
Finnish Class

— Essential Grammar & Sentence
Structure —

Word Groups

Nominals - Conjugation depends on the amount and the grammar case

- Noun
- Adjective
- Pronouns
- Numerals

Verbs - Conjugation depends on the person, tempus (time), and modus (way)

Adposition, adverb, particle - Little or no conjugation

Sentence Structure

Finnish follows the pattern of Subject-Verb-Object

I drink water.

Minä juon vettä.

S+V+O

He likes you.

Hän pitää sinusta.

S+V+O

Important!

English doesn't use the passive form as much as Finnish so this can take time to learn.

This also makes passive sentences difficult to translate often.

You can also come across with passive sentences, where you don't know the subject (*aka the person who is completing the action*):

Metsässä leikitään.

Object + Passive Verb

Talvisin harjoitellaan.

Adverbial + Passive Verb

Asking questions:

Sinä leikit. > Leikitkö sinä?

S+V

>

V+S

Hän on kaupassa. > Onko hän kaupassa?

S+V+O

>

V+S+O

Kuinka vanha sinä olet?

Q+O+S+V

Sentence Negation

The negative verb “no” conjugates in personas. E.g. [*juoda* = *to drink*]

(Minä) en juo.

(Sinä) et juo

Hän ei juo.

Me emme juo.

Te ette juo.

He eivät juo.

The **negative verb** always comes in front of the **main verb**.

Nyt **sataa**. > Nyt **ei sataa**. It's raining now. / It's not raining now.

Olen ostoksilla. > **En ole** ostoksilla. I'm shopping. / I'm not shopping.

Subordinating conjunction in sentences

The subordinating conjunction words in Finnish are...

joka, mikä, että, kun, koska

Using these words allows you to “build up” the sentences you use, and make the language flow more naturally.

Aikuisena olen viisas. Silloin tiedän paljonko kello on.

> Aikuisena olen viisas, koska tiedän paljonko kello on.

(eng. As an adult I'm wise because I know what time is it.)

Pidän Suomen kielestä. Se on Suomen virallinen kieli.

> Pidän Suomen kielestä, joka on Suomen virallinen kieli.

(eng. I like Finnish which is the official language of Finland.)

You can add more subordinating conjunctions, but it's recommended to stay at two at maximum, e.g.

Hän tietää ruuan olevan niin hyvää, että hän hymyilee, koska hän maistoi sitä jo.

(eng. He knows the food to be so good that he smiles because he already tasted it.)

Past Tenses

BASICS

Preesens - Present

Minä laulan.

Sinä kävelet tänne.

Imperfect - Past #1

Minä lauloin.

Sinä kävelit tänne.

INCREASED DIFFICULTY

Perfect - Past #2

Minä olen laulanut.

Sinä olet kävellyt tänne.

Pluperfect - Past #3

Minä olin laulanut.

Sinä olit kävellyt tänne.

I sing.

You're walking here.

I sang.

You walked here.

I have sung.

You have walked here

I had sung.

You had walked here.



Start with these two!

Grammatical cases (the first 10)

Case	Suffix	English	Example	Translation
Nominative	-	-	Talo	House
Genitive	-n	- / -'s	Talon väri.	House's color
Accusative	- / -n	- / object (whole)	Maalaan talon.	I paint the house.
Partitive	-(t)a / -(t)ä	- / object (incomplete)	Maalaan taloa.	I'm painting the house.
Inessive	-ssa / -ssä	in	Talossa.	In a house
Elicative	-sta / -stä	from (inside)	Talosta.	From (inside) a house.
Illative	Long vowel + -n	into	Taloon. / Takkiin. / Keittoon.	Into a house. / Into a coat. / Into a soup.
Adessive	-lla / -llä	at / on	Talolla.	At a house.
Ablative	-lta / -ltä	from	Talolta.	From a house.
Allative	-lle	onto / to (outside)	Talolle.	To a house.

Recommended Vocabulary Groups

For when you have no idea
what to do next...

- Daily activities
- Adjectives
- Hobbies
- Good manners
- Asking for help
