

## Hebrew Language

Issue 3, September 2011

The earliest Hebrew script was derived from a **Phoenician** script. The modern Hebrew script was developed from a script known as **Proto-Hebrew/Early Aramaic**. The earliest known writing in Hebrew dates from the 11th century BC.

Hebrew is a member of the Canaanite group of Semitic languages. It was the language of the early Jews, but from 586 BC it started to be replaced by Aramaic. By 70 AD use of Hebrew as an everyday language had largely ceased, but it continued to be used for literary and religious functions, as well as a lingua franca among Jews from different countries.

During the mid-19th century the first efforts were made to revive Hebrew as a everyday language. One man who played a major role in these efforts was Eliezer Ben Yehuda (1858-1922), who was the first to make exclusive use of Hebrew in his home, and encouraged the use of Hebrew among others, as well as its use in schools.

Today Hebrew is spoken by some 5

million people in Israel, where it is an official language along with Arabic. and a further 2 to 3 million people speak the language in Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, France, Germany, Palestinian West Bank and Gaza, Panama, the UK and USA.



### Notable features

- Type of writing system: abjad
- Direction of writing: right to left in horizontal lines.
- Number of letters: 22 consonants, plus final letters and diacritics
- Used to write: Hebrew, **Judeo-Arabic**, **Ladino**, **Yiddish** and many other Jewish languages.

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- Some letters (kaf, mem, nun, fe and tzadi) have a final form (sofit), which is used when they appear at the end of a word.
- There are no separate numerals in Hebrew, instead standard western numerals (1, 2, 3, etc) are used.
- Long vowels can be indicated by the letters *alef*, *vav*, and *yod*. Short vowels are not usually marked, except in the Bible, poetry and books for children and foreign learners.

<http://www.omniglot.com/writing/hebrew.htm>

## Zulu language

**Zulu** (**Zulu**: *isiZulu*) is the [language](#) of the [Zulu people](#) with about 10 million speakers, the vast majority (over 95%) of whom live in [South Africa](#). Zulu is the most widely spoken [home language](#) in South Africa (24% of the population) as well as being understood

using the Latin alphabet. The Zulu language, like other [Nguni languages](#), is heavily influenced by the [Xhosa language](#).

### History

The Zulu, like [Xhosa](#) and other Nguni people, have lived in South Africa for a long time. The Zulu language has a lot of click sounds typical of Southern African languages. These click sounds are not found in the rest of Africa. The Nguni people have lived together with other Southern tribes like the San and Khoi.

1883. In 1901, [John Dube](#) (1871–1946), a Zulu from Natal, created the [Ohlange Institute](#), the first native educational institution in South Africa. He was also the author of *Insila kaShaka*, the first novel written in isiZulu (1933). Another pioneering Zulu writer was [Reginald Dhlomo](#), author of several historical novels of the 19th-century leaders of the Zulu nation: *U-Dingane* (1936), *U-Shaka* (1937), *U-Mpande* (1938), *U-Cetshwayo* (1952) and *U-Dinizulu* (1968). Other notable contributors to Zulu literature include [Benedict Wallet Vilakazi](#) and, more recently, [Os-wald Mbuyiseni Mtshali](#).

The written form of Zulu was controlled by the [Zulu Language Board](#) of [KwaZulu-Natal](#). This board has now been disbanded and superseded by the [Pan South African Language Board](#), which promotes the use of all eleven official languages of South Africa

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zulu\\_language](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zulu_language)



by over 50% of the population (Ethnologue 2005). It became one of [South Africa's eleven official languages](#) in 1994.

According to Ethnologue,<sup>[1]</sup> it is the second most widely spoken [Bantu Language](#) after [Shona](#). Like many other [Bantu languages](#), it is written

Zulu, like all indigenous Southern African languages, was an [oral language](#) until contact with missionaries from Europe, who documented the language using the [Latin alphabet](#). The first grammar book of the Zulu language was published in [Norway](#) in 1850 by the Norwegian missionary [Hans Schreuder](#).<sup>[2]</sup> The first written document in Zulu was a Bible translation that appeared in