

Language

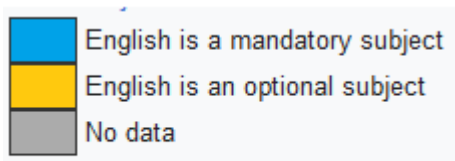
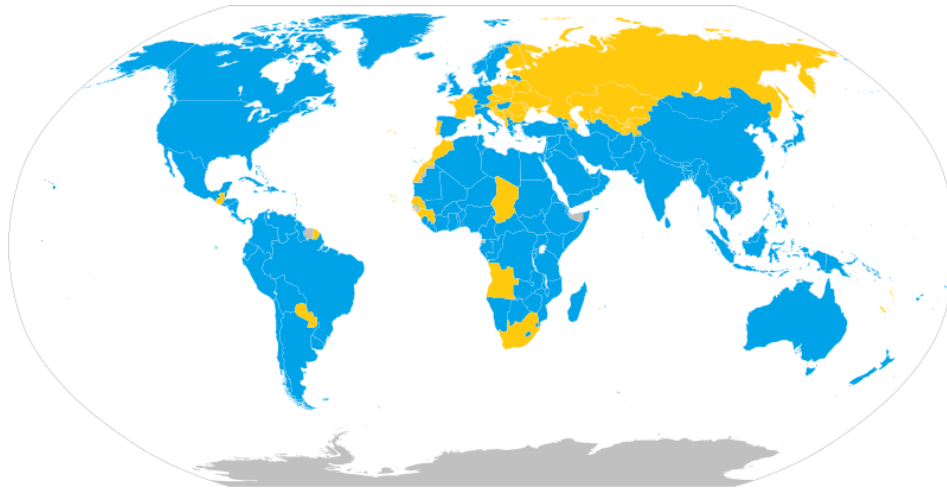
English is a West Germanic language in the Indo-European language family, with its earliest forms spoken by the inhabitants of early medieval England. It is named after the Angles, one of the ancient Germanic peoples that migrated to the island of Great Britain. Existing on a dialect continuum with Scots and then most closely related to the Low German and Frisian languages, English is genealogically Germanic.

However, its vocabulary also shows major influences from French (about 28% of Modern English words) and Latin (also about 28%), plus some grammar and a small amount of core vocabulary influenced by Old Norse (a North Germanic language). Speakers of English are called Anglophones.



Modern English has spread around the world since the 17th century as a consequence of the worldwide influence of the British Empire and the United States of America. Through all types of printed and electronic media in these countries, English has become the leading language of international discourse and the *lingua franca* in many regions and professional contexts such as science, navigation, and law. English is the most spoken language in the world and the third-most spoken native language in the world, after Standard Chinese and Spanish. It is the most widely learned second language and is either the official language or one of the official languages in 59 sovereign states. There are more people who have learned English as a second language than there are native speakers. As of 2005, it was estimated that there were over 2 billion speakers of English. English is the majority native language in the United Kingdom, the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and the Republic of Ireland and is widely spoken in some areas of the Caribbean, Africa, South Asia, Southeast Asia, and Oceania. It is the co-official language of the United Nations, the European Union, and many other international and regional organisations. English accounts for at least 70% of speakers of the Germanic language branch of Indo-European.

Countries in which English Language is a Mandatory or an Optional Subject



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Vocabulary

English words are made from 26 characters in the Latin alphabet:

a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o p q r s t u v w x y z

There are over 170,000 English words, but you probably won't know all of them. It is estimated that if you grew up speaking English, you will know between 15,000 and 20,000 words.

The longest word entered in most standard English dictionaries is **Pneumonoultramicroscopicsilicovolcanoconiosis** with 45 letters. The definition is "a lung disease caused by inhalation of very fine silicate or quartz dust." The entry for this word can be found in the Medical Dictionary.

The word "I" is the oldest word in the English language, as well as the shortest and most frequently used. The shortest grammatically correct sentence in English is **"I am"**.

A new word is added to the dictionary every two hours. During the course of the year, almost 4,000 new words are added!

English is the language of the air. This means that all pilots have to identify themselves and speak in English while flying, regardless of their origin.

Girl used to mean small boy or girl. The word "girl" was not initially used to refer to a specific gender. It used to mean "child" or "young person" regardless of the gender.

A pangram sentence is one that contains every letter in the language. For example, the sentence “The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog” is a pangram.

The word “**Goodbye**” originally comes from an Old English phrase meaning “**god be with you**”.

Month, orange, silver, and purple do not rhyme with any other word.

The phrase “**long time no see**” is believed to be a literal translation of a Native American or Chinese phrase as it is not grammatically correct.

