

## Topic Page: [Finnish language](#)

Definition: **Finnish** from *Philip's Encyclopedia*

One of the two official languages of Finland and a member of the Finno-Ugric group of languages. It is spoken by over 4.5 million people in Finland, and by nearly a million people in Sweden, Russia and the USA. Swedish is the other official language of Finland, spoken by c.300,000 inhabitants.



Image from: [FINNISH in Dictionary of Languages](#)

### Summary Article: **Finnish language**

From *The Columbia Encyclopedia*

also called Suomi, member of the Finnic group of the Finno-Ugric languages. These languages form a subdivision of the Uralic subfamily of the Ural-Altai family of languages (see Uralic and Altai languages). Finnish is spoken by about 5 million people in Finland. Additional speakers totaling close to 1 million live in neighboring areas of Sweden and Russia and also in the United States. There are several dialects. 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 Altai 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.

See Karlsson, F. , *Finnish Grammar* (tr. 1983);

Holman, E. , ed., *Finnish Verb Handbook* (1984).

#### **APA**

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Finnish language. (2018). In P. Lagasse, & Columbia University, *The Columbia encyclopedia* (8th ed.). New York, NY: Columbia University Press. Retrieved from [https://search.credoreference.com/content/topic/finnish\\_language](https://search.credoreference.com/content/topic/finnish_language)

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## APA

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## Chicago

"Finnish language." In *The Columbia Encyclopedia*, by Paul Lagasse, and Columbia University. 8th ed. Columbia University Press, 2018. [https://search.credoreference.com/content/topic/finnish\\_language](https://search.credoreference.com/content/topic/finnish_language)

## Harvard

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## MLA

"Finnish language." *The Columbia Encyclopedia*, Paul Lagasse, and Columbia University, Columbia University Press, 8th edition, 2018. *Credo Reference*, [https://search.credoreference.com/content/topic/finnish\\_language](https://search.credoreference.com/content/topic/finnish_language). Accessed 14 Nov. 2019.