



English Vocabulary: Countries, Nationalities, And Languages

One big vocabulary and pronunciation problem in English is knowing how to pronounce the English names of **countries**, **nationalities**, and **languages**. In today's lesson, I've organized the words into categories that can help you remember them better. You can also practice your pronunciation of the country and nationality words.

-IAN / -EAN

Country	Nationality	Language
Argentina /ˌɑːr.dʒənˈtiː.nə/	Argentine /ˈɑːr.dʒən.taɪn/ Argentinian /ˌɑːr.dʒənˈtɪn.i.ən/	Spanish /ˈspæn.ɪʃ/
Australia /ɑːˈstreɪl.jə/	Australian /ɑːˈstreɪl.jən/	English /ˈɪŋ.ɡlɪʃ/
Bolivia /bəˈlɪv.i.ə/	Bolivian /bəˈlɪv.i.ən/	Spanish
Brazil /brəˈzɪl/	Brazilian /brəˈzɪl.jən/	Portuguese /ˌpɔːr.tʃəˈɡiːz/
Cambodia /kæmˈboʊ.di.ə/	Cambodian /kæmˈboʊ.di.ən/	Cambodian
Cameroon /ˌkæm.əˈruːn/	Cameroonian /ˌkæm.əˈruː.ni.ən/	French/English
Canada /ˈkæn.ə.də/	Canadian /kəˈneɪ.di.ən/	English/French
Chile /ˈtʃɪl.i/ /ei/	Chilean /ˈtʃɪl.i.ən/	Spanish
Colombia /kəˈlʌm.bi.ə/	Colombian /kəˈlʌm.bi.ən/	Spanish
Ecuador /ˈek.wə.dɔːr/	Ecuadorian /ˌek.wəˈdɔːr.i.ən/	Spanish
Egypt /ˈiː.dʒɪpt/	Egyptian /iˈdʒɪp.jən/	Arabic
El Salvador /ˌelˈsæɪ.və.dɔːr/	Salvadorean /ˌsæɪ.vəˈdɔːr.i.ən/	Spanish
Estonia /esˈtoʊ.ni.ə/	Estonian /esˈtoʊ.ni.ən/	Estonian
Ethiopia /ˌiː.θiˈoʊ.pi.ə/	Ethiopian /ˌiː.θiˈoʊ.pi.ən/	Amharic /æmˈhær.ɪk/



Ghana /'gɑ:.nə/	Ghanaian /gɑ:'neɪ.ən/	English
India /'ɪn.di.ə/	Indian /'ɪn.di.ən/	1) Assamese, (2) Bengali, (3) Gujarati, (4) Hindi, (5) Kannada, (6) Kashmiri, (7) Konkani, (8) Malayalam, (9) Manipuri, (10) Marathi, (11) Nepali, (12) Oriya, (13) Punjabi, (14) Sanskrit, (15) Sindhi, (16) Tamil, (17) Telugu, (18) Urdu (19) Bodo, (20) Santhali, (21) Maithili and (22) Dogri.
Indonesia /,ɪn.də'ni:.ʒə/	Indonesian /,ɪn.də'ni:.ʒən/	Indonesian
Iran /ɪ'ræn/	Iranian /ɪ'reɪ.ni.ən/	Persian /'pɜ:.ʒən/
Italy /'ɪ.t̪.əl.i/	Italian /ɪ'tæɪ.ljən/	Italian
Jordan /'dʒɔ:r.dən/	Jordanian /dʒɔ:r'deɪ.ni.ən/	Arabic /'er.ə.bɪk/
Korea /kə'ri:.ə/	Korean /kə'ri:.ən/	Korean
Lithuania /,lɪθ.ju'eɪ.ni.ə/	Lithuanian /,lɪθ.ju'eɪ.ni.ən/	Lithuanian
Nigeria /naɪ'dʒɪr.i.ə/	Nigerian /naɪ'dʒɪr.i.ən/	Ibo, Hausa etc.
Panama /'pæn.ə.mɑ:/	Panamanian /,pæn.ə'meɪ.ni.ən/	Spanish
Peru /pə'ru:/	Peruvian /pə'ru:.vi.ən/	Spanish
Romania /rou'meɪ.ni.ə/	Romanian /rou'meɪ.ni.ən/	Romanian
Syria /'sɪr.i.ə/	Syrian /'sɪr.i.ən/	Arabic
Ukraine /ju:'kreɪn/	Ukrainian /ju:'kreɪ.ni.ən/	Ukrainian



-AN

Notice that some of these words end in -IAN, but the "I" is silent.

Country	Nationality	Language
Afghanistan /æf'gæən.ɪ.stæn/	Afghan /'æf.gæn/	Persian-Pashto
Belgium /'bel.dʒəm/	Belgian /'bel.dʒən/	French/Flemish /'flem.ɪʃ/
Costa Rica /kɑ:.stə'ri:.kə/	Costa Rican /kɑ:.stə'ri:.kən/	Spanish
Cuba /'kju:.bə/	Cuban /'kju:.bən/	Spanish
the Dominican Republic /də'mɪnɪkən rɪ'pʌb.lɪk/	Dominican /dov'mɪn.ɪ.kən/	Spanish
Germany /'dʒɜ:.mə.ni/	German /'dʒɜ:.mən/	German
Guatemala /gwa:.tə'mɑ:.lə/	Guatemalan /gwa:.tə'mɑ:.lən/	Spanish
Haiti /'heɪ.ti/	Haitian /'heɪ.jən/	French/Creole UK /kri'əʊl/ US /kri'ouʃ/
Honduras UK /hɒn'dʒʊə.rəs/ US /hɑ:n'dʒʊr.əs/	Honduran UK /hɒn'dʒʊə.rən/ US /hɑ:n'dʒʊr.ən/	Spanish



Kenya /'ken.jə/	Kenyan /'ken.jən/	Swahili UK /swə'hi:.li/ /swɑ:'hi:.li/ US /swɑ:'hi:.li/
Malaysia UK /mə'leɪ.zi.ə/ US /mə'leɪ.zə/	Malaysian UK /mə'leɪ.zi.ən/ US /mə'leɪ.zən/	Malay /mə'leɪ/ /Malaysian UK /mə'leɪ.zi.ən/ US /mə'leɪ.zən/
Mexico /'mek.sɪ.koʊ/	Mexican /'mek.sɪ.kən/	Spanish
Morocco /mə'rɑ:.koʊ/	Moroccan /mə'rɑ:.kən/	Arabic/French
Nicaragua UK /,nɪk.ər'æg.ju.ə/ US /,nɪk.ər'æg'rɑ:g.wə/	Nicaraguan UK /,nɪk.ər'æg.ju.ən/ US /,nɪk.ər.ə'rɑ:g.wən/	Spanish
Norway /'nɔ:r.weɪ/	Norwegian /nɔ:r'wi:.dʒən/	Norwegian
Paraguay* UK /'pær.ə.gwaɪ/ US /'per.ə.gwaɪ/	Paraguayan* UK /,pær.ə'gwaɪ.ən/ US /,per.ə'gwaɪ.ən/	Spanish
Puerto Rico /,pwer.tə'ri:.koʊ/	Puerto Rican /,pwer.tə'ri:.kən/	Spanish
Russia /'rʌʃ.ə/	Russian /'rʌʃ.ən/	Russian
South Africa /,sauθ'æf.rɪ.kə/	South African /,sauθ'æf.rɪ.kən/	Afrikaans /,æf.rɪ'kɑ:ns/, English, etc.
United States /jʊ'nɑɪ.tɪd'steɪts/	American** /ə'mer.ɪ.kən/	English
Uruguay* UK /'jʊə.rə.gwaɪ/ US /'jʊr.ə.gwaɪ/	Uruguayan* /,jʊr.ə'gwaɪ.ən/	Spanish
Venezuela /ven.ə'zweɪ.lə/	Venezuelan /ven.ə'zweɪ.lən/	Spanish

* There are two ways to pronounce the syllable: GWAY (like “way”) and GWAI (like “eye”).

**Although “American” is the most common way to refer to someone from the U.S., I recognize that this can be considered offensive to citizens of other countries in North America, Central America, and South America. So sometimes it’s better to say “from the U.S.” instead of “American.”

-ISH / -CH

Country	Nationality	Language
England /'ɪŋ.glənd/	English	English
Finland /'fɪn.lənd/	Finnish /'fɪn.ɪʃ/	Finnish /'fɪn.ɪʃ/
Denmark /'den.mɑ:rk/	Danish /'deɪ.nɪʃ/	Danish /'deɪ.nɪʃ/
the Netherlands /'neð.ə.ləndz/ /Holland /'hɑ:lənd/	Dutch /dʌtʃ/	Dutch /dʌtʃ/



France /fræns/	French /frentʃ/	French /frentʃ/
Ireland /'aɪr.lənd/ Éire (in Irish)	Irish /'aɪə.rɪʃ/	Irish /'aɪə.rɪʃ/ /English
Spain /speɪn/	Spanish /'spæn.ɪʃ/	Spanish
Sweden /'swi:.dən/	Swede /swi:d/	Swedish /'swi:.dɪʃ/
Poland /'pou.lənd/	Polish /'pou.lɪʃ/	Polish
Turkey /'tʌ:.ki/	Turkish /'tʌ:.kɪʃ/	Turkish
Wales /weɪlz/	Welsh /welʃ/	Welsh/English

-ESE

Country	Nationality	Language
China /'tʃaɪ.nə/	Chinese /tʃaɪ'ni:z/	Chinese According to Ethnologue.com there are 292 living languages in China. Many others exist, but are extinct today. You've probably heard of languages related to China such as: Chinese, Mandarin, Cantonese, Hokkien, Wu dialect, Fujianese etc.
Japan /dʒə'pæn/	Japanese /,dʒæp.ən'i:z/	Japanese
Portugal /'pɔ:r.tʃə.gəl/	Portuguese /,pɔ:r.tʃə'gi:z/	Portuguese
Taiwan /taɪ'wɑ:n/	Taiwanese /,taɪ.wə'ni:z/	Chinese
Vietnam /,vjət'næm/	Vietnamese /,vjət.nə'mi:z/	Vietnamese

OTHER

Country	Nationality	Language
the Czech Republic / ,tʃek rɪ'pʌblɪk/	Czech /tʃek/	Czech
Greece /gri:s/	Greek /gri:k/	Greek
Iceland /'aɪs.lənd/	Icelander /'aɪs.lənd.ə/	Icelandic /aɪs'læn.dɪk/
Iraq /ɪ'ræk/	Iraqi /ɪ'ræk.i/	Arabic
Israel /'ɪz.reɪl/	Israeli /ɪz'reɪ.li/	Hebrew /'hi:.bru:/
New Zealand / ,nju: 'zi:.lənd/	New Zealander / ,nju: 'zi:.lən.də/	English/Maori /'maʊ.ri/
Pakistan /'pæk.ɪ.stæn/	Pakistani / ,pæk.ɪ'stæ.ni/	Urdu /'ʊr.du:/ /'æ:.du:/
the Philippines /'fɪl.ə.pi:nz/	Filipino / ,fɪl.ɪ'pi:.nɒv/	Tagalog /tə'gɑ:lɑ:g/ /Filipino
Qatar UK/'kʌt.ɑ:r/ US/kə'tɑ:r/	Qatari /'kɑ:.tɑ:ri/	Arabic



Saudi Arabia /,sɑʊ.di ə'reɪ.bi.ə/	Saudi /'sɑʊ.di/	Arabic
Switzerland /'swɪt.sə.lənd/	Swiss /swɪs/	Swiss /swɪs/
Tajikistan /tɑ:'dʒi:.kɪ.stɑ:n/	Tajik /tɑ:'dʒi:k/	Tajik (Persian)
Thailand /'taɪ.lənd/	Thai /taɪ/	Thai /taɪ/

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