

Maltese

Malti

Spoken in: Malta, Canada, Australia, United States

Region: Throughout the Mediterranean, North America, and Australia.

Total speakers: 400,000

Genetic Classification: Afro-Asiatic Semitic Central Semitic South Central Semitic Maltese

Official language of: Malta

Maltese is a Semitic language spoken by about 400,000 people on the Mediterranean islands of Malta and Gozo. It is derived from and most closely related to Arabic—in particular, the North African dialect—but in the course of its history it has adopted many loans and even phonetic and phonological features from (Southern) Italian (particularly Sicilian) and English. Maltese is the only Semitic language written in the Latin alphabet.

The first known literary text in Maltese, *Il Cantilena*, appeared during the 15th century. The first Maltese language was a catechism by F. Wizzino, and was published in 1752.

Currently SSWAHS Health Care Interpreter Service employs 3 Maltese sessional interpreters.

Maltese alphabet

A a	B b	Ċ ċ	D d	E e	F f	Ġ ġ	G g	Għ għ	H h
a	be	ċe	de	e	ef	ġe	ge	ajn	akka
Ħ ħ	I i	Ie ie	J j	K k	L l	M m	N n	O o	P p
ħe	i	ie	je	ke	elle	emme	enne	o	pe
Q q	R r	S s	T t	U u	V v	W w	X x	Ż ż	Z z
qe	erre	esse	te	u	ve	we	exxe	že	ze