

ARMENIAN

SOME USEFUL PHRASES IN ARMENIAN

Eastern Armenian

Բարև՝ իմ անունն է Մայա:

[ba'rev; im a'nun: e 'maja]

/Barev; im anunn e Maya./

Hi. My name is Maya.

Ինչ է Ձեր անունը?

[intʃʰ e dʒer 'anunəʔ]

/Inch' e Dzer anuny?/

What is your name?

Ինչպես եք?

[intʃʰ pes jekʰʔ]

/Inch'pes yek'ʔ/

How are you?

Լավ, շնորհակալ եմ: Դուք ինչպես եք?

[lav, ʃnorha 'kal jem. dukʰ intʃʰ pes jekʰʔ]

/Lav, shnorhakal yem. Duk' inch'pes yek'ʔ/

I'm fine, thanks. And you?

Անգլերեն խոսում եք?

[anɡle' ren xo' sum jekʰʔ]

/Angleren khosum yek'ʔ/

Do you speak English?

Western Armenian

Բարև՝ իմ անունն է Մայա:

[ba'rev; im a'nun: e 'maja]

/Barev; im anunn e Maya./

Hi. My name is Maya.

Ինչ է Ձեր անունը?

[intʃʰ e dʒer 'anunəʔ]

/Inch' e Dzer anuny?/

What is your name?

Ինչպես եք?

[intʃʰ pes jekʰʔ]

/Inch'pes yek'ʔ/

How are you?

Լավ, շնորհակալ եմ: Դուք ինչպես եք?

[lav, ʃnorha 'kal jem. dukʰ intʃʰ pes jekʰʔ]

/Lav, shnorhakal yem. Duk' inch'pes yek'ʔ/

I'm fine, thanks. And you?

Անգլերեն խոսում եք?

[anɡkʰle' ren xo' sum jekʰʔ]

/Ank'leren khosum yek'ʔ/

Do you speak English?

FIVE REASONS WHY YOU SHOULD LEARN MORE ABOUT ARMENIANS AND THEIR LANGUAGE

1. Armenian is spoken by approximately 7 million people worldwide, with the majority of these speakers living in Armenia (3.3 million) and the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic (144,000).
2. Armenian has its own unique writing system, the Armenia alphabet, which consists of 40 letters.
3. Armenia has a rich literary history, dating back to the works of Moses of Khorene in the 5th century.
4. Armenian culture is famous for their carpet weaving and lacemaking, including the highly sought after Armenian lace style.
5. If you enjoy music and dancing, you would enjoy Armenian holidays and celebrations.

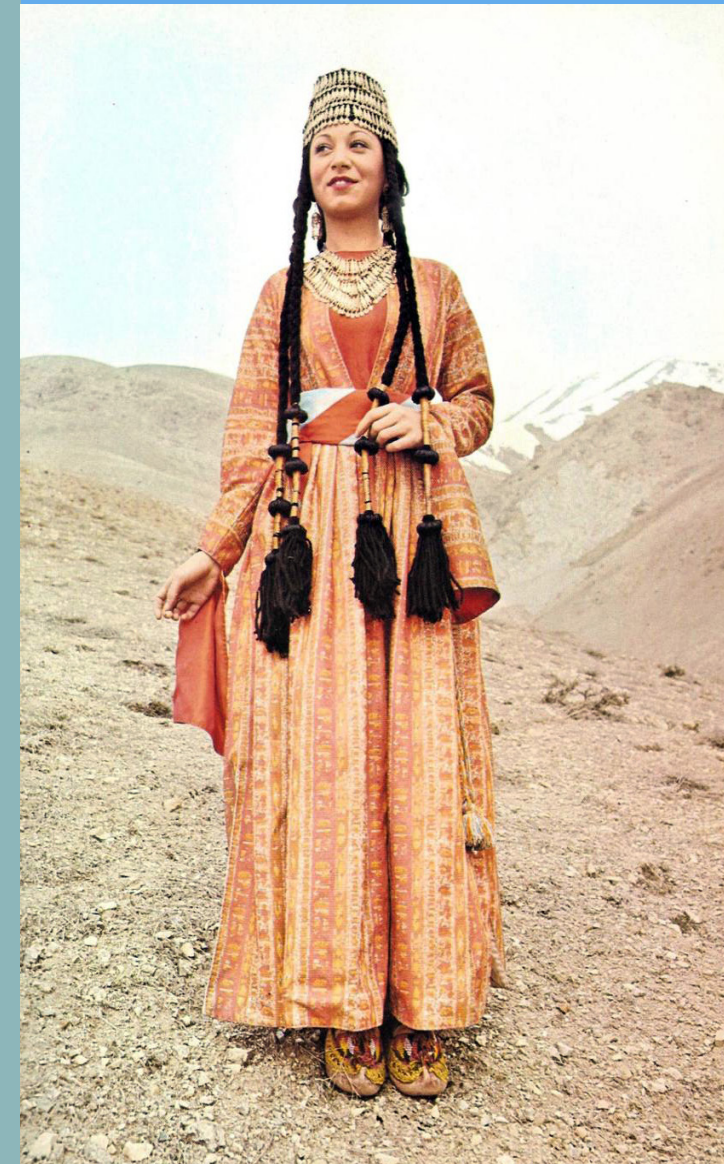
ABOUT US

The Center for Languages of the Central Asian Region (CeLCAR) at Indiana University develops materials for learning and teaching a wide variety of Central Asian languages.

For more information, go to celcar.indiana.edu.



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Center for Languages of the
Central Asian Region (CeLCAR)

WHO ARE THE ARMENIAN PEOPLE AND WHERE DO THEY LIVE?



Armenian is the official language of the Republic of Armenia (population 3.3 million) and the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic (population 144,000), but it is spoken

natively by approximately 7 million people worldwide. Armenian can be found spoken in diaspora communities throughout Central Asia (Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan), Africa (Egypt), Asia (India), Europe (Bulgaria, Cyprus, Estonia, France, Georgia, Hungary, Romania, Russia, Turkey, and Ukraine), the Middle East (Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, and Syria), and the Americas (Canada, Honduras, and the United States).

WHAT KIND OF LANGUAGE IS ARMENIAN?

Modern Armenian, also known as Ashkhrabar Armenian, was developed around the 18th century and is based on Cilician Armenian, also known as Middle Armenian. Cilician Armenian was used from the 12th century through the 18th, and was based on Grabar Armenian, also known as Classical Armenian or Old Armenian. Grabar means “literary” in Armenian and is used to describe the language from its first written record in the 5th century through its use in Armenian literature as late as the 18th century.

There are two main Armenian dialects: Western Armenian, also known as



Turkish-Armenian, and Eastern Armenian, which is spoken in the Caucasus Mountains.

Armenian is a member of the Indo-European language family. But while it shares some linguistic traits with the Greek and Indo-Iranian language branches, most linguists categorize Armenian on its own independent branch of the greater Indo-European language tree.

Some of the structural similarities Armenian shares with other Indo-Iranian languages include subject-object-verb word order, postpositions, and use of declensions. One major divergence is that Armenian is the only agglutinative Indo-European language (words formed by joining discrete affixes together to create a meaning). Agglutination is much more commonly an Altaic language trait (Korean, Japanese, Turkish, etc).



WHAT ALPHABET DO ARMENIANS USE?

Հայոց այբուբեն

Armenian has been written using its own unique Armenian alphabet since approximately 405 AD. The original version contained 36 letters, however two letters were added during the Middle ages and two more letters were added during the Soviet reform (1922-1924), resulting in today’s 40 letter alphabet.

Like the Roman alphabet, the Armenian alphabet is written horizontally from left to right. The alphabet is thought to be modeled on the Greek alphabet, with Pahlavi (used to write Middle Iranian languages) and Syriac (used to

write Syriac languages) influences.

WHAT IS ARMENIAN CULTURE LIKE?

Armenian culture is very similar to the cultures of their neighbors in the Caucasus, the geopolitical region on the border of Europe and Asia between the Black and Caspian Sea and home of the Caucasus Mountains that includes Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Turkey, Iran, and parts of Russia.

The Armenians are especially well known for their dance heritage, which is among the oldest and richest in the near east. In fact, anthropologists have discovered rock murals in the region depicting Armenian dancing that date back to the third millennia BC. Furthermore, Armenians also have a rich literary history dating back to 401 AD, including epic poems and ballads which go hand in hand with their traditional dances.

Armenians are also famous for carpet weaving and lacemaking. Armenian style carpets, called *Artsakh*, date back to the thirteenth century and typically feature rich colors and an animal motif (popular themes include eagles, dragons, and serpents).

Armenian needlelace is a highly sought after style of lace that is made using only a needle, thread, and a pair of scissors, using a pattern of intricately tied knots to create a design.

