

Somali language

Somali

Af-Soomaali

اللغة الصومالية

Native to

[Somalia](#) (and [Somaliland](#)), [Djibouti](#), [Ethiopia](#), [Yemen](#), [Kenya](#)

Region

[Horn of Africa](#)

Native speakers

16.6 million (2006)

[Afro-Asiatic](#)

Language family

- [Cushitic](#)
 - [Lowland East](#)
 - Somali
 - **Somali**

Writing system

- [Latin](#) (official)
- [Arabic](#) (official)
- [Osmanya](#)
- [Borama](#)
- [Kaddare](#)

Official status

Official language in

[Somalia](#)

Regulated by

[Ministry of Education, Culture and Higher Education](#)

Language codes

ISO 639-1

[so](#)

ISO 639-2

[som](#)

ISO 639-3

[som](#)

Somali-speaking region

This article contains [IPA phonetic symbols](#). Without proper [rendering support](#), you may see [question marks, boxes, or other symbols](#) instead of [Unicode](#) characters. For an introductory guide on IPA symbols, see [Help:IPA](#).

Somali ([Arabic](#): الصوماليه) is a [Cushitic language](#). It is spoken by [ethnic Somalis](#) in [Somalia](#), [Djibouti](#), [Ethiopia](#), [Yemen](#) and [Kenya](#), as well as by the [Somali diaspora](#) around the world -- an estimated total population of between 10 and 16 million speakers.

The writing system of the Somali language has been [Latin alphabet](#) since 1960.

During the colonial years under [Italy](#), in the capital Mogadishu was developed a pidgin from the Italian used by many Somalians: the [Pidgin Italian of Somalia](#)

[Somali edition](#) of [Wikipedia](#), the free encyclopedia

| Cushitic languages | | |
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| <div><div><div>• v</div><div>• t</div><div>• e</div></div></div> | | |
| <div><div><div><div><div><div></div><div>Beja</div></div></div><div><div>• Beja</div></div></div></div></div> | | |
| <div><div><div><div><div><div></div><div>Agaw</div></div></div><div><div><div>• Awngi</div><div>• Bilen</div><div>• Qimant</div><div>◦ <i>Kayla</i></div><div>◦ Qwara</div><div>• Xamtanga</div></div></div></div></div></div> | | |
| <div><div><div><div><div><div></div><div>Highland East</div></div></div><div><div><div>• Alaba</div><div>• Burji</div><div>• Gedeo</div><div>• Hadiyya</div><div>• Kambaata</div><div>• Libido</div><div>• Sidamo</div></div></div></div></div></div> | | |
| Lowland East | <div><div><div><div><div></div><div>Saho-Afar</div></div></div><div><div><div>• Afar</div><div>• Saho</div></div></div></div></div> | |
| | <div><div><div><div><div></div><div>Oromoid</div></div></div><div><div><div>• Borana</div><div>• Eastern Oromo</div><div>• Orma</div><div>• Oromo</div><div>• Waata</div></div></div></div></div> | |
| | <div><div><div><div><div></div><div>Konsoid</div></div></div><div><div><div>• Bussa</div><div>• Dirasha</div><div>• Gato</div><div>• Konso</div><div>• Mashile</div></div></div></div></div> | |

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|--|---|--|
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Turo |
| | (West) Omo-Tana | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arbore Daasanach El Molo |
| | Rendille-Boni | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Baiso Boni Rendille |
| | Somali | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Somali |
| | Other | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Boon Dahalo Girirra Yaaku |
| | Dullay | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ale Dihina Dobase Gaba Gergere Gollango Gorrore Harso Tsamai |
| | South | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Aasáx</i> Alagwa Burunge Gorowa Iraqw <i>Kw'adza</i> |
| <i>Italics indicate extinct languages</i> | | |
| Authority control Edit this at Wikidata | | |
| National | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> France BnF data Germany Israel | |

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| Other | • IdRef |

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