

Comparing European Languages:

Germanic, Romance, & Slavic Language Families

Bonjour
!

Ciao
!

¡Hola!

Hallo!

здравствуйт
е!

What are the three main language families in Europe?

What have Europeans done to try to solve the problem of so many languages?

In what way are the German and English languages alike?

Which languages come from the language of the ancient Roman Empire?

Which European language has the largest number of native speakers?

What is a problem caused by many languages spoken in the same country?

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European Languages

- Europe is home to more than 200 native languages!
- Most European languages are in 3 main language families (or categories):
 - **Germanic,**
 - **Romance, &**
 - **Slavic**

Members of the Indo-European Language Family



Germanic Language Family

- Has the most native speakers
- Most live in northwest and central Europe
- English & German are part of this family
 - About 20% of Europeans speak one of these two languages
- Most Europeans learn English as a

Romance Language Family

- Includes French, Italian, & Spanish
- Most live in the south and west of Europe
- These languages come from Latin, the language of the ancient Roman Empire

Slavic Languages

- Includes Russian
- Found in central and eastern Europe
- Written with a Cyrillic alphabet

Аа	Бб	Вв	Гг	Дд	Ее	Еѐ	Жж	Зз
a	b	v	g	d	e	jo	ž	z
[a]	[b]	[v]	[g]	[d]	[ye]	[yo]	[ž]	[z]
Ии	Йй	Кк	Лл	Мм	Нн	Оо	Пп	Рр
i	j	k	l	m	n	o	p	r
[i]	[y]	[k]	[l]	[m]	[n]	[o]	[p]	[r]
Сс	Тт	Уу	Фф	Хх	Цц	Чч	Шш	Щщ
s	t	u	f	x	c	č	š	šč
[s]	[t]	[u]	[f]	[x]	[ts]	[tɕ]	[š]	[ɕ]
Ьь	Ыы	Ьь	Ээ	Юю	Яя			
'	y	"	è	ju	ja			
silent	[ɯɨ]	silent	[e]	[yʉ]	[ya]			

Brain Break!

- If possible, write your name using the Cyrillic alphabet.

Аа	Бб	Вв	Гг	Дд	Ее	Её	Жж	Зз
a	b	v	g	d	e	jo	ž	z
[a]	[b]	[v]	[g]	[d]	[ye]	[yo]	[ž]	[z]
Ии	Йй	Кк	Лл	Мм	Нн	Оо	Пп	Рр
i	j	k	l	m	n	o	p	r
[i]	[y]	[k]	[l]	[m]	[n]	[o]	[p]	[r]
Сс	Тт	Уу	Фф	Хх	Цц	Чч	Шш	Щщ
s	t	u	f	x	c	č	š	šč
[s]	[t]	[u]	[f]	[x]	[ts]	[tʃ]	[š]	[ʃ]
Ьь	Ыы	Ьь	Ээ	Юю	Яя			
'	y	”	è	ju	ja			
silent	[ɯɨ]	silent	[e]	[yɯ]	[ya]			

Diversity in European Languages Today

- Many countries have more than one official language
 - Because of the many different ethnic groups that are present in Europe
- Many countries share borders, and people move back and forth across borders
 - About 400 million people in the world speak English because it is often the choice for a 2nd language



Major Indo-European Branches

- Germanic group**
 - WESTERN GERMANIC: 1 Dutch, 2 German, 3 Frisian, 4 English
 - NORTHERN GERMANIC: 5 Danish, 6 Swedish, 7 Norwegian
 - 8 Icelandic, 9 Faerose
- Romance group**
 - 10 Portuguese, 11 Spanish, 12 Catalan, 13 Provençal
 - 14 French, 15 Italian, 16 Rhaeto-Romance, 17 Romanian
- Slavic group**
 - WEST SLAVONIC: 18 Polish
 - EAST SLAVONIC: 22 Russian
 - SOUTH SLAVONIC: 25 Slovene

Other Indo-European Branches

- Celtic group**
 - 29 Breton, 30 Welsh
 - 31 Irish Gaelic, 32 Scots Gaelic
- Baltic group**
 - 33 Latvian, 34 Lithuanian
- Hellenic**
 - 35 Greek
- Thracian/Illyrian group**
 - 36 Albanian

Uralic Language Family

- Finno-Ugric group**
 - 38 Finnish, 39 Karelian, 40 Saami
 - 41 Estonian, 42 Hungarian
- Samoyedic group**
 - 44 Samoyedic
- Altaic Language Family**
 - 45 Turkish
- Other Languages**
 - Basque

Areas with significant concentrations of other languages (usually adjacent national languages).

Boundary between languages.

Boundary between Indo-European and non-Indo-European languages.

- Having so many languages can be a problem
- Difficult to live, work, and trade with people who cannot communicate with each other
- So...
 - Schoolchildren learn 1 or 2 other languages besides their own
 - European Union has 23 “official” languages to make sure that people can understand laws and

Classify Your Language Chart into Language Families...

1. Germanic
2. Romance
3. Romance
4. Slavic
5. Romance
6. Romance