

HOW TO USE THIS PHRASEBOOK

Anyone can speak another language! It's all about confidence. Don't worry if you can't remember your school language lessons or if you've never learnt a language before. Even if you learn the very basics (on the inside covers of this book), your travel experience will be the better for it. You have nothing to lose and everything to gain when the locals hear you making an effort.

finding things in this book

For easy navigation, every language section is divided into chapters. Pronunciation is the one you'll thumb through time and again as you start speaking the languages. Meeting People gives you conversational phrases – so you can get to know people. Food will help you hit the markets and try local dishes with confidence, and Getting Around covers basic travel situations. Use the comprehensive Index to find everything else you need.

being understood

Throughout this book you'll see the translations written in colour on each page. The languages are phonetic, so they can generally be pronounced as they are written. The Pronunciation chapter will explain more, but you can feel confident that if you read the coloured phrases slowly, you'll be understood.

communication tips

Body language, ways of doing things, sense of humour – all have a role to play in every culture. Boxes throughout this book show you common ways of saying things, or everyday language to drop into conversation. We have also included cultural tips and background information.

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SOUTH PACIFIC LANGUAGES

The languages in this book belong to the Austronesian language family (Austronesian meaning 'of the southern islands'), which includes languages spoken within a huge area from Madagascar in the west to Easter Island in the east, and from Hawaii in the north to New Zealand in the south. The Austronesian language family includes nearly all languages spoken on islands of the South Pacific, as well as the indigenous languages of Melanesia, Madagascar, Singapore, Malaysia, Taiwan, the Philippines, nearly all of Indonesia, and the coastal regions of Papua New Guinea.

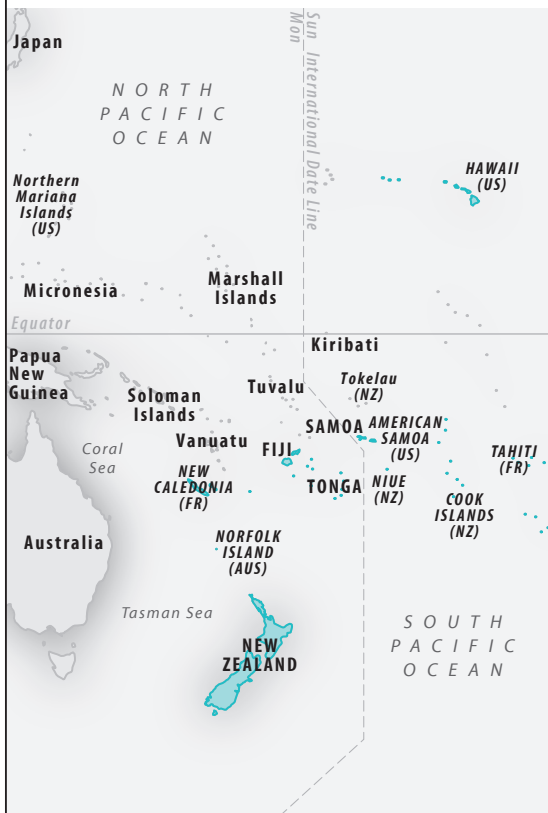
Austronesian languages are believed to have originated on the southern China mainland, when the Han Chinese occupied only northern China. They are thought to have been spread when the original speakers migrated first to Taiwan, about 5000–6000 years ago, then on to the Philippines and Indonesia. From Indonesia, they were taken into Oceania, arriving in the New Britain–New Ireland region of Papua New Guinea about 4000 years ago.

From there they quickly spread through the Melanesian chain down to the Fiji Islands and out into Polynesia, reaching this area around 3000 years ago. After a period of stabilisation, they spread eastwards, reaching the Society Islands some 2000 years ago.

Austronesian languages can be divided into two branches. The Eastern branch, also known as 'Oceanic', is made up of languages from Polynesia, Melanesia (including Fiji and New Caledonia) and Micronesia. The Western branch includes languages from Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Madagascar.

Polynesian languages (Polynesia meaning 'many islands') are spoken over an area covering a total of around 8000km by 10,000km. Polynesia forms a triangle bounded by Hawaii, Easter Island and New Zealand, and also includes outlying islands scattered through Fiji and the East Indies. Polynesian languages include Hawaiian, Māori, Rarotongan Māori, Niuean, Rapanui, Samoan, Tahitian and Tongan. These languages are closely related, due to their relatively recent separation, and employ similar sounds and grammatical structures.

South Pacific



Abbreviations

| | Rapanui | Tahitian | Samoaan | Māori | Hawaiian |
|-------------------|---------|----------|---------|-------|----------|
| water | vai | vai | vai | wai | wai |
| love/ greeting | aroha | aroha | alofa | aroha | aloha |
| fish | ika | i'a | i'a | ika | i'a |
| large | nui | nui | nui | nui | nui |
| small | iti | iti | iti | iti | iti |
| chicken | moa | moa | moa | moa | moa |

While it's usually possible to communicate in either English, French or Spanish on the islands of the South Pacific and Hawaii, knowing a little of the local language and terminology might help you learn more about and express an interest in the local people and their cultures.

ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THIS BOOK

| | |
|------|---|
| dl | dual (refers to two people) |
| excl | exclusive (excludes the person being addressed) |
| f | female |
| incl | inclusive (includes the person being addressed) |
| inf | informal |
| m | male |
| pl | plural |
| pol | polite |