

Complete List of Languages and Dialects in Nigeria

Nigeria is one of the most linguistically diverse countries in the world, with over 520 languages and dialects spoken across its territory. These languages belong to different language families and are distributed across the country's various regions.

Official and Major Languages

Official Language

- **English** - Official language used in government, education, and formal communication

Major Indigenous Languages

- **Hausa** - Widely spoken in Northern Nigeria and serves as a lingua franca
- **Yoruba** - Predominantly spoken in Southwest Nigeria
- **Igbo** - Mainly spoken in Southeast Nigeria
- **Fulfulde (Fulani)** - Spoken by the Fulani people across Northern Nigeria

Complete Alphabetical List of Nigerian Languages and Dialects

A

- Abanyom
- Abon
- Abua
- Acipa (Eastern)
- Acipa (Western)
- Aduge
- Afade
- Agatu
- Agoi
- Agwagwune
- Ahan
- Ajawa
- Ake
- Akita

- Akpa
- Akpes
- Akum
- Alago
- Alege
- Alumu-Tesu
- Ambo
- Amo
- Anaang
- Anca
- Angas
- Arabic (Shuwa)
- Arigidi
- Ashe
- Asu
- Aten
- Atsam
- Auyokawa
- Awak
- Ayere
- Ayu

B

- Baan
- Baatonun
- Baangi
- Bacama
- Bada
- Bade
- Bakpinka
- Bali

- Bangwinji
- Basa
- Basa-Gumna
- Basa-Gurmana
- Basa-Kontagora
- Bata
- Batu
- Bauchi
- Beele
- Begbere-Ejar
- Bekwarra
- Bena
- Berom
- Bete
- Bete-Bendi
- Bile
- Bina
- Biseni
- Bitare
- Boga
- Boghom
- Boko
- Bokobaru
- Bokyì
- Bole
- Bo-Rukul
- Bukwen
- Bumaji
- Burak
- Bura-Pabir
- Bure

- Buru
- Busa

C

- Cara
- Che
- Cibak
- Cinda-Regi-Tiyal
- Ciwogai
- Cori

D

- Daba
- Dadiya
- Dass
- Defaka
- Degema
- Dendi
- Deno
- Dera
- Dghwede
- Dibo
- Dijim-Bwilim
- Diri
- Doka
- Doko-Uyanga
- Dong
- Dulbu
- Dungu
- Duwai
- Dzodinka

E

- Ebira
- Ebughu
- Edo
- Efai
- Efik
- Efutop
- Eggon
- Ehueun
- Ejagham
- Ekajuk
- Eki
- Ekit
- Ekpeye
- Eleme
- Eloyi
- Emai-luleha-Ora
- Engenni
- Enwang
- Epie
- Eruwa
- Esan
- Etebi
- Etkywan
- Etsako-Yekhee
- Etulo
- Evant

F

- Fali
- Fam

- Firan
- Fulfulde
- Fum
- Fungwa
- Fyem
- Fyer

G

- Gaa
- Ga'anda
- Gade
- Galambu
- Gamo-Ningi
- Gana
- Gbagyi
- Gbari
- Gbaya (Northwest)
- Gbiri-Niragu
- Geji
- Gengle
- Gera
- Geruma
- Gevoko
- Ghotuo
- Giiwo
- Glavda
- Goemai
- Gokana
- Gude
- Gudu
- Guduf

- Gun-Gbe
- Gupa-Abawa
- Gurmana
- Guruntum-Mbaaru
- Gwa
- Gwamhi-Wuri
- Gwandara
- Gyem

H

- Ham
- Hasha
- Hausa
- Holma
- Hone
- Horom
- Huba
- Hungworo
- Hun-Saare
- Hwana

I

- Ibani
- Ibibio
- Ibino
- Ibilo
- Ibuoro
- Iceve-Maci
- Idere
- Idoma
- Idon
- Idun

- Igala
- Igbo
- Igede
- Iguta
- Ijo (Southeast)
- Ika
- Iko
- Ikpeshi
- Iku-Gora-Ankwa
- Ikulu
- Ikwere
- Ilue
- Irigwe
- Isekiri
- Isoko
- Ito
- Itu Mbon Uzo
- Ivbie North-Okpela-Arhe
- Iyayu
- Iyive
- Izere
- Izi-Ezaa-Ikwo-Mgbo
- Izon
- Izora

J

- Janji
- Jara
- Jarawa
- Jere
- Jibe

- Jibu
- Jidda-Abu
- Jilbe
- Jimi
- Jiru
- Jju
- Jorto
- Ju
- Jukun of Takum

K

- Kaan
- Kadara
- Kag-Fer-Jiir-Koor-Ror-Us-Zuksun
- Kagoma
- Kaivi
- Kakanda
- Kalabari
- Kam
- Kamantan
- Kami
- Kamo
- Kamwe
- Kaningkon-Nindem
- Kanufi
- Kanuri (Central)
- Kanuri (Manga)
- Kapyia
- Karekare
- Karfa
- Kariya

- Khana
- Kholok
- Kinuku
- Kiong
- Kir-Balar
- Kirike
- Koennoem
- Kofa
- Kofyar
- Kohumono
- Koma
- Kona
- Kono
- Koro Ija
- Koro Zuba
- Korop
- Kpan
- Kpasham
- Kpati
- Kubi
- Kudu-Camo
- Kugama
- Kugbo
- Kukele
- Kulere
- Kulung
- Kumba
- Kupa
- Kurama
- Kushi
- Kutep

- Kutto
- Katurmi
- Kwa
- Kwak
- Kwaami
- Kyak
- Kyenga

L

- Labir
- Laka
- Lala-Roba
- Lamang
- Lamja-Dengsa-Tola
- Lamnso
- Laru
- Leelau
- Legbo
- Lela
- Lemoro
- Limbum
- Lokaa
- Longuda
- Loo
- Lopa
- Lubila
- Lufu
- Luri

M

- Maaka
- Mada

- Mafa
- Maghdi
- Mak
- Mala
- Malgwa-Wandala
- Mama
- Mambila (Nigeria)
- Mangas
- Marghi Central
- Marghi South
- Mashi
- Mawa
- Mbe
- Mbembe (Cross River)
- Mbembe (Tigon)
- Mboi
- Mbongno
- Mbula-Bwazza
- Mburku
- Mijili
- Mingang Doso
- Mini
- Miship
- Miya
- Mom Jango
- Montol
- Moo
- Mpade
- Mumuye
- Mundat
- Mvanip

- Mwaghavul

N

- Nandu-Tari
- Nde-Nsele-Nta
- Ndoe
- Ndola
- Ndunda
- Ngamo
- Nggwahyi
- Ngizim
- Ngwaba
- Ningye
- Ninzam
- Nkari
- Nkem-Nkum
- Nkoroo
- Nkukoli
- Nnam
- Numana-Nunku-Gwantu-Numbu
- Nungu
- Nupe-Nupe Tako
- Nyam
- Nyong
- Nzanyi

O

- Obanliku
- Obolo
- Obulom
- Odual
- Odut

- Ogbah
- Ogbia
- Ogbogolo
- Ogbronuagum
- Okobo
- Oko-Eni-Osayen
- Okpamheri
- Okpe
- Okpe-Idesa-Akuku
- Oloma
- Olulumo-Ikom
- Oring
- Oron
- Oruma
- Ososo
- Otank

P

- Pa'a
- Pe
- Pero
- Pidgin (Nigerian)
- Piti
- Piya-Kwonci
- Polci
- Pongu
- Putai
- Pyapun

R

- Reshe
- Ron

- Ruma

S

- Samba Daka
- Samba Leko
- Sanga
- Sasaru-Enwan-Igwe
- Saya
- Sha
- Shall-Zwall
- Shamang
- Shama-Sambuga
- Shanga
- Shau
- Sheni
- Shiki
- Shoo-Minda-Nye
- Shuwa-Zamani
- Siri
- Somyev
- Sorko
- Sukur
- Sur
- Surubu

T

- Tal
- Tala
- Tambas
- Tangale
- Tarok
- Tedaga

- Teme
- Tera
- Teshenawa
- Tha
- Tita
- Tiv
- Toro
- Tso
- Tula
- Tumi
- Tyap

U

- Ubaghara
- Ubang
- Uda
- Uhami
- Ujjili
- Ukaan
- Ukpe-Bayobiri
- Ukpét-Ehom
- Ukue
- Ukwa
- Ukwuani-Aboh-Ndoni
- Ulukwumi
- Umon
- Uneme
- Urhobo
- Usaghade
- Uvbie
- Uzekwe

V

- Vaghat-Ya-Bijim-Legeri
- Vemgo-Mabas
- Viti
- Vono
- Vute

W

- Waja
- Waka
- Wannu
- Wapan
- Waphan
- Warji
- Wase
- Wom

X-Z

- Xedi
- Yace
- Yala
- Yamba
- Yangkam
- Yendang
- Yeskwa
- Yiwom
- Yoruba
- Yukuben
- Zangwal
- Zari
- Zarma

- Zeem
- Zhire
- Ziriya
- Ziziliveken
- Zumbun

Language Families

The languages of Nigeria belong to several major language families:

1. Niger-Congo Family

- **Benue-Congo:** Includes Yoruba, Igbo, Tiv, Idoma, and many others
- **West Atlantic:** Includes Fulfulde
- **Kwa:** Includes some languages in the southern regions

2. Afroasiatic Family

- **Chadic:** Includes Hausa (most prominent), Bole, Tangale, and over 700 other languages
- **Semitic:** Arabic dialects spoken in northeastern Nigeria
- **Berber:** Tuareg languages in northwestern Nigeria

3. Nilo-Saharan Family

- **Saharan:** Includes Kanuri and related languages

Sign Languages

Nigeria also has several sign languages:

- Nigerian Sign Language
- Hausa Sign Language
- Bura Sign Language

Regional Distribution

- **Northern Nigeria:** Predominantly Hausa, Fulfulde, Kanuri, and various Chadic languages
- **Middle Belt:** High linguistic diversity with languages like Tiv, Igala, Nupe
- **Southwest:** Yoruba and related languages
- **Southeast:** Igbo and related languages

- **South-South:** Ijaw, Efik, Ibibio, Urhobo, and many others

Notes

- Many of these languages have multiple dialects within them
- Some entries in this list represent dialect clusters rather than single languages
- The distinction between language and dialect can be complex and sometimes politically influenced
- This list represents one of the most comprehensive compilations available, though the exact count may vary depending on classification criteria