

Ethnologue: Languages of Ireland

Twenty-sixth edition data

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Contents

List of Abbreviations	3
How to Use This Digest	4
Country Overview	6
Language Status Profile	7
Statistical Summaries	8
Alphabetical Listing of Languages	11
Language Map	20
Languages by Population	21
Languages by Status	24
Languages by Family	28
Language Code Index	29
Language Name Index	30
Bibliography	31

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List of Abbreviations

A	Agent in constituent word order
<i>alt.</i>	alternate name for
<i>alt. dial.</i>	alternate dialect name for
AOV	Agent-Object-Verb
C	Consonant in canonical syllable patterns
<i>Class</i>	Language classification
CPPDCE	Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (2005)
CSICH	Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage (2003)
<i>dial.</i>	primary dialect name for
EUD	European Union of the Deaf
FPCNM	Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (1998)
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966)
IMB	International Mission Board
km	kilometer(s)
L1 / L2	first language / second (or other additional) language
<i>Lg Dev</i>	Language development
<i>Lg Use</i>	Language use
m	meter(s)
P	Patient in constituent word order
PARADISEC	Pacific And Regional Archive for Digital Sources In Endangered Cultures
<i>pej.</i>	pejorative
pl.	plural
S	Subject in constituent word order
sg.	singular
<i>Type</i>	Typological information
UNCRPD	United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2006)
UNDESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
UNDRIP	United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2007)
V	Vowel in canonical syllable patterns
VSO	Verb-Subject-Object

How to Use This Digest

This *Ethnologue* country digest provides an extract of the information about the language situation in Ireland that is published in the 26th edition of *Ethnologue: Languages of the World* (see <http://www.ethnologue.com>), including some ways of presenting the information that are not available in the online version. The digest begins with a “Country Overview” (page 6) and “Statistical Summaries” (page 8) of languages and number of speakers by language size, by language status, and by language family.

The “Alphabetical Listing of Languages” (page 11) provides detailed information on the 27 languages listed in the *Ethnologue* for the country of Ireland. This includes languages that are indigenous to the country, languages that have developed well-established multigenerational speaker communities after immigrating in the past, and languages that have a significant presence in the country but are not established (that is, not being transmitted to the next generation within the country). A complete language entry has the following form and content:

Primary language name [ISO 639-3 code] (Alternate names). Autonym. *Users*: Country user population. Population stability comment. Population remarks. Monolingual population. Ethnic population. *Location*: Location. *Status*: EGIDS level. Special cases. Language function in country. *Class*: Linguistic classification. Macrolanguage membership. *Dialects*: Dialect names. Intelligibility and dialect relations. Lexical similarity. *Type*: Linguistic typology information. *Lg Use*: Remarks on use of the language. Domains of use. User age range. Language attitudes. Bilingualism remarks. Use as second language. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rates. Literacy remarks. Use in education. Publications and use in media. Revitalization efforts. Language development agencies. *DLS*: Digital support. *Writing*: Scripts used. *Other*: Non-indigenous. General remarks. Religion. *Worldwide*: Total population in all countries. Other countries where used.

See <http://www.ethnologue.com/methodology/#languagePages> for a full description of these information elements. If the autonym contains the “?” character, this indicates a complex non-Roman character that the PDF-creating software we are using is not able to render. We regret the inconvenience.

Many ways of finding languages are provided. “Languages by Population” (page 21) lists the languages in order of their first-language speaker populations. “Languages by Status” (page 24) lists the languages by their level of development or endangerment as measured on EGIDS, the Expanded Graded Intergenerational Disruption Scale (Lewis and Simons 2010). “Languages by Family” (page 28) lists the languages by their linguistic classifications. “Language Code Index” (page 29) gives an alphabetical listing of all the three-letter codes from ISO 639-3 that are used in this digest to uniquely identify languages. “Language Name Index” (page 30) lists every name that appears in the language listings as a primary or alternate name of a language or dialect. A total of 33 unique names are associated with the 27 languages described in this digest.

Finally, a listing of all the published sources cited within this digest is found in “Bibliography”

(page 31). The published sources are cited using standard in-text citations enclosed in parentheses, consisting of the author's or editor's surname followed by the year of publication. Unpublished sources including personal communications and unpublished reports are also acknowledged when specific statements or facts are attributed to them. They are identified using in-text citations enclosed in parentheses in which the year of the communication is given first, followed by the source's first initial and surname. In such a case, there is no corresponding entry in the bibliography.

This digest is designed for use in both digital and print formats. The cross-references are thus rendered as page numbers that are hyperlinks. When using the document in printed form, simply turn to the referenced page by number. When using it in digital form, click on the blue text to jump to the cross-referenced location.

If you believe any of the information about a language in this digest is in error or if you are able to supply missing information, please send your proposed change to the editor using one of the means given below. Provide as much information as possible about the source of your information. Full bibliographic details of published sources are especially helpful.

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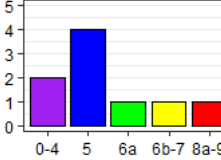
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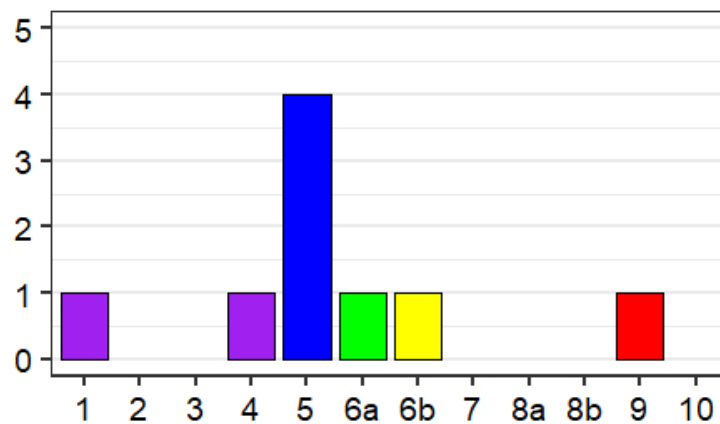
Country Overview

Name of country	Ireland												
Other names	Ireland												
Population	5,020,000 (2022 UNDESA)												
Principal language	English												
Literacy rate	99% (Roser and Ortiz-Ospina 2018)												
Deaf population	215,000												
International conventions	CPPDCE (2006), CSICH (2015), FCPNM (1999), ICCPR (1989), UNCRPD (2018), UNDRIP (2007)												
General references	Campbell and King 2011, McCrum et al 1986, Stephens 1976												
Language counts	<p>The number of established languages listed for Ireland is 9. All are living languages. Of these, 5 are indigenous and 4 are non-indigenous. Furthermore, 2 are institutional, 4 are developing, 1 is vigorous, 1 is in trouble, and 1 is dying. Also listed are 18 unestablished languages.</p>  <table border="1"> <caption>Language Vitality Counts for Ireland</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Vitality Category</th> <th>Count</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>0-4</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6a</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6b-7</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8a-9</td> <td>1</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Vitality Category	Count	0-4	2	5	4	6a	1	6b-7	1	8a-9	1
Vitality Category	Count												
0-4	2												
5	4												
6a	1												
6b-7	1												
8a-9	1												

See the next page for an explanation of the summary categories for language vitality used in the above counts and graph.

Language Status Profile

The following histogram gives a graphic profile of the established languages in Ireland with respect to their status of language development versus language endangerment. This includes all of the languages appearing in the “Alphabetical Listing of Languages” (page 11) that report an EGIDS level after *Status*; macrolanguages and unestablished languages are not included in the profile. The horizontal axis plots the estimated level of development or endangerment as measured on the EGIDS scale (Lewis and Simons 2010). The height of each bar indicates the number of languages that are estimated to be at the given level. Consult “Languages by Status” (page 24) in order to see the specific languages for each level.



The color coding of the bars in the histogram above matches the color scheme used in the summary profile graph on the preceding page. In this scheme, the EGIDS levels are grouped as follows:

- Purple = Institutional (EGIDS 0–4) — The language has been developed to the point that it is used and sustained by institutions beyond the home and community.
- Blue = Developing (EGIDS 5) — The language is in vigorous use, with literature in a standardized form being used by some though this is not yet widespread or sustainable.
- Green = Vigorous (EGIDS 6a) — The language is in vigorous use among all generations and remains unstandardized.
- Yellow = In trouble (EGIDS 6b–7) — Intergenerational transmission is in the process of being broken, but the child-bearing generation can still use the language so it is possible that revitalization efforts could restore transmission of the language in the home.
- Red = Dying (EGIDS 8a–9) — The only fluent users (if any) are older than child-bearing age, so it is too late to restore natural intergenerational transmission through the home; a mechanism outside the home would need to be developed.
- Black = Extinct (EGIDS 10) — The language is no longer used and no one retains a sense of ethnic identity associated with the language.

Statistical Summaries

The “Alphabetical Listing of Languages” (page 11) provides a detailed listing of all the languages of Ireland. This section steps back from the detail to offer a summary view of the language situation in the country. Specifically, it offers three numerical tabulations of the living established languages of Ireland and their users: by language size, by language status, and by language family.

Summary by language size

Table 1 summarizes the distribution of living established languages in Ireland by number of L1 speakers. The *Population range* column categorizes the sizes of the languages by order of magnitude (in terms of the number of digits in the population of first-language speakers). Consult “Languages by Population” (page 21) for a listing of the specific languages in each range category.

The *Count* column gives the number of living established languages within the specified population range. The *Percent* column gives the share of the count for that population range as a percentage of the total number of languages given at the bottom of the Count column. The *Cumulative* column gives the cumulative sum of the percentage of languages going from top to bottom in the column.

The *Total* column gives the total L1 population of all the languages in the given range category. The second *Percent* column gives the percentage of the total country population as estimated at the bottom of the Total column. Note that if the table has a row for Unknown, representing languages for which the *Ethnologue* does not have a population estimate, the calculation of population percentage is not able to take those languages into account. The final *Cumulative* column gives the cumulative sums of the population percentages going from top to bottom in the column.

Table 1: Distribution of languages by number of first-language speakers

Population range	Living languages			Number of speakers		
	Count	Percent	Cumulative	Total	Percent	Cumulative
1,000,000 to 9,999,999	1	11.1	11.1%	4,470,000	95.92439	95.92439%
100,000 to 999,999	1	11.1	22.2%	141,000	3.02580	98.95020%
10,000 to 99,999	2	22.2	44.4%	37,000	0.79401	99.74420%
1,000 to 9,999	4	44.4	88.9%	11,920	0.25580	100.00000%
0	1	11.1	100.0%		0.00000	100.00000%
<i>Totals</i>	9	100.0		4,659,920	100.00000	

Summary by language status

Table 2 summarizes the distribution of living established languages in Ireland by their status in

terms of language development or language endangerment. The *EGIDS* column categorizes the languages by their level on the EGIDS scale. Consult “Languages by Status” (page 24) for a listing of the specific languages that have been assigned to each level. Note that the EGIDS level reported here is for the status of the language in Ireland. Languages that are also used in other countries may be assigned to a different EGIDS level in those countries.

The next six columns are as in Table 1. In addition, the *Mean* column gives the average L1 population of all the languages with the given EGIDS level and the *Median* column gives the median L1 population for the languages at that level, that is, half of the languages at that level have a higher population and half have a lower population. If there are any languages with an unknown population, these are ignored in the calculation of the mean and the median.

Table 2: Distribution of languages by vitality status

EGIDS	Living languages			Number of speakers				
	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Cumulative</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Cumulative</i>	<i>Mean</i>	<i>Median</i>
1	1	11.1	11.1%	4,470,000	95.9244	95.9244%	4,470,000	4,470,000
4	1	11.1	22.2%	2,540	0.0545	95.9789%	2,540	2,540
5	4	44.4	66.7%	19,380	0.4159	96.3948%	4,845	3,960
6a	1	11.1	77.8%	27,000	0.5794	96.9742%	27,000	27,000
6b	1	11.1	88.9%	141,000	3.0258	100.0000%	141,000	141,000
9	1	11.1	100.0%		0.0000	100.0000%		
<i>Totals</i>	9	100.0		4,659,920	100.0000			

Summary by language family

The genealogical classifications given in the language entries of the “Alphabetical Listing of Languages” (page 11) name 3 different top-level groups. Table 3 summarizes the distribution of living established languages and their L1 populations within these families. The columns are as for table 2, with the exception that *Cumulative* is excluded since there is no inherent ordering of the families.

Table 3: Distribution of languages by language family

Language family	Living languages		Number of speakers			
	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Mean</i>	<i>Median</i>
Indo-European	7	77.8	4,627,920	99.3	661,131	2,920
Mixed language	1	11.1	27,000	0.6	27,000	27,000
Sign language	1	11.1	5,000	0.1	5,000	5,000

Language family	Living languages		Number of speakers			
	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Mean</i>	<i>Median</i>
<i>Totals</i>	9	100.0	4,659,920	100.0		

Alphabetical Listing of Languages

Arabic, Levantine [apc]. *Users*: 3,790 in Ireland (2016 census). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Afro-Asiatic, Semitic, Central, South, Arabic. *Lg Dev*: Radio. TV. Dictionary. Grammar. Bible portions: 1940–1973. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 47,595,360 (as L1: 47,236,360; as L2: 359,000). Global EGIDS level: 3 (Wider communication). Indigenous in: Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Syria, Turkey. Also established in: Mexico. Unestablished in: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Burundi, Canada, Côte d’Ivoire, Cyprus, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Finland, France, French Guiana, Gambia, Germany, Guinea, Honduras, Hungary, Indonesia, Iraq, Jamaica, Kuwait, Libya, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Martinique, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Panama, Portugal, Qatar (North Levantine Spoken Arabic), Saudi Arabia (North Levantine Spoken Arabic), Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Spain, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States, Venezuela, Yemen.

Bengali [ben]. *Users*: 1,210 in Ireland (2016 census). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Indo-Aryan, Outer Languages, Eastern, Bengali-Assamese. *Type*: SOV; postpositions; noun head both initial and final; 3 genders: male, female, neuter; content q-word initial and final; clause constituents indicated by case-marking (5 cases) and word order; verb affixes mark person, number; definite article affix; tense; passives and voice; causatives; comparatives; non-tonal; 35 consonant and 5 vowel phonemes; stress on first syllable. *Lg Dev*: Fully developed. Bible: 1832–2016. *Writing*: Bengali (Bangla) script, primary usage. Braille script. Newa script, no longer in use. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 272,828,760 (as L1: 233,808,880; as L2: 39,019,880). Global EGIDS level: 1 (National). Indigenous in: Bangladesh, India. Also established in: Nepal, Singapore. Unestablished in: Australia, Belgium, Bhutan, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Japan, Kuwait, Malaysia, Mauritius, Myanmar, Netherlands, New Zealand, Oman, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States.

English [eng]. Autonym: English. *Users*: 4,761,000 in Ireland, all users. L1 users: 4,470,000 in Ireland (European Commission 2012). L2 users: 291,000 (European Commission 2012). *Status*: 1 (National). Statutory national language (1937, Constitution, Article 8(2)). *Class*: Indo-European, Germanic, West, English. *Dialects*: South Hiberno English, North Hiberno English. *Type*: SVO; prepositions; genitives after noun heads; articles, adjectives, numerals before noun heads; question word initial; word order distinguishes subject, object, indirect objects, given and new information, topic and comment; active and passive; causative; comparative; consonant and vowel clusters; 24 consonants, 13 vowels, 8 diphthongs; non-tonal; free stress; phrasal verbs. *Lg Use*: Some also use French [fra] (European Commission 2006). A few also use Standard German [deu] (European Commission 2006). *Lg Dev*: Taught

in all primary and secondary schools. In the Irish-speaking areas (Gaeltacht), Irish [gle] is the only language of instruction and English is taught as a second language. Taught in most tertiary schools. Fully developed. Bible: 1382–2002. *Writing*: Braille script. Deseret Alphabet, developed in 1854 with limited usage until 1877. Duployan shorthand. Latin script, primary usage. Shavian (Shaw) script, no longer in use. *Map*: 20. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 1,456,448,320 (as L1: 379,682,200; as L2: 1076,766,120). Global EGIDS level: 0 (International). Also indigenous in: United Kingdom. Also established in 168 other countries and unestablished in 16 more.

French [fra] (français). Autonym: français. *Users*: 529,540 in Ireland, all users. L1 users: 2,540 in Ireland (2016 census). L2 users: 527,000 (2022). *Location*: Scattered. *Status*: 4 (Educational). *Class*: Indo-European, Italic, Romance, Italo-Western, Western, Gallo-Iberian, Gallo-Romance, Gallo-Rhaetian, Oïl, French. *Type*: SVO; prepositions; noun head final for common adjectives, numbers, possessives, but most attributive adjectives come after the noun; gender (masculine/feminine); definite and indefinite articles; verb affixes mark person, number; passives; tense; comparatives; 20 consonant and 14 vowel phonemes; non-tonal; syllable-timed stress. *Lg Use*: Used as L2 by English [eng]. *Lg Dev*: Taught as subject in secondary schools. Fully developed. Bible: 1530–2000. *Writing*: Braille script. Duployan shorthand. Latin script, primary usage. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 309,804,220 (as L1: 80,770,190; as L2: 229,034,030). Global EGIDS level: 0 (International). Indigenous in: Andorra, Belgium, France, Luxembourg, Monaco, Switzerland. Also established in 95 other countries and unestablished in 24 more.

German, Standard [deu] (Deutsch). Autonym: Deutsch. *Users*: 155,460 in Ireland, all users. L1 users: 1,460 in Ireland (2016 census). L2 users: 154,000 (2018 Eurostat). *Status*: 5* (Dispersed). *Class*: Indo-European, Germanic, West, High German, German, Middle German, East Middle German. *Type*: SVO; prepositions; noun head final; gender (masculine/feminine/neuter); definite and indefinite articles; case-marking (4 cases); verb affixes mark person, number; passives; tense; comparatives; 22 consonants, 22 vowels, 3 diphthongs; non-tonal; stress on first syllable of the root. *Lg Use*: Used as L2 by English [eng]. *Lg Dev*: Taught as subject in secondary schools. Fully developed. Bible: 1466–2016. *Writing*: Braille script. Latin script, primary usage. Latin script, Fraktur variant, used until 1940. Runic script, no longer in use. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 133,245,880 (as L1: 75,282,080; as L2: 57,963,800). Global EGIDS level: 1 (National). Indigenous in: Austria, Belgium, Czechia, Denmark, Germany, Italy. Also established in 39 other countries and unestablished in 23 more.

Hindi [hin]. *Users*: 2,980 in Ireland (2016 census). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Indo-Aryan, Western Hindi, Hindustani. *Type*: SOV; postpositions; noun head final; content q-word in situ; gender (masculine/feminine); no articles; clause constituents partially indicated by case-marking (direct, oblique), postpositions, and word order; verbal affixation marks person, number, gender, and honorificity of subject; split ergativity; both tense and aspect; passives and voice; causatives; non-tonal; 30 consonants, 10 vowels, 2 diphthongs; stress linked to syllable weight. *Lg Dev*: Fully developed. Bible: 1835–2000.

Writing: Braille script. Devanagari script, primary usage. Latin script, recent informal usage, especially online on social media. Mahajani script, no longer in use, historic usage. Newa script, no longer in use, historic usage. *Other:* Non-indigenous. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 609,454,770 (as L1: 344,650,870; as L2: 264,803,900). Global EGIDS level: 1 (National). Indigenous in: India. Also established in: Kuwait, Nepal, Singapore, South Africa. Unestablished in: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Belize, Brunei, Cambodia, Canada, Cyprus, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Eswatini, Finland, Germany, Indonesia, Kenya, Lesotho, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Mauritius, Myanmar, New Zealand, Oman, Panama, Philippines, Portugal, Puerto Rico, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, Sint Maarten, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Thailand, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States, Yemen.

Hungarian [hun]. Autonym: Magyar. *Users:* 8,290 in Ireland (2016 census). *Status:* Unestablished. *Class:* Uralic. *Type:* SVO; postpositions; noun head final; definite article; case-marking (18 cases); verb affixes mark person, number, object; no passives; tense; comparatives; 25 consonants, 14 vowels, no diphthongs; non-tonal; stress on first syllable; vowel harmony. *Lg Dev:* Fully developed. Bible: 1590–1991. *Writing:* Braille script. Latin script, primary usage. *Other:* Non-indigenous. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 12,617,790 (as L1: 12,610,690; as L2: 7,100). Global EGIDS level: 1 (National). Indigenous in: Austria, Hungary, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Ukraine. Also established in: Croatia, Israel, Slovenia. Unestablished in: Australia, Brazil, Canada, Czechia, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Luxembourg, Moldova, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Russian Federation, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States.

Irish [gle] (Erse, Gaelic, Gaelic Irish, Irish Gaelic). Autonym: Gaeilge. *Users:* 1,171,000 in Ireland, all users. L1 users: 141,000 in Ireland (European Commission 2012). L2 users: 1,030,000 (European Commission 2012). *Location:* Cork, Donegal, Galway, Kerry, part of Mayo, Meath, and Waterford counties. Western isles northwest and southwest coasts. *Status:* 6b (Threatened). Statutory language of national identity (1937, Constitution, Article 8(1)). *Class:* Indo-European, Celtic, Insular, Goidelic. *Dialects:* Munster-Leinster (Southern Irish), Connacht (Western Irish), Donegal (Northern Irish, Ulster). *Type:* VSO; inflected prepositions; noun head initial; gender (masculine/feminine); definite article; case-marking (3 cases); verb affixes mark person, number; tense and aspect; comparatives; 32 consonants, 11 vowels, 4 diphthongs; non-tonal; stress on first syllable; initial consonant mutation. *Lg Use:* Some young people, all adults. A number of children learn the language but the number is decreasing (Salminen 2007). Also use English [eng] (Salminen 2007). *Lg Dev:* Taught in primary and secondary schools in the Irish-speaking areas (Gaeltacht), where Irish is the only language of instruction, and in Irish-language schools. Taught in some tertiary schools. Radio. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. Bible: 1690–1981. *DLS:* Vital (0.82). *Writing:* Latin script. Latin script, Gaelic variant. Ogham script, no longer in use. *Other:* Taught as an official language in schools and encouraged by the government. *Map:* 20. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 1,200,240 (as L1: 170,240; as L2: 1,030,000). Also indigenous in: United Kingdom. Also established in: Canada. Unestablished in: Australia, New Zealand, United States.

Irish Sign Language [isg] (Teanga Chomharthaíochta na hÉireann). *Users*: 50,000 in Ireland, all users. L1 users: 5,000 in Ireland (2019 Deaf Village Ireland). Approximately 0.1% of the total population. Other estimates: 4,500 (2019 EUD), 21,000 (2014 IMB). L2 users: 45,000 (2014 Deaf Village Ireland). *Location*: Scattered. *Status*: 5 (Developing). Recognized language (2017, Irish Sign Language Act 2017), authorized for use and interpretation in courts, schools, and other public bodies. *Class*: Sign language, Deaf community sign language. *Dialects*: Separate schools for boys and girls resulted in strong gender-based dialectal differences, but these have diminished with time. British Sign Language (BSL) [bfi] was formally introduced to Ireland in 1816, but references to signing go back much further in Irish history. In 1846, the Catholic nuns who established St. Mary's School for Deaf Girls went to France, so contemporary Irish Sign Language includes aspects of nineteenth-century French Sign Language [fsl] as well as BSL, with influence from signed French, signed English, and gestural systems like cued speech. (Leeson and Sneed 2012). *Type*: One-handed fingerspelling. *Lg Use*: Several deaf schools. Government policy recommends bilingual education (National Council for Special Education 2011). Deaf associations. Committee on national sign language, and organization for sign language teachers. All domains. Used by all. Some also use English [eng]. *Lg Dev*: Literature. TV. Videos. Dictionary. Grammar. Agency: Irish Deaf Society (IDS). *DLS*: Emerging (0.01). *Other*: Support for parents to learn Irish Sign Language (2014 National Council for Special Education). The name 'Irish Sign Language' (ISL) came into common use following the publication of a dictionary of ISL in 1979 and establishment of the Irish Deaf Society in the mid 1980s. (Leeson and Sneed 2012). 50 working sign language interpreters (2019 EUD). Fingerspelling system similar to French Sign Language [fsl]. Christian. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 51,550 (as L1: 6,550; as L2: 45,000). Also established in: Australia (Australian Irish Sign Language), United Kingdom.

Italian [ita]. Autonym: Italiano. *Users*: 2,210 in Ireland (2016 census). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Indo-European, Italic, Romance, Italo-Western, Italo-Dalmatian. *Type*: SVO; prepositions; gender (masculine/feminine); definite and indefinite articles; verb affixes mark person, number; passives; tense; comparatives; 23 consonant and 7 vowel phonemes; non-tonal; stress mostly on penultimate syllable. *Lg Dev*: Fully developed. Bible: 1471–1985. *Writing*: Braille script, used since 1974. Latin script, primary usage. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 67,935,480 (as L1: 64,647,380; as L2: 3,288,100). Global EGIDS level: 1 (National). Indigenous in: Croatia, Italy, San Marino, Slovenia, Switzerland. Also established in 12 other countries and unestablished in 34 more.

Latvian, Standard [lvs]. Autonym: Latviešu valoda, Latviski. *Users*: 12,400 in Ireland (2016 census). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Indo-European, Balto-Slavic, Baltic, Eastern. *Type*: SVO; prepositions; noun head final; gender (masculine/feminine); no articles; case-marking (7 cases); verb affixes mark person, number; passives; tense and aspect; comparatives; 26 consonants, 11 vowels, 10 diphthongs; tonal (3 tones: even, falling, broken); stress on first syllable. *Lg Dev*: Fully developed. Bible: 1689–1995. *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 2,005,550 (as L1: 1,554,520; as L2: 451,030). Global EGIDS level: 1 (National). Indigenous in: Latvia. Unestablished in:

Australia, Belarus, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Kazakhstan, Lithuania, Norway, Russian Federation, Spain, Sweden, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States, Venezuela.

Lithuanian [lit]. Autonym: Lietuviškai, Lietuvių kalba. *Users*: 1,020 in Ireland (2016 census). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Indo-European, Balto-Slavic, Baltic, Eastern. *Lg Dev*: Fully developed. *Bible*: 1735–1998. *Writing*: Latin script. Latin script, Fraktur variant, no longer in use. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 2,772,870 (as L1: 2,771,830; as L2: 1,040). Global EGIDS level: 1 (National). Indigenous in: Lithuania. Also established in: Poland. Unestablished in: Australia, Canada, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Iceland, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Norway, Russian Federation, Spain, Sweden, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States, Uzbekistan.

Malay [zlm]. *Users*: 1,180 in Ireland (2016 census). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Malayo-Chamic, Malayic, Malay. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant. Latin script. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 19,179,170 (as L1: 16,171,280; as L2: 3,007,890). Global EGIDS level: 5 (Developing). Indigenous in: Indonesia, Malaysia. Also established in: Singapore. Unestablished in: Australia, Canada, China–Taiwan, Germany, Japan, Madagascar, United Kingdom, United States, Yemen.

Malayalam [mal]. *Users*: 3,380 in Ireland (2016 census). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Dravidian, Southern, Tamil-Kannada, Tamil-Kodagu, Tamil-Malayalam, Malayalam. *Type*: SOV; postpositions; noun head final; gender (masculine/feminine/neuter); case-marking (7 cases); tense; 37 consonants, 11 vowels, 2 diphthongs; non-tonal; light stress on first syllable; inclusive/exclusive pronouns. *Lg Dev*: Fully developed. *Bible*: 1841–2004. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant. Braille script, used since 1998. Malayalam script, primary usage. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 37,359,380 (as L1: 36,647,680; as L2: 711,700). Global EGIDS level: 2 (Provincial). Indigenous in: India. Also established in: Singapore. Unestablished in: Australia, Bahrain, Canada, Israel, Malaysia, Oman, Qatar, Sri Lanka, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States.

Polish [pol]. *Users*: 4,030 in Ireland (2016 census). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Indo-European, Balto-Slavic, Slavic, West, Lechitic. *Type*: SVO; prepositions; noun head final; gender (masculine/feminine/neuter); no articles; case-marking (7 cases); verb affixes mark person, number; passives; aspect; comparatives; 30 consonant and 8 vowel phonemes; non-tonal; stress on penultimate syllable. *Lg Dev*: Fully developed. *Bible*: 1561–2018. *Writing*: Braille script. Latin script, primary usage. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 40,589,930 (as L1: 39,896,930; as L2: 693,000). Global EGIDS level: 1 (National). Indigenous in: Czechia, Poland, Ukraine. Also established in: Germany, Hungary, Israel, Lithuania, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovakia. Unestablished in: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Greece, Iceland, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Serbia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States, Uzbekistan.

Portuguese [por]. Autonym: Português. *Users*: 4,620 in Ireland (2016 census). *Status*:

Unestablished. *Class*: Indo-European, Italic, Romance, Italo-Western, Western, Gallo-Iberian, Ibero-Romance, West Iberian, Portuguese-Galician. *Type*: SVO; prepositions; gender (masculine/feminine); definite and indefinite articles; verb affixes mark person, number; passives; tense; comparatives; 21 consonants, 13 vowels, 11 diphthongs; non-tonal. *Lg Dev*: Fully developed. Bible: 1751–2017. *Writing*: Braille script. Latin script, primary usage. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 263,638,850 (as L1: 236,266,650; as L2: 27,372,200). Global EGIDS level: 1 (National). Indigenous in: Portugal, Spain. Also established in 14 other countries and unestablished in 38 more.

Romanian [ron]. *Users*: 2,900 in Ireland (2016 census). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Indo-European, Italic, Romance, Eastern. *Type*: SVO; prepositions; noun head initial; gender (masculine/feminine/ambigeneric); indefinite article and definite article suffix; case-marking (2 cases); verb affixes mark person, number; passives; tense; 22 consonants, 7 vowels, 2 diphthongs; non-tonal; free stress. *Lg Dev*: Fully developed. Bible: 1688–1989. *Writing*: Braille script. Cyrillic script, official usage in Moldova until 1991. Cyrillic script, Old Church Slavonic variant, 1688, experimental usage. Latin script, primary usage. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 24,478,820 (as L1: 24,461,820; as L2: 17,000). Global EGIDS level: 1 (National). Indigenous in: Moldova, Romania, Ukraine. Also established in: Hungary, Israel, Serbia. Unestablished in: Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Italy, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Russian Federation, Spain, Sweden, Turkmenistan, United Kingdom, United States, Uzbekistan.

Russian [rus]. *Users*: 25,000 in Ireland (Arefyev 2012), all users. *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Indo-European, Balto-Slavic, Slavic, East. *Type*: SVO; prepositions; genitives after noun heads; adjectives, numerals before noun heads; question word initial; 1 prefix on a word; recursive addition of suffixes allowed; gender (masculine/feminine/neuter); no articles; case-marking (6 cases); verb affixes mark person, number; passives; tense and aspect; comparatives; 32 consonants, 5 vowels, 4 diphthongs; non-tonal; free stress. *Lg Dev*: Fully developed. Bible: 1876–2011. *Writing*: Braille script. Cyrillic script, primary usage. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 254,997,130 (as L1: 146,954,150; as L2: 107,987,980). Global EGIDS level: 0 (International). Indigenous in: Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Russian Federation, Ukraine. Also established in 17 other countries and unestablished in 29 more.

Scots [sco] (Ullans, Ulster-Scotch, Ulster-Scots). Autonym: Scots. *Users*: 10,000 in Ireland (1999 B. Kay). *Location*: Donegal County. *Status*: 5 (Developing). *Class*: Indo-European, Germanic, West, English. *Type*: SVO; prepositions; genitives, articles, adjectives, numerals before noun heads; relatives without noun heads; question word initial; 2 prefixes, 1 suffix; word order distinguishes subjects, objects, indirect objects, given and new information, topic and comment; affixes indicate genitive case of noun phrase; passives; comparatives; CVC; nontonal. *Lg Use*: Home, community. Used by all. Also use English [eng]. *Lg Dev*: Literature. Periodicals. Dictionary. NT: 1901–1984. *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Non-indigenous.

Christian. *Map*: 20. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 1,599,200 (as L1: 99,200; as L2: 1,500,000). Indigenous in: United Kingdom.

Shelta [sth] (Bog Latin, Cant, Gammon, Irish Traveler Cant, Sheldru, Shelter, Shelterorch, Tarri, The Cant, Tinker's Cant, the Ould Thing). Autonym: De Gammon. *Users*: 27,000 in Ireland (2008 A. Redmond). *Location*: Major cities. *Status*: 6a* (Vigorous). *Class*: Mixed language, Irish-undocumented. *Dialects*: None known. Based largely on Irish [gle] with influence from an undocumented source. *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: The secret language, or cryptolect, of Travellers in the British Isles. Not Roma. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 50,700. Also indigenous in: United Kingdom. Unestablished in: United States.

Slovak [slk]. Autonym: Slovenský Jazyk, Slovenčina. *Users*: 7,900 in Ireland (2016 census). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Indo-European, Balto-Slavic, Slavic, West, Czech-Slovak. *Type*: SVO; prepositions; noun head final; gender (masculine/feminine/neuter); no articles; case-marking (6 cases); verb affixes mark number, person; passives; tense and aspect; comparatives; 27 consonants, 10 vowels, 4 diphthongs; non-tonal; stress on first syllable. *Lg Dev*: Fully developed. Bible: 1832–1999. *Writing*: Braille script. Latin script, primary usage. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 7,330,420 (as L1: 5,281,620; as L2: 2,048,800). Global EGIDS level: 1 (National). Indigenous in: Hungary, Slovakia. Also established in: Austria, Croatia, Czechia, Romania, Serbia, Ukraine. Unestablished in: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, Germany, Norway, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States.

Spanish [spa]. Autonym: Castellano, Español. *Users*: 151,920 in Ireland, all users. L1 users: 2,920 in Ireland (2016 census). L2 users: 149,000 (2022). *Status*: 5* (Dispersed). *Class*: Indo-European, Italic, Romance, Italo-Western, Western, Gallo-Iberian, Ibero-Romance, West Iberian, Castilian. *Type*: SVO; prepositions; genitives, relatives after noun heads; articles, numerals before noun heads; adjectives before or after noun heads depending on whether it is evaluative or descriptive; question word initial; gender (masculine/feminine); definite and indefinite articles; verb affixes mark number, person; passives; tense; comparatives; 20 consonants, 5 vowels, 5 diphthongs; non-tonal; stress on penultimate syllable. Silbo Gomero whistled variety of Spanish used in Canary Islands. *Lg Dev*: Taught as subject in secondary schools. Fully developed. Bible: 1553–2012. *Writing*: Braille script. Latin script, primary usage. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 559,078,890 (as L1: 485,063,960; as L2: 74,014,930). Global EGIDS level: 0 (International). Indigenous in: Andorra, Gibraltar, Spain. Also established in 39 other countries and unestablished in 33 more.

Tagalog [tgl]. Autonym: Tagalog. *Users*: 7,670 in Ireland (2016 census). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Greater Central Philippine, Central Philippine, Tagalog. *Type*: Prepositions; no articles; ergativity; tense and aspect; comparatives; 16 consonant and 5 vowel phonemes; non-tonal; inclusive/exclusive pronouns. *Lg Dev*: Fully developed. Bible: 1905. *Writing*: Braille script. Latin script, primary usage. Tagalog script, no longer in use. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 83,054,910 (as L1: 28,746,910; as L2: 54,308,000). Global EGIDS level: 3 (Wider communication).

Indigenous in: Philippines. Also established in: Canada, Guam, Sweden, United States. Unestablished in: American Samoa, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Brazil, Cayman Islands, China–Hong Kong, China–Macao, China–Taiwan, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Greece, Indonesia, Israel, Japan, Jordan, Kuwait, Libya, Malaysia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Northern Mariana Islands, Norway, Oman, Palau, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Korea, Spain, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom.

Tamil [tam]. *Users*: 1,060 in Ireland (2016 census). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Dravidian, Southern, Tamil-Kannada, Tamil-Kodagu, Tamil-Malayalam, Tamil. *Type*: SOV; postpositions; gender (rational, non-rational); no articles; case-marking (8 cases); verb affixes mark person, number, gender of subject; passives (affective, effective); tense; no comparatives; 18 consonants, 10 vowels and 2 diphthongs; non-tonal; stress on first syllable; inclusive/exclusive pronouns. *Lg Dev*: Fully developed. *Bible*: 1727–2002. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant, no longer in use. Braille script. Tamil script, primary usage. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 86,640,030 (as L1: 78,587,030; as L2: 8,053,000). Global EGIDS level: 1 (National). Indigenous in: India, Sri Lanka. Also established in: Fiji, Malaysia, Martinique, Mauritius, Pakistan, Réunion, Singapore, South Africa. Unestablished in: Australia, Bahrain, Belize, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Guadeloupe, Myanmar, Netherlands, New Zealand, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States.

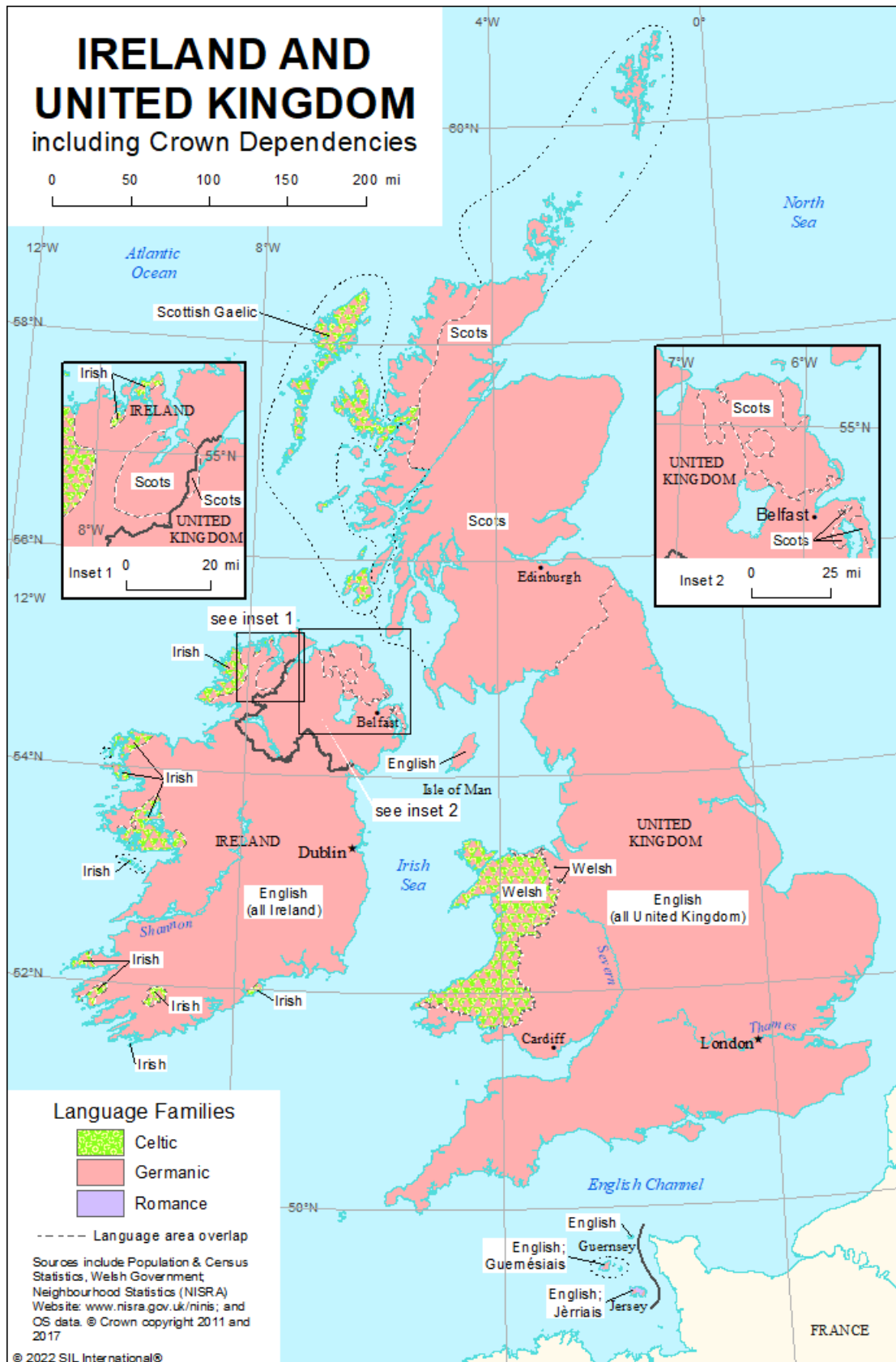
Urdu [urd]. *Users*: 5,340 in Ireland (2016 census). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Indo-Aryan, Western Hindi, Hindustani. *Type*: SOV; postposition; noun head final; gender (masculine/feminine); no articles; direct and oblique cases; verb affixes mark person, number, gender of subject; passives; tense and aspect; causatives; 35 consonants, 21 vowels; non-tonal; stress on penultimate syllable. *Lg Dev*: Fully developed. *Bible*: 1843–1998. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant. Arabic script, Nastaliq variant, primary usage. Braille script. Devanagari script, used in India (Ahmad 2011). *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 231,717,940 (as L1: 70,555,140; as L2: 161,162,800). Global EGIDS level: 1 (National). Indigenous in: India, Pakistan. Also established in: Bangladesh (Bihari), Fiji, Guyana, Mauritius, Nepal, South Africa. Unestablished in: Afghanistan, Australia, Bahrain, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Egypt, Finland, Germany, Iran, Iraq, Malaysia, New Zealand, Norway, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States.

Yola [yol] (Forth and Bargo dialect). Autonym: Yola. *Users*: 140, all users. L1 users: No known L1 speakers, but emerging L2 speakers. Jack Devereux, the last speaker, died in 1998, though the language went functionally extinct in the 1800s. L2 users: 140 (2022 A. Edwards). *Location*: Wexford county : Forth and Bargo baronies. *Status*: 9 (Reawakening). *Class*: Indo-European, Germanic, West, English. *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Latin script, developed in the 12th century.

Yoruba [yor]. Autonym: Èdè Yorùbá. *Users*: 1,930 in Ireland (2016 census). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Defoid,

Yoruboid, Edekiri. *Type*: SVO; prepositions; noun head initial; no articles; 17 consonant and 11 vowel phonemes; tonal (3 tones: high, mid, low). *Lg Dev*: Newspapers. Radio. TV. Dictionary. Grammar. Bible: 1900–2005. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant, no longer in use. Braille script. Latin script, used since 1865, primary usage. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 45,862,500 (as L1: 43,837,900; as L2: 2,024,600). Global EGIDS level: 2 (Provincial). Indigenous in: Nigeria. Also established in: Benin, Côte d’Ivoire, Ghana. Unestablished in: Australia, Canada, Finland, Gambia, Niger, Sierra Leone, Togo, United Kingdom, United States.

Language Map



Languages by Population

In this section the languages of Ireland are listed in order of their population of first-language speakers within the country, from highest to lowest. The entries report just the population and status elements.

1,000,000 to 9,999,999

English [[eng](#)] *Users:* 4,470,000 in Ireland (European Commission 2012). 4,761,000 in Ireland, all users. L2 users: 291,000 (European Commission 2012). *Status:* 1 (National). Statutory national language (1937, Constitution, Article 8(2)). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 1,456,448,320 (as L1: 379,682,200; as L2: 1076,766,120).

100,000 to 999,999

Irish [[gle](#)] *Users:* 141,000 in Ireland (European Commission 2012). 1,171,000 in Ireland, all users. L2 users: 1,030,000 (European Commission 2012). *Status:* 6b (Threatened). Statutory language of national identity (1937, Constitution, Article 8(1)). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 1,200,240 (as L1: 170,240; as L2: 1,030,000).

10,000 to 99,999

Shelta [[sth](#)] *Users:* 27,000 in Ireland (2008 A. Redmond). *Status:* 6a* (Vigorous). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 50,700.

Latvian, Standard [[lvs](#)] *Users:* 12,400 in Ireland (2016 census). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 2,005,550 (as L1: 1,554,520; as L2: 451,030).

Scots [[sco](#)] *Users:* 10,000 in Ireland (1999 B. Kay). *Status:* 5 (Developing). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 1,599,200 (as L1: 99,200; as L2: 1,500,000).

1,000 to 9,999

Hungarian [[hun](#)] *Users:* 8,290 in Ireland (2016 census). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 12,617,790 (as L1: 12,610,690; as L2: 7,100).

Slovak [[slk](#)] *Users:* 7,900 in Ireland (2016 census). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 7,330,420 (as L1: 5,281,620; as L2: 2,048,800).

Tagalog [[tgl](#)] *Users:* 7,670 in Ireland (2016 census). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 83,054,910 (as L1: 28,746,910; as L2: 54,308,000).

Urdu [[urd](#)] *Users:* 5,340 in Ireland (2016 census). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 231,717,940 (as L1: 70,555,140; as L2: 161,162,800).

Irish Sign Language [[isg](#)] *Users:* 5,000 in Ireland (2019 Deaf Village Ireland). Approximately

0.1% of the total population. Other estimates: 4,500 (2019 EUD), 21,000 (2014 IMB). 50,000 in Ireland, all users. L2 users: 45,000 (2014 Deaf Village Ireland). *Status*: 5 (Developing). Recognized language (2017, Irish Sign Language Act 2017), authorized for use and interpretation in courts, schools, and other public bodies. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 51,550 (as L1: 6,550; as L2: 45,000).

Portuguese [[por](#)] *Users*: 4,620 in Ireland (2016 census). *Status*: Unestablished. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 263,638,850 (as L1: 236,266,650; as L2: 27,372,200).

Polish [[pol](#)] *Users*: 4,030 in Ireland (2016 census). *Status*: Unestablished. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 40,589,930 (as L1: 39,896,930; as L2: 693,000).

Arabic, Levantine [[apc](#)] *Users*: 3,790 in Ireland (2016 census). *Status*: Unestablished. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 47,595,360 (as L1: 47,236,360; as L2: 359,000).

Malayalam [[mal](#)] *Users*: 3,380 in Ireland (2016 census). *Status*: Unestablished. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 37,359,380 (as L1: 36,647,680; as L2: 711,700).

Hindi [[hin](#)] *Users*: 2,980 in Ireland (2016 census). *Status*: Unestablished. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 609,454,770 (as L1: 344,650,870; as L2: 264,803,900).

Spanish [[spa](#)] *Users*: 2,920 in Ireland (2016 census). 151,920 in Ireland, all users. L2 users: 149,000 (2022). *Status*: 5* (Dispersed). *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 559,078,890 (as L1: 485,063,960; as L2: 74,014,930).

Romanian [[ron](#)] *Users*: 2,900 in Ireland (2016 census). *Status*: Unestablished. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 24,478,820 (as L1: 24,461,820; as L2: 17,000).

French [[fra](#)] *Users*: 2,540 in Ireland (2016 census). 529,540 in Ireland, all users. L2 users: 527,000 (2022). *Status*: 4 (Educational). *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 309,804,220 (as L1: 80,770,190; as L2: 229,034,030).

Italian [[ita](#)] *Users*: 2,210 in Ireland (2016 census). *Status*: Unestablished. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 67,935,480 (as L1: 64,647,380; as L2: 3,288,100).

Yoruba [[yor](#)] *Users*: 1,930 in Ireland (2016 census). *Status*: Unestablished. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 45,862,500 (as L1: 43,837,900; as L2: 2,024,600).

German, Standard [[deu](#)] *Users*: 1,460 in Ireland (2016 census). 155,460 in Ireland, all users. L2 users: 154,000 (2018 Eurostat). *Status*: 5* (Dispersed). *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 133,245,880 (as L1: 75,282,080; as L2: 57,963,800).

Bengali [[ben](#)] *Users*: 1,210 in Ireland (2016 census). *Status*: Unestablished. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 272,828,760 (as L1: 233,808,880; as L2: 39,019,880).

Malay [[zlm](#)] *Users*: 1,180 in Ireland (2016 census). *Status*: Unestablished. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 19,179,170 (as L1: 16,171,280; as L2: 3,007,890).

Tamil [[tam](#)] *Users*: 1,060 in Ireland (2016 census). *Status*: Unestablished. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 86,640,030 (as L1: 78,587,030; as L2: 8,053,000).

Lithuanian [lit] *Users:* 1,020 in Ireland (2016 census). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 2,772,870 (as L1: 2,771,830; as L2: 1,040).

0

Yola [yol] *Users:* No known L1 speakers, but emerging L2 speakers. Jack Devereux, the last speaker, died in 1998, though the language went functionally extinct in the 1800s. 140, all users. L2 users: 140 (2022 A. Edwards). *Status:* 9 (Reawakening).

Unknown

Russian [rus] *Users:* 25,000 in Ireland (Arefyev 2012), all users. *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 254,997,130 (as L1: 146,954,150; as L2: 107,987,980).

Languages by Status

In this section the languages of Ireland are listed in order of their status within the country as represented by their level on the EGIDs scale (Lewis and Simons 2010). The language entries are reduced to just the information elements that are relevant to assessing the EGIDS level: population, status, language use, language development, and writing.

1 (National)

English [[eng](#)] *Users:* 4,761,000 in Ireland, all users. L1 users: 4,470,000 in Ireland (European Commission 2012). L2 users: 291,000 (European Commission 2012). *Status:* Statutory national language (1937, Constitution, Article 8(2)). *Lg Use:* Some also use French [[fra](#)] (European Commission 2006). A few also use Standard German [[deu](#)] (European Commission 2006). *Writing:* Braille script. Deseret Alphabet, developed in 1854 with limited usage until 1877. Duployan shorthand. Latin script, primary usage. Shavian (Shaw) script, no longer in use. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 1,456,448,320 (as L1: 379,682,200; as L2: 1076,766,120).

4 (Educational)

French [[fra](#)] *Users:* 529,540 in Ireland, all users. L1 users: 2,540 in Ireland (2016 census). L2 users: 527,000 (2022). *Lg Use:* Used as L2 by English [[eng](#)]. *Writing:* Braille script. Duployan shorthand. Latin script, primary usage. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 309,804,220 (as L1: 80,770,190; as L2: 229,034,030).

5 (Developing)

Irish Sign Language [[isg](#)] *Users:* 50,000 in Ireland, all users. L1 users: 5,000 in Ireland (2019 Deaf Village Ireland). Approximately 0.1% of the total population. Other estimates: 4,500 (2019 EUD), 21,000 (2014 IMB). L2 users: 45,000 (2014 Deaf Village Ireland). *Status:* Recognized language (2017, Irish Sign Language Act 2017), authorized for use and interpretation in courts, schools, and other public bodies. *Lg Use:* Several deaf schools. Government policy recommends bilingual education (National Council for Special Education 2011). Deaf associations. Committee on national sign language, and organization for sign language teachers. All domains. Used by all. Some also use English [[eng](#)]. *Lg Dev:* Literature. TV. Videos. Dictionary. Grammar. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 51,550 (as L1: 6,550; as L2: 45,000).

Scots [[sco](#)] *Users:* 10,000 in Ireland (1999 B. Kay). *Lg Use:* Home, community. Used by all. Also use English [[eng](#)]. *Writing:* Latin script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 1,599,200 (as L1: 99,200; as L2: 1,500,000).

5 (Dispersed)

German, Standard [[deu](#)] *Users*: 155,460 in Ireland, all users. L1 users: 1,460 in Ireland (2016 census). L2 users: 154,000 (2018 Eurostat). *Lg Use*: Used as L2 by English [[eng](#)]. *Writing*: Braille script. Latin script, primary usage. Latin script, Fraktur variant, used until 1940. Runic script, no longer in use. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 133,245,880 (as L1: 75,282,080; as L2: 57,963,800).

Spanish [[spa](#)] *Users*: 151,920 in Ireland, all users. L1 users: 2,920 in Ireland (2016 census). L2 users: 149,000 (2022). *Writing*: Braille script. Latin script, primary usage. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 559,078,890 (as L1: 485,063,960; as L2: 74,014,930).

6a (Vigorous)

Shelta [[sth](#)] *Users*: 27,000 in Ireland (2008 A. Redmond). *Writing*: Latin script. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 50,700.

6b (Threatened)

Irish [[gle](#)] *Users*: 1,171,000 in Ireland, all users. L1 users: 141,000 in Ireland (European Commission 2012). L2 users: 1,030,000 (European Commission 2012). *Status*: Statutory language of national identity (1937, Constitution, Article 8(1)). *Lg Use*: Some young people, all adults. A number of children learn the language but the number is decreasing (Salminen 2007). Also use English [[eng](#)] (Salminen 2007). *Lg Dev*: Radio. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. Bible: 1690–1981. *Writing*: Latin script. Latin script, Gaelic variant. Ogham script, no longer in use. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 1,200,240 (as L1: 170,240; as L2: 1,030,000).

9 (Reawakening)

Yola [[yol](#)] *Users*: 140, all users. L1 users: No known L1 speakers, but emerging L2 speakers. Jack Devereux, the last speaker, died in 1998, though the language went functionally extinct in the 1800s. L2 users: 140 (2022 A. Edwards). *Writing*: Latin script, developed in the 12th century.

Unestablished

Arabic, Levantine [[apc](#)] *Users*: 3,790 in Ireland (2016 census). *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 47,595,360 (as L1: 47,236,360; as L2: 359,000).

Bengali [[ben](#)] *Users*: 1,210 in Ireland (2016 census). *Writing*: Bengali (Bangla) script, primary usage. Braille script. Newa script, no longer in use. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 272,828,760 (as L1: 233,808,880; as L2: 39,019,880).

Hindi [[hin](#)] *Users*: 2,980 in Ireland (2016 census). *Writing*: Braille script. Devanagari script, primary usage. Latin script, recent informal usage, especially online on social media. Mahajani

script, no longer in use, historic usage. Newa script, no longer in use, historic usage.

Worldwide: Total users in all countries: 609,454,770 (as L1: 344,650,870; as L2: 264,803,900).

Hungarian [hun] *Users:* 8,290 in Ireland (2016 census). *Writing:* Braille script. Latin script, primary usage. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 12,617,790 (as L1: 12,610,690; as L2: 7,100).

Italian [ita] *Users:* 2,210 in Ireland (2016 census). *Writing:* Braille script, used since 1974. Latin script, primary usage. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 67,935,480 (as L1: 64,647,380; as L2: 3,288,100).

Latvian, Standard [lvs] *Users:* 12,400 in Ireland (2016 census). *Writing:* Latin script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 2,005,550 (as L1: 1,554,520; as L2: 451,030).

Lithuanian [lit] *Users:* 1,020 in Ireland (2016 census). *Writing:* Latin script. Latin script, Fraktur variant, no longer in use. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 2,772,870 (as L1: 2,771,830; as L2: 1,040).

Malay [zlm] *Users:* 1,180 in Ireland (2016 census). *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant. Latin script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 19,179,170 (as L1: 16,171,280; as L2: 3,007,890).

Malayalam [mal] *Users:* 3,380 in Ireland (2016 census). *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant. Braille script, used since 1998. Malayalam script, primary usage. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 37,359,380 (as L1: 36,647,680; as L2: 711,700).

Polish [pol] *Users:* 4,030 in Ireland (2016 census). *Writing:* Braille script. Latin script, primary usage. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 40,589,930 (as L1: 39,896,930; as L2: 693,000).

Portuguese [por] *Users:* 4,620 in Ireland (2016 census). *Writing:* Braille script. Latin script, primary usage. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 263,638,850 (as L1: 236,266,650; as L2: 27,372,200).

Romanian [ron] *Users:* 2,900 in Ireland (2016 census). *Writing:* Braille script. Cyrillic script, official usage in Moldova until 1991. Cyrillic script, Old Church Slavonic variant, 1688, experimental usage. Latin script, primary usage. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 24,478,820 (as L1: 24,461,820; as L2: 17,000).

Russian [rus] *Users:* 25,000 in Ireland (Arefyev 2012), all users. *Writing:* Braille script. Cyrillic script, primary usage. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 254,997,130 (as L1: 146,954,150; as L2: 107,987,980).

Slovak [slk] *Users:* 7,900 in Ireland (2016 census). *Writing:* Braille script. Latin script, primary usage. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 7,330,420 (as L1: 5,281,620; as L2: 2,048,800).

Tagalog [tgl] *Users:* 7,670 in Ireland (2016 census). *Writing:* Braille script. Latin script, primary usage. Tagalog script, no longer in use. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 83,054,910 (as L1: 28,746,910; as L2: 54,308,000).

Tamil [[tam](#)] *Users:* 1,060 in Ireland (2016 census). *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant, no longer in use. Braille script. Tamil script, primary usage. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 86,640,030 (as L1: 78,587,030; as L2: 8,053,000).

Urdu [[urd](#)] *Users:* 5,340 in Ireland (2016 census). *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant. Arabic script, Nastaliq variant, primary usage. Braille script. Devanagari script, used in India (Ahmad 2011). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 231,717,940 (as L1: 70,555,140; as L2: 161,162,800).

Yoruba [[yor](#)] *Users:* 1,930 in Ireland (2016 census). *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant, no longer in use. Braille script. Latin script, used since 1865, primary usage. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 45,862,500 (as L1: 43,837,900; as L2: 2,024,600).

Languages by Family

This index gives an alphabetical listing of the linguistic classifications used for the established languages of Ireland. The entries in this index represent the full path in the linguistic family tree from the highest level grouping down to the lowest. All the languages listed in the same entry are members of the same lowest-level subgroup. The referenced page contains the main entry that describes the language.

Indo-European, Celtic, Insular, Goidelic

Irish [gle], [13](#)

Indo-European, Germanic, West, English

English [eng], [11](#)

Scots [sco], [16](#)

Yola [yol], [18](#)

Indo-European, Germanic, West, High German, German, Middle German, East Middle German

German, Standard [deu], [12](#)

Indo-European, Italic, Romance, Italo-Western, Western, Gallo-Iberian, Gallo-Romance, Gallo-Rhaetian, Oil, French

French [fra], [12](#)

Indo-European, Italic, Romance, Italo-Western, Western, Gallo-Iberian, Ibero-Romance, West Iberian, Castilian

Spanish [spa], [17](#)

Mixed language, Irish-undocumented

Shelta [sth], [17](#)

Sign language, Deaf community sign language

Irish Sign Language [isg], [14](#)

Language Code Index

This index gives an alphabetical listing of all 27 three-letter codes that are used in this work to uniquely identify languages. The referenced page contains the main entry that describes the language. All codes listed are part of the ISO 639-3 standard; see <http://www.sil.org/iso639-3/>.

apc	Arabic, Levantine, 11	por	Portuguese, 15
ben	Bengali, 11	ron	Romanian, 16
deu	German, Standard, 12	rus	Russian, 16
eng	English, 11	sco	Scots, 16
fra	French, 12	slk	Slovak, 17
gle	Irish, 13	spa	Spanish, 17
hin	Hindi, 12	sth	Shelta, 17
hun	Hungarian, 13	tam	Tamil, 18
isg	Irish Sign Language, 14	tgl	Tagalog, 17
ita	Italian, 14	urd	Urdu, 18
lit	Lithuanian, 15	yol	Yola, 18
lvs	Latvian, Standard, 14	yor	Yoruba, 18
mal	Malayalam, 15	zlm	Malay, 15
pol	Polish, 15		

Language Name Index

This index lists every name that appears in the language listings as a primary or alternate name of a language or dialect. The following abbreviations are used in the index entries: *alt.* ‘alternate name for’; *alt. dial.* ‘alternate name for a dialect of’; *dial.* ‘primary name for a dialect of’; *pej. alt.* ‘pejorative alternate name for’; and *pej. alt. dial.* ‘pejorative alternate name for a dialect of’. Each index entry resolves to the primary name for the language with which the indexed name is associated, followed by square brackets containing the unique three-letter language code from ISO 639-3. The referenced page contains the main entry that describes the language. If the language appears on a map, the entry for the primary name also lists page numbers for the maps on which the language occurs.

- Levantine Arabic**, *see* Arabic, Levantine [apc],
11
- Bog Latin**, *alt.* Shelta [sth], 17
- Cant**, *alt.* Shelta [sth], 17
- Connacht**, *dial.* Irish [gle], 13
- De Gammon**, *alt.* Shelta [sth], 17
- Deutsch**, *alt.* German, Standard [deu], 12
- Donegal**, *dial.* Irish [gle], 13
- English** [eng], 11, 20
- Erse**, *alt.* Irish [gle], 13
- Forth and Bargy dialect**, *alt.* Yola [yol], 18
- français**, *alt.* French [fra], 12
- French** [fra], 12
- Gaeilge**, *alt.* Irish [gle], 13
- Gaelic**, *alt.* Irish [gle], 13
- Gaelic Irish**, *alt.* Irish [gle], 13
- Gammon**, *alt.* Shelta [sth], 17
- German, Standard** [deu], 12
see German, Standard [deu], 12
- Irish** [gle], 13, 20
- Irish Gaelic**, *alt.* Irish [gle], 13
- Irish Sign Language** [isg], 14, 0
- Irish Traveler Cant**, *alt.* Shelta [sth], 17
- Standard Latvian**, *see* Latvian, Standard [lvs],
14
- Munster-Leinster**, *dial.* Irish [gle], 13
- North Hiberno English**, *dial.* English [eng], 11
- Northern Irish**, *alt. dial.* Irish [gle], 13
- Scots** [sco], 16, 20
- Sheldru**, *alt.* Shelta [sth], 17
- Shelta** [sth], 17
- Shelter**, *alt.* Shelta [sth], 17
- Shelterorch**, *alt.* Shelta [sth], 17
- South Hiberno English**, *dial.* English [eng],
11
- Southern Irish**, *alt. dial.* Irish [gle], 13
- Spanish** [spa], 17
- Tarri**, *alt.* Shelta [sth], 17
- Teanga Chomharthaíochta na hÉireann**, *alt.*
Irish Sign Language [isg], 14
- The Cant**, *alt.* Shelta [sth], 17
- the Ould Thing**, *alt.* Shelta [sth], 17
- Tinker’s Cant**, *alt.* Shelta [sth], 17
- Ullans**, *alt.* Scots [sco], 16
- Ulster**, *alt. dial.* Irish [gle], 13
- Ulster-Scotch**, *alt.* Scots [sco], 16
- Ulster-Scots**, *alt.* Scots [sco], 16
- Western Irish**, *alt. dial.* Irish [gle], 13
- Yola** [yol], 18

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