

ROMANIAN

COUNTRIES: Romania
Northern Greece
Southern Yugoslavia
Bulgaria
Albania
Northern Thessalonica
East Istria

POST: Bucharest

Romanian is the only eastern Roman language that has subsisted to the present. Its grammatical structure and its vocabulary base are clearly Latin. Through contact with other peoples, the vocabulary was enriched with elements of Hungarian, Turkish, Greek and especially Slavic origin. During the 19th century a very large number of neologisms from French, Italian and Russian entered the language. A person familiar with another Romance language, especially Latin, will understand the vocabulary of literary Romanian quite easily.

A few peculiarities:

Romanian is written with Latin letters, which in 1862 replaced the Cyrillic characters.

The declension of Romanian is less complex than Latin, because Romanian words have only two forms.

Some words are called "ambigenous" because they are masculine in the singular and feminine in the plural.

The definite articles are placed after words that have various endings and are declined according to gender, case and number. This makes Romanian morphology somewhat unwieldy.

A familiar form of address is used in Romanian, but there is an invariable element that can be added to the verb form in the second person to indicate a degree of deference for the person being addressed.