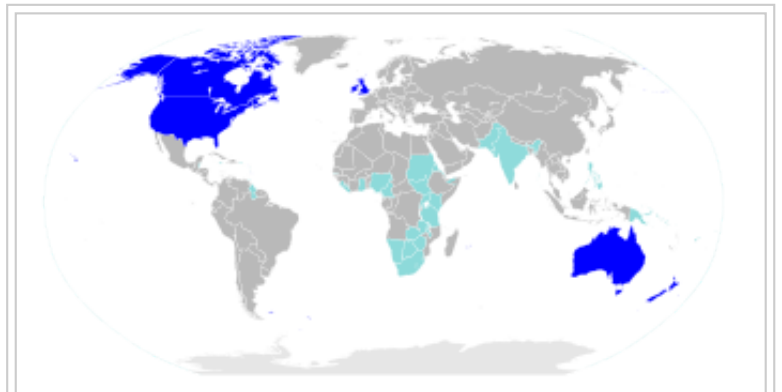


List of territorial entities where English is an official language

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The following is a list of territories where English is an official language, that is, a language used in citizen interactions with government officials. In 2015, there were 67 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.

The majority of countries where English is an official language are former territories of the British Empire. Notable exceptions include Rwanda, which was formerly a Belgian colony, and Eritrea, which was an Italian colony where the British Empire maintained control only in World War II and shortly after (1941–1952). English is the sole official language of the Commonwealth of Nations. English is one of the official languages of the United Nations, the European Union and the International Olympic Committee. Although English is not an official language at the national level in the United States, many states and territories within the United States have English as an official language.



Map of nations in which English is an official language or majority language (dark blue) or an official language but minority language (light blue, including countries where English-based creoles are the dominant language)

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Sovereign states

Countries where English is a de jure official language








Country	Region	Population ¹	Primary language?
 Antigua and Barbuda ^[1]	Caribbean	85,000	Yes
 Bahamas ^[1]	Caribbean	331,000	Yes
 Barbados ^[2]	Caribbean	294,000	Yes
 Belize ^[3]	Central America / Caribbean	288,000	Yes
 Botswana ^[3]	Africa	1,882,000	No
 Burundi ^[4]	Africa	10,395,000	No
 Cameroon ^[1]	Africa	18,549,000	No
 Canada ^[1]	North America	33,531,000	Yes (ex. Quebec)
 Cook Islands ¹⁴ ^[1]	Oceania	20,000	Yes
 Dominica ^[1]	Caribbean	73,000	Yes
 Federated States of Micronesia ^[1]	Oceania	111,000	No
 Fiji ^[1]	Oceania	828,000	No
 Gambia ^[1]	Africa	1,709,000	No
 Ghana ^[1]	Africa	23,478,000	Yes
 Grenada ^[1]	Caribbean	106,000	Yes
 Guyana ^[5]	South America / Caribbean	738,000	Yes
 India ^[3] ^[6]	Asia	1,247,540,000	No (but official and educational)
 Ireland ^[7]	Europe	4,581,000	No (but predominant)
 Jamaica ^[8]	Caribbean	2,714,000	Yes
 Kenya ^[1]	Africa	37,538,000	Yes
 Kiribati ^[1]	Oceania	95,000	No
 Lesotho ^[1]	Africa	2,008,000	Yes
 Liberia ^[1]	Africa	3,750,000	No
 Malawi ^[9]	Africa	13,925,000	No
 Malta ^[1]	Europe	430,000	No
 Marshall Islands ^[1]	Oceania	59,000	No
 Namibia ^[1]	Africa	2,074,000	Yes
 Nauru ^[10]	Oceania	10,000	No
 Nigeria ^[1] ^[11]	Africa	218,093,000	Yes
 Niue ¹⁴ ^[1]	Oceania	1,600	No

 Pakistan ^[1]	Asia	165,449,000	No (but Official and Educational)
 Palau ^[3]	Oceania	20,000	No
 Papua New Guinea ^{[12][13]}	Oceania	6,331,000	No
 Philippines ^{[1][14]}	Asia	100,617,000	No
 Rwanda ^[1]	Africa	9,725,000	Yes
 Saint Kitts and Nevis ^[15]	Caribbean	50,000	Yes
 Saint Lucia ^[1]	Caribbean	165,000	No
 Saint Vincent and the Grenadines ^[16]	Caribbean	120,000	Yes
 Samoa ^[17]	Oceania	188,000	No
 Seychelles ^[1]	Africa / Indian Ocean	87,000	No
 Sierra Leone ^[1]	Africa	5,866,000	No
 Singapore ^[18]	Asia	5,469,700 ^[19]	Yes
 Solomon Islands ^[1]	Oceania	507,000	No
 <i>Somaliland</i> ¹⁵	Africa	3,500,000	No
 South Africa ^[20]	Africa	52,980,000	Yes
 South Sudan ^[21]	Africa	8,260,000	No
 Sudan ^[1]	Africa	31,894,000	No
 Swaziland ^[1]	Africa	1,141,000	
 Tanzania ^[1]	Africa	40,454,000	No
 Tonga ^[22]	Oceania	100,000	No
 Trinidad and Tobago ^[1]	Caribbean	1,333,000	Yes
 Tuvalu ^[3]	Oceania	11,000	No
 Uganda ^[1]	Africa	30,884,000	Yes
 Vanuatu ^[23]	Oceania	226,000	No
 Zambia ^[1]	Africa	11,922,000	No
 Zimbabwe ^[1]	Africa	13,349,000	Yes

Countries where English is a de facto official language

Country	Region	Population	Primary language?
 Australia	Oceania	23,520,000	Yes
 New Zealand ^[24]	Oceania	4,294,000	Yes
 United Kingdom	Europe	63,705,000	Yes
 United States	North America	318,224,000	Yes

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





Country	Region	Population ¹
 Bangladesh ^[25]	Asia	150,039,000
 Brunei ^{[26][27]}	Asia	415,717
 Eritrea ^[1]	Africa	6,234,000
 Ethiopia ^[1]	Africa	85,000,000
 Israel ^{[28][29][30]}	Asia / Middle East	8,051,200
 Malaysia ^[31]	Asia	30,018,242
 Sri Lanka ^{[32][33]}	Asia	20,277,597

Non-sovereign entities



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

Entity	Region	Population ¹
 Akrotiri and Dhekelia	Europe	15,700
 American Samoa ¹¹	Oceania	67,700
 Anguilla ^[1]	Caribbean	13,000
 Bermuda ^{9[1]}	North America	65,000
 British Virgin Islands ^[1]	Caribbean	23,000
 Cayman Islands ^[3]	Caribbean	47,000
 Christmas Island ^{12[1]}	Australia	1,508
 Curaçao ^[34]	Caribbean	150,563
 Falkland Islands	South Atlantic	3,000
 Gibraltar ^[1]	Europe	29,257
 Guam ⁴	Oceania	173,000
 Hong Kong ^{2[1]}	Asia	7,097,600
 Isle of Man ⁸	Europe	80,058
 Jersey ^{6[1]}	Europe	89,300
 Norfolk Island ^[1]	Australia	1,828
 Northern Mariana Islands ⁷	Oceania	53,883
 Pitcairn Islands ^{13[1]}	Oceania	50
 Puerto Rico ³	Caribbean	3,991,000
 Sint Maarten ^[35]	Caribbean	40,900
 Turks and Caicos Islands ^[1]	Caribbean	26,000
 U.S. Virgin Islands ⁵	Caribbean	111,000

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 ^[1]	Caribbean	5,900
 Saint Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha ^[3]	South Atlantic	5,660

































































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





Entity	Region	Population ¹
 Cocos (Keeling) Islands ^[1]	Australia	596
 Tokelau ^[36]	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 the de jure official language

Subdivision	Country	Region	Population
 Alabama ^[37]	 United States	North America	4,833,722
 Alaska ^[38]	 United States	North America	735,132
 Amsterdam ^[39]	 Netherlands	Europe	826,659
 Arizona ^[40]	 United States	North America	6,626,624
 Arkansas ^[37]	 United States	North America	2,959,373
 California ^[37]	 United States	North America	38,332,521
 Colorado ^[37]	 United States	North America	5,268,367
 Florida ^[37]	 United States	North America	19,552,860
 Georgia ^[37]	 United States	North America	9,992,167
 Hawaii ^[37]	 United States	Oceania	1,404,054
 Idaho ^[37]	 United States	North America	1,612,136
 Illinois ^[37]	 United States	North America	12,882,135
 Indiana ^[37]	 United States	North America	6,570,902
 Iowa ^[37]	 United States	North America	3,090,416
 Kansas ^[37]	 United States	North America	2,893,957
 Kentucky ^[37]	 United States	North America	4,395,295
 Mississippi ^[37]	 United States	North America	2,991,207
 Montana ^[37]	 United States	North America	1,015,165
 Nebraska ^[37]	 United States	North America	1,868,516
 New Hampshire ^[37]	 United States	North America	1,323,459
 North Carolina ^[37]	 United States	North America	9,848,060
 North Dakota ^[37]	 United States	North America	723,393
 Oklahoma ^[41]	 United States	North America	3,850,568
 Saba ^[42]	 Netherlands	Caribbean	1,991
 San Andrés y Providencia ^[43]	 Colombia	Caribbean	75,167
 Scotland ^[44]	 United Kingdom	Europe	5,313,600
 Sint Eustatius ^[42]	 Netherlands	Caribbean	3,897
 South Carolina ^[37]	 United States	North America	4,774,839
 South Dakota ^[37]	 United States	North America	844,877
 Tennessee ^[37]	 United States	North America	6,495,978
 Utah ^[37]	 United States	North America	2,900,872
 Virginia ^[37]	 United States	North America	8,260,405

 Wales ^[45]	 United Kingdom	Europe	3,063,456
 Wyoming ^[37]	 United States	North America	582,658

See also

- Anglo-America
- Commonwealth of Nations
 - English in the Commonwealth of Nations
- British Overseas Territories
- English-speaking world
- 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 (http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=List_of_countries_by_population&oldid=266029902) (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.

[^]**15** Somaliland is a *de facto* state, recognized internationally as an autonomous region of Somalia.

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