

# COUNTRIES

The word “nationality” is not often used in spoken English. It is a formal word that appears more frequently in written English.

We almost never say “What is your nationality?”. We usually say “Where are you from?”

It is not usual to answer “My nationality is Mexican”, you say “I am Mexican”.

When we refer to a nation or region, we can use:

- the name of the country or region: **Turkey, Japan, Germany, Brazil, Asia.**
- a singular noun that we use for a person from the country or region: **a Turk, a Japanese, a German, a Brazilian, an Asian**
- the plural expression the ... used for the whole population of a country or region: **the Turks, the Japanese, the Germans, the Brazilians, the Asians**
- an adjective: **Turkish, Japanese, German, Brazilian, Asian**

The name of a national language is commonly the same as the national adjective. In this case, the words are nouns and may be modified by adjectives.

We don't use the or the word language:

Do you speak Chinese?

Not: ~~Do you speak the Chinese?~~ or ~~Do you speak Chinese language?~~

Russian is difficult to learn, isn't it, especially the alphabet?

She speaks fluent French.

We use a capital letter when we refer to a nationality, a language, a country and a region:

They have studied American literature.

Not: ~~They have studied American literature.~~

Here are some examples of Countries and regions and their adjectives and nouns:

COUNTRY/ REGION	ADJECTIVE	PERSON (NOUN)	PEOPLE (PLURAL)
Australia	Australian	An Australian	The Australians
Brazil	Brazilian	A Brazilian	The Brazilians
Europe	European	A European	The Europeans
Italy	Italian	An Italian	The Italians
Greece	Greek	A Greek	The Greeks
China	Chinese	A Chinese	The Chinese
Portugal	Portuguese	A Portuguese	The Portuguese