Encontra la Familia!
(Meet the Family!)

A book for children in English, French, German and Elefen by:

Brian Mansberger
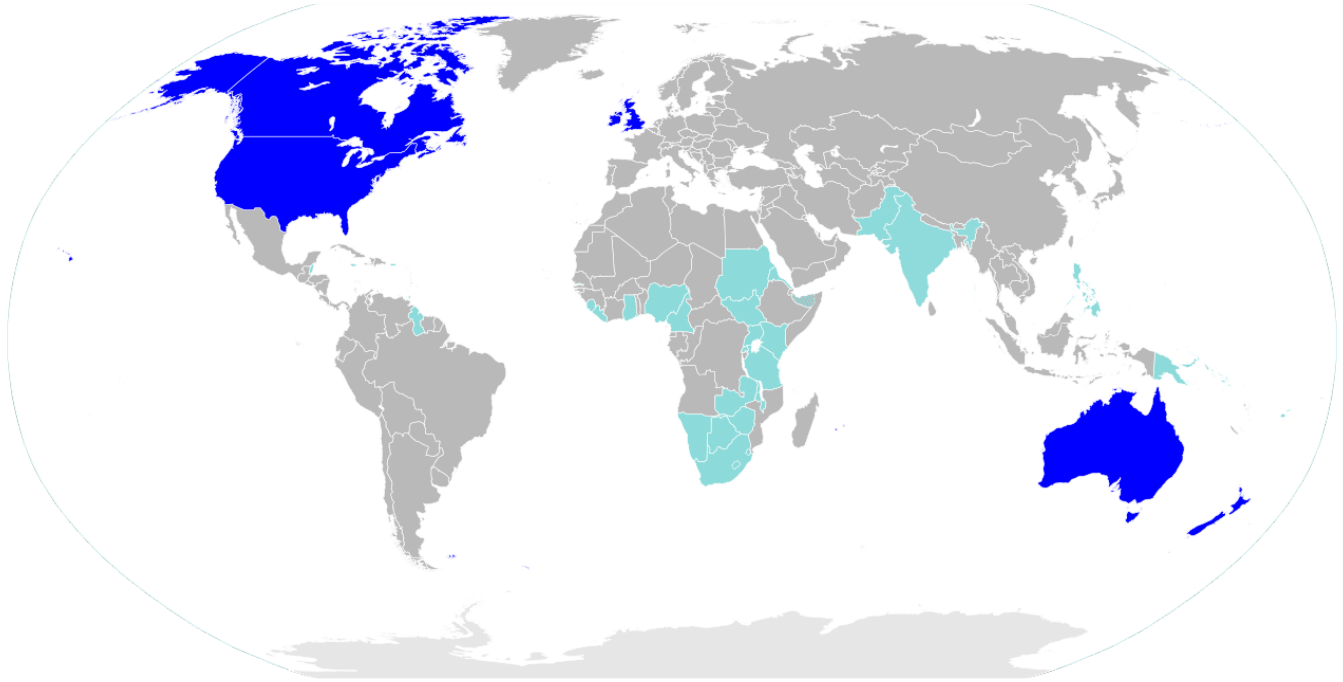
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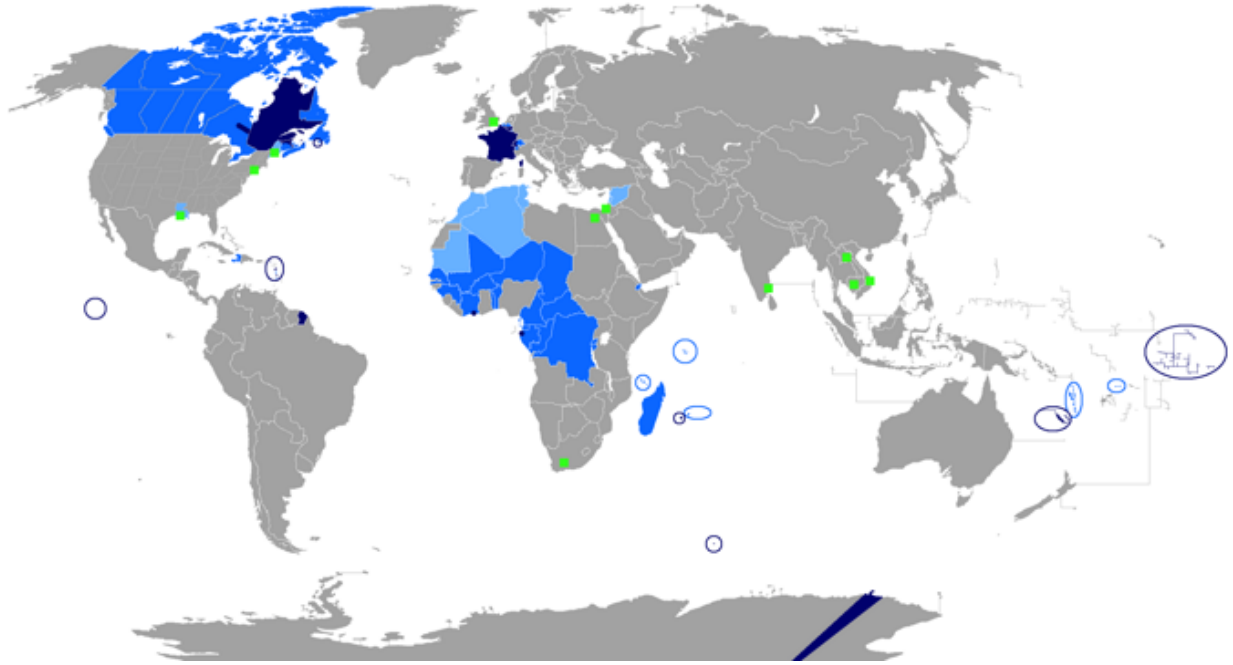
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English

English is one of the most widely spoken languages in the world, with the third-highest number of speakers globally, behind Mandarin and Spanish. English is also the most widely-learned second language in the world. In the image above, countries colored in dark blue are nations that have English as a native language, and countries in light blue represent nations where English has an official status or widespread usage.

Population of native speakers: 400 million (2016)

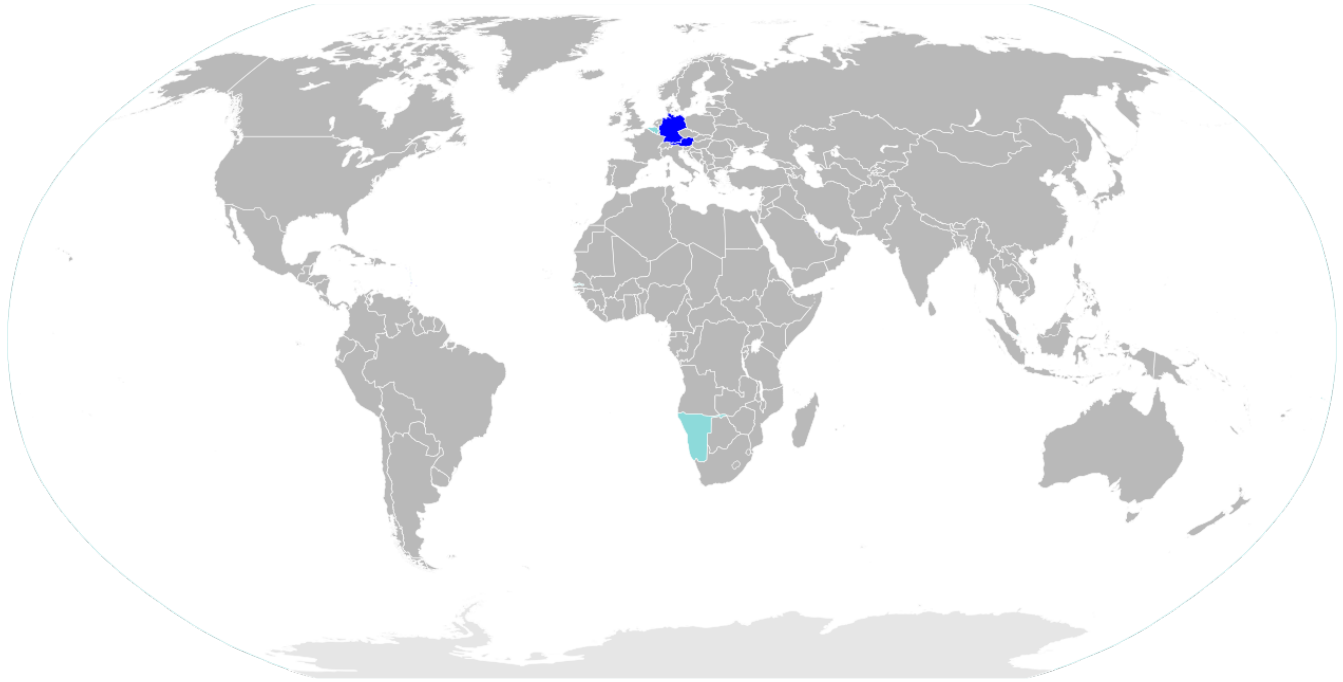Population of secondary speakers: 600 – 700 million (2016)

French

French is a global language, spoken across the world by approximately 77 - 110 million native speakers and 190 million as a secondary language. French has a long history as an international language of business, diplomacy, literature and science, and is an official language of many international organizations such as the United Nations, the European Union, NATO, the World Trade Organization and the International Olympic Committee. In the image above, nations or provinces marked in dark blue have French as a principal language, and nations in lighter blue list French as an official or secondary language. Green marks represent small communities of French speakers.

Population of native speakers: 77 - 110 million (2016)

Population of secondary speakers: 190 million (2016)

German

German is a language spoken principally in Central Europe in the nations of Germany, Austria, Switzerland, the South Tyrol region of Italy, and Liechtenstein. It is also listed as an official language of Luxembourg, Belgium and Namibia. It is the most widely spoken language in the European Union, the third most widely taught foreign language in the United States and the European Union after Spanish and French, and is ranked fifth in terms of annual publication of new books. German is a member of the Germanic language family, as is English. In the image above, countries colored dark blue represent nations using German in an official or native capacity, and the light blue colored areas represent nations recognizing German as a minority language.

Population of native speakers: 95 million (2016)

Population of secondary speakers: 75 - 100 million (2016)

Elefen (Lingua Franca Nova)

Lingua Franca Nova, otherwise known as "Elefen", is a constructed language created by C. George Boeree and released to the Internet in 1998. Since then, it has been contributed to, honed and adapted by a community of speakers, and work is continually done to add words to the dictionary. The vocabulary of Elefen is based on the Romance languages of French, Italian, Portuguese, Spanish and Catalan, and the grammar is highly reduced, regular and similar to Romance creoles. As a result, it lacks the more difficult aspects of traditional (natural) languages, such as irregular verbs and inconsistent spellings.

The image above is the flag of Elefen.

The population of speakers is always increasing, and Elefen is a practical and fun tool to explore the possibilities of extremely efficient and simple communication. Elefen was designed to be extremely easy to learn and can even be rapidly learned by children. Additional information can be found at **elefen.org**.

Aprende lo e deveni un elefeniste!

(Learn it and become an elefenist!)

The format of the book:

- The word items are color-coded to reflect their roles in the sentences. You can use this color coding to easily decode what a given word is in the other listed languages.
- The first sentence is an English sentence.
- The second sentence is in French, followed by a sentence in parentheses that attempts to describe the pronunciation of the French sentence in a phonetic-style English.
- The third sentence is in German, followed by a sentence in parentheses that attempts to describe the pronunciation of the German sentence in a phonetic-style English.
- The third sentence is in Elefen, followed by a sentence in parentheses that attempts to describe the pronunciation of the Elefen sentence in a phonetic-style English.

About the pronunciations (phonetic English sentences):

As describing pronunciation is difficult, it is likely the author's North American English accent will be perceptible in the phonetic sentences. If you live in an another English-speaking region, you may find this pronunciation differs from your native accent. Feel free to ignore or adapt these phonetic-styled sentences if you find that another approach better suits you.

Two German sounds were hard to reproduce reliably using English-styled phonetics, thus:

- "ei" in the German pronunciations should be pronounced like "eye" in English
- "au" in the German pronunciations should be pronounced like "ow" as in "cow", "frown" and "how", but not as in "mow" or "tow"

The attempted pronunciations are meant to be close enough to be understood by the speakers of that language, but further refinement or study might be needed to sound "native." These sentences are mostly meant to open the door to the other languages so you can say things right away and be understood, even if they are missing some nuances.

A **boy**

Un **garçon**

(uhn gahr-sohn)

Ein **Junge**

(ein yoong-uh)

Un **xico**

(oon shee-ko)

A tree
Un arbre
(uhn ar-bruh)
Ein Baum
(ein baum)
Un arbor
(oon ar-bor)

The boy climbs the tree

Le garçon grimpe à l'arbre

(luh gahr-sohn gremp ah lar-bruh)

Der Junge klettert auf dem Baum

(der yoong-uh klet-tert auf dem baum)

La xico trepa la arbor

(lah shee-ko tray-pah lah ar-bor)

A **girl**

Une **fille**

(oon fee)

Ein **Mädchen**

(ein mayd-shen)

Un **xica**

(oon shee-kah)

A **toy**

Un **jouet**

(uhn zhoo-ay)

Ein **Spielzeug**

(ein shpeeld-soyg)

Un **jueta**

(oon zhoo-ay-tah)

The girl plays with two toys

La fille joue avec deux jouets

(lah fee zhoo ah-vek duh zhoo-ay)

Das Mädchen spielt mit zwei Spielzeugen

(dahs mayd-shen shpeelt mitt svei shpeeld-soyg-uhn)

La xica jua con du juetas

(lah shee-kah zhoo-ah kohn doo zhoo-ay-tahs)

A **woman**

Une **femme**

(oon fahm)

Eine **Frau**

(ein-uh frau)

Un **fem**

(oon fem)

A **book**

Un **livre**

(uhn leev-ruh)

Ein **Buch**

(ein boogh) *the -gh is soft / raspy, like "loch"

Un **libro**

(oon lee-bro)

The woman reads the blue book

La femme lit le livre bleu

(lah fahm lee luh leev-ruh bluh)

Die Frau liest das blaue Buch

(dee frau leest das blau-uh boogh)

La fem leje la libro blu

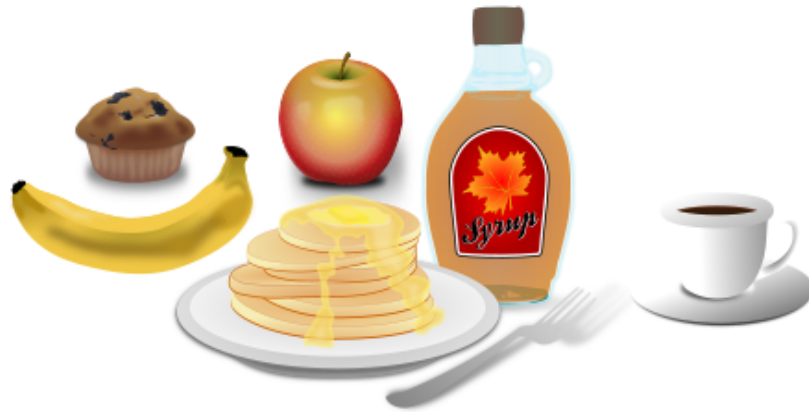(lah fem lay-zhay lah lee-bro bloo)

A **man**

Un **homme**

(uhn uhm)

Ein **Mann**

(ein mahn)

Un **om**

(oon ohm)

A **breakfast**
Un **petit déjeuner**
(uhn puh-tee day-zhuhn-ay)
Ein **Frühstück**
(ein froo-shtook)
Un **come de matina**
(oon ko-may day mah-tee-nah)

The man eats his breakfast

L'homme mange son petit déjeuner

(luhm mahnzh sohn puh-tee day-zhuhn-ay)

Der Mann isst sein Frühstück

(der mahn ist zein froo-shtook)

La om come sua come de matina

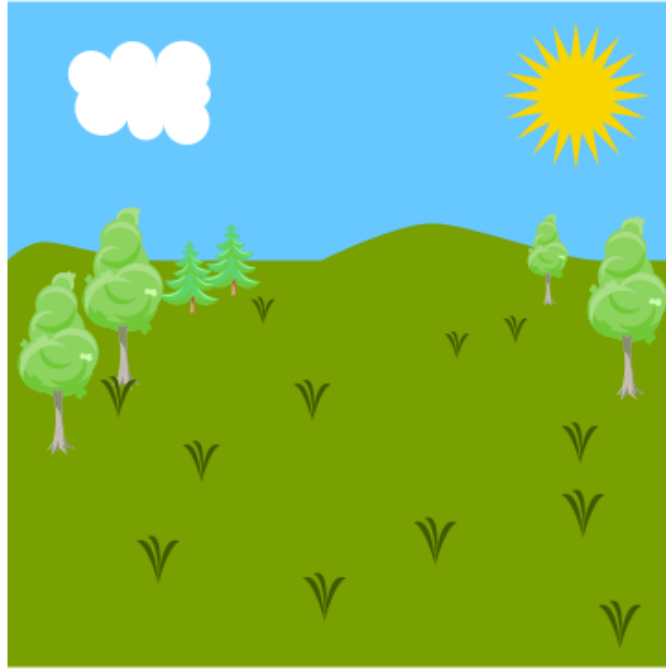(lah ohm co-may soo-ah co-may day mah-tee-nah)

A dog
Un chien
(uhn shee-en)
Ein Hund
(ein hoont)
Un can
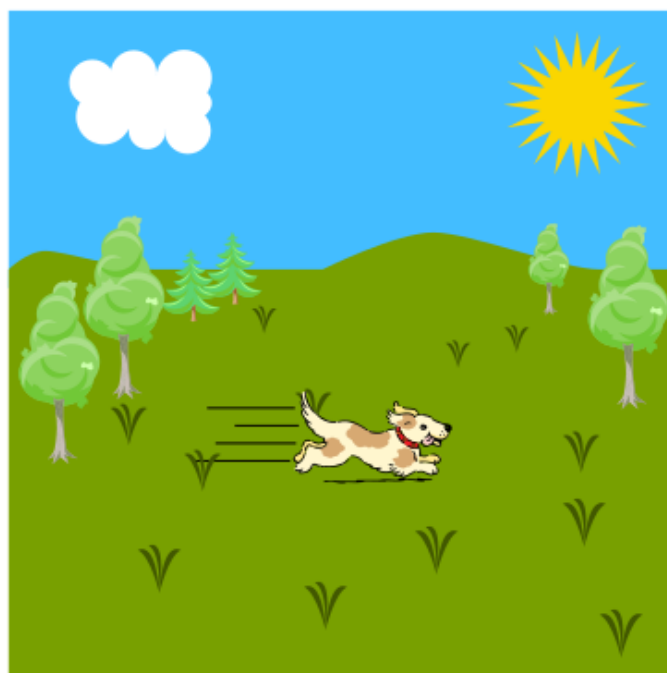(oon kahn)

A field

Un champ
(uhn shawm)

Ein Feld
(ein felt)

Un campo
(oon kahm-po)

The **dog** **runs** across the **field**

Le **chien** **court** à **travers** le **champ**

(luh shee-en koor ah trah-vayr luh shawm)

Der **Hund** **läuft** über das **Feld**

(der hoont loyft oo-ber dahs felt)

La **can** **core** traversante la **campo**

(lah kahn kor-ay trah-vers-ahn-tay la kahm-po)

A **cat**

Un **chat**

(uhn shah)

Eine **Katze**

(ein-uh kaht-suh)

Un **gato**

(oon gah-to)

A **bed**

Un **lit**

(uhn lee)

Ein **Bett**

(ein bet)

Un **leto**

(oon lay-to)

The **cat** **sleeps** **on** the **bed**

Le **chat** **dort** **sur** le **lit**

(luh shah dor soor luh lee)

Die **Katze** **schläft** **auf** dem **Bett**

(dee kaht-suh shlayft auf dem bet)

La **gato** **dormi** **sur** la **leto**

(lah gah-to dor-mee soor lah lay-to)

A bird
Un oiseau
(uhn wah-zoh)
Ein Vogel
(ein fo-guhl)
Un avia
(oon ahv-yah)

A **car**

Une **voiture**

(oon vwah-toor)

Ein **Auto**

(ein au-to)

Un **auto**

(oon au-to)

The bird flies over the car

L'oiseau vole au dessus de la voiture

(lwahz-o vohl oh-day-soo duh lah vwah-toor)

Der Vogel fliegt über das Auto

(der fo-guhl fleekt oo-ber dahs au-to)

La avia vola supra la auto

(lah ahv-yah vo-lah soo-prah lah au-to)

Everyone

Tout le monde

(too luh mawnd)

Jeder

(yay-der)

Tota la mundo

(toh-tah lah moon-do)

A **house**

Une **maison**

(oon may-zohn)

Ein **Haus**

(ein haus)

Un **casa**

(oon kah-sah)

Everyone sleeps in the house

Tout le monde dort dans la maison

(too luh mawnd dor dahn lah may-zohn)

Jeder schläft im Haus

(yay-der shlayft im haus)

Tota la mundo dormi en la casa

(to-tah lah moon-do dor-mee en lah kah-sah)