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Languages in Europe

People in Europe speak many different languages. Most of these languages belong to three large groups or 'families': Germanic, Slavic and Romance.



The languages in each group share a family likeness because they are descended from the same ancestors. For example, Romance languages are descended from Latin – the language spoken by the Romans.

Here's how to say "Good morning" or "Hello" in just a few of these languages.

Germanic

Danish	<i>God morgen</i>
Dutch	<i>Goedemorgen</i>
English	<i>Good morning</i>
German	<i>Guten Morgen</i>
Swedish	<i>God morgon</i>

Romance

French	<i>Bonjour</i>
Italian	<i>Buon giorno</i>
Portuguese	<i>Bom dia</i>
Romanian	<i>Bună dimineața</i>
Spanish	<i>Buenos días</i>



Slavic	
Bulgarian	<i>Dobró útro</i>
Czech	<i>Dobré ráno</i>
Polish	<i>Dzień dobry</i>
Slovak	<i>Dobré ráno</i>
Slovene	<i>Dobro jutro</i>

It's not hard to see the family likeness in these examples. But there are other European languages that are less closely related, or not at all related, to one another. Here's how to say "Good morning" or "Hello" in just a dozen of these languages.

Basque	<i>Egun on</i>
Breton	<i>Demat</i>
Catalan	<i>Bon dia</i>
Estonian	<i>Tere hommikust</i>
Finnish	<i>Hyvää huomenta</i>
Gaelic (Scottish)	<i>Madainn mhath</i>
Greek	<i>Kalimera</i>
Hungarian	<i>Jó reggelt</i>
Irish	<i>Dia dhuit</i>
Latvian	<i>Labrīt</i>
Lithuanian	<i>Labas rytas</i>
Maltese	<i>L-Għodwa t-Tajba</i>
Welsh	<i>Bore da</i>

In the language of the Roma people, who live in many parts of Europe, 'Good morning' is *Lasho dyes*.

Learning languages can be great fun – and it's important on a continent like Europe. Many of us enjoy going on holiday to other European countries, and getting to know the people there. That's a great opportunity to practise the phrases we know in different languages.

