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Opening extract from

# The Hello Atlas: Listen to 133 Different Languages!

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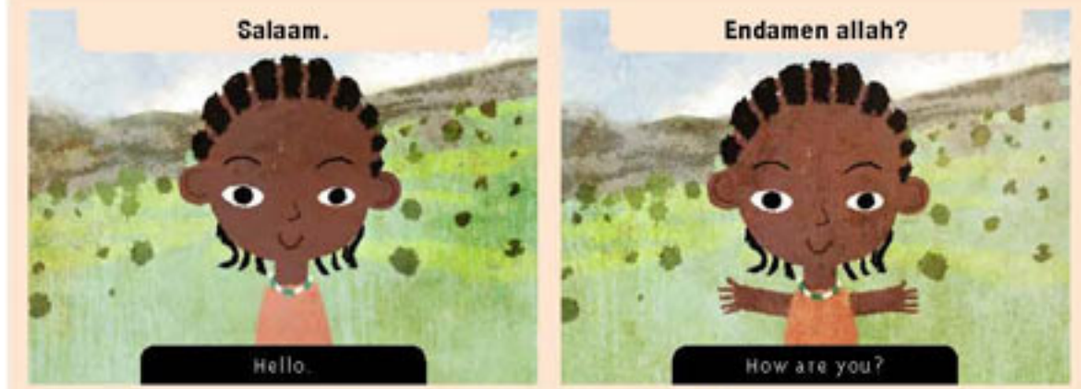




This is Amal. He speaks **SOMALI.**




This is Amaziy. He speaks **BERBER.**




This is Meklit. She speaks **AMHARIC.**

# WELCOME TO NORTH & CENTRAL AMERICA

Like South America, languages spoken in North America include a large number of indigenous languages as well as imported languages from Europe and other parts of the world. Many language families are found here – more than one hundred!

### Indigenous languages

With more than 500 languages spoken in Central and North America, you might have trouble saying hello to everyone! With geography that spans equatorial regions in Central America to the frozen lands of Alaska and northern Canada, there's a huge amount of variety in the languages that originate here. Whilst we celebrate this diversity today, many native peoples suffered at the hands of European colonisers who sought to take their land and suppress their culture.

### Other languages

English, French and Spanish are the dominant imported languages of the region. English is spoken in the USA and Canada, French in parts of Canada, and Spanish throughout Mexico and Central America. All of these languages were brought to North and Central America through colonisation in the 15th century, when European immigrants brought their cultures and languages with them.



**YUP'IK SUGPIAQ**
Yup'ik is an Eskimo language spoken in Alaska (and also parts of Siberia, in Russia!).

**SIOUX LAKOTA LAKȟÓTIYAPI**
Languages belonging to the Sioux family are spoken by more than 30,000 people in North America.

**CREE NÊHIYAWÊWIN**
Canada is home to the Cree language and is an official language of the Northwest Territories.

**INUKTITUT ᐃᓄᒃᑎᑐᑦ**
Inuktitut is an official language in the north of Canada.

**FRENCH FRANÇAIS**
There are more than 2 million French speakers in North America. This language was originally brought over from Europe.

**OJIBWE ANISHINAABEMOWIN**
Ojibwe is an Algonquian language spoken in northern parts of the USA and southern Canada.

**MONTAGNAIS INNU INNU-AIMUN**
Montagnais Innus is an Algonquian language, spoken by more than 10,000 people.

**NAVAJO DINÉ BIZAAD**
Navajo is widely spoken in south western USA and has more speakers than any other indigenous language on the continent.

**SIOUX DAKOTA DAKOTEYAH**
Sioux communities are found in northern USA states and southern Canadian regions.

**NAHUATL NAUATL**
There are many languages belonging to the Nahuatl family, which also used to be known as Aztec.

**PUREPECHA P'URHEPECHA**
Purepecha is also known as Tarascan. It's a language isolate – it's not clear which family it belongs to.

**OTOMI HÑÄHÑU**
Otomi is a tonal language spoken in central Mexico.

**CHINANTEC JU JMÍI**
Chinantec is a tonal language, so its meaning can change if the speaker alters their pitch.

**ENGLISH ENGLISH**
English is the most widely spoken language in North America thanks to British settlers in the 16th century.

**CHEROKEE TSALAGI GAWONIHISDI**
Cherokee is considered a difficult language to learn, with very long words compared to English.

**CHOCTAW CHAHTA**
Choctaw is a Muscogean language spoken in southeastern USA.

**MAZAHUA JÑATRJO**
Mazahua is a Mesoamerican language found in parts of central Mexico.

**ZUNI SHIWI'MA**
It's not clear what language family Zuni belongs to; it appears to have developed alone for a long, long time. You can find it spoken in Arizona and New Mexico.

**HAITIAN CREOLE KREYÒL**
Haitian Creole is a blend of French and African languages. All creole languages grow from contact between an introduced language and an indigenous one.

**SPANISH ESPAÑOL**
Spanish is the official language in Mexico, and around 40 million people speak it in the USA, too.

**YUCATEC MAYA MÁAYA T'ÁAN**
Travel to Belize or the Yucatan Peninsula to hear Yucatan Maya spoken.

**DUTCH NEDERLANDS**
Dutch is spoken in Suriname, Aruba, Curaçao and Sint Maarten.

**TARAHUMARA RARAMURI**
Tarahumara is spoken by about 70,000 people in Mexico.

**MIXE AYUUJK**
Head to southern Mexico to practise saying hello in Zoque!

**HAWAIIAN 'ŌLELO HAWAI'I**
Hawaii is home to its own language, a Polynesian language related to Maori, Samoan and Tahitian.

**GARIFUNA KARIF**
Garifuna is an Arawak language originally spoken in St Vincent and Dominica, but it spread to South and Central America in the 18th century.

**MISKITO MÍSKITU**
Nicaragua and Honduras are home to Miskito.

**NGÄBERE KUGUE NGABERE**
Ngabere is also known as Guyami and is spoken in Costa Rica and Panama.

**PAPIAMENTO PAPIAMENTU**
Papiamento is also a creole language, spoken in the Caribbean. Its roots lie in Portuguese and African languages.

**ZAPOTEK DIIDXAZÁ**
Zapotec is spoken in parts of Mexico, though there are a few dialects. Accents and vocabulary can vary from place to place.