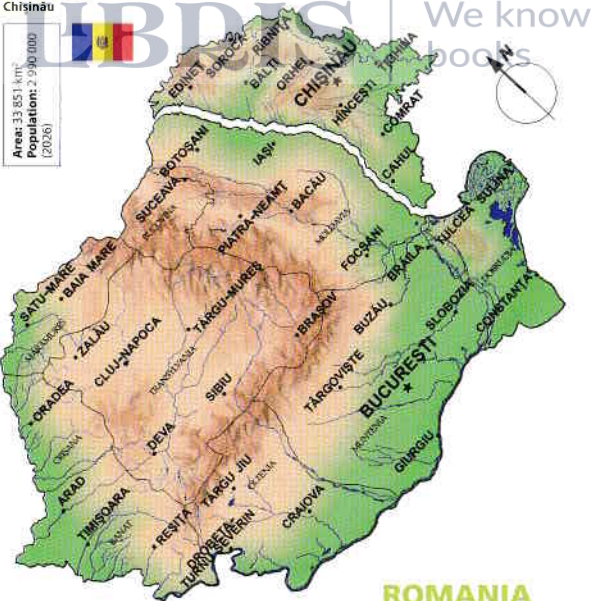


MOLDOVA

CAPITAL CITY

Chisinau

Area: 33 851 km²
Population: 2 990 000



ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

Romania is divided into 41 counties and the municipality of Bucharest. Many counties are named after rivers, and in some cases the county shares its name with its capital.



ROMANIA

CAPITAL CITY

București

Area: 238 391 km²
Population: 19 036 000
(2026)

DISTANCES BETWEEN CITIES

	Braşov	Bucureşti	Cluj-Napoca	Constanţa	Craiova	Iasi	Sibiu	Timişoara
Braşov	-	161	264	380	205	299	142	399
Bucureşti	161	-	426	225	248	406	282	538
Cluj-Napoca	264	426	-	644	374	390	163	316
Constanţa	380	225	644	-	451	434	507	758
Craiova	205	248	374	451	-	504	236	353
Iasi	299	406	390	434	504	-	441	691
Sibiu	142	282	163	507	236	441	-	256
Timişoara	399	538	316	758	353	691	256	-

Romanian

phrasebook

LINGHEA

2026

Linghea Phrasebook

English-Romanian

Ghidul a fost elaborat de colectivul de autori al Linghea S.R.L. și Linghea S.R.O.

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Romanian-English Dictionary

English-Romanian Dictionary

Grammar

Useful information

LIBRIS

Characteristics of Romanian

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The Romanian mountains and seashore have belonged to favourite tourist destinations for many years. Romanian is a Romance language with many words of Slavic origin. Linguistically it is closest to French and Italian, especially in terms of vocabulary and grammar. Romanian pronunciation is not difficult, but understanding is complicated by irregular and floating accent. Some unstressed sounds are hardly pronounced, which results in unexpected word reduction – e.g. 11 is written *unsprezece* but pronounced *unshpe*. After you master basic pronunciation rules and first words, you will be rewarded by warm acceptance and well-known Romanian hospitality.

Romanian today is written in the Latin alphabet though Cyrillic used to be used for many years. The Moldovan Cyrillic alphabet is still firmly anchored to write Moldovan in so-called Pridnestrovian Moldavian Republic. Romanian is spoken by approx. 25 million inhabitants of Romania, Moldova and the part of Serbia called Vojvodina. In the Republic of Moldova the language is called Moldovan for historical and political reasons, but it is basically Romanian. Apart from that, Romanian has several dialects (Wallachian, Banat etc) whose users, however, understand one another perfectly well. You can come across more distant variants of Romanian language when travelling all over the Balkan region – e.g. Aromanian is spoken in Greece, Bulgaria, Macedonia, Serbia and Albania or Istro-Romanian in Croatia.

The majority of town population is able to communicate in some foreign languages; younger generations in English or in Spanish, the older ones in German or in French. With regard to the Romance roots of Romanian, you can also try Italian – key words should be comprehensible. However, if you travel in the country, foreign languages will not be of much use. On the other hand, Romania is historically a multinational country – in Transylvania and in the Carpathian area you can easily meet a German-speaking population, in Banat even Romanian Czechs or Slovaks.

Current Romanian bears traces of many other languages. You will understand if you look at the map and realise that a great part of the country used to belong to the Hapsburg monarchy and that the main religion is Orthodoxy. Many loanwords therefore remain in the language from Hungarian, Slavic languages, German, Greek and Turkish. Since the 19th century Romanian „has borrowed“ many words from other Romance languages, especially from French and Italian. Today, Romania belongs to the globalised world, which naturally also brings many adopted words from English.

Grammar

Romanian grammar has much in common with other Romance languages, in many respects it is most interconnected with Latin. Romanian maintains three genders. It is interesting that the neuter gender adopts masculine endings in the singular and feminine endings in the plural. Romanian has five cases. The form of the nominative case is identical with that of the accusative case; the same applies to genitive and dative cases. The vocative case is in practice often replaced by the nominative. The use of articles in Romanian is quite unusual. Romanian has four types of articles: definite, indefinite, possessive and demonstrative. The definite article is always added at the end of the noun: *plană* *planul* (plan – the plan). Romanian verbs use a great variety of forms. There are four classes of verbs and each verb has a form for five moods and six tenses (one present, three past and two future ones). The subject does not have to be expressed in Romanian sentences. Words are coined by derivation, sometimes by a dash to make the pronunciation simpler and also by means of prefixes and suffixes.

Development of the language

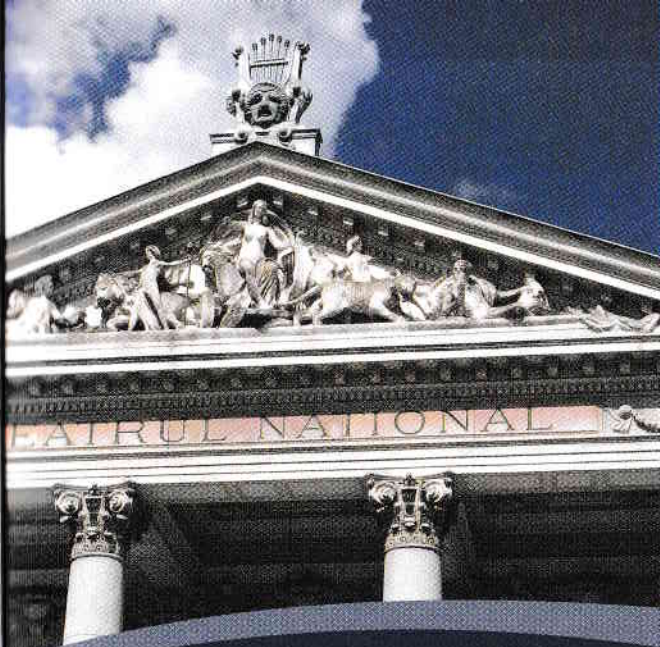
The oldest known nation which lived in the area of Romania were the Indo-European Dacians. In 106 the country was conquered by Romans, who established Vulgar Latin to be the official language. The language was also strongly affected by religion. Romanian is the only Romance language which did not use Latin as the liturgical language. Instead Old Slavic and Greek were preferred. The first Romanian sentence documented in written are words of a Romanian muleteer which were recorded by a Byzantine chronicler in the 6th century. The next coherent Romanian text dates back as late as to 1521. It is a letter written in Cyrillic about a threatening Turk attack. The oldest text written in the Latin alphabet comes from the same century. Origins of intentional romanization of the language can be detected in 18th century in the works of Transylvanian Greek Orthodox priests. The Latin alphabet was officially launched in 1862.

Romania is a country of many outstanding personalities – the writer Eugen Ionescu, sculptor Constantin Brâncuși, inventor of fountain pen Petrarache Poenaru or sportsmen Helmuth Duckadam and Nadia Comăneci.

Pronunciation of special characters is described in the Grammar section on page 290.

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Numbers
General phrases
Indicating time
Colours and sizes
Public notices

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Numbers

Numerales

Cardinal numbers

Numerales cardinale

zero	nought	zero	zehroh
one		unu	oonoo
two		doi	dohy
three		trei	treyh
four		patru	pahtroo
five		cinci	chinch'
six		șase	shahseh
seven		șapte	shapteh
eight		opt	ohpt
nine		nouă	nohwa
ten		zece	zehche
eleven		unsprezece	oonsprenzehche
twelve		doisprezece	dohysprenzehche
thirteen		treisprezece	treyysprenzehche
fourteen		paisprezece	pahysprenzehche
fifteen		cincisprezece	chinch'sprenzehche
sixteen		șaisprezece	shahysprenzehche
seventeen		șaptesprezece	shaphtsprenzehche
eighteen		optsprezece	ohptsprenzehche
nineteen		nouăsprezece	nohwasprenzehche
twenty		douăzeci	dohwazench'
twenty-one		douăzeci și unu	dohwazench' shi oonoo
twenty-two		douăzeci și doi	dohwazench' shi dohy
thirty		treizeci	treyzehch'
forty		patruzeci	pahtroozehch'
fifty		cincizeci	chinch'zehch'
sixty		șaizeci	shahyzehch'
seventy		șaptezeci	shaphtzehch'
eighty		optzeci	ohptzehch'
ninety		nouăzeci	nohwazench'
a/one hundred		o sută	oh soota
hundred (and) twenty		o sută douăzeci	oh soota dohwazench'

two hundred	două sute	dohwa sooten
a/one thousand	o mie	oh myeh
two thousand	două mii	dohwa mil
fifteen hundred (and)	o mie cinci sute optzeci și trei	
eighty three	oh myeh chinch' sooten ohptzehch' shi trey	
a/one million	un milion	oon milyohn

Ordinal numbers

Numerales ordinale

first	primul	primool
second	al doilea	ah' dohylehah
third	al treilea	ah' trehylehah
fourth	al patrulea	ah' pahtroolenah
fifth	al cincilea	ah' chinch'lenah
sixth	al șaselea	ah' shahsenlenah
seventh	al șaptelea	ah' shaphtenlenah
eighth	al optulea	ah' ohptoolenah
ninth	al nouălea	ah' nohwalenah
tenth	al zecelea	ah' zehcheleah
twentieth	al douăzecilea	ah' dohwazench'lenah
thirtieth	al treizecilea	ah' treyzench'lenah
hundredth	al o sutălea	ah' oh sootalenah

Fractions

Frații

a half	(o) jumătate	(oh) zhoomatanteh
one and a half	unu și jumătate	oonoo shi zhoomatanteh
a third	o treime	oh treymeh
two thirds	două treimi	dohwa treym'i
a quarter, (AmE)	un sfert	oon sheert
three quarters	trei sferturi	trey shfertoori
a fifth	o cincime	oh chinchimeh
a sixth	o șesime	oh shehsimeh
a seventh	o șeptime	oh shehptimeh
an eighth	o optime	oh ohptimeh
a ninth	a noua parte	ah' nohwah pahrtteh
a tenth	o zecime	oh zehchimeh
one hundredth	o sutime	oh sootimeh



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Greeting and addressing

Formule de salut și de adresare

Good morning.

Bună dimineața. boona dimineahatsah

Hello.

Bună ziua. boona zyooah

Hi.

Salut. sahloot

Good evening.

Bună seara. boona sehannah

Good night.

Noapte bună. nwaipteh boona

Excuse me.

Mă scuzați... ma skoozatsi

Are you waiting for me?

Pe mine mă așteptați?

peh mineh ma ashtehptatsi?

I'm glad to see you.

Mă bucur să vă văd. ma bookoor sa va vad

I haven't seen you for ages., (inform.) Long time no see.

Nu te-am mai văzut de-un car de ani.

noo tehahm mahy vazoot deooni kahr deh ahni!

How are you (doing)?

Ce mai faceți? che mahy fahchets?

How is it going?, (inform.)

Ce faci?

What's up?

che fahch?

How is your family?

Ce vă mai face familia?

che va mahy fahche fahmilyah?

Did you have a good journey?

Ați avut o călătorie plăcută?

ahsi ahvoot oh kahlotoryeh plakootă?

Did you find it okay?

L-ați găsit ușor? lahsi gasit ooshohr?

The journey was okay.

N-au fost probleme pe drum.

nahw fohst prohbleemeh peh droom

Have you been here before?

Ați mai fost vreodată aici?

ahsi mahy fohst vrehondah ahych?

Thank you for asking.

Mulumesc de întrebare.

mooltsoomensk deh untrenbahreh

I'm fine. And you?

Eu sunt bine. Dumneavoastră?

yehw soont bineh doomnehahwahstră?

Not bad., So so.

Așa și așa. anshah shi anshah

I can't complain.

Nu mă pot plânge. noo ma pont plündzhen

You look good.

Arătați bine. ahrahatsi bineh

Sir/Madam..., Mr/Mrs...

Domnule/Doamnă...

dohmnooleh/dwahmna

Ladies and gentlemen!

Doamnelor și domnilor!

dwahmnelehsh dohmilohr!



Meeting people

Să facem cunoștință

Can you tell me your name?

Care este numele dumneavoastră? kahreh yehsteh noomenleh doomnehahwahstră?

What's your name?

Cum te cheamă? koom teh kehahma?

My name is...

Mă numesc... mie noomensk

I am...

Eu sunt... yehw soont

Are you Mr. ...?

Dumneavoastră sunteți domnul...?

doomnehahwahstră soontehs dohmnool?

Who are you?

Cine sunteți? chineh soontehs?

Who's that?

Cine e (acolo)? chineh yeh (ahkonloh)?

Who is that lady?

Cine e doamna aceea?

chineh yeh dwahmnah acherenah?

Do I know you?

Ne cunoaștem? neh koonwahshtehm?

Do you know each other?

Vă cunoașteți? va koonwahshtehs?

Do you know my wife?

O cunoașteți pe soția mea?

oh koonwahshtehs peh sohtsyah mehah?

Do you remember me?

Vă amintiți de mine? va ahmintitsi deh mineh?

Have we met before?

Ne-am mai întâlnit/văzut undeva?

nehahm mahy untulnit/vazoot oondeevan?

Where do I know you from?

De unde ne cunoaștem?

deh oondeh neh koonwahshtehm?

I'm afraid I don't know you.

Îmi pare rău, dar nu vă cunosc.

imi pahreh raw, dahr noo va koonohsk

Unfortunately, I don't remember you.

Din păcate, nu-mi amintesc de dumneavoastră.

din pahateh, noomi ahmintesh deh doomnehahwahstră

Let me introduce myself.

Dați-mi voie să mă prezint.

dahsimi voyeh sa ma prehzint

Let me introduce you to my wife.

Dați-mi voie să v-o prezint pe soția mea.

dahsimi voyeh sa voh prehzint peh sohtsyah mehah

Will you introduce me to...?

Îmi faceți cunoștință cu...?

imi fahchets koonahshintsa koo?

Can you introduce us?

Ne puteți face cunoștință?

neh pootehsh fahche koonahshintsa?

Come and meet...

Vi-l prezint pe... vil prehzint peh