



EN

LARA'S

LANGUAGE JOURNEY ACROSS EUROPE

WELCOME TO A JOURNEY THROUGH EUROPE'S LANGUAGES!

The languages you will encounter over the following pages reflect the diversity of the cultures and traditions which exist side by side on our continent. Some of the around 225 languages which are native to Europe are spoken by millions and others, that are only spoken by a handful of people, are, sadly, close to dying out.

During this short journey, you will discover lots of similarities. European languages largely fall into three main categories: Slavic, Romance and Germanic, with the languages in each group having similar roots – however, over centuries they have developed in their own distinct directions. You will also find out about their differences: the variety of alphabets (such as Latin, Cyrillic, Greek, Armenian and Georgian), often using artistic scripts; how they deal with creating words for new inventions and their sometimes mysterious origins. All have a unique identity and their own story to tell!

We can only give you a brief glimpse of some of Europe's languages. There are many, many more we have not mentioned, not because they are any less important or less interesting but simply because we cannot cover them all on this short journey.

There are some examples of regional and minority languages that are spoken in part of a country or areas of several countries by a relatively small part of the population. There are the non-territorial languages which are spoken by groups

spread all over Europe but not identifying with a specific country of origin. There are also the languages of migration which do not originate from Europe but have been brought to the continent by speakers moving from other parts of the world.

On each language page there is a short introduction from Lara, some key words, phrases and special characters from the alphabet, as well as an estimated number of people around the world who use it as their first language.

We hope you will enjoy following our guide, Lara, on her trip through some of Europe's languages. It might prompt you to set off on a similar voyage of discovery with a lot of 'oh really!' and 'wow – I didn't know that!' moments, as you uncover some of the treasures hidden just beneath the surface of our everyday lives!

Here you can hear how the numbers and phrases are pronounced in the corresponding language.

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LANGUAGES LARA ENCOUNTERS ON HER JOURNEY



Language code
(ISO-639-1)

Page number

28

ROMANI ČHIB

30



ВЕ БЕЛАРУСКАЯ МОВА

👤👤👤 5 000 000

так

не

Як справы?

Добры
дзень!

Дзякуй!

Hi! My name is Lara! Come and join me on this fascinating journey across the beautiful languages of Europe... We will start this journey in "krasavik"... Wait. Where? "Krasavik" (April) is the most beautiful month in Belarus and that is why Belarusians have literally named this month "beautiful". And who doesn't love springtime?

- 1 адзін
- 2 два
- 3 тры
- 4 чатыры
- 5 пяць
- 6 шэсць
- 7 сем
- 8 восем
- 9 дзевяць
- 10 дзесяць

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Паслухайце гучанне гэтых слоў >>>>

Photo: Park in Minsk, Belarus

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ENGLISH EN

👤👤👤 400 000 000

English is the most spoken language in the world. There are almost 1.3 billion English speakers, but only around one third are native speakers. When we speak the same language, we understand each other and realise how many things we share. Then the world doesn't seem so big after all.

How are you?

Hello!

Thank you!

yes

no

- | | |
|----|-------|
| 1 | one |
| 2 | two |
| 3 | three |
| 4 | four |
| 5 | five |
| 6 | six |
| 7 | seven |
| 8 | eight |
| 9 | nine |
| 10 | ten |

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<<< Listen to the sound of these words

Photo: London Eye i Big Ben, Regne Unit

FY FRYSK

👤👤👤 500 000

Hoi!

Hoe giet it
mei dy?

Tank!

ja

nee

Frisian is probably the most similar living language to English. "De sinne is waarm en it ljocht fan de sinneskyn fielt noflik mei de sêfte wyn." Did you figure it out? See the English version: "The sun is warm and the light from the sun-shining feels good with the soft wind."

- 1 ien
- 2 twa
- 3 trije
- 4 fjouwer
- 5 fiif
- 6 seis
- 7 sân
- 8 acht
- 9 njoggen
- 10 tsien

êé

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ô

Harkje nei it lûd fan dizze wurden >>>

Photo: Leeuwarden, Netherlands

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SLOVENŠČINA SL

888 2500 000

Kako si?

Živjo!

Hvala!

Two people are very special in Slovene! Not only do you have a singular form and a plural form, but also a form for exactly two people! So if you want to say "me and you" you could just say "midva" (we two males or one male and one female), or "midve/medve" (we two females). Talking of numbers... next I want to show you a language with an interesting counting system...

da

ne

č

ž

š

<<< Prisluhnite zvoku teh besed

Photo: Triglav National Park, Slovenia

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FR FRANÇAIS

👤👤👤 76 800 000

oui

non

Did you know that French has a different way of counting between 70 and 99? So for the number 75 you literally say "60 plus 15". In addition to that, for the number 80 you say "4 times 20"! 96 therefore is "4 times 20 plus 16". French speakers have to be good mathematicians! French is also considered to be one of the most beautiful languages, together with... want to take a guess?

Ça va ?

Bonjour !

Merci !

- 1 un
- 2 deux
- 3 trois
- 4 quatre
- 5 cinq
- 6 six
- 7 sept
- 8 huit
- 9 neuf
- 10 dix

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Écoutez le son de ces mots >>>>

Photo: Dune of Pilat, France

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УКРАЇНСЬКА МОВА UK

👤👤👤 35 000 000

Як справи?

Привіт!

Дякую!

так

ні

Mirror, mirror on the wall – which is the most beautiful language of them all? There is no easy way to answer that question and everyone has their favourites. However, at a language beauty contest in 1934 in Paris, Ukrainian took third place right after French and Persian. I am not aware of any more recent language beauty contests!

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<<< Прослухайте звучання цих слів

Photo: Tunnel of love created with trees along the railway in Klevan, Ukraine

- 1 один
- 2 два
- 3 три
- 4 чотири
- 5 п'ять
- 6 шість
- 7 сім
- 8 вісім
- 9 дев'ять
- 10 десять

CA CATALÀ

👤👤👤 10 000 000

In Catalan, if you want to say that only a few friends came to your birthday party (which hopefully never happens to you!) you could just say "quatre gats" or "four cats" and everything would be clear. So before complaining about your lame party, don't forget to say "Gràcies!" (thank you) to the four cats who did show up!

Com estàs?

Hola!

Gràcies!

- 1 un
- 2 dos
- 3 tres
- 4 quatre
- 5 cinc
- 6 sis
- 7 set
- 8 vuit
- 9 nou
- 10 deu

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sí

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Escolta el so d'aquestes paraules >>>

Photo: Park Güell in Barcelona, Spain

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TÜRKÇE TR

75 700 000

Nasılsın?

Merhaba!

Teşekkür ederim!

Turkish is a language with no gender! There's a single word for "he", "she" and "it", or in fact just a single letter – "o". So it is possible to describe a person in Turkish without indicating whether it is a boy or a girl. Turn to the next page to see which other language shares this similarity with Turkish...

evet

hayır

- 1 bir
- 2 iki
- 3 üç
- 4 dört
- 5 beş
- 6 altı
- 7 yedi
- 8 sekiz
- 9 dokuz
- 10 on

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<<< Bu sözcüklerin sesini dinle

Photo: Cappadocia, Türkiye

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AS AZƏRBAYCAN DILI

888 23 000 000

Azerbaijani also uses "o" for he, she and it. But this is not the only thing Turkish and Azerbaijani have in common. Words like "with" or "for" don't come before the noun but after it: so in Azerbaijani "with my mother" would be "anam ilə" or literally "mother my with". Another special feature is that when Azerbaijani is written in Latin or Cyrillic scripts, it is written left-to-right. When written in the Arabic script, it is written right-to-left.

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ş

Necəsən?

Salam!

Təşəkkür edirəm!

bəli

xeyr

- 1 bir
- 2 iki
- 3 üç
- 4 dörd
- 5 beş
- 6 altı
- 7 yeddi
- 8 səkkiz
- 9 doqquz
- 10 on

Bu sözlərin səsini dinləyin >>>

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Photo: Les Torre Flama, Baku, Azerbaijan (Borka Kiss | Shutterstock.com)

Generally languages belong to language families and share many characteristics with others, but Basque is pretty much an only child... It is believed to be one of the oldest European languages and its origins remain a mystery. So, if you want to join an exclusive club and become an "eskalduna" (a Basque speaker) try this language!

EUSKARA EU

👤👤👤 750 000

bai

ez

Zer moduz?

Kaixo!

Eskerrik asko!

- 1 bat
- 2 bi
- 3 hiru
- 4 lau
- 5 bost
- 6 sei
- 7 zazpi
- 8 zortzi
- 9 bederatzi
- 10 hamar

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<<< Entzun hitz hauen soinua

Photo: Museum Guggenheim, Bilbao, Spain (Rudy Mareel | Shutterstock.com)

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é

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MT MALTI

👤👤👤 520 000

Kif int?

Bongu!

Grazzi!

Maltese is the smallest official EU language in terms of speakers. It sounds similar to the Phoenician language that was spoken in areas around the ancient Mediterranean 3000 years ago. Maltese is the only language in Europe that belongs to the Afro-Asiatic language family and also the only language from this family that uses the Latin alphabet. Turn to the next page and I'll show you a rather isolated language...

- 1 wieħed
- 2 tnejn
- 3 tlieta
- 4 erbgħa
- 5 ħamsa
- 6 sitta
- 7 sebgħa
- 8 tmienja
- 9 disgħa
- 10 għaxra

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Isma' l-ħoss ta' dawn il-kelmiet >>>

Photo: Typical street in Ir-Rabat, Malta

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Iceland does not have close neighbouring countries and the language the Vikings brought in the 9th and 10th centuries has not changed as much as you might imagine over the centuries. Icelandic avoids using foreign words and prefers to form new words from ancient Viking words. So the word for computer "tölva" is formed from the old words "tala" (number) and "völva" (prophetess).

ÍSLENSKA IS

👤👤👤 314 000

Hvernig
hefurðu
það?

Hæ!

Þakka
þér fyrir!

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edl.ecml.at/sounds



<<< Hlustaðu á þessi orð

Photo: Goðafoss Waterfall, Iceland

- | | |
|----|--------|
| 1 | einn |
| 2 | tveir |
| 3 | þrír |
| 4 | fjórir |
| 5 | fimm |
| 6 | sex |
| 7 | sjö |
| 8 | átta |
| 9 | níu |
| 10 | tíu |

já

nei

ET EESTI KEEL

👤👤👤 1 100 000

Estonian loves vowels! The role of vowels in Estonian is among the greatest in any European language and there are many words like "Jäääär" (the edge of the ice), "Töö-öö" (working night) or "Õueiaääre" (the edge of a fence surrounding a yard)!

Now let me show you a language that can make up a whole sentence containing only vowels...

õ

ä

ö

ü

Kuidas sul läheb?

Tere!

Aitäh!

jah

ei

- 1 üks
- 2 kaks
- 3 kolm
- 4 neli
- 5 viis
- 6 kuus
- 7 seitse
- 8 kaheksa
- 9 üheksa
- 10 kümme

Kuula nende sõnade kõla >>>

Photo: Kitesurfing in Viimsi, Estonia

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LIMBA ROMÂNĂ RO

👤👤👤 26 000 000

The Romanian language is also very fond of vowels. Romanian can even make up a meaningful sentence consisting only of vowels: "Oaia aia e a ei, eu i-o iau" means "That sheep is hers, I'm taking it".

There are also some languages that seem to try to completely avoid vowels...

Ce faci?

Bună ziua!

Mulțumesc!

- | | |
|----|-------|
| 1 | unu |
| 2 | doi |
| 3 | trei |
| 4 | patru |
| 5 | cinci |
| 6 | șase |
| 7 | șapte |
| 8 | opt |
| 9 | nouă |
| 10 | zece |

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<<< Ascultă cum sună aceste cuvinte

Photo: Castle of Corvin, Romania

da

nu

CS ČEŠTINA

👤👤👤 14 000 000

Dobrý
den!

Jak se
máš?

Děkuji!

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If you are not keen on vowels, Czech might be the language for you! Czech loves consonants. Words made up only of consonants like "krk" (neck), "prst" (finger) or "smrk" (pine tree) are very common. Try saying this Czech tongue twister "Chrt pln skvrn zdrhl z Brd", meaning "A greyhound full of spots escaped from the Brdy (mountains)". This love of consonants is also shared by a neighbour – can you guess which one?

- 1 jedna
- 2 dvě
- 3 tři
- 4 čtyři
- 5 pět
- 6 šest
- 7 sedm
- 8 osm
- 9 devět
- 10 deset

Poslechni si, jak znějí tato slova >>>

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SLOVENČINA SK

👤👤👤 5 200 000

Ahoj!

Ako sa máš?

Ďakujem!

áno

nie

Yes, Slovak likes consonants, too! Many Slovak words are formed entirely or mostly of consonants, such as the words "prst" (finger), "štvrt" (quarter) or "smrť" (death). Slovak is also considered to be the language that is easiest for the speakers of other Slavic languages to understand. Flip over to the next page to discover a rather economical language...

- 1 jeden
- 2 dva
- 3 tri
- 4 štyri
- 5 päť
- 6 šesť
- 7 sedem
- 8 osem
- 9 deväť
- 10 desať

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<<< Vypočujte si zvuk týchto slov

Photo: High Tatras, Slovakia



FI SUOMI

👤👤👤 5 800 000

kyllä

ei

Finnish is one of the few national languages in Europe that is not Indo-European. It belongs to a family together with Estonian and Hungarian. There are many things you can say in Finnish with just one word. So "istun" would be "I sit down", "istahtaisin" "I would sit down for a while", "istahdan" "I'll sit down for a while" and "istahtaisinkohan" "I wonder if I should sit down for a while".

Mitä kuuluu?

Hei!

Kiitos!

- 1 yksi
- 2 kaksi
- 3 kolme
- 4 neljä
- 5 viisi
- 6 kuusi
- 7 seitsemän
- 8 kahdeksan
- 9 yhdeksän
- 10 kymmenen

ö

ää

Kuuntele nämä sanat >>>

Photo: Sledding in Lapland, Finland

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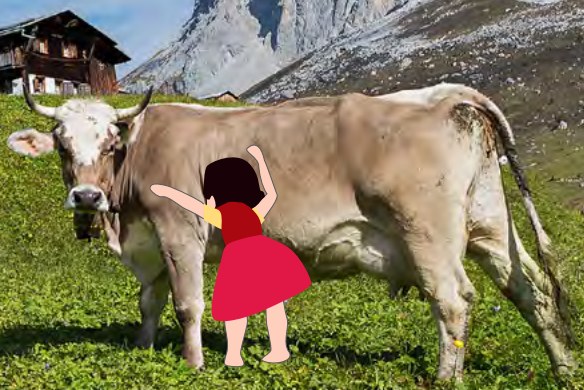
- 1 in
- 2 dus
- 3 trais
- 4 quatter
- 5 tschintg
- 6 sis
- 7 set
- 8 otg
- 9 nov
- 10 diesch

gea na

RUMANTSCH RM

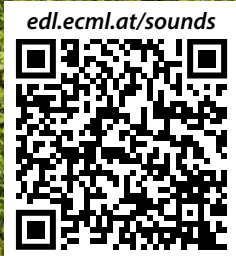
60 000

Romansh is the least known of Switzerland's four official languages. Its history begins before the birth of Christ: the Latin of the Romans, who conquered the area between the Rhaetian Alps and the Danube, mixed with the languages of the local people. Gradually Romansh developed from this mixture – and still continues to change today!



Co vai?
Chau!
Grazia!

è é



<<< Taidla co ch'ils plets tunan

Photo: Mountain view, Grisons, Switzerland

CY CYMRAEG

1 000 000

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Sut wyt ti?

Shwmae!

Diolch!

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The Welsh "Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwlllantysiliogogogoch" is the longest place name in Europe and second longest in the world. It approximately means "St. Mary's church in the hollow of the white hazel near the rapid whirlpool of St Tysilio of the red cave". Flip over to discover a language which can match Welsh place names in the length of its words...

- 1 un
- 2 dau
- 3 tri
- 4 pedwar
- 5 pump
- 6 chwech
- 7 saith
- 8 wyth
- 9 naw
- 10 deg

LLANFAIRPWLLGWYNGYLLGOGERYCHWYRNDROBWL LANTYSILIOGOGOGOCH

Llan-vire-poll-guin-gill-go-ger-u-queern-drob-ooll-llandus-ilio-gogo-goch

Listen to the sound of these words >>>

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Photo: Train Station Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwlllantysiliogogogoch, Wales, United Kingdom

German is one of the languages with the longest words. To describe things you simply combine different words so they become a new one. So the word for a qualifying match for the football world cup would be „Fußballweltmeisterschaftsqualifikationsspiel“. Some can be a bit confusing if you don't know which words were combined like “Urinsekten” but I will let you work that out!

ja

nein

DEUTSCH DE

👤👤👤 95 000 000



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ü ö ä ß

<<< Hör dir an, wie diese Wörter klingen

Photo: Island of Sylt, Germany

Wie geht's?

Hallo!

Danke!

- | | |
|----|--------|
| 1 | eins |
| 2 | zwei |
| 3 | drei |
| 4 | vier |
| 5 | fünf |
| 6 | sechs |
| 7 | sieben |
| 8 | acht |
| 9 | neun |
| 10 | zehn |

HR HRVATSKI

👤👤👤 5 600 000

Kako si?

Bok!

Hvala!

Together with Serbian and Bosnian, Croatian is one of the South Slavic languages that have many things in common. These languages are so similar that their speakers can easily understand each other. The shortest Croatian words consist of just one letter – “a” (but, and), “o” (about), “u” (in), “i” (and), “s” (with, from) or “k” (to).

- 1 jedan
- 2 dva
- 3 tri
- 4 četiri
- 5 pet
- 6 šest
- 7 sedam
- 8 osam
- 9 devet
- 10 deset

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ne

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Poslušaj kako zvuče ove riječi >>>

Photo: Plitvice National Park, Croatia

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BOSANSKI BS

👤👤👤 3 000 000

Bosnian is very similar to Croatian and Serbian but you can tell it has a strong connection to Turkish: for around 400 years Bosnia was part of the Ottoman Empire and therefore adopted many loanwords from Turkish such as "minduše" (earrings), "bujrum" (go ahead) or "avlija" (inner yard).

Kako si?

Ćao!

Hvala!

- | | |
|----|--------|
| 1 | jedan |
| 2 | dva |
| 3 | tri |
| 4 | četiri |
| 5 | pet |
| 6 | šest |
| 7 | sedam |
| 8 | osam |
| 9 | devet |
| 10 | deset |

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<<< Poslušaj kako zvuče ove riječi

Photo: Old Bridge in Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina

SR СРПСКИ

👤👤👤 12 000 000

Serbian is one of the few European languages that uses both Cyrillic and Latin alphabets. Speakers of Serbian can use the two scripts equally well. Among Slavic languages Serbian uses one of the shortest Cyrillic alphabets: it contains 30 letters. Talking of alphabets... Let me show you a language with a very unique alphabet...

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да

не

Како си?

Здраво!

Хвала!

- 1 један
- 2 два
- 3 три
- 4 четири
- 5 пет
- 6 шест
- 7 седам
- 8 осам
- 9 девет
- 10 десет

Послушај како звуче ове речи >>>

Photo: Meanders of the Uvac River, Serbia

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ՀԱՅԵՐԵՆ ՀԿ

👤 6 700 000

Ոնց էս:

Ողջույն:

Շնորհակալություն:

The Armenian language uses an alphabet that is quite unique compared to other European languages. It was created around 2400 years ago! As Armenians are very proud of their alphabet they even created a monument for their unique characters. Armenia celebrates its own special language day, the Holy Translators Day, in October.

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ա բ գ դ ե զ է ը թ ժ ի լ խ ծ կ հ ձ ճ մ

յ ն շ ո չ պ ջ ռ ս վ տ ը ր ց ու փ ք և օ ֆ

<<< Լսեք այս բառերը

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Photo: Monument to the Armenian alphabet (Arty Om | Shutterstock.com)

ROM ROMANI ČHIB

888 3 500 000

Sar san?

Lašo d'ës!

Najis tuke!

va

na

Until recently Romani has exclusively been passed down to the next generation orally so there is no generally accepted written standard. Individual Romani varieties are written with alphabets that are often based on the surrounding dominant language where a Roma group lives. Yet today it is possible to read political texts, newspapers and even Shakespeare in Romani!

- 1 jekh
- 2 duj
- 3 trin
- 4 štar
- 5 panž
- 6 šov
- 7 epta
- 8 oxto
- 9 iňa
- 10 deš

Ašun kadala svaturja >>>>

Photo: Romani dance

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LËTZEBUERGESH LB

600 000

Wéi geet
et?

Moien!

Merci!

Luxembourgish received its written form rather recently! Traditionally, Luxembourgish was rarely written, so there were no official rules of spelling and grammar until they were established by the government around 40 years ago, in 1984. And what about sign languages, can you write those down? Flip over to the next page to find out.

- 1 eent
- 2 zwee
- 3 dräi
- 4 véier
- 5 fënnef
- 6 sechs
- 7 siwen
- 8 aacht
- 9 néng
- 10 zéng

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<<< Lauschter wéi dës Wierder kléngen

Photo: Skatepark Péitruuss, Luxemburg

jo

neen

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ëé



INTERNATIONAL SIGN LANGUAGE

International Sign language is often used among sign language users from different countries, who don't have a common language – as the name suggests it is an international language. It can be written down in a number of ways. For example, certain symbols are used to describe the handshape and movement of the sign as well as the facial expressions. Since we've talked so much about alphabets...



- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10

ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΑ EL

👤👤👤 13 500 000

The word “alphabet” comes from the first two letters of the Greek alphabet: “alpha” and “beta”. Greeks currently write from left to right, just like other European languages but this wasn’t always the case. In the beginning, it could be written from right to left, and even in alternating directions on each line. On the next page, I’ll show you a funny habit of Greeks’ neighbours...

ναι

όχι

Πώς είσαι;

Γεια!

Ευχαριστώ!

α β γ δ ε ζ η θ ι κ λ μ ν

ξ ο π ρ σ τ υ φ χ ψ ω

- | | |
|----|---------|
| 1 | ένα |
| 2 | δύο |
| 3 | τρία |
| 4 | τέσσερα |
| 5 | πέντε |
| 6 | έξι |
| 7 | επτά |
| 8 | οχτώ |
| 9 | εννιά |
| 10 | δέκα |

<<< Άκουσε τον ήχο αυτών των λέξεων

Photo: Colorful street in Oia, Santorini, Greece

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SQ SHQIP

👤👤👤 7 500 000

Si jeni?

Përshëndetje!

Faleminderit!

po

jo

ç

ë

When Albanians are shaking their head from side to side it does not mean "no" but quite the opposite "right, I agree, I'm listening". Conversely, nodding one's head up and down does not mean "yes". It means "sorry, I'm afraid not" and seems to accompany bad news. So be particularly careful when shaking your head in Albania – you may have just agreed to something you didn't mean to!

- 1 një
- 2 dy
- 3 tre
- 4 katër
- 5 pesë
- 6 gjashtë
- 7 shtatë
- 8 tetë
- 9 nëntë
- 10 dhjetë

Dëgjoni tingullin e këtyre fjalëve >>>

Photo: Cafe on the beach, Ksamil, Albania

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Bulgarians also nod for “no” and shake their heads for “yes”. Another uncommon characteristic of Bulgarian is that it is one of the few Slavic languages with no cases. So it should be easier to learn than Czech which has 7 cases! Bulgarian shares this characteristic only with Macedonian.

БЪЛГАРСКИ BG

8 000 000

Как си?

Здравей!

Благодаря!

- | | |
|----|--------|
| 1 | едно |
| 2 | две |
| 3 | три |
| 4 | четири |
| 5 | пет |
| 6 | шест |
| 7 | седем |
| 8 | осем |
| 9 | девет |
| 10 | десет |

да

не

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<<< Чуйте как звучат тези думи

Photo: Rila Monastery, Bulgaria

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МК МАКЕДОНСКИ

👤👤👤 3 500 000

Како си?

Здраво!

Благодарам!

We tend to express our reactions with short phrases or words that have no particular meaning. Macedonian have one cool way of doing this – with "lele"! "Lele" can mean "Oh my god!" or "Oh wow!" and you can add as much "lele" as you want. So you could say "Lele lele lele! What a pretty dog!"

Flip over to the next page to discover a language with no "yes" or "no"...

да

не

- 1 еден
- 2 два
- 3 три
- 4 четири
- 5 пет
- 6 шест
- 7 седум
- 8 осум
- 9 девет
- 10 десет

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Слушнете како звучат овие зборови >>>

Photo: Church of Saint John in Kaneo, North Macedonia

GAEILGE GA

👤👤👤 170 000

Irish has no words for “yes” or “no”. To answer the question you use verb forms. So the answer to “Did they sell the house?” would be “(they) sold” or “(they) didn’t sell”. Or in Irish: “Ar dhíol siad an teach? Dhíol. Níor dhíol.” Even though Irish has no words for “yes” and “no” it has many unique words, just as the language on the next page...

Conas atá tú?
Dia dhuit!
Go raibh maith agat!

ú

ó

á

í

é

edl.ecml.at/sounds



←←← Éist le fuaim na bhfocal seo

Photo: Cliffs of Moher, Ireland

- 1 A hAon
- 2 A Dó
- 3 A Trí
- 4 A Ceathair
- 5 A Cúig
- 6 A Sé
- 7 A Seacht
- 8 A hOcht
- 9 A Naoi
- 10 A Deich

HU MAGYAR

👤👤👤 13 000 000

Szia!

Hogy
vagy?

Köszönöm!

Hungarian is one of the hardest languages to learn due to its 18 grammatical cases and numerous complex rules. But it is well worth the effort as it is very good at capturing special moments with just one word. "Aranyhíd" is literally "a golden bridge" but means a glistening reflection of the sun on the surface of water.

- 1 egy
- 2 kettő
- 3 három
- 4 négy
- 5 öt
- 6 hat
- 7 hét
- 8 nyolc
- 9 kilenc
- 10 tíz

igen

nem

óöö

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é

á

Hallgasd meg, hogy hangzanak ezek a szavak >>>

Photo: Llac Balaton, Hungary

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NEDERLANDS NL

👤👤👤 24 000 000

ja

nee

Dutch has a very special word: "gezellig". It's one of the most used Dutch words and depending on the context it can be translated as a feeling of cosiness, fun or nice atmosphere. It can also indicate a sense of belonging, time spent with loved ones or seeing a friend after a long time. For example: "we have spent a gezellige evening, playing games and having fun...".

Hoe gaat het ermee?

Hallo!

Dankjewel!

<<< Luister naar de klanken van deze woorden

Photo: Tulips and windmills in Zaanse Schans, Netherlands

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LT LIETUVIŲ KALBA

👤👤👤 3 000 000

taip

ne

Lithuanian is one of the oldest spoken languages in the world and even has words which are similar to ancient Sanskrit, such as "vyras" (man), "šuo" (dog), "avis" (sheep). It means that Lithuanians can recognize some words while listening to this Indian language.

I'm starting to get hungry, let me grab something to eat...

Kaip sekasi?

Labas!

Ačiū!

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Pasiklausykite šių žodžių >>>

Photo: Castle on the island of Trakaia, Lithuania

edl.ecml.at/sounds



In the land of pizza, pasta and cheese, it is no surprise when someone gets "abbioco". There's no exact equivalent in English, but *abbiocco* (pronounced "ab-byok-ko") refers to a feeling you get after eating a large quantity of food.

Turn over to the next page to discover another unique food-related word...

ITALIANO IT

888 67 000 000

Come stai?

Ciao!

Grazie!

sì

no

èé

à

ù

ì

òó

- 1 uno
- 2 due
- 3 tre
- 4 quattro
- 5 cinque
- 6 sei
- 7 sette
- 8 otto
- 9 nove
- 10 dieci

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<<< Ascolta il suono di queste parole

Photo: Riomaggiore, Italy

KA ქართული

3 700 000



როგორ ხარ?

გამარჯობა!

მადლობა!

დიახ

არა

The Georgian word "Shemomet-chama" means "to eat even though you're full because the food tastes so good". It roughly translates to "I accidentally ate the whole thing". Georgian also has one of the world's most impressive looking scripts. On the next page I'll show you a word that describes an amount that we all want to express from time to time...

- 1 ერთი
- 2 ორი
- 3 სამი
- 4 ოთხი
- 5 ხუთი
- 6 ექვსი
- 7 შვიდი
- 8 რვა
- 9 ცხრა
- 10 ათი

ა ბ გ დ ე ვ ზ თ ი კ ლ მ ნ ო პ ჟ

რ ს ტ უ ფ ქ ღ ყ შ ჩ ც ძ წ ჭ ხ ჯ ჰ

მოუსმინეთ სიტყვების უღერადობას >>>

edl.ecml.at/sounds



Swedish has invented a perfect word for expressing balance and saying “not too little, not too much... but just the right amount” or in Swedish “lagom”. So in Swedish you can nicely say that you have just eaten “lagom”! We talked a lot about unique words, so let’s also take a look at some unique expressions...

SVENSKA SV

👤👤👤 10 000 000

Hur mår du?

Hej!

Tack så mycket!

ää

ö

edl.ecml.at/sounds



<<< Lyssna på ljuden för dessa ord

Photo: Natural ice-skating in Upplands Väsby, Sweden (Per-Boge | Shutterstock.com)

- | | |
|----|------|
| 1 | ett |
| 2 | två |
| 3 | tre |
| 4 | fyra |
| 5 | fem |
| 6 | sex |
| 7 | sju |
| 8 | åtta |
| 9 | nio |
| 10 | tio |

ja

nej

PL POLSKI

👤👤👤 45 000 000

Jak się
masz?

Cześć!

Dziękuję!



tak

nie

Polish has many fun idioms. So for example, if you say in Polish "Nie mój cyrk, nie moje małpy" it would literally mean "Not my circus, not my monkeys", however, the phrase has nothing to do with monkeys but means "It's not my problem". There's another language that has an amusing way of saying something similar...

- 1 jeden
- 2 dwa
- 3 trzy
- 4 cztery
- 5 pięć
- 6 sześć
- 7 siedem
- 8 osiem
- 9 dziewięć
- 10 dziesięć

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ą

ł

ń

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ż

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ę

Posłuchaj brzmienia tych słów >>>

Photo: Crooked Forest near Gryfino, Poland

edl.ecml.at/sounds



"Der er ingen ko på isen" is Danish for "There is no cow on the ice" but its actual meaning is "There is no problem". So if you don't see any cows on the ice, everything should be fine. As you have probably noticed, many languages like to use animals in idioms!

Hvordan går det?

Hej!

Tak!

DANSK DA

👤👤👤 6 000 000

- | | |
|----|-------|
| 1 | en/et |
| 2 | to |
| 3 | tre |
| 4 | fire |
| 5 | fem |
| 6 | seks |
| 7 | syv |
| 8 | otte |
| 9 | ni |
| 10 | ti |

ja

nej

æ

ø

å

edl.ecml.at/sounds



<<< Lyt til lyden af disse ord

Photo: Tivoli ain Copenhagen, Denmark

PT PORTUGUÊS

👤👤👤 250 000 000

Como
estás?

Olá!

Obrigado/a!

You might not consider Portuguese as being a world language. However, with the whole of Brazil speaking it, there are over 220 million native speakers - it ranks as the 7th most spoken language worldwide! Speakers of Portuguese generally understand Spanish, Galician and Italian as these languages are very similar. Speaking of Galician...

- 1 um
- 2 dois
- 3 três
- 4 quatro
- 5 cinco
- 6 seis
- 7 sete
- 8 oito
- 9 nove
- 10 dez

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ú ü

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ó ô õ

é ê

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sim

não

Ouçá o som destas palavras >>>>

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Photo: Waves in Nazaré, Portugal (aleksey snezhinskij | Shutterstock.com)

There are between 60 and 100 words referring to different types of rain in Galician. If you have been to Galicia, you will know why! For example, "babuña" refers to a rain that sounds like a small baby, "torbón" to a rain with thunder and lighting and "ballón" to a heavy but short-lasting rain that lasts for several days...

GALEGO GL

👤👤👤 2 400 000

Como
estás?

Ola!

Grazas!

si

non

ó

íï

á

é

ñ

edl.ecml.at/sounds



<<< Escoita o son destas palabras

Photo: Beach of As Catedrais, Spain

- | | |
|----|-------|
| 1 | un |
| 2 | dous |
| 3 | tres |
| 4 | catro |
| 5 | cinco |
| 6 | seis |
| 7 | sete |
| 8 | oito |
| 9 | nove |
| 10 | dez |

LV LATVIEŠU VALODA

👤👤👤 1 750 000

Latvians love to sing! The "dainas" are Latvian folk songs that capture ancient Latvian wisdom. Created well over a thousand years ago, "dainas" were part of celebrations (like the yearly midsummer celebration in the main image), daily work, reflections on life preserved in oral form. There are more than 1.2 million "dainas" altogether!

jā

nē

Kā tev iet?

Sveiki!

Paldies!

- 1 viens
- 2 divi
- 3 trīs
- 4 četri
- 5 pieci
- 6 seši
- 7 septiņi
- 8 astoņi
- 9 deviņi
- 10 desmit

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Klausies, kā skan šie vārdi >>>

Photo: Summer solstice celebration in Latvia (Raimonds Kalva LV | Shutterstock.com)

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NORSK NO

👤👤👤 5 320 000

Norwegian has many words that have a 'giant' influence on other more widely spoken languages. Who hasn't heard of a "troll"? If trolls are a bit scary for you (me too!), then think instead of the beautiful Norwegian "fjords" and if those whet your appetite for travel don't forget the word "egg" which is also of Norwegian origin.

ja

nei

Hvordan
går det?

Hei!

Takk!

- | | |
|----|------|
| 1 | én |
| 2 | to |
| 3 | tre |
| 4 | fire |
| 5 | fem |
| 6 | seks |
| 7 | syv |
| 8 | åtte |
| 9 | ni |
| 10 | ti |

å

æ

ø

◀◀◀ Lytt til lyden av disse ordene

Photo: Reindeers in Tromsø, Norway

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SE SÁMEGIELLA

👤👤👤 30 000

North Sámi is one of the Sami languages and it is spoken in the north European countries. Therefore it is no wonder that it has many words to describe different types of snow and ice. For example, "čáhki" is a hard snowball that is thrown in serious snowball fights, "vahca" is a new or loose snow and "soavli" is a slushy snow.

jua

a-a

Mo dat
manná?

Bures!

Giitu!

- 1 okta
- 2 guokte
- 3 golbma
- 4 njeallje
- 5 vihtta
- 6 guhtta
- 7 čieža
- 8 gávccí
- 9 ovccí
- 10 logi

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Guldal dáid sániid >>>

Photo: Aurora Borealis in Norway

edl.ecml.at/sounds



Russian has one unique word that describes a layer of ice, which settles, then after the rise of temperatures melts and then again freezes again: "Гололедица" (gololedica), which roughly translates a naked sheet of ice. And did you know that there are twice as many native speakers of Russian as there are of English in Europe?

РУССКИЙ RU

👤👤👤 150 000 000

да

нет

Как дела?

Привет!

Спасибо!



- 1 один
- 2 два
- 3 три
- 4 четыре
- 5 пять
- 6 шесть
- 7 семь
- 8 восемь
- 9 девять
- 10 десять

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<<< Послушайте, как звучат эти слова

Photo: Winter bathing in Russia

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ES ESPAÑOL

👤👤👤 489 000 000

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¿Cómo
estás?

¡Hola!

¡Gracias!

There is an expression in Spanish "¡el mundo es un pañuelo!" (the world is a handkerchief) to indicate our surprise when we meet someone by chance in an unexpected place, thereby showing that the world is much smaller than we really thought. And isn't this what language learning and learning about other cultures is all about anyway? Spanish is truly a world language with 20 countries having Spanish as an official language – ¡Olé!

- 1 uno
- 2 dos
- 3 tres
- 4 cuatro
- 5 cinco
- 6 seis
- 7 siete
- 8 ocho
- 9 nueve
- 10 diez

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Escucha cómo se pronuncian estas palabras >>>

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Photo: Women dancing flamenco in Seville, Spain (leonov.o | Shutterstock.com)

LARA'S LANGUAGE JOURNEY ACROSS EUROPE

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*These are the languages
we encountered on our
short journey through
Europe, but there are
many more languages
both in Europe and across
the world!*

Basque

AFROASIAN
350 000 000

KARTVELIAN
5 000 000

INDO-EUROPEAN
3 200 000 000

URALIC
25 000 000

ALTAIC
210 000 000

SEMITIC
Maltese

Georgian

Albanian
Greek

BALTIC
Latvian
Lithuanian

WEST SLAVIC
Czech
Polish
Slovak

EAST SLAVIC
Belarusian
Russian
Ukrainian

SOUTH SLAVIC
Bosnian
Bulgarian
Croatian
Macedonian
Serbian
Slovene

WEST GERMANIC
Dutch
English
Frisian
German
Luxembourgish

NORTH GERMANIC
Danish
Icelandic
Norwegian
Swedish

EASTERN ROMANCE
Italian
Romanian

WESTERN ROMANCE
Catalan
French
Galician
Portuguese
Romansh
Spanish

CELTIC
Irish
Welsh

Armenian
Romani

FINNIC
Estonian
Finnish
Northern Sami
UGRIC
Hungarian

TURKIC
Azerbaijani
Turkish

edl.ecml.at/languagejourney

BE EN FY SL FR UK

CA TR AS EU MT IS

ET RO CS SK FI RM

CY DE HR BS SR HY

ROM LB  EL SQ BG

MK GA HU NL LT IT

KA SV PL DA PT GL

LV NO SE RU ES



A language can open the door into a different world. A world where you can discover treasures you would never have known existed about countries and cultures without having used the language as a key to enter it. And one door can take you into a room with lots of other doors leading off it!

For some, foreign languages are a passion and for others a necessity but wherever you go and whatever you do, you cannot avoid encountering them. We hope that this journey has given you an insight into just a few of the many languages around us and encourages you to delve deeper.

For more information on the European Centre for Modern Languages of the Council of Europe and the European Day of languages see www.ecml.at.

For any adaptations or translations please contact us at information@ecml.at.

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