

Country of Birth and Language spoken at home

Each respondent's country of birth and language usually spoken at home were recorded in the first survey of the three ALSWH birth cohorts, 1921-26, 1946-51, and 1973-78. The responses were categorised and released into a small number of options. This document explains how the raw survey data were reclassified.

Country of Birth

The 1946-51 survey 1 asked the question this way:

In which country were you born?

(Circle one number only)

Australia	1
United Kingdom	2
Italy	3
Greece	4
New Zealand	5
Vietnam	6
Other (Please specify on line)	7

The data is released in these categories with the variable *cobcat*.

Country of birth		
m1cobcat	Frequency	Percent
Australian born	10306	76.10
Other English Speaking Background	1820	13.44
Europe	894	6.60
Asia	379	2.80
Other	143	1.06

Country of Birth Category Australian born (1)

A response of Australia in the survey is set to Australian born (cobcat = 1). Australian born includes Cocos Island and Christmas Island.

Country of Birth Category, Other English Speaking Background (2)

A response of United Kingdom or New Zealand in the survey is set to 'Other English Speaking Background' (cobcat = 2). Also, these countries were included in 'Other English Speaking Background':

USA	Wales	Ireland / Eire	Channel Islands
Canada	Northern Ireland	England	South Africa
Scotland	Zimbabwe / Rhodesia		

Country of Birth Category value Europe (3)

A response of Italy or Greece in the survey is set to Europe (cobcat = 3). Also, any other non-English speaking European country is categorised as Europe. Note that Turkey and USSR were categorised as Europe.

Country of Birth Category value Asia (4)

A response of Vietnam in the survey is set to Asia (cobcat = 4). Also, any other Asian country was categorised as Asia. Note that the Middle Eastern countries were not included as Asia, but as 'Other' (5). These countries included Lebanon, Israel, Palestine, Iraq, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and Afghanistan.

Country of Birth Category value Other (5)

Any specified response that did not fit into any of the above categories, 1 to 4, were set to Other (cobcat = 5).

Language Usually Spoken at Home

The 1946-51 survey 1 asked the question this way:

Do you usually speak a language other than English AT HOME? (Circle one number only)

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| No, I speak only English at home | 1 |
| Yes, Italian | 2 |
| Yes, Greek | 3 |
| Yes, Cantonese | 4 |
| Yes, Mandarin | 5 |
| Yes, German | 6 |
| Yes, Arabic | 7 |
| Yes, other | 8 |
- (Please specify on line)
-

The data is released in these categories.

Language spoken at home		
m1lngcat	Frequency	Percent
English, Aust	10118	75.24
English, Other	2508	18.65
European	490	3.64
Asian	166	1.23
Other	166	1.23

The first category 'English, Australian' was used for those respondents who answered 'only speak English at home' and whose country of birth was Australia.

The second category, 'English, Other', was used for those respondents who answered 'only speak English at home' and whose country of birth was not Australia.

The third category, 'European', was used for those who answered 'Italian', 'Greek', or 'German', or who answered 'other' and specified a European language. Note that Turkish and Yiddish were not categorised as European.

The fourth category, Asian, was for those who answered Mandarin or Cantonese (but not Arabic), or who answered 'other' and specified an Asian language. Note that these languages were not

considered Asian: Filipino, Turkish, Arabic, Persian, Farsi, Hebrew, Lebanese, Assyrian, Dari (Afghani).

The fifth category, 'Other', was used for 'Arabic' and for those who answered 'Other' and specified a language that could be identified as one. If the specified text was not an identifiable language the value was set to missing. Note that Australian Sign and English Sign were classified as other. Also, Australian indigenous languages were classified as other.