

I Speak...

Language Identification Guide

This guide assists literate individuals who are not proficient in English to identify a preferred language.



Homeland Security

Language Identification Guide for State and Local Law Enforcement

You may encounter individuals who have limited English proficiency (LEP) in the performance of your duties as a law enforcement officer. Such encounters raise both practical issues and legal obligations.

Individuals with limited English proficiency must understand their legal rights and must be able to communicate effectively with law enforcement – whether as victims, members of the public, individuals accused of a crime, or convicted criminals.

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 requires all recipients of federal assistance from any source (for example the Department of Justice, which provides funds to nearly all police and sheriff departments) to take reasonable steps to provide meaningful access to individuals with limited English proficiency.

This “I Speak” guide is a practical way to identify which language an individual speaks. Consult your local agency for your LEP plan and resources, such as over-the-phone interpretation.

Contact the DHS Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties’ CRCL Institute at CRCLTraining@dhs.gov for digital copies of this guide or an “I Speak” poster.

I speak ...

A

Amharic

እኔ አማርኛ ነው ምናገረው.

Arabic

أنا أتحدث اللغة العربية

Armenian

Ես խոսում եմ հայերեն

B

Bengali

আমী বাংলা কথা বলতে পারী

Bosnian

Ja govorim bosanski

Bulgarian

Аз говоря български

Burmese

ကျွန်တော်/ကျွန်မ မြန်မာ လို ပြောတတ် ပါတယ်။

C

Cambodian

ខ្ញុំនិយាយភាសាខ្មែរ

Cantonese

我講廣東話 (Traditional)

我讲广东话 (Simplified)

Catalan

Parlo català

Croatian

Govorim hrvatski

Czech

Mluvím česky

D

Danish

Jeg taler dansk

Dari

من دری حرف می زنم

Dutch

Ik spreek het Nederlands

E

Estonian

Ma räägin eesti keelt

F

Finnish

Puhun suomea

French

Je parle français

G

German

Ich spreche Deutsch

Greek

Μιλώ τα ελληνικά

Gujarati

હુ ગુજરાતી બોલુ છુ

H

Haitian Creole

M pale kreyòl ayisyen

Hebrew

אני מדבר עברית

Hindi

मैं हिंदी बोलता हूँ ।

Hmong

Kuv has lug Moob

Hungarian

Beszélek magyarul

I

Icelandic

Èg tala íslensku

Ilocano

Agsaonak ti Ilokano

Indonesian

syay bisa berbahsa Indonesia

Italian

Parlo italiano

J

Japanese

私は日本語を話す

K

Kackchiquel

Quin chagüic'ká chabal' ruin' rí
tzújon cakchiquel

Korean

한국어 합니다

Kurdish

man Kurdii zaanim

Kurmanci

man Kurmaanji zaanim

L

Laotian

ຂອຍປາກພາສາລາວ

Latvian

Es runāju latviski

Lithuanian

Aš kalbu lietuviškai

M

Mandarin

我講國語 (Traditional)

我讲国语/普通话 (Simplified)

Mam

Bán chiyola tuj kíyol mam

Mon

အဲဟို အင်္ဂလိပ် ဘာသာ

N

Norwegian

Jeg snakker norsk

P

Persian

من فارسی صحبت می کنم.

Polish

Mówię po polsku

Portuguese

Eu falo português do Brasil
(for Brazil)

Eu falo português de Portugal
(for Portugal)

Punjabi

ਮੈਂ ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਬੋਲਦਾ/ਬੋਲਦੀ ਹਾਂ।

Q

Qanjobal

Ayin tí chí walq' anjob' al

Quiche

In kinch'aw k'uin ch'é quiche

R

Romanian

Vorbesc românește

Russian

Я говорю по-русски

S

Serbian

Ja govorim српски

Sign Language (American)



I, ME



SIGN, SIGN LANGUAGE

Slovak

Hovorím po slovensky

Slovenian

Govorim slovensko

Somali

Waxaan ku hadlaa af-Soomaali

Spanish

Yo hablo español

Swahili

Ninaongea Kiswahili

Swedish

Jag talar svenska

T

Tagalog

Marunong akong mag-Tagalog

Tamil

நான் தமிழ் பேசுவேன்

Thai

พุดภาษาไทย

Turkish

Türkçe konuşurum

U

Ukrainian

Я розмовляю українською мовою

Urdu

میں اردو بولتا ہوں

V

Vietnamese

Tôi nói tiếng Việt

W

Welsh

Dwi'n siarad

X

Xhosa

Ndithetha isiXhosa

Y

Yiddish

איך רעד יידיש

Yoruba

Mo nso Yooba

Z

Zulu

Ngiyasikhuluma isiZulu

Selected Indigenous Languages of Mexico

Agrupación Lingüística	Variante Lingüística	Frase en español	Frase en lengua
chichimeco jonaz	chichimeco jonaz	yo hablo chichimeca	ikájú ūza' ér~í
mazateco	mazateco del norte	yo hablo mazateco Hablo la lengua de Santa María Chilchotla	Cha'ña enná Cha'ña énn nda xo
maya	maya	Yo hablo maya	teen k-in t'aan maya
mixe	mixe bajo	Yo hablo mixe	Madyakpiëch ayuuk
	mixe alto, de Tlahuitoltpec	Yo hablo mixe	Xaamkëjxpët ayuyjk èts nkajpyxyppy
mixteco	mixteco del oeste de la costa	yo hablo mixteco	Yuu kain se'en savi ñu ñuundua

Selected Indigenous Languages of Mexico

Agrupación Lingüística	Variante Lingüística	Frase en español	Frase en lengua
náhuatl	náhuatl de la huasteca veracruzana (se entiende junto con Veracruz y San Luis Potosí)	yo hablo náhuatl	Na nitajitowa náhuatl
tojolabal	tojolabal	yo hablo tojolabal	Ja'ke'ni wala kúmaniyon tojol-abál
triqui	triqui de la baja	yo hablo triqui	'unj a'mii xna' ánj nu'a
tsetal	tsetal (variante unificada)	Yo hablo tsetal	Te jo'one ja k'op te bats'il k'op tsetal
tsotsil	tsetal (variante unificada)	Yo hablo tsotsil	Vu'une jina'xi k'opoj ta bats'i k'op
zapoteco	zapoteco de la planicie costera	yo hablo zapoteco	Naa riné' diidxazá
chinanteco	chinanteco del sureste medio	yo hablo chinanteco	Jnea lo'n jujmii kiee 'dsa mo'kuöo

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Amharic
Arabic
Armenian

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Bengali
Bosnian
Bulgarian
Burmese

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Cambodian
Cantonese
Catalan
Croatian
Czech

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Danish
Dari
Dutch

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Estonian

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Finnish
French

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German
Greek
Gujarati

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Haitian Creole
Hebrew
Hindi
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Hungarian

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Icelandic
Ilocano
Indonesian
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Kackchiquel
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Laotian
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Mandarin
Mam
Mon

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Norwegian

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Persian
Polish
Portuguese
Punjabi

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Qanjobal
Quiche

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Romanian
Russian

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Serbian
Sign Language
Slovak
Slovenian
Somali
Spanish
Swahili
Swedish

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Tagalog
Tamil
Thai
Turkish

U - pg. 14

Ukrainian
Urdu

V - pg. 14

Vietnamese

W - pg. 14

Welsh

X - pg. 15

Xhosa

Y - pg. 15

Yiddish
Yoruba

Z - pg. 15

Zulu

See page 16, 17
for selected
indigenous
languages
of Mexico.

Limited English Proficiency Resources

www.lep.gov

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