Romanian

română

Spoken in: Romania, Moldova, Vojvodina, Russia, Ukraine, Israel, Serbia, Hungary, the Balkans, Canada, and USA.

Region: Eastern Europe

Total speakers: 26 million

Genetic classification: Indo-European Italic Romance East Romance Romanian

Official language of: Romania, Moldova, Vojvodina (Serbia and Montenegro)

Romanian language is a member of the Romance group of the Italic subfamily of the Indo-European family of languages. It is spoken by about 22 million people in Romania, where it is the official language.

Romanian first appeared in writing during the 16th century mainly in religious texts and other documents. The earliest known text in Romanian dates from 1521.

From the late 16th century a version of the Latin alphabet using Hungarian spelling conventions was used to write Romanian in Translyvania. Then in the late 18th century a spelling system based on Italian was adopted. A version of the Cyrillic alphabet was used in the Soviet Republic of Moldova until 1989, when they switched to the Romanian version of the Latin alphabet.

Currently SSWAHS Health Care Interpreter Service employs 2 Romanian sessional interpreters.

Modern Romanian alphabet

A a	Ă ă	Â â	B b	C c	D d	E e	F f	G g	H h	I i	Î î	J j	K k
a	ă	â	be	ce	de	e	fe/ef	ghe/ge	ha/haş	i	î	je	ka

L l	M m	N n	O o	P p	R r	S s	Ş ş	T t	Ţ ţ	U u	V v	X x	Z z
le/el	me/em	ne/en	p	pe	re/er	se/es	şe	te	ţe	u	ve	ics	zet

Q, W and Y are also used but only in foreign loanwords.

Old Romanian alphabet

This version of the Latin alphabet was used during the transition from the Cyrillic to the Latin alphabets. It is still used, though mostly in church writings.