

Ol tok ples bilong Papua Niugini

Languages of Papua New Guinea

Papua New Guinea is one of the most linguistically diverse places in the world. It has close to 900 different tok ples (indigenous languages) that can be very different from village to village.

Papua New Guinea Pidgin is the main language spoken in Papua New Guinea and is estimated to be spoken by three-quarters of the population.

It evolved historically from contact and trade with European sailors, British and German colonists and people from different regions around Papua New Guinea and the wider Pacific. It was used particularly by indigenous workers who were taken to work on colonial plantations.

It is a mix of English, Indigenous languages (most notably Tolai tok ples), German and some Malay and Portuguese vocabulary.

Within Papua New Guinea Pidgin, there are regional variations including distinct dialects in the Niugini Highlands, North Coast Niugini and the Niugini Islands.

Today it is a first language for some, though many people still speak their local tok ples.

Papua New Guinea Pidgin belongs to the same Melanesian language family as Solomon Islands Pidgin and Vanuatu Bislama.

Hiri Motu (a tok ples of people residing around the capital city, Port Moresby) and Tok Inglis (English) are also official languages of Papua New Guinea.

NEK BILONG TOK PISIN *SOUNDS OF TOK PISIN*

Vowels

Aa Ee Ii Oo Uu

These have the same pronunciation as other Pacific languages, including Te Reo Māori.

Consonants

**Bb Dd Ff Gg Hh Kk Ll Mm
Nn Pp Rr Ss Tt Vv Ww Yy**

These have the same pronunciation as in English.

Alfabet bilong Tok Pisin *Pidgin alphabet*

There are 21 letters in the Tok Pisin alphabet.

Aa

Abus
Meat

Bb

Bilas
Adornment

Dd

Diwai
Tree / wood

Ee

Em tasol
That's all

Ff

Faiv
Five

Gg

Garamut
Slit drum

Hh

Haus sik
Hospital

Ii

Isi isi
Carefully

Kk

Kalap
Jump

Ll

Laplap
Wraparound cloth

Mm

Maus gras
Moustache

Nn

Natnat
Mosquito

Oo

Oltaim
Always

Pp

Paia
Fire

Rr

Rokrok
Frog

Ss

Solwara
Ocean

Tt

Tinpis
Tinned fish

Uu

Umben
Net

Vv

Vot
Vote

Ww

Wantok
*Mate/
close friend*

Yy

Yau
Ear

Toktok bilong olgeta de *Everyday phrases*

Common Phrases

Halo	<i>Greetings / Hello</i>
Halo olgeta	<i>Greetings, everyone</i>
Welkam	<i>Welcome</i>
Gutbai / Lukim yu	<i>Goodbye</i>
Lukim yu bihain	<i>See you later</i>
Plis	<i>Please</i>
Tenkyu	<i>Thank you</i>
Sori / sore	<i>Sorry</i>
Eskius	<i>Excuse me</i>
Yes	<i>Yes</i>
Nogat	<i>No</i>
Bikpela amamas long yu!	<i>Congratulations! (singular)</i>
Bikpela amamas long yupela!	<i>Congratulations! (plural)</i>
Mi laikim yu tru!	<i>I love you!</i>

Toktok bilong olgeta de *Everyday phrases*

In Conversation

Wanem nem blo yu?

What is your name?

Nem blo mi em _____

My name is _____

Yu blo we?

Where are you from?

Mi blo _____

I am from _____

Gutpla long bungim yu

Good to meet you

Yu stap orait?

How are you?

Mi _____

I am _____

Orait, Amamas, Belhevi / Sori,
Belhat / Kros

Fine, Happy, Sad, Angry

Yu kaikai tu o? Kam yumi kaikai!

Have you eaten? Come let's eat!

Mipela wan solwara!

We are one ocean!

People

Famili

Family

Papa, Mama

Father, Mother

Bubu

Grandparent/Older family

Pikinini, Pikinini man, Pikinini meri

Children, Son, Daughter

Susa, Brata

Sister, Brother

Tambu

In-law

Poroman, Poromeri

Male friend, Female friend

Tumbuna

Ancestor

