

a world of languages



Countries and languages spoken

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When seeking the assistance of an interpreter or electing to translate a document, it is vital that the appropriate language be identified. Some people may use a non-standard variety of a language such as a dialect, e.g. Hokkien (Chinese), Lebanese (Arabic). However, the distinction between some dialects and languages is not always clear, for a variety of reasons.

The following information is intended to provide useful general information regarding countries and the major languages/dialects/other languages spoken in those countries. It should be stressed that the listing provides general guidance only and it is not intended to be inclusive of all the languages and/or dialects that may be spoken, within a given country.

COUNTRY	MAIN LANGUAGE(S)	DIALECTS/OTHER LANGUAGES SPOKEN
AFGHANISTAN	Pushtu, Dari	Uzbeki, Turkmani, Baluchi, Pashaii, Nuristani
ALBANIA	Albanian	Greek
ALGERIA	Arabic	French, Berber dialects
ARGENTINA	Spanish	Italian, native American Indian languages
ARMENIA	Armenian	Arabic, Turkish, French, Russian, Azeri
ASSYRIA	Assyrian (Syriac)	Chaldean, Arabic, Persian
AUSTRIA	German	
AZERBAIJAN	Azeri	Russian, Armenian, Lezgin
BANGLADESH	Bengali	English, Urdu, Assamese
BELARUS (Byelorussia)	Byelorussian	Russian, Urkanian, Polish
BELGIUM	French, Dutch	German, Flemish
BOLIVIA	Spanish	Quecha, Aymara
BOSNIA and HERZEGOVINA	Bosnian	Croatian, Serbian
BRAZIL	Portuguese	Native American Indian languages
BRUNEI	Malay	Chinese, English, Brunei
BULGARIA	Bulgarian	Turkish, Romani, Greek
CAMBODIA	Khmer	Mandarin, Teo Chiew, Vietnamese, French
CANADA	English, French	
CHILE	Spanish	Native American Indian languages
CHINA (People's Republic Of)	Cantonese, Mandarin	Hakka, Tibetan, Mongolian, Hokkien, Fukkien and 500 other languages
COLOMBIA	Spanish	Native American Indian languages
COOK ISLANDS	Cook Is. Maori, English	Raratonga, Pukapuka and others
COSTA RICA	Spanish	Creole, English
CROATIA	Croatian	Bosnian, Slovenian, Serbian
CUBA	Spanish	
CYPRUS	Greek, Turkish	
CZECH	Czech	
DENMARK	Danish	Faroese dialect
EAST TIMOR	Tetum	Portuguese, Hakka

COUNTRY	MAIN LANGUAGE(S)	DIALECTS/OTHER LANGUAGES SPOKEN
ECUADOR	Spanish	Quechua
EGYPT	Arabic	
ERITREA	Tigrigna	Amharic
ESTONIA	Estonian	Russian
ETHIOPIA	Amharic	Tigrigna, Oromo, Italian, Arabic
FIJI	Fijian	Hindi
FINLAND	Finnish	Swedish, Sami
FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA	Macedonian	Albanian, Serbian
FRANCE	French	Basque, Breton, Provençal
GERMANY	German	
GHANA	English, Akan	Ewe, other African languages
GREECE	Greek	Macedonian, Turkish, Albanian
GUATEMALA	Spanish	Native American Indian languages
HAITI	French	Creole
HONDURAS	Spanish	Native American Indian languages
HONG KONG	Cantonese	Other Chinese dialects
HUNGARY	Hungarian	Romanian
INDIA	Hindi, Gujarati, Kannada, Malayam, Konkani, Manipari	Kashmiri, Sindhi, Bengali, Urdu, Punjabi, Assamese, Nepalese and 18 other official languages
INDONESIA	Bahasa Indonesian	Javanese, Sudanese, Madurese
IRAN	Persian (Farsi)	Azeri, Kurdish, Armenian, Arabic, Turkish, Baluchi, Assyrian
IRAQ	Arabic	Kurdish, Assyrian, Turkmani
IRELAND (Eire)	English	Irish Gaelic
ISRAEL	Hebrew	Arabic, Yiddish, Russian
ITALY	Italian	Italian dialects
JAPAN	Japanese	
JORDAN	Arabic	
KENYA	Swahili	Kikuyu, Gujarati, Masai
KIRIBATI	Ikiribati	English
KOREA-NORTH	Korean	
KOREA-SOUTH	Korean	
KURDISTAN	Kurdish	Arabic, Turkish, Persian
KUWAIT	Arabic	English
LAOS	Laotian	Hmong, Chinese dialects, French
LATVIA	Latvian (Lettish)	Russian, Polish
LEBANON	Arabic	Armenian, French
LITHUANIA	Lithuanian	Russian, Polish
MACAU	Portuguese, Cantonese	Other Chinese languages
MALAYSIA	Malay (Bahasa Malaysian)	Tamil, Sinhalese, Cantonese, Hokkien and other Chinese dialects
MALTA	Maltese	Italian
MAURITIUS	English	Creole, Hindi, Urdu, French
MEXICO	Spanish	Native American Indian languages
MORROCO	Arabic	Berber dialects, French
MYANMAR (Burma)	Burmese	English, Karen, native languages
NAURU	Nauruan	English, Ikiribati, Chinese, Tuvalu

COUNTRY	MAIN LANGUAGE(S)	DIALECTS/OTHER LANGUAGES SPOKEN
NEPAL	Nepali	Others
NETHERLANDS	Dutch	Friesian
NEW ZEALAND	English	Maori
NEW CALEDONIA	French	Melanesian, Wallisian
NICURAGUA	Spanish	Miskito
NIUE	English, Niuen	
NORWAY	Norwegian	Sami
PAKISTAN	Urdu	Punjabi, Sindhi, Pashtu, Buluchi
PALESTINE	Arabic	
PAPUA NEW GUINEA	Pidgin, English	Hiri Motu and 100's others
PARAGUAY	Spanish, Guarani	
PERU	Spanish	Quecha, Aymara
PHILIPPINES	Filippino (Tagalog)	Cebuano, Hilgayano, Bikolano
POLAND	Polish	Ukranian
PORTUGAL	Portuguese	
ROMANIA	Romanian	Hungarian, German, Romani
RUSSIA	Russian	Ukranian, Tatar
SAMOA (Western)	Samoan	English
SAUDI ARABIA	Arabic	
SERBIA and MONTENEGRO	Serbian	Croatian, Albanian
SEYCHELLES	Creole	French, English
SINGAPORE	Mandarin, Malay	Tamil, Hakka
SLOVAK	Slovak	Hungarian
SLOVENIA	Slovene	
SOLOMON ISLAND	English	Pidgin, English
SOMALIA	Somali	Arabic, Swahili
SOUTH AFRICA	Afrikaans, English	Zulu, Xhosa, Sesotho
SPAIN	Spanish (Castillian)	Catalan, Galicia, Basque, Valencia
SRI LANKA	Sinhalese	Tamil
SUDAN	Arabic	Nubian
SWEDEN	Swedish	Finnish, Sami
SWITZERLAND	German, French	Romansch
SYRIA	Arabic	Kurdish, Armenian, Assyrian
TAIWAN	Mandarin	Taiwanese, Hakka
THAILAND	Thai (Siamese)	Chinese dialects, Malay, Khmer
TOKELAU	Samoan	Other local dialects
TONGA	Tongan	
TUNISIA	Arabic	French
TURKEY	Turkish	Kurdish
TUVALU	Tavaluan	Irikibati
UKRAINE	Ukranian	Russian, Polish
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	Arabic	
URUGUAY	Spanish	
VANUATU	Bislama, French	Other Melanesian languages
VENEZUELA	Spanish	Native American Indian languages
VIETNAM	Vietnamese	Cantonese, Khmer, Teo Chiew
YEMEN	Arabic	
ZIMBABWE	English, Shone	Other languages and dialects