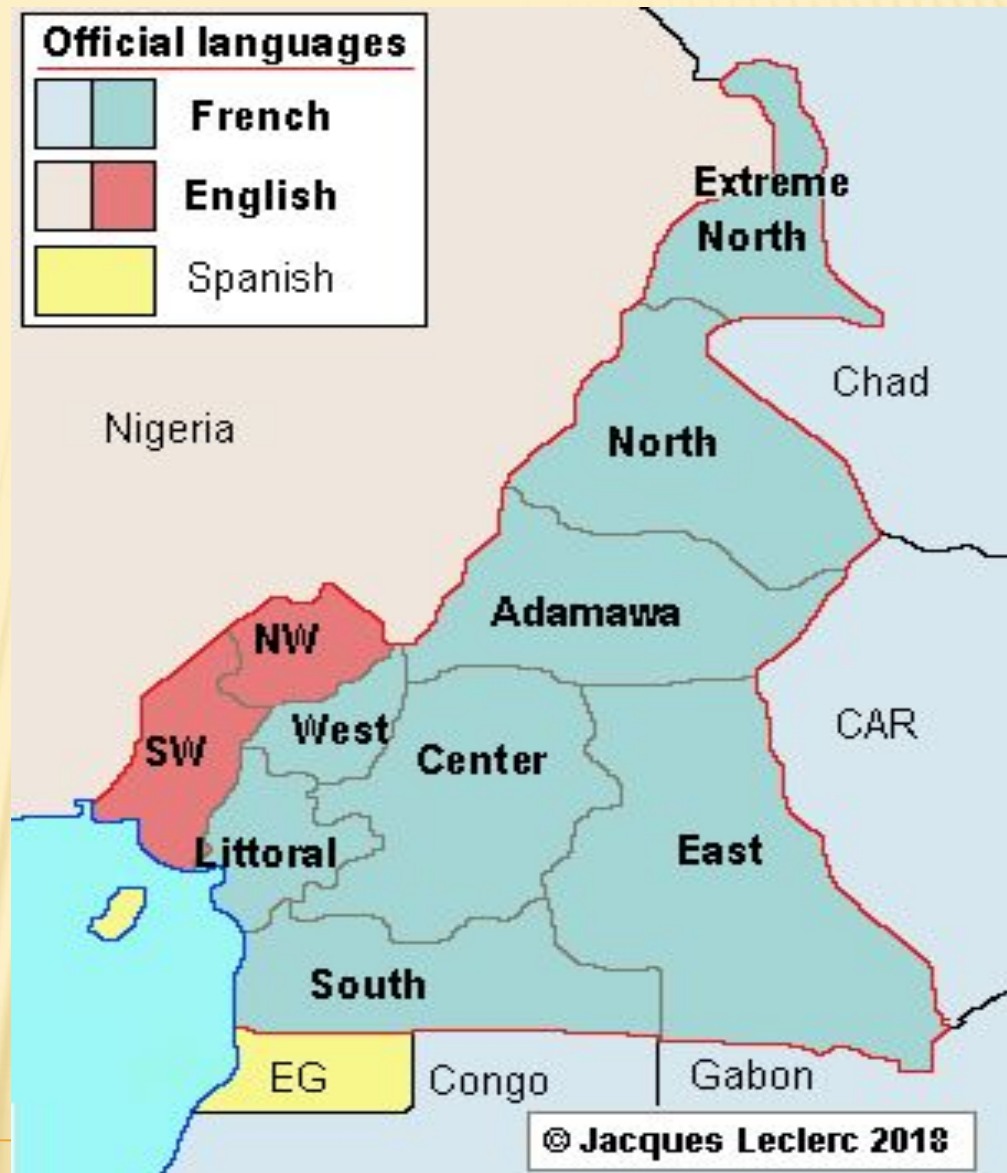


# CAMEROON ENGLISH

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**Cameroon English** is an English dialect spoken predominantly in Cameroon, mostly learned as a second language. It shares some similarities with English varieties in neighbouring West Africa, as Cameroon lies at the west of Central Africa. It is primarily spoken in the Northwest and Southwest regions of Cameroon.

It is a postcolonial variety of English, long in use in the territory (Southern Cameroons, now split



# PHONOLOGICAL FEATURES

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- The phonemes /ɔ:/, /ʌ/ and /ɒ/ tend to merge to /ɔ:/, making "cot", "caught" and "cut" homophones.<sup>[1]</sup> Similarly, "lock" and "luck" are pronounced alike. And "white-collar worker" sometimes becomes "white-colour worker" in Cameroon.



# PHONOLOGY

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Like most West African languages, Kamtok has seven vowels, with two mid vowels: open and closed. Schneider spells the mid vowels as closed *ey* and *ow* vs. open *e* and *o* but Todd spells them as closed *e* and *o* vs. open *eh* and *oh*.

# PHONOLOGY

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- The palatal approximate /j/ is written *y*, the palatal affricates /tʃ/ and /dʒ/ are written *ch* and *j*, and the palatal and velar nasals /ɲ/ and /ŋ/ are written *ny* and *ng*. Some of these consonants, such as /r/ and /l/, are not distinguished by speakers who lack such distinctions in their local substrate languages.

# PRONOUN SYSTEM

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- The basic pronoun system of Kamtok distinguishes three persons and two numbers. In most cases, the shape of the pronoun does not change to show grammatical function. Two exceptions involve the first person singular, where *a* serves as a subject clitic on verbs, as in *mi, a mos go* 'I must go', and *ma* is the possessive pronoun, as in *ma beli* 'my stomach'. The other major exception is *-am* in place of *i* or *dem* as an object suffix on verbs, except when the referent is human, as in *a go was-am* 'I'll wash it'. Acrolectal speakers, however, are more likely to use *dei* for *dem* in subject position and *ohs* for *wi* in object position



# PRONOUN SYSTEM

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<u>Person</u>	<u>Singular</u>	<u>Plural</u>
<u>1st</u>	mi, a, ma	wi
<u>2nd</u>	yu	(w)una
<u>3rd</u>	i, -am	dem, -am

# VERBS

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- Verbs are not inflected to show grammatical tense, aspect, modality, or negation. Instead, these notions are conveyed by a small set of preverbal auxiliaries.
- *no* 'not'
- *neba neva* 'never'
- *bin bi* past tense
- *go* future tense



# VERBS

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Examples:

- ▣ *Tiri pipo go di kam. Tiri pipo go di kam.* 'Three people will be coming.'
- ▣ *Ma masa bin tutu wok.* 'My boss worked very hard.'
- ▣ *Dem neva cam?* 'They haven't come yet?'
- ▣ *Yu no fit bi ma klak.* 'You cannot be my clerk.'

# PLURAL MARKERS

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- In pidgin unlike in English, 'S' is not used at the end of nouns to mark their plural state. Instead, this is what is used: 'dem' or 'ndem'  
e.g.: The *boy dem* di cam - The *boys are* coming.

# EXPRESSIONS

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Characteristic turns of phrase in the country or local coinages:

- "detailly" = in detail
- "to see with me" = to agree with me; to see my point of view
- "installmentally" = by installments
- "of recent" = recently; lately



# SEE MORE

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- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=693SzBNpRPs>
- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3aCxJD-OR0Y&list=PL7aY7m8NGmIYXM\\_op8Do4NevVdgetZgvK&index=67](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3aCxJD-OR0Y&list=PL7aY7m8NGmIYXM_op8Do4NevVdgetZgvK&index=67) (37-46 сек)