

# Reading



## Languages of the World

Language is a system of communication. It uses written and spoken forms. People use language to communicate with each other in a society. They exchange knowledge, beliefs, wishes, and feelings through it.

Languages vary greatly from region to region. They are so different that a person may not understand the language of someone from another region, country or continent. It is not surprising to hear that today about 7000 languages exist in the world. There are more than 2000 languages in Africa, 1000 in the Americas, more than 2250 in Asia, about 230 in Europe, and more than 1300 in Oceania.

Native speakers of these languages range in number from very large, with hundreds of millions of speakers, to very small, with fewer than 10 speakers. The most popular language in the world is Chinese.

More than one billion people in the world speak Chinese.

