

# Ethnologue: Languages of Israel

## Twenty-sixth edition data

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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
CDE	Convention against Discrimination in Education (1960)
<i>Class</i>	Language classification
<i>dial.</i>	primary dialect name for
EUD	European Union of the Deaf
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966)
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
<i>pl.</i>	plural
S	Subject in constituent word order
<i>sg.</i>	singular
SIL	SIL International
SVO	Subject-Verb-Object
<i>Type</i>	Typological information
UNCRPD	United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2006)
V	Vowel in canonical syllable patterns

## How to Use This Digest

This *Ethnologue* country digest provides an extract of the information about the language situation in Israel 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 54 languages listed in the *Ethnologue* for the country of Israel. 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. Macrolanguage member languages. *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 26) lists the languages in order of their first-language speaker populations. “Languages by Status” (page 30) 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 District” (page 36) lists the top-level administrative subdivisions of Israel and the languages located within each. “Languages by Family” (page 37) lists the languages by their linguistic classifications. “Language Code Index” (page 39) 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 40) lists every name that appears in the language listings as a primary or

alternate name of a language or dialect. A total of 185 unique names are associated with the 54 languages described in this digest.

Finally, a listing of all the published sources cited within this digest is found in “Bibliography” (page 45). 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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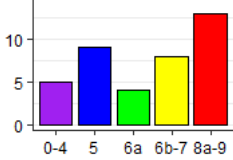
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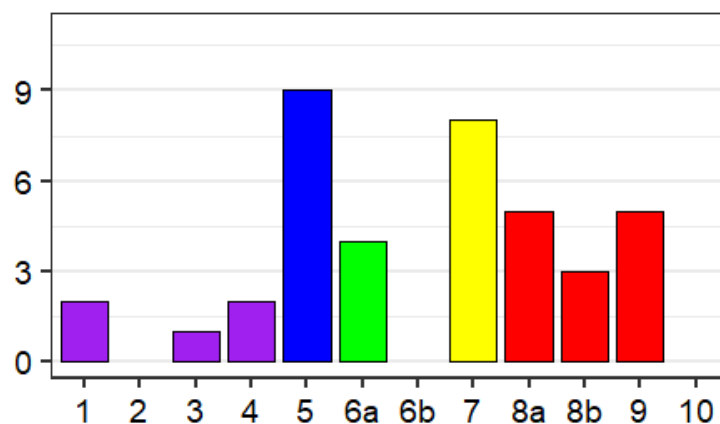
## Country Overview

Name of country	Israel												
Other names	State of Israel												
Population	9,215,000 (2020 World Bank)												
Comments	About half the Jewish people are Sephardi and half Ashkenazi.												
Principal languages	Hebrew, Standard Arabic												
Literacy rate	98% (2011 World Factbook)												
Deaf population	4,500–306,000 (1998)												
International conventions	CDE (1961), ICCPR (1991), UNCPRD (2012)												
General references	Campbell and King 2011, Comrie 1987, Fischer and Jastrow 1980, Fishman 1985, Gold 1974, Paper 1978, Sáenz-Badillos 1993												
Language counts	<p>The number of established languages listed for Israel is 39. All are living languages. Of these, 22 are indigenous and 17 are non-indigenous. Furthermore, 5 are institutional, 9 are developing, 4 are vigorous, 8 are in trouble, and 13 are dying. Also listed are 13 unestablished languages and 2 macrolanguages.</p>  <table border="1"> <caption>Language Vitality Counts for Israel</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Vitality Category</th> <th>Count</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>0-4</td> <td>5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5</td> <td>9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6a</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6b-7</td> <td>8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8a-9</td> <td>13</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Vitality Category	Count	0-4	5	5	9	6a	4	6b-7	8	8a-9	13
Vitality Category	Count												
0-4	5												
5	9												
6a	4												
6b-7	8												
8a-9	13												

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 Israel 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 30) 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 Israel. 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 Israel 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 Israel 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 26) 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	2	5.1	5.1%	6,530,000	78.45973	78.45973%
100,000 to 999,999	4	10.3	15.4%	1,004,000	12.06333	90.52306%
10,000 to 99,999	15	38.5	53.8%	761,800	9.15323	99.67630%
1,000 to 9,999	6	15.4	69.2%	26,700	0.32081	99.99710%
100 to 999	1	2.6	71.8%	150	0.00180	99.99891%
10 to 99	2	5.1	76.9%	85	0.00102	99.99993%
1 to 9	1	2.6	79.5%	6	0.00007	100.00000%
0	5	12.8	92.3%		0.00000	100.00000%
Unknown	3	7.7	100.0%			

Population range	Living languages			Number of speakers		
	Count	Percent	Cumulative	Total	Percent	Cumulative
Totals	39	100.0		8,322,741	100.00000	

### Summary by language status

Table 2 summarizes the distribution of living established languages in Israel 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 30) 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 Israel. 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				
	Count	Percent	Cumulative	Total	Percent	Cumulative	Mean	Median
1	2	5.1	5.1%	5,000,000	60.0764	60.0764%	2,500,000	5,000,000
3	1	2.6	7.7%	1,530,000	18.3834	78.4597%	1,530,000	1,530,000
4	2	5.1	12.8%	129,000	1.5500	80.0097%	64,500	64,500
5	9	23.1	35.9%	1,189,000	14.2862	94.2959%	132,111	77,800
6a	4	10.3	46.2%	94,200	1.1318	95.4277%	23,550	18,075
7	8	20.5	66.7%	327,100	3.9302	99.3579%	40,888	45,500
8a	5	12.8	79.5%	53,400	0.6416	99.9995%	10,680	3,750
8b	3	7.7	87.2%	41	0.0005	100.0000%	14	20
9	5	12.8	100.0%		0.0000	100.0000%		
Totals	39	100.0		8,322,741	100.0000			

### Summary by language family

The genealogical classifications given in the language entries of the “Alphabetical Listing of Languages” (page 11) name 6 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>
Abkhaz-Adyghe	1	2.6	3,200	0.0	3,200	3,200
Afro-Asiatic	20	51.3	6,858,006	82.4	342,900	6,400
Indo-European	12	30.8	1,370,335	16.5	114,195	67,500
Kartvelian	1	2.6	58,000	0.7	58,000	58,000
Sign language	4	10.3	10,200	0.1	2,550	150
Uralic	1	2.6	23,000	0.3	23,000	23,000
<i>Totals</i>	39	100.0	8,322,741	100.0		

## Alphabetical Listing of Languages

**Adyghe** [ady] (Adygey, West Circassian). *Users:* 3,200 in Israel (Leclerc 2018a). *Location:* Northern district: Kafr Kama, Rehaniya, and small border villages. *Status:* 5\* (Developing). *Class:* Abkhaz-Adyghe, Circassian. *Type:* SOV; 57 consonants and 3 vowels. *Lg Use:* Also use Levantine Arabic [apc]. *Lg Dev:* Literature. Newspapers. Radio. TV. Dictionary. Grammar. NT: 1991. *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant, no longer in use. Cyrillic script. Latin script, used in Turkey. *Other:* Non-indigenous. Came about 100 years ago from the Caucasus (now the Russian Federation). Very slight dialect differences between the 2 villages. Understand radio programs in Adyghe from Jordan. Muslim. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 613,700. Indigenous in: Russian Federation. Also established in: Iraq, Jordan, Syria, Turkey. Unestablished in: Egypt, Germany, North Macedonia.

**Algerian Jewish Sign Language** [ajs] (AJSL, Ghardaia Sign Language). *Users:* Very few in Israel, unknown number in France, none in Algeria (Lanesman and Meir 2012b). *Location:* Scattered. *Status:* 8b (Nearly extinct). *Class:* Sign language, Shared sign language. *Dialects:* None known. No language is known to be linguistically close, as AJSL arose in an isolated community (Lanesman and Meir 2012b). *Lg Use:* Now used only among nuclear families that have deaf members (Lanesman and Meir 2012b). Elderly only. Most shifted to Israeli Sign Language [isr] (Lanesman and Meir 2012b). *DLS:* . *Other:* Non-indigenous. Jewish immigrants from Algeria to Israel and France. The last Jews left Algeria in 1962. *Worldwide:* Indigenous in: Algeria. Also established in: France.

**Al-Sayyid Bedouin Sign Language** [syy] (ABSL, Bedouin Sign Language). *Users:* 150 (Sandler et al 2005). About 150 with congenital deafness and an unknown number of hearing. *Location:* Southern district: Al-Sayyid village. *Status:* 6a (Vigorous). *Class:* Sign language, Shared sign language. *Dialects:* None known. Distinct from national sign languages in the area. Israeli Sign Language (ISL) [isr] users from outside the village do not understand ABSL; ABSL signers do not understand ISL except for younger deaf who learn ISL in school. ABSL signers do not understand Jordanian Sign Language [jos] used on Jordanian television programs received in the area. *Lg Use:* Vigorous. Used by both deaf and many of the 3,500 hearing people in the village. Siblings and children of deaf individuals, and other members of a household (which may include several wives and their children) often become fluent signers. Hearing people there routinely assess their own proficiency, praising those with greater facility in the language. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Many also use Hebrew [heb], but usually only in writing (Kisch 2012). Many also use Levantine Arabic [apc], especially hearing signers (Kisch 2012). Some also use Israeli Sign Language [isr], especially deaf signers among themselves (reserving ABSL for interactions with hearing people); learned in school (Kisch 2012). *DLS:* Still. *Other:* Developed spontaneously when four deaf siblings in one family born 1924–1940. Four generations of descendants are recognized (Kisch 2012).

**Amharic** [amh] (Beta Israel, “Falasha” pej.). *Users:* 77,800 in Israel (Leclerc 2018a). *Location:* Central district: LeZion, Netanya, Petah Tikva, Rehovot, Rishon; Haifa district: Hadera, Haifa;

Jerusalem district; Southern district: Ashdod, Ashkelon, Beersheba, Kiryat Malachi. *Status*: 5\* (Dispersed). *Class*: Afro-Asiatic, Semitic, South, Ethiopian, South, Transversal, Amharic-Argobba. *Type*: SOV; prepositions, genitives, articles, and relatives precede noun heads; question word initial; case-marking (4 cases); verb suffixes show person, number, gender of subject and (optionally) object; passives including deponents; aspect; causatives; no comparatives; 27 consonant and 7 vowel phonemes; non-tonal; very weak stress. *Lg Use*: Also use Hebrew [heb]. Used as L2 by Tigrigna [tir]. *Lg Dev*: Fully developed. Bible: 1840–2013. *Writing*: Braille script. Ethiopic script, primary usage. *Other*: Non-indigenous. Spoken by Jews of Ethiopian origin. Jewish. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 57,567,300 (as L1: 32,449,400; as L2: 25,117,900). Global EGIDS level: 1 (National). Indigenous in: Ethiopia. Unestablished in: Australia, Canada, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Finland, Germany, Kuwait, Norway, Sudan, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States.

**Arabic, Egyptian Spoken** [arz]. *Users*: 27,000 in Israel (Leclerc 2018a). *Location*: Scattered. *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Afro-Asiatic, Semitic, Central, South, Arabic. *Lg Dev*: Radio. TV. Videos. Dictionary. Grammar. NT: 1932. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant, primary usage. Braille script. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 102,436,230 (as L1: 77,436,230; as L2: 25,000,000). Global EGIDS level: 3 (Wider communication). Indigenous in: Egypt. Also established in: United Arab Emirates. Unestablished in: Australia, Canada, Cyprus, Germany, Greece, Iraq, Italy, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Malta, Netherlands, New Zealand, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Syria, United Kingdom, United States, Yemen.

**Arabic, Judeo-Iraqi** [yhd] (Iraqi Judeo-Arabic, Jewish Iraqi-Baghdadi Arabic, Yahudic). *Users*: 94,000 in Israel (Leclerc 2018a). *Location*: Scattered. *Status*: 7 (Shifting). *Class*: Afro-Asiatic, Semitic, Central, South, Arabic. A member of macrolanguage Judeo-Arabic [jrb]. *Dialects*: None known. Reportedly not intelligible with Judeo-Tripolitanian Arabic [yud] or Judeo-Moroccan Arabic [aju]. Reportedly similar to Baghdadi Arabic and North Mesopotamian Arabic [acm]. *Lg Use*: Adults only. Shifting to Hebrew [heb]. *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Hebrew script. *Other*: The term Yahudic is used by a few scholars to denote all Judeo-Arabic languages. Jewish. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 97,200. Also established in: Iraq. Unestablished in: United Kingdom.

**Arabic, Judeo-Moroccan** [aju]. *Users*: 53,000 in Israel (Leclerc 2018a). *Location*: Widespread. *Status*: 7 (Shifting). *Class*: Afro-Asiatic, Semitic, Central, South, Arabic. *Dialects*: Many dialects. Much intelligibility with Tunisian Judeo-Arabic [aeb], some with Judeo-Tripolitanian Arabic [yud], none with Judeo-Iraqi Arabic [yhd]. May be inherently intelligible with Moroccan Arabic [ary]. *Lg Use*: Shifting to Hebrew [heb]. *Lg Dev*: Radio. Dictionary. Grammar. *Writing*: Hebrew script. *Other*: Non-indigenous. Many borrowings from Spanish [spa], Ladino [lad] and French [fra]. Jewish. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 61,180. Indigenous in: Morocco. Unestablished in: Canada, United States.

**Arabic, Judeo-Tripolitanian** [yud] (Jewish Tripolitanian-Libyan Arabic, Tripolita'it, Tripolitanian Judeo-Arabic, Yudi). *Users*: 38,000 in Israel (Leclerc 2018a). *Location*: Central

district: south of Tel Aviv. *Status*: 7 (Shifting). *Class*: Afro-Asiatic, Semitic, Central, South, Arabic. A member of macrolanguage Judeo-Arabic [jrb]. *Dialects*: None known. Not intelligible with Judeo-Iraqi Arabic [yhd]; medium intelligibility with Judeo-Tunisian Arabic [aeb] and Judeo-Morocco Arabic [aju]. *Lg Use*: Adults only. Shifting to Hebrew [heb]. *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Hebrew script. *Other*: Jewish. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 43,000. Unestablished in: Italy.

**Arabic, Judeo-Yemeni** [jye] (Judeo-Yemeni, Yemenite, Yemenite Judeo-Arabic). *Users*: 36,000 in Israel (Leclerc 2018a). *Location*: Jerusalem and Southern districts; Tel Aviv district: Jaffa. *Status*: 6a\* (Vigorous). *Class*: Afro-Asiatic, Semitic, Central, South, Arabic. *Lg Dev*: Dictionary. Grammar. *Writing*: Hebrew script. *Other*: Non-indigenous. Jewish. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 37,680. Indigenous in: Yemen. Unestablished in: United States.

**Arabic, Levantine** [apc]. *Users*: 1,530,000 in Israel (Leclerc 2018a). *Location*: Widespread. *Status*: 3 (Wider communication). De facto language of national identity. *Class*: Afro-Asiatic, Semitic, Central, South, Arabic. *Dialects*: Fellahi, Madani. *Lg Use*: Also use Hebrew [heb]. Used as L2 by Adyge [ady], Al-Sayyid Bedouin Sign Language [syy], Western Armenian [hyw]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L2: 90% in Arabic [arb], 60% in Hebrew [heb]. Radio. TV. Dictionary. Grammar. Bible portions: 1940–1973. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant. *Other*: Muslim, Christian, Druze, Jewish. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 47,595,360 (as L1: 47,236,360; as L2: 359,000). Also indigenous in: 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, Ireland, 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.

**Arabic, Levantine Bedawi Spoken** [avl]. *Users*: 121,000 in Israel (Leclerc 2018a). *Location*: Disputed territory east of Jerusalem on west bank of lower Jordan river and upper Dead sea, scattered. *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Afro-Asiatic, Semitic, Central, South, Arabic. *Lg Dev*: TV. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 2,841,600. Global EGIDS level: 6a (Vigorous). Indigenous in: Egypt (Eastern Egyptian Bedawi Spoken Arabic), Jordan, Palestine. Also established in: Syria.

**Arabic, Standard** [arb]. *Users*: 2,170,000 in Israel (2014 SIL), all users. *Location*: Widespread. *Status*: 1 (National). Statutory national language (1922, Palestine Order in Council, Article 82, 10 October). *Class*: Afro-Asiatic, Semitic, Central, South, Arabic. *Type*: VSO; prepositions; noun head initial; gender (masculine/feminine); dual number; definite and indefinite affixes; case-marking (3 cases); verb affixes mark number, gender of subject; aspect; 28 consonant and

6 vowel phonemes; non-tonal; stress on first syllable; triliteral roots, few affixes. *Lg Use*: Education and communication among Arabic-speaking countries. *Lg Dev*: Taught in all primary and secondary schools in Arab schools. Fully developed. Bible: 1645–2008. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant, primary usage. Braille script. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 273,989,700. Global EGIDS level: 0 (International). Indigenous in: Saudi Arabia. Also established in 30 other countries and unestablished in 1 more.

**Arabic, Tunisian Spoken** [aeb]. *Users*: No known L1 speakers in Israel. Ethnic population: 10,000 (Leclerc 2018a). *Location*: Jerusalem district: Beit Shemesh. *Status*: 9 (Dormant). *Class*: Afro-Asiatic, Semitic, Central, South, Arabic. *Dialect*: Judeo-Tunisian Arabic. Medium intelligibility with Judeo-Moroccan Arabic [aju] and Judeo-Tripolitanian Arabic [yud], but none with Judeo-Iraqi Arabic [yhd]. A lexicon of 5,000 words in 1950 had 79% words of Arabic origin, 15% Romance loanwords, 5% Hebrew loanwords, 2% others (Cohen 1985). *Lg Use*: Shifted to Hebrew [heb]. *Lg Dev*: Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. NT: 1847–2011. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant. Latin script, informal use on social media (Akin 2014). *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 11,709,890. Global EGIDS level: 3 (Wider communication). Indigenous in: Tunisia. Unestablished in: Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Libya, Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, United States.

**Armenian, Western** [hyw]. *Users*: 4,300 in Israel (Leclerc 2018a). *Location*: Jerusalem. *Status*: 7 (Shifting). *Class*: Indo-European, Armenian. *Lg Use*: Also use Levantine Arabic [apc]. *Lg Dev*: Fully developed. *Writing*: Armenian script. *Other*: Non-indigenous. Christian. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 1,582,290 (as L1: 1,576,490; as L2: 5,800). Global EGIDS level: 5 (Developing). Indigenous in: Armenia, Georgia, Turkey. Also established in 20 other countries and unestablished in 14 more.

**Barzani-Sandu Jewish Neo-Aramaic** [bjf] (Barzani Jewish Neo-Aramaic, Central Jewish Neo-Aramaic, Lishan Didan, Lishan Dideni). *Users*: 6 (2017 H. Mutzafi). *Location*: Jerusalem. *Status*: 8b (Nearly extinct). *Class*: Afro-Asiatic, Semitic, Central, Aramaic, Eastern, Central, Northeastern. *Dialects*: Barzani dialect cluster (Barzan, Bijil, Shahe), Sandu. Sandu is a Jewish Neo-Aramaic dialect closely related to Barzani, but several isoglosses link it with Lishana Deni [lsd]. Bijil went extinct in 1998, Shahe in 2000, and Sandu in 2008 (2017 H. Mutzafi). *Lg Use*: Elderly only. Shifted to Hebrew [heb]. Some also speak other Neo-Aramaic languages. Some also use Kurdish [kur]. *Lg Dev*: Texts. *DLS*: Emerging (0.01). *Other*: Originally spoken in 4 villages near Aqra, Iraq. Also in Nerim village perhaps as a separate dialect (2017 H. Mutzafi).

**Bukharic** [bhh] (Bokharan, Bokharic, Bukharan, Bukharian, Judeo-Tajik). *Users*: 64,000 in Israel (Leclerc 2018a). *Location*: Central district: Ramla; Tel Aviv district and city: Holon and Or Yehuda. *Status*: 7 (Shifting). *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Iranian, Western, Southwestern, Persian. *Dialects*: None known. May be easily intelligible of Tajiki or Farsi [pes]. Similar to Dzhidi [jpr]. *Lg Use*: Shifting to Hebrew [heb]. *Lg Dev*: Radio. *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Cyrillic script, primary usage. Hebrew script. Latin script, no longer in use. *Other*:

Many recent immigrants (1995). Jewish. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 117,840. Global EGIDS level: 6a (Vigorous). Also established in: Uzbekistan. Unestablished in: United States.

**Dzhidi** [jpr] (Djudi, Judeo-Persian, Judi). *Users*: 55,000 in Israel (Leclerc 2018a). *Location*: Jerusalem, Northern, and Southern districts; possibly Galilee and Negev. *Status*: 7 (Shifting). *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Iranian, Western, Southwestern, Persian. *Dialects*: None known. Reportedly similar to Bukharic [bhh] and Iranian Persian [pes]. *Lg Use*: Shifting to Hebrew [heb]. *Lg Dev*: Grammar. Texts. Bible: 1909. *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Hebrew script. *Other*: Jewish. *Worldwide*: Also established in: Iran.

**English** [eng]. Autonym: English. *Users*: 6,202,000 in Israel, all users. L1 users: 92,000 in Israel (Leclerc 2018a). L2 users: 6,110,000 (2018). *Location*: Widespread. *Status*: 4 (Educational). *Class*: Indo-European, Germanic, West, 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 Dev*: Taught as subject in primary and secondary schools from grade 3. Taught in some 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. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *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). Indigenous in: Ireland, United Kingdom. Also established in 167 other countries and unestablished in 16 more.

**French** [fra]. Autonym: français. *Users*: 528,000 in Israel, all users. L1 users: 37,000 in Israel (Leclerc 2018a). L2 users: 491,000 (Marcoux et al 2022). *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 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]. Autonym: Deutsch. *Users*: 14,000 in Israel (Leclerc 2018a). *Status*: Unestablished. *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 Dev*: 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 40 other countries and unestablished in 22 more.

**Greek** [ell]. *Users*: 3,400 in Israel (Leclerc 2018a). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Indo-European, Greek, Attic. *Type*: SVO; prepositions; noun head final; gender (masculine/feminine/neuter); definite and indefinite articles; case-marking (3 cases); verb affixes mark person, number; passives (active, medio-passive, passive); tense and aspect; comparatives; 18 consonant and 5 vowel phonemes; non-tonal; free stress. *Lg Dev*: Fully developed. Bible: 1840–1994. *Writing*: Braille script. Cyrillic script, used in Ukraine. Greek script, primary usage. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 13,088,220 (as L1: 12,992,220; as L2: 96,000). Global EGIDS level: 1 (National). Indigenous in: Albania, Greece. Also established in: Australia, Cyprus, Egypt, Hungary, Italy, Romania, Turkey, Ukraine. Unestablished in: Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Czechia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Finland, Germany, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Libya, Luxembourg, Malawi, Mexico, Mozambique, Netherlands, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Panama, Russian Federation, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

**Hebrew** [heb] (Contemporary Hebrew, Israeli, Israeli Hebrew, Modern Hebrew). *Users*: 8,300,000 in Israel, all users. L1 users: 5,000,000 in Israel (Leclerc 2018a). Spoken by all Israelis as L1 or L2. Some who use it as L1 now in Israel learned it as L2 originally. L2 users: 3,300,000 (2018). *Location*: Widespread. *Status*: 1 (National). Statutory national language (1922, Palestine Order in Council, Article 82, 10 October). *Class*: Afro-Asiatic, Semitic, Central, South, Canaanite. *Dialects*: Standard Hebrew (Europeanized Hebrew, General Israeli), Oriental Hebrew (Arabized Hebrew, Yemenite Hebrew). An amalgamation of different Hebrew strata plus intrinsic linguistic evolution. *Type*: SVO; prepositions; noun head initial; gender (masculine/feminine); definite article prefixed to noun; verb affixes mark person, number, gender of subject; tense; comparatives; 22 consonants, 5 vowels, 4 diphthongs; non-tonal. *Lg Use*: Religious use (within the Jewish community) and everyday language. *Lg Dev*: Taught in all primary and secondary schools in Jewish schools. Taught in most tertiary schools. Fully developed. NT: 1537–2010. Agency: The Academy of the Hebrew Language. *DLS*: Thriving (0.87). *Writing*: Braille script. Hebrew script, primary usage. *Other*: Biblical Hebrew continued to be used as a liturgical and literary language for many centuries. Hebrew was revived as a spoken language in the 19th and 20th centuries, principally through the work of Eliezer Ben-Yehuda. Of the Canaanite languages, Modern Hebrew is the only language spoken today. Jewish. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 9,339,180 (as L1: 5,980,580; as L2: 3,358,600). Also established in: Palestine. Unestablished in: Australia, Austria, Canada, Germany, New Zealand, Russian Federation, United Kingdom, United States.

**Hebrew, Ancient** [hbo] (Old Hebrew). *Users*: No known L1 speakers. *Location*: Jerusalem district: west Jerusalem. *Status*: 9 (Dormant). *Class*: Afro-Asiatic, Semitic, Central, South, Canaanite. *Lg Use*: Liturgical language; Jewish Bible text. *Lg Dev*: Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. OT: 916–1488. *DLS*: Emerging (0.06). *Writing*: Hebrew script. *Other*: Jewish.

**Hulaulá** [huy] (Jabali, Lishana Akhni, Lishana Noshan). *Users*: Several thousands (2017 H. Mutzafi). *Location*: Scattered. *Status*: 8a (Moribund). *Class*: Afro-Asiatic, Semitic, Central, Aramaic, Eastern, Central, Northeastern, Trans-Zab. *Dialects*: Saqiz, Kerend, Sanandaj, Suleimaniyya, Bijar, Tekab, Khanaqin. Very different and not intelligible with Senaya [syn] or Lishana Deni [lsd]. 60%–70% intelligibility of Lishán Noshan [trg] and Inter-Zab Jewish Neo-Aramaic [aij]. *Lg Use*: Older adults only. Shifted to Hebrew [heb]. Also use Kurdish [kur], especially older people. *Lg Dev*: Grammar. *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Hebrew script. *Other*: Originally from Iranian Kurdistan and adjoining areas of Iraq. Jewish. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 350. Also indigenous in: Iran.

**Hungarian** [hun] (Magyar). Autonym: Magyar. *Users*: 23,000 in Israel (Leclerc 2018a). *Location*: Central, Haifa, and Tel Aviv districts. *Status*: 5\* (Dispersed). *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 Use*: Older adults prefer Hungarian. Also use Hebrew [heb]. *Lg Dev*: Fully developed. Bible: 1590–1991. *Writing*: Braille script. Latin script, primary usage. *Other*: Non-indigenous. Jewish. *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, Slovenia. Unestablished in: Australia, Brazil, Canada, Czechia, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Ireland, Luxembourg, Moldova, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Russian Federation, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States.

**Inter-Zab Jewish Neo-Aramaic** [aij] (Galigalu, Hula'ula, Hulani, Jbeli, Kurdit, Lishana Didán, Lishanid Noshan, Sureth). *Users*: 3,500 (Leclerc 2018a). *Location*: Widespread. *Status*: 8a (Moribund). *Class*: Afro-Asiatic, Semitic, Central, Aramaic, Eastern, Central, Northeastern, Trans-Zab. *Dialects*: Arbel (Arbil), Dobe, Koy Sanjaq, Rwanduz, Rustaqa, Shaqlawa, Ranye, Qaladze. 60%–70% inherent intelligibility with Lishanan [lsd] and Hulaulá [huy]. Very different and not inherently intelligible with Christian Aramaic languages and Lishana Deni. Western cluster dialects are Arbel, Dobe, and Shaqlawa. Eastern cluster dialects are Southeastern varieties: Koy Sanjaq, Qaladze, and Ranye. Northern cluster dialects are Rwanduz and Rustaqa (2017 H. Mutzafi). *Lg Use*: Older adults only. Shifted to Hebrew [heb]. *Lg Dev*: Grammar. *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Hebrew script. *Other*: Originally spoken in the area of Arbil, Iraq, between the Great Zab and Little Zab rivers (2017 H. Mutzafi). Jewish.

**Israeli Sign Language** [isr] (ISL). *Users*: 10,000 (Meir et al 2010). Approximately 0.1% of the total population. *Location*: Scattered. *Status*: 5 (Developing). *Class*: Sign language, Deaf community sign language. *Dialects*: None known. Some regional lexical variation: Tel-Aviv, Haifa, Be'er-Sheva, Jerusalem (Lanesman and Meir 2012). Early influence from German Sign

Language [gsg] but incorporating signs from many other sources due to immigration of Jewish deaf, especially from Europe, North Africa and the Middle East (Meir 2012). Existence of a sign language in Palestine in the late 19th century is documented, but the extent of its influence on ISL is unknown (Meir and Sandler 2008). Several small communities with endogamous marriage patterns also have high incidence of deafness and their own distinct sign languages, including Al-Sayyid [syy] and Kufr Qassem [sqx], as well as others without ISO 639-3 codes: Abu Kaf, Arab al-Na'im, and Ein Mahel (2021 University of Haifa Sign Language Research Lab). Immigrants from Algeria used Algerian Jewish Sign Language (Lanesman and Meir 2012, Lanesman 2016), although most have transitioned to using ISL. *Type*: One-handed fingerspelling system for Hebrew script with some similarities to that used with French Sign Language [fsl], but with several handshapes based on Hebrew letter shapes. *Lg Use*: Vigorous. Interpreters provided in courts, and free for up to 45 hours per year. Some interpretation for college students. ISL instruction for deaf immigrants, parents of deaf children, other hearing people. Organization for sign language teachers. Used by all. Also use Hebrew [heb] (Meir and Sandler 2008). Used as L2 by Algerian Jewish Sign Language [ajs], Al-Sayyid Bedouin Sign Language [syy], Kufr Qassem Sign Language [sqx], Russian Sign Language [rsl]. *Lg Dev*: TV. Videos. Dictionary. Bible portions: 2020. Agency: The Institute for the Advancement of Deaf Persons in Israel. *DLS*: Emerging (0.01). *Other*: First deaf school established in Jerusalem in 1932. Deaf community began to coalesce in the late 1930s in Tel Aviv. Deaf association established 1944 (Meir and Sandler 2008). 120 working sign language interpreters (2019 EUD). Jewish.

**Italian** [ita]. Autonym: Italiano. *Users*: 6,800 in Israel (Leclerc 2018a). *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.

**Jewish Babylonian Aramaic** [tmr] (Babylonian Talmudic Aramaic). *Users*: No known L1 speakers. No ethnic community. *Location*: Jerusalem district. *Status*: 9 (Second language only). *Class*: Afro-Asiatic, Semitic, Central, Aramaic, Eastern, Central, Northeastern. *Lg Use*: Used widely in Jewish culture and life. *DLS*: Emerging (0.06). *Other*: Extinct around 11th or 12th century. Language of Babylonian Talmud and other sacred Jewish works. Familiar to students of Judaism in religious and scholarly realms; studied diligently by most Orthodox Jewish young men.

**Judeo-Arabic** [jrb]. A macrolanguage. Population total all languages (L1 only): 236,300. *DLS*: . *Other*: Includes: Judeo-Iraqi Arabic [yhd], Judeo-Moroccan Arabic [aju] (Morocco), Judeo-Tripolitanian Arabic [yud], Judeo-Yemeni Arabic [jye] (Yemen). *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 236,300.

**Judeo-Berber** [jbe]. *Users*: 2,900 (Leclerc 2018a). *Location*: Central district: between Hadera and Haifa. *Status*: 8a (Moribund). *Class*: Afro-Asiatic, Berber, Northern, Atlas. *Lg Use*: Older adults only. Shifted to Hebrew [heb]. *Lg Dev*: Texts. *DLS*: Emerging (0.01). *Writing*: Hebrew script. *Other*: Migrated to Israel from 1950 to 1960. Jewish.

**Judeo-Georgian** [jge]. *Users*: 58,000 in Israel (Leclerc 2018a). *Location*: Southern district: Rahat area. *Status*: 6a\* (Vigorous). *Class*: Kartvelian, Georgian. *Dialects*: Oriental and Ashkenazic Jews in Georgia live separately; Judeo-Georgian speakers live separately from non-Jewish Georgian [kat] speakers. May not be a separate language from Georgian, but a dialect using various Hebrew loanwords. *DLS*: Still. *Other*: Some migrated to the Russian Federation and other countries. Jewish. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 60,360. Also established in: Georgia.

**Judeo-Tat** [jdt] (Bik, Dzhuhuric, Jewish Tat, Judeo-Tatic, Juhuri, Juwri, “Tati” *pej.*). Autonym: Juwri. *Users*: 71,000 in Israel (Leclerc 2018a). *Location*: Central district: Hadera and Or ’Akiva, near Mediterranean coast; Southern district: Sderot, border town with Gaza Strip. *Status*: 5\* (Developing). *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Iranian, Western, Southwestern, Tat. *Dialect*: Derbend. *Lg Dev*: Literature. Radio. Grammar. Bible portions: 2000. *Writing*: Cyrillic script, primary usage. Hebrew script. Latin script, used in Azerbaijan. *Other*: Non-indigenous. 2,000 speakers a year, called Bik, emigrate from the Caucasus Mountains to Israel. Jewish. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 81,500. Indigenous in: Russian Federation. Also established in: Azerbaijan.

**Kufr Qassem Sign Language** [sqx] (KQSL, Kafr Qassem Sign Language, Kafr Qassim Sign Language, Kfar Qassem Sign Language, Kfar Qassim Sign Language). *Users*: 50 (2020 R. Stamp). All monolingual users are born since 1980 (2020 R. Stamp). *Location*: Central district: Kufr Qassem (Kafr Qasim) city. *Status*: 6a (Vigorous). *Class*: Sign language, Shared sign language. *Dialects*: None known. Only an overlap of 15% and 19% for lexical signs in Israeli Sign Language [isr] and Al-Sayyid Bedouin Sign Language [syy], respectively (Kastner et al 2014). *Lg Use*: KQSL is used in informal and local settings - deaf club, in deaf homes, also used by some hearing people who have deaf relatives. A deaf community center was opened in Kafr Qasim in 1995, serving as a cornerstone for the deaf community to come together and share experiences, knowledge and enjoyment (2020 R. Stamp). Home and local contexts. Used by all. Recent studies have shown a shift among younger users toward bilingualism in Israeli Sign Language (ISL) [isr], with a more subtle shift among older monolingual users toward ISL (2020 R. Stamp). Also use Israeli Sign Language [isr], especially those born since 1980. *Lg Dev*: Dictionary. *DLS*: Still. *Other*: There is no special fingerspelling system associated with KQSL; when needed, the fingerspelling system from Israeli Sign Language (ISL) [isr] is used (2022 M. Jaraisy). Many deaf community members, especially the third generation and younger second generation born since 1980, are bilingual in KQSL and ISL. The third generation tends to prefer ISL (Jaraisi 2021). Mouthing is not often used in KQSL; deaf members of the third generation use more mouthing, but less so when communicating with older signers who are KQSL-dominant and/or when using KQSL lexical signs (Jaraisi 2021).

**Ladino** [lad] (Cudeo-Espanyol, Djudeo-Espagnol, Djudezmo, Djudyó, Dschudeo-Espanjol, Dzhudeo-Espanyol, Dzhudezmo, Dzidió, Dzsudeo-Eszpanyol, Dzudezmo, Džudeo-Español, Džudeo-Espanjol, Eshpanyol, Eshpanyolit, Espanyol, Espanyolit, Español sefardita, Franco Espanyol, Giudeo-Espagnol, Giudeo-Españeol, Jidió, Jidyó, Jüdeo-Esupanyōru, Judeo Spanish, Judeo-Espagnol, Judeo-Espaniol, Judeo-Espanyol, Judeo-Español, Judesmo, Judezmo, Judyo, Judío, Lešon Sepharadim, Romance, Romance Espanyol, Sefardi, Sepharadi, Sephardi, Sephardic, Shpanyol, Shpanyolit, Spanyol, Spanyolit, Spanyolo, Tzoudeo-Espaniol, Xhudeo-Espanjol, Zargon, Ğudeo-Espanjol, Ğudéo-Españól). *Users*: 43,000 in Israel (Leclerc 2018a). *Location*: Jerusalem district and scattered. *Status*: 8a (Moribund). *Class*: Indo-European, Italic, Romance, Italo-Western, Western, Gallo-Iberian, Ibero-Romance, West Iberian, Castilian. *Dialects*: Judezmo (Dzhudezmo, Jidyó, Judyo), Ladino, Haquetiya (Haketia, Haketiya, Hakitia, Haquetía). The Balkan dialect is more influenced by Turkish [tur] and Greek [ell]. The North African dialect is more influenced by Arabic [arb] and French [fra]. *Lg Use*: Not the dominant language for most. Formerly the main language of Sephardic Jewry. Used in literary and music contexts. Older adults only. The youngest speakers are over 50 years old. Shifted to Hebrew [heb]. *Lg Dev*: Newspapers. Radio. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. Bible: 1829. *DLS*: Ascending (0.24). *Writing*: Cyrillic script, used by Sephardic speakers in the Balkans. Hebrew script. Latin script, used in Turkey. *Other*: Different from Ladin [lld] in the Rhaeto-Romansch group. Jewish. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 51,016. Global EGIDS level: 7 (Shifting). Also established in: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Greece, Turkey.

**Lishán Noshan** [trg] (Galihalu, Iranian Azerbaijan Jewish Neo-Aramaic, Lakhlokhi, Lakhlókh, Lishanid Nash Didán, Lishanán, Lishán Didán). *Users*: 4,000 in Israel (Leclerc 2018a). *Location*: Central district; Jerusalem district: Jerusalem city; Tel-Aviv city and district. *Status*: 8a (Moribund). *Class*: Afro-Asiatic, Semitic, Central, Aramaic, Eastern, Central, Northeastern, Trans-Zab. *Dialects*: Northern Cluster Lishán Noshan (Başkale, Gavar, Salmas, Urmi), Southern Cluster Lishán Noshan (Mahabad, Naghada, Ushno, Şablagh). 60%–70% intelligibility of Hulaulá [huy] and Inter-Zab Jewish Neo-Aramaic [ajj], but not of other Aramaic languages. The Urmi variety of Lishán Noshan is extremely different from the Urmi variety of Assyrian Neo-Aramaic (2017 H. Mutzafi). *Lg Use*: Older adults only. Shifted to Hebrew [heb], some due to intermarriage. *Lg Dev*: Grammar. Bible portions: 1986–1988. *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Hebrew script. *Other*: Many loanwords from Kurdish, Turkish [tur], Arabic, Eastern Farsi [prs] or Western Farsi [pes], Hebrew [heb], and several European languages. Sometimes erroneously called ‘Judeo-Kurdish’ or ‘Azerbaijani Kurdish’. Originally from Iranian Azerbaijan and southeast Turkey. Jewish. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 4,120. Unestablished in: Georgia.

**Lishana Deni** [lzd] (Kurdit, Lishan Hozaye, Lishan Hudaye). *Users*: 8,800 (Leclerc 2018a). Ethnic population: 9,060. *Location*: Mainly in Jerusalem district: Jerusalem city area, including Maoz Tsiyon. *Status*: 7 (Shifting). *Class*: Afro-Asiatic, Semitic, Central, Aramaic, Eastern, Central, Northeastern, Trans-Zab. *Dialects*: Zakho, Amadiya, Barashe, Shukho, Nerwa, Dohuk, Atrush, Bétanure, Gzira (Cizre), Challa (Çukurca), Dohok. Resembles Chaldean Neo-Aramaic [cld], but with differences in morphology and other features. Inherent

intelligibility is high between them. Low intelligibility with Ashirat dialects of Assyrian Neo-Aramaic [aii]; not intelligible with other Neo-Aramaic varieties. Gzira, Challa, and Shukho dialects are extinct; Nerwa extinct since 2012 (2017 H. Mutzafi). *Lg Use*: Adults only. Shifting to Hebrew [heb]. *Lg Dev*: Dictionary. Bible portions: 1983. *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Hebrew script. *Other*: Jewish.

**Malayalam** [mal]. *Users*: 11,000 in Israel (Leclerc 2018a). *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, Ireland, Malaysia, Oman, Qatar, Sri Lanka, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States.

**Marathi** [mar]. *Users*: 11,000 in Israel (Leclerc 2018a). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Indo-Aryan, Outer Languages, Southern. *Type*: SOV; postpositions; noun head final; gender (masculine/feminine/neuter); no articles; case-marking (7 cases); verb affixes mark person, number; passives; tense and aspect; 37 consonants, 8 vowels, 2 diphthongs; non-tonal. *Lg Dev*: Fully developed. Bible: 1821–2002. *Writing*: Braille script. Devanagari script, primary usage. Modi script. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 99,216,870 (as L1: 83,201,270; as L2: 16,015,600). Global EGIDS level: 2 (Provincial). Indigenous in: India. Unestablished in: Australia, Canada, Mauritius, New Zealand, Oman, United Kingdom, United States.

**Polish** [pol]. *Users*: 124,000 in Israel (Leclerc 2018a). Ethnic population: 272,000. *Location*: Northern district: Nahalal area; Southern district: 'Afula. *Status*: 5\* (Dispersed). *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 Use*: Also use Hebrew [heb]. *Lg Dev*: Fully developed. Bible: 1561–2018. *Writing*: Braille script. Latin script, primary usage. *Other*: Non-indigenous. Jewish. *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, Lithuania, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovakia. Unestablished in: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Serbia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States, Uzbekistan.

**Portuguese** [por]. Autonym: Português. *Users*: 1,900 in Israel (Leclerc 2018a). *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] (Română). *Users*: 250,000 in Israel (1993 Statistical Abstract of Israel).

*Location*: Central district. *Status*: 5\* (Dispersed). *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 Use*: Also use Hebrew [heb]. *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. Jewish. *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, Serbia. Unestablished in: Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Russian Federation, Spain, Sweden, Turkmenistan, United Kingdom, United States, Uzbekistan.

**Russian** [rus] (Russit). *Users*: 1,000,000 in Israel (Arefyev 2012), all users. L1 users: 464,000 (Leclerc 2018a). *Location*: Haifa and Jerusalem districts; Northern district: Nazareth Illit (Nof HaGalil); Southern district: Ashdod and Beer Sheba; Tel Aviv district: Or Akiva and Tel Aviv city; Ariel in Judea and Samaria area. *Status*: 5\* (Dispersed). *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 Use*: Also use Hebrew [heb]. *Lg Dev*: Fully developed. Bible: 1876–2011. *Writing*: Braille script. Cyrillic script, primary usage. *Other*: Non-indigenous. Jewish. *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 16 other countries and unestablished in 30 more.

**Russian Sign Language** [rs] (RSL). *Users*: 1,000 in Israel (Yoel 2007). Estimated number of deaf immigrants from the former Soviet Union since 1988. *Location*: Scattered. *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Sign language, Deaf community sign language. *Type*: One-handed fingerspelling (Cyrillic script). *Lg Use*: Home; Mixed use: Community. Adults only. Shifting to Israeli Sign Language [isr] (Yoel 2007). Also use Hebrew [heb] (Yoel 2007). *Lg Dev*: TV.

Videos. Dictionary. *Other*: Non-indigenous. Used by deaf immigrants from the former Soviet Union, but they are scattered throughout the country and most have little opportunity to interact with other Russian deaf or use the language outside the home, leading to attrition of RSL skills. Adult immigrants learn ISL [*isr*] and Hebrew [*heb*] in immigrant language classes. Deaf children are not learning RSL, rather they learn ISL and Hebrew in regular deaf education (Yoel 2007). Jewish. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 909,000. Global EGIDS level: 5 (Developing). Indigenous in: Russian Federation. Also established in: Armenia, Belarus, Estonia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan.

**Samaritan** [*smp*] (Shamerim). *Users*: No known L1 speakers in Israel. No ethnic community. *Location*: Scattered. *Status*: 9 (Second language only). *Class*: Afro-Asiatic, Semitic, Central, South, Canaanite. *Lg Use*: Liturgical language only. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant. Hebrew script, no longer in use. Samaritan script. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: none known. Also indigenous in: Palestine (Samaritan Hebrew).

**Samaritan Aramaic** [*sam*] (Shamerim). *Users*: No known L1 speakers in Israel. No ethnic community. *Location*: Scattered. *Status*: 9 (Second language only). *Class*: Afro-Asiatic, Semitic, Central, Aramaic, Western. *Lg Use*: Liturgical language only. *Writing*: Hebrew script. Samaritan script. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: none known. Also indigenous in: Palestine.

**Spanish** [*spa*]. Autonym: Castellano, Español. *Users*: 175,000 in Israel, all users. L1 users: 130,000 in Israel (Instituto Cervantes 2019). L2 users: 45,000 (Instituto Cervantes 2019). *Status*: Unestablished. *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*: 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 40 other countries and unestablished in 32 more.

**Tagalog** [*tgl*]. Autonym: Tagalog. *Users*: 20,000 in Israel (Leclerc 2018a). *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, Ireland, 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.

**Tigrigna** [tir] (Beta Israel, Tigrinya, “Falashas” *pej.*). *Users*: 10,000 in Israel (1994 H. Mutzafi). *Location*: Jerusalem district. *Status*: 7 (Shifting). *Class*: Afro-Asiatic, Semitic, South, Ethiopian, North. *Type*: SOV; noun head final; gender (masculine/feminine); definite article; verb affixes mark person, number, gender of subject; passives; aspect; 33 consonant and 14 vowel phonemes. *Lg Use*: Shifting to Hebrew [heb]. Many also use Amharic [amh]. *Lg Dev*: Fully developed. Bible: 1956. *Writing*: Ethiopic script, used since 13th or 14th century. *Other*: Non-indigenous. The liturgy is written in Geez [gez]. Jewish. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 8,829,790 (as L1: 8,667,590; as L2: 162,200). Global EGIDS level: 3 (Wider communication). Indigenous in: Eritrea, Ethiopia. Unestablished in: Australia, Canada, Finland, Germany, Norway, Sudan, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States.

**Turkish** [tur]. Autonym: Türkçe. *Users*: 30,000 in Israel (2022 A. Dusséaux). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Turkic, Southern, Turkish. *Type*: SOV; postpositions; noun head final; indefinite articles; case-marking (6 cases); verb affixes mark person, number; passives; tense; causatives; comparatives; 19 consonant and 8 vowel phonemes; non-tonal; stress on final syllable; vowel harmony; evidentiality. *Lg Dev*: Fully developed. Bible: 1827–2006. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant, no longer in use. Braille script. Cyrillic script, used in Bulgaria. Greek script, no longer in use. Latin script, used since 1928 or 1929, primary usage. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 90,028,000 (as L1: 84,010,500; as L2: 6,017,500). Global EGIDS level: 1 (National). Indigenous in: Bulgaria, Cyprus, Greece, Turkey. Also established in: Germany, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Lebanon, North Macedonia, Romania, Serbia, Syria, Uzbekistan. Unestablished in: Albania, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Canada, Croatia, Denmark, Egypt, Finland, France, Georgia, Iran, Iraq, Italy, Japan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Libya, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Poland, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States.

**Ukrainian** [ukr]. *Users*: 8,000 in Israel (Leclerc 2018a). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Indo-European, Balto-Slavic, Slavic, East. *Type*: SVO; prepositions; noun head final; gender (masculine/feminine/neuter); no articles; case-marking (7 cases); verb affixes mark person, number; passives; tense and aspect; comparatives; 32 consonant and 6 vowel phonemes; non-tonal; free stress. *Lg Dev*: Fully developed. Bible: 1903–2020. *Writing*: Cyrillic script. Latin script, used in the 19th century, limited usage. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 33,026,920 (as L1: 26,862,920; as L2: 6,164,000). Global EGIDS level: 1 (National). Indigenous in: Romania, Slovakia, Ukraine. Also established in: Brazil, Croatia, Hungary, Lithuania, Moldova, Poland. Unestablished in: Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia,

Finland, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Mongolia, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Russian Federation, Serbia, Spain, Sweden, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, United Kingdom, United States, Uzbekistan.

**Yevanic** [yej] (Judeo-Greek, Yevanitika). *Users*: 35. *Location*: Jerusalem district. *Status*: 8b (Nearly extinct). *Class*: Indo-European, Greek, Attic. *Lg Use*: A few semispeakers in 1987 and may be none now. Shifted to Hebrew [heb]. *DLS*: Emerging (0.01). *Other*: Possibly also a handful of older adults in Turkey. Jewish.

**Yiddish** [yid]. A macrolanguage. Population total all languages (L1 only): 400,457. *DLS*: . *Other*: Includes: Eastern Yiddish [ydd], Western Yiddish [yih] (Germany). *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 400,457.

**Yiddish, Eastern** [ydd] (Judeo-German, Yiddish). *Users*: 166,000 in Israel (2016 Y. Druckman). *Location*: Jerusalem district. *Status*: 5\* (Developing). *Class*: Indo-European, Germanic, West, High German, Yiddish. A member of macrolanguage Yiddish [yid]. *Dialects*: Southeastern Yiddish, Mideastern Yiddish, Northeastern Yiddish (Litvish). *Type*: SVO; prepositions; noun head final; gender (masculine, feminine, neuter); definite and indefinite articles; verb affixes mark person, number; 20 consonant, 6 vowels and 3 diphthongs; non-tonal; stress on first syllable. *Lg Dev*: Periodicals. Radio. Grammar. Bible: 1821–1936. *DLS*: Vital (0.61). *Writing*: Hebrew script. *Other*: Non-indigenous. Southeastern dialect in Ukraine and Romania, Mideastern dialect in Poland and Hungary, Northeastern dialect in Lithuania and Belarus. Jewish. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 408,547 (as L1: 401,947; as L2: 6,600). Indigenous in: Ukraine. Also established in 19 other countries and unestablished in 3 more.

## Languages by Population

In this section the languages of Israel 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

**Hebrew** [[heb](#)] *Users*: 5,000,000 in Israel (Leclerc 2018a). Spoken by all Israelis as L1 or L2.

Some who use it as L1 now in Israel learned it as L2 originally. 8,300,000 in Israel, all users. L2 users: 3,300,000 (2018). *Status*: 1 (National). Statutory national language (1922, Palestine Order in Council, Article 82, 10 October). *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 9,339,180 (as L1: 5,980,580; as L2: 3,358,600).

**Arabic, Levantine** [[apc](#)] *Users*: 1,530,000 in Israel (Leclerc 2018a). *Status*: 3 (Wider communication). De facto language of national identity. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 47,595,360 (as L1: 47,236,360; as L2: 359,000).

### 100,000 to 999,999

**Russian** [[rus](#)] *Users*: 464,000 (Leclerc 2018a). 1,000,000 in Israel (Arefyev 2012), all users. *Status*: 5\* (Dispersed). *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 254,997,130 (as L1: 146,954,150; as L2: 107,987,980).

**Romanian** [[ron](#)] *Users*: 250,000 in Israel (1993 Statistical Abstract of Israel). *Status*: 5\* (Dispersed). *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 24,478,820 (as L1: 24,461,820; as L2: 17,000).

**Yiddish, Eastern** [[ydd](#)] *Users*: 166,000 in Israel (2016 Y. Druckman). *Status*: 5\* (Developing). *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 408,547 (as L1: 401,947; as L2: 6,600).

**Spanish** [[spa](#)] *Users*: 130,000 in Israel (Instituto Cervantes 2019). 175,000 in Israel, all users. L2 users: 45,000 (Instituto Cervantes 2019). *Status*: Unestablished. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 559,078,890 (as L1: 485,063,960; as L2: 74,014,930).

**Polish** [[pol](#)] *Users*: 124,000 in Israel (Leclerc 2018a). Ethnic population: 272,000. *Status*: 5\* (Dispersed). *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 40,589,930 (as L1: 39,896,930; as L2: 693,000).

**Arabic, Levantine Bedawi Spoken** [[avl](#)] *Users*: 121,000 in Israel (Leclerc 2018a). *Status*: Unestablished. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 2,841,600.

### 10,000 to 99,999

**Arabic, Judeo-Iraqi** [[yhd](#)] *Users*: 94,000 in Israel (Leclerc 2018a). *Status*: 7 (Shifting).

*Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 97,200.

**English** [eng] *Users:* 92,000 in Israel (Leclerc 2018a). 6,202,000 in Israel, all users. L2 users: 6,110,000 (2018). *Status:* 4 (Educational). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 1,456,448,320 (as L1: 379,682,200; as L2: 1076,766,120).

**Amharic** [amh] *Users:* 77,800 in Israel (Leclerc 2018a). *Status:* 5\* (Dispersed). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 57,567,300 (as L1: 32,449,400; as L2: 25,117,900).

**Judeo-Tat** [jdt] *Users:* 71,000 in Israel (Leclerc 2018a). *Status:* 5\* (Developing). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 81,500.

**Bukharic** [bhh] *Users:* 64,000 in Israel (Leclerc 2018a). *Status:* 7 (Shifting). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 117,840.

**Judeo-Georgian** [jge] *Users:* 58,000 in Israel (Leclerc 2018a). *Status:* 6a\* (Vigorous). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 60,360.

**Dzhidi** [jpr] *Users:* 55,000 in Israel (Leclerc 2018a). *Status:* 7 (Shifting).

**Arabic, Judeo-Moroccan** [aju] *Users:* 53,000 in Israel (Leclerc 2018a). *Status:* 7 (Shifting). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 61,180.

**Ladino** [lad] *Users:* 43,000 in Israel (Leclerc 2018a). *Status:* 8a (Moribund). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 51,016.

**Arabic, Judeo-Tripolitanian** [yud] *Users:* 38,000 in Israel (Leclerc 2018a). *Status:* 7 (Shifting). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 43,000.

**French** [fra] *Users:* 37,000 in Israel (Leclerc 2018a). 528,000 in Israel, all users. L2 users: 491,000 (Marcoux et al 2022). *Status:* 4 (Educational). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 309,804,220 (as L1: 80,770,190; as L2: 229,034,030).

**Arabic, Judeo-Yemeni** [jye] *Users:* 36,000 in Israel (Leclerc 2018a). *Status:* 6a\* (Vigorous). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 37,680.

**Turkish** [tur] *Users:* 30,000 in Israel (2022 A. Dusséaux). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 90,028,000 (as L1: 84,010,500; as L2: 6,017,500).

**Arabic, Egyptian Spoken** [arz] *Users:* 27,000 in Israel (Leclerc 2018a). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 102,436,230 (as L1: 77,436,230; as L2: 25,000,000).

**Hungarian** [hun] *Users:* 23,000 in Israel (Leclerc 2018a). *Status:* 5\* (Dispersed). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 12,617,790 (as L1: 12,610,690; as L2: 7,100).

**Tagalog** [tgl] *Users:* 20,000 in Israel (Leclerc 2018a). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 83,054,910 (as L1: 28,746,910; as L2: 54,308,000).

**German, Standard** [deu] *Users:* 14,000 in Israel (Leclerc 2018a). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 133,245,880 (as L1: 75,282,080; as L2: 57,963,800).

**Malayalam** [mal] *Users:* 11,000 in Israel (Leclerc 2018a). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:*

Total users in all countries: 37,359,380 (as L1: 36,647,680; as L2: 711,700).

**Marathi** [[mar](#)] *Users*: 11,000 in Israel (Leclerc 2018a). *Status*: Unestablished. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 99,216,870 (as L1: 83,201,270; as L2: 16,015,600).

**Israeli Sign Language** [[isr](#)] *Users*: 10,000 (Meir et al 2010). Approximately 0.1% of the total population. *Status*: 5 (Developing).

**Tigrigna** [[tir](#)] *Users*: 10,000 in Israel (1994 H. Mutzafi). *Status*: 7 (Shifting). *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 8,829,790 (as L1: 8,667,590; as L2: 162,200).

## 1,000 to 9,999

**Lishana Deni** [[lsd](#)] *Users*: 8,800 (Leclerc 2018a). Ethnic population: 9,060. *Status*: 7 (Shifting).

**Ukrainian** [[ukr](#)] *Users*: 8,000 in Israel (Leclerc 2018a). *Status*: Unestablished. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 33,026,920 (as L1: 26,862,920; as L2: 6,164,000).

**Italian** [[ita](#)] *Users*: 6,800 in Israel (Leclerc 2018a). *Status*: Unestablished. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 67,935,480 (as L1: 64,647,380; as L2: 3,288,100).

**Armenian, Western** [[hyw](#)] *Users*: 4,300 in Israel (Leclerc 2018a). *Status*: 7 (Shifting). *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 1,582,290 (as L1: 1,576,490; as L2: 5,800).

**Lishán Noshan** [[trg](#)] *Users*: 4,000 in Israel (Leclerc 2018a). *Status*: 8a (Moribund). *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 4,120.

**Inter-Zab Jewish Neo-Aramaic** [[ajj](#)] *Users*: 3,500 (Leclerc 2018a). *Status*: 8a (Moribund).

**Greek** [[ell](#)] *Users*: 3,400 in Israel (Leclerc 2018a). *Status*: Unestablished. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 13,088,220 (as L1: 12,992,220; as L2: 96,000).

**Adyghe** [[ady](#)] *Users*: 3,200 in Israel (Leclerc 2018a). *Status*: 5\* (Developing). *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 613,700.

**Judeo-Berber** [[jbe](#)] *Users*: 2,900 (Leclerc 2018a). *Status*: 8a (Moribund).

**Portuguese** [[por](#)] *Users*: 1,900 in Israel (Leclerc 2018a). *Status*: Unestablished. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 263,638,850 (as L1: 236,266,650; as L2: 27,372,200).

**Russian Sign Language** [[rsl](#)] *Users*: 1,000 in Israel (Yoel 2007). Estimated number of deaf immigrants from the former Soviet Union since 1988. *Status*: Unestablished. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 909,000.

## 100 to 999

**Al-Sayyid Bedouin Sign Language** [[syy](#)] *Users*: 150 (Sandler et al 2005). About 150 with congenital deafness and an unknown number of hearing. *Status*: 6a (Vigorous).

## 10 to 99

**Kufr Qassem Sign Language** [[sqx](#)] *Users:* 50 (2020 R. Stamp). All monolingual users are born since 1980 (2020 R. Stamp). *Status:* 6a (Vigorous).

**Yevanic** [[yej](#)] *Users:* 35. *Status:* 8b (Nearly extinct).

## 1 to 9

**Barzani-Sandu Jewish Neo-Aramaic** [[bjf](#)] *Users:* 6 (2017 H. Mutzafi). *Status:* 8b (Nearly extinct).

## 0

**Arabic, Tunisian Spoken** [[aeb](#)] *Users:* No known L1 speakers in Israel. Ethnic population: 10,000 (Leclerc 2018a). *Status:* 9 (Dormant). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 11,709,890.

**Hebrew, Ancient** [[hbo](#)] *Users:* No known L1 speakers. *Status:* 9 (Dormant).

**Jewish Babylonian Aramaic** [[tmr](#)] *Users:* No known L1 speakers. Ethnic population: No ethnic community. *Status:* 9 (Second language only).

**Samaritan** [[smp](#)] *Users:* No known L1 speakers in Israel. Ethnic population: No ethnic community. *Status:* 9 (Second language only). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: none known.

**Samaritan Aramaic** [[sam](#)] *Users:* No known L1 speakers in Israel. Ethnic population: No ethnic community. *Status:* 9 (Second language only). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: none known.

## Unknown

**Algerian Jewish Sign Language** [[ajs](#)] *Users:* Very few in Israel, unknown number in France, none in Algeria (Lanesman and Meir 2012b). *Status:* 8b (Nearly extinct).

**Hulaulá** [[huy](#)] *Users:* Several thousands (2017 H. Mutzafi). *Status:* 8a (Moribund). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 350.

**Arabic, Standard** [[arb](#)] *Users:* 2,170,000 in Israel (2014 SIL), all users. *Status:* 1 (National). Statutory national language (1922, Palestine Order in Council, Article 82, 10 October). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 273,989,700.

## Languages by Status

In this section the languages of Israel 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)

**Arabic, Standard** [arb] *Users:* 2,170,000 in Israel (2014 SIL), all users. *Status:* Statutory national language (1922, Palestine Order in Council, Article 82, 10 October). *Lg Use:* Education and communication among Arabic-speaking countries. *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant, primary usage. Braille script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 273,989,700.

**Hebrew** [heb] *Users:* 8,300,000 in Israel, all users. L1 users: 5,000,000 in Israel (Leclerc 2018a). Spoken by all Israelis as L1 or L2. Some who use it as L1 now in Israel learned it as L2 originally. L2 users: 3,300,000 (2018). *Status:* Statutory national language (1922, Palestine Order in Council, Article 82, 10 October). *Lg Use:* Religious use (within the Jewish community) and everyday language. *Lg Dev:* Fully developed. NT: 1537–2010. *Writing:* Braille script. Hebrew script, primary usage. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 9,339,180 (as L1: 5,980,580; as L2: 3,358,600).

### 3 (Wider communication)

**Arabic, Levantine** [apc] *Users:* 1,530,000 in Israel (Leclerc 2018a). *Status:* De facto language of national identity. *Lg Use:* Also use Hebrew [heb]. Used as L2 by Adyghe [ady], Al-Sayyid Bedouin Sign Language [syy], Western Armenian [hyw]. *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 47,595,360 (as L1: 47,236,360; as L2: 359,000).

### 4 (Educational)

**English** [eng] *Users:* 6,202,000 in Israel, all users. L1 users: 92,000 in Israel (Leclerc 2018a). L2 users: 6,110,000 (2018). *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).

**French** [fra] *Users:* 528,000 in Israel, all users. L1 users: 37,000 in Israel (Leclerc 2018a). L2 users: 491,000 (Marcoux et al 2022). *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)

**Adyghe** [[ady](#)] *Users:* 3,200 in Israel (Leclerc 2018a). *Lg Use:* Also use Levantine Arabic [[apc](#)]. *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant, no longer in use. Cyrillic script. Latin script, used in Turkey. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 613,700.

**Israeli Sign Language** [[isr](#)] *Users:* 10,000 (Meir et al 2010). Approximately 0.1% of the total population. *Lg Use:* Vigorous. Interpreters provided in courts, and free for up to 45 hours per year. Some interpretation for college students. ISL instruction for deaf immigrants, parents of deaf children, other hearing people. Organization for sign language teachers. Used by all. Also use Hebrew [[heb](#)] (Meir and Sandler 2008). Used as L2 by Algerian Jewish Sign Language [[ajs](#)], Al-Sayyid Bedouin Sign Language [[syy](#)], Kufr Qassem Sign Language [[sqx](#)], Russian Sign Language [[rsl](#)]. *Lg Dev:* TV. Videos. Dictionary. Bible portions: 2020.

**Judeo-Tat** [[jdt](#)] *Users:* 71,000 in Israel (Leclerc 2018a). *Writing:* Cyrillic script, primary usage. Hebrew script. Latin script, used in Azerbaijan. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 81,500.

**Yiddish, Eastern** [[ydd](#)] *Users:* 166,000 in Israel (2016 Y. Druckman). *Lg Dev:* Periodicals. Radio. Grammar. Bible: 1821–1936. *Writing:* Hebrew script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 408,547 (as L1: 401,947; as L2: 6,600).

## 5 (Dispersed)

**Amharic** [[amh](#)] *Users:* 77,800 in Israel (Leclerc 2018a). *Lg Use:* Also use Hebrew [[heb](#)]. Used as L2 by Tigrigna [[tir](#)]. *Writing:* Braille script. Ethiopic script, primary usage. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 57,567,300 (as L1: 32,449,400; as L2: 25,117,900).

**Hungarian** [[hun](#)] *Users:* 23,000 in Israel (Leclerc 2018a). *Lg Use:* Older adults prefer Hungarian. Also use Hebrew [[heb](#)]. *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).

**Polish** [[pol](#)] *Users:* 124,000 in Israel (Leclerc 2018a). Ethnic population: 272,000. *Lg Use:* Also use Hebrew [[heb](#)]. *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).

**Romanian** [[ron](#)] *Users:* 250,000 in Israel (1993 Statistical Abstract of Israel). *Lg Use:* Also use Hebrew [[heb](#)]. *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:* 1,000,000 in Israel (Arefyev 2012), all users. L1 users: 464,000 (Leclerc 2018a). *Lg Use:* Also use Hebrew [[heb](#)]. *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).

## 6a (Vigorous)

**Al-Sayyid Bedouin Sign Language** [syy] *Users:* 150 (Sandler et al 2005). About 150 with congenital deafness and an unknown number of hearing. *Lg Use:* Vigorous. Used by both deaf and many of the 3,500 hearing people in the village. Siblings and children of deaf individuals, and other members of a household (which may include several wives and their children) often become fluent signers. Hearing people there routinely assess their own proficiency, praising those with greater facility in the language. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Many also use Hebrew [heb], but usually only in writing (Kisch 2012). Many also use Levantine Arabic [apc], especially hearing signers (Kisch 2012). Some also use Israeli Sign Language [isr], especially deaf signers among themselves (reserving ABSL for interactions with hearing people); learned in school (Kisch 2012).

**Arabic, Judeo-Yemeni** [jye] *Users:* 36,000 in Israel (Leclerc 2018a). *Writing:* Hebrew script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 37,680.

**Judeo-Georgian** [jge] *Users:* 58,000 in Israel (Leclerc 2018a). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 60,360.

**Kufr Qassem Sign Language** [sqx] *Users:* 50 (2020 R. Stamp). All monolingual users are born since 1980 (2020 R. Stamp). *Lg Use:* KQSL is used in informal and local settings - deaf club, in deaf homes, also used by some hearing people who have deaf relatives. A deaf community center was opened in Kafr Qasim in 1995, serving as a cornerstone for the deaf community to come together and share experiences, knowledge and enjoyment (2020 R. Stamp). Home and local contexts. Used by all. Recent studies have shown a shift among younger users toward bilingualism in Israeli Sign Language (ISL) [isr], with a more subtle shift among older monolingual users toward ISL (2020 R. Stamp). Also use Israeli Sign Language [isr], especially those born since 1980. *Lg Dev:* Dictionary.

## 7 (Shifting)

**Arabic, Judeo-Iraqi** [yhd] *Users:* 94,000 in Israel (Leclerc 2018a). *Lg Use:* Adults only. Shifting to Hebrew [heb]. *Writing:* Hebrew script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 97,200.

**Arabic, Judeo-Moroccan** [aju] *Users:* 53,000 in Israel (Leclerc 2018a). *Lg Use:* Shifting to Hebrew [heb]. *Writing:* Hebrew script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 61,180.

**Arabic, Judeo-Tripolitanian** [yud] *Users:* 38,000 in Israel (Leclerc 2018a). *Lg Use:* Adults only. Shifting to Hebrew [heb]. *Writing:* Hebrew script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 43,000.

**Armenian, Western** [hyw] *Users:* 4,300 in Israel (Leclerc 2018a). *Lg Use:* Also use Levantine Arabic [apc]. *Writing:* Armenian script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 1,582,290 (as L1: 1,576,490; as L2: 5,800).

**Bukharic** [bhh] *Users:* 64,000 in Israel (Leclerc 2018a). *Lg Use:* Shifting to Hebrew [heb]. *Lg*

*Dev:* Radio. *Writing:* Cyrillic script, primary usage. Hebrew script. Latin script, no longer in use. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 117,840.

**Dzhidi** [*jpr*] *Users:* 55,000 in Israel (Leclerc 2018a). *Lg Use:* Shifting to Hebrew [*heb*]. *Lg Dev:* Grammar. Texts. Bible: 1909. *Writing:* Hebrew script.

**Lishana Deni** [*lsd*] *Users:* 8,800 (Leclerc 2018a). Ethnic population: 9,060. *Lg Use:* Adults only. Shifting to Hebrew [*heb*]. *Lg Dev:* Dictionary. Bible portions: 1983. *Writing:* Hebrew script.

**Tigrigna** [*tir*] *Users:* 10,000 in Israel (1994 H. Mutzafi). *Lg Use:* Shifting to Hebrew [*heb*]. Many also use Amharic [*amh*]. *Writing:* Ethiopic script, used since 13th or 14th century. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 8,829,790 (as L1: 8,667,590; as L2: 162,200).

## 8a (Moribund)

**Hulaulá** [*huy*] *Users:* Several thousands (2017 H. Mutzafi). *Lg Use:* Older adults only. Shifted to Hebrew [*heb*]. Also use Kurdish [*kur*], especially older people. *Lg Dev:* Grammar. *Writing:* Hebrew script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 350.

**Inter-Zab Jewish Neo-Aramaic** [*ajj*] *Users:* 3,500 (Leclerc 2018a). *Lg Use:* Older adults only. Shifted to Hebrew [*heb*]. *Lg Dev:* Grammar. *Writing:* Hebrew script.

**Judeo-Berber** [*jbe*] *Users:* 2,900 (Leclerc 2018a). *Lg Use:* Older adults only. Shifted to Hebrew [*heb*]. *Lg Dev:* Texts. *Writing:* Hebrew script.

**Ladino** [*lad*] *Users:* 43,000 in Israel (Leclerc 2018a). *Lg Use:* Not the dominant language for most. Formerly the main language of Sephardic Jewry. Used in literary and music contexts. Older adults only. The youngest speakers are over 50 years old. Shifted to Hebrew [*heb*]. *Lg Dev:* Newspapers. Radio. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. Bible: 1829. *Writing:* Cyrillic script, used by Sephardic speakers in the Balkans. Hebrew script. Latin script, used in Turkey. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 51,016.

**Lishán Noshan** [*trg*] *Users:* 4,000 in Israel (Leclerc 2018a). *Lg Use:* Older adults only. Shifted to Hebrew [*heb*], some due to intermarriage. *Lg Dev:* Grammar. Bible portions: 1986–1988. *Writing:* Hebrew script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 4,120.

## 8b (Nearly extinct)

**Algerian Jewish Sign Language** [*ajs*] *Users:* Very few in Israel, unknown number in France, none in Algeria (Lanesman and Meir 2012b). *Lg Use:* Now used only among nuclear families that have deaf members (Lanesman and Meir 2012b). Elderly only. Most shifted to Israeli Sign Language [*isr*] (Lanesman and Meir 2012b).

**Barzani-Sandu Jewish Neo-Aramaic** [*bjf*] *Users:* 6 (2017 H. Mutzafi). *Lg Use:* Elderly only. Shifted to Hebrew [*heb*]. Some also speak other Neo-Aramaic languages. Some also use Kurdish [*kur*]. *Lg Dev:* Texts.

**Yevanic** [*yej*] *Users:* 35. *Lg Use:* A few semispeakers in 1987 and may be none now. Shifted to

Hebrew [heb].

## 9 (Dormant)

**Arabic, Tunisian Spoken** [aeb] *Users:* No known L1 speakers in Israel. Ethnic population: 10,000 (Leclerc 2018a). *Lg Use:* Shifted to Hebrew [heb]. *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant. Latin script, informal use on social media (Akin 2014). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 11,709,890.

**Hebrew, Ancient** [hbo] *Users:* No known L1 speakers. *Lg Use:* Liturgical language; Jewish Bible text. *Lg Dev:* Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. OT: 916–1488. *Writing:* Hebrew script.

## 9 (Second language only)

**Jewish Babylonian Aramaic** [tmr] *Users:* No known L1 speakers. Ethnic population: No ethnic community. *Lg Use:* Used widely in Jewish culture and life.

**Samaritan** [smp] *Users:* No known L1 speakers in Israel. Ethnic population: No ethnic community. *Lg Use:* Liturgical language only. *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant. Hebrew script, no longer in use. Samaritan script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: none known.

**Samaritan Aramaic** [sam] *Users:* No known L1 speakers in Israel. Ethnic population: No ethnic community. *Lg Use:* Liturgical language only. *Writing:* Hebrew script. Samaritan script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: none known.

## Unestablished

**Arabic, Egyptian Spoken** [arz] *Users:* 27,000 in Israel (Leclerc 2018a). *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant, primary usage. Braille script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 102,436,230 (as L1: 77,436,230; as L2: 25,000,000).

**Arabic, Levantine Bedawi Spoken** [avl] *Users:* 121,000 in Israel (Leclerc 2018a). *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 2,841,600.

**German, Standard** [deu] *Users:* 14,000 in Israel (Leclerc 2018a). *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).

**Greek** [ell] *Users:* 3,400 in Israel (Leclerc 2018a). *Writing:* Braille script. Cyrillic script, used in Ukraine. Greek script, primary usage. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 13,088,220 (as L1: 12,992,220; as L2: 96,000).

**Italian** [ita] *Users:* 6,800 in Israel (Leclerc 2018a). *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).

- Malayalam** [mal] *Users:* 11,000 in Israel (Leclerc 2018a). *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).
- Marathi** [mar] *Users:* 11,000 in Israel (Leclerc 2018a). *Writing:* Braille script. Devanagari script, primary usage. Modi script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 99,216,870 (as L1: 83,201,270; as L2: 16,015,600).
- Portuguese** [por] *Users:* 1,900 in Israel (Leclerc 2018a). *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).
- Russian Sign Language** [rsl] *Users:* 1,000 in Israel (Yoel 2007). Estimated number of deaf immigrants from the former Soviet Union since 1988. *Lg Use:* Home; Mixed use: Community. Adults only. Shifting to Israeli Sign Language [isr] (Yoel 2007). Also use Hebrew [heb] (Yoel 2007). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 909,000.
- Spanish** [spa] *Users:* 175,000 in Israel, all users. L1 users: 130,000 in Israel (Instituto Cervantes 2019). L2 users: 45,000 (Instituto Cervantes 2019). *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).
- Tagalog** [tgl] *Users:* 20,000 in Israel (Leclerc 2018a). *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).
- Turkish** [tur] *Users:* 30,000 in Israel (2022 A. Dusséaux). *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant, no longer in use. Braille script. Cyrillic script, used in Bulgaria. Greek script, no longer in use. Latin script, used since 1928 or 1929, primary usage. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 90,028,000 (as L1: 84,010,500; as L2: 6,017,500).
- Ukrainian** [ukr] *Users:* 8,000 in Israel (Leclerc 2018a). *Writing:* Cyrillic script. Latin script, used in the 19th century, limited usage. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 33,026,920 (as L1: 26,862,920; as L2: 6,164,000).

## Languages by District

This index gives an alphabetical listing of the top-level administrative subdivisions within Israel. Under the name of each district is a list of the language communities that are located within its area.

### Central

Amharic [amh], 11  
 Arabic, Judeo-Tripolitanian [yud], 12  
 Bukharic [bhh], 14  
 Hungarian [hun], 17  
 Judeo-Berber [jbe], 19  
 Judeo-Tat [jdt], 19  
 Kufr Qassem Sign Language [sqx], 19  
 Lishán Noshan [trg], 20  
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### Haifa

Amharic [amh], 11  
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### Jerusalem

Amharic [amh], 11  
 Arabic, Judeo-Yemeni [jye], 13  
 Arabic, Tunisian Spoken [aeb], 14  
 Armenian, Western [hyw], 14  
 Barzani-Sandu Jewish Neo-Aramaic [bjf],  
 14  
 Dzhidi [jpr], 15  
 Hebrew, Ancient [hbo], 17  
 Jewish Babylonian Aramaic [tmr], 18  
 Ladino [lad], 20  
 Lishán Noshan [trg], 20

Lishana Deni [lsd], 20  
 Russian [rus], 22  
 Tigrigna [tir], 24  
 Yevanic [yej], 25  
 Yiddish, Eastern [ydd], 25

### Northern

Adyghe [ady], 11  
 Dzhidi [jpr], 15  
 Polish [pol], 21  
 Russian [rus], 22

### Southern

Al-Sayyid Bedouin Sign Language [syy], 11  
 Amharic [amh], 11  
 Arabic, Judeo-Yemeni [jye], 13  
 Dzhidi [jpr], 15  
 Judeo-Georgian [jge], 19  
 Judeo-Tat [jdt], 19  
 Polish [pol], 21  
 Russian [rus], 22

### Tel Aviv

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 Hungarian [hun], 17  
 Lishán Noshan [trg], 20  
 Russian [rus], 22

## Languages by Family

This index gives an alphabetical listing of the linguistic classifications used for the established languages of Israel. 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.

### **Abkhaz-Adyghe, Circassian**

Adyghe [ady], [11](#)

### **Afro-Asiatic, Berber, Northern, Atlas**

Judeo-Berber [jbe], [19](#)

### **Afro-Asiatic, Semitic, Central, Aramaic, Eastern, Central, Northeastern**

Barzani-Sandu Jewish Neo-Aramaic [bjf], [14](#)

Jewish Babylonian Aramaic [tmr], [18](#)

### **Afro-Asiatic, Semitic, Central, Aramaic, Eastern, Central, Northeastern, Trans-Zab**

Hulaulá [huy], [17](#)

Inter-Zab Jewish Neo-Aramaic [aij], [17](#)

Lishán Noshan [trg], [20](#)

Lishana Deni [lsd], [20](#)

### **Afro-Asiatic, Semitic, Central, Aramaic, Western**

Samaritan Aramaic [sam], [23](#)

### **Afro-Asiatic, Semitic, Central, South, Arabic**

Arabic, Judeo-Iraqi [yhd], [12](#)

Arabic, Judeo-Moroccan [aju], [12](#)

Arabic, Judeo-Tripolitanian [yud], [12](#)

Arabic, Judeo-Yemeni [jye], [13](#)

Arabic, Levantine [apc], [13](#)

Arabic, Standard [arb], [13](#)

Arabic, Tunisian Spoken [aeb], [14](#)

### **Afro-Asiatic, Semitic, Central, South, Canaanite**

Hebrew [heb], [16](#)

Hebrew, Ancient [hbo], [17](#)

Samaritan Hebrew [smp], [23](#)

### **Afro-Asiatic, Semitic, South, Ethiopian, North**

Tigrigna [tir], [24](#)

### **Afro-Asiatic, Semitic, South, Ethiopian, South, Transversal, Amharic-Argobba**

Amharic [amh], [11](#)

### **Indo-European, Armenian**

Armenian, Western [hyw], [14](#)

**Indo-European, Balto-Slavic, Slavic, East**

Russian [rus], 22

**Indo-European, Balto-Slavic, Slavic, West, Lechitic**

Polish [pol], 21

**Indo-European, Germanic, West, English**

English [eng], 15

**Indo-European, Germanic, West, High German, Yiddish**

Yiddish, Eastern [ydd], 25

**Indo-European, Greek, Attic**

Yevanic [yej], 25

**Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Iranian, Western, Southwestern, Persian**

Bukharic [bhh], 14

Dzhidi [jpr], 15

**Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Iranian, Western, Southwestern, Tat**

Judeo-Tat [jdt], 19

**Indo-European, Italic, Romance, Eastern**

Romanian [ron], 22

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

French [fra], 15

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

Ladino [lad], 20

**Kartvelian, Georgian**

Judeo-Georgian [jge], 19

**Sign language, Deaf community sign language**

Israeli Sign Language [isr], 17

**Sign language, Shared sign language**

Algerian Jewish Sign Language [ajs], 11

Al-Sayyid Bedouin Sign Language [syy], 11

Kufr Qassem Sign Language [sqx], 19

**Uralic**

Hungarian [hun], 17

## Language Code Index

This index gives an alphabetical listing of all 54 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/>.

<b>ady</b>	Adyghe, <a href="#">11</a>	<b>jpr</b>	Dzhidi, <a href="#">15</a>
<b>aeb</b>	Arabic, Tunisian Spoken, <a href="#">14</a>	<b>jrb</b>	Judeo-Arabic, <a href="#">18</a>
<b>aij</b>	Inter-Zab Jewish Neo-Aramaic, <a href="#">17</a>	<b>jye</b>	Arabic, Judeo-Yemeni, <a href="#">13</a>
<b>ajs</b>	Algerian Jewish Sign Language, <a href="#">11</a>	<b>lad</b>	Ladino, <a href="#">20</a>
<b>aju</b>	Arabic, Judeo-Moroccan, <a href="#">12</a>	<b>lsd</b>	Lishana Deni, <a href="#">20</a>
<b>amh</b>	Amharic, <a href="#">11</a>	<b>mal</b>	Malayalam, <a href="#">21</a>
<b>apc</b>	Arabic, Levantine, <a href="#">13</a>	<b>mar</b>	Marathi, <a href="#">21</a>
<b>arb</b>	Arabic, Standard, <a href="#">13</a>	<b>pol</b>	Polish, <a href="#">21</a>
<b>arz</b>	Arabic, Egyptian Spoken, <a href="#">12</a>	<b>por</b>	Portuguese, <a href="#">21</a>
<b>avl</b>	Arabic, Eastern Egyptian Bedawi Spoken, <a href="#">13</a>	<b>ron</b>	Romanian, <a href="#">22</a>
<b>bhh</b>	Bukharic, <a href="#">14</a>	<b>rsl</b>	Russian Sign Language, <a href="#">22</a>
<b>bjf</b>	Barzani-Sandu Jewish Neo-Aramaic, <a href="#">14</a>	<b>rus</b>	Russian, <a href="#">22</a>
<b>deu</b>	German, Standard, <a href="#">15</a>	<b>sam</b>	Samaritan Aramaic, <a href="#">23</a>
<b>ell</b>	Greek, <a href="#">16</a>	<b>smp</b>	Samaritan Hebrew, <a href="#">23</a>
<b>eng</b>	English, <a href="#">15</a>	<b>spa</b>	Spanish, <a href="#">23</a>
<b>fra</b>	French, <a href="#">15</a>	<b>sqx</b>	Kufr Qassem Sign Language, <a href="#">19</a>
<b>hbo</b>	Hebrew, Ancient, <a href="#">17</a>	<b>syy</b>	Al-Sayyid Bedouin Sign Language, <a href="#">11</a>
<b>heb</b>	Hebrew, <a href="#">16</a>	<b>tgl</b>	Tagalog, <a href="#">23</a>
<b>hun</b>	Hungarian, <a href="#">17</a>	<b>tir</b>	Tigrigna, <a href="#">24</a>
<b>huy</b>	Hulaulá, <a href="#">17</a>	<b>tmr</b>	Jewish Babylonian Aramaic, <a href="#">18</a>
<b>hyw</b>	Armenian, Western, <a href="#">14</a>	<b>trg</b>	Lishán Noshan, <a href="#">20</a>
<b>isr</b>	Israeli Sign Language, <a href="#">17</a>	<b>tur</b>	Turkish, <a href="#">24</a>
<b>ita</b>	Italian, <a href="#">18</a>	<b>ukr</b>	Ukrainian, <a href="#">24</a>
<b>jbe</b>	Judeo-Berber, <a href="#">19</a>	<b>ydd</b>	Yiddish, Eastern, <a href="#">25</a>
<b>jdt</b>	Judeo-Tat, <a href="#">19</a>	<b>yej</b>	Yevanic, <a href="#">25</a>
<b>jge</b>	Judeo-Georgian, <a href="#">19</a>	<b>yhd</b>	Arabic, Judeo-Iraqi, <a href="#">12</a>
		<b>yid</b>	Yiddish, <a href="#">25</a>
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## 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.

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