

POLYLANG – GETTING STARTED

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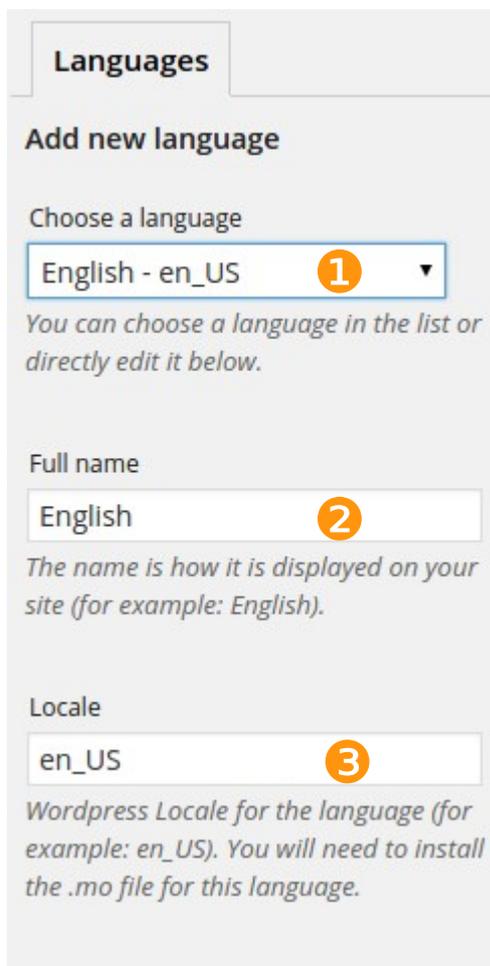
REQUIREMENTS

You must use at least WordPress 3.8. As for WordPress itself, your server must run PHP5.2.4 and MySQL 5.

If you tried other multilingual plugins, **deactivate them** before activating Polylang.

1 – CREATING LANGUAGES

After activating the plugin, go in Settings > Languages



The screenshot shows the 'Add new language' form in the WordPress settings. It has three main sections: 'Choose a language', 'Full name', and 'Locale'. Each section has a text input field and a small orange circle with a number (1, 2, or 3) next to it. The 'Choose a language' section has a dropdown menu with 'English - en_US' selected. The 'Full name' section has a text input field with 'English'. The 'Locale' section has a text input field with 'en_US'. Below each field is a small italicized instruction. To the right of the screenshot, there are three numbered callouts (1, 2, 3) in orange circles, each followed by a paragraph of text explaining the step.

1 Choose a language. Polylang comes with a list of more than 80 predefined languages. Click on the 'add new language' button at the bottom of the screen.

2 If your language is not available in the predefined list, you can create it yourself by filling the relevant fields. The full name is the language name as it will be displayed.

3 It is the code used by WordPress for each language. **It is very important to enter the exact WordPress locale for the language**, otherwise the theme translation will not work. For a full list of existing WordPress locale, see: <http://wpcentral.io/internationalization/>

The screenshot shows the Polylang settings interface. It includes a 'Language code' field with 'en' entered, a 'Text direction' section with 'left to right' selected, and an 'Order' field. A '4' callout points to the language code field, a '5' callout points to the text direction radio buttons, and a '6' callout points to the order field.

4 This code will be used to build the URL. It is best to use the (lower case) 2-characters [ISO 639-1](#) language code. For example: en, fr, de.

5 Polylang informs the theme it has to load the LTR or RTL style. Note that not all themes are compatible with both text directions.

6 It is possible to choose the order in which the languages will be displayed in the language switcher.

After adding the first language, 2 tabs are displayed.

The screenshot shows the Polylang interface with three tabs: 'Languages', 'Strings translation', and 'Settings'. Below the tabs is an 'Add new language' button. A '6' callout points to the 'Strings translation' tab, and a '7' callout points to the 'Settings' tab.

6 Strings translation: Polylang allows translating user defined strings such as the site title, the tagline, and the widget titles. Moreover themes and plugins can allow you to translate their options here.

The translation of themes and or plugins are managed with the po/mo files that you can handle with [CodeStyling Localization plugin](#).

7 Settings: the Polylang_settings are displayed in a new tab.

2 – STRINGS TRANSLATION

Go in Settings > Languages and click on the Strings translation tab

The screenshot shows the WordPress 'Strings translation' interface. At the top, there are tabs for 'Languages', 'Strings translation', and 'Settings'. Below the tabs, there is a search bar and a 'Search translations' button. A 'Bulk Actions' dropdown menu is set to 'Apply', and there are buttons for 'View all groups' and 'Filter'. The main content area displays a table with 4 items. The table has columns for 'Group', 'Name', 'String', and 'Translations'. The first row shows 'WordPress' for the group, 'Site Title' for the name, and 'My site' for the string. The translations for this string are 'My site' in English and 'Mon site' in French, with a circled '1' next to the French translation. The second row shows 'WordPress' for the group, 'Tagline' for the name, and 'Getting Started' for the string. The translations are 'Getting Started' in English and 'Pour bien démarrer' in French. The third row shows 'WordPress' for the group, 'Date Format' for the name, and 'F j, Y' for the string. The translations are 'F j, Y' in English and 'j F Y' in French, with a circled '2' next to the French translation. The fourth row shows 'WordPress' for the group, 'Time Format' for the name, and 'g:i a' for the string. The translations are 'g:i a' in English and 'g:i a' in French. Below the table, there are 'Bulk Actions' and 'Apply' buttons, and a checkbox for 'Clean strings translation database'. A note below the checkbox reads: 'Use this to remove unused strings from database, for example after a plugin has been uninstalled.' At the bottom, there is a 'Save Changes' button.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Group	Name	String	Translations	
<input type="checkbox"/>	WordPress	Site Title	My site	English	My site
				Français	Mon site 1
<input type="checkbox"/>	WordPress	Tagline	Getting Started	English	Getting Started
				Français	Pour bien démarrer
<input type="checkbox"/>	WordPress	Date Format	F j, Y	English	F j, Y
				Français	j F Y 2
<input type="checkbox"/>	WordPress	Time Format	g:i a	English	g:i a
				Français	g:i a

Clean strings translation database
Use this to remove unused strings from database, for example after a plugin has been uninstalled.

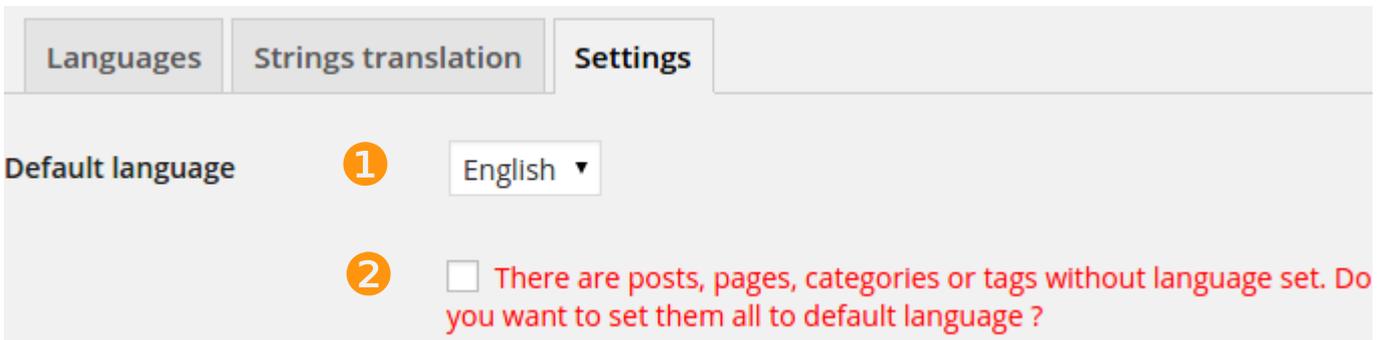
1 Thanks to these input fields you can translate the string in all defined languages.

2 Here you can also choose a different date format and time format per language.

See: http://codex.wordpress.org/Formatting_Date_and_Time

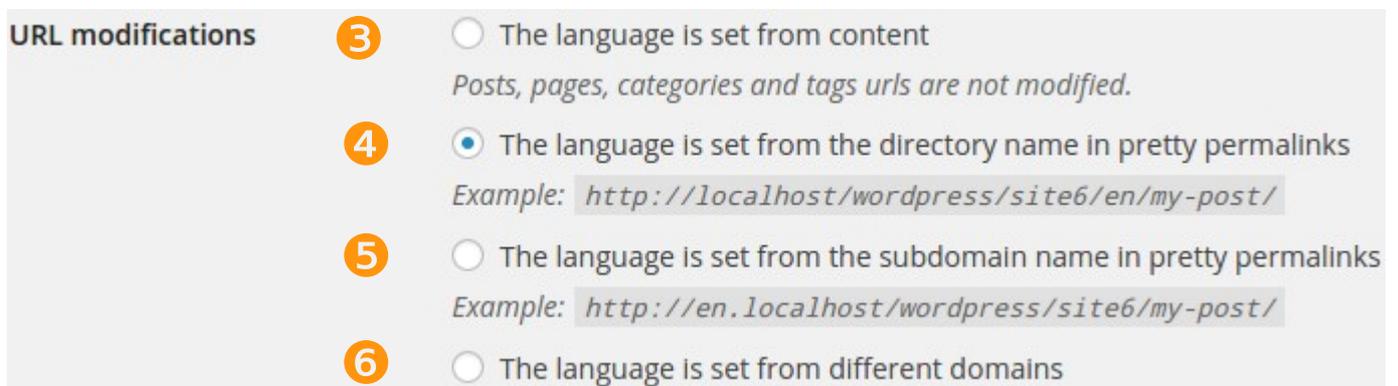
3 – POLYLANG SETTINGS

Go in Settings > Languages and click on the Settings tab



1 Default language: it will for example be used when someone visits your homepage for the first time.

2 Check this option to set up the default language for all existing posts, pages, categories and tags. This option is removed once a language is assigned to all the content.



3 The URL is not modified: whether PolyLang is activated or not, the URL stays the same for posts, pages, categories and post tags. The URL for date and author archives are modified to include the language code.

4 This option is checked by default and you should keep it as is, unless you know what you are doing. For a site in English and in French, your post URLs would look like:

- <http://www.yoursite.com/en/my-post/>
- <http://www.yoursite.com/fr/mon-article/>

5 6 For advanced users, if you want to use subdomains (or a different domain per language), all your subdomains (or domains) must point to the same directory (where the WordPress index.php is present).

Note that, except with the first option which keeps as much URLs as possible, when Polylang is de-activated, every URL loose the language information and thus all external links are broken.

7 Hide URL language information for default language

8 Remove /language/ in pretty permalinks
Example: `http://localhost/wordpress/site6/en/`

Keep /language/ in pretty permalinks
Example: `http://localhost/wordpress/site6/language/en/`

7 This option allows you to hide the language information only for the default language. In this case the monthly archives URL in the default language will look like: `http://www.yoursite.com/2015/03/`

8 Here you can choose to include the keyword « language » in your urls.
Keep /language/ in pretty permalinks: the monthly archives URL will look like:

- `http://www.yoursite.com/language/en/2015/03/`

Remove /language/ in pretty permalinks: the monthly archives URL will look like:

- `http://www.yoursite.com/en/2015/03/`

Detect browser language 9 When the front page is visited, set the language according to the browser preference

Media 10 Activate languages and translations for media

9 This option is checked by default: when checked, someone visiting your homepage for the first time will be redirected to the homepage in the language according to his browser preferences. If his browser preferences do not include any language of your site, the default language will be used. Returning visitors will be redirected to the homepage in their last browsed language.

10 This option is checked by default: when checked the language column is displayed in the Media list table which allows you to translate the title, the caption, the alternative text and the description of the media.

Synchronization

11

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Taxonomies | <input type="checkbox"/> Custom fields |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Comment status | <input type="checkbox"/> Ping status |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sticky posts | <input type="checkbox"/> Published date |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Post format | <input type="checkbox"/> Page parent |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Page template | <input type="checkbox"/> Page order |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Featured image | |

The synchronization options allow to maintain exact same values (or translations in the case of taxonomies and page parent) of meta content between the translations of a post or page.

11 Check these options and a modification will impact all translations. You can safely keep all these options unchecked.

4 – CREATING MENUS

Go in Appearance > Menus

The screenshot shows the WordPress Menus interface. At the top, there are two sections: 'Show on screen' and 'Show advanced menu properties'. 'Show on screen' has checkboxes for Language switcher, Posts, Links, Categories, Tags, Format, and Pages, all of which are checked. 'Show advanced menu properties' has checkboxes for Link Target, CSS Classes, Link Relationship (XFN), and Description, all of which are unchecked. Below these is a tabbed interface with 'Edit Menus' and 'Manage Locations' tabs. The 'Manage Locations' tab is active, and a 'Screen Options' panel is visible on the right. Below the tabs, there is a 'Select a menu to edit:' dropdown menu with 'My English Menu' selected, a 'Select' button, and a link to 'create a new menu'. On the left side, there are two panels: 'Language switcher' and 'Pages'. The 'Language switcher' panel has a dropdown menu with 'Home in Spanish', 'Home in English' (checked), 'Home in Deutsch', 'Home in French', and 'Sample Page'. The 'Pages' panel has a 'Most Recent' tab, 'View All', and 'Search' buttons, and a list of pages with checkboxes. The 'Add to Menu' button is at the bottom of the 'Pages' panel. On the right side, there is a 'Menu Name' input field with 'My English Menu' entered. Below that is the 'Menu Structure' section with the text 'Add menu items from the column on the left.' and the 'Menu Settings' section. The 'Menu Settings' section has two sections: 'Auto add pages' with a checkbox for 'Automatically add new top-level pages to this menu' (unchecked), and 'Theme locations' with checkboxes for 'Primary Menu English' (checked), 'Primary Menu Français', 'Primary Menu Español', and 'Primary Menu Deutsch'.

5

Language switcher Posts Links Categories Tags Format Pages

Show advanced menu properties

Link Target CSS Classes Link Relationship (XFN) Description

4

3

1

6

2

1 You have to create one menu per language and save them. Then the 'Manage Locations' tab appears.

2 3 On 'Manage Locations' tab or 'Menu Settings' assign your menus to the relevant theme location.i.e : My English Menu to 'Primary menu English' and My French Menu to 'Primary menu Français'.

4 5 6 You have the possibility to add a language switcher anywhere in a menu. If you don't see the language switcher metabox, check that it is not disabled in the screen options

Note that the language switcher will display a language only if at least one post or one page has been published in this language.

5 – CREATING WIDGETS

Go in Appearance > Widgets

Whatever the chosen options, the widget will display a language only if at least one post or one page has been published in this language.

The image shows two side-by-side widget configuration panels. The left panel is titled 'Language Switcher' and the right panel is titled 'Text'. Both panels have a 'Title:' field. The 'Language Switcher' panel has a title field containing 'Polylang Language Switcher' and a list of options with checkboxes. The 'Text' panel has a title field containing 'Polylang' and a text area containing 'All the widgets have the multilingual capabilities!'. Both panels have a 'The widget is displayed for:' dropdown menu set to 'All languages' and 'Delete | Close' links.

Language Switcher

Title: Polylang Language Switcher

- Displays as dropdown
- Displays language names
- Displays flags
- Forces link to front page
- Hides the current language
- Hides languages with no translation

The widget is displayed for: All languages

[Delete](#) | [Close](#)

Text

Title: Polylang

All the widgets have the multilingual capabilities!

Automatically add paragraphs

The widget is displayed for: All languages

[Delete](#) | [Close](#)

1 Here I requested the widget to display the language names and the flags.

2 The widget will always send the visitor to the front page in the right language, otherwise it will try to find the translated page (and link to the front page if none was found).

3 The widget will never display the current language.

4 **5** For all widgets you have now the possibility to choose to display it for all languages (default) or only one language.

6 – TRANSLATING PAGE, POST, CATEGORIES AND TAGS

It is very important to set the language for all existing posts, pages, categories and tags otherwise they won't be displayed.

i.e : Let's create your Static Home Page in 4 languages in Pages > Add New >

The screenshot shows the WordPress admin interface. On the left, the 'Home in English' page editor is visible, including the title, permalink, and visual editor. On the right, the 'Languages' sidebar is open, showing the 'Language' dropdown set to 'English' (marked with a 1), and the 'Translations' section with 'Home in French' (marked with a 2), 'Home in Spanish' (marked with a 3), and 'Home in Deutsch' (marked with a 4).

1 To set the language, just choose it in the dropdown list.

2 Choose, thanks to the autocomplete input field, an already existing post as translation. The + will turn in a .

3 If you want to create a new translation, just click on the +.

4 The  means that the translation is done. Clicking on the icon allows you to edit the translation.

The operation for posts, custom post types, categories and tags is exactly the same.

Below is how your Home Page are displayed in the Page list table :

The screenshot shows the WordPress Pages list table. At the top, there's a navigation bar with 'My Sites', 'Test', and a 'New' button. A 'Show all languages' dropdown menu is open, showing 'English', 'Français', 'Español', and 'Deutsch'. The table has columns for 'Title', 'English', 'French', 'Spanish', and 'German'. The rows are: 'Home in Deutsch', 'Home in English', 'Home in French', and 'Home Spanish'. The 'Home in English' row has a checkmark in the English column and a pencil in the French column. The 'Home in French' row has a pencil in the English column and a checkmark in the French column. The 'Home Spanish' row has plus signs in the English and French columns and a checkmark in the Spanish column. A 'Bulk Actions' dropdown is set to 'All dates'. The table shows 4 items.

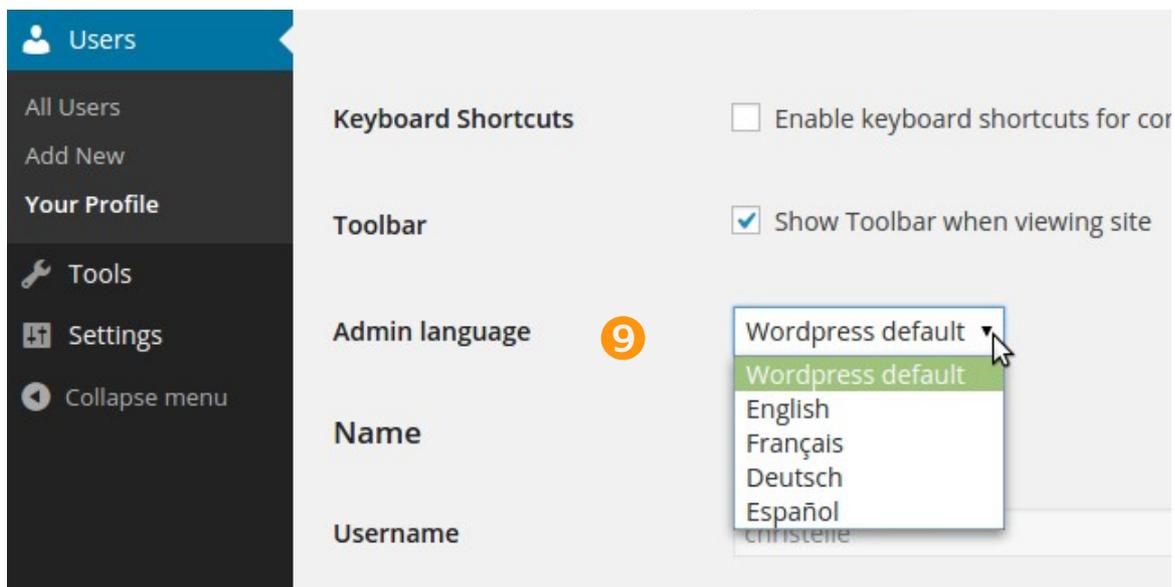
5 The ✓ means that this page is in this language. You can edit it by click on the ✓.

6 The ✎ means that the translation is done. You can edit it by click on the ✎.

7 If you want to create a new translation, just click on the +.

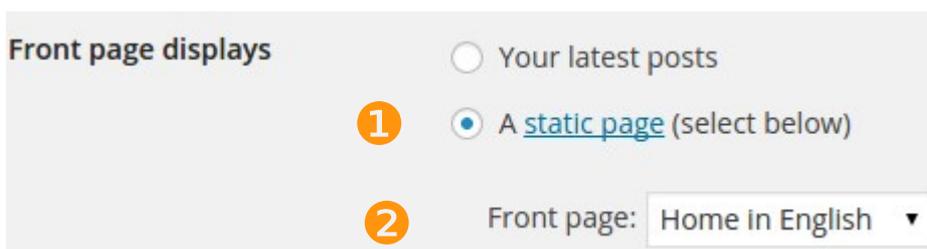
If you are using a static front page, it **must** be translated in all languages. It is not mandatory to translate other pages and posts. In the case of the creating Home Page that will define as Static Pages: all your Home Pages must be translated. You must have for all translations a ✎ instead a +.

8 9 You can filter the content by language (posts, pages, media, categories, tags, comments, string translations). This choice is persistent (kept even when you log out) and also impacts the default language when creating a new content. It has no influence on the language of the user admin interface, which can be chosen in the user profile.



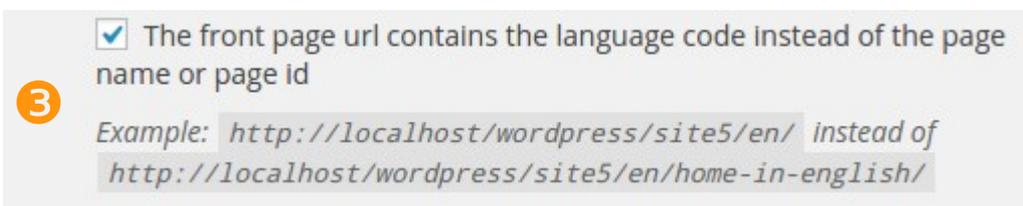
7 – DEFINE YOUR HOME PAGE AS A STATIC PAGE

Go in Settings > Readings



1 Check this option.

2 Then choose one of the page you have just created (the language doesn't matter). This "Front page" option gives you the access to the option 3 in Settings > Languages > URL modifications :



The new Home page url is replace by:

- <http://www.yoursite.com/en/>

And this one does not exist anymore (it will send an Error 404):

- <http://www.yoursite.com/en/home-in-english/>