

Language Families

Languages

The largest families, and what family membership actually means.

By number of speakers.

Family	Speakers	Includes
Indo-European	~3.2bn	English, Spanish, Hindi, Russian
Sino-Tibetan	~1.4bn	Mandarin, Cantonese, Burmese
Niger-Congo	~700m	Swahili, Yoruba, Zulu
Afro-Asiatic	~600m	Arabic, Hebrew, Amharic
Austronesian	~400m	Indonesian, Tagalog, Malagasy
Dravidian	~250m	Tamil, Telugu, Kannada
Turkic	~200m	Turkish, Uzbek, Kazakh

Hungarian, Finnish and Estonian are Uralic, not Indo-European — surrounded by relatives they are not related to.