

Canadian Century Research Infrastructure
SPEAK_ENGLISH_INDICATOR

Definition: Refers to the ability of the respondent to speak English.

Source: Census Question

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

Census Years	Schedule 1a	Schedule 1b	Schedule 1c	Schedule 2	Schedule 2a
1911					
1921	22	22			
1931	22	22	10		
1941	26	26	10		
1951				11	11

Census Guide, 1921

A. Census Question	Can speak English.
B. Question Number	Column 22 of Forms 1A and 1B.
C. Variable(s) and Codes	SPEAK_ENGLISH_INDICATOR
D. Reference Point	As of Census Day, June 1, 1921.
E. Total Target Population	8 788 483
F. Statistical unit	The person.
G. Targeted Population	Every person enumerated.
H. Enumerators' Instructions	95. Write "Yes" for every person who can speak <i>English</i> . 96. If a person can speak both English and French, write "Yes" in both columns 22 and 23.
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

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	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).
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Census Guide, 1931

A. Census Question	Can speak English
B. Question Number	22 on schedules 1A and 1B; 10 on schedule 1-NWT.
C. Variable(s) and Codes	SPEAK_ENGLISH_INDICATOR
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	124. Column 22: Can Speak English. Write "yes" for every person who can speak English. Write "No" for every person who cannot speak English.
I. Remarks	

Census Guide, 1941

A. Census Question	Can speak English.
B. Question Number	26 on schedules 1A and 1B; 10 on schedule 1C
C. Variable(s) and Codes	SPEAK_ENGLISH_INDICATOR
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.

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H. Enumerators' Instructions	101. Column 26.—Can speak English. In Column 26, write “yes” for every person who can speak English. Write “no” for every person who cannot speak English.
I. Remarks	

Census Guide, 1951

A. Census Question	Can this person speak English? French?
B. Question Number	11 on Form 2 and 2A.
C. Variable(s) and Codes	SPEAK_ENGLISH_INDICATOR SPEAK_FRENCH_INDICATOR
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	Word this question as indicated on the Population document, making certain to ask about both English and French. Do not mark an oval until a reply is received to each part of your question. For infants, base the entry on the language commonly spoken in the home; in no case, however, should the oval “Speaks both English and French” be marked for an infant. In the case of deaf-mutes the language in which they make themselves understood will apply.
I. Remarks	

Codes

1 "No"
2 "Yes"
99999001 "Blank"
99999002 "Damaged"
99999003 "Illegible"
99999004 "In Error"
99999005 "Suspicious"
99999006 "Missing -- Mandatory Field"
99999007 "Not Applicable"

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99999008 "Not Mapped"
99999009 "Correction"
99999010 "Suggestion"
99999011 "Unknown - Suggestion"
99999012 "Multiple Response - Suggestion"
99999001 "None"
99999002 "Not Given"
99999003 "Unknown"
99999004 "Invalid Value"
99999999 "Uncodable"