

Finnish Language (Finnish Society and Language)

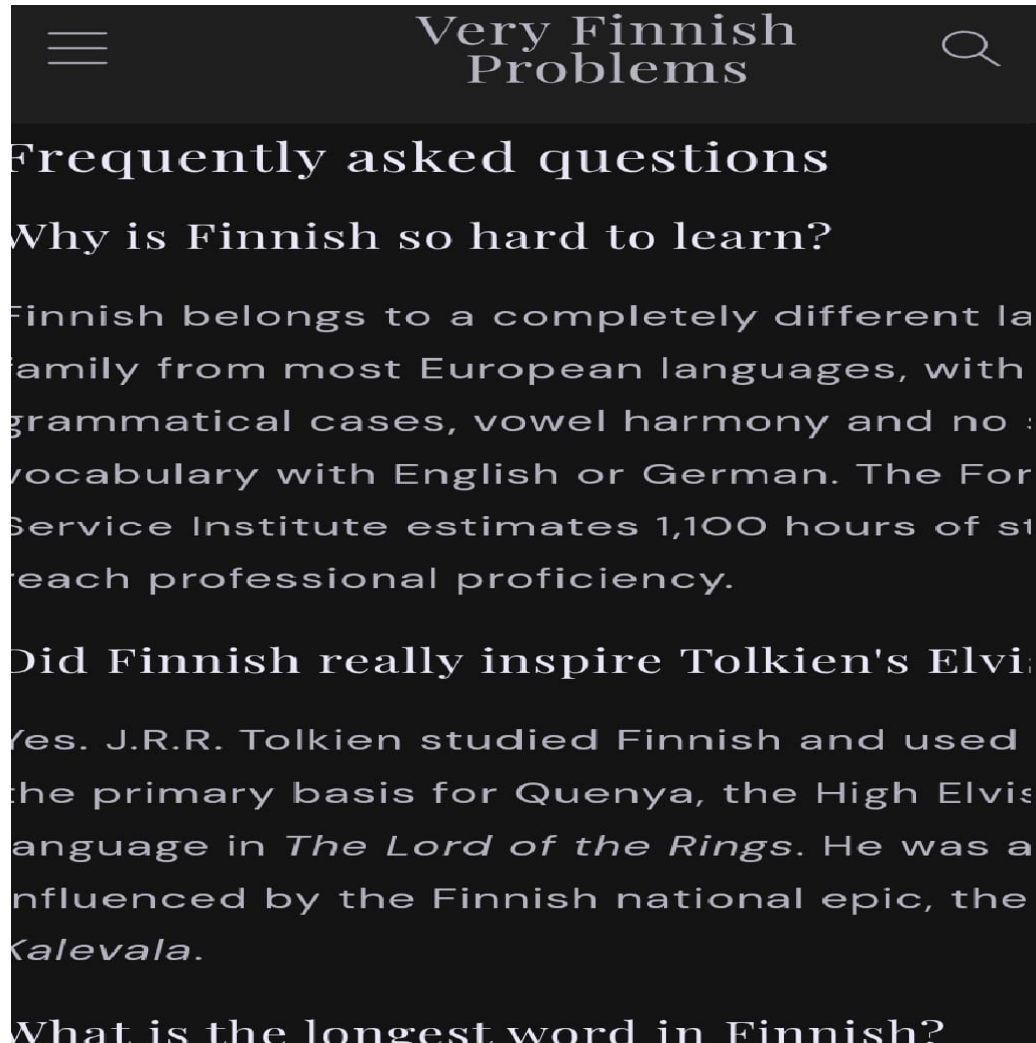
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Difficult and/or exotic language?



Finnish language

The official languages of Finland are Finnish and Swedish.

The Saami languages have official status in Finland in the Saami native region.



Finnish language

- Finnish – Finno-Ugric and Nordic language
- Finnish language: Difficult or different?
- Some characteristics of Finnish language

Languages of Finland

- The official languages of Finland are Finnish and Swedish.
- In Turku, approximately 5.4 % of population speaks Swedish as their first language.
- Biggest numbers of foreign-language speakers: Russian, Estonian, Arabic, English, Ukrainian, Somali (stat.fi)

Languages of Finland

- The Saami (*Sami* or *Sámi*) languages are the languages of the indigenous population of Finland. There are three different Saami languages spoken in Finland: Inari Saami, Skolt Saami and Northern Saami.



Finnish language – Finno-Ugric language family

- Finnish is not an Indo-European language but belongs to the Finno-Ugric languages (Uralic languages).
- Hungarians, Finns, and Estonians make up the majority of Finno-ugric languages speakers.
- Finnish and Estonian are Baltic-Finnic languages.

- For more information: <https://fennougria.ee/en/peoples/baltic-finnic-peoples/>



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YLIOPISTO**

Finnish language – Finno-Ugric language family

- Finnish is one the Nordic languages – but Finnish is not related to Scandinavian languages.
- Close contacts:
 - Finnish and Swedish have more shared words than, for example, Finnish and Hungarian, even though Finnish and Swedish are not related.
 - Finnish communication culture is similar to Swedish (Scandinavian) communication culture.

Suomen kielen kauneimmat sanat

The most beautiful Finnish words (according to Hanna's students)

SÖPÖ

REVONTULI

ÄÄNI

HELMI

IHANA

TOPPATAKKI

ILO

KORIPALLO

LUMI

LÄMPIMÄMPI

Some characteristics of Finnish language

Some characteristics of Finnish language

- There are no articles in Finnish.
 - Finnish words have no grammatical gender.
-
- Hän on onnellinen. *She is happy.*
 - Hän on onnellinen. *He is happy.*

Finnish sounds: vowels

a, o, u

i, e

ä, ö, y

Vowel harmony:

pöydä-llä 'on a table'

talo-ssa 'in the house'

tuttu tyttö 'a girl I know'

Finnish sounds: vowels

MUU

'other'

SUU

'a mouth'

KUU

'a moon, month'

MYY

'sells' (3rd person singular, to sell)

SYU

'a fault, a reason'

KYY

'a viper' (a poisonous snake)

Sounds

- Most sounds can be either short or long:

Tuli *fire*

Tuuli *wind*

Tulli *customs office*

Tapaan sinut *I meet you*

Tapan sinut *I kill you*

A lot of suffixes and endings

15 different case endings

Turku

➤ Turun, Turkua, Turussa,
Turusta, Turkuun, Turulla,
Turulta, Turulle, Turkuna,
Turuksi, Turutta...

Derivation

kirja

‘a book’

kirjain

‘a letter’

kirjasto

‘a library’

kirjoittaja

‘a writer’

kirjoittaa

to write

kirjoitus

a writing

etc.

A lot of suffixes and endings

Talo-i-ssa-mme-kin

In our houses too

Vasta-isi-t-ko?

Would you answer?

To have -construction

-lla/-llä -ending:

Minulla on kirja. *I have a book.*

Hannalla on kirja. *Hanna has a book.*

FINNISH NIGHTMARES

FINNISHNIGHTMARES.BLOGSPOT.FI - FACEBOOK.COM/FINNISHNIGHTMARES - TWITTER.COM/FINN_MATTI



WEATHER IS HORRIBLE, BUT THE ONLY SHELTER IS OCCUPIED.

Languages of Turku?



The Verb of the Day

@finnishtogo

“tarjeta”

“to withstand the cold”

*A uniquely Finnish verb used to say you
can endure low temperatures or
manage in the cold without freezing.*

04/05

Politeness strategies and addressing in Finnish

- Highly respected personal space
- High tolerance of silence
- Are there less politeness phrases?

Get inspired.



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