

Canadian Century Research Infrastructure
SPEAK_FRENCH_INDICATOR

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

Source: Census Question

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

Census Year	Schedule 1a	Schedule 1b	Schedule 1c	Schedule 2	Schedule 2a
1911	36				
1921	23	23			
1931	23	23	11		
1941	27	27	11		
1951				11	11

Census Guide, 1911

A. Census Question	Language commonly spoken.
B. Question Number	36 on Schedule 1.
C. Variable(s) and Codes	LANGUAGE_SPOKEN_1 LANGUAGE_SPOKEN_2 LANGUAGE_SPOKEN_3
D. Reference Point	As of census day, June 1, 1911.
E. Total Target Population	6,319,160
F. Statistical unit	The person.
G. Targeted Population	Each person enumerated aged five years or more.
H. Enumerators' Instructions	129. Columns 33 to 37 relate to the education and language of each person named in column 3 of the age of five years and over. 133. Language commonly spoken. This question in column 36 applies to every person enumerated of the age five years and over. For a person who speaks English only, the entry will be "E" for English; for a person who speaks French only the entry will be "F" for French; and for a person who speaks English and French and whose mother tongue is either of these

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	<p>languages the entry will be “E” and “F” respectively. But for foreign-born persons whose mother tongue is neither English nor French and who have acquired either or both of these languages, the name of the language of origin or race, if spoken, will be written out in full on the line and the initial letter “E” for English or “F” for French, as the case may be, will be entered in the space above the line. For example, if the person was born in Russia and his mother tongue is Russian, the entry will be made thus: <u> E </u> or <u> F </u> or <u>E and F</u> Russian Russian, Russian,</p> <p>and similarly for every foreign-born person whose mother tongue is neither of the official languages of the Dominion, namely English and French. If neither English nor French has been learned, the name of the language spoken must be written. See Sample Schedule. The enumerator should not take for granted that either the place of birth or the racial origin of the foreign-born determines the language spoken, but should by diligent inquiry in every case obtain the information.</p> <p>134. List of languages. The following is a list of the languages other than English or French likely to be spoken in Canada. The enumerator should avoid giving other names when one given in this list can be applied to the language spoken:</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Armenian</td> <td>Gaelic</td> <td>Slovak</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bohemian</td> <td>Japanese</td> <td>Slovenian or Wendish</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bulgarian</td> <td>Lithuanian</td> <td>Spanish</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Chinese</td> <td>Magyar</td> <td>Swedish</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Danish</td> <td>Norwegian</td> <td>Syrian</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dutch</td> <td>Polish</td> <td>Turkish</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Finnish</td> <td>Romanian</td> <td>Welsh</td> </tr> <tr> <td>German</td> <td>Russian</td> <td>Yiddish or Jewish</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Greek</td> <td>Ruthenian</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Armenian	Gaelic	Slovak	Bohemian	Japanese	Slovenian or Wendish	Bulgarian	Lithuanian	Spanish	Chinese	Magyar	Swedish	Danish	Norwegian	Syrian	Dutch	Polish	Turkish	Finnish	Romanian	Welsh	German	Russian	Yiddish or Jewish	Greek	Ruthenian	
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I. Remarks																												

Census Guide, 1921

A. Census Question	Can speak French.
B. Question Number	Column 23 of Forms 1A and 1B.

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C. Variable(s) and Codes	SPEAK_FRENCH_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	96. Write "Yes" for every person who can speak <i>French</i> . 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 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	Can speak French
B. Question Number	23 on schedules 1A and 1B; 11 on schedule 1-NWT.
C. Variable(s) and Codes	SPEAK_FRENCH_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'	125. Column 23: Can Speak French. Write "yes" for every person who can

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Instructions	Speak French. Write “no” for every person who cannot speak French. (If a person can speak both English and French write “yes” in both Columns 22 and 23.)
I. Remarks	

Census Guide, 1941

A. Census Question	Can speak French.
B. Question Number	27 on schedules 1A and 1B; 11 on schedule 1C
C. Variable(s) and Codes	SPEAK_FRENCH_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.
H. Enumerators’ Instructions	101. Column 27.—Can speak French. In Column 27, write “yes” for every person who can speak French. Write “no” for every person who cannot speak French.
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	Each person enumerated.

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Population	
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"
99999008 "Not Mapped"
99999009 "Correction"
99999010 "Suggestion"
99999011 "Unknown - Suggestion"
99999012 "Multiple Response - Suggestion"
99999901 "None"
99999902 "Not Given"
99999903 "Unknown"
99999904 "Invalid Value"
99999999 "Uncodable"

Remarks: None