

## The English Language: Did You Know?

\*\*English is the most widespread language in the world and is more widely spoken and written than any other language. Over 400 million people use the English vocabulary as a mother tongue, only surpassed in numbers by speakers of the many varieties of Chinese.

\*\*Here are all the countries in which English is the official spoken language:



\*\*Of all the world's languages (over 2,700) English is the richest in vocabulary with approximately 250,000 different words. The Oxford English Dictionary lists about 500,000 words, and there are a half-million technical and scientific terms still uncatalogued.

\*\*Three-quarters of the world's mail is in English, and the most widely published language is English. In fact, more than half of the world's technical and scientific periodicals are in English, and English is the medium for 80% of the information stored in the world's computer and on the Internet.

\*\*Five of the largest broadcasting companies in the world (CBS, NBC, ABC, BBC and CBC) transmit in English, reaching millions and millions of people all over the world.

\*\*Of the 163 member nations of the U.N., more use English as their official language than any other. After English, 26 nations in the U.N. cite French as their official tongue, 21 Spanish and 17 Arabic.

\*\*English is used as the lingua franca (common language on which to build relations) between nations where English is not the primary language. In a globalized world, the number of English learners around the world is only expected to further grow.



## Top Countries with the Greatest Number of Native English Speakers\*

United States	Zambia
United Kingdom	Grenada
Canada	Israel
Australia	Puerto Rico
Ireland	U.S. Virgin Islands
South Africa	Japan
New Zealand	Switzerland
Philippines	Antigua and Barbuda
Jamaica	Bermuda
Trinidad and Tobago	Vanuatu
Singapore	Guam
Guyana	St. Kitts and Nevis
Liberia	Cayman Islands
Sierra Leone	Honduras
Malaysia	St. Lucia
Germany	Gibraltar
Barbados	British Virgin Islands
Bahamas	Namibia
Zimbabwe	Anguilla
India	Solomon Islands
Hong Kong	Sri Lanka
Belize	Brunei
Papua New Guinea	Aruba
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	Dominican Republic

\*Source: Wikipedia

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