

IIUM MBBS SEMINAR SERIES

POLYGLOT



BY

AISYAH MADIHAH MOHD AZMI

NAJWA NABILAH MOHD RIZUHAN

MUHAMMAD DANISH HAKIM BIN MOHAMMAD ADLI

AKMAL HAMDY BIN ABD HALIM

NURAFIQ AHLAMI BIN ABDUL SAI

HIDAYATUL RADZIAH ISMAWI

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PREFACE

The IIUM MBBS SEMINAR SERIES are e-books based on Phase 1 Kulliyyah of Medicine, IIUM, MBBS student seminar presentations. As part of the curriculum, all students are required to present one seminar. Topics covered are varied and not necessarily related to medicine.

This e-book is based on the topic of polyglots. It will briefly discuss the factors influencing the ability to become polyglots and reasons for interest in becoming one. Whilst mentioning the multitude of languages spoken in Malaysia, this book will also focus on three popular languages that many students are interested in learning.

AUTHOR PROFILE



AISYAH MADIHAH MOHD AZMI

Year 2 Medical Student, Kulliyyah of Medicine, IIUM

I especially enjoy the phase where I can just read, understand, and construct ideas into sentences in a variety of languages during my internal monologue, which is very much like having fun with mental calculations. I want to be a polyglot as an aspect of my personal growth. I wish that being a polyglot will enable me to assist those in need and become closer to God.

Languages fluent: Bahasa Melayu, English

In progress: French, Arabic, Korean, Mandarin, Thai, Japanese

AUTHOR PROFILE



NAJWA NABILAH MOHD RIZUHAN

Year 2 Medical Student, Kulliyyah of Medicine, IIUM

My personal experience with language learning had helped me to realise that I am capable of viewing life through different lenses by indulging myself into different customs and cultures throughout the learning process. With over than 7000 languages spoken across the globe, I am filled with greed to explore each of their linguistic uniqueness. Nevertheless, I am yet eligible to be called a polyglot for now despite picking up a few communicative phrases of different languages. However, with language learning made easy by the existence of technology, I am hopeful to be able to call myself a polyglot in the near future.

Languages fluent: English, Bahasa Melayu

In progress: Arabic, Mandarin, Japanese and Korean

AUTHOR PROFILE



MUHAMMAD DANISH HAKIM MOHAMMAD ADLI
Year 2 Medical Student, Kulliyah of Medicine, IIUM

Watching movies and dramas have always be my hobby. but i dont like the fact that i need to read the subtitle to understand the conversations in the movies. I try to improve my korean and japanese language so i can immerse myself fully in the animation and the storyline of the dramas and movies. In my opinion, being a polyglot is very special because I can enjoy entertainment from many countries.

Languages fluent: Bahasa Melayu, English
In progress: Korean and Japanese

AUTHOR PROFILE



AKMAL HAMDI ABD HALIM

Year 2 Medical Student, Kulliyah of Medicine, IIUM

I love listening to stories about the great polyglot figures which inspire me to learn more languages. Being a polyglot, you'll effortlessly navigate diverse cultures, have a deeper connection with people and break down communication barriers. Mastering a new language will expand your horizons, enhance your cognitive abilities and embark on exciting adventures.

Languages fluent: Bahasa Melayu, English
In progress: Arabic, Javanese, Tamil, Mandarin

AUTHOR PROFILE



NURAFIQ AHLAMI ABDUL SAI
Year 2 Medical Student, Kulliyah of Medicine, IIUM

I always wonder why my parents registered me into a Chinese school during my primary education even there is Malay school just a stone throw from my house. I kept asking them the reason but they only put on a smile to my queries. Now I understand that the additional language I learnt , not only encouraging me to understand other cultures and customs , but also prepared me for the upcoming job life. The ability to comprehend speech of a person are truly the superpower that everyone need.

Languages fluent: English , Bahasa Melayu
In progress: Mandarin, Arabic and Japanese

AUTHOR PROFILE



DR HIDAYATUL RADZIAH ISMAWI
Lecturer, Kulliyah of Medicine, IIUM

"I have always been fascinated with languages and even set my sights on being a polyglot and interpreter when I was growing up. Although, my career goals changed, my love of learning different languages did not die. It is simply - always a work in progress."

Languages fluent: English, Bahasa Melayu
In progress: French, German, Arabic, Korean

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DEFINITION

A person who knows and is able to use several languages. (OED Online, Oxford University Press, December 2022)

More than 3 languages



A polyglot is a person who has the ability to speak, write, or understand multiple languages. The term "polyglot" is derived from the Greek words "poly," meaning "many," and "glotta," meaning "tongue" or "language." Polyglots are often skilled in a variety of languages and may have a high level of proficiency in multiple language families or language systems. They can communicate effectively with speakers of different languages and may possess a deep understanding of various cultures and linguistic nuances. Polyglots can acquire languages through formal education, immersion programs, self-study, or a combination of these methods. Their multilingual skills enable them to engage in cross-cultural interactions, translation work, interpretation, and other language-related activities.

LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY

Language proficiency refers to an individual's ability to use a particular language effectively and accurately for communication. It encompasses several aspects, including speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills. Proficiency levels can range from basic or elementary to advanced or near-native.

Proficiency is typically measured on a continuum, with various standardized frameworks used to assess and describe language skills. One widely recognized framework is the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR), which categorizes proficiency levels into six main levels: A1 (beginner), A2 (elementary), B1 (intermediate), B2 (upper-intermediate), C1 (advanced), and C2 (proficient/near-native).

Language proficiency is not limited to vocabulary and grammar knowledge. It also involves the ability to understand and produce meaningful and contextually appropriate language, as well as cultural awareness and sensitivity. Proficiency can be developed through formal education, language courses, immersion programs, extensive exposure to the language, practice, and ongoing use and engagement with native speakers or language materials.



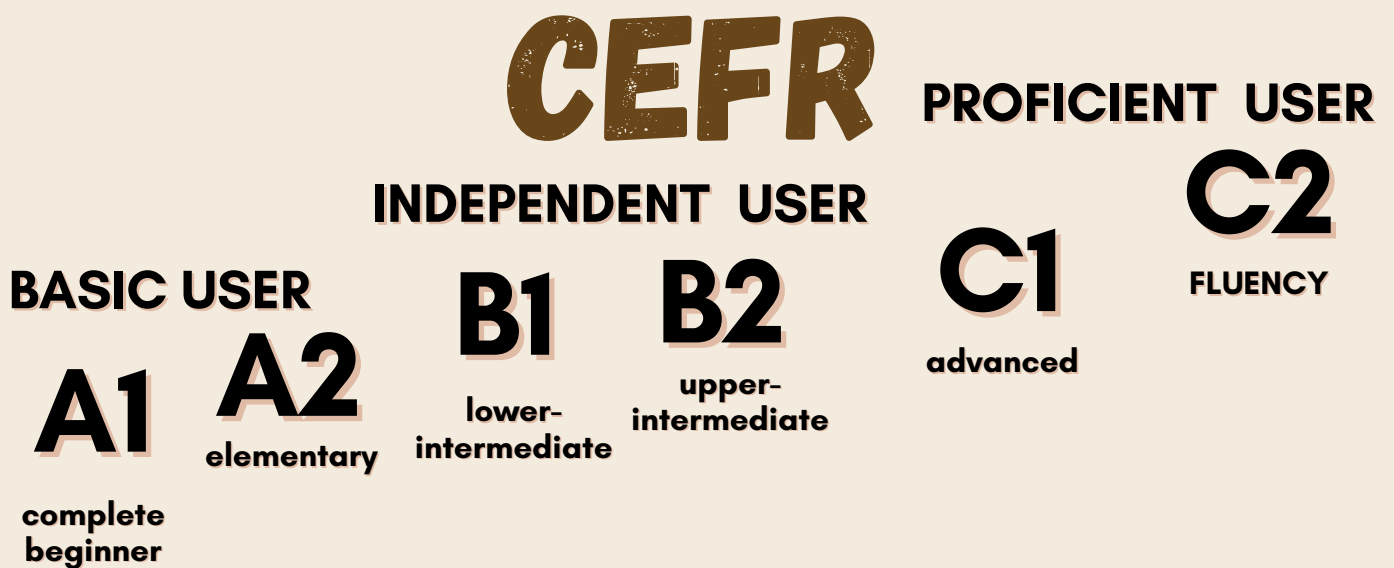
CEFR

The Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) is an international standard for describing language ability.



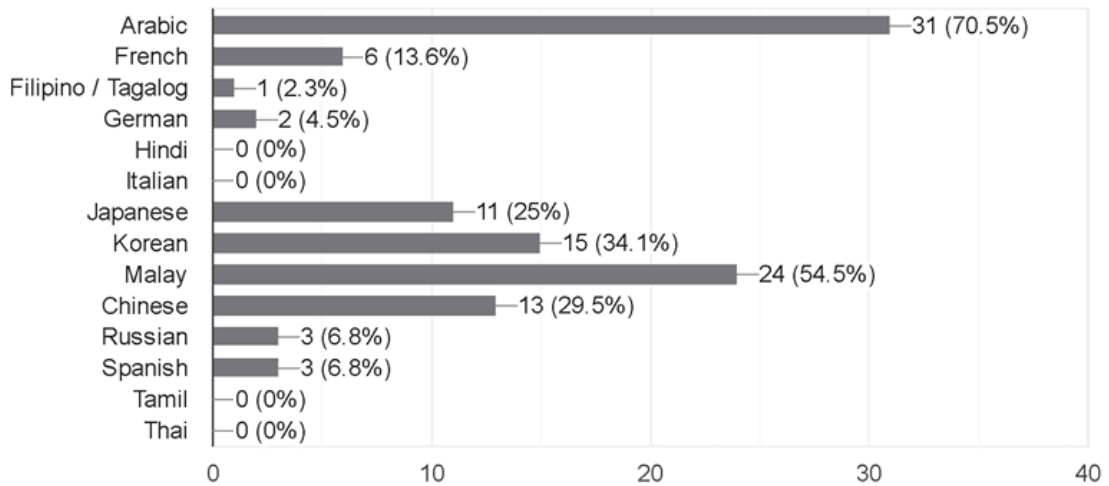
Dignity, D., (CEFR), C., framework, T., Levels, T., & Europe, C. (2023). The CEFR Levels - Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) - publi.coe.int. Retrieved from <https://www.coe.int/en/web/common-european-framework-reference-languages/level-descriptions>

It's important to note that proficiency in a language can vary across the four skills mentioned earlier (speaking, listening, reading, writing). Someone may have a higher proficiency in speaking and listening, for example, while their reading and writing skills may be at a lower level. Additionally, language proficiency is not a fixed state and can be further developed and improved with continued learning and practice.



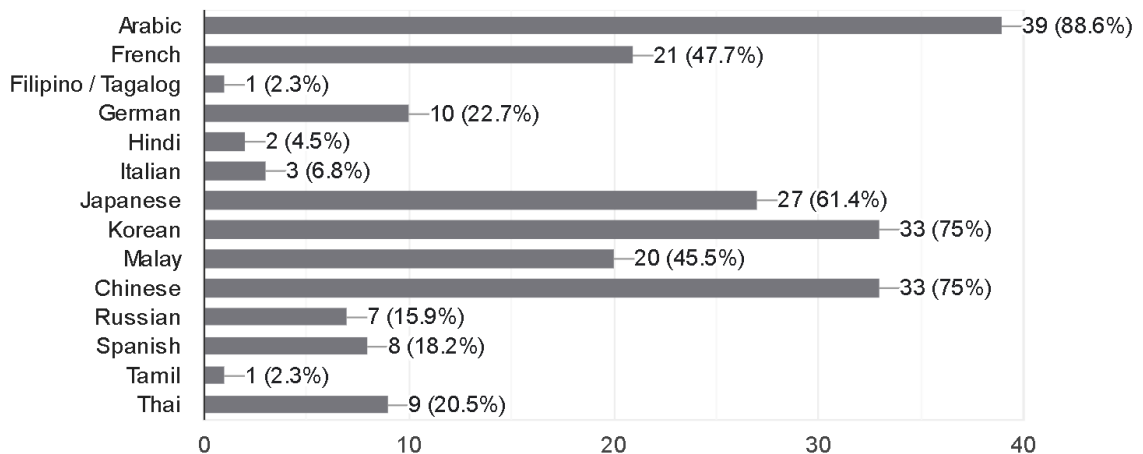
What languages have you been learning?

44 responses



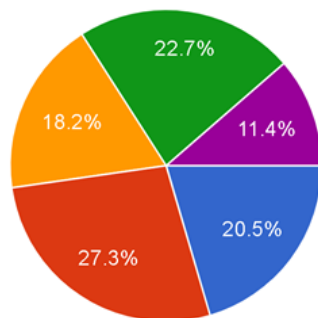
If you choose to be fluent in many languages, which ones are your top five?

44 responses



Reasons behind your choices

44 responses



- ENTERTAINMENT : KPOP / Kdrama / Anime / Cdrama / Hindustan movies / M...
- SOCIAL : Widen the social networking / Exchange cultural knowledge / Love &...
- SELF ESTEEM : more confident / life goals / help foreigners / high regard fro...
- JOB OPPORTUNITIES : Competitive / Diversity & Inclusion (IIMP) /
- EDUCATION : Broaden the knowledge / Strengthening faith aka Dr. Zakir Naik /...

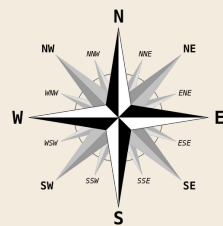
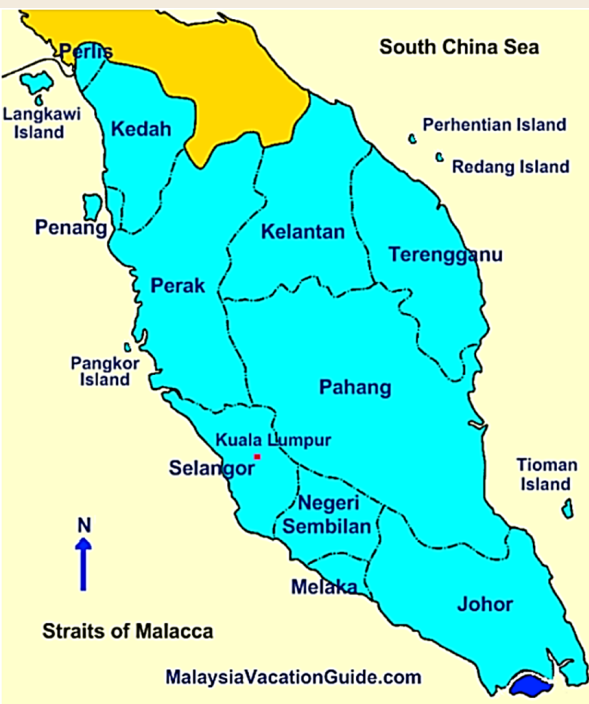
LANGUAGES SPOKEN IN MALAYSIA

Malaysia is a multilingual country with a diverse linguistic landscape. The official language of Malaysia is Malay, also known as Bahasa Malaysia. However, due to its multicultural society, several other languages are spoken and recognized in different communities. Here are some of the major languages spoken in Malaysia:

- Malay (Bahasa Malaysia): As the national language, Malay is widely spoken and understood throughout Malaysia. It is the primary language of government, education, and administration.
- English: English is widely used and serves as the second language in Malaysia. It is taught in schools and used in business, higher education, and official communications. English proficiency is relatively high, particularly among urban populations.
- Chinese (Mandarin, Hokkien, Cantonese, Hakka, etc.): Chinese communities in Malaysia predominantly speak various dialects of Chinese, including Mandarin, Hokkien, Cantonese, Hakka, and others. Mandarin is the most common dialect and is often used in schools, business, and Chinese media.

- Tamil: Tamil is spoken by the Indian community, particularly those of South Indian origin. It is widely used in cultural, religious, and social contexts among the Indian population in Malaysia.
- Indigenous languages: Malaysia is home to various indigenous communities, each with its distinct language or dialect. Some examples include Iban, Kadazan-Dusun, Bidayuh, and Orang Asli languages. These languages are primarily spoken within their respective communities.
- Other languages: Malaysia is also home to expatriate communities from different countries. Therefore, languages such as Arabic, Indonesian, Tagalog, and various Indian languages (e.g., Punjabi, Malayalam) can be heard in specific communities or among foreigners.

The linguistic landscape of Malaysia is constantly evolving, there may be other languages spoken by smaller communities or individuals within the country.



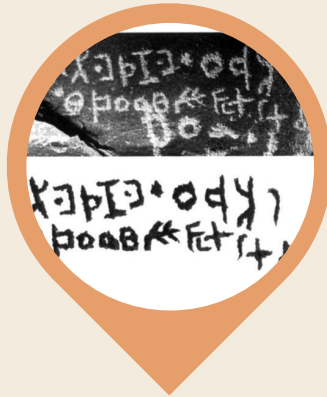
HOW ARABIC INFLUENCED MALAY WRITING SYSTEM



ARABIC HISTORY



Safaitic
(Half millenium BC- 4th
Century CE)



Hismaic
(Half Millenium BC -
4th Century CE)



Nabatean Arabic
(1st Century - 5th
Century CE)

Arabic has had a significant influence on the Malay writing system, particularly in the use of the Arabic script, known as Jawi, for writing Malay. The influence of Arabic on Malay can be attributed to several factors:

Islamization: The arrival of Islam in the Malay archipelago brought Arabic script and the Arabic language to the region. As Islam became prevalent, Arabic was adopted as the language of religious texts and scholarship. The Arabic script was then used to write Malay texts related to Islam, including religious scriptures, legal documents, and poetry.

ARABIC HISTORY

- Arabic is a Semitic Language
- used since 1 Millennium CBE
- Writing/Scripts: Undergo many evolutions
- 28 letters
- No diacritics to addition of diacritics and long vowels (harakat)
- easier to read Arabic writing

Adaptation of the Arabic script: The Arabic script was adapted to suit the phonetic needs of the Malay language. Some modifications were made to the original Arabic script to accommodate the specific sounds of Malay. Additional letters were added to represent sounds that do not exist in Arabic but are present in Malay.

Loanwords: The Arabic language has contributed numerous loanwords to the Malay vocabulary, particularly in the religious, cultural, and administrative domains. These Arabic loanwords are typically written using the Arabic script and

have become an integral part of the Malay language.

ABJAD

Name	Isolated	Initial	Medial	Final
Alif	ا	ا	ا	ا
Baa	ب	ب	ب	ب
Taa	ت	ت	ت	ت
Thaa	ث	ث	ث	ث
Jeem	ج	ج	ج	ج
7aa	ح	ح	ح	ح
7haa	خ	خ	خ	خ
Daa	د	د	د	د
Thal	ذ	ذ	ذ	ذ
Raa	ر	ر	ر	ر
Zaa	ز	ز	ز	ز
Seen	س	س	س	س
Sheen	ش	ش	ش	ش
Saad	ص	ص	ص	ص
Dhaad	ض	ض	ض	ض
6aa	ط	ط	ط	ط
6haa	ظ	ظ	ظ	ظ
Aeen	ع	ع	ع	ع
Gheen	غ	غ	غ	غ
Faa	ف	ف	ف	ف
Qaaf	ق	ق	ق	ق
Laam	ل	ل	ل	ل
Meem	م	م	م	م
Noon	ن	ن	ن	ن
Haa	ه	ه	ه	ه
Wow	و	و	و	و
Yaa	ي	ي	ي	ي

DIACRITICS AND VOWELS

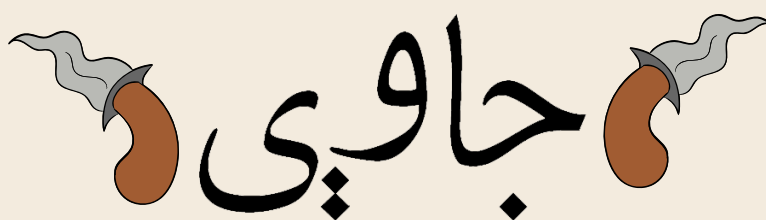
Diacritical Marks التَشْكِيْل			
Tamween with Shaddah	Tamween تَنْوِين	Short vowels with Shaddah شَدَّة	Short vowels
◌َ◌ْ	◌َ◌ْ	◌َ◌ْ	◌َ◌ْ
◌ِ◌ْ	◌ِ◌ْ	◌ِ◌ْ	◌ِ◌ْ
◌ُ◌ْ	◌ُ◌ْ	◌ُ◌ْ	◌ُ◌ْ
◌◌◌ْ	◌◌◌ْ	◌◌◌ْ	◌◌◌ْ

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Word	SAMPA	English meaning
كَتَبَ	/kataba/	He wrote
كُتِبَ	/kutiba/	It was written
كَتَبَ	/kattaba/	He dictated
كُتِّبَ	/kuttiba/	It was dictated
كُتُبَ	/kutub/	Books

ي ee حرير 'Hareer Silk	ا aa باب Baab Door	و oo نقود Nuqood Money
------------------------------------	--------------------------------	------------------------------------

Historical records and literature: Historical records and literary works written in Malay have been preserved using the Jawi script. These manuscripts provide insights into the historical, cultural, and linguistic developments of the Malay archipelago.



LEARNING MANDARIN



Mandarin is the most widely spoken language in the world. It is the official language of China and is also spoken in various other countries and communities around the globe.

Mandarin is a tonal language, which means that the tone or pitch at which a word is pronounced can change its meaning. There are four main tones and a neutral tone in Mandarin, each indicated by diacritical marks (tones are usually represented using marks like ā, á, ǎ, à, or sometimes using numbers 1, 2, 3, 4).

EVOLUTION OF CHINESE CHARACTERS



ORACLE BONE INSCRIPTION



inscribed on the carapaces of tortoises and mammals during the Shang Dynasty (1600 – 1046 B.C.)

BRONZE INSCRIPTION



inscribed on bronze objects, such as ritual wine vessels, made during the Shang and Zhou (1046 – 256 B.C.) dynasties.

SMALL SEAL CHARACTER



written language popular during the Qin Dynasty (221-207 B.C.).

OFFICIAL SCRIPT



formal written language
of the Han Dynasty
(206 B.C. – 220 A.D.)

REGULAR SCRIPT



appeared at the end of
the Han Dynasty. But it
was not until the Southern
and Northern Dynasties
(420-589 A.D.)

CURSIVE WRITING



first appeared at the
beginning of the Han
Dynasty

FREEHAND CURSIVE

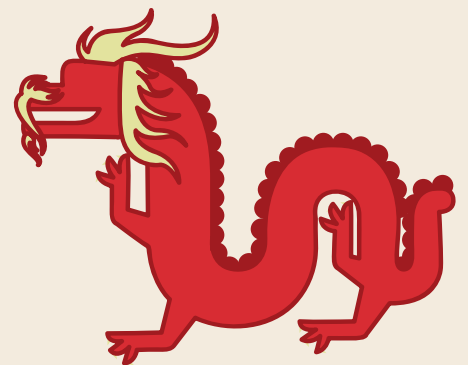


appeared and became
popular during the Three
Kingdoms Period (220-
280 A.D.) and the Jin
Dynasty (265-420 A.D.)

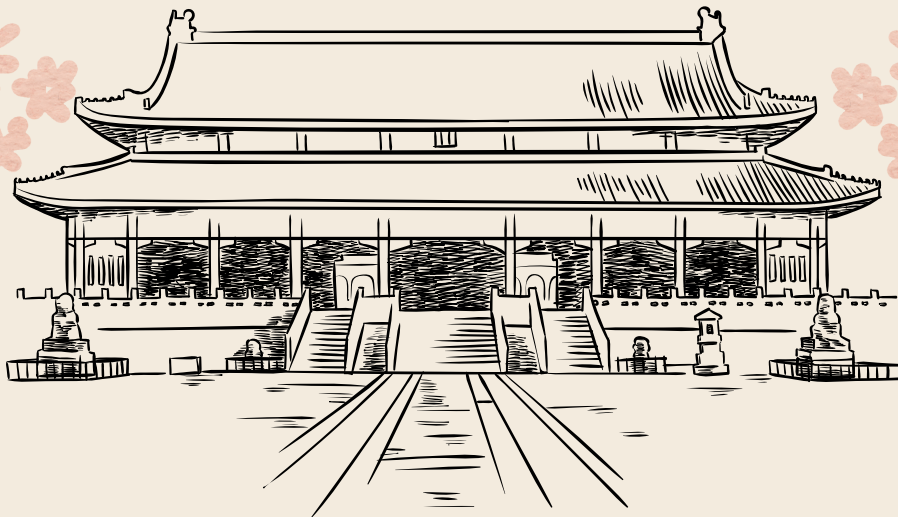
SIMPLIFIED CHINESE CHARACTERS



standardized Chinese
characters used in
Mainland China



KEY FEATURES BEFORE LEARNING MANDARIN



It does not have alphabet but has characters which is basically kind of ideogram, looks like picture Almost 50,000 characters but with 3000 to 4000, one can use it in daily communication etc.

Mandarin is a tonal language

"PINYIN SYSTEM"

Mandarin DOESN'T HAVE ALPHABETS

CHINESE PINYIN SYSTEM

official phonetic system for transcribing the Mandarin pronunciations of Chinese characters into Latin alphabet

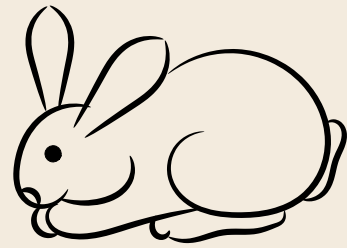


4 TONES IN MANDARIN

mā	má	mǎ	mà
妈	麻	马	骂
mother	numb	horse	scold
First tone (flat)	second tone (going up)	third tone (down and up)	fourth tone (going down)



COMMON PHRASES



NUMBERS

CHINESE NUMBERS: 1 TO 10

1: 一 yī

2: 二 èr

3: 三 sān

4: 四 sì

5: 五 wǔ

6: 六 liù

7: 七 qī

8: 八 bā

9: 九 jiǔ

10: 十 shí

MOSAlingua

ANIMALS

马



mǎ
horse

鸟



niǎo
bird

熊



xióng
bear

虎



hǔ
tiger

羊



yáng
sheep, goat

牛



niú
cow

象



xiàng
elephant

鱼



yú
fish

猫



māo
cat

狗



gǒu
dog

猪



zhū
pig

猴



hóu
monkey

OTHERS

你好	nǐ hǎo	HELLO
谢谢	xiè xiè	THANK YOU
不用客气	bù kè qì	YOU ARE WELCOME
早安/晚安	zǎo ān / wǎn ān	GOOD MORNING / GOOD NIGHT
我叫	Wǒ jiào	MY NAME IS
多少钱	duō shǎo qián	HOW MUCH?
好吃	hǎo chī	DELICIOUS
漂亮/帅	piào liang/shuài	BEAUTIFUL/HANDSOME
我不懂/我不明白	wǒ bù dǒng / wǒ bù míng bái	I DON'T KNOW / I DON'T UNDERSTAND
我们走吧	wǒ men zǒu bā	LET'S GO

THE KOREAN LANGUAGE



It is the native language for about 80 million people. It is the official and national language of both North Korea and South Korea. However, the two Koreas have developed some noticeable vocabulary differences. The language is recognised as a minority language in parts of China. It is also spoken by parts of Sakhalin, the (Russian island) just north of Japan, and by the people in parts of Central Asia. Hierarchy of the society from which the language originates deeply influences the language, system of speech levels and honorifics indicative of the formality.

HISTORY OF KOREAN WRITING SYSTEM

Old Korean

Early Modern Korean

Middle Korean

Modern Korean



OLD KOREAN

Chinese characters arrived in Korea together with Buddhism . They were adapted for Korean and became known as Hanja. This remained as the main script for writing Korean for over a millennium. Only privileged elites were educated to read and write in Hanja, therefore most of the population was illiterate.



MIDDLE KOREAN (IN THE 15TH CENTURY)

King Sejong the Great personally developed an alphabetic featural writing system known today as Hangeul. He felt that Hanja was inadequate to write Korean. Hangeul was designed to either aid in reading Hanja or to replace Hanja. The elite class of Yangban had exchanged Hangeul letters with slaves, which suggests a high literacy rate of Hangeul during the Joseon era.

EARLY MODERN KOREAN (17TH TO 19TH CENTURIES).

Corresponding to the later part of Joseon era when North–South differences have developed. Variations in standard Korean, pronunciation and vocabulary chosen. These minor differences can be found in any of the Korean dialects, which are still largely mutually intelligible.

MODERN KOREAN (FROM THE BEGINNING OF THE 20TH CENTURY)

It reflects China's deep influence over centuries. The language consists of words derived from Chinese, mainly through the Confucian classics. South Koreans generally use a hybrid writing system. North Koreans totally eliminated Chinese characters.

HOW TO LEARN KOREAN LANGUAGE

Learn Hangeul, the Korean alphabet

Hangeul has 24 letters, consisting of 14 consonants and 10 vowels. Korean also uses around 3,000 Chinese characters, or Hanja, to represent words of Chinese origin.

Learn to count

Korean form (numbers of items) and Sino-Korean (dates, money, addresses, phone numbers, and numbers above 100).

Memorize simple vocabulary

The wider the vocabulary, the easier it is to speak a language fluently.

Learn some basic conversational phrases

Learning the basics of polite conversation, it will help to interact with Korean-speakers on a simple level.

Understand the forms of polite speech

Three major types in the degrees of formality (informal, formal, honorific).

Study basic grammar

Subject - object - verb order

COMMON PHRASES IN FORMAL CONVERSATION

Hello: 안녕하세요 (annyeong haseyo) = 네, 안녕하세요 (ne, annyeong haseyo)

Yes: 예 (ye) or 네(ne)

No: 아니요 (aniyo)

Please: 주세요 (juseyo)

Thank you: 감사합니다 (kamsahamnida) = It's okay: 괜찮다 (gwaenchanhayo)

I don't know: 몰라요 (mollayo)

I'm sorry: 미안해요 (mianhaeyo)

CONCLUSION



Insight into another cultures



Improve social life

Benefits



Raise value in job market



Increase brain power

Being a polyglot comes with multiple benefits. Learning multiple languages will improve your brain power. It allows insight into another culture. It can improve your social life as well as raise your value in the job market.

Polyglots may face some obstacles such as feeling excluded in a monolingual community where some may feel jealous or threatened by their ability. This can be overcome by ensuring that first and foremost the person is well versed in their own language, therefore they can explore other languages while still having solid roots in their own.

Formal resources may be scarce or costly, therefore those who wish to learn multiple languages should make full use of free sources available first before embarking onto the next step.

Islamic Perspectives

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ إِنَّا خَلَقْنَاكُمْ مِنْ ذَكَرٍ وَأُنْثَىٰ وَجَعَلْنَاكُمْ شُعُوبًا وَقَبَائِلَ لِتَعَارَفُوا إِنَّ أَكْرَمَكُمْ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ أَتَّقِيكُمْ إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَلِيمٌ خَبِيرٌ

(49:13) Human beings, We created you all from a male and a female, and made you into nations and tribes so that you may know one another. Verily the noblest of you in the sight of Allah is the most God-fearing of you. Surely Allah is All-Knowing, All-Aware.

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