



# PAPUA NIUGINI TOK PISIN

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

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**PACIFIC LANGUAGE WEEKS**  
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# 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.

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### 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*

## 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

*Let us pray*

Papa blo mipela I stap long heven

*Our heavenly father*

Mipela askim long ol blesin bilong yu long dispela wik

*We ask for your blessings this week*

Long yumi olgeta wan wan

*To each and every one of us*

Long nem blo Jisas yumi beten

*In Jesus name we pray.*

Tru / Amen

*Amen*

### Singsing Bilong Lotu Hymn

Papa God laikim mi

*My God loves me*

Na olgeta gutpela samting mi lukim

*And all the wonders I see*

Renbo i lait insait long windo bilong mi

*The rainbow shines through my window*

God bilong mi laikim mi

*My God loves me.*