



PAPUA NIUGINI TOK PISIN

A brief guide to reading and speaking the Papua New Guinea Pidgin language

PACIFIC LANGUAGE WEEKS







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 Nuigini 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 li 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
<i>,</i> 10

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

li

lsi isi Carefully

Kk

Kalap *Jump*

LI

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



Yau Ear

Toktok bilong olgeta de Everyday phrases

Common Phrases

Halo Greetings / Hello

Halo olgeta Greetings, everyone

Welkam Welcome

Gutbai / Lukim yu Goodbye

Lukim yu bihain See you later

Plis Please

Tenkyu Thank you

Sori / sore Sorry

Eskius Excuse me

Yes Yes

Nogat No

Bikpela amamas long yu! Congratulations! (singular)

Bikpela amamas long yupela! Congratulations! (plural)

Mi laikim yu tru! I love you!

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, Fine, Happy, Sad, Angry Belhat / Kros 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 Grandparent/Older family Bubu Pikinini, Pikinini man, Pikinini meri Children, Son, Daughter Susa, Brata Sister, Brother Tambu In-law Poroman, Poromeri Male friend, Female friend Tumbuna Ancestor



Faith is an important aspect of the Papua New Guinean culture.

Below is a short prayer and hymn that can be used at the start of your day, to open a meeting or small gathering.

Beten Prayer

Yumi beten

Papa blo mipela I stap long heven

Mipela askim long ol blesin bilong yu long dispela wik

Long yumi olgeta wan wan

Long nem blo Jisas yumi beten

Tru / Amen

Let us pray

Our heavenly father

We ask for your blessings this week

To each and every one of us

In Jesus name we pray.

Singsing Bilong Lotu Hymn

Papa God laikim mi

Na olgeta gutpela samting

mi lukim

Renbo i lait insait long windo

bilong mi

God bilong mi laikim mi

My God loves me

And all the wonders I see

The rainbow shines through my window

My God loves me.

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Ministry for Pacific Peoples

