

Fiji Language Week: Key words and phrases

The language week celebrates the Fijian language and Fijian culture by promoting and raising awareness of the Fijian language in the home, in education, at work, in government, in the media, in sport, in the arts, in the church and in the community.

The iTaukei (Fijian) alphabet is made up of all the English letters excluding the letter “x,” though the letters “h” and “z” are also rarely used and primarily are only found in borrowed words.

Vosa Vakaviti (Fijian language) has five vaueli (vowels):

a, e, i, o, u

Vowels are mostly pronounced as they would be if there were spoken in Spanish, Italian and German:

A as in “ah” as in father

E as in error

I as in me or sit

O as in for or toll

U as in “oo” in food or too.

Key words and phrases – Vosavosa leleka vakaViti	
VakaViti	English
Ni sa bula vinaka	Greetings to visitors/guests
Bula	Greetings to you two (dual)
Dou bula	Greetings to three or more people (plural)
Va cava tiko?	How are you?
Au bulabula vinaka tiko	I am well
Vinaka vakalevu	Thank you very much/very good
Moce	Goodbye (to someone who is going) / Goodnight
Au lako mada yani	Excuse me (to get past)
O lako ivei?	Where are you going?
Curu mai	Come in
Wananavu	Great
Vosa mai vei au	Speak to me
Io / Sa donu	Yes / Ok
Sega	No