rephrase. The order of describers can change the meaning:*

PHRASE	READING
tomo moku	food house: a restaurant, a kitchen
moku tomo	home food: food of the house
jan pali pona	a good worker
jan pali pona	also a good worker (the same head, one more describer)

🏠 Pronouns as Describers — tomo mi, jan pona sina

*To say "my house" you put **mi** after the noun, as if it were any other describing word: **tomo mi**, "house I", i.e. my house. The same works with **sina** and **ona**, and for any noun phrase.*

TOKI PONA	ENGLISH
tomo mi	my house
jan pona sina	your friend
mama ona	his / her / their parent
tomo mi li suli.	My house is big.
jan pona mi li pali.	My friend is working.

The Rule for li Again

tomo mi is a noun phrase, so **li** is needed after it: **tomo mi li suli**. Only a lone *mi* or *sina* drops *li* (Chapter 2). A phrase that merely *contains mi* keeps it.

Five Short Dialogs

① The Sun and the Moon — suno, mun

A:

suno li suli.

The sun is big.

B:

mun li lili.

The moon is small.

A:

suno li pona.

The sun is good.

② Where We Eat — tomo moku

A:

tomo moku li sin.

The restaurant is new.

B:

moku li pona.

The food is good.

A:

kili li mute.

There is a lot of fruit.

③ My Work — jan pali

④ Clothes and Paper — len, lipu

A:

mi jan pali.

I am a worker.

B:

pali sina li pona.

Your work is good.

A:

jan pali mute li lon.

Many workers are here.

A:

len mi li sin.

My clothes are new.

B:

lipu sina li ante.

Your paper is different.

A:

lipu mi li pona.

My paper is good.

⑤ The Night — pimeja, kon

A:

tenpo pimeja li kama.

The dark time is coming. (night is coming)

B:

kon li jaki ala.

The air is not dirty.

B:

mi lape.

I sleep.

📖 Vocabulary — nimi

20 words from the official 120. Remember that most do several jobs; the Type column gives the commonest.

#	TOKI PONA	SAY IT	MEANING	TYPE
1	**ma**	*ma*	land, earth, country	noun
2	**suno**	*SU-no*	sun, light	noun

#	TOKI PONA	SAY IT	MEANING	TYPE
3	**mun**	*mun*	moon, night sky object	noun
4	**kon**	*kon*	air, spirit, essence	noun
5	**tenpo**	*TEN-po*	time, moment, period	noun
6	**nasin**	*NA-sin*	way, road, method	noun
7	**kili**	*KI-li*	fruit, vegetable	noun
8	**len**	*len*	clothing, cloth, hidden	noun
9	**lipu**	*LI-pu*	flat thing: paper, page, book	noun
10	**kulupu**	*KU-lu-pu*	group, community	noun
11	**sijelo**	*SI-ye-lo*	body	noun
12	**lawa**	*LA-wa*	head; lead, rule	noun / verb
13	**nasa**	*NA-sa*	strange, crazy, drunk	adj
14	**sewi**	*SE-wi*	above, high, divine	adj
15	**wawa**	*WA-wa*	strong, powerful, energetic	adj
16	**jaki**	*YA-ki*	dirty, gross	adj
17	**pimeja**	*PI-me-ya*	dark, black	adj
18	**ante**	*AN-te*	different, other, change	adj
19	**pakala**	*PA-ka-la*	broken, ruined, a mistake	adj
20	**ni**	*ni*	this, that	pron / adj

*One use of **ni** now, since it is simple: after a noun it means "this" or "that". **tomo ni** is "this house", **jan ni** "that person". As a subject it is followed by li: **ni li pona** "this is good".*

Real Toki Pona Tip — Pronunciation Reminder

Several words in this chapter contain *j*, which is a "y" sound: *jaki* is YA-ki, *sijelo* is SI-ye-lo, *pimeja* is PI-me-ya. Remember too that the stress falls on the first syllable of every word, so *kulupu* is KU-lu-pu. Compare how Constructed Languages 8 chose a fixed stress rule so that learners never have to memorise it.

📜 Reading — lukin

ma mi li suli. kulupu mi li pona. tomo mi li lon ma ni. suno li pona. kon li pona. mi pona.

My country is big. My community is good. My house is in this land. The sun is good. The air is good. I am happy.

True or false? (a) The speaker's land is small. (b) The community is good. (c) The air is dirty. (d) The speaker is happy.

▼ Show answers

(a) False: **ma mi li suli**. (b) True: **kulupu mi li pona**. (c) False: **kon li pona**. (d) True: **mi pona**.

✍️ Try It Yourself — pali

Say each answer out loud first, then click to check.

1. Translate: "my big house", "your new clothes", "a small animal".

▼ Show answer

tomo suli mi · **len sin sina** · **soweli lili**

2. Say "The food is good" and "I eat", noting the different job of *moku*.

▼ Show answer

moku li pona. (*moku* as the subject, a noun) · **mi moku.** (*moku* as the verb).

3. What is the difference between **tomo moku** and **moku tomo**?

▼ Show answer

tomo moku is a house for food (a restaurant or kitchen). **moku tomo** is food of the house (home food). The first word is always the head.

4. Say "This book is new" and "My friend is strong", each with the correct use of *li*.

▼ Show answer

lipu ni li sin. · **jan pona mi li wawa.** (both subjects are phrases, so *li* is needed)

5. Make a word for "bad worker" and for "this strange house".

▼ Show answer

jan pali ike · **tomo nasa ni**

6. Fix the mistake in each: *mi li pali*, *pona jan mi li moku*, *tomo ni suli*.

▼ Show answer

mi pali (no *li* after bare *mi*); **jan pona mi li moku** (head word first); **tomo ni li suli** (the subject is a phrase, so it needs *li*).

Coming Up in Chapter 4

Actions and objects: the particle **e** that marks what an action is done to, so you can say "I eat fruit", "the person sees the moon" and "I do not make a mistake".

🎯 Actions and Objects — mi moku e kili

*So far every sentence has had a subject and a predicate and nothing else. Now we add the thing that the action is done to: the **object**. Toki Pona marks it with a single small word, **e**, so you can always tell who is acting and what is acted on, whatever the word order. By the end of this chapter you will say "I eat fruit", "the person sees the moon" and "I do not see the moon", and you will know when to use e and when not to.*

> **The Pattern — Subject, Verb, e, Object**
>
> **mi moku e kili.** "I eat the fruit."
>
> **jan li lukin e mun.** "The person sees the moon."
>
> Put **e** immediately before the object. The sentence order is the English one (subject, verb, object), but the *e* is not optional. Compare Esperanto in Constructed Languages 3, where the object ends in *-n*: Toki Pona marks it with a separate word instead of an ending.

🔀 Same Verb, With or Without an Object

One verb can be used with an object or without one, and the meaning follows:

VERB	WITHOUT AN OBJECT	WITH AN OBJECT
moku	**mi moku.** I eat.	**mi moku e kili.** I eat fruit.
pali	**mi pali.** I work.	**mi pali e tomo.** I make a house.
toki	**mi toki.** I talk.	**mi toki e nimi.** I say a word.
pona	**tomo li pona.** The house is good.	**mi pona e tomo.** I fix / improve the house.

*Notice the last row: with an object, a word like **pona** becomes "make good". This is a regular pattern, so **ike** with an object is "make bad" and **sin** is "renew".*

👤 Pronouns as Objects

*The pronouns are the same word in every role: **mi** is "I" and "me", **sina** is "you" for subject and object. There are no separate forms to learn.*

TOKI PONA	ENGLISH
mi lukin e sina.	I see you.
sina lukin e mi.	You see me.
ona li kute e mi.	He / she listens to me.
mi olin e sina.	I love you.

*Remember the rule from Chapter 2: li is dropped only after a bare mi or sina. So the pattern for a noun subject is **jan li lukin e mi**, with both li and e.*

🚫 Saying No — ala

*To negate a verb, put **ala** right after it, before e:*

TOKI PONA	ENGLISH
mi moku ala e kala.	I do not eat fish.
jan li lukin ala e mun.	The person does not see the moon.
mi sona ala.	I do not know.

> **Watch Out — "wile" With a Verb and With an Object**
>
> **wile** "want" can be followed by a verb or by an object, and the two are different. **mi wile moku** is "I want to eat" (the wanted thing is an action: no *e*). **mi wile e moku** is "I want food" (the wanted thing is an object: *e*). The same holds for **kama** and **ken** in later chapters. If the next word is an action, no *e*; if it is a thing, *e*.

Five Short Dialogs

① At the Table — moku

A:

mi moku e pan.

I am eating bread.

B:

mi moku e kili.

I am eating fruit.

A:

mi moku ala e kala.

I do not eat fish.

② Looking and Listening — lukin, kute

A:

mi lukin e suno.

I am looking at the sun.

B:

mi kute e kalama.

I am listening to the sound.

A:

waso li kalama.

A bird is singing.

③ Giving and Having — pana, jo

A:

mi pana e lipu.

I give a book.

B:

mi jo e lipu.

I have the book.

B:

pona!

Thanks!

④ Building — pali

A:

jan pali li pali e tomo sin.

The workers are building a new house.

B:

ona li wawa.

They are strong.

A:

mi wile e tomo sin.

I want a new house.

⑤ Love — olin

A:

mi olin e sina.

I love you.

B:

mi olin e sina.

I love you too.

A:

sina pona.

You are good.

📖 Vocabulary — nimi

20 words from the official 120. Stress is always on the first syllable.

#	TOKI PONA	SAY IT	MEANING	TYPE
1	**e**	*e*	(marks the object)	particle
2	**lukin**	*LU-kin*	look, see, read	verb
3	**kute**	*KU-te*	listen, hear, obey	verb
4	**jo**	*yo*	have, hold	verb
5	**pana**	*PA-na*	give, send, put out	verb
6	**olin**	*O-lin*	love, respect	verb
7	**sitelen**	*SI-te-len*	draw, write; picture	verb
8	**utala**	*U-ta-la*	fight, battle	verb
9	**open**	*O-pen*	open, begin	verb
10	**pini**	*PI-ni*	end, finish; finished	verb
11	**alasa**	*A-la-sa*	hunt, search for	verb
12	**esun**	*E-sun*	trade, buy, sell; market	verb
13	**pan**	*pan*	bread, grain	noun

#	TOKI PONA	SAY IT	MEANING	TYPE
14	**kala**	*KA-la*	fish, sea creature	noun
15	**mani**	*MA-ni*	money	noun
16	**ilo**	*I-lo*	tool, machine	noun
17	**seli**	*SE-li*	fire, hot, cooked	noun
18	**oko**	*O-ko*	eye	noun
19	**luka**	*LU-ka*	hand, arm	noun
20	**uta**	*U-ta*	mouth	noun

Real Toki Pona Tip — Many Meanings From One Verb

lukin covers "look", "see", "read" and "seem", and **kute** covers "listen", "hear" and "obey". Instead of learning a different word for each English verb, pick the Toki Pona word whose centre is closest and let the object decide the rest: **mi lukin e lipu** is "I read a book", **mi lukin e mun** is "I look at the moon". The same reasoning is used for compound meanings in Constructed Languages 10.

📜 Reading — lukin

jan pali li pali e tomo. mi lukin e ona. mi kute e kalama. mi wile moku. mi moku e pan e kili. mi pona.

The workers are building a house. I watch them. I listen to the sound. I want to eat. I eat bread and fruit. I am happy.

True or false? (a) The speaker builds the house. (b) The speaker listens. (c) The speaker eats bread. (d) The speaker eats fish.

▼ Show answers

(a) False: the workers build it (**jan pali li pali e tomo**). (b) True: **mi kute e kalama**. (c) True: **mi moku e pan**. (d) False: no fish is mentioned.

*Notice **e pan e kili**: to give two objects, repeat e before each.*

✍️ Try It Yourself — pali

Say each answer out loud first, then click to check.

1. Translate: "I see the moon", "You hear a bird".

▼ Show answer

mi lukin e mun. · **sina kute e waso.**

2. Say "The person gives money" and "The child does not eat bread".

▼ Show answer

jan li pana e mani. · **jan lili li moku ala e pan.**

3. What is the difference between **mi wile moku** and **mi wile e moku**?

▼ Show answer

mi wile moku is "I want to eat" (an action). **mi wile e moku** is "I want food" (a thing).

4. Fix the mistake: *mi lukin kala*, *jan e lukin mi*, *mi li moku e pan*.

▼ Show answer

mi lukin e kala (add *e*). **jan li lukin e mi** (*li* before the verb, *e* before the object). **mi moku e pan** (no *li* after bare *mi*).

5. Say "I want to work" and "I want a tool".

▼ Show answer

mi wile pali. · **mi wile e ilo.**

6. Say "I have bread and fish" and "She does not love you".

▼ Show answer

mi jo e pan e kala. · **ona li olin ala e sina.**

Coming Up in Chapter 5

Questions and answers: the "X ala X" question you have already heard, the question word **seme** "what", and how to answer yes, no and "I don't know".

❓ Questions and Answers — sina pona ala pona?

*You have been using two questions since Chapter 1 as whole phrases. This chapter shows how they are built, so you can make your own. Toki Pona has two kinds of question: **yes/no questions**, built by a repeating pattern, and **question-word questions**, built with **seme** "what". It also has a short, clean way to answer both. By the end you will ask "Do you eat fish?", "What is this?" and "Is it a bird or an animal?", and answer each.*

🔁 Yes/No Questions — X ala X

*To ask a yes/no question, repeat the key word with **ala** between the two copies: "X not X?" The key word is the verb or the describing word you are asking about.*

STATEMENT	QUESTION	ENGLISH
sina pona.	sina pona ala pona?	Are you well?
sina moku.	sina moku ala moku?	Are you eating?
sina moku e kala.	sina moku ala moku e kala?	Do you eat fish?
soweli li suli.	soweli li suli ala suli?	Is the animal big?
jan li lukin e mi.	jan li lukin ala lukin e mi?	Does the person see me?

Notice that li and e stay in the question, in their usual places: the repeated verb sits between them. In speech, the question is also marked by rising tone.

✅ Answering — Repeat the Word

*The shortest answer repeats the key word. A positive answer is the word alone; a negative answer adds **ala**.*

QUESTION	YES	NO
sina pona ala pona?	pona. or mi pona.	pona ala. or mi pona ala.
sina moku ala moku e kala?	moku. or mi moku e kala.	moku ala. or mi moku ala e kala.

*You can also answer with **lon** "yes, true" and **ala** "no", as in Chapter 1.*

> **Another Way — anu seme**
>
> You can also turn any statement into a yes/no question by adding **anu seme** ("or what?") at the end: **sina moku e kala anu seme?** "You eat fish, or what?", i.e. "Do you eat fish?". Use whichever is easier. *X ala X* is the traditional form, and *anu seme* is handy when the key word is long.

🔎 The Question Word — seme

*To ask "what?", put **seme** where the missing word would be. It never moves to the front, so a question looks just like a statement with a blank:*

TOKI PONA	PATTERN	ENGLISH
ni li seme?	subject	What is this?
sina lukin e seme?	object	What do you see?
sina wile e seme?	object	What do you want?
jan seme li pali e tomo?	describing a noun	Which person / who is building the house?
tenpo seme?	describing a noun	When? (what time)
nimi sina li seme?	subject	What is your name?
sina pilin seme?	verb	How do you feel?

*To answer, replace seme with the real word: **ni li kili** "this is fruit", **mi lukin e mun** "I see the moon", **nimi mi li Mali** "my name is Mali".*

⚖️ Choosing — anu

*The word **anu** means "or", and it offers a choice. Put it between the alternatives:*

TOKI PONA	ENGLISH
sina pona anu ike?	Are you well or unwell?
ni li soweli anu waso?	Is this an animal or a bird?
sina pona anu seme?	Are you well, or what?

*Answer a choice by naming the one you mean: **waso** "a bird", or **ona li waso**.*

Watch Out — Do Not Move seme to the Front

English puts "what" first and rearranges the sentence: "What do you see?" Toki Pona keeps the order and leaves *seme* in the blank: **sina lukin e seme?** A sentence like *seme sina lukin?* is wrong. The question word occupies the same slot as the answer, which makes answering easy: swap one word for another.

💬 Five Short Dialogs

① Are You Hungry — moku

A:

sina wile ala wile moku?

Do you want to eat?

B:

wile.

Yes.

A:

sina moku ala moku e kala?

Do you eat fish?

B:

② What Is This — ni li seme?

A:

ni li seme?

What is this?

B:

ni li kili.

This is fruit.

A:

ona li pona ala pona?

Is it good?

B:

moku ala.

No.

pona.

Yes.

③ Names — nimi

A:

nimi sina li seme?

What is your name?

B:

nimi mi li Mali.

My name is Mali.

B:

nimi sina li seme?

What is your name?

A:

nimi mi li Teku.

My name is Teku.

④ Seeing — lukin

A:

sina lukin e seme?

What do you see?

B:

mi lukin e soko.

I see a mushroom.

A:

ona li pona anu ike?

Is it good or bad?

B:

mi sona ala.

I don't know.

⑤ How Do You Feel — pilin

A:

sina pilin seme?

How do you feel?

B:

mi pilin pona.

I feel good.

A:

pona!

Good!

📖 Vocabulary — nimi

20 words from the official 120. Stress is always on the first syllable.

#	TOKI PONA	SAY IT	MEANING	TYPE
1	**seme**	*SE-me*	what, which, who (question word)	question
2	**anu**	*A-nu*	or	particle
3	**kin**	*kin*	also, really, indeed	particle
4	**ken**	*ken*	can, be able, possible	verb
5	**a**	*a*	ah! (feeling, emphasis)	particle
6	**mu**	*mu*	animal sound (woof, meow); a noise	sound
7	**awen**	*A-wen*	stay, wait, keep	verb
8	**kipisi**	*KI-pi-si*	cut, slice	verb
9	**noka**	*NO-ka*	leg, foot	noun
10	**selo**	*SE-lo*	skin, outside, shell	noun
11	**poki**	*PO-ki*	container: box, cup, bowl	noun
12	**pipi**	*PI-pi*	insect, bug	noun
13	**akesi**	*A-ke-si*	reptile, amphibian	noun
14	**soko**	*SO-ko*	mushroom, fungus	noun
15	**kiwen**	*KI-wen*	hard thing: stone, metal	noun
16	**ko**	*ko*	soft or semi-solid: paste, dust	noun
17	**linja**	*LIN-ya*	long flexible thing: rope, hair	noun
18	**sike**	*SI-ke*	circle, round; year, cycle	noun
19	**supa**	*SU-pa*	flat surface: table, shelf	noun

#	TOKI PONA	SAY IT	MEANING	TYPE
20	lupa	*LU-pa*	hole, door, window	noun

Real Toki Pona Tip — Short Answers Are Polite

In Toki Pona, repeating the verb is a full, polite answer, not curt. **pona.** is just as good as "*mi pona*". The language rewards economy, as Constructed Languages 4 explains: short replies, few words, and meaning carried by context. Save the longer answer for when you want to add something.

📜 Reading — lukin

sina wile ala wile e kili? wile. ni li kili. sina wile e telo anu seme? wile ala. mi pilin pona.

Do you want fruit? Yes. This is fruit. Do you want water, or what? No. I feel good.

True or false? (a) The first answer is "no". (b) The speaker offers fruit. (c) The speaker is asked about water. (d) The speaker feels bad.

▼ Show answers

(a) False: **wile** is "yes". (b) True: **ni li kili**. (c) True: **sina wile e telo anu seme?** (d) False: **mi pilin pona**.

✍️ Try It Yourself — pali

Say each answer out loud first, then click to check.

1. Turn each statement into an X ala X question: *sina lape*, *jan li pali e tomo*, *soweli li suli*.

▼ Show answer

sina lape ala lape? · jan li pali ala pali e tomo? · soweli li suli ala suli?

2. Answer *sina lukin ala lukin e mun?* three ways: yes, no, and "I don't know".

▼ Show answer

Yes: **lukin.** or **mi lukin e mun.** No: **lukin ala.** or **mi lukin ala e mun.** Don't know: **mi sona ala.**

3. Ask "What do you eat?", "What do you hear?" and "What is your name?"

▼ Show answer

sina moku e seme? · **sina kute e seme?** · **nimi sina li seme?**

4. Ask whether something is a bird or an insect, and answer "an insect".

▼ Show answer

ni li waso anu pipi? · **pipi.** or **ona li pipi.**

5. What is wrong with *seme sina wile?*, and what is the correct question?

▼ Show answer

seme must stay where the answer would go. Correct: **sina wile e seme?**

6. Ask with *anu seme* whether someone can sleep, and answer "I can".

▼ Show answer

sina ken lape anu seme? · **mi ken.** or **ken.**

Coming Up in Chapter 6

Places and tools: the small words **lon**, **tawa**, **tan**, **kepeken** and **sama** that tell where, to where, from where, with what and like what, and how they follow the verb.

📍 Places and Tools — lon, tawa, tan, kepeken, sama

*Until now a sentence has said who does what to whom. This chapter adds the rest: where, to where, from where, with what, and like what. Toki Pona does this with just five small words, called **prepositions** because they go before a noun phrase. By the end you will say "I am at the house", "I go to the market", "I work with a tool" and "she is like me".*

🧭 The Five Prepositions

WORD	CORE MEANING	EXAMPLE	ENGLISH
lon	at, in, on	**mi lon tomo.**	I am at the house.
tawa	to, towards; for	**mi tawa ma.**	I go to the land.
tan	from; because of	**mi kama tan tomo.**	I come from the house.
kepeken	using, with (a tool)	**mi pali kepeken ilo.**	I work with a tool.
sama	like, the same as	**ona li sama mi.**	She is like me.

The Pattern — Verb, Object, Then the Preposition Phrase

A preposition phrase goes **after** the verb and after the object, if there is one:
mi moku e pan lon tomo. "I eat bread at the house."
jan li pali e tomo kepeken ilo. "The person builds a house using a tool."
Nothing changes in the rest of the sentence: *li* and *e* still go where they went in Chapters 2 and 4.

🗺️ Position Words After lon

*For exact positions, Toki Pona uses ordinary nouns after **lon**. Read the pair as "at the [position] of [thing]":*

TOKI PONA	LITERAL	ENGLISH
lon insa tomo	at inside house	inside the house
lon sewi tomo	at above house	above the house; on the roof
lon anpa supa	at below table	under the table
lon poka mi	at side me	beside me
lon sinpin tomo	at front house	in front of the house
lon monsi tomo	at back house	behind the house

🔄 Same Words, Different Roles

Several of these words have other jobs, as you learned in Chapter 3. The position in the sentence tells you which:

TOKI PONA	JOB OF THE WORD	ENGLISH
mi tawa.	tawa is the verb	I go.
mi tawa tomo.	tawa is the verb; *tomo* is the destination	I go to the house.
mi pali tawa sina.	tawa is a preposition	I work for you.
mi lon.	lon is the verb	I exist, I am here.
mi lape lon tomo.	lon is a preposition	I sleep at the house.

Watch Out — Verb or Preposition?

If a sentence has no other verb, the word is the verb: **mi tawa tomo** "I go (to) the house". If there is a verb before it, the word is a preposition: **mi moku lon tomo** "I eat at the house". Do not stack two prepositions without a verb between them, and do not add *e* after a preposition: **mi lon e tomo** is wrong.

Five Short Dialogs

① Where Are You — lon seme?

A:

sina lon seme?

Where are you?

B:

mi lon tomo.

I am at the house.

A:

sina lon insa tomo anu lon ma?

Are you inside the house or outside on the land?

B:

mi lon insa tomo.

I am inside the house.

② Going Somewhere — tawa seme?

A:

sina tawa seme?

Where are you going?

B:

mi tawa tomo esun.

I am going to the market (trading house).

A:

mi tawa kin.

I am going too.

③ Where From — tan

A:

sina kama tan ma seme?

Which land do you come from?

B:

mi kama tan ma lete.

I come from a cold land.

A:

ma sina li pona ala pona?

Is your land good?

B:

pona.

Yes.

④ With a Tool — kepeken

A:

sina pali e tomo kepeken seme?

What do you build the house with?

B:

mi pali kepeken ilo.

I work with a tool.

B:

mi kipisi e kasi kepeken ilo.

I cut the plant with the tool.

⑤ Like Me — sama

A:

jan ni li sama mi.

This person is like me.

B:

mi sama sina.

I am like you.

A:

mi mute li sama.

We are the same.

📖 Vocabulary — nimi

15 words from the official 120, the last of the common nouns, adjectives and prepositions. Stress is on the first syllable.

#	TOKI PONA	SAY IT	MEANING	TYPE
1	**tan**	*tan*	from; because of; reason	prep
2	**kepeken**	*KE-pe-ken*	use, using, with	prep
3	**sama**	*SA-ma*	same, like, equal	prep
4	**insa**	*IN-sa*	inside, centre, stomach	noun
5	**anpa**	*AN-pa*	below, low, humble	noun
6	**poka**	*PO-ka*	side, hip, near	noun
7	**sinpin**	*SIN-pin*	front, face, wall	noun
8	**monsi**	*MON-si*	back, behind, rear	noun
9	**weka**	*WE-ka*	away, absent, far	adj

#	TOKI PONA	SAY IT	MEANING	TYPE
10	**nena**	*NE-na*	hill, mountain, bump, nose	noun
11	**lete**	*LE-te*	cold, raw	adj
12	**moli**	*MO-li*	dead, die, kill	adj / verb
13	**namako**	*NA-ma-ko*	spice, extra, flavouring	noun
14	**musi**	*MU-si*	fun, play, art, game	adj / noun
15	**suwi**	*SU-wi*	sweet, cute, dear	adj

Real Toki Pona Tip — Reasons and Purposes

tan is not only "from a place": **mi pilin pona tan sina** is "I feel good because of you", and **tan seme?** is "why?". **tawa** likewise covers a purpose: **mi pali tawa sina** is "I work for you". When you meet an unfamiliar sentence, ask what each preposition is pointing from, to or with. That is the same economy that Constructed Languages 4 describes: a few small words carry the whole structure.

📜 Reading — lukin

mi kama tan ma lete. mi lon tomo sin. mi pali kepeken ilo. jan pona mi li lon poka mi. mi pilin pona tan ona.

I come from a cold land. I am at a new house. I work with a tool. My friend is beside me. I feel good because of her.

True or false? (a) The speaker's land is warm. (b) The speaker lives in a new house. (c) The friend is far away. (d) The speaker feels good because of the friend.

▼ Show answers

(a) False: **ma lete**. (b) True: **lon tomo sin**. (c) False: **lon poka mi**. (d) True: **mi pilin pona tan ona**.

✍️ Try It Yourself — pali

Say each answer out loud first, then click to check.

1. Say "I am inside the house" and "The bird is above the tree".

▼ Show answer

mi lon insa tomo. · **waso li lon sewi kasi.**

2. Say "I go to the market" and "I come from the hill".

▼ Show answer

mi tawa tomo esun. · **mi kama tan nena.**

3. Say "I cut bread with a tool" and "The person eats fruit beside the water".

▼ Show answer

mi kipisi e pan kepeken ilo. · **jan li moku e kili lon poka telo.**

4. Find the mistake: *mi lon e tomo*, *mi moku kepeken e ilo*, *mi tawa lon ma*.

▼ Show answer

No *e* after a preposition: **mi lon tomo** and **mi moku kepeken ilo**. For "I go to the land", use **mi tawa ma**; **mi tawa lon ma** would mean "I move about on the land".

5. Say "My friend is like you" and "My friend is far away".

▼ Show answer

jan pona mi li sama sina. · **jan pona mi li weka.**

6. Ask "Why are you sleeping?" and answer "Because I work".

▼ Show answer

sina lape tan seme? · **mi lape tan pali.** (literally "I sleep because of work")

Coming Up in Chapter 7

Numbers, colours and feelings: counting with **wan**, **tu**, **luka**, **mute**, the colour words, and the words for feelings and states, plus **nanpa** for order.

🔢 Numbers, Colours and Feelings — wan, tu, loje, pilin

Three small topics that every conversation needs: how many, what colour, and how someone feels. Toki Pona handles all three with a handful of words, and the numbers are the most unusual part, because the language only has names for a few of them. By the end you will count to a dozen or so, say what colour something is, put things in order, and describe how you feel.

🔢 Counting

The official numbers are very few. Anything else is built by adding them together:

WORD	NUMBER	SAY IT
wan	1	*wan*
tu	2	*tu*
luka	5 (also "hand")	*LU-ka*
mute	20 (also "many")	*MU-te*
ale	100 (also "all")	*A-le*

*Other numbers are made by adding: **tu wan** is 3 (2+1), **tu tu** is 4, **luka wan** is 6, **luka tu** is 7, **luka tu wan** is 8, **luka tu tu** is 9, and **luka luka** is 10. Beyond that, speakers use **mute** "many" and are content with an approximate count.*

> **Watch Out — Numbers Are Describing Words**
>
> A number goes after the noun, like any other describing word: **jan tu** "two people", **kili luka** "five fruits", **soweli tu wan** "three animals". A row of number words is *added up*: *tu wan* is 2 + 1 = 3, and *luka luka* is 5 + 5 = 10. Do not read it as a repeat or as multiplication. Keep your counts short; Toki Pona does not want you to track exact quantities that do not matter.

🥇 Order — nanpa

*To say "first", "second", and so on, put **nanpa** before the number: **jan nanpa wan** is "the first person", **tenpo nanpa tu** "the second time". The word nanpa on its own means "number".*

TOKI PONA	ENGLISH
jan nanpa wan	the first person
jan nanpa tu	the second person
tomo nanpa tu wan	the third house
nanpa li suli.	The number is big.

🎨 Colours

*Toki Pona has a small set of colour words, and each covers a wide range. The word for "colour" itself is **kule**.*

WORD	SAY IT	COLOURS IT COVERS
loje	*LO-ye*	red
jelo	*YE-lo*	yellow
laso	*LA-so*	blue and green
walo	*WA-lo*	white, pale
pimeja	*PI-me-ya*	black, dark
kule	*KU-le*	colour; colourful

*To mix, put two colours side by side: **loje jelo** "reddish-yellow" (orange). To say what colour a thing is: **len mi li loje**, "my clothes are red". Remember that blue and green are one word, **laso**: the sea and a leaf can both be described as laso, and context decides which.*

💗 Feelings and States

*Feelings use **pilin** followed by a describing word: **mi pilin pona** "I feel good", **mi pilin ike** "I feel bad". Bodily states often use the word directly as a verb.*

TOKI PONA	ENGLISH
mi pilin pona.	I feel good / happy.
mi pilin ike.	I feel bad / sad.
mi pilin wawa.	I feel strong / energetic.
mi pilin nasa.	I feel strange.
mi wile moku.	I am hungry (I want to eat).
mi wile lape.	I am sleepy (I want to sleep).
mi lete.	I am cold.
mi seli.	I am hot.

Real Toki Pona Tip — Feelings Are Soft

Toki Pona avoids exact feeling names such as "angry" or "jealous"; you use **pilin ike** "bad feeling" and let the situation fill in the rest. This is partly the creator's idea of thinking simply, as explained in Constructed Languages 4, and partly practical: the language has only about 120 words. If you really need more precision, say it as a sentence: **mi wile utala** "I want to fight" for anger.

💬 Five Short Dialogs

① How Many — mute ala mute?

A:

kili li mute ala mute?

Is there a lot of fruit?

② What Colour — kule seme?

A:

len sina li kule seme?

What colour are your clothes?

B:

kili tu wan.

Three fruits.

A:

mi wile e kili luka.

I want five fruits.

B:

len mi li loje.

My clothes are red.

B:

tomo mi li walo.

My house is white.

③ How Do You Feel — pilin

A:

sina pilin seme?

How do you feel?

B:

mi pilin ike. mi wile lape.

I feel bad. I am sleepy.

A:

sina lape pona!

Sleep well!

④ Who Won — nanpa wan

A:

jan nanpa wan li seme?

Who is the first person?

B:

mi jan nanpa wan.

I am the first.

A:

sina wawa!

You are strong!

⑤ At the Market — esun

A:

mi wile e pan tu.

I want two loaves of bread.

B:

pona. sina pana e mani luka.

Good. You give five coins.

A:

pona!

Thanks!

📖 Vocabulary — nimi

7 new words from the official 120, plus the number words above. Stress is on the first syllable.

#	TOKI PONA	SAY IT	MEANING	TYPE
1	**tu**	*tu*	two; divide	number
2	**nanpa**	*NAN-pa*	number; ordinal marker	noun
3	**kule**	*KU-le*	colour; colourful	adj / noun
4	**loje**	*LO-ye*	red	adj
5	**jelo**	*YE-lo*	yellow	adj
6	**laso**	*LA-so*	blue, green	adj
7	**walo**	*WA-lo*	white, light-coloured	adj

Watch Out — Two Counting Systems

The numbers above (1, 2, 5, 20, 100) are the **official** ones from *pu*. Some community speakers use a longer system, with **nanpa** and other words, or simply write digits. If you read a Toki Pona text with a number you do not recognise, the author is probably using one of these extensions. This is the sort of growth discussed in Constructed Languages 11: a small core, with the community adding what it needs.

📜 Reading — lukin

jan tu li lon tomo mi. jan nanpa wan li jo e len loje. jan nanpa tu li jo e len laso. mi pilin pona.

Two people are at my house. The first person has red clothes. The second person has blue clothes. I feel good.

True or false? (a) Three people are at the house. (b) The first person's clothes are red. (c) The second person's clothes are white. (d) The speaker feels bad.

▼ Show answers

(a) False: **jan tu** is two. (b) True: **len loje**. (c) False: **len laso**, blue (or green). (d) False: **mi pilin pona**.

✍️ Try It Yourself — pali

Say each answer out loud first, then click to check.

1. Say the numbers 3, 4, 6 and 10 in Toki Pona.

▼ Show answer

tu wan (3) · **tu tu** (4) · **luka wan** (6) · **luka luka** (10)

2. Say "four birds" and "the second house".

▼ Show answer

waso tu tu · **tomo nanpa tu**

3. Say "The bird is red", "The tree is green" and "The moon is white".

▼ Show answer

waso li loje. · **kasi li laso.** · **mun li walo.**

4. Say "I feel strong" and "I am cold and I want to sleep".

▼ Show answer

mi pilin wawa. · **mi lete. mi wile lape.**

5. Ask "What colour is your house?" and "How many people are here?" (use *mute ala mute*).

▼ Show answer

tomo sina li kule seme? · **jan li mute ala mute?**

6. Why is **luka luka** "ten" and not "five five"? What would happen if you said *jan luka luka*?

▼ Show answer

Number words in a row are added: 5 + 5 = 10. So **jan luka luka** is "ten people".

Coming Up in Chapter 8

Commands, wishes and joining sentences: the particle **o** for commands, **en** and **anu** to join subjects, **taso** "but", and **la** for "if" and "when".

📣 Commands and Joining — o, en, taso, la

You can now describe, ask and tell. This chapter adds four small words that make speech flow: ***o*** *to give a command or make a wish,* ***en*** *to join subjects ("you and I"),* ***taso*** *to say "but", and* ***la*** *to say "if" or "when". With them you can give an order, join two ideas and set the scene. It also revisits three helper verbs,* ***ken****,* ***kama*** *and* ***awen****, that sit before another verb.*

📣 Commands — o

A command or wish starts with ***o****, which takes the place of li. The listener is usually not named:*

TOKI PONA	ENGLISH
o kama!	Come!
o moku e pan.	Eat the bread.
o tawa ala!	Do not go!
sina o lape.	You, sleep! (naming the one you speak to)
jan Mali o, kama!	Mali, come!

Putting the person's name before ***o*** *and a comma after it addresses someone directly:* ***jan Mali o, kama!****. When the subject is some other person or thing,* ***o*** *works as a wish or a polite "let":* ***ona o pona!*** *"May she be well!".*

> **Watch Out — o Replaces li, It Does Not Add to It**
>
> Never write *li o*. In a command, **o** stands where *li* would stand: **sina o moku**, not *sina li o moku*. With **mi** the same rule gives a polite suggestion: **mi o tawa** "I should go", and with **mi mute**, **mi mute o tawa** "let us go".

➕ Joining Subjects — en

__en__ joins two subjects, like "and" between people or things. A subject made with en always takes __li__, even if the first part is mi or sina:

TOKI PONA	ENGLISH
mi en sina li pona.	You and I are well.
kala en waso li moku.	The fish and the bird eat.
jan pona mi en jan pona sina li lon tomo.	My friend and your friend are at the house.

en joins subjects __only__. To join objects, repeat __e__ (Chapter 4: mi moku e pan e kili). To join two actions by the same subject, repeat __li__: __ona li moku li lape__, "he eats and sleeps".

🔀 Joining Sentences — taso, anu

Toki Pona has no long word for "and" between whole sentences: it just puts them side by side. For contrast, __taso__ "but" starts the second sentence, and __anu__ "or" (Chapter 5) gives a choice:

TOKI PONA	ENGLISH
mi wile moku. taso mi jo ala e pan.	I want to eat. But I have no bread.
sina wile tawa anu awen?	Do you want to go or to stay?
ona li lili. taso ona li wawa.	He is small. But he is strong.

🎬 Setting the Scene — la

__la__ splits a sentence into a setting and a main point: whatever comes before __la__ is the context, the "if", "when" or "as for", and the rest is what is said. It is the main way to say "if" and "when".

TOKI PONA	ENGLISH
tenpo suno la mi pali.	In the daytime, I work.

TOKI PONA	ENGLISH
tenpo pimeja la mi lape.	At night I sleep.
sina wile moku la o moku e pan.	If you are hungry, eat bread.
ken la mi lukin e sina.	Perhaps I will see you.

*The part before la can be a time phrase, a whole sentence, or one word such as **ken** "possibly". The part after it can be any sentence, including a command.*

> **Watch Out — la Is Not Placed Between Equal Halves**
>
> The setting always comes **first**. A sentence like *mi pali la tenpo suno* would mean "if I work, then (it is) daytime" which is not what you meant. When you want "I work in the daytime", you can use either **tenpo suno la mi pali** or a preposition: **mi pali lon tenpo suno** (Chapter 6).

🧰 Helper Verbs — ken, kama, awen

*Three verbs combine with another verb, just as wile did in Chapter 4: **wile** "want to", **ken** "can", **kama** "come to / become", **awen** "keep, remain". No e and no li sits between them and the next verb:*

TOKI PONA	ENGLISH
mi ken moku e kala.	I can eat fish.
mi kama sona e toki pona.	I am learning Toki Pona (I come to know it).
mi awen lape.	I keep sleeping.
ona li kama pona.	He gets better.

💬 Five Short Dialogs

① Orders — o

A:

② You and Me — en

A:

o kama!

Come!

B:

mi kama.

I am coming.

A:

o moku e pan. o moku ala e kala.

Eat the bread. Do not eat the fish.

mi en sina li pona.

You and I are friends / well.

B:

jan pona mi en jan pona sina li lon tomo.

My friend and your friend are at the house.

A:

mi mute o tawa!

Let us go!

③ But — taso

A:

mi wile moku. taso mi jo ala e pan.

I want to eat. But I have no bread.

B:

mi jo e kili.

I have fruit.

A:

pona!

Thanks!

④ If and When — la

A:

tenpo suno la mi pali.

In the daytime I work.

B:

tenpo pimeja la mi lape.

At night I sleep.

A:

sina wile moku la o moku e pan.

If you are hungry, eat bread.

⑤ Learning — kama sona

A:

sina kama sona e toki pona.

You are learning Toki Pona.

B:

mi ken toki. taso mi sona ala e nimi mute.

I can talk. But I do not know many words.

A:

o awen!

Keep going!

📖 Vocabulary — nimi

4 new words from the official 120, plus three helper verbs for review. Stress is on the first syllable.

#	TOKI PONA	SAY IT	MEANING	TYPE
1	**o**	*o*	(command or wish); calling someone	particle
2	**en**	*en*	and (between subjects)	particle
3	**taso**	*TA-so*	but; only	particle
4	**la**	*la*	(setting: if, when, as for)	particle
5	**ken**	*ken*	can; possible	verb
6	**kama**	*KA-ma*	come; become; come to	verb
7	**awen**	*A-wen*	stay; keep; continue	verb

Real Toki Pona Tip — taso Can Mean "Only"

The word **taso** does two jobs. At the start of a sentence it means "but": **taso mi jo ala e pan**. After a noun it means "only": **jan taso** "only a person" or "just one person". This is the same position rule as in Chapter 3: a word's job is read from where it stands. The small number of particles (*li, e, o, en, la, taso, anu*) is what Constructed Languages 4 calls the grammar of the language: seven words that handle nearly everything.

📜 Reading — lukin

tenpo suno la mi pali. mi en jan pona mi li moku e pan. taso mi wile moku e kili. tenpo pimeja la mi lape. o pona tawa sina!

In the daytime I work. My friend and I eat bread. But I want to eat fruit. At night I sleep. May things be good for you!

True or false? (a) The speaker works at night. (b) Two people eat bread. (c) The speaker wants fish. (d) The speaker sleeps at night.

▼ Show answers

(a) False: **tenpo suno la mi pali**, in the daytime. (b) True: **mi en jan pona mi li moku e pan**. (c) False: the speaker wants fruit (**kili**). (d) True: **tenpo pimeja la mi lape**.

✍️ Try It Yourself — pali

Say each answer out loud first, then click to check.

1. Give three commands: "Come here", "Do not eat the fish", "Sleep!"

▼ Show answer

o kama! · **o moku ala e kala!** · **o lape!**

2. Say "The bird and the animal are small" and "You and I work".

▼ Show answer

waso en soweli li lili. · **mi en sina li pali.** (*li* after an *en* subject, even with *mi*)

3. Join with *taso*: "I am small. I am strong." and "I want food. I have no money."

▼ Show answer

mi lili. taso mi wawa. · **mi wile e moku. taso mi jo ala e mani.**

4. Use *la*: "At night I sleep in the house" and "If you are cold, eat hot food."

▼ Show answer

tenpo pimeja la mi lape lon tomo. · **sina lete la o moku e moku seli.**

5. Fix the mistake: *sina li o kama, mi en sina pona, mi pali la tenpo suno.*

▼ Show answer

sina o kama (*o* replaces *li*). **mi en sina li pona** (*li* after an *en* subject). **tenpo suno la mi pali** (the setting comes first).

6. Say "I can see the moon", "I am becoming strong" and "I keep working".

▼ Show answer

mi ken lukin e mun. · **mi kama wawa.** · **mi awen pali.**

Coming Up in Chapter 9

Names and writing: the particle **pi** that regroups describing words, how to make a Toki Pona version of a name, capital letters for names, and the hieroglyphic script *sitelen pona* in outline.

🏷️ Names and Writing — pi, jan Mali, sitelen pona

*Two loose ends remain. First, the one particle you have not met, **pi**, which regroups describing words. Second, how to handle names of people, places and languages, which Toki Pona deliberately leaves out of its 120 words. The chapter ends with a short look at the language's own writing system. By the end you will form phrases such as "a builder of new houses", say where you come from, name your language, and recognise the hieroglyphic script.*

🔗 The Particle pi

*In Chapter 3 you learned that each describing word narrows the whole phrase to its left. So **tomo telo suli** is "a big bathroom": tomo telo is the bathroom, and suli describes that. Sometimes you want a describing word to apply to a **group**. **pi** opens that group:*

TOKI PONA	STRUCTURE	ENGLISH
jan pona mute	[[jan pona] mute]	many good people
jan pali pi tomo sin	jan pali + pi [tomo sin]	a builder of new houses
kulupu pi jan pona	kulupu + pi [jan pona]	a community of friends
ilo pi pali tomo	ilo + pi [pali tomo]	a tool for house-building

*Read **pi** as "of the following group", with the group being two or more words.*

> **Watch Out — Use pi Only With Two Or More Words After It**
>
> **pi** introduces a group, so it needs at least two words after it. Never write *tomo pi sin* or *jan pi pona*: with a single word, the usual order works (**tomo sin**, **jan pona**). Also, the word right after *pi* is the head of the new group, and the second word describes it: **tomo pi telo suli** is "a house of big water", not "a big house of water". And a pronoun can never start a *pi* group: say **jan pona mi** "my friend", not *jan pi pona mi*.

👤 Names

*A name of a person, place or language is a **proper adjective**. It follows a common noun and always begins with a capital letter. Names are not part of the official vocabulary, so a speaker changes a name to fit Toki Pona's sounds: only the 14 letters, syllables of the shape (C)V(n), and no letters outside the set.*

THE REAL NAME	IN TOKI PONA	USE
Mary	**jan Mali**	a person
Peter	**jan Pita**	a person
Canada	**ma Kanata**	a country (*ma* = land)
Germany	**ma Tosi**	a country
Mexico	**ma Mesiko**	a country
English	**toki Inli**	a language (*toki* = language)
Esperanto	**toki Epelanto**	a language

*To make a name, listen to the sounds, then write them with Toki Pona letters and syllables. Replace sounds you do not have by the nearest ones: f by p, b by p, d by t, g by k, r by l, h is dropped or becomes k, v by w, z by s. Break up clusters by adding a vowel. So "Philip" becomes **Pilipo**. The choice is yours: different speakers may spell the same name slightly differently, and that is fine.*

> **Real Toki Pona Tip — The Capital Letter Matters**
>
> The only capital letters in Toki Pona are for names. They mark a word as a name, not an official word. **jan Mali** is the person called Mali, and **toki Inli** is the English language. Without the capital, a reader would look for *mali* or *inli* in the list of 120 words and not find them. Compare Constructed Languages 8, which describes spelling rules as part of a language's design.

✍️ The Script — sitelen pona

Toki Pona is normally written in Latin letters, as in this course. It also has its own hieroglyphic script, ***sitelen pona*** *("good writing"), designed by Sonja Lang, in which each of the 120 words has its own small picture-like sign. A name is written in a frame, called a cartouche, with letters inside. The script is displayed with a special font and can be written by hand, which makes it popular in art. A second, very elaborate, script,* ***sitelen sitelen****, packs a whole sentence into one decorated shape. You do not need either for this course. Both come up in Constructed Languages 8 as examples of a designed writing system.*

Five Short Dialogs

① Names — nimi

A:

nimi mi li Mali. nimi sina li seme?

My name is Mali. What is your name?

B:

nimi mi li Pita.

My name is Peter.

A:

toki, jan Pita!

Hello, Peter!

② Where From — ma

A:

sina kama tan ma seme?

Which country do you come from?

B:

mi kama tan ma Kanata.

I come from Canada.

A:

ma Kanata li pona!

Canada is good!

③ Which Languages — toki

A:

sina toki e toki seme?

Which languages do you speak?

B:

mi toki e toki Inli e toki pona.

I speak English and Toki Pona.

A:

mi toki e toki Epelanto kin.

④ A Group — pi

A:

sina jan seme?

What kind of person are you?

B:

mi jan pali pi tomo sin.

I am a builder of new houses.

A:

kulupu pi jan pali li pona.

I speak Esperanto too.

A community of workers is good.

⑤ Writing — sitelen

A:

sina ken ala ken sitelen e nimi sina?

Can you write your name?

B:

ken. mi sitelen e nimi mi lon lipu.

Yes. I write my name on paper.

A:

sitelen pona li suwi!

The sitelen pona script is lovely!

📖 Vocabulary — nimi

The last particle of the language, plus the words that turn up most with names. Stress is on the first syllable.

#	TOKI PONA	SAY IT	MEANING	TYPE
1	**pi**	*pi*	(regroups the words that follow)	particle
2	**nimi**	*NI-mi*	word, name	noun
3	**ma**	*ma*	land, country, place	noun
4	**toki**	*TO-ki*	language, talk	noun
5	**sitelen**	*SI-te-len*	write, draw; picture, writing	verb / noun
6	**lipu**	*LI-pu*	paper, book, page	noun

*Only **pi** is new here; the rest are from earlier chapters and are the words you will use most when talking about names and writing.*

Watch Out — Not Every Name Needs a Common Noun

You can use a name on its own as a subject: **Mali li pona** "Mali is good". But before a common noun it acts as a describing word, so keep the noun first: **jan Mali**, **ma Kanata**, **toki Inli**. Putting the name first (*Mali jan*) would make "the person-like Mali".

📜 Reading — lukin

toki! nimi mi li Mali. mi kama tan ma Kanata. mi toki e toki Inli e toki pona. mi jan pali pi tomo sin. mi sitelen e nimi mi lon lipu.

Hello! My name is Mali. I come from Canada. I speak English and Toki Pona. I am a builder of new houses. I write my name on paper.

True or false? (a) The speaker's name is Peter. (b) The speaker is from Canada. (c) The speaker builds old houses. (d) The speaker speaks two languages.

▼ Show answers

(a) False: **nimi mi li Mali**. (b) True: **ma Kanata**. (c) False: **tomo sin**, new houses. (d) True: **toki Inli** and **toki pona**.

✍️ Try It Yourself — pali

Say each answer out loud first, then click to check.

1. Turn "Anna", "Tom" and "Sam" into Toki Pona names, and say "My name is ..." for one of them.

▼ Show answer

One possible set: **Ana**, **Tomo** (note that *tomo* is also a word, but a capital marks it as a name), **Sami**. **nimi mi li Ana.** Other spellings are fine if they follow the sound rules.

2. Say "I speak German" and "My friend is from Mexico".

▼ Show answer

mi toki e toki Tosi. · **jan pona mi li kama tan ma Mesiko.**

3. Use *pi*: "a tool for fishing" (fish + hunt), "a house of strong people".

▼ Show answer

ilo pi alasa kala · **tomo pi jan wawa**

4. Which of these are correct, and why: *jan pi pona*, *tomo pi telo suli*, *jan pona mi*?

▼ Show answer

jan pi pona is wrong (a single word after *pi*; write **jan pona**). **tomo pi telo suli** is correct ("a house of big water"). **jan pona mi** is correct ("my friend").

5. Fix the mistake: *mali jan*, *ma kanata*, *toki inli*.

▼ Show answer

jan Mali · **ma Kanata** · **toki Inli** (common noun first, name second, name with a capital).

6. Introduce yourself fully: your name, your country, and your languages.

▼ Show answer

For example: **toki! nimi mi li Mali. mi kama tan ma Kanata. mi toki e toki Inli e toki pona.** Use your own name and country.

Coming Up in Chapter 10

The finale: a short conversation and a short story using everything you have learned, the community and its extra words, where to keep learning, and a recap of the whole course.

🌟 Putting It Together — toki pona li pona!

*You now have every part of the language: the sounds, pronouns, **li** and **e**, questions, prepositions, numbers, colours, commands, joining words and names. This last chapter puts them together. You will read a full conversation, read a short story, learn how the Toki Pona community works and how it has added to the language, and see where to go next. The chapter ends with a recap of the whole course.*

💬 A Full First Conversation

Two people meet for the first time. Every sentence uses only things you have learned.

① Meeting — toki!

A:

toki! nimi mi li Mali. sina jan seme?

Hello! My name is Mali. Who are you?

B:

toki, jan Mali! nimi mi li Pita.

Hello, Mali! My name is Peter.

A:

sina kama tan ma seme?

Which country do you come from?

B:

mi kama tan ma Kanata. sina kama tan ma seme?

I come from Canada. And you?

A:

mi kama tan ma Tosi.

I come from Germany.

② Getting to Know You — toki e toki

B:

sina toki e toki seme?

Which languages do you speak?

A:

mi toki e toki Tosi e toki Inli. mi kama sona e toki pona.

I speak German and English. I am learning Toki Pona.

B:

pona! mi toki e toki pona kin.

Good! I speak Toki Pona too.

③ A Meal Together — moku

B:

sina wile ala wile moku?

Are you hungry?

A:

wile. mi wile e pan e kili.

Yes. I want bread and fruit.

B:

mi jo e pan. taso mi jo ala e kili.

I have bread. But I have no fruit.

A:

mi tawa tomo esun la mi esun e kili.

When I go to the market, I will buy fruit.

④ Asking for Help — o

A:

jan Pita o, sina ken ala ken pali e ni?

Peter, can you do this?

B:

ken. o lukin e mi.

I can. Watch me.

A:

pona a!

Great!

⑤ Parting — tawa pona

A:

mi tawa. tenpo kama la mi lukin e sina.

I am going. I will see you next time.

B:

tawa pona, jan Mali!

Go well, Mali!

A:

lon pona, jan Pita!

Stay well, Peter!

📖 A Short Story — lipu musi

The story below uses only words and patterns from this course. Read it once for the shape, then again with the English line.

waso lili — The Little Bird

waso lili li lon sewi kasi. ona li wile moku.

A little bird is in the top of a tree. It wants to eat.

ona li lukin e kili loje lon anpa kasi. ona li tawa anpa.

It sees red fruit at the foot of the tree. It goes down.

soweli suli li lon poka kili. waso li pilin ike.

A big animal is beside the fruit. The bird feels bad.

taso soweli li lape. waso li moku e kili.

But the animal is asleep. The bird eats the fruit.

kili li suwi! waso lili li pilin pona. ona li tawa sewi.

The fruit is sweet! The little bird feels good. It flies up.

🌎 The Community and Its Extra Words

Toki Pona is a living language with a community of thousands of speakers online, who talk, write and play with it. Because 120 words cannot cover everything, the community has added to the language in several ways:

WHAT	HOW IT WORKS	EXAMPLE
Names	Names are written in the Toki Pona alphabet and capitalised (Chapter 9)	**jan Mali**, **ma Kanata**
Compound meanings	A noun plus describing words builds a new sense (Chapter 3)	**tomo telo** "bathroom"
Extra words	Some speakers use a few words from outside the official 120, often called "nasin sin" (new way) words	**misikeke** "medicine", **leko** "block"
Reference books	The official book *pu* (2014) and a later dictionary, *ku* (2021), based on how speakers actually use the words	*pu*, *ku*

This is the "fixed core, open growth" pattern described in Constructed Languages 11: a stable foundation (the 120 words and the grammar) with an open edge where the community decides what to

adopt. Many speakers stay with the official 120 only.

Real Toki Pona Tip — Where to Practise

The best next step is to use the language. Look for online Toki Pona communities (forums and chat servers), the community dictionary Linku, and Sonja Lang's own site, and try writing a few lines every day. Short, honest sentences are better than long ones, because the aim is to say what you mean in the simplest way. You can also reread Constructed Languages 4 for the language's design, and take Introduction to Linguistics for the ideas behind every chapter.

🎓 Course Complete: What You Can Now Do

CHAPTER	YOU CAN …
1 Hello, Toki Pona	read the 14 sounds, greet and give a short reply
2 First Sentences	use *mi, sina, ona* and know when *li* is dropped
3 Words With Many Jobs	read a word's job from its position and build phrases
4 Actions and Objects	mark objects with *e* and negate with *ala*
5 Questions and Answers	ask yes/no questions, use *seme* and *anu*, and answer
6 Places and Tools	use *lon, tawa, tan, kepeken, sama*
7 Numbers, Colours and Feelings	count, name colours and say how you feel
8 Commands and Joining	give commands, join subjects and sentences, and set a scene with *la*
9 Names and Writing	regroup with *pi*, adapt names and recognise the script
10 Putting It Together	hold a conversation and read a short story

Common Mistakes to Avoid

The four most frequent slips: **mi li pona** (no *li* after bare *mi*); a missing **e** before an object; **pi** before a single word; and **la** in the wrong position. If your sentence works without any of these, you are

probably fine.

📜 Reading — lukin

A last text, a letter, using only what you know.

> toki, jan pona mi! mi lon tomo sin lon ma Kanata. tomo li suli. kon li lete. taso mi pilin pona. mi kama sona e toki pona. o kama lukin e mi! tawa pona.
>
> Hello, my friend! I am in a new house in Canada. The house is big. The air is cold. But I feel good. I am learning Toki Pona. Come and see me! Go well.

True or false? (a) The writer is in a new house. (b) The weather is hot. (c) The writer is unhappy. (d) The writer invites the friend.

▼ Show answers

(a) True: **tomo sin**. (b) False: **kon li lete**, the air is cold. (c) False: **mi pilin pona**. (d) True: **o kama lukin e mi!**

✍️ Try It Yourself — pali

Say each answer out loud first, then click to check.

1. Write a short introduction of yourself with at least five sentences: name, country, languages, a feeling, and a goodbye.

▼ Show answer

For example: **toki! nimi mi li Mali. mi kama tan ma Kanata. mi toki e toki Inli e toki pona. mi pilin pona. tawa pona!** Your version will differ; check it against the rules for *li*, *e* and capitals.

2. Translate: "At night I sleep in a cold house. In the daytime I eat bread and work with a tool."

▼ Show answer

tenpo pimeja la mi lape lon tomo lete. tenpo suno la mi moku e pan e pali kepeken ilo. (several correct versions exist)

3. Ask three questions to a new friend: where they come from, whether they like fruit, and what their name is.

▼ Show answer

sina kama tan ma seme? · **sina wile ala wile e kili?** · **nimi sina li seme?**

4. Write a four-sentence story of your own about an animal, using at least one *taso*, one *la* and one colour.

▼ Show answer

For example: **soweli laso li lon ma. ona li wile moku. taso moku li weka. tenpo pimeja la ona li lape.** ("A green animal is on the land. It wants to eat. But the food is far away. At night it sleeps.")

5. Find and fix every mistake: *mi li wile pan*, *jan pi pona li lukin mi*, *mi kama tan ma kanata*.

▼ Show answer

mi wile e pan (no *li* after *mi*; *e* before the object). **jan pona li lukin e mi** (no *pi* with one word; add *e*). **mi kama tan ma Kanata** (capital for a name).

6. Which Toki Pona ideas are the hardest for you, and which are the most useful? Write two sentences, one for each.

▼ Show answer

There is no single right answer. Check that you used the patterns from Chapters 2 to 4, for example **toki li ike tawa mi.** ("Talking is bad for me.") and **sitelen li pona tawa mi.** ("Writing is good for me.").

Course Complete

You have finished **Toki Pona 1**. If you want more, try *Esperanto Basic Conversation 1* for a larger designed language, *Klingon Basic Conversation 1* for a very different one, or *Constructed Languages* for the big picture. **pona!**