

World languages - A reference guide

Below is a list of commonly spoken languages in different countries of the world. This is not an exhaustive list of world languages and you should contact the Interpreting and Translation Team if you require further information or advice about languages.

Country	Main language/s spoken
<i>The Americas</i>	
West Indies and Americas	Creole, Patois, English
South and Central America	Spanish
Brazil	Portuguese
Columbia	Spanish
Asia (Far East)	
China and Hong Kong	Cantonese, Hakka, Mandarin
North and South Korea	Korean
Malaysia	Malay
The Philippines	Tagalog (Filipino), English
Singapore	Mandarin, English
Thailand	Thai
Vietnam	Vietnamese
Indian Sub-Continent	
Bangladesh	Bangla, Bengali (Sylheti)
India	Bengali, Gujarati, Hindi, Punjabi, Tamil, Urdu
Pakistan	Urdu, Pushtu (Pashto, Pakhto); Punjabi
Kashmir	Pahari (Potowhari, Mirpuri, Kashmiri)
Sri Lanka	Sinalese, Tamil
Mauritius (island in Indian Ocean)	French, Creole-French
Afghanistan	Pushtu, Farsi, Dari
Africa	
Algeria, North Africa	French, Arabic, (French-Arabic)
Morocco, North Africa	French, Arabic
Sudan, North-east Africa	Arabic
Ethiopia, North-east Africa	Amharic
Ethiopia, (Eritrea Province)	Triginya, Tigre, Beja, Afar, Somali
Somalia, East Africa	Somali, Italian
Uganda, East Africa	Luganda, Swahili
Mozambique, East Africa	Portuguese
Anglo West Africa	Portuguese
Nigeria, West Africa	Hausa, Ligbo, Yoruba, others
Cameroon, West Africa	French, others
Ghana, West Africa	Fante, Ashanti (Asente), Ga, Twi, others
Sierra Leone, West Africa	Krio
The Gambia, West Africa	Fula, Mandinka, Wolof, others
Zaire, Central Africa	Bemba
Zambia, Central Africa	French, Lingala, Swahili, others

Zimbabwe, other South-east African countries	Shona
Botswana, Southern Africa	Tswana
Middle East	
Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia, Libya, Algeria, Sudan	Arabic
Iran (formerly Persia)	Farsi (Persian)
Iraq	Arabic, Kurdish (Sorani)
Europe	
Croatia (former Yugoslavia)	Croatian
Bosnia (former Yugoslavia)	Serbo-Croat (Bosnian)
Kosovo (former Yugoslavia)	Albanian
Serbia (former Yugoslavia)	Serbian
Romania	Romanian
Greece	Greek
Turkey	Turkish, Kurdish (Kurmanji)
Cyprus	Greek, Turkish
Former states of the USSR	Armenian; Belorussian; Georgian; Russian; Ukrainian