French Language Facts

# French speakers

■ 128 million Francophones: speak French (as a native or adopted language) fluently and use it on a regular basis.

■ 72 million "*partiel*" Francophones: live in a francophone country but do not speak French regularly, due to limited knowledge.

■ 100-110 million students of all ages: do not live in a francophone country, but have learned/are learning French in order to communicate with Francophones.

# French speaking Countries

French is spoken officially in 33 countries. This number is second only to English, which is spoken officially in 45 countries. French and English are the only languages spoken as a native language on 5 continents and the only languages taught in every country in the world.

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| 1. **Officially French Speaking Countries** | | |
| 1. Bénin | 1. Burkina Faso | 1. Central African Republic |
| 1. Congo RDC | 1. Republic of Congo | 1. Côte d'Ivoire |
| 1. France | 1. Gabon | 1. Guinea |
| 1. Haiti | 1. Luxembourg | 1. Madagascar |
| 1. Mali | 1. Monaco | 1. Niger |
| 1. Seychelles | 1. Sénégal | 1. Togo |
| 1. **French Territories :** *Départements d'outre-mer (DOM)*, also called *Régions d'outre-mer (ROM)* | | |
| 1. French Guyana | 1. Guadeloupe | 1. Martinique |
| 1. Mayotte | 1. La Réunion |  |
| 1. **French Territories :** *Collectivités d'outre-mer (COM)*, formerly called *Territoires d'outre mer (TOM)* | | |
| 1. French Polynesia | 1. New Caledonia | 1. Saint Barthélemy |
| 1. Saint Martin | 1. Saint Pierre and Miquelon | 1. Wallis and Futuna |
| 1. **French Territories :** *Territoires d'outre-mer (TOM)* | | |
| 1. French southern & Antarctic lands | | |
| 1. **Officially bilingual/multilingual French Speaking Countries** | | |
| 1. Belgium | 1. Burundi | 1. Canada |
| 1. Cameroon | 1. Chad | 1. Channel Islands (Guernsey and Jersey) |
| 1. Comoros | 1. Djibouti | 1. Equatorial Guinea |
| 1. Rwanda | 1. Switzerland | 1. Vanuat |
| 1. **Unofficially bilingual/multilingual French Speaking Countries** | | |
| 1. Algeria | 1. Andorra | 1. Argentina |
| 1. Brazil | 1. Cambodia | 1. Cape Verde |
| 1. Dominica (French patois) | 1. Egypt | 1. Greece |
| 1. Grenada (French patois) | 1. Guinea-Bissau | 1. India |
| 1. Italy (Valle d'Aosta) | 1. Laos | 1. Lebanon |
| 1. Mauritania | 1. Mauritius | 1. Morocco |
| 1. Poland | 1. Saint Lucia | 1. Syria |
| 1. Trinidad and Tobago | 1. Tunisia | 1. United States (Louisiana, New England) |
| 1. Vatican City | 1. Vietnam |  |

■The Canadian provinces of Ontario, Alberta, and Manitoba have significant French-speaking populations but only the province of New Brunswick is officially bilingual (French and English).

# French speaking international organizations

■ French is considered an international language not only because it is spoken in dozens of countries, but also because it is one of the official working languages in many international organizations, including:

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| 1. African Union (AU) | 1. Amnesty International |
| 1. European Commission | 1. International Criminal Court |
| 1. International Olympic Committee | 1. International Red Cross and Red Crescent |
| 1. Médecins Sans Frontières (Doctors Without Borders) | 1. United Nations (UN) |
| 1. World Health Organization (WHO) | 1. World Trade Organization (WTO) |

# French in Canada

■ French is one of the two official languages of Canada; it is spoken and understood by nearly 9 million people in our country.

■ French is spoken by approximately 105, 000 people in Manitoba.

■ There are 108 French Immersion Schools in Manitoba.

■ There are presently 22, 725 students enrolled in the French Immersion program in Manitoba.

■ There are presently 66,168 students enrolled in the Basic French program in Manitoba *(excluding Special Education and Pre-Kindergarten Enrolments)*.