



# Bilingual *is beautiful*

— Multilingual Australia —

2023  
*Calendar*



# MULTILINGUAL AUSTRALIA

## Who We Are      Join us

Multilingual Australia is a 20-year-old non-profit organisation previously known as Bilingual Families Perth.

Our goal is to support and promote the use of languages other than English in family communication. Our network includes over 1,100 families from a range of different backgrounds. Initially focused on families with young children, we now welcome members of all ages. Our goal is to identify and address the needs of children, parents, and grandparents from non-English speaking backgrounds to maintain and use languages other than English at home.

We encourage families to confidently use a language other than English for communication within the family. As part of our strategic goals, we aim to become the go-to hub for information on all things related to languages in Australia. Our members develop the program based on their skills and identified needs. Visit our website for more details.

### We mission

Multilingual Australia helps people to connect, learn, and sustain languages by providing opportunities, resources, and fostering strong relationships with all stakeholders.

### We offer

- Supporting community group
- Parent workshops
- Social events and celebrations
- Members' recourses (maps, educational tools, books, )

### Membership Benefits

- Connect with other families, learn and grow with bilingual friends
- Access to resources, workshops, camps, website & newsletter
- Initiate new projects and kids clubs
- Be an advocate for your language
- Discounts

### Annual membership (per year)

- \$10 for families and individuals or
- \$30 for organisations and professionals

### Join us today

Scan the QR code below or visit our website for the membership form.



<https://www.bilingualfamilies.org.au/>  
Facebook: BilingualFamiliesPerth  
Linkedin: BilingualFamiliesPerth  
[info@multilingualaustralia.org.au](mailto:info@multilingualaustralia.org.au)

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

SUNDAY

						1
2	3	4 World Braille Day	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19 Whisper "I Love You" Day	20	21	22 Lunar New Year
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

## LANGUAGE OF THE MONTH

# MANDARIN

Mandarin Chinese is the most spoken language in the world. Mandarin Chinese developed in the northern and southwestern parts of China with the Beijing dialect. It became the official language of the Qing dynasty in the late 19th century and subsequently spread to other parts of China through the education system and mass media.

## LANGUAGE FAMILY

Sino-Tibetan

## NUMBER OF SPEAKERS

Over 1 billion

## OFFICIAL COUNTRY(S)

China, Taiwan

**SAY HELLO!** 你好 (nǐ hǎo)

## INTERESTING FACTS

Mandarin Chinese has four tones, and the same word can have multiple meanings depending on the tone used.

## TRADITIONAL FOOD

Fried rice (chao fan): a simple and versatile dish made with cooked rice and a variety of ingredients such as vegetables and proteins. Kids can help measure out the ingredients and stir-fry them in a pan.

## TRADITIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Celebrating traditional holidays such as Chinese New Year and the Mid-Autumn Festival
- Reading traditional Chinese stories and fables, such as "The Jade Emperor's Race" and "The Great Race"
- Making traditional Chinese crafts and artwork, such as paper lanterns and clay dolls
- Participating in traditional Chinese sports and games



MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

SUNDAY

		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9 Greek Language Day	10	11	12
13	14 Book Giving Day	15	16	17	18	19
20	21 Mother Language Day	22	23	24	25	26
27	28					

**LANGUAGE OF THE MONTH****ITALIAN**

Italian is a Romance language developed in Italy during the 13th century. It is the official language of Italy, Switzerland, San Marino, and Vatican City. Italian developed from a combination of Latin, Greek, and local dialects and was heavily influenced by the Tuscan dialect spoken in Florence. Italian became the official language of Italy in the 19th century after the unification.

**LANGUAGE FAMILY**

Indo-European

**NUMBER OF SPEAKERS**

85 million

**OFFICIAL COUNTRY(S)**

Italy, Switzerland, San Marino, Vatican City

**SAY HELLO!** Ciao (chow)**INTERESTING FACTS**

Italian is the second most studied language in the world, after English.

**TRADITIONAL FOOD**

Spaghetti with marinara sauce: a classic pasta dish made with spaghetti noodles and a tomato-based sauce. Kids can help measure out the ingredients and stir the sauce.

**TRADITIONAL ACTIVITIES**

- Celebrating traditional Italian holidays such as La Festa della Repubblica and La Festa dei Morti
- Listening to and singing traditional Italian folk songs and nursery rhymes
- Making traditional Italian crafts and artwork, such as Venetian masks and fresco paintings
- Participating in traditional Italian sports and games, such as soccer and bocce ball



# MARCH 2023



MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY SUNDAY

		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15 World Speech Day	16	17	18	19
20 French Language Day	21 Nowruz Harmony Day	22 Ramadan	23	24	25 Dantedì - National Dante Day	26
27 International Day of Multilingualism	28	29	30	31		

## LANGUAGE OF THE MONTH

# FRENCH

French originated in France in the 14th century. French developed from the Latin spoken by the Romans in Gaul and was heavily influenced by the Germanic languages of the Franks, who invaded Gaul in the 5th century. French became the official language of France in the 17th century and has had a significant influence on the development of other Romance languages.

## LANGUAGE FAMILY

Indo-European

## NUMBER OF SPEAKERS

280 million

## OFFICIAL COUNTRY(S)

France, Belgium, Canada, Switzerland, Luxembourg

**SAY HELLO!** Bonjour (bawn-zhoor)

## INTERESTING FACTS

French is the official language of the International Olympic Committee and the United Nations.

## TRADITIONAL FOOD

Croque monsieur: a simple grilled cheese sandwich made with bread, cheese, and ham. Kids can help assemble the sandwiches and use a butter knife to spread the butter on the bread.

## TRADITIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Celebrating traditional French holidays such as Bastille Day and All Saints' Day
- Listening to and singing traditional French folk songs and nursery rhymes
- Making traditional French crafts and artwork, such as beaded jewelry and pottery
- Participating in traditional French sports and games, such as petanque and soccer



[www.multilingualaustria.org.au](http://www.multilingualaustria.org.au)



[info@multilingualaustria.org.au](mailto:info@multilingualaustria.org.au)

# APRIL 2023

MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY SUNDAY

					1	2 Children's Book Day
3	4	5	6	7	8	9 World Konkani Day
10 World Sindhi Language Day	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 Eid al-Fitr Chinese Language Day	21	22	23 Spanish Language Day English Language Day
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

## LANGUAGE OF THE MONTH

## TAMIL

Tamil is a Dravidian language and it is one of the oldest surviving languages in the world, with written records dating back to the 3rd century BC. Tamil is the official language of the Indian state of Tamil Nadu and is also spoken by Tamil communities in other parts of India, Sri Lanka, and Southeast Asia. Tamil has a rich literary tradition and has influenced the development of other Dravidian languages.

## LANGUAGE FAMILY

Dravidian

## NUMBER OF SPEAKERS

78 million

## OFFICIAL COUNTRY(S)

India, Sri Lanka

**SAY HELLO!** ஹலோ (hālō)

## INTERESTING FACTS

Tamil is one of the oldest surviving languages in the world, with written records dating back to the 3rd century BC.

## TRADITIONAL FOOD

Idli: a soft, steamed rice cake often served with a side of chutney. Kids can help shape the batter into rounds and place them in the steamer.

## TRADITIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Celebrating traditional Tamil holidays such as Pongal and Tamil New Year
- Listening to and singing traditional Tamil folk songs and nursery rhymes
- Making traditional Tamil crafts and artwork, such as kolams and rangoli designs
- Participating in traditional Tamil sports and games, such as kabbadi and kho kho



# MAY 2023

MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY SUNDAY

1 Sign Language Interpreter Appreciation Day	2	3	4	5 Portuguese Language Day	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15 International Day of Families	16	17	18	19	20	21 World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29 Pashto Language Day	30	31				

## LANGUAGE OF THE MONTH HUNGARIAN

Hungarian is a Uralic language spoken primarily in Hungary. It is known for its complex grammar and unique sound system. Hungarian developed from the language spoken by the Magyars, who migrated to the Carpathian Basin in the 9th century. Hungarian has had a significant influence on the development of other Uralic languages and has also been influenced by Latin, German, and Slavic languages.

## LANGUAGE FAMILY

Uralic

## NUMBER OF SPEAKERS

13 million

## OFFICIAL COUNTRY(S)

Hungary

**SAY HELLO!** Szia (see-ah)

## INTERESTING FACTS

There are 18 noun cases in Hungarian, which can be used to indicate the role of a noun in a sentence, such as its subject, object, or possessive.

## TRADITIONAL FOOD

Chicken paprikash: a hearty stew made with chicken, onions, and paprika. Kids can help measure out the ingredients and stir the stew as it cooks.

## TRADITIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Celebrating traditional Hungarian holidays such as St. Stephen's Day and Easter
- Listening to and singing traditional Hungarian folk songs and nursery rhymes
- Making traditional Hungarian crafts and artwork, such as embroidery and lace-making
- Participating in traditional Hungarian sports and games, such as csuka and üstökös



# JUNE 2023

MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY SUNDAY

			1 Global Day of Parents	2	3	4
5	6 Russian Language Day	7	8	9	10	11
12 International Dubbing Day	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20 Eid al-Fitr World Refugee Day	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

## LANGUAGE OF THE MONTH

## GERMAN

German is a member of the Indo-European language family and is the official language of Germany, Austria, Belgium, and Luxembourg. German developed from the language spoken by the Germanic tribes who migrated to central Europe in the 1st century AD. It has had a significant influence on the development of other Germanic languages and is the most widely spoken mother tongue in the European Union.

## LANGUAGE FAMILY

Indo-European

## NUMBER OF SPEAKERS

100 million

## OFFICIAL COUNTRY(S)

Germany, Austria, Belgium,  
Luxembourg

**SAY HELLO!** Hallo (hah-loh)

## INTERESTING FACTS

There are many German dialects, with estimates ranging from over 50 to over 300 such as Low German, High German, Swiss German and Alemannic

## TRADITIONAL FOOD

Schnitzel: a thin cut of meat (such as pork or chicken) coated in breadcrumbs and fried until crispy. Kids can help bread the meat by dipping it in flour, eggs, and breadcrumbs.

## TRADITIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Celebrating traditional German holidays such as Oktoberfest and Christmas
- Listening to and singing traditional German folk songs and nursery rhymes
- Making traditional German crafts and artwork, such as wooden toys and stained glass
- Participating in traditional German sports and games, such as soccer and bocce ball





MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

SUNDAY

					1	2
3	4	5	6	7 Kiswahili Language Day	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26 Esperanto Day	27	28	29	30
31						

**LANGUAGE OF THE MONTH****NOONGAR**

Noongar is an Indigenous Australian language spoken in the southwestern region of Western Australia. It is a member of the Pama-Nyungan language family and is spoken by fewer than 1,000 people. Noongar is one of the many Indigenous languages of Australia, and its use has been revitalized in recent years. Noongar has a rich oral tradition and has influenced the development of other Indigenous languages in Australia.

**LANGUAGE FAMILY**

Pama-Nyungan

**NUMBER OF SPEAKERS**

Fewer than 1,000

**OFFICIAL COUNTRY(S)**

Australia

**SAY HELLO!** Kaya (kah-yah)**INTERESTING FACTS**

Noongar is one of the many Indigenous languages of Australia, and its use has been revitalised in recent years.

**TRADITIONAL FOOD**

Damper: a type of bread made with flour and water, often cooked over an open fire. Kids can help mix the dough and shape it into a round loaf.

**TRADITIONAL ACTIVITIES**

- Participating in traditional Noongar cultural activities such as storytelling, dance, and music
- Eating traditional Noongar food and participating in traditional Noongar ceremonies and rituals
- Visiting Noongar cultural centers and landmarks, such as the Ngaraadjin Boodja (Noongar Cultural Centre) in Perth



# AUGUST 2023

MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY SUNDAY

	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9 International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31 International Day for People of African Descent			

## LANGUAGE OF THE MONTH

## BAHASA

Bahasa is the Indonesian word for "language" and refers to the official language of Indonesia. It is a member of the Austronesian language family. Over 260 million people in Indonesia and other parts of Southeast Asia speak Bahasa Indonesia, which is based on the Malay language and got influenced by Dutch, Arabic, and Chinese.

## LANGUAGE FAMILY

Austronesian

## NUMBER OF SPEAKERS

260 million

## OFFICIAL COUNTRY(S)

Indonesia

**SAY HELLO!** Halo (hah-loh)

## INTERESTING FACTS

Bahasa has a rich literary tradition, and there are many famous Indonesian authors who have written in the language

## TRADITIONAL FOOD

Mi goreng: a simple fried noodle dish made with cooked noodle and a variety of ingredients such as vegetables and proteins. Kids can help measure out the ingredients and stir-fry them in a pan.

## TRADITIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Celebrating holidays such as Independence Day
- Listening to and singing traditional folk songs and nursery rhymes
- Reading traditional Indonesian stories and fables, such as "The Ramayana" and "The Mahabharata"
- Making traditional Indonesian crafts and artwork, such as batik and wayang puppets
- Participating in traditional Indonesian sports and games, such as sepak takraw and badminton



# SEPTEMBER 2023

MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY SUNDAY

				1 World Letter Writing Day	2	3
4	5	6	7 Indigenous Literacy Day	8 International Literacy Day	9	10 German Language Day
11	12	13	14 World Hindi Day	15 Rosh Hashanah	16	17 End of Rosh Hashanah
18	19	20	21	22	23 International Day of Sign Languages	24
25	26 Turkish Language Day European Day of Languages	27	28	29	30 International Translation Day	

## LANGUAGE OF THE MONTH

## PORTUGUESE

Portuguese is a member of the Indo-European language family. Portuguese developed from the Latin spoken by the Romans in the western part of the Iberian Peninsula. It was heavily influenced by the Germanic languages of the Visigoths, who invaded the region in the 5th century. Portuguese became the official language of Portugal in the 15th century and spread to other parts of the world through the Portuguese empire.

## LANGUAGE FAMILY

Indo-European

## NUMBER OF SPEAKERS

260 million

## OFFICIAL COUNTRY(S)

Portugal, Brazil

**SAY HELLO!** Olá (o-la)

## INTERESTING FACTS

Portuguese is the sixth most spoken language in the world and the second most spoken Romance language after Spanish.

## TRADITIONAL FOOD

Pastel de nata: a delicious custard tart made with puff pastry and a creamy egg custard filling. Kids can help roll out the pastry and fill the tart shells.

## TRADITIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Celebrating traditional Portuguese holidays such as Festa de São João, or traditional Brazilian holidays such as Dia de São João
- Making traditional crafts and artwork, such as azulejos and cordel literature from Portugal, and samba drums and carnival masks from Brazil
- Participating in traditional sports and games, such as soccer and bullfighting from Portugal, and soccer and capoeira from Brazil



MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

SUNDAY

						1 Older Person's Day
2	3	4	5 World Teachers' Day	6	7	8
9	10 World Mental Health Day	11	12	13 International Plain Language Day	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21 Developmental Language Disorder Awareness Day Uzbek Language Day	22
23	24	25	26	27	28 International Creole Day	29
30 Grandparents Day	31					

**LANGUAGE OF THE MONTH****SPANISH**

Spanish is spoken primarily in Spain and Latin America. It has roots in the Vulgar Latin spoken by the Romans and was heavily influenced by the Arabic language, which was spoken in Spain during the period of Muslim rule. Spanish has a rich literary tradition and is the second most spoken language in terms of native speakers and the third most spoken language overall in the world.

**LANGUAGE FAMILY**

Indo-European

**NUMBER OF SPEAKERS**

470 million

**OFFICIAL COUNTRY(S)**

Spain, Latin America, Equatorial Guinea, Philippines

**SAY HELLO!** Hola (oh-la)**INTERESTING FACTS**

In Spanish, exclamation and question marks are placed upside down to emphasize the exclamatory or interrogative nature of a sentence. E.g.: ¿Jose, adónde vas? - Jose, where are you going?

**TRADITIONAL FOOD**

Tortilla de patatas: a classic Spanish omelette made with potatoes and onions. Kids can help slice the potatoes and onions and mix the ingredients together.

**TRADITIONAL ACTIVITIES**

- Celebrating traditional holidays such as Semana Santa and Latin American holidays such as Day of the Dead.
- Reading traditional stories and fables, such as "Don Quixote" from Spain, and "The Popol Vuh" and "El Cid" from Latin America
- Making traditional crafts and artwork, such as flamenco dancing from Spain, and quilting and pottery from Latin America



# NOVEMBER 2023

MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY SUNDAY

		1	2	3	4	5 International Romani Language Day
6	7	8	9 World Urdu Day Day of Ukrainian Writing and Language	10	11	12 Diwali
13 Hungarian Language Day	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21 World Hello Day	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

## LANGUAGE OF THE MONTH

## HINDI

Hindi is an Indo-Aryan language spoken primarily in India. It has a long literary tradition and is the official language of India. Hindi developed from the Sanskrit language and was heavily influenced by the regional dialects of northern India. Hindi is written in the Devanagari script and is one of the two official languages of India, along with English.

## LANGUAGE FAMILY

Indo-European

## NUMBER OF SPEAKERS

615 million

## OFFICIAL COUNTRY(S)

India

**SAY HELLO!** नमस्ते (namaste)

## INTERESTING FACTS

In Hindi, every letter has a unique, standalone sound. Therefore, Hindi words are pronounced exactly as they are written, making the language simple to learn.

## TRADITIONAL FOOD

Samosas: a popular snack made with a spiced filling (such as potatoes or lentils) wrapped in a flaky pastry dough. Kids can help fill and fold the pastry dough into a triangular shape.

## TRADITIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Celebrating traditional Hindi holidays such as Diwali and Holi
- Listening to and singing traditional Hindi folk songs and nursery rhymes
- Reading traditional Hindi stories and fables, such as "The Ramayana" and "The Mahabharata"
- Making traditional Hindi crafts and artwork, such as rangoli and mehndi
- Participating in traditional Hindi sports and games, such as kabaddi and kho kho



# DECEMBER 2023

MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY SUNDAY

				1	2	3 International Day of the Basque Language
4	5 International Volunteer Day	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15 Esperanto Book Day	16	17
18 Arabic Language Day	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

## LANGUAGE OF THE MONTH

## ARABIC

Arabic is a Semitic language. It is the language of the Qur'an and is the official language of many Middle Eastern and North African countries. Arabic has a rich literary tradition and has influenced the development of many other languages, including Spanish and Portuguese. Arabic is written in the Arabic script and written from right to left.

## LANGUAGE FAMILY

Afro-Asiatic

## NUMBER OF SPEAKERS

422 million

## OFFICIAL COUNTRY(S)

Middle East, North Africa, Horn of Africa

**SAY HELLO!** (Marhaba) مرحبا

## INTERESTING FACTS

Arabic is the fifth most spoken language in the world and is written in the Arabic script, which is written from right to left.

## TRADITIONAL FOOD

Falafel: a popular snack made with ground chickpeas or fava beans shaped into balls and deep-fried. Kids can help shape the falafel mixture into balls and place them in the fryer.

## TRADITIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Celebrating traditional holidays such as Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha
- Listening to and singing traditional Arabic folk songs and nursery rhymes
- Reading traditional Arabic stories and fables such as Ameen and the Ghoul or The Arabian Nights
- Making traditional Arabic crafts and artwork, such as calligraphy and mosaic

