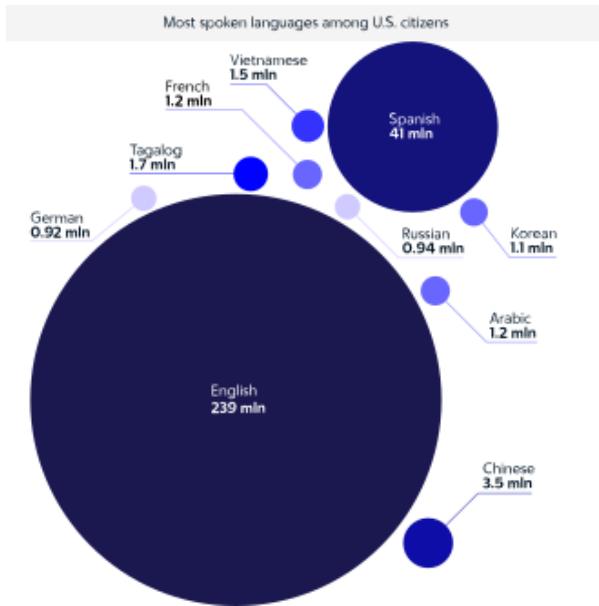


## Languages of the United States



**Official** English<sup>[a][1][2]</sup>

**National** English  
247,695,110 speakers at home (2024)<sup>[3]</sup>

**Main** English 77%, Spanish 13.9%, other Indo-European languages 4.1%, Asian and Pacific languages 3.7%, other languages 1.3% (updated 2024 survey by the Census Bureau)<sup>[3]</sup>

**Indigenous** Navajo, Cherokee, Choctaw, Muscogee, Dakota, Lakota, Western Apache, Keres, Hopi, Zuni, Kiowa, Ojibwe, O'odham, Miwuk<sup>[4][5]</sup>

**Others**

<b>Regional</b>	New Mexican Spanish, Ahtna, Aleut, Alutiiq, Carolinian, Central Alaskan Yup'ik, Central Siberian Yupik, Chamorro, Deg Xinag, Dena'ina, Eyak, Pennsylvania Dutch, Gwich'in, Haida, Hän, Hawaiian, Holikachuk, Inupiaq, Koyukon, Samoan, Tanacross, Tanana, Tlingit, Tsimshian, Upper Kuskokwim, Upper Tanana, Gullah, Virgin Islands Creole, California English, New England English, New Jersey English, Southern American English, Texan English, Louisiana French, Texas German, Puerto Rican Spanish
<b>Vernacular</b>	African American Vernacular English
<b>Minority</b>	Spoken at home by more than 1 million people (2020 figures): <sup>[6]</sup> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Spanish, 41,254,941</li> <li>● Chinese, 3,404,634</li> <li>● Tagalog, 1,715,436</li> <li>● Vietnamese, 1,523,114</li> <li>● Arabic, 1,390,937</li> <li>● French, 1,175,318</li> <li>● Korean, 1,073,462</li> <li>● Russian, 1,044,892</li> </ul>
<b>Signed</b>	American Sign Language, Keresan Sign Language, Navajo Family Sign, Plains Indian Sign Language, Puerto Rican Sign Language, Samoan Sign Language, Black American Sign Language, Hawai'i Sign Language

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The most commonly used language in the United States is English (specifically American English), which is the national language and *de facto* official language. While the U.S. Congress has never passed a law to make English the country's official language, the federal government primarily uses English and a 2025 executive order declared English official.<sup>[1][2]</sup> In addition, 32 U.S. states out of 50 and all five U.S. territories have laws that recognize English as an official language, with three states and most territories having adopted English plus one or more other official languages. Overall, 430 languages are spoken or signed by the population, of which 177 are indigenous to the U.S. or its territories,<sup>[7]</sup> and accommodations for non-English-language speakers are sometimes made under various federal, state, and local laws.

The majority of the U.S. population (77%) speaks only English at home as of 2024, according to the American Community Survey (ACS) of the U.S. Census Bureau.<sup>[8]</sup> The second most common language by far is Spanish, spoken by 13.9% of the population,<sup>[8]</sup> followed by Chinese, spoken by around 1% of the population. Other languages spoken by over a million residents are Tagalog, Vietnamese, Arabic, French, Korean, and Russian.<sup>[6]</sup> Only 8.4% of U.S. residents report that they speak English less than "very well".<sup>[9]</sup>

Many residents of the U.S. unincorporated territories speak their own native languages or a local language, such as Spanish in Puerto Rico and English in the U.S. Virgin Islands. Over the course of U.S. history, many languages have been brought into what became the United States from Europe, Africa, Asia, other parts of the Americas, and Oceania. Some of these languages have developed into dialects and dialect families (examples include African-American English, Pennsylvania Dutch, and Gullah), creole languages (such as Louisiana Creole), and pidgin languages. American Sign Language (ASL) and Interlingua, an international auxiliary language, were created in the United States.

## Most common languages

Based on annual data from the American Community Survey (ACS), the U.S. Census Bureau regularly publishes information on the most common [languages spoken at home](#). It also reports on the English-speaking ability of people who speak a language other than English at home.<sup>[6]</sup> In 2023, Spanish speakers made up about three-fifths of all speakers of languages other than English in the United States. In 2017, the U.S. Census Bureau published information on the number of speakers of some 350 languages as surveyed by the ACS from 2009 to 2013,<sup>[10][11]</sup> but it does not regularly tabulate and report data for that many languages.

The most spoken languages at home in the United States in 2020:<sup>[6]</sup>

1. [English](#) (only language spoken in the household) – 245.69 million
2. [Spanish](#) – 42.03 million
3. [Chinese](#) (including [Mandarin](#), [Cantonese](#), [Hokkien](#) and all other varieties) – 3.40 million
4. [Tagalog](#) (including [Filipino](#)) – 1.71 million
5. [Vietnamese](#) – 1.52 million
6. [Arabic](#) – 1.39 million
7. [French](#) – 1.18 million
8. [Korean](#) – 1.07 million
9. [Russian](#) – 1.04 million
10. [Portuguese](#) – 937,000
11. [Haitian Creole](#) – 895,000
12. [Hindi](#) – 865,000
13. [German](#) – 857,000
14. [Polish](#) – 533,000
15. [Italian](#) – 513,000
16. [Urdu](#) – 508,000
17. [Persian](#) (including Farsi, [Dari](#) and [Tajik](#)) – 472,000
18. [Telugu](#) – 460,000
19. [Japanese](#) – 455,000
20. [Gujarati](#) – 437,000
21. [Bengali](#) – 403,000
22. [Tamil](#) – 341,000
23. [Punjabi](#) – 319,000
24. [Thais](#) (including [Central Thai](#) and [Lao](#)) – 284,000