

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Languages and Dialects of Canada



Canada is a country known for its diverse languages and cultures. It has two official languages, English and French, but many other languages are spoken across the country. These include Indigenous languages like Inuktitut, Cree, and Ojibwe, as well as languages brought by immigrants from around the world.

### English and French: Canada's Official Languages

Canada is a bilingual country, which means it has two official languages: English and French.

- English is the most widely spoken language in Canada. Most people in provinces like Ontario, British Columbia, and Alberta speak English.
- French is the main language in Quebec, where about 85% of people speak French as their first language. French is also spoken in New Brunswick, Manitoba, and parts of Ontario.

Because Canada is bilingual, government services, signs, and official documents are available in both English and French. Children can also choose to study in English or French at school.

### Indigenous Languages: A Connection to History

Before English and French arrived in Canada, Indigenous peoples spoke their own languages. Today, over 70 Indigenous languages are still spoken in Canada, though some are at risk of disappearing. Some of the most common Indigenous languages are:

- **Inuktitut** – Spoken by the Inuit people in the Arctic regions, including Nunavut.
- **Cree** – One of the most widely spoken Indigenous languages, used by many First Nations communities.
- **Ojibwe** – Spoken by Indigenous groups in Ontario, Manitoba, and the United States.

Many Indigenous people work to preserve and teach their languages, passing them down to future generations through schools, storytelling, and cultural programs.

### Languages from Around the World

Canada is a multicultural country, and many people speak languages from their home countries. Some of the most commonly spoken languages besides English and French are: Mandarin (spoken by Chinese communities), Punjabi (spoken by many Indian Canadians), Spanish, Italian, and Arabic.

In cities like Toronto and Vancouver, it is common to hear many languages spoken in daily life. Canada encourages people to keep their cultural traditions, including their languages.

### A Country of Many Voices

Canada's rich language diversity reflects its history, Indigenous heritage, and multicultural society. Whether people speak English, French, Inuktitut, or another language, they all contribute to Canada's unique identity.

