

5

Country, nationality and language

A

Who speaks what where?

country	nationality	language
Australia	Australian	English
Brazil	Brazilian	Portuguese
China	Chinese	Mandarin (and Cantonese)
Egypt	Egyptian	Arabic
France	French	French
Germany	German	German
Greece	Greek	Greek
Israel	Israeli	Hebrew
Italy	Italian	Italian
Japan	Japanese	Japanese
(South) Korea	Korean	Korean
Poland	Polish	Polish
Russia	Russian	Russian
Saudi Arabia	Saudi Arabian	Arabic
Spain	Spanish	Spanish
Switzerland	Swiss	Swiss-German, French, Italian
Thailand	Thai	Thai
Turkey	Turkish	Turkish
the UK (United Kingdom)*	British	English
the USA (United States of America)	American	English

*the UK (England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland)

I **come from** Argentina, so I'm **Argentinian** and my **first language** is Spanish. The **capital** is Buenos Aires, which has a **population** of more than 10 million people.

Common mistakes

He's **English**. (NOT He's ~~english~~.); We ate **French** food. (NOT We ate ~~France~~ food.)

I went to **the USA**. (NOT I went to ~~USA~~.) I also visited **the UK**. (NOT I also visited ~~UK~~.)

B

Parts of the world

The **continents** in the world are **Europe, Africa, Asia**, North America, **South America**, Australia [Australia and New Zealand] and Antarctica.

We also use these terms for different parts of the world:

the Middle East (e.g. United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia), **the Far East** (e.g. Thailand, Japan), **the Caribbean** (e.g. Jamaica, Barbados), **Scandinavia** (Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Finland).

C

The people

When we are talking about people from a particular country, we add 's' to nationalities ending in '-i' or '-(i)an', but we need the definite article (the) for most others.

Brazilians/Russians	} are ...	The British / The French	} are ...
Thais/Israelis		The Swiss / The Japanese	

With both groups we can also use the word 'people', e.g. Brazilian people, British people, etc.

Exercises

5.1 Answer the questions.

- 1 What nationality are people from Poland? *Polish*
- 2 What nationality are people from Thailand?
- 3 What language is spoken in Spain?
- 4 Where do people speak Hebrew?
- 5 Where do people speak Mandarin?
- 6 What language is spoken in Brazil?
- 7 What language is spoken in Egypt?
- 8 What nationality are people from Germany?
- 9 Write down three countries whose first language is English.
- 10 Write down three languages spoken in Switzerland.

5.2 What parts of the world are these countries in? Write the continent, e.g. Europe, or the area, e.g. the Far East.

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
| 1 Germany <i>Europe</i> | 4 Italy |
| 2 Japan | 5 Jamaica |
| 3 Saudi Arabia | 6 Argentina |

5.3 Underline the main stress in the words in the box, and practise saying them. Use the pronunciation in the index to help you.

Brazilian	Japan	Egyptian	Arabic	Scandinavia
Chinese	Portuguese	Australia	Saudi Arabia	

5.4 Write the answers.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 Bangkok is the capital of <i>Thailand</i> | 4 Moscow is the capital of |
| 2 Ankara is the capital of | 5 Buenos Aires is the capital of |
| 3 Seoul is the capital of | 6 Athens is the capital of |

5.5 Complete the sentences with the name of the people from the country on the right.

- | | |
|--|-------------|
| 1 I've worked a lot with <i>the French</i> | FRANCE |
| 2 I know lots of | GERMANY |
| 3 We do a lot of business with | JAPAN |
| 4 I used to know a lot of | ISRAEL |
| 5 I have always found very friendly. | BRAZIL |
| 6 People often say that are very reserved. | BRITAIN |
| 7 are very organised. | SWITZERLAND |
| 8 I met a lot of on my trip to Moscow. | RUSSIA |

5.6 Over to you

Answer the questions for you, then ask a friend – if possible, someone from a different country – and write their answers.

- 1 What's your nationality?
- 2 What's the capital city and population of your country?
- 3 What's your first language?
- 4 What other languages do you speak?
- 5 Which countries have you visited?
- 6 Which countries would you like to visit?