

Ethnologue: Languages of Singapore

Twenty-sixth edition data

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

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List of Abbreviations

A	Agent in constituent word order
<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)
DBS	Deaf Bible Society
<i>dial.</i>	primary dialect name for
DOOR	Deaf Opportunity Outreach
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
<i>Type</i>	Typological information
UNCRPD	United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2006)
UNDESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
UNDRIP	United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2007)
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 Singapore 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 34 languages listed in the *Ethnologue* for the country of Singapore. This includes languages that are indigenous to the country, languages that have developed well-established multigenerational speaker communities after immigrating in the past, and languages that have a significant presence in the country but are not established (that is, not being transmitted to the next generation within the country). A complete language entry has the following form and content:

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

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

Many ways of finding languages are provided. “Languages by Population” (page 21) lists the languages in order of their first-language speaker populations. “Languages by Status” (page 24) lists the languages by their level of development or endangerment as measured on EGIDS, the Expanded Graded Intergenerational Disruption Scale (Lewis and Simons 2010). “Languages by Family” (page 29) lists the languages by their linguistic classifications. “Language Code Index” (page 31) gives an alphabetical listing of all the three-letter codes from ISO 639-3 that are used in this digest to uniquely identify languages. “Language Name Index” (page 32) lists every name that appears in the language listings as a primary or alternate name of a language or dialect. A total of 87 unique names are associated with the 34 languages described in this digest.

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

(page 34). 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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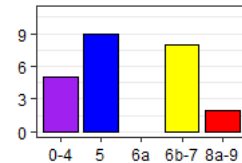
Editor, Ethnologue
SIL International
7500 West Camp Wisdom Road
Dallas, TX 75236, U.S.A.

Country Overview

Name of country	Singapore
Other names	Republic of Singapore
Population	5,897,000 (2021 UNDESA)
Principal languages	English, Mandarin Chinese, Standard Malay, Tamil
Literacy rate	97% (2018 UNESCO)
International conventions	CSICH (2018), UNCRPD (2013), UNDRIP (2007)
General references	

Language counts

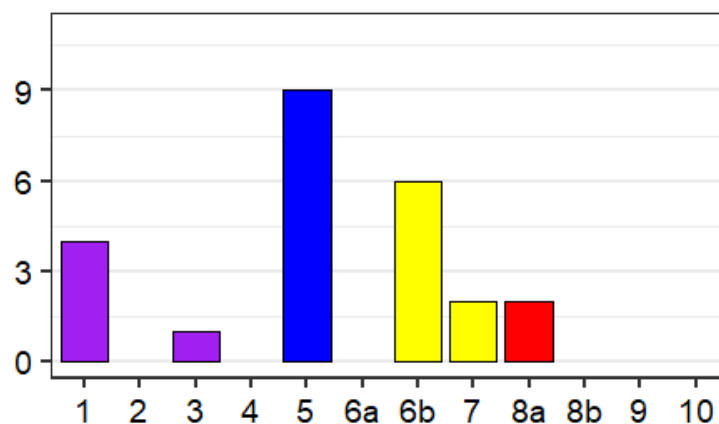
The number of established languages listed for Singapore is 24. All are living languages. Of these, 2 are indigenous and 22 are non-indigenous. Furthermore, 5 are institutional, 9 are developing, 8 are in trouble, and 2 are dying. Also listed are 10 unestablished languages.



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 Singapore 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 Singapore. 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 Singapore 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 Singapore 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	4.2	4.2%	1,960,000	44.44747	44.44747%
100,000 to 999,999	7	29.2	33.3%	2,238,000	50.75175	95.19922%
10,000 to 99,999	7	29.2	62.5%	185,900	4.21571	99.41493%
1,000 to 9,999	6	25.0	87.5%	24,100	0.54652	99.96145%
100 to 999	2	8.3	95.8%	1,700	0.03855	100.00000%
Unknown	1	4.2	100.0%			
<i>Totals</i>	24	100.0		4,409,700	100.00000	

Summary by language status

Table 2 summarizes the distribution of living established languages in Singapore 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 Singapore. 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	4	16.7	16.7%	2,361,000	53.5411	53.5411%	590,250	215,000
3	1	4.2	20.8%	625,000	14.1733	67.7144%	625,000	625,000
5	9	37.5	58.3%	939,990	21.3164	89.0308%	104,443	13,100
6b	6	25.0	83.3%	436,110	9.8898	98.9206%	72,685	22,150
7	2	8.3	91.7%	36,400	0.8255	99.7460%	18,200	18,200
8a	2	8.3	100.0%	11,200	0.2540	100.0000%	5,600	5,600
<i>Totals</i>	24	100.0		4,409,700	100.0000			

Summary by language family

The genealogical classifications given in the language entries of the “Alphabetical Listing of Languages” (page 11) name 6 different top-level groups. Table 3 summarizes the distribution of living established languages and their L1 populations within these families. The columns are as for table 2, with the exception that *Cumulative* is excluded since there is no inherent ordering of the families.

Table 3: Distribution of languages by language family

Language family	Living languages		Number of speakers			
	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Mean</i>	<i>Median</i>
Austronesian	5	20.8	639,600	14.5	127,920	18,350

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>
Creole	1	4.2	10,000	0.2	10,000	10,000
Dravidian	3	12.5	213,100	4.8	71,033	26,300
Indo-European	7	29.2	395,000	9.0	56,429	5,670
Sign language	1	4.2	6,000	0.1	6,000	6,000
Sino-Tibetan	7	29.2	3,146,000	71.3	449,429	227,000
<i>Totals</i>	24	100.0	4,409,700	100.0		

Alphabetical Listing of Languages

Arabic, Egyptian Spoken [arz]. *Users*: 11,000 in Singapore (2018 J. Leclerc). *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, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Syria, United Kingdom, United States, Yemen.

Bengali [ben]. *Users*: 150,000 in Singapore (2021 The Straits Times), based on nationality. *Location*: North East district (No. 19), especially Hougang and Sengkang areas; scattered elsewhere. *Status*: 6b* (Threatened). *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. Hindu, Muslim. *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. Unestablished in: Australia, Belgium, Bhutan, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kuwait, Malaysia, Mauritius, Myanmar, Netherlands, New Zealand, Oman, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States.

Bugis [bug]. Autonym: Basa Ugi. *Users*: 11,000 in Singapore (2018 J. Leclerc). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, South Sulawesi, Bugis. *Type*: SVO; prepositions; noun head initial; verb affixes mark person; passives; causatives; 19 consonant and 6 vowel phonemes; non-tonal; stress on penultimate syllable. *Lg Dev*: Radio. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. Bible: 1900–1997. *Writing*: Buginese script, no longer in use. Latin script. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 4,398,800 (as L1: 3,898,800; as L2: 500,000). Global EGIDS level: 3 (Wider communication). Indigenous in: Indonesia. Also established in: Malaysia.

Chinese, Hakka [hak] (Hokka, Ke, Kechia, Kehia, Kek, Khak). *Users*: 233,000 in Singapore (2010 census). *Location*: Scattered. *Status*: 6b* (Threatened). *Class*: Sino-Tibetan, Chinese. *Type*: SVO; tonal. *Lg Dev*: Literature. Newspapers. Periodicals. Radio. TV. Videos. Dictionary. Grammar. Bible: 1916–2012. *Writing*: Han script, Simplified variant. Han script, Traditional variant. Latin script, used since early 19th century. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total

users in all countries: 44,271,630 (as L1: 44,020,430; as L2: 251,200). Global EGIDS level: 4 (Educational). Indigenous in: China, China–Hong Kong. Also established in 11 other countries and unestablished in 9 more.

Chinese, Mandarin [cmn]. *Users*: 2,840,000 in Singapore, all users. L1 users: 1,960,000 in Singapore (2016 census). L2 users: 880,000. *Status*: 1 (National). Statutory national language (1963, Constitution (amended), Article 153A(1)). *Class*: Sino-Tibetan, Chinese. *Type*: SVO; prepositions; noun head final; 6 full (concrete meaning) word classes; no articles; passives; 24 consonants, 8 vowels, 6 diphthongs; tonal (4 phonemic tones). *Lg Use*: Use is increasing. Some also use Chinese [zho], various varieties and other local minority languages. Some also use English [eng]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L1: 65% (2001 census). Taught in all primary schools in early grades only. Taught as subject in secondary schools. Fully developed. Bible: 1874–1983. *Writing*: Bopomofo script, used since 1913, revised in 1920 and 1932, mainly used in Taiwan. Braille script. Han script, Simplified variant, used since 1956, official in Mainland China (1956) and Singapore (1969), also used elsewhere. Han script, Traditional variant, used since mid-19th century, official in Taiwan, also used elsewhere. Latin script. *Other*: Non-indigenous. 2,505,209 ethnic Chinese (2000 census). *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 1,138,222,350 (as L1: 939,237,350; as L2: 198,985,000). Global EGIDS level: 0 (International). Indigenous in: China. Also established in 16 other countries and unestablished in 61 more.

Chinese, Min Bei [mnp] (Min Pei). *Users*: 18,000 in Singapore (2018 J. Leclerc). *Location*: Districts 23 and 24, Bukit Batok area northwest; scattered elsewhere. *Status*: 6b* (Threatened). *Class*: Sino-Tibetan, Chinese. *Type*: Tonal. *Lg Dev*: NT: 1934. *Writing*: Latin script, from 1896 to some time after last publication in 1922. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 11,720,000. Global EGIDS level: 5 (Developing). Indigenous in: China. Unestablished in: Malaysia.

Chinese, Min Dong [cdo]. *Users*: 56,000 in Singapore (2018 J. Leclerc). Ethnic population: 70,800 (2010 census). *Location*: Scattered. *Status*: 5* (Developing). *Class*: Sino-Tibetan, Chinese. *Dialects*: Fuzhou (Foochow, Fuchow, Guxhou), Hokchia (Fuqing, Hockchew, Hockchia). *Lg Dev*: Literature. Dictionary. Grammar. Bible: 1884–1905. *Writing*: Han script, Simplified variant, used since 1987. Han script, Traditional variant. Latin script, developed and revised to final form during late 19th century. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 10,919,420 (as L1: 10,918,950; as L2: 470). Indigenous in: China. Also established in: Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand. Unestablished in: Canada, United States.

Chinese, Min Nan [nan] (Banlamgi, Min Nam, Southern Min). *Users*: 625,000 in Singapore (2015 World Factbook). Includes 448,000 Hokkien and 177,000 Teochew. Ethnic population: 1,860,000 (2010 census). Includes 1,120,000 Hokkien, 562,000 Teochew, 178,000 Hainanese. *Location*: Mostly Telok Ayer area. *Status*: 3 (Wider communication). *Class*: Sino-Tibetan, Chinese. *Dialects*: Hokkien (Amoy, Fujian, Fukienese, Xiamen), Teochew (Chaochow, Chaozhou, Taechew), Hainanese. *Type*: SVO; tone sandhi, tonal. *Lg Use*: Hokkien is most

widely understood variety in Singapore (1979 E. Kuo). Home, food centres, army, friends. Also use English [eng]. Also use Mandarin Chinese [cmn]. Used as L2 by Baba Malay [mbf]. *Lg Dev*: Literature. Dictionary. Grammar. Bible: 1933. *Writing*: Bopomofo script, used since 1998, used in Taiwan. Han script, Simplified variant. Katakana script, used between 1895–1945, once used in Taiwan. Latin script, used since 1850. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 50,312,390 (as L1: 49,909,390; as L2: 403,000). Indigenous in: China, China–Taiwan. Also established in: Brunei, Cambodia, China–Hong Kong, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand. Unestablished in: Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, United States.

Chinese, Pu-Xian [cpx]. *Users*: 27,000 in Singapore (2018 J. Leclerc). Ethnic population: 25,600 (2010 census). *Location*: Scattered. *Status*: 5* (Developing). *Class*: Sino-Tibetan, Chinese. *Dialect*: Henghua (Hinghua, Xinghua). *Lg Dev*: Bible: 1912. *Writing*: Latin script, used between 1890–1950, once used in a newspaper. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 3,151,700. Indigenous in: China. Also established in: Malaysia.

Chinese, Yue [yue] (Cantonese). *Users*: 227,000 in Singapore (2015 World Factbook). Ethnic population: 409,000 (2010 census). *Location*: Scattered. *Status*: 5* (Dispersed). *Class*: Sino-Tibetan, Chinese. *Type*: SVO; prepositions; genitives, relatives, adjectives, numerals before noun heads; noun classifiers; no articles; 18 consonants, 7 vowels; tonal (6 tones: 3 level, 3 contour). *Lg Use*: Home, church, friends. Used as L2 by Baba Malay [mbf]. *Lg Dev*: Fully developed. Bible: 1894–1981. *Writing*: Braille script, used in Hong Kong. Han script, Simplified variant. Han script, Traditional variant, official usage in Hong Kong and Macau, also used elsewhere. Latin script, used since mid-19th century. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 86,633,370 (as L1: 86,116,370; as L2: 517,000). Global EGIDS level: 2 (Provincial). Indigenous in: China, China–Hong Kong, China–Macao. Also established in 11 other countries and unestablished in 19 more.

English [eng]. Autonym: English. *Users*: 2,355,000 in Singapore, all users. L1 users: 215,000 in Singapore (2018 J. Leclerc). L2 users: 2,140,000 (2019 World Factbook). *Status*: 1 (National). Statutory national working language (1963, Constitution (amended), Article 153A(1)). *Class*: Indo-European, Germanic, West, English. *Dialect*: Singlish. *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*: Home, office, church, public institutions. *Lg Dev*: Taught in all primary and secondary schools. Taught in all 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 [guj] (Gujerathi, Gujerati). *Users*: 4,120 in Singapore (2010 census). *Location*: Scattered. *Status*: 5* (Dispersed). *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. Hindu. *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, Tanzania, Zambia. Unestablished in: Australia, Bangladesh, Botswana, Burundi, Canada, Iran, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mauritius, New Zealand, Oman, Réunion, South Africa, Sri Lanka, United Kingdom, United States, Zimbabwe.

Hindi [hin]. *Users*: 50,000 in Singapore (2017 The Straits Times), all users. L1 users: 13,100 (2010 census). *Location*: Scattered. *Status*: 5* (Dispersed). *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, 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, Oman, Panama, Philippines, Portugal, Puerto Rico, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, Sint Maarten, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Thailand, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States, Yemen.

Indonesian [ind]. Autonym: Bahasa Indonesia. *Users*: 118,000 in Singapore (2018 J. Leclerc). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Malayo-Chamic, Malayic, Malay. *Type*: SVO; prepositions; noun head initial, but quantifiers before noun; 3 noun classifiers; no articles; aspect; 19 consonants, 6 vowels, 3 diphthongs; non-tonal; stress on penultimate syllable; 2 social registers; inclusive/exclusive pronouns. *Lg Dev*: Fully developed. *Bible*: 1974–2000. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant. Braille script. Latin script, primary usage. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 199,113,300 (as L1: 43,666,200; as L2: 155,447,100). Global EGIDS level: 1 (National). Indigenous in: Indonesia. Also established in: East Timor. Unestablished in: Australia, Canada,

China–Hong Kong, China–Taiwan, Germany, Kuwait, Netherlands, New Zealand, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Sint Maarten, Spain, Suriname, Sweden, United States.

Japanese [jpn]. *Users*: 4,940 in Singapore (2010 census). Ethnic population: 39,000 (2018 J. Leclerc). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Japonic. *Type*: SOV; postpositions; demonstrative, numeral, adjective, possessive, relative clause, proper noun precedes noun head; adverb precedes verb; sentence final question particle; no articles; passives; tense and aspect; causatives; 15 consonants, 5 vowels, 3 diphthongs; non-tonal; pitch-accentuation pattern. *Lg Dev*: Fully developed. *Bible*: 1883–2018. *Writing*: Braille script. Han, Hiragana, and Katakana scripts, primary usage. Latin script. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 123,445,570 (as L1: 123,285,670; as L2: 159,900). Global EGIDS level: 1 (National). Indigenous in: Japan. Also established in: Australia, China–Taiwan, United States. Unestablished in: American Samoa, Argentina, Austria, Brazil, Canada, China–Hong Kong, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Finland, Germany, Guam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mexico, Micronesia, New Zealand, Panama, Paraguay, Philippines, Russian Federation, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, United Kingdom.

Javanese [jav] (Djawa, Jawa). Autonym: Jawa. *Users*: 35,500 in Singapore (2004 J. Leclerc). Ethnic population: 88,600 (2010 census). *Location*: Scattered. *Status*: 7 (Shifting). *Class*: Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Javanese. *Type*: SVO; prepositions; noun head initial; 3 articles; 21 consonants and 8 vowels; word accent not distinctive; inclusive/exclusive pronouns. *Lg Use*: Adults only. Shifting to Malay [zlm]. *Lg Dev*: Fully developed. *Bible*: 1854–1994. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant, no longer in use. Javanese script, no longer in use. Latin script. *Other*: Non-indigenous. Muslim. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 68,278,400. Global EGIDS level: 4 (Educational). Indigenous in: Indonesia. Also established in: Malaysia. Unestablished in: Netherlands.

Kannada [kan]. *Users*: 22,000 in Singapore (2018 J. Leclerc). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Dravidian, Southern, Tamil-Kannada, Kannada. *Type*: SOV; postpositions; noun head final; gender (masculine/feminine/neuter); case-marking (7 cases); verb affixes mark person, number, gender of subject; tense and aspect; causatives; 22 consonants, 20 vowels, 2 diphthongs; non-tonal; light stress on first syllable. *Lg Dev*: Fully developed. *Bible*: 1831–2000. *Writing*: Braille script. Kannada script, primary usage. Nandinagari script, no longer in use. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 58,689,790 (as L1: 43,680,530; as L2: 15,009,260). Global EGIDS level: 2 (Provincial). Indigenous in: India. Unestablished in: Australia, Canada, Malaysia, New Zealand, United Kingdom, United States.

Korean [kor]. *Users*: 21,400 in Singapore (2019 Korean Ministry of Foreign Affairs), based on nationality. *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Koreanic. *Lg Dev*: Fully developed. *Bible*: 1911–1993. *Writing*: Braille script. Hangul and Han scripts, primary usage. Latin script, used for maps and signs. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 81,740,540 (as L1: 81,721,540; as L2: 19,000). Global EGIDS level: 1 (National). Indigenous in: North Korea, South Korea. Also established in: China, Japan, Russian Federation, United States, Uzbekistan. Unestablished in: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Belarus, Brazil,

Brunei, Cambodia, Canada, China–Taiwan, Denmark, France, Germany, Guam, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Libya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mexico, Mongolia, Mozambique, Netherlands, New Zealand, Northern Mariana Islands, Norway, Paraguay, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Sweden, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, Vietnam.

Madura [mad] (Basa Mathura, Madhura, Madurese). Autonym: Basa Mathura. *Users*: 900 in Singapore (1985). Ethnic population: 28,000 (2018 J. Leclerc). *Location*: Scattered. *Status*: 7 (Shifting). *Class*: Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Madurese. *Dialect*: Bawean (Boyanese). *Type*: SVO; nontonal; partial reduplication. *Lg Use*: Adults only. Shifting to Malay [zlm]. *Lg Dev*: Literature. Newspapers. Radio. Videos. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. Bible: 1994. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant. Latin script. *Other*: Non-indigenous. Muslim. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 7,790,900. Global EGIDS level: 5 (Developing). Indigenous in: Indonesia.

Malay [zlm] (Colloquial Malay, Local Malay, Malayu). *Users*: 602,000 in Singapore (2016 census). *Status*: 5* (Developing). *Class*: Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Malayo-Chamic, Malayic, Malay. *Dialect*: Jugra-Muar-Melaka-Johor. *Lg Use*: Ethnic Malay speaking groups: Malay 339,000, 85%; Javanese 21,000, 5%; Indians 14,000, 4%; Bawean Madurese 14,000, 4%; Arabs 2,500, Below 1%; Bugis 500, Below 1%. English used at home by 7%. Also use English [eng]. Also use Standard Malay [zsm]. Used as L2 by Baba Malay [mbf], Javanese [jav], Madura [mad], Orang Seletar [ors]. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant. Latin script. *Other*: Non-indigenous. Local Malay [zlm] in Singapore is distinguished from court-Malay-derived Standard Malay [zsm] by its sociolinguistic status as a vernacular, as well as by various linguistic features. Muslim. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 19,179,170 (as L1: 16,171,280; as L2: 3,007,890). Indigenous in: Indonesia, Malaysia. Unestablished in: Australia, Canada, China–Taiwan, Germany, Ireland, Japan, Madagascar, United Kingdom, United States, Yemen.

Malay, Baba [mbf] (Baba, Chinese Malay, Low Malay, Straits Malay). Autonym: Peranakan. *Users*: 10,000 in Singapore (Pakir 1986). Ethnic population: 250,000 (1986). *Location*: Mainly Kallang district, near city center; Geylang and Jao Chiat districts. *Status*: 8a (Moribund). *Class*: Creole, Malay based. *Dialects*: None known. Baba Malay developed after 15th century from Low Malay with many Min Nan Chinese [nan] borrowings. Regional variants between Malacca and Singapore. Partially intelligible with Standard Malay [zsm]. It is generally believed that Baba of Malaysia is more refined, and that of Singapore more rough. Most learn Standard Malay and English in school. Distinct from Peranakan Indonesian [pea]. Baba in Melaka, Malaysia speak a Hokkien-influenced Malay creole; those in Penang, Malaysia speak a localized version of Hokkien [nan] (2006 Tan Chee Beng). *Lg Use*: Mainly in the home. Older adults only. Shifted to Malay [zlm]. Also use Mandarin Chinese [cmn]. Also use Min Nan Chinese [nan]. Also use Yue Chinese [yue]. *Lg Dev*: NT: 1913–2007. *DLS*: Emerging (0.01). *Writing*: Latin script. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 12,000. Also established in: Malaysia.

Malay, Standard [zsm] (Bahasa Malaysia, Formal Malay, Malay, Malayu, Melayu, Melayu Baku). *Users*: Few L1 speakers. L2 speakers include ethnic Malays and some others, particularly the older generation. *Location*: Widespread. *Status*: 1 (National). Statutory national language (1963, Constitution, Article 153A(2)), not dominant despite status. *Class*: Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Malayo-Chamic, Malayic, Malay. *Type*: SVO. *Lg Dev*: Taught in all primary schools in early grades only. Taught as subject in secondary schools. Fully developed. Bible: 1733–2016. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant. Braille script. Latin script. *Other*: Non-indigenous. In Singapore, Standard Malay [zsm] exists in a diglossic relationship with Local Malay [zlm]. *Worldwide*: Indigenous in: Malaysia. Also established in: Brunei.

Malayalam [mal] (Alealum, Malayal, Malayalani, Malean, Maliyad, Mallealle, Mopla). *Users*: 26,300 in Singapore (2010 census). *Location*: Scattered. *Status*: 6b* (Threatened). *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. Christian. *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. Unestablished in: Australia, Bahrain, Canada, Ireland, Israel, Malaysia, Oman, Qatar, Sri Lanka, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States.

Musi [mui]. Autonym: Baso Palembang. *Users*: 11,000 in Singapore (2018 J. Leclerc). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Malayo-Chamic, Malayic, Malay. *Lg Dev*: Radio. TV. Dictionary. Grammar. *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 3,116,000. Global EGIDS level: 3 (Wider communication). Indigenous in: Indonesia.

Orang Seletar [ors]. *Users*: 1,200 in Singapore (2018 J. Leclerc). *Location*: North-Eastern Islands district, Johor strait area; scattered elsewhere. *Status*: 8a (Moribund). *Class*: Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Malayo-Chamic, Malayic, Malay. *Lg Use*: Shifted to Malay [zlm]. *Writing*: Unwritten. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Global EGIDS level: 6b (Threatened). Indigenous in: Malaysia.

Punjabi, Eastern [pan] (Eastern Panjabi). *Users*: 5,670 in Singapore (2010 census). Ethnic population: 25,000 (2018 J. Leclerc). *Location*: Scattered. *Status*: 6b* (Threatened). *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. Sikh. *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. Unestablished in: Australia, Bangladesh, Canada, Iran, Japan, Malaysia, Nepal, New Zealand, Oman, Réunion, Saudi Arabia, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States.

Sindhi [snd]. *Users*: 3,970 in Singapore (2010 census). *Location*: Scattered. *Status*: 5* (Dispersed). *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. Unestablished in: Afghanistan, Australia, Belize, Canada, Kenya, Malaysia, Nepal, Oman, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, United States.

Singapore Sign Language [sls] (SGSL, SgSL). *Users*: 6,000 (2021 DBS/DOOR/SIL). Estimated signing deaf, assuming 0.1% of total population. Very few monolinguals. *Location*: Scattered. *Status*: 5 (Developing). *Class*: Sign language, Deaf community sign language. *Dialects*: None known. Strong influence from sign language in Shanghai, American Sign Language (ASL) [ase] and systems of signed English, with some locally-developed signs. *Lg Use*: Vigorous. Home, church, commerce. Used by all. Positive attitudes. All also use English [eng]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L2: 70% estimated in English [eng] and (or) Chinese. It is difficult for the deaf to learn to read and maintain their reading skills. Agency: Singapore Association for the Deaf. *DLS*: Emerging (0.01). *Other*: Singapore Chinese Sign School for the Deaf (SCSSD) founded 1954, using Shanghainese Sign Language (SSL), a variety of Chinese Sign Language [csl]; it merged with the oral deaf school in 1963 to form Singapore School for the Deaf (SSD). Strong oralist influence in language policies and education starting 1983 (Low and Tay 2016). American Sign Language (ASL) [ase], Signing Exact English (SEE2), and Total Communication introduced in schools in the 1970s, but since 2014, SSD uses SgSL for instruction and teaches English as a second language; other schools use other approaches. Interpreters and sign language classes available through Singapore Association for the Deaf (Singapore Association for the Deaf 2016).

Sinhala [sin] (Chingalese, Singhalese, Sinhalese). *Users*: 3,140 in Singapore (2010 census). Ethnic population: 16,000 (2018 J. Leclerc). *Location*: Scattered. *Status*: 6b* (Threatened). *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. Great difference between the literary and colloquial language. Buddhist. *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. Unestablished in: Australia, Canada, Cyprus, Denmark, Germany,

Libya, Malaysia, Maldives, New Zealand, Norway, Oman, Qatar, Sweden, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States.

Tagalog [tgl]. Autonym: Tagalog. *Users*: 155,000 in Singapore (2018 J. Leclerc). *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, Oman, Palau, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, Spain, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom.

Tamil [tam]. *Users*: 186,000 in Singapore (2016 census). *Status*: 1 (National). Statutory national working language (1963, Constitution (amended), Article 153A(1)). *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 Use*: Also use English [eng]. *Lg Dev*: Taught in all primary schools in early grades only. Taught as subject in secondary schools. Fully developed. *Bible*: 1727–2002. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant, no longer in use. Braille script. Tamil script, primary usage. *Other*: Non-indigenous. Hindu. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 86,640,030 (as L1: 78,587,030; as L2: 8,053,000). Indigenous in: India, Sri Lanka. Also established in: Fiji, Malaysia, Martinique, Mauritius, Pakistan, Réunion, South Africa. Unestablished in: Australia, Bahrain, Belize, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Guadeloupe, Ireland, Myanmar, Netherlands, New Zealand, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States.

Telugu [tel]. *Users*: 800 in Singapore (2018 J. Leclerc). *Location*: Scattered. *Status*: 5* (Dispersed). *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, South Africa. Unestablished in: Australia, Bahrain, Canada, Finland, Malaysia, Mauritius, Myanmar, New Zealand, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States.

Thai [tha]. *Users*: 5,650 in Singapore (2010 census). Ethnic population: 46,000 (2018 J. Leclerc). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Kra-Dai, Kam-Tai, Tai, Southwestern. *Type*: SVO; prepositions; noun head initial; no articles; comparatives; 20 consonants, 18 vowels, 14 diphthongs, 3 triphthongs; tonal (5 phonemic tones: 3 level, 2 contour). *Lg Dev*: Fully developed. *Bible*: 1883–2011. *Writing*: Braille script. Thai script, primary usage. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 60,830,110 (as L1: 20,823,610; as L2: 40,006,500). Global EGIDS level: 1 (National). Indigenous in: Cambodia, Thailand. Unestablished in: Australia, Austria, Canada, China–Taiwan, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Norway, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States.

Urdu [urd]. *Users*: 3,000 in Singapore (2010 R. Jain). *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, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States.

Languages by Population

In this section the languages of Singapore 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

Chinese, Mandarin [[cmn](#)] *Users*: 1,960,000 in Singapore (2016 census). 2,840,000 in Singapore, all users. L2 users: 880,000. *Status*: 1 (National). Statutory national language (1963, Constitution (amended), Article 153A(1)). *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 1,138,222,350 (as L1: 939,237,350; as L2: 198,985,000).

100,000 to 999,999

Chinese, Min Nan [[nan](#)] *Users*: 625,000 in Singapore (2015 World Factbook). Includes 448,000 Hokkien and 177,000 Teochew. Ethnic population: 1,860,000 (2010 census). Includes 1,120,000 Hokkien, 562,000 Teochew, 178,000 Hainanese. *Status*: 3 (Wider communication). *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 50,312,390 (as L1: 49,909,390; as L2: 403,000).

Malay [[zlm](#)] *Users*: 602,000 in Singapore (2016 census). *Status*: 5* (Developing). *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 19,179,170 (as L1: 16,171,280; as L2: 3,007,890).

Chinese, Hakka [[hak](#)] *Users*: 233,000 in Singapore (2010 census). *Status*: 6b* (Threatened). *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 44,271,630 (as L1: 44,020,430; as L2: 251,200).

Chinese, Yue [[yue](#)] *Users*: 227,000 in Singapore (2015 World Factbook). Ethnic population: 409,000 (2010 census). *Status*: 5* (Dispersed). *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 86,633,370 (as L1: 86,116,370; as L2: 517,000).

English [[eng](#)] *Users*: 215,000 in Singapore (2018 J. Leclerc). 2,355,000 in Singapore, all users. L2 users: 2,140,000 (2019 World Factbook). *Status*: 1 (National). Statutory national working language (1963, Constitution (amended), Article 153A(1)). *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 1,456,448,320 (as L1: 379,682,200; as L2: 1076,766,120).

Tamil [[tam](#)] *Users*: 186,000 in Singapore (2016 census). *Status*: 1 (National). Statutory national working language (1963, Constitution (amended), Article 153A(1)). *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 86,640,030 (as L1: 78,587,030; as L2: 8,053,000).

Tagalog [[tgl](#)] *Users*: 155,000 in Singapore (2018 J. Leclerc). *Status*: Unestablished. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 83,054,910 (as L1: 28,746,910; as L2: 54,308,000).

Bengali [[ben](#)] *Users*: 150,000 in Singapore (2021 The Straits Times), based on nationality. *Status*: 6b* (Threatened). *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 272,828,760 (as L1: 233,808,880; as L2: 39,019,880).

Indonesian [[ind](#)] *Users*: 118,000 in Singapore (2018 J. Leclerc). *Status*: Unestablished.

Worldwide: Total users in all countries: 199,113,300 (as L1: 43,666,200; as L2: 155,447,100).

10,000 to 99,999

Chinese, Min Dong [[cdo](#)] *Users*: 56,000 in Singapore (2018 J. Leclerc). Ethnic population: 70,800 (2010 census). *Status*: 5* (Developing). *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 10,919,420 (as L1: 10,918,950; as L2: 470).

Javanese [[jav](#)] *Users*: 35,500 in Singapore (2004 J. Leclerc). Ethnic population: 88,600 (2010 census). *Status*: 7 (Shifting). *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 68,278,400.

Chinese, Pu-Xian [[cpx](#)] *Users*: 27,000 in Singapore (2018 J. Leclerc). Ethnic population: 25,600 (2010 census). *Status*: 5* (Developing). *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 3,151,700.

Malayalam [[mal](#)] *Users*: 26,300 in Singapore (2010 census). *Status*: 6b* (Threatened).

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

Kannada [[kan](#)] *Users*: 22,000 in Singapore (2018 J. Leclerc). *Status*: Unestablished. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 58,689,790 (as L1: 43,680,530; as L2: 15,009,260).

Korean [[kor](#)] *Users*: 21,400 in Singapore (2019 Korean Ministry of Foreign Affairs), based on nationality. *Status*: Unestablished. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 81,740,540 (as L1: 81,721,540; as L2: 19,000).

Chinese, Min Bei [[mnp](#)] *Users*: 18,000 in Singapore (2018 J. Leclerc). *Status*: 6b* (Threatened). *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 11,720,000.

Hindi [[hin](#)] *Users*: 13,100 (2010 census). 50,000 in Singapore (2017 The Straits Times), all users. *Status*: 5* (Dispersed). *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 609,454,770 (as L1: 344,650,870; as L2: 264,803,900).

Arabic, Egyptian Spoken [[arz](#)] *Users*: 11,000 in Singapore (2018 J. Leclerc). *Status*: Unestablished. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 102,436,230 (as L1: 77,436,230; as L2: 25,000,000).

Bugis [[bug](#)] *Users*: 11,000 in Singapore (2018 J. Leclerc). *Status*: Unestablished. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 4,398,800 (as L1: 3,898,800; as L2: 500,000).

Musi [[mui](#)] *Users*: 11,000 in Singapore (2018 J. Leclerc). *Status*: Unestablished. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 3,116,000.

Malay, Baba [[mbf](#)] *Users*: 10,000 in Singapore (Pakir 1986). Ethnic population: 250,000 (1986). *Status*: 8a (Moribund). *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 12,000.

1,000 to 9,999

Singapore Sign Language [[sls](#)] *Users*: 6,000 (2021 DBS/DOOR/SIL). Estimated signing deaf, assuming 0.1% of total population. Very few monolinguals. *Status*: 5 (Developing).

Punjabi, Eastern [pan] *Users:* 5,670 in Singapore (2010 census). Ethnic population: 25,000 (2018 J. Leclerc). *Status:* 6b* (Threatened). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 52,077,070 (as L1: 48,299,070; as L2: 3,778,000).

Thai [tha] *Users:* 5,650 in Singapore (2010 census). Ethnic population: 46,000 (2018 J. Leclerc). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 60,830,110 (as L1: 20,823,610; as L2: 40,006,500).

Japanese [jpn] *Users:* 4,940 in Singapore (2010 census). Ethnic population: 39,000 (2018 J. Leclerc). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 123,445,570 (as L1: 123,285,670; as L2: 159,900).

Gujarati [guj] *Users:* 4,120 in Singapore (2010 census). *Status:* 5* (Dispersed). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 62,116,220 (as L1: 57,076,220; as L2: 5,040,000).

Sindhi [snd] *Users:* 3,970 in Singapore (2010 census). *Status:* 5* (Dispersed). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 33,214,680 (as L1: 33,211,620; as L2: 3,060).

Sinhala [sin] *Users:* 3,140 in Singapore (2010 census). Ethnic population: 16,000 (2018 J. Leclerc). *Status:* 6b* (Threatened). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 17,553,910 (as L1: 15,542,810; as L2: 2,011,100).

Urdu [urd] *Users:* 3,000 in Singapore (2010 R. Jain). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 231,717,940 (as L1: 70,555,140; as L2: 161,162,800).

Orang Seletar [ors] *Users:* 1,200 in Singapore (2018 J. Leclerc). *Status:* 8a (Moribund).

100 to 999

Madura [mad] *Users:* 900 in Singapore (1985). Ethnic population: 28,000 (2018 J. Leclerc). *Status:* 7 (Shifting). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 7,790,900.

Telugu [tel] *Users:* 800 in Singapore (2018 J. Leclerc). *Status:* 5* (Dispersed). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 95,981,790 (as L1: 82,966,790; as L2: 13,015,000).

Unknown

Malay, Standard [zsm] *Users:* Few L1 speakers. L2 speakers include ethnic Malays and some others, particularly the older generation. *Status:* 1 (National). Statutory national language (1963, Constitution, Article 153A(2)), not dominant despite status.

Languages by Status

In this section the languages of Singapore 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)

Chinese, Mandarin [[cmn](#)] *Users:* 2,840,000 in Singapore, all users. L1 users: 1,960,000 in Singapore (2016 census). L2 users: 880,000. *Status:* Statutory national language (1963, Constitution (amended), Article 153A(1)). *Lg Use:* Use is increasing. Some also use Chinese [[zho](#)], various varieties and other local minority languages. Some also use English [[eng](#)]. *Writing:* Bopomofo script, used since 1913, revised in 1920 and 1932, mainly used in Taiwan. Braille script. Han script, Simplified variant, used since 1956, official in Mainland China (1956) and Singapore (1969), also used elsewhere. Han script, Traditional variant, used since mid-19th century, official in Taiwan, also used elsewhere. Latin script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 1,138,222,350 (as L1: 939,237,350; as L2: 198,985,000).

English [[eng](#)] *Users:* 2,355,000 in Singapore, all users. L1 users: 215,000 in Singapore (2018 J. Leclerc). L2 users: 2,140,000 (2019 World Factbook). *Status:* Statutory national working language (1963, Constitution (amended), Article 153A(1)). *Lg Use:* Home, office, church, public institutions. *Writing:* Braille script. Deseret Alphabet, developed in 1854 with limited usage until 1877. Dupleyan 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: 1,076,766,120).

Malay, Standard [[zsm](#)] *Users:* Few L1 speakers. L2 speakers include ethnic Malays and some others, particularly the older generation. *Status:* Statutory national language (1963, Constitution, Article 153A(2)), not dominant despite status. *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant. Braille script. Latin script.

Tamil [[tam](#)] *Users:* 186,000 in Singapore (2016 census). *Status:* Statutory national working language (1963, Constitution (amended), Article 153A(1)). *Lg Use:* Also use English [[eng](#)]. *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).

3 (Wider communication)

Chinese, Min Nan [[nan](#)] *Users:* 625,000 in Singapore (2015 World Factbook). Includes 448,000 Hokkien and 177,000 Teochew. Ethnic population: 1,860,000 (2010 census). Includes 1,120,000 Hokkien, 562,000 Teochew, 178,000 Hainanese. *Lg Use:* Hokkien is most widely

understood variety in Singapore (1979 E. Kuo). Home, food centres, army, friends. Also use English [eng]. Also use Mandarin Chinese [cmn]. Used as L2 by Baba Malay [mbf]. *Writing*: Bopomofo script, used since 1998, used in Taiwan. Han script, Simplified variant. Katakana script, used between 1895–1945, once used in Taiwan. Latin script, used since 1850.

Worldwide: Total users in all countries: 50,312,390 (as L1: 49,909,390; as L2: 403,000).

5 (Developing)

Chinese, Min Dong [cdo] *Users*: 56,000 in Singapore (2018 J. Leclerc). Ethnic population: 70,800 (2010 census). *Writing*: Han script, Simplified variant, used since 1987. Han script, Traditional variant. Latin script, developed and revised to final form during late 19th century. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 10,919,420 (as L1: 10,918,950; as L2: 470).

Chinese, Pu-Xian [cpx] *Users*: 27,000 in Singapore (2018 J. Leclerc). Ethnic population: 25,600 (2010 census). *Writing*: Latin script, used between 1890–1950, once used in a newspaper. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 3,151,700.

Malay [zlm] *Users*: 602,000 in Singapore (2016 census). *Lg Use*: Ethnic Malay speaking groups: Malay 339,000, 85%; Javanese 21,000, 5%; Indians 14,000, 4%; Bawean Madurese 14,000, 4%; Arabs 2,500, Below 1%; Bugis 500, Below 1%. English used at home by 7%. Also use English [eng]. Also use Standard Malay [zsm]. Used as L2 by Baba Malay [mbf], Javanese [jav], Madura [mad], Orang Seletar [ors]. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant. Latin script. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 19,179,170 (as L1: 16,171,280; as L2: 3,007,890).

Singapore Sign Language [sls] *Users*: 6,000 (2021 DBS/DOOR/SIL). Estimated signing deaf, assuming 0.1% of total population. Very few monolinguals. *Lg Use*: Vigorous. Home, church, commerce. Used by all. Positive attitudes. All also use English [eng].

5 (Dispersed)

Chinese, Yue [yue] *Users*: 227,000 in Singapore (2015 World Factbook). Ethnic population: 409,000 (2010 census). *Lg Use*: Home, church, friends. Used as L2 by Baba Malay [mbf]. *Writing*: Braille script, used in Hong Kong. Han script, Simplified variant. Han script, Traditional variant, official usage in Hong Kong and Macau, also used elsewhere. Latin script, used since mid-19th century. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 86,633,370 (as L1: 86,116,370; as L2: 517,000).

Gujarati [guj] *Users*: 4,120 in Singapore (2010 census). *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*: 50,000 in Singapore (2017 The Straits Times), all users. L1 users: 13,100 (2010 census). *Writing*: Braille script. Devanagari script, primary usage. Latin script, recent informal usage, especially online on social media. Mahajani script, no longer in use, historic usage. Newa script, no longer in use, historic usage. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries:

609,454,770 (as L1: 344,650,870; as L2: 264,803,900).

Sindhi [snd] *Users*: 3,970 in Singapore (2010 census). *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).

Telugu [tel] *Users*: 800 in Singapore (2018 J. Leclerc). *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).

6b (Threatened)

Bengali [ben] *Users*: 150,000 in Singapore (2021 The Straits Times), based on nationality.

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).

Chinese, Hakka [hak] *Users*: 233,000 in Singapore (2010 census). *Writing*: Han script, Simplified variant. Han script, Traditional variant. Latin script, used since early 19th century.

Worldwide: Total users in all countries: 44,271,630 (as L1: 44,020,430; as L2: 251,200).

Chinese, Min Bei [mnp] *Users*: 18,000 in Singapore (2018 J. Leclerc). *Writing*: Latin script, from 1896 to some time after last publication in 1922. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 11,720,000.

Malayalam [mal] *Users*: 26,300 in Singapore (2010 census). *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant. Braille script, used since 1998. Malayalam script, primary usage. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 37,359,380 (as L1: 36,647,680; as L2: 711,700).

Punjabi, Eastern [pan] *Users*: 5,670 in Singapore (2010 census). Ethnic population: 25,000 (2018 J. Leclerc). *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).

Sinhala [sin] *Users*: 3,140 in Singapore (2010 census). Ethnic population: 16,000 (2018 J. Leclerc). *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).

7 (Shifting)

Javanese [jav] *Users*: 35,500 in Singapore (2004 J. Leclerc). Ethnic population: 88,600 (2010 census). *Lg Use*: Adults only. Shifting to Malay [zlm]. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant, no longer in use. Javanese script, no longer in use. Latin script. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 68,278,400.

Madura [mad] *Users*: 900 in Singapore (1985). Ethnic population: 28,000 (2018 J. Leclerc). *Lg Use*: Adults only. Shifting to Malay [zlm]. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant. Latin script. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 7,790,900.

8a (Moribund)

Malay, Baba [**mbf**] *Users*: 10,000 in Singapore (Pakir 1986). Ethnic population: 250,000 (1986).

Lg Use: Mainly in the home. Older adults only. Shifted to Malay [**zlm**]. Also use Mandarin Chinese [**cmn**]. Also use Min Nan Chinese [**nan**]. Also use Yue Chinese [**yue**]. *Lg Dev*: NT: 1913–2007. *Writing*: Latin script. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 12,000.

Orang Seletar [**ors**] *Users*: 1,200 in Singapore (2018 J. Leclerc). *Lg Use*: Shifted to Malay [**zlm**].

Writing: Unwritten.

Unestablished

Arabic, Egyptian Spoken [**arz**] *Users*: 11,000 in Singapore (2018 J. Leclerc). *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).

Bugis [**bug**] *Users*: 11,000 in Singapore (2018 J. Leclerc). *Writing*: Buginese script, no longer in use. Latin script. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 4,398,800 (as L1: 3,898,800; as L2: 500,000).

Indonesian [**ind**] *Users*: 118,000 in Singapore (2018 J. Leclerc). *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant. Braille script. Latin script, primary usage. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 199,113,300 (as L1: 43,666,200; as L2: 155,447,100).

Japanese [**jpn**] *Users*: 4,940 in Singapore (2010 census). Ethnic population: 39,000 (2018 J. Leclerc). *Writing*: Braille script. Han, Hiragana, and Katakana scripts, primary usage. Latin script. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 123,445,570 (as L1: 123,285,670; as L2: 159,900).

Kannada [**kan**] *Users*: 22,000 in Singapore (2018 J. Leclerc). *Writing*: Braille script. Kannada script, primary usage. Nandinagari script, no longer in use. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 58,689,790 (as L1: 43,680,530; as L2: 15,009,260).

Korean [**kor**] *Users*: 21,400 in Singapore (2019 Korean Ministry of Foreign Affairs), based on nationality. *Writing*: Braille script. Hangul and Han scripts, primary usage. Latin script, used for maps and signs. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 81,740,540 (as L1: 81,721,540; as L2: 19,000).

Musi [**mui**] *Users*: 11,000 in Singapore (2018 J. Leclerc). *Writing*: Latin script. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 3,116,000.

Tagalog [**tgl**] *Users*: 155,000 in Singapore (2018 J. Leclerc). *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).

Thai [**tha**] *Users*: 5,650 in Singapore (2010 census). Ethnic population: 46,000 (2018 J. Leclerc). *Writing*: Braille script. Thai script, primary usage. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 60,830,110 (as L1: 20,823,610; as L2: 40,006,500).

Urdu [[urd](#)] *Users*: 3,000 in Singapore (2010 R. Jain). *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 Family

This index gives an alphabetical listing of the linguistic classifications used for the established languages of Singapore. 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, Javanese

Javanese [jav], [15](#)

Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Madurese

Madura [mad], [16](#)

Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Malayo-Chamic, Malayic, Malay

Malay [zlm], [16](#)

Malay, Standard [zsm], [17](#)

Orang Seletar [ors], [17](#)

Creole, Malay based

Malay, Baba [mbf], [16](#)

Dravidian, South-Central, Telugu

Telugu [tel], [19](#)

Dravidian, Southern, Tamil-Kannada, Tamil-Kodagu, Tamil-Malayalam, Malayalam

Malayalam [mal], [17](#)

Dravidian, Southern, Tamil-Kannada, Tamil-Kodagu, Tamil-Malayalam, Tamil

Tamil [tam], [19](#)

Indo-European, Germanic, West, English

English [eng], [13](#)

Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Indo-Aryan, Intermediate Divisions, Western, Gujarati

Gujarati [guj], [14](#)

Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Indo-Aryan, Intermediate Divisions, Western, Panjabi

Punjabi, Eastern [pan], [17](#)

Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Indo-Aryan, Outer Languages, Eastern, Bengali-Assamese

Bengali [ben], [11](#)

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

Sindhi [snd], [18](#)

Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Indo-Aryan, Outer Languages, Southern, Sinhalese-Maldivian

Sinhala [sin], [18](#)

Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Indo-Aryan, Western Hindi, Hindustani

Hindi [hin], [14](#)

Sign language, Deaf community sign language

Singapore Sign Language [sls], [18](#)

Sino-Tibetan, Chinese

Chinese, Hakka [hak], [11](#)

Chinese, Mandarin [cmn], [12](#)

Chinese, Min Bei [mnp], [12](#)

Chinese, Min Dong [cdo], [12](#)

Chinese, Min Nan [nan], [12](#)

Chinese, Pu-Xian [cpx], [13](#)

Chinese, Yue [yue], [13](#)

Language Code Index

This index gives an alphabetical listing of all 34 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/>.

arz	Arabic, Egyptian Spoken, 11	mbf	Malay, Baba, 16
ben	Bengali, 11	mnp	Chinese, Min Bei, 12
bug	Bugis, 11	mui	Musi, 17
cdo	Chinese, Min Dong, 12	nan	Chinese, Min Nan, 12
cmn	Chinese, Mandarin, 12	ors	Orang Seletar, 17
cpx	Chinese, Pu-Xian, 13	pan	Punjabi, Eastern, 17
eng	English, 13	sin	Sinhala, 18
guj	Gujarati, 14	sls	Singapore Sign Language, 18
hak	Chinese, Hakka, 11	snd	Sindhi, 18
hin	Hindi, 14	tam	Tamil, 19
ind	Indonesian, 14	tel	Telugu, 19
jav	Javanese, 15	tgl	Tagalog, 19
jpn	Japanese, 15	tha	Thai, 20
kan	Kannada, 15	urd	Urdu, 20
kor	Korean, 15	yue	Chinese, Yue, 13
mad	Madura, 16	zlm	Malay, 16
mal	Malayalam, 17	zsm	Malay, Standard, 17

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.

- Alealum**, *alt.* Malayalam [mal], 17
- Amoy**, *alt. dial.* Chinese, Min Nan [nan], 12
- Egyptian Spoken Arabic**, *see* Arabic,
Egyptian Spoken [arz], 11
- Baba**, *alt.* Malay, Baba [mbf], 16
- Bahasa Malaysia**, *alt.* Malay, Standard [zsm],
17
- Banlamgi**, *alt.* Chinese, Min Nan [nan], 12
- Basa Mathura**, *alt.* Madura [mad], 16
- Bawean**, *dial.* Madura [mad], 16
- Bengali** [ben], 11
- Boyanese**, *alt. dial.* Madura [mad], 16
- Cantonese**, *alt.* Chinese, Yue [yue], 13
- Chaochow**, *alt. dial.* Chinese, Min Nan [nan],
12
- Chaozhou**, *alt. dial.* Chinese, Min Nan [nan],
12
- Chinese Malay**, *alt.* Malay, Baba [mbf], 16
- Chinese, Hakka** [hak], 11
see Chinese, Hakka [hak], 11
- Chinese, Mandarin** [cmn], 12
see Chinese, Mandarin [cmn], 12
- Chinese, Min Bei** [mnp], 12
see Chinese, Min Bei [mnp], 12
- Chinese, Min Dong** [cdo], 12
see Chinese, Min Dong [cdo], 12
- Chinese, Min Nan** [nan], 12
see Chinese, Min Nan [nan], 12
- Chinese, Pu-Xian** [cpx], 13
see Chinese, Pu-Xian [cpx], 13
- Chinese, Yue** [yue], 13
see Chinese, Yue [yue], 13
- Chingalese**, *alt.* Sinhala [sin], 18
- Colloquial Malay**, *alt.* Malay [zlm], 16
- Djawa**, *alt.* Javanese [jav], 15
- Eastern Panjabi**, *alt.* Punjabi, Eastern [pan],
17
- English** [eng], 13
- Foochow**, *alt. dial.* Chinese, Min Dong [cdo],
12
- Formal Malay**, *alt.* Malay, Standard [zsm], 17
- Fuchow**, *alt. dial.* Chinese, Min Dong [cdo], 12
- Fujian**, *alt. dial.* Chinese, Min Nan [nan], 12
- Fukienese**, *alt. dial.* Chinese, Min Nan [nan],
12
- Fuqing**, *alt. dial.* Chinese, Min Dong [cdo], 12
- Fuzhou**, *dial.* Chinese, Min Dong [cdo], 12
- Gujarati** [guj], 14
- Gujerathi**, *alt.* Gujarati [guj], 14
- Gujerati**, *alt.* Gujarati [guj], 14
- Guxhou**, *alt. dial.* Chinese, Min Dong [cdo], 12
- Hainanese**, *dial.* Chinese, Min Nan [nan], 12

- Henghua**, *dial.* Chinese, Pu-Xian [cpx], 13
- Hindi** [hin], 14
- Hinghua**, *alt. dial.* Chinese, Pu-Xian [cpx], 13
- Hockchew**, *alt. dial.* Chinese, Min Dong [cdo], 12
- Hockchia**, *alt. dial.* Chinese, Min Dong [cdo], 12
- Hokchia**, *dial.* Chinese, Min Dong [cdo], 12
- Hokka**, *alt.* Chinese, Hakka [hak], 11
- Hokkien**, *dial.* Chinese, Min Nan [nan], 12
- Javanese** [jav], 15
- Jawa**, *alt.* Javanese [jav], 15
- Jugra-Muar-Melaka-Johor**, *dial.* Malay [zlm], 16
- Ke**, *alt.* Chinese, Hakka [hak], 11
- Kechia**, *alt.* Chinese, Hakka [hak], 11
- Kehia**, *alt.* Chinese, Hakka [hak], 11
- Kek**, *alt.* Chinese, Hakka [hak], 11
- Khek**, *alt.* Chinese, Hakka [hak], 11
- Local Malay**, *alt.* Malay [zlm], 16
- Low Malay**, *alt.* Malay, Baba [mbf], 16
- Madhura**, *alt.* Madura [mad], 16
- Madura** [mad], 16
- Madurese**, *alt.* Madura [mad], 16
- Malay** [zlm], 16
alt. Malay, Standard [zsm], 17
- Malay, Baba** [mbf], 16
see Malay, Baba [mbf], 16
- Malay, Standard** [zsm], 17
see Malay, Standard [zsm], 17
- Malayal**, *alt.* Malayalam [mal], 17
- Malayalam** [mal], 17
- Malayalani**, *alt.* Malayalam [mal], 17
- Malayu**, *alt.* Malay [zlm], 16
alt. Malay, Standard [zsm], 17
- Malean**, *alt.* Malayalam [mal], 17
- Maliyad**, *alt.* Malayalam [mal], 17
- Mallealle**, *alt.* Malayalam [mal], 17
- Melayu**, *alt.* Malay, Standard [zsm], 17
- Melayu Baku**, *alt.* Malay, Standard [zsm], 17
- Min Nam**, *alt.* Chinese, Min Nan [nan], 12
- Min Pei**, *alt.* Chinese, Min Bei [mnp], 12
- Mopla**, *alt.* Malayalam [mal], 17
- Orang Seletar** [ors], 17
- Peranakan**, *alt.* Malay, Baba [mbf], 16
- Punjabi, Eastern** [pan], 17
see Punjabi, Eastern [pan], 17
- SGSL**, *alt.* Singapore Sign Language [sls], 18
- Sindhi** [snd], 18
- Singapore Sign Language** [sls], 18, 0
- Singhalese**, *alt.* Sinhala [sin], 18
- Singlish**, *dial.* English [eng], 13
- Sinhala** [sin], 18
- Sinhalese**, *alt.* Sinhala [sin], 18
- Southern Min**, *alt.* Chinese, Min Nan [nan], 12
- Straits Malay**, *alt.* Malay, Baba [mbf], 16
- Taechew**, *alt. dial.* Chinese, Min Nan [nan], 12
- Tamil** [tam], 19
- Telugu** [tel], 19
- Teochew**, *dial.* Chinese, Min Nan [nan], 12
- Xiamen**, *alt. dial.* Chinese, Min Nan [nan], 12
- Xinghua**, *alt. dial.* Chinese, Pu-Xian [cpx], 13

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