# Countries, Nationalities and Languages

*Where you are from, what you are called and what you speak, from a first introduction to the line between dialect and language, from A1 to C2.*

A1–C2 · English Vocabulary, Lesson 5

*I'm Spanish · a Spaniard · a lingua franca*

## Countries *A1–A2*

| | |
|---|---|
| Spain | England |
| France | Germany |
| Italy | Portugal |
| Ireland | the UK |
| China | Japan |
| the USA | Mexico |
| Morocco | Brazil |

*the USA, the UK · but Spain, France (no the)*

## Nationalities *A1–A2*

| | |
|---|---|
| Spanish | English |
| French | German |
| Italian | Portuguese |
| Irish | British |
| Chinese | Japanese |
| American | Mexican |
| Moroccan | Brazilian |

*Always a capital letter: I'm Spanish. I speak English.*

## People and places *B1–B2*

**Endings:** -ish (Polish, Danish) · -ese (Chinese) · -an (Mexican) · -i (Pakistani) · irregular: French, Dutch, Greek, Swiss

**One person:** a Spaniard, a Dane, a Swede, a Pole, a Finn, a Scot, a Frenchman

**The people:** the Spanish, the French, the Dutch, the Irish

**Britain and Ireland:** England, Great Britain, the United Kingdom, Northern Ireland, the Republic of Ireland

**Languages:** Welsh, Scottish Gaelic, Irish · Spanish (Castilian), Catalan, Galician, Basque

**Talking about them:** official, co-official, a minority language, bilingual, a native speaker, fluently

*She's **a Scot**, so she's British but not English. In Wales the road signs are **bilingual**.*

*the UK = Great Britain + Northern Ireland*

## Precise and tricky *C1–C2*

**Demonyms:** a Londoner, a Mancunian, a Liverpudlian (a Scouser), a Glaswegian, a Geordie

**Tricky names:** the Netherlands, Holland, Dutch, Flemish · Arab, Arabic, Arabian · Hispanic, Latino

**Living with languages:** mother tongue, first language, bilingual, multilingual, a polyglot, a lingua franca

**Varieties:** an accent, a dialect, a variety, mutually intelligible

**Counting speakers:** native speakers, second-language speakers, an estimate

*An **Arab** poet writing in **Arabic**; English is the **lingua franca** of the conference.*

*American usually means from the USA, not the whole continent*

### Meeting people

- *Where are you from? I'm from Spain.*
- *What nationality are you? I'm Spanish.*
- *What languages do you speak?*
- *I speak Spanish and a little English.*

### Common mistakes

- ~~I'm Spain.~~ → I'm **Spanish**. / I'm from Spain.
- ~~I speak spanish.~~ → I speak **Spanish**.
- ~~She's from Glasgow, so she's English.~~ → she's **Scottish**
- ~~an Arabic man~~ → an **Arab** man; the **Arabic** language

### Words with a past

- **Spain**: Latin *Hispania*, the whole peninsula
- **Morocco**: from the city of Marrakesh
- **Holland**: Middle Dutch *holtland*, wood land
- **foreign**: Latin *foras*, outside

### My new words

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