

When you want to introduce two people to each other you use the phrase:

Saanko esitellä ... *May I introduce ...*

and their names. For example, if you want to introduce Leena Virtanen and Alistair Kelly to each other:

Saanko esitellä: Leena Virtanen — Alistair Kelly.

This introduction is fairly formal. If the situation is not formal, you can say simply:

Tässä on Leena Virtanen — Alistair Kelly.

Tässä on means *here is* or *this is*. You can also just say the first names and leave out the surnames. This is particularly so with young people and children. If you want to know the name of a child, you can ask:

Mikä sinun nimi on?

What is your name?

2 Tervehdyksiä Greetings

Hyvää huomenta, *good morning*, is the first greeting of the day. You can answer it by saying *hyvää huomenta* or *huomenta*. Later on in the day you can say *hyvää päivää* (Lit. *good day*). You can answer by saying *hyvää päivää* or *päivää*.

For a less formal greeting you can say *hei* or *terve* or *moi*. These short greetings are used by young people particularly, as well as among friends and when talking to children.

In the afternoon you can say *hyvää iltapäivää* *good afternoon*. In the evening you can say *hyvää iltaa* *good evening*. When you are going to bed you can say *hyvää yötä*. All these can be answered by repeating the greeting or the second half of it. Sometimes the word *hyvää* is left out, as in English, and you can say *huomenta morning*. This is always informal.

When you are leaving you can say *näkemiin goodbye*. Literally it means *until we meet again*, like the French 'au revoir' or German 'auf Wiedersehen'.

For an informal *bye* you can say *hei hei!* or *hei!* Young people particularly favour *moi!* or *moi moi!* You can also hear other versions of informal greetings, for example *heippa!* or *hei sitten!*

3 Kiitoksia paljon! Many thanks!

Kiitos means *thank you*. You can also say *kiitos paljon* *thank you very much* or *kiitoksia paljon* *many thanks*.

When you pass something to someone you can say *olkaa hyvä* or *ole hyvä*. *Olkaa hyvä* is the formal and the plural. You would use it talking to a stranger and in all formal situations, for example in shops and restaurants. It is also the plural, so you use it when you are addressing more than one person. *Ole hyvä* is the familiar form and it is used when talking to a friend or a child.

Ole hyvä! and *Olkaa hyvä!* also mean *you are welcome* (in the American sense of 'it's nothing' or 'don't mention it'):

Kiitos. *Thank you.*

Ole hyvä. *You are welcome.*

4 Mitä kuuluu? How are you?

The standard question *How are you?* is *Mitä kuuluu?* If you are fine, the answer is *Kiitos, hyvää* *fine, thank you* or *Kiitos, ei erikoista* (Lit. *nothing special*). This standard answer is equivalent to the English non-committal *I am fine, thank you*.

If you want to continue by asking the other person how they are, you can say: *Entä sinulle? How about you?* To which they might answer for example: *Kiitos hyvää*.

Another phrase for *How are you?* is *Miten menee?* (Lit. *How are things going?*). The answer to this is *Kiitos, hyvin* *Well, thank you*, *Kiitos, mukavasti* *Nicely, thank you* or *Kiitos, ei hassummin* *Not too bad, thank you*. If you want to continue by asking how the other person is, notice the phrase here is slightly different: *Entä sinulla? How are things with you?*

5 Oletko sinä suomalainen? Are you Finnish?

When you want to ask a question in Finnish, you need to add something to the sentence that contains a question. This can be a word such as *who, where, how, when* and so on. Intonation alone does not make a sentence into a question. If you need to ask a question like: *Are you?* you need to start the question with the verb: *Olet you are* and then add a special ending called an interrogative suffix to the verb. This suffix is:

-ko? or -kö?

So *olet* means *you are* and *Oletko?* *Are you?*

olet	you are	Oletko?	Are you?
olette	you are	Oletteko?	Are you?
puhut	you speak	Puhutko?	Do you speak?
puhutte	you speak	Puhutteko?	Do you speak?
ymmärrät	you understand	Ymmärrätkö?	Do you understand?
ymmärrätte	you understand	Ymmärrättekö?	Do you understand?

Here are some examples:

Oletko englantilainen? *Are you English?*
 Puhutko suomea? *Do you speak Finnish?*
 Ymmärrätkö suomea? *Do you understand Finnish?*

You use *olet* (*you are*) when talking to one person. This is the familiar form and the singular. It is used when talking to a person you know well.

Olette means *you are* when talking to more than one person. But it is also the formal address when talking to one person.

Answering questions

You can answer the question by using the verb:

Puhutko suomea? *Do you speak Finnish?*
 Puhun. *Yes, I do.*

or by using a word meaning *yes* or *no*:

Joo. *Yes.*
 Joo, puhun. *Yes, I do.*
 Kyllä. *Yes.*

and if the answer is negative:

Puhutko suomea? *Do you speak Finnish?*
 En. *I don't.*

or

En puhu. *I don't speak.*

Some more examples:

Oletko suomalainen? *Are you Finnish?*
 Olen. *I am.*

or

En ole. *I am not.*

The suffix *-ko?/-kö?* is used to make questions with all kinds of words. You can add the suffix to verbs, nouns, adjectives or pronouns. Here are some examples.

a Verbs

Olen.	<i>I am.</i>	Olenko?	<i>Am I?</i>
Olet.	<i>You are.</i>	Oletko?	<i>Are you?</i>
Hän on.	<i>He/she is.</i>	Onko hän?	<i>Is he/she?</i>
Se on.	<i>It is.</i>	Onko se?	<i>Is it?</i>
En ole.	<i>I am not.</i>	Enkö ole?	<i>Am I not?</i>
Et ole.	<i>You are not.</i>	Etkö ole?	<i>Are you not?</i>
Hän ei ole.	<i>He/she is not.</i>	Eikö hän ole?	<i>Is he/she not?</i>
Se ei ole.	<i>It is not.</i>	Eikö se ole?	<i>Is it not?</i>

b Nouns

Pekka *Pekkako? Pekka?/Do you mean Pekka?*
 Pekka Järvinen *Pekka Järvinenkö? Do you mean Pekka Järvinen?*

c Adjectives

suomalainen *Finnish* *Suomalainenko? Finnish?/Is it Finnish?/Do you mean it is Finnish?*
 Hän on skotlantilainen. *Skotlantilainenko hän on? He is Scottish, is he?*

d Pronouns

tämä *This* *Tämäkö? Do you mean this one?*
 hän on *He/she is* *Hänkö on? Is it him?*

Notice that the word which asks the question is the first word in the question.

There are two versions of the suffix that makes a question: *-ko* and *-kö*. You add the suffix *-ko* to words that contain any of these three vowels: *a, o, u*. For example: *Puhutko? Oletko?*

If the word contains any of these three vowels: *ä, ö* or *y* you add the suffix *-kö*. For example: *Ymmärrätkö?*

The vowels *i* and *e* can appear with both of these groups of vowels, but if they are the only vowels in the word, then the suffix is *-kö? Helsinki? Do you mean Helsinki?*

This is called vowel harmony. There is more about vowel harmony in Unit 2.

6 About names

Since the Finnish language has no genders, it is not always obvious whether a name you hear or see belongs to a man or a woman.

Here are some of the most common names. It is a good idea to practise saying them; this will give you confidence in using names when meeting Finns. It is also good practice for your pronunciation. You will find a list of the most common surnames in the pronunciation section.

Naisten nimiä Women's names Miesten nimiä Men's names

Anneli	Sanna	Antero	Janne
Anna	Kati	Antti	Sami
Annikki	Anne	Esa	Jari
Auli	Satu	Ilpo	Petri
Hannele	Tiina	Juhani	Jani
Hanna	Kirsi	Jussi	Timo
Helena	Anu	Kalevi	Pasi
Johanna	Laura	Matti	Kari
Kaarina	Elina	Olli	Teemu
Kirsti	Suvi	Pekka	Juha
Liisa	Ritva	Tapani	Jukka
Marja	Riitta	Tapio	Risto
Marjatta	Eija	Mika	Markku
Minna	Tuula	Marko	Seppo
Sari	Mirja	Mikko	Heikki

7 Suomalainen, venäläinen ... Finnish, Russian ...

The words which mean nationality end with *-lainen/-läinen*. So if you know the name of the country, you can make up the word for a person who comes from that country. For example:

Ranska	<i>France</i>	ranskalainen	<i>French</i>
Englanti	<i>England</i>	englantilainen	<i>English</i>
Vietnam	<i>Vietnam</i>	vietnamilainen	<i>Vietnamese</i>
Viro	<i>Estonia</i>	virolainen	<i>Estonian</i>

In addition to the word for the national country these words are also adjectives or descriptive words. For example:

vietnamilainen	<i>ravintola</i>	<i>a Vietnamese restaurant</i>
englantilainen	<i>sanomalehti</i>	<i>an English newspaper</i>
suomalainen	<i>sauna</i>	<i>a Finnish sauna</i>

You can also add the ending *-lainen/-läinen* to names of towns or suburbs, in fact to almost any word meaning a place to make up the word for a person or a thing from that place. Here are some examples:

Lontoo	<i>London</i>	lontoolainen	<i>Londoner</i>
Helsinki		helsinkiläinen	<i>someone or something from Helsinki</i>
Joensuu		joensuulainen	<i>Joensuu (a town in Finland) a person from Joensuu</i>
Brighton		brightonilainen	<i>someone from Brighton</i>
Melbourne		melbournelainen	<i>someone from Melbourne</i>

Notice that these words are written with a small letter in Finnish! You choose the ending *-lainen* or *-läinen* using the same rules of vowel harmony as above in choosing between *-ko* and *-kö*.

8 Sinuttelu ja teitittely Informal and formal address

Finnish like French and German has both the formal and informal address, in other words you use different forms when talking to a stranger and when talking to a person you know well.

Sinä olet you are is like French 'tu es' or German 'du bist'. You use this form when you talk to a friend or a child. Young people always use it to address one another. It is the singular form.

Te olette you are is like the French 'vous êtes' or German 'Sie sind'. This is the polite form and it is used to address a person you have not previously met, or a person whom you would not normally address by their first name. This form is also the plural, just like in French and German, and it is used when talking to more than one person.

In Finnish the informal address is *sinuttelu* and the formal is *teitittely*. The tendency in Finland today is towards the informal. Many firms and organizations practise *sinuttelu* among all the employees or members of the organization by agreement. But if you are not sure which to use, it is always safer to err on the side of formality lest someone is offended. If they don't want you to use the formal address they'll soon tell you. In the past there were strict rules about who could call whom *sinä* but today people are more relaxed about it.

Harjoitellaan! Let's practise!

- The following are situations in which you are likely to be in Finland.
 - A Finn has just said something to you, but you didn't understand him. What would you say to him?
 - He repeats what he has said, but you are still not sure what he means. Ask him to say it slowly.
 - You have just walked into the hotel dining room to have breakfast. How would you greet those already sitting at the table?
 - You are sitting at the hotel bar with your friends, but you feel tired and want to go to bed. How do you say good-night to the others?
 - You are going to introduce two people to each other. Which one of the phrases below would you use?

Anteeksi	Hauska tutustua	Näkemiin
Hitaasti, olkaa hyvä	Kiitos	Saanko esitellä

- You have just been introduced to a Finn. You want to know whether he speaks English. How would you ask?
- You have just met a friend in the street. Say hello and ask him how he is?
- A friend wants to know how you are, what does he say?
- You have just been introduced to a Finn. Tell him that you are pleased to meet him.

- Match the names in the list on the left to the nationalities on the right.

a	Angus MacDonald	i	englantilainen
b	Lin Wong	ii	ruotsalainen
c	Eusebio Senna	iii	ranskalainen
d	Jan van der Haag	iv	amerikkalainen
e	Mohamed Magani	v	skotlantilainen
f	Jane Brown	vi	hollantilainen
g	Ingrid Svensson	vii	espanjalainen
h	Mary Lou Parton	viii	brasililainen
i	Juanita Estefan	ix	japanilainen
j	Maire Kauppinen	x	algerialainen
k	Yosiko Arai	xi	kiinalainen
l	Pierre Dupont	xii	suomalainen

- This conversation takes place in the morning. Fill in the missing words.

Hyvää _____.
 _____ . Mitä _____ ?
 Kiitos _____. Entä _____ ?
 Kiitos, ei _____ .

- Some more situations for you to practise:
 - You are leaving a group of friends. How would you say goodbye to them?
 - Somebody has just done you a big favour. Offer them your thanks.
 - Tell a Finn who you are and what nationality you are.
 - How would you tell a Finn that you speak English and French?
 - You are passing your friend a cup of coffee, say *here you are*.
 - You have just been asked whether you speak Finnish. Tell the person that you understand a little.
- How would the following introduce themselves? Put yourself in their place and say who you are, what nationality you are and which languages you speak.
 - Juan Ramirez; Mexican; Spanish and English
 - Catherine Edwards; English; English and German
 - Monique Pillier; French; French and Spanish
 - Ingrid Johansson; Swedish; Swedish and English
 - Tiia Ruukonen; Finnish; Finnish and English
- Which town do the people described below come from?

a	turkulainen	f	rovaniemeläinen
b	moskovalainen	g	bristolilainen
c	berliiniläinen	h	madridilainen
d	parisilainen	i	hongkongilainen
e	tukholmalainen	j	prahalainen

- When would you say *näkemiin*?
- Which one of these questions would you use to address a complete stranger?

Puhutko englantia? Puhutteko englantia?
- What do you say if you want to say that you are sorry about something? Remember this same phrase also means *Excuse me*.