

by zero, since nominative and accusative cases in the plural have no overt marking in Finnish) and *-i-* before other case suffixes. In addition, it has an automatic allomorph *-j-* when it is found between two vowels.

The possessive endings sometimes cause the case and number marking to be neutralized.

Nominative and genitive singular and nominative plural:

- ~~talo-ni 'my house, my house's, my houses'~~
- ~~talo-si 'your house, your house's, your houses'~~
- ~~talo-nsa 'his house, his house's, his houses'~~
- ~~talo-nme 'our house, our house's, our houses'~~
- ~~talo-nne 'your house, your house's, your houses'~~
- ~~talo-nsa 'their house, their house's, their houses'~~
- but
- ~~talo-ssa-ni 'in my house'~~
- ~~talo-i-ssa-ni 'in my houses'~~
- and so on.

Cases

There is a very large number of cases, but not all are equally productive.

1. *Nominative*. This case does not have a special marker, but the allomorph of the plural with this case is *-t*, instead of the *-i* which appears with most other cases. This case is used to mark the subject of a sentence.

Many Finnish nouns appear to have special oblique stems to which the non-nominative case endings and the *-t* nominative plural are added. (In other words, the oblique stem is used in all the situations where the stem is followed by an overt, i.e., nonzero, suffix of some sort.) For example, *nainen* 'woman' has an oblique stem *naise-*, and thus *nais-e-t* is the nominative plural form for this noun; *rukous* 'prayer' has an oblique stem *rukoukse-*; and so on. The reason for this situation is that a number of phonological rules apply to the stem if no suffix is added:

- rukoukse* → *rukouksi* (final *e* goes to *i*)
- rukouks* → *rukouks* (final *i* is deleted in words of three syllables or more)
- rukouks* → *rukous* (final consonant cluster simplification)

2. *Genitive*. This case is marked by suffix *-n*. It signals possession and is used in some impersonal constructions. It used to be the case that marked an indirect object, and that usage is preserved in some expressions like *Jumalan kiitos* 'Thanks be to God'.

3. *Accusative*. In the singular this case is marked by *-n*, just like the genitive, but in the plural the form is the same as in the nominative. (There is also an alternative form in the singular which is identical with the nominative.

This case marks the direct object of a verb if that verb is viewed as affecting the whole object; nouns expressing distance covered, time passed, and the like, are also put in this case.

4. *Partitive*. The marker for this case is *-(t)i/-t(a)*. (The elements enclosed in parentheses are dropped in certain environments; the vowel alternations are due to the operation of vowel harmony rules.) This case has many uses, the chief of which is to signal that an object is affected only partially by the verb or that the effect is not real. Thus, it is used to mark the direct object after negated verbs, the direct object of verbs that indicate an ongoing action, or verbs that express thoughts, wishes, hopes, and so forth. It is also used after numbers, to indicate the notion "some," and as measures in such expressions as 'one pound of potatoes' where 'of potatoes' is simply the noun 'potato' in partitive case.

Even the subject may be in the partitive case: in negative sentences and interrogative sentences in which *ole-* 'to exist', *mäky-* 'to be visible', and *kunne-* 'to be audible' are the main verbs:

- Tä-sä kylä-ssä ei ole suutar-i-a.*
this + iness./ village + iness./ neg. vb./ be/ cobbler + part.
- 'There is no cobbler in this village.'

5. *Essive*: *-na/-nä*. This case signals the site of an action, the time at which an action takes place, and the state or temporary character of something or someone:

- joulu-na 'at Christmas'*
- Poika-na minä e-n tunte-nut hän-tä*
boy + ess./ I (nom.)/ neg. vb. + 1st pers. sing./ know + past
participle active/ he + part.
- 'As a boy I did not know him.'

6. *Adessive*: *-lla/-lä*. This case also indicates location in time or space, the price at which a thing is bought, and sometimes instrument or manner in which an action is performed. This case is also used to indicate the possessor in such constructions like *Minu-lla on kirja*, 'I have a book' (lit., 'At me is book'), which is very similar to the expression of possession in Russian (cf. "Sketch of Russian").

7. *Inessive*: *ssa/-ssä*. This case expresses the notion of within some place or time, occupation in which a person is engaged, and location with abstract concepts, for example 'He lives in poverty.'

- Suome-ssa 'In Finland'*
- päivä-sä 'within a day'*

Pane-n kirja-n pöyda-lle.
put + 1st pers. sing./ book + acc./ table + allat.

'I will put the book on the table.'

Me hanki-mm tei-lle uude-t sukse-t.
we/ get + 1st pers. sing./ you + allat./ new + pl./ ski + pl.
'We will get you new skis.'

9. *Ablative: -ta/-tä.* This case has many different functions.

- a. It expresses the notion 'from' in relation to a surface or vicinity of something:

Lintu lens-i kato-lta.
bird / fly + imperf./ roof + ablat.
'A bird flew off the roof.'

- b. It is also used with the meaning of 'on' with verbs of seeking and finding:

Löys-i-n soimukse-n lattia-lta.
Find + imperf./ ring + acc./ floor + ablat.
'I found the ring on the floor.'

- c. It is also used to express the cause of some hindrance:

E-n voi-nut nukku-a koira-n haukunna-lta.
neg. vb. + 1 sg./ be, able + past participle act./ sleep + inf. V
dog + gen./ barking + ablat.
'I could not sleep for the barking of the dog.'

- d. Finally, it marks what may be translated as the subject of verbs expressing loss, lack, or deficiency in general:

Häne-ltä kuol-i äiti.
he + ablat./ die + imperf. (3d pers. sing./ mother
'His mother died.' (Lit. 'from him died mother')

8. *Allative: -lle.* This case expresses the direction towards which an action or movement takes place as well as to indicate the beneficiary of an action. In other words, it is used to indicate an indirect object.

Tule-n kylä-stä.
come + 1st pers. sing./ village + elat.
'I come from a village.'

In addition, it has a large variety of functions such as indicating cause or origin, what a thing is made out of, separation from a thing, the subject of verbs of impression. An example of the latter usage would be *Minnu-sta tun-tu4, että . . .* 'It seems to me that . . . ' It also indicates the direct object of the verb 'to like':

Pidä-tte-kö häne-stä?
like + 2d pers. pl. + interrog./ she + elat.
'Do you like her?'

11. *Illative: -Vn/-hVn/-sVn/-hVn* (V = copy of the final vowel of the preceding morpheme. There are a number of somewhat irregular allomorphs of this case suffix.) This case expresses movement into something, goal, or activity:

Mene-n talo-on.
go + 1st pers. sing./ house + illat.
'I am going into the house.'

It also signals the time at which something is done or the use to which a thing is put.

12. *Comitative: -ne.* This case indicates close relation with something, 'in the company of', 'provided with', 'belonging to'. It is attached only to the plural stems, and in addition the nouns must have a possessive suffix added to them:

Se ol-i rakennus mon-i-ne huone-i-ne-en.
it/ be + imperf./ building/ many + pl. + comit./ room + pl.
'It was a house with many rooms.'

13. *Translative: -ksi/-kse.* This case indicates what something turns 'into', that is, change of state:

Lumi muttu-i vede-ksi.

snow/ turn + imperf./ water + transl.
"The snow turned to water."

14. Instrutive or Instrumental: -n. This case is used almost always in the plural even though only a singular object is involved. It basically marks the manner or the means whereby an action is accomplished. Adjectives in the instructive case serve as adverbs.

Hän ol-i om-i-n avu-i-n pää-syt päämäärä-a-nä

he/ be + imperf./ own + pl. + instr./ ability + pl + instr./
reach + past participle act./ goal + 3d pers. sing. poss.

'He reached his goal by his own abilities.'

yksi 'one' but yksi-n 'alone'.

15. Prolative: -ise. This case expresses the concepts 'by way of' or 'along'. For example, *meri-is-e* 'by sea'. It is not a very productive case and is used only with a limited number of nouns. (Instead various prepositions governing different cases are used.)

16. Abessive: -tii/-tta. This case expresses absence of the object to which this case ending is added. In other words, it signals the concept 'without': *raha-tta* 'without money'. In modern Finnish this case is usually replaced by *ilmnan* followed by the noun in the partitive case: *ilmian rahoja* 'without money'.

Nine of the Finnish cases form three coordinated sets that were originally linked morphologically and semantically:

General: + talo-ksi (*Translit.*) change of state toward something

\emptyset talo-na (*Essiv.*) state of being
- talo-a < *-ða < *-ta (*Part.*) being part of something

Internal: + talo-on < *-hen < *-sen' (*Illat.*) movement into something

\emptyset talossa < *-s-na (*Iness.*) being inside something
- talo-sta < *-s-ta (*Elat.*) movement out of something

External: + talo-ille < *-len' (*Allat.*) movement toward something
 \emptyset talo-lla < *-l-na (*Adess.*) being near something

- talo-lta < *-l-ta (*Ablat.*) movement away from something

From these examples we can see that *-s-* at one time signaled internal location, *-l-* external location, and that these suffixes combined with other case suffixes to form complex cases involving movement toward (+), movement away from (-), and the absence of movement (\emptyset).

Pronouns

The personal pronouns are as follows (oblique stems are in parentheses):

1st pers. sing. minä (minu-)	1st pers. pl. me (mei-)
2d pers. sing. sinä (sinu-)	2d pers. pl. te (tei-)
3d pers. sing. hän (häne-)	3d pers. pl. he (hei-)

Since the Finnish verbs are marked for person, the first and second person pronoun subjects are usually omitted; however, the third person subject pronouns are not.

It should be noted that in Finnish the third person singular pronoun does not show any gender distinctions. Thus, *hän* may mean either 'he' or 'she'. (For 'it', a demonstrative pronoun *se* is used.)

As in many languages, the second person plural pronoun and other forms marked for second person plural (verb forms, nouns with possessive suffixes, etc.) are used in reference to a single person to express respect for that person.

Like English, Finnish also has demonstrative, relative, and interrogative pronouns, but these will not be listed here.

Verbs

The Finnish verb paradigm includes several forms.

1. Present Indicative

This form of the verb is also used for future indicative; there is no separate future tense in Finnish.

1st pers. sing. laula-n	1st pers. pl. laula-mme
2d pers. sing. laula-t	2d pers. pl. laula-tte
3d pers. sing. laula-V (laulaa)	3d pers. pl. laula-vät/vat

V = doubling of the final vowel of the stem unless the stem already ends in a long vowel, in which case the stem remains unchanged. The third person plural ending changes according to the rules of vowel harmony:
laula-vat 'they sing' vs. syö-vät 'they eat'

2. Imperfect or Pastite Indicative

This form of the verb is derived according to the following formula:

Stem + i + personal endings

Ø talo-lla < *-l-na (*Adess.*) being near something