

Language: Finnish

Spoken: Finland, Sweden, Russia. @ 5 million speakers. A relatively small number of speakers in the US and Canada; some 94% of Finnish speakers are found in Finland.

Consonant phonemes:

|      |      |      |   |
|------|------|------|---|
| p p: | t t: | k k: |   |
| f    | s s: |      | h |
| v    |      |      |   |
| m m: | n n: |      |   |
|      | l l: |      |   |
|      | r r: |      |   |
|      | j    |      |   |

No aspiration; note that most consonants can occur with contrastive length

Vowel phonemes:

|      |      |      |
|------|------|------|
| i i: | y y: | u u: |
| e e: | ø ø: | o o: |
| ε ε: | a a: |      |

Diphthongs:

'Rising' (Gl V) Diphthongs: je, wɔ, uø

'Falling' (V Gl) Diphthongs: ej, ew, yj, iw, øj, øɥ, æj, uj, ɔj, aj, aw, ɔw, eɥ, æɥ

Stress: initial.

LING 341 Finnish: 17 diphthongs (group numbers are arbitrary).

'Rising' (Gl V) Diphthongs: [ je, wɔ, ɥø ]

- |    |         |                      |
|----|---------|----------------------|
| 1. | hiekkä  | 'sand'               |
|    | pieni   | 'little'             |
|    | tiedän  | 'I know'             |
| 2. | vuori   | 'mountain'           |
|    | kuori   | 'cover, peel'        |
|    | Suomi   | 'Finland'            |
|    | huone   | '(a) room'           |
| 3. | yön     | 'night (Gen. Sing.)' |
|    | syön    | 'I eat'              |
|    | myös    | 'too, also'          |
|    | työnnän | 'I push'             |

'Falling' (V Gl) Diphthongs: [ ej, ew, yj, iw, øj, øɥ, æj, uj, ɔj, aj, aw, ɔw, eɥ, æɥ ]

- |     |           |                                       |     |          |                     |
|-----|-----------|---------------------------------------|-----|----------|---------------------|
| 4.  | ei        | 'no'                                  | 11. | kuiva    | 'dry'               |
|     | veitsi    | 'knife'                               |     | puisto   | '(a) park'          |
|     | heikko    | 'weak'                                |     | kuinka   | 'how'               |
| 5.  | leuka     | 'chin'                                | 12. | noin     | 'so, there'         |
|     | seura     | 'club, group'                         |     | hoikka   | 'slender'           |
|     | neuvo     | 'advice'                              |     | poika    | 'boy'               |
| 6.  | lyiju     | 'lead, graphite'                      | 13. | aivan    | 'absolutely'        |
|     | kykyinen  | 'capable'                             |     | laiha    | 'lean'              |
|     | kiteytyi  | '(it) crystallized'                   |     | aina     | 'always;            |
| 7.  | hius      | 'hair'                                | 14. | kaunis   | 'beautiful'         |
|     | hiukkanen | 'a little'                            |     | auki     | 'open'              |
|     | riutua    | 'fade'                                |     | lausun   | 'I declare'         |
| 8.  | söin      | 'I ate'                               | 15. | koulu    | 'school'            |
|     | töisin    | [should be öisin 'at night']          |     | rouva    | 'Mrs.'              |
|     | töitä     | 'work (Part.)' [... ?öihin 'to work'] |     | joulu    | 'Christmas'         |
| 9.  | köyhä     | 'poor'                                | 16. | yhteys   | 'unity'             |
|     | löydän    | 'I find'                              |     | kiteytyi | '(it) crystallized' |
|     | löylü     | 'steam'                               |     | lyiju    | 'lead, graphite'    |
| 10. | päivä     | 'day'                                 | 17. | räystä   | 'eaves'             |
|     | päin      | 'towards'                             |     | käyn     | 'I visit'           |
|     | hyräilen  | 'I hum'                               |     | keräydyn | 'I gather'          |

Speaker's home town: Espoo (Helsinki) F, mid-30's

Emphasis on: diphthongs (17)

Also note: vowel length, consonant length, front rounded vowels and glides

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|     |     |     |
|-----|-----|-----|
| 1.  | 11. | 21. |
| 2.  | 12. | 22. |
| 3.  | 13. | 23. |
| 4.  | 14. | 24. |
| 5.  | 15. | 25. |
| 6.  | 16. | 26. |
| 7.  | 17. | 27. |
| 8.  | 18. | 28. |
| 9.  | 19. | 29. |
| 10. | 20. | 30. |