

Lecture 1

English Today

Feb. 24. 2023



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1.1 Classification and related languages



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1.1 Classification of English Language

- A language is a system of communication used by the people of a particular country or a region for talking or writing purposes.
- A language system consists of a set of codes that are **sounds** and **written symbols**.



1.1 Classification of English Language

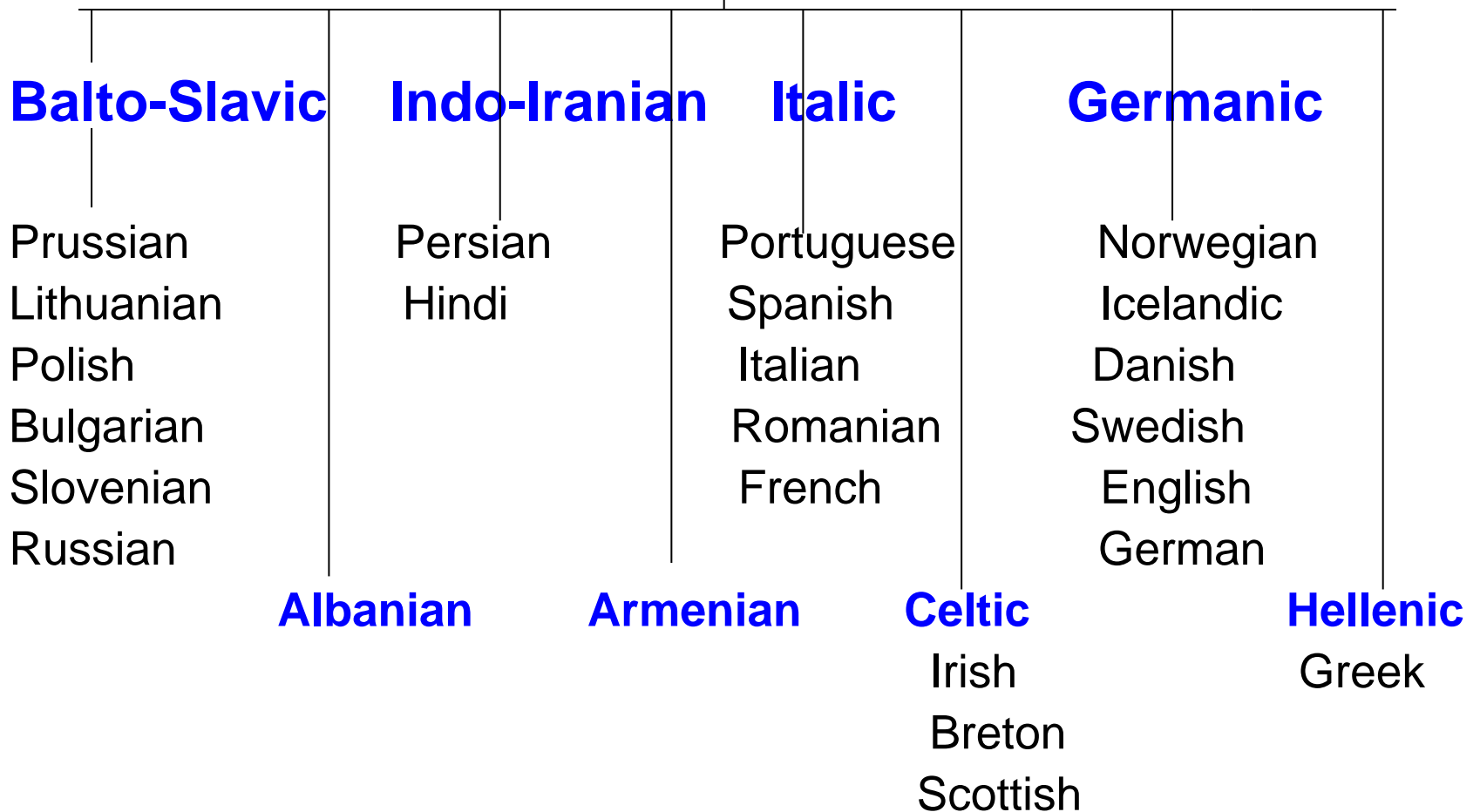
- English belongs to the **western sub-branch** of the **Germanic branch** of the **Indo-European family** of languages.
- The closest undoubted living relatives of English are **Scots** and **Frisian**(**弗里斯兰语**, 荷兰北部古条顿人). Frisian is a language spoken by approximately half a million people in the Dutch province of **Friesland**, in nearby areas of Germany, and on a few islands in the North Sea.



- After Scots and Frisian, the next closest relative is the modern **Low Saxon** (撒克逊) **language** of the eastern Netherlands and northern Germany.
- Other less closely related living languages include **Dutch**, **Afrikaans** (南非荷兰语), and **German**.
- Many French words are also intelligible (易懂的) to an English speaker, as English absorbed a tremendous amount of vocabulary from French after the Norman Conquest and in further centuries; as a result, **a substantial share of English vocabulary is very close to the French**, with some slight spelling differences (word endings, use of old French spellings...) and some occasional lapses in meaning.



• Indo-European Language Family



Extinct: Tocharian and Anatolian (Hittite)





INDO-EUROPEAN LANGUAGES

	Celtic		Baltic		Armenian
	Germanic		Albanian		
	Romance		Greek		Iranian
	Slavic		Indo-Aryan (Indic)	} Indo-Iranian	



Table 1: Widely Shared Indo-European Terms*

	Hittite	Sanskrit	Greek	Latin	English	Armenian	Tocharian B	Old Irish	Lithuanian	Albanian
'I'	uk	aḥám	egṓ	ego	I	es			àš	
'me'	ammuk	mām	emé	mē	me	is	ñās	-m	manè	mua
'thou'	zik	tuyám	sú, tú	tū	thou	du	twe	tú	tù	ti
'thee'	tuk	tvām	sé	tē	thee	k'ez	ci	-t	tavè	ty
'who?'	kuiš	kás	tis	quis	who?	ov	k _u se	cia	kàs	kush
'what?'	kuit	kím	tí	quid	what?	z-i	k _u se	cid	kàs	që
'that'		tát	tó		that	da	te		taí	
'water'	wātar	udakám	húdōr		water		war	uisce	vanduō	ujë
'fire'	pahhur		pūr	Umbr. pir	fire	hur	puwar			
'father'		pitár-	patēr	pater	father	hayr	pācer	athair		
'mother'		mātār	mētēr	māter	mother	mayr	mācer	máthair	mótina	
'brother'		bhrātar-	phrātēr	frāter	brother	eibayr	procer	bráthair	brólis	
			'kinsman'							
'sister'		svásār		soror	sister	k'oyr	šer	siur	seser-	
'daughter'	Hier. Luw. tuwatra-	duhitár	thugátēr-	Osc. futír	daughter	dustr	tkācer		dukter-	
'son'		sūnús	huiós		son		soy		sūnūs	
'sheep'	Luw. ḥawi-	ávis	ó(w)is	ovis	ewe	hovi-w 'shepherd'	awi 'ewes'	óí	avis	
'cow'	Hier. Luw. wawi-	gāv-	boūs	bōs	cow		ke _u	bó	Latv. guovs	
'horse'	Hier. Luw. ašwa-	ásvas	híppos	equus	OE eoh		yakwe	ech	ašvā 'mare'	
'pig'		sūkarás	hūs	sūs	sow		suwo			thi
'dog'	Hier. Luw. šuwana-	švān-	kúōn	canis	hound	šun	kwen-	oon-	šun-	
'wheel'		cakráṃ	kúklos		wheel		kokale 'wagon'			
'heart'	kart-	hṛdayam	kardíā	oord-	heart	sirt		críde	širdis	
'knee'	gēnu	jānu	gónu	genū	knee	cunr	keni	glún		gju
'tree, wood'	tāru	dāru	dóru	truncus	tree		or	daur 'oak'	OCS drevo	dru
'foot'	pat(a)-	pád-	pód-	ped-	foot	otn	paiyye		pādas	
'long'	dalukiš	dīrghás	dolikhós	longus	long				ilgas	
'new'	newaš	návas	ne(w)os	novus	new	nor	ñuwe	nue	naūjas	
'goes'	pa-izzi	éti	eisi	it			yan		OL eiti	
'is'	ēšzi	ásti	estí	est	is	ē		is	ėsti	ėshtë
'eats'	ēzz(a)zzi	áti	édei	ēst	eats	utē		estir 'may eat'	ėda	
'carries'		bhárati	phérei	fert	bears	berē	parān	berid		bie 'brings'
'knows'		véda	(w)oiðe		wot	gitē		ro-fitir	OCS věstŭ	
'one'		ékas	oi(w)os 'alone'	ūnus	one			oín	vienas	një
'two'	dā-	duvā	duó	duo	two	erku	wi	dó	dù	dy
'three'	teri-	tráyas	treis	trēs	three	erek ⁴	trey	trí	trỹs	tre
'four'		catváras	téttares	quattuor	four	č'ork ⁴	štwer	oethair	keturi	katër
'five'		pāñca	pénte	quinque	five	hing	piš	oóic	penki	pesë
'six'		šát	héx	sex	six	vec ⁴	škas	sé	šeši	gjashtë
'seven'	šiptam-	saptá	heptá	septem	seven	ewt'n	šukt	secht	septyni	shtatë
'eight'		aštá	októ	octō	eight	ut ⁴	okt	ocht	aštuoni	tetë
'nine'		náva	enné(w)a	novem	nine	inn	ñiu	noí	devyni	nëndë
'ten'		dáśa	déka	decem	ten	tasn	šak	deich	dėšimt	dhjetë
'one hundred'		śatám	he-katón	centum	hundred		kante	oēt	šimtas	
'not'	natta	ná		ne-	not			ní-	ne-	

*Words lacking in the language named at the top of the column but found in a closely related language are included, with these abbreviations: Luw. = Luwian; Hier. Luw. = Hieroglyphic Luwian; OE = Old English; Latv. = Latvian; OCS = Old Church Slavonic; Umbr. = Umbrian; Osc. = Oscan; OL = Old Lithuanian.

Translate the following terms.

Indo-European Language family

Celts: Celtic (Celtic language)

Albania: Albanian

Greece: Greek

Bulgaria: Bulgarian

Hungary: Hungarian

Czech: Czech

Italy: Italian

Denmark: Danish

Norway: Norwegian

Finland: Finnish

Poland: Polish

France: French

Portugal: Portuguese

Germany: German

Romania: Romanian

Holland (the Netherland): Dutch



- Russia: Russian
- Spain: Spanish
- Sweden: Swedish
- Slovakia: Slovak
- Switzerland: French, German, Italian
- Belgium: French, Dutch, German
- Austria: German
- Luxembourg: German



Fill in the blanks:

- 1) A Czech is a person from _____, whose official language is _____.
- 2) A Turk is a person from _____, whose official language is _____.
- 3) A Portuguese is a person from _____, whose official language is _____.
- 4) A Dane is a person from _____, whose official language is _____.
- 5) A Swede is a person from _____, whose official language is _____.



- 6) A Russian is a person from _____, whose official language is _____.
- 7) A Greek is a person from _____, whose official language is _____.
- 8) A German is a person from _____, whose official language is _____.
- 9) A Slovak is a person from _____, whose official language is _____.
- 10) A Finn is a person from _____, whose official language is _____.



- 11) A Romanian is a person from _____, whose official language is _____.
- 12) A Pole is a person from _____, whose official language is _____.
- 13) A Frenchman is a person from _____, whose official language is _____.
- 14) A Dutch is a person from _____, whose official language is _____.
- 15) A Spaniard is a person from _____, whose official language is _____.



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1.2 Geographical Distribution

1.2.1 English as the first language

First language is mother tongue or native tongue one learns from birth, usually what is spoken by the parents.

English is the **first language** in

Australia, the Bahamas, Barbados, Bermuda, Guyana, Jamaica, New Zealand, Antigua, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Trinidad and Tobago, the United Kingdom and the United States of America.



1.2.2 English as the Second Language

- English is also one of the **primary languages** of
- [Belize](#) (formerly British Honduras, with Spanish),
- [Canada](#) (with French),
- [Cameroon](#) (with French and African languages),
- [Dominica, St. Lucia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines](#) (with French Creole),
- the [Federated States of Micronesia](#),
- [Ireland](#) (with Irish),
- [Liberia](#) (with African languages),
- [Singapore](#) (with Mandarin, Malay, and Tamil)
- [South Africa](#) (with Afrikaans and other African languages)



1.2.3 Foreign Language

English is also the language most often studied as a **foreign language** in Europe (32.6%), followed by French, German and Spanish.

English has **lingua franca** status (lingua franca--the use of the English language as “a common means of communication for speakers of different first languages”), due to the military, economic, scientific, political and cultural influence of the United Kingdom and later the United States.

Where possible, virtually **all students worldwide** are required to learn some English, and knowledge of English is virtually a prerequisite for working in many fields and occupations.

Higher academic institutions, for example, require a working command of English.



Lingua franca

A *lingua franca* is a language or mixture of languages used as a medium of communication by people whose native languages are different.

- It is from the Italian, "language" + "Frankish" and also known as a **trade language, contact language, international language, and global language.**
- "Where a language is widely used over a relatively large geographical area as a language of wider communication, it is known as a **lingua franca**—**a common language but one which is native only to some of its speakers.** The term 'lingua franca' itself is an extension of the use of the name of the original 'Lingua Franca,' a Medieval **trading pidgin** used in the Mediterranean region." M. Sebba, *Contact Languages: Pidgins and Creoles*. Palgrave, 1997



1.2.4 Lingua Franca

English as an/the international language

- **the United Nations**: six working languages
- Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish
- **international conferences**
- **computer**
- **high technology**
- **travel (aviation)**



1.2.5 Geographical Distribution

Ethnologue Survey

- (<https://www.ethnologue.com/guides/how-many-languages>, 检索时间2022/3/2)
- **7,151 languages are spoken today.**
- That number is constantly in flux, because we're learning more about the world's languages every day. And beyond that, the languages *themselves* are in flux. They're living and dynamic, spoken by communities whose lives are shaped by our rapidly changing world.
- This is a fragile time: Roughly **40% of languages are now endangered**, often with less than 1,000 speakers remaining.
- Meanwhile, **just 23 languages account for more than half the world's population.**



Top 10 Languages by Number of Native Speakers

- 1. Chinese — 1.3 Billion Native Speakers (1.4 billion?)
- 2. Spanish — 471 Million Native Speakers
- 3. English — 370 Million Native Speakers
- 4. Hindi — 342 Million Native Speakers
- 5. Arabic — 315 Million Native Speakers
- 6. Portuguese — 232 Million Native Speakers
- 7. Bengali孟加拉语 — 229 Million Native Speakers
- 8. Russian — 154 Million Native Speakers
- 9. Japanese — 126 Million Native Speakers
- 10. Lahnda (Western Punjabi 西旁遮普语) — 118 Million Native Speakers

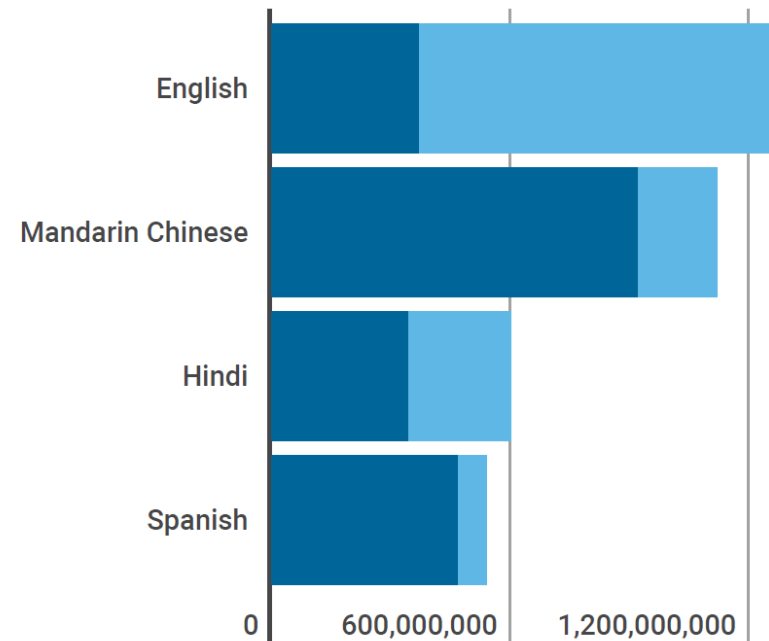
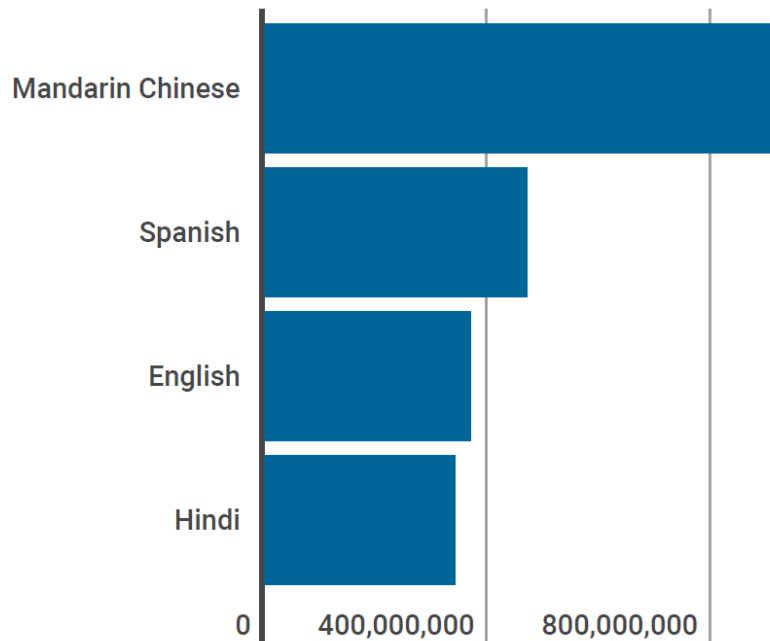
<https://www.babbel.com/en/magazine/the-10-most-spoken-languages-in-the-world>



What is the most spoken language?

Languages with the most native speakers

Languages with the most speakers



Native Speakers

Other Speakers

<https://www.ethnologue.com/guides/most-spoken-languages>

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1.3 Official language

An **official language** is a language given a special legal status in a particular country, state, or other jurisdiction.

Typically, a country's official language refers to the language used in **government (judiciary, legislature, administration)**.



1.3 Official language

- **Sovereign states:**

• Country	Region	Population¹
• Antigua and Barbuda	North America	85,000
• The Bahamas	North America	331,000
• Barbados	North America	294,000
• Belize	Central America	288,000
• Botswana	Africa	1,882,000
• Cameroon	Africa	18,549,000
• Canada	North America	33,531,000
• Dominica	North America	73,000
• El Salvador	Central America	N/A
• Fiji	Oceania	827,900
• The Gambia	Africa	1,709,000
• Ghana	Africa	23,478,000
• Grenada	North America	106,000



1.3 Official language

- Guyana, India, [Ireland](#), Jamaica, Kenya, Kiribati,
- Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Micronesia, Namibia, Nauru,
- [New Zealand](#), Nigeria, [Pakistan](#), Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, [Singapore](#),
- Solomon Islands, [South Africa](#),
[Sudan](#), Swaziland, Tanzania, Tonga,
- Trinidad and Tobago, Tuvalu, Uganda,
- [United Kingdom](#), Vanuatu, Zambia, Zimbabwe



Question: Is English the official language of the United States?

- Here is the text of a proposed amendment. This particular bill was introduced in the House of Representatives as H.J. Res. 16 (107th Congress (January 3, 2001 to January 3, 2003)):
-
- *The English language shall be the official language of the United States. As the official language, the English language shall be used for all public acts including every order, resolution, vote, or election, and for all records and judicial proceedings of the Government of the United States and the governments of the several States.*



Official Language

- English is an official language in these states:

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|
| – Alabama (1990) | Alaska (1998) |
| – Arizona (2006) | Arkansas (1987) |
| – California (1986) | Colorado (1988) |
| – Florida (1988) | Georgia (1986, 1996) |
| – Idaho (2007) | Illinois (1969) ^[23] |
| – Indiana (1984) | Iowa (2002) |
| – Kansas (2007) | Kentucky (1984) |
| – Massachusetts (1975) | Mississippi (1987) |
| – Missouri (1998) | Montana (1995) |
| – Nebraska (1920) | New Hampshire (1995) |
| – North Carolina (1987) | North Dakota (1987) |
| – South Carolina (1987) | South Dakota (1987) |
| – Tennessee (1984) | Utah (2000) |
| – Virginia (1981, 1996) | Wyoming (1996) |



Official Language

- English and Hawaiian:
 - Hawaii (1978)
- English and French:
 - Louisiana (1807)
- "English Plus" resolutions:
 - New Mexico (1989)
 - Oregon (1989)
 - Rhode Island (2007, pending)



Official English law in Nebraska

- **NEBRASKA STATE CONSTITUTION,
ARTICLE I, SECTION 27 (1920)**

Section 27 - English Language to be Official

The English language is hereby declared to be the official language of this State, and all official proceedings, records and publications shall be in such language, and the common school branches shall be taught in said language in public, private, denominational and parochial schools.

- Language Use in Nebraska
- 7.3 percent of this state's residents speak a language other than English. These are foreign languages most commonly spoken as the primary language in a home in Nebraska:
Spanish (57,118) German (7466) Vietnamese (4450) French (incl. Patois, Cajun) (2923)
Chinese (2134)



Arizona's Official English Law

- PROPOSITION 106 (2006)
AMENDMENT TO THE ARIZONA CONSTITUTION, ARTICLE XXVIII*
- **Article XXVIII. English as the official language**
- **1. Definitions Section**
 1. In this article, unless the context otherwise requires:
 - **"Government"** includes all laws, public proceedings, rules, publications, orders, actions, programs, policies, departments, boards, agencies, organizations and instrumentalities of this state or political subdivisions of this state, as appropriate under the circumstances to a particular official action.
 - **"Official action"** includes the performance of any function or action on behalf of this state or a political subdivision of this state or required by state law that appears to present the views, position or imprimatur of the state or political subdivision or that binds or commits the state or political subdivision, but does not include:
 - (a) The teaching of or the encouragement of learning languages other than English.
 - (b) Actions required under the federal individuals with disabilities education act or other federal laws.



Arizona's Official English Law

- **2. Official language of Arizona**
the official language of the state of Arizona is English.
- **3. Preserving and enhancing the role of the official language; right to use English**
 - a. Representatives of government in this state shall preserve, protect and enhance the role of English as the official language of the government of Arizona.
 - b. A person shall not be discriminated against or penalized in any way because the person uses or attempts to use English in public or private communication.
- **4. Official actions to be conducted in English**
Official actions shall be conducted in English.
-



English Plus Declaration in New Mexico

- **WHEREAS** the people of New Mexico promote the spirit of diversity-with harmony represented by the various cultures that make up the fabric of our state and American society; and WHEREAS the people of New Mexico acknowledge that "English Plus" best serves the national interest since it promotes the concept that **all members of our society have full access to opportunities to effectively learn English plus** develop proficiency in a second or multiple languages; and
- **WHEREAS** the people of New Mexico recognize that **the position of English in the United States needs no official legislation to support it**; and
- **WHEREAS** the people of New Mexico recognize that for survival in the twenty-first century our country needs both the preservation of the cultures and languages among us and the fostering of proficiency in **other languages** on the part of its citizens;



English Plus Declaration in New Mexico

- **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED ...** that the First Session of the Thirty-Ninth Legislature of the State of New Mexico hereby reaffirms its advocacy of the teaching of other languages in the United States and its belief that the position of English is not threatened. Proficiency on the part of our citizens in more than one language is to the economic and cultural benefit of our state and the nation, whether that proficiency derives from second language study by English speakers or from home language maintenance plus English acquisition by speakers of other languages.
- **Proficiency in English plus other languages should be encouraged throughout the State.**
- <http://www.ped.state.nm.us>



Official language in education

- According to U.S. English, the following states have existing official language laws on their books:
- Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, North Carolina, North Dakota, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Virginia, Wyoming.
-
- A small handful date back more than a few decades, such as Louisiana (1811) and Nebraska (1920), but most official language statutes (章程、法令) were passed since the 1970's.



English in the United States

- **The United States has no official language.**
 - **English is spoken by the overwhelming majority of Americans.**
 - **Spanish is the second-most spoken language in the US after English.**
 - **At least 350 languages are spoken in the US today.**
-
- Most countries have an **official language** that is specified as such in law. Many countries specify the official language(s) in their constitutions.
 - But in the US, **neither the constitution nor any federal law** specifically states that English is the official language of the country.
 - **Therefore, the country has no official language.**



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1.4 English Dialects and regional variants



1.4 English Dialects and regional variants

- English has 25 varieties, many of which are also divided in sub-varieties. Here you find a list of English dialects:
- **AAVE** (Ebonics--African American Vernacular English,
Black English)
- American English
- Australian English
- British English
- Canadian English
- Caribbean English
- Commonwealth English
- Indian English
- South African English ...



Shall we dance (1937)

- You say either
 - And I say either
 - You say neither
 - And I say neither
 - Either, either, neither, neither
 - Let's call the whole thing off
-
- You like potatoes
 - And I like potatoes
 - You like tomatoes
 - And I like tomatoes
 - Potatoes, potatoes, tomatoes, tomatoes
 - Let's call the whole thing off



- **But oh, if we call the whole thing off**
- **Then we must part**
- **And oh, if we ever part**
- **Then that might break my heart**

- **So it you like pajarnas and I like pajamas**
- **I'll wear pajamas and give up pajamas**
- **For we know we need each other**
- **So we'd better call the calling off, off**
- **Let's call the whole thing off**

- **So if you go for oysters**
- **And I go for oysters**
- **I'll order oysters and cancel the oysters**
- **For we know we need each other**
- **So we'd better call the calling off, off**
- **Let's call the whole thing off**



Regional Variants

- English English
Hawaiian English
Hiberno-English
Highland English
Hong Kong English
Indian English
International English
Jamaican English
Liberian English
- Malaysian English
Newfoundland English
- New Zealand English
Philippine English
Scottish English
Singaporean English
South African English
Standard English
Welsh English



Examples

Singapore English

This country weather very hot one-----In this country, the weather is very hot

The person there cannot trust-----The person there cannot be trusted

China English

- One belt and one road policy; Belt and Road Initiative 一带一路倡议
- Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area

From Chinese to English via Cantonese:

- Long time no see.
- I will give you some color to see see.
- Open the door see mountain
- People mountain people sea.

Routes of the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative



China English

- Hu (2004: 27) puts **China English** at one end of a continuum where **lowly Pidgin English** or **Chinglish** is at the other.
- **China English** is 'a language which is as good a communicative tool as standard English,' but one which has important Chinese characteristics.“
- Director Zhang Yimou responds to internet queries on Beijing 2022
- By Xu Fan | chinadaily.com.cn | Updated: 2022-02-24 15:58
- Director Zhang Yimou shared his feelings about Beijing Winter Olympics ceremonies on t
provided to China Daily]
- With Beijing Winter Olympics drawing a conclusion, **Zhang Yimou** – the chief director of the opening and closing ceremonies – seemingly got a short break, exemplified by his recent responses to inquiries that have been warmly discussed by enthusiastic audience on China's largest knowledge-sharing website **Zhihu**.



[Photo



Special English

Special English is a simplified version of the English language used by the US broadcasting service [Voice of America](#) in daily broadcasts. Special English was first used on October 19, 1959. The news is read slowly, using a limited vocabulary and simplified grammar.

The intended audience of Special English are persons who have studied English in school, but do not speak it in daily usage. It uses a vocabulary of 1500 words.



Exercises on Lecture 1

1. Fill in the blanks.

- 1) Wales has _____ and _____ as its official languages.
- 2) Canada has _____ and _____ as its official languages.
- 3) Belgium has _____, _____ and _____ as its official languages.
- 4) Switzerland has _____, _____ and _____ as its official languages.
- 5) The Republic of Singapore has _____, _____, _____ and _____ as its official languages.



2. Translate the following names into English.

- 荷兰 荷兰语 芬兰 芬兰语
- 葡萄牙 葡萄牙语 丹麦 丹麦语
- 希腊 希腊语 波兰 波兰语
- 捷克 捷克语 土耳其 土耳其语
- 挪威 挪威语 瑞典 瑞典语



3. Answer the following questions.

- 1) What is 'Lexicology'?
- 2) Which language family does English belong to? Name five related languages.
- 3) What does first language mean? Name five countries in which English is spoken as the first language.
- 4) What does official language mean? Name five countries where English is spoken as an official language.



New words from Lecture 1

Germanic branch Indo-European family of languages Scots Frisian Balto-Slavic Prussian Polish Bulgarian Slovenian	Persian Hindi Portuguese Romanian Armenian Albanian Celtic Breton Norwegian Icelandic	Danish Swedish Hellenic Czech Holland Dutch Luxembourg Singapore	proceedings denominational 宗教 parochial 教区 proficiency 熟练程度 overwhelming 压倒性的 Belt and Road Initiative Greater Bay Area
substantial intelligible (易懂的)	First language mother tongue native language primary language working language official language	Lingua franca trade language contact language aviation endangered	jurisdiction judiciary legislature administration



Lecture 2

English Vocabulary: Basic concepts and Vocabulary

