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Samoan

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Spoken in: Samoa, American Samoa Fiji, Tonga, Hawaii, New Zealand, Australia and the USA.

Total speakers: 420,000

Official language of: Samoa and American Samoa

Samoan language is the traditional language of Samoa and American Samoa and is an official language in both territories. It is a member of the Austronesian family, and more specifically Samoic branch of the Polynesian sub-phylum.

About 420,000 people speak Samoan mainly in Western Samoa and American Samoa. There are also speakers of Samoan in Fiji, Tonga, Hawaii, New Zealand, Australia and the USA. Samoan is closely related to the other languages of Polynesia, particularly to Tongan.

Vowels can be long or short. Long vowels are marked with a macron (ā). The letters K [k], H [h] and R [l] are also used, but only in foreign loanwords. Syllables consist of a vowel or a consonant plus a vowel. Consonants never appear together or in syllable final position.

Currently SSWAHS Health Care Interpreter Service employs 2 Samoan sessional interpreters.

Samoan alphabet

Aa	Ee	Ff	Gg	Ii	Ll	Mm	Nn	Oo	Pp	Ss	Tt	Uu	Vv	’
[a, ə]	[e, ɛ]	[f]	[ŋ]	[i, ɪ]	[l]	[m]	[n, g]	[ɔ, o]	[p]	[s]	[t, k]	[u, ʊ]	[v]	[ʔ]