

Ethnologue: Languages of Liberia

Twenty-sixth edition data

David M. Eberhard, Gary F. Simons, and Charles D. Fennig, Editors

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List of Abbreviations

A	Agent in constituent word order
ACHPR	African Charter on Human Peoples' Rights (1987)
<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
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
SOV	Subject-Object-Verb
SVO	Subject-Verb-Object
<i>Type</i>	Typological information
UNCRPD	United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2006)
UNDRIP	United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2007)
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization
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 Liberia 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 36 languages listed in the *Ethnologue* for the country of Liberia. 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. *Map*: Map page. *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.

The “Language Map” (page 19) shows the locations of the listed languages. If the location of a language is given on a map, the *Map* element of the language entry indicates the page number of the map. If the language is identified on a map by name, but that name differs from the primary name in the language entry, the name on the map is given in parentheses. If the language is represented on the map by an index number, rather than by its name, the index number is given following the page number (with a colon as separator).

Many ways of finding languages are provided. “Languages by Population” (page 20) lists the languages in order of their first-language speaker populations. “Languages by Status” (page 23) 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 County” (page 27) lists the top-level administrative subdivisions of Liberia and the languages located within each. “Languages by Family” (page 29) lists the languages by their linguistic classifications. “Language Code Index” (page 31) 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 32) lists every name that appears in the language listings as a primary or alternate name of a language or dialect. A total of 141 unique names are associated with the 36 languages described in this digest.

Finally, a listing of all the published sources cited within this digest is found in “Bibliography” (page 37). 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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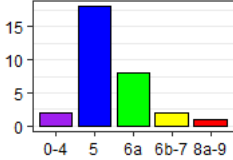
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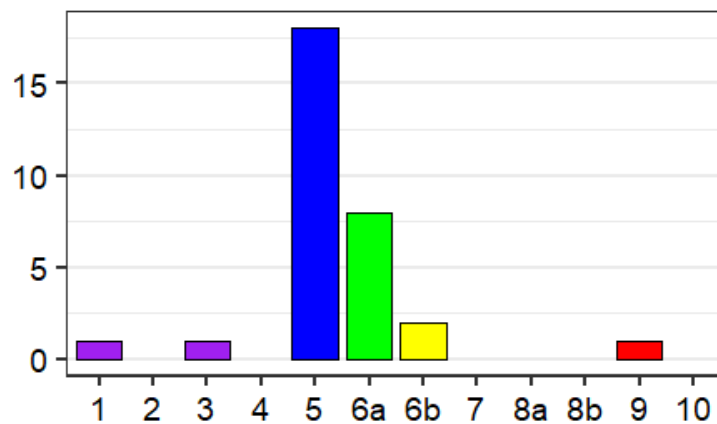
Country Overview

Name of country	Liberia												
Other names	Republic of Liberia												
Population	5,058,000 (2020 World Bank)												
Principal language	English												
Literacy rate	48% (2018 UNESCO)												
International conventions	ACHPR (1982), CDE (1962), ICCPR (2004), UNCRPD (2012), UNDRIP (2007)												
General references	Bendor-Samuel and Hartell 1989, [Hancock 1974a, Vanderaa 1991												
Language counts	<p>The number of established languages listed for Liberia is 31. All are living languages. Of these, 27 are indigenous and 4 are non-indigenous. Furthermore, 2 are institutional, 18 are developing, 8 are vigorous, 2 are in trouble, and 1 is dying. Also listed are 3 unestablished languages and 2 macrolanguages.</p>  <table border="1"> <caption>Language Vitality Counts for Liberia</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Vitality Category</th> <th>Count</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>0-4</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5</td> <td>18</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6a</td> <td>8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6b-7</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8a-9</td> <td>1</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Vitality Category	Count	0-4	2	5	18	6a	8	6b-7	2	8a-9	1
Vitality Category	Count												
0-4	2												
5	18												
6a	8												
6b-7	2												
8a-9	1												

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

Language Status Profile

The following histogram gives a graphic profile of the established languages in Liberia 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 23) 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 Liberia. 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 Liberia 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 Liberia 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 20) 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
100,000 to 999,999	15	48.4	48.4%	4,215,000	88.15170	88.15170%
10,000 to 99,999	11	35.5	83.9%	545,300	11.40430	99.55600%
1,000 to 9,999	3	9.7	93.5%	21,230	0.44400	100.00000%
0	1	3.2	96.8%		0.00000	100.00000%
Unknown	1	3.2	100.0%			
<i>Totals</i>	31	100.0		4,781,530	100.00000	

Summary by language status

Table 2 summarizes the distribution of living established languages in Liberia 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 23) 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 Liberia. Languages that are also used in other countries may be assigned to a different EGIDS level in those countries.

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

Table 2: Distribution of languages by vitality status

EGIDS	Living languages			Number of speakers				
	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Cumulative</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Cumulative</i>	<i>Mean</i>	<i>Median</i>
1	1	3.2	3.2%	60,000	1.2548	1.2548%	60,000	60,000
3	1	3.2	6.5%	113,000	2.3633	3.6181%	113,000	113,000
5	18	58.1	64.5%	4,202,910	87.8989	91.5169%	233,495	163,500
6a	8	25.8	90.3%	390,000	8.1564	99.6733%	48,750	50,000
6b	2	6.5	96.8%	15,620	0.3267	100.0000%	7,810	7,810
9	1	3.2	100.0%		0.0000	100.0000%		
<i>Totals</i>	31	100.0		4,781,530	100.0000			

Summary by language family

The genealogical classifications given in the language entries of the “Alphabetical Listing of Languages” (page 11) name 4 different top-level groups. Table 3 summarizes the distribution of living established languages and their L1 populations within these families. The columns are as for table 2, with the exception that *Cumulative* is excluded since there is no inherent ordering of the families.

Table 3: Distribution of languages by language family

Language family	Living languages		Number of speakers			
	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Mean</i>	<i>Median</i>
Indo-European	1	3.2	60,000	1.3	60,000	60,000
Mixed language	1	3.2		0.0		
Niger-Congo	28	90.3	4,608,530	96.4	164,590	101,000

Language family	Living languages		Number of speakers			
	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Mean</i>	<i>Median</i>
Pidgin	1	3.2	113,000	2.4	113,000	113,000
<i>Totals</i>	31	100.0	4,781,530	100.0		

Alphabetical Listing of Languages

- Akan** [aka]. Autonym: Akan. *Users*: 95,400 in Liberia (2020). 56,100 Fante, 39,300 Ashanti. *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Kwa, Nyo, Potou-Tano, Tano, Central, Akan. *Type*: SVO; postpositions; noun head initial; verb affixes mark person, number, object; tense; causatives; 21 consonant and 10 vowel phonemes; tonal (3 phonemic tones); vowel harmony (ATR). *Lg Dev*: Literature. Dictionary. Grammar. Bible: 1871–1964. *Writing*: Latin script, used since 1978. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 9,883,670 (as L1: 8,875,370; as L2: 1,008,300). Global EGIDS level: 3 (Wider communication). Indigenous in: Ghana. Unestablished in: Australia, Canada, Côte d’Ivoire, Netherlands, Togo, United Kingdom, United States.
- Bandi** [bza] (Bande, Gbande, Gbandi, Gbunde). Autonym: Bandí. *Users*: 149,000 in Liberia (2020). *Location*: Gbarpolu county: Belleh district; Lofa county. *Status*: 5* (Developing). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Mande, Western, Central-Southwestern, Southwestern, Mende-Loma, Mende-Bandi, Bandi. *Dialects*: Tahamba, Wawana, Wulukoha, Hasala, Lukasa, Hembah. Tahamba dialect used for literature. Lexical similarity: 96% with the 6 dialects, 83% with the most similar Mende [men] dialect. *Lg Use*: Also use Liberian English [lir]. Used as L2 by Kuwaa [blh]. *Lg Dev*: Dictionary. Grammar. NT: 2000. *DLS*: Emerging (0.06). *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Traditional religion, Muslim. *Map*: 19:1. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 161,000. Unestablished in: Guinea.
- Bassa** [bsq]. Autonym: Bäsóò. *Users*: 733,000 in Liberia (2020). *Location*: Bong, Grand Bassa, and Montserrado counties; Margibi county: coastal areas and Gibi district inland; River Cess county: west. *Status*: 5* (Developing). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Kru, Western, Bassa. *Dialects*: Gbor, Gba Sor, Mabahn, Hwen Gba Kon, Central Bassa, Rivercess Bassa. *Type*: SVO. *Lg Use*: Also use Liberian English [lir]. Used as L2 by Gbii [ggb]. *Lg Dev*: Bible: 2005. *DLS*: Emerging (0.09). *Writing*: Bassa Vah script, used by older men. Latin script. *Other*: Different from Basa [bzw] of Nigeria or Bassa (Basaa) [bas] of Cameroon. Christian, traditional religion. *Map*: 19:3. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 741,500. Also established in: Sierra Leone.
- Dan** [dnj] (Da, Dàn, Dää̀, Gio, Gio-Dan, Guio, Gyo, Yacouba, Yakuba). Autonym: Dää̀. *Users*: 268,000 in Liberia (2020). *Location*: Nimba county. *Status*: 5* (Developing). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Mande, Eastern, Southeastern, Guro-Tura, Tura-Dan-Mano, Tura-Dan. *Dialects*: Upper Gio, Lower Gio, River Cess Gio. *Type*: Whistle speech reported. *Lg Use*: Also use Liberian English [lir]. Also use Maan [mev]. Used as L2 by Maan [mev]. *Lg Dev*: Dictionary. Grammar. NT: 1981–1993. *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Traditional religion. *Map*: 19:5. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 1,568,800. Also indigenous in: Côte d’Ivoire, Guinea.
- Dewoin** [dee] (De, Dei, Dewoi, Dey). *Users*: 17,100 (2020). *Location*: Bomi county: coast between Lofa and Saint Paul rivers; Montserrado county: near coast. *Status*: 6a* (Vigorous). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Kru, Western, Bassa. *Dialects*: No

significant dialect differences. Lexical similarity: 72% with Bassa [bsq]. *Lg Use*: Also use Liberian English [lir]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L2: 5%. *DLS*: Emerging (0.01). *Other*: Many loan words from other languages. Muslim, traditional religion. *Map*: 19:6.

English [eng]. Autonym: English. *Users*: 60,000 in Liberia (2021 Joshua Project), based on ethnicity. *Status*: 1 (National). De facto national language. *Class*: Indo-European, Germanic, West, English. *Dialect*: Liberian Standard 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 in all primary and secondary 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. *Map*: 19:8. *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.

Éwé [ewe]. *Users*: 3,560 in Liberia (2020). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Kwa, Left Bank, Gbe. *Type*: SVO; postpositions; noun head initial; no articles; no passives; tense and aspect; comparatives; 26 consonant and 12 vowel phonemes; tonal (3 phonemic tones: high, mid, low); verb serialization; whistle speech reported. *Lg Dev*: Literature. Newspapers. Radio. TV. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. Bible: 1911–2011. *Writing*: Braille script. Latin script, used since 1850s, primary usage. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 5,528,210 (as L1: 5,026,230; as L2: 501,980). Global EGIDS level: 3 (Wider communication). Indigenous in: Ghana, Togo. Unestablished in: Canada.

Gbii [ggb] (Gbee, Gbi-Dowlu). *Users*: 11,800 (2020). *Location*: Nimba county: west of Cestos river. *Status*: 6a* (Vigorous). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Kru, Western, Bassa. *Dialects*: Kplor, Dorbor. Lexical similarity: 78% with Bassa [bsq]. *Lg Use*: Also use Bassa [bsq]. Also use Liberian English [lir]. *DLS*: Emerging (0.01). *Other*: Traditional religion. *Map*: 19:9.

Glaro-Twabo [glr]. *Users*: 8,230 in Liberia (2020). *Location*: Grand Gedeh and River Gee counties; border with Cote d'Ivoire. *Status*: 6b* (Threatened). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Kru, Western, Wee, Guere-Krahn. *Dialects*: Glaro, Twabo. Minimal intelligibility between Twabo dialect and some Eastern Krahn [kqo] dialects, but not with Glaro. Lexical similarity: 82% with some Eastern Krahn [kqo] dialects, 87% with Glaro and Twabo dialects. *Lg Use*: Also use Liberian English [lir]. *DLS*: Emerging (0.01). *Other*: Traditional religion. *Map*: 19:11. *Worldwide*: Unestablished in: Côte d'Ivoire.

Glio-Oubi [oub] (Glio, Oubi, Ubi). *Users*: 7,390 in Liberia (2020). *Location*: Grand Gedeh county: 6 towns. *Status*: 6b* (Threatened). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Kru, Western, Grebo, Glio-Oubi. *Dialects*: Lexical similarity: 75% with Twabo dialect of

Glaro-Twabo [glr] and 73% with Trepo dialect of Krumen [ted] and Pye [pye] of Côte d'Ivoire. *Lg Use*: Also use Liberian English [lir]. *DLS*: Emerging (0.01). *Writing*: Latin script, in development. *Other*: Traditional religion. *Map*: 19:12. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 9,890. Also indigenous in: Côte d'Ivoire.

Gola [gol]. *Users*: 177,000 in Liberia (2020). *Location*: Gbarpolu, Grand Cape Mount, and Lofa counties: between Mano and Saint Paul rivers; Bomi and Montserrado counties: inland. *Status*: 5* (Developing). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Atlantic, Southern, Mel, Gola. *Dialects*: Deng (Todii), Kongba, Senje. *Type*: SVO; CV; tonal. *Lg Use*: Also use Liberian English [lir]. Used as L2 by Vai [vai]. *Lg Dev*: Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. NT: 2020. *DLS*: Emerging (0.04). *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Different from Gola dialect of Mumuye [mzm] of Nigeria or Badyara [pbp] of Guinea and Guinea-Bissau. Muslim, Christian, traditional religion. *Map*: 19:13. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 192,000. Also indigenous in: Sierra Leone.

Grebo [grb]. A macrolanguage. Population total all languages (L1 only): 571,100. *DLS*: . *Other*: Includes: Barclayville Grebo [gry], Central Grebo [grv], Gboloo Grebo [gec], Northern Grebo [gbo], Southern Grebo [grj]. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 571,100.

Grebo, Barclayville [gry] (Wedebo Grebo). *Users*: 50,000 (2020). *Location*: Grand Kru county: southeast coast and inland. *Status*: 6a* (Vigorous). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Kru, Western, Grebo, Liberian. A member of macrolanguage Grebo [grb]. *Dialects*: Wedebo, Kplebo. A subgroup of quite distinct dialects. Many phonological differences with Jabo dialect of Southern Grebo [grj]. *Lg Use*: Also use Liberian English [lir]. *Lg Dev*: Dictionary. Grammar. *DLS*: Emerging (0.01). *Writing*: Unwritten. *Other*: They identify with Klao [klu], but understand Grebo better. Strong ethnocentric attitudes between subgroups. Traditional religion. *Map*: 19:2.

Grebo, Central [grv]. *Users*: 56,100 (2020). *Location*: Grand Kru and River Gee counties; Maryland county: central Barrobo district. *Status*: 6a* (Vigorous). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Kru, Western, Grebo, Liberian. A member of macrolanguage Grebo [grb]. *Dialects*: Globo, Nyenebo, Dorobo, Borobo, Trembo. Distinct from Gboloo Grebo [gec]. Dialects may be quite distinct. *Lg Use*: Also use Liberian English [lir]. *Lg Dev*: Grammar. *DLS*: Emerging (0.01). *Writing*: Unwritten. *Other*: Traditional religion. *Map*: 19:4.

Grebo, Gboloo [gec] (Gblou Grebo, Gboloo). *Users*: 119,000 (2020). *Location*: Maryland county: east border, north of Jabo Grebo. *Status*: 6a* (Vigorous). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Kru, Western, Grebo, Liberian. A member of macrolanguage Grebo [grb]. *Dialects*: Gederobo, Nyanoun, Tuobo, Biabo, Dediebo. *Lg Use*: Also use Liberian English [lir]. *Lg Dev*: Grammar. *DLS*: Emerging (0.01). *Writing*: Unwritten. *Other*: Traditional religion. *Map*: 19:10.

Grebo, Northern [gbo] (Grebo). Autonym: Klépo. *Users*: 150,000 (2020). *Location*: Grand Gedeh, Grand Kru, Maryland, River Gee, and Sinoe counties; near Cote d'Ivoire border. *Status*: 5* (Developing). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Kru, Western,

Grebo, Liberian. A member of macrolanguage Grebo [grb]. *Dialects*: Chedepo, E Je (Eh Je), Palipo, Gbepo (Gbeapo), Jedepo, Tienpo, Klepo, Fopo-Bua, Northeastern Grebo. A subgroup of quite distinct dialects. Subdialects of Northeastern dialect are Ketiepo, Nitiabo, Sabo, Tuobo, Webo. *Lg Use*: Also use Liberian English [lir]. *Lg Dev*: Dictionary. Grammar. NT: 1989. *DLS*: Ascending (0.16). *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Strong ethnocentric attitudes between subgroups. Traditional religion. *Map*: 19:22.

Grebo, Southern [grj]. *Users*: 116,000 in Liberia (2020). *Location*: Grand Kru and Maryland counties: southeast coast and inland. *Status*: 6a* (Vigorous). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Kru, Western, Grebo, Liberian. A member of macrolanguage Grebo [grb]. *Dialects*: Glebo (Seaside Grebo), Jabo, Nyabo, Wrelpo. A subgroup of quite distinct dialects. *Lg Use*: Also use Liberian English [lir]. *Lg Dev*: Dictionary. Grammar. *DLS*: Emerging (0.01). *Writing*: Unwritten. *Other*: Strong ethnocentric attitudes between subgroups. Traditional religion. *Map*: 19:24. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 196,000. Also established in: Côte d'Ivoire.

Kisi, Southern [kss] (Gisi, Gizi, Kissi, Kissien, kisiéi). *Users*: 205,000 in Liberia (2020). *Location*: Lofa county: extreme northwest corner. *Status*: 5* (Developing). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Atlantic, Southern, Mel, Bullom-Kissi, Kissi. *Dialects*: Luangkori, Tengia, Warn. Different from Northern Kissi [kqs] of Guinea. *Lg Use*: Also use Liberian English [lir]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L2: 20%. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. Bible: 2014. *DLS*: Emerging (0.06). *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Traditional religion, Christian, Muslim. *Map*: 19:25. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 336,000. Also indigenous in: Sierra Leone.

Klao [klu] (Klaoh, Klau, Kroo, Kru). *Users*: 388,000 in Liberia (2020). *Location*: Grand Kru, River Cess, and Sinoe counties: southeast Atlantic coast and inland. *Status*: 5* (Developing). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Kru, Western, Klao. *Dialects*: Western Klaoh, West Central Klaoh, Central Klaoh, Eastern Klaoh. *Type*: SVO main clause; SOV embedded clause. *Lg Use*: Also use Liberian English [lir]. *Lg Dev*: Bible: 2011. *DLS*: Emerging (0.04). *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Traditional religion. *Map*: 19:14. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 402,000. Also established in: Sierra Leone. Unestablished in: Ghana.

Kpelle [kpe]. A macrolanguage. Population total all languages (L1 only): 1,364,000. *DLS*: . *Other*: Includes: Guinea Kpelle [gkp] (Guinea), Liberia Kpelle [xpe]. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 1,364,000.

Kpelle, Liberia [xpe] (Gbese, Kpele, Kpese, Kpwessi, Pessa, Pessy). Autonym: Kpelewoo. *Users*: 867,000 (2020). *Location*: Widespread. *Status*: 5* (Developing). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Mande, Western, Central-Southwestern, Southwestern, Kpelle. A member of macrolanguage Kpelle [kpe]. *Dialects*: Nyawokole, Fuama, Boopolu. Dialect differences slight. Different from Kpelle [gkp] of Guinea. *Lg Use*: Also use Liberian English [lir]. Used as L2 by Kuwaa [blh]. *Lg Dev*: Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. Bible: 2014. *DLS*: Ascending (0.15). *Writing*: Kpelle script, limited usage except for correspondence. Latin script. *Other*: Largest group in Liberia.

Traditional religion, Christian, Muslim. *Map*: 19:16.

Krahn, Eastern [kqo] (Eastern Kran, Konobo-Eastern Krahn, Kran). *Users*: 99,200 in Liberia (2020). *Location*: Grand Gedeh county: 2 areas along middle Cavally river; River Gee and Sinoe counties; Côte d’Ivoire border area. *Status*: 5* (Developing). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Kru, Western, Wee, Konobo. *Dialects*: Gorbo, Kanneh, Konobo, Tchien (Chiehn). Minimal intelligibility between some dialects and Twabo dialect of Glaro-Twabo [glr]. Distinct from Western Krahn [krw], Sapo [krn], and We Southern [gxx]. Lexical similarity: 93% between Gorbo and Kanneh dialects, 87% between Gorbo and Konobo dialects. *Lg Use*: Also use Liberian English [lir]. *Lg Dev*: NT: 1996. *DLS*: Emerging (0.04). *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Traditional religion, Christian. *Map*: 19:7. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 109,800. Also established in: Côte d’Ivoire.

Krahn, Western [krw] (Krahn, Kran, Northern Krahn, Western Kran). *Users*: 101,000 in Liberia (2020). *Location*: Grand Gedeh county: near Côte d’Ivoire border; Nimba and Sinoe counties. *Status*: 5* (Developing). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Kru, Western, Wee, Guere-Krahn. *Dialects*: Gbo, Gbaeson (Gbaision, Gbarzon), Plo, Biai, Gbarbo, Gborbo (Gbob), Kpeaply. Dialects in Côte d’Ivoire have French [fra] influences. *Lg Use*: Also use Liberian English [lir]. *Lg Dev*: Côte d’Ivoire orthography differs from Liberia. NT: 1992–1995. *DLS*: Emerging (0.04). *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Traditional religion, Christian. *Map*: 19:28. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 113,200. Also indigenous in: Côte d’Ivoire.

Krumen, Tepo [ted] (Kroumen, Kru, Krumen, Southern Krumen, Tepowin). Autonym: Tepowin. *Users*: 5,610 in Liberia (2020). *Location*: River Gee county: Cote d’Ivoire border area. Glawlo dialect is southeast. *Status*: 5* (Developing). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Kru, Western, Grebo, Ivorian. *Dialects*: Tepo, Bapo, Plapo (Ropo), Dapo, Honpo, Yrepo (Kapo), Glawlo. *Lg Use*: Also use Liberian English [lir]. *Lg Dev*: Grammar. NT: 1995. *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Non-indigenous. Traditional religion. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 33,910. Indigenous in: Côte d’Ivoire.

Kuwaa [blh] (Belle, Belleh, Kowaa, Kwaa). *Users*: 27,000 (2020). *Location*: Gbarpolu county: Belleh and Bokomo districts; Lofa county: Zorzor district. *Status*: 5* (Developing). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Kru, Kuwaa. *Dialects*: None known. Only minor pronunciation differences exist between the 2 Kuwaa clans: Lubaisu and Gbade. *Lg Use*: Also use Bandi [bza]. Also use Liberia Kpelle [xpe]. Also use Liberian English [lir]. Also use Loma [lom]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L2: 5%. NT: 1989. *DLS*: Emerging (0.02). *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Traditional religion. *Map*: 19:15.

Liberian English [lir] (Colocwa, Kolokwa, Koloqua, Kru Pidgin English, Liberian Kolokwa English, Liberian Kreyol, Liberian Pidgin English). *Users*: 5,113,000, all users. L1 users: 113,000 (2015). L2 users: 5,000,000 (2021 J. Sheppard). *Location*: Widespread. *Status*: 3 (Wider communication). Brought to Liberia in 1822 by first group of black American emigrants who settled in Providence island, now Monrovia. Trade language and used in informal contexts. Gained usage with 5 varieties and spread throughout Liberia in the 19th

century. *Class*: Pidgin, English based, Atlantic. *Dialects*: Regional dialects. The variation in Liberian English today is mostly dependent on the educational level of the speaker, whether the speaker is from a rural or urban area, and whether Liberian English is their first or second language (Hancock 1974a). *Lg Use*: Used as L2 by Bandi [bza], Barclayville Grebo [gry], Bassa [bsq], Central Grebo [grv], Dan [dnj], Dewoin [dee], Eastern Krahn [kqo], Gbii [ggb], Gboloo Grebo [gec], Glaro-Twabo [glr], Glio-Oubi [oub], Gola [gol], Klao [klu], Konyanka Maninka [mku], Kuwaa [blh], Liberia Kpelle [xpe], Loma [lom], Maan [mev], Manya [mzj], Mende [men], Northern Grebo [gbo], Sapo [krn], Southern Grebo [grj], Southern Kisi [kss], Tajuasohn [tja], Tepo Krumen [ted], Vai [vai], Western Krahn [krw]. *Lg Dev*: Radio. *DLS*: Emerging (0.04). *Writing*: Latin script, limited usage. *Other*: As different from standard English as is Sierra Leone Krio [kri] repidginized from American Black English of the 1800s (Holm 1989). *Map*: 19:17.

Loma [lom] (Loghoma, Logoma, Looma, Lorma, Toa, “Bouze” *pej.*, “Busy” *pej.*, “Buzi” *pej.*). Autonym: Löghömàgòòì, Löömàgòòì. *Users*: 299,000 (2020). *Location*: Gbarpolu county: Belleh district; Lofa county. *Status*: 5* (Developing). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Mande, Western, Central-Southwestern, Southwestern, Mende-Loma, Loma. *Dialects*: Gizima, Wubomai (Wubomei), Ziema (Siama), Gbunde (Bonde, Bunde), Briama (Bulima, Buluiema, Buluyiema, Bulyama). Distinct from Toma [tod] of Guinea and Loma [loi] of Côte d’Ivoire. Northern and southern dialects are different enough to make mutual intelligibility difficult. *Lg Use*: Also use Liberian English [lir]. Used as L2 by Kuwaa [blh], Manya [mzj]. *Lg Dev*: Literature and literacy program in progress. Grammar. NT: 1971. *DLS*: Emerging (0.09). *Writing*: Latin script. Loma script, limited usage except for correspondence. *Other*: Traditional religion, Christian. *Map*: 19:18.

Maan [mev] (Máá, Maa, Mah, Mann, Mano, Manon, Mawe). Autonym: Mǎǎ. *Users*: 341,000 in Liberia (2020). *Location*: Bong, Grand Bassa, and Nimba counties. *Status*: 5* (Developing). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Mande, Eastern, Southeastern, Guro-Tura, Tura-Dan-Mano, Mano. *Lg Use*: Also use Dan [dnj], especially outside home area of Nimba County. Also use Liberian English [lir]. Used as L2 by Dan [dnj]. *Lg Dev*: Grammar. NT: 1978. *DLS*: Emerging (0.06). *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Traditional religion. *Map*: 19:19. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 427,900. Also indigenous in: Guinea (Mano).

Maninka, Konyanka [mku] (Konya, Konyakakan, Konyanka, Maninya). *Location*: Lofa county: bordering Guinea. *Status*: 6a* (Vigorous). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Mande, Western, Central-Southwestern, Central, Manding-Jogo, Manding-Vai, Manding-Mokole, Manding, Manding-East, Southeastern Manding. *Dialects*: None known. Lexical similarity: 95% with Manya [mzj], over 90% with Eastern Maninkakan [emk]. *Type*: SOV; postpositions; tone. *Lg Use*: Also use Liberian English [lir]. *Writing*: Unwritten. *Other*: Non-indigenous. Differs from Guinea variety in use of English loan words. Muslim. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 559,000. Indigenous in: Guinea.

Maninkakan, Eastern [emk]. Autonym: Maninka. *Users*: 71,300 in Liberia (2020). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Niger-Congo, Mande, Western, Central-Southwestern, Central,

Manding-Jogo, Manding-Vai, Manding-Mokole, Manding, Manding-East, Southeastern Manding. *Lg Use*: Used as L2 by Manya [mzj]. *Lg Dev*: Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. NT: 1932–1966. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant. Latin script. N’Ko script, used in Guinea. *Other*: Non-indigenous. Commerce people from Guinea. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 3,722,300. Global EGIDS level: 3 (Wider communication). Indigenous in: Guinea, Mali, Sierra Leone.

Manya [mzj] (Mandingo, Maninya, Manya Kan, “Toma Maninya” *pej.*, “Tuu Kolo Maninya” *pej.*). Autonym: Maninyakan. *Users*: 95,800 in Liberia (2020). *Location*: Lofa county: bordering Guinea. *Status*: 5* (Developing). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Mande, Western, Central-Southwestern, Central, Manding-Jogo, Manding-Vai, Manding-Mokole, Manding, Manding-East, Southeastern Manding. *Dialects*: Gboninga, Kuaduka. Lexical similarity: 95% with Konyanka Maninka [mku], over 90% with Eastern Maninkakan [emk]. Dialects have over 98% shared vocabulary (2017 J. M. Sheppard). *Lg Use*: Many also use Eastern Maninkakan [emk]. Many also use Loma [lom]. Also use Liberian English [lir]. *Lg Dev*: Literature. *DLS*: Emerging (0.01). *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Muslim. *Map*: 19:20. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 120,800. Also indigenous in: Guinea.

Mende [men] (Boumpe, Hulo, Mende, Mende yia, “Kossa” *pej.*, “Kosso” *pej.*). Autonym: Mende, Mende yia. *Users*: 41,600 in Liberia (2020). *Location*: Grand Cape Mount county: Porkpa district; Lofa county: Vahun district. Sierra Leone border area. *Status*: 5* (Dispersed). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Mande, Western, Central-Southwestern, Southwestern, Mende-Loma, Mende-Bandi, Mende-Loko. *Type*: SOV; postpositions; definite article suffix; 24 consonant and 7 vowel phonemes; tonal (2 tones: high, low); word-initial consonant mutation. *Lg Use*: Also use Liberian English [lir]. Used as L2 by Vai [vai]. *Lg Dev*: Dictionary. Grammar. Bible: 1959. *Writing*: Latin script. Mende Kikakui script, limited usage except for correspondence and record keeping, especially accounting. *Other*: Muslim. *Map*: 19:21. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 2,511,600. Global EGIDS level: 2 (Provincial). Also indigenous in: Sierra Leone.

N’Ko [nqo]. *Users*: No known L1 speakers in Liberia. No ethnic community. *Location*: Scattered. *Status*: 9 (Second language only). *Class*: Mixed language. *Lg Dev*: N’Ko is both a script devised in 1949 as a writing system for the Mande languages, and the name of the literary language written in the script. Newspapers. Dictionary. *Writing*: N’Ko script. *Other*: Non-indigenous. A mixture of Mande languages: Bamanankan [bam], Eastern Maninkakan [emk], Jula [dyu], and Mandinka [mnk]. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: none known. Indigenous in: Guinea. Also established in: Burkina Faso, Côte d’Ivoire, Gambia, Senegal, Sierra Leone. Unestablished in: Mali.

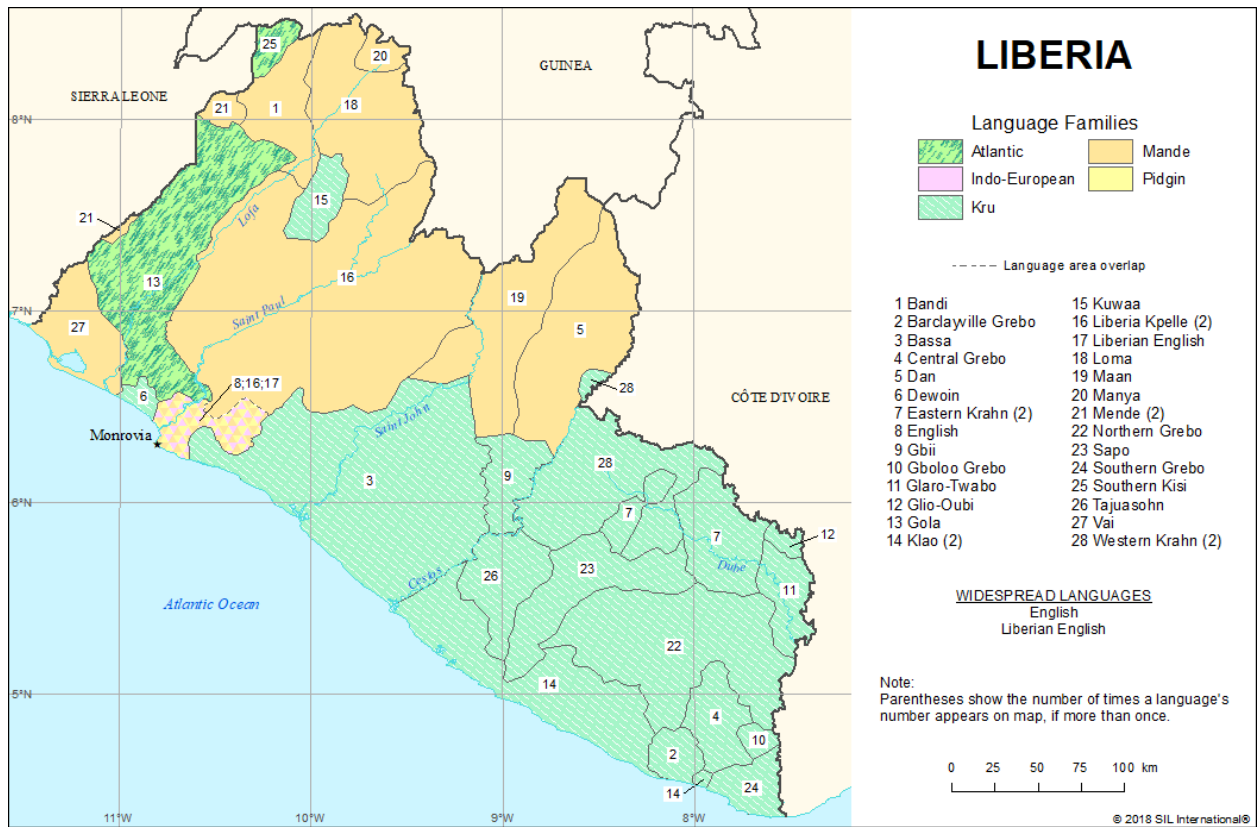
Sapo [krm] (Sarpo, Southern Krahn). *Users*: 66,700 (2020). *Location*: Grand Gedeh and Sinoe counties; River Gee county: small border area. *Status*: 5* (Developing). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Kru, Western, Wee, Guere-Krahn. *Dialects*: Nomopo (Nimpo), Waya (Wedjah), Juarzon, Sinkon (Senkon), Putu, Kabade (Karbardae). Lexical similarity: 84%–97% between Western Wè [wec] and Sapo dialects, including some Wè dialects in Côte d’Ivoire. *Lg Use*: Also use Liberian English [lir]. *Lg Dev*: Bible portions: 1956. *DLS*:

Emerging (0.01). *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Traditional religion, Christian. *Map*: 19:23.

Tajuasohn [tja] (Tajuason, Tajuoso, Tajuosohn). *Users*: 20,000 (2020). *Location*: Sinoe county: north of Greenville. *Status*: 6a* (Vigorous). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Kru, Western, Klao. *Dialects*: 5 clans speak inherently intelligible dialects. Many understand Klao [klu], but the reverse is not true. *Lg Use*: Also use Liberian English [lir]. *DLS*: Emerging (0.01). *Writing*: Unwritten. *Other*: Traditional religion. *Map*: 19:26.

Vai [vai] (Gallinas, Gallines, Vei, Vy). *Users*: 189,000 in Liberia (2020). *Location*: Bomi county: southwest coast; Grand Cape Mount county: coast and inland. *Status*: 5* (Developing). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Mande, Western, Central-Southwestern, Central, Manding-Jogo, Manding-Vai, Vai-Kono. *Dialects*: None known. Different from Kono [kno] of Sierra Leone. *Type*: SOV. *Lg Use*: Also use Gola [gol]. Also use Liberian English [lir]. Also use Mende [men]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L2: 10%. Grammar. NT: 2002. *DLS*: Ascending (0.31). *Writing*: Latin script. Vai script, primary usage. *Other*: Muslim, traditional religion. *Map*: 19:27. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 212,200. Also indigenous in: Sierra Leone.

Language Map



Languages by Population

In this section the languages of Liberia 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.

100,000 to 999,999

Kpelle, Liberia [[xpe](#)] *Users:* 867,000 (2020). *Status:* 5* (Developing).

Bassa [[bsq](#)] *Users:* 733,000 in Liberia (2020). *Status:* 5* (Developing). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 741,500.

Klao [[klu](#)] *Users:* 388,000 in Liberia (2020). *Status:* 5* (Developing). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 402,000.

Maan [[mev](#)] *Users:* 341,000 in Liberia (2020). *Status:* 5* (Developing). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 427,900.

Loma [[lom](#)] *Users:* 299,000 (2020). *Status:* 5* (Developing).

Dan [[dnj](#)] *Users:* 268,000 in Liberia (2020). *Status:* 5* (Developing). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 1,568,800.

Kisi, Southern [[kss](#)] *Users:* 205,000 in Liberia (2020). *Status:* 5* (Developing). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 336,000.

Vai [[vai](#)] *Users:* 189,000 in Liberia (2020). *Status:* 5* (Developing). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 212,200.

Gola [[gol](#)] *Users:* 177,000 in Liberia (2020). *Status:* 5* (Developing). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 192,000.

Grebo, Northern [[gbo](#)] *Users:* 150,000 (2020). *Status:* 5* (Developing).

Bandi [[bza](#)] *Users:* 149,000 in Liberia (2020). *Status:* 5* (Developing). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 161,000.

Grebo, Gboloo [[gec](#)] *Users:* 119,000 (2020). *Status:* 6a* (Vigorous).

Grebo, Southern [[grj](#)] *Users:* 116,000 in Liberia (2020). *Status:* 6a* (Vigorous). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 196,000.

Liberian English [[lir](#)] *Users:* 113,000 (2015). 5,113,000, all users. L2 users: 5,000,000 (2021 J. Sheppard). *Status:* 3 (Wider communication).

Krahn, Western [[krw](#)] *Users:* 101,000 in Liberia (2020). *Status:* 5* (Developing). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 113,200.

10,000 to 99,999

Krahn, Eastern [[kqo](#)] *Users:* 99,200 in Liberia (2020). *Status:* 5* (Developing). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 109,800.

Manya [[mzj](#)] *Users:* 95,800 in Liberia (2020). *Status:* 5* (Developing). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 120,800.

Akan [[aka](#)] *Users:* 95,400 in Liberia (2020). 56,100 Fante, 39,300 Ashanti. *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 9,883,670 (as L1: 8,875,370; as L2: 1,008,300).

Maninkakan, Eastern [[emk](#)] *Users:* 71,300 in Liberia (2020). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 3,722,300.

Sapo [[krn](#)] *Users:* 66,700 (2020). *Status:* 5* (Developing).

English [[eng](#)] *Users:* 60,000 in Liberia (2021 Joshua Project), based on ethnicity. *Status:* 1 (National). De facto national language. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 1,456,448,320 (as L1: 379,682,200; as L2: 1076,766,120).

Grebo, Central [[grv](#)] *Users:* 56,100 (2020). *Status:* 6a* (Vigorous).

Grebo, Barclayville [[gry](#)] *Users:* 50,000 (2020). *Status:* 6a* (Vigorous).

Mende [[men](#)] *Users:* 41,600 in Liberia (2020). *Status:* 5* (Dispersed). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 2,511,600.

Kuwaa [[blh](#)] *Users:* 27,000 (2020). *Status:* 5* (Developing).

Tajuasohn [[tja](#)] *Users:* 20,000 (2020). *Status:* 6a* (Vigorous).

Dewoin [[dee](#)] *Users:* 17,100 (2020). *Status:* 6a* (Vigorous).

Gbii [[ggb](#)] *Users:* 11,800 (2020). *Status:* 6a* (Vigorous).

1,000 to 9,999

Glaro-Twabo [[glr](#)] *Users:* 8,230 in Liberia (2020). *Status:* 6b* (Threatened).

Glio-Oubi [[oub](#)] *Users:* 7,390 in Liberia (2020). *Status:* 6b* (Threatened). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 9,890.

Krumen, Tepo [[ted](#)] *Users:* 5,610 in Liberia (2020). *Status:* 5* (Developing). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 33,910.

Éwé [[ewe](#)] *Users:* 3,560 in Liberia (2020). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 5,528,210 (as L1: 5,026,230; as L2: 501,980).

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N'Ko [[nqo](#)] *Users:* No known L1 speakers in Liberia. Ethnic population: No ethnic community. *Status:* 9 (Second language only). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: none known.

Unknown

Maninka, Konyanka [[mku](#)] *Status:* 6a* (Vigorous). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 559,000.

Languages by Status

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

1 (National)

English [[eng](#)] *Users*: 60,000 in Liberia (2021 Joshua Project), based on ethnicity. *Status*: De facto national language. *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).

3 (Wider communication)

Liberian English [[lir](#)] *Users*: 5,113,000, all users. L1 users: 113,000 (2015). L2 users: 5,000,000 (2021 J. Sheppard). *Status*: Brought to Liberia in 1822 by first group of black American emigrants who settled in Providence island, now Monrovia. Trade language and used in informal contexts. Gained usage with 5 varieties and spread throughout Liberia in the 19th century. *Lg Use*: Used as L2 by Bandi [[bza](#)], Barclayville Grebo [[gry](#)], Bassa [[bsq](#)], Central Grebo [[grv](#)], Dan [[dnj](#)], Dewoin [[dee](#)], Eastern Krahn [[kqo](#)], Gbii [[ggb](#)], Gboloo Grebo [[gec](#)], Glaro-Twabo [[glr](#)], Glio-Oubi [[oub](#)], Gola [[gol](#)], Klao [[klu](#)], Konyanka Maninka [[mku](#)], Kuwaa [[blh](#)], Liberia Kpelle [[xpe](#)], Loma [[lom](#)], Maan [[mev](#)], Manya [[mzj](#)], Mende [[men](#)], Northern Grebo [[gbo](#)], Sapo [[krm](#)], Southern Grebo [[grj](#)], Southern Kisi [[kss](#)], Tajuasohn [[tja](#)], Tepo Krumen [[ted](#)], Vai [[vai](#)], Western Krahn [[krw](#)]. *Lg Dev*: Radio. *Writing*: Latin script, limited usage.

5 (Developing)

Bandi [[bza](#)] *Users*: 149,000 in Liberia (2020). *Lg Use*: Also use Liberian English [[lir](#)]. Used as L2 by Kuwaa [[blh](#)]. *Lg Dev*: Dictionary. Grammar. NT: 2000. *Writing*: Latin script. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 161,000.

Bassa [[bsq](#)] *Users*: 733,000 in Liberia (2020). *Lg Use*: Also use Liberian English [[lir](#)]. Used as L2 by Gbii [[ggb](#)]. *Lg Dev*: Bible: 2005. *Writing*: Bassa Vah script, used by older men. Latin script. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 741,500.

Dan [[dnj](#)] *Users*: 268,000 in Liberia (2020). *Lg Use*: Also use Liberian English [[lir](#)]. Also use Maan [[mev](#)]. Used as L2 by Maan [[mev](#)]. *Writing*: Latin script. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 1,568,800.

- Gola** [gol] *Users:* 177,000 in Liberia (2020). *Lg Use:* Also use Liberian English [lir]. Used as L2 by Vai [vai]. *Lg Dev:* Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. NT: 2020. *Writing:* Latin script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 192,000.
- Grebo, Northern** [gbo] *Users:* 150,000 (2020). *Lg Use:* Also use Liberian English [lir]. *Lg Dev:* Dictionary. Grammar. NT: 1989. *Writing:* Latin script.
- Kisi, Southern** [kss] *Users:* 205,000 in Liberia (2020). *Lg Use:* Also use Liberian English [lir]. *Lg Dev:* Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. Bible: 2014. *Writing:* Latin script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 336,000.
- Klao** [klu] *Users:* 388,000 in Liberia (2020). *Lg Use:* Also use Liberian English [lir]. *Lg Dev:* Bible: 2011. *Writing:* Latin script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 402,000.
- Kpelle, Liberia** [xpe] *Users:* 867,000 (2020). *Lg Use:* Also use Liberian English [lir]. Used as L2 by Kuwaa [blh]. *Lg Dev:* Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. Bible: 2014. *Writing:* Kpelle script, limited usage except for correspondence. Latin script.
- Krahn, Eastern** [kqo] *Users:* 99,200 in Liberia (2020). *Lg Use:* Also use Liberian English [lir]. *Lg Dev:* NT: 1996. *Writing:* Latin script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 109,800.
- Krahn, Western** [krw] *Users:* 101,000 in Liberia (2020). *Lg Use:* Also use Liberian English [lir]. *Lg Dev:* NT: 1992–1995. *Writing:* Latin script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 113,200.
- Krumen, Tepo** [ted] *Users:* 5,610 in Liberia (2020). *Lg Use:* Also use Liberian English [lir]. *Writing:* Latin script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 33,910.
- Kuwaa** [blh] *Users:* 27,000 (2020). *Lg Use:* Also use Bandi [bza]. Also use Liberia Kpelle [xpe]. Also use Liberian English [lir]. Also use Loma [lom]. *Lg Dev:* NT: 1989. *Writing:* Latin script.
- Loma** [lom] *Users:* 299,000 (2020). *Lg Use:* Also use Liberian English [lir]. Used as L2 by Kuwaa [blh], Manya [mzj]. *Lg Dev:* Grammar. NT: 1971. *Writing:* Latin script. Loma script, limited usage except for correspondence.
- Maan** [mev] *Users:* 341,000 in Liberia (2020). *Lg Use:* Also use Dan [dnj], especially outside home area of Nimba County. Also use Liberian English [lir]. Used as L2 by Dan [dnj]. *Lg Dev:* Grammar. NT: 1978. *Writing:* Latin script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 427,900.
- Manya** [mzj] *Users:* 95,800 in Liberia (2020). *Lg Use:* Many also use Eastern Maninkakan [emk]. Many also use Loma [lom]. Also use Liberian English [lir]. *Lg Dev:* Literature. *Writing:* Latin script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 120,800.
- Sapo** [krm] *Users:* 66,700 (2020). *Lg Use:* Also use Liberian English [lir]. *Lg Dev:* Bible portions: 1956. *Writing:* Latin script.
- Vai** [vai] *Users:* 189,000 in Liberia (2020). *Lg Use:* Also use Gola [gol]. Also use Liberian English [lir]. Also use Mende [men]. *Lg Dev:* Grammar. NT: 2002. *Writing:* Latin script. Vai script, primary usage. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 212,200.

5 (Dispersed)

Mende [men] *Users:* 41,600 in Liberia (2020). *Lg Use:* Also use Liberian English [lir]. Used as L2 by Vai [vai]. *Writing:* Latin script. Mende Kikakui script, limited usage except for correspondence and record keeping, especially accounting. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 2,511,600.

6a (Vigorous)

Dewoin [dee] *Users:* 17,100 (2020). *Lg Use:* Also use Liberian English [lir].

Gbii [ggb] *Users:* 11,800 (2020). *Lg Use:* Also use Bassa [bsq]. Also use Liberian English [lir].

Grebo, Barclayville [gry] *Users:* 50,000 (2020). *Lg Use:* Also use Liberian English [lir]. *Lg Dev:* Dictionary. Grammar. *Writing:* Unwritten.

Grebo, Central [grv] *Users:* 56,100 (2020). *Lg Use:* Also use Liberian English [lir]. *Lg Dev:* Grammar. *Writing:* Unwritten.

Grebo, Gboloo [gec] *Users:* 119,000 (2020). *Lg Use:* Also use Liberian English [lir]. *Lg Dev:* Grammar. *Writing:* Unwritten.

Grebo, Southern [grj] *Users:* 116,000 in Liberia (2020). *Lg Use:* Also use Liberian English [lir]. *Lg Dev:* Dictionary. Grammar. *Writing:* Unwritten. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 196,000.

Maninka, Konyanka [mku] *Lg Use:* Also use Liberian English [lir]. *Writing:* Unwritten. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 559,000.

Tajuasohn [tja] *Users:* 20,000 (2020). *Lg Use:* Also use Liberian English [lir]. *Writing:* Unwritten.

6b (Threatened)

Glaro-Twabo [glr] *Users:* 8,230 in Liberia (2020). *Lg Use:* Also use Liberian English [lir].

Glio-Oubi [oub] *Users:* 7,390 in Liberia (2020). *Lg Use:* Also use Liberian English [lir]. *Writing:* Latin script, in development. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 9,890.

9 (Second language only)

N'Ko [nqo] *Users:* No known L1 speakers in Liberia. Ethnic population: No ethnic community. *Writing:* N'Ko script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: none known.

Unestablished

Akan [aka] *Users:* 95,400 in Liberia (2020). 56,100 Fante, 39,300 Ashanti. *Writing:* Latin script, used since 1978. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 9,883,670 (as L1: 8,875,370; as L2:

1,008,300).

Maninkakan, Eastern [emk] *Users:* 71,300 in Liberia (2020). *Lg Use:* Used as L2 by Manya [mzj]. *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant. Latin script. N’Ko script, used in Guinea. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 3,722,300.

Éwé [ewe] *Users:* 3,560 in Liberia (2020). *Writing:* Braille script. Latin script, used since 1850s, primary usage. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 5,528,210 (as L1: 5,026,230; as L2: 501,980).

Languages by County

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

Bomi

- Dewoin [dee], 11
- Gola [gol], 13
- Vai [vai], 18

Bong

- Bassa [bsq], 11
- Maan [mev], 16

Gbarpolu

- Bandi [bza], 11
- Gola [gol], 13
- Kuwaa [blh], 15
- Loma [lom], 16

Grand Bassa

- Bassa [bsq], 11
- Maan [mev], 16

Grand Cape Mount

- Gola [gol], 13
- Mende [men], 17
- Vai [vai], 18

Grand Gedeh

- Glaro-Twabo [glr], 12
- Glio-Oubi [oub], 12
- Grebo, Northern [gbo], 13
- Krahn, Eastern [kqo], 15
- Krahn, Western [krw], 15
- Sapo [krn], 17

Grand Kru

- Grebo, Barclayville [gry], 13
- Grebo, Central [grv], 13
- Grebo, Northern [gbo], 13
- Grebo, Southern [grj], 14
- Klao [klu], 14

Lofa

- Bandi [bza], 11

Gola [gol], 13

Kisi, Southern [kss], 14

Kuwaa [blh], 15

Loma [lom], 16

Maninka, Konyanka [mku], 16

Manya [mzj], 17

Mende [men], 17

Margibi

Bassa [bsq], 11

Maryland

Grebo, Central [grv], 13

Grebo, Gboloo [gec], 13

Grebo, Northern [gbo], 13

Grebo, Southern [grj], 14

Montserrado

Bassa [bsq], 11

Dewoin [dee], 11

Gola [gol], 13

Nimba

Dan [dnj], 11

Gbii [ggb], 12

Krahn, Western [krw], 15

Maan [mev], 16

River Cess

Bassa [bsq], 11

Klao [klu], 14

River Gee

Glaro-Twabo [glr], 12

Grebo, Central [grv], 13

Grebo, Northern [gbo], 13

Krahn, Eastern [kqo], 15

Krumen, Tepo [ted], 15

Sapo [krn], 17

Sinoe

Grebo, Northern [gbo], [13](#)

Klao [klu], [14](#)

Krahn, Eastern [kqo], [15](#)

Krahn, Western [krw], [15](#)

Sapo [krn], [17](#)

Tajuasohn [tja], [18](#)

Languages by Family

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

Indo-European, Germanic, West, English

English [eng], [12](#)

Mixed language

N’Ko [nqo], [17](#)

Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Atlantic, Southern, Mel, Bullom-Kissi, Kissi

Kisi, Southern [kss], [14](#)

Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Atlantic, Southern, Mel, Gola

Gola [gol], [13](#)

Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Kru, Kuwaa

Kuwaa [blh], [15](#)

Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Kru, Western, Bassa

Bassa [bsq], [11](#)

Dewoin [dee], [11](#)

Gbii [ggb], [12](#)

Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Kru, Western, Grebo, Glio-Oubi

Glio-Oubi [oub], [12](#)

Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Kru, Western, Grebo, Ivorian

Krumen, Tepo [ted], [15](#)

Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Kru, Western, Grebo, Liberian

Grebo, Barclayville [gry], [13](#)

Grebo, Central [grv], [13](#)

Grebo, Gboloo [gec], [13](#)

Grebo, Northern [gbo], [13](#)

Grebo, Southern [grj], [14](#)

Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Kru, Western, Klao

Klao [klu], [14](#)

Tajuasohn [tja], [18](#)

Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Kru, Western, Wee, Guere-Krahn

Glaro-Twabo [glr], [12](#)

Krahn, Western [krw], [15](#)

Sapo [krn], [17](#)

Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Kru, Western, Wee, Konobo

Krahn, Eastern [kqo], 15

Niger-Congo, Mande, Eastern, Southeastern, Guro-Tura, Tura-Dan-Mano, Mano

Maan [mev], 16

Niger-Congo, Mande, Eastern, Southeastern, Guro-Tura, Tura-Dan-Mano, Tura-Dan

Dan [dnj], 11

Niger-Congo, Mande, Western, Central-Southwestern, Central, Manding-Jogo, Manding-Vai, Manding-Mokole, Manding, Manding-East, Southeastern Manding

Maninka, Konyanka [mku], 16

Manya [mzj], 17

Niger-Congo, Mande, Western, Central-Southwestern, Central, Manding-Jogo, Manding-Vai, Vai-Kono

Vai [vai], 18

Niger-Congo, Mande, Western, Central-Southwestern, Southwestern, Kpelle

Kpelle, Liberia [xpe], 14

Niger-Congo, Mande, Western, Central-Southwestern, Southwestern, Mende-Loma, Loma

Loma [lom], 16

Niger-Congo, Mande, Western, Central-Southwestern, Southwestern, Mende-Loma, Mende-Bandi, Bandi

Bandi [bza], 11

Niger-Congo, Mande, Western, Central-Southwestern, Southwestern, Mende-Loma, Mende-Bandi, Mende-Loko

Mende [men], 17

Pidgin, English based, Atlantic

Liberian English [lir], 15

Language Code Index

This index gives an alphabetical listing of all 36 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/>.

aka	Akan, 11	klu	Klao, 14
blh	Kuwaa, 15	kpe	Kpelle, 14
bsq	Bassa, 11	kqo	Krahn, Eastern, 15
bza	Bandi, 11	krrn	Sapo, 17
dee	Dewoin, 11	krw	Krahn, Western, 15
dnj	Dan, 11	kss	Kisi, Southern, 14
emk	Maninkakan, Eastern, 16	lir	Liberian English, 15
eng	English, 12	lom	Loma (Liberia), 16
ewe	Éwé, 12	men	Mende (Sierra Leone), 17
gbo	Grebo, Northern, 13	mev	Maan, 16
gec	Grebo, Gboloo, 13	mku	Maninka, Konyanka, 16
ggb	Gbii, 12	mzj	Manya, 17
glr	Glaro-Twabo, 12	nqo	N'Ko, 17
gol	Gola, 13	oub	Glio-Oubi, 12
grb	Grebo, 13	ted	Krumen, Tepo, 15
grj	Grebo, Southern, 14	tja	Tajuasohn, 18
grv	Grebo, Central, 13	vai	Vai, 18
gry	Grebo, Barclayville, 13	xpe	Kpelle, Liberia, 14

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.

- Bande**, *alt.* Bandi [bza], 11
Bandi [bza], 11, 19
Bandí, *alt.* Bandi [bza], 11
Bapo, *dial.* Krumen, Tepo [ted], 15
Bàsóò, *alt.* Bassa [bsq], 11
Bassa [bsq], 11, 19
Belle, *alt.* Kuwaa [blh], 15
Belleh, *alt.* Kuwaa [blh], 15
Biabo, *dial.* Grebo, Gboloo [gec], 13
Biai, *dial.* Krahn, Western [krw], 15
Bonde, *alt. dial.* Loma [lom], 16
Boopolu, *dial.* Kpelle, Liberia [xpe], 14
Borobo, *dial.* Grebo, Central [grv], 13
Boumpe, *alt.* Mende [men], 17
Bouze, *pej. alt.* Loma [lom], 16
Briama, *dial.* Loma [lom], 16
Bulima, *alt. dial.* Loma [lom], 16
Buluiema, *alt. dial.* Loma [lom], 16
Buluyiema, *alt. dial.* Loma [lom], 16
Bulyama, *alt. dial.* Loma [lom], 16
Bunde, *alt. dial.* Loma [lom], 16
Busy, *pej. alt.* Loma [lom], 16
Buzi, *pej. alt.* Loma [lom], 16
Central Bassa, *dial.* Bassa [bsq], 11
Central Klaoh, *dial.* Klao [klu], 14
Chedepo, *dial.* Grebo, Northern [gbo], 13
Chiehn, *alt. dial.* Krahn, Eastern [kqo], 15
Colocwa, *alt.* Liberian English [lir], 15
Da, *alt.* Dan [dnj], 11
Dàà, *alt.* Dan [dnj], 11
Dan [dnj], 11, 19
Dàn, *alt.* Dan [dnj], 11
Dapo, *dial.* Krumen, Tepo [ted], 15
De, *alt.* Dewoin [dee], 11
Dediebo, *dial.* Grebo, Gboloo [gec], 13
Dei, *alt.* Dewoin [dee], 11
Deng, *dial.* Gola [gol], 13
Dewoi, *alt.* Dewoin [dee], 11
Dewoin [dee], 11, 19
Dey, *alt.* Dewoin [dee], 11
Dorbor, *dial.* Gbii [ggb], 12
Dorobo, *dial.* Grebo, Central [grv], 13
E Je, *dial.* Grebo, Northern [gbo], 13
Eastern Klaoh, *dial.* Klao [klu], 14
Eastern Kran, *alt.* Krahn, Eastern [kqo], 15
Eh Je, *alt. dial.* Grebo, Northern [gbo], 13
English [eng], 12, 19
Fopo-Bua, *dial.* Grebo, Northern [gbo], 13
Fuama, *dial.* Kpelle, Liberia [xpe], 14
Gallinas, *alt.* Vai [vai], 18
Gallines, *alt.* Vai [vai], 18
Gba Sor, *dial.* Bassa [bsq], 11

- Gbaeson**, *dial.* Krahn, Western [krw], 15
- Gbaison**, *alt. dial.* Krahn, Western [krw], 15
- Gbände**, *alt.* Bandi [bza], 11
- Gbandi**, *alt.* Bandi [bza], 11
- Gbarbo**, *dial.* Krahn, Western [krw], 15
- Gbarzon**, *alt. dial.* Krahn, Western [krw], 15
- Gbeapo**, *alt. dial.* Grebo, Northern [gbo], 13
- Gbee**, *alt.* Gbii [ggb], 12
- Gbepo**, *dial.* Grebo, Northern [gbo], 13
- Gbese**, *alt.* Kpelle, Liberia [xpe], 14
- Gbi-Dowlu**, *alt.* Gbii [ggb], 12
- Gbii** [ggb], 12, 19
- Gblou Grebo**, *alt.* Grebo, Gboloo [gec], 13
- Gbo**, *dial.* Krahn, Western [krw], 15
- Gbobo**, *alt. dial.* Krahn, Western [krw], 15
- Gboloo**, *alt.* Grebo, Gboloo [gec], 13
- Gboninga**, *dial.* Manyá [mzj], 17
- Gbor**, *dial.* Bassa [bsq], 11
- Gborbo**, *dial.* Krahn, Western [krw], 15
- Gbunde**, *alt.* Bandi [bza], 11
dial. Loma [lom], 16
- Gederobo**, *dial.* Grebo, Gboloo [gec], 13
- Gio**, *alt.* Dan [dnj], 11
- Gio-Dan**, *alt.* Dan [dnj], 11
- Gisi**, *alt.* Kisi, Southern [kss], 14
- Gizi**, *alt.* Kisi, Southern [kss], 14
- Gizima**, *dial.* Loma [lom], 16
- Glaro**, *dial.* Glaro-Twabo [glr], 12
- Glaro-Twabo** [glr], 12, 19
- Glawlo**, *dial.* Krumen, Tepo [ted], 15
- Glebo**, *dial.* Grebo, Southern [grj], 14
- Glio**, *alt.* Glio-Oubi [oub], 12
- Glio-Oubi** [oub], 12, 19
- Globo**, *dial.* Grebo, Central [grv], 13
- Gola** [gol], 13, 19
- Gorbo**, *dial.* Krahn, Eastern [kqo], 15
- Grebo**, *alt.* Grebo, Northern [gbo], 13
- Grebo, Barclayville** [gry], 13, 19
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- Grebo, Central** [grv], 13, 19
see Grebo, Central [grv], 13
- Grebo, Gboloo** [gec], 13, 19
see Grebo, Gboloo [gec], 13
- Grebo, Northern** [gbo], 13, 19
see Grebo, Northern [gbo], 13
- Grebo, Southern** [grj], 14, 19
see Grebo, Southern [grj], 14
- Guio**, *alt.* Dan [dnj], 11
- Gyo**, *alt.* Dan [dnj], 11
- Hasala**, *dial.* Bandi [bza], 11
- Hembèh**, *dial.* Bandi [bza], 11
- Honpo**, *dial.* Krumen, Tepo [ted], 15
- Hulo**, *alt.* Mende [men], 17
- Hwen Gba Kon**, *dial.* Bassa [bsq], 11
- Jabo**, *dial.* Grebo, Southern [grj], 14
- Jedepo**, *dial.* Grebo, Northern [gbo], 13
- Juarzon**, *dial.* Sapo [krn], 17
- Kabade**, *dial.* Sapo [krn], 17
- Kanneh**, *dial.* Krahn, Eastern [kqo], 15
- Kapo**, *alt. dial.* Krumen, Tepo [ted], 15
- Karbardae**, *alt. dial.* Sapo [krn], 17
- Kisi, Southern** [kss], 14, 19
see Kisi, Southern [kss], 14
- kisiéí**, *alt.* Kisi, Southern [kss], 14
- Kissi**, *alt.* Kisi, Southern [kss], 14
- Kissien**, *alt.* Kisi, Southern [kss], 14
- Klao** [klu], 14, 19
- Klaoh**, *alt.* Klao [klu], 14
- Klau**, *alt.* Klao [klu], 14
- Klepo**, *dial.* Grebo, Northern [gbo], 13
- Klépo**, *alt.* Grebo, Northern [gbo], 13
- Kolokwa**, *alt.* Liberian English [lir], 15
- Koloqua**, *alt.* Liberian English [lir], 15
- Kongba**, *dial.* Gola [gol], 13

- Konobo**, *dial.* Krahn, Eastern [kqo], 15
- Konobo-Eastern Krahn**, *alt.* Krahn, Eastern [kqo], 15
- Konya**, *alt.* Maninka, Konyanka [mku], 16
- Konyakakan**, *alt.* Maninka, Konyanka [mku], 16
- Konyanka**, *alt.* Maninka, Konyanka [mku], 16
- Kossa**, *pej. alt.* Mende [men], 17
- Kosso**, *pej. alt.* Mende [men], 17
- Kowaa**, *alt.* Kuwaa [blh], 15
- Kpeaply**, *dial.* Krahn, Western [krw], 15
- Kpele**, *alt.* Kpelle, Liberia [xpe], 14
- Kpɛlɛwoo**, *alt.* Kpelle, Liberia [xpe], 14
- Kpelle, Liberia** [xpe], 14, 19
see Kpelle, Liberia [xpe], 14
- Kpese**, *alt.* Kpelle, Liberia [xpe], 14
- Kplebo**, *dial.* Grebo, Barclayville [gry], 13
- Kplor**, *dial.* Gbii [ggb], 12
- Kpwessi**, *alt.* Kpelle, Liberia [xpe], 14
- Krahn**, *alt.* Krahn, Western [krw], 15
- Krahn, Eastern** [kqo], 15, 19
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- Krahn, Western** [krw], 15, 19
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- Kran**, *alt.* Krahn, Eastern [kqo], 15
alt. Krahn, Western [krw], 15
- Kroo**, *alt.* Klao [klu], 14
- Kroumen**, *alt.* Krumen, Tepo [ted], 15
- Kru**, *alt.* Klao [klu], 14
alt. Krumen, Tepo [ted], 15
- Kru Pidgin English**, *alt.* Liberian English [lir], 15
- Krumen**, *alt.* Krumen, Tepo [ted], 15
- Krumen, Tepo** [ted], 15
see Krumen, Tepo [ted], 15
- Kuaduka**, *dial.* Manya [mzj], 17
- Kuwaa** [blh], 15, 19
- Kwaa**, *alt.* Kuwaa [blh], 15
- Liberian English** [lir], 15, 19
- Liberian Kolokwa English**, *alt.* Liberian English [lir], 15
- Liberian Kreyol**, *alt.* Liberian English [lir], 15
- Liberian Pidgin English**, *alt.* Liberian English [lir], 15
- Liberian Standard English**, *dial.* English [eng], 12
- Loghoma**, *alt.* Loma [lom], 16
- Löghömàgòòì**, *alt.* Loma [lom], 16
- Logoma**, *alt.* Loma [lom], 16
- Loma** [lom], 16, 19
- Looma**, *alt.* Loma [lom], 16
- Löömàgòòì**, *alt.* Loma [lom], 16
- Lorma**, *alt.* Loma [lom], 16
- Lower Gio**, *dial.* Dan [dnj], 11
- Luangkori**, *dial.* Kisi, Southern [kss], 14
- Lukasa**, *dial.* Bandi [bza], 11
- Maa**, *alt.* Maan [mev], 16
- Máá**, *alt.* Maan [mev], 16
- Mááá**, *alt.* Maan [mev], 16
- Maan** [mev], 16, 19
- Mabahn**, *dial.* Bassa [bsq], 11
- Mah**, *alt.* Maan [mev], 16
- Mandingo**, *alt.* Manya [mzj], 17
- Maninka, Konyanka** [mku], 16
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- Eastern Maninkakan**, *see* Maninkakan, Eastern [emk], 16
- Maninya**, *alt.* Maninka, Konyanka [mku], 16
alt. Manya [mzj], 17
- Maninyakan**, *alt.* Manya [mzj], 17
- Mann**, *alt.* Maan [mev], 16
- Mano**, *alt.* Maan [mev], 16
- Manon**, *alt.* Maan [mev], 16
- Manya** [mzj], 17, 19
- Manya Kan**, *alt.* Manya [mzj], 17

- Mawe**, *alt.* Maan [mev], 16
Mende [men], 17, 19
Mende, *alt.* Mende [men], 17
Mende yia, *alt.* Mende [men], 17
Nimpo, *alt. dial.* Sapo [krn], 17
N'Ko [nqo], 17
Nomopo, *dial.* Sapo [krn], 17
Northeastern Grebo, *dial.* Grebo, Northern [gbo], 13
Northern Krahn, *alt.* Krahn, Western [krw], 15
Nyabo, *dial.* Grebo, Southern [grj], 14
Nyanoun, *dial.* Grebo, Gboloo [gec], 13
Nyawokole, *dial.* Kpelle, Liberia [xpe], 14
Nyenebo, *dial.* Grebo, Central [grv], 13
Oubi, *alt.* Glio-Oubi [oub], 12
Palipo, *dial.* Grebo, Northern [gbo], 13
Pessa, *alt.* Kpelle, Liberia [xpe], 14
Pessy, *alt.* Kpelle, Liberia [xpe], 14
Plapo, *dial.* Krumen, Tepo [ted], 15
Plo, *dial.* Krahn, Western [krw], 15
Putu, *dial.* Sapo [krn], 17
River Cess Gio, *dial.* Dan [dnj], 11
Rivercess Bassa, *dial.* Bassa [bsq], 11
Ropo, *alt. dial.* Krumen, Tepo [ted], 15
Sapo [krn], 17, 19
Sarpo, *alt.* Sapo [krn], 17
Seaside Grebo, *alt. dial.* Grebo, Southern [grj], 14
Senje, *dial.* Gola [gol], 13
Senkon, *alt. dial.* Sapo [krn], 17
Siama, *alt. dial.* Loma [lom], 16
Sinkon, *dial.* Sapo [krn], 17
Southern Krahn, *alt.* Sapo [krn], 17
Southern Krumen, *alt.* Krumen, Tepo [ted], 15
Tahamba, *dial.* Bandi [bza], 11
Tajuasohn [tja], 18, 19
Tajuason, *alt.* Tajuasohn [tja], 18
Tajuoso, *alt.* Tajuasohn [tja], 18
Tajuosohn, *alt.* Tajuasohn [tja], 18
Tchien, *dial.* Krahn, Eastern [kqo], 15
Tengia, *dial.* Kisi, Southern [kss], 14
Tepo, *dial.* Krumen, Tepo [ted], 15
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