

Official Languages by Country

By Country

AFGHANISTAN

Dari Persian & Pashto (both official);
other Turkic and minor languages

ALBANIA

Albanian, Greek

ALGERIA

Arabic (official), French, Berber
dialects

ANDORRA

Catalan (official), French, Spanish,
Portuguese

ANGOLA

Portuguese (official), Bantu and
other African languages

ANTIGUA and BARBUDA

English (official), local dialects

ARGENTINA

Spanish (official), English, Italian,
German, French

ARMENIA

Armenian 98%, Yezidi, Russian

AUSTRALIA

English 79%, native and other
languages

AUSTRIA

German (official nationwide);
Slovene, Croatian, Hungarian (each
official in one region)

AZERBAIJAN

Azerbaijani Turkic 89%, Russian 3%,
Armenian 2%, other 6%

BAHAMAS

English (official), Creole (among
Haitian immigrants)

BAHRAIN

Arabic, English, Farsi, Urdu

BANGLADESH

Bengali or Bangla (official), English

BARBADOS

English

BELARUS

Belorussian, Russian, other

BELGIUM

Dutch (Flemish) 60%, French 40%,
German less than 1% (all official)

BELIZE

English (official), Spanish, Mayan,
Garifuna, Creole

BENIN

French (official), Fon, Yoruba, tribal
languages

BHUTAN

Dzongkha (official), Tibetan dialects
(among Bhotes), Nepalese dialects
(among Nepalese)

BOLIVIA

Spanish, Quechua, Aymara (all
official)

BOSNIA and HERZEGOVINA

Bosnian, Croatian, Serbian

BOTSWANA

English 2% (official), Setswana 78%,
Kalanga 8%, Sekgalagadi 3%, other

BRAZIL

Portuguese (official), Spanish,
English, French

BRUNEI

Malay (official), English, Chinese

BULGARIA

Bulgarian 85%, Turkish 10%, Roma
4%

BURKINA FASO

French (official); native African
(Sudanic) languages 90%

BURUNDI

Kirundi and French (official), Swahili

CAMBODIA

Cambodian or Khmer 95% (official),
French, English

CAMEROON

French, English (both official); 24
major African language groups

Official Languages by Country

CANADA

English 60%, French 23% (both official); other

CAPE VERDE

Portuguese, Crioulo

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

French (official), Sango (national), tribal languages

CHAD

French, Arabic (both official); Sara; more than 120 languages and dialects

CHILE

Spanish

CHINA

Standard Chinese (Mandarin/Putonghua), Yue (Cantonese), Wu (Shanghaiese), Minbei (Fuzhou), Minnan (Hokkien-Taiwanese), Xiang, Gan, Hakka dialects, minority languages

COLOMBIA

Spanish

COMOROS

Arabic and French (both official), Shikomoro (Swahili/Arabic blend)

CONGO

French (official), Lingala, Monokutuba, Kikongo, many local languages and dialects

COSTA RICA

Spanish (official), English

CÔTE D'IVOIRE

French (official) and African languages

CROATIA

Croatian 96% (official), other 4% (including Italian, Hungarian, Czech, Slovak, German)

CUBA

Spanish

CYPRUS

Greek, Turkish (both official); English

CZECH REPUBLIC

Czech

DENMARK

Danish, Faroese, Greenlandic, German; English is the predominant second language

DJIBOUTI

French and Arabic (both official), Somali, Afar

DOMINICAN REP.

Spanish

EAST TIMOR

Tetum, Portuguese (official); Bahasa Indonesia, English; other indigenous languages, including Tetum, Galole, Mambae

ECUADOR

Spanish (official), Quechua, other Amerindian languages

EGYPT

Arabic (official), English and French widely understood by educated classes

EL SALVADOR

Spanish, Nahua (among some Amerindian languages)

EQUATORIAL GUINEA

Spanish, French (both official); pidgin English, Fang, Bubi, Ibo

ERITREA

Afar, Arabic, Tigre and Kunama, Tigrinya, other Cushitic languages

ESTONIA

Estonian 67% (official), Russian 30%, other

ETHIOPIA

Amharic, Tigrinya, Orominga, Guaragigna, Somali, Arabic, English, over 70 others

FIJI

English (official), Fijian, Hindustani

Official Languages by Country

FINLAND

Finnish 92%, Swedish 6% (both official); small Sami and Russian speaking minorities

FRANCE

French 100%

GABON

French (official), Fang, Myene, Nzebi, Bapounou/Eschira, Bandjabi

GAMBIA

English (official), Mandinka, Wolof, Fula and other indigenous

GEORGIA

Georgian 71% (official), Russian 9%, Armenian 7%, Azerbaijani 6%, other 7%

GERMANY

German

GHANA

English (official), African languages (including Akan, Moshi-Dagomba, Ewe, and Ga)

GREECE

Greek 99% (official), English, French

GRENADA

English (official), French patois

GUATEMALA

Spanish 60%, Amerindian languages 40% (23 officially recognized Amerindian languages, including Quiche, Cakchiquel, Kekchi, Mam, Garifuna, and Xinca)

GUINEA

French (official), native tongues (Malinke, Susu, Fulani)

GUINEA-BISSAU

Portuguese (official), Criolo, African languages

GUYANA

English (official), Amerindian dialects, Creole, Hindi, Urdu

HAITI

Creole and French (both official)

HONDURAS

Spanish (official), Amerindian dialects; English widely spoken in business

HUNGARY

Hungarian (Magyar) 94%, other 6%

ICELAND

Icelandic, English, Nordic languages, German widely spoken

INDIA

Hindi 30%, English, Bengali, Gujarati, Kashmiri, Malayalam, Marathi, Oriya, Punjabi, Tamil, Telugu, Urdu, Kannada, Assamese, Sanskrit, Sindhi (all official); Hindi/Urdu; 1,600+ dialects

INDONESIA

Bahasa Indonesia (official), English, Dutch, Javanese, and more than 580 other languages and dialects

IRAN

Persian and Persian dialects 58%, Turkic and Turkic dialects 26%, Kurdish 9%, Luri 2%, Balochi 1%, Arabic 1%, Turkish 1%, other 2%

IRAQ

Arabic (official), Kurdish (official in Kurdish regions), Assyrian, Armenian

IRELAND

English, Irish/Gaelic (both official)

ISRAEL

Hebrew (official), Arabic, English

ITALY

Italian (official); German, French and Slovene-speaking minorities

JAMAICA

English, Jamaican Creole

JAPAN

Japanese

JORDAN

Arabic (official), English

Official Languages by Country

KAZAKHSTAN

Kazak (Quazaq, state language)
64%; Russian (official, used in
everyday business) 95%

KENYA

English (official), Swahili (national),
and numerous indigenous
languages

KIRIBATI

English (official), I-Kiribati
(Gilbertese)

NORTH KOREA

Korean

SOUTH KOREA

Korean, English widely taught

KUWAIT

Arabic (official), English

KYRGYZSTAN

Kyrgyz, Russian (both official)

LAOS

Lao (official), French, English,
various ethnic languages

LATVIA

Latvian 58% (official), Russian 38%,
Lithuanian, other

LEBANON

Arabic (official), French, English,
Armenian

LESOTHO

English, Sesotho (both official); Zulu,
Xhosa

LIBERIA

English 20% (official), some 20
ethnic-group languages

LIBYA

Arabic, Italian, and English widely
understood in major cities

LIECHTENSTEIN

German (official), Alemannic dialect

LITHUANIA

Lithuanian 82% (official), Russian
8%, Polish 6%

LUXEMBOURG

Luxembourgish (national), French,
German (both administrative)

MACEDONIA

Macedonian 67%, Albanian 25%
(both official); Turkish 4%, Roma
2%, Serbian 1%

MADAGASCAR

Malagasy and French (both official)

MALAWI

Chichewa 57% (official), Chinyanja
13%, Chiyao 10%, Chitumbuka 10%,
Chisena 3%, Chilomwe 2%,
Chitonga 2%, other 3%

MALAYSIA

Bahasa Melayu (Malay, official),
English, Chinese dialects
(Cantonese, Mandarin, Hokkien,
Hakka, Hainan, Foochow), Tamil,
Telugu, Malayalam, Panjabi, Thai;
several indigenous languages in
East Malaysia

MALDIVES

Maldivian Dhivehi (official); English
spoken by most government officials

MALI

French (official), Bambara 80%,
numerous African languages

MALTA

Maltese and English (both official)

MARSHALL ISLANDS

Marshallese 98% (two major dialects
from the Malayo-Polynesian family),
English widely spoken as a second
language (both official); Japanese

MAURITANIA

Hassaniya Arabic (official), Pulaar,
Soninke, French, Wolof

MAURITIUS

English less than 1% (official),
Creole 81%, Bojpoori 12%, French
3%

Official Languages by Country

MEXICO

Spanish, various Mayan, Nahuatl, and other regional indigenous languages

MICRONESIA

English (official, common), Chukese, Pohnpeian, Yapese, Kosrean, Ulithian, Woleaian, Nukuoro, Kapingamarangi

MOLDOVA

Moldovan (official; virtually the same as Romanian), Russian, Gagauz (a Turkish dialect)

MONACO

French (official), English, Italian, Monegasque

MONGOLIA

Mongolian 90%; also Turkic and Russian

MONTENEGRO

Serbian/Montenegrin (official)

MOROCCO

Arabic (official), Berber dialects, French often used for business, government and diplomacy

MOZAMBIQUE

Portuguese 9% (official; second language of 27%), Emakhuwa 26%, Xichangana 11%, Elomwe 8%, Cisena 7%, Echuwabo 6%, other Mozambican languages 32%

MYANMAR

Burmese, minority languages

NAMIBIA

English (official), Afrikaans is common language of most of the population and of about 60% of the white population, German 32%; indigenous languages: Oshivambo, Herero, Nama

NAURU

Nauruan (official), English

NEPAL

Nepali 48% (official), Maithali 12%, Bhojpuri 7%, Tharu 6%, Tamang 5%, others. English spoken by many in government and business

NETHERLANDS

Dutch, Frisian (both official)

NEW ZEALAND

English, Maori (both official)

NICARAGUA

Spanish 98% (official); English and indigenous languages on Atlantic coast

NIGER

French (official), Hausa, Djerma

NIGERIA

English (official), Hausa, Yoruba, Ibo, Fulani, and more than 200 others

NORWAY

Bokmål Norwegian, Nynorsk Norwegian (both official); small Sami and Finish speaking minorities (Sami is official in six municipalities)

OMAN

Arabic (official), English, Baluchi, Urdu, Indian dialects

PAKISTAN

Urdu 8%, English (both official); Punjabi 48%, Sindhi 12%, Siraiki 10%, Pashtu 8%, Balochi 3%, Hindko 2%, Brahui 1%, Burushaski and others 8%

PALAU

Palauan 65%, English 10%, Tobi, Angaur (each official on some islands), Filipino 14%, Chinese 6%, Carolinian 2%, Japanese 2%, other languages 1%

PALESTINIAN STATE (proposed)

Arabic, Hebrew, English

PANAMA

Spanish (official); English 14%, many bilingual

Official Languages by Country

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Tok Pisin (Melanesian Pidgin), Hiri
Motu (in Papua region), English 2%;
715 indigenous languages

PARAGUAY

Spanish, Guarani (both official)

PERU

Spanish, Quechua (both official);
Aymara; many minor Amazonian
languages

PHILIPPINES

Filipino (based on Tagalog), English
(both official); eight major dialects:
Tagalog, Cebuano, Ilocano,
Hiligaynon or Ilonggo, Bicol, Waray,
Pampango, and Pangasinense

POLAND

Polish 98%

PORTUGAL

Portuguese (official), Mirandese
(official, but locally used)

QATAR

Arabic (official), English a common
second language

ROMANIA

Romanian (official), Hungarian,
German

RUSSIA

Russian, others

RWANDA

Kinyarwanda, French and English
(all official); Kiswahili in commercial
centers

ST. KITTS and NEVIS

English

ST. LUCIA

English (official), French patois

ST. VINCENT and GRENADINES

English, French patois

SAMOA

Samoaan, English

SAN MARINO

Italian

SÃO TOMÉ and PRÍNCIPE

Portuguese (official)

SAUDI ARABIA

Arabic

SENEGAL

French (official); Wolof, Pulaar, Jola,
Mandinka

SERBIA

Serbian (official); Romanian,
Hungarian, Slovak and Croatian (all
official in Vojvodina region); Albanian
(official in Kosovo)

SEYCHELLES

Seselwa Creole 92%, English 5%,
French (all official)

SIERRA LEONE

English (official), Mende(southern
vernacular), Temne (northern
vernacular), Krio

SINGAPORE

Mandarin 35%, English 23%, Malay
14%, Hokkien 11%, Cantonese 6%,
Teochew 5%, Tamil 3%, other 3%

SLOVAKIA

Slovak 84% (official), Hungarian
11%, Roma 2%, Ukrainian 1%

SLOVENIA

Slovenian 91%, Serbo-Croatian 5%

SOLOMON ISLANDS

English 2% (official), Melanesian
pidgin, 120 indigenous languages

SOMALIA

Somali (official), Arabic, English,
Italian

SOUTH AFRICA

IsiZulu 24%, IsiXhosa 18%,
Afrikaans 13%, Sepedi 9%, English
8%, Setswana 8%, Sesotho 8%,
Xitsonga 4%, other 8%

SPAIN

Castilian Spanish 74% (official
nationwide); Catalan 17%, Galician
7%, Basque 2% (each official
regionally)

SRI LANKA

Sinhala 74% (official and national),
Tamil 18% (national), other 8%;
English is commonly used in
government and spoken
competently by about 10%

SUDAN

Arabic (official), Nubian, Ta Bedawie,
diverse dialects of
Nilotic, Nilo-Hamitic, Sudanic
languages, English

SURINAME

Dutch (official), Surinamese, English
widely spoken, Hindustani,
Javanese

SWAZILAND

English, siSwati (both official)

SWEDEN

Swedish, small Sami and Finnish
speaking minorities

SWITZERLAND

German 64%, French 20%, Italian
7% (all official)

SYRIA

Arabic (official); Kurdish, Armenian,
Aramaic, Circassian widely
understood; French, English
somewhat understood

TAIWAN

Chinese (Mandarin official),
Taiwanese (Min), Hakka dialects

TAJIKISTAN

Tajik (official), Russian widely used
in government and business

TANZANIA

Swahili, English (both official);
Arabic; many local languages

THAILAND

Thai (Siamese), English (secondary
language of the elite), ethnic and
regional dialects

TOGO

French (official, commerce); Ewe,
Mina (south); Kabye, Dagomba
(north); and many dialects

TONGA

Tongan, English

TRINIDAD and TOBAGO

English (official), Hindi, French,
Spanish, Chinese

TUNISIA

Arabic (official, commerce), French
(commerce)

TURKEY

Turkish (official), Kurdish, Dimli,
Azeri, Kabardian

TURKMENISTAN

Turkmen 72%; Russian 12%; Uzbek
9%, other 7%

TUVALU

Tuvaluan, English, Samoan, Kiribati

UGANDA

English (official), Ganda or Luganda,
other Niger-Congo languages,
Nilo-Saharan languages, Swahili,
Arabic

UKRAINE

Ukrainian 67%, Russian 24%,
Romanian, Polish, Hungarian

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Arabic (official), Persian, English,
Hindi, Urdu

UNITED KINGDOM

English, Welsh, Scots Gaelic

UNITED STATES

English 82%, Spanish 11%, other
indigenous languages

URUGUAY

Spanish, Portunol, or Brazilero

UZBEKISTAN

Uzbek 74%, Russian 14%, Tajik 4%,
other 8%

VANUATU

Bislama 23% (a Melanesian pidgin English), English 2%, French 1% (all official); more than 100 local languages

VATICAN CITY

Italian, Latin, French, various other languages

VENEZUELA

Spanish (official); numerous indigenous dialects

VIETNAM

Vietnamese (official); English (increasingly favored as a second language); some French, Chinese, Khmer; mountain area languages (Mon-Khmer and Malayo-Polynesian)

WESTERN SAHARA (proposed state)

Hassaniya Arabic, Moroccan Arabic

YEMEN

Arabic

ZAMBIA

English (official); major vernaculars: Bemba, Kaonda, Lozi, Lunda, Luvale, Nyanja, Tonga; about 70 other indigenous languages

ZIMBABWE

English (official), Shona, Ndebele (Sindebele), numerous minor tribal dialects

By Official Language

ARABIC

•Algeria •Chad •Comoros •Djibouti
•Egypt •Iran •Iraq •Israel •Jordan
•Kuwait •Lebanon •Mauritania
•Morocco •Oman •Qatar •Saudi
Arabian •Susan •Syria •Tunisia
•United Arab Emirates (U.A.E.)
•Yemen

ENGLISH

•Antigua •Australia •Barbuda
•Bananas •Barbados •Belize
•Botswana •Canada •Costa Rica
•Fiji •Gambia •Ghana •Grenada
•Grenadines •Guyana •Iceland
•India •Ireland •Jamaica •Kenya
•Kiribati •Lesotho •Liberia •Malta
•Mauritius •Micronesia •Namibia
•Nevis •New Zealand •Nigeria
•Pakistan •Panama •St. Kitts •St.
Lucia •St. Vincent •Sierra Leone
•Solomon Islands •Swaziland
•Tanzania •Tobago •Tonga
•Trinidad •Tuvalu •Uganda •United
Kingdom •United States •Zambia
•Zimbabwe

FRENCH

•Belgium •Benin •Burkina Faso
•Burundi •Cameroon •Canada
•Central African Republic •Comoros
•Congo •Côte D'Ivoire •Djibouti
•Equatorial Guinea •France •Gabon
•Guinea •Haiti •Mali •Monaco
•Netherlands •Niger •Rwanda
•Senegal •Togo

GERMAN

•Austria •Belgium •Germany
•Liechtenstein

GREEK

•Albania •Cyprus •Greece

ITALIAN

•Italy •Libya •San Marino •Vatican
City

MANDARIN

•China •Taiwan •Singapore

PERSIAN

•Afghanistan •Iran •U.A.E

PORTUGUESE

•Angola •Brazil •Cape Verde •East
Timor •Guinea-Bissau
•Mozambique •Portugal •Príncipe
•São Tomé

Official Languages by Country

RUSSIAN

- Estonia •Kazakhstan •Kyrgyzstan
- Latvia •Russia •Tajikistan

SPANISH

- Argentina •Bolivia •Chile
- Colombia •Costa Rica •Cuba
- Dominican Republic •Ecuador •El Salvador •Equatorial Guinea
- Guatemala •Honduras •Mexico
- Nicaragua •Panama •Paraguay
- Peru •Spain •Uruguay •Venezuela

SWAHILI

- Burundi •Comoros •Kenya
- Tanzania •Uganda

Many other Countries utilize a national official language.

Sources

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