

Loanwords in Finnish Quiz

Finnish is a Finno-Ugric language. It is not related to English or most other European languages. Finnish is instead related and similar to Estonian, and more distantly related to Hungarian. In the past, Finnish has been influenced by Baltic, Germanic and Slavic languages, and more recently it has received loanwords from Swedish and English. It is easier to acquire Finnish vocabulary if you learn to recognise loan words. A knowledge of German, a Scandinavian language and Russian will come in handy. The words featured in this quiz are older, pre-20th-century loanwords. Note that the meaning of a loanword may shift, e.g. *rengas* means 'tyre' and not 'ring'.

1. Animals and other creatures

Match the Finnish animal names with their English equivalents.

FINNISH

aasi
haukka
lammas
mato
leijona
porsas
rotta
valas

ENGLISH

whale
lion
worm, maggot
rat
piglet
donkey
hawk
sheep

2. Food and drink

Match the Finnish words with the English descriptions.

KAHVI, KAKKU, KUMINA, LEIPÄ, LUUMU, OLUT, PUURO, VIINI, ÖLJY

- Usually eaten for breakfast, made of oats.
- Red or white.
- A purple fruit.
- An ingredient in chili powder.
- It is difficult to fry without this product, can also be found in a car.
- An alcoholic drink that is drunk in a pub, very popular in England.
- A birthday treat, goes well with coffee or tea.
- A hot, dark brown beverage.
- Related to the English word 'loaf', means 'bread' in Finnish.

3. Everyday items

What would you do with the following items? Choose a OR b.

AIRO: a) air OR b) row with

KATTILA: a) boil things in OR b) milk and graze

KAMPA: a) sleep in OR b) comb your hair with

KARTTA: a) transport things in OR b) check the location of a place with

KELLO: a) check the time with OR b) boil water in

KYNTTILÄ: a) light OR b) write with

LASI: a) drink from OR b) catch reindeer with

PALLO: a) be friends with OR b) throw

PULLO: a) put on when it is cold OR b) put liquid in

RENGAS: a) attach to a car OR b) make a phone call with

SAHA: a) wrap around your shoulders OR b) saw with

SAIPPUA: a) keep in the bathroom OR b) keep in the garden

SUKKA: a) wear OR b) carry stuff in

UUNI: a) bake in OR b) travel in

4. People

Guess who the following people are.

enkeli (hint: some people doubt the existence of these)

herra (hint: almost the same in German)

keisari (hint: in in Russia before 1917 and in ancient Rome)

kokki (hint: works in a restaurant)

kuningas (hint: Finland does not have one, Britain has had several in the past)

piispa (hint: member of the church)

majuri (hint: a type of soldier)

tohtori (hint: of philosophy, for example)

tytär (hint: a family member)

5. Places

Match the Finnish places with their English equivalents.

FINNISH

apteekki

kauppa

kirkko

koulu

lattia

luostari

mylly

pelto

ranta

talli

ENGLISH

floor, cf. flat

field

church

beach, shore

stable

mill

shop, cf. German *kaufen* 'to buy'

convent, monastery

school

chemist

6. Qualities

Match the Finnish adjectives with the English descriptions.

KAUNIS, LAISKA, RIKAS, SAIRAS, VIISAS

- a. A person who has a lot of money
- b. A person who does not want to do any work
- c. A sensible person
- d. A sick person, cf. sore
- e. A beautiful person, cf. German *schön*

7. Materials

Can you guess what the following materials are in English?

korkki, kupari, kulta, kumi, lasi, nikkeli, paperi, pronssi

8. Time, numbers and quantities

Are the following statements true or false?

- a. *Maanantai* is a day off. true/false
- b. *Sunnuntai* is the least popular day of the week. true/false
- c. *Viikko* is longer than a day. true/false
- d. *Pari* is more than five. true/false
- e. *Tuhat* is less than a million. true/false
- f. *Joulu* is in December. true/false
- g. *Minuutti* is shorter than a second. true/false

9. Slavic loanwords

Guess the meaning of the following Finnish words if you know Russian or another Slavic language.

ikkuna (hint: made of glass)

kapakka (hint: a type of pub)

lusikka (hint: needed when eating soup)

majakka (hint: helps sailors)

piirakka (hint: savoury or sweet)

saapas (hint: worn on the feet)

siisti (hint: the opposite of messy)

sääli (hint: a pity, shame)

toveri (hint: a friend or a companion)

vapaa (hint: the opposite of 'bound', 'busy' or 'occupied')

varpunen (hint: a small bird)

viesti (hint: can be sent with a phone)

This quiz has been written by Riitta-Liisa Valijärvi r.valijarvi@ucl.ac.uk.