

Canadian Century Research Infrastructure

OTHER_SPOKEN_LANGUAGE

DEFINITION: Generally, this question refers to the language first learned in childhood and that can still be understood by the person enumerated. See remarks for further information.

Source: Census Question

The table below indicates, for each census year, the numbers of the census questions corresponding to this variable.

	Schedule 1a	Schedule 1b	Schedule 1c	Schedule 2	Schedule 2a
1911					
1921	24	24			
1931	24	24	12		
1941	28	28	12		
1951				12	12

Census Guide, 1921

A. Census Question	Language other than English or French spoken as mother tongue
B. Question Number	Column 24 on Form 1A and Form 1B.
C. Variable(s) and Codes	OTHER_SPOKEN_LANGUAGE (Forms 1A and 1B)
D. Reference Point	As of Census Day, June 1, 1921.
E. Total Target Population	1 065 074
F. Statistical unit	The person.
G. Targeted Population	Every person 10 years of age and over whose racial or tribal origin is not described in column 21 as belonging to one of the British races - English, Irish, Scotch, etc., or to persons of French origin.
H. Enumerators' Instructions	<p>97. In column 24 will be entered the language spoken by every person whose racial or tribal origin is not described in column 21 as belonging to one of the British races - English, Irish, Scotch, etc., or to persons of French origin. By Mother tongue is meant the language of customary speech employed by the person. Write out the language in full. Do not abbreviate.</p> <p>The name of the Mother tongue must be given, even when it is the same as the language of the country in which the person is born; thus if a person</p>

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	reports that he was born in Germany and his "Mother tongue" is German, write "German." This is necessary to distinguish persons from others born in the same country but having a different mother tongue.
I. Remarks	Language questions were asked differently on forms 1A, 1B, and 1C. On form 1A and 1B, three language questions were asked: the entire population was asked to record their ability to speak English (questions 22) and their ability to speak French (question 23), and those aged 10 and over whose origin was other than British or French were also asked to state their language commonly spoken if it was other than English or French (question 24). On form 1C, only one language question was asked: all respondents were asked to speak the language commonly spoken, regardless of what that language was (question 15).

Census Guide, 1931

A. Census Question	Language other than English or French spoken as Mother tongue.
B. Question Number	24 on schedules 1A and 1B; 12 on schedule 1-NWT.
C. Variable(s) and Codes	OTHER_SPOKEN_LANGUAGE
D. Reference Point	As of census day, June 1, 1931.
E. Total Target Population	10, 376, 786
F. Statistical unit	The person.
G. Targeted Population	Each person enumerated.
H. Enumerators' Instructions	<p>126. Column 24: Language other than English or French spoken as mother tongue. By mother tongue is meant the language learned in childhood and still spoken by the person. In the case of foreign born persons what is required is the native language of the person or the language which he or she spoke in his or her native country before coming to Canada. Write out the name of the language in full. Do not abbreviate.</p> <p>127. The enumerator should not neglect to report the mother tongue simply because it is the same as the language of the country in which the person was born. Thus if a person reports that he was born in Italy and that his mother tongue is Italian it is absolutely necessary to enter the mother tongue as well as the country of birth. On the other hand the enumerator should not assume that the mother tongue is the same as the country of birth; for instance,</p>

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	<p>persons born in Austria should not be reported as of “Austrian “ mother tongue or persons born in Hungary as of “Hungarian” mother tongue, since “Austrian” and “Hungarians” are not languages. The predominant language of present day Austria is German and of Hungary, Magyar. It is therefore necessary to make specific inquiry as to the language spoken. The enumerator should not accept “Scandinavian” as a mother tongue but should specify whether Danish, Norwegian, or Swedish; similarly he should not report “Slavic” but should specify whether Croatian, Serbian, Slovak, Slovenian, etc.</p> <p>128. Principal languages. In addition to English and French, the following languages include those most likely to be spoken in Canada as “Mother tongue,” and the enumerator should avoid giving other names when one given in this list can be applied to the language spoken:—</p> <table><tr><td>Armenian</td><td></td><td>Greek</td><td></td><td>Portuguese</td></tr><tr><td>Bohemian</td><td></td><td>Gypsy</td><td></td><td>Rumanian</td></tr><tr><td>(Czech)</td><td></td><td>Hebrew</td><td></td><td>Russian</td></tr><tr><td>Bulgarian</td><td></td><td>Hindu</td><td></td><td>Ruthenian</td></tr><tr><td>Chinese</td><td></td><td>Icelandic</td><td></td><td>Serbian</td></tr><tr><td>Croatian</td><td></td><td>Italian</td><td></td><td>Slovak</td></tr><tr><td>Dalmatian</td><td></td><td>Japanese</td><td></td><td>Slovene</td></tr><tr><td>Danish</td><td></td><td>Korean</td><td></td><td>Spanish</td></tr><tr><td>Dutch</td><td></td><td>Lettish</td><td></td><td>Swedish</td></tr><tr><td>Estonian</td><td></td><td>Lithuanian</td><td></td><td>Syrian</td></tr><tr><td>Finnish</td><td></td><td>Magyar (Hungarian)</td><td></td><td>Turkish</td></tr><tr><td>Flemish</td><td></td><td>Montenegrin</td><td></td><td>Ukrainian</td></tr><tr><td>Frisian</td><td></td><td>Moravian (Czech)</td><td></td><td>Welsh</td></tr><tr><td>Friulan</td><td></td><td>Norwegian</td><td></td><td>Wendish</td></tr><tr><td>Gaelic</td><td></td><td>Polish</td><td></td><td>Yiddish</td></tr><tr><td>German</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>				Armenian		Greek		Portuguese	Bohemian		Gypsy		Rumanian	(Czech)		Hebrew		Russian	Bulgarian		Hindu		Ruthenian	Chinese		Icelandic		Serbian	Croatian		Italian		Slovak	Dalmatian		Japanese		Slovene	Danish		Korean		Spanish	Dutch		Lettish		Swedish	Estonian		Lithuanian		Syrian	Finnish		Magyar (Hungarian)		Turkish	Flemish		Montenegrin		Ukrainian	Frisian		Moravian (Czech)		Welsh	Friulan		Norwegian		Wendish	Gaelic		Polish		Yiddish	German				
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I. Remarks																																																																																				

Census Guide, 1941

A. Census Question	Mother tongue. (By mother tongue is meant the first language learned in childhood if still understood by the person).
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B. Question Number	28 on schedules 1A and 1B; 12 on schedule1C																																																		
C. Variable(s) and Codes	OTHER_SPOKEN_LANGUAGE																																																		
D. Reference Point	As of census day, June 2, 1941.																																																		
E. Total Target Population	11, 506, 655																																																		
F. Statistical unit	The person.																																																		
G. Targeted Population	Each person enumerated.																																																		
H. Enumerators' Instructions	<div>103. Column 28.—Mother tongue. By mother tongue is meant the first language learned in childhood if still understood by the person.</div> <div>104. Principal languages. In addition to English and French, the following languages include those most likely to be spoken in Canada as “Mother tongue,” and the Enumerator should avoid giving other names when one given in this list can be applied to the language spoken:—</div> <table><tr><td>Arabic</td><td>Greek</td><td>Portuguese</td></tr><tr><td>Armenian</td><td>Gypsy</td><td>Roumanian</td></tr><tr><td>Bohemian</td><td>Hebrew</td><td>Russian</td></tr><tr><td>Bulgarian</td><td>Hindu</td><td>Serbian</td></tr><tr><td>Chinese</td><td>Icelandic</td><td>Slovak</td></tr><tr><td>Croatian</td><td>Italian</td><td>Slovene</td></tr><tr><td>Dalmatian</td><td>Japanese</td><td>Spanish</td></tr><tr><td>Danish</td><td>Korean</td><td>Swedish</td></tr><tr><td>Dutch</td><td>Lettish</td><td>Syrian</td></tr><tr><td>Estonian</td><td>Lithuanian</td><td>Turkish</td></tr><tr><td>Finnish</td><td>Magyar</td><td>Ukrainian</td></tr><tr><td>Flemish</td><td>(Hungarian)</td><td>(Ruthenian)</td></tr><tr><td>Frisian</td><td>Montenegrin</td><td>Welsh</td></tr><tr><td>Friulan or Furlan</td><td>Moravian (Czech)</td><td>Wendish</td></tr><tr><td>Gaelic</td><td>Norwegian</td><td>Yiddish</td></tr><tr><td>German</td><td>Polish</td><td></td></tr></table>			Arabic	Greek	Portuguese	Armenian	Gypsy	Roumanian	Bohemian	Hebrew	Russian	Bulgarian	Hindu	Serbian	Chinese	Icelandic	Slovak	Croatian	Italian	Slovene	Dalmatian	Japanese	Spanish	Danish	Korean	Swedish	Dutch	Lettish	Syrian	Estonian	Lithuanian	Turkish	Finnish	Magyar	Ukrainian	Flemish	(Hungarian)	(Ruthenian)	Frisian	Montenegrin	Welsh	Friulan or Furlan	Moravian (Czech)	Wendish	Gaelic	Norwegian	Yiddish	German	Polish	
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I. Remarks	
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Census Guide, 1951

A. Census Question	What was the language this person first spoke in childhood and still understands?
B. Question Number	12 on Form 2 and 2A.
C. Variable(s) and Codes	OTHER_SPOKEN_LANGUAGE
D. Reference Point	As of census day, June 1, 1951.
E. Total Target Population	14, 009, 429
F. Statistical unit	The person.
G. Targeted Population	Each person enumerated.
H. Enumerators' Instructions	If the answer given varies in any way from the list of sixteen languages printed on the Population document, write the answer in the space provided. The one exception to this rule is "Dutch", which, if given by the respondent, will be recorded by a mark in the oval "Netherlands".
I. Remarks	

Codes:

1000000 "Multiple Responses"
1000001 "English and French"
1000002 "English and Other"
1000003 "French and Other"
1000004 "Other multiples"
1000005 "Czech and Slovak, n.s"
2000000 "Single Response"
2000001 "Japanese"
2000002 "Korean"
2000003 "Greek"
2000004 "Armenian"
2000005 "Albanian"
2000006 "Georgian"
2010000 "Aboriginal languages"
2010100 "Algonquian languages"
2010101 "Algonquian"

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2010102 "Attikamekw"
2010103 "Blackfoot"
2010104 "Cree"
2010105 "Maliseet"
2010106 "Micmac"
2010107 "Montagnais-Naskapi"
2010108 "Oji-Cree"
2010109 "Ojibway"
2010198 "Algonquian languages, n.s."
2010199 "Algonquian languages, n.e.c."
2010200 "Athapaskan languages"
2010201 "Dakelh (Carrier)"
2010202 "Chilcotin"
2010203 "Chipewyan"
2010204 "Dene"
2010205 "Dogrib"
2010206 "Kutchin-Gwich'in (Loucheux)"
2010207 "Slave"
2010208 "Babine-Witsuwit'en"
2010298 "Athapaskan languages, n.s."
2010299 "Athapaskan languages, n.e.c."
2010300 "Haida"
2010400 "Iroquoian languages"
2010401 "Tuscarora"
2010402 "Nottoway"
2010403 "Huron-Wyandot"
2010404 "Laurentian"
2010405 "Onondaga"
2010406 "Susquehannock"
2010407 "Seneca"
2010408 "Cayuga"
2010409 "Mohawk"
2010410 "Oneida"
2010411 "Iroquois"
2010498 "Iroquoian languages, n.s."
2010499 "Iroquoian languages, n.e.c."
2010500 "Kutenai"
2010600 "Salish languages"
2010601 "Lillooet"
2010602 "Shuswap"
2010603 "Thompson (Ntlakapamux)"
2010604 "Okanagan"
2010605 "Nuxalk (Bella Coola)"
2010606 "Saanich"
2010607 "Halkomelem"
2010608 "Squamish"

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2010609 "Comox"
2010610 "Sechelt"
2010611 "Chehalis"
2010612 "Salish"
2010698 "Salish languages, n.s"
2010699 "Salish languages, n.e.c"
2010700 "Siouan languages"
2010701 "Assiniboine (Nakota)"
2010702 "Crow"
2010703 "Stoney (Nakoda)"
2010704 "Dakota/Lakota"
2010798 "Siouan languages, n.s"
2010799 "Siouan languages, n.e.c"
2010800 "Tlingit"
2010900 "Tsimshian languages"
2010901 "Gitksan"
2010902 "Nisga'a"
2010903 "Tsimshian"
2010998 "Tsimshian languages, n.s."
2010999 "Tsimshian languages, n.e.c."
2011200 "Wakashan languages"
2011201 "Nootka"
2011202 "Makah"
2011203 "Haisla"
2011204 "Heiltsuk"
2011205 "Kwakiutl/Kwak'wala"
2011298 "Wakashan languages, n.s"
2011299 "Wakashan languages, n.e.c"
2011300 "Eskimo-Aleut languages"
2011301 "Inuktitut"
2011398 "Eskimo-Aleut languages, n.s"
2011399 "Eskimo-Aleut languages, n.e.c"
2019998 "Aboriginal languages, n.s"
2019999 "Aboriginal languages, n.e.c"
2020000 "Romance languages"
2020001 "French"
2020002 "Walloon"
2020003 "Italian"
2020004 "Portuguese"
2020005 "Romanian"
2020006 "Spanish"
2020007 "Latin"
2020008 "Creole"
2029998 "Romance Languages, n.s"
2029999 "Romance languages, n.e.c"
2030000 "Germanic languages"

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2030001 "English"
2030002 "German"
2030003 "Austrian"
2030004 "Yiddish"
2030005 "Jewish"
2030006 "Frisian"
2030007 "Luxemburgish"
2039998 "Germanic languages, n.s"
2039999 "Germanic languages, n.e.c"
2040000 "Netherlandic languages"
2040001 "Dutch"
2040002 "Flemish"
2049998 "Netherlandic languages, n.s"
2049999 "Netherlandic languages, n.e.c"
2050000 "Scandinavian languages"
2050001 "Danish"
2050002 "Icelandic"
2050003 "Norwegian"
2050004 "Swedish"
2050005 "Norse"
2050006 "Faroese"
2059998 "Scandinavian languages, n.s"
2059999 "Scandinavian languages, n.e.c"
2060000 "Celtic languages"
2060001 "Gaelic"
2060002 "Welsh"
2060003 "Breton"
2060004 "Cornish"
2060005 "Manx"
2060006 "Irish"
2060007 "Scots Gaelic"
2060008 "Scots"
2069998 "Celtic languages, n.s"
2069999 "Celtic languages, n.e.c"
2070000 "Slavic languages"
2070001 "Russian"
2070002 "Belarussian"
2070003 "Ruthenian"
2070004 "Old Belarusian"
2070005 "Polish"
2070006 "Ukrainian"
2070007 "Bulgarian"
2070008 "Croatian"
2070009 "Serbian"
2070010 "Bosnian"
2070011 "Macedonian"

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2070012 "Slovenian"
2070013 "Yugoslavian"
2070014 "Czech"
2070015 "Slovak"
2070016 "Silesian"
2079998 "Slavic languages, n.s"
2079999 "Slavic languages, n.e.c"
2080000 "Baltic languages"
2080001 "Latvian (Lettish)"
2080002 "Lithuanian"
2089998 "Baltic languages, n.s"
2089999 "Baltic languages, n.e.c"
2090000 "Finno-Ugric languages"
2090001 "Finnish"
2090002 "Hungarian"
2090003 "Estonian"
2099998 "Finno-Ugric languages, n.s"
2099999 "Finno-Ugric languages, n.e.c"
2100000 "Turkic languages"
2100001 "Turkish"
2109998 "Turkic languages, n.s"
2109999 "Turkic languages, n.e.c"
2110000 "Semitic languages"
2110001 "Aramharic"
2110002 "Arabic"
2110003 "Egyptian"
2110004 "Syriac"
2110005 "Hebrew"
2110007 "Maltese"
2110008 "Somali"
2110009 "Tigrinya"
2119998 "Semitic languages, n.s"
2119999 "Semitic languages, n.e.c"
2120000 "Indo-Iranian languages"
2120001 "Bengali"
2120002 "Gujarati"
2120003 "Hindi"
2120004 "Konkani"
2120005 "Kurdish"
2120006 "Marathi"
2120007 "Pashto"
2120008 "Farsi (Persian)"
2120009 "Punjabi"
2120010 "Sindhi"
2120011 "Sinhalese"
2120012 "Urdu"

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2129998 "Indo-Iranian languages, n.s"
2129999 "Indo-Iranian languages, n.e.c"
2130000 "Dravidian languages"
2130001 "Kannada"
2130002 "Malayalam"
2130003 "Tamil"
2130004 "Telugu"
2139998 "Dravidian languages, n.s"
2139999 "Dravidian languages, n.e.c"
2180000 "Sino-Tibetan languages"
2180001 "Chinese"
2180002 "Cantonese"
2180003 "Mandarin"
2189998 "Sino-Tibetan languages, n.s"
2189999 "Sino-Tibetan languages, n.e.c"
2190000 "Tai languages"
2190001 "Lao"
2190002 "Tai"
2199998 "Tai languages, n.s"
2199999 "Tai languages, n.e.c"
2200000 "Austro-Asiatic languages"
2200001 "Khmer (Cambodian)"
2200002 "Vietnamese"
2209998 "Austro-Asiatic languages, n.s"
2209999 "Austro-Asiatic languages, n.e.c"
2210000 "Malayo-Polynesian languages"
2210001 "Malay-Bahasa"
2210002 "Tagalog (Filipino)"
2210003 "Hawaiian"
2210004 "Fijian"
2219998 "Malay-Polynesian languages, n.s"
2219999 "Malay-Polynesian languages, n.e.c"
2220000 "Non-verbal languages"
99999001 "Blank"
99999002 "Damaged"
99999003 "Illegible"
99999004 "In Error"
99999005 "Suspicious"
99999006 "Missing -- Mandatory Field"
99999007 "Not Applicable"
99999008 "Not Mapped"
99999009 "Correction"
99999010 "Suggestion"
99999011 "Unknown - Suggestion"
99999012 "Multiple Response - Suggestion"
99999901 "None"

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99999902 "Not Given"
99999903 "Unknown"
99999904 "Invalid Value"
99999905 "Unable to speak"
99999906 "Infant"
99999999 "Uncodable"

Remarks: The census normally differentiates between knowledge of official languages (French and English), and other languages spoken through separate questions. In 1911, however, only one language question was asked and enumerators were given instructions on how to use the space provided to list mother tongue and knowledge of official languages together. See enumerator instructions for further information.