

office Tele section, where you pay for your call after you have made it. Tele sections are part of larger post offices.

The local calls are called **lähipuhelu** tai **paikallispuhelu**. A reverse charge call is **vastapuhelu**. The emergency numbers **häätanumerot** are in the beginning of the directory. The general emergency number **yleinen hätänumero** is 112. If you are looking for services, you will find them on the yellow pages **keltaiset sivut**.

If you are in a supermarket, department store or at a railway station and want to make a phone call, look for the sign **yleispuhelin** (*public telephone*). Most public telephones are card operated. Most coin operated telephones accept 1 euro or 2 euro coins.

Mobile phones

The Finns are very keen mobile phone users. Nokia, the Finnish mobile phone manufacturer, is famous all over the world. At the end of the last century there were already about 4 million mobile phones **matkapuhelin** in Finland. The population of Finland is only just over 5 million. That means that a Finn without a mobile phone is quickly becoming a rarity. **Matkapuhelin** is the official term for a mobile phone, but in everyday language the word **kännykkä** is more commonly used. The main mobile operators in Finland are Sonera and Radiolinja. Mobile phones can be used for a whole range of commercial transactions, from buying drinks from vending machines to paying for bus journeys: a text message transport ticket is particularly popular with young people. You can use the mobile phone to switch your sauna on as you approach your summer house. Connecting to the internet through your phone or your mobile is a reality: the future uses can only be guessed at, but one thing is certain – Finns will not give up their **kännykkä**. Text messages **tekstiviestit** are very popular, especially amongst young people because texting costs less than speaking on the phone. A whole new language has developed around text messaging. Over 1 000 million text messages a year were sent in 1999, and the growth rate is 40 per cent per year.

Vähän kielioppia

The past tense

When you are talking about things and events that have taken place in the past, you need to use the past tense of the verb. The simple past tense is called the imperfect in Finnish. The simple past tense or imperfect in Finnish is marked by **-i**, which is added before the personal ending. Sometimes the vowel **-i** can cause other vowels to change when it is added. Here we take a look at just a few examples. A fuller account of the past tense and its negatives comes later.

The easiest group of verbs to put in the past tense is group III (see Unit 5, p.88). These are verbs such as **mennä**, **tulla**, **olla** and **opiskella**, where the infinitive ending is a consonant plus **-a/-ä**. The present tense of these verbs has a link vowel **-e**: **menen**, **tulen**, **olen**, **opiskelen**.

To form the imperfect or past tense you replace the link vowel **-e** with the vowel **-i** which indicates the past tense.

ol/la	to be	tul/la	to come	men/nä	to go
present	past	present	past	present	past
olen	olin	tulen	tulin	menen	menin
olet	olit	tulet	tuit	menet	menit
on	oli	tulee	tuli	menee	meni
olemme	olimme	tulemme	tulimme	menemme	menimme
ollette	olitte	tulette	tulitte	menette	menitte
ovat	olivat	tulevat	tulivat	menevät	menivät

Notice that the third person in the singular has a short **-i**.

The meaning of the imperfect **menin** is *I went* or *I was going*, **tulin** *I came* or *I was coming*, **olin** *I was*. As this group of verbs has the link vowel **-e** the past tense is easy. However, in the other groups there is much more variation caused by the addition of the vowel **-i**.

Group IV verbs

These are verbs like **halu/ta** and **tava/ta**. They end in **-ta/-tä** preceded by a vowel. In the present tense they have **-a/-ä** added before the personal endings: **haluan**, **tapaan**. These verbs have **-si** in the past tense before the personal ending instead of the vowel **-a/-ä**, which they have in the present tense.

halu/ta	to want	tava/ta	to meet
present	haluan	present	tapaan
past	halusin	past	tapasin
	haluait		tapasit
	haluusi		tapasimme
	haluimme		tapasitte
	haluaitte		tapasivat
	haluivat		

Notice the verb **tavata** has a weak grade consonant **-v** in the infinitive and the strong grade **-p** all through the conjugation in the present tense and the past tense. There are other verbs of this type in this group.

Notice also the short ending **-si** in the third person singular.

Group I verbs

These are verbs which end in **-a/-ä** in the infinitive. For example: **luke/a, kirjoitta/a**

Generally speaking the **-a/-ä/-e/-i** of the stem is replaced by the **-i** of the past tense. There are some exceptions, which are dealt with below. Notice the third person singular has a short **-i**.

soitta/a	to telephone	muista/a	to remember
present	soitan	present	muistan
past	soitin	past	muistin
	soitit		muistit
	soititi		muistimme
	soitimme		muistitte
	soitaitte		muistivat
	soitivat		

In this group too **-e** is always replaced by **-i**:

luke/a to read luen I read luin I read

If the verb has an **-a** in both the first and second syllable then the second **-a** becomes **-o** in front of the **-i** of the past tense.

ajaa	to drive	anta/a	to give
present	ajan	present	annan
past	ajoin	past	annoin
	ajoit		annoit
	ajoi		antoimme
	ajaimme		annoitte
	ajaitte		antoivat
	ajivat		

If the last vowel of the stem is **-o/-ö/-u/-y** then the **-i** of the past tense is added after that vowel before the personal ending.

asu/a	to live	sano/a	to say	kysy/ä	to ask
present	asun	present	sanon	present	past
past	asuin	past	sanoin	past	past
	asuit		sanoit		kysyin
	asui		sanoit		kysyit
	asuumme		sanoimme		kysyimme
	asuitte		sanoitte		kysyitte
	asuivat		sanoivat		kysyivät

Note that the third person singular does not lengthen the stem vowel: **asui, sanoi, kysyi**.

Some exceptions in group I verbs

tietä/ä	to know	lentä/ä	to fly
present	tiedän	present	lennän
past	tiesin	past	lensin
	tiesit		lensit
	tiesi		lensi
	tiesimme		lensimme
	tiesitte		lensitte
	tiesivät		lensivät

There are other verbs like this. Their past tense will be indicated in the vocabulary.

From this unit onwards the past tense is marked in the vocabulary boxes in the third person singular to show any changes. Remember that the third person singular always has a strong grade.

For example: **luke/a, luen, lukee, luki**
asu/a, asun, asuu, asui

The group III verbs are dealt with in the next unit.

Kiitos soitostasi! Thank you for your call!

When you need to indicate that something is yours, you can use endings, which are called possessive suffixes. They perform the same function as the words *my, your, his* in English. The difference is that these are endings in Finnish and not separate words.

The possessive suffixes are:

-ni	<i>my</i>	-mme	<i>our</i>
-si	<i>your</i> (singular/informal)	-nne	<i>your</i> (plural/formal)
-nsa/-nsä	<i>his/her/their</i>		(after a case ending long vowel plus -n)
		-nsa/-nsä	<i>their</i>

The possessive suffix is added to the very end of the word. If the word has a case ending the possessive suffix is added after the case ending.

kirjassani in my book toimistossanne *in your office*
The case endings -n (genitive), -n of the illative and the -t of the nominative plural are dropped, when a possessive suffix is added.

kirjaani into my book toimistoosi *into your office*
Generally speaking the possessive suffix is more of a feature in the written language than in everyday spoken language, where the possessive pronouns often replace the suffix.

kirjani toimistossamme
minun kirja meidän toimistossa

The possessive suffix is used in set phrases in everyday speech:

vaimoni my wife vanhempani *my parents*
mieheni my husband

and in phrases like:

Kiitos soitostasi. *Thanks for your call.*
Voit jättää viestisi. *You can leave your message.*
Kiitos kirjeestäsi. *Thanks for your letter.*

Notice also the strong grade in the forms when the -t/-n endings are replaced: *laukut (the bags)*, but *laukkuni (my bags)*.

Tunnin kuluttua In an hour's time

A few useful expressions of time from the unit:

tunnin kuluttua *in an hour's time* (Kuluttua means literally *having passed/gone by* and it is preceded by the genitive ending -n.)

viikon kuluttua *in a week's time*
vuoden kuluttua *in a year's time*
hetken kuluttua *in a moment(s) time*
tänä aamuna *this morning*
tänä iltana *this evening*
juuri *just now* (talking about very recent past)

Kuukaudet The months

<i>tammikuu</i> <i>January</i>	<i>heinäkuu</i> <i>July</i>
<i>helmikuu</i> <i>February</i>	<i>elokuu</i> <i>August</i>
<i>maaliskuu</i> <i>March</i>	<i>syyskuu</i> <i>September</i>
<i>huhtikuu</i> <i>April</i>	<i>lokakuu</i> <i>October</i>
<i>toukokuu</i> <i>May</i>	<i>marraskuu</i> <i>November</i>
<i>kesäkuu</i> <i>June</i>	<i>joulukuu</i> <i>December</i>

The inessive ending -ssa is used to say *in a certain month*.

tammikuussa in January
helmikuussa in February
maaliskuussa in March

Notice the names of the months are written with a small letter, except of course at the beginning of a sentence.

tammikuusta from January *helmikuusta from February*
tammikuuhun to/until *helmikuuhun to/until*
January *February*

Similarly for all the months.

tammikuun alussa *in the beginning of January*
tammikuun lopussa *at the end of January*
tammikuun puolivälissä *in the middle of January*
12. tammikuuta *12th of January*
January the 12th
NB. the partitive ending -ta: *tammikuuta*

Järjestysnumerot Ordinal numbers

The ordinal numbers end in -s, except for *first* and *second*. Here is a list of the first 31: they are the ones you need for expressing dates.

1. ensimmäinen *first*
2. toinen *second*
3. kolmas *third*
4. neljäs *fourth*
5. viides *fifth*
6. kuudes *sixth*
7. seitsemäs *seventh*
8. kahdeksas *eighth*
9. yhdeksäs *ninth*
10. kymmenes *tenth*
11. yhdestoista *eleventh*
12. kahdestoista *twelfth*
13. kolmastoista *thirteenth*
14. neljästoista *fourteenth*
15. viidestoista *fifteenth*
16. kuudestoista *sixteenth*
17. seitsemästoista *seventeenth*
18. kahdeksastoista *eighteenth*
19. yhdeksästoista *nineteenth*
20. kahdeskymmenes *twentieth*
21. kahdeskymmenesyhdes or ensimmäinen *twenty-first*
22. kahdeskymmeneskahdes or toinen *twenty-second*
23. kahdeskymmeneskolmas *twenty-third*

and so on till:

31. kolmaskymmenesyhdes/ensimmäinen *thirty-first*

You can practise the ordinal numbers gradually. Learn one a day and you'll master the 31 that you need for expressing dates.

Kokous on 12. marraskuuta. *The meeting is on the 12th of November.*

Notice the partitive ending on the month.

Loma alkaa 15. kesäkuuta. *The holiday begins on the 15th of June.*

Me tulemme Suomeen
4. joulukuuta. *We are coming to Finland on the 4th of December.*

If you are not sure about a date, get somebody to write it down for you!

Harjoitellaan!

- 1 Tell a Finn your full telephone number.
- 2 Talking about telephone numbers. What does the Finn want to know if he asks for your *kotinumero*? And for your *työnnumero*?
- 3 Do the following:
 - a Introduce yourself on the telephone.
 - b The friend you want to talk to is still at work. Ask when he will be at home.
 - c Say that you'll call again in an hour's time.

- d You want to make an arrangement to meet your friend. Ask when would suit him.
 - e Say: I have nothing planned for tomorrow.
 - f Thank someone for their call.
 - g Say: I'll be in touch later.
 - h Ask someone to hold on.

4 You are ringing a friend in Finland. Someone else answers the phone. How will you ask if your friend (e.g. Petri) is at home?

5 You are ringing the tourist information bureau in the town you are staying in. You have been given the name of the person you need to talk to: Leena Vartiainen. How will you ask whether she is available?

6 You have just dialled what you thought was your friend's number and a strange voice answers. You realize you have dialled the wrong number. What do you say?

7 What do the following mean:

- a Virtasella, Liisa puhelimessa.
- b Haluatreko jättää viestin?
- c Yleinen hätänumero.

8 Complete the following dialogue. You are making a phone call to a friend.

Henna Kauppisella, Henna puhelimessa.

Sinä *(Introduce yourself and ask if Ari is at home.)*

Henna Ari ei ole nyt kotona. Hän on työssä.

Sinä *(Ask what time he is coming home?)*

Henna Hän tulee kotiin noin kello neljä.

Sinä *(Say that you will call back later.)*

Henna Hei hei!

Sinä *(Say goodbye.)*

9 Here are ten of the months in Finnish. Which two are missing?

maaliskuu toukokuu marraskuu kesäkuu syyskuu
helmikuu joulukuu heinäkuu tammikuu lokakuu

10 When is your friend arriving if he says *kesäkuun alussa*?

11 Which one of these phrases means *Thank you for your call*?

- a Kiitos kirjeestäsi.
- b Kiitos soitostasi.
- c Kiitos vielä kerran.