

Google Translate adds 24 new languages

16th May, 2022



Google Translate has added 24 languages to its translation service, bringing the total number to 133. For many of us, Translate is an indispensable tool. It provides a convenient, accurate and quick way of comprehending vocabulary

and texts in other languages. The 24 new languages are spoken by more than 300 million people worldwide. Among them are the indigenous Aymara, Guarani and Quechua languages of the Americas. Google rolled out its first translation service in 2006 and has continually added to its repository. Google said it still has a way to go to be more comprehensive. There are around 7,000 languages worldwide that Translate doesn't provide support for.

Translate needs to analyze a large range of linguistic data to be able to support a language. Isaac Caswell, a Google Translate scientist, told journalists about how advances in technology have facilitated adding the new languages. He said: "Up until a couple of years ago, it simply was not technologically possible to add languages like these, which are what we call a low resource - meaning that there are not very many text resources out there for them." He explained that Google aspires to support languages used by large populations. One of these is Lingala, spoken by 45 million people across Central Africa. It also wants to render assistance for indigenous languages that are often overlooked by technology.

Sources: techcrunch.com / bbc.com / engadget.com

Writing

Everyone should learn at least two other languages. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

Google / translate / number / tool / vocabulary / texts / languages / indigenous / first / linguistic / data / scientist / technology / resource / population Central Africa

True / False

- 1) There are now 157 languages on Google Translate. T / F
- 2) Fewer than 300 million people speak the new languages. T / F
- 3) The article mentions three indigenous languages from the Americas. T / F
- 4) There are about 7,000 languages that are not on Translate. T / F
- 5) Translate needs a lot of data about language to support a language. T / F
- 6) Translate said technology has meant it can translate more languages. T / F
- 7) There aren't enough resources out there to support some languages. T / F
- 8) Google said it has no plans to support more indigenous languages. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. indispensable | a. examine |
| 2. indigenous | b. made it possible |
| 3. rolled out | c. assistance |
| 4. comprehensive | d. native |
| 5. support | e. missed |
| 6. analyze | f. launched |
| 7. facilitated | g. give |
| 8. aspires | h. complete |
| 9. render | i. aims |
| 10. overlooked | j. essential |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) How good do you think Google Translate is?
- c) Would you be a good translator?
- d) How important is it to protect indigenous languages?
- e) What new languages would you like to learn?
- f) What would life be like if all language was translated immediately?
- g) What will Google Translate be like in 20 years from now?
- h) What questions would you like to ask Google?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|---|------------------------------|
| 1. Translate is | a. of linguistic data |
| 2. a convenient, accurate | b. translation service |
| 3. Among them | c. by technology |
| 4. Google rolled out its first | d. and quick way |
| 5. Google said it still has | e. a couple of years ago |
| 6. analyze a large range | f. a way to go |
| 7. advances | g. an indispensable tool |
| 8. Up until | h. by large populations |
| 9. support languages used | i. in technology |
| 10. languages that are often overlooked | j. are the indigenous Aymara |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think of Google Translate?
- How often do you need to translate things?
- Do you ever translate things into English?
- How many languages do you know?
- How difficult is it to learn a new language?
- Are translations of vocabulary always accurate?
- What do you think of the idea of having one global language?
- How important is your language to you?

Spelling

- an nlpbsaieensid tool
- acucaret and quick
- ehndceonmgirp vocabulary
- the ninedogsui Aymara
- added to its oyrtpirose
- deorvpi support for
- nltiucsgii data
- tfiiclatade adding the new languages
- not nltoalegyciclho possible
- what we call a low eurceors
- Google rpaisse to support languages
- to render iscstenasa

Answers – Synonym Match

1. j	2. d	3. f	4. h	5. c
6. a	7. b	8. i	9. g	10. e

Role Play

Role A – English

You think English is the best language. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their languages aren't as good. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): Arabic, Cantonese or Hindi.

Role B – Arabic

You think Arabic is the best language. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their languages aren't as good. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): English, Cantonese or Hindi.

Role C – Cantonese

You think Cantonese is the best language. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their languages aren't as good. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): Arabic, English or Hindi.

Role D – Hindi

You think Hindi is the best language. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their languages aren't as good. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): Arabic, Cantonese or English.

Speaking – Languages

Rank these with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|--------------|-------------|
| • French | • English |
| • Spanish | • Arabic |
| • Portuguese | • Cantonese |
| • Hindi | • Swahili |

Answers – True False

1	F	2	F	3	T	4	T	5	T	6	T	7	T	8	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.