

50+ FASCINATING LANGUAGE FACTS YOU DIDN'T KNOW

BY THE NUMBERS

There are over
7,000
languages
worldwide.



Only 23 languages
account for more
than half of the
world's population.

At least half of the
world's population
is bilingual.

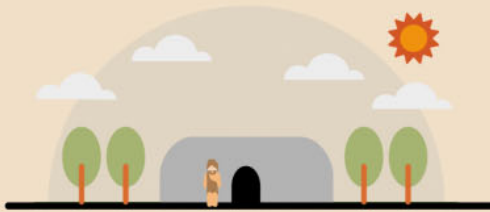
2,400
of the world's languages
are currently in danger
of becoming extinct.



Papua New Guinea
has the most
languages, at

840

Many linguists believe that
language originated around
100,000 BC.



Spanish
is the 2nd most
spoken
language in
the world.

The English language contains
the most words, with over

250,000

ABOUT THE ALPHABET

74

Cambodian has
the longest
alphabet with
74 characters.

The word "alphabet" is
formed from the first two
letters of the Greek
alphabet - alpha and beta.

11

The Papuan
language of
Rotokas only
has 11 letters in
its alphabet.

CULTURAL FACTS



The Bible is the most translated
book, followed by Pinocchio.

There are over 200
artificial languages
created for books,
movies, and TV shows.



The Pope tweets in
nine languages, but
his Spanish account
has the most followers.



The culinary and
ballet worlds use
mostly French words
and terms.



The first printed book
was written in German.



The average person only uses a few hundred
words in daily conversation.

Physical contact during a conversation is
completely normal when speaking Spanish.

LANGUAGE IN EUROPE

The language of "La Gomera"
spoken off the coast of Spain
consists entirely of whistles.



24

There are about 24
official languages
spoken throughout
the European Union.



French is the main
foreign language
taught in the UK.



Italy has many regional dialects, but the Florentine dialect was chosen as the national language.

Basque, a language spoken in the Pyrenees mountains, has no relation to any other known language.



German is the most spoken language in Europe.



20,000

Over 20,000 new French words are created each year.

German words can have three genders: masculine, feminine, and neuter.



LANGUAGE IN THE AMERICAS

Argentina has a lot of Welsh speakers, due to settlers inhabiting the Patagonia mountains.



The United States has no "official language." Most people just assume it's English.



About 30% of English words come from French.



Italian is a minority language in Brazil.

More than 1.5 million Americans are native French speakers.

Hawaiians have over 200 different words for "rain."



The U.S. has the second highest number of Spanish speakers, after Mexico.

LANGUAGE IN AFRICA

Botswana has a language that is made up of five primary "click" sounds.



South Africa has the most official languages with 11.



About 3% of all languages are from Africa and Asia combined.



Kinshasa, the capital of the Congo, is the world's second largest French speaking city.

LANGUAGE IN ASIA

People who speak Chinese use both sides of the brain; English only uses the left side.



Hindi didn't become the official language of India until 1965.

Japanese uses three different writing systems: Kanji, Katakana, and Hiragana.

In Indonesian, "air" means "water."



Mandarin Chinese is the most spoken language in the world.

你好

MORE FUN FACTS

The first language spoken in outer space was Russian.



Other than English, French is the only language that is taught in every country.



Learning a second language can improve the memory and slow the process of aging.



About one language becomes extinct every two weeks.

Cryptophasia is a language phenomenon that only twins can understand.

21

Twenty-one countries have Spanish as their official language.

300

Over 300 languages are spoken in London alone.

4000

Spanish contains about 4,000 Arabic words.