

About this book

This guide includes a short grammatical introduction to Finnish verbs, conjugation tables of 120 verbs and an alphabetical list of 1200 verbs, where each verb is indicated with a number that refers to the corresponding conjugation table.

The focus of the grammatical introduction is on selected issues: consonant gradation, stem formation and verb types. The formation of tenses and moods in active and passive voices is briefly discussed, as well as the formation of the infinitive and the participle forms.

The verb tables are compiled according to the six main verb types that are divided in this book into 18 subtypes. The conjugation tables are presented in the same order as the verb types are described in the introduction. Special attention is paid to consonant gradation: there is a fully conjugated model verb for almost all possible consonant gradation types within each verb subtype (except those that are not subject to consonant gradation).

Each conjugation table begins with the basic form (the infinitive form) of the verb. If the verb is subject to consonant gradation, it is indicated in brackets after the infinitive, for instance, as follows: (alternation **kk** : **k**). Each verb table includes 148 forms of the same verb. At the end of each table you will find a list of similar verbs, which belong to the same stem and consonant gradation type (if applicable). The similar verbs also are included in the alphabetical index at the end of the book.

Explanation of symbols used in this book

- indicates drop in consonant alternation, when consonant **k** alternates with a drop, for example, **k** : –
- > indicates a change in sounds or verb forms
- : indicates listing of different forms of the same verb or indicates consonant alternation

Grammatical introduction

1. Personal pronouns

SINGULAR	minä	<i>I</i>	sinä	<i>you</i>	hän	<i>he / she</i>
PLURAL	me	<i>we</i>	te	<i>you</i>	he	<i>they</i>

It is not necessary to use personal pronouns in first and second persons singular and plural: pronouns **minä**, **sinä**, **me**, **te** can be omitted. However, they can be used or have to be used when the person in question is being emphasised for one reason or another. The subject pronoun **te** may also indicate polite form (both one person and more).

In spoken Finnish pronoun **hän** may be replaced by the demonstrative pronoun **se** *it* and pronoun **he** *they* by the demonstrative pronoun **ne** *they, those*. Otherwise pronouns **se** and **ne** indicate nonhuman: animals and things.

In order to avoid confusion, the personal pronouns are listed in the conjugation tables (they are given in brackets in connection with the imperative mood).

2. Basic form of verbs

The basic form of a Finnish verb is the shorter form of the first infinitive. Unless otherwise mentioned, in the introduction part it is called infinitive. This infinitive form is also the dictionary form of verbs.

Examples: **istua** *to sit*, **laulaa** *to sing*, **syödä** *to eat*, **juosta** *to run*, **pelätä** *to be afraid*

3. Infinitive markers

The infinitive form includes an infinitive stem that is followed by an infinitive marker. (For the infinitive stem, see section 6. *The infinitive stem*.)

The infinitive markers are:

- (a) **-a / -ä**: puhu-**a** to speak, odotta-**a** to wait, lähte-**ä** to leave, upot-**a** to sink, paet-**a** to escape
- (b) **-da / -dä**: kopioi-**da** to copy, saa-**da** to get, juo-**da** to drink, syö-**dä** to eat, näh-**dä** to see
- (c) **-ta / -tä**: juos-**ta** to run, pes-**tä** to wash, rangais-**ta** to punish
- (d) **-ra / -rä / -na / -nä / -la / -lä**: pur-**ra** to bite, men-**nä** to go, kuul-**la** to hear, kävel-**lä** to walk

4. Personal endings

Finnish verbs have six personal endings, three in singular and three in plural. The endings are attached to the inflectional stem (for the inflectional stem, see section 7. *The inflectional stem*). The personal endings correspond to the English personal pronouns *I, you, he/she, we, you, they*. The personal ending in the third person singular is the same vowel as the stem vowel in verb types 1, 2e, 3 (except for verb **olla**), 4b–c and 5–6. There is no personal ending in the third person singular in verb types 2a–d, and 4a. (For verb types, see section 8.) The personal ending in the third person plural is subject to vowel harmony, it occurs in **-vat / -vät** form.

PERSONAL ENDINGS

Example: sanoa to say

	SINGULAR	PLURAL	SINGULAR	PLURAL	
1 st person	-n	-mme	(minä) sano- n	(me) sano- mme	we say
2 nd person	-t	-tte	(sinä) sano- t	(te) sano- tte	you say
3 rd person	- stem vowel	-vat / -vät	hän sano- o	he sano- vat	he/she says they say

5. Consonant gradation in verbs

One of the sound alternations that occurs in Finnish is known as consonant gradation. It is discussed here, because it is important for the formation of the inflectional stem and hence for the conjugation of verbs. (Note that consonant gradation also occurs in other word classes, not only in verbs.)

Consonant gradation is a variation of consonants **k, p, t** and their combinations with certain other consonants in different forms of the same verb. Consonant gradation may occur in three ways as follows.

(a) Variation in length

- **kk : k** (long **kk** alternates with short **k**) nukkua : nukun to sleep : I sleep
- **pp : p** (long **pp** alternates with short **p**) oppia : opit to learn : you learn
- **tt : t** (long **tt** alternates with short **t**) mitata : hän mittaa to measure : he/she measures

In variation type (a) **kk, pp, tt** are in strong grade and **k, p, t** are in weak grade.

(b) Variation of short **k, p, t** with other consonants or a drop (in case of **k**)

- **k : –** (short **k** drops) lukea : luen to read : I read
- **p : v** (short **p** alternates with **v**) saapua : saavut to arrive : you arrive
- **t : d** (short **t** alternates with **d**) hoitaa : hoidamme to take care : we take care

In variation type (b) the short consonants **k, p, t** are in strong grade and the alternations in weak grade.

(c) Variation of combinations with **k, p, t**

- **nk : ng** (**nk** alternates with **ng**) penkoa : pengon to rummage : I rummage
- **mp : mm** (**mp** alternates with **mm**) ampua : ammun to shoot : I shoot
- **nt : nn** (**nt** alternates with **nn**) antaa : annan to give : I give
- **lt : ll** (**lt** alternates with **ll**) uskaltaa : uskallan to dare : I dare
- **rt : rr** (**rt** alternates with **rr**) ymmärtää : ymmärrän to understand : I understand
- **ht : hd** (**ht** alternates with **hd**) johtaa : johdan to lead : I lead