



THE LANGUAGE POLICE



THE LANGUAGE POLICE

PRESCRIPTIVISM &
STANDARDIZATION



Table of contents

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1. What Is the Language Police?

- 1. What Is the Language Police?**
- 2. The Soft Enforcement**

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- 2. The Soft Enforcement**
- 3. The Hard Enforcement**

- 1. What Is the Language Police?**
- 2. The Soft Enforcement**
- 3. The Hard Enforcement**
- 4. Offensive Speech and Humour**

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- 2. The Soft Enforcement**
- 3. The Hard Enforcement**
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based on Dubinski's *The Language Police*

The Language Police

The Language Police

**The Language
Police** authority used to
regulate the language
in people's charges

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regulate the language
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&

**The Language
Police** authority used to
regulate the language
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to regulate and forbid
the use of certain words

SOFT ENFORCEMENT

Standardization and Grammatical Correctness

Soft Enforcement

to police different varieties of a single language with the aim of maintaining the accepted standard variety

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informal

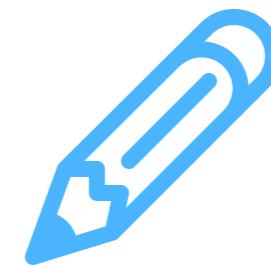
to police different varieties of a single language with the aim of maintaining the accepted standard variety

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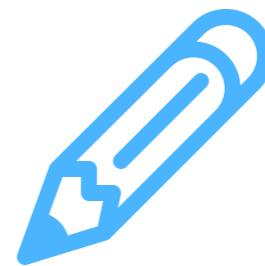
Soft Enforcement

STANDARD VARIETY control itself and its borders to ensure its top-dog status

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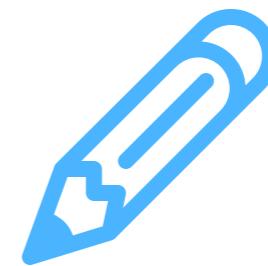


STANDARD VARIETY control itself and its borders to ensure its top-dog status



STANDARD VARIETY control itself and its borders to ensure its top-dog status

control how people use the language, and correct or penalise those whose speech or writing isn't quite acceptable



Soft Enforcement

DICTIONARIES normalise spelling, word meaning
and pronunciation

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promoting one variety of English while
relegating others

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GRAMMAR BOOKS avoid
certain incorrect
constructions

Soft Enforcement

STANDARDIZATION efficient
communication &
benefits towards
education

STANDARDIZATION efficient
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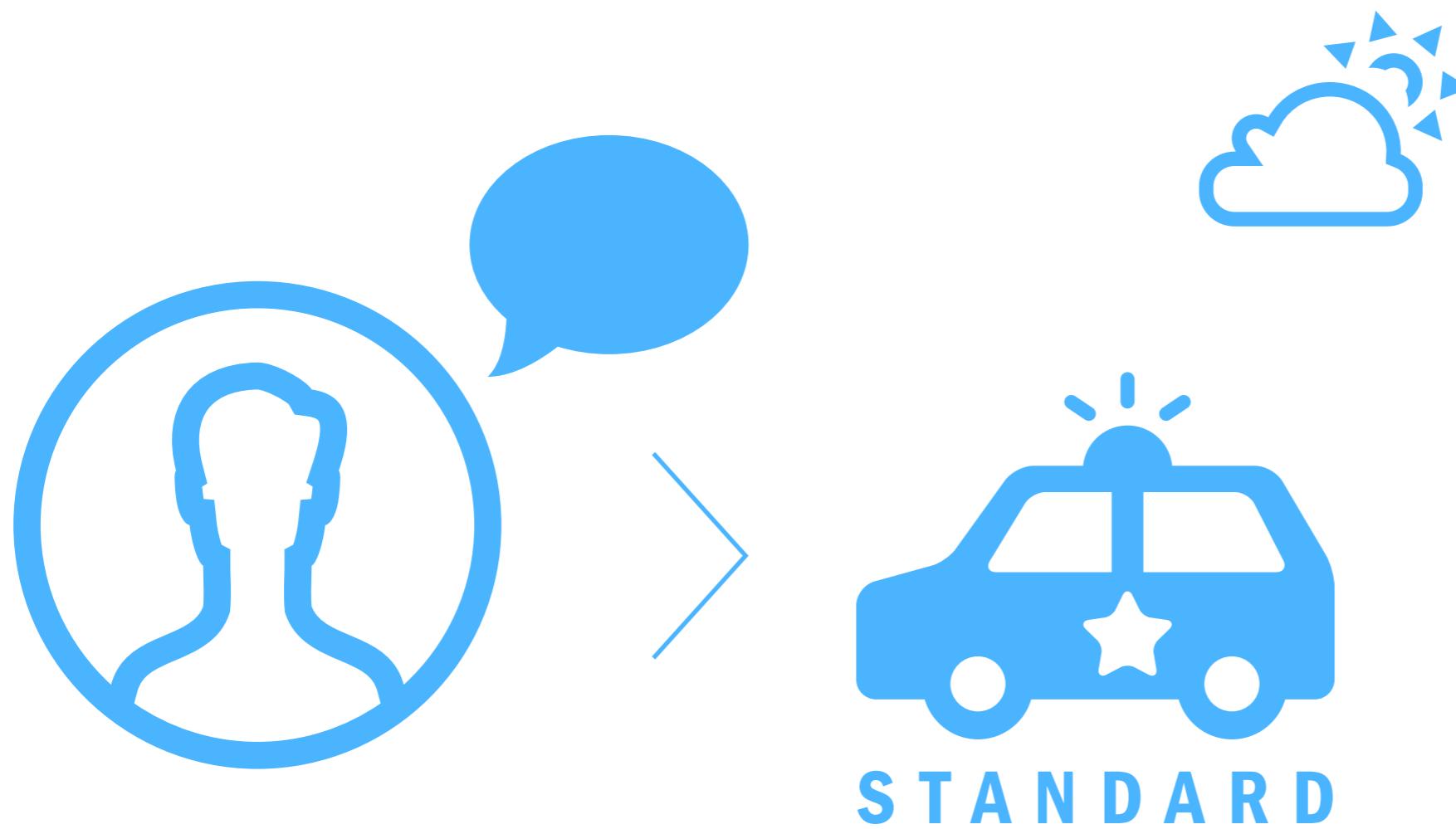
HOWEVER... it eliminates variations,
imposes uniformity and creates
obstacles for inexperienced people

Soft Enforcement

Soft Enforcement



Soft Enforcement



Soft Enforcement



HARD ENFORCEMENT

Language

and Politics

Hard Enforcement

Hard Enforcement



Hard Enforcement



EXAMPLE

TEXAN
Where are y'all from?

EXAMPLE



TEXAN

Where are y'all from?

NEW YORKER

From a place where they know
better than to use a preposition
at the end of a sentence.

EXAMPLE



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TEXAN

Oops. Sorry... So where
are y'all from, bitch?

EXAMPLE



TEXAN

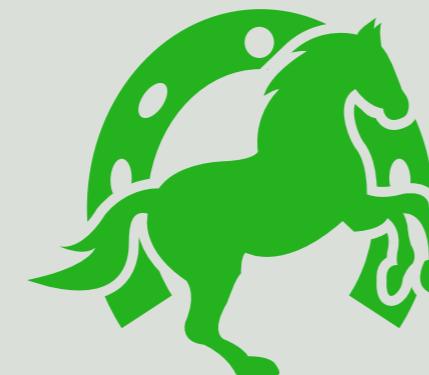
Where are y'all from?

NEW YORK

cultural and financial centre

NEW YORKER

From a place where they know
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NEW YORK

cultural and financial centre

TEXAS

rowdy and uncouth



TEXAN

Oops. Sorry... So where
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Hard Enforcement

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the issue is often national identity itself.**

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2nd generation: bilingual

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- ➌ 3rd generation: usually monolingual in English

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So, the problem has historically taken care of itself by the third generation.

Hard Enforcement

OTHER CASES

(where the linguistic situation was not stable)

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Vietnam

OTHER CASES

(where the linguistic situation was not stable)



Vietnam

- former colony of China

OTHER CASES

(where the linguistic situation was not stable)



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- former colony of China
- recent colony of France

OTHER CASES

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Israel

- since its creation (1948) has had Hebrew as its official language



OTHER CASES

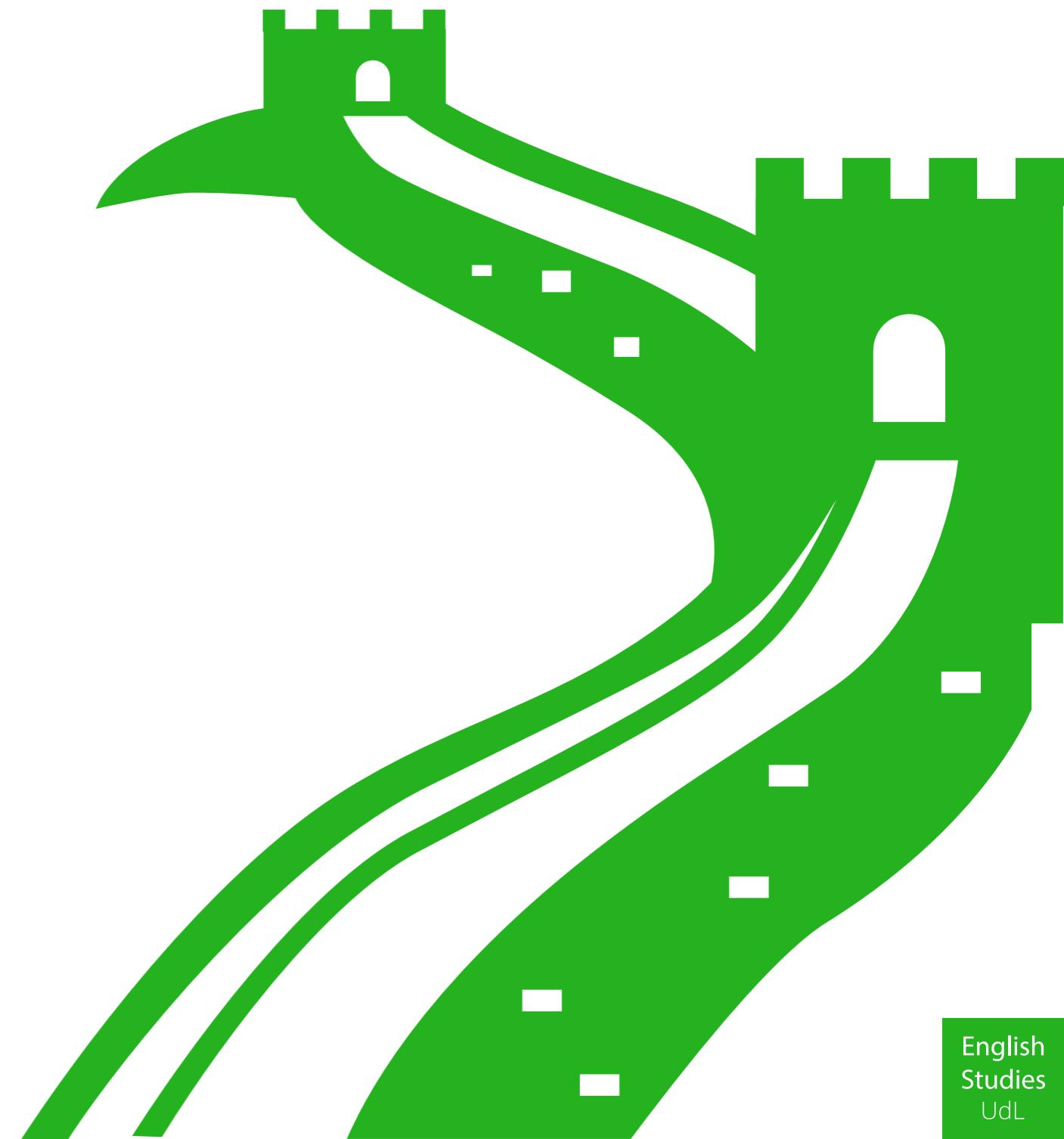
(where the linguistic situation was not stable)

Hard Enforcement

OTHER CASES

(where the linguistic situation was not stable)

China

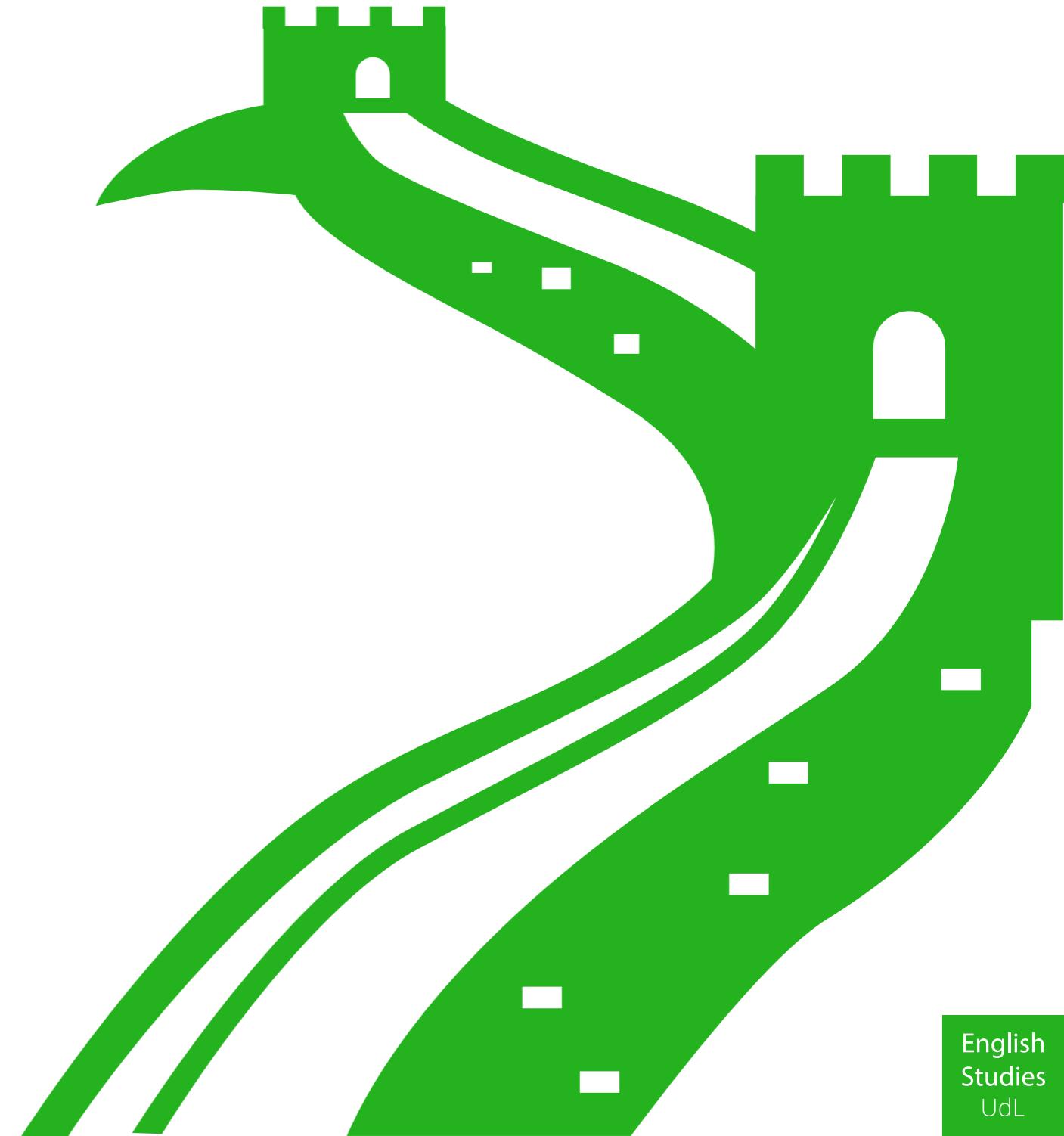


OTHER CASES

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China

How do we know whether two individuals are speakers of different languages or dialects?



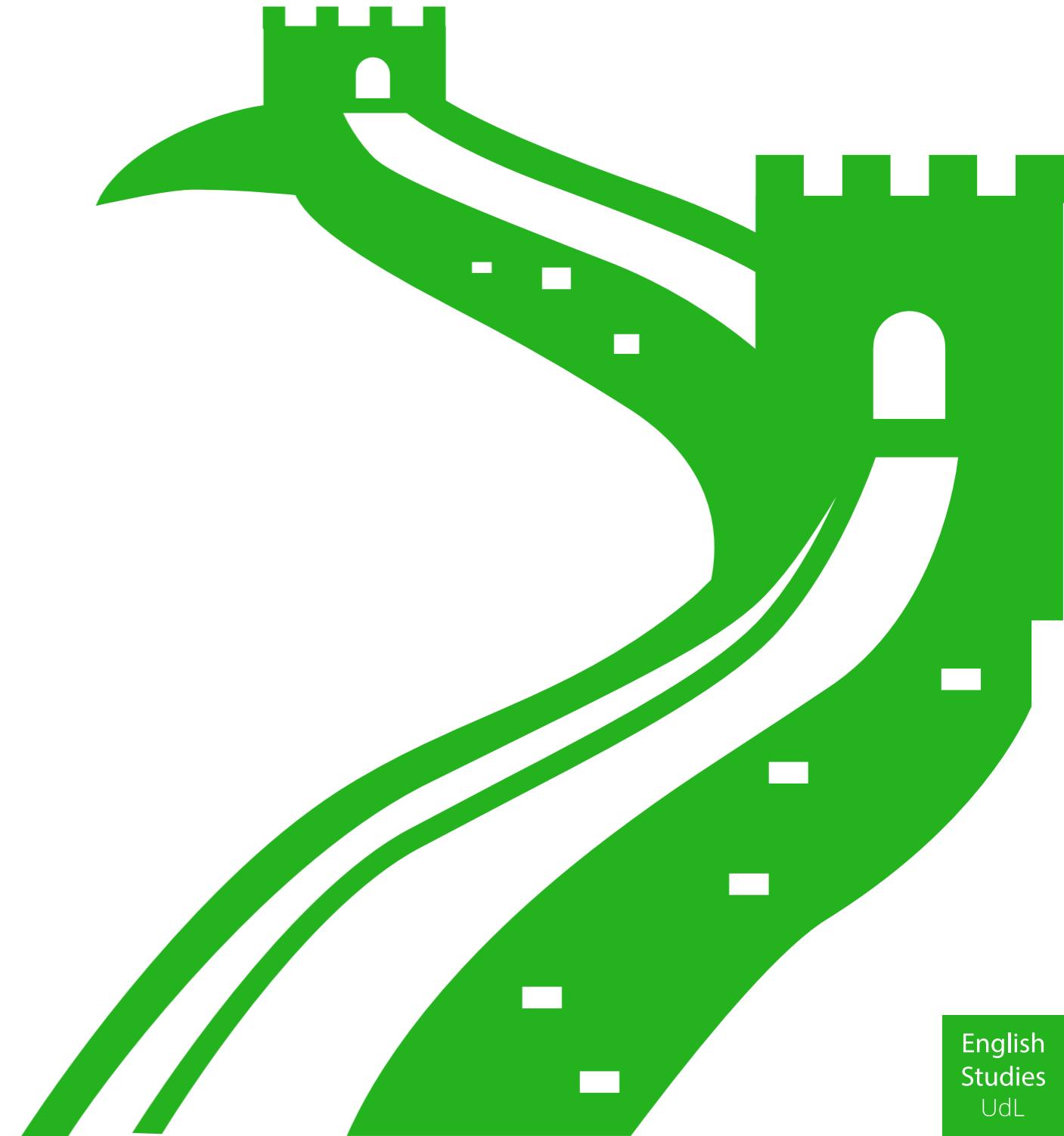
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CHINESE



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CHINESE

1. **Mandarin** (Sub-sub-families of dialects: Northern, Northwestern, Southwestern, Southeastern and Xia-jiang)
2. **Wu**
3. **Min**
4. **Hakka**
5. **Yue**

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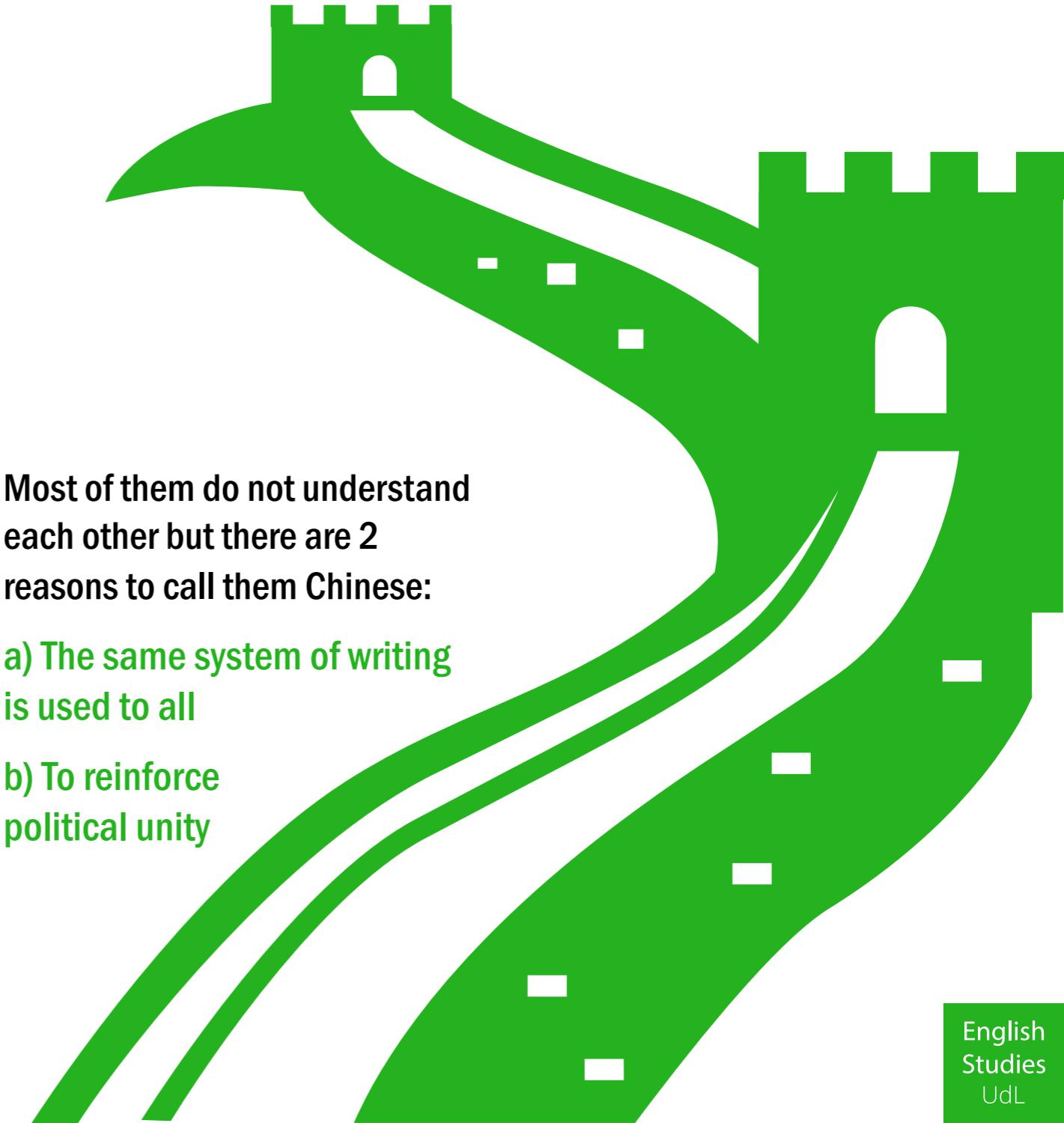
3. **Min**

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Most of them do not understand each other but there are 2 reasons to call them Chinese:

- a) The same system of writing is used to all
- b) To reinforce political unity



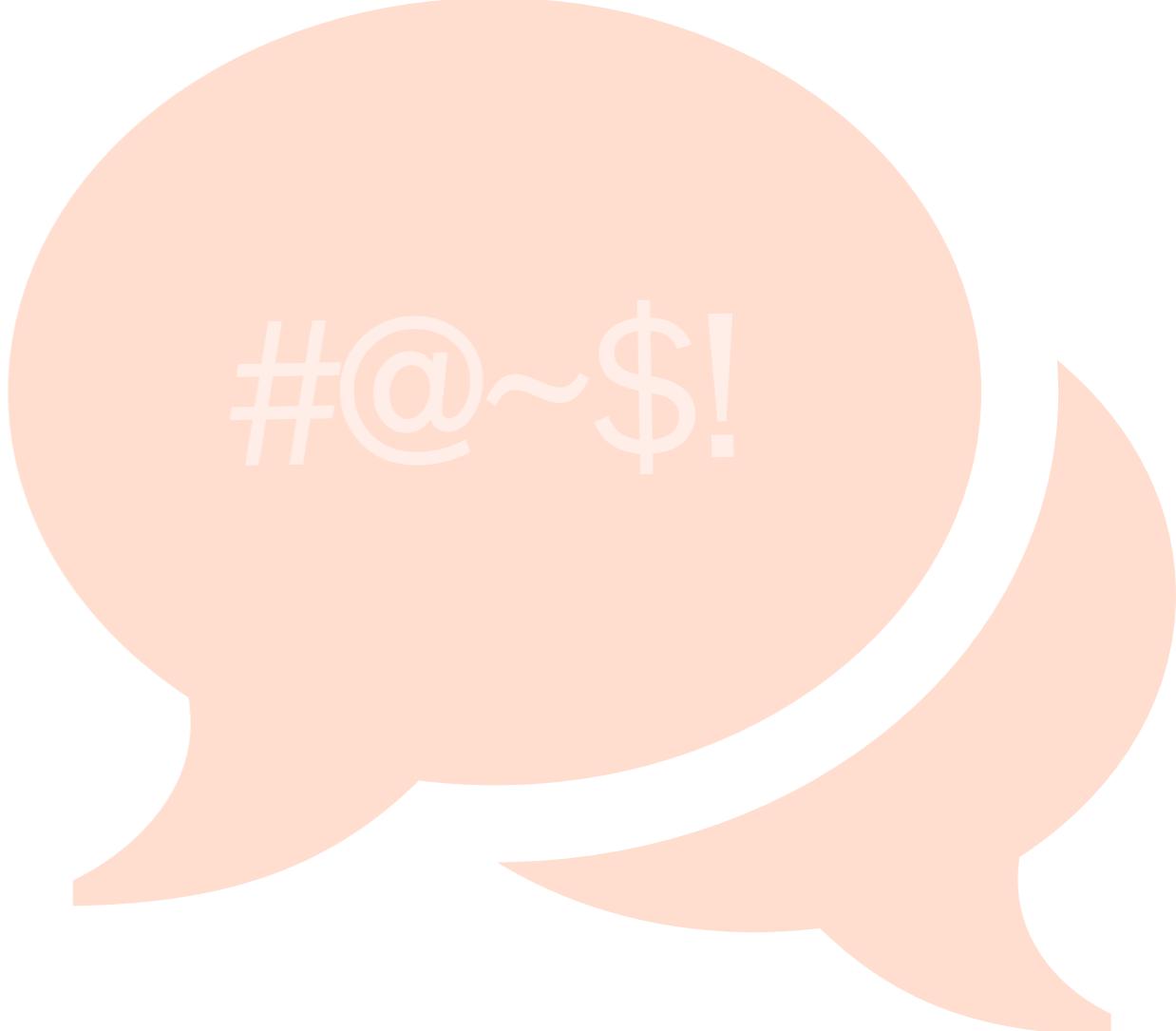
Offensive Speech

Offensive Words and Expressions

Offensive Words and Expressions

LANGUAGE

BEHAVIOURS **rude,**
impolite, vulgar,
intimidating, hateful



#@~\$!

LANGUAGE

BEHAVIOURS **rude,**
impolite, vulgar,
intimidating, hateful



#@~\$!



depending on the
context and culture

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Offensive Words and Expressions

PROSCRIBED LINGUISTIC EXPRESSIONS

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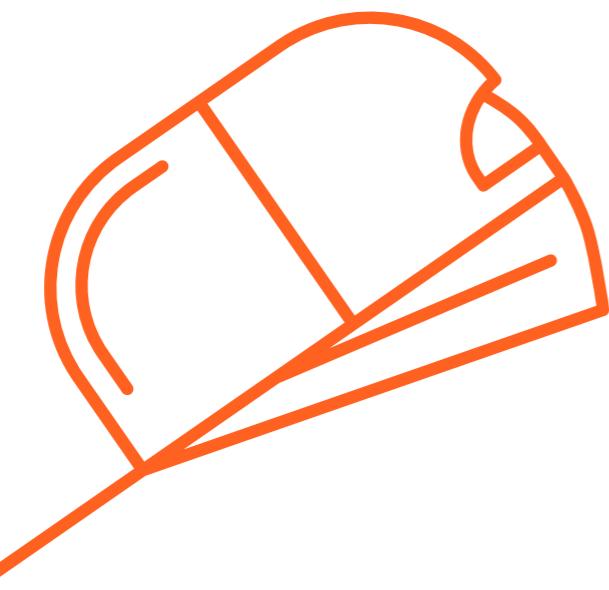
- **Profanity** invoking a deity in vain

 goddamit, Christ almighty

Offensive Words and Expressions

EXPRESSIONS PROHIBITED TO PARTICULAR GROUPS

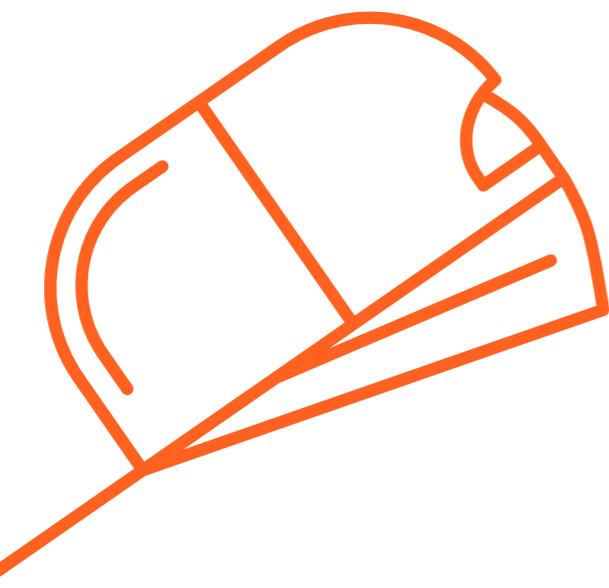
EXPRESSIONS PROHIBITED TO PARTICULAR GROUPS



👎 N I G G E R

EXPRESSIONS PROHIBITED TO PARTICULAR GROUPS

👍 A F R I C A N
A M E R I C A N

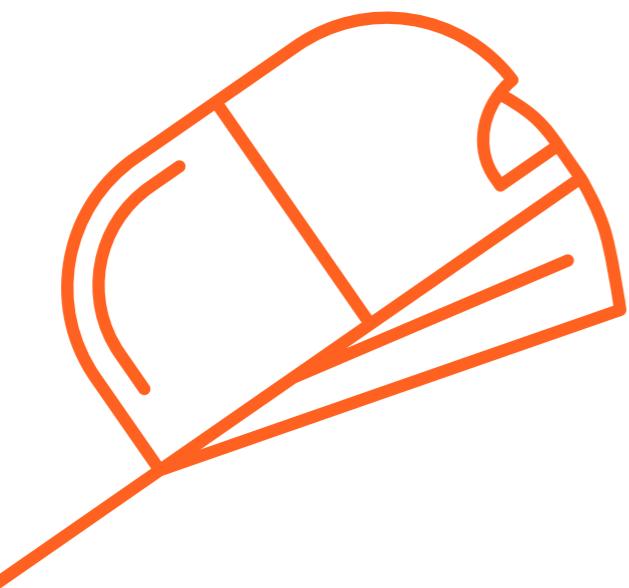


👎 N I G G E R



EXPRESSIONS PROHIBITED TO PARTICULAR GROUPS

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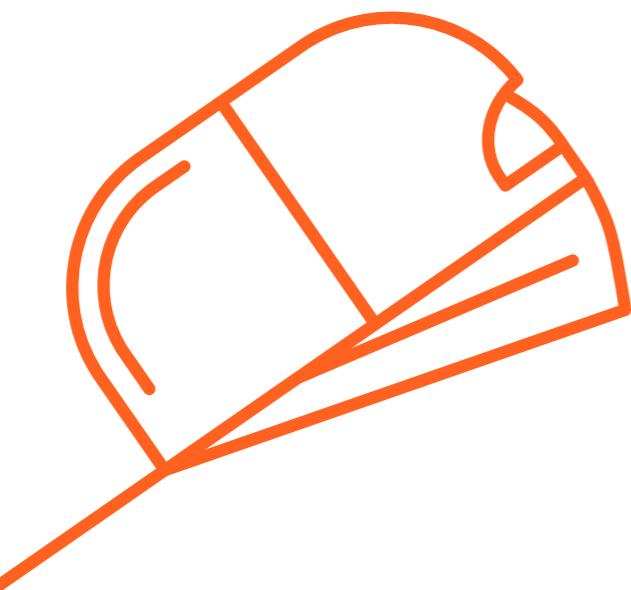
👎 N I G G E R



👎 C R I P P L E

EXPRESSIONS PROHIBITED TO PARTICULAR GROUPS

👍 A F R I C A N
A M E R I C A N



👎 N I G G E R

👍 H A N D I C A P P E D



👎 C R I P P L E

Offensive Words and Expressions

THE PROHIBITIONS
VARY BY CULTURE





THE PROHIBITIONS
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AMERICAN CITIZEN

😡 Obscenity—fuck



THE PROHIBITIONS
VARY BY CULTURE

AMERICAN CITIZEN

- 😡 Obscenity—fuck
- 肛 Scatology—shit

THE PROHIBITIONS VARY BY CULTURE



AMERICAN CITIZEN

- 愤怒的脸图标 Obscenity—fuck
- 肛门图标 Scatology—shit
- 悲伤的脸图标 Profanity—goddamit



THE PROHIBITIONS
VARY BY CULTURE



SAUDI ARABIAN CITIZEN

AMERICAN CITIZEN

- 😡 Obscenity—fuck
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THE PROHIBITIONS
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THE PROHIBITIONS VARY BY CULTURE



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SAUDI ARABIAN CITIZEN

- 😡 Profanity—goddamit
- ==- Obscenity—fuck



THE PROHIBITIONS VARY BY CULTURE



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- :(Obscenity—fuck
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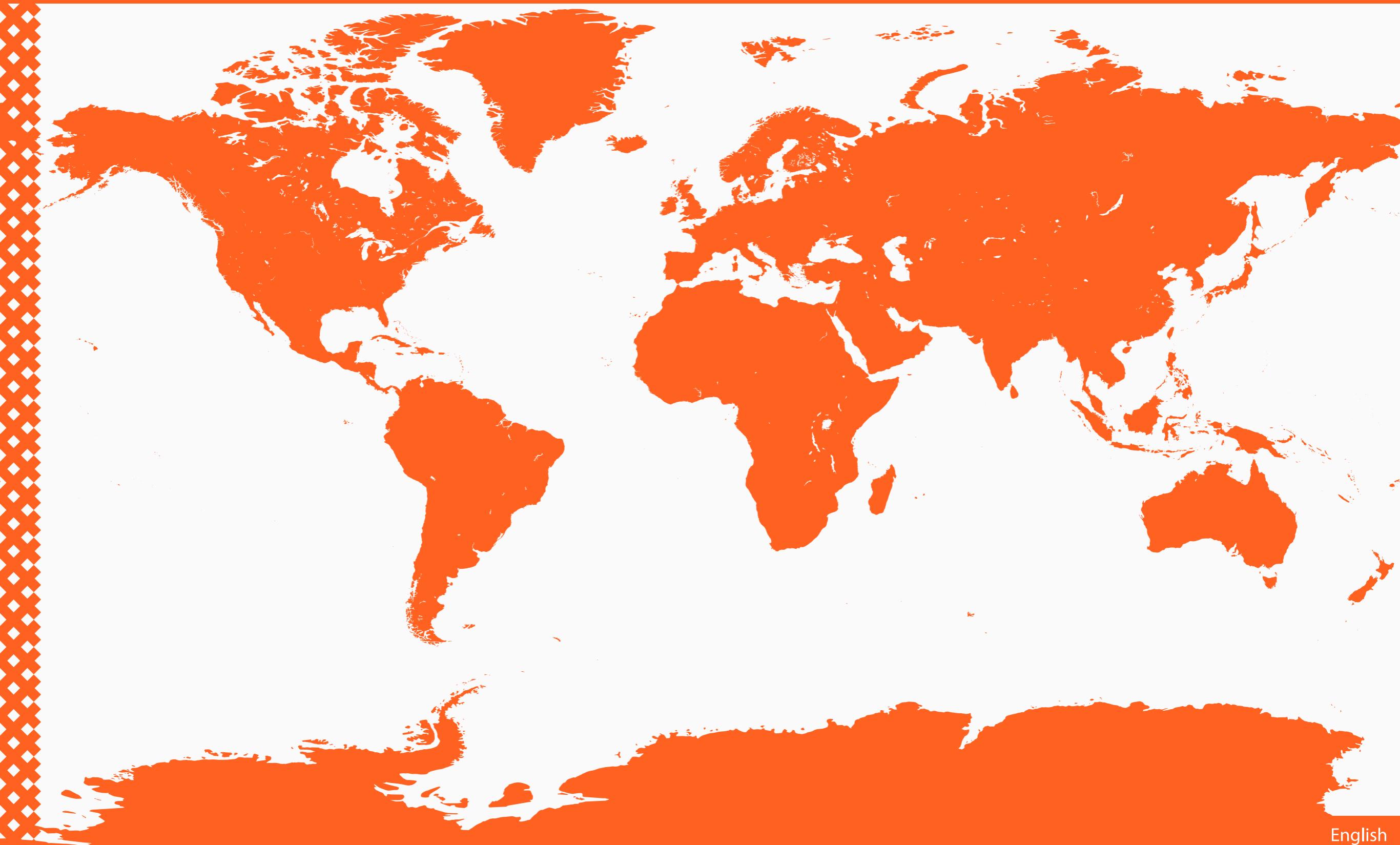
SAUDI ARABIAN CITIZEN

- :(Profanity—goddamit
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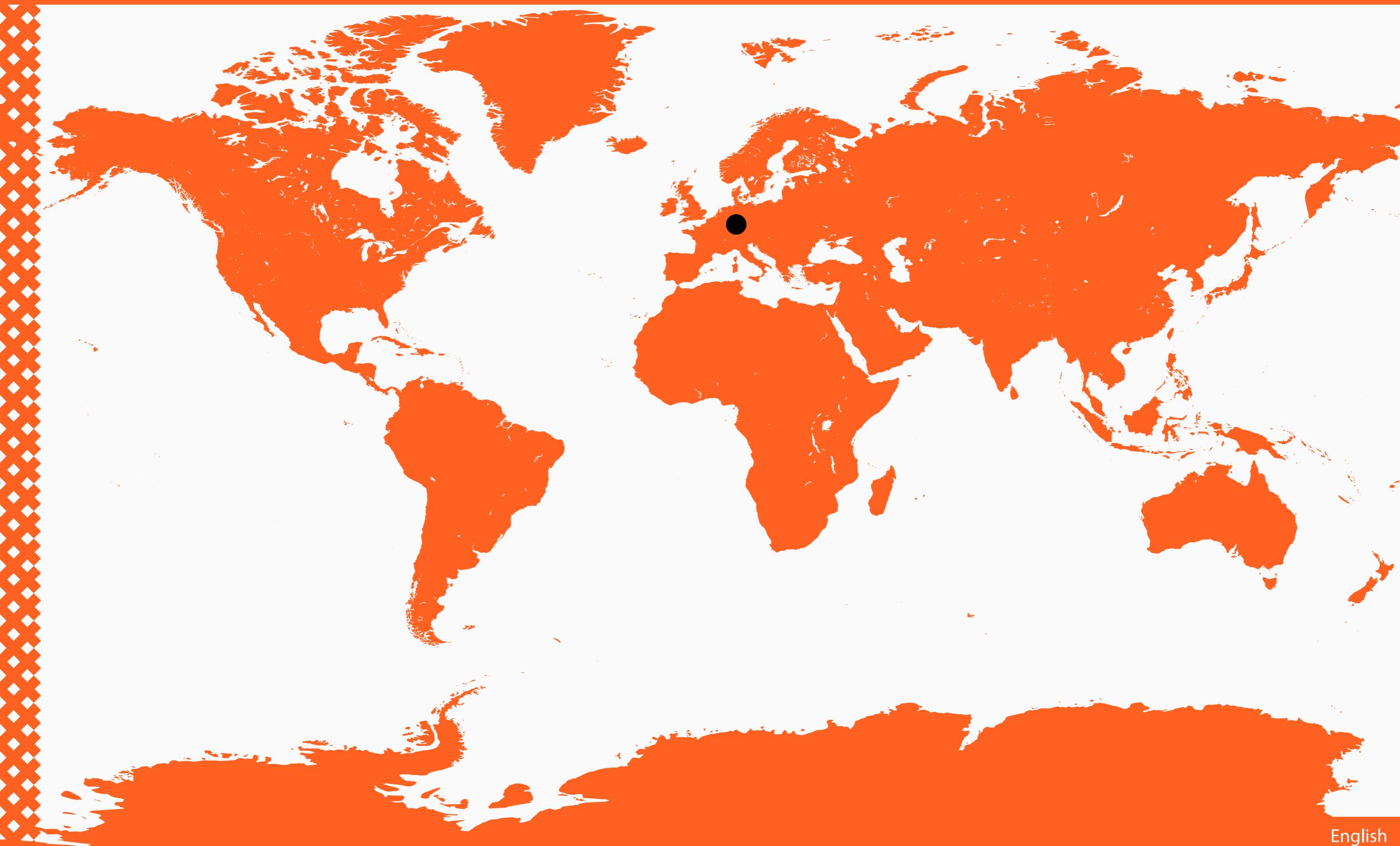


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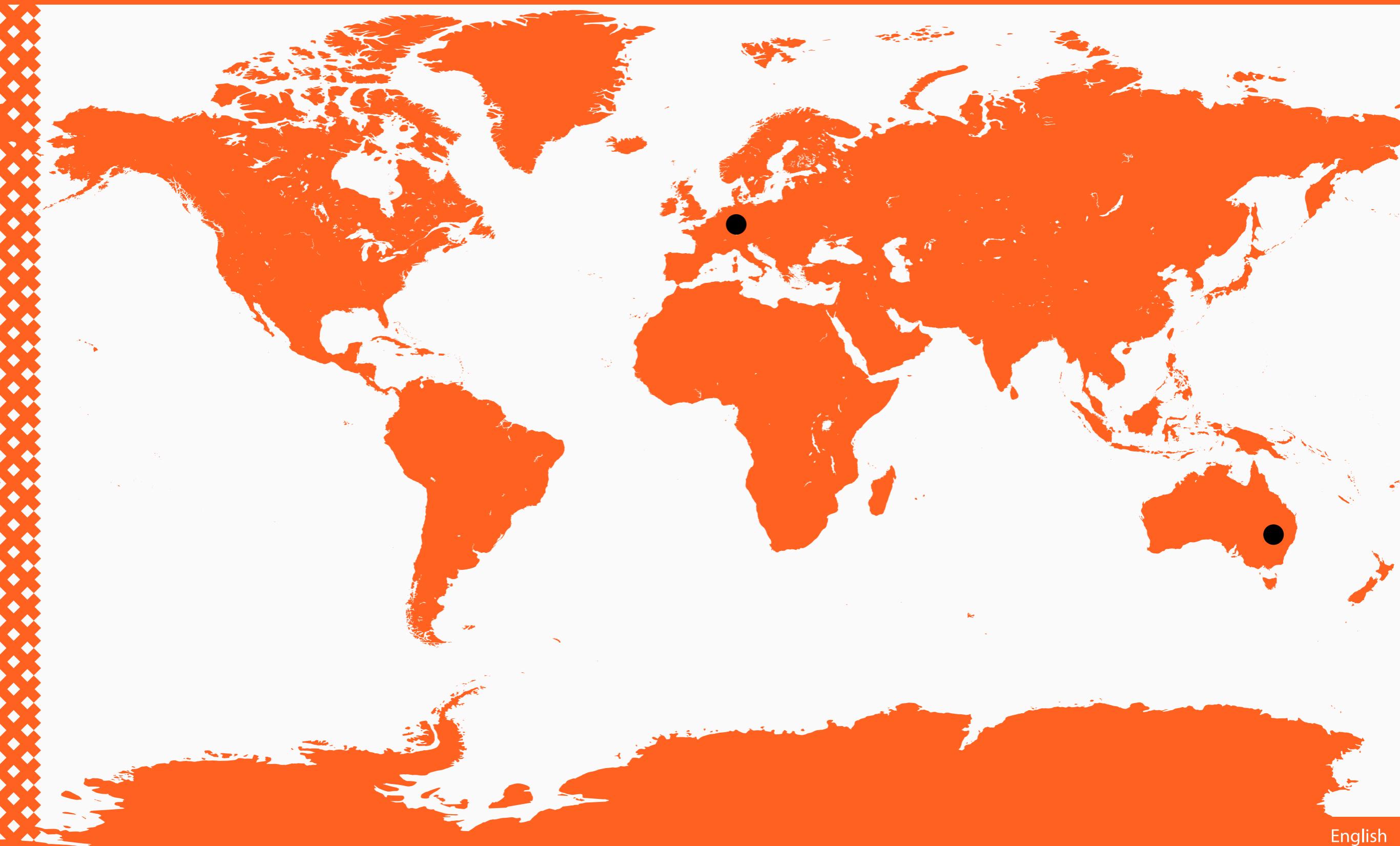
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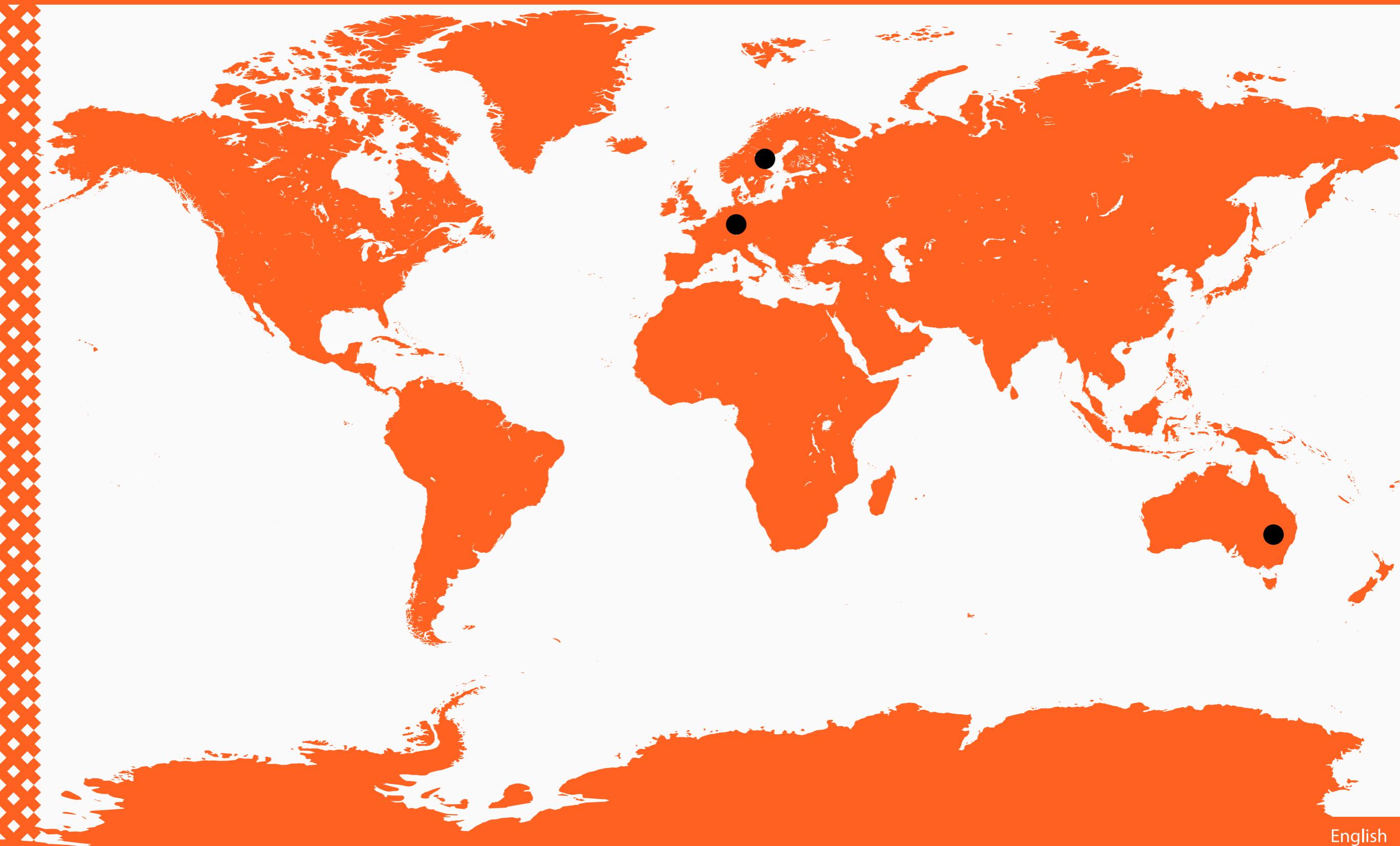
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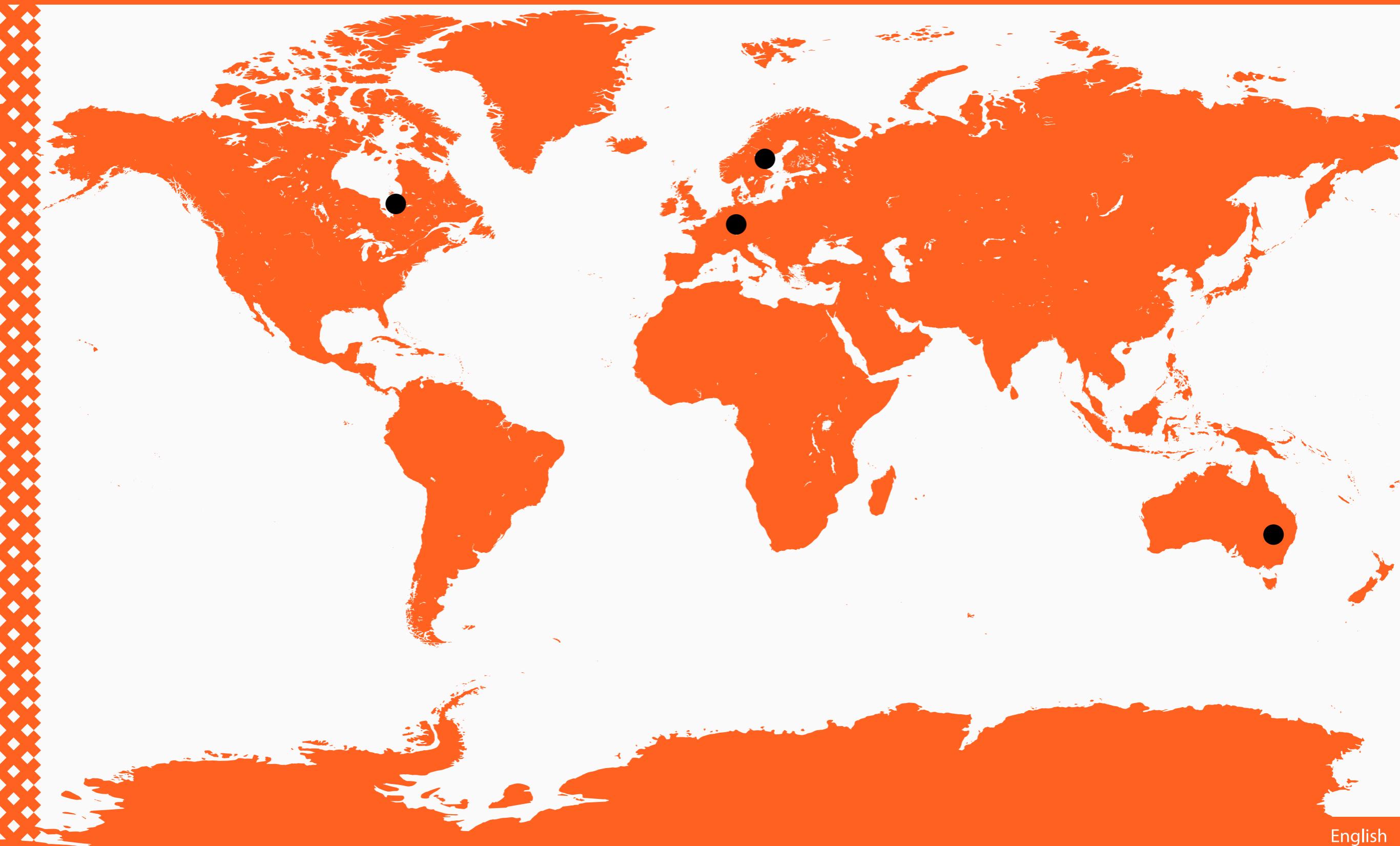
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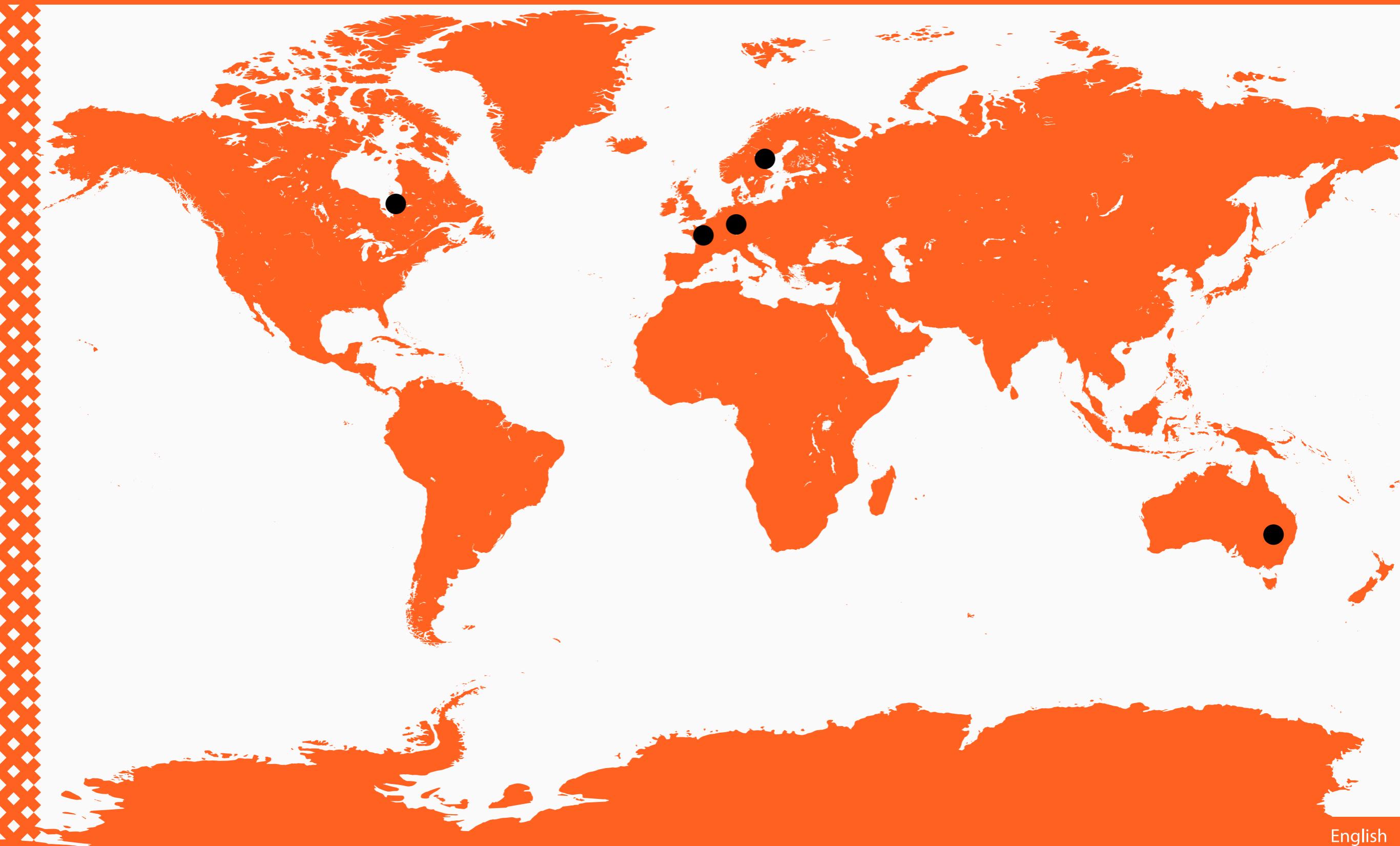
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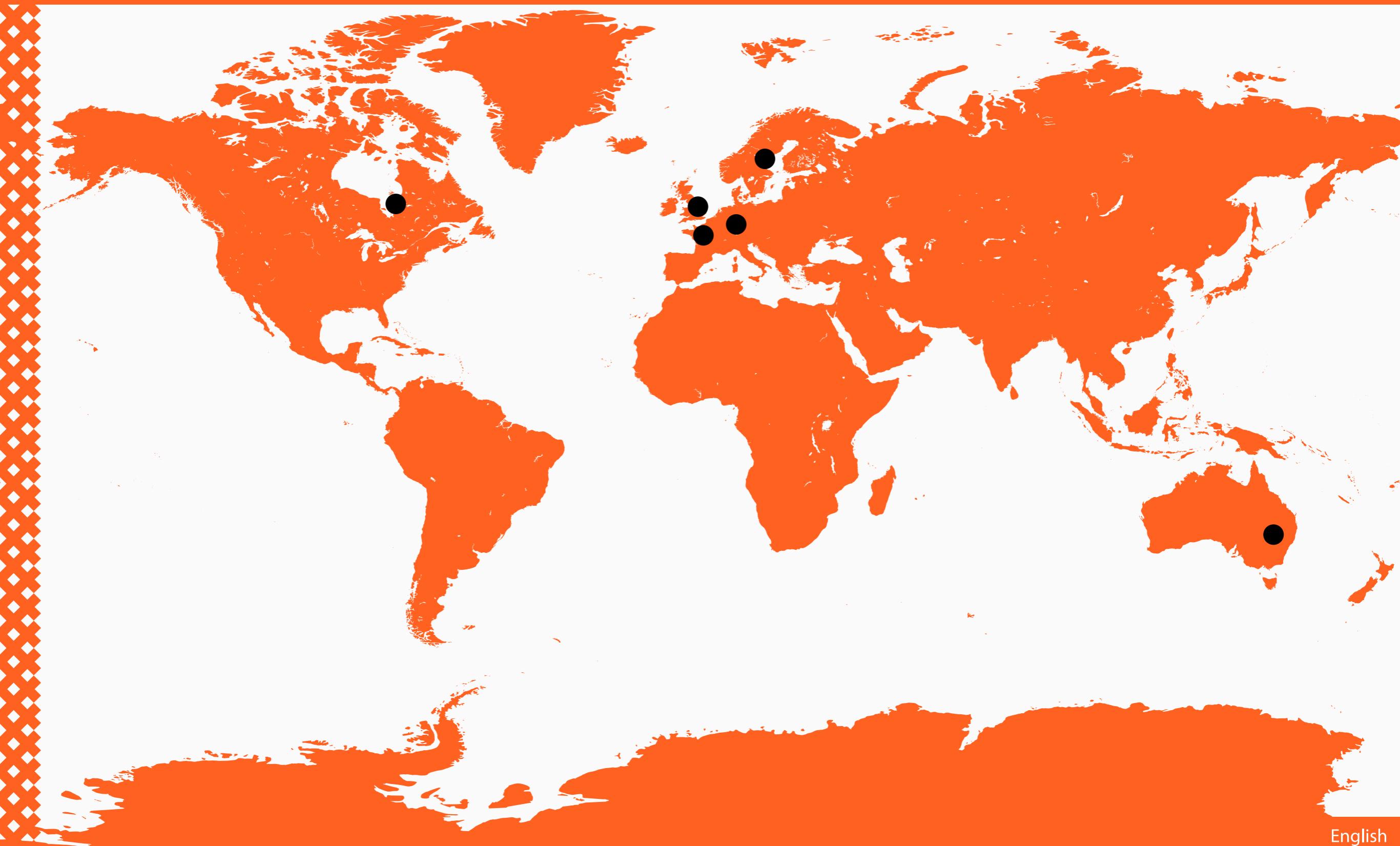
Offensive Words and Expressions



Offensive Words and Expressions



Offensive Words and Expressions



Offensive Words and Expressions



Offensive Words and Expressions



Offensive Words and Expressions

hate speech



Offensive Words and Expressions

hate speech



insult



Offensive Words and Expressions

hate speech



insult



degrade

Offensive Words and Expressions

hate speech



degrade

insult



intimidate

Humour

Humour

**JOKES target
inappropriate
behaviours**

JOKES target
inappropriate
behaviours



way to identify the
boundaries between
what's offensive and not

JOKES target
inappropriate
behaviours



way to identify the
boundaries between
what's offensive and not



HUMOUR grants its speakers a certain
license in their culture to find what is
decent or appropriate

Humour

Humour



**When someone shifts into
a humorous mode, s/he is
given a measure of freedom
to overstep those bounds**

Comedians are typically free to crack
jokes at the expense of their own ethnic
group

But even with this license there are limits of respect

**But even with this license there are limits of respect
WE HAVE TO POLICE OUR OWN LANGUAGE**

English
Studies
UdL

