

custom

the frequent extension of an act, to the extent that it becomes characteristic of the group of people performing the act

folk culture

culture traditionally practiced by a small, homogeneous, rural group living in relative isolation from other groups

habit

a repetitive act performed by a particular individual

popular culture

culture found in a large, heterogeneous society that shares certain habits despite differences in other personal characteristics

taboo

a restriction on behavior imposed by social custom

British Received Pronunciation  
(BRP)

dialect of English associated with upper-class Britons living in the London area and now considered standard in the United Kingdom

Creole or creolized language

a language that results from the mixing of a colonizer's language with the indigenous language of the people being dominated

Dialect

a regional variety of language distinguished by vocabulary, spelling, and pronunciation

Ebonics

dialect spoken by some African-Americans

Extinct language

a language that was once used by people in daily activities but is no longer used

# Franglais

a term used by the French for English words that have entered the French language

# Ideograms

system of writing used in China and other East Asian countries in which each symbol represents an idea or a concept rather than a specific sound, as is the case with letters in English

# Isogloss

boundary that separates regions in which different language usages predominate

# Isolated language

a language that is unrelated to any other languages and therefore not attached to any language family

# Language

a system of communication through the use of speech, a collection of sounds understood by a group of people to have the same meaning

## Language branch

a collection of languages related through a common ancestor that existed a couple thousand years ago. Differences are not as extensive or old as with language families, and archaeological evidence can confirm that the branches derived from the same family

## Language family

collection of languages related to each other through a common ancestor long before recorded history

## Language group

collection of languages within a branch of that share a common origin in the relatively recent past and display relatively few differences in grammar and vocabulary

## Lingua franca

a language mutually understood and commonly used in trade by people who have different native languages

## Literary tradition

a language that is written as well as spoken

Official language

language adopted for use by the for the conduct of business and publication of documents

Pidgin language

a form of speech that adopts a simplified grammar and limited vocabulary of a lingua franca, used for communications among speakers of two different languages

Spanglish

combination of Spanish and English, spoken by Hispanic-Americans

Standard language

the form of a language used for official government business, education, and mass communications

Vulgar Latin

a form of Latin used in daily conversation by ancient Romans, as opposed to the standard dialect, which was used for official documents