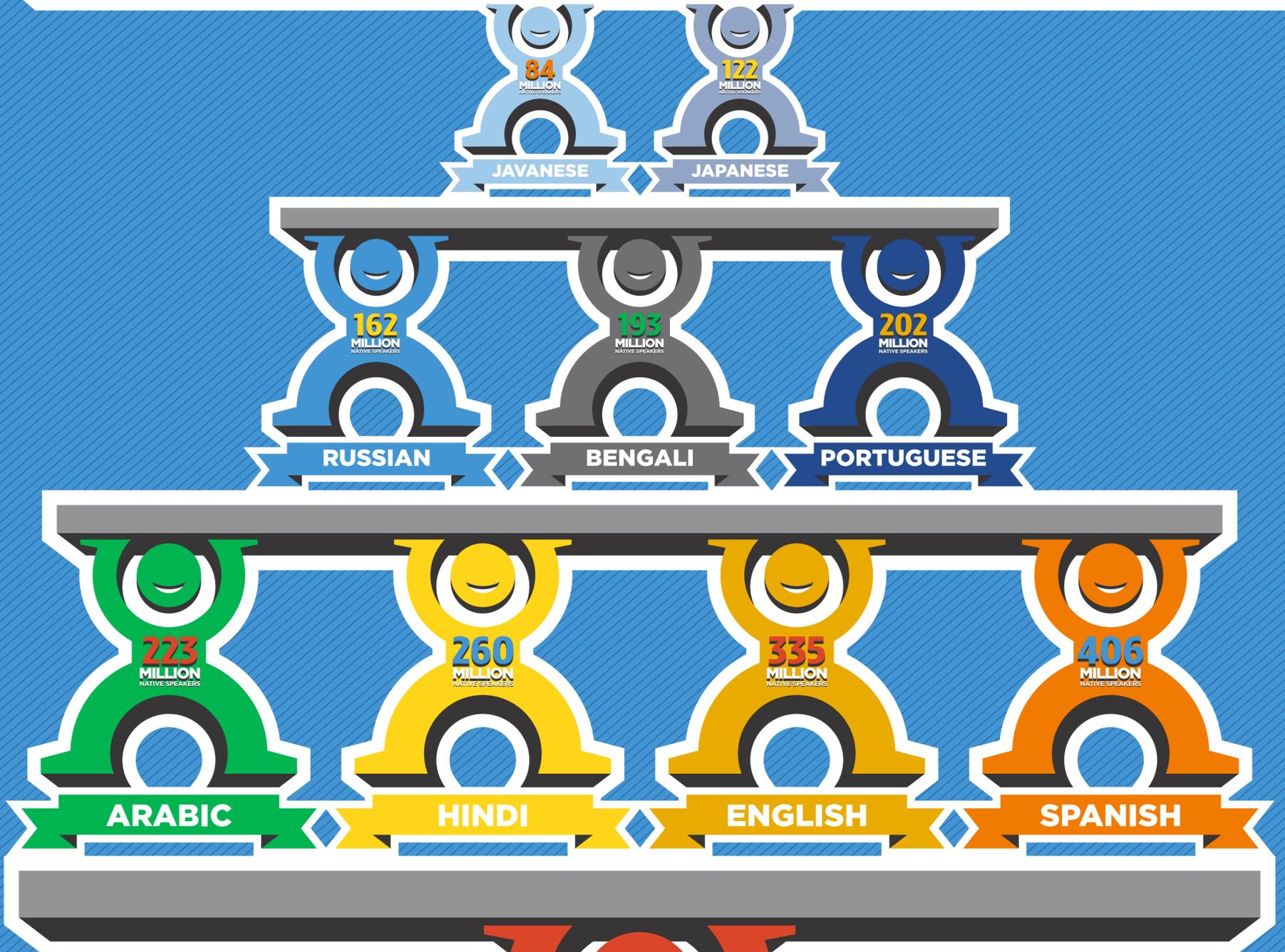


TOP 10 SPOKEN LANGUAGES IN THE WORLD

7,000 different languages are estimated to be spoken around the world. But the ten most spoken languages are used natively by close to 40% of the earth's population. Hundreds of millions of people have learned them as a second or third language. And they are also the dominant languages of global commerce, diplomacy and scholarship.



Javanese is the most widely spoken language without any official status.



Modern written Japanese combines three systems: kanji (characters of Chinese origin), hiragana, and katakana.



Russian is the most widely spoken native language in Europe, with 162 million native speakers primarily in Russia, Ukraine and Belarus.



The first non-European to win the Nobel Prize in Literature was Bengali poet and author Rabindranath Tagore, in 1913.



Portuguese is the official language of 8 countries.



MANDARIN

Thirty regional dialects of Arabic are spoken across 5 million square miles—from Morocco in the west to Iraq in the east.



Hindi is one of 461 languages currently spoken in India.



Of the 430 million people worldwide who speak English, 56% are not native speakers.



Spanish is the primary language spoken at home by almost 37 million people in the U.S.



About 12% of the world's population speaks Mandarin, one of hundreds of different Chinese dialects.

