

Finnish

suomi

Spoken in: Finland, Estonia, Sweden, Norway, North-western Russia (Karelia)

Region: Northern Europe

Total speakers: 6 million

Genetic Classification: Uralic Finno-Ugric Finno-Lappic Baltic Finnic Finnish

Official language of: Finland, European Union and the Republic of Karelia

Finnish also called Suomi, member of the Finnic group of the Finno-Ugric languages. In Finnish the first syllable of a word is stressed. The language has 15 cases for nouns, personal pronouns, and adjectives. It lacks grammatical gender and the article. There is a negative conjugation for the verb.

Like the other Uralic and Altaic languages, Finnish has vowel harmony and agglutination. Postpositions are employed instead of prepositions. Suffixation is used to form derived nouns and verbs. The Finnish vocabulary has been enriched by words borrowed from the Germanic, Slavic, and Baltic languages. A modified Roman alphabet is used for writing Finnish, which has been recorded since the 16th cent.

In 1892 Finnish became an official language and gained a status comparable to that of Swedish. Today Finland is officially bilingual in Finnish and Swedish.

Currently SSWAHS Health Care Interpreter Service employs 1 Finnish sessional interpreter.

Finnish alphabet

A a	D d	E e	H h	I i	J j	K k	L l	M m	N n
aa	dee	ee	hoo	ii	jii	koo	äl	äm	än
[ɑ]	[d, t]	[e]	[h, h̥]	[i]	[j]	[k]	[l]	[m, m̥]	[n]
O o	P p	R r	S s	T t	U u	V v	Y y	Ä ä	Ö ö
oo	pee	är	äs	tee	uu	vee	yy	ää	öö
[o]	[p]	[r]	[s]	[t]	[u]	[v]	[y]	[æ]	[ø]

Letters used only in loan-words

B b	C c	F f	G g	Q q	W w	X x	Z z	Å å
bee	see	äf	gee	kuu	kaksois-vee	äks	tset	ruotsalainen oo
[b, p]	[k, s]	[f, v]	[g, k]	[k]	[v]	[ks]	[ts]	[o]

The letter G appears in native Finnish words in combination with N as ng [ŋ].