

Subject choices of students 2015

Subject choices of comprehensive school pupils

Two out of three students in lower level comprehensive schools study English

According to Statistics Finland, English was the most commonly studied foreign language on grades 1 to 6 of comprehensive school in the autumn semester of 2015. Sixty-six per cent of the pupils attending grades 1 to 6 studied English either as a compulsory or optional foreign language. The percentages of pupils studying other foreign languages remained at 5 per cent or below.

Language choices of comprehensive school pupils in 2015

	Studied language	Compulsory language A1	Optional language A2	Compulsory language B1	Elective language B2	Total	Share of pupils in grades 1-6 %	Share of pupils in grades 7-9 %
Grades 1-6	English	223 592	14 452	.	.	238 044	66.2	.
	Swedish	2 860	13 231	.	.	16 091	4.5	.
	Finnish	14 490	936	.	.	15 426	4.3	.
	French	2 942	4 449	.	.	7 391	2.1	.
	German	3 163	10 268	.	.	13 431	3.7	.
	Russian	1 113	2 084	.	.	3 197	0.9	.
	Spanish	442	1 450	.	.	1 892	0.5	.
	Italian	0	0	.	.	0	0.0	.
	Sami	3	221	.	.	224	0.1	.
	Other	408	52	.	.	460	0.1	.
Grades 7-9	English	160 595	12 970	181	34	173 780	.	99.5
	Swedish	1 519	11 555	147 963	144	161 181	.	92.2
	Finnish	8 954	1 137	195	0	10 286	.	5.9
	French	1 461	3 633	146	4 903	10 143	.	5.8
	German	1 688	7 233	406	8 503	17 830	.	10.2
	Russian	571	1 068	.	3 317	4 956	.	2.8
	Spanish	76	1 034	.	2 781	3 891	.	2.2
	Italian	0	0	.	135	135	.	0.1
	Sami	0	63	.	7	70	.	0.0
	Latin	0	0	.	400	400	.	0.2
	Other	128	5	.	43	176	.	0.1

Nearly all pupils attending grades 7 to 9 studied both English and Swedish or Finnish either as mother tongue, or as a compulsory, optional or elective foreign language. German was studied by 10 per cent and French by 6 per cent of the pupils attending grades 7 to 9, mainly as an optional or elective foreign language.

A total of 359,461 pupils attended grades 1 to 6. 184,030 of the pupils were boys and 175,431 were girls. A total of 174,724 pupils attended grades 7 to 9. 89,660 of the pupils were boys and 85,064 were girls.

Data on the language choices of students studying comprehensive education elsewhere than at comprehensive schools (1,724) are published in the database table of these statistics.

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Appendix table 1. Language choices of comprehensive school pupils in 2015, boys

		Compulsory language A1	Optional language A2	Compulsory language B1	Elective language B2	Boys total	Share of boys in grades 1-6 %	Share of boys in grades 7-9 %
Grades	Studied language							
Grades 1-6	English	114 262	6 937	.	.	121 199	65.9	.
	Swedish	1 317	5 965	.	.	7 282	4.0	.
	Finnish	7 428	468	.	.	7 896	4.3	.
	French	1 169	1 607	.	.	2 776	1.5	.
	German	1 443	4 815	.	.	6 258	3.4	.
	Russian	496	816	.	.	1 312	0.7	.
	Spanish	185	629	.	.	814	0.4	.
	Italian	0	0	.	.	0	0.0	.
	Sami	2	99	.	.	101	0.1	.
	Other	192	29	.	.	221	0.1	.
Grades 7-9	English	82 790	6 218	94	11	89 113	.	99.4
	Swedish	685	5 004	76 795	81	82 565	.	92.1
	Finnish	4 494	557	100	0	5 151	.	5.7
	French	562	1 266	54	1 291	3 173	.	3.5
	German	801	3 188	185	3 646	7 820	.	8.7
	Russian	252	432	.	1 279	1 963	.	2.2
	Spanish	38	406	.	973	1 417	.	1.6
	Italian	0	0	.	37	37	.	0.0
	Sami	0	24	.	4	28	.	0.0
	Latin	0	0	.	163	163	.	0.2
	Other	63	4	.	15	82	.	0.1

Appendix table 2. Language choices of comprehensive school pupils in 2015, girls

		Compulsory language A1	Optional language A2	Compulsory language B1	Elective language B2	Girls total	Share of girls in grades 1-6 %	Share of girls in grades 7-9 %
Grades	Studied language							
Grades 1-6	English	109 330	7 515	.	.	116 845	66.6	.
	Swedish	1 543	7 266	.	.	8 809	5.0	.
	Finnish	7 062	468	.	.	7 530	4.3	.
	French	1 773	2 842	.	.	4 615	2.6	.
	German	1 720	5 453	.	.	7 173	4.1	.
	Russian	617	1 268	.	.	1 885	1.1	.
	Spanish	257	821	.	.	1 078	0.6	.
	Italian	0	0	.	.	0	0.0	.
	Sami	1	122	.	.	123	0.1	.
	Other	216	23	.	.	239	0.1	.

		Compulsory language A1	Optional language A2	Compulsory language B1	Elective language B2	Girls total	Share of girls in grades 1-6 %	Share of girls in grades 7-9 %
Grades 7-9	English	77 805	6 752	87	23	84 667	.	99.5
	Swedish	834	6 551	71 168	63	78 616	.	92.4
	Finnish	4 460	580	95	0	5 135	.	6.0
	French	899	2 367	92	3 612	6 970	.	8.2
	German	887	4 045	221	4 857	10 010	.	11.8
	Russian	319	636	.	2 038	2 993	.	3.5
	Spanish	38	628	.	1 808	2 474	.	2.9
	Italian	0	0	.	98	98	.	0.1
	Sami	0	39	.	3	42	.	0.0
	Latin	0	0	.	237	237	.	0.3
	Other	65	1	.	28	94	.	0.1

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