

Serbian

СРПСКИ

Spoken in: Serbia and Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, and other countries

Region: Balkans

Total speakers: 10 million

Genetic Classification: Indo-European Slavic South Western Serbian

Official language of: Serbia and Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina

The Serbian language is one of the standard versions of the Central-South Slavic diasystem, formerly called Serbo-Croatian. Serbian is used primarily in Serbia and Montenegro, Republika Srpska and by Serbs everywhere. It is based on the Štokavian dialect, has Western and Eastern spoken variants, and uses both the Cyrillic and Latin alphabets.

Serbian literature emerged in the Middle Ages, written literature was produced only for religious use in churches and monasteries, and held to Old Church Slavonic. By the end of the 18th century, the written literature had become estranged from the spoken language.

In the Serbian language there are 30 different speech sound types (phonemes). Each one of them is represented in the Cyrillic script by an individual Cyrillic letter.

The Serbian alphabet

А а Б б В в Г г Д д Ђ ђ Е е Ж ж З з И и Ј ј
К к Л л Љ љ М м Н н Њ њ О о П п Р р С с Т т
Ћ ћ У у Ф ф Х х Ц ц Ч ч Џ џ Ш ш

Currently SSWAHS Health Care Interpreter Service employs 2 FTE Serbian interpreters and 12 sessional interpreters.