

English in Education in Asia and the Pacific

Country	National/Official Language(s)	Language(s) Mainly Used in Daily Life	English in Formal Education					Foreign Language Education Other than English	
			as a subject (as a secondary or a foreign language)					major language(s) taught at school	major language(s) learned outside school
			pre-school	primary lower	primary upper	secondary lower	secondary upper		
Australia	English	English	instruction					Japanese, Indonesian, French	Japanese, Spanish
Bangladesh	Bengali	Bengali		subject			Arabic	Arabic, French	
Bhutan	Dzongkha	Dzongkha and dialects of the regions	instruction						
Fiji	Fijian, English, Hindi	Fijian, English, Hindi	instruction					French, Japanese	French
India	Hindi, other 17 officially recognised languages, English*	vernacular languages, regional languages, English		subject		instruction		French, Spanish, German	French, Spanish, German, Japanese, Russian, Portuguese, Arabic
Indonesia	Indonesian	Indonesian, regional languages**			subject		French, German	French, German, Chinese, Japanese, Arabic	
Iran	Farsi	Farsi			subject		Arabic	German, French	
Japan	Japanese	Japanese			subject		Chinese, French, Korean, German, Spanish	Chinese, French, Korean, Spanish	
Kyrgyzstan	Kyrgyz, Russian	Kyrgyz, Russian			subject		German, French	German, French, Japanese, Arabic, Chinese	
Lao PDR	Lao	Lao		subject			French		
Malaysia	Malay	Malay, Chinese, Tamil, English	subject			instruction			Arabic
Mongolia	Mongolian	Mongolian			subject		Russian	Japanese, Korean, German	
Nepal	Nepali	Nepali and other local languages		subject		instruction		Hindi	Chinese, French, German, Japanese, Russian, Spanish
New Zealand	English, Maori	English, Maori	instruction					French, Japanese	French, Japanese
Pakistan	Urdu, English	Urdu, English, Punjabi, Sindhi, Pushto			instruction		Arabic	Arabic, French, Chinese, German, Japanese, Spanish	
Papua New Guinea	English, Tokpisin, Motu	English, Tokpisin		subject		instruction		Japanese	
Philippines	English, Pilipino	English, Pilipino	subject			instruction			Chinese, Japanese, Spanish
Rep. of Korea	Korean	Korean, English		subject			Chinese, Japanese, German, French, Spanish	Chinese, Japanese	
Singapore	English, Mandarin, Malay, Tamil	English, Mandarin, Malay, Tamil	instruction						French, German, Japanese
Sri Lanka	Sinhala, Tamil	Sinhala, Tamil		subject		instruction			Japanese, French, Hindi, German
Thailand	Thai	Thai		subject			French, German, Chinese, Japanese	Chinese, Japanese, French, German, Spanish	
Uzbekistan	Uzbek	Uzbek, Russian			subject		French, German	French, German	
Viet Nam	Vietnamese	Vietnamese, English			subject			French, Japanese, German, Chinese	

The table provides an overview of English use in the education field showing the general situation in countries of Asia and the Pacific. The above information was provided by ABD national correspondents of their respective countries and participants of the ACCU training course on publishing (Malaysia, Papua New Guinea) in October 2002. Refer to additional comments from respondents on page 23.

* The "recognised" and "official" languages in the Indian Constitution are Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Kashmiri, Konkani, Malayalam, Manipuri, Marathi, Nepali, Oriya, Punjabi, Sanskrit, Sindhi, Tamil, Telegu, Urdu, and English.

** Javanese, Sundanese, Madurese, Batak, Dayak, etc.