



# **DENTAL DICTIONARY**

**ENGLISH → FIJIAN**



# Introduction

This dictionary is designed to assist dental professionals in effectively communicating with individuals who speak Fijian as their primary—or more comfortable—language.

In Fiji, many dental professionals are of Indo-Fijian descent. While some speak Fijian fluently, many primarily communicate in Fiji Hindi and English. This language gap can present challenges, especially when patients prefer to converse in Fijian, particularly when discussing dental care and procedures.

Another goal of this dictionary is to support volunteer dental professionals providing care in Fiji, especially in rural or underserved areas. In many of these communities, native Fijians are the primary population, and Fijian is often their first or only language. For providers unfamiliar with the language, this dictionary can serve as a helpful tool for basic communication and patient education.

Although translators can help bridge the communication barrier, they are not always available. Relying on them may also slow the provider's workflow, reducing the number of patients that can be treated in a day.

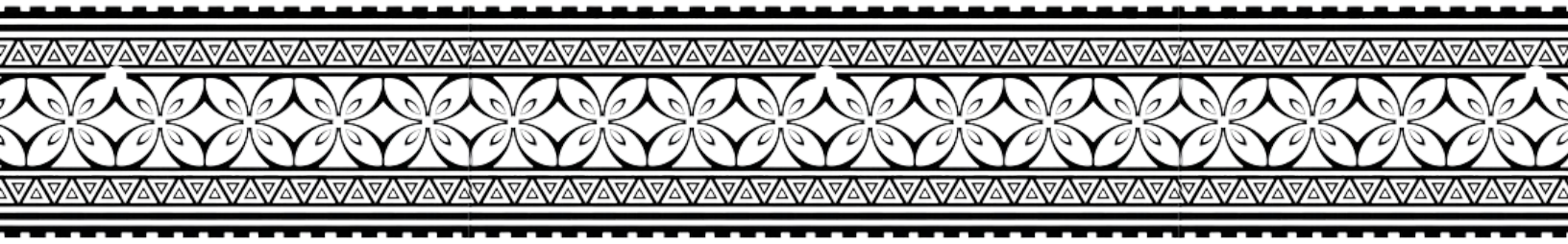
This resource aims to provide essential vocabulary and phrases to help dental professionals communicate more clearly and compassionately with Fijian-speaking patients, improving both the quality and efficiency of care.



# CHAPTER I

## FIJIAN ALPHABET LETTER PRONUNCIATIONS

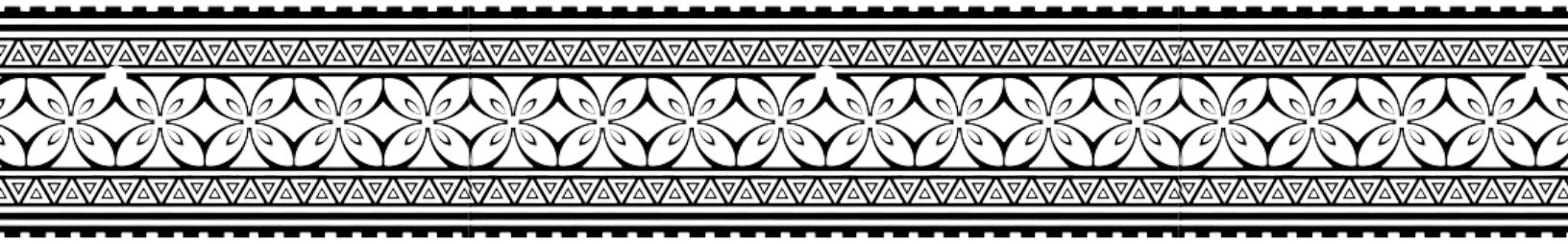
- A** – ah (as in saw)
- B** – mb (as in Rambo)
- C** – th (as in that)
- D** – nd (as in sand)
- E** – aye (as in stay)
- G** – ng (as in sing)
- I** – ee (as in bee)
- K** – k (as in keep)
- L** – l (as in log)
- M** – m (as in mom)
- O** – o (as in show)
- Q** – ng (as in linger)
- R** – r (as in roast) \* slight roll of r
- S** – s (as in soup)
- T** – t (as in team)
- U** – oo (as in boot)
- V** – v (as in venus)
- W** – w (as in wait)
- Y** – y (as in yummy)



# CHAPTER I

## VOCABULARY

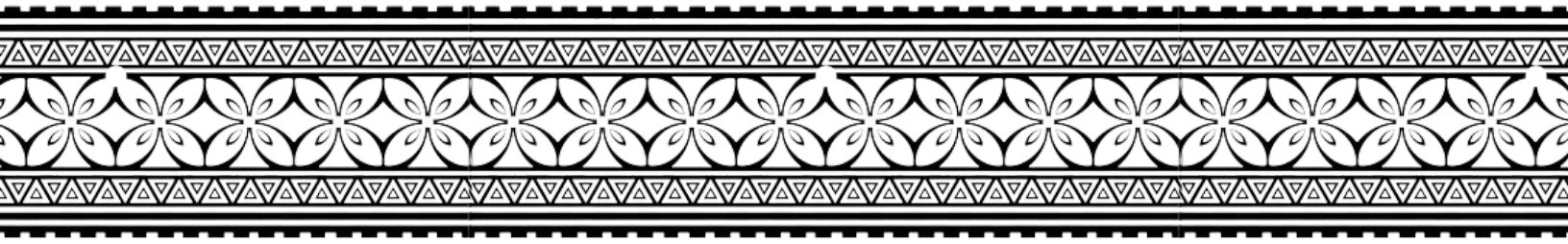
INTRODUCTORY	
Hello	Bula/Bula Vinaka
Please	Kerekere
Thank you	Vinaka
Yes	Io
No	Sega
Your name	Yacamu
My name	Yacaqu
Goodbye	Moce
See you later	Sota tale
Good morning	Yadra Vinaka



# CHAPTER II

## VOCABULARY

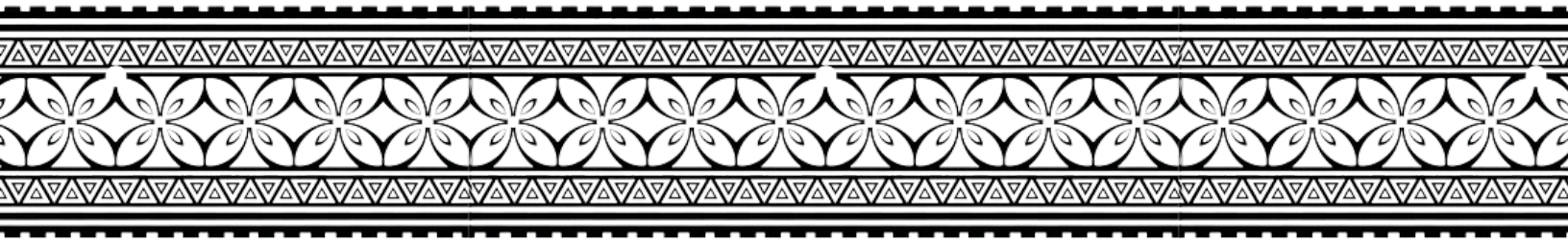
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# CHAPTER II Cont.

## VOCABULARY

NUMBERS & TIME UNITS	
One	Dua
Two	Rua
Three	Tolu
Four	Va
Five	Lima
Six	Ono
Seven	Vitu
Eight	Walu
Nine	Ciwa
Ten	Tini
Minute	Miniti
Hour	Aua
Day	Siga
Month	Vula
Year	Yabaki



# CHAPTER II Cont.

## VOCABULARY

DENTAL ANATOMY	
Mouth	Gusu
Teeth	Batina
Front teeth	Batina i liu
Back teeth	Batina i muri
Tongue	Yamena
Tonsils	Yameleka
Your cheek	Baluna
Gums	Vunibatimu
Palate	Gadrona
Jaw	Galegale
Bite	Kati
TMJ	Ilokiloki ni galegale
Lips	Tebe ni gusu

# CHAPTER II Cont.

## VOCABULARY

Dental Terminology	
Filling	Vakasinai ni bati
Crown	Isala ni bati
Dentures	Bati lasu
Gum Disease	Mate ni gadro
Toothbrush	Barasi ni bati
Toothpaste	Sava ni bati
Bite	ikati
Brush	Barasi
Shot	icula
Point (with your finger)	Dusi
Dentist	Vuniwai ni bati
Missing teeth	Bati lutu
Chipped tooth	Bati Katiki
Anesthetic	Ka ni veivakamoceri





## CHAPTER II Cont.

### VOCABULARY

Communicating with the Patient	
Pain	Mosi
Toothache	Mosi ni bati
Open (mouth)	Ga or “Ga Cake”
Close (mouth)	Sogota na gusumu
Numb (can’t feel)	Sega ni vakila
To the right	Ki matau
To the left	Ki mawi
Good	Vinaka
Bad	Ca
Bite	Katia



# CHAPTER III

## CONVERSATIONS

### *Greeting – First Meeting*

1. Hello, how are you doing?  
*Bula Vinaka, sa vacava tiko?*

2. What is your name?  
*O cei na yacamu?*

3. How are you doing?  
*Vakacava tiko?*

4. I am well.  
*Au sa vakavinaka tiko.*

5. My name is \_\_\_\_\_.  
*Na yacaqu o \_\_\_\_\_.*

6. Where are you from?  
*O kemuni mai vei?*

7. How old are you?  
*Ko yabaki vica?*

8. What brings you here to the dentist today?  
*Na cava na vuni nomu lako mai vei vuniwai ni bati nikua?*

# CHAPTER III Cont.

## CONVERSATIONS

### *Patient Screening*

1. Have you been to the dentist before?

*Kemuni sa bau sikova oti na vuniwai ni bati ena dua na gauna e liu?*

2. Do you have any health problems right now?

*E tiko beka vei kemuni e dua na mate vakayago ena gauna oqo?*

3. What is your medical history?

*E cava beka nomu ituktuku vakavuniwai?*

4. Are you afraid of the dentist?

*Kemuni rerevaka na vuniwai ni bati?*

5. What are you expecting from the visit today?

*Na cava o namaka tiko main a veisiko nikau?*

### **Possible Responses**

I have never been to the dentist	Au sa bera vakadua ni lako ki na vuniwai ni bati
I have high blood pressure	E tubu na noqu dra
I have diabetes	Au tauvi mate ni suka
I have heart problems	E tauvi mate ni uto
I have cancer	Au tauvi kenisa
My teeth really hurt	E mosi sara ga na batiqu
I am scared of needles	Au rerevaka na icula



## CHAPTER III Cont.

### CONVERSATIONS

#### *Treatment Planning*

1. We need to clean your teeth.

*E dodonu meda savata na batimu.*

2. We need to do a filling on your tooth.

*E dodonu meda vakatawani na batimu.*

3. We need to put a crown on your tooth.

*E dodonu meda biuta e dua na crown ena batimu.*

4. We need to take an x-ray of your tooth.

*E dodonu meda taura e dua na x-ray.*

5. We need to extract your tooth.

*E dodonu meda cavuta to batimu.*

6. Do you have any questions?

*E tiko beka eso na nomu taro?*

#### Possible Responses

Will it hurt?	E na mosi?
How much will it cost?	E vica beka na kena isau?
When will I come back?	Gauna cava au na lesu tale mai kina?



# CHAPTER III Cont.

## CONVERSATIONS

### *Clinical Dentistry*

1. Open your mouth please.

*Au kerea mo dolava mada na gusumu.*

2. Close your mouth please.

*Au kerea mo sogota na gusumu.*

3. The needle is going to poke you a little.

*Ena cokai iko vakalailai na i cula.*

4. Does that hurt?

*E mosi beka o ya?*

5. Please bite down all the way.

*Kerekere katia vakataucoko.*

6. Turn your head to the left please.

*Vukica na ulumu ki na imawi kerekere.*

7. Turn your head to the right please.

*Vukica na ulumu ki na imatau kerekere.*

8. How does that feel?

*E vakila vakacava o ya?*



## Acknowledgments

A special thanks to Christina Volavola for offering translational insights and helping to review the dictionary and collaborate on the best kind of translations to be used in the dental setting.

Thank you to Dr. Parikshath Naidu for his continued support of this dictionary and willingness to display the dictionary on the Fiji Dental Association website for dentists to use around the country.

This dictionary would not be what it is without the editing, formatting, and design help from Morgan Jones.

I hope that all who use this simple dictionary will be able to better communicate with their patients and offer exceptional dental care and education.

Vinaka vaka levu,



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