



Fact sheet 3: Language list by country and place

This list may assist you to identify the language spoken by a client, helping you to book an appropriate interpreting service.

Country	Language
Afghanistan	Pashtu, Farsi, Dari, Hazaragi, other Turkic and minor languages
Albania	Albanian (Tosk is the official dialect), Greek
Algeria	Arabic, French, Berber dialects
Andorra	Catalán, French, Castilian, Portuguese
Angola	Portuguese, Bantu and other African languages
Antigua and Barbuda	English, local dialects
Argentina	Spanish, English, Italian, German, French
Armenia	Armenian, Russian
Australia	English, Indigenous languages including Pitjantjatjara, Ngarrindjeri, Yankunytjatjara and Adnymathanha
Austria	German, Slovene, Croatian, Hungarian
Azerbaijan	Azerbaijani Turkic, Russian, Armenian, other
Bahamas	English, Creole
Bahrain	Arabic, English, Farsi, Urdu
Bangladesh	Bangla, English
Barbados	English
Belarus	Belorussian, Russian, other
Belgium	Flemish, French, Dutch, German
Belize	English, Spanish, Mayan, Garifuna (Carib), Creole

Country	Language
Benin	French, Fon, Yoruba, tribal languages
Bermuda	English
Bhutan	Dzongkha, Tibetan and Nepalese dialects
Bolivia	Spanish, Quechua, Aymara
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Bosnian, Croatian, Serbian (all formerly known as Serbo-Croatian); written languages use Latin and Cyrillic script
Botswana	English, Setswana
Brazil	Portuguese, Spanish, English, French
British Virgin Islands	English
Brunei Darussalam	Malay, English, Chinese
Bulgaria	Bulgarian; secondary ethnic languages
Burkina Faso	French, Indigenous African (Sudanic) languages
Burundi	Kirundi, French, Swahili, Kinyarwanda
Cambodia	Khmer, French, English
Cameroon	French, English; 24 major African language groups
Canada	English, French; Indigenous languages
Cape Verde	Portuguese, Criuolo
Central African Republic	French, Sangho, Arabic, Hansa, Swahili
Chad	French, Arabic, Sara, more than 120 languages and dialects
Channel Islands	Norman French, English
Chile	Spanish, Native American Indian languages
China (PRC)	Cantonese, Mandarin (Putonghua), and dialects (Daur, Kalmyk-Oirat, Lu, Peripheral Mongolian, Central Tibetan, Uyghur, Xibe, Zhuang)
Christmas Islands	Malay, English
Colombia	Spanish, Native American Indian languages
Comoros	Arabic and French, Shikomoro

Country	Language
	(Swahili/Arabic blend)
Congo, Republic of	French, Lingala, Monokutuba, Kikongo, and local languages/dialects
Congo (DRC)	French, Lingala, Kingwana, Kikongo, Tshiluba
Cook Islands	Cook Islands Maori, English
Costa Rica	Spanish, Creole, English
Côte d'Ivoire	French, African languages (Diaula esp.)
Croatia	Bosnian, Croatian, Serbian (all formerly known as Serbo-Croatian), Italian, Hungarian, Czech, Slovak, German, and other languages
Cuba	Spanish
Cyprus	Greek, Turkish, English
Czech Republic	Czech, Slovak, German
Denmark	Danish, Faeroese, Greenlandic (Inuit dialect), German, English
Djibouti	French, Arabic, Somali, Afar Dominica: English, French patois
Dominica	English, French, Patois
Dominican Republic	Spanish
East Timor	Tetum, Portuguese, Bahasa Indonesian, English, other Indigenous languages, including Tetum, Galole, Mambae, and Kemak
Ecuador	Spanish, Quechua, other Amerindian languages
Egypt	Arabic, English, Armenian, French
El Salvador	Spanish, Nahua (among some Amerindians)
Equatorial Guinea	Spanish, French, pidgin English, Fang, Bubi, Ibo
Eritrea	Afar, Arabic, Tigre and Kunama, Tigrinya, other Cushitic languages
Estonia	Estonian, Russian, Ukrainian, Finnish, other
Ethiopia	Amharic, Tigrigna, Orominga, Guaragigna, Somali, Arabic, English,

Country	Language
	Afar and 70 others
Faroe Islands	Faroese, Danish
Fiji	English, Fijian, Hindustani
Finland	Finnish, Swedish, small Sami (Lapp), Russian
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM)	Albanian, Bulgarian, Croatian, Macedonian, Romanian, Slovene, Slovak, Turkish, other, (uses the Cyrillic alphabet),
Former Yugoslavia	Serbian, Croatian, Bosnian, Macedonian, Slovene, Slovak
France	French regional dialects (Provençal, Breton, Alsatian, Corsican, Catalan, Basque, Flemish)
Gabon	French, Fang, Myene, Bateke, Bapounou/Eschira, Bandjabi
Gambia	Mandinka, Wolof, Fula, Serer-Sine, Sarahole, Pulaar, Maninkakan, Mandjaque, Mandingo, Jola-Fonyi, Creole
Georgia	Georgian, Russian, Armenian, Azerbaijani, Abkhaz
Germany	German
Ghana	English, Indigenous languages (Brong Ahafo, Twi, Fanti, Ga, Ewe, Dagbani)
Greece	Greek, English, French
Grenada	English, French patois
Guatemala	Spanish, Amerindian languages (23 Amerindian languages, including Quiche, Cakchiquel, Kekchi, Mam, Garifuna, and Xinca)
Guinea	French, Indigenous languages (Malinké, Susu, Fulani)
Guinea-Bissau	Portuguese, Criolo, African languages
Guyana	English, Amerindian dialects, Creole, Hindi, Urdu
Haiti	Creole, French

Country	Language
Honduras	Honduras: Spanish, Amerindian dialects, English
Hong Kong	Cantonese, Mandarin
Hungary	Magyar (Hungarian), other
Iceland	Icelandic, English, Nordic languages, German
India	Hindi, English, Bengali, Gujarati, Kashmiri, Malayalam, Marathi, Oriya, Punjabi, Tamil, Telugu, Urdu, Kannada, Assamese, Sanskrit, Sindhi, and 1600+ dialects
Indonesia	Bahasa Indonesia, English, Dutch, Javanese, and 580+ languages/dialects
Iran	Farsi (Persian), Armenian, Azari, Kurdish (Ardalani, Falie, Kurmanji, Sorani), Arabic
Iraq	Arabic, Kurdish (Ardalani, Falie, Kurmanji, Sorani) Assyrian Neo Aramaic
Ireland	English, Irish Gaelic
Israel	Hebrew, Yiddish, Arabic, English, Russian
Italy	Italian, German, French, Slovene
Jamaica	English, Jamaican Creole
Japan	Japanese
Jordan	Arabic, English
Kazakhstan	Kazak (Qazaq), Russian
Kenya	English, Swahili, 25 ethnic group languages
Kiribati	English, I-Kiribati (Gilbertese), local Micronesian languages
Korea, North	Korean
Korea, South	Korean
Kuwait	Arabic, English
Kyrgyzstan	Kyrgyz, Russian
Laos	Lao, French, English

Country	Language
Latvia	Latvian, Russian
Lebanon	Arabic, French, English
Lesotho	English, Sesotho, Zulu, Xhosa
Liberia	English, tribal dialects
Libya	Arabic, Italian, English
Liechtenstein	German, Alemmanic dialect Lithuania: Lithuanian, Polish, Russian
Lithuanian	Lithuanian, Russian, Polish
Luxembourg	Luxembourgish, French, German
Macedonia	See Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
Madagascar	Malagasy, French
Malawi	English, Chichewa, Tombuka
Malaysia	Malay, Chinese/Mandarin, Cantonese, Tamil, English
Maldives	Dhivehi, Arabic, Hindi, English
Mali	French, African languages
Malta	Maltese, English
Marshall Islands	Marshallese, English
Mauritania	Arabic, Wolof, French
Mauritius	English, French, Creole, Hindi, Urdu, Hakka, Bojpoori
Mexico	Spanish, American Indian languages
Micronesia	English, French, Chukese, Pohnpeian, Yapase, Kosrean
Moldova	Moldovan (similar to Romanian), Russian, Gagauz (Turkish dialect)
Monaco	French, English, Italian, Monégasque
Mongolia	Mongolian, Turkic, Russian, Chinese
Morocco	Arabic, French, Berber dialects, Spanish
Mozambique	Portuguese, Bantu languages
Myanmar	The Myanmar language (formerly Burmese), Karen, Chin, Rohingya

Country	Language
Namibia	Afrikaans, German, English, several Indigenous languages
Nauru	Nauruan, English
Nepal	Nepali, Newari, Maithali, Bhojpuri, Bhutia, Tharu, Tamang, and others
The Netherlands	Dutch, Frisian
New Caledonia	French, Melanesians languages, Tahitian,
New Zealand	English, Maori Nicaragua: Spanish
Niger	French, Hausa, Songhai, Arabic
Nigeria	English, Hausa, Yoruba, Ibo, 200+ others
Norway	Bokmål, Nynorsk (forms of Norwegian)
Oman	Arabic, English, Indian languages
Pakistan	Punjabi, Sindhi, Siraiki (Punjabi variant), Pashtu, Urdu, Balochi, Hindko, Brahui, English, Burushaski, and others
Palau	Palau Micronesian, English
Palestinian territories	Arabic, Hebrew, English, French
Papua New Guinea	English, Tok Pisin, Hiri Motu, and 717 distinct Indigenous languages
Paraguay	Spanish, Guaraní
Peru	Spanish, Quéchua, Aymara, and other Indigenous languages
The Philippines	Filipino (based on Tagalog), English, regional languages: Tagalog, Ilocano, Cebuano, others
Poland	Polish
Portugal	Portuguese
Qatar	Arabic, English
Romania	Romanian, Serbian, Hungarian, German
Russia	Russian, others
Rwanda	Kinyarwanda, French, English
St. Kitts and Nevis	English
St. Lucia	English, Patois

Country	Language
St. Vincent/Grenadines	English, French patois
Samoa	Samoan, English
San Marino	Italian
São Tomé And Príncipe	Portuguese
Saudi Arabia	Arabic, English widely spoken
Senegal	French, Wolof, Serer, other ethnic dialects
Serbia and Montenegro	Serbian; written language uses Latin and Cyrillic script
Seychelles	English, French, Seselwa (a creole)
Sierra Leone	English, Mende, Temne, Krio
Singapore	Malay, Chinese (Mandarin), Tamil, English
Slovakia	Slovak, Czech, Hungarian
Slovenia	Slovenian, Serbo-Croatian
Solomon Islands	English, Solomon Pijin (English pidgin), 60 Melanesian languages
Somalia	Somali, Arabic, English, Italian
South Africa	Afrikaans, English, Xhosa, Zulu, Ndebele, North Sotho, Sotho, Swazi, Tswana, Tsonga, Venda
South Sudan	English, Arabic, Dinka, Nuer, Zande
Spain	Castilian Spanish, Catalan, Galician, Basque
Sri Lanka	Sinhala, Tamil, English
Sudan	Arabic, English, Dinka, tribal dialects
Suriname	Dutch, Surinamese (lingua franca), English widely spoken
Swaziland	English, Swazi
Sweden	Swedish
Switzerland	German, French, Italian, Romansch
Syria	Arabic, Armenian, Assyrian, Kurdish, French/English widely spoken
Taiwan	Chinese (Mandarin), Chinese dialects

Country	Language
Tajikistan	Tajik, Russian, Uzbek
Tanzania	Swahili, English, local languages
Thailand	Thai (Siamese), Chinese (Mandarin), English, Teo-Chiew, Laotian, Khmer
Togo	French, Ewé, Mina (south), Kabyé, Cotocoli (north), and many dialects
Tonga	Tongan (an Austronesian language), English
Trinidad and Tobago	English, Hindi, French, Spanish
Tunisia	Arabic, French
Turkey	Turkish, Armenian, Kurdish (Ardalani, Falie, Kurmanji and Sorani)
Turkmenistan	Turkmani, Russian, Uzbek
Tuvalu	Tuvaluan, Ikiribati, English
Uganda	English, Swahili, Luganda, Ateso, Luo
Ukraine	Ukrainian, Russian, Romanian, Polish
United Arab Emirates	Arabic, Farsi (Persian), English as a second language
United Kingdom	English, Welsh, Scots Gaelic
United States	English, sizable Spanish-speaking minority
Uruguay	Spanish
Uzbekistan	Uzbek, Russian, Tajik, other
Vanuatu	Bislama (a Melanesian pidgin English), English, French
Vatican City	Latin, Italian, and various other languages
Venezuela	Spanish, various Indigenous languages in the remote interior
Vietnam	Vietnamese, French, English, Khmer, Chinese
Western Sahara region	Hassaniya Arabic, Moroccan Arabic
Yemen	Arabic
Zambia	English, local dialects
Zimbabwe	English, Shone, and local African dialects

This list of languages spoken in countries around the world is adapted from improving the use of translation and interpreting services: Victorian Office of Multicultural Affairs, *A guide to Victorian Government policy and procedures*.

Supporting resources

This document is part of a series of resources available to other South Australian Government agencies when developing their interpreting and translating policies.

South Australian Interpreting and Translating Policy for Migrant and Non-Verbal (Sign) Languages

Fact sheets

Fact sheet 1: Using interpreting services – a guide for service providers

Fact sheet 2: Using translating services for written materials

Fact sheet 3: Language list by country and place

Fact sheet 4: Deciding when to use an interpreting service

Fact sheet 5: Role of bilingual staff in your organisation

Fact sheet 6: Can family and friends provide interpreting services?

Fact sheet 7: Using interpreting services: conflict of interest

Fact sheet 8: Interpreting services: your rights and responsibilities

You can access all of the interpreting and translating resources on the [Department of the Premier and Cabinet website](#).

For more information:

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