

Samoan Language (Gagana Samoa) Pronunciation Guide

The core Samoan alphabet is comprised of just 14 letters:

- the consonants F, G, L, M, N, P, S, T and V; and
- the vowels A, E, I, O and U.

The letters K, H and R are also used, but usually for foreign loanwords and/or for colloquial language.

Vowels can be long or short. Long vowels are marked with a macron (e.g. ā).

Vowels are pronounced as follows:

Vowel	Long	Short
A	bath	but
E	eh	bet
I	feet	eat
O	raw	order
U	loot	to

While there are only five vowels, combinations of vowels (diphthongs) are common e.g. au, ao, ea, oi, ua.

Samoan consonants are pronounced the same as in English, with the exception of G which sounds like the NG in the word 'song'.

In addition there is the glottalstop, which is designated by an apostrophe '.

Basic Greetings and Phrases

welcome	afio mai
hello	talofa, malo
good bye	tofa, soifua
good night	manuia le po
good day	manuia le aso
excuse me	tulou lava
thank you	fa'afetai
please	fa'amolemole

*For further information about Samoan pronunciation visit:
<http://samoan.manuatele.net/>*