

TETUN - the LANGUAGE of TIMOR-LESTE

Spelling is sometimes flexible/inconsistent. Sometimes vowels are doubled, just tending to emphasise the single letter sound. Eg. Hat is sometimes haat, nen sometimes neen.

Pronunciation Tips a – as in <u>up</u> e – as in <u>get</u> i – as in <u>igloo</u> o – as in <u>or</u> u – as in <u>book</u>	au – as in <u>cow</u>	x – <u>sh</u>
	ei – as in <u>eight</u>	c – <u>chick</u>
	ae – as in <u>fly</u>	z – <u>giraffe</u>
	ai – as in <u>fly</u>	g – <u>glad</u>
		k – barely heard (stuck in throat “sound”)

PERSONAL PRONOUNS

Tetun	English	Tetun	English
Hau	I	Hau nia	My
Ita	You	Ita nia	Your
Nia	He/she/it	Nia	His/her
Ami	We (<i>exclusive</i>)	Sira nia	Their
Ita	We (<i>inclusive</i>)	Sira Nian	Theirs
Imi	You (<i>plural</i>)	Sira	Them
Sira	They	Maiami	To us

GREETINGS = KOMPRIMENTA

Tetun	English	Tetun	English
Bondia	Good morning	Hamutuk ho ita	Together with us
Botardi	Good afternoon	Ate logu	See you later
Bonoite	Good night	Ate amanya	See you tomorrow
Hau nia naran Debbi	My name is Debbi	Debbi, han tiha ona?	Debbi, have you eaten yet?
Ita nia naran sa?	What's your name?	Sin/diak/los	Yes
Prazer konhese ita	Very nice to meet you	Lae	No
Halo favor	Please	Repete halo favor	Please repeat
Obrigada/u	Thankyou	Neineik	Slowly
Hau mai hosi Australia	I come from Australia	Tempo diak	Have a good time
Ita hela iha nebe?	Where do you live?	Lao ona!	Let's go!
Hau hela iha Geelong.	I live in Geelong.	Ita tenki ba ona	We must go now
Ita nia uma iha nebe?	Where is your house?	Diskulpa	Sorry
Ita servisu iha nebe?	Where do you work?	Kolisensa	Excuse me
Hau gosta atu halimar <i>tebe bola</i> .	I like to play <i>soccer</i> .		

NUMBERS = NUMERU

0	Zero	Zero			
1	Ida	One	11	Sanulu resin ida	Eleven
2	Rua	Two	12	Sanulu resin rua	Twelve
3	Tolu	Three	13	Sanulu resin tolu	Thirteen
4	Haat	Four	14	Sanulu resin haat	Fourteen
5	Lima	Five	15	Sanulu resin lima	Fifteen
6	Neen	Six	16	Sanulu resin neen	Sixteen
7	Hitu	Seven	17	Sanulu resin hitu	Seventeen
8	Walu	Eight	18	Sanulu resin walu	Eighteen
9	Sia	Nine	19	Sanulu resin sia	Nineteen
10	Sanulu	Ten	20	Rua nulu	Twenty
21	Rua nulu resin ida	Twenty-one	40	Haat nulu	Forty
22	Rua nulu resin rua	Twenty-two	50	Lima nulu	Fifty
23	Rua nulu resin tolu	Twenty-three	60	Neen nulu	Sixty
24	Rua nulu resin haat	Twenty-four	70	Hitu nulu	Seventy
25	Rua nulu resin lima	Twenty-five	80	Walu nulu	Eighty
26	Rua nulu resin neen	Twenty-six	90	Sia nulu	Ninety
27	Rua nulu resin hitu	Twenty-seven	100	Atus ida	One hundred
28	Rua nulu resin walu	Twenty-eight	200	Atus rua	Two hundred
29	Rua nulu resin sia	Twenty-nine	300	Atus tolu	Three hundred
30	Tolu nulu	Thirty	1000	Rihun ida	One thousand
½	Sorin/ Meiu	Half	Resin	Extra/Plus	

FAMILY = FAMILIA

Tetun	English	Tetun	English
Amaa/ inan	Mum/mother	Tia	Auntie
Apaa/aman	Dad/father	Tiun	Uncle
Alin	Younger brother or sister	Prima	Cousin (female)
Maun	Older brother	Primu	Cousin (male)
Maun alin	Brothers and sisters	Avo fetu	Grandma
Bin	Older sister	Bei fetu	Grandma
Alin fetu	Younger sister	Avu	Grandpa
Labarik sira	Children	Avo mane	Grandpa
Kaben	Husband/wife/spouse	Bei mane	Grandpa
Ita kaben tia ona?	Are you married yet?	Bei oan	Grandchild
Fetu	Woman/girl	Mane foun	Son-in-law
Mane	Man/boy	Sobrinya	Niece
Oan	Child	Sobrinyu	Nephew
Oan fetu	Daughter	Ida mate ona	One is dead already
Oan mane	Son		
Oan mesak	Only child		
Oan ikun	Youngest in the family		
Ita iha oan hira?	How many children do you have?	Hau iha alin fetu nain rua (<i>Nain is a 'people marker'</i>)	I have 2 sisters

QUESTIONS = PERGUNTAS

Tetun	English	Tetun	English
Se mak...?	Who ...?	Bain hira?	When (in the past)?
Se mak ne?	Who is that?	Hori bain hira?	When (in the future)?
See nia?	Whose?	Saida tehin?	What next?
Ida ne hau nia ...	This is my	Ne saida?	What's this?
Iha nebee?	Where?	Saida mak ne?	What's this?
Iha nee	Here	Ne ...	That's ...
Iha nebee	There Iha ka?	Do you have?
What?	Saida (or sa)? <i>at end of sentence</i> La iha	No, I don't have it.
Tansa?	Why?	Ita gosta...?	Do you like...?
Tanba	Because	Hau gosta ...	I like
Hira?	How many? How much?	Hau bele?	May I...?
Tinan hira?	How old?	Dala ruma (<i>start of sentence</i>)	Sometimes
Oinsa ita ...?	How about...?	Dala barak (<i>start of sentence</i>)	Often
Sintina iha nebe?	Where is the toilet?	Ita sente nusa?	How do you feel?
Ita koalia Inlges?	Do you speak English?	Hau sente ...	I feel ..
Hau tinan	I am years.	Oinsa ida ... ?	How about ...?
Bain hira tinan?	When is your birthday?	Ita tinan hira?	How old are you?

TEMPORAL PHRASES

(no past/future tense in Tetun, as such – indicate tense by qualifying the verb with a temporal phrase)

Tetun	English	Tetun	English
Agora	Now	Domingo	Sunday
Horiseik	Yesterday	Segunda	Monday
Ohin loron	Today	Tersa	Tuesday
Aban	Tomorrow	Kuarta	Wednesday
Lokraik	Afternoon	Kinta	Thursday
Dadeer	Morning	Sesta	Friday
Evening/night	Kalan	Sabado	Saturday
Aban bain hira	In the future	Minutu	Minutes
Tiah ona	Already	Loron	Day
Uluk	In the past	Semana	Week
Orsida	Later	Fulan	Month
Meiudia	Middle of the day	Tinan	Year
Kalan bot	Middle of the night	Oras	Hour
Semana oin	Next week	Hira horas	What's the time?
Semana kotuk	Last week	Tuku ida	It's one o'clock
Loro-loron	Every day	Tuku tolu liu minatu sanulu resin lima	It's ¼ past three
Kala-kalan	Every night	Tuku sanulu ho balu	It's ½ past ten
Tinan ida dala tolu	3 times a year	Falta minatu sanulu resin lima ba tuku rua	It's ¼ to two

VEGETABLES = MODO

Tetun	English	Tetun	English
Brinzela	Eggplant	Senoura	Carrot
Modo mutin	Bok choy	Batar	Corn
Fehuk	Potato	Alfasi	Lettuce
Fore rai	Peanuts	Repolhu	Cabbage
Fore	Beans	Tein etu	Cooked rice
Kangko	Spinach	Fos	Raw rice
Lakeru	Pumpkin	Hare	Unpicked rice
Lis Bombay	Onion	Sasuru	Porridge
Lis mean	Little red onions	Lis mutin	Garlic

FRUIT = AIFUAN

Tetun	English	Tetun	English
Aifunan	Flower	Tomate	Tomato
Aidila	Paw paw	Durian	Durian
Nu	Coconut	Jambua	Grapefruit
Hass	Mango	Kulu jaka	Jackfruit
Hudi	Bananas	Derok	Lemon

MEAT & SEAFOOD = NAAN & HAHAN HOSI TASI

Tetun	English	Tetun	English
Nan karau, bifi	Beef	Ikan lele	Cat fish
Nan manu	Chicken	Ikan maran	Dried fish
Nan bibi	Goat	Boek oan	Shrimp
Nan fahi	Pork	Manu tolun	Eggs

ANIMALS = ANIMAL

Tetun	English	Tetun	English
Asu	Dog	Lekirauk	Monkey
Busa	Cat	Karau	Cow
Fahi	Pig	Karau Timor	Buffalo
Bibi	Goat	Manu	Chicken
Bibi rusa	Deer	Ikan	Fish
Lafaek	Crocodile	Tunu	Tuna
		Kuda	Horse

HEMU = DRINKS

Tetun	English	Tetun	English
Kafe	Coffee	Susuben	Milk
Xa	Tea	Tua (mutin)	Wine
Be	Water	Alkol	Alcohol
Nu ben	Coconut milk	Masin midar	Sugar

AT THE MARKET = IHA MERKADU

Tetun	English	Tetun	English
Merkadu	Market	Faan	Sell
Hau hakarek sosa ...	I want to buy...	Sosa	Buy
Folin hira?	How much is it?	Osan	Money
Nia folin ...	The price is ...	Osan nia fatin	Purse
Dolar	Dollars	Sosa ... tiha ona ka lae?	Bought ... already?
Sen	Cents	Seidauk sosa?	Bought, not yet?
Karun (liu)	(Too) expensive	Saida tan?	What else?
Baratu	Cheap		

MISCELLANEOUS MARKET

Tetun	English	Tetun	English
Loja	Shop	Paun	Bread
Sasan	Stuff	Hahan	Food
Buat	Thing	Mas midar	Sugar
Ai kose	Matches	Masin meer	Salt
Senter	Torch	Rinso	Washing powder
Sigaru	Cigarettes	Sabaun	Soap
Arame	Wire	Tisu	Toilet paper
Eskeiro	Lighter	Xokolati	Chocolate
Lilin	Candles	Botir	Bottle
		Kaixa	Box

PLACES = FATIN

Tetun	English	Tetun	English
Tasi	Beach	Egreja	Church
Uma moras	Hospital	Uma	House
Loja	Shop	Estasaun polisia	Police station

VERBS

Tetun	English	Tetun	English
Adjuda	To help	Aprende	To learn
Ba	To go	Bolu	To summon
Ba liur	To exit	Bolu microlet	To summon a minibus
Bele	To be able to (can)	Buka	To search/look for
Belo	To lick		
Daan	To boil	Dehan	To say
Estuda	To study		
Fasi	To wash	Fo ba	To give away (to them/him)
Fila	To turn	Fo fila falu	To return
Fo	To give	Fo mai	To give to us
		Fuma	To smoke
Gosta	To like		
Habai	To hang	Hare	To watch/see
Hadeer	To get up	Harii	To build
Hadeer dadeer	To get up in the morning	Hariis	To bathe/shower
Hakarak	To want	Hasoro	To meet
Hakerek	To write	Hatais	To wear
Halimar	To play	Hatan	To agree
Halo	To do/make	Hatene	To know/understand
Halo festa	To have a party	Hau hanoin lai	Let me think first
Halo orasan	To say prayers	Hau haonin lae!	I think not!
Halo tinan	To celebrate a birthday	Hein	To wait
Haluhan	To forget	Hela	To stay back/behind
Hamnasa	To laugh	Hela	To live (in a place)
Hamoos	To clean	Hemu	To drink
Hamrik	To stand	Hetan	To get/find
Han	To eat	Hodi	To use
Hanesan	To be alike/similar	Horon	To smell
Hanoin	To think	Husi	To live
Hanorin	To teach	Husu	To ask
Impresta	To borrow	Inkontru	To meet
Kaer	To hold	Komprende	To understand
Koalia	To speak	Konkorda	To agree
Koko	To try/taste	Konyese	To know
Kompras	To shop		
Lakohi	To not want	Liga	To connect (the water

Lambe	To lick	Loke	To open or to turn on
Lanu	To be drunk	Lori	To carry
Lao	To walk	Lori kareta	To drive
Lao ona!	Let's go!	Lori kareta bisikleta	To ride
Le	To read		
Mai	To come (here)	Moras	To be sick
Mate	To die	Moris	To be born/live
Mehi	To dream	Muda	To move (to Australia)
Nata	To chew		
Para	Stop	Prepara	To prepare
Pinta	To draw	Presiza	To need
Piska	To sink		
Rei	To kiss	Respeito	To respect
Resa	Pray	Rona	To listen
Sae	To catch	Senti	To feel
Sae microlet	To catch a minibus	Servisu	To work
Sai	To exit	Sosa	To buy
Sai	To descend	Sunu	To burn
Sai husi	Left (to go somewhere else)		
Taka	To close or to turn off	Toba	To sleep
Tama	To enter	Toka musika	To play music
Tata	To bite	Too	To arrive (somewhere else)
Tau	To put	Tuir	To follow or to attend
Tau okulo	To wear glasses	Tuun	To descend
Tau osan hamutuk	To save (put aside) money	Tuur	To sit
Tein	To cook	Tuur halimar	To sit and relax
Visita	To visit		

TRANSPORT

Tetun	English	Tetun	English
Kareta	Car	Aviaun	Plane
Microlet	Minibus	Ro/Roahi	Boat
Motor	Motor bike	Ponti	Bridge
Bicikleta	Bicycle	Estrada	Street
Taksi	Taxi	Dalan	Road
Bis	Bus		

PREPOSITIONS

Tetun	English	Tetun	English
Besik	Near	Liman karuk	Left hand side
Dok	Far	Liman los	Right hand side
Hadulus	Around	Liur	Outside
Ho	And	Nafatin	Still
Iha	In/at	Ninin	At the edge of
Klaran	In between	Oin	In front of
Konabasei	Still	Okoa	Under
Kotuk	Behind	Sorin	Next to/Beside (people)
Laran	Inside	Tuir	Follow
Leten	On or above	Iha nebe ...?	Where is the ...?
		Ne'e mak ... kaixa?	It's ... the box

DIRECTIONS

Tetun	English	Tetun	English
Fila ba liman los	Turn right	Tasi fetu	North
Fila ba liman karuk	Turn left	Tasi mane	South
Ba los deit	Go straight ahead	Lorosae	East
(Iha) Kruzamento	(At the) intersection	Loromonu	West
Atu ba'a ... liu hosi nebe?	How do I get to ...?		

HOUSE = UMA

Tetun	English	Tetun	English
Aisar	Broom	Kopu	Cup
Bikan	Plate	Kuarto	Room
Dapur	Kitchen	Meza	Table
Didin laran / Didin luar	Inside wall / Outside wall	Ormatan	Door
Garfu	Fork	Rai	Floor
Hariis fatin	Bathroom	Sentina	Toilet
Janela	Window	Televisaun	Television
Kadeira	Chair	Tudik	Knife
Kama	Bed	Uma	House
Kanuru	Spoon	Uma kakuluk	Roof

CLOTHES = HATAIS

Tetun	English	Tetun	English
Kalsa	Trousers	Ropa	Clothes
Kalsa badak	Shorts	Saia	Skirt
Vestidu	Dress	Sapatu	Shoes
T-shirt	T-shirt	Meias	Socks
Sintu	Belt	Xepeu	Hat
Kamiza liman naruk	Shirt (long sleeved)	Ita hatais saida?	What are you wearing?
Kamiza liman badak	Shirt (short sleeved)	Hau hatais ...	I'm wearing ...

SCHOOL = ESKOLA

Tetun	English	Tetun	English
Eskola	School	To'o ona	Enough
Klas	Class	Seidauk (<i>put before verb</i>)	Not yet
Estudante	Student	Sempre (<i>put before verb</i>)	Always
Mestre (m)	Teacher (male)	Nunka (<i>put before verb</i>)	Never
Mestra (f)	Teacher (female)	SMA	Y10-12
Kolega	Friend	SMP	Y7-9
Lapizeira	Pen	SD	Y1-6
Meja	Table	Los (ka lae)	Correct/right (or not)
Kadeira	Chair	Surat	Letter
Hotu ona	Finished now	Kirim surat	Send a letter

HOBBIES = HOBI

Tetun	English	Tetun	English
Joga bola	Football	Dere viola	Guitar
Nani	Swimming	Kanta/hananu	Singing
Damas	Chess	Ita nia hobi saida?	What are your hobbies?
Le	Read	Hau nia hobi ...	My hobbies are ...

ADJECTIVES = ADJETIVU (placed after the noun)

Tetun	English	Tetun	English
Ain aas	Tall	Midar	Tasty/yummy
Ain badak	Short	Kontenti	Happy
Isin boot	Big	Tristi	Sad
Isin lotuk	Skinny	Hirus	Angry
Bokur	Fat	Hanesan	Same
Naruk	Long	Hotu	All
Klosan	Young	Hotu hotu	All (<i>more emphatic</i>)
Katuas	Old man	Sei iha ...	Still at ...
Ferik	Old woman	Sei iha uma	Still at home
Diak liu	Better	Sei kiik	Still small
Hamlaha	Hungry	Sei kiikian	Still tiny
Hamrok	Thirsty	Tau okulu	Wears glasses
Kole	Tired	Nia saida?	What is he/ she?
Manis	Hot	Nia iha ...	He/she has got ...
Malarin	Cold	Nia ...	He/she is ...

BODY = ISIN LOLON

Tetun	English	Tetun	English
Ain	Legs	Liman	Hand/arm
Fuk	Hair	Matan	Eyes
Ibun	Mouth	Nehan	Teeth
Inus	Nose	Oin	Face
Isin	Body	Pied	Foot
Lalan	Tongue	Tilun	Ears
		Hau nia ... moras	My ... hurts