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List of territorial entities where English is an official language

The following is a list of territories where English is an official language—that is, a language used in citizen interactions with government officials. As of 2019, there were 55 sovereign states and 27 non-sovereign entities where English was an official language. Many country subdivisions have declared English an official language at the local or regional level.

Most states where English is an official language are former territories of the British Empire. Exceptions include Rwanda, which was formerly a Belgian territory; Cameroon, where only part of national territory was under British mandate; and Liberia, the Philippines, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Marshall Islands, and Palau, which were American territories. English is the sole official language of the Commonwealth of Nations and of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). English is one of the official languages of the United Nations, the European Union, NAFTA, the African Union, the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, the Caribbean Community, the Union of South American Nations, and many other international organisations. Although English is *de jure* not an official language at the national level in the United States, most states and territories within the United States have English as an official language, and only Puerto Rico uses a language other than English as a primary working language.

The United Kingdom, the United States, Australia, and New Zealand, where the overwhelming majority of native English speakers reside, do not have English as an official language *de jure*, but English is considered their *de facto* official language because it dominates in these countries.

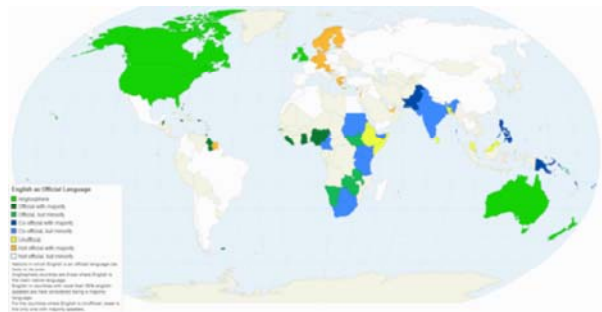
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Sovereign states

Countries where English is a *de facto* official language

Nr	Country	Alpha-3 code	Region	Population	Primary language?
1	 Australia	AUS	Oceania	25,019,600	Yes
2	 New Zealand ^[L]	NZL	Oceania	4,893,830	Yes
3	 United Kingdom	GBR	Europe	66,040,229	Yes
4	 United States	USA	North America/Oceania	328,239,523	Yes



Nations in which English is an official language (de facto or de jure). Anglosphere countries are those where English is the main native language.

- Anglosphere
- Official as majority language
- Official as minority language
- Co-official as majority language
- Co-official as minority language
- Unofficial (but widely spoken as a second language)
- Not official as majority language
- Not official as minority language



All areas of the world that were ever part of the British Empire. The names of current British Overseas Territories are underlined in red.

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Countries where English is a *de jure* and *de facto* official language

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Nr	Country	Alpha-3 code	Region	Population ¹	Primary language?
1	 Antigua and Barbuda ^[2]	ATG	Caribbean	85,000	Yes
2	 Bahamas ^[2]	BHS	Caribbean	331,000	Yes
3	 Barbados ^[3]	BRB	Caribbean	294,000	Yes
4	 Belize ^[4]	BLZ	Central America	288,000	Yes
5	 Botswana ^[4]	BWA	Africa	1,882,000	No
6	 Burundi ^[5]	BDI	Africa	10,114,505	No
7	 Cameroon ^[2]	CMR	Africa	22,534,532	No
8	 Canada ^[2]	CAN	North America	35,985,751	Yes (except <u>Quebec</u> , northern <u>New Brunswick</u> and <u>Nunavut</u>)
10	 Dominica ^[2]	DMA	Caribbean	73,000	Yes
11	 Eswatini ^[2]	SWZ	Africa	1,141,000	No
12	 Fiji ^[2]	FJI	Oceania	828,000	Yes (used as lingua franca, mostly and widely spoken, educational, commerce, and government)
13	 Gambia ^[2]	GMB	Africa	1,709,000	No
14	 Ghana ^[2]	GHA	Africa	27,000,000	Yes (used as lingua franca)
15	 Grenada ^[2]	GRD	Caribbean	111,000	Yes (except for small French Creole population)
16	 Guyana ^[6]	GUY	South America	738,000	Yes
17	 India ^{[4][7]}	IND	Asia	1,247,540,000	No (but official and educational)
18	 Ireland ^{[8][9]}	IRL	Europe	4,900,000	Yes (<u>Irish</u> is co-official)
19	 Jamaica ^[10]	JAM	Caribbean	2,714,000	Yes
20	 Kenya ^[2]	KEN	Africa	45,010,056	Yes (in business and education)
21	 Kiribati ^[2]	KIR	Oceania	95,000	No
22	 Lesotho ^[2]	LSO	Africa	2,008,000	No
23	 Liberia ^[2]	LBR	Africa	3,750,000	Yes
24	 Malawi ^[11]	MWI	Africa	16,407,000	No
25	 Malta ^[2]	MLT	Europe	430,000	No (but official and in business / education)
26	 Marshall Islands ^[2]	MHL	Oceania	59,000	No
27	 Mauritius ^[2]	MUS	Africa / Indian Ocean	1,262,000	No
28	 Micronesia ^[2]	FSM	Oceania	110,000	No
29	 Namibia ^[2]	NAM	Africa	2,074,000	No (used as lingua franca)
30	 Nauru ^[12]	NRU	Oceania	10,000	No (but widely spoken)
31	 Nigeria ^{[2][13]}	NGA	Africa	182,202,000	Yes (used as lingua franca)
33	 Pakistan ^[2]	PAK	Asia	212,742,631	No (but official and educational)
34	 Palau ^[4]	PLW	Oceania	20,000	No
35	 Papua New Guinea ^{[14][15]}	PNG	Oceania	7,059,653	Yes
36	 Philippines ^{[2][16][17]}	PHL	Asia	102,885,100	Yes (co-official with <u>Filipino</u>)
37	 Rwanda ^[2]	RWA	Africa	11,262,564	No (but official and educational)
38	 Saint Kitts and Nevis ^[17]	KNA	Caribbean	50,000	Yes
39	 Saint Lucia ^[2]	LCA	Caribbean	165,000	Yes
40	 Saint Vincent and the Grenadines ^[18]	VCT	Caribbean	120,000	Yes
41	 Samoa ^[19]	WSM	Oceania	188,000	No
42	 Seychelles ^[2]	SYC	Africa / Indian Ocean	87,000	No
43	 Sierra Leone ^[2]	SLE	Africa	6,190,280	Yes
44	 Singapore ^[20]	SGP	Asia	5,469,700 ^[21]	Yes (used as lingua franca, mostly and widely spoken, and educational)
45	 Solomon Islands ^[2]	SLB	Oceania	507,000	No
46	 South Africa ^[22]	ZAF	Africa	54,956,900	Yes (and official, educational and lingua franca in formal economy)

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47	 South Sudan ^[23]	SSD	Africa	12,340,000	No
48	 Sudan ^[2]	SDN	Africa	40,235,000	No
49	 Tanzania ^[2]	TZA	Africa	51,820,000	No
50	 Tonga ^[24]	TON	Oceania	100,000	No
51	 Trinidad and Tobago ^[2]	TTO	Caribbean	1,333,000	Yes
52	 Tuvalu ^[4]	TUV	Oceania	11,000	No
53	 Uganda ^[2]	UGA	Africa	37,873,253	No (but official and educational) ^[25]
54	 Vanuatu ^[26]	VUT	Oceania	226,000	No
55	 Zambia ^[2]	ZMB	Africa	16,212,000	No
56	 Zimbabwe ^[2]	ZWE	Africa	13,061,239	No (used as <i>lingua franca</i>)

Countries where English is a *de facto* official, but not primary language





Nr	Country	Region	Population ¹
1	 Bahrain ^{[27][28]}	Asia / Middle East	1,378,000
2	 Bangladesh ^[29]	Asia	150,039,000
3	 Brunei ^[30]	Asia	415,717
4	 Cambodia ^[31]	Asia	15,288,489
5	 Cyprus ^[32]	Europe, Asia / Middle East	1,141,166
6	 Eritrea ^[2]	Africa	6,234,000
7	 Ethiopia ^[2]	Africa	85,000,000
8	 Israel ^{[33][34][35]}	Asia / Middle East	8,051,200
9	 Jordan ^[36]	Asia / Middle East	9,882,401
10	 Kuwait ^[37]	Asia / Middle East	4,348,395
11	 Malaysia ^[38]	Asia	30,018,242
12	 Maldives ^[39]	Asia	427,756
13	 Myanmar ^[40]	Asia	51,486,253
14	 Oman ^[41]	Asia / Middle East	4,424,762
15	 Qatar ^[42]	Asia / Middle East	2,675,522
16	 Sri Lanka ^{[43][44]}	Asia	20,277,597
17	 United Arab Emirates ^[45]	Asia / Middle East	5,779,760

Non-sovereign entities




Non-sovereign entities where English is a *de jure* official language

Entity	Region	Population ¹	Primary language?
 Akrotiri and Dhekelia	Europe	15,700	No
 American Samoa ¹¹	Oceania	67,700	Yes (along with <u>Samoan</u>)
 Anguilla ^[2]	Caribbean	13,101	Yes
 Bermuda ^{9[2]}	North America	65,000	Yes
 British Virgin Islands ^[2]	Caribbean	23,000	Yes
 Cayman Islands ^[4]	Caribbean	47,000	Yes
 Cook Islands ^{[2][14]}	Oceania	20,000	Yes
 Curaçao ^[46]	Caribbean	150,563	No
 Falkland Islands	South Atlantic	3,000	Yes
 Gibraltar ^[2]	Europe	33,000	Yes
 Guam ⁴	Oceania	173,000	Yes
 Hong Kong ^{2[2]}	Asia	7,097,600	No (but <i>de facto</i> co-official with Cantonese)
 Isle of Man ⁸	Europe	80,058	Yes
 Jersey ^{6[2]}	Europe	89,300	Yes
 Niue ^{[2][14]}	Oceania	1,600	No
 Norfolk Island ^[2]	Australia	1,828	Yes
 Northern Mariana Islands ⁷	Oceania	53,883	No
 Pitcairn Islands ^{13[2]}	Oceania	50	Yes
 Puerto Rico ³	Caribbean	3,991,000	No (co-official with <u>Spanish</u> as the primary language)
 Rotuma	Oceania		No
 Sint Maarten ^[47]	Caribbean	40,900	Yes
 Turks and Caicos Islands ^[2]	Caribbean	26,000	Yes
 U.S. Virgin Islands ⁵	Caribbean	111,000	Yes

Non-sovereign entities where English is a *de facto* official language

Entity	Region	Population ¹
 British Indian Ocean Territory	Indian Ocean	3,000
 Guernsey ¹⁰	Europe	61,811
 Montserrat ¹²	Caribbean	5,900
 Saint Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha ¹⁴	South Atlantic	5,660



































































Non-sovereign entities where English is a *de facto* official, but not primary, language

Entity	Region	Population ¹
 Christmas Island ¹² ²	Australia	1,508
 Cocos (Keeling) Islands ¹⁶ ²	Australia	596
 Tokelau ⁴⁸	Oceania	1,400

Country subdivisions

In these country subdivisions, English has *de jure* official status, but English is not official in their respective countries at the national level.

Country subdivisions where English is a *de jure* official language

Subdivision	Country	Region	Population
 Alabama ^[49]	 United States	North America	4,833,722
 Alaska ^[50]	 United States	North America	735,132
 Arizona ^[51]	 United States	North America	6,626,624
 Arkansas ^[49]	 United States	North America	2,959,373
 California ^[49]	 United States	North America	38,332,521
 Colorado ^[49]	 United States	North America	5,268,367
 Florida ^[49]	 United States	North America	21,299,325
 Georgia ^[49]	 United States	North America	10,519,475
 Hawaii ^[49]	 United States	Oceania	1,404,054
 Idaho ^[49]	 United States	North America	1,612,136
 Illinois ^[49]	 United States	North America	12,882,135
 Indiana ^[49]	 United States	North America	6,570,902
 Iowa ^[49]	 United States	North America	3,090,416
 Kansas ^[49]	 United States	North America	2,893,957
 Kentucky ^[49]	 United States	North America	4,395,295
 Massachusetts ^[52]	 United States	North America	6,794,422
Mississippi ^[49]	 United States	North America	2,991,207
 Missouri ^[49]	 United States	North America	6,083,672
 Montana ^[49]	 United States	North America	1,015,165
 Nebraska ^[49]	 United States	North America	1,868,516
 New Hampshire ^[49]	 United States	North America	1,323,459
 North Carolina ^[49]	 United States	North America	9,848,060
 North Dakota ^[49]	 United States	North America	723,393
 Northern Ireland ^[53]	 United Kingdom	Europe	1,876,695
 Oklahoma ^[54]	 United States	North America	3,850,568
 North Caribbean Coast Autonomous Region ^[55]	 Nicaragua	Central America	480,874
 South Caribbean Coast Autonomous Region ^[56]	 Nicaragua	Central America	385,102
 Saba ^[57]	 Netherlands	Caribbean	1,991
 San Andrés y Providencia ^[58]	 Colombia	South America	75,167
 Sarawak ^{[59][60][61]}	 Malaysia	Asia	2,471,140
 Scotland ^[62]	 United Kingdom	Europe	5,424,800
 Sint Eustatius ^[57]	 Netherlands	Caribbean	3,897
 South Carolina ^[49]	 United States	North America	4,774,839
 South Dakota ^[49]	 United States	North America	844,877
 Tennessee ^[49]	 United States	North America	6,495,978
 Utah ^[49]	 United States	North America	2,900,872
 Virginia ^[49]	 United States	North America	8,260,405
 Wales ^[63]	 United Kingdom	Europe	3,125,000
 West Virginia ^[64]	 United States	North America	1,844,128
 Wyoming ^[49]	 United States	North America	582,658

See also

- Anglo-America
- Commonwealth of Nations
- British Overseas Territories
- English-speaking world

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- [List of countries by English-speaking population](#)
- [British Empire](#)

Footnotes

- [^]1** The population figures are based on the sources in [List of countries by population](#), with information as of 23 January 2009 (UN estimates, et al.), and refer to the population of the country and not necessarily to the number of inhabitants that speak English in the country in question.
- [^]2** [Hong Kong](#) is a former [British Crown colony](#) (1843-1981) and [British Dependent Territory](#) (1981-1997); it is currently a [Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China](#) (1997- present)
- [^]3** [Puerto Rico](#) is, historically and culturally, connected to the [Spanish-speaking Caribbean](#); Spanish is also an official language on the island. Puerto Rico is an [unincorporated United States territory](#) referred to as a ["Commonwealth"](#)
- [^]4** [Guam](#) is an organized [unincorporated territory of the United States](#)
- [^]5** [The US Virgin Islands](#) is an [insular area of the United States](#)
- [^]6** [Jersey](#) is a [British Crown dependency](#)
- [^]7** [The Northern Mariana Islands](#) is a [commonwealth in political union](#) with the United States
- [^]8** [Isle of Man](#) is a [British Crown dependency](#)
- [^]9** [Bermuda](#) is a [British Overseas Territory](#)
- [^]10** [Guernsey](#) is a [British Crown dependency](#)
- [^]11** [American Samoa](#) is an [unincorporated U.S. territory](#)
- [^]12** [Christmas Island](#) is an [external territory of Australia](#)
- [^]13** [Pitcairn Islands](#) is a [British Overseas Territory](#)
- [^]14** [The Cook Islands and Niue](#) are [associated states of New Zealand](#) that lack general recognition.
- [^]16** [Cocos \(Keeling\) Islands](#) is an [external territory of Australia](#)

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