

Ethnologue: Languages of Honduras

Twentieth edition data

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List of Abbreviations

A	Agent in constituent word order
<i>alt.</i>	alternate name for
<i>alt. dial.</i>	alternate dialect name for
C	Consonant in canonical syllable patterns
CDE	Convention against Discrimination in Education (1960)
<i>Class</i>	Language classification
CPPDCE	Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (2005)
CSICH	Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage (2003)
<i>dial.</i>	primary dialect name for
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966)
ILOCITP	ILO Convention on Indigenous and Tribal People no. 169 (1989)
km	kilometer(s)
L1 / L2	first language / second (or other additional) language
<i>Lg Dev</i>	Language development
<i>Lg Use</i>	Language use
m	meter(s)
P	Patient in constituent word order
<i>pej.</i>	pejorative
pl.	plural
S	Subject in constituent word order
sg.	singular
SIL	SIL International
SOV	Subject-Object-Verb
<i>Type</i>	Typological information
UNDRIP	United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2007)
UNSD	United Nations Statistics Division
USCB	United States Census Bureau
V	Vowel in canonical syllable patterns
VSO	Verb-Subject-Object

How to Use This Digest

This *Ethnologue* country digest provides an extract of the information about the language situation in Honduras that is published in the 20th edition of *Ethnologue: Languages of the World* (see <http://www.ethnologue.com>), including some ways of presenting the information that are not available in the online version. The digest begins with a “Country Overview” (page 6) and “Statistical Summaries” (page 8) of languages and number of speakers by language size, by language status, and by language family.

The “Alphabetical Listing of Languages” (page 11) provides detailed information on the 10 languages listed in the *Ethnologue* for the country of Honduras. This includes languages that are either indigenous to the country or which immigrated in the past resulting in well-established multigenerational speaker communities. A complete language entry has the following form and content:

Primary language name [ISO 639-3 code] (Alternate names). Autonym. Country speaker population. Population stability comment. L2 population. Monolingual population. Population remarks. Ethnic population. Location. *Status*: EGIDS level. Language function in country. *Class*: Linguistic classification. Macrolanguage membership. *Dialects*: Dialect names. Intelligibility and dialect relations. Lexical similarity. *Type*: Linguistic typology information. *Lg Use*: Viability remarks. Domains of use. User age groups. Language attitudes. Bilingualism remarks. Use as second language. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rates. Literacy remarks. Use in elementary or secondary schools. Publications and use in media. Revitalization efforts. Language development agencies. *Writing*: Scripts used. *Other*: General remarks. Religion. *Worldwide*: Total population in all countries. Other countries where used.

See <http://www.ethnologue.com/about/language-info> for a full description of these information elements. If the autonym contains the “?” character, this indicates a complex non-Roman character that the PDF-creating software we are using is not able to render. We regret the inconvenience.

Many ways of finding languages are provided. “Languages by Population” (page 15) lists the languages in order of their first-language speaker populations. “Languages by Status” (page 16) lists the languages by their level of development or endangerment as measured on EGIDS, the Expanded Graded Intergenerational Disruption Scale (Lewis and Simons 2010). “Languages by Department” (page 18) lists the top-level administrative subdivisions of Honduras and the languages located within each. “Languages by Family” (page 19) lists the languages by their linguistic classifications. “Language Code Index” (page 20) gives an alphabetical listing of all the three-letter codes from ISO 639-3 that are used in this digest to uniquely identify languages. “Language Name Index” (page 21) lists every name that appears in the language listings as a primary or alternate name of a language or dialect. A total of 30 unique names are associated with the 10 languages described in this digest.

Finally, a listing of all the published sources cited within this digest is found in “Bibliography” (page 22). The published sources are cited using standard in-text citations enclosed in parentheses,

consisting of the author's or editor's surname followed by the year of publication. Unpublished sources including personal communications and unpublished reports are also acknowledged when specific statements or facts are attributed to them. They are identified using in-text citations enclosed in parentheses in which the year of the communication is given first, followed by the source's first initial and surname. In such a case, there is no corresponding entry in the bibliography.

This digest is designed for use in both digital and print formats. The cross-references are thus rendered as page numbers that are hyperlinks. When using the document in printed form, simply turn to the referenced page by number. When using it in digital form, click on the blue text to jump to the cross-referenced location.

If you believe any of the information about a language in this digest is in error or if you are able to supply missing information, please send your proposed change to the editor using one of the means given below. Provide as much information as possible about the source of your information. Full bibliographic details of published sources are especially helpful.

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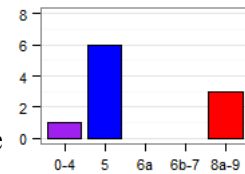
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Country Overview

Name of country	Honduras
Other names	Republic of Honduras
Population	8,215,000 (2012 UNSD)
Principal language	Spanish
Literacy rate	87% (2014 USCB)
Immigrant languages	Arabic (42,000), Armenian (1,300), Yue Chinese (1,000)
Deaf population	18,000–70,000
International conventions	CDE (2013), CPPDCE (2010), CSICH (2006), ICCPR (1997), ILOCITP (1995), UNDRIP (2007)
General references	Campbell 1997, Campbell and Oltrogge 1980, Oltrogge 1977, Rivas 1993

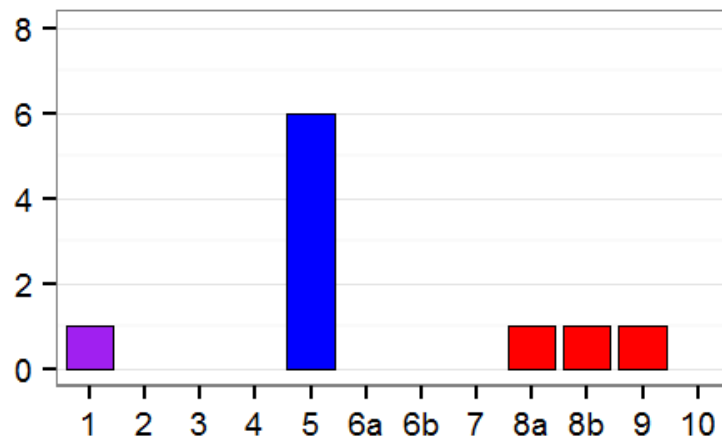
Language counts The number of individual languages listed for Honduras is 10. All are living languages. Of these, 8 are indigenous and 2 are non-indigenous. Furthermore, 1 is institutional, 6 are developing, and 3 are dying.



See the next page for an explanation of the summary categories for language vitality used in the above counts and graph.

Language Status Profile

The following histogram gives a graphic profile of languages in Honduras with respect to their status of language development versus language endangerment. Each individual language that appears in the “Alphabetical Listing of Languages” (page 11) is included in the profile. The horizontal axis represents the estimated level of development or endangerment as measured on the EGIDS scale (Lewis and Simons 2010). The height of each bar indicates the number of languages that are estimated to be at the given level. Consult “Languages by Status” (page 16) in order to see the specific languages for each level.



The color coding of the bars in the histogram above matches the color scheme used in the summary profile graph on the preceding page. In this scheme, the EGIDS levels are grouped as follows:

- Purple = Institutional (EGIDS 0-4) — The language has been developed to the point that it is used and sustained by institutions beyond the home and community.
- Blue = Developing (EGIDS 5) — The language is in vigorous use, with literature in a standardized form being used by some though this is not yet widespread or sustainable.
- Green = Vigorous (EGIDS 6a) — The language is in vigorous use among all generations and remains unstandardized.
- Yellow = In trouble (EGIDS 6b-7) — Intergenerational transmission is in the process of being broken, but the child-bearing generation can still use the language so it is possible that revitalization efforts could restore transmission of the language in the home.
- Red = Dying (EGIDS 8a-9) — The only fluent users (if any) are older than child-bearing age, so it is too late to restore natural intergenerational transmission through the home; a mechanism outside the home would need to be developed.
- Black = Extinct (EGIDS 10) — The language is no longer used and no one retains a sense of ethnic identity associated with the language.

Statistical Summaries

The “Alphabetical Listing of Languages” (page 11) provides a detailed listing of all the languages of Honduras. This section steps back from the detail to offer a summary view of the language situation in the country. Specifically, it offers numerical tabulations of living languages and number of speakers by language size, by language status, and by language family.

Summary by language size

Table 1 summarizes the distribution of living languages in Honduras by number of L1 speakers. The *Population range* column categorizes the sizes of the languages by order of magnitude (in terms of the number of digits in the population of first-language speakers). Consult “Languages by Population” (page 15) for a listing of the specific languages in each range category.

The *Count* column gives the number of living languages within the specified population range. The *Percent* column gives the share of the count for that population range as a percentage of the total number of languages given at the bottom of the Count column. The *Cumulative* column gives the cumulative sum of the percentage of languages going from top to bottom in the column.

The *Total* column gives the total population of all the languages in the given range category. The second *Percent* column gives the percentage of the total country population as estimated at the bottom of the Total column. Note that if the table has a row for Unknown, representing languages for which the *Ethnologue* does not have a population estimate, the calculation of population percentage is not able to take those languages into account. The final *Cumulative* column gives the cumulative sums of the population percentages going from top to bottom in the column.

Table 1: Distribution of languages by number of first-language speakers

Population range	Living languages			Number of speakers		
	Count	Percent	Cumulative	Total	Percent	Cumulative
1,000,000 to 9,999,999	1	10.0	10.0%	7,980,000	98.02777	98.02777%
10,000 to 99,999	3	30.0	40.0%	158,500	1.94704	99.97482%
100 to 999	3	30.0	70.0%	2,040	0.02506	99.99988%
10 to 99	1	10.0	80.0%	10	0.00012	100.00000%
0	1	10.0	90.0%	0	0.00000	100.00000%
Unknown	1	10.0	100.0%			
<i>Totals</i>	10	100.0		8,140,550	100.00000	

Summary by language status

Table 2 summarizes the distribution of living languages in Honduras by their status in terms of language development or language endangerment. The *EGIDS* column categorizes the languages by their level on the EGIDS scale. Consult “Languages by Status” (page 16) for a listing of the specific languages that have been assigned to each level. Note that the EGIDS level reported here is for the status of the language in Honduras. Languages that are also used in other countries may be assigned to a different EGIDS level in those countries.

The next six columns are as in Table 1. In addition, the *Mean* column gives the average population of all the languages with the given EGIDS level and the *Median* column gives the median population for the languages at that level, that is, half of the languages at that level have a higher population and half have a lower population. If there are any languages with an unknown population, these are ignored in the calculation of the mean and the median.

Table 2: Distribution of languages by vitality status

EGIDS	Living languages			Number of speakers			Mean	Median
	Count	Percent	Cumulative	Total	Percent	Cumulative		
1	1	10.0	10.0%	7,980,000	98.0278	98.0278%	7,980,000	7,980,000
5	6	60.0	70.0%	159,550	1.9599	99.9877%	26,592	29,000
8a	1	10.0	80.0%	990	0.0122	99.9999%	990	990
8b	1	10.0	90.0%	10	0.0001	100.0000%	10	10
9	1	10.0	100.0%	0	0.0000	100.0000%	0	0
<i>Totals</i>	10	100.0		8,140,550	100.0000			

Summary by language family

The genetic classifications given in the language entries of the “Alphabetical Listing of Languages” (page 11) name 8 different top-level genetic groups. Table 3 summarizes the distribution of living languages and their populations within these families. The columns are as for table 2, with the exception that *Cumulative* is excluded since there is no inherent ordering of the families.

Table 3: Distribution of languages by language family

Language family	Living languages		Number of speakers			
	Count	Percent	Total	Percent	Mean	Median
Chibchan	1	10.0	990	0.0	990	990
Indo-European	2	20.0	8,011,500	98.4	4,005,750	4,005,750

Language family	Living languages		Number of speakers			
	Count	Percent	Total	Percent	Mean	Median
Jicaquean	1	10.0	350	0.0	350	350
Lencan	1	10.0	0	0.0	0	0
Maipurean	1	10.0	98,000	1.2	98,000	98,000
Mayan	1	10.0	10	0.0	10	10
Misumalpan	2	20.0	29,700	0.4	14,850	14,850
Sign language	1	10.0	Unknown			
<i>Totals</i>	10	100.0	8,140,550	100.0		

Alphabetical Listing of Languages

Ch'orti' [caa]. 10 (1997 R. Reeck). Copán department: along Guatemala border. *Status*: 8b (Nearly extinct). *Class*: Mayan, Yucatecan-Core Mayan, Core Mayan, Cholan-Tzeltalan, Cholan, Chorti-Cholti. *Type*: VOS. *Lg Dev*: Dictionary. Grammar. NT: 1997–2012. *Writing*: Latin script. *Map*: 14. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 30,010. Global EGIDS level: 5 (Developing). Also indigenous in: Guatemala.

English [eng] (Inglés). Autonym: English. 31,500 (2001). 22,500 Bay Islands English speakers on the north coast. Islas de la Bahía department: large cities along north mainland coast. *Status*: 5 (Dispersed). *Class*: Indo-European, Germanic, West, English. *Dialect*: Bay Islands English. *Type*: SVO; prepositions; genitives after noun heads; articles, adjectives, numerals before noun heads; question word initial; word order distinguishes subject, object, indirect objects, given and new information, topic and comment; active and passive; causative; comparative; consonant and vowel clusters; 24 consonants, 13 vowels, 8 diphthongs; non-tonal; free stress; phrasal verbs. *Lg Use*: Used as L2 by Garifuna [cab]. *Lg Dev*: Fully developed. Bible: 1382–2002. *Writing*: Braille script. Deseret Alphabet, developed in 1854 with limited usage until 1877. Latin script, primary usage. Shavian (Shaw) script, no longer in use. *Other*: Non-indigenous. Some creole influence. *Map*: 14. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 983,522,920 (as L1: 371,959,910; as L2: 611,563,010). Global EGIDS level: 0 (International). Indigenous in: Ireland, Isle of Man, United Kingdom. Also established in: American Samoa, Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba, Australia, Bahamas, Bahrain, Barbados, Belize, Bermuda, Bhutan, Botswana, British Indian Ocean Territory, British Virgin Islands, Brunei, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Caribbean Netherlands, Cayman Islands, China–Hong Kong, Cook Islands, Curacao, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gambia, Ghana, Gibraltar, Grenada, Guam, Guernsey, Guyana, India, Israel, Jamaica, Jersey, Kenya, Kiribati, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Micronesia, Montserrat, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Niue, Norfolk Island, Northern Mariana Islands, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Pitcairn, Puerto Rico, Rwanda, Saint Barthélemy, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Martin, Saint Pierre and Miquelon, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Sint Maarten, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Tokelau, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Turks and Caicos Islands, Tuvalu, U.S. Virgin Islands, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United States, Vanuatu, Zambia, Zimbabwe. Immigrant language in: Andorra, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bulgaria, Chile, China–Macao, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Ecuador, Equatorial Guinea, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Libya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mexico, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, São Tomé e Príncipe, Saudi Arabia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Korea, Spain, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Venezuela.

Garifuna [cab] (Black Carib, Caribe, Central American Carib, Island Carib). 98,000 (Rivas 1993). 100 monolinguals. Atlántida and Colón departments; Cortes department: north coast between Masca and Plaplaya in Gracias a Dios department; Islas de la Bahía (Roatan island) department; cities: La Ceiba, Puerto Cortés, San Pedro Sula, and Tegucigalpa; 37 villages. *Status*: 5 (Developing). *Class*: Maipurean, Northern, Maritime, Ta-Maipurean, Iñeri. *Dialects*: Western Garifuna, Eastern Garifuna. Eastern Garifuna dialect is in Honduras and Nicaragua (leaves out, r, and tends to shorten words), Western Garifuna in Guatemala and Belize. Related to Island Carib [car], with Spanish [spa], English [eng], and French [fra] borrowings. *Type*: VSO. *Lg Use*: Shifting to Spanish [spa] in some villages. All domains. Positive attitudes. Also use English [eng], Spanish [spa]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L1: 1%–5%. Literacy rate in L2: 5%–15%. Radio. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. Bible: 2002. *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Ancestors taken from Saint Vincent Island in 1796–1797, and taken to Roatan Island. Most went to Trujillo, Honduras in 1937. About 35 years later political troubles threatened their existence, and they fled further east into Honduras and Belize. Later they emigrated to other countries. Christian, traditional religion. *Map*: 14. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 175,000. Also indigenous in: Belize, Guatemala. Also established in: Nicaragua. Immigrant language in: United States.

Honduras Sign Language [hds] (Honduran Sign Language, LESHO, Lengua de Señas Hondureñas). Scattered. *Status*: 5 (Developing). *Class*: Sign language. *Dialects*: None known. Regional variations: deaf people along the North coast have some distinct signs from deaf people in the southern part of the country. *Lg Dev*: At least 12 institutions offer primary education for deaf Hondurans with Honduran Sign Language as their communication philosophy.

Lenca [len]. No known L1 speakers. Some semi-speakers (Adelaar 2007). Ethnic population: 100,000. Comayagua, Francisco Morazán, Intibucá, La Paz, Lempira, and Valle departments. *Status*: 9 (Dormant). *Class*: Lencan. *Dialects*: None known. Some considered it Macro-Chibchan. *Writing*: Unwritten.

Mayangna [yan] (Sumu). 700 (1997 SIL). Ethnic population: 1,030 (McSweeney 2002). Colón department: southeast corner; Gracias a Dios and Olancho departments: between Patuca and Wanki rivers. *Status*: 5 (Dispersed). *Class*: Misumalpan. *Dialect*: Twahka. *Type*: SOV. *Lg Use*: All ages. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L1: 10%–30%. Dictionary. Bible: 1999. *Writing*: Latin script. *Map*: 14. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 8,700. Global EGIDS level: 2 (Provincial). Also indigenous in: Nicaragua.

Mískito [miq] (Marquito, Mosquito, Mískitu, Mískito). Autonym: Mískitu. 29,000 (Rivas 1993). Colón department; Gracias a Dios and Olancho departments, south, Coco river watershed; coastal area, and northwest from Puerto Lempira. *Status*: 5 (Dispersed). *Class*: Misumalpan. *Type*: SOV; articles, relatives after noun heads, word order distinguishes subject and object; verb affixes mark person and number; ergative; passive; CVC; nontonal. *Lg Use*: All ages. Also use Spanish [spa]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L1: 1%–10%. Literacy rate in L2: 5%–25%.

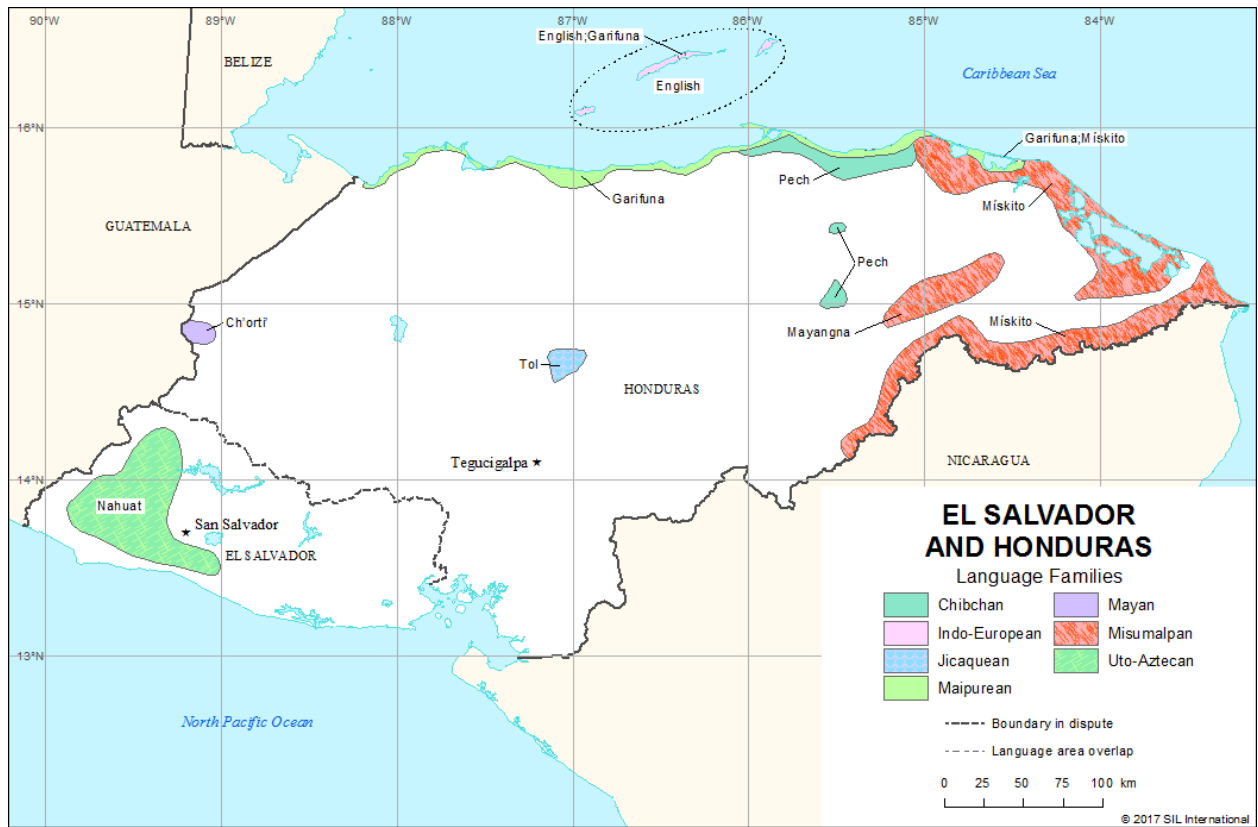
Dictionary. Grammar. Bible: 1999. *Writing*: Latin script. *Map*: 14. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 143,000. Global EGIDS level: 2 (Provincial). Also indigenous in: Nicaragua.

Pech [pay] (Paya, Seco). 990 (Rivas 1993). Ethnic population: 2,590 (Rivas 1993). Colón department: near Caribbean coast; Olancho department: Dulce Nombre de Culmi and Catamacas municipalities. *Status*: 8a (Moribund). *Class*: Chibchan, Chibchan B. *Type*: SOV. *Lg Use*: Use Pech more in Agua Amarilla and La Laguna in El Carbón. Shifting to Spanish [spa]. Older adults. Also use Spanish [spa]. *Lg Dev*: Grammar. *Writing*: Unwritten. *Other*: Much community interest to preserve the Pech language, and some work is being done to preserve it. *Map*: 14.

Spanish [spa] (Castellano, Español). Autonym: Castellano, Español. 8,128,000 in Honduras, all users. L1 users: 7,980,000 (2011). L2 users: 148,000 (2011). *Status*: 1 (National). Statutory national language (1982, Constitution, Article 6). *Class*: Indo-European, Italic, Romance, Italo-Western, Western, Gallo-Iberian, Ibero-Romance, West Iberian, Castilian. *Type*: SVO; prepositions; genitives, relatives after noun heads; articles, numerals before noun heads; adjectives before or after noun heads depending on whether it is evaluative or descriptive; question word initial; gender (masculine/feminine); definite and indefinite articles; verb affixes mark number, person; passives; tense; comparatives; 20 consonants, 5 vowels, 5 diphthongs; non-tonal; stress on penultimate syllable. Silbo Gomero whistled variety of Spanish used in Canary Islands. *Lg Dev*: Fully developed. Bible: 1553–2012. *Writing*: Braille script. Latin script, primary usage. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 527,976,150 (as L1: 436,667,750; as L2: 91,308,400). Global EGIDS level: 0 (International). Indigenous in: Andorra, Gibraltar, Spain. Also established in: Argentina, Belize, Bolivia, Caribbean Netherlands, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Curacao, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, France, Guatemala, Mexico, Morocco, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Puerto Rico, Trinidad and Tobago, United States, Uruguay, Venezuela. Immigrant language in: Algeria, Aruba, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Cayman Islands, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Czechia, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Guam, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Sint Maarten, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, U.S. Virgin Islands, United Kingdom, Western Sahara.

Tol [jic] (Jicaque, Tolpan, Xicaque). 350 (1997). Ethnic population: 19,600 (1990 Educación Comunitaria para la Salud-Honduras). 19,000 in Yoro Department. Francisco Morazán department: Montaña de la Flor and Yoro. *Status*: 5 (Developing). *Class*: Jicaquean. *Dialects*: No distinct dialects. It may be distantly related to Subtiaba [sut] of Nicaragua (no remaining speakers), Malinaltepec Me'phaa [tcf] of Mexico, or the Hokan languages. *Type*: SOV. *Lg Use*: All ages. Also use Spanish [spa]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L1: 5%–10%. Literacy rate in L2: 5%–15%. Dictionary. NT: 1993–2010. *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Christian, traditional religion. *Map*: 14.

Language Map



Languages by Population

In this section the languages of Honduras are listed in order of their population of first-language speakers within the country, from highest to lowest. The entries report just the population and status elements.

1,000,000 to 9,999,999

Spanish [[spa](#)] 7,980,000 (2011). L2 users: 148,000 (2011). *Status*: 1 (National). Statutory national language (1982, Constitution, Article 6).

10,000 to 99,999

Garifuna [[cab](#)] 98,000 (Rivas 1993). Population total all countries: 175,000. 100 monolinguals. *Status*: 5 (Developing).

English [[eng](#)] 31,500 (2001). 22,500 Bay Islands English speakers on the north coast. *Status*: 5 (Dispersed).

Mískito [[miq](#)] 29,000 (Rivas 1993). *Status*: 5 (Dispersed).

100 to 999

Pech [[pay](#)] 990 (Rivas 1993). Ethnic population: 2,590 (Rivas 1993). *Status*: 8a (Moribund).

Mayangna [[yan](#)] 700 (1997 SIL). Ethnic population: 1,030 (McSweeney 2002). *Status*: 5 (Dispersed).

Tol [[jic](#)] 350 (1997). Ethnic population: 19,600 (1990 Educación Comunitaria para la Salud-Honduras). 19,000 in Yoro Department. *Status*: 5 (Developing).

10 to 99

Ch'orti' [[caa](#)] 10 (1997 R. Reeck). *Status*: 8b (Nearly extinct).

0

Lenca [[len](#)] No known L1 speakers. Some semi-speakers (Adelaar 2007). Ethnic population: 100,000. *Status*: 9 (Dormant).

Unknown

Honduras Sign Language [[hds](#)] *Status*: 5 (Developing).

Languages by Status

In this section the languages of Honduras are listed in order of their status within the country as represented by their level on the EGIDs scale (Lewis and Simons 2010). The language entries are reduced to just the information elements that are relevant to assessing the EGIDS level: population, status, language use, language development, and writing.

1 (National)

Spanish [spa] 7,980,000 (2011). L2 users: 148,000 (2011). *Status*: Statutory national language (1982, Constitution, Article 6). *Writing*: Braille script. Latin script, primary usage.

5 (Developing)

Garifuna [cab] 98,000 (Rivas 1993). Population total all countries: 175,000. 100 monolinguals. *Lg Use*: Shifting to Spanish [spa] in some villages. All domains. Positive attitudes. Also use English [eng], Spanish [spa]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L1: 1%–5%. Literacy rate in L2: 5%–15%. Radio. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. Bible: 2002. *Writing*: Latin script.

Honduras Sign Language [hds] *Lg Dev*: At least 12 institutions offer primary education for deaf Hondurans with Honduran Sign Language as their communication philosophy.

Tol [jic] 350 (1997). Ethnic population: 19,600 (1990 Educación Comunitaria para la Salud-Honduras). 19,000 in Yoro Department. *Lg Use*: All ages. Also use Spanish [spa]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L1: 5%–10%. Literacy rate in L2: 5%–15%. Dictionary. NT: 1993–2010. *Writing*: Latin script.

5 (Dispersed)

English [eng] 31,500 (2001). 22,500 Bay Islands English speakers on the north coast. *Lg Use*: Used as L2 by Garifuna [cab]. *Writing*: Braille script. Deseret Alphabet, developed in 1854 with limited usage until 1877. Latin script, primary usage. Shavian (Shaw) script, no longer in use.

Mayangna [yan] 700 (1997 SIL). Ethnic population: 1,030 (McSweeney 2002). *Lg Use*: All ages. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L1: 10%–30%. *Writing*: Latin script.

Mískito [miq] 29,000 (Rivas 1993). *Lg Use*: All ages. Also use Spanish [spa]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L1: 1%–10%. Literacy rate in L2: 5%–25%. *Writing*: Latin script.

8a (Moribund)

Pech [pay] 990 (Rivas 1993). Ethnic population: 2,590 (Rivas 1993). *Lg Use*: Use Pech more in Agua Amarilla and La Laguna in El Carbón. Shifting to Spanish [spa]. Older adults. Also use Spanish [spa]. *Lg Dev*: Grammar. *Writing*: Unwritten.

8b (Nearly extinct)

Ch'orti' [caa] 10 (1997 R. Reeck). *Writing*: Latin script.

9 (Dormant)

Lenca [len] No known L1 speakers. Some semi-speakers (Adelaar 2007). Ethnic population: 100,000. *Writing*: Unwritten.

Languages by Department

This index gives an alphabetical listing of the top-level administrative subdivisions within Honduras. Under the name of each department is a list of the language communities that are located within its area.

Atlántida

Garifuna [cab], 12

Colón

Garifuna [cab], 12

Mayangna [yan], 12

Mískito [miq], 12

Pech [pay], 13

Comayagua

Lenca [len], 12

Copán

Ch'orti' [caa], 11

Cortés

Garifuna [cab], 12

Francisco Morazán

Lenca [len], 12

Tol [jic], 13

Gracias a Dios

Garifuna [cab], 12

Mayangna [yan], 12

Mískito [miq], 12

Intibucá

Lenca [len], 12

Islas de la Bahía

English [eng], 11

Garifuna [cab], 12

La Paz

Lenca [len], 12

Lempira

Lenca [len], 12

Olancho

Mayangna [yan], 12

Mískito [miq], 12

Pech [pay], 13

Valle

Lenca [len], 12

Languages by Family

This index gives an alphabetical listing of the linguistic classifications used for the languages of Honduras. The entries in this index represent the full path in the linguistic family tree from the highest level grouping down to the lowest. All the languages listed in the same entry are members of the same lowest-level subgroup. The referenced page contains the main entry that describes the language.

Chibchan, Chibchan B

Pech [pay], [13](#)

Indo-European, Germanic, West, English

English [eng], [11](#)

Indo-European, Italic, Romance, Italo-Western, Western, Gallo-Iberian, Ibero-Romance, West Iberian, Castilian

Spanish [spa], [13](#)

Jicaquean

Tol [jic], [13](#)

Lencan

Lenca [len], [12](#)

Maipurean, Northern, Maritime, Ta-Maipurean, Iñeri

Garifuna [cab], [12](#)

Mayan, Yucatecan-Core Mayan, Core Mayan, Cholan-Tzeltalan, Cholan, Chorti-Cholti

Ch'orti' [caa], [11](#)

Misumalpan

Mayangna [yan], [12](#)

Mískito [miq], [12](#)

Sign language

Honduras Sign Language [hds], [12](#)

Language Code Index

This index gives an alphabetical listing of all 10 three-letter codes that are used in this work to uniquely identify languages. The referenced page contains the main entry that describes the language. All codes listed are part of the ISO 639-3 standard; see <http://www.sil.org/iso639-3/>.

caa	Ch'orti', 11	len	Lenca, 12
cab	Garifuna, 12	miq	Mískito, 12
eng	English, 11	pay	Pech, 13
hds	Honduras Sign Language, 12	spa	Spanish, 13
jic	Tol, 13	yan	Mayangna, 12

Language Name Index

This index lists every name that appears in the language listings as a primary or alternate name of a language or dialect. The following abbreviations are used in the index entries: *alt.* ‘alternate name for’; *alt. dial.* ‘alternate name for a dialect of’; *dial.* ‘primary name for a dialect of’; *pej. alt.* ‘pejorative alternate name for’; and *pej. alt. dial.* ‘pejorative alternate name for a dialect of’. Each index entry resolves to the primary name for the language with which the indexed name is associated, followed by square brackets containing the unique three-letter language code from ISO 639-3. The referenced page contains the main entry that describes the language. If the language appears on a map, the entry for the primary name also lists page numbers for the maps on which the language occurs.

- Bay Islands English**, *dial.* English [eng], 11
- Black Carib**, *alt.* Garifuna [cab], 12
- Caribe**, *alt.* Garifuna [cab], 12
- Castellano**, *alt.* Spanish [spa], 13
- Central American Carib**, *alt.* Garifuna [cab], 12
- Ch’orti’** [caa], 11, 14
- Eastern Garifuna**, *dial.* Garifuna [cab], 12
- English** [eng], 11, 14
- Español**, *alt.* Spanish [spa], 13
- Garifuna** [cab], 12, 14
- Honduran Sign Language**, *alt.* Honduras Sign Language [hds], 12
- Honduras Sign Language** [hds], 12
- Inglés**, *alt.* English [eng], 11
- Island Carib**, *alt.* Garifuna [cab], 12
- Jicaque**, *alt.* Tol [jic], 13
- Lenca** [len], 12
- Lengua de Señas Hondureñas**, *alt.* Honduras Sign Language [hds], 12
- LESHO**, *alt.* Honduras Sign Language [hds], 12
- Marquito**, *alt.* Mískito [miq], 12
- Mayangna** [yan], 12, 14
- Mískito** [miq], 12, 14
- Mískitu**, *alt.* Mískito [miq], 12
- Mísquito**, *alt.* Mískito [miq], 12
- Mosquito**, *alt.* Mískito [miq], 12
- Paya**, *alt.* Pech [pay], 13
- Pech** [pay], 13, 14
- Seco**, *alt.* Pech [pay], 13
- Spanish** [spa], 13
- Sumu**, *alt.* Mayangna [yan], 12
- Tol** [jic], 13, 14
- Tolpan**, *alt.* Tol [jic], 13
- Twahka**, *dial.* Mayangna [yan], 12
- Western Garifuna**, *dial.* Garifuna [cab], 12
- Xicaque**, *alt.* Tol [jic], 13

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