

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

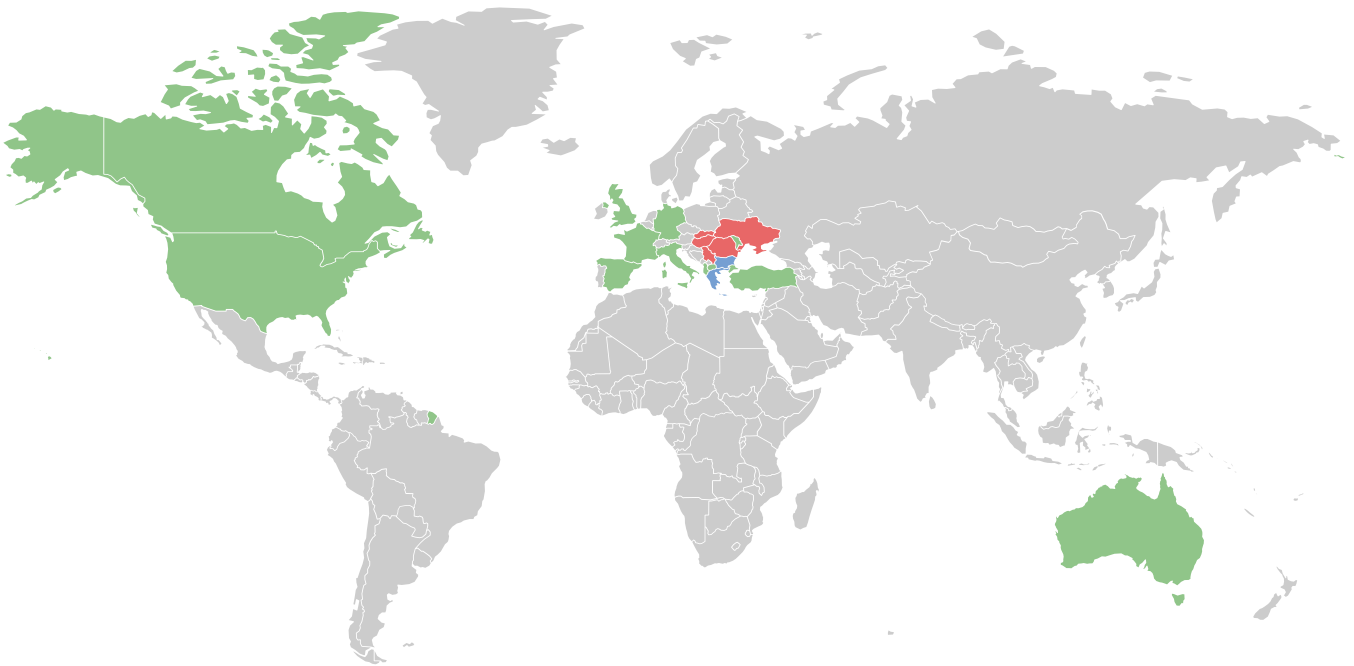
Bulgaria, Mount Athos (Greece),
EU

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.

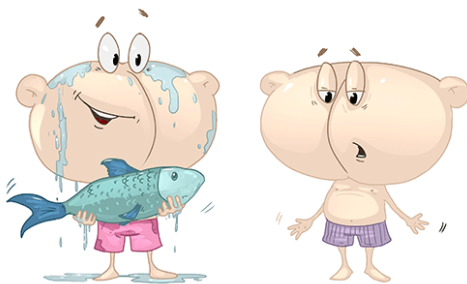
Hungry bellies have no ears. / No pay, no play.



**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

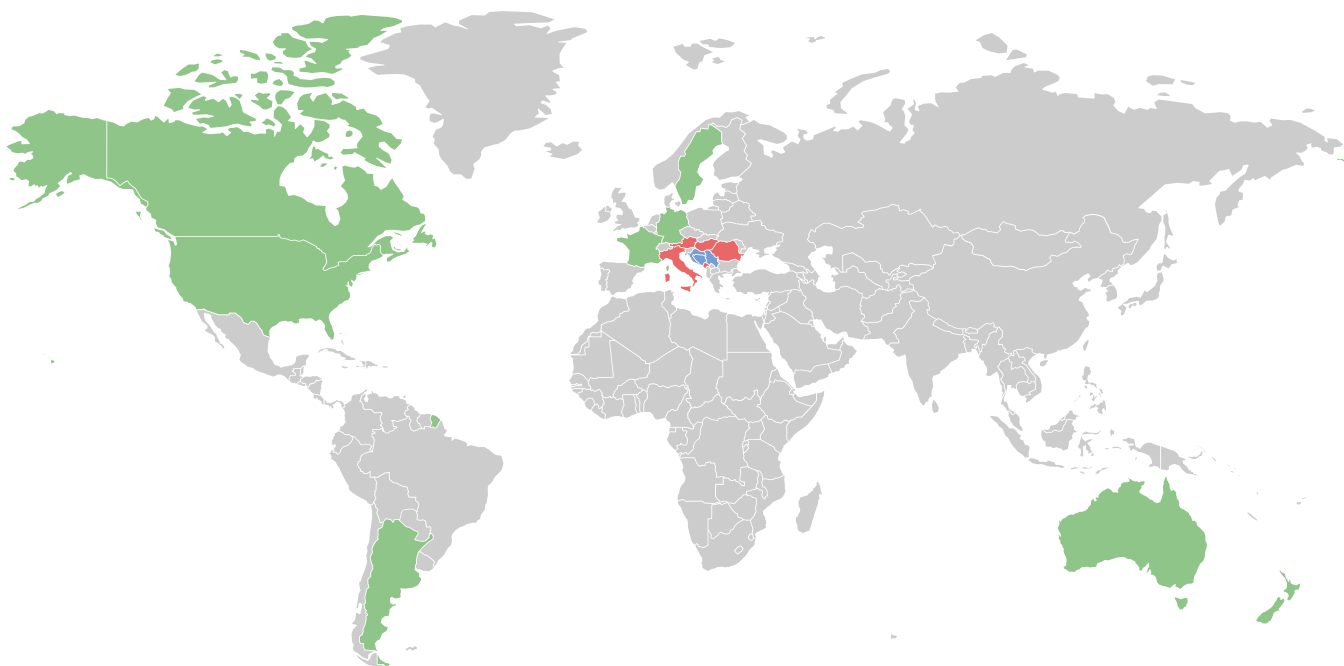
Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia (one of the 7 official languages of Vojvodina), EU

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



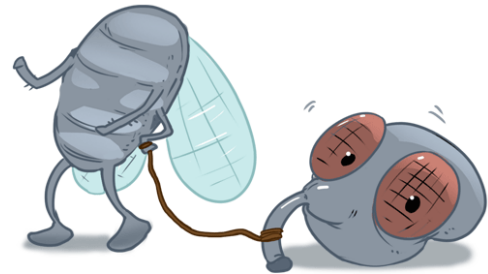
pasti s konja na magarca
to fall from a horse onto a donkey
to regress



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

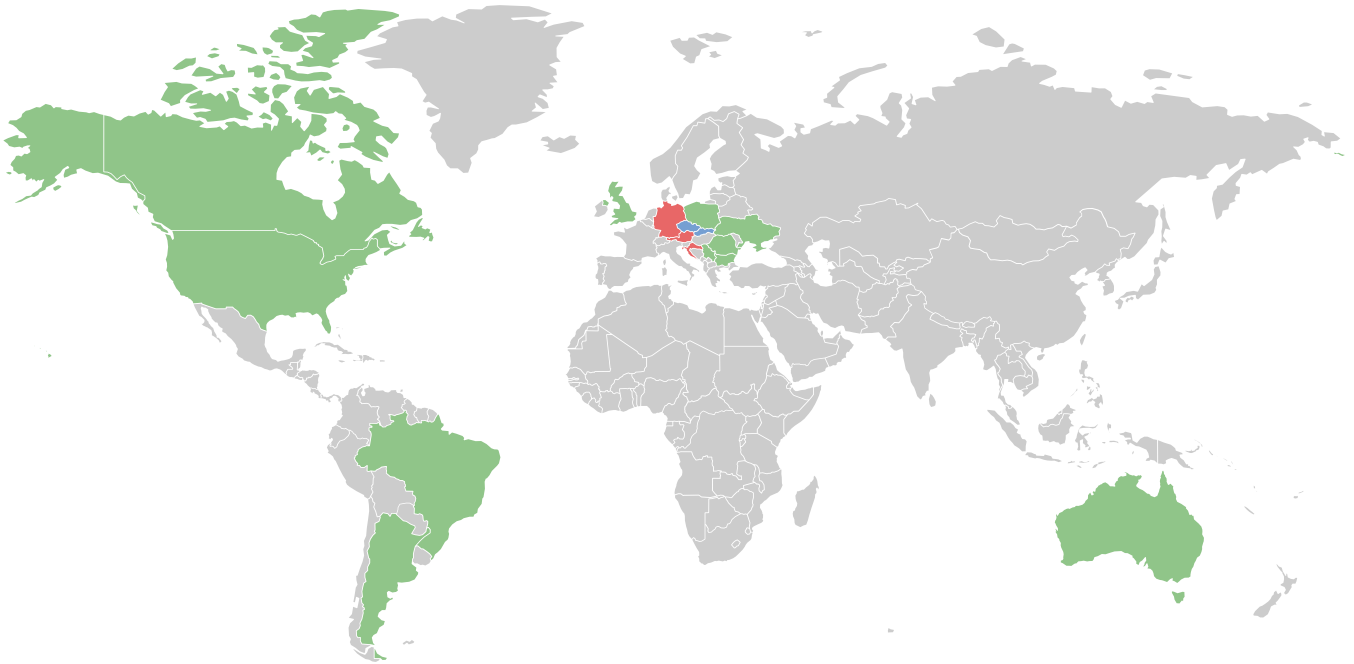
the Czech republic, EU; can be used in official communication in Slovak Republic

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.

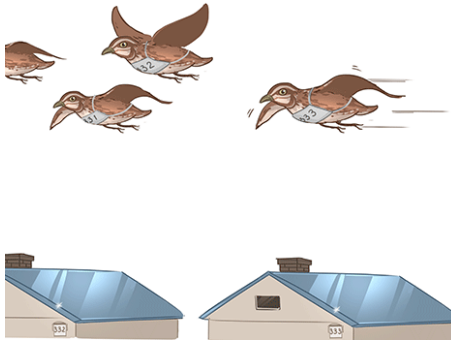


Když se dva perou, třetí se směje.

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

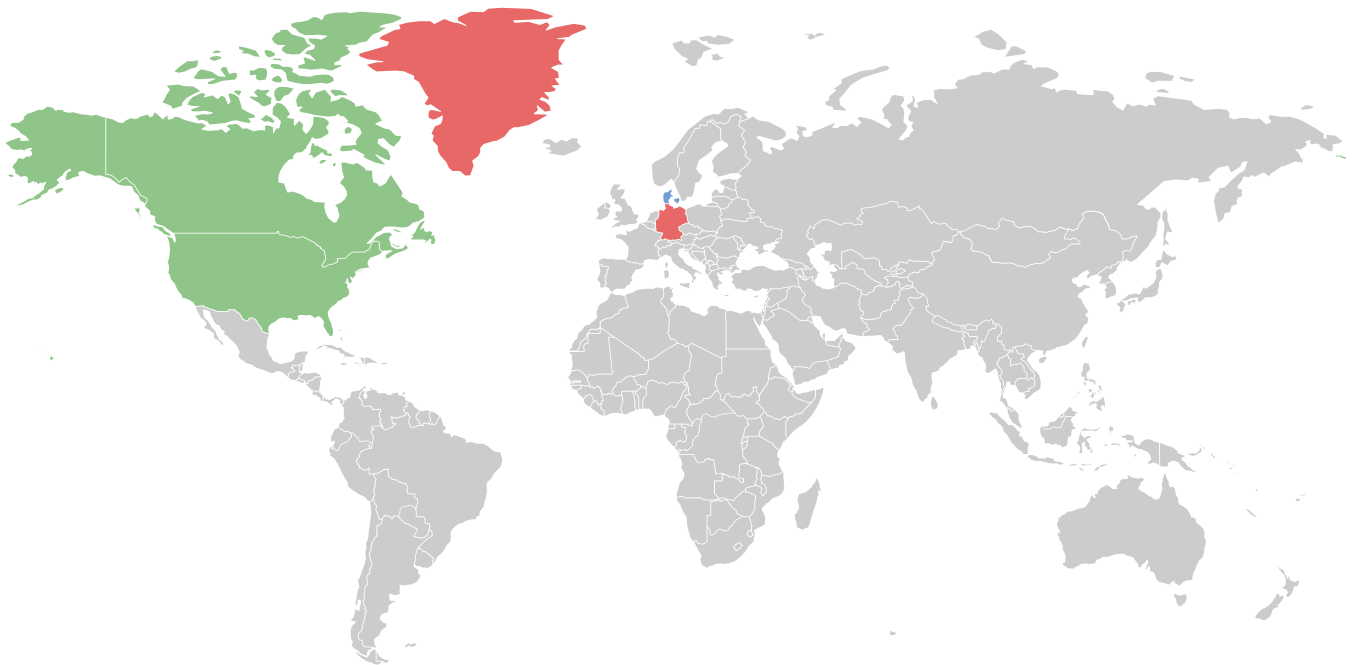
Denmark (5.5 million) incl.
Faroe Islands (50.000), EU

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

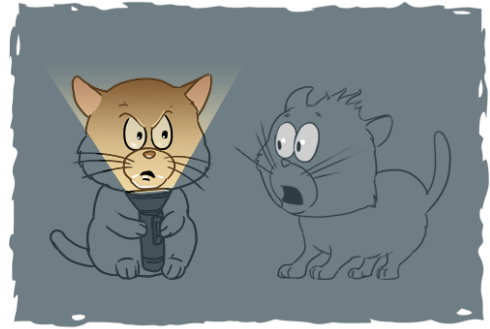
Funny or odd traditional proverbs and idioms



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

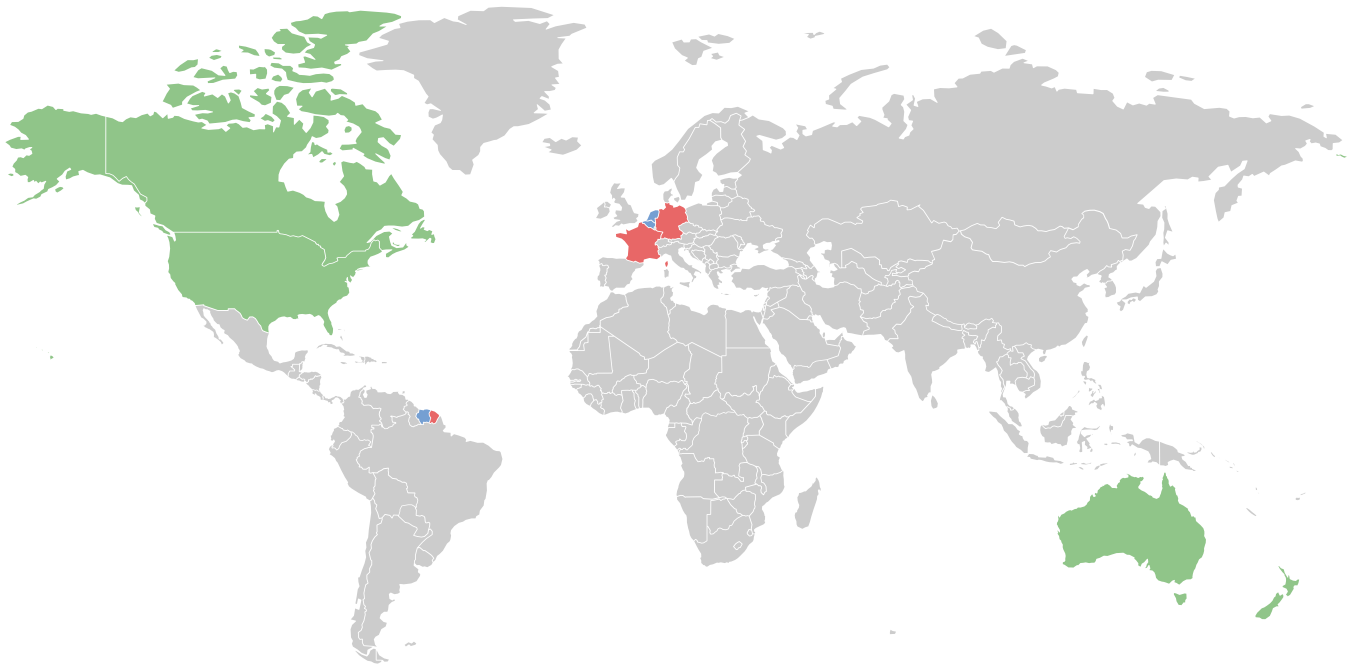
Netherlands, Belgium, Suriname, Aruba, Curaçao, Sint Maarten; EU, Union of South American Nations, unofficially used in the Caribbean Community.

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.

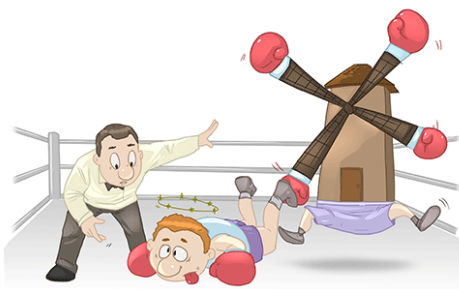
Be cautious, take no risks.



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

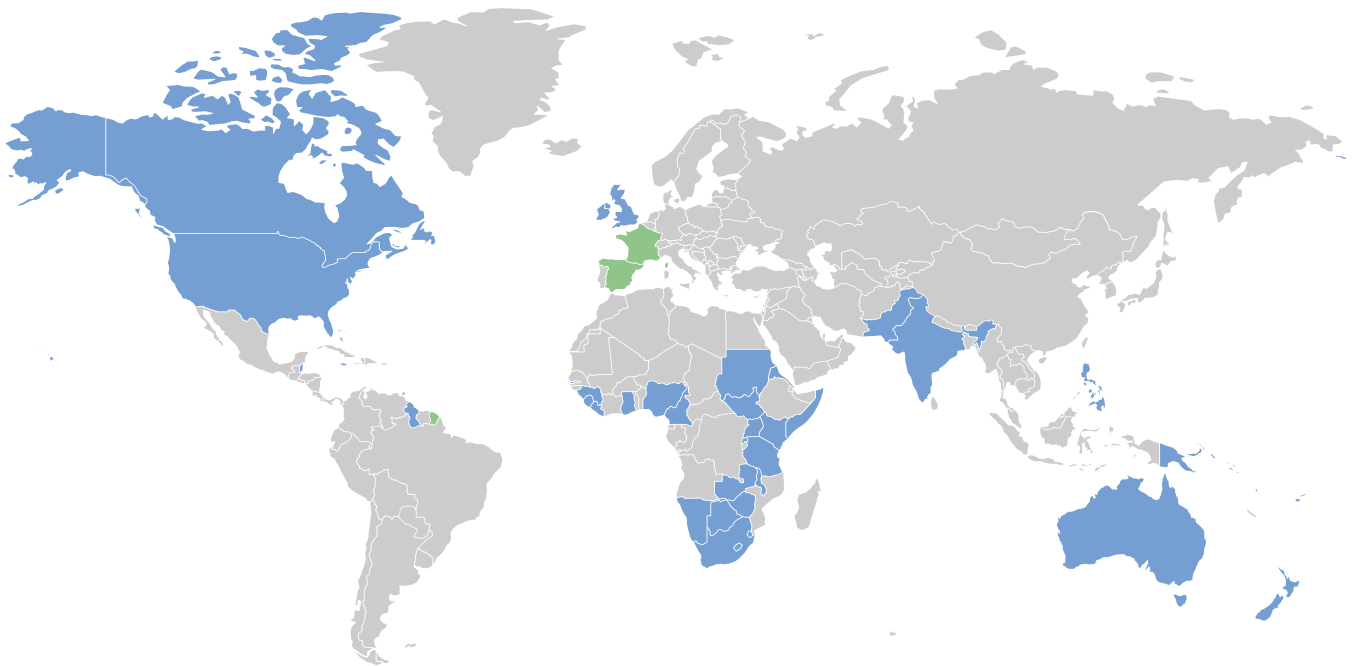
360 million, about 70 million in Europe

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 while www.edukado.net is mainly for teachers.

Wikipedia in Esperanto: eo.wikipedia.org.

Thematic words



mjao



boj boj



kokeriko

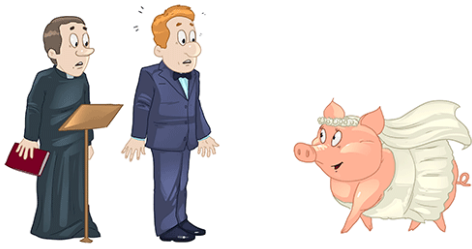


bum, kraš



mm

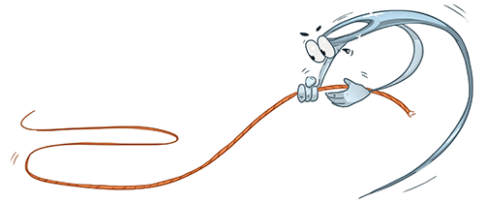
Funny or odd traditional proverbs and idioms



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

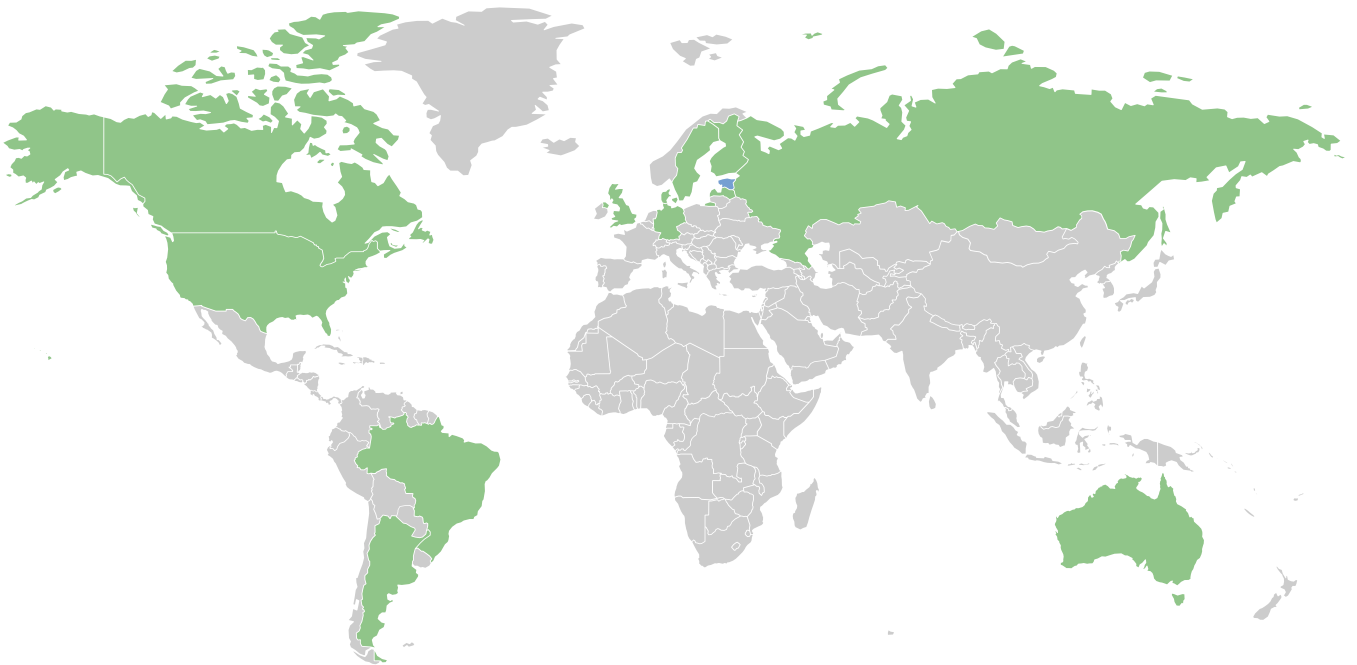
About 1,29 million

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

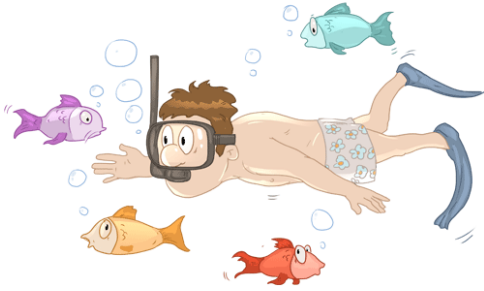


ammuu, muu, möö

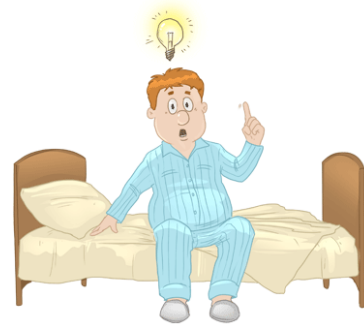


mää mää

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

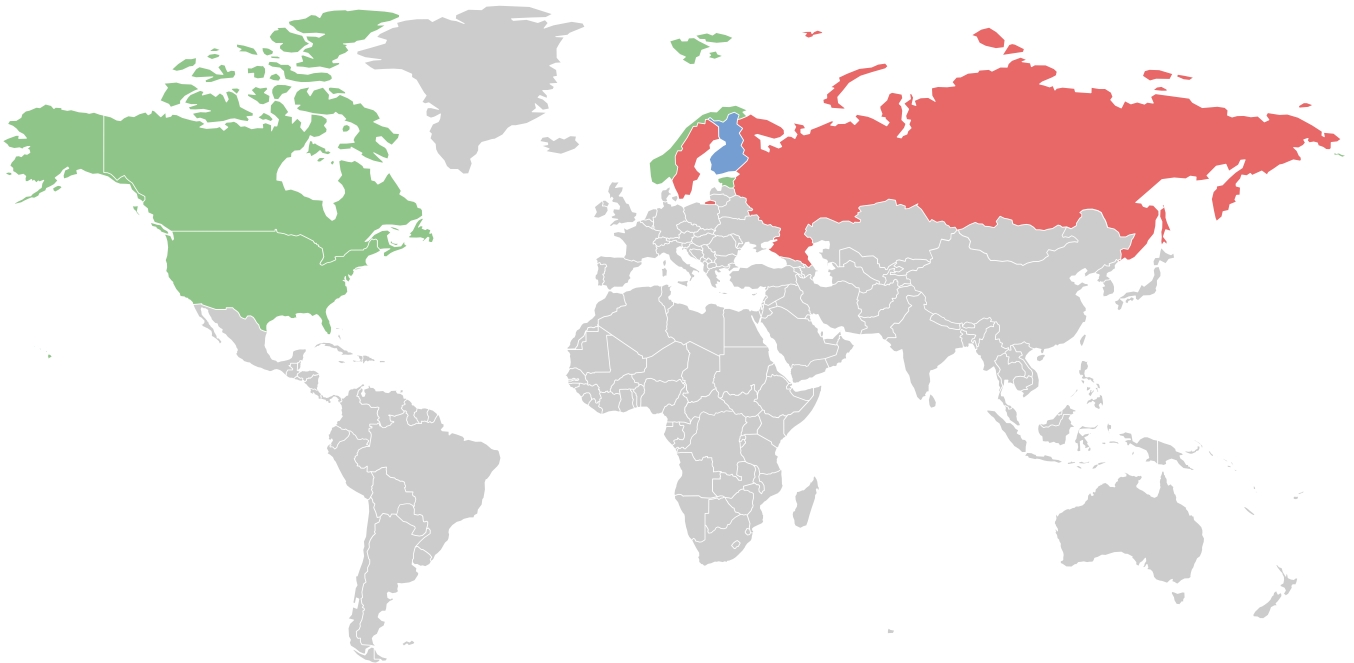
Number of native speakers

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_ä b c d e f g h i j k l m n o
ö p_q r s t u_w v_x 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

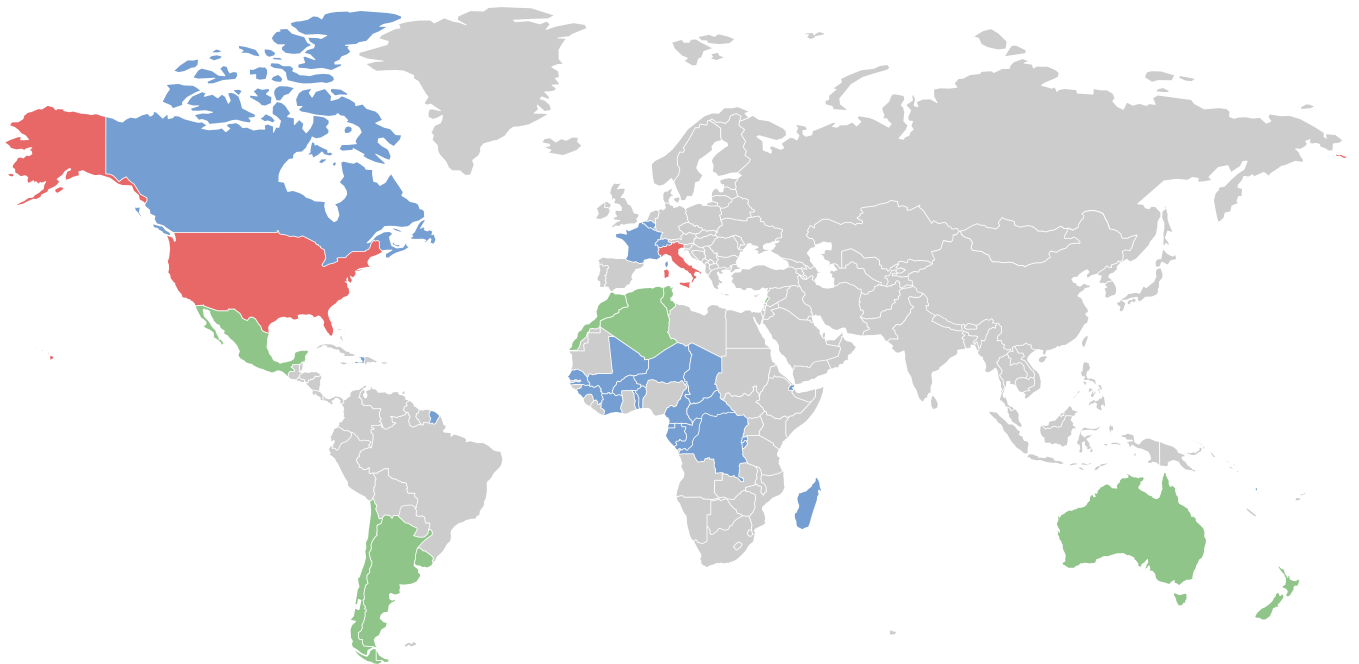
France, Belgium, Switzerland, Monaco, Luxemburg, EU, Canada, Haiti, Vanuatu and 21 countries in Africa.

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!

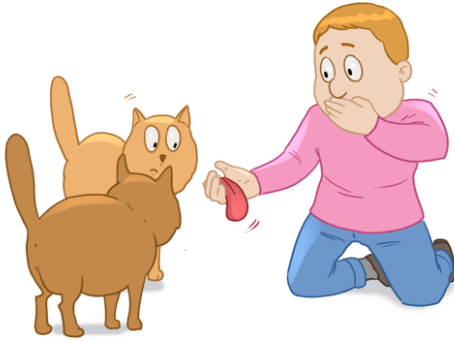


Crac! Crash! Bang!



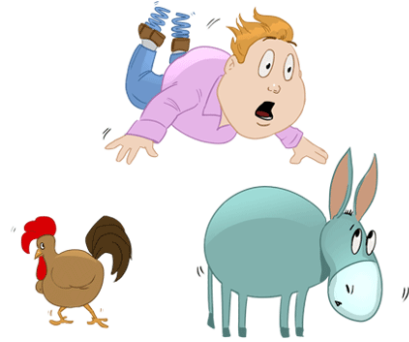
Eh!

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

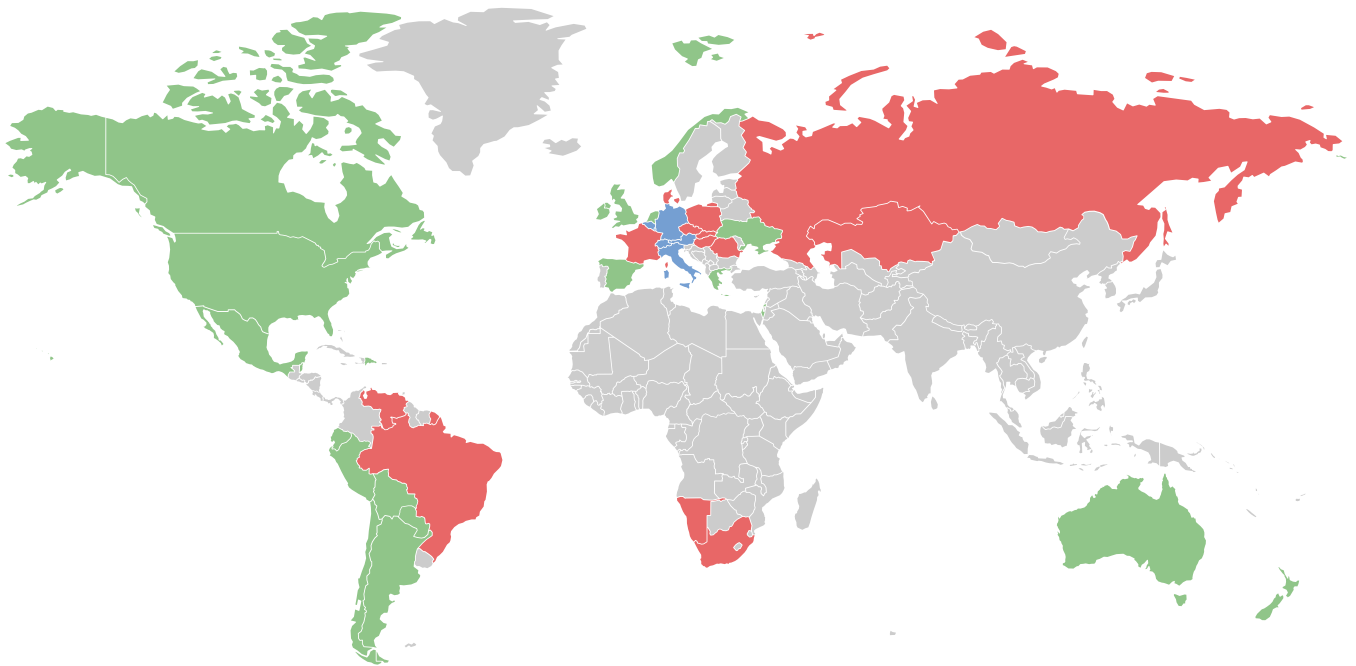
Germany, Austria, Switzerland,
Italy (South Tyrol),
Liechtenstein, Luxembourg,
Belgium, EU, Nordic Council

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.

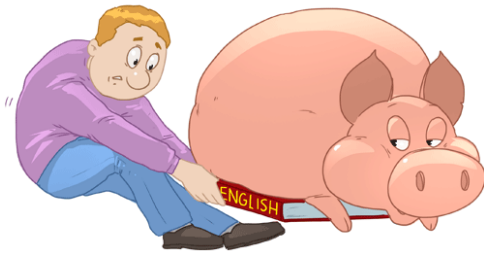
Really boring (has inspired a German punk band, based in Düsseldorf - *Die Toten Hosen*).



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

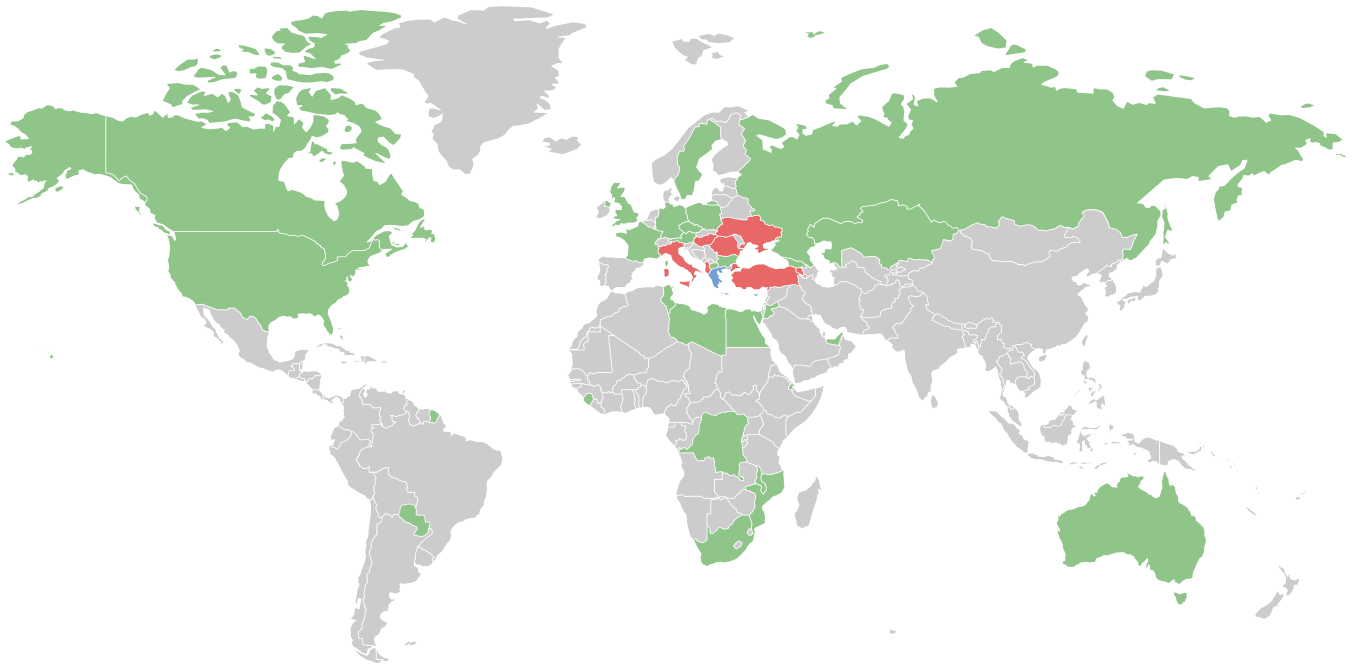
Greece including the Monks' Republic of Mount Athos (10 million), Cyprus (together with Turkish) (0.8 million), EU

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

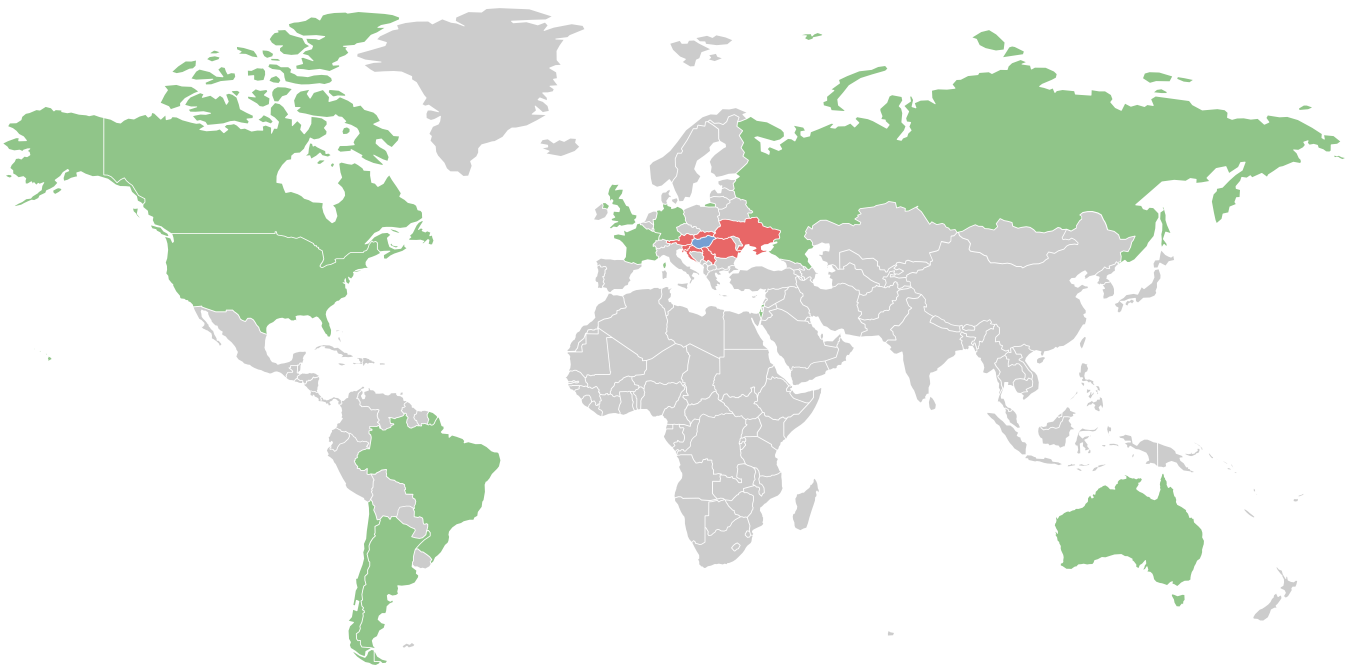
Hungary: nearly 10 mln speakers, EU

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

megszenségteleníthetetleniség

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 örömkök
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

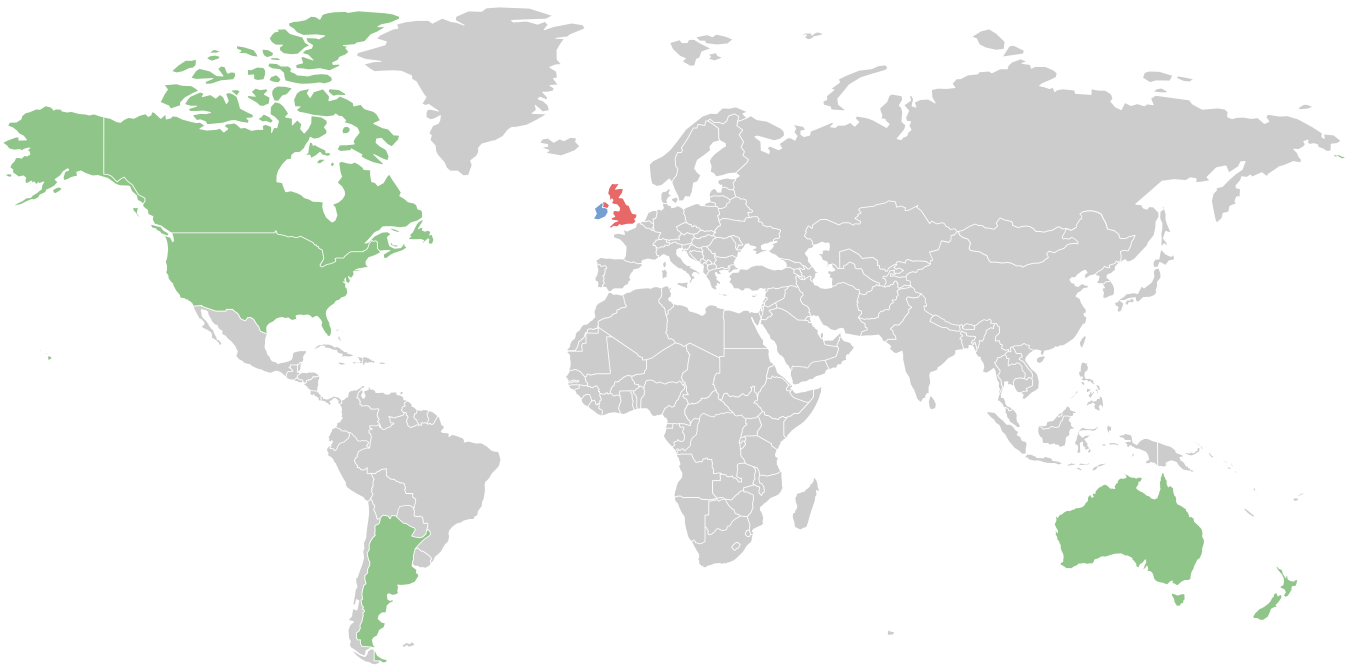
Ireland, EU

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 rící



bam



hm

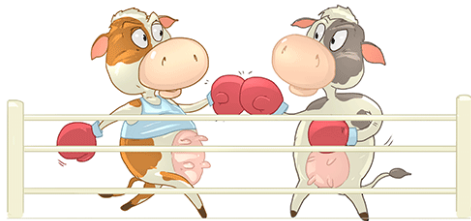
Funny or odd traditional proverbs and idioms



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.



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.



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.



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

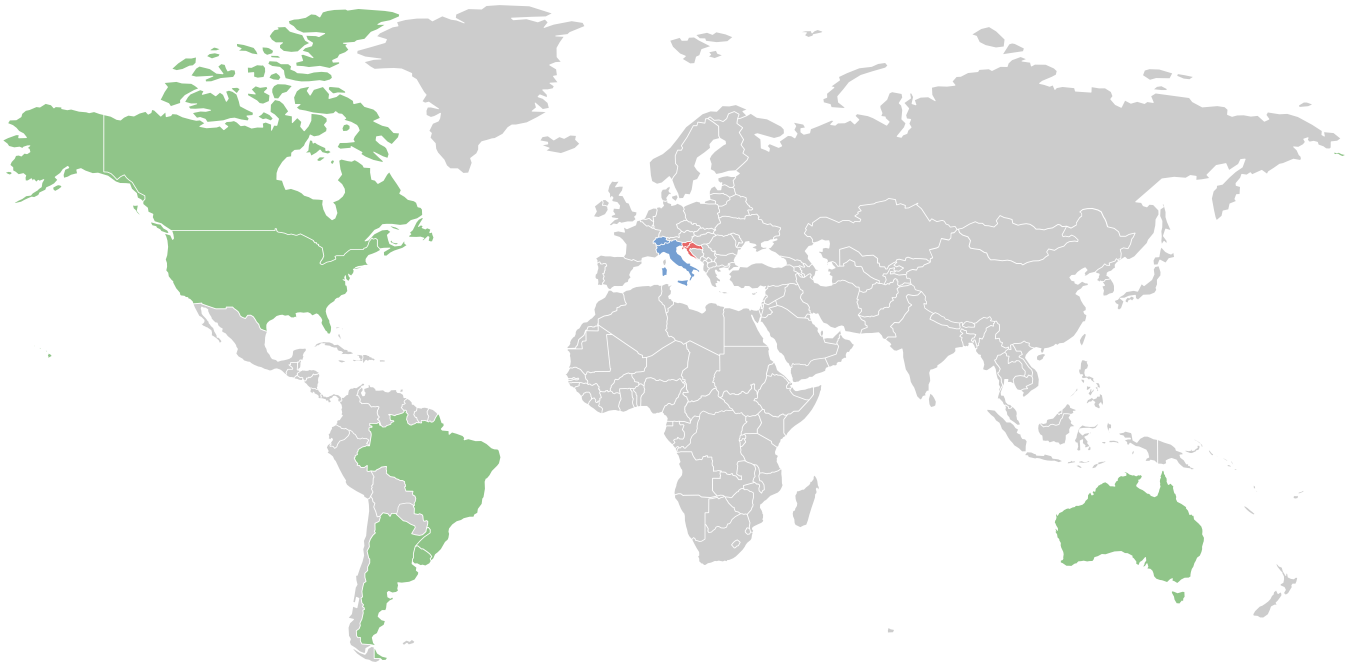
Italy, Switzerland, San Marino,
Vatican, EU

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

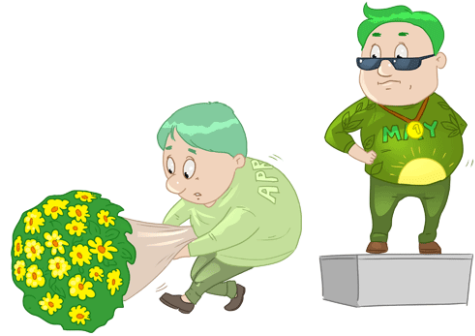


beeee

Funny or odd traditional proverbs and idioms



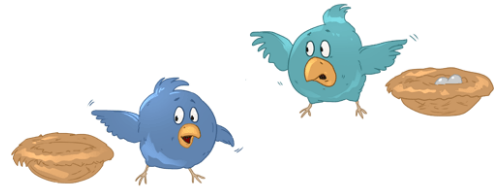
Ammuccia lu latinu 'gnuranza di parrinu.
Latin hides the stupidity of the priest. (Sicilian)



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)



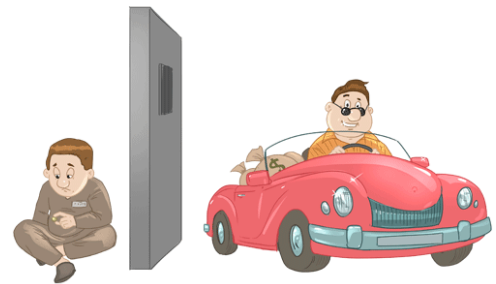
Avere le mani in pasta.
To have hands in pasta.
To have a finger in the pie.



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

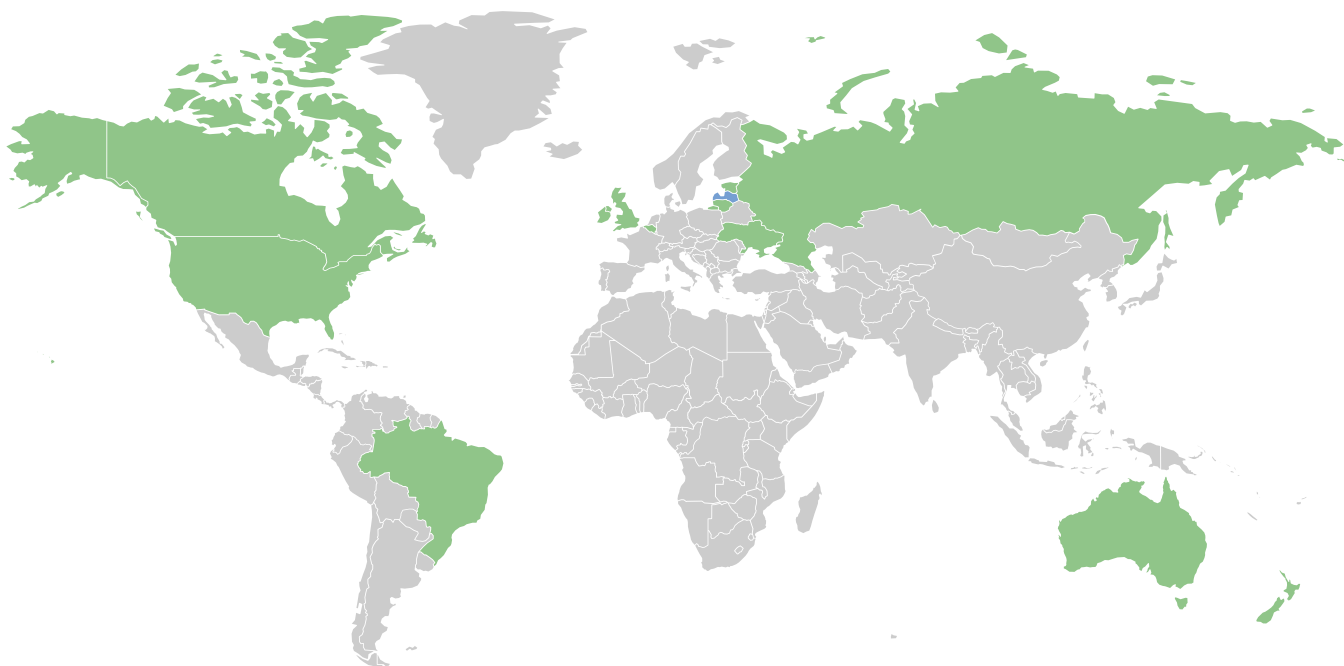
about 1.7 million people

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

ieeja
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.



Neskati vīru pēc cepures.

Don't judge a man by his hat.

Don't judge people by their appearance.



Melns darbs – balta maize.

The work is black, but the bread is white.

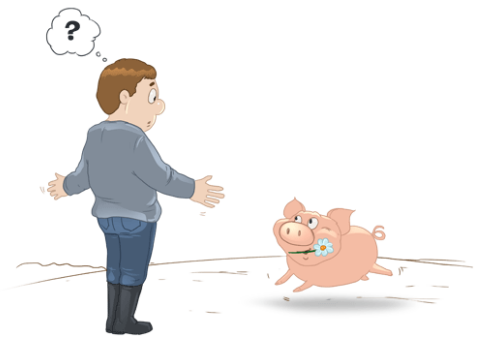
The work may be hard, but the reward is worthwhile.



Prāts debesīs, deguns pelnos.

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

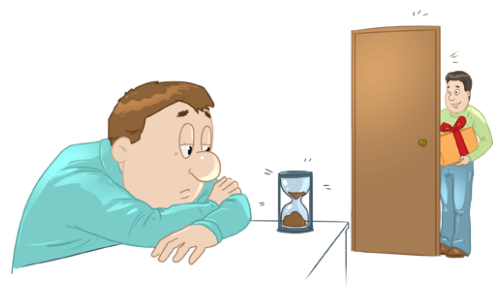
Dreamers don't accomplish much.



Ne mana cūka, ne mana druva.

This is not my pig and not my field.

It's none of my business.



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.**

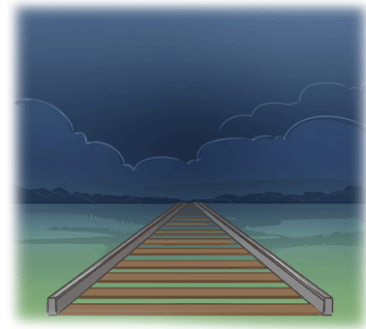
The hedgehogs of the ancient forest smell the harvest of wood roses, while smelling, some hedgehogs are dozing, some are eating the harvest of roses.



maziņš eža puskažociņš
little half-length coat of a hedgehog



**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.



**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

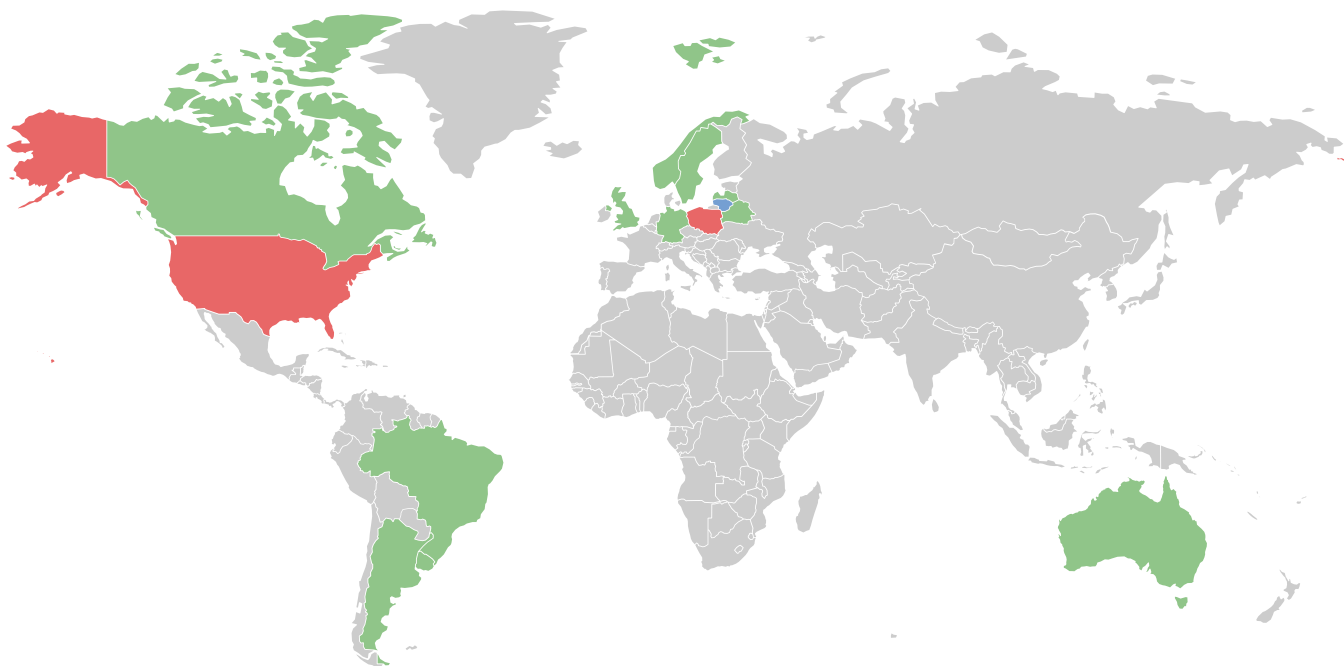
Lithuanian Republic, European Union

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:

aąbcčdėęėfgghĩıyjkllm
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.

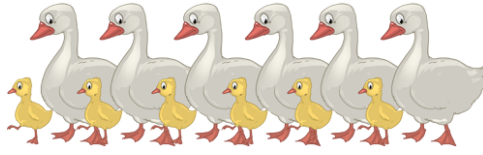


Žodis ne žvirblis, išskris – nepagausi.

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

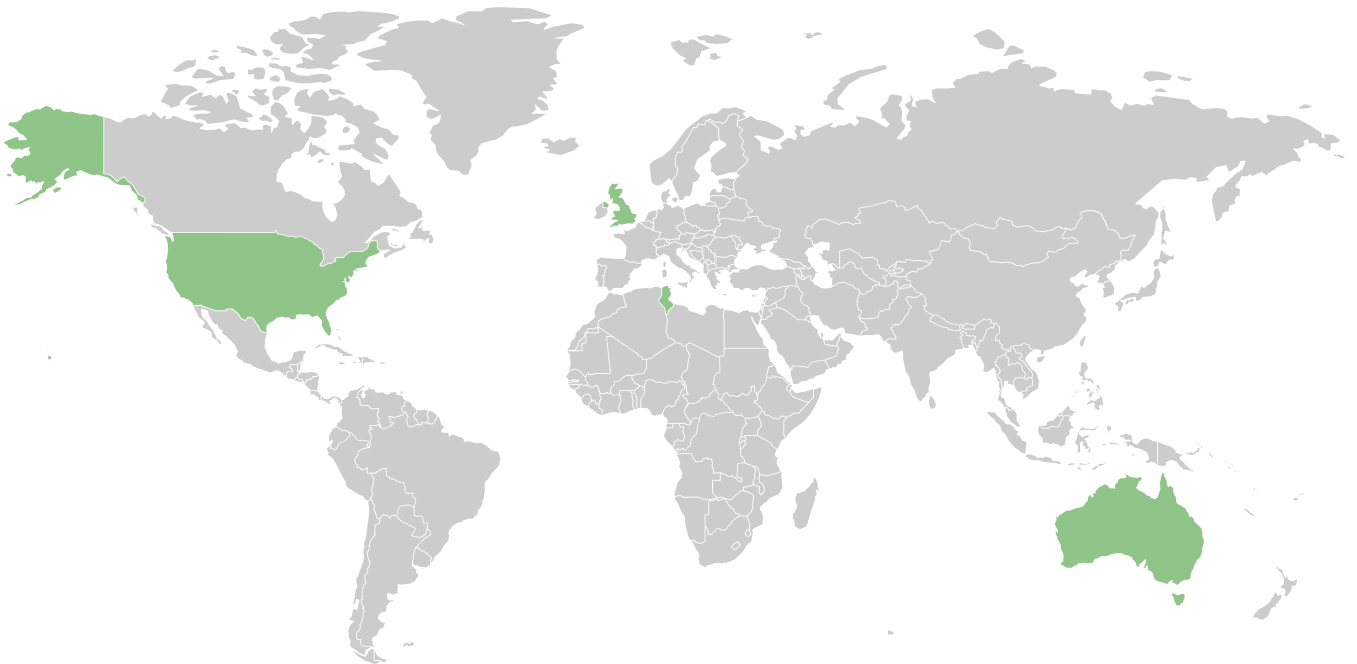
430,000

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 helwa 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

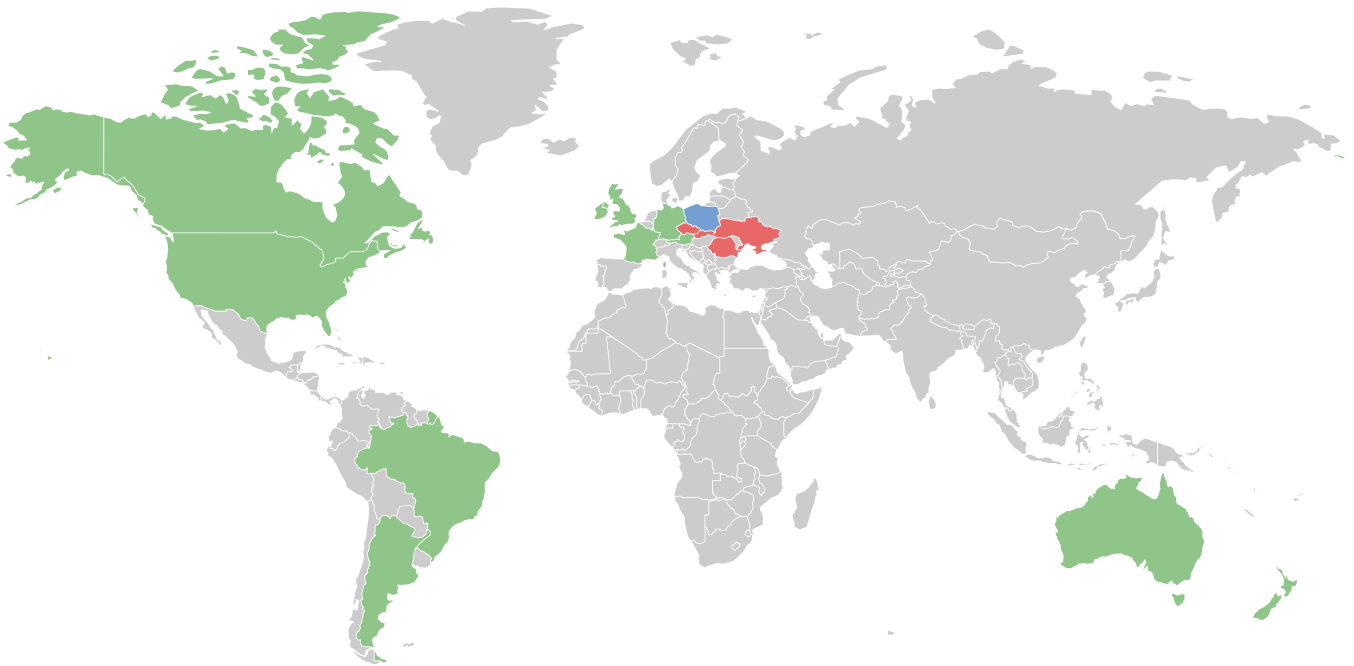
Number of native speakers

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
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.

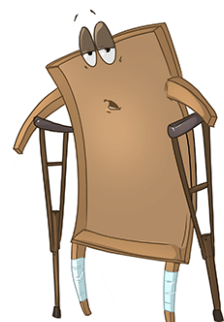
Whoever digs holes under someone will fall into them themselves.

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

Tongue twisters



Chrząszcz brzmi w trzcinnie.
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

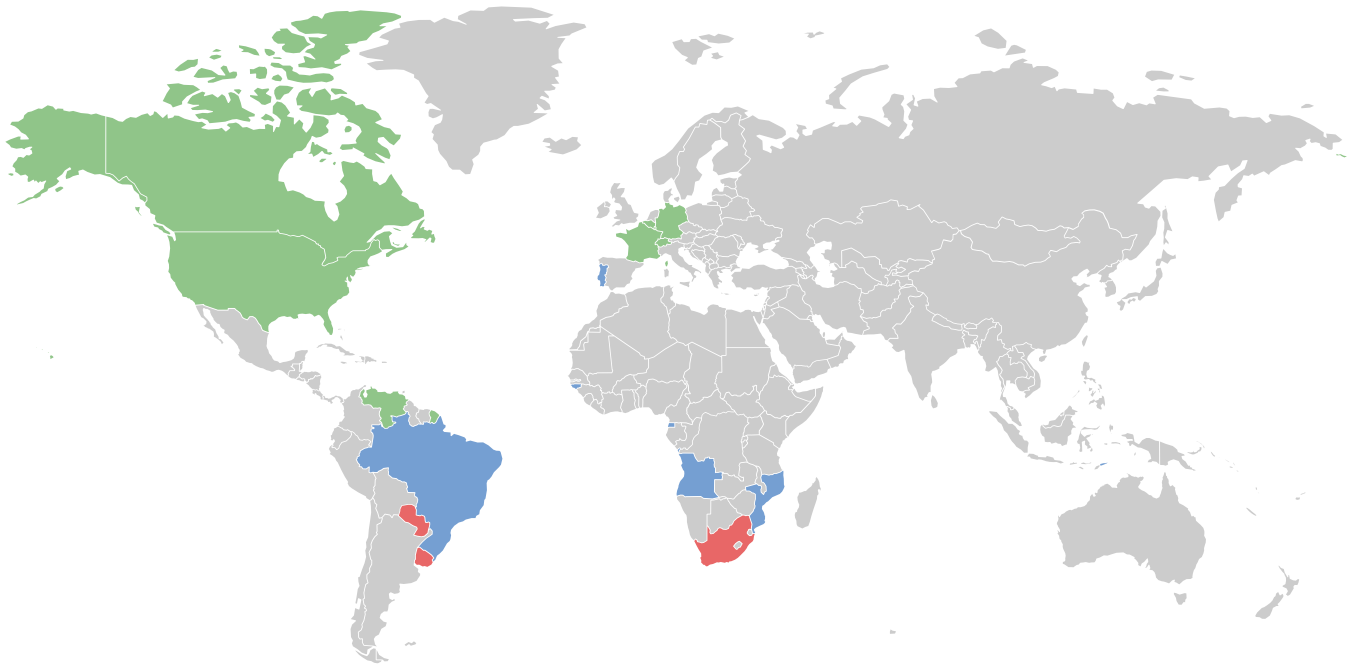
Brazil (185 million), Portugal/Azores/Madeira (11 million), Angola (60 thousand), Mozambique (30 thousand), Cape Verde (25 thousand), East-Timor, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, São Tomé and Príncipe, Macau, EU

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.

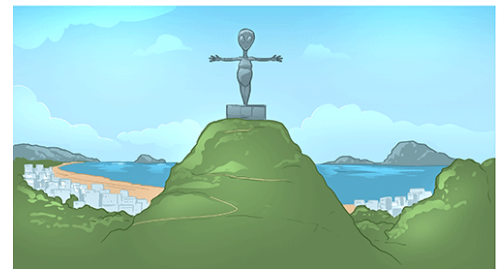
Don't do anything without first consulting your
pillow.

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

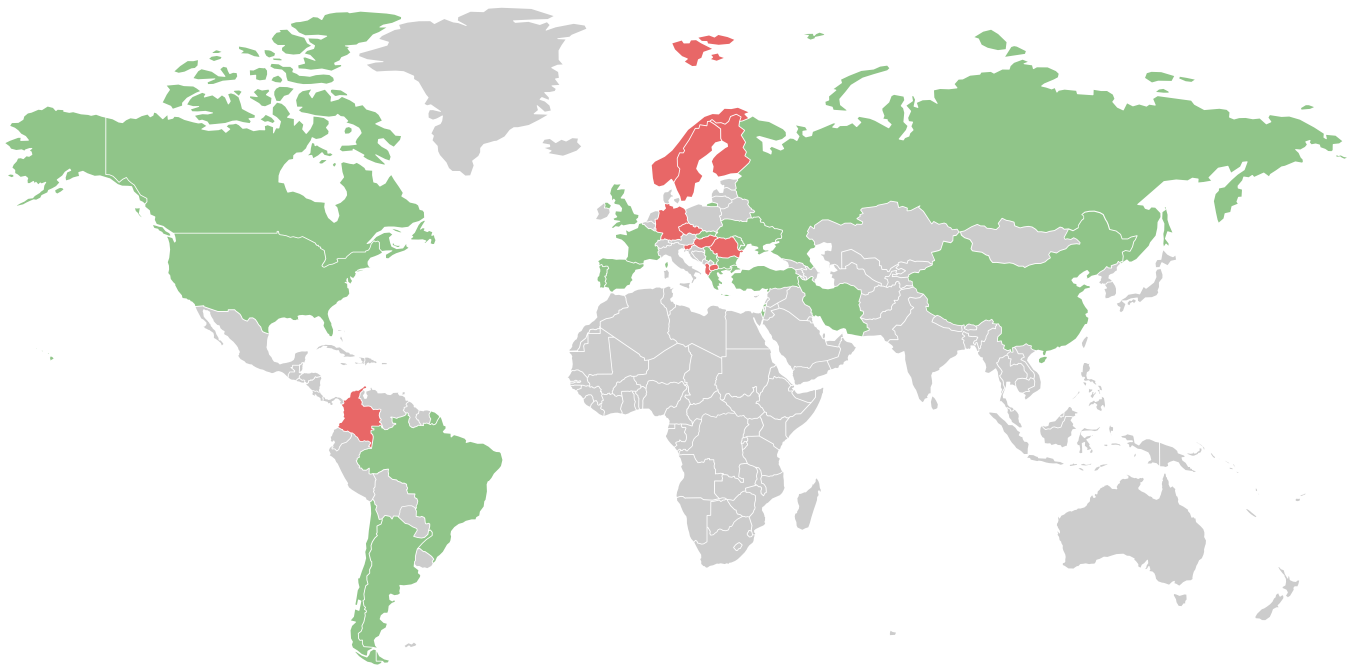
3,000,000

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



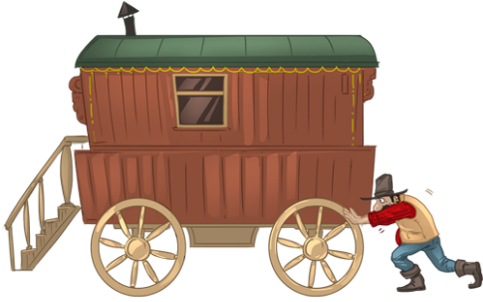
Introduction

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.

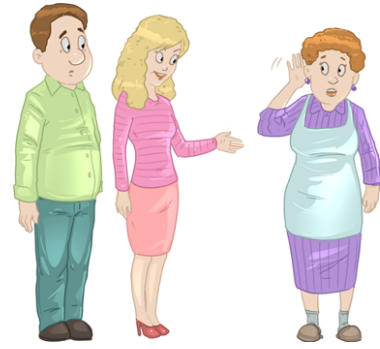
Funny or odd traditional proverbs and idioms



Das dab ka i roata le neve vurdoneski.

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

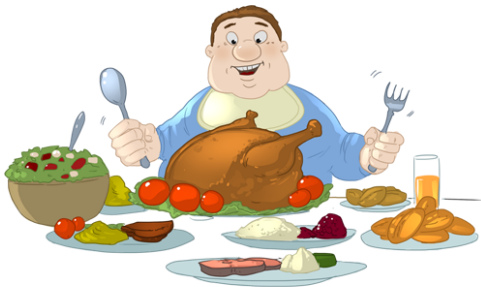
To provide a kick-start to newlywed households.



Rode chia bora le kanensa tai te na le yakensa.

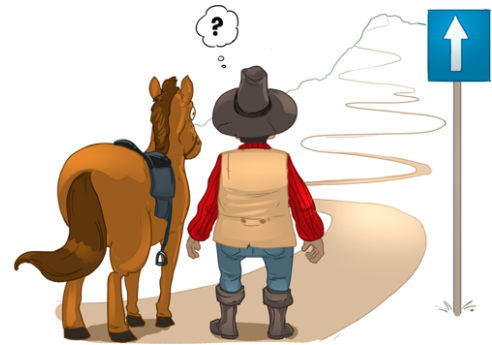
Select one's daughter-in-law with the ears and not with the eyes

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

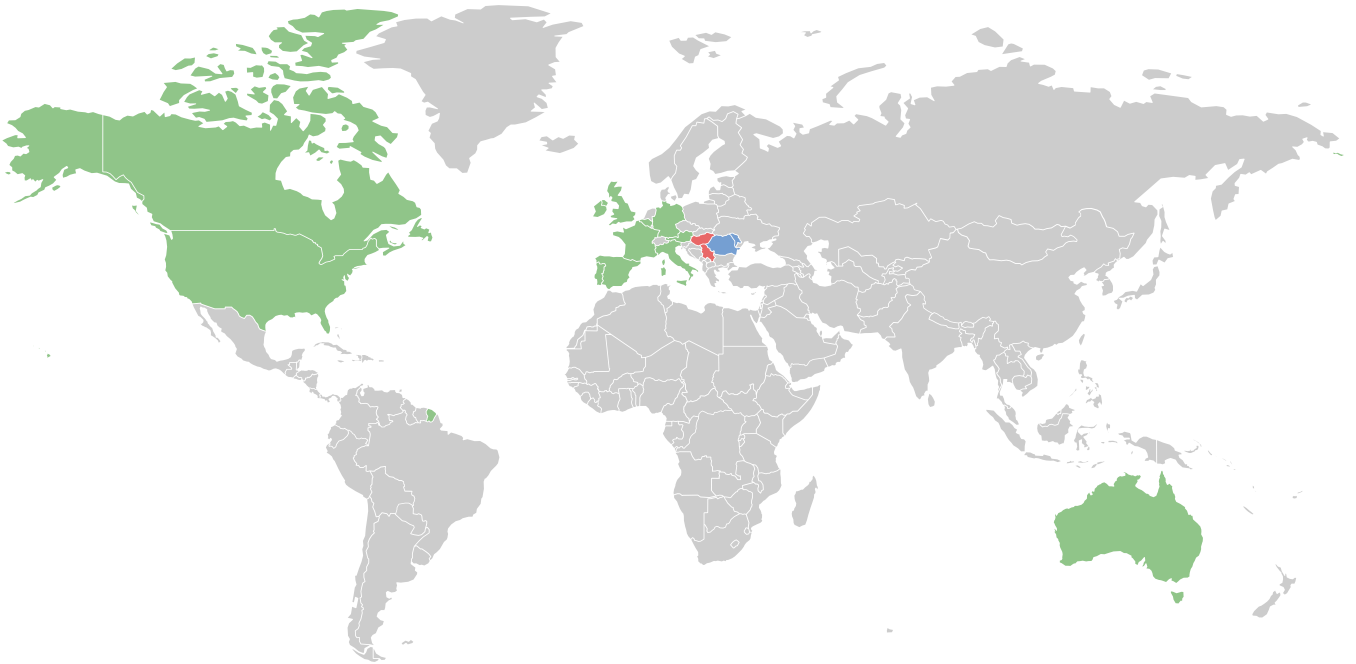
Romania, Moldova,
(Transnistria), EU

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

ă â b c d e f g h i î j k l m n
o p q r s ș ț u v w x y z

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

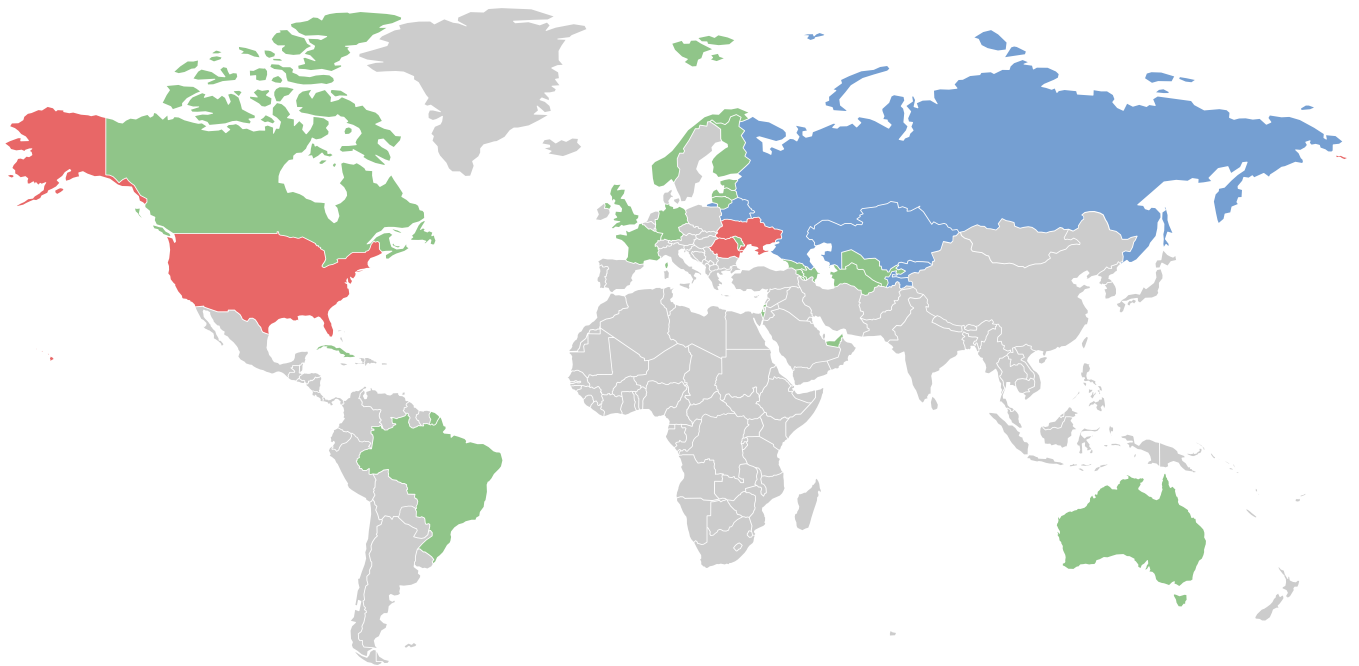
Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan,
Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan

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!

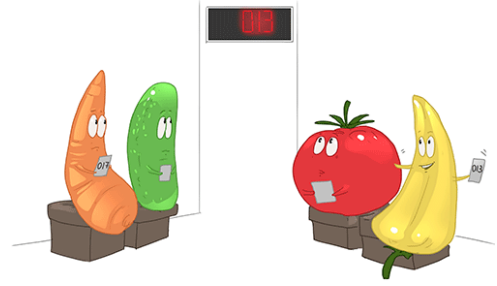
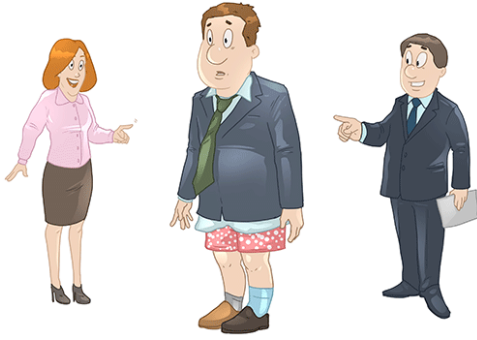


бум!



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

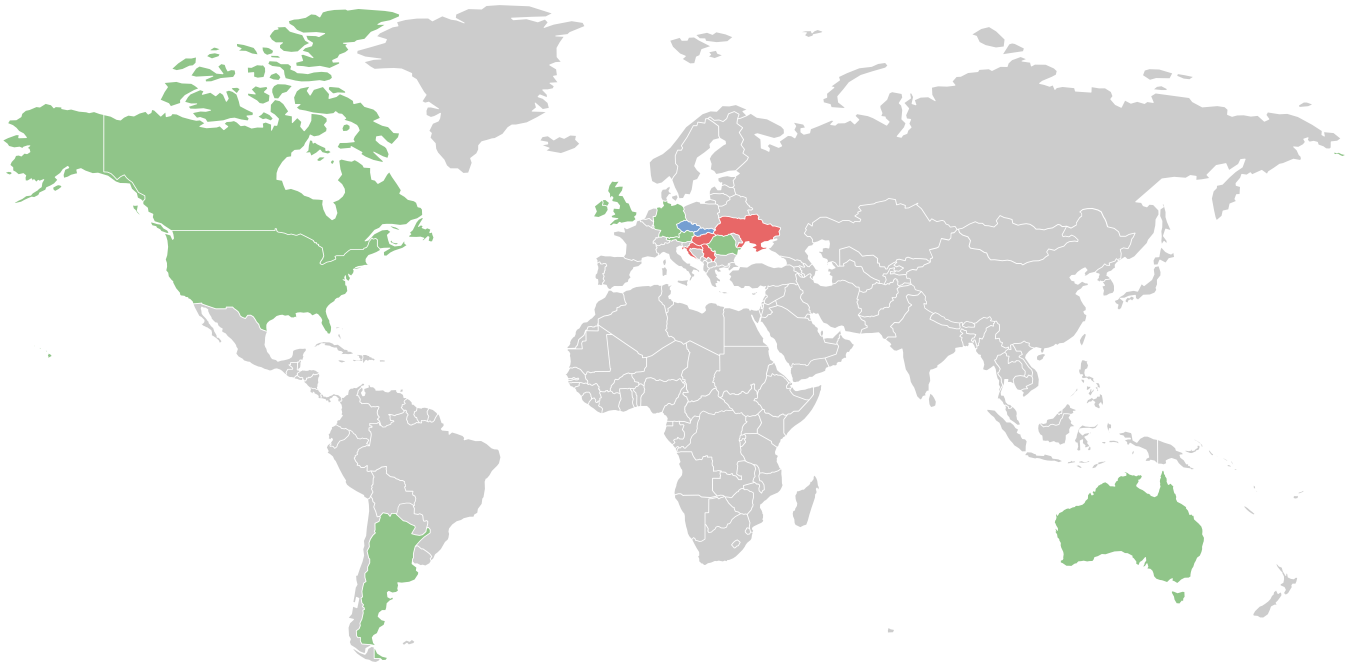
Slovakia, EU; can also be used in almost all levels of official communication in Czech Republic

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

najneskomercializovávateľnejšieho
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

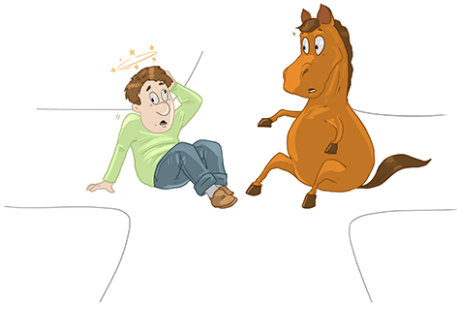


bum, buch



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

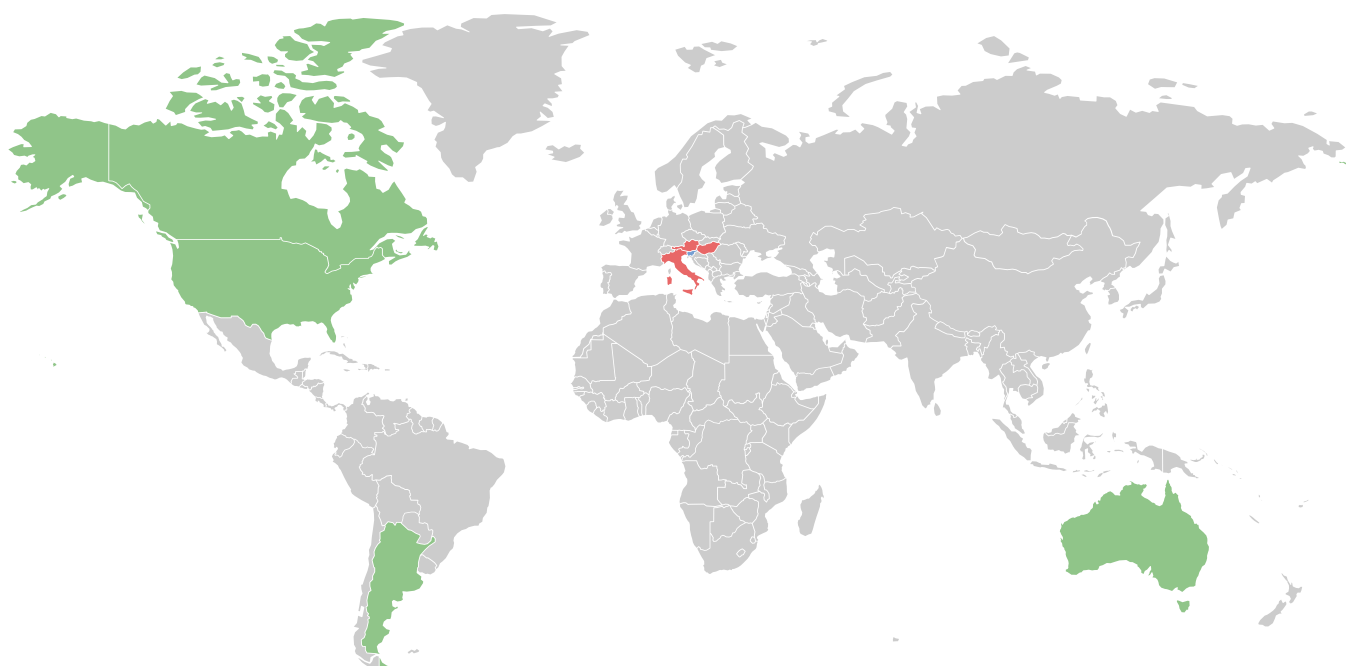
Slovenia, EU

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.

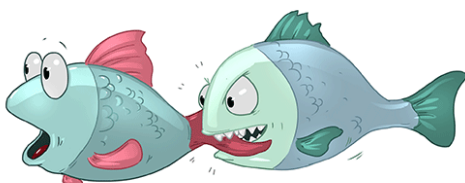
Tongue twisters



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

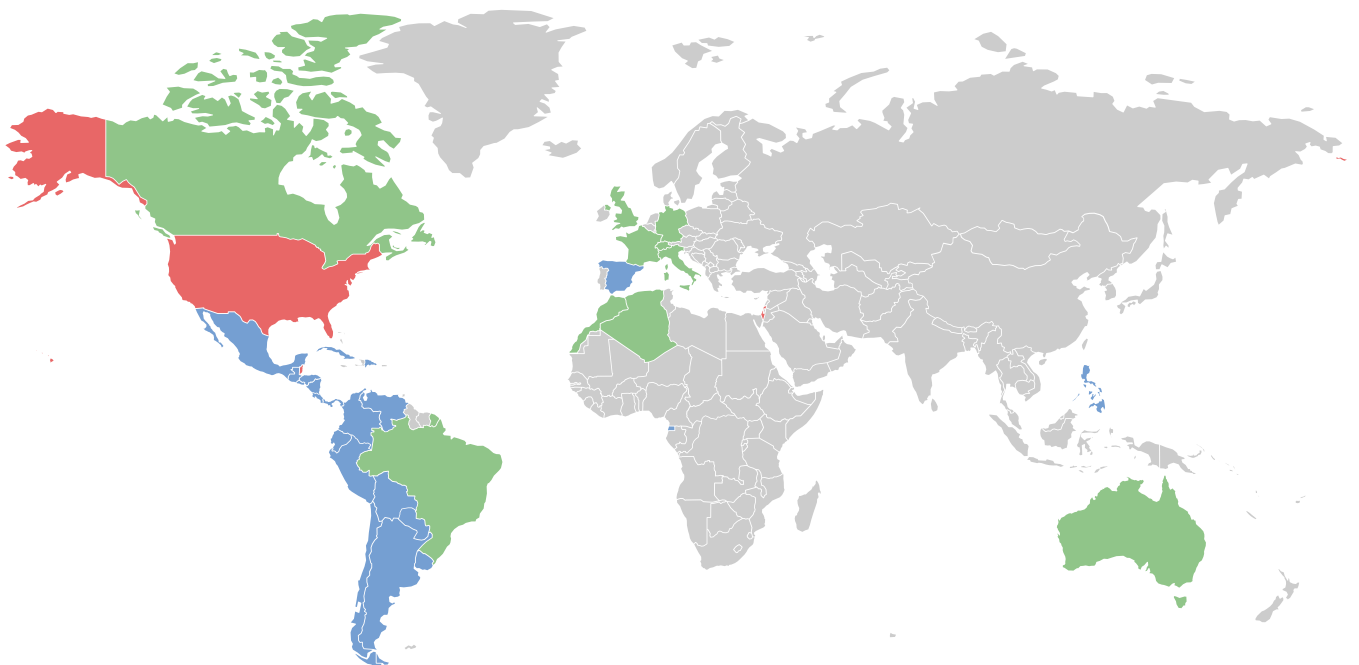
Mexico (110 million), Colombia (47 million), Spain (46 million), Argentina (40 million), Peru (28 million), Venezuela (27 million), Chile (17 million), Guatemala, Ecuador, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Bolivia, Honduras, Paraguay, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Puerto Rico, Panamá, Uruguay, Equatorial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



gauh/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.

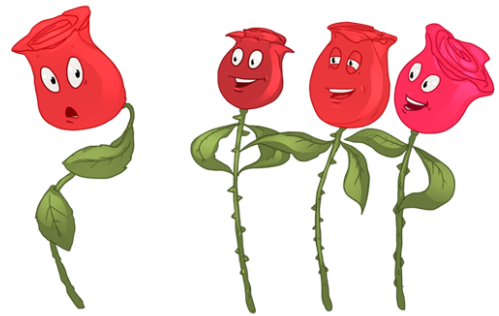
Scratch my back, I will scratch yours.



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

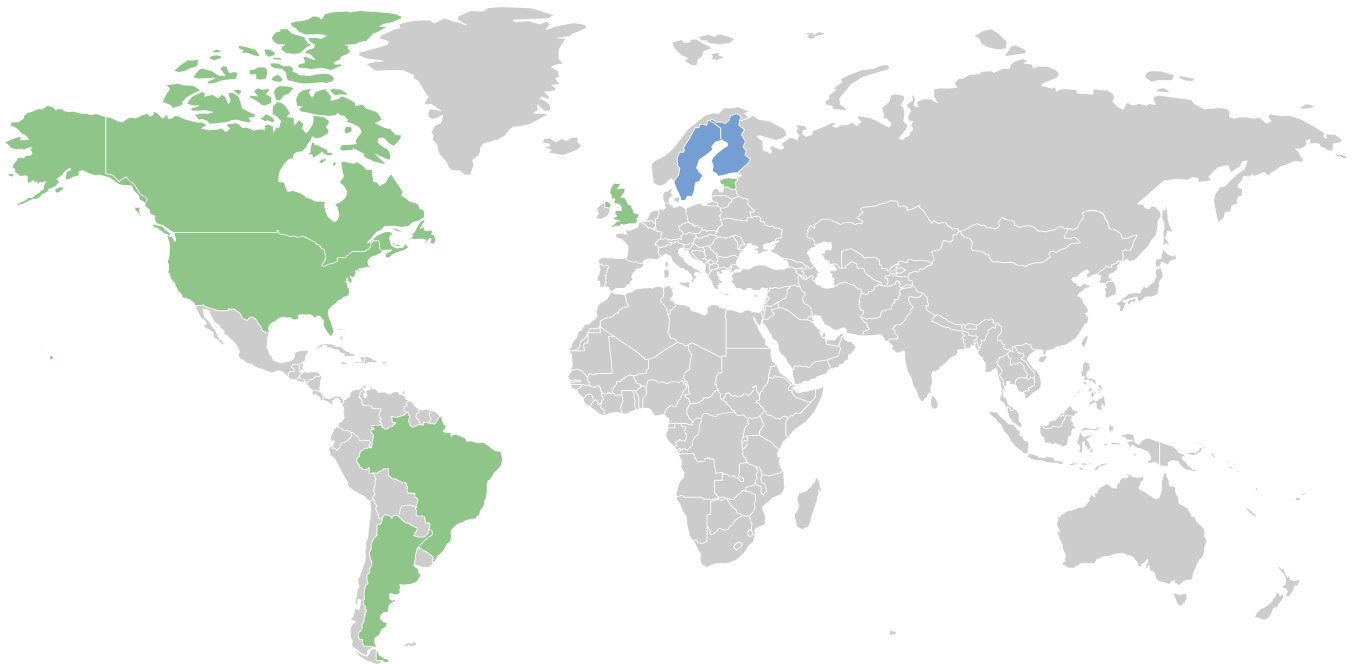
9 million

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
ö 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

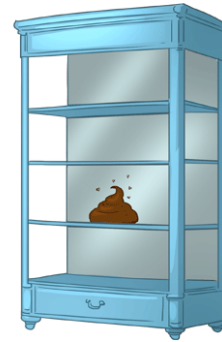
Hungern är bästa kryddan.

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

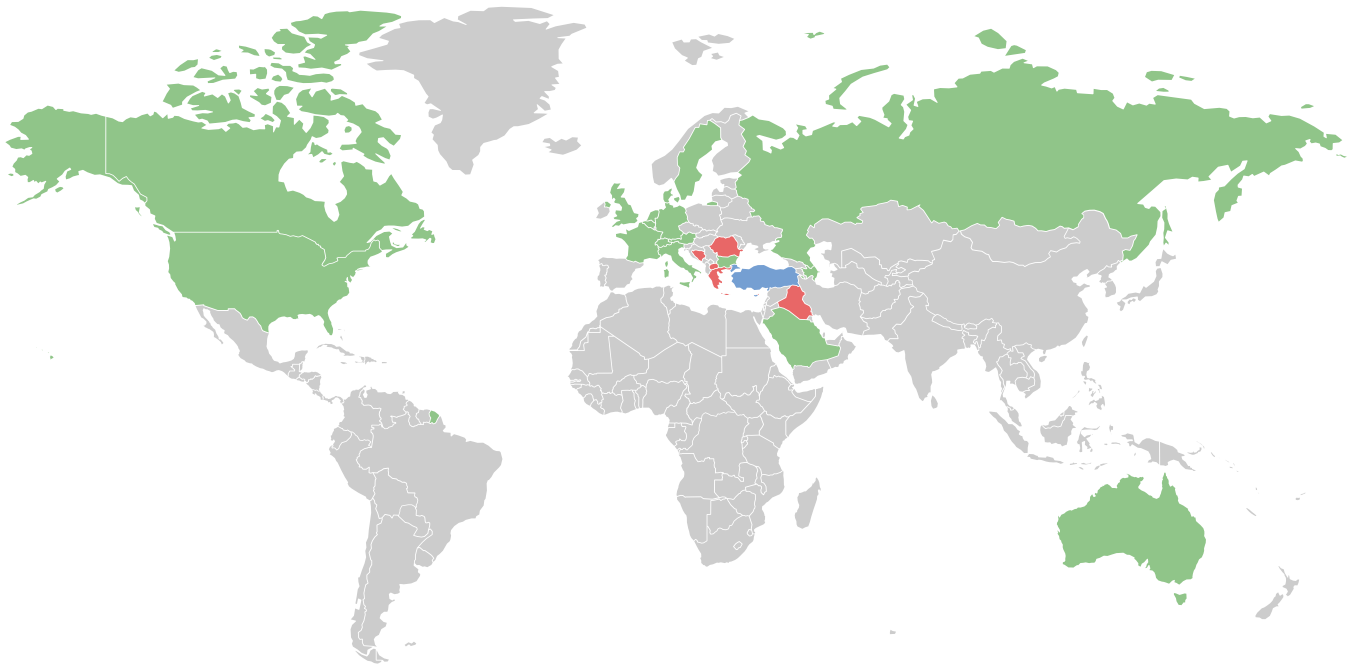
Turkey, Cyprus

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

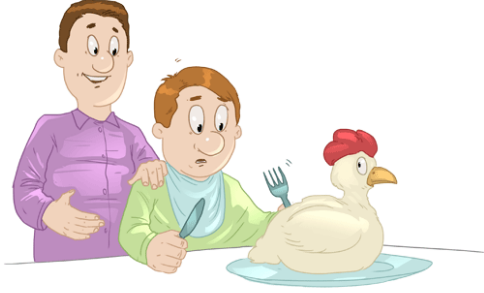


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Funny or odd traditional proverbs and idioms



Hatır için çiğ tavuk yenir.

To eat raw chicken for somebody's sake.

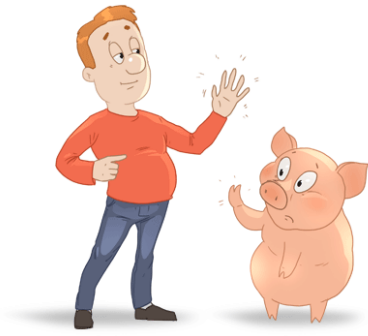
We will do everything for our friends.



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.