

# Languages

## Overview

Language translation files are placed inside the appropriate language languages directory within a widget.

```
/hubzero
  /language
    /{LanguageName}
      {LanguageName}.plg_{GroupName}_{PluginName}.ini
```

**Note:** Plugin language files contain data for both the front-end and administrative back-end.

## Setup

As previously mentioned, language files are setup as key/value pairs. A key is used within the plugin's code and the translator retrieves the associated string for the given language. The following code is an extract from a typical plugin language file.

```
; Plugin - System - Test (en-US)
PLG_SYSTEM_TEST_HERE_IS_LINE_ONE = "Here is line one"
PLG_SYSTEM_TEST_HERE_IS_LINE_TWO = "Here is line two"
PLG_SYSTEM_TEST_MYLINE = "My Line"
```

Translation keys can be upper or lowercase or a mix of the two and may contain underscores but no spaces. HUBzero convention is to have keys all uppercase with words separated by underscores, following a pattern of `PLG_{PluginGroup}_{PluginName}_{Text}` for naming. Adhering to this naming convention is not required but is strongly recommended as it can help avoid potential translation collisions.

See the [Languages](#) overview for details.

## Loading

The appropriate language file for a plugin is **not** preloaded when the plugin is instantiated as many plugins may not have language files at all. As such, one must specifically load any file(s) if

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they are needed. This can be done in the plugin's constructor but is more commonly found outside of the class altogether. Here we see the test plugin for the examples plugins group loading its language file right before declaration of the plugin's class.

```
<?php
// Check to ensure this file is included in Joomla!
defined('_JEXEC') or die( 'Restricted access' );

jimport( 'joomla.plugin.plugin' );
JPlugin::loadLanguage( 'plg_system_test' );

class plgSystemTest extends JPlugin
{
    ....
}
```

Note that the string passed to the loadLanguage() method matches the pattern for the naming of the language file itself, minus the language prefix and file extension.

## Translating Text

Below is an example of accessing the translate helper:

```
<p><?php echo JText::_("PLGN_EXAMPLE_MY_LINE"); ?></p>
```

Strings or keys not found in the current translation file will output as is.

See the [Languages](#) overview for details.