

Hakka (Chinese/Timorese)

客家话

Spoken in: China (the PRC and the ROC), Singapore, Indonesia, and Malaysia.

Region: China, Eastern Guangdong province; adjoining regions of Fujian and Jiangxi provinces

Total speakers: 40 million

Genetic Classification: Sino-Tibetan Chinese Hakka

Hakka is one language in the family of languages known as Chinese. The majority of its speakers are known Hakka people. The Hakka language has numerous dialects; it is spoken in southeastern China, parts of Taiwan and in the New Territories of Hong Kong. There are also significant communities of Hakka speakers in such countries as the USA, French Guiana, Mauritius and the UK. The total number of Hakka speakers is roughly 40 million.

There is a significant difference between the Hakka dialect spoken in China and the Hakka dialect spoken in Timor.

Currently SSWAHS Health Care Interpreter Service employs 2 Hakka (Chinese) and 1 Hakka (Timorese) sessional interpreter.

Hakka pronunciation

Consonants

p	p'	b	t	t'	k	k'	ts	ts'	tɕ	tɕ'	ç	ç'
[p]	[pʰ]	[b]	[t]	[tʰ]	[k]	[kʰ]	[ts]	[tsʰ]	[tɕ(i)]	[tɕʰ(i)]	[tʂ]	[tʂʰ]
m	n	ŋ	ɲ	f	l	h	s	s'	s(i)	w	j	z
[m]	[n]	[ŋ]	[ɲ]	[f]	[l]	[h]	[s]	[sʰ]	[s(i)]	[w]	[j]	[z]

Vowels & diphthongs

a	ai	au	e	i	ii	iu	o	oi	u	w
[a]	[ai]	[au]	[ɛ]	[i]	[iː]	[iu]	[o]	[oi]	[u]	[w]