



LARA'S

LANGUAGE JOURNEY

ACROSS EUROPE

Welcome to a journey through Europe's languages!

The languages you will encounter over the following pages reflect the diversity of the cultures and traditions which exist side by side on our continent. Some of the around 225 languages which are native to Europe are spoken by millions and others, that are only spoken by a handful of people, are, sadly, close to dying out.

During this short journey, you will discover lots of similarities. European languages largely fall into three main categories: Slavic, Romance and Germanic, the languages within each group have the same roots – however, over centuries they have developed in their own distinct directions. You will also find out about their differences: the variety of alphabets (such as Latin, Cyrillic, Greek, Armenian and Georgian), often using artistic scripts; how they deal with creating words for new inventions and their sometimes mysterious origins. All have a unique identity and their own story to tell!

We hope you will enjoy following Lara on her trip through some of Europe's languages. It might prompt you to set off on a similar voyage of discovery with a lot of 'oh really!' and 'wow - I didn't know that!' moments, as you uncover some of the treasures hidden just beneath the surface of our everyday lives!

We can only give you a brief glimpse of some of Europe's languages. There are many, many more we have not mentioned,

not because they are any less important or less interesting but simply because we do not have space. There are some examples of regional and minority languages that are spoken in part of a country or areas of several countries by a relatively small part of the population. There are the non-territorial languages which are spoken by groups spread all over Europe but not identifying with a specific country of origin. There are also the languages of migration which do not originate from Europe but have been brought to the continent by speakers moving from other parts of the world.

On each language page there is a short introduction from our guide, Lara, some key words, phrases and special characters from the alphabet, as well as an estimated number of people around the world who use it as their first language.



БЕЛАРУСКАЯ МОВА **BE**

👤👤👤 5 000 000

Як справы?

Добры дзень!

Дзякуй!

Hi! My name is Lara! Come and join me on this fascinating journey across the beautiful languages of Europe...

We will start this journey in krasavik... Wait. Where? Krasavik (April) is the most beautiful month in Belarus and that is why Belarusians have literally named this month "beautiful". And who doesn't love springtime?

CHARACTERS
NOT AP-
PROVED

- 1 адзін
- 2 два
- 3 тры
- 4 чатыры
- 5 пяць
- 6 шэсць
- 7 сем
- 8 восем
- 9 дзевяць
- 10 дзесяць

так

не

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ю



<<< Паслухайце гучанне гэтых слоў

Photo: Park in Minsk, Belarus

FY FRYSK

👤👤👤 500 000

Hoe giet it
mei dy?

Hoi!

Tank!

ja

nee

Frisian is probably the most similar living language to English. "De sinne is waarm en it ljocht fan de sinneskyn fielt noflik mei de sêfte wyn." Did you figure it out? See the English version: "The sun is warm and the light from the sun-shining feels soft feels good with the soft wind."

- 1 ien
- 2 twa
- 3 trije
- 4 fjouwer
- 5 fiif
- 6 seis
- 7 sân
- 8 acht
- 9 njoggen
- 10 tsien

êé

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â

ô

Listen to the sound of these words >>>

Photo: Ljouwert, Netherlands



ENGLISH EN

👤👤👤 400 000 000

English is the most spoken language in the world. There are almost 1.3 billion English speakers, but only around one third are native speakers. When we speak the same language, we understand each other and realise how many things we share. Then the world doesn't seem so big after all..

How are you?

Hello!

Thank you!

yes

no

- 1 one
- 2 two
- 3 three
- 4 four
- 5 five
- 6 six
- 7 seven
- 8 eight
- 9 nine
- 10 ten

🔊🔊🔊 Listen to the sound of these words

Photo: London eye and Big Ben, England



SL SLOVENŠČINA

👤👤👤 2 500 000

2 people are very special in Slovene! Not only do you have a singular form (for 1 person) and a plural form (for many people), but also a form for exactly 2 people! So if you want to say "me and you" you could just say "midva" which roughly translates to "we two". Talking of numbers... next I want to show you a language with an interesting counting system...

da

ne

Kako si?
Živjo!
Hvala!

CHARACTERS
NOT AP-
PROVED

- 1 ena
- 2 dve
- 3 tri
- 4 štiri
- 5 pet
- 6 šest
- 7 sedem
- 8 osem
- 9 devet
- 10 deset

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Ž

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Prisluhnite zvoku teh besed >>>

Photo: Triglav National Park, Slovenia



FRANÇAIS FR

👤👤👤 76 800 000

Did you know that French has a different way of counting between 70 and 99? So for the number 75 you literally say "60 plus 15". In addition to that, for the number 80 you say "4 times 20"! 96 therefore is "4 times 20 plus 16". French speakers have to be good mathematicians! French is also considered to be one of the most beautiful languages, together with... want to take a guess?

oui

non



Ça va ?

Bonjour!

Merci!

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- 1 un
- 2 deux
- 3 trois
- 4 quatre
- 5 cinq
- 6 six
- 7 sept
- 8 huit
- 9 neuf
- 10 dix



⏪⏪⏪ Écoutez le son de ces mots

Photo: Dune du Pilat, France

UK УКРАЇНСЬКА МОВА

👤👤👤 35 000 000

Mirror, mirror on the wall - which is the most beautiful language of them all? There is no easy way to answer that question and everyone has their favourites. However, at a language beauty contest in 1934 in Paris, Ukrainian took third place right after French and Persian. We are not aware of any more recent language beauty contests!

Як справи?
Привіт!
Дякую!

так
ні

ю я щ ь
г є ії й

**CHARACTERS
NOT AP-
PROVED**

- 1 один
- 2 два
- 3 три
- 4 чотири
- 5 п'ять
- 6 шість
- 7 сім
- 8 вісім
- 9 дев'ять
- 10 десять



Прослухайте звучання цих слів >>>

Photo: Love tunnel created from trees along the railway in Klevan, Ukraine



CATALÀ CA

👤👤👤 4 100 000

In Catalan, if you want to say that only a few friends came to your birthday party (which hopefully never happens to you!) you could just say "quatre gats" or "four cats" and everything would be clear. So before complaining about your lame party, don't forget to say "Gràcies!" (thank you) to the four cats who did show up!

Com estàs?

Hola!

Gràcies!

CHARACTERS
NOT AP-
PROVED

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à

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íï

óò

- 1 un
- 2 dos
- 3 tres
- 4 quatre
- 5 cinc
- 6 sis
- 7 set
- 8 vuit
- 9 nou
- 10 deu

sí

no

<<< Escolta el so d'aquestes paraules

Photo: Park Guell in Barcelona, Spain

TR TÜRKÇE

👤👤👤 75 700 000



Nasılsın?

Merhaba!

Teşekkür ederim!

Turkish is a language with no gender! There's a single word for "he", "she" and "it", or in fact just a single letter - "o". So it is possible to describe a person in Turkish without indicating whether it is a boy or a girl. Turn to the next page to see which other language shares this similarity with Turkish...

CHARACTERS
NOT AP-
PROVED

- 1 bir
- 2 iki
- 3 üç
- 4 dört
- 5 beş
- 6 altı
- 7 yedi
- 8 sekiz
- 9 dokuz
- 10 on

evet

hayır

Bu sözcüklerin sesini dinle >>>

Photo: Cappadocia, Turkey



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AZƏRBAYCAN DİLİ AS

👤👤👤 23 000 000

Azeri also uses "o" for he, she and it. But this is not the only thing Turkish and Azeri have in common. Words like "with" or "for" don't come before the noun but after it: so in Azeri "with my mother" would be "anam ilə" or literally "my mother with". Another special feature is that when Azeri is written in Latin or Cyrillic scripts, it is written left-to-right (LTR). When written in the Arabic script, it is written right-to-left.

TRANSLATION
NOT AP-
PROVED

bəli

xeyr

CHARACTERS
NOT AP-
PROVED

Necəsən?

Salam!

Təşəkkür
edirəm!

- 1 bir
- 2 iki
- 3 üç
- 4 dörd
- 5 beş
- 6 altı
- 7 yeddi
- 8 səkkiz
- 9 doqquz
- 10 on

ç

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ü



◀◀◀ Bu sözlərin səsini dinləyin

EU EUSKARA

👤👤👤 750 000

CHARACTERS
NOT AP-
PROVED

bai

ez

Generally languages belong to language families and share many characteristics with others, but Basque is pretty much an only child... It is believed to be one of the oldest European languages and its origins remain a mystery. So, if you want to join an exclusive club and become an 'euskalduna' (a Basque speaker) try this language!

Zer moduz?

Kaixo!

Eskerrik asko!

Entzun hitz hauen soinua >>>>

- 1 bat
- 2 bi
- 3 hiru
- 4 lau
- 5 bost
- 6 sei
- 7 zazpi
- 8 zortzi
- 9 bederatzi
- 10 hamar



ü

ñ

é

ç

NORSK NB

👤👤👤 5 000 000

CHARACTERS
NOT AP-
PROVED

Norwegian has many words that have a 'giant' influence on other more widely spoken languages. Who hasn't heard of a 'troll'? If trolls are a bit scary for you (me too!), then think instead of the beautiful Norwegian 'fjords' and if those whet your appetite for travel don't forget the word 'egg' which is also of Norwegian origin.

ja

nei

- 1 én
- 2 to
- 3 tre
- 4 fire
- 5 fem
- 6 sex
- 7 syv
- 8 åtte
- 9 ni
- 10 ti

Hvordan
går det?

Hei!

Takk!

å

æ

ø

◀◀◀ Lytt til lyden av disse ordene

Photo: Reindeers in Tromsø, Norway



MT MALTI

👤👤👤 520 000

Kif int?

Bongu!

Grazzi!

CHARACTERS
NOT AP-
PROVED

Maltese is the smallest official EU language in terms of speakers. Maltese sounds similar to the Phoenician language that was spoken in areas around the ancient Mediterranean 3000 years ago. It is the only language in Europe that belongs to the Afro-Asiatic language family and also the only language from this family that uses the Latin alphabet. Turn to the next page and I'll show you a rather isolated language...

iva

le

- 1 wieħed
- 2 tnejn
- 3 tlieta
- 4 erbgħa
- 5 ħamsa
- 6 sitta
- 7 sebgħa
- 8 tmienja
- 9 disgħa
- 10 għaxra

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ż

Isma' l-ħoss ta' dawn il-kelmiet >>>

Photo: Typical street in Ir-Rabat, Malta



ÍSLENSKA IS

👤👤👤 314 000

Iceland does not have close neighbouring countries and the language the Vikings brought in the 9th and 10th centuries has not changed as much as you might imagine over the centuries. Icelandic avoids using foreign words and prefers to form new words from ancient Viking words. So the word for computer "tölva" is formed from the old words "tala" (number) and "völva" (prophetess).

Hvernig hefurðu það?

Hæ!

Þakka þér fyrir!

CHARACTERS
NOT AP-
PROVED

MAIN STORY
NOT AP-
PROVED

- 1 einn
- 2 tveir
- 3 þrír
- 4 fjórir
- 5 fimm
- 6 sex
- 7 sjö
- 8 átta
- 9 níu
- 10 tíu

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nei



<<< Hlustaðu á þessi orð

Photo: Goðafoss waterfall, Iceland

ET EESTI KEEL

👤👤👤 1 100 000

Estonian loves vowels! The role of vowels in Estonian is among the greatest in any European language and there are many words like "Jääär" (the edge of the ice); "Töö-öö" ('working night') or "Õueiaääre" (the edge of a fence surrounding a yard)! Now let me show you a language that can make up a whole sentence containing only vowels...

CHARACTERS
NOT AP-
PROVED

Tere!

Kuidas sul läheb?

Aitäh!

jah

ei

- 1 üks
- 2 kaks
- 3 kolm
- 4 neli
- 5 viis
- 6 kuus
- 7 seitse
- 8 kaheksa
- 9 üheksa
- 10 kümme

õ

ä

ö

ü

Kuula nende sõnade kõla >>>

Photo: Kitesurfing in Viimsi, Estonia



LIMBA ROMÂNĂ RO

👤👤👤 25 000 000

The Romanian language is also very fond of vowels. Romanian can even make up a meaningful sentence consisting only of vowels: "Oaia aia e a ei, eu i-o iau" means "That sheep is hers, I'm taking it".

Flip over to have a look at a Romance language that is not that fond of vowels...

CHARACTERS
NOT AP-
PROVED

Ce faci?

Bună ziua!

Mulțumesc!

- 1 unu
- 2 doi
- 3 trei
- 4 patru
- 5 cinci
- 6 șase
- 7 șapte
- 8 opt
- 9 nouă
- 10 zece

î

ț

ș

ă â

da

nu

<<< Ascultă cum sună aceste cuvinte

Photo: Corvin Castle, Romania

RM ROMANTSCH

👤👤👤 60 000

CHARACTERS
NOT AP-
PROVED

gea na

Romansh, the least known of Switzerland's four official languages, is a minority language that is most similar to Italian. However, unlike in Italian, Romansh has no vowels at the end of masculine nouns. So the word "lago" which is Italian for "lake" is "lag" in Romansh and "bread" or Italian "pane" is "paun". You get what I mean...? There are also some languages that seem to try to completely avoid vowels...

- 1 in
- 2 dus
- 3 trais
- 4 quatter
- 5 tschun
- 6 sis
- 7 set
- 8 otg
- 9 nov
- 10 diesch



Co vai?
Tgau!
Grazia!



XXXXXX >>>



Photo: Mountain view, Grisons, Switzerland

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ČEŠTINA CS

👤👤👤 14 000 000

If you are not keen on vowels, Czech might be the language for you! Czech loves consonants. Words made up only of consonants like *krk* (neck); *prst* (finger); or *smrk* (pine tree) are very common. Try saying this Czech tongue twister "Chrt pln skvrn zdrhl z Brd.," meaning "A greyhound full of spots escaped from the Brdy (mountains)."
This love of consonants is also shared by a neighbour – can you guess which one?

ano

ne

Jak se máš?

Dobrý den!

Děkuji!

CHARACTERS NOT APPROVED

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d'

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ň



<<< Poslechněte si zvuk těchto slov

Photo: Dancing House in Prague, Czech Republic (Vladimir Sazonov | Shutterstock.com)

- 1 jedna
- 2 dvě
- 3 tři
- 4 čtyři
- 5 pět
- 6 šest
- 7 sedm
- 8 osm
- 9 devět
- 10 deset

SK SLOVENČINA

👤👤👤 5 200 000

áno

nie

Ako sa máš?

Ahoj!

Ďakujem!

Yes, Slovak likes consonants, too! Many Slovak words are formed entirely or mostly of consonants, such as the words *smrť* (death), *štvrt'* (quarter) or *žblnknutie* (clunk). Slovak is also considered to be the language that is easiest for the speakers of other Slavic languages to understand. Flip over to the next page to discover a rather economical language...

- 1 jeden
- 2 dva
- 3 tri
- 4 štyri
- 5 päť
- 6 šesť
- 7 sedem
- 8 osem
- 9 deväť
- 10 desať

CHARACTERS
NOT AP-
PROVED

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Vypočujte si zvuk týchto slov >>>

Photo: High Tatras, Slovakia



SUOMI FI

👤👤👤 5 800 000

ö

ää

Mitä kuuluu?

Hei!

Kiitos!

Finnish is one of the few national languages in Europe that is not Indo-European. It belongs to a family together with Estonian and Hungarian. There are many things you can say in Finnish with just one word. So *istun* would be "I sit down", *istahtaisin* "I would sit down for a while", *istahdan* "I'll sit down for a while" and *istahtaisinkohan* "I wonder if I should sit down for a while".

CHARACTERS
NOT AP-
PROVED

kyllä

ei

◀◀ Kuuntele nämä sanat

Photo: Dog Sledding in Lapland, Finland

- 1 yksi
- 2 kaksi
- 3 kolme
- 4 neljä
- 5 viisi
- 6 kuusi
- 7 seitsemän
- 8 kahdeksan
- 9 yhdeksän
- 10 kymmenen



CY CYMRAEG

👤👤👤 1 000 000

ie

na

Sut wyt ti?

Shwmae!

Diolch!

CHARACTERS
NOT AP-
PROVED

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The Welsh "Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwllllantysiliogogogoch" is the longest place name in Europe and second longest in the world. It approximately means "St. Mary's church in the hollow of the white hazel near the rapid whirlpool of St Tysilio of the red cave". Flip over to discover a language which can match Welsh place names in the length of its words...

- 1 un
- 2 dau
- 3 tri
- 4 pedwar
- 5 pump
- 6 chwech
- 7 saith
- 8 wyth
- 9 naw
- 10 deg

LLANFAIRPWLLGWYNGYLLGOGERYCHWYRNDROBWL LANTYSILIOGOGOGOCH

Llan-vire-poll-guin-gill-go-ger-u-queern-drob-ooll-llandus-ilio-gogo-goch

XXXXXX >>>



DEUTSCH DE

👤👤👤 95 000 000

German is one of the languages with the longest words. To describe things you simply combine different words so they become a new one. So the word for a qualifying match for the football world cup would be „Fußballweltmeisterschaftsqualifikationsspiel“. Some can be a bit confusing if you don't know which words were combined like "Staubecken" but I will let you work that out!

ja

nein



- 1 eins
- 2 zwei
- 3 drei
- 4 vier
- 5 fünf
- 6 sechs
- 7 sieben
- 8 acht
- 9 neun
- 10 zehn

Wie geht's?

Hallo!

Danke!

ü

ö

ä

ß

◀◀◀ Hör dir an, wie diese Wörter klingen

Photo: Island Sylt, Germany



HR HRVATSKI

👤👤👤 5 600 000

Kako si?

Bok!

Hvala!

CHARACTERS
NOT AP-
PROVED

Together with Serbian and Bosnian, Croatian is one of the South Slavic languages that have many things in common. These languages are so similar that their speakers can easily understand each other. The shortest Croatian words consist of just one letter – a (but, and), o (about), u (in), i (and), s (with, from) or k (to).

- 1 jedan
- 2 dva
- 3 tri
- 4 četiri
- 5 pet
- 6 šest
- 7 sedam
- 8 osam
- 9 devet
- 10 deset

da

ne

č

ć

ž

š

đ

Poslušaj kako zvuče ove riječi >>>>

Photo: National park Plitvice, Croatia



BOSANSKI BS

👤👤👤 3 000 000

Bosnian is very similar to Croatian and Serbian, but you can tell it has a strong connection to Turkish: for around 400 years Bosnia was part of the Ottoman Empire and therefore adopted many loanwords from Turkish such as "minđuše" (earrings), "bujrum" (go ahead) or "avlija" (inner yard).

Kako si?

Ćao!

Hvala!

CHARACTERS
NOT AP-
PROVED

č

ž

ć

đ

š

da

ne

- 1 jedan
- 2 dva
- 3 tri
- 4 četiri
- 5 pet
- 6 šest
- 7 sedam
- 8 osam
- 9 devet
- 10 deset

<<< Poslušaj kako zvuče ove riječi

Photo: Old Bridge in Mostar, Bosnia

SR СРПСКИ

👤👤👤 12 000 000

Serbian is one of the few European languages that uses both Cyrillic and Latin alphabets. Speakers of Serbian can use the two scripts equally well. Among Slavic languages Serbian uses one of the shortest Cyrillic alphabets: it contains 30 letters. Talking of alphabets... Let me show you a language with a very unique alphabet...

CHARACTERS
NOT AP-
PROVED

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Здраво!

Како си?

Хвала!

да

не

- 1 један
- 2 два
- 3 три
- 4 четири
- 5 пет
- 6 шест
- 7 седам
- 8 осам
- 9 девет
- 10 десет

Послушај како звуче ове речи >>>

Photo: Meanders of the Uvac River, Serbia



ՀԱՅԵՐԵՆ ՀԿ

👤👤👤 6 700 000

Ունց ես:

Ողջույն:

Շնորհակալություն:

The Armenian language uses an alphabet that is quite unique compared to other European languages. It was created around 2400 years ago! As Armenians are very proud of their alphabet they even created a monument for their unique characters (see big image). Armenia celebrates its own special language day, the Holy Translators Day, in October.

այո

ոչ

ա բ գ դ ե զ է ը թ ժ ի լ խ ծ կ հ ձ ղ ճ մ

յ ն շ ո չ պ ջ ռ ս վ տ ը ր ց ու ւ փ ք և օ ֆ

<<< Լսեք այս բառերը

Photo: Armenian Alphabet Monument (Arty Om | Shutterstock.com)



- 1 մեկ
- 2 երկու
- 3 երեք
- 4 չորս
- 5 հինգ
- 6 վեց
- 7 յոթ
- 8 ութ
- 9 ինը
- 10 տասը

ROM

ROMANI ČHIB

👤👤👤 3 500 000

Sar san?

Lašo d'es!

Najis tuke!

CHARACTERS
NOT AP-
PROVED

va

na

You would probably think that every language has its own alphabet, but as Romani speakers are living in many different regions it has been an impossible task so far to create rules for its written form. Attempts are still being made so that speakers can use it in writing. So let's not lose our hopes yet!

- 1 jekh
- 2 duj
- 3 trin
- 4 štar
- 5 panž
- 6 šov
- 7 efa
- 8 oxto
- 9 iňa
- 10 deš

Ašun kadala svaturja >>>

Photo: Romani dance



LËTZEBUERGESH LB

👤👤👤 600 000

Wéi geet et?

Moien!

Merci!

Luxembourgish received its written form rather recently! Traditionally, Luxembourgish was rarely written, so there were no official rules of spelling and grammar until they were established by the government 40 years ago, in 1984. And what about sign languages, can you write those down? Flip over to the next page to find out.

CHARACTERS NOT APPROVED

jo

neen

ä

ëé

- 1 eent
- 2 zwee
- 3 dräi
- 4 véier
- 5 fënnef
- 6 sechs
- 7 siwen
- 8 aacht
- 9 néng
- 10 zéng



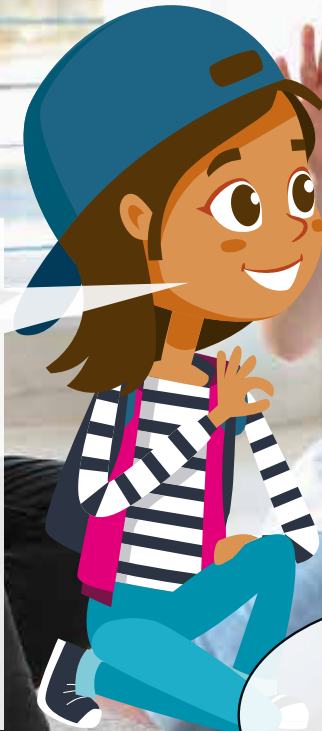
<<< XXXXXX

Photo: Petrusse Skatepark, Luxembourg (degetzica | Shutterstock.com)



INTERNATIONAL SIGN LANGUAGE

International Sign language is often used among sign language users from different countries, who don't have a common language – as the name suggests it is an international language. It can be written down in a number of ways. For example, certain symbols are used to describe the handshape and movement of the sign as well as the facial expressions. Since we've talked so much about alphabets...



- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10

ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΑ EL

👤👤👤 13 500 000

The word 'alphabet' comes from the first two letters of the Greek alphabet: 'alpha' and 'beta'. Greeks currently write from left to right, just like other European languages, but this wasn't always the case. In the beginning, it could be written from right to left, and even in alternating directions on each line.

On the next page, I'll show you a funny habit of Greeks' neighbours...

ναι

όχι

Πώς είσαι;

Γεια!

Ευχαριστώ!

α β γ δ ε ζ η θ ι κ λ μ ν

ξ ο π ρ σ τ υ φ χ ψ ω

- 1 ένα
- 2 δύο
- 3 τρία
- 4 τέσσερα
- 5 πέντε
- 6 έξι
- 7 επτά
- 8 οχτώ
- 9 εννιά
- 10 δέκα

⏪⏪⏪ Άκουσε τον ήχο αυτών των λέξεων

Photo: Colourful street in Oia, Greece

SQ SHQIP

👤👤👤 7 500 000

Si jeni?

Përshëndetje!

Faleminderit!

CHARACTERS
NOT AP-
PROVED

po

jo

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ë

When Albanians are shaking their head from side to side it does not mean "no" but quite the opposite "right, I agree, I'm listening". Conversely, nodding one's head up and down does not mean "yes". It means "sorry, I'm afraid not" and seems to accompany bad news. So be particularly careful when shaking your head in Albania – you may have just agreed to something you didn't mean to!

- 1 një
- 2 dy
- 3 tre
- 4 katër
- 5 pesë
- 6 gjashtë
- 7 shtatë
- 8 tetë
- 9 nëntë
- 10 dhjetë

Dëgjoni tingullin e këtyre fjalëve >>>

Photo: Beach cafe in Ksamil, Albania



БЪЛГАРСКИ BG

👤👤👤 3 700 000

Bulgarians also nod for “no” and shake their heads for “yes”. Another uncommon characteristic of Bulgarian is that it is one of few Slavic languages with no cases. So it should be easier to learn than Hungarian which has 18 cases! Bulgarian shares this characteristic only with Macedonian.

Как си?

Здравей!

Благодаря!

CHARACTERS
NOT AP-
PROVED

- 1 едно
- 2 две
- 3 три
- 4 четири
- 5 пет
- 6 шест
- 7 седем
- 8 осем
- 9 девет
- 10 десет



<<< Чуйте как звучат тези думи

Photo: Rila Monastery, Bulgaria

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да

не

МК МАКЕДОНСКИ

👤👤👤 3 500 000

Како си?

Здраво!

Благодарам!

CHARACTERS
NOT AP-
PROVED

да

не

We tend to express our reactions with short phrases or words that have no particular meaning. Macedonian have one cool way of doing this - with "Lele"! Lele can mean "Oh my god!" or "Oh wow!" and you can add as much le as you want. So you could say "Le le le le! What a pretty dog!"

Flip over to the next page to discover a language with no "yes" or "no"...

- 1 еден
- 2 два
- 3 три
- 4 четири
- 5 пет
- 6 шест
- 7 седум
- 8 осум
- 9 девет
- 10 десет

Ѓ
И
С
Љ
Ѓ
Њ
Џ
Ќ

Слушнете како звучат овие зборови >>>>

Photo: Church of St. John at Kaneo, North-Macedonia



GAEILGE GA

👤👤👤 170 000

Irish has no words for “yes” or “no”. To answer the question you use verb forms. So the answer to “Did they sell the house?” would be “(they) sold” or “(they) didn’t sell”. Or in Irish: “Ar dhíol siad an teach? Dhíol. Níor dhíol.” Even though Irish has no words for “yes” and “no” it has many unique words, just as the language on the next page...

Conas atá tú?
Dia dhuit!
Go raibh maith agat!

CHARACTERS
NOT AP-
PROVED

- 1 A hAon
- 2 A Dó
- 3 A Trí
- 4 A Ceathair
- 5 A Cúig
- 6 A Sé
- 7 A Seacht
- 8 A hOcht
- 9 A Naoi
- 10 A Deich

ú ó á í é



<<< XXXXXX

Photo: Cliffs of Moher, Ireland

HU MAGYAR

👤👤👤 13 000 000

Szia!

Hogy vagy?

Köszönöm!

CHARACTERS
NOT AP-
PROVED

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úüü

é

á

igen

nem

Hungarian is very good at capturing special moments with just one word. Aranyhíd is literally "a golden bridge" but means a glistening reflection of the sun on the surface of water.

I'm really enjoying a refreshing swim in Lake Balaton. It's so nice. No, not nice... It's fun... Oh I can't find the right word... but I think the language on the next page will help...

- 1 egy
- 2 kettő
- 3 három
- 4 négy
- 5 öt
- 6 hat
- 7 hét
- 8 nyolc
- 9 kilenc
- 10 tíz

Hallgasd meg, hogy hangzanak ezek a szavak >>>>

Photo: Balaton Lake, Hungary



NEDERLANDS NL

👤👤👤 24 000 000

ja

nee

Dutch has a very special word "gezellig". It's one of the most used Dutch words and depending on the context it can be translated as feeling of coziness, fun or nice atmosphere. It can also indicate a sense of belonging, time spent with loved ones or seeing a friend after a long time. For example: "we have spent a gezellig evening, playing games and having fun..."

CHARACTERS
NOT AP-
PROVED

Hoe gaat
het ermee?

Hallo!

Dankjewel!

<<< Luister naar de klanken van deze woorden

Photo: Tulips and windmills in Zaanse Schans, Netherlands



LT LIETUVIŲ KALBA

👤👤👤 3 000 000

Lithuanian is one of the oldest spoken languages in the world and even has words which are similar to ancient Sanskrit, such as "vyras" (man), "šuo" (dog), "avis" (sheep). It means that Lithuanians can recognize some words while listening to this Indian language.
I'm starting to get hungry, let me grab something to eat...

taip

ne



CHARACTERS
NOT AP-
PROVED

Kaip sekasi?

Labas!

Ačiū!

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ą

Pasiklausykite šių žodžių >>>

Photo: Trakai Island Castle, Lithuania



ITALIANO IT

👤👤👤 67 000 000

In the land of pizza, pasta and cheese, it is no surprise when someone gets “abbioco”. There’s no exact equivalent in English, but *abbiocco* (pronounced “ab-byok-ko”) refers to a feeling you get after eating a large quantity of food.

Turn over to the next page to discover another unique food-related word...

Come stai?

Ciao!

Grazie!

CHARACTERS
NOT AP-
PROVED

sì

no

èé

à

ù

ì

òó

<<< Ascolta il suono di queste parole

Photo: Riomaggiore, Italy



- 1 uno
- 2 due
- 3 tre
- 4 quattro
- 5 cinque
- 6 sei
- 7 sette
- 8 otto
- 9 nove
- 10 dieci

KA

ქართული

👤👤👤 7 500 000



როგორ ხარ?
 გამარჯობა!
 მაღლობა!

The Georgian word "Shemo-metchama" means to eat even though you're full because the food tastes so good. It roughly translates to "I accidentally ate the whole thing". Georgian also has one of the world's most impressive looking scripts. On the next page I'll show you a word that describes an amount that we all want to express from time to time...

ღიახ
 არა

CHARACTERS NOT APPROVED



- 1 ერთი
- 2 ორი
- 3 სამი
- 4 ოთხი
- 5 ხუთი
- 6 ექვსი
- 7 შვიდი
- 8 რვა
- 9 ცხრა
- 10 ათი

ა ბ გ დ ე ვ ზ თ ი კ ლ მ ნ ო პ ჟ

რ ს ტ უ ფ ქ ღ ყ შ ჩ ც ძ წ ჭ ხ ჯ ჰ

მოუსმინეთ სიტყვების ყველაობას >>>



Swedish has invented a perfect word for expressing balance and saying “not too little, not too much... but just the right amount” or in Swedish “lagom”. So in Swedish you can nicely say that you have just eaten lagom! We talked a lot about unique words, so let’s also take a look at some unique expressions...

CHARACTERS
NOT AP-
PROVED

SVENSKA SV

👤👤👤 10 000 000

Hur mår du?

Hej!

Tack så
mycket!

ää

ö



←←← Lyssna på ljuden för dessa ord

Photo: Frozen lake in Upplands Vasby, Sweden (Per-Boge | Shutterstock.com)

- 1 ett
- 2 två
- 3 tre
- 4 fyra
- 5 fem
- 6 sex
- 7 sju
- 8 åtta
- 9 nio
- 10 tio

ja

nej

PL POLSKI

👤👤👤 45 000 000

CHARACTERS
NOT AP-
PROVED

Jak się
masz?
Cześć!
Dziękuję!

Polish has many fun idioms. So for example, if you say in Polish "Nie mój cyrk, nie moje małpy" it would literally mean "Not my circus, not my monkeys", however, the phrase has nothing to do with monkeys but means "It's not my problem". There's another language that has an amusing way of saying something similar...

- 1 jeden
- 2 dwa
- 3 trzy
- 4 cztery
- 5 pięć
- 6 sześć
- 7 siedem
- 8 osiem
- 9 dziewięć
- 10 dziesięć

tak

nie

ć

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ó

Posłuchaj brzmienia tych słów >>>>

Photo: The Crooked Forest near Gryfino, Poland



"Der er ingen ko på isen" is Danish for "there is no cow on the ice" but its actual meaning is "There is no problem". So if you don't see any cows on the ice, everything should be fine. As you have probably noticed, many languages like to use animals in idioms!

Hvordan går det?

Hej!

Tak!

DANSK DA

👤👤👤 6 000 000

- 1 en/et
- 2 to
- 3 tre
- 4 fire
- 5 fem
- 6 seks
- 7 syv
- 8 otte
- 9 ni
- 10 ti

æ

ø

å



ja

nej



<<< Lyt til lyden af disse ord

Photo: Tivoli in Copenhagen, Denmark

PT PORTUGUÊS

👤👤👤 250 000 000

You might not consider Portuguese as being a world language. However, with the whole of Brazil speaking it, there are over 220 million native speakers! It ranks, as the 7th most spoken language worldwide! Speakers of Portuguese generally understand Spanish, Galician and Italian as these languages are very similar. Speaking of Galician....

Como estás?

Olá!

Obrigado/a!

CHARACTERS
NOT AP-
PROVED

á à â ã

ú ü

ç

ó ô õ

é ê

í

sim

não

- 1 um
- 2 dois
- 3 três
- 4 quatro
- 5 cinco
- 6 seis
- 7 sete
- 8 oito
- 9 nove
- 10 dez

Ouçá o som destas palavras >>>



GALEGO GL

👤👤👤 2 400 000

There are between 60 and 100 words referring to different types of rain in Galician. If you have been to Galicia, you will know why! For example, "babuña" refers to a rain that sounds like a small baby, "torbón" to a rain with thunder and lighting and "ballón" to a heavy but short-lasting rain that lasts for several days...

Como estás?

Ola!

Grazas!

si

non

CHARACTERS
NOT AP-
PROVED

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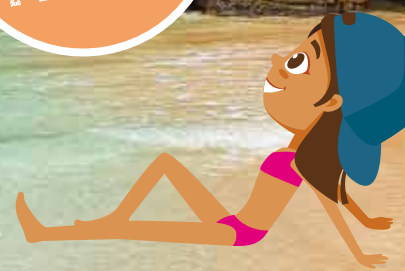
é

ñ

- 1 un
- 2 dous
- 3 tres
- 4 catro
- 5 cinco
- 6 seis
- 7 sete
- 8 oito
- 9 nove
- 10 dez

←←← Escoita o son destas palabras

Photo: As Catedrais Beach, Spain



LV LATVIEŠU VALODA

👤👤👤 1 750 000

Latvians love to sing! The Dainas are Latvian folk songs that capture ancient Latvian wisdom. Created well over a thousand years ago, Dainas were part of celebrations (like the yearly midsummer celebration in the main image), daily work, reflections on life preserved in oral form. There are more than 1.2 million Dainas altogether!

jā

nē

Kā tev iet?

Sveiki!

Paldies!

- 1 viens
- 2 divi
- 3 trīs
- 4 četri
- 5 pieci
- 6 seši
- 7 septiņi
- 8 astoņi
- 9 deviņi
- 10 desmit

CHARACTERS
NOT AP-
PROVED

Klausies, kā skan šie vārdi >>>

Photo: Celebrating midsummer, Latvia (Raimonds Kalva LV | Shutterstock.com)



Sami is spoken in the Arctic region of northern European countries, so it is no wonder that it has many words to describe different types of snow and ice. For example, "cahki" is a hard snowball that is thrown in serious snowball fights, "vahca" is a new or loose snow and "soavli" is a slushy snow. Before we leave this winter wonderland I have to show you an icy word as well.

SAMI SE

👤👤👤 30 000

Mo dat manná?
Bures!
Giitu!

- 1 okta
- 2 guokte
- 3 golbma
- 4 njeallje
- 5 vihtta
- 6 guhtta
- 7 čieža
- 8 gávccii
- 9 ovccii
- 10 logi

TRANSLATION
NOT AP-
PROVED

CHARACTERS
NOT AP-
PROVED



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Photo: Aurora borealis, Norway

РУССКИЙ RU

👤👤👤 150 000 000

Russian has one unique word that describes a layer of ice, which settles, then after the rise of temperatures melts and then again freezes again: Гололедица (gololedica), which roughly translates a naked sheet of ice. And did you know that there are over twice as many native speakers of Russian than of English in Europe?

да

нет

Как дела?

Привет!

Спасибо!

CHARACTERS
NOT AP-
PROVED

- 1 один
- 2 два
- 3 три
- 4 четыре
- 5 пять
- 6 шесть
- 7 семь
- 8 восемь
- 9 девять
- 10 десять

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««« Послушайте, как звучат эти слова

Photo: Swimming in an ice hole, Russia



ES ESPAÑOL

👤👤👤 489 000 000

sí

no

¿Cómo
estás?

¡Hola!

¡Gracias!

There is an expression in Spanish "¡el mundo es un pañuelo!" (the world is a handkerchief) to indicate our surprise when we meet someone by chance in an unexpected place, thereby showing that the world is much smaller than we really thought. And isn't this what language learning and learning about other cultures is all about anyway? Spanish is truly a world language with 20 countries having Spanish as an official language – ¡Olé!

CHARACTERS
NOT AP-
PROVED

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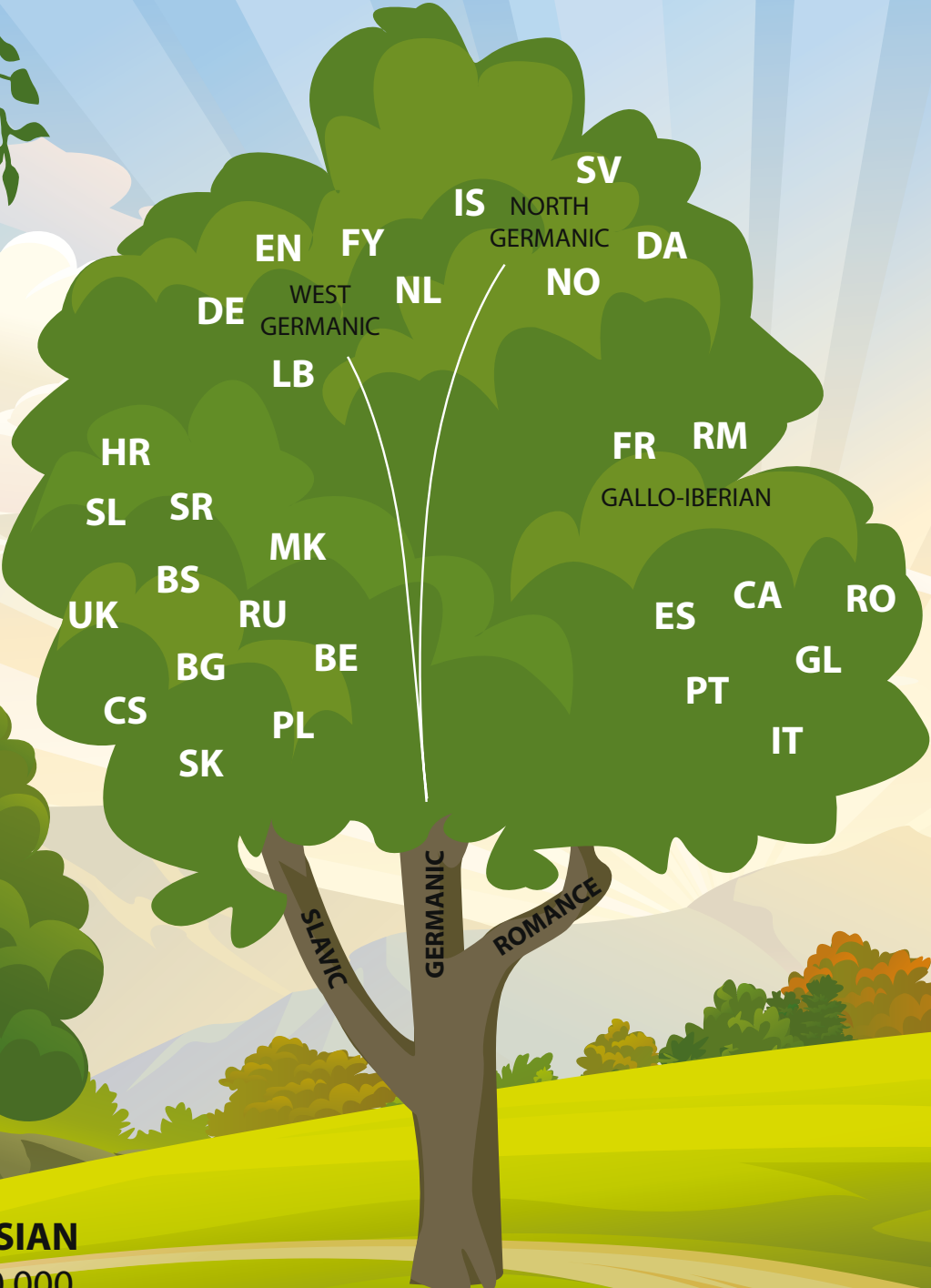
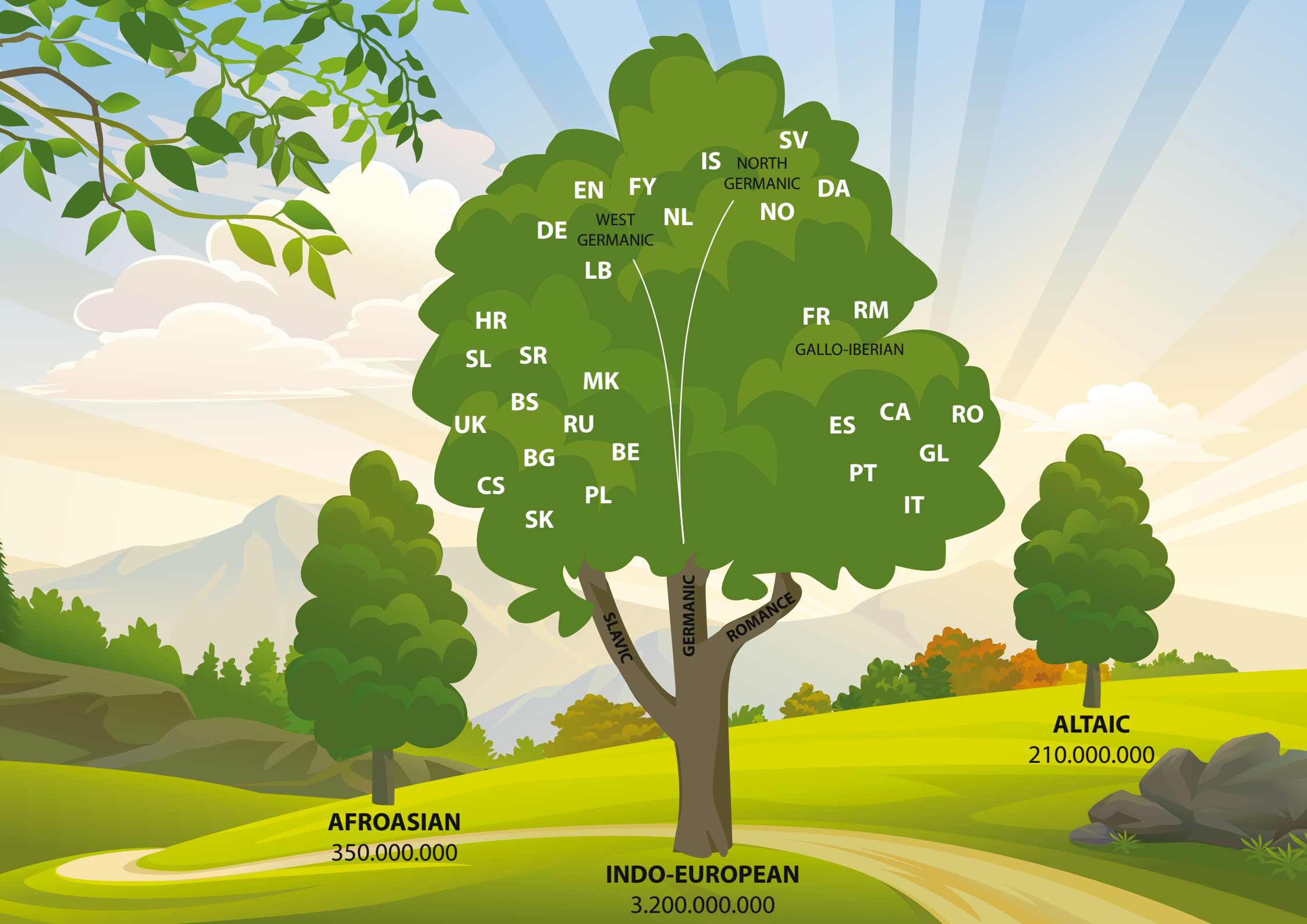
- 1 uno
- 2 dos
- 3 tres
- 4 cuatro
- 5 cinco
- 6 seis
- 7 siete
- 8 ocho
- 9 nueve
- 10 diez

Escucha cómo se pronuncian estas palabras >>>>



Foto: Women dancing flamenco in Sevilla, Spain (leonov.o | Shutterstock.com)

A language can open the door into a different world. A world where you can discover treasures you would never have known existed about countries and cultures without having used the key provided by the language. And one door can take you into a room with lots of other doors leading off it! For some, languages are a passion and for others a necessity but wherever you go and whatever you do you cannot avoid encountering them. We hope that this journey has given you an insight into just a few of the many languages around us and encourage you to delve deeper.



AFROASIAN
350.000.000

INDO-EUROPEAN
3.200.000.000

ALTAIC
210.000.000

BE	FY	EN	SL	FR	UK
CA	TR	AS	EU		MT
IS	ET	RO	RM	CS	SK
FI	CY	DE	HR	BS	SR
HY	ROM	LB		EL	SQ
BG	MK	GA	HU	NL	LT
IT	KA	SV	PL	DA	PT
GL	LV	SE	NB	RU	ES



edl.ecml.at/languagejourney