

Catalan is a Western Romance language derived from Vulgar Latin and named after the medieval Principality of Catalonia, in northeastern modern Spain. It is the official language of Andorra, Catalonia, the Balearic Islands and Valencia (where the language is known as Valencian), and has a semi-official status in the Italian commune of Alghero. Other areas where Catalan is spoken, although it is not official, is the eastern part of Aragon (*Franja de Ponent*), where it is the habitual language of about 30,000 people (70% of the population of this territory), a small region in Murcia, known as *El Carxe*, where it is spoken by about five hundred people, and in the Eastern Pyrenees (territory also known as Northern Catalonia), where it is the habitual language of 3.5% of the population. These territories are often called *Els Països Catalans* or "Catalan Countries".

It has a total of nine million speakers, of which almost half are native speakers, and its linguistic dominion is spread geographically on an area of 68,730 km² and 13,529,127 inhabitants (2009).

According to UNESCO data, Catalan is currently the 23rd most widely translated language in the world. And according to a study by Jordi Mas of *Softcatalà*, it is the twenty-sixth most widely used language on the Internet.



Sources

<https://ca.wikipedia.org/wiki/Català>

<http://www.unesco.org/xtrans/bsstatexp.aspx?crit1L=3&nTyp=min&topN=50>

<https://www.softcatala.org/noticies/salut-catala-internet-2005>