



French-Speaking Countries Around the World

KS4 FRENCH

KS3 GEOGRAPHY

Ages 11-16 ⌚ 4 min read

More French Than Just France

You might think **French** is only spoken in **France**, but you'd be surprised! Around **29 countries** around the world have French as an official language. That's because **France** was a powerful empire that spread its language and culture to many parts of the world, especially in **Africa**, **Asia**, and the **Caribbean**.

French in Africa

Africa has the most French speakers of any continent. Countries like **Democratic Republic of Congo**, **Cameroon**, **Ivory Coast**, **Senegal**, and **Mali** all speak French as an official language. In fact, more than half of all French speakers in the world live in **Africa**! This happened because **France** colonised (took over) many African countries and stayed there for a long time, leaving French as the main language used in government, schools, and business.

Think of it like when one kid in a friendship group becomes really popular and everyone starts copying the way they speak and dress—except this happened between whole countries!

French in Europe and Beyond

Belgium, **Switzerland**, and **Luxembourg** are European countries where French is spoken alongside other languages. In **Belgium**, some people speak French and others speak **Dutch**. **Switzerland** is interesting because different regions speak different languages—some speak French, some speak **German**, and some speak **Italian**.

French in the Americas and the Caribbean

Far across the Atlantic Ocean, you'll find French speakers in the **Caribbean** and **South America**. **Haiti**, **Martinique**, and **Guadeloupe** all speak French. Even **Canada** has a huge French-speaking population, especially in the province of **Quebec**. Over **7 million people** speak French as their main language in **Canada**!

Think of French spreading around the world like seeds from a dandelion blowing on the wind—they landed in many different places and grew into new communities.

French Today

Today, **French** is one of the most important languages in the world. It's used in international organisations like the **United Nations** and the **European Union**. Learning French gives you the chance to chat with millions of people across six continents and understand different cultures!