

Languages of the World



There are about 6700 languages spoken in the world today in some 228 countries.

The thirteen most common languages in the world, spoken by over 100 million people each, are listed below.

1. Mandarin/Chinese (975 million)
2. English (478 million)
3. Hindustani (437 million)
4. Spanish (392 million)
5. Russian (284 million)
6. Arabic (225 million)
7. Bengali (200 million)
8. Portuguese (184 million)
9. Malay-Indonesian (159 million)
10. Japanese (126 million)
11. French (125 million)
12. German (123 million)
13. Urdu (103 million)

According to the 1990 census, the most common languages spoken at home in the United States are:

1. English (229 million)
2. Spanish (17.3 million)
3. French (1.7 million)
4. German (1.5 million)
5. Italian (1.3 million)
6. Chinese/Mandarin (1.2 million)
7. Tagalog (0.8 million)
8. Polish (0.7 million)
9. Korean (0.6 million)
10. Vietnamese (0.5 million)