

A Guide to Popular Bible Translations



Translation (Abbreviation)	Date	Reading Level	Translation Method	Translators	Manuscripts and/or Texts Used
Amplified Bible	1965; updated 1987	NA	Verbal equivalence; amplification of word meanings	Frances Siewert and Lockman Foundation Editorial Board	Greek text of Westcott and Hort; various translations
Common English Bible (CEB)	2010, 2011	7	Hybrid: Verbal equivalence with dynamic balance and common language	Common English Bible Committee, an alliance of five denominational publishers (117 translators from 22 faith traditions and 5 countries; 77 field testing groups with 400 participants in 13 denominations)	<i>Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia</i> (4th edition), <i>Biblia Hebraica Quinta</i> (5th edition); Nestle Aland 27th Edition (1993), Gottingen Septuagint (in progress), Ralf's Septuagint (2005)
The Contemporary English Version (CEV)	1995	5	Dynamic equivalence	American Bible Society; over 100 translators and reviewers	<i>Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia</i> (4th edition), UBS Greek NT (3rd edition, corrected)
English Standard Version (ESV)	1951, 2002	11	Verbal equivalence	Crossway	Conservative revision of 30-35 passages in the RSV
<i>Good News Bible; The Bible in Today's English Version</i> (TEV)	1976	6	Dynamic equivalence	American Bible Society; Robert Bratcher, NT Bratcher and 6 others, OT	<i>Biblia Hebraica</i> (3rd edition), UBS Greek NT (3rd edition)
Holman Christian Standard Bible (HCSB)	2003	8	Hybrid: Verbal equivalence with dynamic balance	90 scholars, primarily Southern Baptist	<i>Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia</i> (4th edition), Nestle Aland 27th Edition (1993)
King James Version (KJV)	1611	12	Verbal equivalence	54 English scholars	Masoretic (OT), Textus Receptus (NT); The Bishop's Bible, 1568
<i>The Living Bible</i> (LB)	1971	8	Paraphrase	Kenneth Taylor	Paraphrase of American Standard Version (1901)
<i>The Message</i>	The Message 1993; 2001	6	Paraphrase	Eugene Peterson	Paraphrase from original languages
The New American Bible (NAB)	1970 NT revised, 1986	7	Dynamic equivalence, 1970; verbal equivalence, 1986	55 scholars, including some Protestants	Masoretic (OT), Nestle-Aland Greek NT
New American Standard Bible (NASB)	1971; update 1995	11	Verbal equivalence	61 evangelical scholars (original and update), sponsored by Lockman Foundation	<i>Biblia Hebraica</i> , Nestle's Greek Text, 23rd edition (1971); <i>Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia</i> , Nestle-Aland/UBS, 26th edition (1995)
New Century Version (NCV)	1991	6	Dynamic equivalence	A team composed of the World Bible Translation Center and 50 scholars and translators	<i>Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia</i> ; UBS Greek NT
New International Version (NIV)	1978, 2011	8	Hybrid: Verbal equivalence with dynamic balance	Biblica: 2011 update by 10 person committee (2%-4% change from 1978 edition) based on some TNIV changes	<i>Biblia Hebraica</i> ; eclectic mix of original texts for NT
New International Reader's Version (NIRV)	1996	3	Verbal equivalence, with dynamic balance and some simplification	40, including stylists	Simplification of NIV
New Jerusalem Bible	1985	8	Verbal equivalence, with dynamic tendencies	Approximately 30	Original Languages; <i>La Bible de Jérusalem</i> (French)
New King James Version 1982 (NKJV)	1982	11	Verbal equivalence	Approximately 60 scholars and church leaders	Revision of KJV <i>Biblia Hebraica Textus Receptus</i> (NT)
New Living Translation (NLT)	1996; 2007	6	Dynamic equivalence	90 scholars, primarily from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School and Asbury Seminary	<i>Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia</i> ; UBS Greek NT (1993), Nestle-Aland Novum Testamentum Graece (1993)
New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)	1990	11	Verbal equivalence	National Council of Churches; 30 scholars	<i>Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia</i> (3rd edition); UBS Greek NT (3rd edition, corrected) revision of RSV (1952)
The Voice	2011	8	Paraphrase	27 scholars and 52 retellers; from the emergent movement	<i>not disclosed</i>

*Definitions provided on second page

Definitions



- Dynamic equivalence:** Emphasis on reproducing the functional meaning of the ancient words with freedom to rearrange the order of the words (syntax) in the target language.
- Masoretic:** The most widely used Hebrew text of the Old Testament.
- Paraphrase:** Emphasis is on expressing the meaning in contemporary language, with numerous additional words.
- Textus Receptus:** "Received Text"; 1550 edition of the Greek NT used by most translators before 1900.
- Verbal equivalence:** Emphasis is on reproducing the modern English equivalent of the ancient words, with tendency to use same word order as the ancient language.