



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
<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;

stap	exist, stay, stop, halt, remain
kam	come, comes, coming and used when movement is inferred
go	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

Hello	Halo
Good morning	Mone
Good afternoon	Aftanun
Good night / Night	Gutnaet / Nanaet.
G'day	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? Iu 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?

Thank you very much

Tagio tumas

Goodbye

Lukim iu, or Gutbae

See you after/See you later

Lukim iu bihaen / lukim iu moa

I'll see you after/later

bae mi lukim iu bihaen.

I'll see you tonight

bae mi lukim iu tunaet.

I'll see you tomorrow

bae mi lukim iu tumora.

I'll see you next week

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 marit.

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.

Cultural & Social Considerations

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.

Cultural & Social Considerations

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.

Cultural & Social Considerations

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

Cultural & Social Considerations

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.

Cultural & Social Considerations

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/drunken 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	saet blong/ blo iu
is it not?	o hao
it doesn't matter	hem oraet/ no mata
it is correct	hem stret/ stretwan
it is forbidden to enter	hem tambu fo go insaet
it is quite forbidden	hem tambu
it is time for a break	hem taem fo break/ rest
it would be better if	bae hem gut go moa sapos
last month	las manis/ mans
last year	las ia
lazy fellow	lesi man
long knife for grass cutting	bush naef
long time after	long taem bihaen/ afta
look into	lukluk insaet/ lo hem
look under	lukluk adanit
make clear about (something) / clarify	talem gut
make note of this!	herem gut
man of rank influence/ notoriety	bik man/ no man-nating
man who talks nonsense	man fo toktok / ravis
meet/gathering	miting
move back	move/siviti back
my thoughts are that	tingting blong mi olsem
native leaf of tobacco	tabaika
of little consequence	samting nating
of little importance, a trifle	smol samting
of the same thought	sem tingting
of the same womb	sem mami (biological)
on guard	stanbae
on top of	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 diferan kaen pei

nomoa narafala we moa / no

eni wai moa

oketa kolek

weitim / 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	to grease, oil or lubricate something (see wilim) to flatter someone
haidim	to talk someone into something to hide something, to put in a safe place, to protect, to conceal
hamarem	to hammer something to thrash soundly.
hapum/ hafum brukim namil	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
hariapum	to make someone hurry, to make someone go faster
hotim	to heat something, to make something hot
hetim	to hate someone or something
hipim	to heap or pile something
hukum	to hook something, to catch something with a hook to heap or pile something to entice, to allure someone or something

PIJIN DICTIONARY

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

PIJIN DICTIONARY

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

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

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

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,
stretim	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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