

Ethnologue: Languages of Micronesia

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
<i>Class</i>	Language classification
CSICH	Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage (2003)
<i>dial.</i>	primary dialect name for
ELP	Endangered Languages Project
km	kilometer(s)
L1 / L2	first language / second (or other additional) language
<i>Lg Dev</i>	Language development
<i>Lg Use</i>	Language use
m	meter(s)
P	Patient in constituent word order
PARADISEC	Pacific And Regional Archive for Digital Sources In Endangered Cultures
<i>pej.</i>	pejorative
pl.	plural
S	Subject in constituent word order
sg.	singular
SIL	SIL International
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)
UNSD	United Nations Statistics Division
V	Vowel in canonical syllable patterns
VSO	Verb-Subject-Object

How to Use This Digest

This *Ethnologue* country digest provides an extract of the information about the language situation in Micronesia 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 18 languages listed in the *Ethnologue* for the country of Micronesia. 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. *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 16) 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 17) lists the languages in order of their first-language speaker populations. “Languages by Status” (page 19) 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

State” (page 21) lists the top-level administrative subdivisions of Micronesia and the languages located within each. “Languages by Family” (page 22) lists the languages by their linguistic classifications. “Language Code Index” (page 24) 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 25) lists every name that appears in the language listings as a primary or alternate name of a language or dialect. A total of 48 unique names are associated with the 18 languages described in this digest.

Finally, a listing of all the published sources cited within this digest is found in “Bibliography” (page 27). 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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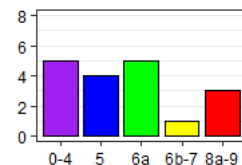
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Country Overview

Name of country	Micronesia
Other names	Federated States of Micronesia
Sovereignty status	Self-governing republic in a compact of free association with the United States, the latter providing military defense, subsidies, and access to social services
Population	115,000 (2020 World Bank)
Comments	Micronesia consists of four states in federation: Yap, Pohnpei, Chuuk, and Kosrae.
Principal language	English
Literacy rate	89% (Roser and Ortiz-Ospina 2018)
International conventions	CSICH (2013), UNCRPD (2016), UNDRIP (2007)
General references	Bender and Capelle 1996

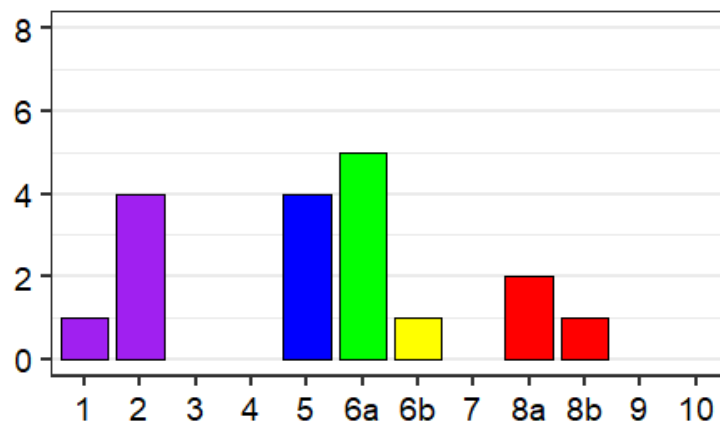
Language counts The number of established languages listed for Micronesia is 18. All are living languages. Of these, 17 are indigenous and 1 is non-indigenous. Furthermore, 5 are institutional, 4 are developing, 5 are vigorous, 1 is in trouble, and 3 are dying.



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 Micronesia 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 19) 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 Micronesia. 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 Micronesia 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 Micronesia 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 17) 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
10,000 to 99,999	2	11.1	11.1%	77,200	70.03856	70.03856%
1,000 to 9,999	11	61.1	72.2%	30,920	28.05171	98.09027%
100 to 999	3	16.7	88.9%	2,040	1.85076	99.94103%
10 to 99	2	11.1	100.0%	65	0.05897	100.00000%
<i>Totals</i>	18	100.0		110,225	100.00000	

Summary by language status

Table 2 summarizes the distribution of living established languages in Micronesia 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 19) 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 Micronesia. 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			Mean	Median
	Count	Percent	Cumulative	Total	Percent	Cumulative		
1	1	5.6	5.6%	1,320	1.1976	1.1976%	1,320	1,320
2	4	22.2	27.8%	88,950	80.6986	81.8961%	22,238	17,810
5	4	22.2	50.0%	5,100	4.6269	86.5230%	1,275	800
6a	5	27.8	77.8%	7,570	6.8678	93.3908%	1,514	1,500
6b	1	5.6	83.3%	5,900	5.3527	98.7435%	5,900	5,900
8a	2	11.1	94.4%	1,335	1.2112	99.9546%	668	667
8b	1	5.6	100.0%	50	0.0454	100.0000%	50	50
<i>Totals</i>	18	100.0		110,225	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			
	Count	Percent	Total	Percent	Mean	Median
Austronesian	15	83.3	108,840	98.7	7,256	1,630
Creole	1	5.6	15	0.0	15	15
Indo-European	1	5.6	1,320	1.2	1,320	1,320

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>
Mixed language	1	5.6	50	0.0	50	50
<i>Totals</i>	18	100.0	110,225	100.0		

Alphabetical Listing of Languages

Chuukese [chk] (Chuk, Lagoon Chuukese, Ruk, Truk, Trukese). Autonym: Chuuk. *Users*: 48,200 in Micronesia (2005 UNSD). *Location*: Chuuk state: Chuuk Lagoon, Caroline Islands; some on Pohnpei island. *Status*: 2 (Provincial). Statutory provincial language in State of Chuuk (1989, Chuuk State Constitution, Article 11(6)). *Class*: Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Central-Eastern Malayo-Polynesian, Eastern Malayo-Polynesian, Oceanic, Central-Eastern Oceanic, Remote Oceanic, Micronesian, Micronesian Proper, Pohnpeic-Chuukic, Chuukic. *Dialects*: East Lagoon, Fayichuck. *Lg Use*: Vigorous. Used by all. Used as L2 by Mortlockese [mrl], Pááfang [pfa]. *Lg Dev*: Taught in all primary schools in Chuuk state. Dictionary. Texts. Bible: 1989–2001. *DLS*: Emerging (0.11). *Writing*: Latin script. *Map*: 16. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 70,600. Unestablished in: Guam, United States.

English [eng]. Autonym: English. *Users*: 61,320 in Micronesia, all users. L1 users: 1,320 in Micronesia (2005 UNSD). L2 users: 60,000 (Crystal 2003a). *Status*: 1 (National). De facto national language. *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 in some primary schools. Outside of Chuuk state, the local language and English are both used as languages of instruction through the primary grades. Used as language of instruction in all 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. *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.

Kapingamarangi [kpg]. Autonym: Kapingamarangi, Kirinit. *Users*: 3,000 (1995 SIL). 1,000 on Kapingamarangi and 2,000 in Pohnrakied village on Pohnpei. *Location*: Pohnpei state: Caroline Islands; Kapingamarangi and Pohnpei islands. *Status*: 5 (Developing). *Class*: Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Central-Eastern Malayo-Polynesian, Eastern Malayo-Polynesian, Oceanic, Central-Eastern Oceanic, Remote Oceanic, Central Pacific, East Fijian-Polynesian, Polynesian, Nuclear, Samoic-Outlier, Ellicean. *Dialects*: None known. Lexical similarity: 55% with Nukuoro [nkr], 54% with Rarotongan [rar], 53% with Samoan [smo], 51% with Tuamotuan [pmt], 50% with Tahitian [tah]. *Type*: SVO; prepositions; dual and trial number; definite and indefinite articles; tense-aspect markers; causative prefix; 18 consonants and 10 vowels, including long consonants and long vowels; non-tonal; inclusive/exclusive pronouns. *Lg Use*: Vigorous. 75% are bilingual; bilingualism increasing. Home, community, church. Used by all. *Lg Dev*: Videos. Dictionary. Texts. Bible: 2014. *DLS*: Emerging (0.01). *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Intermarry with Nukuoro [nkr] people. Christian. *Map*: 16.

- Kosraean** [kos] (Kusaie, Kusaiean). Autonym: Kosrae. *Users*: 6,620 in Micronesia (2005 UNSD). *Location*: Kosrae state; Caroline Islands. *Status*: 2 (Provincial). Statutory provincial language in State of Kosrae (1984, Kosrae State Constitution, Article 13(1)). *Class*: Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Central-Eastern Malayo-Polynesian, Eastern Malayo-Polynesian, Oceanic, Central-Eastern Oceanic, Remote Oceanic, Micronesian, Micronesian Proper, Kusaiean. *Dialects*: Lelu-Tafunsak, Malen-Utwe. Lexical similarity: 26% with Pohnpeian [pon]. *Lg Use*: Vigorous. Used by all. *Lg Dev*: Taught in all primary schools through grade 3 in Kosrae state. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. Bible: 1928. *DLS*: Emerging (0.11). *Writing*: Latin script. *Map*: 16. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 7,890. Unestablished in: Nauru, United States.
- Mokilese** [mkj] (Mwoakilese). Autonym: Mokil, Mwoakilloa. *Users*: 1,000 (2015 P. Knapp). 135 on Mokil Atoll. *Location*: Pohnpei state: Mokil (Mwoakilloa) atoll, southeast of Pohnpei island. *Status*: 6a (Vigorous). *Class*: Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Central-Eastern Malayo-Polynesian, Eastern Malayo-Polynesian, Oceanic, Central-Eastern Oceanic, Remote Oceanic, Micronesian, Micronesian Proper, Pohnpeic-Chuukic, Pohnpeic. *Dialects*: None known. Lexical similarity: 79% with Pingelapese [pif], 75% with Pohnpeian [pon]. *Lg Use*: Vigorous. Used by all. Also use Pohnpeian [pon]. *Lg Dev*: Dictionary. Grammar. *DLS*: Emerging (0.01). *Writing*: Latin script. *Map*: 16.
- Mortlockese** [mrl] (Mortlock, Nomoi). *Users*: 5,900 (1989 census). 1,690 Upper Mortlock, 1,760 Mid Mortlock, 2,460 Lower Mortlock, about 1,000 elsewhere. *Location*: Chuuk state: Mortlock islands southeast of Chuuk islands; some on Pohnpei island. *Status*: 6b* (Threatened). *Class*: Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Central-Eastern Malayo-Polynesian, Eastern Malayo-Polynesian, Oceanic, Central-Eastern Oceanic, Remote Oceanic, Micronesian, Micronesian Proper, Pohnpeic-Chuukic, Chuukic. *Dialects*: Upper Mortlock, Mid Mortlock, Lower Mortlock. 75% intelligibility of Puluwatese [puw], 18% of Satawalese [stw], 8% of Woleaian [woe]. Lexical similarity: 80%–85% with Chuukese [chk], 83% with Puluwatese, 82% with Satawalese, 81% with Carolinian [cal], 78% with Woleaian, 72% with Ulithian [uli]. *Lg Use*: Vigorous. Also use Chuukese [chk]. *Lg Dev*: NT: 1883. *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Latin script. *Map*: 16.
- Namonuito** [nmt] (Namon Weite). *Users*: 940 (1989 census). *Location*: Chuuk state: Magur, Namonuito and other islands. *Status*: 6a (Vigorous). *Class*: Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Central-Eastern Malayo-Polynesian, Eastern Malayo-Polynesian, Oceanic, Central-Eastern Oceanic, Remote Oceanic, Micronesian, Micronesian Proper, Pohnpeic-Chuukic, Chuukic. *Lg Use*: Vigorous. Used by all. *DLS*: Still. *Map*: 16.
- Ngatik Men's Creole** [ngm] (Ngatikese, Ngatikese Men's Language). *Users*: 15 (2014 ELP). *Location*: Pohnpei state: Ngatik (Sapwuahfik) atoll, southwest of Pohnpei island. *Status*: 8a (Moribund). *Class*: Creole, English based, Pacific. *Dialects*: A creolized language from Sapwuahfik Pohnpeian [pon] dialect and English [eng] whose genesis is the direct result of a massacre in 1837 of adult males on Ngatik by British traders. *Lg Use*: Women and children understand it. Older adults only. All also use Pohnpeian [pon], the Sapwuahfik dialect (Wurm

2007). *DLS*: Emerging (0.01). *Map*: 16.

Nguluwan [nuw]. *Users*: 50 (Sakiyama 2000). *Location*: Yap state: Ngulu atoll, 100 km south of Yap island. *Status*: 8b (Nearly extinct). *Class*: Mixed language, Yapese-Ulithi. *Dialects*: None known. Phonology from Ulithian [uli] and grammar and lexicon from Yapese [yap]. *Lg Use*: Shifted to Yapese [yap]. *DLS*: Still. *Map*: 16.

Nukuoro [nkr] (Nuguor, Nukoro). Autonym: Nukuoro. *Users*: 600 (2016 E. Drummond). 400 on Pohnpei, 200 on Nukuoro. *Location*: Pohnpei state: Nukuoro island, about 480 km southwest of Pohnpei island. *Status*: 5 (Developing). *Class*: Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Central-Eastern Malayo-Polynesian, Eastern Malayo-Polynesian, Oceanic, Central-Eastern Oceanic, Remote Oceanic, Central Pacific, East Fijian-Polynesian, Polynesian, Nuclear, Samoic-Outlier, Ellicean. *Dialects*: None known. Lexical similarity: 55% with Kapingamarangi [kpg]. *Type*: SVO, VSO. *Lg Use*: Vigorous. Home, community, church. Used by all. Many also use Pohnpeian [pon], especially older speakers. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L2: 80%. Dictionary. NT: 1986. *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: There are also 200 speakers living in diaspora communities in Guam and the United States, mainly in Oregon, North Carolina, and Arkansas (2020 E. Drummond). Christian. *Map*: 16.

Pááfang [pfa]. *Users*: 1,320 (1989 census). *Location*: Chuuk state: Hall Islands of Fananu, Marilo, Nomwin, and Ruo. *Status*: 8a (Moribund). *Class*: Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Central-Eastern Malayo-Polynesian, Eastern Malayo-Polynesian, Oceanic, Central-Eastern Oceanic, Remote Oceanic, Micronesian, Micronesian Proper, Pohnpeic-Chuukic, Chuukic. *Dialects*: None known. Indications of convergence with Chuukese [chk]. *Lg Use*: Shifted to Chuukese [chk]. *DLS*: Still. *Map*: 16.

Pingelapese [pif] (Pingilapese). Autonym: Pingelap. *Users*: 4,500 in Micronesia (2014 K. Dixon), all users. L1 users: 2,500 (1991 K. Rehg). 500 on Pingelap, about 2,000 on Ponape. Ethnic population: 6,000 (2019 K. Dixon). *Location*: Pohnpei state: Pingelap and Pohnpei islands. *Status*: 6a (Vigorous). *Class*: Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Central-Eastern Malayo-Polynesian, Eastern Malayo-Polynesian, Oceanic, Central-Eastern Oceanic, Remote Oceanic, Micronesian, Micronesian Proper, Pohnpeic-Chuukic, Pohnpeic. *Dialects*: None known. Lexical similarity: 81% with Pohnpeian [pon], 79% with Mokilese [mkj]. *Lg Use*: Vigorous. Used by all. Most also use Pohnpeian [pon]. Many also use English [eng]. *DLS*: Emerging (0.01). *Writing*: Latin script. *Map*: 16. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 5,100 (as L1: 3,100; as L2: 2,000). Unestablished in: Guam.

Pohnpeian [pon] (Ponapean). Autonym: Pohnpei. *Users*: 29,000 in Micronesia (Johnstone and Mandryk 2001). 24,000 on Pohnpei, 3,430 on outer islands, 280 elsewhere. *Location*: Pohnpei: Caroline Islands; Pohnpei island. *Status*: 2 (Provincial). Statutory provincial language in State of Pohnpei (1984, Pohnpei State Constitution, Article 13(1)). *Class*: Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Central-Eastern Malayo-Polynesian, Eastern Malayo-Polynesian, Oceanic, Central-Eastern Oceanic, Remote Oceanic, Micronesian, Micronesian Proper, Pohnpeic-Chuukic, Pohnpeic. *Dialects*: Kiti, Ponapean, Sapwuahfik. Lexical similarity: 81% with Pingelapese [pif], 75% with Mokilese [mkj], 36% with Chuukese [chk]. *Lg Use*: Vigorous.

Used by all. Used as L2 by Mokilese [mkj], Ngatik Men's Creole [ngm], Nukuoro [nkr], Pingelapese [pif]. *Lg Dev*: Taught in all primary schools in Pohnpei state. Dictionary. Grammar. Bible: 1994. *DLS*: Emerging (0.11). *Writing*: Latin script. *Map*: 16. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 34,930. Unestablished in: Guam, United States.

Puluwatese [puw] (Puluwat). *Users*: 1,500 (Lynch 2002c). *Location*: Chuuk state: Pollap, Polowat, Pulusuk, and Tamtam islands, about 260 km west of Chuuk lagoon. *Status*: 6a (Vigorous). *Class*: Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Central-Eastern Malayo-Polynesian, Eastern Malayo-Polynesian, Oceanic, Central-Eastern Oceanic, Remote Oceanic, Micronesian, Micronesian Proper, Pohnpeic-Chuukic, Chuukic. *Dialects*: Puluwatese, Pulapese, Pulusukese. 64% intelligibility of Satawalese [stw], 40% of Woleaian [woe], 21% of Ulithian [uli]. Lexical similarity: 88% with Satawalese [stw] and Carolinian [cal], 83% with Mortlockese [mrl], 82% with Woleaian [woe], 81% with Chuukese [chk], 72% with Ulithian [uli]. *Type*: SVO; prepositions; classifiers; no articles; 30 consonants and 18 vowels; inclusive/exclusive pronouns; alienable/inalienable possession. *Lg Use*: Vigorous. Used by all. Also use English [eng]. *Lg Dev*: Dictionary. Grammar. *DLS*: Still. *Map*: 16.

Satawalese [stw]. Autonym: Satawal. *Users*: 500 (2016 C. Fruit). *Location*: Yap state: Satawal island. *Status*: 5 (Developing). *Class*: Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Central-Eastern Malayo-Polynesian, Eastern Malayo-Polynesian, Oceanic, Central-Eastern Oceanic, Remote Oceanic, Micronesian, Micronesian Proper, Pohnpeic-Chuukic, Chuukic. *Dialects*: None known. 60% intelligibility of Ulithian [uli] and Woleaian [woe]. Lexical similarity: 95% with Carolinian [cal], 88% with Woleaian [woe] and Puluwatese [puw], 82% with Mortlockese [mrl], 79% with Chuukese [chk], 77% with Ulithian [uli]. *Lg Use*: Vigorous. Used by all. *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Latin script. *Map*: 16.

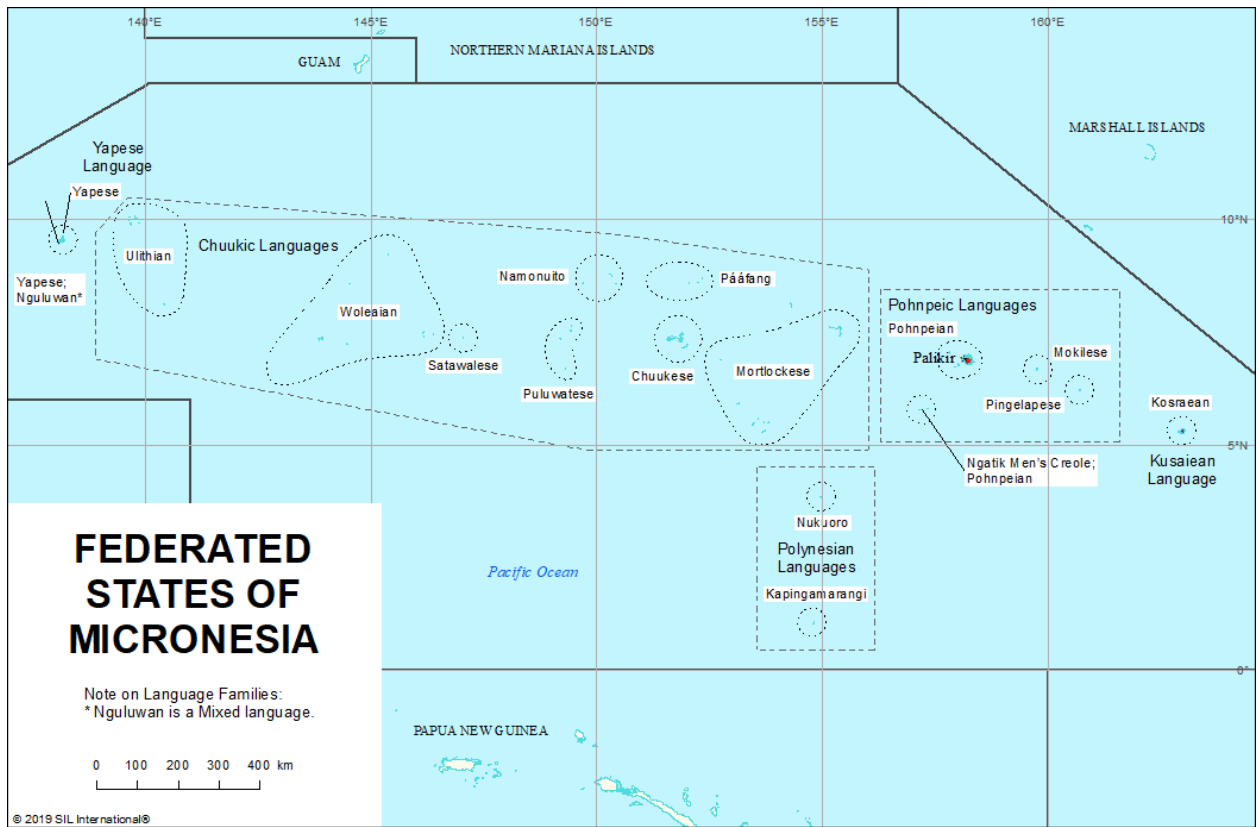
Ulithian [uli] (Yulidiy). *Users*: 1,000 (Lynch 2002b). *Location*: Yap state: Fais, Ngulu, Sorol, and Ulithi islands. *Status*: 5 (Developing). *Class*: Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Central-Eastern Malayo-Polynesian, Eastern Malayo-Polynesian, Oceanic, Central-Eastern Oceanic, Remote Oceanic, Micronesian, Micronesian Proper, Pohnpeic-Chuukic, Chuukic. *Dialects*: None known. 85% intelligibility of Woleaian [woe], 57% of Satawalese [stw], very low intelligibility of Puluwatese [puw] and Chuukese [chk]. Lexical similarity: 74%–80% with Woleaian [woe], 77% with Satawalese [stw], 74% with Carolinian [cal], 72% with Puluwatese [puw] and Mortlockese [mrl], 68% with Chuukese [chk]. *Type*: SVO; no articles; 4 paradigms of personal pronouns; causative; 17 consonants and 16 vowels; no clear stress patterns; inclusive/exclusive pronouns; alienable/inalienable possession. *Lg Use*: Vigorous. Used by all. *Lg Dev*: Grammar. NT: 1995. *DLS*: Emerging (0.04). *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Christian, traditional religion. *Map*: 16.

Woleaian [woe] (Woleai). *Users*: 1,630 (1987 census). *Location*: Yap state: eastern islands, mainly Woleai (Wottegai) island and others: Eauripik, Elato, Falalop (Falalap), Falalus, Faraulep, Ifaluk, Lamotrek, Mariang, Paliau, Seliap (Sulywap), and Tegailap (Tagalap) islands; some inhabited, 22 islands total. *Status*: 6a (Vigorous). *Class*: Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Central-Eastern Malayo-Polynesian, Eastern Malayo-Polynesian, Oceanic,

Central-Eastern Oceanic, Remote Oceanic, Micronesian, Micronesian Proper, Pohnpeic-Chuukic, Chuukic. *Dialects*: Woleaian, Lamotrek. 84% intelligibility of Satawalese [stw], 81% of Ulithian [uli], 50% of Sonsorol [sov], very low of Puluwatese [puw] and Chuukese [chk]. Lexical similarity: 88% with Satawalese [stw] and Carolinian [cal], 82% with Puluwatese [puw], 80% with Ulithian [uli], 78% with Mortlockese [mrl], 75% with Chuukese [chk]. *Lg Use*: Vigorous. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use English [eng]. *Lg Dev*: Dictionary. Grammar. *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Latin script. Woleai script, no longer in use. *Map*: 16.

Yapese [yap] (Waab). Autonym: Thin nu Wa'ab. *Users*: 5,130 (2005 UNSD). *Location*: Yap state: Yap island and 10 islands nearby. *Status*: 2 (Provincial). Statutory provincial language in State of Yap (1986, Yap State Constitution, Article 14(5)). *Class*: Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Central-Eastern Malayo-Polynesian, Eastern Malayo-Polynesian, Oceanic, Yapese. *Type*: VSO. *Lg Use*: Vigorous. Used by all. Used as L2 by Nguluwan [nuw]. *Lg Dev*: Taught in primary schools in Yap state. Dictionary. Grammar. Bible: 2007. *DLS*: Ascending (0.16). *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Traditional religion, Christian. *Map*: 16.

Language Map



Languages by Population

In this section the languages of Micronesia 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.

10,000 to 99,999

Chuukese [[chk](#)] *Users:* 48,200 in Micronesia (2005 UNSD). *Status:* 2 (Provincial). Statutory provincial language in State of Chuuk (1989, Chuuk State Constitution, Article 11(6)). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 70,600.

Pohnpeian [[pon](#)] *Users:* 29,000 in Micronesia (Johnstone and Mandryk 2001). 24,000 on Pohnpei, 3,430 on outer islands, 280 elsewhere. *Status:* 2 (Provincial). Statutory provincial language in State of Pohnpei (1984, Pohnpei State Constitution, Article 13(1)). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 34,930.

1,000 to 9,999

Kosraean [[kos](#)] *Users:* 6,620 in Micronesia (2005 UNSD). *Status:* 2 (Provincial). Statutory provincial language in State of Kosrae (1984, Kosrae State Constitution, Article 13(1)). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 7,890.

Mortlockese [[mrl](#)] *Users:* 5,900 (1989 census). 1,690 Upper Mortlock, 1,760 Mid Mortlock, 2,460 Lower Mortlock, about 1,000 elsewhere. *Status:* 6b* (Threatened).

Yapese [[yap](#)] *Users:* 5,130 (2005 UNSD). *Status:* 2 (Provincial). Statutory provincial language in State of Yap (1986, Yap State Constitution, Article 14(5)).

Kapingamarangi [[kpg](#)] *Users:* 3,000 (1995 SIL). 1,000 on Kapingamarangi and 2,000 in Pohnrakied village on Pohnpei. *Status:* 5 (Developing).

Pingelapese [[pif](#)] *Users:* 2,500 (1991 K. Rehg). 500 on Pingelap, about 2,000 on Ponape. 4,500 in Micronesia (2014 K. Dixon), all users. Ethnic population: 6,000 (2019 K. Dixon). *Status:* 6a (Vigorous). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 5,100 (as L1: 3,100; as L2: 2,000).

Woleaian [[woe](#)] *Users:* 1,630 (1987 census). *Status:* 6a (Vigorous).

Puluwatese [[puw](#)] *Users:* 1,500 (Lynch 2002c). *Status:* 6a (Vigorous).

English [[eng](#)] *Users:* 1,320 in Micronesia (2005 UNSD). 61,320 in Micronesia, all users. L2 users: 60,000 (Crystal 2003a). *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).

Pááfang [[pfa](#)] *Users:* 1,320 (1989 census). *Status:* 8a (Moribund).

Mokilese [[mkj](#)] *Users:* 1,000 (2015 P. Knapp). 135 on Mokil Atoll. *Status:* 6a (Vigorous).

Ulithian [[uli](#)] *Users:* 1,000 (Lynch 2002b). *Status:* 5 (Developing).

100 to 999

Namonuito [[nmt](#)] *Users:* 940 (1989 census). *Status:* 6a (Vigorous).

Nukuoro [[nkr](#)] *Users:* 600 (2016 E. Drummond). 400 on Pohnpei, 200 on Nukuoro. *Status:* 5 (Developing).

Satawalese [[stw](#)] *Users:* 500 (2016 C. Fruit). *Status:* 5 (Developing).

10 to 99

Nguluwan [[nuw](#)] *Users:* 50 (Sakiyama 2000). *Status:* 8b (Nearly extinct).

Ngatik Men's Creole [[ngm](#)] *Users:* 15 (2014 ELP). *Status:* 8a (Moribund).

Languages by Status

In this section the languages of Micronesia 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:* 61,320 in Micronesia, all users. L1 users: 1,320 in Micronesia (2005 UNSD). L2 users: 60,000 (Crystal 2003a). *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).

2 (Provincial)

Chuukese [chk] *Users:* 48,200 in Micronesia (2005 UNSD). *Status:* Statutory provincial language in State of Chuuk (1989, Chuuk State Constitution, Article 11(6)). *Lg Use:* Vigorous. Used by all. Used as L2 by Mortlockese [mrl], Pááfang [pfa]. *Lg Dev:* Dictionary. Texts. Bible: 1989–2001. *Writing:* Latin script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 70,600.

Kosraean [kos] *Users:* 6,620 in Micronesia (2005 UNSD). *Status:* Statutory provincial language in State of Kosrae (1984, Kosrae State Constitution, Article 13(1)). *Lg Use:* Vigorous. Used by all. *Lg Dev:* Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. Bible: 1928. *Writing:* Latin script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 7,890.

Pohnpeian [pon] *Users:* 29,000 in Micronesia (Johnstone and Mandryk 2001). 24,000 on Pohnpei, 3,430 on outer islands, 280 elsewhere. *Status:* Statutory provincial language in State of Pohnpei (1984, Pohnpei State Constitution, Article 13(1)). *Lg Use:* Vigorous. Used by all. Used as L2 by Mokilese [mkj], Ngatik Men's Creole [ngm], Nukuoro [nkr], Pingelapese [pif]. *Lg Dev:* Dictionary. Grammar. Bible: 1994. *Writing:* Latin script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 34,930.

Yapese [yap] *Users:* 5,130 (2005 UNSD). *Status:* Statutory provincial language in State of Yap (1986, Yap State Constitution, Article 14(5)). *Lg Use:* Vigorous. Used by all. Used as L2 by Nguluwan [nuw]. *Lg Dev:* Dictionary. Grammar. Bible: 2007. *Writing:* Latin script.

5 (Developing)

Kapingamarangi [kpg] *Users:* 3,000 (1995 SIL). 1,000 on Kapingamarangi and 2,000 in Pohnrakied village on Pohnpei. *Lg Use:* Vigorous. 75% are bilingual; bilingualism increasing. Home, community, church. Used by all. *Lg Dev:* Videos. Dictionary. Texts. Bible: 2014.

Writing: Latin script.

Nukuoro [nkr] *Users:* 600 (2016 E. Drummond). 400 on Pohnpei, 200 on Nukuoro. *Lg Use:* Vigorous. Home, community, church. Used by all. Many also use Pohnpeian [pon], especially older speakers. *Lg Dev:* Dictionary. NT: 1986. *Writing:* Latin script.

Satawalese [stw] *Users:* 500 (2016 C. Fruit). *Lg Use:* Vigorous. Used by all. *Writing:* Latin script.

Ulithian [uli] *Users:* 1,000 (Lynch 2002b). *Lg Use:* Vigorous. Used by all. *Lg Dev:* Grammar. NT: 1995. *Writing:* Latin script.

6a (Vigorous)

Mokilese [mkj] *Users:* 1,000 (2015 P. Knapp). 135 on Mokil Atoll. *Lg Use:* Vigorous. Used by all. Also use Pohnpeian [pon]. *Lg Dev:* Dictionary. Grammar. *Writing:* Latin script.

Namonuito [nmt] *Users:* 940 (1989 census). *Lg Use:* Vigorous. Used by all.

Pingelapese [pif] *Users:* 4,500 in Micronesia (2014 K. Dixon), all users. L1 users: 2,500 (1991 K. Rehg). 500 on Pingelap, about 2,000 on Ponape. Ethnic population: 6,000 (2019 K. Dixon). *Lg Use:* Vigorous. Used by all. Most also use Pohnpeian [pon]. Many also use English [eng]. *Writing:* Latin script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 5,100 (as L1: 3,100; as L2: 2,000).

Puluwatese [puw] *Users:* 1,500 (Lynch 2002c). *Lg Use:* Vigorous. Used by all. Also use English [eng]. *Lg Dev:* Dictionary. Grammar.

Woleaian [woe] *Users:* 1,630 (1987 census). *Lg Use:* Vigorous. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use English [eng]. *Lg Dev:* Dictionary. Grammar. *Writing:* Latin script. Woleai script, no longer in use.

6b (Threatened)

Mortlockese [mrl] *Users:* 5,900 (1989 census). 1,690 Upper Mortlock, 1,760 Mid Mortlock, 2,460 Lower Mortlock, about 1,000 elsewhere. *Lg Use:* Vigorous. Also use Chuukese [chk]. *Lg Dev:* NT: 1883. *Writing:* Latin script.

8a (Moribund)

Ngatik Men's Creole [ngm] *Users:* 15 (2014 ELP). *Lg Use:* Women and children understand it. Older adults only. All also use Pohnpeian [pon], the Sapwahfik dialect (Wurm 2007).

Pááfang [pfa] *Users:* 1,320 (1989 census). *Lg Use:* Shifted to Chuukese [chk].

8b (Nearly extinct)

Nguluwan [nuw] *Users:* 50 (Sakiyama 2000). *Lg Use:* Shifted to Yapese [yap].

Languages by State

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

Chuuk

- Chuukese [chk], 11
- Mortlockese [mrl], 12
- Namonuito [nmt], 12
- Pááfang [pfa], 13
- Puluwatese [puw], 14

Kosrae

- Kosraean [kos], 12

Pohnpei

- Chuukese [chk], 11
- Kapingamarangi [kpg], 11
- Mokilese [mkj], 12

- Mortlockese [mrl], 12
- Ngatik Men's Creole [ngm], 12
- Nukuoro [nkr], 13
- Pingelapese [pif], 13
- Pohnpeian [pon], 13

Yap

- Nguluwan [nuw], 13
- Satawalese [stw], 14
- Ulithian [uli], 14
- Woleaian [woe], 14
- Yapese [yap], 15

Languages by Family

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

Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Central-Eastern Malayo-Polynesian, Eastern Malayo-Polynesian, Oceanic, Central-Eastern Oceanic, Remote Oceanic, Central Pacific, East Fijian-Polynesian, Polynesian, Nuclear, Samoic-Outlier, Ellicean

Kapingamarangi [kpg], [11](#)

Nukuoro [nkr], [13](#)

Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Central-Eastern Malayo-Polynesian, Eastern Malayo-Polynesian, Oceanic, Central-Eastern Oceanic, Remote Oceanic, Micronesian, Micronesian Proper, Kusaiean

Kosraean [kos], [12](#)

Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Central-Eastern Malayo-Polynesian, Eastern Malayo-Polynesian, Oceanic, Central-Eastern Oceanic, Remote Oceanic, Micronesian, Micronesian Proper, Pohnpeic-Chuukic, Chuukic

Chuukese [chk], [11](#)

Mortlockese [mrl], [12](#)

Namonuito [nmt], [12](#)

Pááfang [pfa], [13](#)

Puluwatese [puw], [14](#)

Satawalese [stw], [14](#)

Ulithian [uli], [14](#)

Woleaian [woe], [14](#)

Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Central-Eastern Malayo-Polynesian, Eastern Malayo-Polynesian, Oceanic, Central-Eastern Oceanic, Remote Oceanic, Micronesian, Micronesian Proper, Pohnpeic-Chuukic, Pohnpeic

Mokilese [mkj], [12](#)

Pingelapese [pif], [13](#)

Pohnpeian [pon], [13](#)

Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Central-Eastern Malayo-Polynesian, Eastern Malayo-Polynesian, Oceanic, Yapese

Yapese [yap], [15](#)

Creole, English based, Pacific

Ngatik Men's Creole [ngm], [12](#)

Indo-European, Germanic, West, English

English [eng], [11](#)

Mixed language, Yapese-Ulithi

Nguluwan [nuw], [13](#)

Language Code Index

This index gives an alphabetical listing of all 18 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/>.

chk	Chuukese, 11	nuw	Nguluwan, 13
eng	English, 11	pfa	Pááfang, 13
kos	Kosraean, 12	pif	Pingelapese, 13
kpg	Kapingamarangi, 11	pon	Pohnpeian, 13
mkj	Mokilese, 12	puw	Puluwatese, 14
mrl	Mortlockese, 12	stw	Satawalese, 14
ngm	Ngatik Men's Creole, 12	uli	Ulithian, 14
nkr	Nukuoro, 13	woe	Woleaian, 14
nmt	Namonuito, 12	yap	Yapese, 15

Language Name Index

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

- Chuk**, *alt.* Chuukese [chk], 11
- Chuuk**, *alt.* Chuukese [chk], 11
- Chuukese** [chk], 11, 16
- East Lagoon**, *dial.* Chuukese [chk], 11
- English** [eng], 11
- Fayichuck**, *dial.* Chuukese [chk], 11
- Kapingamarangi** [kpg], 11, 16
- Kirinit**, *alt.* Kapingamarangi [kpg], 11
- Kiti**, *dial.* Pohnpeian [pon], 13
- Kosrae**, *alt.* Kosraean [kos], 12
- Kosraean** [kos], 12, 16
- Kusaie**, *alt.* Kosraean [kos], 12
- Kusaiean**, *alt.* Kosraean [kos], 12
- Lagoon Chuukese**, *alt.* Chuukese [chk], 11
- Lamotrek**, *dial.* Woleaian [woe], 14
- Lelu-Tafunsak**, *dial.* Kosraean [kos], 12
- Lower Mortlock**, *dial.* Mortlockese [mrl], 12
- Malen-Utwe**, *dial.* Kosraean [kos], 12
- Mid Mortlock**, *dial.* Mortlockese [mrl], 12
- Mokil**, *alt.* Mokilese [mkj], 12
- Mokilese** [mkj], 12, 16
- Mortlock**, *alt.* Mortlockese [mrl], 12
- Mortlockese** [mrl], 12, 16
- Mwoakilese**, *alt.* Mokilese [mkj], 12
- Mwoakilloa**, *alt.* Mokilese [mkj], 12
- Namon Weite**, *alt.* Namonuito [nmt], 12
- Namonuito** [nmt], 12, 16
- Ngatik Men’s Creole** [ngm], 12, 16
- Ngatikese**, *alt.* Ngatik Men’s Creole [ngm], 12
- Ngatikese Men’s Language**, *alt.* Ngatik Men’s Creole [ngm], 12
- Nguluwan** [nuw], 13, 16
- Nomoi**, *alt.* Mortlockese [mrl], 12
- Nuguor**, *alt.* Nukuoro [nkr], 13
- Nukoro**, *alt.* Nukuoro [nkr], 13
- Nukuoro** [nkr], 13, 16
- Pááfang** [pfa], 13, 16
- Pingelap**, *alt.* Pingelapese [pif], 13
- Pingelapese** [pif], 13, 16
- Pingilapese**, *alt.* Pingelapese [pif], 13
- Pohnpei**, *alt.* Pohnpeian [pon], 13
- Pohnpeian** [pon], 13, 16
- Ponapean**, *alt.* Pohnpeian [pon], 13
dial. Pohnpeian [pon], 13
- Pulapese**, *dial.* Puluwatese [puw], 14
- Pulusukese**, *dial.* Puluwatese [puw], 14
- Puluwat**, *alt.* Puluwatese [puw], 14
- Puluwatese** [puw], 14, 16
dial. Puluwatese [puw], 14
- Ruk**, *alt.* Chuukese [chk], 11
- Sapwuahfik**, *dial.* Pohnpeian [pon], 13
- Satawal**, *alt.* Satawalese [stw], 14

Satawalese [stw], 14, 16

Thin nu Wa'ab, *alt.* Yapese [yap], 15

Truk, *alt.* Chuukese [chk], 11

Trukese, *alt.* Chuukese [chk], 11

Ulithian [uli], 14, 16

Upper Mortlock, *dial.* Mortlockese [mrl], 12

Waab, *alt.* Yapese [yap], 15

Woleai, *alt.* Woleaian [woe], 14

Woleaian [woe], 14, 16

dial. Woleaian [woe], 14

Yapese [yap], 15, 16

Yulidiy, *alt.* Ulithian [uli], 14

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