

Tutorial Worksheet: The Samoan Subject Phrase

Introduction:

In Samoan, the **subject phrase** typically consists of the **main subject(s)**, a **limiter** (also called a **determiner**), and the **"O" noun tense marker**. This construction helps identify the subject, whether it is singular or plural, specific or nonspecific, or expresses possession.

Key Components of the Samoan Subject Phrase:

1. **O Noun Tense Marker:** This always appears before the subject phrase and is used to signify that the phrase is focused on a noun or subject.
2. **Limiter (Determiner):** The limiter can determine the subject's specificity, number (singular/plural), or possessive quality. It modifies the noun to show if it is a specific person/place/thing, an indefinite one, or belongs to someone.
 - Example: **le** (the), **se** (a), **ni** (some), **la'u** (my), **lau** (your).
3. **Main Subject (Noun):** This is the primary person, place, or thing in the sentence.
4. **Adjective:** In Samoan, adjectives usually come **after the noun**.
5. **Conjunction ("ma"):** This is used to link multiple subjects, meaning "and" in English.
 - Example: **O le tamaitiiti ma le teine** (The boy and the girl).
6. **Connecting Subject Phrases:** Sometimes one subject phrase connects with another to express equality or possession. For example:
 - **O lo'u igoa o loane** (My name is John).

Reference Keys

Limiter Key (Determiners)

- **le:** the
- **se:** a
- **ni:** some
- **-:** (no limiter makes the subject plural and specific)
- **isi:** other
- **la'u:** my
- **lo'u:** my
- **lau:** your
- **lou:** your
- **lana:** his/her/its
- **lona:** his/her/its

Noun Key (Subjects)

1. tamāloa – man
2. teine – girl
3. tama – boy
4. faleoloa – store
5. 'aiga – family
6. 'ava – kava
7. nofoa – chair
8. fa'amalositino – exercise
9. ali'i – chief/man
10. tamaitai – woman
11. tagata – person
12. atunu'u – village
13. i'a – fish
14. fanua – land
15. vai – water
16. aso – day
17. taule'ale'a – young man
18. ma'umaga – plantation
19. solofanua – horse
20. alii pule – boss
21. va'alele – airplane
22. fa'atamā – father figure
23. teine pule – boss lady
24. matai – chief
25. upega – net
26. falesa – church
27. la'au – tree

- 28. aso fanau – birthday
- 29. telefoni – phone
- 30. mea'ai – food

Adjective Key

- 1. tele – big
 - 2. laiti – small
 - 3. umi – long/tall
 - 4. fou – new
 - 5. anamua – old
 - 6. matagofie – beautiful
 - 7. malosi – strong
 - 8. mamā – clean
 - 9. sauā – fierce
 - 10. poto – smart
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Exercise: Fill in the columns

Each question has the **"O"** tense marker filled in. Use the limiter key, noun key, and adjective key to create your own sentences. Translate each one.

"O" Tense Marker	Limiter	Subject/Noun(s)	Adjective
O	le	tamāloa	
O	se	faleoloa	fou
O	la'u	telefoni	
O	le	tagata	mamā
O	ni	nofoa	tele
O	lona	fanua	matagofie
O	isi	teine	
O	lo'u	aso fanau	fou
O	le	matai	
O	lau	va'alele	fou
O	le	ma'umaga	laiti
O	se	tamaitai	matagofie
O	lana	i'a	
O	le	aiga	tele
O	ni	solofanua	malosi
O	le	falesa	anamua
O	lau	upega	fou
O	le	ali'i	poto
O	lona	la'au	tele

Translate the following subject phrases into Samoan by using the appropriate limiter, noun, and adjective. You can refer to the keys provided above.

1. **The big horse**
2. **A strong chief**
3. **The new store**
4. **Some beautiful girls**
5. **Her new net**
6. **The smart girl and the short boy**
7. **A big fish**
8. **The birthday and the beautiful family**