

# It's all about languages!



## Information about **28 languages** in Europe

Bulgarian

Dutch

Finnish

Hungarian

Lithuanian

Romani

Slovene

Croatian

English

French

Irish

Maltese

Romanian

Spanish

Czech

Esperanto

German

Italian

Polish

Russian

Swedish

Danish

Estonian

Greek

Latvian

Portuguese

Slovak

Turkish



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# Bulgarian

Български език

## Number of native speakers

about 7 million in Bulgaria, 10 to 12 million speakers worldwide

### Official language in

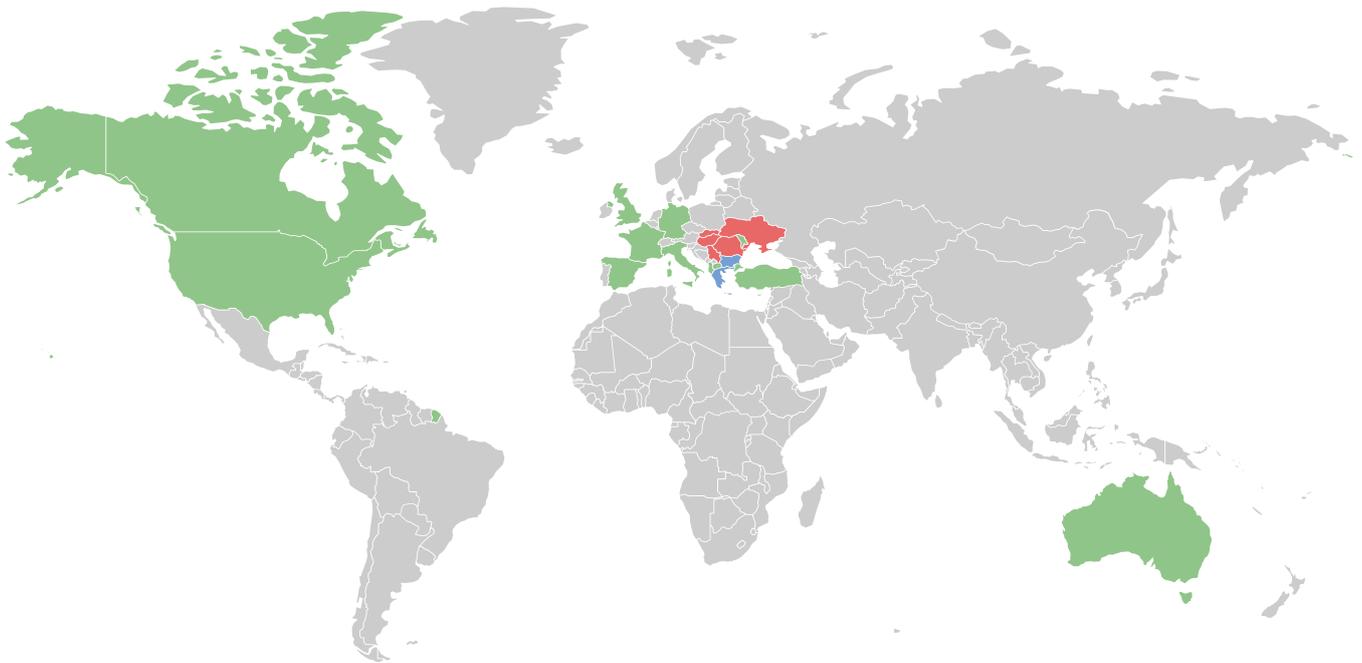
Bulgaria, Mount Athos (Greece),  
EU

### Minority language in

Romania (Banat variant),  
Serbia, Slovakia, Ukraine,  
Hungary

### Language of diaspora

Australia, Albania, Canada, US,  
France, Greece, Germany, Spain,  
Italy, Turkey, UK, Moldova,  
among emigrant communities  
worldwide



# ABC

**Alphabet**  
Cyrillic, 30 letters



**Grammatical cases**  
0



**Language code**  
bg, bul



**Linguistic typology**  
*inflectional* , *pro-drop* , *SVO*



**Language family**  
Indo-European; Balto-Slavic; Slavic; South Slavic



**Number of dialects**  
about 70 dialects, divided into 2 major groups  
(Eastern and Western)



## Longest word

**Непротивоконституционствувателствувайте**

Do not act against the constitution! (plural)

39 letters (the word is not included in official dictionaries)



## Curious word or sentence

**За миг бях в чужд, скърцащ плюшен фотьойл.**  
For a moment I was in a strange, squeaky plush armchair.  
33-letter pangram - a sentence using every letter of the  
alphabet at least once

**Нина рита тиранин.**

Nina is kicking a tyrant.

15-letter palindrome – a phrase that reads the same  
forward or reversed

Writing system and pronunciation

а б в г д е ж з и й к л м н  
о п р с т у ф х ц ч ш щ ъ ь ю я

Thematic words



мяу



бау-бау



кукуригу



грук-грук



мууу

## Funny or odd traditional proverbs and idioms



**На баба ти хвърчилото!**

Your grandmother's kite!

expressing contempt for something impossible,  
implausible



**Да вдигаме гълъбите!**

Let's pick up the pigeons!

Let's go!



**Гладна мечка хоро не играе.**

Hungry bear does not dance a round dance.

Hungry bellies have no ears. / No pay, no play.



**Видяла жабата, че подковават вола, и тя  
вдигнала крак.**

The frog saw the ox to be shoed and raised its legs  
too.

Try to behave as something much bigger and ridicule you  
for it.



**Сухо дупе риба не яде.**

A dry buttocks doesn't eat fish.

You cannot make an omelette without breaking eggs.



**На гол тумбак - чифте пищови.**

On bare belly - a pair of pistols. (a poser)

To make fun of a poser, comparing him to someone who  
doesn't even have clothes but carries guns to make himself  
seem important.

## Tongue twisters



Петър плет плете, през три пръта  
преплита. Подпри, Петре, плета! Падна,  
Петре, плетът.

Peter makes a hedge, he makes it with three wands  
and uses them every third time. Peter, shore the  
hedge up! Peter, the hedge has fallen!



Шест шишета с уши се сушат на шейсет  
и шесто шосе със шест сешоара.

Six bottles with ears are being dried with six fans  
on 66th road.

# Croatian

Hrvatski jezik

## Number of native speakers

4.4 million

### Official language in

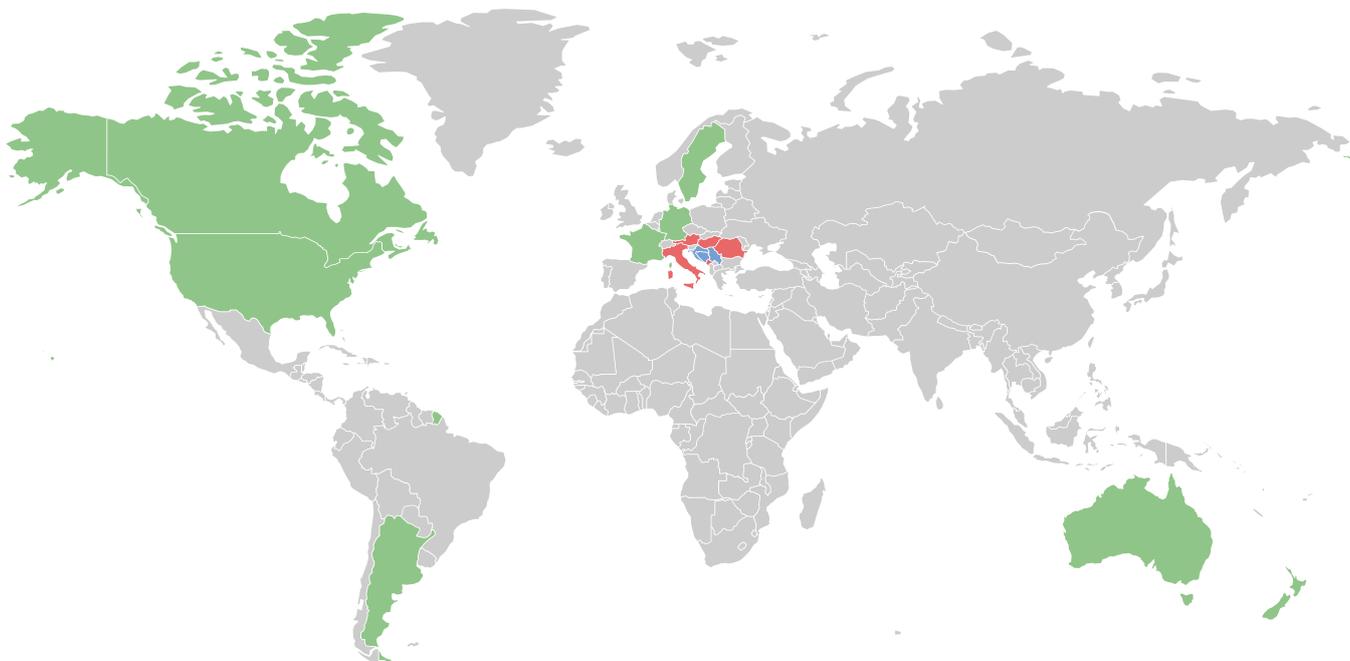
Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia (one of the 7 official languages of Vojvodina), EU

### Minority language in

Montenegro, Hungary, Austria, Italy, Romania

### Language of diaspora

Germany, Sweden, France and other Western EU countries, Argentina, USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand



# ABC

## Alphabet

27 letters - 30 phonemes (nj, lj, dž are phonemes written with two letters)



## Grammatical cases

7



## Language code

hr, hrv



## Linguistic typology

*inflectional*, *pro-drop*, *SVO*



## Language family

Indo-European, Slavic, South Slavic



## Number of dialects

3 dialect groups with approximately 25-30 subdialects



## Longest word

**prijestolonasljednikovica**  
heirress to the throne



## Curious word or sentence

**Gore gore gore gore.**  
At the top, mountains burn worse.  
4 different pitch accents

Writing system and pronunciation

a b c č ć d đ e f g h i j k l m n  
O p r s š t u v z ž

## Thematic words



mijau



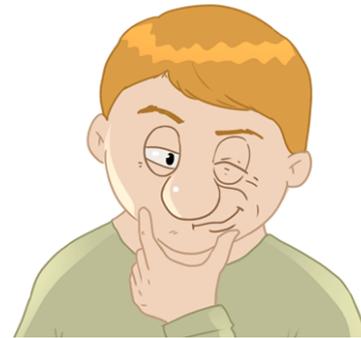
vau



kukuriku



Bum, tras



hm

## Funny or odd traditional proverbs and idioms



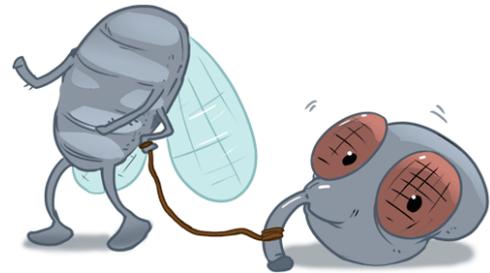
**pasti s konja na magarca**  
to fall from a horse onto a donkey  
to regress



**Batina je iz raja izašla.**  
A stick came from paradise.  
Spare the rod and spoil the child.



**Bog je prvo sebi bradu stvorio.**  
God created a beard for himself first.  
Take care of yourself first.



**Ide kao muha bez glave.**  
He walks around like a fly without a head.  
He acts in a confused way.

# Czech

Český jazyk

## Number of native speakers

about 10M

### Official language in

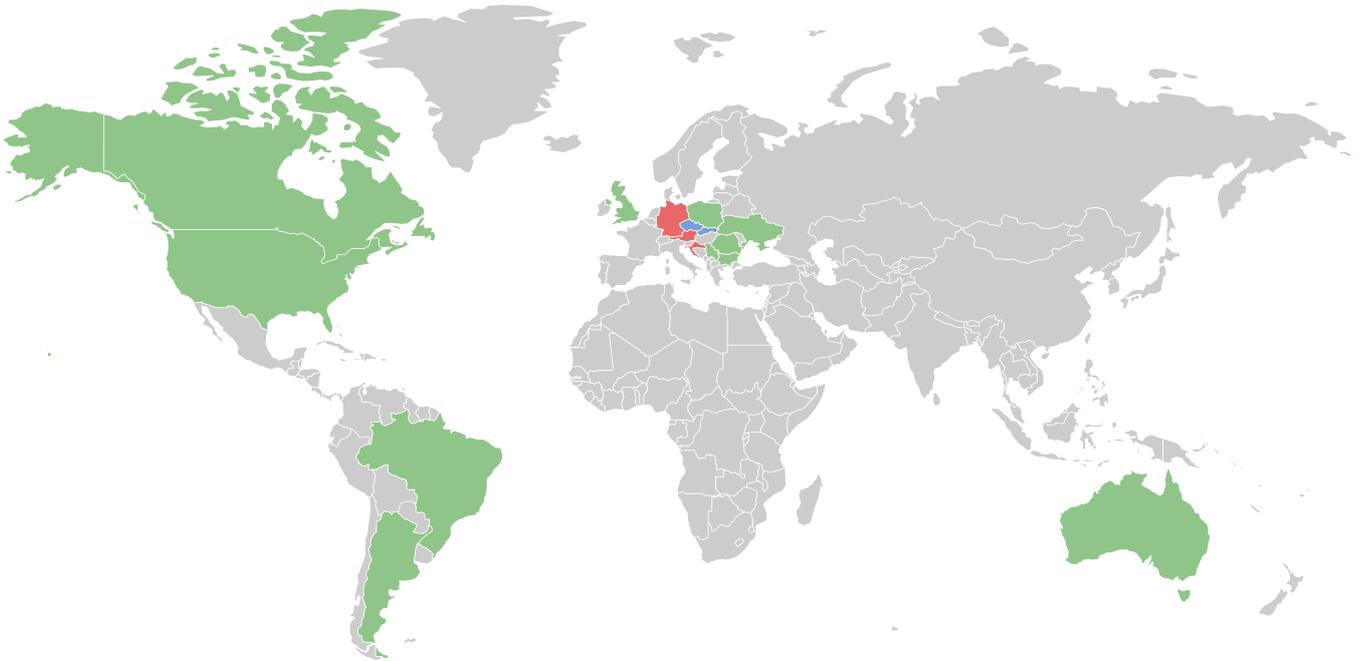
the Czech republic, EU; can be used in official communication in Slovak Republic

### Minority language in

Austria, Germany, Croatia, Slovak Republic

### Language of diaspora

Bulgaria, Croatia, Poland, Romania, Serbia, UK, Ukraine, Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, USA



# ABC

**Alphabet**  
modified Latin / 42



**Grammatical cases**  
7



**Language code**  
cs, cze, ces



**Linguistic typology**  
*inflectional* , *pro-drop* , *SVO*



**Language family**  
Indo-European family (West branch of Slavic languages together with Slovak, Polish, Sorbian and two extinct languages, Polabian and Slovincian)



**Number of dialects**  
five main groups; strong presence of colloquial Czech as opposed to the literary language (diglossia)



## Longest word

**nejnezkommercializovatelnějšího**

"not able to be commercialised" in the superlative form, masculine gender, singular, genitive case

**nejneznepřavděpodobnostňovatelnějšího**

"(of) the most continuously un-improbablizedable" in the superlative form, masculine gender, singular, genitive or accusative case



## Curious word or sentence

**Strč prst skrz krk.**

Push (your) finger through (the) neck.  
(shared with Slovak)

Writing system and pronunciation

a á b c č d d' e é ě f g h ch i í j k l  
m n ň o ó p q r ř s š t t' u ú ů v w  
X y ý z ž

Thematic words



mňau



haf



kykyryký



bum, buch



hm, mhm

## Funny or odd traditional proverbs and idioms



**Bez práce nejsou koláče.**

No work, no pie.

No pain, no gain.



**Lepší vrabec v hrsti nežli holub na střeše.**

Better a sparrow in the hand than a pigeon on the roof.

A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush.

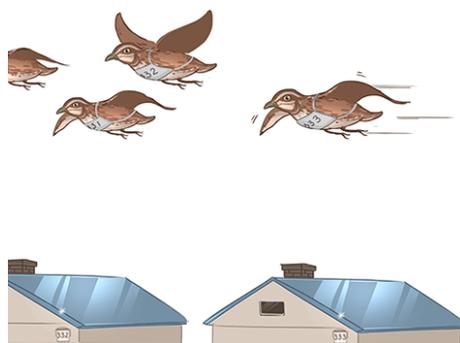


**Když se dva perou, třetí se směje.**

Where two fight, the third one laughs.

Two dogs fight for a bone, and a third runs away with it.

## Tongue twisters



Tři sta třicet tři stříbrných křepelek  
přeletělo přes stři sta třicet tři stříbrných  
střech.

Three hundred thirty silver quails flew over 333  
silver roofs.



Pokopete-li mi to pole, nebo nepokopete-li  
mi to pole.

Will you do the digging or will you not do the  
digging?



Kmotře Petře, nepřepěpřete mi toho vepře, jak mi, kmotře Petře, toho vepře přepěpříte,  
tak si toho přepěpřeného vepře sám sníte.

Uncle Peter, do not overspice the pork, if you, uncle Peter, overspice the pork, you will eat the over-spiced  
pork yourself.

# Danish

Dansk sprog

## Number of native speakers

About 5.6 million

### Official language in

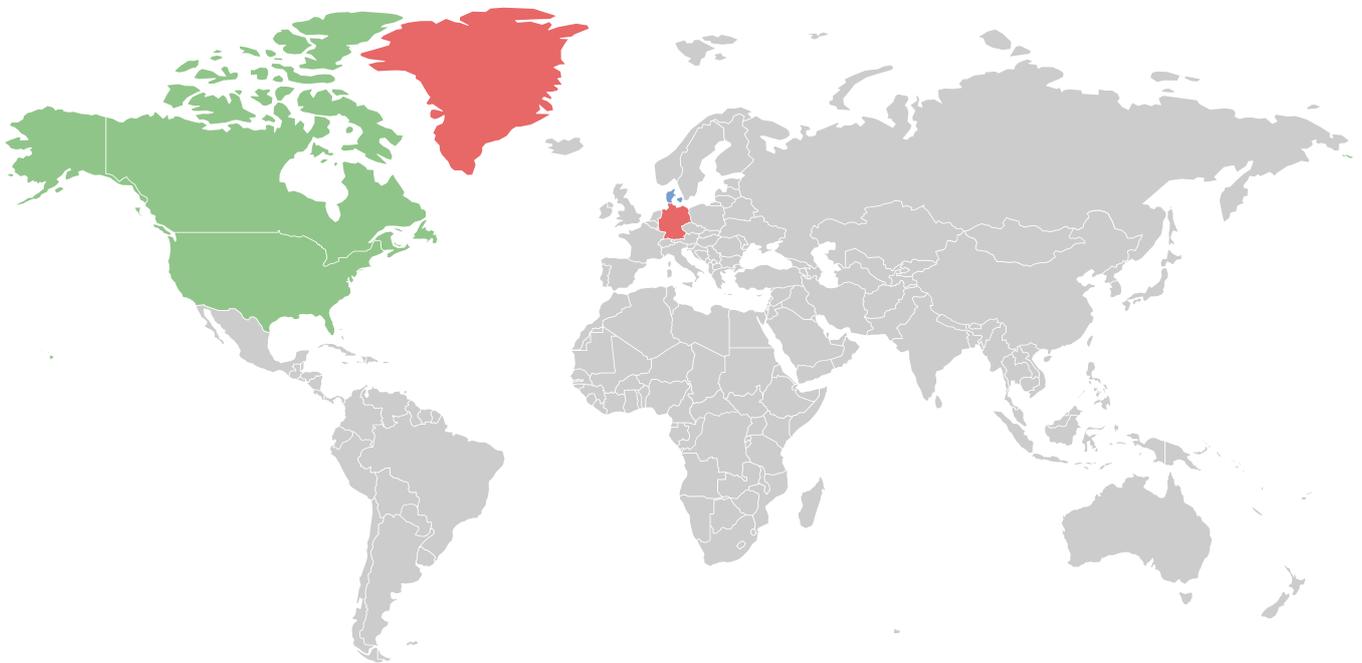
Denmark (5.5 million) incl.  
Faroe Islands (50.000), EU

### Minority language in

Special minority rights in  
Germany (~40.000) and  
Greenland (~10.000)

### Language of diaspora

US, Canada



ABC

**Alphabet**  
29 letters



**Grammatical cases**  
0



**Language code**  
da, dan



**Linguistic typology**  
moderately *inflectional*, *compounding*, *SVO*



**Language family**  
Indo-European, North-Germanic, East-Scandinavian



**Number of dialects**  
About 30, in three groups (Insular, Jutlandic, Bornholmian), plus Swedish-Danish dialects in the historically Danish areas of Southern Sweden (esp. Scanian)



### Longest word

**dekontekstualiseringsproblematikken**  
the decontextualisation problematics

**ejendomsserviceassistentuddannelsen**  
the real estate service assistant education



### Curious word or sentence

**æ ø i æ å**  
dialect: "the island in the river"

**angstskrig**  
scream of fear  
seven consonants in a row

**Får får ikke får, får får lam.**  
Sheep don't get sheep, they get lambs.

## Writing system and pronunciation

The Danish alphabet has 29 letters, with the non-Latin æ,ø,å at the end. The letter 'y' corresponds with umlaut ü, and q,w,x are only used in foreign words. As umlaut vowels, Æ and ø are already special (corresponding to ä and ö in some other languages), but the 'circle-a' (**bolle-å**), really defines Danish as a Scandinavian language.

a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o  
p q r s t u v w x y z æ ø å

## Famous native speakers

H.C.Andersen (story teller)  
Søren Kierkegaard (philosopher)  
Karen Blixen (writer)  
Lars von Trier (film director)  
Mads Mikkelsen (actor)

## Thematic words



miav



vov-vov



kykyliky



øf-øf



muh



mæh-mæh

## Funny or odd traditional proverbs and idioms



**Nød lærer nøgen kvinde at spinde.**

Need teaches naked woman to spin.

If someone really needs to do something, they will find a way.



**I mørket er alle katte grå.**

In the dark all cats are grey.

Physical appearance is unimportant in the dark.



**Han/hun er ikke tabt bag en vogn.**

He/she is not lost behind a cart.

He/she is not so stupid.



**Tomme tønder buldrer mest.**

Empty barrels make the most noise.

Non-achievers brag the loudest.

# Dutch

Nederlands, Vlaams

## Number of native speakers

21 million (plus 5-6 million Afrikaans speakers)

### Official language in

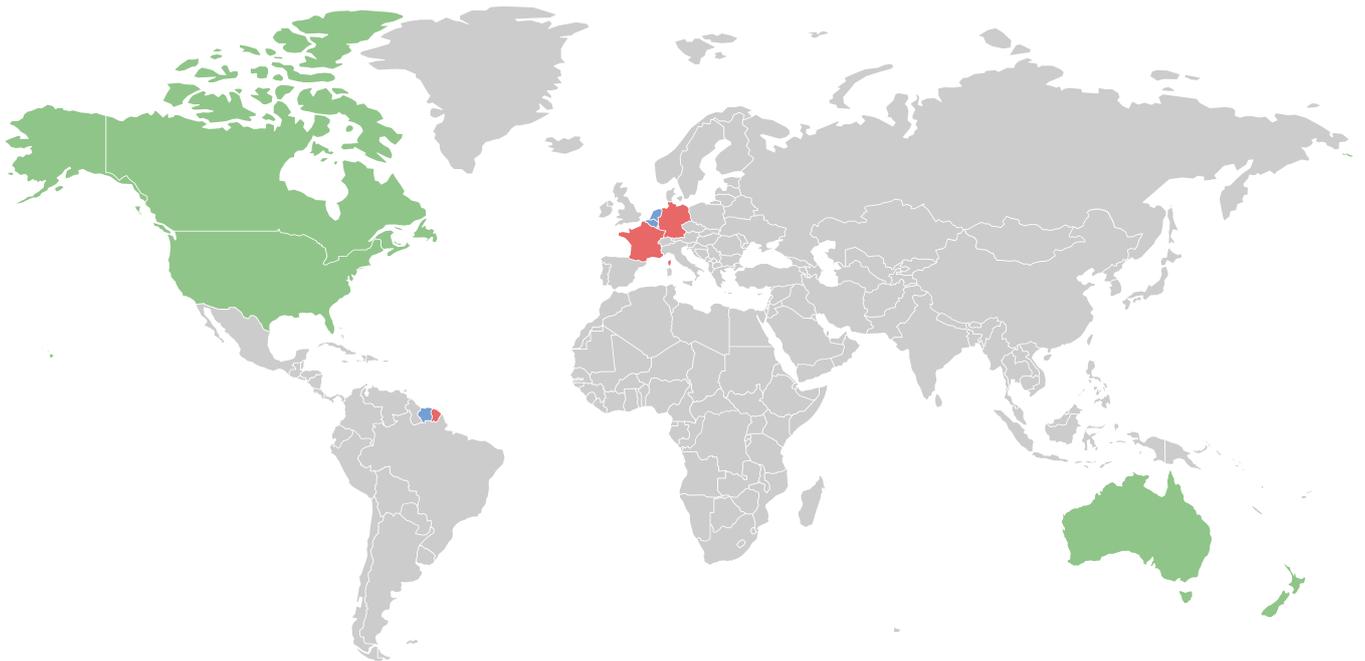
Netherlands, Belgium, Suriname, Aruba, Curaçao, Sint Maarten; EU, Union of South American Nations, unofficially used in the Caribbean Community.

### Minority language in

France (20-40.000), Germany (Kleve, East Bergish)

### Language of diaspora

USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand



# ABC

**Alphabet**  
26 + IJ



**Grammatical cases**  
0



**Language code**  
nl, nld, dut



**Linguistic typology**  
moderately inflectional , compounding , SOV / V2



**Language family**  
Indo-European, West Germanic, Low Franconian – middle position between English and German.



**Number of dialects**  
Three major groups: 1. (Low) Franconian (LF) 2. Limburgish 3. (Low) Saxon or Nedersaksisch [West Low German].



## Longest word

**ontwikkelingssamenwerkingsorganisaties**  
collaborating developments organizations

**meervoudigepersoonlijkheidsstoornis**  
multiple personality disorders

**hippopotomonstrosesquippedaliofobie**  
the phobia of long words



## Curious word or sentence

**Ui, uien, eeuwen**  
only vowels [-n is not pronounced]

**tweeën / ideeën**  
words with triple e

**Aa**  
the shortest place name

Writing system and pronunciation

â a à á b c d è ë é ê E f g h í î j k l  
m n ö ó O p q r s t ü u v w x y z

Thematic words



miauw, prr



woef, keff



kukeleku



knor knor



boe, beuh, moe, meuh



bèèè, mèèè

## Funny or odd traditional proverbs and idioms



**Water naar de zee dragen.**

Bringing water to the sea.

To do something useless: Carrying coals to Newcastle.



**Met iemand in zee gaan.**

To go with someone into the sea.

To cooperate with someone; to join forces, to make a deal.



**Niet over één nacht ijs gaan.**

Don't walk across the ice after a one night freeze.

Be cautious, take no risks.



**Tussen de wal en het schip vallen.**

To fall between the coast and the ship.

To be between a rock and a hard place; to fall between two stools.



**Klap van de molenwiek gehad.**

Being hit by a windmill's sail.

To go crazy.



**Een rijk man is niets anders dan een arme man met geld.**

A rich man is nothing but a poor man with money.

Money does not bring happiness.

# English

## English language

### Number of native speakers

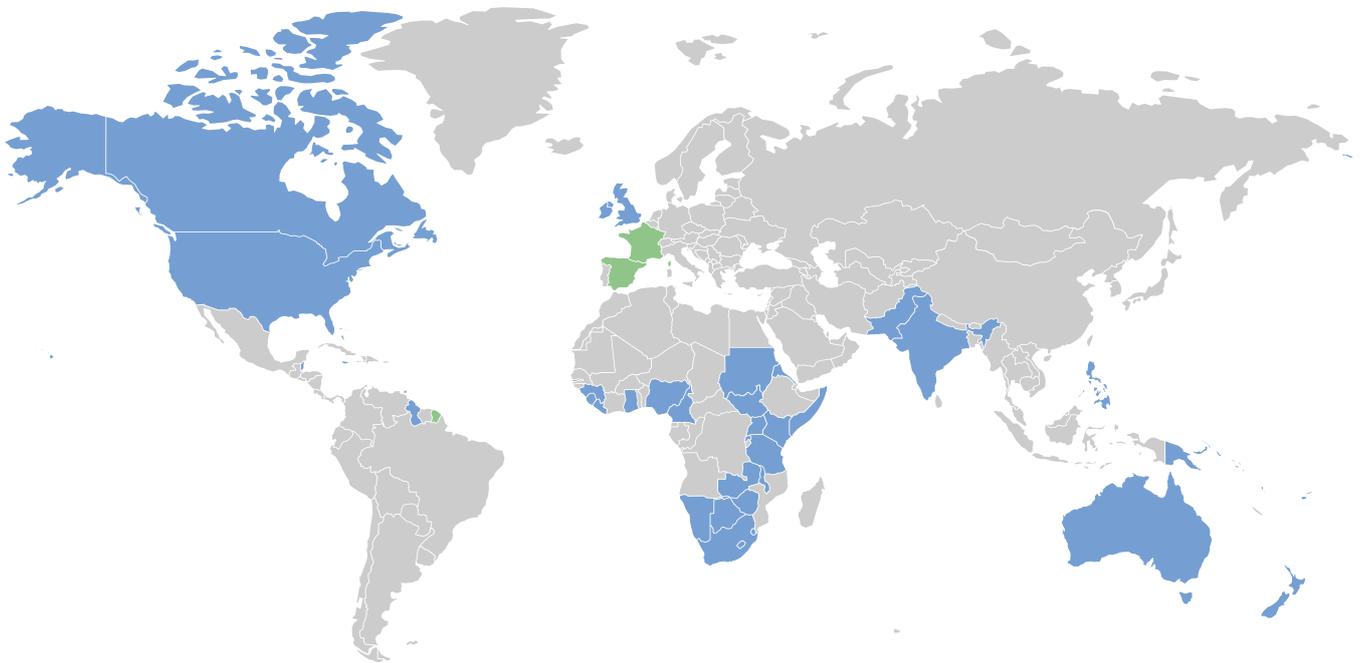
360 million, about 70 million in Europe

#### Official language in

54 countries, e.g. Europe: United Kingdom (60 million), Ireland (4.5 million). World: United States (267 million), Canada (25 million), Australia (18 million), New Zealand (4 million). English is also used in former British or American colonies as an official language for government, education or business though most people speak other languages in their private lives. These countries include India (125 million speakers) and Pakistan (88 million speakers).

#### Language of diaspora

Spain and France (about 3 million total), ancestry-conscious UK-descendants in the Commonwealth



# ABC

**Alphabet**  
26 letters



**Grammatical cases**  
0



**Language code**  
en, eng



**Linguistic typology**  
*isolating*, *SVO*



**Language family**  
Indo-European, German, West Germanic



**Number of dialects**  
about 30 in England, ~ 10 in the rest of the UK, about 20 in Ireland and the smaller islands, about 50 in the US, about 10 in Canada, about 15 in Australia and New Zealand, 10 in India, a few dozen more in various overseas territories and Commonwealth countries



**Longest word**

**antidisestablishmentarianism**

**uncharacteristically**



**Curious word or sentence**

**ultrarevolutionaries**

each vowel exactly twice

**sequoia**

5 different vowels in seven letters

**strengthlessnesses**

18 letters with only 1 type of vowel

**rhythms**

7 letters without any of the 5 vowels

Writing system

a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o p  
q r s t u v w x y z

Thematic words



meow



bow wow



cockadoodledoo



oink oink



mooo



yeehaw

## Funny or odd traditional proverbs and idioms



Walls have ears.



Better a live coward than a dead hero.



The road to hell is paved with good intentions.



The early bird catches the worm, but it is the early worm that gets caught.

# Esperanto

Esperanto lingvo

## Number of native speakers

Between 100,000 and 2-3 million (100,000 speak it fluently and 2-3 million have studied it)

### Official language in

In international Esperanto congresses and meetings only

### Minority language in

Esperanto-speakers live in more than 120 countries. They are not an officially-recognized minority anywhere.

### Language of diaspora

Esperanto society can be compared to a diaspora. Esperanto-speakers live all over the world, and have their own culture but no legal status.

ABC

**Alphabet**  
28 letters



**Grammatical cases**  
2



**Language code**  
eo, epo



**Linguistic typology**  
*agglutinative* with *isolating* traits, free word-order



**Language family**  
Neo-latin language



**Number of dialects**  
No dialects



## Longest word

### ŝtatimpostadministrantoj

state tax administrators

the longest word found in a text, but it is possible to create much longer words that follow the grammar rules of Esperanto, e.g.: **kontraŭkolektivismobatalantoj** (“anti-collectivism fighters”),  
**gekontraŭdelikventismospecialiĝintoj**....



## Curious word or sentence

Polysemic words:

### kolego

**koleg-o**: colleague, **kol-eg-o**: huge neck

### bombono

**bombon-o**: candy, **bomb-ono**: fraction of a bomb

### kulturo

**kultur-o**: culture, **kul-tur-o**: tower of gnats, **kult-ur-o**: aurochs of a cult

### ĉarmulino

**ĉarm-ul-in-o**: charming girl, **ĉar-mul-ino**: female trolley mule

## Writing system and pronunciation

a b c ĉ d e f g ĝ h ĥ i j ĵ k l m n  
O p r s ŝ t u ŭ v z

## Links

There are two main portals where you can learn the language online. A general site is [www.lernu.net](http://www.lernu.net) while [www.edukado.net](http://www.edukado.net) is mainly for teachers.

Wikipedia in Esperanto: [eo.wikipedia.org](http://eo.wikipedia.org).

## Thematic words



mjao



boj boj



kokeriko

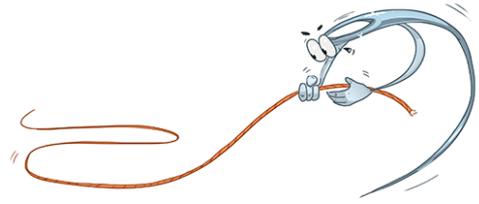
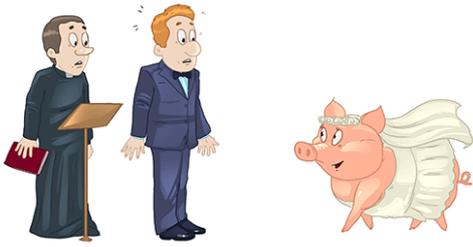


bum, kraš



mm

## Funny or odd traditional proverbs and idioms



**Elektadis sen fino, edziĝis kun porkino.**

He hesitated for too long and got married to a pig.

If you are too undecided, you have no choice left.

**Fadeno iras, kien kudrilo ĝin tiras.**

The thread goes where the needle pulls it.

Said about a thing that depends on another (for example a decision depending on another decision).



**Nokte eĉ monstro estas belulo.**

At night, even a monster is beautiful.

In the dark, physical appearance is unimportant.



**Dancu diabloj, sed ne en mia arbaro.**

Let the devils dance, but not in my forest.

I don't care about bad things if they don't happen to me.

# Estonian

Eesti keel

## Number of native speakers

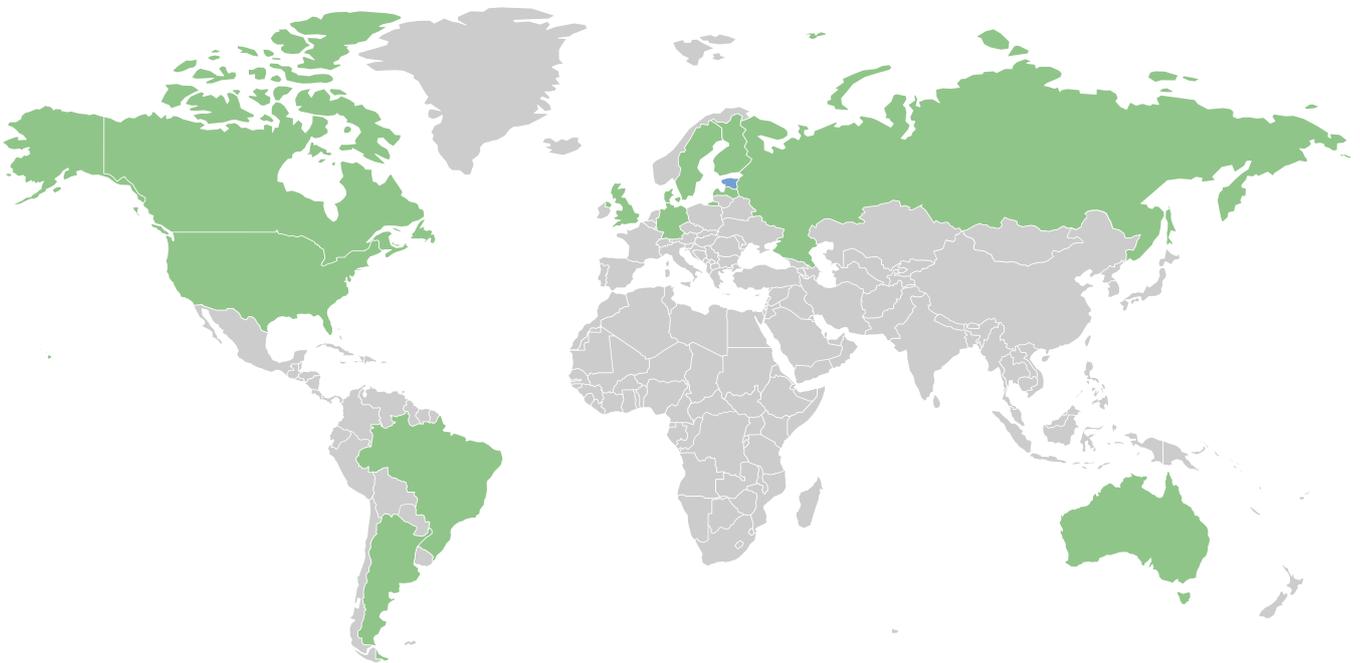
About 1,29 million

### Official language in

Estonia, EU

### Language of diaspora

Sweden, Finland, Latvia, Germany, Canada, USA, Russia, Australia, Argentina, Brazil, UK, Denmark



# ABC

**Alphabet**  
Latin, 32 letters



**Grammatical cases**  
14



**Language code**  
et, est



**Linguistic typology**  
*agglutinative*, *compounding*, *SVO*



**Language family**  
Uralic family, Finno-Ugric branch, Baltic-Finnic subgroup



**Number of dialects**  
2



## Longest word

**sünnipäevanädalalõpupeopärastlõunaväsimatus**

infinite energy on Sunday evening after a birthday celebration that lasted the whole weekend

**uusaastaöövastuvõtuhommikuidüll**

morning idyll after the New Year



## Curious word or sentence

Words with a minimum of consonants:

**jäääär**

ice edge

**kõueöö**

thunderstorm night

**ajaja**

drover

The longest composite words:

**kuuuriija istus töööös jäääres**

on a working night a stargazer was sitting on an ice edge

**jõeäärne õueaiamaa**

garden on a river bank

Writing system and pronunciation

a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o p  
q r s š z ž t u v w õ ä ö ü x y

### Thematic words



mäu



auh auh



kikerikii, kukeleegu



röh röh röh



ammuu, muu, möö



mää mää

## Funny or odd traditional proverbs and idioms



**nagu kala vees**  
like a fish in water  
very comfortable in a situation



**Hommik on õhtust targem.**  
Morning is wiser than evening.  
It's wise to sleep before a decision.



**Vana karu tantsima ei õpi.**  
An old bear won't learn to dance.  
It is difficult to change an old person's habits or character.



**Targem annab järele.**  
The wiser person gives in.



**Ära hõiska enne õhtut.**  
Don't rejoice before the evening.  
Don't rejoice too early.

# Finnish

Suomen kieli

## Number of native speakers

4,994,490 including 4,700,000 in Finland

Official language in

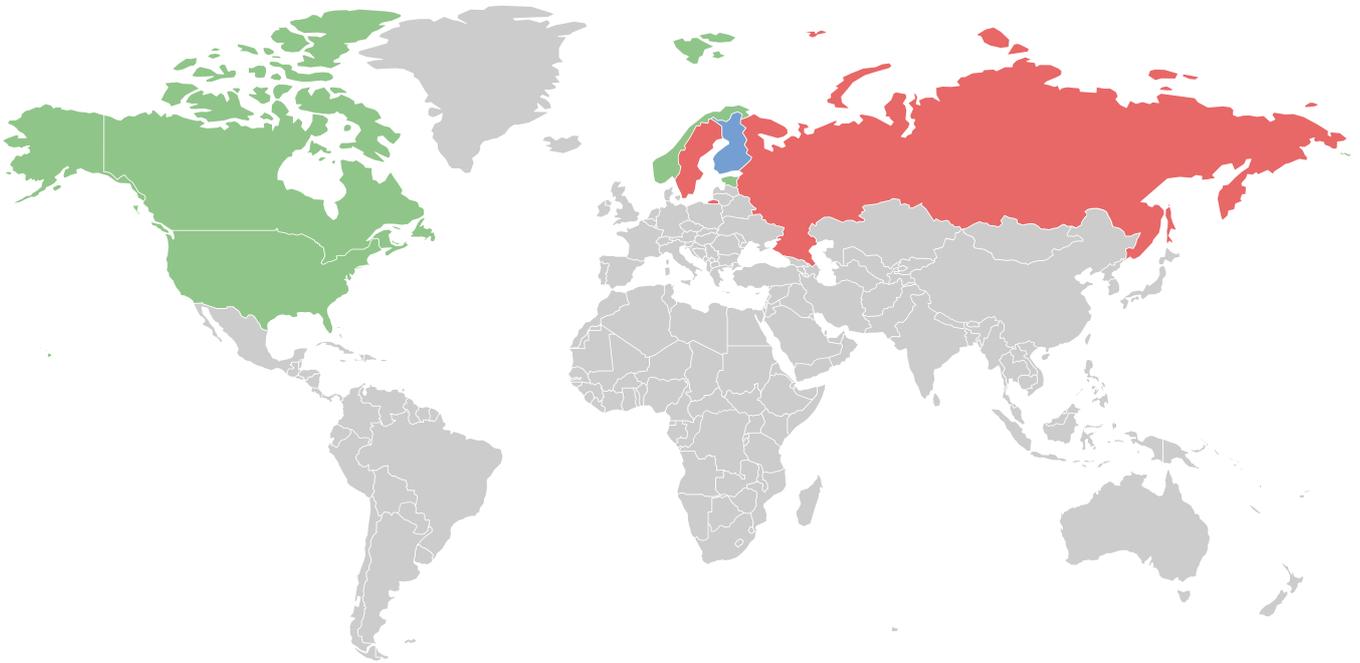
Finland, EU

Minority language in

Sweden, Karelia (Russian Federation)

Language of diaspora

Sweden, Estonia, Norway, United States, Russian Federation, Canada



# ABC

## Alphabet

29 (26 basic Latin + ä, ö, å)



## Grammatical cases

15



## Language code

fi, fin



## Linguistic typology

*agglutinative* , *compounding* , *vowel harmony* ,  
*pro-drop* , *SVO*



## Language family

Uralic/Finno-Ugric, Finnic



## Number of dialects

3 main groups of dialects: Northern dialects (**Keski- ja pohjoispohjalaiset murteet, peräpohjalaiset murteet**), Eastern dialects (**savolais- ja kaakkoismurteet**) and Western dialects (**lounaismurteet, lounaiset välimurteet, hämäläismurteet, Etelä-Pohjanmaan murre**).



## Longest word

**epäjärjestelmällistytämä-  
ttömyydelläänsäkäänköhän**

not even by her lack of organization, do you suppose



## Curious word or sentence

**Vasta vastaa vasta vastaavasta vastavastaavasta.**

The bath whisk is responsible only for the respective person responsible for the bath whisk.

Writing system and pronunciation

a<sub>ä</sub> b c d e f g h i j k l m n o  
ö p<sub>q</sub> r s t u<sub>w</sub> v<sub>x</sub> y z

Thematic words



miau



hau hau



kukko kiekuu



nöff



ammuu



mäh

# Funny or odd traditional proverbs and idioms



**kylmä kuin ryssän helvetissä**

as cold as Russian hell  
very cold



**käydä kimppuun kuin sika limppuun**

to go to something like a pig to a loaf  
to take/go for something greedily



**nostaa kissa pöydälle**

to lift a cat onto the table  
to say something difficult openly



**peukalo keskellä kämmentä**

a thumb in the middle of the hand  
to be all thumbs



**mennä päin mäntyä/penkin alle**

to go against the pine/under the bench  
to be unsuccessful

# French

La langue française

## Number of native speakers

77 million native speakers with many more speaking it as a second language (150-220 million)

### Official language in

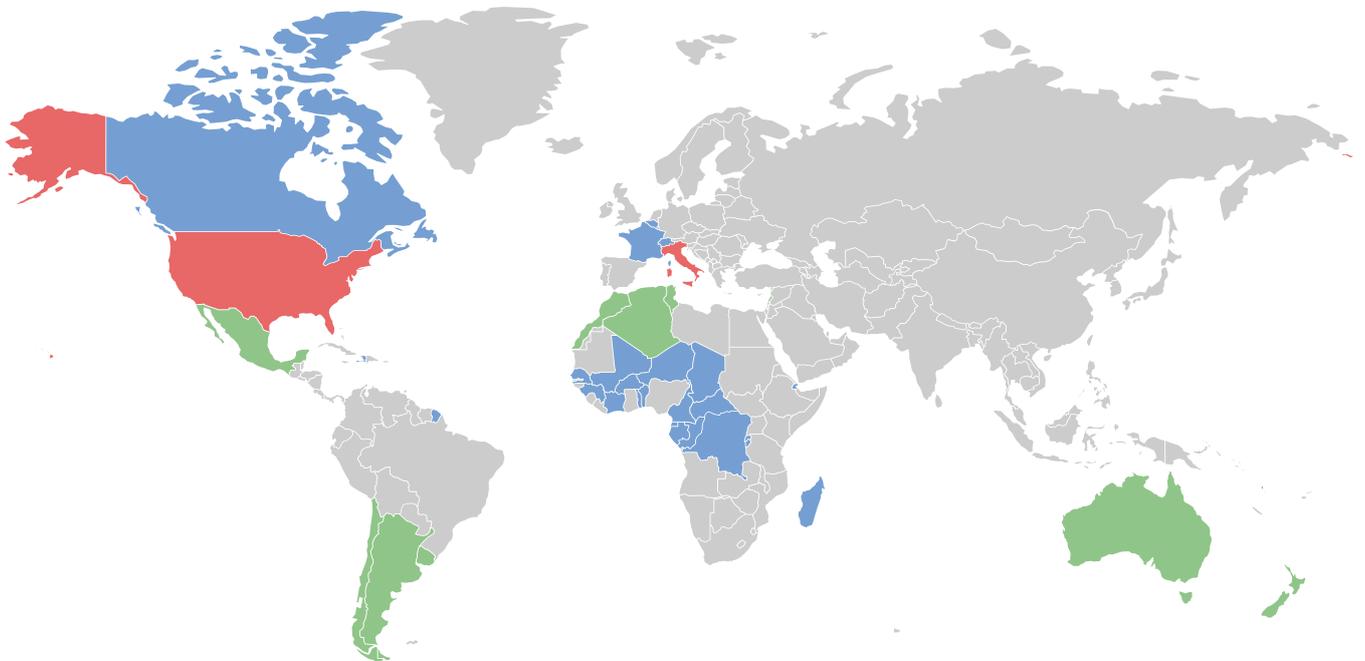
France, Belgium, Switzerland, Monaco, Luxemburg, EU, Canada, Haiti, Vanuatu and 21 countries in Africa.

### Minority language in

Italy, USA

### Language of diaspora

Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Canada, Chile, Lebanon, Mexico, Morocco, New Zealand, Tunisia, Uruguay



# ABC

## Alphabet

40 letters (26 Latin + diacritic letters)



## Grammatical cases

0



## Language code

fr, fra, fre



## Linguistic typology

*inflectional* , *polysynthetic features in spoken language* , *SVO*



## Language family

Indo-European, Romance



## Number of dialects

Several in Europe (different varieties in France, Switzerland, Belgium), a few in Canada and Louisiana, Africa, New Caledonia...



## Longest word

**anticonstitutionnellement**  
(25 letters), 'anticonstitutionally'



## Curious word or sentence

**sans doute**  
The words mean "without" and "doubt", but the whole expression actually means "probably" and not "undoubtedly".

**amour**  
The French word for "love" is masculine in the singular, but feminine in the plural.

Writing system and pronunciation

â à a b c ç d é è ë E ê f g h î i j k l  
m n ò O œ p q r s t û ù U ü V w X  
y ÿ Z

Thematic words



Miaou!



Wouah! Ouah!



Cocoricooo!



Crac! Crash! Bang!



Eh!

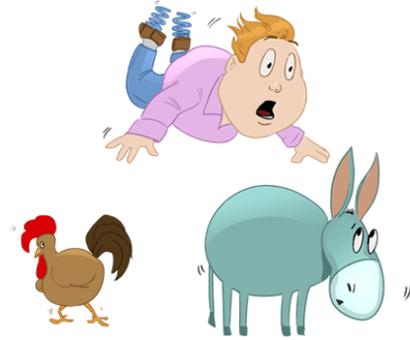
## Funny or odd traditional proverbs and idioms



**Donner sa langue aux chats.**

To give one's tongue to the cats.

To give up trying to guess something.



**Sauter du coq à l'âne.**

To jump from the cock to the donkey.

To say many different things that have nothing to do with each other.



**Avoir un bœuf sur la langue.**

To have beef on the tongue.

To be silent.



**Prendre la mouche.**

To take the fly.

To become angry.



**Parler français comme une vache espagnole.**

To speak French like a Spanish cow.

To speak broken French.

# German

Deutsche Sprache

## Number of native speakers

95-100 million (official language countries), 120 million (all countries)

### Official language in

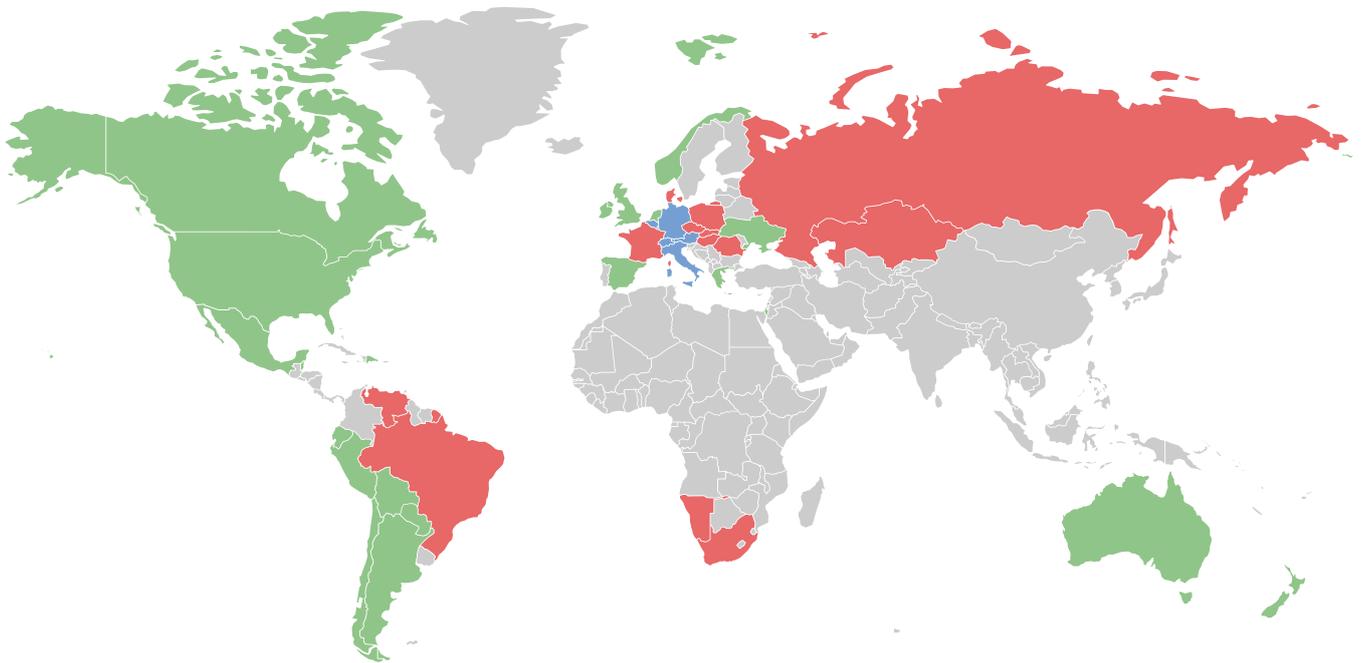
Germany, Austria, Switzerland,  
Italy (South Tyrol),  
Liechtenstein, Luxembourg,  
Belgium, EU, Nordic Council

### Minority language in

France (1.2 million), Brazil (0.9  
million), Russia (850,000),  
South Africa (300,000 -  
500,000), Kazakhstan  
(360,000), Poland, Hungary,  
Romania, Italy, Czech Republic,  
Namibia, Denmark, Slovakia,  
Vatican City (Swiss Guard),  
Venezuela (Colonia Tovar)

### Language of diaspora

US, Argentina, Canada, Mexico,  
Australia, Chile, Paraguay, New  
Zealand, Bolivia, Netherlands,  
UK, Peru, Spain, Poland, Israel,  
Norway, Ecuador, Ukraine,  
Dominican Republic, Greece,  
Ireland, Belize



# ABC

**Alphabet**  
26 letters



**Grammatical cases**  
4



**Language code**  
de, deu, ger



**Linguistic typology**  
*inflectional* , *compounding* , *SOV / V2*



**Language family**  
Indo-European, West Germanic, High German



**Number of dialects**  
Several hundreds, dozens with ISO 639-3 codes, some of them arguably languages of their own: Low German, Central German, Upper German (with Alemannic), Yiddish, Luxemburgish, Pennsylvania German.



**Longest word**

**Telekommunikationskundenschutzverordnung**  
telecommunication customer protection directive

**Nachrichtenübermittlungsbeschleunigungssystem**  
news transfer acceleration system



**Curious word or sentence**

**Angstschweiß**

cold sweat

8 consecutive consonants

**Batterieeier**

battery eggs

5 consecutive vowels

**Milieueinflüsse**

environmental influences

5 consecutive vowels

## Writing system and pronunciation

German has a 26-letter alphabet, but uses umlaut diacritics on a, o and u (**ä, ö, ü**), as well as a special letter (**ß**) for voiceless s after long vowels.

a ä b c d e f g h i j k l m n o  
ö p q r s ß t u ü v w x y z

## Links

Multilingual website for learning German: <http://deutsch.info>

## Thematic words



miau



wau wau



kikeriki



grunz



muuh



bähh bähh

# Funny or odd traditional proverbs and idioms



**Alles tote Hose.**

It's all dead pants.

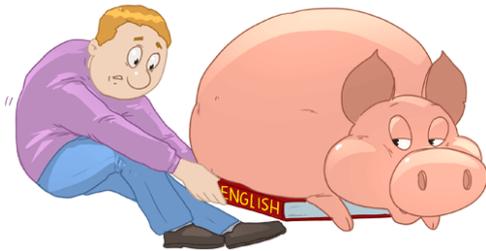
Really boring (has inspired a German punk band, based in Düsseldorf - *Die Toten Hosen*).



**Du gehst mir auf den Wecker/Keks.**

You're going on my alarm clock/cookie.

You're being a pain in the ass.



**Dein Englisch ist unter aller Sau.**

Your English is below all sows.

Your English sucks.



**In Teufels Küche kommen.**

To come into the devil's kitchen.

To have big problems.



**Abwarten und Tee trinken.**

Wait and have tea.

Let's wait and see.

# Greek

Ελληνική γλώσσα

## Number of native speakers

About 13 million

### Official language in

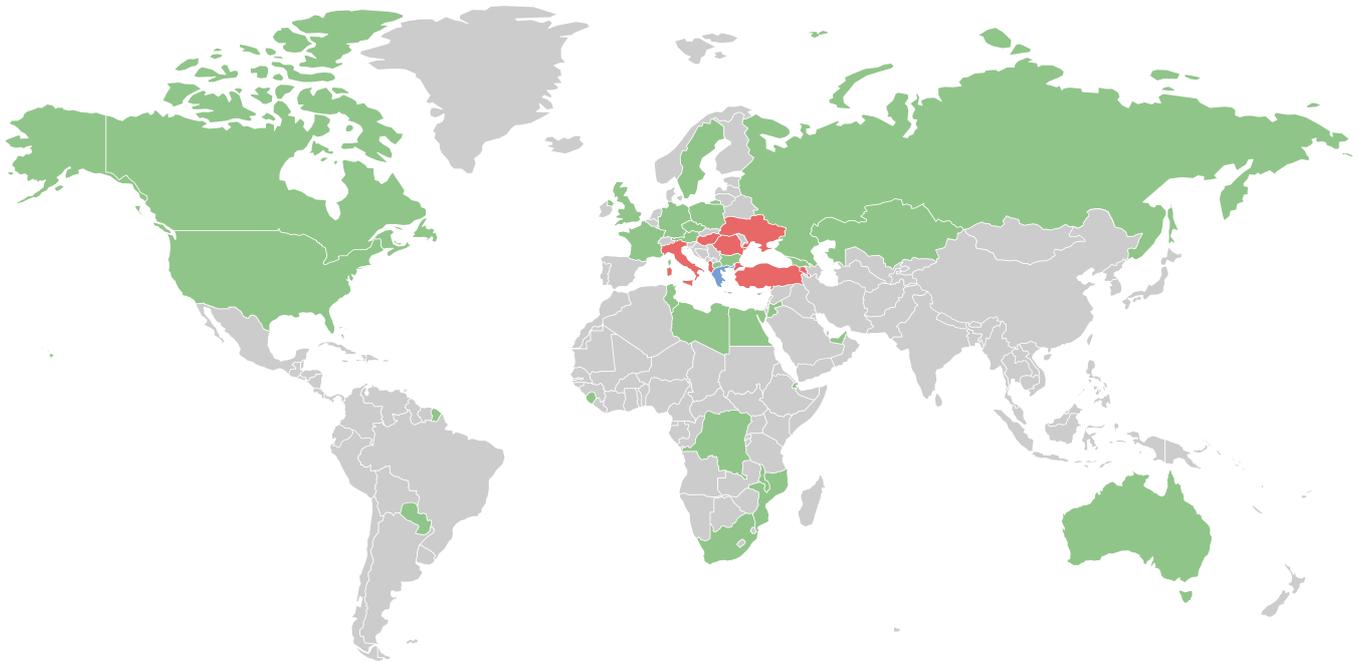
Greece including the Monks' Republic of Mount Athos (10 million), Cyprus (together with Turkish) (0.8 million), EU

### Minority language in

Albania, Italy, Armenia, Hungary, Romania, Turkey, Ukraine

### Language of diaspora

Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bulgaria, Canada, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, France, Georgia, Germany, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Libya, Macedonia, Malawi, Mozambique, Paraguay, Poland, Romania, Russian Federation, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sweden, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States



# ABC

**Alphabet**  
24 letters



**Grammatical cases**  
4



**Language code**  
el, ell



**Linguistic typology**  
*inflectional* , *pro-drop* , free word-order ( *VSO* / *SVO* )



**Language family**  
Indo-European, Greek



**Number of dialects**  
About 6 (major dialects): Calabrian (South Italy Greek dialects), Cappadocian, Pontic, Cretan, Cypriot, Tsakonian: Lesser dialects include Ionian, North Greek, Cycledian, Manian, and others



**Longest word**

δεσοξυριβοζονουκλεϊνικό  
deoxyribonucleica



**Curious word or sentence**

Η γλώσσα κόκαλα δεν έχει, αλλά κόκαλα τσακίζει.  
Proverb about Greek language: The tongue has no bones, yet it crushes bones.

Writing system and pronunciation

# Αβγδεζηθικλμνξο πρσςτυφχψω

## Thematic words



μιάου



γαυ γαυ



κικιρικόν / κικιρικί



μου



μπε-ε

## Funny or odd traditional proverbs and idioms



**Κάλιο πέντε και στο χέρι, παρά δέκα και καρτέρι.**

Better five in hand than hunting for ten.  
A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush.



**Στο πιτς φυτίλι.**

Like a wick going out.  
In the wink/blink of an eye.



**Καλύτερα ν' ανάψεις ένα κερι, από το να καταριέσαι το σκοτάδι.**

It's better to light one candle than to curse the darkness.

It's better to take action and do something about a bad situation than to do nothing and complain.



**Κάμεις καλό, κάμεις κακό, θα 'ρθει γυρεύοντάς σε.**

The bad things you do, the good things you do, all they will come back to you.

What comes around goes around.

# Hungarian

Magyar nyelv

## Number of native speakers

about 15 million

### Official language in

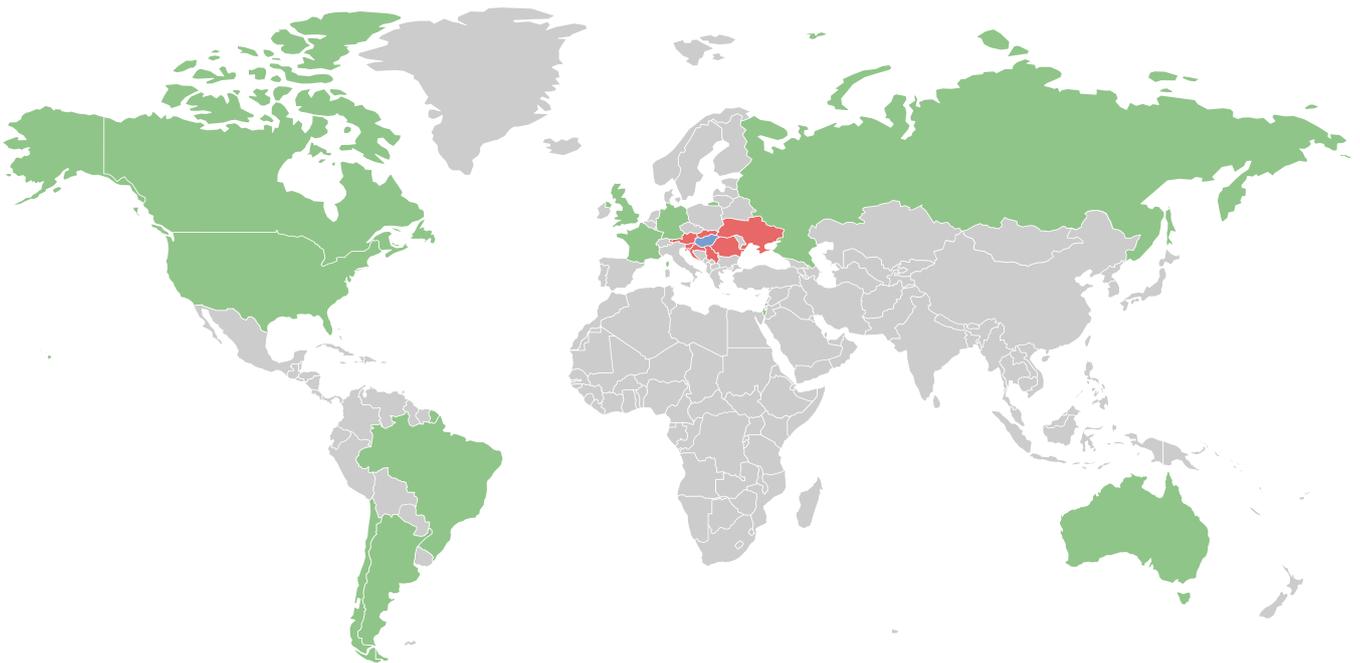
Hungary: nearly 10 mln speakers, EU

### Minority language in

Romania (2 mln), Slovakia (1 mln), Ukraine (250 000), Serbia, Croatia, Slovenia (together ab. 700 000) and Austria (50 000), regional language in Slovakia, Serbia and Slovenia.

### Language of diaspora

USA, Canada, Israel, Germany, France, UK, Brazil, Russia, Australia, Argentina, Chile



# ABC

## Alphabet

44 (Latin alphabet + á é í ó ö ő ú ü ű)



## Grammatical cases

18



## Language code

hu, hun



## Linguistic typology

*agglutinative*, *compounding*, *vowel harmony*,  
*pro-drop*, free word-order, *SVO* / *SOV*



## Language family

Ugric language, the largest member of the Finno-Ugric languages (inside of the Uralic language family)



## Number of dialects

10



## Longest word

**folyamatellenőrzésiügyosztályveze-  
tőhelyettesképesítésvizsgálat**

inquiry of qualification for deputy head of department for  
process control

**megszentségteleníthetetlenlenség**

the feature of not being able to be profaned



## Curious word or sentence

Hungarian uses many e sounds, and a language game **Esperente** consists of only using words with e vowels, e.g.

**Egy remek rendszer, mellyel embereket, meg  
rengeteg elemet megkereshetsz.**

An excellent system that can help you find people and lots  
of other things. (Internet)

**Lelkesen egekbe menetel hegyekben.**

He is climbing the mountain with enthusiasm.

Sentence only with **ö /ø/**:

**Öt török öt görögöt dögönyöz örökös örömök  
között.**

Five Turks are beating five Greeks with eternal pleasure.

## Interesting facts

The **order of name, address and date** is different than in other European languages:

Family name + personal name:

*Kovács Mária, Kiss Péter*

Town, street, number:

*Budapest, Gizella utca 3*

Year, month, day:

*2013.08.10.*

## Writing system and pronunciation

a á b c cs d E é f g gy h i í  
j k l ly m n ny O ó ö ő p q  
r s sz t ty u ú ü ú V w x y Z zs

## Thematic words



miau



vau



kukurikú



bumm



óóó

# Funny or odd traditional proverbs and idioms



**Ez nekem kínai.**

It is Chinese for me.  
It is not understandable for me.



**Kutyakötelessége valakinek valami.**

Something is a dog's duty for someone.  
Something is an absolute duty for someone.



**madárnak néz valakit**

to take someone for a bird  
to take someone for a fool and try to swindle him/her



**a béka feneke alatt**

under the frog's ass  
on a very low level



**örül mint majom a farkának**

as pleased as a monkey with its tail  
very pleased, a little crazy

# Irish

Gaeilge

## Number of native speakers

No official figure, about 100.000; 2 million claim knowledge based on school study.

Official language in

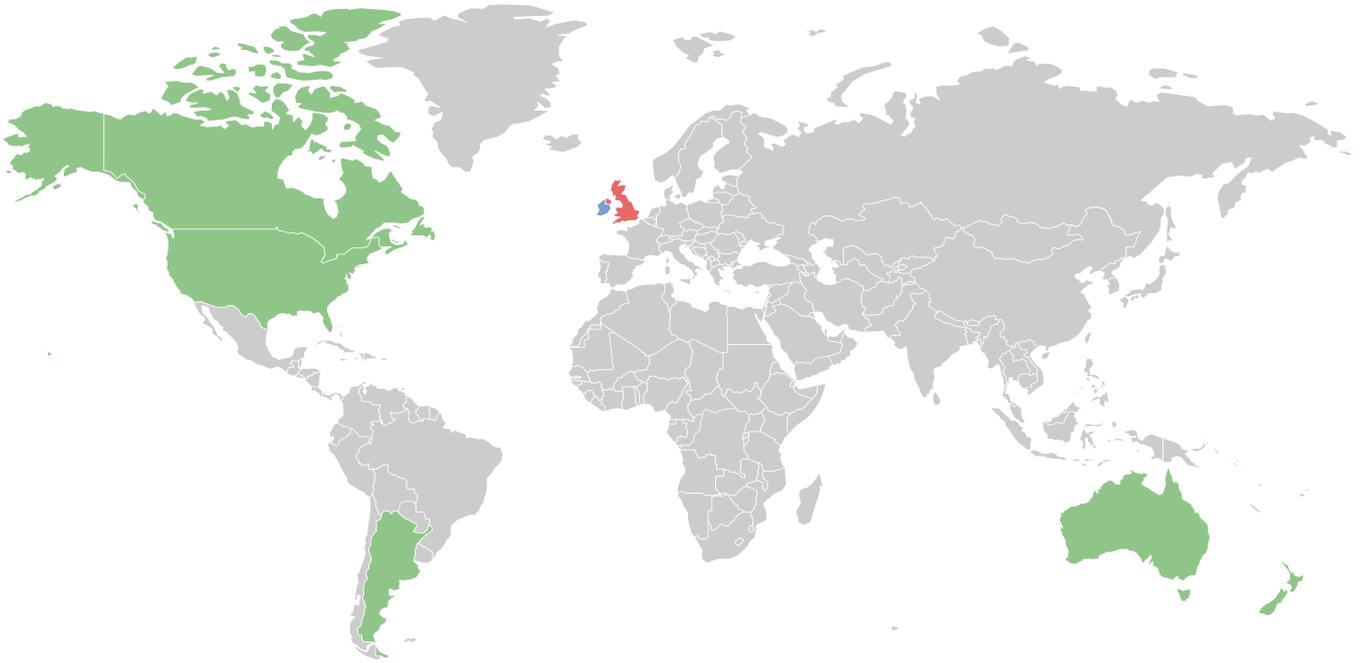
Ireland, EU

Minority language in

Northern Ireland

Language of diaspora

USA, Canada, Australia, UK,  
Argentina, New Zealand



ABC

**Alphabet**

26, Roman alphabet, older Gaelic alphabet



**Grammatical cases**

3



**Language code**

ga, gle



**Linguistic typology**

*inflectional*, initial consonant mutation, *VSO*



**Language family**

Indo-European, Celtic, Gaelic



**Number of dialects**

3



**Longest word**

*príomhfheidhmeannach*

chief executive



**Curious word or sentence**

*leis leis leis, leis*

and his bare thigh also

Writing system and pronunciation

à á b c d e é f g h i í l m n  
O ó p r s t u ú

## Thematic words



mí-abha



bhuf, bhuf



cúcú rícú



bam



hm

# Funny or odd traditional proverbs and idioms



## **Bíonn adharca fada ar na ba thar lear.**

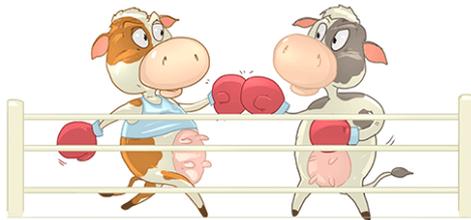
Overseas cows have long horns.

Faraway things and events seem more valuable to us than that which is close at hand.



## **Nuair a imíonn an leann, imíonn an greann.**

When the beer is finished, the fun is finished.  
The amount of fun depends on the amount of beer.



## **Troid na mbó maol.**

The fight of hornless cows.

As they have no horns, they do not hurt each other. Said of any contest where each person is careful not to hurt the others.



## **Mura maith leat an aimsir, ní fada uait malairt aimsire.**

If you do not like the weather, you will not have long to wait for different weather!  
Irish weather is very changeable, it is not uncommon to experience four seasons in one day.

# Italian

Lingua italiana

## Number of native speakers

about 65 million

### Official language in

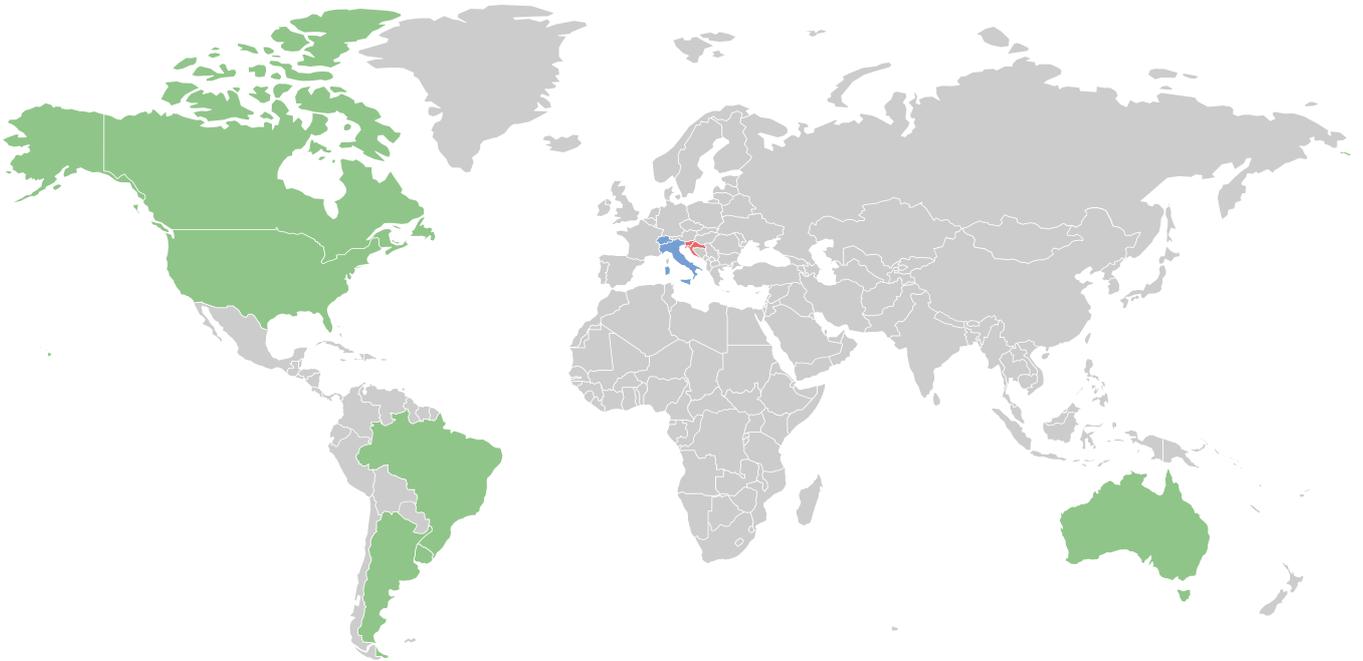
Italy, Switzerland, San Marino,  
Vatican, EU

### Minority language in

Croatia and Slovenia

### Language of diaspora

Brazil (25 mln.), Argentina (24  
mln.), USA (18 mln.), Canada  
(1.5 mln.), Uruguay (1.5 mln.),  
Australia (0.85 mln.) etc.



ABC

**Alphabet**  
Latin, 21



**Grammatical cases**  
0



**Language code**  
it, ita



**Linguistic typology**  
*inflectional* , *pro-drop* , *SVO*



**Language family**  
Indo-European, Romance, Italo-Dalmatian



**Number of dialects**  
7 major groupings



**Longest word**

**precipitevolissimevolmente**

very quickly, frantically

It was created in 1677, and it's been the longest Italian word ever since.



**Curious word or sentence**

**aiuole**

garden beds

The shortest Italian word that contains all the five vowels.

**funamboleschi**

ropewalkers

The longest Italian word in which no letter is repeated.

Writing system

a b c d e f g h i l m n o p q r  
s t u v z

Thematic words



miao



bau bau



chicchirichí



oink



muuuuuu

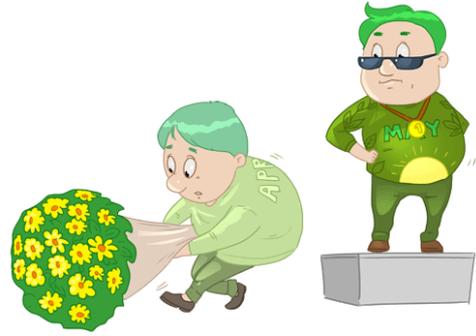


beeee

## Funny or odd traditional proverbs and idioms



**Ammuccia lu latinu 'gnuranza di parrinu.**  
Latin hides the stupidity of the priest. (Sicilian)



**Aprili fa li ciuri e le biddizzi, l'onuri l'havi lu misi di maju.**  
April makes the flowers and the beauty, but May gets all the credit. (Sicilian)



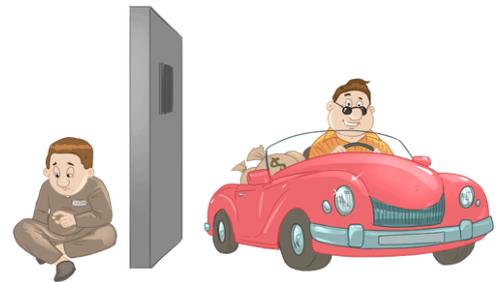
**Avere le mani in pasta.**  
To have hands in pasta.  
To have a finger in the pie.



**Ad ogni uccello il suo nido è bello.**  
Every bird thinks his own nest is beautiful.  
There's no place like home.



**Meglio un uovo oggi che una gallina domani.**  
Better an egg today than a hen tomorrow.  
A bird in hand is worth two in the bush.



**A rubar poco si va in galera, a rubar tanto si fa carriera.**  
Steal a little, go to jail; steal a lot, make a career of it.  
Very large theft remains unpunished or is institutionalized.

# Latvian

Latviešu valoda

## Number of native speakers

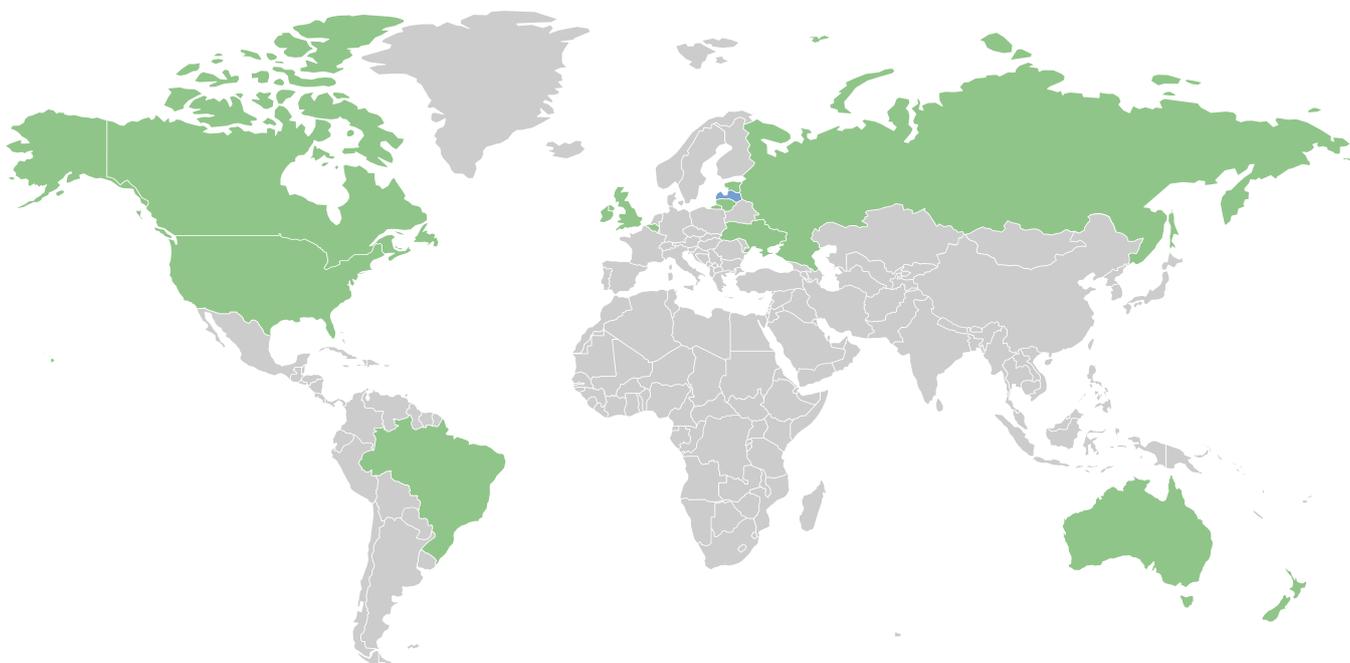
about 1.7 million people

### Official language in

Latvian Republic, EU

### Language of diaspora

USA (100,000), Ireland (50,000), Great Britain (40,000), Canada (28,000), Brazil (25,000), Russia (20,000), Australia (20,000), New Zealand (20,000), Lithuania, Estonia, Ukraine, Belgium



# ABC

**Alphabet**  
33 letters



**Grammatical cases**  
7



**Language code**  
lv, lav



**Linguistic typology**  
*inflectional*, *SVO*



**Language family**  
Indo-European, Balto-Slavic branch, Baltic group,  
Eastern Baltic subdivision



**Number of dialects**  
three dialects: Livonian, Middle (the basis of the  
literary language) and Upper



**Longest word**

**pretpulksteņrādītājvirziens**  
counterclockwise direction of movement



**Curious word or sentence**

**trīsšķautņains**  
trihedral  
it is very difficult to pronounce it

**ieēja**  
entrance  
in a way it has no consonants

# Writing system and pronunciation

The modern Latvian alphabet has 33 letters.

a ā b c č d e ē f g ģ h i ī j k ķ l  
m n ņ o p r s š t u ū v z ž

## Thematic words



ņau-ņau



vau-vau



kikerigū



bum



hm, mhm

# Funny or odd traditional proverbs and idioms



**Kas pirmais brauc, tas pirmais maļ.**

Who goes first, grinds the flour first.

Act fast to gain advantage over others.



**Prāts debesīs, deguns pelnos.**

The mind is in the clouds, the nose is in the ashes.

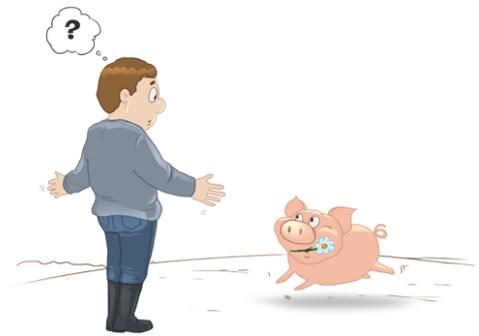
Dreamers don't accomplish much.



**Neskati vīru pēc cepures.**

Don't judge a man by his hat.

Don't judge people by their appearance.



**Ne mana cūka, ne mana druva.**

This is not my pig and not my field.

It's none of my business.



**Melns darbs – balta maize.**

The work is black, but the bread is white.

The work may be hard, but the reward is worthwhile.



**Labs nāk ar gaidīšanu.**

You have to wait for the good things to come.

Patience is a virtue.

## Tongue twisters



**Dižā mūža meža eži saož meža rožu ražu,  
daži eži ožot snauž, daži rožu ražu grauž.**

The hedgehogs of the ancient forest smell the harvest of wood roses, while smelling, some hedgehogs are dozing, some are eating the harvest of roses.

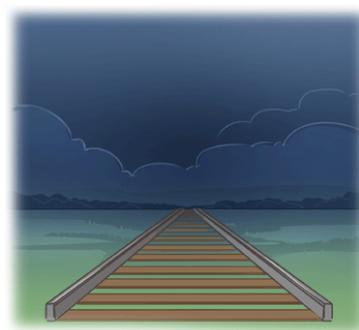


**Vienā vēsā vasaras vakarā viens vecs vācu  
vīrs veda veselu vezumu vārītu vēžu.**

One chilly summer evening one old German carried a cart full of boiled crayfish.



**maziņš eža puskažociņš**  
little half-length coat of a hedgehog



**Šis šaursliežu dzelzceļš tumsā šķiet tukšs,  
tumšs, drūms.**

This narrow trail railway seems empty, dark and gloomy in the dark.



**Kur lai kurlai urlai dur lai.**

Where should you stick the deaf mugger?

# Lithuanian

Lietuvių kalba

## Number of native speakers

3.5 – 4 million

### Official language in

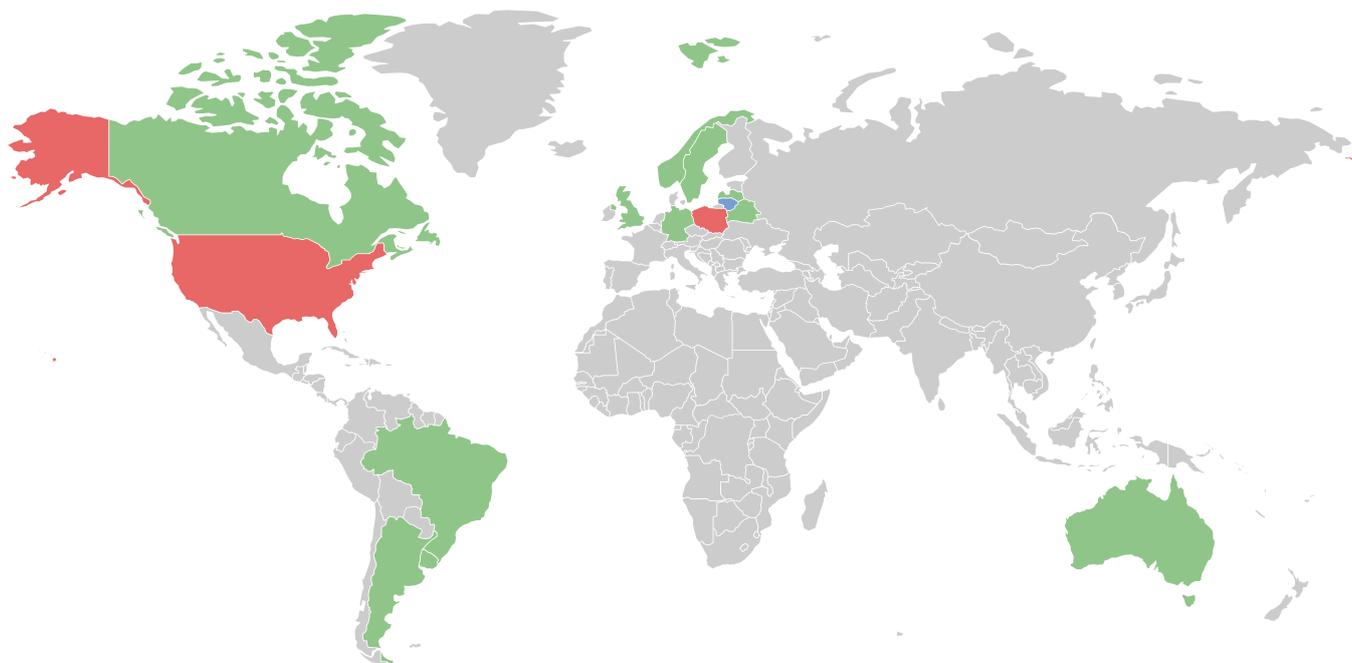
Lithuanian Republic, European Union

### Minority language in

Poland, USA

### Language of diaspora

Belarus, Kaliningrad region, USA, UK, Brazil, Argentina, Canada, Germany, Uruguay, Sweden, Norway, Australia, Latvia and other countries



ABC

**Alphabet**  
32 letters



**Grammatical cases**  
7



**Language code**  
lt, lit



**Linguistic typology**  
*inflectional* , *pro-drop* , *SVO*



**Language family**  
Indo-European, Balto-Slavic branch, Baltic group,  
Eastern Baltic subdivision



**Number of dialects**  
two dialects: Samogitian and Aukstaitian



**Longest word**

**nebeprisikiškiakopūsteliaudavome**  
we haven't been gathering enough wood sorrels



**Curious word or sentence**

**šešios žąsys su šešiais žąsyčiais**  
6 geese with 6 goslings

## Interesting facts

It is possible to tell if a woman is married or not by the form of her family name, whereas this rule cannot be adapted for men. That is, unmarried women have family names with the endings "aitė", "iūtė" and "ytė" and married women's names always end with "ienė". A new ending "ė" has gained in popularity in recent years, which can be used either by married or by unmarried women. But it will take some time before it is widespread. At present it is used only by married women, mainly celebrities.

Interestingly, Lithuanian doesn't have strong swear words. An example is **rupūžė** (toad). When Lithuanians feel the need to curse, they use either Russian or English swear-words.



### Lithuanian is so suitable for dancing...

Three women went to Vilnius, Lithuania for the first time. After returning home they shared their experiences with a friend:

– Lithuanian is so musical, just like a dance...

– Why?

– Because every time a bus stops passengers say “**Lipsi, lipsi, čia-čia-čia**”...

“Lipsi, lipsi, čia-čia-čia” These are not dance names, but a shortened form of “**ar Jūs lipsite čia?**” (Are you getting off here?)

Writing system and pronunciation

There are 32 letters in the modern Lithuanian alphabet:

aąbcčdėęėfgghĩiıyjkllm  
noprrSštutuųūvzž

### Thematic words



miau



au-au



kakariekū



bum, bach



hm, mhm

## Funny or odd traditional proverbs and idioms



**Skubos darbą velnias neša.**

A quick job is done by the devil.

Haste makes waste.



**Neperšokęs per tvorą, nesakyk „op“.**

Don't say "op" before jumping over the fence.

There's many a slip 'twixt the cup and the lip.



**Lašas po lašo ir akmenį pratašo.**

A constant drip wears away the stone.

Persistence accomplishes things.



**Nekask kitam duobės, nes pats įkrisi.**

Don't dig a pit for somebody [to fall into], [or] you will end up in it yourself.

Curses come home to roost.

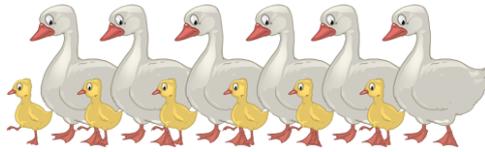


**Žodis ne žvirblis, išskris – nepagausi.**

A spoken word is not a sparrow. Once it flies out, you can't catch it.

A spoken word can't be unspoken.

# Tongue twisters



šešios žąsys su šešiais žąsyčiais

6 geeses with 6 goslings

# Maltese

Lingwa Maltija

## Number of native speakers

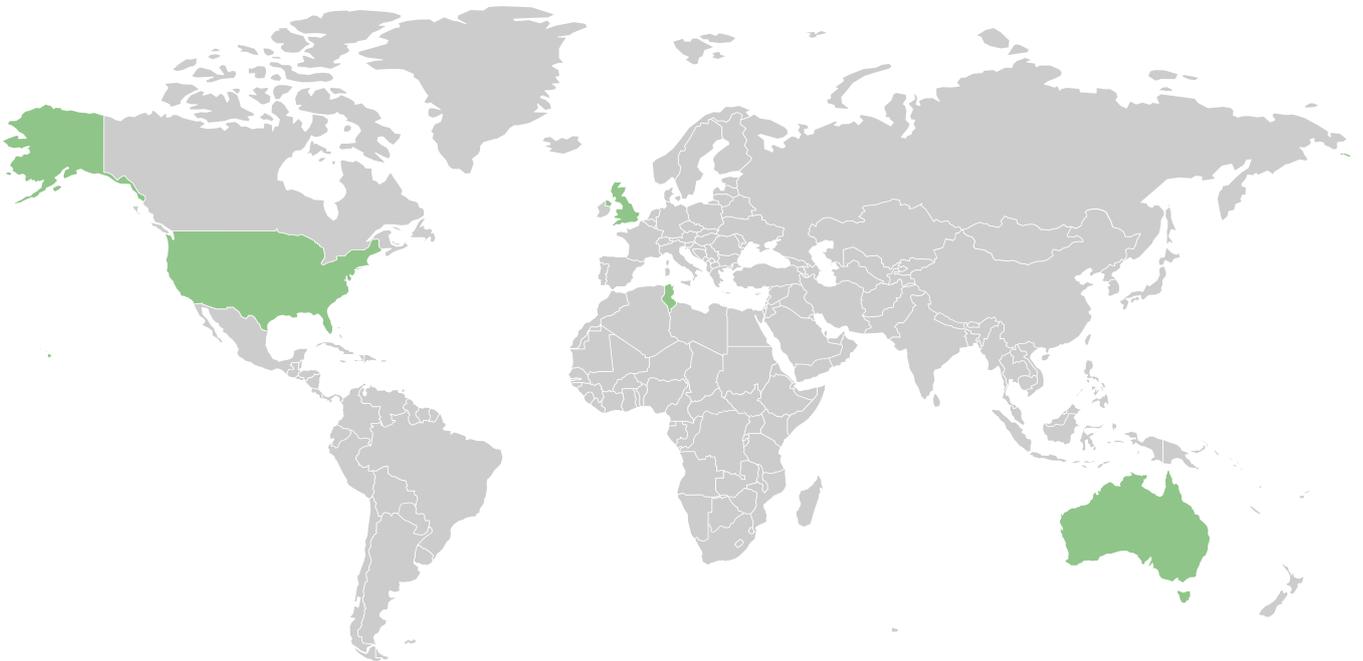
430,000

Official language in

Malta, EU

Language of diaspora

UK, Australia, USA, Tunisia



# ABC

## Alphabet

Latin: 30 letters, 24 consonants and 6 vowels



## Grammatical cases

0



## Language code

mt, mlt



## Linguistic typology

*inflectional , template morphology , SVO*



## Language family

Semitic



## Number of dialects

-



## Longest word

atmosfera  
atmosphere



## Curious word or sentence

Ḥawḥa ḥelwa fil-ḥamrija ḥamra ta' Ḥal Gharghur.  
A sweet peach in the red earth of Ḥal Gharghur (howler).

## Writing system and pronunciation

Maltese is written in a Latin-based script which became standardized in the 1920s and officially adopted in 1934. Note the special characters used in the orthography, i.e. the dotted **ġ**, **ċ** and **ż** and barred **ħ**. The **gh** digraph historically represents two sounds which are retained in Arabic, but which have been lost in most dialects of Maltese.

a b ċ d e f ġ g ħ ħ i j k l m n  
o p q r s t u v w x z ż

### Thematic words



mjaw



waw



ququququ



be



meqqqq

## Funny or odd traditional proverbs and idioms



**Min hu mwaġġa', jokrob.**

He who is wounded, cries.

He who suffers, cries.



**Għal kull għadma hawn mitt kelb.**

For every bone there are a hundred dogs.

There are many who chase the same job.



**Wahdek ma tridx tkun lanqas il-ġenna.**

One should not be alone, not even in heaven.

Man was not made to be alone.



**Fejn hemm l-għasel jersaq id-dubbien.**

Where there is honey, flies gather.

Everybody wants that which is attractive.



**Isqini u staqsini.**

Let me drink and then ask me.

In order to work efficiently, the body must be sustained.

# Polish

Język polski

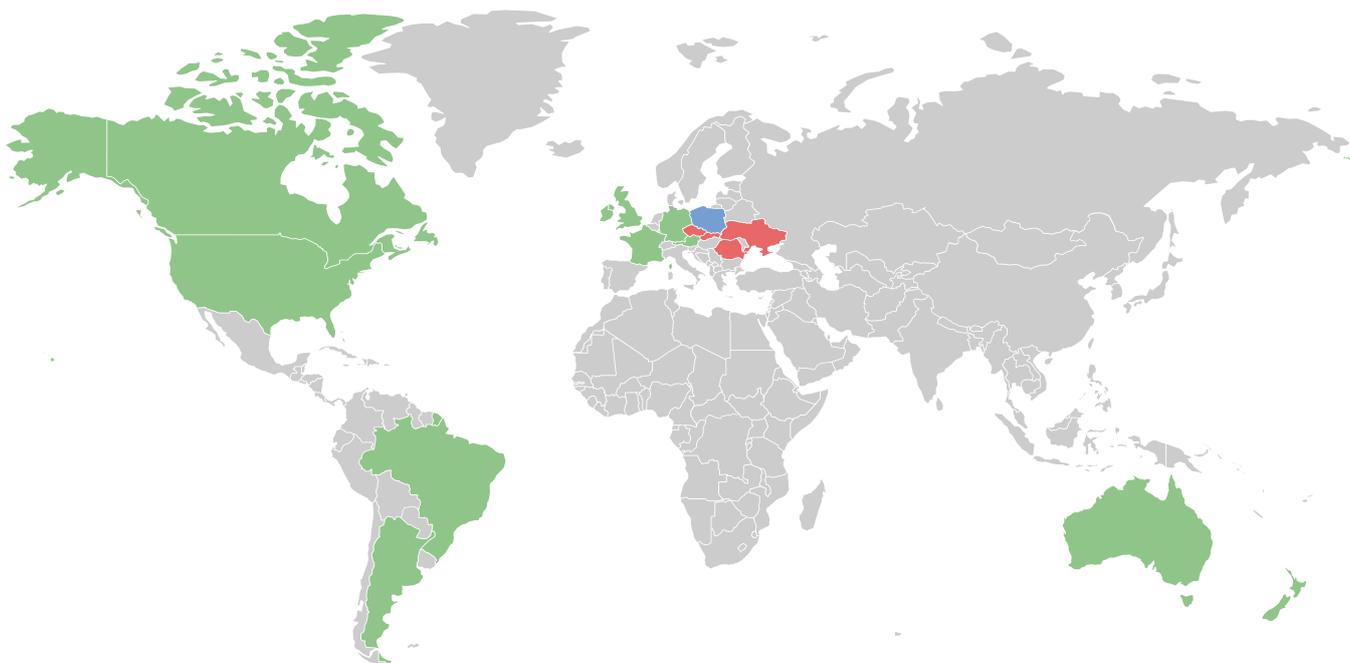
## Number of native speakers

40 million

Official language in  
Republic of Poland, EU

Minority language in  
Czech Republic, Slovakia,  
Romania, Ukraine

Language of diaspora  
Great Britain, Germany, Ireland,  
France, Austria (in Europe); the  
US, Canada, Australia, Brazil,  
Argentina, New Zealand (outside  
Europe)



# ABC

**Alphabet**  
32 letters



**Grammatical cases**  
7



**Language code**  
pl, pol



**Linguistic typology**  
*inflectional* , *pro-drop* , *SVO*



**Language family**  
Indo-European, Balto-Slavic, Slavic, West Slavic,  
Lechitic



**Number of dialects**  
7



## Longest word

**konstantynopolitańczykowieczkówna**

unmarried daughter of an inhabitant of Constantinople,  
which is more of a joke than a real word in actual use



## Curious word or sentence

**Chrząszcz brzmi w trzcinie.**

A beetle is buzzing in the reeds.

**Wyindywidualizowaliśmy się z  
rozentuzjasmowanego tłumu.**

We singled ourselves out from the enthusiastic crowd.

**Król Karol kupił królowej Karolinie korale koloru  
koralowego.**

King Charles bought Queen Caroline (a necklace of) coral  
colored beads.

## Writing system and pronunciation

Officially, the alphabet is made up of the following 32 letters:

a ą b c ć d e e f g h i j k l ł m n n  
ń O ó p q r s ś t u v w x y Z ź ż

### Thematic words



miau miau



hau hau



kukuryku, kikiriki, kikiriki



kwik kwik, chrum chrum



muuu

## Funny or odd traditional proverbs and idioms



**Wolność Tomku w swoim domku.**

You are free Tom (to do what you want) in your own home.

A man's home is his castle.



**Gdyby kózka nie skakała, to by nóżki nie złamała.**

If the little goat hadn't jumped, it wouldn't have broken its leg.

Discretion is the better part of valor.



**Kto pod kim dołki kopie, sam w nie wpada.**

Whoever digs holes under someone will fall into them themselves.

Don't try to harm others, because your actions may turn against you.

## Tongue twisters



**Chrząszcz brzmi w trzcinie.**  
A beetle is buzzing in the reeds.



**stół z powyłamywanymi nogami**  
a table with broken-off legs



**Wyindywidualizowaliśmy się z  
rozentuzjasmowanego tłumu.**  
We singled ourselves out from the enthusiastic  
crowd.



**Król Karol kupił królowej Karolinie korale  
koloru koralowego.**  
King Charles bought Queen Caroline (a necklace of)  
coral colored beads.

# Portuguese

Língua portuguesa

## Number of native speakers

about 220 million

### Official language in

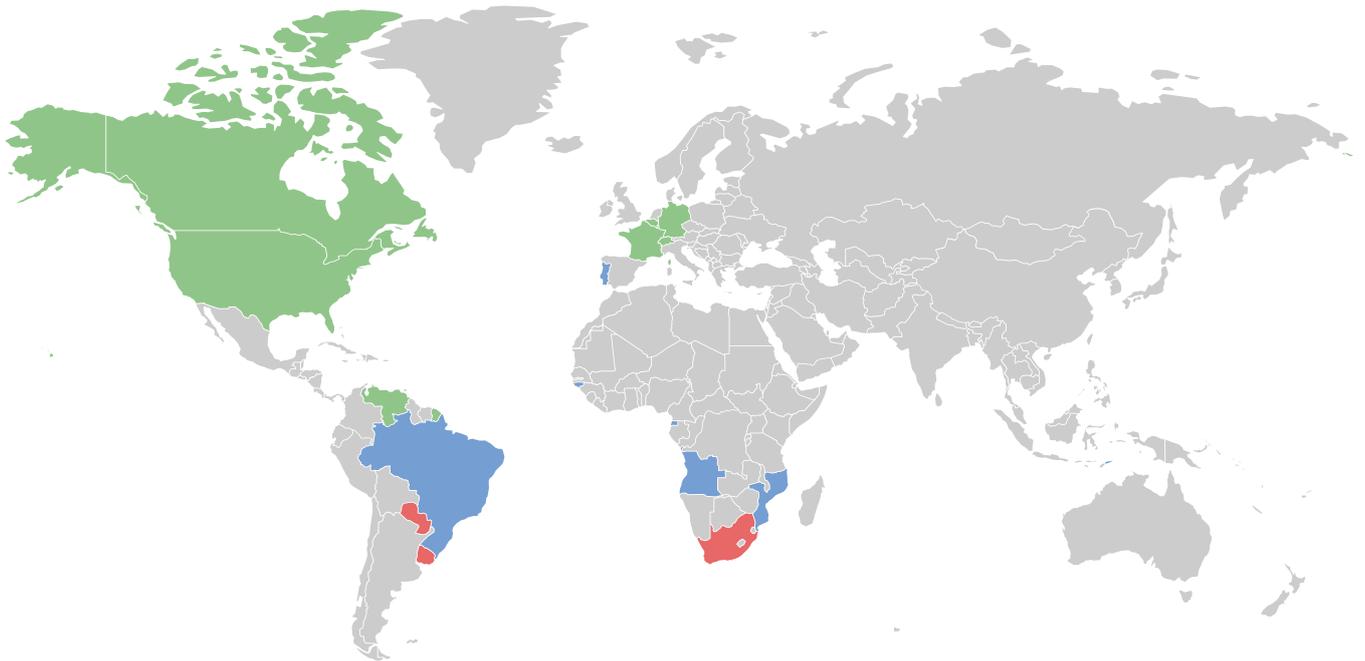
Brazil (185 million), Portugal/Azores/Madeira (11 million), Angola (60 thousand), Mozambique (30 thousand), Cape Verde (25 thousand), East-Timor, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, São Tomé and Príncipe, Macau, EU

### Minority language in

Paraguay (750,000), South Africa (617,000), Uruguay (28,000), Goa (250,000)

### Language of diaspora

France (750,000), US (365,000), Canada, Switzerland, Belgium, Germany (about 80,000 each), Luxembourg (50,000), Venezuela



# ABC

**Alphabet**  
26 letters



**Grammatical cases**  
0



**Language code**  
pt, por



**Linguistic typology**  
*inflectional* , *pro-drop* , *SVO*



**Language family**  
Indo-European, Romance



**Number of dialects**  
Several hundred dialects and creoles (European, Brazilian, African, Asian). One dialect regards itself as a language (Galician).



## Longest word

**tetraclorodibenzoparadioxina**

chemistry, "tetrachlorodibenzoparadioxine"

**desconstitucionalização**

politics, "deconstitutionalization"

**hiperparatireoidismo**

medicine, "hyperparathyroidism"



## Curious word or sentence

**aceitou**

"he accepted", all 5 vowels in alphabetical order

**uauaçu**

a Brazilian fruit

**A aranha arranha a rã.**

The spider grabs the frog.

**Ih, ó o auê aí, ó!**

"Hey, look at that fight, look", Brazilian Portuguese

## Writing system and pronunciation

Portuguese uses the ordinary Latin alphabet, but includes ç and allows accents on vowels. These accents are not simply stress markers, but have phonetic value.

a á à â ã b c ç d e é ê f g h i j k l  
m n o ó ô õ p q r s t u ú ü v w x y  
z

### Thematic words



miau



ão-ão



cocorocó



oinc-oinc



muuu



mé-mé, mééé

Funny or odd traditional proverbs and idioms



É muita areia para a minha camioneta.

This is a lot of sand for my pick-up.  
It's a bit difficult for me.



É cor de burro quando foge.

It's the colour of a fleeing donkey.  
indistinct colour



A mulher e a sardinha querem-se da mais  
pequenina.

Women and sardines you want to be small.



Não faças nada sem consultar a almofada.

Don't do anything without first consulting your  
pillow.

Consider an issue over night before making a decision.



Quem tem cu tem medo.

Anyone with an ass is afraid.



Brasil é o país do futuro, e sempre será!  
Brazil is the country of the future, and always will  
be!



cabeça d'alho xoxo



Drogas fazem a gente perder a memória e

a head of rotten garlic  
a forgetful person

**uma outra coisa que não lembro...**  
Drugs make you loose your memory and something  
else I can't remember...

# Romani

Romani čhib

## Number of native speakers

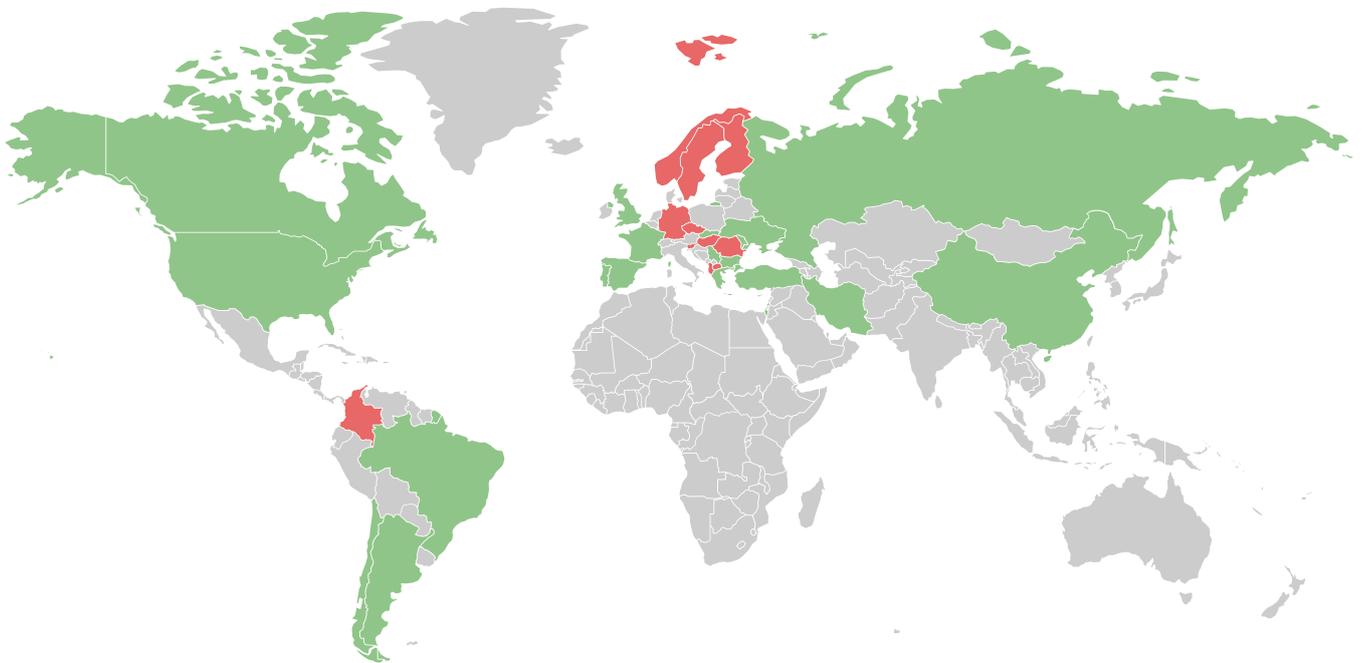
3,000,000

### Minority language in

Austria, Colombia, Czech Republic, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Kosovo, Albania, Macedonia, Norway, Romania, Sweden, Slovenia, EU

### Language of diaspora

Many countries in Europe, West Asia and America



# Introduction

The Romani language (**Romani čhib**, **Romane/s/**, **Romano/s/**) is the sole European representative of the Indo-Aryan branch of the Indo-European languages. It is spoken over a vast area from Sinkiang in China and Iran to virtually all European and many overseas countries.

Although some European Romanies still lead a mobile way of life, most of the Roma and Sinti today are living sedentary lives. Around the 10th century Roma started moving from North-Western India and Pakistan (many traces of contact with languages of this area can be found in Romani) towards the west. On their way to Europe Romanies borrowed various Persian, some Armenian words and many Greek words, probably dwelling on the eastern frontiers of Byzantium. Later they moved further west, possibly due to the invasions of the Turks. When their presence was recorded in Serbia and Croatia in the 14th century their language was already heavily influenced by Greek, not only the lexicon but also the grammar. Later it underwent strong influences from Slavic languages, Romanian, Hungarian, German and in the South-East also Turkish.

All Romanies are bilingual or multilingual and the rate of language loss is huge. However, Romany is still very much alive, especially in eastern, south-eastern and central Europe. The number of speakers is difficult to determine, but it is probably spoken by some 3 to 4 million people spread out through almost all the countries of Europe, which makes it the most widespread language in Europe. Romany is also a written language with rather rich modern day literature, but without a generally accepted spelling or unified grammar and lexicon. There have been various attempts to create a form of standard language, which have had only a modest degree of success. In Slovakia, Macedonia, Bulgaria and Romania (and to the lesser extent and occasionally elsewhere) regional norms are developing, but the main obstacle for their further spread and acceptance is the low rate of literacy among Romanies. Unfortunately, the Romanies have other more vital problems than taking care of their beautiful and ancient language, the closest European relative of Sanskrit. The use of Romany on the Internet shows some trends of unification which will perhaps play a decisive role in the future development of a standard language. Romany has some degree of recognition as minority language in Kosovo, Macedonia, Romania, Croatia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Germany, Finland, Hungary, Norway, Sweden and Austria.

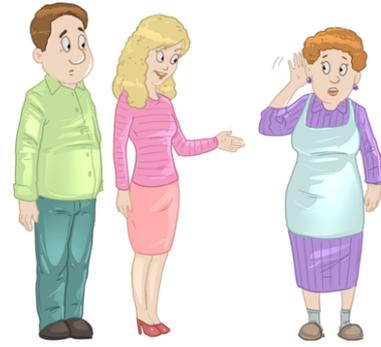
## Funny or odd traditional proverbs and idioms



**Das dab ka i roata le neve vurdoneski.**

To give a push to the wheel of the new wagon.

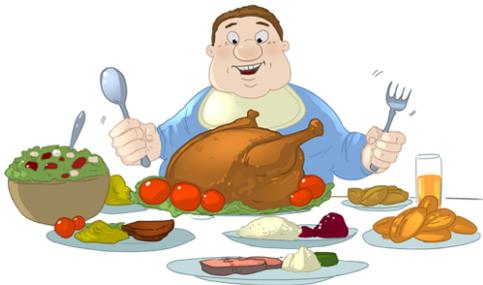
To provide a kick-start to newlywed households.



**Rode chia bora le kanensa tai te na le yakensa.**

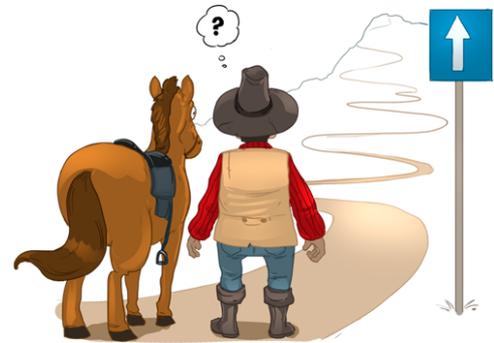
Select one's daughter-in-law with the ears and not with the eyes

Pay more attention to reputation than looks.



**Kon khal but, khal peski bakht.**

He who eats much eats away his own luck.



**Nashti zhas vorta po drom o bango.**

You cannot walk straight when the road is bent.



**Ajsi bori lachi: xal bilondo, phenel londo.**

Such a daughter-in-law is good who eats unsalted food and says it is salted.

# Romanian

Limba română

## Number of native speakers

about 24 million (Romania and Moldova)

### Official language in

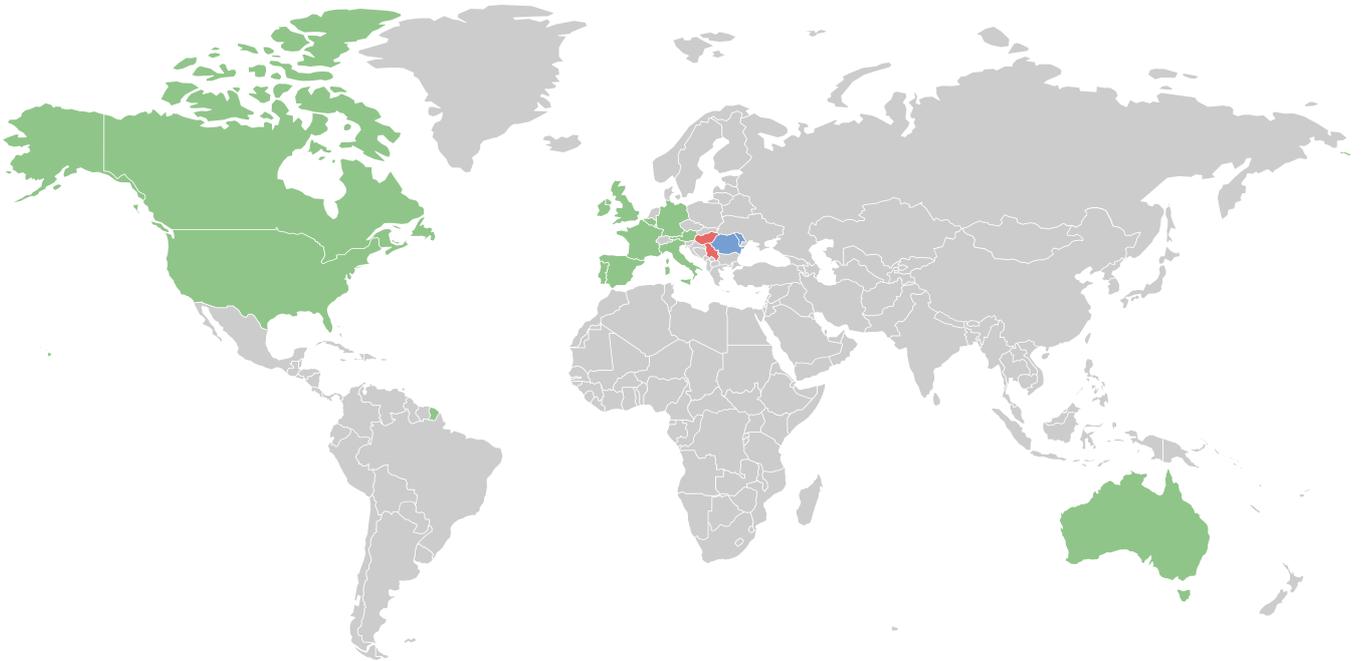
Romania, Moldova,  
(Transnistria), EU

### Minority language in

Serbia, Hungary

### Language of diaspora

Italy, Spain, USA, Germany, UK,  
Canada, Austria, France,  
Belgium, Portugal, Cyprus,  
Australia, Ireland



# ABC

## Alphabet

Latin / 31 letters; Cyrillic is still used in Transnistria



## Grammatical cases

2



## Language code

ro, rum, ron



## Linguistic typology

*inflectional*, *pro-drop*, *SVO*



## Language family

Indo-European, Romance



## Number of dialects

3 major groups (Aromanian, Megleno-Romanian, Istro-Romanian)



## Longest word

**pneumonoultramicroscopicsilicovolcaniconioză**  
pneumonoultramicroscopicsilicovolcanoconiosis  
44 letters



## Curious word or sentence

**acioaiei**  
amalgam  
8-letter word with only 1 consonant

## Writing system and pronunciation

aăâbcde fgh iîjklmn  
opq r sș tț u v wxyz

## Thematic words



miau



ham ham



cucurigu



groh groh



mu



meee, beee

## Funny or odd traditional proverbs and idioms



**Cine se scoală de dimineață, departe  
ajunge.**

He who wakes early goes far.  
The early bird gets the worm.



**Fiecare pasăre pe limba ei pierе.**  
Every bird perishes due to its tongue.  
Loose lips sink ships.



**Dar din dar se face rai.**

From gift to gift paradise is made.  
It is more blessed to give than to receive.



**Bine faci, bine găsești.**  
You do good, you find good.  
The good you do comes back to you.

# Russian

Русский язык

## Number of native speakers

> 150,000,000

### Official language in

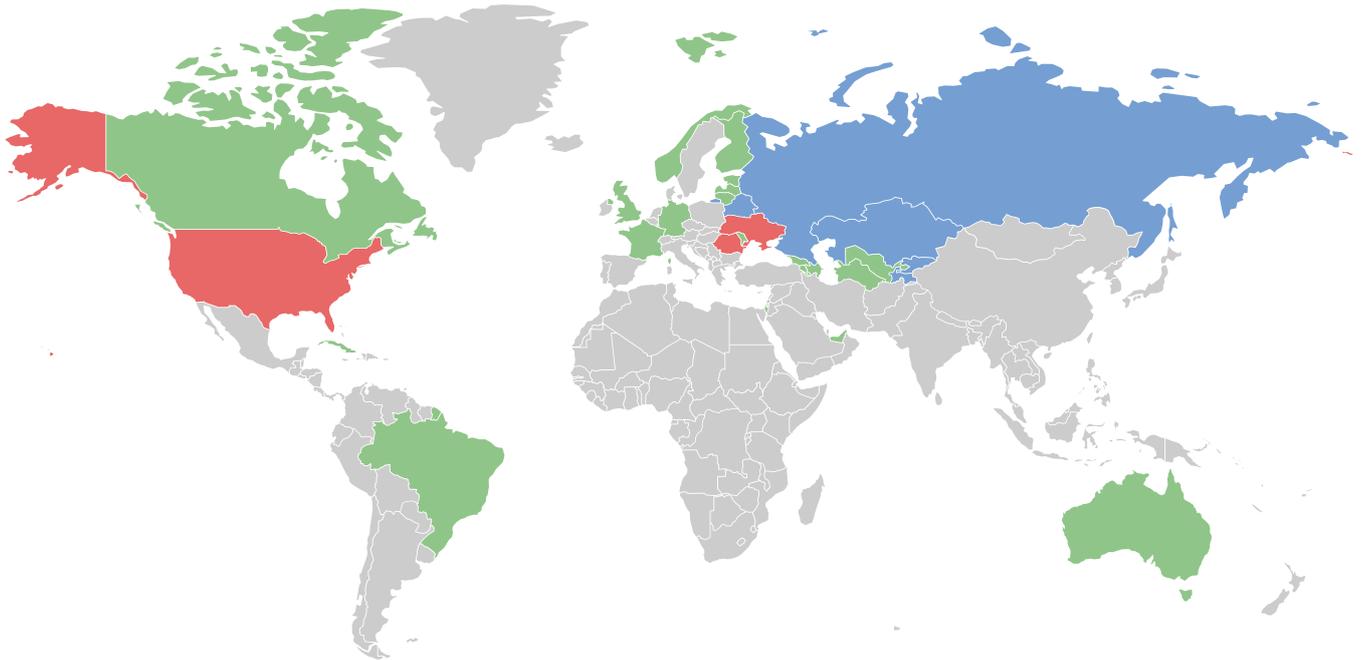
Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan,  
Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan

### Minority language in

Ukraine, USA, Romania

### Language of diaspora

Uzbekistan, Israel, Latvia,  
Moldova, Turkmenistan,  
Germany, Canada, Brazil,  
Finland, Lithuania, France,  
Australia, United Arab Emirates,  
Cuba, UK, Estonia, Azerbaijan,  
Georgia, Armenia, Norway



ABC

**Alphabet**  
33 letters



**Grammatical cases**  
6



**Language code**  
ru, rus



**Linguistic typology**  
*inflectional , pro-drop , SVO*



**Language family**  
Indo-European – Baltic-Slavic – Slavic - East Slavic



**Number of dialects**  
2 groups, many variants



### Longest word

**тысячадевятьсотвосемь-**  
**десятидевятимиллиметровый**  
length of one thousand nine hundred eighty nine  
millimeters



### Curious word or sentence

**умер и мир ему**  
he died and let him rest in peace  
same transcription and meaning in both directions

## Writing system and pronunciation

Today the Russian alphabet contains 33 letters (some of them look like Greek and can be recognised by their use in mathematics):

а б в г д е ё ж з и й к л м  
н о п р с т у ф х ц ч ш щ ь ы  
ъ ё ю я

### Thematic words



мяу



гав-гав



кукареку!

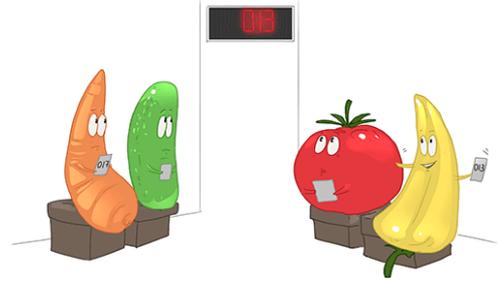


бум!



хм...

## Funny or odd traditional proverbs and idioms



**Поспешись – людей насмешись.**

If you rush things, you'll just make others laugh.

Haste makes waste.

**Всякому овощу своё время.**

Every vegetable has its time.

Everything is good in its season.



**В гостях хорошо, а дома лучше.**

It is good to be visiting, but it is better at home.

There's no place like home. / East or West, home is best.

# Slovak

Slovenský jazyk

## Number of native speakers

about 4.6 million native speakers in Slovakia plus emigrants and diasporas

### Official language in

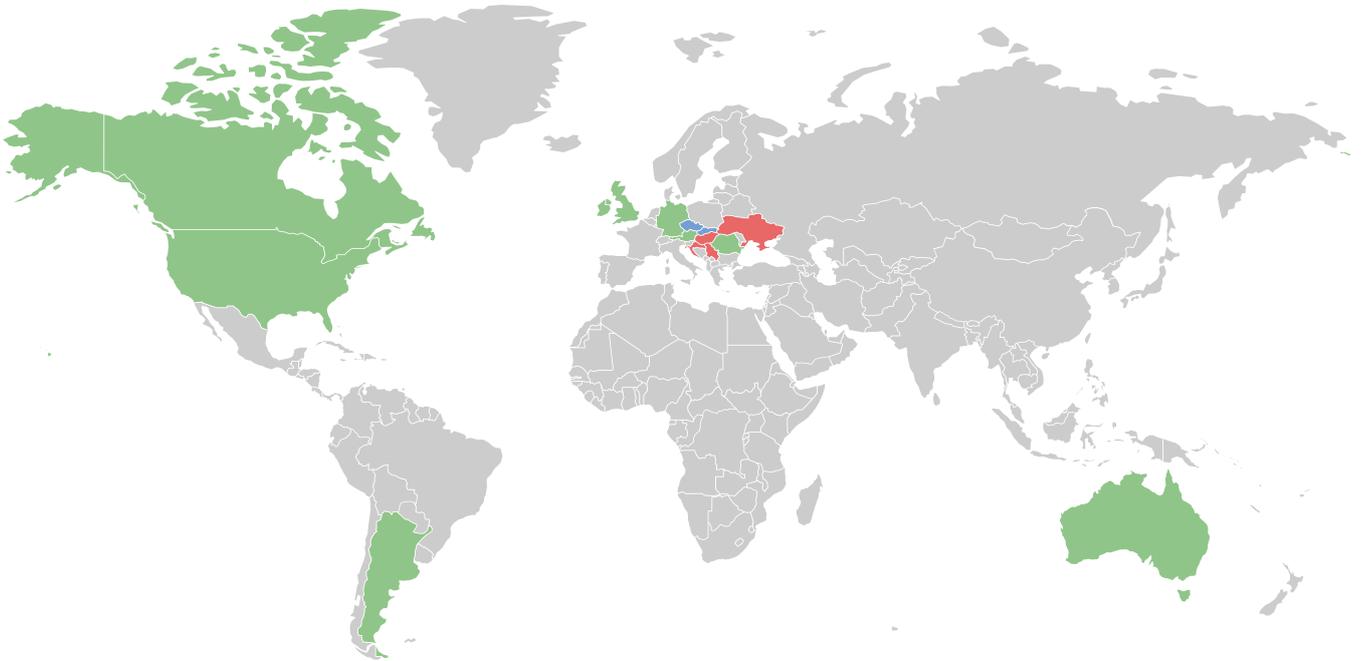
Slovakia, EU; can also be used in almost all levels of official communication in Czech Republic

### Minority language in

Hungary, Serbia, Ukraine, Croatia

### Language of diaspora

UK, Germany, Ireland, Austria, Ukraine; the US, Canada, Argentina, Australia



# ABC

**Alphabet**  
46 letters



**Grammatical cases**  
6



**Language code**  
sk, slo, slk



**Linguistic typology**  
*inflectional* , *pro-drop* , *SVO*



**Language family**  
Indo-European family (West branch of Slavic languages, together with Czech, Polish, Sorbian(s) and two extinct languages, Polabian and Slovincian language)



**Number of dialects**  
3 major groups, 6 subgroups, over 30 dialects



**Longest word**

**najneskomercializovateľnejšieho**  
not able to be commercialised in the superlative form,  
masculine gender, singular, genitive case



**Curious word or sentence**

**Strč štvrtprst skrz krk.**  
Put quarter-finger through neck.

Writing system and pronunciation

a á ä b c č d d' dz dž e é f g h ch i í j  
k l í l' m n ň Ŏ ó ô p q r r' s š t ť u  
ú V w x y ý z ž

## Links

Multilingual website for learning Slovak: <http://slovake.eu>

## Thematic words



mňau



hav



kikirikí

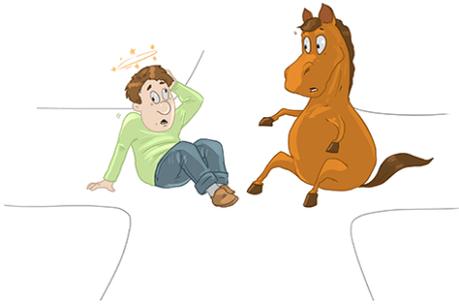


bum, buch



hm, mhm

## Funny or odd traditional proverbs and idioms



**Čo si sa s koňom zrazil?**

Have you collided with a horse?

Are you nuts?



**Urobiť dieru do sveta.**

To make a hole into the world.

To do something remarkable.



**Má deravé ruky.**

His hands are porous.

He is clumsy.



**Hodiť flintu do žita.**

To throw the rifle into the rye.

To give up, to stop trying to do something.

# Slovene

Slovenski jezik

## Number of native speakers

2.4 million

Official language in

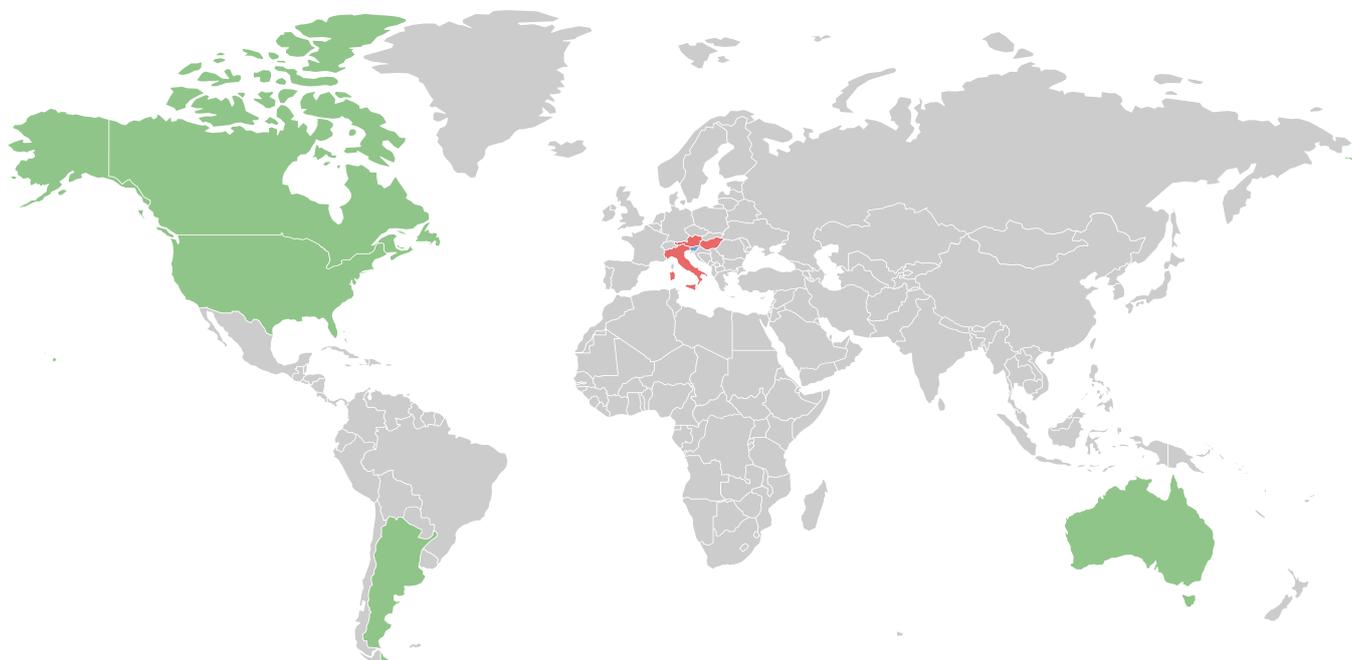
Slovenia, EU

Minority language in

Austria, Italy, Hungary

Language of diaspora

Argentina, USA, Australia



ABC

Alphabet  
25 letters



Grammatical cases  
6



Language code  
sl, slv



Linguistic typology  
*inflectional* , *pro-drop* , *SVO*



Language family  
Indo-European, Slavic, South Slavic



Number of dialects  
About 50



Longest word

**dialektičnomaterialističen**  
dialectic-materialistic



Curious word or sentence

**midva**  
the two of us  
elected as the most beautiful Slovene word

Writing system and pronunciation

abcčdēfghijklmno  
prsštuvzž

## Thematic words



mijau



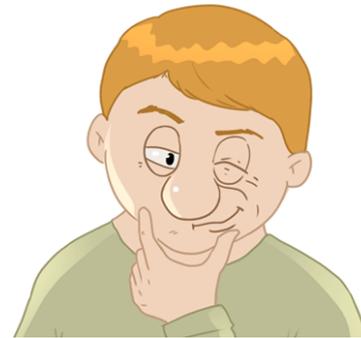
hov-hov



kikiriki



bum



hm

## Funny or odd traditional proverbs and idioms



**Vola primeš za roge, človeka za besedo.**  
You take an ox by his horn and a man by his word.  
A man has to keep his promises and do what he says.



**Ogibaj se kozla od spredaj, konja od zadaj,  
zlega človeka pa od vseh strani.**  
Avoid a goat from the front, a horse from behind  
and an evil man from all sides.  
Avoid evil people completely.



**Nobena juha se ne poje tako vroča, kakor  
se skuha.**

No soup is eaten as hot as it is cooked.  
Things are rarely as bad as they seem.



**Povsod je lepo, a doma je najlepše.**  
Everywhere is beautiful, but home is the most  
beautiful.  
There's no place like home.

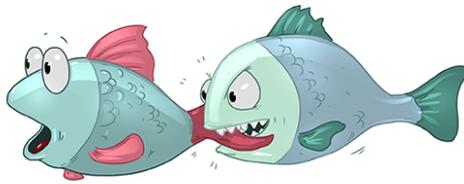
## Tongue twisters



**Pešec čez cestišče.**  
Pedestrian across the street.



**Klop pod klopjo.**  
A tick under the bench.



**Riba ribi grize rep.**  
A fish bites the tail of a fish.

# Spanish

Español

## Number of native speakers

about 450 million

### Official language in

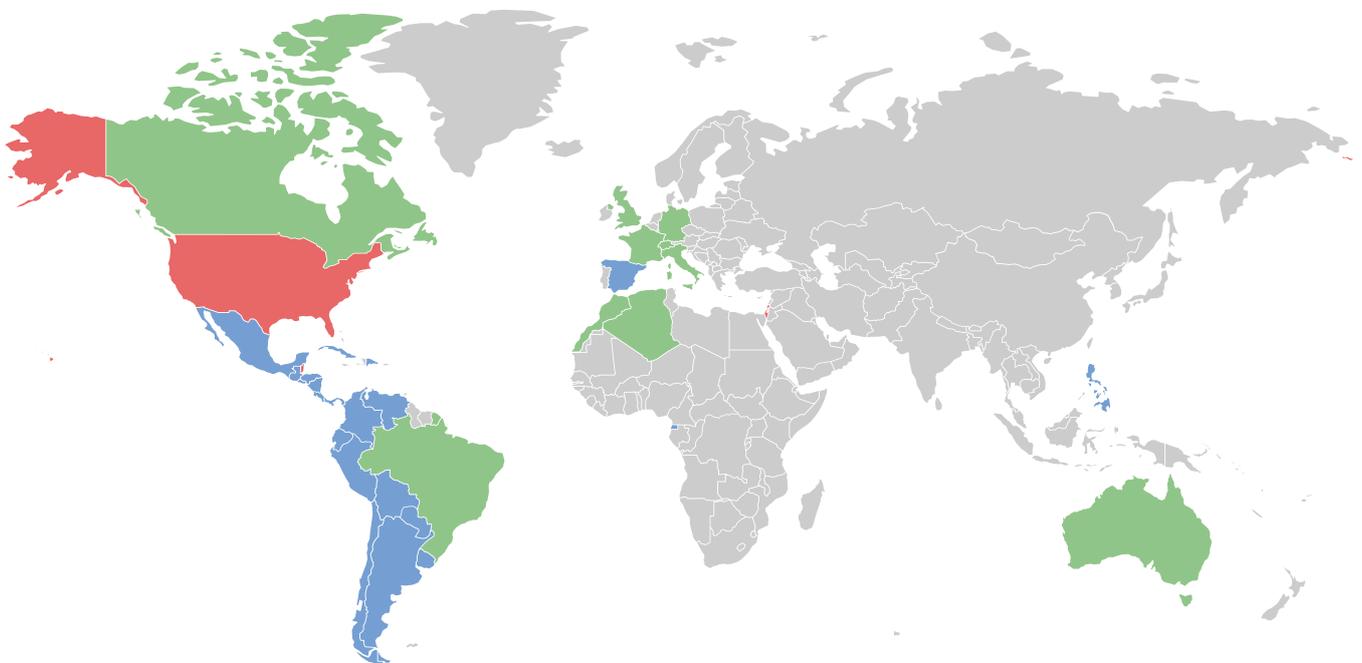
Mexico (110 million), Colombia (47 million), Spain (46 million), Argentina (40 million), Peru (28 million), Venezuela (27 million), Chile (17 million), Guatemala, Ecuador, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Bolivia, Honduras, Paraguay, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Puerto Rico, Panamá, Uruguay, Equatorial Guinea, Western Sahara, EU

### Minority language in

United States, Belize, Andorra, Gibraltar, Israel

### Language of diaspora

United States, Canada, Australia, United Kingdom, France, Switzerland, Germany, Brazil, Morocco, Israel, Italy, Algeria



ABC

**Alphabet**  
27 letters



**Grammatical cases**  
0



**Language code**  
es, spa



**Linguistic typology**  
*inflectional* , *pro-drop* , *SVO*



**Language family**  
Indo-European, Romance



**Number of dialects**  
several hundred dialects (European: Northern Peninsular, Central-Southern Peninsular, Southern Peninsular, Canarian; American: Mexican, Caribbean, Andean-Pacific, Río de la Plata, Chilean, Central American)



**Longest word**

**ciclopentanoperhidrofenantreno**  
chemistry, Cyclopentanoperhydrophenanthrene



**Curious word or sentence**

**otorrinolaringología**  
otolaryngology

**ferrocarrilero**  
railwayman

**Parangaricutirimícuaro**  
a town in Mexico, word used as a tongue twister

## Writing system and pronunciation

The Spanish language uses the Latin alphabet with one additional consonant **ñ**, which represents a palatal nasal. The five vowels can take the acute accent.

a á b c d e é f g h i í j k l m n ñ  
O ó p q r s t u ú ü v w x y z

### Thematic words



miao



guau/gua



quiquiriquí/kikiriki



oink/oinc



muuu/meee



beee beee

## Funny or odd traditional proverbs and idioms



**Con el dinero baila el perro.**

With money, the dog will dance.

With money, anything is possible.



**Dando y dando, pajarito volando.**

Giving and giving, the bird is flying.

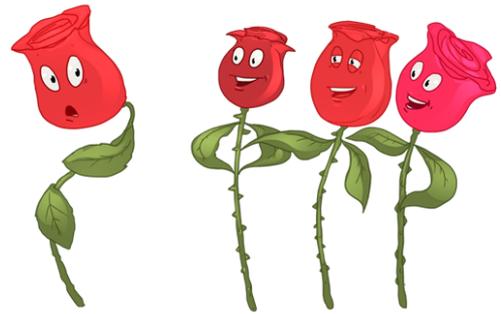
Scratch my back, I will scratch yours.



**El hambre agudiza el ingenio.**

Hunger sharpens the wit.

Necessity is the mother of invention.



**No hay rosa sin espinas.**

No rose without thorns.

To enjoy something beautiful, you must endure something difficult or painful.



**La carne de burro no es transparente.**

The flesh of the donkey is not transparent.

You make a better wall than a window.

# Swedish

Svenska

## Number of native speakers

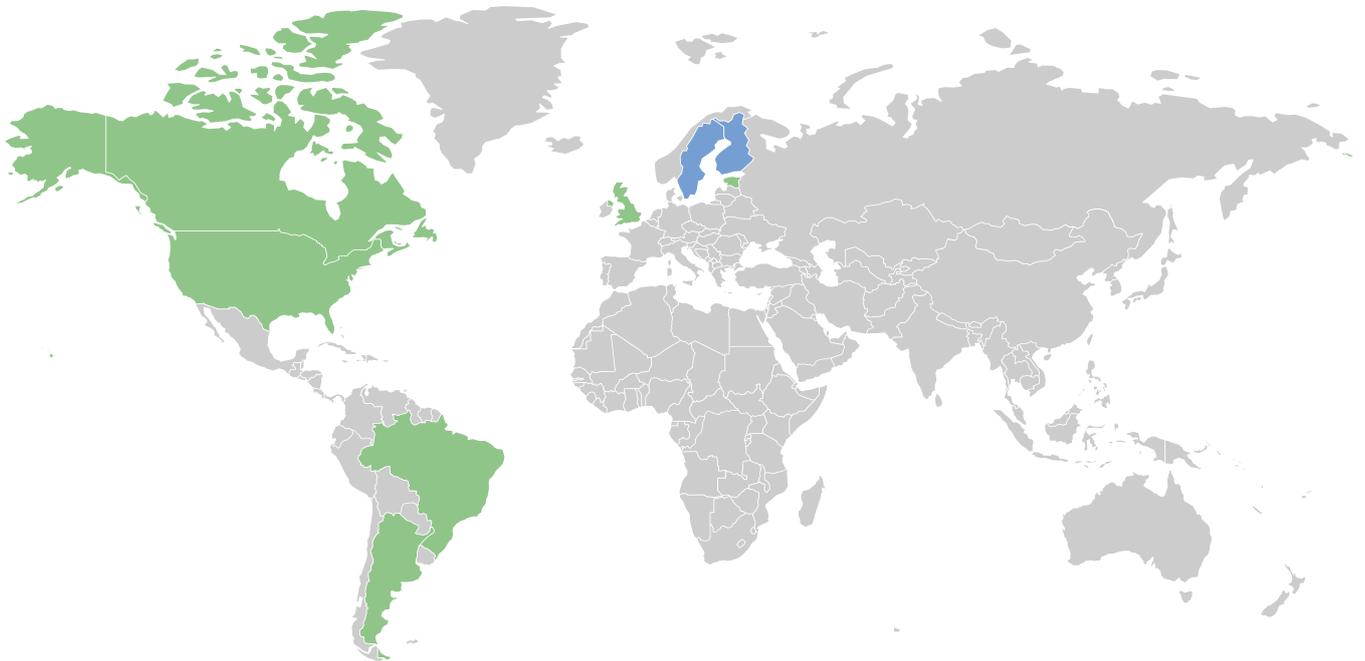
9 million

### Official language in

Sweden, Finland, EU, Nordic Council

### Language of diaspora

USA, UK, Canada, Estonia, Argentina, Brazil



ABC

**Alphabet**

29 (26 basic Latin + å, ä, ö)



**Grammatical cases**

0



**Language code**

sv, swe



**Linguistic typology**

moderately *inflectional*, *compounding*, *SVO*



**Language family**

Indo-European, North Germanic, East Scandinavian



**Number of dialects**

6 main groups: Norrland, Finland, Svealand, Gotland, Götaland, South Swedish (Scanian)



**Longest word**

ursprungsbefolkningsorganisationerna  
indigenous peoples organizations



**Curious word or sentence**

Sju skönsjungande sjuksköterskor skötte sjuttiosju  
sjösjuka sjömän på skeppet.  
Seven beautifully singing nurses took care of seventy-seven  
seasick sailors on the ship "Shanghai" (tongue twister).

Writing system and pronunciation

å ä å ä b c d e f g h i j k l m n  
o ö p q r s t u v w x y z

## Thematic words



mjau mjau



voff



kuckeliku



nöff nöff



mu mu



bä bä

## Funny or odd traditional proverbs and idioms



**Det är ingen ko på isen.**

There's no cow on the ice.

There's no danger.



**Bara döda fiskar följer strömmen.**

Only dead fish follow the current.

Doing what everybody else does, not pushing oneself to do better and achieve more.



**Gräset är alltid grönare på andra sidan  
(staketet).**

The grass is always greener on the other side (of the fence).

People think they would be happier in a different set of circumstances.



**I öknen är sanden billig.**

In the desert sand is cheap.  
Supply and demand rules.



**med skägget i brevlådan**  
with the beard in the mailbox  
caught by surprise

**Hungern är bästa kryddan.**

Hunger is the best seasoning.  
Everything tastes better if you are hungry.



**Ingen kan göra allt, men alla kan göra  
något.**

Nobody can do everything, but everybody can do something.



**Nu har du skitit i det blå skåpet.**  
Now you've shit in the blue cupboard.  
Now you've really made a fool of yourself.

# Turkish

Türk dili

## Number of native speakers

more than 70 million

Official language in

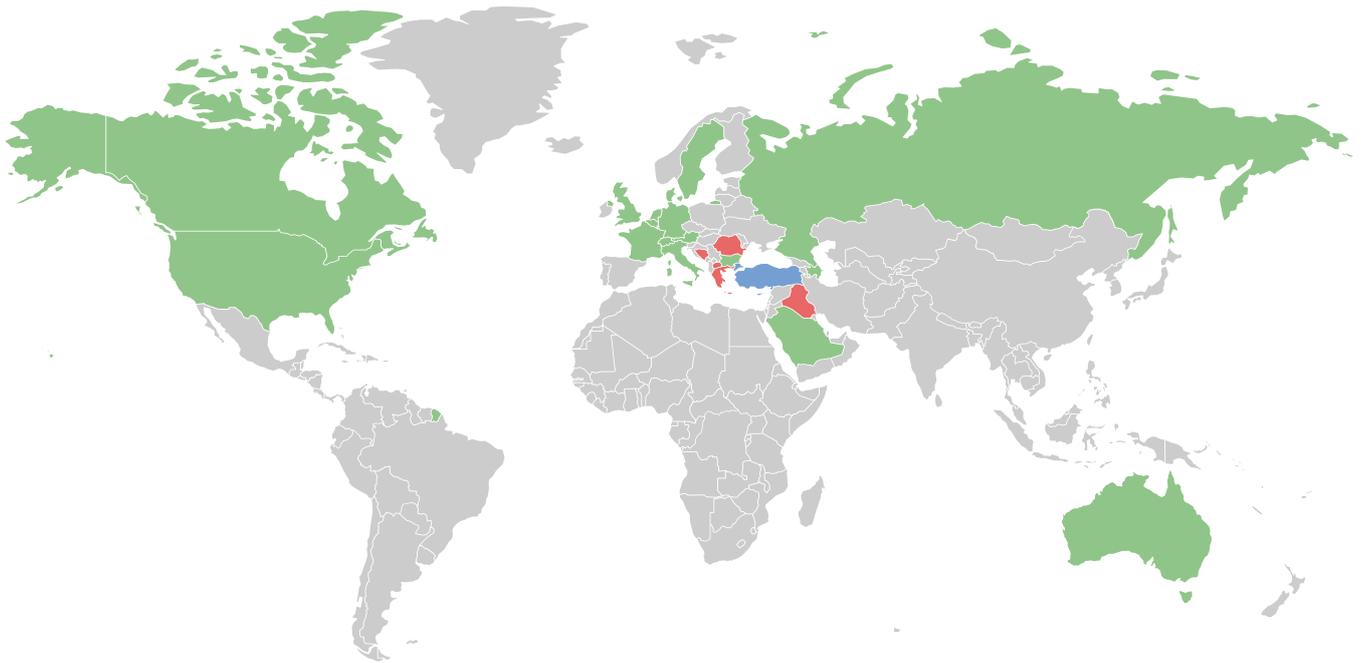
Turkey, Cyprus

Minority language in

Macedonia, Romania, Bosnia  
and Herzegovina, Greece, Iraq,  
Kosovo

Language of diaspora

Germany, France, Netherlands,  
US, Austria, Saudi Arabia,  
Switzerland, Australia, Sweden,  
Russia, Denmark, UK, Canada,  
Belgium, Bulgaria, Italy,  
Azerbaijan...



# ABC

## Alphabet

Latin, 29 letters, 21 consonants and 8 vowels



## Grammatical cases

6



## Language code

tr, tur



## Linguistic typology

*agglutinative* , *vowel harmony* , *pro-drop* , *SOV*



## Language family

Oghuz branch of Turkic languages



## Number of dialects

The number of dialects is not established



## Longest word

**ademimerkeziyetçilik**  
decentralization



## Curious word or sentence

**muvaaffakiyetsizleştiricileştiriveremeyebilecekleri-  
mizdenmişsinizcesine**

As if you were from those whom we may not be able to easily make into a maker of unsuccessful ones.  
The longest possible word (with all suffixes) consists of 70 letters.

## Writing system and pronunciation

abcçdeffgğhıijklmnn  
oöprrsştuüvyz

## Thematic words



miyav



hav



kikiriki

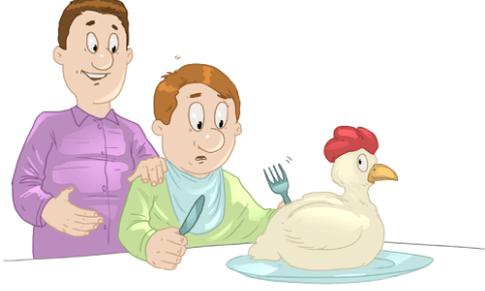


mö



me

## Funny or odd traditional proverbs and idioms



**Hatır için çiğ tavuk yenir.**

To eat raw chicken for somebody's sake.

We will do everything for our friends.



**Armut piş, ağzıma düş.**

Pear, boil and fall in my mouth.

Used to describe the attitude of lazy people.



**Beş parmak bir değil.**

Five fingers are not one.

Different strokes for different folks.



**Parayı veren düdüğü çalar.**

The one who pays blows the whistle.

He who pays the piper calls the tune.



**Doğru söyleyeni dokuz köyden kovarlar.**

One who tells the truth is banished from nine villages.

Honesty is not the best policy. / Telling the truth brings nothing but trouble.