



# TOK PIJIN

A QUICK GUIDE TO SPEAKING PIJIN

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# PRONOUNCIATION

## Vowels

a - as in 'arm' (e.g. dadi - father)

a - as in 'hut' (e.g. barava - really, extremely)

e - as in 'bed' (e.g. bekem - to bake)

e - as in 'plate' (e.g. tekem - to take)

i - as in 'hit' (e.g. filim - to feel, to experience)

i - as in 'Israel' (e.g. isi - easy)

i - as in 'machine' (e.g. mifala - we)

o - as in 'hot' (e.g. dokta - doctor)

o - as in 'old' (e.g. oloman - old man)

u - as in 'put' (e.g. kurukuru - pigeon)

u - as in 'tool' (e.g. hu - who)

u - as in 'tulip' (e.g. tufala - two of)

## Diphthongs

ae - as in 'aye' (e.g. taem - time)

ao - as in 'plough' (e.g. haos - house)

ei - as in 'vein' (e.g. pein - pain)

ia - as in 'fear' (e.g. ia - ear)

oe - as in 'boy' (e.g. boe - boy)

oa - as in 'more' e.g. doa - door)

ou - as in 'low' (e.g. slou - slow)

# NUMBERS

## Cardinal Numbers

One	wan / wanfala
Two	tu / tufala
Three	tri / trifala
Four	fo / fofala
Five	faev / faev-fala
Six	sikis / siks / sikisfala
Seven	seven / sevenfala
Eight	eit / eitfala
Nine	naen / naenfala
Ten	ten / tenfala
Eleven	ileven / ilevenfala
Twelve	tuel / tuelv / tuelfala
Thirteen	tetin / tetinfala
Fourteen	fotin / fotinfala
Fifteen	flftin / fiftinfala
Sixteen	sikistin / sikistinfala
Seventeen	seventin / seventinfala
Eighteen	eitin / eitinfala
Nineteen	naenteen / naenteenfala
Twenty	twenti/twentifala
Thirty one	teti wan
One hundred	wan handret
Thousand	taosen / taosenfala
Million	milion / milionfala

## **Repetitive Numbers**

once	wan/wanfala taem
twice	tu/tufala taem
three times	tri/trifala taem

## **Ordinal Numbers**

First	mek one/ fest wan
Second	mek tu
Third	mek tri
Fourth	mek fo
Fifth	mek faev
Sixth	mek sikis
Seventh	mek seven
Eighth	mek eit
Ninth	mek naen
Tenth	mek ten
Eleventh	mek ileven
Twelfth	mek twelv
Twentieth	mek twenti
Thirty first	mek teti wan
Seventeenth	mek seventin
Eighteenth	mek etin
Nineteenth	mek naentin

## **Distributive Numbers**

each or every	wanfala / evriwan
each two or every two	evri tufala
each three or every three	evri trifala

# DAYS & DATES

## Days of the Week

Monday	Mande
Tuesday	Tiusde
Wednesday	Wensde
Thursday	Tesde/Tosde
Friday	Fraide
Saturday	Satade
Sunday	Sande

## Months of the Year

January	Januari
February	Febuari
March	Mas
April	Epril / Eprol / Eprolo
May	Mei
June	Jun
July	Julai
August	Ogast / Ogas
September	Septemba
October	Oktoba
November	Novemba
December	Disemba

## Dates

The 25th of December 1999 - (25 Dec 99)

**\*Meke 25 dei long manis Disemba long iia 1999.**

**\*Namba 25 lo Disemba 1999.**

# TIME

## Time

day	dei
week	wik / wiki
fortnight	fotnaet
month	manis
year	iia
tomorrow	tumoro
yesterday	iestede
day after tomorrow	neks tumoro
day before yesterday	las iestede
minute	minit
hour	aoa

## Times of Day

12 Midnight/Midday	12 kilok
1 am/pm	1 kilok
2 am/pm	2 kilok
3 am/pm	3 kilok
4 am/pm	4 kilok
5 am/pm	5 kilok
6 am/pm	6 kilok
7 am/pm	7 kilok
8 am/pm	8 kilok
9 am/pm	9 kilok
10 am/pm	10 kilok
11 am/pm	11 kilok

To differentiate time of day one would say *hem 9 oklok lo nite* or *hem 1 oklok lo aftanun*.

**\*note:** in Honiara o'clock is commonly used now i.e *1 o klok*.

## Times of the Day

Melwan nait	(Approx two hours either side of Midnight)
Midol nait	(mid-night or 12am - 2am)
Daki iet	(Early Morning pre-dawn)
Eli mone / moning	(Early Morning)
Mone / Moningtaem	(Morning Time)
Bik dei	(Late Morning/Daytime)
Melwan de / midol lo de	(Mid-day)
Lunch taem	(Lunch Hour)
Biksan	(Big sun)
Aftanun	(Afternoon Time)
Kolosap ivining	(Late Afternoon)
Sava	(Sunset/Dusk)
Ivining	(Early Evening)
Naet / naet taem	(Night time)
Biknaet	(Big Night - well and truly nighttime)



# PRONOUNS

## ***IU***

You, singular, the person spoken to.

## ***IUFALA***

You, plural, the group of people being spoken to.

## ***MI***

Me, I, singular, the person speaking.

## ***MIFALA***

Plural, WE, US. But used only to indicate the speaker and his/her group.

## ***IUMI***

You and I that is the speaker and the listener only.

## ***IUMITUFALA***

You and I

## ***IUMITRIFALA***

The three of us

## ***MITUFALA***

Myself and one other but does not usually include the listener or any of his/her group.

## ***MITRIFALA***

Myself and two others but not the person spoken to.

## ***HEM***

Him / Her / It

## ***OLKETA/OKETA***

They / Them

## ***OLKETA/OKETA***

Is the pijin word indicating plurality

### **Possessive personal:**

<i>BLONG MI</i>	Mine
<i>BLONG IU</i>	Yours
<i>BLONG HEM</i>	His / Hers / Its His / Hers / Its
<i>BLONG MIFALA</i>	Ours (excluding person spoken to)
<i>BLONG IUMI</i>	Ours (including person spoken to)
<i>BLONG IUFALA</i>	Yours (plural)
<i>BLONG OLKETA</i>	Theirs

\* note: *blong* when spoken commonly becomes *blo* e.g  
*blo oketa*

### **Reflexive personal:**

<i>MI SELEVA</i>	Myself
<i>IU SELEVA</i>	Yourself
<i>HEM SELEVA</i>	Him / her / itself
<i>OLKETA SELEVA</i>	Themselves

### **Interrogative:**

HU?	Who? Whom?
BLONG HU?	Whose?
WAT?	What? Which?
WAS WE	Why? What if?
WAI	Why?
HAO?	How?

### **Demonstrative:**

DISFALA	This
HEM IA	It's here / here
HEM NOMOA	That's it / that's all.

## **Indefinitive:**

'SAMFALA NOMOA'	A few only.
'I NO PLANDE'	A few.
'TUFALA'	Both.
'NOMOA'	None/No
'SEMKAEN/SEMSEM	Same as (this/that).
'OLSEM/OSEM (DISFALA)	Same.
'WANFALA MAN / MERE'	Somebody / Someone
'WANFALA SAMTING'	Something
'NOMOA ENI SAMTING'/	
'NO ENITING'	Nothing at all/Nothing
'OLKETA'	They, Them, Those

\*Note: When speaking everyday pijin it is more common to say 'oketa' instead of 'olketa'

## **PIJIN prepositions of direction are;**

<b>stap</b>	exist, stay, stop, halt, remain
<b>kam</b>	come, comes, coming and used when movement is inferred
<b>go</b>	go, goes, going, depart are used when movement is inferred

## INTRODUCTIONS, SMALL TALK, QUESTION & ANSWERS

To be able to be involved in introductions and small talk, you must first have the ability to ask and answer questions.

### Greetings

<b>Hello</b>	Halo
<b>Good morning</b>	Mone
<b>Good afternoon</b>	Aftanun
<b>Good night / Night</b>	Gutnaet / Nanaet.
<b>G'day</b>	Gud Dei

**Good morning. I'm very pleased to meet you.**

Mone. Mi hapi tumas fo mitim iu.

**How are you?**

iu oraet? /iu stap oraet? How na yu? lu hao?

**Hello friend, I am happy to see you again.**

Halo [my] fren, mi hapi fo lukim iu moa

**Excuse me, could you help me please.**

Ae fren, bae iu save helpim me? / Excuse mi iu save helpim me?

<b>Thank you very much</b>	Tagio tumas
<b>Goodbye</b>	Lukim iu, or Gutbae
<b>See you after/See you later</b>	Lukim iu bihaen / lukim iu moa
<b>I'll see you after/later</b>	bae mi lukim iu bihaen.
<b>I'll see you tonight</b>	bae mi lukim iu tunaet.
<b>I'll see you tomorrow</b>	bae mi lukim iu tumora.
<b>I'll see you next week</b>	bae mi lukim iu nekis wik.

## Tenses

Where will you go? (future tense)

**Bae iu go wea?**

Where did you go? (past tense)

**Iu bin go wea?**

Where is the axe? (present tense)

**Wea nao axe? Axe lo wea? Axe stap lo wea?**

Where are you going?

**Iu go lo wea?**

Why is the car blue?

**Wai nao car ia blue?**

Who is that over there? (future tense)

**Hu nao datwan lo dea ia?**

Who is that woman over there?

**Hu nao mere/woman lo dea? Hu nao datafala mere/woman stanup lo dia ia?**

When did you go home?

**Wataem na iu go baek lo haus?**

When it is 2 o'clock, could you come inside?

**Bae iu save kam insaet lo 2 okolok?**

I'll see you on Wednesday.

**Bae mi lukim iu long Wensde**

The school is between the village and the mountain.

**Skul ia hem stap melwan/between vilij an maunten**

The school is at the bottom of the mountain.

**Skul ia hem stap lo botom maunten**

They are up on the mountain waiting for the other people to get up there.

**Olketa stap long antap maunten an weitim nao olketa nara pipol for go ap long dea.**

## **Questions are asked in the following manner:**

To obtain a yes (yes) or no (*nomoa*) answer, the question is a statement followed by; 'o *nomoa*', for example;

### **Are you married? (Question)**

Iu marit, o *nomoa*?

### **You are married. (Statement)**

Iu marit

### **Have you ever been to Solomons before? (asked while outside of the Solomons)**

Iu kasem Solomon bifo o *nomoa*?

### **Have you ever been to Solomons before? (asked while in the Solomons)**

Iu kam kasem Solomon entime bifo or *nomoa*?

### **Where is John?**

John stap long wea? /Wea nao John? /John lo wea?

### **Paula is going to town**

Paula hem go long taon

### **They have been to Aruligo and Visale.**

Olketa kasem Aruligo an Visale finis

### **I would like you to come over here please.**

Mi laekim iu fo kam long hia plis

### **I would like you all to come over here please.**

Mi laikim fo iufala evriwan kam long hia

**To obtain specific answers, the questions must be specific**

**What?**

Wanem? Wat? Wanem? Wat?

**What is your job? What work do you do?**

Wanem/Wat nao wok/waka bilong iu?

**How many/How much?**

Haomas?

**How much money do you have?**

Haomas selen na iu garem?

**Why?**

Waswe?/wai?

**Why are you making this?**

Waswe nao iu wakem diswan?

Wae nao iu wakem diswan?

**When?**

Wanem / wat nao taim / taem?

**What time are you going to your work?**

Wat taem nao bae iu go long waka/ofis bilong iu?

**How?**

Hao?

**How do I start this motor?**

Hao nao fo mi statim disfala injin? \*

Note: words like 'nao' and 'bae' when spoken usually get shorten to 'na' and 'ba'.

## **SAMFALA PIJIN KWESTEN AN ANSA**

### **SOME PIJIN QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

What is your name?

**Wanem nao nem blong yu?**

My name is

**Nem blong mi / nem blong mi hem**

How old are you?

**Haomas yia blong iu? / Hao ol nao iu? / lu hao ol?**

I am twenty-eight

**Mi twenti eit yias ol.**

Where were you born?

**Iu bon long wea?**

I was born in

**Mi bon long**

Do you live there now?

**Iu stap long dea distaen, o nomoa?**

Yes or No.

**Yes or nomoa**

What is the name of your village?

**Wanem nao nem blong vilij blong iu?**

The name of my village is

**Nem blong vilij blong mi hem**

Is it a coastal or inland village?

**Hem stap long saet si o long bus?**

It is inland?

**Hem stap long bus?**



Is it a large or small town?

**Hem bik or smol taon?**

It is a large town?

**Hem bikfala taon?**

Is it nearby or far away?

**Hem stap kolosap o farawe?**

It is nearby?

**Hemi stap kolosap?**

What is it close to?

**Hem kolosap long wanem/wat?**

It is near Auki.

**Hem kolosap long Auki.**

Are you married or not?

**Iu marit, o nomoa?**

Yes or No.

**Yes, mi marit or Nomoa, mi no merit.**

Do you have children?

**Iu garem pikinini?**

Yes or No.

**Yes or Nomoa.**

How many children do you have?

**Hamas pikinini nao iu garem?**

I have three children.

**Mi garem trifala pikinini.**

Are they boys or girls?

**Olketa pikinini boe o gele?**

I have both, two boys and one girl.

**Mi garem tufala boe an wanfala gele.**

What is your wife's name?

**Wanem nao nem blong mere/wife/misis blong iu?**

My wife's name is

**Nem blong mere/misis blong mi**

How old is she?

**Hao mas yia blong hem? / Hem hao ol ia?**

Her age is

**Yia blong hem, hemi/ Hemi.... yias old**

What are your children's names?

**Wanem/wat nao nem blong olketa pikinini blong iu?**

My first/eldest child is called

**Nem blong fest pikinini blong mi**

My second child is called

**Nem blong mektu pikinini blong mi**

My third/youngest child is called

**Nem blong mek tri pikinini bilorig mi**

How old are they?

**Olketa hao many yias?**

Seven, five and two.

**Seven, faef an tu.**

Where does the rest of your family live?

**Olketa famili blong iu i stap wea?**

They live in the town I was born in

**Olketa stap long taon mi bon long hem.**

They live in my village.

**Olketa stap long vilij blong mi.**

They live in Auki.

**Olketa stap long Auki.**

Did you have a job before the unrest?

**Iu garem waka bifo taem *Tension*?**

Yes, I worked in a shop in Auki.

**Ya, mi bin waka long wanfala stoa long Auki.**

What type of shop?

**Wat kaen stoa ia?**

A small food shop on the edge of the main road into Auki.

**Wanfala smol stoa salem kaikai, saet long bik rot wea i go long Auki.**

Do you have a job now?

**Iu garem waka distaem nao?**

No, I'm doing nothing.

**Nomoa mi stap nating nomoa.**

I can see a large sore on your leg. Is it infected?

**Mi lukim wanfala bikfala soa long lek blong iu. Hem garem nana/pus o nomoa?**

Yes or No.

**Yes or Nomoa.**

If it is a tropical ulcer, I think that you should go to the Auki Medical Centre to get some medicine. If you leave it, this sore will damage your leg very badly, do you understand?

**Sapos hem wanfala ravis soa/infection, mi ting iu mas go long hospital long Auki kwik taem and tekem samfala meresen. Sapos iu levim, disfala soa bae barava spoilem lek blo iu. Iu minim o nomoa?**

OK, see you later.

**Orait, (or OK), lukim iu bihaen**

Where? Wea? Where will you and I go?

**Bae yumi/yumitufala go we?**

Where are you and I going?

**Yumi/yumitufala go we/bae go we?**

Who?

**Hu?**

Who has malaria?

**Hu nao garem malaria?**

What are you doing?

**Wanem yu mekem nao?**

What is this thing?

**Wanem disfala samting? Dispela samting, hem wanem?**

How do I do this?

**Hao nao mi mekem disfala? Mi mekem disfala hao?**

How many are there? (as in location)

**Haomeni i stop long hap? (as in number)**

How much is this worth?

**Haomas nao diswan? Diswan hem haomas?**

## General Questions & Answers

What is your name?

**Wanem/wat na nem blong iu?**

What is her/his name?

**Wanem/wat na nem blong hem?**

What is the name of this village?

**Wanem/wat na nem blong disfela vilij?**

What is the name of this river?

**Wanem/wat nem blong disfela riva?**

What is the name of this mountain?

**Wanem/wat nem blong disfala maunten**

Where are you going?

**Iu go long wea?**

Where are they going?

**Olketa go long wea?**

Where is he/she going?

**Hem go long wea?**

Why are you going there?

**Wae nao bae iu go lo dea?**

Why are they going there?

**Wae nao bae olketa go long dea?**

Why is he/she going there?

**Wae nao hem go long dea?**

Do you live nearby?

**Iu stap kolsap? iu stap kolsap o nomoa?**

Who are you travelling with?

**Hu nao bae iu go wetim?**

Who are they travelling with?

**Bae olketa go wetim hu?**

Who is she/he travelling with?

**Hu nao bae hem go wetim?**

## General Questions & Answers

Who are you staying with?

**Hu nao iu stap wetim?**

Who are they staying with?

**Hu nao olketa stap wetim?**

Who is she/he staying with?

**Hu nao hem stap wetim?**

Who are your friends?

**Hu nao olketa fren blo iu?**

Who are their friends?

**Hu nao olketa fren blong olketa?**

Who are her/his friends?

**Hu nao olketa fren blong hem?**

Why are you here?

**Waswe/wai nao iu stap long hia?**

Why are they here?

**Waswe/wai nao olketa stap long hia?**

Why is he/she here?

**Waswe/wai nao hem stap long hia?**

Where is your boss?

**Bikman/boss blo iufala lo wea?**

Who is in charge here?

**Hu nao bikman / boss long hia?**

Where did you go?

**Iu bin go wea?**

May I go wih you?

**Waswe, mi save go wetem iu?**

What are you looking for?

**Wat/Wanem nao iu lukaotim/faedim?**

What are they looking for?

**Wat/Wanem nao olketa panim/faedim?**

What is she/he looking for?

**Wat/Wanem nao hem panim/faedim?**

Where did you come from?

**Iu bin kam long wea? Iu stap kam lo wea?**

How long would it take to walk there?

**Hao long nao bae hemi tekem fo wakabaot go lo dea?**

Peter is walking to the shop.

**Peter hem wakabaot go long stoa.**

John is walking up the mountain.

**John hem wakabaot go antap long maonten**

He is under the table.

**Hem stap adanit long tebol.**

She is on the roof.

**Hem stap antap long ruf**

Paul is in his car.

**Paul hem stap insait long ka bilong hem.**

I am walking to town today.

**Tude bae mi wokabaot go long taon.**

We have to go into the house.

**Iumi mas go insait long haos.**

They followed the old road to Binu

**Olketa folom ol / olfala rot go long Binu.**

All these children must follow Miss Ami to school

**Evri pikinini ia mas folom Mis Ami go long skul.**

Miss Arni and the children are in school with all the other children.

**Mis Ami wetim everi pikinini stap lo skul wetim oketa/everi nara pikinini**

Today we are going to climb the mountain.

**Tude bae iumi klae antup lo maontain.**

## **Cultural & Social Considerations**

Provided by Tony Stafford

### **RELIGION**

- Churches have a strong impact on the way people think in the Solomon Islands.
- Churches play a very strong role in communal life, especially in rural areas. In Solomon Islands, for instance, virtually every village has a church building and prayer or church services can be held once or twice a day.
- An increasing number of evangelical churches are springing up.
- Christian concepts are often invoked in political discourse, even at national level (usual to start a meeting with a prayer) churches influential in politics
- Churches run and staff health clinics and hospitals and play an active role in education.
- People are active in church activities and will make relatively substantial financial contributions to the church (often at great personal sacrifice).
- Churches are vehicles for social mobilization.
- Despite the strong influence of the church, magic and witchcraft is still strong and widely feared. (Even the most devout Christians still interpret Christian teachings through their own cultural circumstances, which may strike outsiders as inconsistent with their own interpretations of Christianity).
- While a diversity of religions are tolerated, atheism is not easily understood.



### **LAND**

- Centre of life - most valued heritage of the whole community saturated with spiritual, historical and political significance.
- Provides links with ancestors and spirits.
- Source of power (economic and political).
- Absolute ownership of land resides with the village or clan - land cannot be bought or sold like other marketable commodities if an outsider pays for land, the payment can only be for the use of the land rather than bestowing permanent ownership.
- Land disputes regarding ownership - common (eg in large scale resource development such as logging and mining)

### **NATIONAL IDENTITY - INTRODUCED CONCEPT**

- Very recent introduced concept people do not think of themselves as Solomon Islanders - "We are a country of villages or islands". They associate more with their clan, tribe, village or island.

## **Cultural & Social Considerations**

### **KASTOM AND CULTURAL VALUES**

- Kastom - Denotes culture and tradition - as distinct from the 'whiteman way'.
- Kastom includes matters related to social and cultural relationships based on the fundamental constructs of land and bloodlines (including kinship, clan, line, residence and language wantok - one talk) - critical to the way the country functions.
- Cultural traditions are continuously in interaction with each other and modern ways.
- The different demands of kastom and modernity create an underlying tension that outsiders need to heed and understand (eg demands on a person due to funeral arrangements, etc.)
- There is cultural diversity both within and between provinces (e.g. Bride price)

### **GENDER**

- Male and female roles are closely proscribed.
- Public displays of affection between men and women are rare and frowned upon.
- Affection and touching between same sexes is common
- Homosexuality used to occur within some cultural rituals and plantation life but nowadays is not publicly acknowledged or accepted.
- Women - heavy workload.
- Domestic violence - has been publicly acknowledged as a key concern for women.

## **Cultural & Social Considerations**

### **FAMILY - KIN**

- Extended family (kinship unit) is the relationship based on culturally recognized connections between parents and children, extending to siblings and through parents to more distant relatives.
- Definition of a relative different to the way Australians define it distant relatives. eg uncles and aunts have similar authority and responsibilities for children as parents. Not uncommon for the closest adult to admonish a child for a certain misdemeanor (unlike in Australia where this role is mostly left to parents).
- Strong kinship ties cut across and supersede responsibilities of government, public service and other modern structures.
- Associated family responsibilities and obligations may appear to our western eyes as 'nepotism' requests and expectations of kin can rarely be denied, creating demands on those in employment and power that lead to misappropriation and corruption, particularly by politicians and government ministers.

### **STATUS AND SOURCES OF POWER**

- Status ascribed in the village carries over into the public service
- Communalistic values predominate although individualism is increasingly evident.
- Complicated and extensive kinship systems complicate hierarchical relationships and provide civil society with close access to public servants.
- Important to respect the range of power dynamics that come into play and to consider the implications for your role as an outsider (bypassing hierarchical structures may be seen as inappropriate).
- Cultural lag, where traditional ways of being and doing have not been adapted to modern practices (e.g., extractive resource use, which affects more than one generation)

### **BIG - MEN AND CHIEFS**

- The Big-man is a mode of leadership characteristic of Melanesia whereby a leader commands a following by accumulating and distributing wealth, creating a network of allegiances and obligations that can extend far beyond the village or island.
- Other techniques for gaining Big-man status include conciliation, compromise, persuasion, inspiration, and bargaining to threats and sheer brute force.

### **TABU**

- Sacred - forbidden - many tabus associated with relations between cousins and in-laws, with bodily wastes, blood, etc.
- Vary from place to place - when you go to a new place, familiarize yourself with local practices - find out the "do's" and "don'ts" and the "go" and "no go" areas.
- For example it is tabu in Solomon Islands to walk over a fallen tree trunk where a woman is sitting or walk under clotheslines with women's clothes in villages; also important to hang out your underwear discreetly.
- Don't walk across people's legs / very disrespectful and in some places is believed to cause illness.
- Don't walk in front of people sitting or standing especially when they are in discussion / very disrespectful, unless they indict or say for you to do so.
- Thighs are tabu (females in shorts are frowned upon)
- Don't show lots of flesh even when swimming.
- Don't stare or look too closely at people washing (seen as coveting).
- Avoid slang/swearing

### **RECIPROCITY**

- Giving something away always creates an obligation.
- Wealth is not accumulated for its own sake but for giving away, thereby creating obligation.
- People can be surrounded by a complex web of obligations that are invisible to outsiders these obligations from previous exchanges can create conflict of interest when dealing with these obligations from previous exchanges can create conflict of interest when dealing with responsibilities, assets and time management.

### **COMPENSATION**

- Used to settle grievances and resolve conflict - elaborate ceremonies, negotiations and transfer of wealth can lead to 'payback'
- Compensation increasingly monetized and the current practice is to ask for more than the true value of the situation.
- This is stronger in some cultures than others and forms of compensation may vary.

### **AVOIDING CONFRONTATION / REACHING CONSENSUS**

- Many Pacific islanders like to avoid confrontation.
- They find it difficult to say no, to contradict, or to convey bad news - avoiding conflict can be achieved by telling the listener what they think they want to hear.

### **SHAME**

- Avoiding shame and not losing face is very important.
- This has important implications such as not criticizing people in front of others; letting situations continue no matter what the effects are until there is some way out without shaming someone. The result is that criminal activities go unpunished; lack of regular evaluation; politicians and public officials get away with serious offences with little or no punishment, etc.

### **PERSONALISED BUREAUCRACY**

- Private matters and considerations intrude into public lives.
- Few secrets, rumors spread fast (coconut radio/ wireless/news)
- **Educated people (much in common and many personal links.)**
- Dangerous to interfere in matters between public servants or politicians.
- Village is still the real world (exerts strong influence on the bureaucracy.)
- 12,000 years of village based culture is far more deeply entrenched than 120 years of colonial rule.

## Cultural and Social Considerations

### **PERSONAL INITIATIVE**

- The group is more highly valued than the individual.
- Original ideas are often obstructed or dismissed as attempts to acquire power or status.
- Jealousy is common.
- There is lack of reward for initiative when promotion depends often on connections and kinship.
- The fear of making mistakes leads to the fear of taking initiatives.
- Lack of self-confidence is common, especially when confronted by outsiders.
- People feel confidence in a group rather than as individuals.

### **PERSONAL CONTACT**

- Personal contact and follow up is very important. Don't assume that things and agreements from community meetings will be automatically passed on.

### **PACIFIC TIME**

- Time is more about relationships between people and groups than measurable units recorded by the clock.
- Pace of life is slower - should not be interpreted as laziness or stupidity.
- Try not to get uptight about people being late for meetings but remember people will expect you to be on time.



## Cultural & Social Considerations

### **PRIVACY**

- Because the communal extended family is the foundation of Melanesian society, the concepts of privacy are very different from western ones.
- Be especially careful in your interactions with the opposite sex and maintain a certain reserve and space so you do not appear suggestive. Men should be particularly careful in dealing with women. An innocent exchange may not appear as such and punitive measures may be taken against a woman who appears to be behaving inappropriately.

### **ACCESS TO INFORMATION**

- Oral rather than written is the preferred medium.
- As in many societies, people keep information to themselves because it provides tactical advantage, power and control.
- Training is often undertaken more for reasons of acquiring awareness, status and prestige rather than implementing what is learned.
- There may be reasons for a colleague not passing on information from training courses, Do not assume that what has been taught has really been understood.

# PIJIN DICTIONARY

## FAMILY

Family	Famili
Mother	Mami
Father	Dadi
Child	Pikinini
Daughter	Gele/dota
Son	Boe/san
Sister	Sista
Brother	Brata
Wife	Waef/misis blong mi
Husband	Hasban/olo blong mi
Aunt	Mami/anti
Uncle	Anggol
Nephew	Nefiu /(smol) anggol
Niece	Nis/ (smol) anti
Cousin	Brata or Sista
Grandparent	Grani
Grandchild	Gran pikinini (blo mi) / smol grani
Grandfather	Grandadi
Grandmother	Granmami
In-law	Inlo/tambu/tabu
Father in - law	Dadi inlo
Mother in-law	Mami inlo

Do both of you have the same parents?

**Iutufala bon lo sem mami an dadi o nomoa?**

Is she your real mother?

**Waswe, hemi barava/ril mami blong iu?**

## PIJIN DICTIONARY

### DIRECTIONS

**Tane lef / rait long hia / dea**

Turn left / right here / there

**No ron / wakabaot**

Don't run / Walk

**Tane raon**

Turn around

**Sid daun**

Sit down

**Stanup**

Stand up

**Tok tok isi / bikfela**

Speak slowly / calmly / up

**Mi no harem iu gud**

I can't hear you clearly

**No tok tok / sharup**

Don't talk / Be quiet / Shut up

**Talem kam moa**

Say it again

**Takem kam lo hia**

Bring it here

## PIJIN DICTIONARY

### GENERAL

a neighbouring  
country

a question

a short time

a week ago

after lunch

agree

agreement

all men and

women

all sorts of

all the time

among the people

an uncivilised

native (insulting)

are you able to go

around and about

as well

at the bottom of

at the same time

bad language

swear

bad practice

beat him/her

in a (competition)

belonging to

best of all

wan solwata/ blo Pacific

wanfala kwesten

lelebet taem

las wik

bihaen lunch/afta lunch

agri

agrimen/agriment

evri man an mere/woman

eni kaen

evri taem/taim

melwan/between olketa pipol

buskanaka/local

bae iu save go?

raon olbaot

tu

botom/long botom

semtaem/semtaim / long semtaem

tok nogut

swea

ravis/rabis pasin or rabis wei

winim hem

blong/blo

barava/hem barava

## PIJIN DICTIONARY

Betel Nut

- Lime (Calcium Carbonate)

- Mustard pepper

blind rotten drunk/very drunk

block head/stupid/idiot

borrow something

bring it here

brother and sister

brothers and sisters

call to him ....

change something

conference/meeting

cup of coffee

cup of tea

customs of the ancestors

day after tomorrow

day before yesterday

dirty nose

do not have

do you know pijin?

don't be afraid

down & out person/jobless

earn a wage

edible green leaves

expatriate man, white man

expatriate woman, white

woman

exert more effort in doing

something

feel bad

feel good

fence in/surround

festival of singing and

dancing

**bilnut**

**lime**

**lif/korokua**

**spaka narawe/drunk no gud**

**karange het**

**kaonim samting**

**tekem kam**

**barata an sista**

**oketa barata an sista**

**singautim/callem hem**

**sensim**

**miting**

**kap kofi**

**kap tea**

**pasin/kastom blo bifo**

**neks tomoro**

**las yestadei**

**doti nos**

**iu garem**

**iu save pijin**

**no frait**

**liu/masta liu**

**waka fo selen**

**kavis**

**waet-man/masta**

**misis/waet-man**

**trae hat**

**fil no gud**

**fil gud**

**fenisim**

**singsing an danisi**

## PIJIN DICTIONARY

fill to the top  
filled to the top  
finish (the) work  
finish work  
follow him/her/it  
follow instructions  
follow the river  
**crazy/mental**  
make a fool of  
for as long as  
forever and ever (amen)  
foul something up  
get drunk  
get ready  
get rid of  
get someone up  
(from sleep)  
give them heaps  
give name  
go ahead  
go as far as town  
go for a wash  
go to gaol/jail  
go to school  
going on and on  
golly gosh! my word!  
Good heavens!  
good afternoon  
good evening everybody  
  
good morning  
good night

fulmapim  
ful up  
finisim waka  
finis waka  
folom hem/folom go  
folom toktok  
folom riva  
**karange**  
mek fool  
kasem taem  
foevamo/foeva  
spoelem / bakarapum  
spaka/daranga  
redim  
raosim

wekapim  
givim staka  
talem nem  
go het/go fastaem  
go kasem taon  
go swim  
go peresin/sela  
go long skul  
gogogo

mae karange!/oloketa!  
gud aftanun  
gud/gudfala ivining  
olketa/evriwan  
gud mone / mone/moning  
gudnait / nanait

## PIJIN DICTIONARY

green coconut for drinking  
hang on a sec  
happy with  
**happy about**  
harsh talk  
hear well! take notice well!  
heard it said that  
hidden/secret place  
hot water/ hot spring  
house for domestic staff  
house for the birth of  
children  
How much does it cost?

I am ashamed of this  
I am not too sure about

I am still here  
I am sure  
I am sure of this

I am sure/ I understand  
I did wrong  
I did it wrong  
I feel sick  
I have an illness  
I have eaten  
I hit the nail  
To nail or to inject  
I made an effort  
I live in Lae  
in that direction  
in the morning  
in the time of  
in-law

**iang (young) kokonat**  
**weit lelebet**  
**hapi wetim**  
**hapi lo hem**  
**tok koros**  
**here kam gut**  
**herem olsem**  
**haid ples / ples haid**  
**hot water**  
**haois boe/sevents quarter**

**haois fo bonem pikinini**  
**haomas nao hem cost/**  
**hem haomas**  
**mi sem long diswan**  
**mi no save gut abaot/lo**  
**diswan**  
**mi stil stap/mi stil lo hea**  
**mi save gut/mi sua**  
**mi barava klia/save gud**  
**long diswan**  
**mi save/ save gud/ mi meanim**  
**mi rong**  
**mi duim rong**  
**mi fil siki**  
**mi garem siki**  
**mi kaikai finis**  
**mi hamam/ bangam nila**  
**mi nilam**  
**mi traee hat**  
**mi stap long Lae**  
**long dea**  
**long mone**  
**long taem blong**  
**tabu [tambu]/ in lo**

## PIJIN DICTIONARY

individual choice  
is it not?  
it doesn't matter  
it is correct  
it is forbidden to enter  
it is quite forbidden  
it is time for a break  
it would be better if  
last month  
last year  
lazy fellow  
long knife for grass cutting  
long time after  
look into  
look under  
make clear about  
(something) / clarify  
make note of this!  
man of rank influence/  
notoriety  
man who talks nonsense  
meet/gathering  
move back  
my thoughts are that  
native leaf of tobacco  
of little consequence  
of little importance, a trifle  
of the same thought  
of the same womb  
on guard  
on top of

saet blong/ blo iu  
o hao  
hem oraet/ no mata  
hem stret/ stretwan  
hem tambu fo go insaet  
hem tambu  
hem taem fo break/ rest  
bae hem gut go moa sapos  
las manis/ mans  
las ia  
lesi man  
bush naef  
long taem bihaen/ afta  
lukluk insaet/ lo hem  
lukluk adanit

talem gut  
herem gut

bik man/ no man-nating  
man fo toktok / ravis  
miting  
move/siviti back  
tingting blong mi olsem  
tabaika  
samting nating  
smol samting  
sem tingting  
sem mami (biological)  
stanbae  
antap long



## PIJIN DICTIONARY

other side / opposite side  
other side/ reverse side  
other/ another kind  
out of breath  
over there  
overcome (sickness,  
worry,concern etc.)  
paddle canoe/row a boat  
pandanus or screw pine  
pass by something  
pay a fine  
pay attention!  
pay money to  
pepper chewed with betel  
nut (mustard)  
piece of iron  
plenty of times  
poor sod  
pull back (something)  
receive more pay  
receive pay in advance  
receive permission  
refuse a plea  
relating to/ of origin  
repay a debt/ loan  
report something/someone  
right over there  
rugged/rough area  
send a message  
send away

**nara saet**  
**bak saet**  
**nara kaen**  
**sotwin**  
**long dea**

**winim/ ovam**  
**padolom kanu**  
**padanas**  
**pasim**  
**peim faen**  
**herem gut!**  
**peim selen go long**

**frut lif**  
**haf aen**  
**plande/ staka taem**  
**sorewan**  
**pulum back**  
**garem moa pei/ pei go up**  
**tek pei fastaem/ advanis**  
**garem pemisin**  
**no herem tok**  
**blong**  
**sensim kaon**  
**ripotim**  
**hem long dea**  
**raf ples**  
**sedem toktok/ message**  
**sedem awe/go**

## PIJIN DICTIONARY

settle/stay permanently  
in a place  
shake off an illness  
shifting spanner  
shove something  
spirit of the ancestors  
stand up straight  
start a fight  
stay in gaol  
string bag (traditional)  
take a trip  
take someone to court  
talk about  
talk loudly/too much  
talk nonsense  
talk to the doctor  
tell you about  
that's it  
the bomb exploded  
the earth shakes  
the ground is soft  
the time of the Europeans/  
colonial times

the two of them / both  
the work is finished  
there are two scales of pay  
there is no other option

they (all) call it  
to await someone/something

stap/anka  
gut back moa/ finis sicki  
sifting spana  
pusum samting  
devol spirit  
stanap stret  
statim fait  
stap long prisin/ sela  
string baek  
wakabaot  
kotim/ tekem long kot  
toktok/tok/stori abaot  
bikmaos  
toktok karange  
tok/stori long/wetim dokta  
talem abaot  
hem nomoa  
bom bosta  
graon seksek/ earth quek  
graon i/ hem soft

long taem blong Ingla/ lo  
oketa colonial deis  
tufala evriwan  
waka ia hem finis  
tufala diferen kaen pei  
nomoa narafala we moa / no  
eni wai moa  
oketa koleman  
wetim / wetim hem

## PIJIN DICTIONARY

to be dependent on  
to call to/for someone  
to do something  
to leave permanently  
to lay something/someone down  
to make an effort  
to make someone be quiet  
to sack/bag something  
to shoot something  
to stop something  
to take away  
take away/minus  
to tell a story  
to tell someone something  
to throw something  
to use something  
to walk to  
to walk from  
to weigh up  
too many people  
tow something/someone  
translate words into English!  
interperate  
turn the wheel  
unsuitable place  
very hungry  
village customs  
war relics  
way of life will change  
What are you doing?  
What do you want?  
when do we go?

**fulbae long hem  
singaotim  
duim/ wakem samting  
oketa go finis / go olowe nao**

**lei daonim  
taitim kabilato /traem hat  
sarapim  
baekem  
sutim  
stopem  
tekem awe  
tekeawe  
talem stori  
talem hem samfala samting  
torowe  
iusim  
wakabaot go lo  
wakabaot kam  
skelem/ weim  
plannde/staka pipol tumas  
pulum**

**tanem pijin go long Inglis  
tanem wil  
nogut ples  
hangere tumas /barava hangere  
kastom blong ples  
reke blong wo  
we blong laef bae senis  
wanem iu duim/wakem?  
wat nao iu laikem?  
wat taem nao bae iumi go?/  
iumi bae go wat taem?**

## PIJIN DICTIONARY

who will  
win over someone  
work well  
wrong someone  
yes sir  
your luck  
your own choice  
very sweet

**hunao bae**  
**winim kam**  
**waka gut**  
**rongem**  
**yesa**  
**lake blong iu**  
**saet blong iu**  
**barava swit**

grisim	<b>to grease, oil or lubricate something (see wilim) to flatter someone to talk someone into something</b>
haidim	<b>to hide something, to put in a safe place, to protect, to conceal</b>
hamarem	<b>to hammer something to thrash soundly.</b>
hapum/ hafum brukim namil	<b>to halve, to divide in half to fill halve, to do work by halves to fill halve, to do work by halves to do a poor job, to do half a job to cut a thing into many equal parts to hoe something, to hew, to trim</b>
hariapum	<b>to make someone hurry, to make someone go faster</b>
hotim	<b>to heat something, to make something hot</b>
hetim	<b>to hate someone or something</b>
hipim	<b>to heap or pile something</b>
hukum	<b>to hook something, to catch something with a hook to heap or pile something to entice, to allure someone or something</b>

## PIJIN DICTIONARY

<b>jakem</b>	<b>to jack up something</b>
<b>joinim</b>	<b>to join something</b>
<b>kaikaim</b>	<b>to eat</b>
<b>kailim</b>	<b>to put a wedge between two things, to wedge something in</b>
<b>peresinim</b>	<b>to imprison, to arrest, to lock up, to hem in (see banisim)</b>
<b>kalaemapum</b>	<b>to jump over/climb something</b>
<b>kamapum</b>	<b>to originate, to found, to institute, to invent to bring to light, to reveal</b>
<b>kamaotim</b>	<b>to pull out, to dig out</b>
<b>kavarem</b>	<b>to cover something, to wrap up something to harvest from the ground, to conceal something, to hide something, to put something in a safe place</b>
<b>karkarem</b>	<b>to carry about</b>
<b>katem</b>	<b>to cut something, to delete, to cross out</b>
<b>kaodem/kaontim</b>	<b>to count something, to enumerate, to read</b>
<b>kikim</b>	<b>to kick something or someone or strike to beat, to thrash, to beat severely, to lay one low</b>
<b>kilim</b>	<b>to beat someone up badly [common context] to kill someone/ something</b>
<b>kolum</b>	<b>to cool something down</b>
<b>kliarem</b>	<b>to clear off, to remove obstacles</b>
<b>klinim</b>	<b>to clean something, to polish (see polisim)</b>
<b>kolem</b>	<b>to call, to tell, to recite, to announce</b>
<b>komum</b>	<b>to comb something</b>
<b>kostim</b>	<b>to cost, to charge</b>
<b>kotim</b>	<b>to bring suit against, to sue, complaint against, to take one to court</b>

## PIJIN DICTIONARY

krosim	to scold someone
kukim	to be angry with someone
laikim	to cook, to bake something, to char
lainim	to bum up, to defeat, to destroy by fire
lanem	to like someone or something,
laitim	to desire, to want something
letem	to line up, to put something in line
levelim	to put in order, to arrange, to set in readiness
liftimapim	to study something, to learn something
lokmapim/lokim	to teach someone something
lodim	to light something,
lukaotim	to let, leave, allow, to set fire to something to let something down, to release something
lukim	to level something, to make something even
lusim	to lift up something, to pick up something to raise higher, to praise someone or something
	to lock up something
	to load something
	to take care of something,
	to look after, watch over, provide for
	to look for, search for, to hunt
	to see something, to shine on, to visit
	to loose something / someone, to spend, to leave behind, to abandon, to desert, to miss to forget, to loosen, to untie, to set free

## PIJIN DICTIONARY

<b>makim</b>	<b>to mark something/an occasion, to sketch</b>
<b>maritim</b>	<b>to marry someone</b>
<b>mekem</b>	<b>to make, to cause, to create to force to do, to act, to behave</b>
<b>memeim</b>	<b>to smash something to pulverise something to cook something until it is very soft,</b>
<b>miksim</b>	<b>to mix something</b>
<b>motu</b>	<b>to steam food with heated stones in a pit covered with banana leaves</b>
<b>nambarem</b>	<b>to number something, to count, in abundance</b>
<b>nilam</b>	<b>to nail something</b>
<b>nogutim</b>	<b>to spoil something, to damage something</b>
<b>onarem</b>	<b>to honour someone, to revere someone</b>
<b>openim</b>	<b>to open or unlock something</b>
<b>faedem</b>	<b>to find something, to discover something to seek/look for to seek/look for</b>
<b>bakarapum</b>	<b>to cause to explode, to fire off</b>
<b>faitim</b>	<b>to hit, strike, knock or beat</b>
<b>pamum</b>	<b>to pump up something, to inflate</b>
<b>panisim</b>	<b>to punish someone</b>
<b>passim</b>	<b>to fasten something, to tie, to hold back, to delay/hinder, to keep back, to block, to obstruct something to close, to shut, to wall in</b>
<b>pentim</b>	<b>to paint something, to colour/dye something</b>
<b>finisim</b>	<b>to finish something, to put an end to something, to ruin, destroy, damage</b>
<b>pladem</b>	<b>to plant something</b>
<b>pleim</b>	<b>to play music, CD, game</b>

## PIJIN DICTIONARY

plenim	to plane something
fogivim	to forgive someone, to pardon
polisim	to polish something
ferenim	to become someone's partner, mate, companion or comrade.
	to befriend
fraim	to fry something, to fry sago pancake
fraitim	to frighten, to make afraid, to threaten, to scare
promisim	to promise someone something, to give one's word
fulapum	to fill something, to make something full
pulum	to pull something, to drag, to tow to paddle a canoe, to row a boat
putum	to put, to place, to appoint, to assign
rabisim	to make fun of, to ridicule
raitim	to write something
ranem/ronem	to chase away, to put into flight, to pursue
rabim	to rub, to scour, to massage
raonim	to surround, to encircle, to go around something to wrap around, to chase, to round up to whirl something around
raosim	to remove, to chase out, to drive away, to expel, to oust to expel, to oust
reredim/redim	to prepare something, to get something ready
ripotim	to report someone
ridim	to read something
rongem	to wrong or offend someone to do an injustice to another, to do wrong



## PIJIN DICTIONARY

sadolim	<b>to saddle</b>
saitim/saidim	<b>to side with or support to side with or support</b>
sakim	<b>to fire, sack or dismiss</b>
salem	<b>to sell</b>
salutim	<b>to salute someone or something, to greet someone</b>
somapim	<b>to sew something, to mend something, to patch to sharpen something, to point something</b>
sarapum	<b>to silence someone, to make one be quiet, to quell</b>
savolim	<b>to shovel something, to scoop up, to ladle out</b>
senisim	<b>to change, to exchange, to barter something, to swap</b>
sev/sevim	<b>to shave</b>
simendim	<b>to cement something, to lay cement</b>
singaotim	<b>to call out, to call for</b>
singim	<b>to sing something</b>
skelem	<b>to weigh something or someone to balance something to portion out something</b>
sikirapim	<b>to scrape something, to scratch something, to grate something it has figurative meaning</b>
sukruini	<b>to join or connect something</b>
skulim	<b>to teach someone something to have educated on</b>
slakem	<b>to loosen or put slack into something</b>
slipim	<b>to lay something down lengthwise, to fell</b>

## PIJIN DICTIONARY

slingim	to put in a sling, to raise in a sling
sloim	to slow up something
smelem	to smell something
smokim	to smoke something
soldarim	to solder something
shom	to show something to show someone something
slapim	to slap someone, to thrash someone
soapim	to rub with soap,
spelim	to spell something
spiarim	to spear something
spoilem	to spoil, to ruin
spunim	to ladle out, to dish out with a spoon
stopem	to stop someone or something that is moving
statem	to start something
steerim	to steer something, to guide something
stilim	to steal something, to get without earning, to imitate or copy against another's will
strenim	to strain something,
stretem	to straighten, to straighten out, to level out, to smooth to put in order, to correct, to fix, to settle, to arrange in order
strongim	to strengthen someone or something, to bolster
shutim	to shoot something,
swimim	to swim, bath or shower someone or something
taitim	to tighten something, to stretch something to pull hard, to pull tight
banim/ baunim	to forbid someone or something, to forbid the use of something

## PIJIN DICTIONARY

tane	to turn,
tanem	to turn something, to roll something to stir something,
taneraon	to turn around, to revolve, to roll, to rotate
tingim	to think of, to keep in mind, to remember
talem	to tell someone something, to command
tok nogutim	to insult someone
traem	to trial, a temptation, an attempt to trial, to try, to try out, to practice, to taste, to test
toraot	vomit
toraotim	to vomit something
trikim	to deceive someone, trick someone
torowem	to throw something, to throw away, to get rid of, to toss, to buck, to throw (as off a horse)
waelasmim	to radio (wireless)
wakem	to make something, to build something
wasim	to wash something, to flood, to clean something with liquid
weitim	to await, to expect, to wait for
weldim	to weld
westim	to waste
winim	to surpass someone, to win over someone, to get ahead of, to conquer
wipim	to whip someone
weldim	to weld



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