

# ENGLISH SPEAKING COUNTRIES



The English language is undoubtedly the most widespread language in the world, quickly becoming a global language by most accounts. Some of the most popular movies and TV shows are in English nowadays, and their number is steadily rising. It is a given that every artist who wants to make it on the global scene should possess a good understanding of the English language.

Not only is English one of the six official languages of the United Nations, but it is also a requirement for almost all jobs that require traveling abroad on a regular basis. Health care professionals, scientists, and politicians are also required to speak English fluently, especially when working in multinational organizations. Judging by how quickly the English language is spreading every year, some say we should expect most people to speak it by 2050.

There are more than 1.2 billion English speakers in the world today, with more than 350 million of them being native English speakers, while 850 million of them speak it as a second language. Here is a list of the top 10 English speaking countries by population:

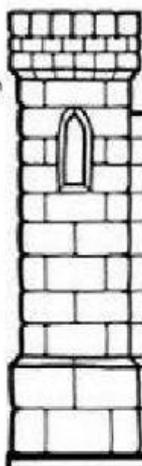
England, Wales, Scotland, Ireland, Australia, South Africa, the United States, Canada, New Zealand, and Guyana.

## Anglosphere

The term Anglosphere refers to a set of English-speaking nations with a similar cultural heritage, based upon populations originating from the nations of the British Isles (England, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland, and Ireland), which today maintain close political and military cooperation. While the nations

included in different sources vary, the term Anglosphere usually does not include all countries where English is an official language, although the nations that are commonly included were all once part of the British Empire. In its most restricted sense, the term covers the United Kingdom, Ireland, the United States, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand, which post-British Empire maintain a close affinity of cultural, familial, and political links with one another. Additionally, all of these countries (except Ireland) are militarily aligned.

The term Anglosphere was first coined, but not explicitly defined, by the science fiction writer Neal Stephenson in his book *The Diamond Age*, published in 1995. John Lloyd adopted the term in 2000 and defined it as including the United States and the United Kingdom along with English-speaking Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Ireland, South Africa and the British West Indies. The Merriam-Webster dictionary defines the Anglosphere as "the countries of the world in which the English language and cultural values predominate".



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