

Ethnologue: Languages of Oman

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
CPPDCE	Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (2005)
CSICH	Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage (2003)
<i>dial.</i>	primary dialect name for
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)
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 Oman 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 35 languages listed in the *Ethnologue* for the country of Oman. 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 20) 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 21) lists the languages in order of their first-language speaker populations. “Languages by Status” (page 24) lists the languages by their level of development or endangerment as measured on EGIDS, the Expanded Graded Intergenerational Disruption Scale (Lewis and Simons 2010). “Languages by

Governorate” (page 28) lists the top-level administrative subdivisions of Oman and the languages located within each. “Languages by Family” (page 29) lists the languages by their linguistic classifications. “Language Code Index” (page 30) 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 31) lists every name that appears in the language listings as a primary or alternate name of a language or dialect. A total of 61 unique names are associated with the 35 languages described in this digest.

Finally, a listing of all the published sources cited within this digest is found in “Bibliography” (page 33). 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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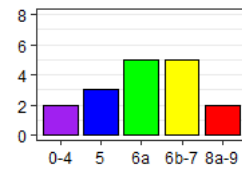
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Country Overview

Name of country	Oman
Other names	Sultanate of Oman
Population	5,106,000 (2020 World Bank)
Principal language	Standard Arabic
Literacy rate	96% (2018 UNESCO)
Deaf population	103,100
International conventions	CPPDCE (2007), CSICH (2005), UNCRPD (2009), UNDRIP (2007)
General references	Holes 1988, Holes 1990, Johnstone 1967

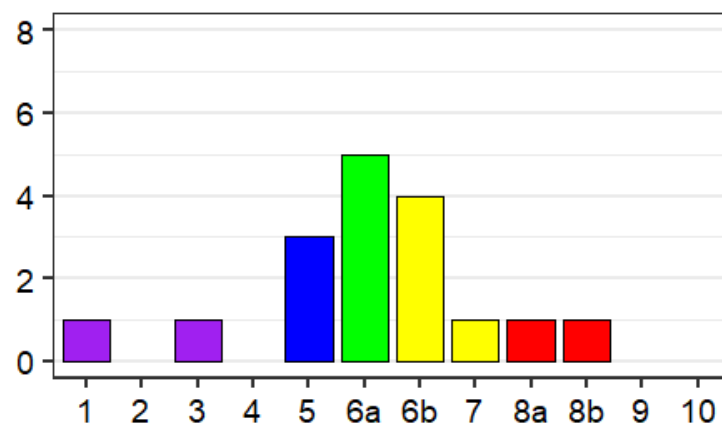
Language counts The number of established languages listed for Oman is 17. All are living languages. Of these, 10 are indigenous and 7 are non-indigenous. Furthermore, 2 are institutional, 3 are developing, 5 are vigorous, 5 are in trouble, and 2 are dying. Also listed are 18 unestablished languages.



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



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

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

Statistical Summaries

The “Alphabetical Listing of Languages” (page 11) provides a detailed listing of all the languages of Oman. 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 Oman 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 Oman by number of L1 speakers. The *Population range* column categorizes the sizes of the languages by order of magnitude (in terms of the number of digits in the population of first-language speakers). Consult “Languages by Population” (page 21) for a listing of the specific languages in each range category.

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

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

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

Population range	Living languages			Number of speakers		
	Count	Percent	Cumulative	Total	Percent	Cumulative
1,000,000 to 9,999,999	1	5.9	5.9%	2,140,000	61.10940	61.10940%
100,000 to 999,999	3	17.6	23.5%	1,040,000	29.69803	90.80743%
10,000 to 99,999	7	41.2	64.7%	306,900	8.76377	99.57121%
1,000 to 9,999	2	11.8	76.5%	14,300	0.40835	99.97955%
100 to 999	2	11.8	88.2%	700	0.01999	99.99954%
10 to 99	1	5.9	94.1%	16	0.00046	100.00000%
Unknown	1	5.9	100.0%			
<i>Totals</i>	17	100.0		3,501,916	100.00000	

Summary by language status

Table 2 summarizes the distribution of living established languages in Oman by their status in terms of language development or language endangerment. The *EGIDS* column categorizes the languages by their level on the EGIDS scale. Consult “Languages by Status” (page 24) for a listing of the specific languages that have been assigned to each level. Note that the EGIDS level reported here is for the status of the language in Oman. 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	5.9	5.9%	Unknown				
3	1	5.9	11.8%	17,300	0.4940	0.4940%	17,300	17,300
5	3	17.6	29.4%	907,700	25.9201	26.4141%	302,567	67,900
6a	5	29.4	58.8%	2,309,740	65.9565	92.3706%	461,948	17,900
6b	4	23.5	82.4%	266,460	7.6090	99.9796%	66,615	67,050
7	1	5.9	88.2%	600	0.0171	99.9967%	600	600
8a	1	5.9	94.1%	100	0.0029	99.9995%	100	100
8b	1	5.9	100.0%	16	0.0005	100.0000%	16	16
<i>Totals</i>	17	100.0		3,501,916	100.0000			

Summary by language family

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

Table 3: Distribution of languages by language family

Language family	Living languages		Number of speakers			
	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Mean</i>	<i>Median</i>
Afro-Asiatic	11	64.7	3,223,616	92.1	293,056	31,300
Indo-European	5	29.4	226,500	6.5	45,300	17,300
Niger-Congo	1	5.9	51,800	1.5	51,800	51,800
<i>Totals</i>	17	100.0	3,501,916	100.0		

Alphabetical Listing of Languages

Arabic, Baharna Spoken [abv]. *Users:* 17,900 in Oman (2020). *Location:* Adh Dhahirah and Al Batinah South governorates. *Status:* 6a* (Vigorous). *Class:* Afro-Asiatic, Semitic, Central, South, Arabic. *Lg Dev:* Dictionary. Grammar. *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant. *Other:* Non-indigenous. *Map:* 20:7. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 727,900. Global EGIDS level: 3 (Wider communication). Indigenous in: Bahrain, Saudi Arabia.

Arabic, Dhofari Spoken [adf] (Dhofari, Zofari). *Users:* 125,000 (2020). *Location:* Dhofar governorate: Salala and nearby coastal regions. *Status:* 6a* (Vigorous). *Class:* Afro-Asiatic, Semitic, Central, South, Arabic. A member of macrolanguage Arabic [ara] (Saudi Arabia). *Dialects:* None known. Related to Hadrami Arabic [ayh], Gulf Arabic [afb], and Omani Arabic [acx]. *DLS:* Still. *Other:* Different from Omani Spoken Arabic [acx]. *Map:* 20:12.

Arabic, Egyptian Spoken [arz]. *Users:* 75,200 in Oman (2020). *Status:* Unestablished. *Class:* Afro-Asiatic, Semitic, Central, South, Arabic. *Lg Dev:* Radio. TV. Videos. Dictionary. Grammar. NT: 1932. *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant, primary usage. Braille script. *Other:* Non-indigenous. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 102,436,230 (as L1: 77,436,230; as L2: 25,000,000). Global EGIDS level: 3 (Wider communication). Indigenous in: Egypt. Also established in: United Arab Emirates. Unestablished in: Australia, Canada, Cyprus, Germany, Greece, Iraq, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Malta, Netherlands, New Zealand, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Syria, United Kingdom, United States, Yemen.

Arabic, Gulf Spoken [afb] (Bedawi, Gulf Arabic, Omani Bedawi Arabic). *Users:* 788,000 in Oman (2020). *Location:* Widespread. *Status:* 5* (Dispersed). *Class:* Afro-Asiatic, Semitic, Central, South, Arabic. *Lg Use:* Used as L2 by Kumzari [zum]. *Lg Dev:* Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant. *Other:* Non-indigenous. Muslim. *Map:* 20:1. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 11,097,400. Global EGIDS level: 3 (Wider communication). Indigenous in: Iraq, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia. Also established in: Bahrain, Egypt, Iran, United Arab Emirates, Yemen. Unestablished in: Canada, United States.

Arabic, Levantine [apc]. *Users:* 17,900 in Oman (2020). *Status:* Unestablished. *Class:* Afro-Asiatic, Semitic, Central, South, Arabic. *Lg Dev:* Radio. TV. Dictionary. Grammar. Bible portions: 1940–1973. *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant. *Other:* Non-indigenous. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 47,595,360 (as L1: 47,236,360; as L2: 359,000). Global EGIDS level: 3 (Wider communication). Indigenous in: Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Syria, Turkey. Also established in: Mexico. Unestablished in: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Burundi, Canada, Côte d'Ivoire, Cyprus, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Finland, France, French Guiana, Gambia, Germany, Guinea, Honduras, Hungary, Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland, Jamaica, Kuwait, Libya, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Martinique, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Portugal, Qatar (North Levantine Spoken Arabic), Saudi

Arabia (North Levantine Spoken Arabic), Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Spain, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States, Venezuela, Yemen.

Arabic, Omani Spoken [acx] (Omani Hadari Arabic). *Users*: 2,140,000 in Oman (2020).

Location: Widespread, mainly in Hajar mountain highlands and a few coastal regions. *Status*: 6a* (Vigorous). *Class*: Afro-Asiatic, Semitic, Central, South, Arabic. A member of macrolanguage Arabic [ara] (Saudi Arabia). *Type*: SVO. *Lg Use*: Used as L2 by Bathari [bhm], Harsusi [hss]. *Lg Dev*: Dictionary. Grammar. *DLS*: Emerging (0.01). *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant. *Map*: 20:4. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 2,885,100. Global EGIDS level: 5 (Developing). Also established in: Kenya, Kuwait, Tanzania, United Arab Emirates. Unestablished in: Djibouti, Saudi Arabia, Yemen.

Arabic, Shihhi Spoken [ssh]. *Users*: 17,900 in Oman (2020). *Location*: Musandam governorate.

Status: 6a* (Vigorous). *Class*: Afro-Asiatic, Semitic, Central, South, Arabic. *Writing*: Unwritten. *Map*: 20:6. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 37,900. Also indigenous in: United Arab Emirates.

Arabic, Standard [arb]. *Users*: 2,140,000 in Oman (2015 SIL), all users. *Location*: Widespread.

Status: 1 (National). Statutory national language (1996, Basic Law, Article 3). *Class*: Afro-Asiatic, Semitic, Central, South, Arabic. *Type*: VSO; prepositions; noun head initial; gender (masculine/feminine); dual number; definite and indefinite affixes; case-marking (3 cases); verb affixes mark number, gender of subject; aspect; 28 consonant and 6 vowel phonemes; non-tonal; stress on first syllable; trilateral roots, few affixes. *Lg Use*: Education, official purposes, formal speeches. *Lg Dev*: Taught in all primary and secondary schools. Fully developed. Bible: 1645–2008. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant, primary usage. Braille script. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 273,989,700. Global EGIDS level: 0 (International). Indigenous in: Saudi Arabia. Also established in 30 other countries and unestablished in 1 more.

Arabic, Sudanese Spoken [apd]. *Users*: 19,700 in Oman (2020). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*:

Afro-Asiatic, Semitic, Central, South, Arabic. *Lg Dev*: Literature. Radio. TV. Dictionary. Grammar. NT: 1978. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant. Latin script. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 42,373,370 (as L1: 33,373,370; as L2: 9,000,000). Global EGIDS level: 3 (Wider communication). Indigenous in: South Sudan, Sudan. Also established in: Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia. Unestablished in: Australia, Canada, Germany, Libya, Norway, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, United Arab Emirates, Yemen.

Arabic, Ta'izzi-Adeni Spoken [acq]. *Users*: 16,300 in Oman (2020). *Status*: Unestablished.

Class: Afro-Asiatic, Semitic, Central, South, Arabic. *Lg Dev*: Grammar. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 11,856,700. Global EGIDS level: 3 (Wider communication). Indigenous in: Yemen. Also established in: Djibouti, Ethiopia. Unestablished in: Egypt, Kenya, Kuwait, Libya, Madagascar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States.

Balochi, Southern [bcc] (Baloci, Baluchi, Baluci, Balóchi). *Users*: 127,000 in Oman (2020).

Ethnic population: 312,000 (1993). *Location*: Muscat governorate, and dispersed on Gulf of Oman coast. *Status*: 6b* (Threatened). *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Iranian, Western, Northwestern, Balochi. *Dialects*: Makrani (Lotuni, Zadgaali), Barahuwi, Bashgaadi, Huuti. *Lg Use*: Ethnic Baloch who immigrated long ago are Omani citizens, but no longer speak Balochi. *Lg Dev*: Radio. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. NT: 1999. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant. Arabic script, Nastaliq variant, primary usage. Latin script. *Other*: Non-indigenous. From Pakistan. The majority are not Omani citizens. Muslim. *Map*: 20:2. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 3,570,700. Global EGIDS level: 5 (Developing). Indigenous in: Iran, Pakistan. Also established in: United Arab Emirates. Unestablished in: Qatar, Saudi Arabia.

Bathari [bhm] (Batahari, Bathara). *Users*: 16 in Oman (Watson and al-Mahri 2016). *Location*:

Dhofar governorate: Al Jazeer to Shweymia coastal towns. *Status*: 8b (Nearly extinct). *Class*: Afro-Asiatic, Semitic, South, South Arabian. *Dialects*: Reportedly very similar to Mehri [gdq], some considering it a dialect of Mehri. *Lg Use*: Shifted to Omani Spoken Arabic [acx]. *Lg Dev*: Grammar. Texts. *DLS*: Still. *Other*: Muslim. *Map*: 20:13. *Worldwide*: Also established in: Yemen.

Bengali [ben]. *Users*: 547,000 in Oman (2020). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Indo-European,

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

English [eng]. Autonym: English. *Users*: 17,300 in Oman (2020 Joshua Project). *Location*:

Widespread. *Status*: 3 (Wider communication). *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 Use*: Widely spoken in the business community. All official road signs and virtually all shop signs are bilingual Standard Arabic [arb] and English, though the number of L1 English speakers is relatively low. *Lg Dev*: Taught as subject in all primary and secondary schools from grade 1. Taught in most tertiary schools. Fully developed. Bible: 1382–2002. *Writing*: Braille script. Deseret Alphabet, developed in 1854 with limited usage

until 1877. Duployan shorthand. Latin script, primary usage. Shavian (Shaw) script, no longer in use. *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.

Gujarati [gʊj]. *Users*: 14,900 in Oman (2020). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Indo-Aryan, Intermediate Divisions, Western, Gujarati. *Type*: SOV; postpositions; noun head final; gender (masculine/feminine/neuter); no articles; case-marking (6 cases); verb affixes mark person, number, gender of subject; split ergativity; passives; tense and aspect; comparatives; 31 consonants, 8 vowels, 2 diphthongs; non-tonal; stress on penultimate syllable. *Lg Dev*: Fully developed. *Bible*: 1823–2005. *Writing*: Braille script. Gujarati script, primary usage. Khojki script. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 62,116,220 (as L1: 57,076,220; as L2: 5,040,000). Global EGIDS level: 2 (Provincial). Indigenous in: India. Also established in: Bahrain, Fiji, Kenya, Pakistan, Singapore, Tanzania, Zambia. Unestablished in: Australia, Bangladesh, Botswana, Burundi, Canada, Iran, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mauritius, New Zealand, Réunion, South Africa, Sri Lanka, United Kingdom, United States, Zimbabwe.

Harsusi [hss] (Harsi 'Aforit, Hersyet, South Arabian). *Users*: 600 (2011). *Location*: Al Wusta and Dhofar governorates: Jiddat al-Harasis. *Status*: 7 (Shifting). *Class*: Afro-Asiatic, Semitic, South, South Arabian. *Dialects*: None known. Reportedly similar to Mehri [gdq], but usually considered a separate language. *Lg Use*: Shifting to Omani Spoken Arabic [acx]. Also use Mehri [gdq], with increasing frequency and proficiency. *Lg Dev*: Dictionary. *Texts*. *DLS*: Still. *Other*: Spoken by the Harasis and 'Ifar ('Afar). *Map*: 20:8.

Hindi [hin]. *Users*: 100,000 in Oman (2020). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Indo-Aryan, Western Hindi, Hindustani. *Type*: SOV; postpositions; noun head final; content q-word in situ; gender (masculine/feminine); no articles; clause constituents partially indicated by case-marking (direct, oblique), postpositions, and word order; verbal affixation marks person, number, gender, and honorificity of subject; split ergativity; both tense and aspect; passives and voice; causatives; non-tonal; 30 consonants, 10 vowels, 2 diphthongs; stress linked to syllable weight. *Lg Dev*: Fully developed. *Bible*: 1835–2000. *Writing*: Braille script. Devanagari script, primary usage. Latin script, recent informal usage, especially online on social media. Mahajani script, no longer in use, historic usage. Newa script, no longer in use, historic usage. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 609,454,770 (as L1: 344,650,870; as L2: 264,803,900). Global EGIDS level: 1 (National). Indigenous in: India. Also established in: Kuwait, Nepal, Singapore, South Africa. Unestablished in: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Belize, Brunei, Cambodia, Canada, Cyprus, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Eswatini, Finland, Germany, Indonesia, Ireland, Kenya, Lesotho, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Mauritius, Myanmar, New Zealand, Panama, Philippines, Portugal, Puerto Rico, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, Sint Maarten, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Thailand, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States, Yemen.

- Hobyót** [hoh] (Hewbyót, Hobi, Kalam Rifi). *Users*: 100 in Oman (1998 H. Mutzafi). *Location*: Dhofar governorate: near Yemen border. *Status*: 8a (Moribund). *Class*: Afro-Asiatic, Semitic, South, South Arabian. *Dialects*: None known. Related to and possibly a mixed language with Mehri [gdq] and Shehri [shv]. *Lg Use*: Older adults only. Shifted to Mehri [gdq] (Simeone-Senelle 2010). *Lg Dev*: Dictionary. Texts. *Other*: Define themselves as Mahra tribe members. Muslim. *Map*: 20:10. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 500. Also indigenous in: Yemen.
- Kumzari** [zum] (Kumzai). *Users*: 5,360 in Oman (2020). *Location*: Musandam peninsula north. *Status*: 6b* (Threatened). *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Iranian, Western, Southwestern, Luri. *Lg Use*: Also use Gulf Spoken Arabic [afb]. *DLS*: Emerging (0.01). *Other*: Distinct from Khunsari [kfm] of Iran. Muslim. *Map*: 20:5. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 6,060 (as L1: 6,030; as L2: 30). Also indigenous in: Iran (Laraki).
- Luwati** [luv] (Hyderabad, Khoja, Khojki, Lawatiya). *Users*: 8,940 (2020). *Location*: Mostly Muscat and coastal towns of Barka, Khabura, Musana, and Saham. *Status*: 6a* (Vigorous). *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Indo-Aryan, Outer Languages, Northwestern, Sindhi. *Dialect*: Maimani. Related to Kachchi [kfr]. *Type*: 37 consonants. *DLS*: Still. *Other*: Ancestors reportedly migrated from Iran to Hyderabad, then to Mutrah. Muslim. *Map*: 20:3.
- Malayalam** [mal]. *Users*: 228,000 in Oman (2020). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Dravidian, Southern, Tamil-Kannada, Tamil-Kodagu, Tamil-Malayalam, Malayalam. *Type*: SOV; postpositions; noun head final; gender (masculine/feminine/neuter); case-marking (7 cases); tense; 37 consonants, 11 vowels, 2 diphthongs; non-tonal; light stress on first syllable; inclusive/exclusive pronouns. *Lg Dev*: Fully developed. Bible: 1841–2004. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant. Braille script, used since 1998. Malayalam script, primary usage. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 37,359,380 (as L1: 36,647,680; as L2: 711,700). Global EGIDS level: 2 (Provincial). Indigenous in: India. Also established in: Singapore. Unestablished in: Australia, Bahrain, Canada, Ireland, Israel, Malaysia, Qatar, Sri Lanka, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States.
- Marathi** [mar]. *Users*: 14,000 in Oman (2020). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Indo-Aryan, Outer Languages, Southern. *Type*: SOV; postpositions; noun head final; gender (masculine/feminine/neuter); no articles; case-marking (7 cases); verb affixes mark person, number; passives; tense and aspect; 37 consonants, 8 vowels, 2 diphthongs; non-tonal. *Lg Dev*: Fully developed. Bible: 1821–2002. *Writing*: Braille script. Devanagari script, primary usage. Modi script. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 99,216,870 (as L1: 83,201,270; as L2: 16,015,600). Global EGIDS level: 2 (Provincial). Indigenous in: India. Unestablished in: Australia, Canada, Israel, Mauritius, New Zealand, United Kingdom, United States.
- Mehri** [gdq] (Mahri). *Users*: 89,400 in Oman (2020). *Location*: Al Wusta and Dhofar governorates: south near Yemen border. *Status*: 6b* (Threatened). *Class*: Afro-Asiatic, Semitic, South, South Arabian. *Dialect*: Nagdi. *Lg Use*: Used as L2 by Harsusi [hss], Hobyót [hoh]. *Lg Dev*: Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. Bible portions: 1902. *Writing*: Latin script, no longer in use. *Other*: Muslim. *Map*: 20:9. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 228,700.

Also indigenous in: Yemen. Also established in: Kuwait, Saudi Arabia.

Nepali [npi]. *Users*: 11,900 in Oman (International Organization for Migration (IOM) 2019), based on nationality. *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Indo-Aryan, Intermediate Divisions, Eastern, Eastern Pahari. *Type*: SOV; postpositions; noun head final; 11 noun classes or genders; no articles; content q-word in situ; 1 prefix, up to 5 suffixes; clause constituents indicated by case-marking (4 cases); verbal affixation marks person, number and gender of subject; split ergativity; both tense and aspect; passives and voice; causatives; non-tonal; 29 consonant and 11 vowel phonemes. *Lg Dev*: Fully developed. *Bible*: 1914–2004. *Writing*: Braille script. Devanagari script, primary usage. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 25,587,570 (as L1: 16,903,270; as L2: 8,684,300). Global EGIDS level: 1 (National). Indigenous in: Bhutan, India, Nepal. Unestablished in: Australia, Bahrain, Brunei, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Japan, Kuwait, Malaysia, Myanmar, New Zealand, Norway, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, Spain, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States.

Persian, Iranian [pes] (Persian, Western Farsi). *Users*: 67,900 in Oman (2020). *Location*: Muscat governorate: Muttrah and Ruwi areas near Muscat city; possibly other coastal cities. *Status*: 5* (Dispersed). *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Iranian, Western, Southwestern, Persian. *Type*: SOV; noun head initial; no articles; tense and aspect; causatives; 23 consonant and 6 vowel phonemes; stress on final syllable (or root). *Lg Use*: Many women speak only Farsi. Men who go outside the community speak Arabic as L2, and many know 2 or 3 other languages. *Lg Dev*: Fully developed. *Bible*: 1845–1995. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant. Arabic script, Nastaliq variant, used in Iran. *Other*: Non-indigenous. Muslim. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 78,623,350 (as L1: 57,192,350; as L2: 21,431,000). Global EGIDS level: 1 (National). Indigenous in: Iran. Also established in: Bahrain, Iraq, Qatar, Tajikistan, United Arab Emirates. Unestablished in: Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, India, Japan, Kuwait, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, Syria, Turkey, Turkmenistan, United Kingdom, United States, Uzbekistan, Yemen.

Punjabi, Eastern [pan]. *Users*: 18,000 in Oman (2020). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Indo-Aryan, Intermediate Divisions, Western, Panjabi. *Type*: SOV; postpositions; gender (masculine/feminine); no articles; case-marking (7 cases); verb affixes mark person, number, gender of subject; passives; tense and aspect; 15 consonant and 24 vowel phonemes; tonal (3 tones: high, mid, low). *Lg Dev*: Literature. Radio. Grammar. *Bible*: 1959–2017. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant. Gurmukhi script, primary usage. Khojki script. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 52,077,070 (as L1: 48,299,070; as L2: 3,778,000). Global EGIDS level: 2 (Provincial). Indigenous in: India, Pakistan. Also established in: Fiji, Kenya, Mauritius, Singapore. Unestablished in: Australia, Bangladesh, Canada, Iran, Japan, Malaysia, Nepal, New Zealand, Réunion, Saudi Arabia, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States.

Punjabi, Western [pnb]. *Users*: 14,200 in Oman (2020). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Indo-

European, Indo-Iranian, Indo-Aryan, Intermediate Divisions, Western, Panjabi, Western Panjabi. *Type*: SOV; postpositions; gender (masculine/feminine); no articles; case-marking (7 cases); verb affixes mark person, number, gender of subject; passives; tense and aspect; 15 consonant and 24 vowel phonemes; tonal (3 tones: high, mid, low). *Lg Dev*: Literature. Newspapers. Periodicals. Radio. TV. Videos. Grammar. NT: 1819–1931. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant. Arabic script, Nastaliq variant, primary usage, also called Shahmukhi. Khojki script. Lahnda (Landa) script, no longer in use. Latin script. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 66,715,480. Global EGIDS level: 5 (Developing). Indigenous in: India, Pakistan. Unestablished in: Afghanistan, Australia, Belgium, Finland, Germany, Libya, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States.

Shehri [shv] (Ehkili, Geblet, Jibali, Jibbali, Qarawi, Sehri, Shahari, Sheret, South Arabian).

Users: 44,700 in Oman (2020). *Location*: Dhofar governorate: coastal mountains and plains; Khuriya Muriya islands in Arabian Sea near Fararah. *Status*: 6b* (Threatened). *Class*: Afro-Asiatic, Semitic, South, South Arabian. *Dialects*: Central Jibbali, Eastern Jibbali, Western Jibbali. Eastern Jibbali includes Kuria Muria (Baby Jibbali). Reportedly increasingly bilingual in Dhofari Arabic [adf]. *DLS*: Still. *Other*: Spoken by Qara (Ehkeló, Ahkló), Shahra (Sheró, Shahara), Barahama, Bait Ash-Shaik, and some Batahira. Muslim. *Map*: 20:11. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 84,900. Also established in: Saudi Arabia (Jibbali).

Sindhi [snd]. *Users*: 14,700 in Oman (2020). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Indo-Aryan, Outer Languages, Northwestern, Sindhi. *Type*: SOV; noun head final; gender (masculine/feminine); case-marking (8 cases); verb affixes mark person, number, gender of subject; passives; tense and aspect; 24 consonant and 15 vowel phonemes. *Lg Dev*: Literature. Radio. Dictionary. Grammar. Bible: 1954. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant, primary usage. Devanagari script, used in India. Gurmukhi script, used in India. Khojki script. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 33,214,680 (as L1: 33,211,620; as L2: 3,060). Global EGIDS level: 3 (Wider communication). Indigenous in: India, Pakistan. Also established in: Philippines, Singapore. Unestablished in: Afghanistan, Australia, Belize, Canada, Kenya, Malaysia, Nepal, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, United States.

Sinhala [sin]. *Users*: 35,700 in Oman (2020). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Indo-Aryan, Outer Languages, Southern, Sinhalese-Maldivian. *Type*: SOV; postpositions; noun head final; gender (masculine/feminine/neuter); indefinite article suffix; case-marking (5 cases); tense and aspect; causatives; 23 consonants and 13 vowels; non-tonal; distinctive diglossia. *Lg Dev*: Fully developed. Bible: 1823–1982. *Writing*: Braille script. Sinhala script, primary usage. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 17,553,910 (as L1: 15,542,810; as L2: 2,011,100). Global EGIDS level: 1 (National). Indigenous in: Sri Lanka. Also established in: Singapore. Unestablished in: Australia, Canada, Cyprus, Denmark, Germany, Libya, Malaysia, Maldives, New Zealand, Norway, Qatar, Sweden, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States.

Swahili [swh] (Kiswahili). Autonym: Kiswahili. *Users*: 51,800 in Oman (2020). *Location*: Ash

Sharqiyah South and Muscat governorates; urban centers Muscat and Sur. *Status*: 5* (Dispersed). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, G, Swahili (G.42). *Type*: SVO; prepositions; noun head initial; 18 noun classes; no articles; verb affixes mark person, number, object; passives; causatives; comparatives; 22 consonant and 5 vowel phonemes; non-tonal; stress on penultimate syllable. *Lg Dev*: Fully developed. Bible: 1891–2017. *Writing*: Braille script. Latin script. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 71,558,080 (as L1: 16,164,680; as L2: 55,393,400). Global EGIDS level: 1 (National). Indigenous in: Kenya, Mozambique, Somalia, Tanzania. Also established in: Burundi, Rwanda, South Africa, Uganda. Unestablished in: Australia, Canada, Comoros, Finland, Madagascar, Mayotte, New Zealand, Réunion, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States.

Tagalog [tgl]. Autonym: Tagalog. *Users*: 44,300 in Oman (2020). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Greater Central Philippine, Central Philippine, Tagalog. *Type*: Prepositions; no articles; ergativity; tense and aspect; comparatives; 16 consonant and 5 vowel phonemes; non-tonal; inclusive/exclusive pronouns. *Lg Dev*: Fully developed. Bible: 1905. *Writing*: Braille script. Latin script, primary usage. Tagalog script, no longer in use. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 83,054,910 (as L1: 28,746,910; as L2: 54,308,000). Global EGIDS level: 3 (Wider communication). Indigenous in: Philippines. Also established in: Canada, Guam, Sweden, United States. Unestablished in: American Samoa, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Brazil, Cayman Islands, China–Hong Kong, China–Macao, China–Taiwan, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Greece, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Japan, Jordan, Kuwait, Libya, Malaysia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Northern Mariana Islands, Norway, Palau, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Korea, Spain, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom.

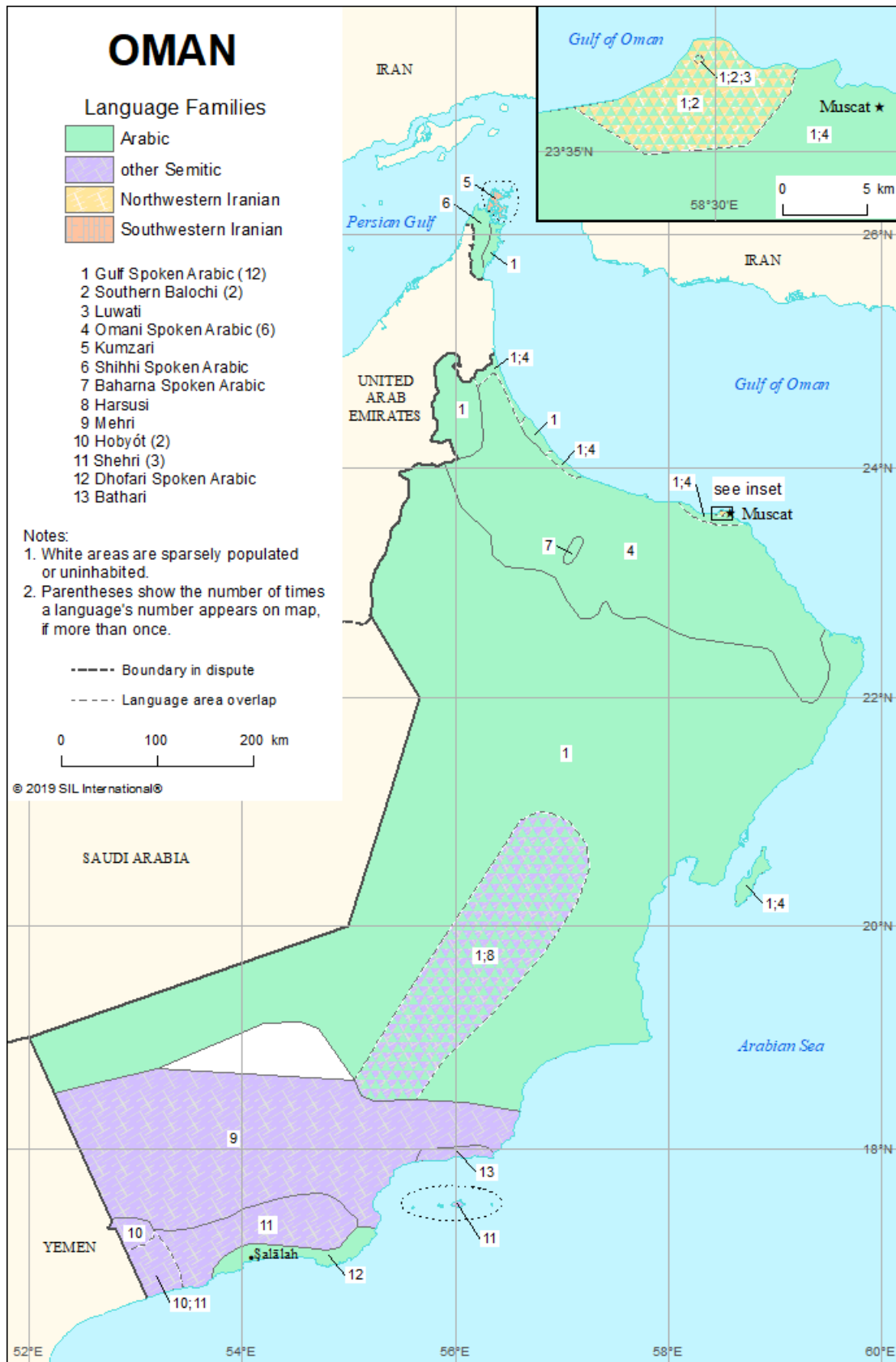
Tamil [tam]. *Users*: 23,700 in Oman (2020). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Dravidian, Southern, Tamil-Kannada, Tamil-Kodagu, Tamil-Malayalam, Tamil. *Type*: SOV; postpositions; gender (rational, non-rational); no articles; case-marking (8 cases); verb affixes mark person, number, gender of subject; passives (affective, effective); tense; no comparatives; 18 consonants, 10 vowels and 2 diphthongs; non-tonal; stress on first syllable; inclusive/exclusive pronouns. *Lg Dev*: Fully developed. Bible: 1727–2002. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant, no longer in use. Braille script. Tamil script, primary usage. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 86,640,030 (as L1: 78,587,030; as L2: 8,053,000). Global EGIDS level: 1 (National). Indigenous in: India, Sri Lanka. Also established in: Fiji, Malaysia, Martinique, Mauritius, Pakistan, Réunion, Singapore, South Africa. Unestablished in: Australia, Bahrain, Belize, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Guadeloupe, Ireland, Myanmar, Netherlands, New Zealand, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States.

Telugu [tel]. *Users*: 13,300 in Oman (2020). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Dravidian, South-Central, Telugu. *Type*: SOV; postpositions; noun head final; gender; no articles; case-marking (7 cases); verb affixes mark person, number gender of subject; passives; tense; causatives; 21 consonant and 11 vowel phonemes; non-tonal; stress on first syllable; inclusive/exclusive

pronouns. *Lg Dev*: Fully developed. Bible: 1854–2002. *Writing*: Braille script. Telugu script, primary usage. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 95,981,790 (as L1: 82,966,790; as L2: 13,015,000). Global EGIDS level: 2 (Provincial). Indigenous in: India. Also established in: Fiji, Singapore, South Africa. Unestablished in: Australia, Bahrain, Canada, Finland, Malaysia, Mauritius, Myanmar, New Zealand, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States.

Urdu [urd]. *Users*: 60,000 in Oman (2020). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Indo-Aryan, Western Hindi, Hindustani. *Type*: SOV; postposition; noun head final; gender (masculine/feminine); no articles; direct and oblique cases; verb affixes mark person, number, gender of subject; passives; tense and aspect; causatives; 35 consonants, 21 vowels; non-tonal; stress on penultimate syllable. *Lg Dev*: Fully developed. Bible: 1843–1998. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant. Arabic script, Nastaliq variant, primary usage. Braille script. Devanagari script, used in India (Ahmad 2011). *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 231,717,940 (as L1: 70,555,140; as L2: 161,162,800). Global EGIDS level: 1 (National). Indigenous in: India, Pakistan. Also established in: Bangladesh (Bihari), Fiji, Guyana, Mauritius, Nepal, South Africa. Unestablished in: Afghanistan, Australia, Bahrain, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Egypt, Finland, Germany, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Malaysia, New Zealand, Norway, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States.

Language Map



Languages by Population

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

1,000,000 to 9,999,999

Arabic, Omani Spoken [[acx](#)] *Users:* 2,140,000 in Oman (2020). *Status:* 6a* (Vigorous).

Worldwide: Total users in all countries: 2,885,100.

100,000 to 999,999

Arabic, Gulf Spoken [[afb](#)] *Users:* 788,000 in Oman (2020). *Status:* 5* (Dispersed). *Worldwide:*

Total users in all countries: 11,097,400.

Bengali [[ben](#)] *Users:* 547,000 in Oman (2020). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 272,828,760 (as L1: 233,808,880; as L2: 39,019,880).

Malayalam [[mal](#)] *Users:* 228,000 in Oman (2020). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 37,359,380 (as L1: 36,647,680; as L2: 711,700).

Balochi, Southern [[bcc](#)] *Users:* 127,000 in Oman (2020). Ethnic population: 312,000 (1993).

Status: 6b* (Threatened). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 3,570,700.

Arabic, Dhofari Spoken [[adf](#)] *Users:* 125,000 (2020). *Status:* 6a* (Vigorous).

Hindi [[hin](#)] *Users:* 100,000 in Oman (2020). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 609,454,770 (as L1: 344,650,870; as L2: 264,803,900).

10,000 to 99,999

Mehri [[gdq](#)] *Users:* 89,400 in Oman (2020). *Status:* 6b* (Threatened). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 228,700.

Arabic, Egyptian Spoken [[arz](#)] *Users:* 75,200 in Oman (2020). *Status:* Unestablished.

Worldwide: Total users in all countries: 102,436,230 (as L1: 77,436,230; as L2: 25,000,000).

Persian, Iranian [[pes](#)] *Users:* 67,900 in Oman (2020). *Status:* 5* (Dispersed). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 78,623,350 (as L1: 57,192,350; as L2: 21,431,000).

Urdu [[urd](#)] *Users:* 60,000 in Oman (2020). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 231,717,940 (as L1: 70,555,140; as L2: 161,162,800).

Swahili [[swh](#)] *Users:* 51,800 in Oman (2020). *Status:* 5* (Dispersed). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 71,558,080 (as L1: 16,164,680; as L2: 55,393,400).

Shehri [[shv](#)] *Users:* 44,700 in Oman (2020). *Status:* 6b* (Threatened). *Worldwide:* Total users in

all countries: 84,900.

Tagalog [tɡl] *Users:* 44,300 in Oman (2020). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 83,054,910 (as L1: 28,746,910; as L2: 54,308,000).

Sinhala [sin] *Users:* 35,700 in Oman (2020). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 17,553,910 (as L1: 15,542,810; as L2: 2,011,100).

Tamil [tam] *Users:* 23,700 in Oman (2020). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 86,640,030 (as L1: 78,587,030; as L2: 8,053,000).

Arabic, Sudanese Spoken [apd] *Users:* 19,700 in Oman (2020). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 42,373,370 (as L1: 33,373,370; as L2: 9,000,000).

Punjabi, Eastern [pan] *Users:* 18,000 in Oman (2020). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 52,077,070 (as L1: 48,299,070; as L2: 3,778,000).

Arabic, Baharna Spoken [abv] *Users:* 17,900 in Oman (2020). *Status:* 6a* (Vigorous). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 727,900.

Arabic, Levantine [apc] *Users:* 17,900 in Oman (2020). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 47,595,360 (as L1: 47,236,360; as L2: 359,000).

Arabic, Shihhi Spoken [ssh] *Users:* 17,900 in Oman (2020). *Status:* 6a* (Vigorous). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 37,900.

English [eng] *Users:* 17,300 in Oman (2020 Joshua Project). *Status:* 3 (Wider communication). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 1,456,448,320 (as L1: 379,682,200; as L2: 1076,766,120).

Arabic, Ta'izzi-Adeni Spoken [acq] *Users:* 16,300 in Oman (2020). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 11,856,700.

Gujarati [guj] *Users:* 14,900 in Oman (2020). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 62,116,220 (as L1: 57,076,220; as L2: 5,040,000).

Sindhi [snd] *Users:* 14,700 in Oman (2020). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 33,214,680 (as L1: 33,211,620; as L2: 3,060).

Punjabi, Western [pnb] *Users:* 14,200 in Oman (2020). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 66,715,480.

Marathi [mar] *Users:* 14,000 in Oman (2020). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 99,216,870 (as L1: 83,201,270; as L2: 16,015,600).

Telugu [tel] *Users:* 13,300 in Oman (2020). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 95,981,790 (as L1: 82,966,790; as L2: 13,015,000).

Nepali [npi] *Users:* 11,900 in Oman (International Organization for Migration (IOM) 2019), based on nationality. *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 25,587,570 (as L1: 16,903,270; as L2: 8,684,300).

1,000 to 9,999

Luwati [[luv](#)] *Users:* 8,940 (2020). *Status:* 6a* (Vigorous).

Kumzari [[zum](#)] *Users:* 5,360 in Oman (2020). *Status:* 6b* (Threatened). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 6,060 (as L1: 6,030; as L2: 30).

100 to 999

Harsusi [[hss](#)] *Users:* 600 (2011). *Status:* 7 (Shifting).

Hobyót [[hoh](#)] *Users:* 100 in Oman (1998 H. Mutzafi). *Status:* 8a (Moribund). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 500.

10 to 99

Bathari [[bhm](#)] *Users:* 16 in Oman (Watson and al-Mahri 2016). *Status:* 8b (Nearly extinct).

Unknown

Arabic, Standard [[arb](#)] *Users:* 2,140,000 in Oman (2015 SIL), all users. *Status:* 1 (National). Statutory national language (1996, Basic Law, Article 3). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 273,989,700.

Languages by Status

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

1 (National)

Arabic, Standard [arb] *Users:* 2,140,000 in Oman (2015 SIL), all users. *Status:* Statutory national language (1996, Basic Law, Article 3). *Lg Use:* Education, official purposes, formal speeches. *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant, primary usage. Braille script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 273,989,700.

3 (Wider communication)

English [eng] *Users:* 17,300 in Oman (2020 Joshua Project). *Lg Use:* Widely spoken in the business community. All official road signs and virtually all shop signs are bilingual Standard Arabic [arb] and English, though the number of L1 English speakers is relatively low. *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).

5 (Dispersed)

Arabic, Gulf Spoken [afb] *Users:* 788,000 in Oman (2020). *Lg Use:* Used as L2 by Kumzari [zum]. *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 11,097,400.

Persian, Iranian [pes] *Users:* 67,900 in Oman (2020). *Lg Use:* Many women speak only Farsi. Men who go outside the community speak Arabic as L2, and many know 2 or 3 other languages. *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant. Arabic script, Nastaliq variant, used in Iran. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 78,623,350 (as L1: 57,192,350; as L2: 21,431,000).

Swahili [swh] *Users:* 51,800 in Oman (2020). *Writing:* Braille script. Latin script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 71,558,080 (as L1: 16,164,680; as L2: 55,393,400).

6a (Vigorous)

Arabic, Baharna Spoken [abv] *Users:* 17,900 in Oman (2020). *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 727,900.

Arabic, Dhofari Spoken [adf] *Users:* 125,000 (2020).

Arabic, Omani Spoken [acx] *Users:* 2,140,000 in Oman (2020). *Lg Use:* Used as L2 by Bathari [bhm], Harsusi [hss]. *Lg Dev:* Dictionary. Grammar. *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 2,885,100.

Arabic, Shihhi Spoken [ssh] *Users:* 17,900 in Oman (2020). *Writing:* Unwritten. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 37,900.

Luwati [luv] *Users:* 8,940 (2020).

6b (Threatened)

Balochi, Southern [bcc] *Users:* 127,000 in Oman (2020). Ethnic population: 312,000 (1993). *Lg Use:* Ethnic Baloch who immigrated long ago are Omani citizens, but no longer speak Balochi. *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant. Arabic script, Nastaliq variant, primary usage. Latin script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 3,570,700.

Kumzari [zum] *Users:* 5,360 in Oman (2020). *Lg Use:* Also use Gulf Spoken Arabic [afb]. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 6,060 (as L1: 6,030; as L2: 30).

Mehri [gdq] *Users:* 89,400 in Oman (2020). *Lg Use:* Used as L2 by Harsusi [hss], Hobyót [hoh]. *Writing:* Latin script, no longer in use. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 228,700.

Shehri [shv] *Users:* 44,700 in Oman (2020). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 84,900.

7 (Shifting)

Harsusi [hss] *Users:* 600 (2011). *Lg Use:* Shifting to Omani Spoken Arabic [acx]. Also use Mehri [gdq], with increasing frequency and proficiency. *Lg Dev:* Dictionary. Texts.

8a (Moribund)

Hobyót [hoh] *Users:* 100 in Oman (1998 H. Mutzafi). *Lg Use:* Older adults only. Shifted to Mehri [gdq] (Simeone-Senelle 2010). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 500.

8b (Nearly extinct)

Bathari [bhm] *Users:* 16 in Oman (Watson and al-Mahri 2016). *Lg Use:* Shifted to Omani Spoken Arabic [acx]. *Lg Dev:* Grammar. Texts.

Unestablished

Arabic, Egyptian Spoken [arz] *Users:* 75,200 in Oman (2020). *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant, primary usage. Braille script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 102,436,230 (as L1: 77,436,230; as L2: 25,000,000).

Arabic, Levantine [apc] *Users:* 17,900 in Oman (2020). *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 47,595,360 (as L1: 47,236,360; as L2: 359,000).

- Arabic, Sudanese Spoken** [apd] *Users:* 19,700 in Oman (2020). *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant. Latin script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 42,373,370 (as L1: 33,373,370; as L2: 9,000,000).
- Arabic, Ta'izzi-Adeni Spoken** [acq] *Users:* 16,300 in Oman (2020). *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 11,856,700.
- Bengali** [ben] *Users:* 547,000 in Oman (2020). *Writing:* Bengali (Bangla) script, primary usage. Braille script. Newa script, no longer in use. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 272,828,760 (as L1: 233,808,880; as L2: 39,019,880).
- Gujarati** [guj] *Users:* 14,900 in Oman (2020). *Writing:* Braille script. Gujarati script, primary usage. Khojki script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 62,116,220 (as L1: 57,076,220; as L2: 5,040,000).
- Hindi** [hin] *Users:* 100,000 in Oman (2020). *Writing:* Braille script. Devanagari script, primary usage. Latin script, recent informal usage, especially online on social media. Mahajani script, no longer in use, historic usage. Newa script, no longer in use, historic usage. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 609,454,770 (as L1: 344,650,870; as L2: 264,803,900).
- Malayalam** [mal] *Users:* 228,000 in Oman (2020). *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant. Braille script, used since 1998. Malayalam script, primary usage. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 37,359,380 (as L1: 36,647,680; as L2: 711,700).
- Marathi** [mar] *Users:* 14,000 in Oman (2020). *Writing:* Braille script. Devanagari script, primary usage. Modi script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 99,216,870 (as L1: 83,201,270; as L2: 16,015,600).
- Nepali** [npi] *Users:* 11,900 in Oman (International Organization for Migration (IOM) 2019), based on nationality. *Writing:* Braille script. Devanagari script, primary usage. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 25,587,570 (as L1: 16,903,270; as L2: 8,684,300).
- Punjabi, Eastern** [pan] *Users:* 18,000 in Oman (2020). *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant. Gurmukhi script, primary usage. Khojki script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 52,077,070 (as L1: 48,299,070; as L2: 3,778,000).
- Punjabi, Western** [pnb] *Users:* 14,200 in Oman (2020). *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant. Arabic script, Nastaliq variant, primary usage, also called Shahmukhi. Khojki script. Lahnda (Landa) script, no longer in use. Latin script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 66,715,480.
- Sindhi** [snd] *Users:* 14,700 in Oman (2020). *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant, primary usage. Devanagari script, used in India. Gurmukhi script, used in India. Khojki script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 33,214,680 (as L1: 33,211,620; as L2: 3,060).
- Sinhala** [sin] *Users:* 35,700 in Oman (2020). *Writing:* Braille script. Sinhala script, primary usage. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 17,553,910 (as L1: 15,542,810; as L2: 2,011,100).
- Tagalog** [tgl] *Users:* 44,300 in Oman (2020). *Writing:* Braille script. Latin script, primary usage.

Tagalog script, no longer in use. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 83,054,910 (as L1: 28,746,910; as L2: 54,308,000).

Tamil [tam] *Users*: 23,700 in Oman (2020). *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant, no longer in use. Braille script. Tamil script, primary usage. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 86,640,030 (as L1: 78,587,030; as L2: 8,053,000).

Telugu [tel] *Users*: 13,300 in Oman (2020). *Writing*: Braille script. Telugu script, primary usage. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 95,981,790 (as L1: 82,966,790; as L2: 13,015,000).

Urdu [urd] *Users*: 60,000 in Oman (2020). *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant. Arabic script, Nastaliq variant, primary usage. Braille script. Devanagari script, used in India (Ahmad 2011). *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 231,717,940 (as L1: 70,555,140; as L2: 161,162,800).

Languages by Governorate

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

Adh Dhahirah

Arabic, Baharna Spoken [abv], [11](#)

Al Batinah South

Arabic, Baharna Spoken [abv], [11](#)

Al Wusta

Harsusi [hss], [14](#)

Mehri [gdq], [15](#)

Ash Sharqiyah South

Swahili [swh], [17](#)

Dhofar

Arabic, Dhofari Spoken [adf], [11](#)

Bathari [bhm], [13](#)

Harsusi [hss], [14](#)

Hobyót [hoh], [15](#)

Mehri [gdq], [15](#)

Shehri [shv], [17](#)

Musandam

Arabic, Shihhi Spoken [ssh], [12](#)

Kumzari [zum], [15](#)

Muscat

Balochi, Southern [bcc], [13](#)

Luwati [luv], [15](#)

Persian, Iranian [pes], [16](#)

Swahili [swh], [17](#)

Languages by Family

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

Afro-Asiatic, Semitic, Central, South, Arabic

- Arabic, Baharna Spoken [abv], [11](#)
- Arabic, Dhofari Spoken [adf], [11](#)
- Arabic, Gulf Spoken [afb], [11](#)
- Arabic, Omani Spoken [acx], [12](#)
- Arabic, Shihhi Spoken [ssh], [12](#)
- Arabic, Standard [arb], [12](#)

Afro-Asiatic, Semitic, South, South Arabian

- Bathari [bhm], [13](#)
- Harsusi [hss], [14](#)
- Hobyót [hoh], [15](#)
- Mehri [gdq], [15](#)
- Shehri [shv], [17](#)

Indo-European, Germanic, West, English

- English [eng], [13](#)

Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Indo-Aryan, Outer Languages, Northwestern, Sindhi

- Luwati [luv], [15](#)

Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Iranian, Western, Northwestern, Balochi

- Balochi, Southern [bcc], [13](#)

Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Iranian, Western, Southwestern, Luri

- Kumzari [zum], [15](#)

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

- Persian, Iranian [pes], [16](#)

Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow

Bantu, Central, G, Swahili (G.42)

- Swahili [swh], [17](#)

Language Code Index

This index gives an alphabetical listing of all 35 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/>.

abv	Arabic, Baharna Spoken, 11	luv	Luwati, 15
acq	Arabic, Ta'izzi-Adeni Spoken, 12	mal	Malayalam, 15
acx	Arabic, Omani Spoken, 12	mar	Marathi, 15
adf	Arabic, Dhofari Spoken, 11	npi	Nepali, 16
afb	Arabic, Gulf Spoken, 11	pan	Punjabi, Eastern, 16
apc	Arabic, Levantine, 11	pes	Persian, Iranian, 16
apd	Arabic, Sudanese Spoken, 12	pnb	Punjabi, Western, 16
arb	Arabic, Standard, 12	shv	Shehri, 17
arz	Arabic, Egyptian Spoken, 11	sin	Sinhala, 17
bcc	Balochi, Southern, 13	snd	Sindhi, 17
ben	Bengali, 13	ssh	Arabic, Shihhi Spoken, 12
bhm	Bathari, 13	swh	Swahili, 17
eng	English, 13	tam	Tamil, 18
gdq	Mehri, 15	tel	Telugu, 18
guj	Gujarati, 14	tgl	Tagalog, 18
hin	Hindi, 14	urd	Urdu, 19
hoh	Hobyót, 15	zum	Kumzari, 15
hss	Harsusi, 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.

- Arabic, Baharna Spoken** [abv], 11, 20
see Arabic, Baharna Spoken [abv], 11
- Arabic, Dhofari Spoken** [adf], 11, 20
see Arabic, Dhofari Spoken [adf], 11
- Egyptian Spoken Arabic**, *see* Arabic, Egyptian Spoken [arz], 11
- Arabic, Gulf Spoken** [afb], 11, 20
see Arabic, Gulf Spoken [afb], 11
- Levantine Arabic**, *see* Arabic, Levantine [apc], 11
- Arabic, Omani Spoken** [acx], 12, 20
see Arabic, Omani Spoken [acx], 12
- Arabic, Shihhi Spoken** [ssh], 12, 20
see Arabic, Shihhi Spoken [ssh], 12
- Arabic, Standard** [arb], 12
see Arabic, Standard [arb], 12
- Sudanese Spoken Arabic**, *see* Arabic, Sudanese Spoken [apd], 12
- Ta'izzi-Adeni Spoken Arabic**, *see* Arabic, Ta'izzi-Adeni Spoken [acq], 12
- Balóchi**, *alt.* Balochi, Southern [bcc], 13
- Balochi, Southern** [bcc], 13, 20
see Balochi, Southern [bcc], 13
- Baloci**, *alt.* Balochi, Southern [bcc], 13
- Baluchi**, *alt.* Balochi, Southern [bcc], 13
- Baluci**, *alt.* Balochi, Southern [bcc], 13
- Barahuwi**, *dial.* Balochi, Southern [bcc], 13
- Bashgaadi**, *dial.* Balochi, Southern [bcc], 13
- Batahari**, *alt.* Bathari [bhm], 13
- Bathara**, *alt.* Bathari [bhm], 13
- Bathari** [bhm], 13, 20
- Bedawi**, *alt.* Arabic, Gulf Spoken [afb], 11
- Central Jibbali**, *dial.* Shehri [shv], 17
- Dhofari**, *alt.* Arabic, Dhofari Spoken [adf], 11
- Eastern Jibbali**, *dial.* Shehri [shv], 17
- Ehkili**, *alt.* Shehri [shv], 17
- English** [eng], 13
- Geblet**, *alt.* Shehri [shv], 17
- Gulf Arabic**, *alt.* Arabic, Gulf Spoken [afb], 11
- Harsi 'Aforit**, *alt.* Harsusi [hss], 14
- Harsusi** [hss], 14, 20
- Hersyet**, *alt.* Harsusi [hss], 14
- Hewbyót**, *alt.* Hobyót [hoh], 15
- Hobi**, *alt.* Hobyót [hoh], 15
- Hobyót** [hoh], 15, 20
- Huuti**, *dial.* Balochi, Southern [bcc], 13
- Hyderabadi**, *alt.* Luwati [luv], 15
- Jibali**, *alt.* Shehri [shv], 17
- Jibbali**, *alt.* Shehri [shv], 17
- Kalam Rifi**, *alt.* Hobyót [hoh], 15
- Khoja**, *alt.* Luwati [luv], 15
- Khojki**, *alt.* Luwati [luv], 15
- Kiswahili**, *alt.* Swahili [sw], 17

- Kumzai**, *alt.* Kumzari [zum], 15
- Kumzari** [zum], 15, 20
- Lawatiya**, *alt.* Luwati [luv], 15
- Lotuni**, *alt. dial.* Balochi, Southern [bcc], 13
- Luwati** [luv], 15, 20
- Mahri**, *alt.* Mehri [gdq], 15
- Maimani**, *dial.* Luwati [luv], 15
- Makrani**, *dial.* Balochi, Southern [bcc], 13
- Mehri** [gdq], 15, 20
- Nagdi**, *dial.* Mehri [gdq], 15
- Omani Bedawi Arabic**, *alt.* Arabic, Gulf Spoken [afb], 11
- Omani Hadari Arabic**, *alt.* Arabic, Omani Spoken [acx], 12
- Persian**, *alt.* Persian, Iranian [pes], 16
- Persian, Iranian** [pes], 16
see Persian, Iranian [pes], 16
- Eastern Punjabi**, *see* Punjabi, Eastern [pan], 16
- Western Punjabi**, *see* Punjabi, Western [pnb], 16
- Qarawi**, *alt.* Shehri [shv], 17
- Sehri**, *alt.* Shehri [shv], 17
- Shahari**, *alt.* Shehri [shv], 17
- Shehri** [shv], 17, 20
- Sheret**, *alt.* Shehri [shv], 17
- South Arabian**, *alt.* Harsusi [hss], 14
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- Swahili** [swh], 17
- Western Farsi**, *alt.* Persian, Iranian [pes], 16
- Western Jibbali**, *dial.* Shehri [shv], 17
- Zadgaali**, *alt. dial.* Balochi, Southern [bcc], 13
- Zofari**, *alt.* Arabic, Dhofari Spoken [adf], 11

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