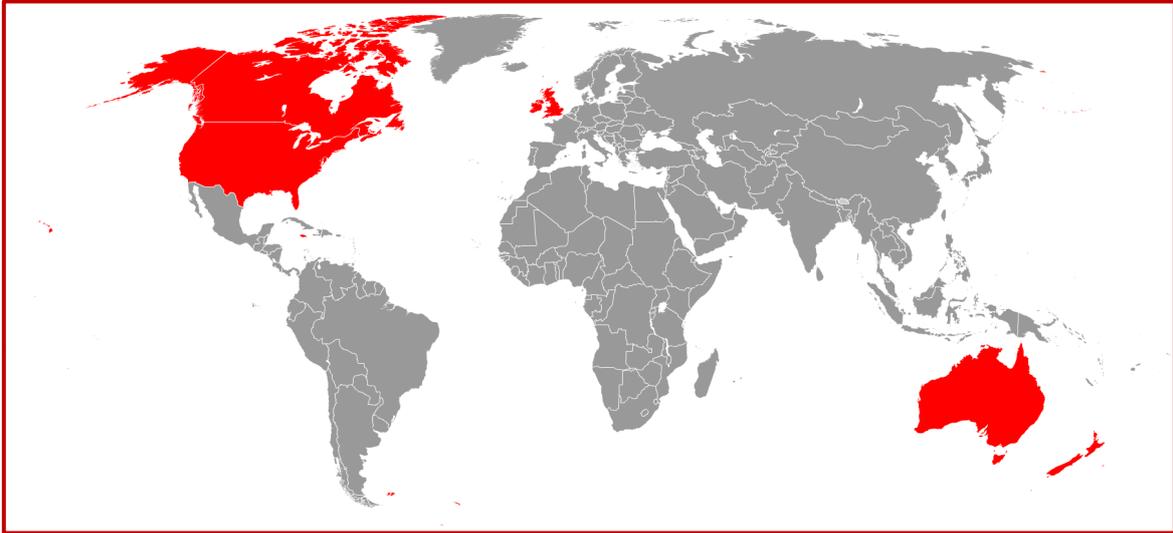


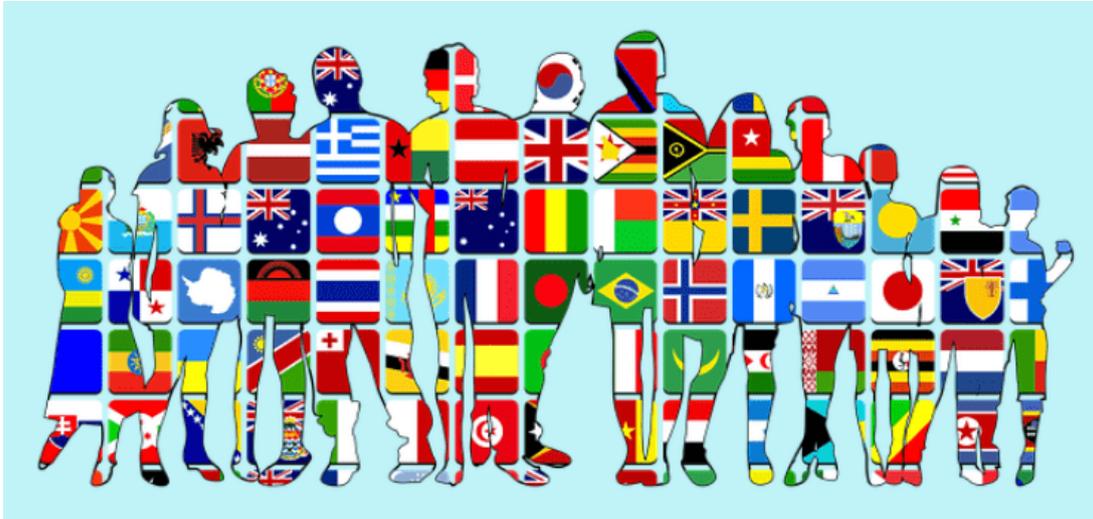
English



English is the third largest language by number of native speakers. There are approximately 330 to 360 million people around the world who speak English as their first language. The majority of these native English speakers are in the United States of America which has approximately 258 million English speakers!

There are around 60 million English speakers in the United Kingdom, 19 million in Canada and 25.1 million in Australia. There are six large countries with a majority of native English speakers: the United States of America, the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, the Republic of Ireland and New Zealand.

History



The English language originated in Britain and the expanding British Empire spread Modern English around the world in the 18th and 19th centuries. This is why many of the countries where English is an official language were former British colonies, such as Canada, Australia and the United States.

English is also widely spoken in India and some parts of Africa. Although Hindi is the most widely-spoken language in India today, English remains an official language in the country and is often used in university education, and within the field of politics. Officially, just 12% of Indian people speak English, with many only speaking it as a second language. Nevertheless, the country has an extremely dense population, meaning that this 12% cross-section of society exceeds 100 million people. As a result, India has one of the largest English-speaking populations on the planet.

Native Language



Australia



Barbados



Dominica



Guyana



Ireland



St. Kitts & Nevis



New Zealand



U.S.



*Trinidad &
Tobago*



*Antigua &
Barbuda*



United Kingdom



Jamaica

The UK government has classified some of the majority Native English-speaking countries. These are countries where English is considered the first language. There are others such as Canada, St Lucia and the Bahamas.

English is most commonly associated with the United States and United Kingdom; the two largest English speaking countries.

Despite having two different official languages, Canada has the third largest English-speaking population with around 20 million native speakers, and Australia is next with around 17 million English-speakers.

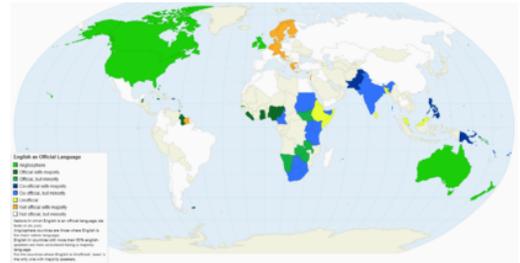
Official Language

Some countries have English as either a de jure or a de facto official language. An official language is a language used by the country's citizens during interactions with their government.

Take note that some countries have more than one official language and English may not be their common native language.

Europe:	United Kingdom Ireland Malta	North America:	United States Canada
Caribbean:	Jamaica Barbados Trinidad and Tobago Bahamas Guyana	Asia:	India Pakistan Singapore Philippines Sri Lanka Malaysia
Oceania:	Australia New Zealand Papua New Guinea Fiji Samoa Tonga Solomon Islands Micronesia Vanuatu Kiribati	Africa:	South Africa Nigeria Cameroon Kenya Zimbabwe Ghana Rwanda Sudan Botswana Ethiopia

Approximately 330 to 360 million people speak English as their first language. With 258 million native speakers, the United States of America comprises the majority of the global total. Most native speakers of English are Americans.



Nations in which English is an official language (*de facto* or *de jure*).
Anglosphere countries are a subset of those where English is the main native language.

- Anglosphere
- Official as majority language
- Official as minority language
- Co-official as majority language
- Co-official as minority language
- Unofficial
- Not official as majority language
- Not official as minority language

Additionally, there are 60 million native English speakers in the United Kingdom, 19 million in Canada, 25.1 million in Australia, 4.7 million in the Republic of Ireland, and 4.9 million in New Zealand. Other countries also use English as their primary and official languages.

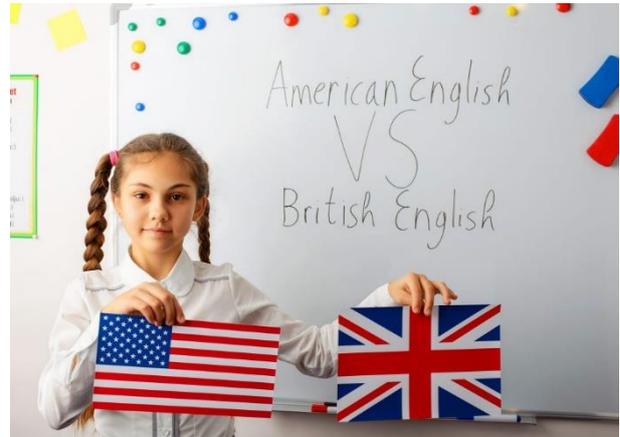
English is the third largest language by number of native speakers, after Mandarin and Spanish.



- States and territories in which English is the first language of the majority of the population.
- States and territories in which English is an official, but not the majority language.

American English

American English (or sometimes known as United States English) is a dialect of the English language spoken in the United States of America.



Many people today know about American English even if they live in a country where another sort of English is spoken. This may be because people hear and read American English through the media.

There are many words that sound both American English and British English, but are spelt differently. For example:

Words originally from French that end in '-our' in British English actually end in '-or' in American English.

Behaviour -> Behavior

Colour -> Color

Honour -> Honor

Neighbour -> Neighbor

Australia & New Zealand

When people from Britain and Ireland first came to live in Australia in 1788, they brought different dialects of English with them. These different kinds of English began to mix and change to have their own unique accent and vocabulary.

Australian English has been influenced by American English. During the Second World War, many American soldiers stayed in Australia which influenced the language. Music and TV have also influenced Australian English to sound similar to American English.

Some Australian English vowels sound different to vowels in other dialects of English. For example:



Sunday	->	<i>Sun-dee</i>
Monday	->	<i>Mun-dee</i>
Tuesday	->	<i>Choose-dee</i>
Wednesday	->	<i>Wens-dee</i>
Thursday	->	<i>Thurs-dee</i>
Friday	->	<i>Fri-dee</i>
Saturday	->	<i>Satta-dee or Sadda-dee</i>

India & Pakistan

Indian English or South Asian English is several dialects of English. The dialect evolved during and after the British colonial rule of India. English is the co-official language of India and Pakistan with more than 90 million speakers.



In the 19th century, Britain faced the need to teach English to the Indian workers to allow communication between the British and the

Indian. There were a number of schools built and many were run by missionaries.

Pakistani English has many similarities with Indian English, but since its Independence from India, there are some differences as well. These include words and phrases not used in India, as well as accents. Urdu and English are Pakistan's official languages. All government documents, business contracts and military communication are in English.



Common Idioms



Among many interesting and unique features of English, idioms are one of the key things that make English a tricky language to learn.



Idioms are set expressions that have different meanings to what the individual words of the phrase would imply. They are commonly used in English and are important for effective communication.

Do you recognise any of these common idioms?

A piece of cake

The tip of the iceberg

Mumbo jumbo

To be head over heels in love

In the same boat

The last straw

To put two and two together

Electronics

English is the language of the Internet.

Did you know, 80% of electronic information is in English?



The Internet is the 'network of all networks' that consists of millions of private, academic, business and government networks that exchange information and services like email, chat and the World Wide Web. The influence of the internet has played a tremendous role in the global expansion of the English language.



Fun Facts

- English originates from what is now called north west Germany and the Netherlands

- The original name for butterfly in English was flutterby



- About 4,000 words are added to the dictionary each year

- The two most common words in English are 'you' and 'I'

- $\frac{1}{4}$ of the world's population speaks at least some English

- The US doesn't have an official language

- The most common adjective used in English is 'good'

- Month, orange, silver and purple do not rhyme with any other word

- The first English dictionary was written in 1755

